

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:

Inter-World War National Cemeteries, 1934-1939

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: Cabrillo Memorial Drive

City or town: San Diego State: California County: San Diego

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<p><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>  <u>Kathleen Schmal</u></p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	<p><b>Date</b>  <u>11/14/16</u></p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p><b>Signature of commenting official:</b>  <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p><b>Title:</b></p>	<p><b>Date</b>  <u>1 Dec 2015</u></p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>

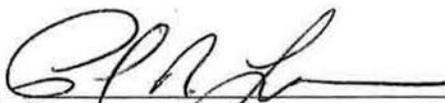
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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

3/8/2016  
Date of Action

#### 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



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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other/Spanish Eclectic

Late 19<sup>th</sup> & Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revival/Colonial Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Concrete, Stucco, Mission tile (Spanish tile),  
Granite, Marble, Metal: cast aluminum and bronze

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### Narrative Description Summary Paragraph

The picturesque, approximately 82-acre Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery covers hilly terrain set along both the east and west sides of Cabrillo Memorial Drive just north of the Cabrillo National Monument on the Point Loma peninsula in San Diego, California. Surrounded by land occupied by the roughly 1,200-acre Naval Base Point Loma, the cemetery sits atop the hillcrest of the peninsula, which provides sweeping views of the City of San Diego across San Diego Bay to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

The layout of Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery is a product of both land availability and natural topography. The hilly topography led to the layout of burial sections and roadways in irregular, occasionally sinuous shapes. Its site on the Point Loma peninsula rendered the cemetery boundaries somewhat narrow by flanking steep hills leading down to the waters of the San Diego Harbor to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The cemetery covers a narrow swath of land measuring 1.2 miles in length and only 0.2 mile across at its widest point. Cabrillo Memorial Drive, the two-lane road bisecting the cemetery, travels another mile south to Cabrillo National Monument, which commemorates the explorer. Naval Base Point Loma, the successor to Fort Rosecrans, sits directly north of the cemetery.

As of April 2015, the cemetery maintains 113,076 interments, with 51,906 full-casket interments, 20,665 in-ground cremains, and 40,505 columbaria remains.

Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery closed to casketed remains in 1966, but continued to accept cremains until 2014. In January 2010, an annex to Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery opened nearby in the Miramar neighborhood.

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## Narrative Description

War Department *General Orders No. 7* established the now about 82-acre national cemetery in 1934. The San Diego Barracks, located just north of the cemetery, established the Post Cemetery now incorporated within the national cemetery with the burial of Private John T. Welch on October 5, 1879. In 1882, the Post Cemetery accepted the remains of soldiers of the First Dragoons who died in the Battle of San Pasqual on December 6, 1846 for reinterment.<sup>1</sup>

The Post Cemetery measured only about 8 acres in size. When the Army reestablished the San Diego Barracks as Fort Rosecrans in 1899, the cemetery adopted the new post name: Fort Rosecrans Post Cemetery. When the War Department established Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in 1934, its boundaries incorporated the existing Post Cemetery.

Now called the Post Section (PS), the former Post Cemetery remains in place just north of the East Entrance Gates. Though standardized tablet markers exist throughout this section, the early cemetery did not mandate such. Thus, a number of private markers varying in shape, type, size, and material dot all of the subsections within the Post Section (PS1-PS11). Types of markers include headstones and shaped monuments, while marker materials are granite, marble, and some colored granite. Private marker shapes vary, with die-on-base, round-top tablet, slant-top block, slant-front block, and obelisks all represented.

After opening as a national cemetery with 8 acres, Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery grew by slightly more than 62 acres between 1934 and 1965. The cemetery was first established around the Post Section on the side east of Cabrillo Memorial Drive including the Officer Sections A and B, and Sections A-E.<sup>2</sup> In August 1947, north and south additions were officially proposed to meet the greater demand for burial space, specifically, a northern addition of slightly less than 9 acres, adding Sections G-N and MB; while a southern addition of about 12 acres included Sections O, P, and Q.<sup>3</sup> By 1961, the side west of Cabrillo Memorial Drive was developed, including Sections R through Z and A-1.<sup>4</sup> In 1965, the Department of the Navy transferred approximately 1 acre and in 1966 the cemetery was officially closed to new interments other than Vietnam casualties, reserved interments, and second interments at existing gravesites.<sup>5</sup> The cemetery currently holds a total land area of about 82 acres.

The hilly topography of Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery contributed to the irregularly shaped interment sections within the cemetery. With the presence of both steep and rolling hills, gently curving roadways wind through the cemetery with the rise and fall of the land. The cemetery has

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<sup>1</sup> George Ruhlen, "Fort Rosecrans, California," *San Diego Historical Society Quarterly* 5, no. 4 (October 1959): 64.

<sup>2</sup> Aerial photograph, ca. 1940s. History Program Collection (HPC), National Cemetery Administration, (NCA), Washington, DC.

<sup>3</sup> "Location Plan for Proposed Additions, Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, San Diego, Cal.," August 15, 1947, HPC, NCA, Washington, DC.

<sup>4</sup> Photograph, March 31, 1958. Historical File, Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery (FRNC), San Diego, CA; Aerial photograph, 1961. HPC, NCA, Washington, DC.

<sup>5</sup> Veterans Administration (VA), "Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery," VA Pamphlet 40-28, August 1, 1976, HPC, NCA, Washington, DC.

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one of the most picturesque national cemetery landscapes dotted by a variety of approximately 500 trees such as cypress, pines, palms, elms, gums, and figs planted beginning in the 1950s.

Burial sections are A through Z; A-1; A-A through A-C, A-E through A-I; Post Cemetery Sections B and 1-10; and Officer Sections A and B, GN-1 through GN-4. Scattered throughout the cemetery are Sections MA through ME, MG, MW, MY, MZ, MA-A, which hold memorial markers.<sup>6</sup> Also located throughout the cemetery are Columbaria A through I.

The entrance gates to the east and west sides of the cemetery are located across Cabrillo Memorial Drive from one another. Centrally set east of the east entrance gates is the semi-circular rostrum dramatically flanked by cypress trees. The earliest buildings in the cemetery are east of Cabrillo Memorial Drive. Constructed in 1936, the one-story, front-gabled Spanish Eclectic lodge is constructed from hollow tile covered with white stucco, topped with a Mission tile roof. The adjacent maintenance facility/restroom is stylistically similar, and was constructed in the same year. Set west of the west entrance gates is a memorial group and the administration office, which was constructed in 1957. Secondary entrances without formal gates are located farther south along Cabrillo Memorial Drive. A committal shelter is located to the east of one such entrance, along the southwest edge of Section O.

Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery's headstones reflect the era of establishment. The style of headstone is a major distinguishing characteristic of national cemeteries established in the twentieth century. The upright headstone appearance changed dramatically between the Spanish-American War and World War I. The oldest style of government-issued headstone, for soldiers of the Civil War and Spanish-American War, is white marble with a rounded top with recessed shields on the face. The raised inscription includes the state of origin, unlike subsequent inscription practice, and rank if above private.

The predominant headstone at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery is the upright white American marble cambered "General type" introduced in 1922 for World War I soldiers and those after. This type of headstone measures 42 inches high, 13 inches wide, and 4 inches thick; approximately 26 inches is visible above ground. Inscriptions include the name, rank, regiment, division, date of birth, date of death, and home state. Originally, the emblem of belief on these headstones was limited to the Latin cross or Star of David centered above the name of the deceased. The number of available emblem of belief options began to increase after World War II.

In addition, some cemeteries permit flat, government-issued markers in specific sections. In the 1930s, the War Department introduced flat headstones to accommodate veterans buried in private/local cemeteries that did not allow upright markers, such as the lawn park and memorial park cemeteries. Congress already authorized markers of "durable stone" in 1873, thus, the Secretary of War only needed to approve a new style—flat. The first flat marble markers were produced in 1936, with flat granite markers following two years later. They measure 24 inches

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<sup>6</sup> Memorial headstones are furnished for eligible deceased active duty service members and Veterans whose remains are not recovered or identified, are buried at sea, donated to science or whose cremated remains have been scattered.

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x12 inches with rounded edges. The same products are used interchangeably as memorial markers.<sup>7</sup> At Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, flat markers are used in certain infill sections, near roads and walls.

### **Contributing Resources (38)**<sup>8</sup>

**Buildings (5):** Lodge, Maintenance Facility/Restroom, Administration Office, Utility Building, Administration Office Annex

**Structures (11):** East Entrance Gates, West Entrance Gates, Rostrum, Boundary Wall along Cabrillo Memorial Drive, East Boundary Wall, Chain-link Fencing-East Side, Chain-link Fencing-West Side, Columbaria and Columbaria Walls, Grave Locator Booth, Committal Shelter, Wrought-Iron Fence Flanking West Entrance Gates

**Objects (22):** Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery Plaques, Veterans Administration Plaques, United States Flagpole, POW/MIA Flagpole, USS *Bennington* Monument, Battle of San Pasqual Monument, Mormon Battalion Memorial, *Memorial Day Order* Plaque, *National Cemetery Act* Plaque, "Gettysburg Address" Plaque, "Bivouac of the Dead" Plaque, Bicentennial Tree Plaque, September 11, 2001 Memorial, Founders & Patriots Memorial, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Memorial, USS *Gambier Bay* CVE-73 and Composite Squadron VC-10 Memorial, USS *Hoel*, USS *S.B. Roberts*, USS *Johnston* Memorial, Taffy 3 Memorial, USS *St. Lo*, CVE 63 & Composite Squadron VC 65 Memorial, USS *Wasp* CV-7 Memorial, USS *Ommaney Bay* CVE-79 Memorial, California Registered Historical Landmark No. 55 Plaque

### **Buildings (5)**

**Lodge:** Completed May 25, 1936, the lodge at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery is a Spanish Eclectic-style, single-story bungalow on a concrete foundation. Set approximately 100 feet from the east entrance gate, the north-facing lodge is square in plan. Its frame is hollow tile covered with white stucco and topped with a front-gable Mission tile roof. There are two slope chimneys, one located on the exterior on the west façade and an interior one near the east façade; stucco covers both.

The north façade of the building's main block consists of two bays: the main entrance and a two-light, vertical sliding metal west window. The entrance features a flush wood door set behind a wrought-iron door. A small shed roof with Mission tile and exposed rafter tails extends above the entrance from the exterior wall of the east gable. Set atop thick, stuccoed supports, the roof covers a small stoop with decorative wrought-iron railings. A short stucco wall to the north

<sup>7</sup> "Design for Flat Marker," Box 17, Folder 4, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Department of Memorial Affairs (DMA), National Cemetery Historical File, Entry 25 (NCHF E25), Records of the Veterans Administration, Record Group 15 (RG 15), National Archives Building, Washington, DC (NAB).

<sup>8</sup> Information in this section obtained from Maintenance Ledgers, various dates, Box 16, Folder 4 FRNC, DMA, NCHF, Records of the VA, RG 15, NAB.

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flanks the steps leading east from the entry. About 3 feet from the stoop, the wall ends at a short wrought-iron gate, which leads to an arched brick-lined walkway that extends north to the road. A stucco wall approximately 4 feet tall stretches west for about 20 feet and terminates at the west side of the gate. This wall separates the small grassy front yard from the lodge's small parking area.

The façade (north) gable wing received an extension in July 1952. This extension modified the gable to house a reception area. In March 1955, an additional bedroom replaced that reception area. This north gable has a small Mission tile overhang on simple wood brackets above where a large window was once located. The former opening has been filled in and finished with stucco. Below the overhang is a small, four-sided wrought-iron light fixture with frosted lights. Above the overhang are four small, round vents arranged in a diamond shape. The west and east elevations of the wing each feature a single two-light, vertical sliding metal window.

The east elevation includes four bays of windows with two vertical, two-light metal sliding windows that flank two metal picture windows, each with a large central fixed light and two flanking jalousies. All windows are recessed approximately 4 inches into the thick exterior walls. This elevation also includes two sets of exterior lights at its north and south ends. Exposed rafter tails line the roofline. A small rock yard lines this side of the building.

The south elevation has four bays. On the eastern bay, a small shed roof extends over the back door. At the time of construction, this was an open-air portico; stuccoed walls and a Mission tile roof with exposed rafter tails enclosed the portico in the 1970s. A small garden sits aside this elevation. The east and west sides of this small south-extending shed each include a metal double casement window, and the south elevation narrow, glazed, wrought-iron door features multiple stained-glass lights. The three bays west of the entrance contain a variety of fenestration: vertical; metal, two-light sliding; narrow metal jalousie; and metal, single-hung, multi-light casement. A single rectangular vent covered by a wrought-iron grille marks the south gable. An eastern stucco wall along steps leading to the doorway lines the rear shed entrance. A break in this wall provides access to a rear patio area. A wall approximately 4 feet to 5 feet tall, depending on the grade, lines the patio area. The wall allows for privacy and separation from Section MC and the west driveway.

The west elevation includes four bays of fenestration. The two north bays consist of two-light, vertical metal sliding windows flanking the large stucco, exterior, lateral chimney. Metal picture windows with large fixed central lights flanked by jalousies make up the two southern bays. Exposed rafter tails also line the west elevation. Native plantings line the building foundation.

**Maintenance Facility/Restroom:** Completed June 6, 1936, the maintenance facility/restroom immediately adjacent to the lodge's west elevation is approximately 75 feet from the main gate on the east side of the cemetery. Originally a rectangular plan, a large automobile bay addition in 1951 made the building L-shaped. It is built of hollow tile with stucco finish; Mission tile covers the gable roof, which has exposed rafter tails. The wall marking the separation of the cemetery's eastern burial sections from the road and parking area connects to this building,

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making its west side fully visible from Catalina Boulevard and the western sections of the cemetery.

The west elevation includes seven bays. The northernmost bay is an open-air, twenty-block masonry screen; the remainder of the building façade contains six, four-light double metal casement windows.

The north elevation includes two public restroom entrances. A single rectangular vent covered by a white-painted wrought-iron grate sits within the gable. An open-air, roofless extension includes openings for both restrooms that flank a pair of open-air, ten-block masonry screens. Both the east and west sides of this addition include a single open-air, ten-block masonry screen. The eastern corner meets a wall measuring about 5 feet tall; this wall, along with the wall attached to the lodge, separates the public area of the cemetery from the maintenance and living facilities used by employees. A double water fountain affixed to the wall is near the northwest corner of the building.

The east elevation of the original maintenance building has a twenty-block, open-air masonry screen. In front of this screen is a power box set on a concrete foundation. The remaining three bays on this elevation are altered. The two bays closest to the façade stored smaller vehicles. A single metal door and stucco infill modified the northernmost bay. Reduced in height and width, the second bay now accommodates small maintenance carts and/or stored supplies.

The 1951 addition originally served as a two-car garage. Stucco infill covers the westernmost bay, which includes a single metal door near the east end. The easternmost bay serves as the superintendent's garage; it features a ca. 1995 metal paneled garage door with fixed lights. The 1951 addition connects to the lodge's patio wall at its east elevation; it has two double metal casement windows and a rectangular vent covered by a painted wrought-iron grille marks the gable.

The addition's south elevation includes four double metal casement windows under a roofline with exposed rafter tails. The south gable includes a single metal door opening, though it appears a larger set of double doors may have been originally located here. The remainder of the original opening has been filled in and stuccoed. Concrete steps framed by simple metal railings lead from the east to this door.

**Administration Office:** Completed March 6, 1957, is the administration office on the west side of the cemetery.<sup>9</sup> It is rectangular in plan, constructed of hollow tile finished with stucco, and set on a concrete foundation. The main block of the office includes a 45-degree sloping shed roof topped by Mission tile; the roofline features exposed rafter tails. The dramatic, east-west slope of the main block roof gives this central building portion a near two-story appearance despite its construction and use as a single story. A large, slightly recessed eighteen-light fixed window is a dramatic highlight of the east elevation. The single-door entrance sits within the lower center of

<sup>9</sup> Aerial photograph, October 3, 1950, HPC, NCA, Washington, DC; Photograph, March 31, 1958.

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this glazed façade. This door has a large fixed light at its center. Two small exterior sconces flank the fenestration and to the south signage shows office hours for the cemetery. Low concrete steps lead to this door from the north and an accessibility ramp leads up from the south behind an approximately 3½-foot-tall wall covered in stucco; both have simple metal railings. A low concrete planter sits at the north end of the step; a matching planter was removed from the south end of the step to make way for the ramp installed ca. 2005. The main block rear elevation features a bank of five wood casement windows under a stepped shed extension. This extension and the windows are original to the building.

A small gabled wing covered with Mission tile covers the north elevation of the main block of the administration office; it is void of openings on the east elevation. An interior stucco chimney sits between the wing and the main block roof; decorative tile work that includes rectangular and oval vents on all four sides tops the chimney. The north side of the wing has three bays of one-over-one, metal-sash windows. The wing rear elevation includes a single metal door illuminated by an overhead electric light and a second, small shed-roofed entry with another metal door facing north. A concrete walkway with a simple metal railing connects the front walkway to the landing accessed by the two metal doors.

Originally built with a gable roof identical to that on the north elevation, the south wing roof was extended west in 1968 to incorporate new office space. Like the north wing, the south wing is bare on the east side, but it has four bays on the south. Fenestration includes two one-over-one, metal-sash windows, a replacement sliding vinyl window, and westernmost, a slightly larger sliding window. The rear elevation of the south wing includes the office addition, which has a large three-light, sliding, vinyl picture window facing the Pacific Ocean.

**Utility Building:** This small, gabled building is approximately 10 feet southeast of the east entrance. Erected in 2008, the utility building mimics the style of the nearby maintenance building/restroom and lodge. It has stuccoed exterior walls, open-air multi-light windows, and a Mission tile roof.

## Structures (11)

**East Entrance Gates:** Completed September 20, 1938, the east entrance gates on Cabrillo Memorial Drive consist of two inner concrete posts supporting an approximately 18 feet wide, double wrought-iron vehicular gate and two outer concrete posts that support two wrought-iron pedestrian gates that each measure approximately 5 feet wide. Each of the slightly battered stone entrance posts has a low-pitched, stepped pyramidal top.

The inner posts are approximately 12 feet high and feature affixed bronze plaques. The north gatepost plaque reads “Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery” under the relief of an eagle. The south gatepost plaque includes a seal with the words “Veterans Administration 1930.” The outer gateposts are approximately 10 feet high and join curving masonry walls with concrete coping at both north and south ends. The wall curves in a westerly direction toward a pair of posts

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standing approximately 4 feet tall. These shorter posts mimic the design of the four entrance gateposts and provide a juncture with the outer cemetery wall.

**West Entrance Gates:** The west entrance gates on Cabrillo Memorial Drive were completed December 12, 1952, when development on the west side of the cemetery began.<sup>10</sup> Erected to mirror the east entrance gates, the west entrance gates also consist of two inner concrete gateposts supporting an approximately 20 feet wide double wrought-iron vehicular gate, and two outer concrete gateposts supporting two wrought-iron pedestrian gates approximately 5 feet wide. The slightly battered west entrance gateposts have low-pitched, stepped pyramidal tops.

The inner gateposts are approximately 12 feet high with affixed bronze plaques. The south gatepost plaque reads "Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery" under the relief of an eagle. The north gatepost plaque includes a seal with the words "Veterans Administration 1930." The outer gateposts are approximately 10 feet high and join curving masonry walls with concrete coping. The wall curves in an easterly direction toward a pair of posts standing about 4 feet tall. These shorter posts mimic the design of the four entrance gateposts and provide a juncture with the outer columbaria wall.

**Rostrum:** Completed May 20, 1936, the rostrum at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery consists of a symmetrical raised platform on a concrete foundation dominated by a tall central block that serves as a backdrop to the dais.<sup>11</sup> A low, semicircular white concrete wall that ends in low, slightly battered posts with stepped pyramidal tops to both the north and south, compose the rostrum's structure. Curved concrete brackets attached to the wall support a built-in concrete bench. A paneled, hollow, tile-and-stucco block approximately 20 feet tall with a stepped top marks the center of the semicircular wall. The west face of the central block displays a bronze plaque with the text of Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address." Posts identical to those set at the rostrum wall ends flank the block. Set atop an oval concrete foundation, the west-facing rostrum includes a rectangular, stepped, concrete speaker's platform with a dais; the white granite dais features a slanted top, paneled face, and measures approximately 4 feet tall.

The rostrum and its associated lawn and walkway are part of an oval-shaped section that is about 40 feet east of the east entrance gates. East Portal Loop Drive encircles the rostrum and lawn. At the west end of the section is a walkway flanked by beds of native plantings and palm trees leading to the rostrum that measures about 7½ feet wide. Approximately 11 feet long, the walkway culminates at the rostrum's oval platform. The platform, also serving as a stage and or ceremonial seating area, measures approximately 53 feet wide in a north-south direction, and 25 feet in a west-east direction. Mature juniper trees mark the platform at its north and south ends.

**Boundary Wall along Cabrillo Memorial Drive, East Side:** Constructed in 1938, the masonry wall along the east side of Cabrillo Memorial Drive measures approximately 3½ feet tall

<sup>10</sup> Aerial photograph, October 3, 1950; Photograph, March 31, 1958.

<sup>11</sup> Aerial photograph, October 3, 1950.

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depending on grade.<sup>12</sup> Beginning approximately 6 feet north of the east entrance gates, a columbaria wall running north for approximately 460 feet replaced the wall. At that point, the original wall reappears for approximately 140 feet between Officer Sections GN-1 through GN-4 and Section A. To the south, the original wall extends approximately 57 feet from the south gatepost to its junction with the maintenance facility. At the southwest corner of the maintenance facility, the historic wall begins again, extending approximately 445 feet south.

**East Boundary Wall:** Erected during the 1940s, as part of the establishment of the cemetery's Section E, the east boundary wall stands approximately 3½ feet tall depending on grade.<sup>13</sup> Beginning at the juncture with Columbarium H, the masonry wall with concrete coping runs approximately 500 feet in a southwest direction along the east border of Section E. The wall is stepped in several places to accommodate the hilly topography of the cemetery.

**Chain-link Fencing, East Side:** Installed between 1945 and 1968, the chain-link fence partially frames Sections J, K, and L on the north end of the cemetery and Sections O, Q and A-F on the south.<sup>14</sup> The 6-foot-tall chain-link fencing surrounding the north, east and south boundaries of these sections has metal posts set into continuous concrete curbs.

**Chain-link Fencing, West Side:** A 6-foot chain-link fence constructed between 1951 and 1958 frames the west side of the cemetery on three sides.<sup>15</sup> The fence has metal posts set into continuous concrete curbs and bounds the north, west and east edges of the west side of Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery.

**Columbaria and Columbaria Walls:** After exhausting full-casket space in 1966, Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery constructed columbaria and columbaria walls throughout the cemetery. Columbaria walls are pre-cast concrete with darker coping on concrete foundations. Scored limestone posts with pyramidal caps sit at wall ends and periodically at stepped sections. The walls and posts range from 4 feet to 10 feet tall depending upon terrain changes. Niches measuring 10½ inches x 15 inches x 20 inches deep with marble covers are in rows of one to six, depending on wall height.

Workers constructed the earliest columbaria walls in 2002-2003, beginning with what is now called Columbarium Wall H, located on the east edge of Section F on the east side of the cemetery, and Columbaria Walls A, B, C, and D, set along the west side of Cabrillo Memorial Drive in Sections U, W, Y, Z, A-B, and A-C. These columbaria walls on the west side of the cemetery include adjacent memorial walkways lined by low columbaria units with two rows of niches to the west. Columbaria walls E and F, constructed in 2007-2008, are also on the west

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<sup>12</sup> Photograph, November 1945, Folder 333.1, Ft. Rosecrans, 44s, General Correspondence, "Geographic File" (GCGF) 1936-1945, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General (OQMG), Record Group 92 (RG 92), National Archives at College Park, MD (NACP).

<sup>13</sup> Aerial photograph, ca. 1940s; Preliminary Drawing Layout of Section E, Rosecrans Nat. Cem., California, Blueprint April 25, 1941, Box 514, Folder 687 FRNC 1940b, GCGF, 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

<sup>14</sup> Aerial photograph, ca. 1940s; Aerial photograph, February 3, 1950. HPC, NCA, Washington, DC.

<sup>15</sup> Aerial photograph, October 3, 1950; Photograph, March 31, 1958.

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side, but near the administration office toward the north boundary of the cemetery along Sections R and T.

Columbaria walls on the east side of the cemetery are all on the cemetery's north end. Columbaria Wall G replaced the boundary wall along the east side of Cabrillo Memorial Drive in 2003 and marks the west boundary of the Post Section. Construction began on Columbaria Walls I through N along the eastern edge of the cemetery in 2005 and continued through 2009. Walkways also line these columbaria walls.

**Grave Locator Booth:** The grave locator booth, ca. 1985, is at the southeast corner of the administration office. It is a small, single-story structure of frame construction with a shed roof. The booth holds the gravesite locator computer through which the National Grave Locator burial information is available to visitors.

**Committal Shelter:** The committal shelter, built ca. 1995, is on the east side of the cemetery at the juncture of Sections A-H, Q, and O. Four scored, circular masonry posts that support a pyramidal glass roof composed the shelter. Each post is approximately 8 feet tall and the low-pitch roof rises about 5 feet higher. The square shelter measures approximately 23 feet x 23 feet, with masonry walls about 4 feet tall, framing the shelter's east side and half of its south side. Affixed to the brick floor are four permanent masonry benches; each includes a padded seat and a shaped masonry back with an inscription that reads: "Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery."

**Wrought-Iron Fence Flanking West Entrance Gates:** The west entrance gates connect with the columbaria walls via wrought-iron fencing on the north and south. The fencing, ca. 2005, is stepped in several places to accommodate the hilly topography and runs approximately 80 feet to the south and 25 feet north from the gates to the columbaria walls. The fencing is about 3 feet tall.

## Objects (22)

**Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery Plaques:** Affixed to the north gatepost of the east entrance is a 1936 rectangular bronze plaque with the inscribed name of the cemetery. This plaque matches the 1952-installed plaque on the south gatepost of the west entrance.

**Veterans Administration Plaques:** Affixed to the south gatepost of the east entrance, a 1973 rectangular bronze plaque reads "Veterans Administration 1930." These words encircle an inscription in relief of an officer's crest. This plaque matches the plaque on the north gatepost of the west entrance.

**United States Flagpole:** In 1952, the United States Flagpole, located in Section A-1 at the entrance to the west side of the cemetery, replaced an older flagpole formerly located along the

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walkway leading to the rostrum on the cemetery's east side. The flagpole is tubular steel and is 75 feet tall.<sup>16</sup>

**POW/MIA Flagpole:** Installed ca. 1975, the Prisoners of War/Missing in Action flagpole is approximately 50 feet in height. The flagpole is tubular steel and sits at the northwest corner of Section A-1 at the entrance to the west side of the cemetery.

**USS *Bennington* Monument:** This masonry granite obelisk monument is 75 feet in height with a 2-foot-high wall framing the base. Dedicated January 7, 1908, the monument commemorates the victims of a massive boiler explosion and fire involving the USS *Bennington* on July 21, 1905. The accident killed one officer and sixty-five crewmembers, as well as severely injuring others. Thirty-five of the dead are interred within the wall framing the monument. The front face of the monument reads, "To the Bennington's Dead," along with the date of the disaster; the rear face reads, "Erected by the Officers and Men of the Pacific Squadron to the Memory of Those Who Lost Their Lives in the Performance of Duty." The monument sits toward the north end of the Post Section on the east side of Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. In 2010, the cemetery completely restored the low wall to its original appearance and height. For many years, soil covered the original wall.

**Battle of San Pasqual Monument:** Erected July 31, 1922 by the San Diego chapter of the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, the San Pasqual monument commemorates the lives of soldiers who perished in the 1846 Battle of San Pasqual during the Mexican War. Located in the Post Section of Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, the monument is a granite boulder measuring approximately 3 feet tall with a bronze plaque.

**Mormon Battalion Memorial:** Erected ca. 1995 to commemorate the 2,000-mile march of Mormons from Iowa to San Diego in 1846-1847 during the war with Mexico, this white marble tablet memorial is approximately 4½ feet tall by 2 feet wide. The monument features two small bronze medallions on each side reading, "Mexican War, U.S. Mormon Battalion" on the front and "Women of the Mormon Battalion" on the rear. The front of the monument includes a low-relief depiction of a man and a woman, presumably representing Albert Warren Dunham and Lydia Ann Edmunds Hunter, who both died during the march. Both were originally interred on Point Loma at La Playa. The Army relocated their remains to Fort Rosecrans in 1887 with other military personnel.

**Memorial Day Order Plaque:** The *Memorial Day Order* plaque, erected ca. 1940, is a bronze plaque attached to an upright tablet. The plaque is 4½ feet long by 2½ feet wide, set upon a 6½-foot-high upright tablet with a stepped cap. It is immediately southeast of the east entrance gates. The plaque refers to the designation of May 30, 1868, as Decoration Day by John Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, for the remembrance of fallen comrades and decoration of their graves. It was his hope that the observance would become an

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<sup>16</sup> Aerial photograph, October 3, 1950; Photograph, March 31, 1958; Photograph, November 1945.

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annual event. The plaque speaks to the realization of that “Memorial Day Order” and the commemorative landscape developed for national cemeteries.<sup>17</sup>

**National Cemetery Act Plaque:** The *National Cemetery Act* plaque, erected ca. 1940, is a bronze plaque attached to an upright beveled concrete mount. It stands approximately 4 feet high by 3 feet wide. The plaque is immediately northeast of the east entrance gates. The plaque presents the text for the 1867 Congressional Act to establish and protect national cemeteries, and its placement in the cemetery soon after the designation of Fort Rosecrans as a national cemetery affirms that distinction.

**“Gettysburg Address” Plaque:** This bronze plaque is approximately 4½ feet tall by 2½ feet wide, and was attached to the rostrum in 1936. President Abraham Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address at the dedication of the “Soldiers’ National Cemetery” in Gettysburg in 1863. In 1909, to celebrate of the centennial of his birth, the U.S. Army placed Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, cast in iron, in all national cemeteries. In national cemeteries established after 1909, “Gettysburg Address” plaques were similarly installed.

**“Bivouac of the Dead” Plaque:** The cast-aluminum “Bivouac of the Dead” plaque, erected 2003, rests alongside the *Memorial Day Order* Plaque southeast of the east entrance gates. It is approximately 2 feet tall and 3 feet wide attached to a beveled granite base. The historic placement of “Bivouac of the Dead” verses in national cemeteries during the nineteenth century inspired the installation of such plaques in later national cemeteries.

**Bicentennial Tree Plaque:** The bicentennial tree plaque is in Post Section 5 on the east side of the cemetery. Erected in 1976 in commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the plaque is mounted on a small granite block approximately 6 inches high.

### Committal Shelter Memorial Group

The following six monuments form a group along a brick walkway just southwest of the committal shelter at the juncture of Sections A-H, Q and O.

**September 11, 2001 Memorial (Committal Shelter):** This 2002-erected memorial is a granite block with a bronze plaque affixed to its top. The memorial is approximately 3 feet tall and 3 feet wide.

**Founders & Patriots Memorial (Committal Shelter):** This 1999-installed memorial is a granite block with a bronze plaque affixed to its top. It measures approximately 2 feet tall by 3 feet wide. The memorial honors all Americans who answered the call to arms.

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<sup>17</sup> Text of the “Memorial Day Order” varies slightly from cemetery to cemetery; the iteration used in Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery is that highlighted on the NCA website, [www.cem.va.gov/ceh/history/memdayorder.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/ceh/history/memdayorder.asp), (accessed September 15, 2015).

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Memorial (Committal Shelter):** This polished black granite block, erected in 2000, has a bronze plaque affixed to its top. It is approximately 5 feet tall and 3 feet wide. The memorial is dedicated by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division to fallen comrades.

**USS Gambier Bay CVE-73 and Composite Squadron VC-10 Memorial (Committal Shelter):** This two-part memorial includes a bronze plaque affixed to an upright granite block with an angled adjacent bronze plaque mounted to a granite block. Erected on October 25, 1996, the upright section stands approximately 6 feet tall and 3 feet wide, while the angled adjacent plaque is approximately 4½ feet tall and 3½ feet wide. Family members and survivors donated the monument in memory of the men who lost their lives in the 1944 Battle of Leyte Gulf (Philippines) and in subsequent battles in the Pacific Theater of World War II.

**USS Hoel, USS S.B. Roberts, USS Johnston Memorial (Committal Shelter):** Erected in 1995, this memorial is a tri-part, semi-circular upright group of granite blocks with inscriptions. The three connected units collectively stand approximately 5½ feet at the tallest point and measure approximately 16 feet wide. The memorial honors those who died on these ships in the 1944 Battle of Leyte Gulf (Philippines).

**Taffy 3 Memorial (Committal Shelter):** Installed on October 25, 1996, this two-part memorial is an upright granite block with an adjacent granite block, both with inscriptions. The upright section stands approximately 6 feet tall and 3 feet wide; the adjacent plaque is approximately 4½ feet tall and 3½ feet wide. The monument is dedicated in memory of the men who lost their lives in the 1944 Battle of Leyte Gulf (Philippines) and in subsequent battles in the Pacific theater of World War II.

### West Entrance Memorial Group

Although the cemetery is closed to new interments, anniversaries of battles and tributes to lives lost led to the placement of monuments such as these immediately inside the west gates. The first three are just east of the flagpole, the fourth sits northwest of the entrance gates.

**USS St. Lo, CVE 63 & Composite Squadron VC 65 Memorial (West Entrance):** This 1994-installed, two-part memorial is an upright granite block with bronze plaques affixed to both sections. This memorial is approximately 6½ feet tall at its highest point and 6 feet wide at its base. The memorial honors the men who died on these ships in the 1944 Battle of Leyte Gulf (Philippines).

**USS Wasp CV-7 Memorial (West Entrance):** Erected in 1995, this memorial is an upright granite block with an affixed bronze plaque. It measures approximately 6½ feet tall and 3 feet wide. The memorial commemorates the loss of fellow shipmates during the Battle of Guadalcanal.

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**USS *Ommaney Bay* CVE-79 Memorial (West Entrance):** This memorial is a two-part upright granite block with bronze plaques affixed to both sections, erected ca. 1994. It is approximately 6½ feet tall at its highest point and 6 feet wide at its base. The memorial pays tribute to the men lost in action when the ship was bombed in January 1945.

**California Registered Historical Landmark No. 55 Plaque (West Entrance):** This marker is an angled upright white granite block with an affixed bronze plaque, erected 1990. It is approximately 3 feet tall and 3 feet wide. Although the plaque dates to ca. 1990, the state of California registered the historic cemetery as a landmark on December 6, 1932.

### Historic Integrity

The historic integrity of Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery is high. Its historic design, monuments, buildings, and structures are intact, and changes and alterations have been done sympathetically and have taken place within the cemetery's period of significance. The cemetery retains historic integrity in the areas of location (1), design (2), setting (3), materials (4), workmanship (5), feeling (6), and association. Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery remains intact since its 1934 founding at the site of an existing Post Cemetery. The cemetery expanded between 1934 and 1965, but its boundaries are unchanged since that time (1). While the cemetery boundaries did expand during its first decades, the overall design (2) of plot layouts, buildings, and structures remains intact. The setting (3) of Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery is also largely unchanged since its founding. The cemetery remains perched atop the hillcrest of the Point Loma peninsula, surrounded by Naval Base Point Loma, the San Diego Bay, and the Pacific Ocean. The historic materials (4) used to construct the cemetery's buildings, structures, and objects remain present wherever possible, further supporting the integrity of this site. The presence of these materials, combined with the preservation of the cemetery's plan and lack of unsympathetic additions to historic buildings or to the cemetery landscape, bolsters Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery's historic integrity in the area of workmanship (5). The feeling (6) of Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery as a national significant historic burial ground remains, as does the association of the cemetery with the national cemetery movement during the Inter-World War years and thereafter.

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## 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 the boxes that apply.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Military

Social History

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1879-1934

1934-Present

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1934

1973

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

War Department

Works Progress Administration

Department of Veterans Affairs

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### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery is part of a Multiple Property Listing, *Inter-World War National Cemeteries, 1934-1939*. This study includes the following associated contexts: Development of National Cemeteries, 1862-1940; Cemetery Landscape and Design, 1930s; Rise of Veteran Service Organizations and Evolving Veteran Burial Benefits, 1860s-1930s; and the Impact of the Great Depression and the WPA Programs on National Cemeteries, 1930s.

Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery's significance rests in its position as one of seven national cemeteries established between World War I and World War II, specifically in 1934-1939. The increased veteran population, combined with the rapidly depleting burial space at existing national cemeteries, led to a series of federal legislation during this period aimed at establishing new cemeteries: Baltimore, Fort Snelling, Fort Rosecrans, Golden Gate, Fort Bliss, Long Island, and Fort Sam Houston national cemeteries. These seven properties are nationally significant under Criterion A for their association with the expansion of the National Cemetery System during the Inter-World War period. These cemeteries are physical shrines illustrating selfless sacrifices of the U.S. military, which expand upon the burial and memorial mission established during the Civil War through the first national cemeteries. For these reasons, Criteria Consideration D is satisfied.

In 2011, the Keeper of the National Register confirmed National Register of Historic Places eligibility by issuing a clarification of policy stating that all national cemeteries are considered exceptionally significant and eligible for listing in the NRHP regardless of age, and that all buildings, structures, and objects located within the boundaries of national cemeteries are considered contributing elements to each national cemetery regardless of age.<sup>18</sup>

The first period of significance (1879-1934) represents the era in which the Post Cemetery was established at this site, beginning with interments of individuals who lost their lives in the Battle of San Pasqual during the Mexican War and ending with the establishment of the national cemetery. The second period of significance (1934-Present) at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery begins with its establishment as a national cemetery. Due to the complex nature of cemetery development, Congressional establishment was chosen as the beginning date for the Inter-World War national cemeteries because all other dates occur due to the authorizing legislation. For Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery that statute came from the War Department in 1934.

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<sup>18</sup> Keeper of the National Register, "National Register Eligibility of National Cemeteries—A Clarification of Policy." September 8, 2011. (Washington, DC: History Program Collection, NCA). Available at: [http://www.cem.va.gov/pdf/Final\\_Eligibility\\_of\\_VA\\_cemeteries\\_A\\_Clarification\\_of\\_Policy\\_rev.pdf](http://www.cem.va.gov/pdf/Final_Eligibility_of_VA_cemeteries_A_Clarification_of_Policy_rev.pdf)

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## Narrative Statement of Significance

### **Historical Background**

On September 28, 1542, Juan Cabrillo, a Portuguese explorer sailing on behalf of Spain, landed on the Point Loma peninsula, in San Diego Bay. Cabrillo and the others in his expedition were the first Europeans to come ashore onto the Pacific Coast of the present-day United States. Cabrillo described the bay as a “very good enclosed port.”<sup>19</sup>

Despite Cabrillo’s favorable observations, San Diego Bay was remote from other Spanish possessions in the New World. Spain only began establishing settlements in California as a response to the Russian Empire’s territorial ambitions in Alaska and the Pacific Coast in the 1760s, more than 200 years after Cabrillo’s expedition. Because of its natural advantages, Spain founded its first permanent settlement on the West Coast of the United States near the bay. In 1769, Gaspar de Portola, a soldier in the Spanish Army, established the Presidio of San Diego, while Father Junipero Serra founded the San Diego de Alcala Mission. Both were in the present-day Old Town neighborhood, approximately 4 miles north of the harbor.

The Spanish used San Diego as a base of operations to colonize the territory of Alta California. It was the southern endpoint of El Camino Real, the historic trail that connected the twenty-one missions in the territory. In 1821, Mexico won its independence from Spain and claimed Alta California.<sup>20</sup>

During the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), there were a handful of small battles in Southern California. On December 6-7, 1846, a combined United States force of soldiers, sailors, and marines under the command of General Stephen Kearny engaged a small group of Californios (Mexican colonists born in California) in the Battle of San Pasqual, about 30 miles north of San Diego. Eighteen of Kearny’s men fell in the battle, but the United States forces managed to hold the field. Soon after, the United States military fortified the San Diego Mission as a post. The United States’ victory in the war led to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, signed in February 1848. The terms of the treaty defined the Pacific Coast border between the two countries directly south of San Diego.<sup>21</sup>

After the war, President James Polk created a military commission to survey the new Western coast of the United States. In 1850, the same year that California joined the Union as a state, the commission arrived in San Diego. Two years later, the report issued by the commission recommended that the United States improve and fortify San Diego for the purposes of defense and commerce. Specifically, the commission determined that Point Loma was the best location

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<sup>19</sup> Susan Lehmann, *An Embarrassment of Riches: The Administrative History of Cabrillo National Monument* (San Diego: Cabrillo Historical Association, 1987), accessed April 18, 2012, [http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/cabr2/index.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/cabr2/index.htm).

<sup>20</sup> Lehmann, *An Embarrassment of Riches*.

<sup>21</sup> George Ruhlen, “San Diego Barracks,” *San Diego Historical Society Quarterly* 1, no. 2 (April 1955): no page, accessed April 18, 2012, <http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/55april/barracks.htm>.

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on which to establish a military post to defend San Diego Harbor.<sup>22</sup> To this end, an Executive Order of the President on February 26, 1852, reserved the peninsula of Point Loma, California, for use as a military reservation.<sup>23</sup>

However, the City of San Diego also claimed ownership of Point Loma. In response to the Executive Order, in 1853 the city filed a claim on Point Loma to the Public Land Commission, the federal agency responsible for determining the validity of Spanish and Mexican land grants in California. In 1856, the commission found in favor of the city; the United States appealed to federal court in 1857, which dismissed the appeal.<sup>24</sup>

In May 1858, the soldiers at the San Diego mission moved north to the Washington Territory to support soldiers under the command of Colonel George Wright in the Yakima War. For approximately seven months, San Diego had no military presence. In December of that year, a new company of soldiers moved into the Army Supply Depot near the harbor, which the Army fortified as a garrisoned post.<sup>25</sup> Records at the National Archives indicate that there was a small cemetery at this post.

In 1867, the Department of War renewed its efforts to establish a military installation on Point Loma. By this time, local boosters and city officials were promoting San Diego as a possible terminus for a trans-continental railroad; a new United States Army fort would help bring this to fruition. In 1868, the City of San Diego deeded a series of lots on Point Loma to the United States, roughly contiguous to the boundaries defined by President Polk's executive order.<sup>26</sup>

Due to budget debates, Congress did not appropriate federal funds for developing the Point Loma installation until 1874. After a handful of improvements, including a wharf, stable, residence, and carpentry shop, and the initial construction of a seacoast battery, building ceased due to further federal debates, again resulting in a lack of federal funds.<sup>27</sup>

Despite the initial construction on Point Loma, it was not yet suitable for occupation; the military continued to use the old Army Supply Depot as a post. In 1879, *General Orders No. 2* renamed the post the San Diego Barracks.<sup>28</sup>

The Point Loma site remained half-complete until 1897, when Congress finally appropriated funds to construct further improvements. By February 1898, the first soldiers transferred from the San Diego Barracks to the fort, in part due to increased tensions with Spain.<sup>29</sup> The reservation officially received the name "Fort Rosecrans" in 1899 for Major General William Starke Rosecrans, United States Volunteers (Brigadier General, United States Army). General

<sup>22</sup> Lehmann, *An Embarrassment of Riches*.

<sup>23</sup> Ruhlen, "Fort Rosecrans," 60.

<sup>24</sup> Lehmann, *An Embarrassment of Riches*.

<sup>25</sup> Ruhlen, "San Diego Barracks," no page.

<sup>26</sup> Lehmann, *An Embarrassment of Riches*.

<sup>27</sup> Ruhlen, "Fort Rosecrans," 63.

<sup>28</sup> Ruhlen, "San Diego Barracks," no page.

<sup>29</sup> Ruhlen, "Fort Rosecrans," 63.

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Rosecrans served as a prominent Union Officer in the Civil War after working for the Army Corps of Engineers during the 1850s.<sup>30</sup>

The location of what became Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery consisted of 8 acres during its use as a Fort Rosecrans Post Cemetery.<sup>31</sup> The Post Cemetery at Fort Rosecrans became the final burial place for several individuals killed during the Battle of San Pasqual. By 1874, the bodies of the soldiers were exhumed and relocated to the San Diego Military Reservation. In 1882, the remains were relocated once more, to the current Post Section 4, graves 25 and 26.<sup>32</sup>

During the period it functioned as a Post Cemetery, this tract served as the final resting place for those sailors killed in the July 21, 1905, boiler explosion upon the USS *Bennington*. A substantial peacetime naval tragedy, the explosion, along with escaping steam, severely injured forty-six crewmembers and led to the deaths of sixty others. On July 23, 1905, the cemetery held funeral services for thirty-six of the sixty victims (one has since been disinterred). The Pacific Squadron erected a 75' tall, large, granite obelisk in memory of the tragedy in 1908. The obelisk marks the location of the remaining thirty-five gravesites within a low masonry wall.

After the USS *Bennington* tragedy, high-ranking Army and the Navy officials made several attempts to designate the Post Cemetery at Fort Rosecrans as a national cemetery. The War Department did not approve of such an order, arguing that San Francisco National Cemetery, established in 1884, provided ample burial space during this time. The Post Cemetery grew in size during this period, despite the failed attempts to raise its status, allowing for the burial of Navy and Marine Corps dead.<sup>33</sup>

An Act (41 Stat. 552) instituted by Congress on April 15, 1920, extended burial benefits to honorably discharged veterans of all wars. With the passage of this law, approximately 5 million new veterans became eligible for burial in national cemeteries. This dramatic increase in the civilian population eligible for burial, coupled with the continued presence of thousands of active-duty military on the Pacific coast, contributed to the rise in demand for burial space at San Francisco National Cemetery, which was the only national cemetery on the west coast at the time. These factors led to the establishment of Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery by War Department *General Orders No. 7* on October 5, 1934. The War Department's policy at the time was to expand existing national cemeteries rather than create new ones, and in the case of Fort Rosecrans and other Inter-World War national cemeteries, they were either intended to supplement and expand existing facilities or to serve current burial needs of the armed forces. Former Army captain and World War I veteran King C. Tolles was the first superintendent of

<sup>30</sup> Ruhlen, "Fort Rosecrans," 63.

<sup>31</sup> NCA, "Land Survey Inventory of Federal Acreage," Quarterly Report: 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr./FY 03," December 31, 2002, updated April 7, 2009, HPC, NCA, Washington, DC.

<sup>32</sup> NCA, "Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery," accessed June 16, 2014, <http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/ftrosecrans.asp>.

<sup>33</sup> Department of the Army (DOA). "Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery," photocopy, August 13, 1968, 2, HPC, NCA, Washington, DC.

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Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery; Tolles served in that capacity from August 1935 until retirement in July 1943.<sup>34</sup>

### **Cemetery Development**

Originally opened as a national cemetery with 8 acres, the cemetery grew by slightly more than 62 acres between 1934 and 1965. Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery first developed immediately north, east, and south of the Post Section on the east side of Cabrillo Memorial Drive. Aerial and ground photography from the 1940s reveals the earliest areas of the cemetery as the Post Section, Officer's Sections A and B, and Sections A-E.<sup>35</sup>

A project funded by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) brought the "southern half" of Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery to near completion by March 1938. The New Deal labor program, begun in 1935, primarily completed small-scale new construction, rehabilitation, and/or landscape improvement projects that could be completed in a year or less. An allotment of \$30,000 by the WPA funded the construction tasks of filling and grading, as well as the installation of roads, water, and a sprinkler system.<sup>36</sup> A request for a WPA project valued at \$15,000 made later in 1938 for tasks included raising curbing in the cemetery, building rock gutters, and setting headstones in concrete collars, among the previous requests for installing a sprinkler system and resurfacing roads. Due to the increase in size after the designation of the national cemetery, the Office of the Quartermaster General requested funds for an additional laborer to carry out these tasks. Lieutenant Colonel John T. Harris responded to the request, stating that federal funds were not available, but WPA funding would be appropriate.<sup>37</sup>

According to subsequent correspondence, it appears that WPA authorities would not approve the funding allotment unless such funds included a substantial contribution by the War Department. However, the War Department (renamed the Department of Defense in 1949) did not make funds available and the Office of the Quartermaster General took further action as necessary.<sup>38</sup>

By 1940, burial space at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery already dwindled. With 304 burials taking place that year alone, the cemetery was expected to exceed capacity in the following two years. A request in early 1940 to expand the cemetery by 20 acres to the south and adjacent to the Post Section initially failed. However, upon inspecting the cemetery in March 1941, Major Engmann A. Andersen of the Quartermaster Corps suggested a revival of the issue to expand the cemetery. Recommending that the request for extra land not be made until the cemetery was

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<sup>34</sup> DOA, "Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery," 2; Lt. Col. John T. Harris, Quartermaster Corps (QMC), to Hon. George Burnham, April 8, 1937, Box 514, Folder 687 FRNC vol. III 1937, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

<sup>35</sup> Aerial photograph, ca. 1940s.

<sup>36</sup> Col. John T. Harris, QMC, to Quartermaster, 9<sup>th</sup> Corps Area, Presidio of San Francisco, Cal., March 29, 1938, Box 514, Folder 687 FRNC vol. III 1937, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

<sup>37</sup> Col. John T. Harris, QMC, to Quartermaster, 9<sup>th</sup> Corps Area, Presidio of San Francisco, Cal. August 6, 1938, Box 514, Folder 687 FRNC vol. III 1937, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

<sup>38</sup> Col. Rudolph E. Smyser, QMC, to Quartermaster General, Washington, DC, August 11, 1938, Box 514, Folder 687 FRNC vol. III 1937, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

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nearly full, Andersen also stated that the initial request be lessened to 5 or 10 acres in all. Such a small portion of land was less likely to be rejected by the Fort Rosecrans Military Reservation.<sup>39</sup>

When first established as a national cemetery in 1934, there were no extant buildings in Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. In 1936, recognizable features of the built landscape included the rostrum and the attached "Gettysburg Address" Plaque, as well as the cemetery's first two buildings: the lodge and the maintenance facility/restroom. Both one-story buildings are hollow tile clad with stucco, covered with Mission tile roofs, and include Spanish Eclectic details. Work on the cemetery's earliest boundary wall along the east side of Cabrillo Memorial Drive and its first primary entrance, the east entrance gates, concluded in 1938. As planned burial sections grew in the 1940s, sections of boundary wall running along the east border of the cemetery, such as the extant wall bounding the east edge of Section E, also developed. Columbaria walls eventually replaced additional walls along the east boundary and elsewhere throughout the cemetery in the early 2000s. Also added just east of the east entrance gates ca. 1940 were the *Memorial Day Order* and *National Cemetery Act* plaques. Affixed to large, slanted tablets, these were the first freestanding plaques to be erected in the cemetery since its establishment as Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. Such plaques are common installations to national cemeteries. However, this style of plaque, set upon an upright granite stand, may be specific to Inter-World War cemeteries.<sup>40</sup>

### **Cemetery Evolution Over Time**

The start of World War II with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor brought a heightened level of concern about national security to the United States. Coastal areas, especially those associated with military operations, received special attention when preparing the country for war. In May 1942, the Quartermaster General gained approval to camouflage Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery from possible aerial surveillance in any manner, provided such a measure could be reversed when possible.

Following the approval of the impermanent painting of the cemetery's walks, Colonel C.C. Reynolds suggested instead that such camouflaging be carried out by the more inexpensive, easier method of covering and uncovering with earth.<sup>41</sup> While the final decision as to how the headstones and memorials should be camouflaged is unknown, correspondence from late 1945 suggested that at least the buildings were fully covered in camouflage paint.<sup>42</sup> A letter from cemetery Superintendent Clayborne F. Kearney to the Ninth Service Command stated that one

<sup>39</sup> Engmann A. Andersen, Inspection of FRNC, March 6, 1941, Box 513, Folder 333.1 FRNC, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

<sup>40</sup> This style of plaque is currently found in Baltimore, Fort Sam Houston, Long Island, Fort Rosecrans, and Fort Snelling national cemeteries. The manufacturer sent this style of plaque to Fort Bliss National Cemetery, and perhaps to Golden Gate National Cemetery, but they were subsequently removed. Golden Gate and Fort Bliss national cemeteries now have similar plaques dating to 2011 and 2012, respectively.

<sup>41</sup> Col. C.C. Reynolds, QMC, to Quartermaster General, 9<sup>th</sup> Corps Area, Fort Douglas, Utah, May 17, 1942, Box 514, Folder 687 FRNC 1940b, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

<sup>42</sup> Lt. Col. Jess K. Kerschner, QMC, to Supt., FRNC, October 31, 1945, Box 514, Folder 687 FRNC 1945b, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

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Mr. Lloyd D. Greeseon, Sr. provided cost estimates to the cemetery on October 17, 1945 for measures he would take to restore the original look of the camouflaged buildings:

The walls, ceilings of office, living room, dining room, two bed rooms and hall to receive two coats of "Pittsburgh Wall Hide Oil Paint." The trim to receive "Semi Gloss Enamel" and satin varnish. Kitchen, bath and service porch one coat enamel undercoater and one coat waterspar enamel. Exterior of house and utility buildings and walls enclosing the house and utility buildings to receive two coats of oil stucco paint. All windows on residence to receive one coat of exterior sash trim paint.<sup>43</sup>

Kearney went on to state that neither the gates to the enclosure, nor the doors or windows within the utility building, would be painted. The color selected for the lodge, utility building and enclosing wall was "Oyster White," which would restore the buildings to their original color. The total estimate by Greeseon for labor, insurance and materials was \$1,039.50.<sup>44</sup>

Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery began installation of the chain-link fence still in place on the east side of the cemetery by 1945. Though construction of this boundary lasted until 1968, the cemetery installed chain-link fencing on the west side between 1951 and 1958.

By August 15, 1947, official plans existed to meet greater demand for burial space by expanding the cemetery via north and south land additions. At this time, the roughly 9-acre parcel to the north accommodated Sections G-N and MB; a southern addition of slightly less than 12 acres included Sections O, P, and Q.<sup>45</sup> Aerial photography from 1950 confirms this expansion, and proposals to obtain even more land for use by the cemetery were already underway.<sup>46</sup>

Five years after its construction, Andersen described the 1936-built maintenance facility as "adequate in size," adding that this building should continue to provide ample support to the cemetery and that no other new buildings should be constructed in the future.<sup>47</sup> But by 1951, the maintenance facility received an automobile bay addition and by 1952, workers extended the façade gable wing of the lodge.

Development along the west side of Cabrillo Memorial Drive commenced by the early 1950s as well. The cemetery added the west entrance gates and United States Flagpole in 1952 when expansion began late that year. While earlier buildings located on the cemetery's east side reflected more traditional architectural styles, the administration office reflects a mid-twentieth-century move toward more eclectic designs. The building dates to 1957 and has a daring, steeply

<sup>43</sup> Supt. C. Kearney to Hq. 9<sup>th</sup> Service Command, Fort Douglas, Utah, THRU Commanding Officer, Fort Rosecrans, California, November 2, 1945, Box 514, Folder 687 FRNC 1945b, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

<sup>44</sup> Kearney to 9<sup>th</sup> Service Command, November 2, 1945.

<sup>45</sup> "Location Plan," August 15, 1947.

<sup>46</sup> Aerial photograph, October 3, 1950; Aerial photograph, February 3, 1950.

<sup>47</sup> Andersen, Inspection of FRNC, March 6, 1941.

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sloping roof and window wall façade. The cemetery installed a stand-alone grave locator booth immediately south of the administration office ca. 1985.

Aerial photography indicates that the cemetery developed new land for Sections R through Z (X looking only partially complete) and A-1 by 1961.<sup>48</sup> In 1965, the Department of the Navy transferred approximately one acre and in 1966 the cemetery officially closed to new interments other than Vietnam War casualties, reserved interments, and second interments at existing gravesites.<sup>49</sup>

Passage of the *National Cemetery Act of 1973* (Public Law 93-43), signed on June 18, 1973, provided for development of the National Cemetery System. The act transferred eighty-two of the eighty-four national cemeteries to the Veterans Administration (VA). The two exceptions were among the oldest and most recognized properties: Soldiers' Home and Arlington National Cemeteries. The eighty-two cemeteries joined twenty-one that the VA already administered as part of VA medical centers. Also transferred from the Army were thirty-three soldiers' lots, government lots, and Confederate cemeteries that dated to the Civil War.<sup>50</sup> During the 1980s and 1990s, Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery and the VA itself evolved. In 1989, the VA gained cabinet-level status and was renamed the Department of Veterans Affairs (also known by the abbreviation VA); in 1998 the National Cemetery System became the National Cemetery Administration (NCA).

In the 1970s, the cemetery installed the POW/MIA Flagpole near the United States Flagpole on the west side of the grounds. In 1976, the cemetery added a Bicentennial Tree Plaque on the east side. The erection of memorials and markers greatly increased in the 1990s with the first group installed near the west entrance gates between 1990 and 1995 (USS *St. Lo*, CVE 63 & Composite Squadron VC 65 Memorial; USS *Wasp* CV-7 Memorial; USS *Ommaney Bay* CVE-79 Memorial; and California Registered Landmark No. 55 Plaque). Following the construction of the Committal Shelter near the secondary east entrance at the juncture of Sections A-H, Q, and O ca.1995, six additional memorials were installed in its vicinity between 1995 and 2002 (September 11, 2001 Memorial; Founders & Patriots Memorial; 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Memorial; USS *Gambier Bay* CVE-73 and Composite Squadron VC-10 Memorial; USS *Hoel*, USS *S.B. Roberts*, USS *Johnston* Memorial; and Taffy 3 Memorial). Also added to the cemetery in the 1990s was the Mormon Battalion Memorial. The cemetery installed the "Bivouac of the Dead" in 2003.

While already closed to new interments by 1966, the cemetery provided additional internment space for cremains with the construction of several columbaria walls beginning in 2002. At that

<sup>48</sup> Photograph, March 31, 1958; Aerial photograph, 1961.

<sup>49</sup> VA, Pamphlet 40-28, August 1, 1976.

<sup>50</sup> Dean W. Holt, *American Military Cemeteries: A Comprehensive Illustrated Guide to the Hollowed Grounds of the United States, Including Cemeteries Overseas* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company, 1992), 5, 409; Donald E. Johnson, *A Study of the National Cemetery System* (Washington, DC: Department of Veterans Affairs [VA], 1974), 15; VA, *Report on the National Cemetery System*, prepared in response to Public Law 99-576 (Sec. 412), Veterans Benefit Improvement and Health-Care Authorization Act of 1986 (February 1994).

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time, construction on the earliest columbaria wall began at what is now Columbarium Wall H on the east edge of Section F on the east side of the cemetery. Workers erected the first of the new walls on the west side of the cemetery, Columbaria A, B, C, and D, along the east boundary of Sections U, W, Y, Z, A-B, and A-C. Construction of Columbarium I began in 2005 on the east boundary of Sections A, B, and approximately half of Section H, while 2007-2008 saw additional columbaria under construction on the east boundary of Sections E and F. Finally, construction occurred on Columbaria Walls J through N in 2008-2009. With the final niche claimed in May 2014, Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery closed to new burials once more.

### **Medal of Honor Recipients (23)**<sup>51</sup>

The Medal of Honor is the highest award that can be bestowed upon Armed Services personnel. The honor recognizes an act of valor performed in action against an enemy force. The recipients' headstones installed or replaced since 1976 feature the Medal of Honor emblem in gold. Headstones prior to 1976 may list the medal in text only.

Charles Francis Bishop, Quartermaster Second Class, United States Navy. Awarded the Medal of Honor for heroic actions taken aboard the USS *Florida* during the Vera Cruz Campaign on April 21, 1914. After his death on February 1, 1954, Bishop was interred in Section O, Grave 4562.

Willis W. Bradley, Captain, United States Navy. Aboard the USS *Pittsburg* during World War I, Bradley displayed extraordinary bravery during an accidental explosion of ammunition held on the craft on June 23, 1917. His actions also led to the naming of the USS *Bradley* in his honor. Bradley is interred in Section O, Grave 2925.

Mason Carter, Major, United States Infantry. The first Medal of Honor recipient interred here, Carter was recognized for gallant service against the Nez Perce at Bear Paw Mountain, Montana, on September 30, 1877. After his death on December 11, 1909, he was interred in Post Section 4, Grave 102.

Peter S. Connor, Staff Sergeant, United States Marine Corps. Throwing himself at a grenade in order to save his comrades during the Vietnam conflict on February 25, 1966, he was fatally injured. Connor died a few weeks later and is interred in Section A-E, Grave 1005.

William S. Cronan, Boatswain's Mate, Lieutenant Commander, United States Navy. Cronan was one of eleven crew of the USS *Bennington* awarded the medal on January 5, 1906, for heroism displayed during the explosion. He served through World War II and retired in 1946. After his death on October 22, 1959, Cronan was buried in Section T, Grave 534.

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<sup>51</sup> This section was compiled with information from George Lang, Raymond Luther Collins, and Gerard White, *Medal of Honor Recipients, 1863-1994: World War II to Somalia*, New York: Facts on File, Inc., 1995 and the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, "Full Archive," accessed June 1, 2010, website at [www.CMOHS.org](http://www.CMOHS.org).

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Albert L. David, Lieutenant Junior Grade, United States Navy. David received the medal for brave leadership while aboard the World War II vessel USS *Pillsbury* on June 4, 1944. He died September 17, 1945, and is interred in the Officer's Section, Grave 125-A.

James L. Day, Major General, United States Marine Corps. As a corporal in World War II, Day's leadership and heroism during in the Battle of Okinawa in 1945 led to his recognition. Day went on to serve in Korea and Vietnam; he died on October 28, 1998, and is interred in Section P, Grave 1748.

Jesse Farley Dyer, Captain, United States Marine Corps. Awarded the Medal of Honor for distinguished conduct while engaging in battle at Vera Cruz on April 21-22, 1914; after his death on March 31, 1955, he was interred in Section P, Grave 1606.

Middleton S. Elliott, Vice Admiral, United States Navy. Instrumental in the establishment of the base hospital at Vera Cruz, surgeon Elliot received the Medal of Honor for courage and cool judgment at first aid stations along the firing line and for removing the wounded. After his death on October 29, 1952, he was buried in Section P, Grave 2628.

Michael John Estocin, Captain, United States Navy. Showing great valor on April 20 and 26, 1967, during the Vietnam War, pilot Estocin led a three-plane group of aircraft in Attack Squadron 192. His aircraft was shot down above Vietnam on April 26, and his remains were never recovered. Estocin's memorial marker is located in Section MA, Grave 112.

Donald A. Gary, Commander, United States Navy. Then Lieutenant Junior Grade Gary displayed marked heroism during fires aboard the USS *Franklin* on March 19, 1945. His actions resulted in his being awarded the Medal of Honor, as well as the naming of a guided missile frigate USS *Gary* in 1983. Gary died on April 9, 1977 and is interred in Section A-1, Grave 3-B.

Ora Graves, Seaman, United States Navy. While aboard the USS *Pittsburg* on June 23, 1917, "Pappy" Graves single-handedly extinguished a fire aboard the vessel that threatened to ignite 21 tons of powder. Graves is interred in Section W, Grave 1208.

Herman Hanneken, Second Lieutenant, United States Marine Corps. Recognized for killing infamous bandit leader Charlemagne Peralte during a raid while on duty in Haiti in 1919; Hanneken continued to serve in Haiti, Brazil and Nicaragua during the 1920s and received two Navy Crosses for his efforts fighting bandits throughout Central and South America. He died on August 23, 1986, and is interred in Section C, Grave 166-D.

Jimmie Earl Howard, Gunnery Sergeant, United States Marine Corps. During the Vietnam War Howard led a reconnaissance patrol of 18 men in a violent fight against a battalion of Viet Cong on June 16, 1966. Howard died on November 12, 1993 and is interred in Section O, Grave 3659.

Ross L. Iams, Major, United States Marine Corps. During the Haitian insurrection of November 17, 1915, Iams gallantly participated in the capture of the "untakeable" Fort Riviere at Black

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Mountain. For not hesitating to jump a breach in the fort's wall despite heavy fire, Iams received the medal. He retired in November 1932 but rejoined active duty on January 19, 1942. He died on March 29, 1952 and is interred in Section P, Grave 2930.

Herbert C. Jones, Ensign, United States Navy. While leading a party to supply ammunition to those aboard the USS *California*, Jones was killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He was buried in Section G, Grave 76.

Michael A. Monsoor, Petty Officer Second Class (SEAL), United States Navy. Sacrificing his own life to save those of fellow soldiers and for gallant actions at Ar Ramadi, Iraq, on September 29, 2006, Monsoor received a posthumous Medal of Honor. He was buried in Section U, Grave 412E.

John Edward Murphy, Coxswain, United States Navy. During the Spanish-American War, Murphy displayed heroism under harsh fire at the harbor of Santiago, Cuba, on June 2, 1898. He died on April 9, 1941 and is interred in the Officer's Section, Grave 363.

James Irsley Poynter, Sergeant, United States Marine Corps. On November 4, 1950, Poynter single-handedly obliterated three machine gun crews before being killed during the Korean War. Poynter was also a veteran of World War II. He is interred in Section O, Grave 729.

Anund C. Roark, Sergeant, United States Army. After hurling himself at a grenade to save his soldiers from certain death during a May 1968 rescue mission during the Vietnam War, Roark's body was never recovered. He has a memorial marker in Section O, Site 1855. In 1975, a new United States Army Reserve Center at Camp Pendleton was dedicated in his name.

Henry Frank Schroeder, Major, United States Army. While an Army sergeant, Schroeder received the medal for gallantry during the Philippine Insurrection on September 14, 1900. Schroeder achieved the rank of major and when he died on January 20, 1959, was interred in Section S, Grave 854.

Robert Semple, Lieutenant Commander, United States Navy. While serving as a chief turret captain aboard the USS *Florida*, Semple displayed exemplary service under fire at Vera Cruz on April 21, 1914. Semple died on May 13, 1943 and is interred in Officer's Section A, Grave 192.

William Zuiderveld, Lieutenant, United States Navy. Zuiderveld was awarded the Medal of Honor after voluntarily serving with four other men during the bloody attack on the Custom House at Vera Cruz during the Mexican War. Living to the age of ninety, Zuiderveld died on February 5, 1978, and is interred in Section A-1, Grave 9-B.

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### **Other Notable Burials**

Daniel Carrier, Captain, United States Air Force. Carrier was a radar officer in a Phantom jet that was shot down near Da Nang in June 1967 and he was missing in action for twenty-two years. The Vietnamese government returned his recovered remains. Carrier is interred on December 1, 1989, in Section F, Grave 33.

Thomas S. Crow, Master Chief Petty Officer, United States Navy. Joining the Navy in 1953, Crow was selected for the top enlisted position in 1979. He worked in several facets of the military during times of war and peace, from aviation structural mechanic to race relations. After his death on November 30, 2008, Crow was interred in Section F, Grave 77-A.

Ralph L. Fischetti, Corporal, United States Army. Serving in World War II in the United States Army, Fischetti went on to serve as superintendent of Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery from June 1953 until his death in November 1963. He is interred in Section S, Grave 458.

Reuben H. Fleet, Major, United States Army. A World War I aviator, Fleet left the United States Army in 1922, and founded Consolidated Aircraft in Buffalo, New York, a year later. In 1935, Fleet relocated the firm to San Diego and it quickly grew into a large firm— at its peak employing 41,000 people during the World War II arms build-up. Fleet funded the construction of one of the world's leading planetariums, Reuben H. Fleet Space Theater and Science Center in Balboa Park, San Diego. Following his death in 1975, Fleet was interred in Section O, Grave 674.

Bruno A. Hochmuth, Major General, United States Marine Corps. While on active duty, Hochmuth was the first American general killed in hostile action during the Vietnam War. Hochmuth died on November 14, 1967. He is interred in Section O, Grave 2615.

Robert D. Israel, Rank UNK United States Mounted Rifles, Mexican War. Served from June 27, 1873, to January 1892 as the last Old Point Loma Lighthouse Keeper. He died in San Diego on January 12, 1908, and is buried in Post Section 5, Grave 74.

Clayborne F. Kearney, Captain, United States Army. After serving in World War I, Kearney worked as superintendent of Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery from August 1945 until December 1949. After his death on January 15, 1964, at age 80, he was buried in the Officer's Section, Grave 279.

Victor H. Krulak, Lieutenant General, United States Marine Corps. Krulak served during World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars; he received a Navy Distinguished Service Medal for heroism in Vietnam. Retiring on June 1, 1968, Krulak's book, *First to Fight: An Inside View of the U.S. Marine Corps*, is considered the definitive work on the history and culture of the Marine Corps.

John Wilson O'Daniel, Lieutenant General, United States Army. "Iron Mike" O'Daniel is best known for commanding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division of the United States Army, the Rock of the Marne, during World War II. The Rock of the Marne was the first Allied unit into

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Berchtesgaden in May 1945. O'Daniel earned his nickname during World War I for twelve hours of combat at St. Mihiel on September 12, 1918. For these actions, he received a Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart. He also served in Korea before retiring in 1955; after his death on March 27, 1975, he is interred in Section A-E, Grave 1172.

Joseph H. Pendleton, Major General, United States Marine Corps. Pendleton served as commanding general of the San Diego Marine Corps Recruit Depot. After his death on February 4, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated Camp Pendleton in his honor. He is interred in the Officer's Section, Grave 191.

Thomas H. Rynning, Second Lieutenant, United States Army. The first captain of the famed Arizona Rough Riders, Rynning went on to serve as second lieutenant in the United States Volunteer Cavalry during the Spanish-American War. His "Old-West" style made him a charming character depicted in film and television. He died on June 18, 1941. Rynning is interred in Officer's Section A, Grave 11.

Harry Schmidt, General, United States Marine Corps. Commander of the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division and 5<sup>th</sup> Amphibious Corps during World War II, Schmidt received the Navy Distinguished Service Medal. He is interred in Section Q, Grave 1533.

Albert B. Smith, Civilian. Surrounded by troops under fire by Mexican snipers at Fort Stockton, overlooking Old Town in San Diego, Smith spiked guns and raised the American flag amongst the fighting in 1846 during the Mexican-American War. He is interred in 1864 in Post Section 4, Grave 5-A. A memorial was erected in his honor at the foot of his grave in 1929.

Holland M. Smith, General, United States Marine Corps. A famed leader of several difficult Marine Corps victories in the Central Pacific island campaigns of World War II, "Howlin' Mad" Smith died on January 14, 1967, and was buried in the Officers Section, Grave 279-A.

Laurence Stallings, Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps. After serving in World Wars I and II (non-combat), Stallings went on to become a celebrated playwright, screenwriter, and novelist. After losing his leg in 1922 due to damage from injuries suffered during and after the war, Stallings wrote the novel *Plumes* in 1924; he went on to write and co-write plays and films, including "What Price Glory," a stage adaptation of *A Farewell to Arms*, and "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon." Stallings is interred in the Officer's Section, Grave 46-A.

#### Criteria Consideration D – Cemeteries

Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery's significance lies in its status as one of the seven national cemeteries established in the Inter World War period between 1919 and 1939. Nationally significant under Criterion A for its association with the expansion of the National Cemetery System during the Inter-World War period, this cemetery is a physical shrine to the sacrifices of the U.S. military, and expands upon the burial and memorial mission established during the Civil War through the first national cemeteries. Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery meets the

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requirements for Criteria Consideration D. This is supported by the Keeper of the National Register's 2011 decision that all national cemeteries are considered exceptionally significant and eligible for listing in the NRHP regardless of age, and that all buildings, structures, and objects located within the boundaries of national cemeteries are considered contributing elements to each national cemetery regardless of age.

**Conclusion**

Situated on the Point Loma peninsula, Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery is one of the most picturesque of all national cemeteries. Flanked by the Pacific Ocean and San Diego Bay, the hills of Point Loma are a backdrop of immense serenity and scenic beauty to this national cemetery. The natural beauty of this location meets with the stark solemnity of the headstones, columbaria, architecture, buildings, and structures, to create a singular panorama of continual remembrance and honor.

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscapes Survey # CA-7

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: Geisel Library, University of California, San Diego, National Archives, Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 82.44

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 32.694603 | Longitude: -117.244447 |
| 2. Latitude: 32.687876 | Longitude: -117.243826 |
| 3. Latitude: 32.680456 | Longitude: -117.244387 |
| 4. Latitude: 32.689587 | Longitude: -117.246769 |

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |               |                 |                   |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 11 N | Easting: 477122 | Northing: 3615886 |
| 2. Zone: 11 N | Easting: 477084 | Northing: 3617459 |
| 3. Zone: 11 N | Easting: 477172 | Northing: 3616817 |
| 4. Zone: 11 N | Easting: 476881 | Northing: 3616599 |

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

This property is set within the boundaries of Fort Rosecrans on the peninsula of Point Loma in San Diego. Set atop a hilly terrain, Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery is naturally bounded by steep ridges that lie between the San Diego Harbor to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. To the north and south, Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery is bounded by Army Reserve lands. It is cut into two major sections flanking Cabrillo Memorial Drive. This road is not included in the boundary of the cemetery. The total tract of the cemetery consists of slightly more than 82 acres.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for the National Register listing of Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery corresponds to its legal boundary. The legal boundary does not include Cabrillo Memorial Drive. The entire property is currently in use, with burials, columbaria, objects, and support structures and buildings occupying all acreage.

Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery  
Name of Property

San Diego, CA  
County and State

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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kristie L. Person, Historian  
organization: New South Associates, Inc.  
street & number: 6150 E Ponce de Leon Avenue  
city or town: Stone Mountain state: Georgia zip code: 30083  
e-mail: kperson@newsouthassoc.com  
telephone: 770-498-4155  
date: November 3, 2015

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## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

## Photographs

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery  
City or Vicinity: Fort Rosecrans, Vicinity of Point Loma, San Diego  
County: San Diego State: California  
Photographer: Kristie L. Person  
Date Photographed: December 8-10, 2008

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 41. View to north, East Side General View
- 2 of 41. View to southeast, East Side General View
- 3 of 41. View to northeast, Columbarium F
- 4 of 41. View to north, West Side General View
- 5 of 41. View to northwest, Gates
- 6 of 41. View to east, Columbarium H
- 7 of 41. View to south, East Side General View
- 8 of 41. View to west, East Side General View
- 9 of 41. View to north, East Side General View
- 10 of 41. View to east from Cabrillo Memorial Drive, Wall Juncture

Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery  
Name of Property

San Diego, CA  
County and State

- 11 of 41. View to south, Columbarium, Section M
- 12 of 41. View to northeast, Columbarium, Section M
- 13 of 41. View to east, Gates and Rostrum
- 14 of 41. View to northeast, San Diego View
- 15 of 41. View to east, San Diego Bay
- 16 of 41. View to west, Pacific Ocean
- 17 of 41. View to east, East Entrance Gates
- 18 of 41. View to northeast, Southeast Gate Post Detail
- 19 of 41. View to northeast, Rostrum
- 20 of 41. View to east, Rostrum
- 21 of 41. View to south, Lodge
- 22 of 41. View to southeast, Lodge Front Oblique
- 23 of 41. View to northwest, Lodge Rear Oblique
- 24 of 41. View to west, West Entrance Memorial Group
- 25 of 41. View to northeast, Committal Shelter
- 26 of 41. View to southeast, Committal Shelter Memorial Group
- 27 of 41. View to southwest, West Entrance Gates
- 28 of 41. View to northeast, Maintenance Facility
- 29 of 41. View to southwest, Maintenance Facility/Restroom
- 30 of 41. View to east, Maintenance Facility/Restroom and Utility Building
- 31 of 41. View to south, Maintenance Facility
- 32 of 41. View to southwest, Administration Office Front Oblique
- 33 of 41. View to northwest, Administration Office Front Oblique
- 34 of 41. View to north, Administration Office
- 35 of 41. View to southeast, Administration Office Rear Oblique
- 36 of 41. View to east, Administration Office
- 37 of 41. View to west, Pacific Ocean
- 38 of 41. View to southwest, Pacific Ocean
- 39 of 41. View to northwest, Post Section
- 40 of 41. View to north, Bennington Monument
- 41 of 41. View to north, Post Section

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.