

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

2/26/96

JAN 16 1996

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hampton National Cemetery
other names/site number Virginia Department of Historic Resources File No. 114-0148

2. Location

street & number Cemetery Road at Marshall Avenue not for publication N/A
city or town Hampton vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA county Hampton (Ind. City) code 650 zip code 23669

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Karen Anne Dupre 9/6/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Federal Preservation Officer Date
Department of Veterans Affairs
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Julie A. Besmik 11/8/95
Signature of commenting or other official/Title Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other, (explain:)
Signature of Keeper Patrick Andrews Date of Action 2/26/96

Hampton National Cemetery
Name of Property

Hampton (City), Virginia
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
1	0	sites
5	0	structures
3	0	objects
13	0	Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary: Cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Georgian Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Brick, Wood: Shingle

roof Asbestos; Metal: Tin; Stone: Slate; Asphalt
other Metal: Iron; Stone: Granite, Marble, Sandstone;
Brick

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Eligible National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A-G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, etc.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Military

Period of Significance

1868-1940

Significant Dates

1866

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Federal agency, etc.

Name of repository

Department of Veterans Affairs

Hampton National Cemetery
Name of Property

Hampton (City), Virginia
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Age of Property 27.1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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

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

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

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

organization Department of Veterans Affairs date September 28, 1995

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

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

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Department of Veterans Affairs

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

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

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain fit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Hampton National Cemetery
City of Hampton, Virginia**

Section number 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Hampton National Cemetery is located on Cemetery Road at Marshall Avenue in the city of Hampton, about 2 miles northeast of Fort Monroe. When originally established in 1866, the cemetery contained approximately 11.5 acres. The site is an irregular shape but is basically rectilinear. The main entrance is at the center of the north end and is protected by 12-foot-wide double wrought-iron gates with a 4-foot-wide ornamental wrought-iron pedestrian gate on each side, supported by granite posts. These gates were constructed circa 1941, typical of that period when new entries at many national cemeteries replaced original gates that were too narrow to accommodate modern automobiles. The cemetery is enclosed by a 5-foot-high rubble granite stone wall that extends 2,952 lineal feet on the northwest and south. The east border is enclosed by a granite wall surmounted by an iron picket fence that extends about 1,050 lineal feet. A driveway extends from the main entrance to a flagpole near the center of the grounds.

An additional tract of land located approximately 1/2 mile northeast was purchased in 1891. This area, known as the Phoebus Section, is L-shaped in form and contains nine burial sections. The entrance is protected by iron gates, 12 feet 4 inches wide, supported by sandstone piers. A postern gate is located at the opposite end of this section of the cemetery and is now permanently closed by chain link fencing installed between the two rusticated sandstone columns. The enclosing brick wall is approximately 3,969 lineal feet and 5 feet high. Sections of the enclosures once had wrought-iron railings mounted on top of the brick, but they were removed in 1956 and replaced with chain link fencing. There is also a chain link service gate at the side of the maintenance building. A flagpole is located near Sections A and B.

The cemetery was established in 1866. Graves were originally marked with headboards that were later replaced with upright marble markers. As of August 31, 1995, there were 24,644 graves used for the interment of 25,951 casketed remains and 487 sites used for the interment of 603 cremated remains. The cemetery was closed on July 11, 1969, but was reopened in 1983, when a decision was made to create additional gravesites between the existing graves. The cemetery was then officially closed in March 1993. Interments of casketed remains in occupied graves and reserved graves, as well as interments of cremated remains, continue. As of August 31, 1995, there were 1,227 gravesites available for the interment of casketed remains (all reserved) and 35 sites available for the interment of cremated remains. Approximately 638 unknown soldiers are buried in this cemetery.

The original lodge, constructed circa 1871 and designed by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs, was demolished and the present lodge constructed in 1940. In 1994, the interior of the lodge was renovated for use as the administrative office for the cemetery. It is a 1 1/2-story Georgian Revival style, brick structure containing a living room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, and a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Hampton National Cemetery
City of Hampton, Virginia**

Section number 7 Page 2

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

bath. The Flemish-bond brick facade has two entry doors with a porthole window in between. Five concrete steps flanked by black wrought-iron railings lead to the entry. The windows are wood double-hung six-over-six sash with ornamental shutters. The slate gable roof has four gable dormers spaced across the front and an interior end chimney is located at either end of the lodge. The living space totals 1,392 square feet. The rear porch was originally enclosed in 1958 and renovated in 1994.

The original utility building was replaced in 1940 with a brick and concrete building, 26 feet 6 inches by 50 feet, containing two garage stalls, a workshop, a storage area, and public toilets. The hip roof has a low pitch and is clad with asbestos shingles. The one-story building has brick quoins and six-over-six sash double hung windows. In 1994, a storage bay was added to the east end, and a staff lunch room was added to the west end. The building is located behind the lodge.

A brick and concrete gasoline storage building, 8 feet 8 inches square, was constructed in 1940. The roof is slate. It is located southeast of the utility building.

An octagonal brick rostrum, 16 feet in diameter, which was constructed circa 1895, has been removed.

A two-iron cannon, Model 1841, which was set upright in Section F near the flagpole circle, was removed and transported to Fort Monroe in December 1972 for placement in the casemate restoration.

In the Phoebus section, an L-shaped maintenance building, constructed in 1940, is 26 feet 6 inches by 50 feet and provides restroom facilities and equipment storage. It is a one-story brick structure with six-over-six sash double-hung windows. Its low-pitched hip roof is clad in asphalt composition shingles. The building is located at the northeast corner of the cemetery at the boundary wall.

A Quincy granite obelisk monument, base 19 feet 6 inches by 19 feet 6 inches, 65 feet in height, was erected under the direction of Colonel A. P. Blunt, U.S.A., Colonel James S. Casey, U.S.A., and James Marshall. Assistance was provided by Miss Dorothea Lynde Dix, of New York, who was superintendent of women nurses for the Union Army during the Civil War. The cost was \$12,000, most of which was obtained by private subscriptions. The monument is located between Sections B and D on axis with the entry. The inscription reads: "In Memory of Union Soldiers Who Died to Maintain the Laws." On May 12, 1868, the ownership of the monument was transferred by Miss Dix to the United States and was accepted by the secretary of war. The government paid \$4,949 to Miss Dix for transportation, materials, erection, insurance, etc. Miss Dix was authorized by Secretary of War Simon Cameron on May 29, 1861, to organize and establish military hospitals. Her work in the wartime hospitals was but one aspect of a lifelong career devoted to humanitarian causes. Her continuing and strenuous campaigns for better treatment of paupers, prisoners, and the insane, were

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Hampton National Cemetery
City of Hampton, Virginia**

Section number 7 Page 3

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

among the most worthwhile of her accomplishments and resulted in remedial legislation for the relief and treatment of these persons.

Records available regarding this monument focus on its size, by whom erected, and the inscription. No information is inscribed on the monument as to the name of the sculptor or the foundry which fabricated the memorial.

There are eight Medal of Honor recipients buried in the cemetery:

Charles Veale - Private, Company D, 4th United States Colored Troops - Civil War

At Chapin's Farm, Virginia, September 29, 1864, he seized the national colors, after two color bearers had been shot down close to the enemy's works, and bore them through the remainder of the battle. He died on July 27, 1872, and is buried in the Hampton Section, Section F, Grave 5097.

Alfred B. Hilton - Sergeant, Company H, 4th United States Colored Troops - Civil War

At Chapin's Farm, Virginia, September 29, 1864, when the regimental color bearer fell, he seized the color and carried it forward, together with the national standard, until disabled at the enemy's inner line. He died on October 21, 1864, and is buried in the Hampton Section, Section E, Grave 1231.

Ruppert L. Sargent - First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, Company B, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division - Vietnam Conflict

At Hau Nghia Province, Republic of Vietnam, March 15, 1967, by a courageous and selfless act of exceptional heroism, he saved the lives of the platoon sergeant and forward observer and prevented the injury or death of several other nearby comrades. He died on March 15, 1967, and is buried in the Hampton Section, Section F1, Grave 7596.

John Davis - Ordinary Seaman, U.S. Navy

On board the U.S.S. *Trenton*, Toulon, France, February 1881, he jumped overboard and rescued Augustus Ohlensen, coxswain, from drowning. He died on August 19, 1903, and is buried in the Phoebus Section, Section B, Grave 9534.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Hampton National Cemetery
City of Hampton, Virginia**

Section number 7 Page 4

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

David Warren - Coxswain, U.S. Navy - Civil War

Taking part in a reconnaissance of enemy defenses from June 23 to June 25, 1864, he courageously carried out his duties during this action which resulted in the capture of a mail carrier and mail, the cutting of a telegraph wire, and the capture of a large group of prisoners. He died on August 2, 1900, and is buried in the Phoebus Section, Section B, Grave 7972.

Harry J. Mandy - First Lieutenant, Company B, 4th New York Cavalry - Civil War

He was awarded for the capture of the flag of the 8th Mississippi Infantry, Confederate States Army. He died on August 14, 1904, and is buried in the Phoebus Section, Section C, Grave 8709.

James R. Garrison- -Coal Heaver, U.S. Navy - Civil War

On board the flagship, U.S.S. *Hartford*, during successful engagements against Fort Morgan, rebel gunboats and the ram *Tennessee* in Mobile Bay, on August 5, 1864, a shell struck his foot and severed one of his toes. Garrison remained at his station at the shell whip and, after crudely bandaging the wound, continued to perform his duties until severely wounded by another shell burst. He died on April 19, 1908, and is buried in the Phoebus Section, Section B, Grave 9523.

Michael Cassidy - Landsman, U.S. Navy - Civil War

Served on board U.S.S. *Lackawanna* during successful attacks against Fort Morgan, rebel gunboats, and the ram *Tennessee*, in Mobile Bay on August 5, 1864. Displaying great coolness and exemplary behavior as first sponger of a gun, Cassidy, by his coolness under fire, received the applause of his officers and the gun crew throughout the action, which resulted in the capture of the prize ram *Tennessee* and in the destruction of batteries at Fort Morgan. He died on August 19, 1903, and is buried in the Phoebus Section, Section B. Grave 9503.

There are white headstones bearing the letters C.S.A. (Confederate States Army) to mark graves of those who wore the uniform of gray. Interred in Hampton National Cemetery in Sections D and E (Hampton Section) are 272 members of the armies of the Confederacy. Two monuments, one located at the beginning of Section D and one at the beginning of Section E, are plain blocks, built of Quincy granite, 42 inches by 28 inches by 18 inches, and each is inscribed "TO OUR CONFEDERATE DEAD."

The Hampton National Cemetery is the only Department of Veterans Affairs national cemetery in the Commonwealth of Virginia where there is no monument made of an original cast-iron seacoast artillery tube. A report written by the Department of the Army after July 1, 1904, containing a written sketch

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Hampton National Cemetery
City of Hampton, Virginia**

Section number 7 & 8 Page 5

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

of each national cemetery, states that at Hampton National Cemetery, there are two gun monuments in good condition. No further records regarding these monuments could be located.

Two sources refer to a chapel within the cemetery grounds. The Report of the Inspector of the National Cemeteries of the United States for 1869 states that, "A neat chapel, built by the New York Home Missionary Society, is within the grounds in a section near the gate, furnished with a good library." An article in the December 20 edition of the Home Bulletin, National Soldiers Home, VA, reads as follows: "On one side of the cemetery near the front, a long frame building, with a small steeple in front. This is BETHESDA CHAPEL, built during the war by the Presbyterian Missionary Society of New York, in which religious services are still held every Sabbath afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by the Normal School. Twice it has been ordered to be removed but, through the interposition of the officers and friends of the School, the order has been countermanded each time. There are many associations connected with it that render the old building of more than passing interest. Beneath its roof have gathered most of the prominent men of our day. In it our beloved Garfield delivered his last public address to the students of the Normal School, on the morning of June 5, 1881, one month previous to his assassination." The chapel no longer exists and no further records could be located regarding this structure.

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

Buildings: Lodge, utility buildings (2), gasoline storage building

Sites: Cemetery

Structures: Gates (3), perimeter walls (2)

Objects: Flagpoles (2), Quincy obelisk monument

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hampton National Cemetery is significant under Criterion A, and is an important component of the multiple property submission of Civil War Era National Cemeteries. It is significant under Criterion A because of its association with the Civil War.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Hampton National Cemetery
City of Hampton, Virginia**

Section number 8 Page 6

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The cemetery is located approximately 2 miles from Fort Monroe, Virginia, a base of important operations and the scene of stirring events during the Civil War. It was the most powerful enclosed fortification in this country. Situated on the tip of Old Point Comfort, it controlled the entrance to Hampton Roads, making it possible for the fort, with the help of the United States Navy, to cut off from the sea five southern ports; namely, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Petersburg, and Richmond. Immediately after the fall of Fort Sumter on April 14, 1861, the War Department began to rush troops to Fort Monroe by boat, which was the only means of communication open. By its prompt and decisive action in reinforcing Fort Monroe, the United States assured for itself an impregnable base for the organization of military and naval operations in the very heart of the Confederacy.

The first notable land battle of the Civil War, the Battle of Big Bethel, was fought on June 10, 1861, among 2,500 Federals from Fort Monroe and 1,200 Confederates. On June 9, word was received of a Confederate outpost at Little Bethel, about 8 miles northwest of Fort Monroe. One column of troops was sent from Camp Hamilton and another column from Newport News with orders to converge near Little Bethel, which they were to attack at daybreak. By some confusion, the men from Newport News fired upon the men from Camp Hamilton, killing and wounding a number. Alerted by this gunfire, the Confederates at Little Bethel fell back to a strong battery at Big Bethel. When the Union forces pushed on, they were met by a devastating fire, which drove them back in confusion. The Union losses were: 18 killed, 53 wounded, and 5 missing; the Confederate losses were slight: 1 killed, 7 wounded. The lone Confederate killed was Private Henry L. Wyatt, First North Carolina Volunteers. Among those killed on the Union side was Lieutenant John T. Greble of the Second U.S. Artillery, the first West Point graduate to die in battle in the Civil War. Also killed was Major Theodore Winthrop, U.S. Volunteers, a writer whose books continued to be read for some years after his death.

The town of Hampton, which was about 3 miles from Fort Monroe, had been occupied on July 1, 1861. After the First Battle of Bull Run later that month the War Department transferred 3 regiments from Fort Monroe to the Washington area. With the garrison again weakened, Major General Benjamin F. Butler ordered the evacuation of Hampton. The Confederates, led by Brigadier General John B. Magruder, seized this opportunity to set fire to the town on August 7, 1861, to prevent its reoccupation by the Union forces. Magruder said he had learned that Butler intended to use the village as a holding point for "runaway slaves" whom he considered as "contraband of war." The town, which dated from 1610, was almost entirely destroyed.

In July 1861, the untrained Union Army of the Potomac suffered disaster at Manassas (Bull Run) in the first attempt to invade Virginia and capture Richmond. President Lincoln then appointed Major General George B. McClellan the new commander of the demoralized Union Army of the Potomac. During the long winter months, the raw recruits were marshaled and drilled into an efficient fighting

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Hampton National Cemetery
City of Hampton, Virginia**

Section number 8 Page 7

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

machine of over 100,000 men, the largest army ever commanded by one man in the history of the western hemisphere. By the spring of 1862, this army was ready for the supreme test--the goal was Richmond. Instead of marching overland, McClellan decided to take advantage of Union control of the inland waters and transport his army, with its vast supplies and material, down the Potomac River and across Chesapeake Bay to the tip of the peninsula between the York and James Rivers. Then with his supply ships steaming up the York, he planned to march northwestward up the peninsula, join another force under Major General Irvin McDowell marching overland from Washington, and together, converge on Richmond. To accomplish this, McClellan undertook the largest amphibious operation ever attempted in the western world. Over 400 steam vessels, brigs, schooners, sloops, ferry boats, and barges assembled on the Potomac River. In March 1862, these vessels ferried the Army of the Potomac, with its 3,600 wagons, 700 ambulances, 300 pieces of artillery, 2,500 head of cattle, and over 25,000 horses and mules, to the southeast coast of Virginia. McClellan arrived at Fort Monroe on April 2, 1862. Information was received that Yorktown was already being reinforced from Norfolk, and it was apprehended that the main Confederate army would promptly follow the same course. McClellan determined to move at once with the force in hand and endeavor to seize a point--near the Halfway House--between Yorktown and Williamsburg, where the Peninsula is reduced to a narrow neck, and thus cut off the retreat of the Yorktown garrison and prevent the arrival of reinforcements. On April 4, he began a snail-like advance up the Peninsula toward Yorktown. Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston withdrew from Yorktown to Williamsburg and there, on May 5, the blue and the gray locked in battle. Although McClellan claimed a victory, his losses were fifty percent higher than Johnston's. Lieutenant General James Longstreet and Lieutenant General Daniel Harvey Hill led their Confederates well in the rearguard action that brought on more casualties than would have been expected for this type of fighting. Federal troops occupied Williamsburg and Johnston continued his retreat towards Richmond.

On March 8, 1862, the Confederate ironclad *Merrimack (Virginia)* had steamed out of the Elizabeth River (Norfolk) under command of Flag Officer Franklin Buchanan and created havoc among the Federal fleet. Her opponents were mostly wooden ships that could not withstand a ram from the *Merrimack* or the weight of her guns. After a time, the ironclad returned to Norfolk the victor. The U.S.S. *Monitor* had arrived during the night and the next morning the two pounded one another savagely for 4 hours on the waters of Hampton Roads. Neither won the contest.

On May 6, McClellan sent Brigadier General William B. Franklin's division up the York River by transport to West Point, terminus of the Richmond and York River Railroad. Johnston anticipated the move, however, and on May 7 ordered Brigadier General W. H. C. Whiting's troops to attack Franklin in the Battle of West Point, or Eltham's Landing. Some twenty schooners had been sunk and two

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Hampton National Cemetery
City of Hampton, Virginia**

Section number 8 Page 8

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

gunboats burned by the Confederates above West Point. The Seven Days battles outside Richmond then began on June 25, 1862.

After the siege of Yorktown began on April 5, 1862, Commodore Louis M. Goldsborough, commanding the Union fleet in Hampton Roads, felt that his first duty was to destroy the *Merrimack* or, at the very least, prevent her from running out into Chesapeake Bay and up to Washington. Weeks dragged by with the Union fleet immobilized in Hampton Roads, watching the *Merrimack*. The naval deadlock in Hampton Roads was so serious that President Lincoln made a special trip to Fort Monroe, arriving May 6, 1862. In conference with Commodore Goldsborough and Major General John E. Wool, commanding Fort Monroe, it was decided that the only way to eliminate the *Merrimack* from the situation was to capture the City of Norfolk which was the *Merrimack's* base. On May 8, the Union fleet, assisted by the rifled guns on Fort Wool, bombarded the Confederate batteries on Sewall's Point to prepare for a landing. However, this projected landing was thwarted when the *Merrimack* steamed out from behind Sewall's Point and placed herself before the batteries. It was clear that a landing must be made at a place where the *Merrimack* could not interfere. Ocean View on the Chesapeake Bay shore was selected for the landing. Troops were landed at Ocean View on May 9, 1862, and advanced overland to Norfolk where they were met by the mayor who formally surrendered the city to Major General John E. Wool on May 10, 1862. The Navy Yard in nearby Portsmouth was found in flames, fired by the Confederates just before they evacuated Norfolk. On May 11, the *Merrimack* was blown up by her crew off Craney Island to prevent capture. The *Monitor* did not long survive her Confederate antagonist. She sank in a storm off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, on December 31, 1862. The Battle of the *Monitor* and *Merrimack* was the first battle of ironclad warships.

The Siege of Suffolk, Virginia, took place from February to May 1863, about 20 miles southwest of Norfolk. The town was occupied by a Union garrison of 7,000 men, and these Union forces threw up a strong system of fortifications around Suffolk. Numerous expeditions were sent out to harass the Confederates in the region of the Blackwater River. Early in February 1863, the Ninth Corps was transferred from the Army of the Potomac to Newport News, as a diversionary maneuver. The Confederates were led to believe that an important movement against Richmond, by way of Suffolk, was in the making. Lieutenant General James Longstreet was detached from General Robert E. Lee's army in Northern Virginia to meet the supposed threat. Advancing from the Blackwater River, Longstreet attacked Suffolk on April 11, 1863, but being repulsed, he resumed his siege. The fighting was fierce and deeds of daring were performed on both sides. On April 14, batteries erected by the Confederates on the banks of the Nansemond River made a heavy attack on Union gunboats. The Union forces retaliated by making a combined land and water attack on Battery Huger at the mouth of the West Branch, which resulted in its capture on May 14. On May 4, after a siege of twenty-four

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Hampton National Cemetery
City of Hampton, Virginia**

Section number 8 Page 9

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

days, Longstreet withdrew to join General Lee in Northern Virginia. The heavy fighting resulted in the U.S.S. *Mount Washington* being disabled and grounded. She was brought off by the U.S.S. *Stepping Stones*. It is stated that the Confederates suffered 500 killed and wounded and 400 captured. The Union losses are given as 44 killed and 202 wounded.

The Hampton Roads Peace Conference took place aboard the steamer *River Queen* under the guns of Fort Monroe on February 3, 1865. There were important elements in the North who felt that the war, so costly in blood and treasure, might be shortened by a peace conference. There were also some people in the South who thought that concessions might be obtained before the Confederacy went down in utter defeat. A persistent peace advocate in the North was the elder statesman Francis P. Blair of Missouri. In the last days of 1864, he obtained a pass from President Abraham Lincoln to go to Richmond, Virginia, capital of the Confederate States of America. From the Confederate president, Jefferson Davis, Blair obtained a promise to send peace commissioners. The Confederates were represented by Alexander H. Stephens, their vice president; Robert M. T. Hunter, presiding officer of the Confederate Senate; and John A. Campbell, Assistant Secretary of War, all appointed by Davis. The U.S. government was represented by President Abraham Lincoln and his Secretary of State, William H. Seward. After four hours of fruitless discussion, the conference was ended and the Confederate commissioners were rowed back to their ship. Lincoln returned to Washington on the *River Queen*.

The great civil conflict brought about the inevitable toll of wounded, and the sick necessitated the establishment of many military hospitals. One such hospital was the Hampton Military Hospital at Fort Monroe, Virginia, which had a capacity of 1,800 beds. This hospital, though better staffed and organized than some of the Civil War facilities, nonetheless had a high death rate among the wounded and ill who were committed to its care. Land set aside for a cemetery for this hospital became the nucleus of the present day Hampton National Cemetery.

According to a write-up in the files of the Historic Preservation Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs, an article in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* for August 1864, describes in some detail the procedure followed for the burial of those who died in the Hampton Military Hospital. The dead were accorded reverent burial in wooden coffins. The name, company, and date of death of each individual were painted on the inside and outside each coffin lid and the grave was identified by a wooden headboard similarly marked. All burials from the hospital were accorded suitable military honors with the firing of a volley over the grave at the conclusion of the burial rites. The care and attention to details incident to burials from the Hampton Military Hospital must account for the relatively small number of burials of unknowns in the Hampton National Cemetery.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Hampton National Cemetery
City of Hampton, Virginia**

Section number 8 Page 10

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

In addition to interments made from the military hospitals at and near Fort Monroe, cemetery burial records in 1868 indicated that remains had been brought to the Hampton National Cemetery from the military posts of Fort Monroe; Big Bethel in Elizabeth City County (now the city of Hampton); Newport News in Warwick County; Jamestown in James City County; Craney Island, Deep Creek, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Blackwater in Norfolk County; Smithfield in Isle of Wight County; Suffolk in Nansemond County and Cherry Stone in Northampton County.

Also interred at Hampton are World War II prisoners of war. Interment of prisoners of war in national cemeteries was authorized to comply with provisions of the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929. One article of this agreement provided that prisoners of war dying in captivity shall receive honorable burial and that their graves shall be marked and properly maintained. At Hampton National Cemetery, there are interred 26 German and 5 Italian World War II prisoners of war who died in prison camps. Also interred are 29 German servicemen whose remains were recovered when the German submarine U-85 went down off the Virginia coast in April 1942. All are buried in Section E of the Phoebus section of the cemetery.

Others are interred here whose service antedated the Civil War and who were servicing at Fort Monroe at the time of death. Their remains were initially interred at the Fort Monroe Post Cemetery and reinterred in 1891 at the Hampton National Cemetery.

The cemetery was established in 1866 but title to the property was not obtained until later. By deed dated October 21, 1868, from George Whipple and wife, 4.749 acres were conveyed at a cost of \$1,306 and by decree of condemnation rendered March 23, 1879, 6.862 acres owned by William E. Wood, were conveyed at a cost of \$5,000. The land for the Phoebus section was acquired by several deeds. By deeds dated July 25, 1891, from James A. Watkins and wife, 2.93 acres were conveyed for \$4,925, and from the trustees of the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, 5.07 acres were conveyed for \$7,605. By deed dated December 3, 1894, a right of way of 25,725 square feet (.59 acre) was conveyed by the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute. By decree of condemnation in 1934, a 6.92-acre tract was acquired at a cost of \$6,920. By quitclaim deed dated May 11, 1973, .05 acre was transferred to West County Townhouses. The total acreage of the original cemetery, plus the Phoebus addition, is 27.1 acres.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Hampton National Cemetery
City of Hampton, Virginia**

Section number 9 & 10 Page 11

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

National Cemetery System Microfilm Records

Department of Veterans Affairs Historic Preservation Office

Denney, Robert E. The Civil War Years. New York, Sterling Publishing Company, Inc., 1992

Battlefields of the Civil War. New York: Arno 1979.

Commager, Henry Steele. The Blue and the Gray. Wings Books, New York, 1991.

Tales of Old Fort Monroe. The Casemate Museum, P.O. Box 341, Fort Monroe, Virginia 23651

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries are indicated on the accompanying base maps.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Section number 10 Page 12

Hampton National Cemetery
City of Hampton, Virginia

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - UTM REFERENCES

HAMPTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (FEATURE 1)

POINT	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	381220	4097810
B	18	381365	4097610
C	18	381360	4097560
D	18	381310	4097520
E	18	381290	4097520
F	18	381260	4097480
G	18	381120	4097725

PHOEBUS SECTION (FEATURE 2)

POINT	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	382060	4097940
B	18	382040	4097870
C	18	382160	4097790
D	18	382020	4097590
E	18	381960	4097620
F	18	382000	4097700
G	18	381990	4097710
H	18	382000	4097750
I	18	381840	4097870
J	18	381940	4098010

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Hampton National Cemetery
City of Hampton, Virginia**

Section number PHOTO Page 13

HAMPTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
City of Hampton, Virginia
VDHR File No. 114-0148
Armando A. Sammartino, photographer
Date of Photographs: June 8 and 9, 1995

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

VIEW OF: Main entry, view looking east
toward flagpole
NEG. NO. 48050-2
PHOTO 1 of 27

VIEW OF: Utility building, east elevation
NEG. NO. 48050-9
PHOTO 6 of 27

VIEW OF: Administration building, south and
west elevations
NEG. NO. 48050-4
PHOTO 2 of 27

VIEW OF: Utility building, south and east
elevations
NEG. NO. 48050-7
PHOTO 7 of 27

VIEW OF: Administration building, north
elevation
NEG. NO. 48050-8
PHOTO 3 of 27

VIEW OF: Utility building, north and west
elevations
NEG. NO. 48050-10
PHOTO 8 of 27

VIEW OF: Administration building, east
elevation
NEG. NO. 48050-6
PHOTO 4 of 27

VIEW OF: Utility building, west and south
elevations
NEG. NO. 48050-5
PHOTO 9 of 27

VIEW OF: Administration building, south
elevation
NEG. NO. 48050-3
PHOTO 5 of 27

VIEW OF: Gasoline storage building
NEG. NO. 48050-11
PHOTO 10 of 27

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Hampton National Cemetery
City of Hampton, Virginia**

Section number PHOTO Page 14

VIEW OF: Union Soldiers Monument, view
looking south
NEG. NO. 48050-14
PHOTO 11 of 27

VIEW OF: Utility building, Phoebus Section,
east elevation
NEG. NO. 48049-5
PHOTO 17 of 27

VIEW OF: Perimeter wall, north boundary,
view looking east
NEG. NO. 48050-12
PHOTO 12 of 27

VIEW OF: Utility building, Phoebus Section,
north elevation
NEG. NO. 48049-9
PHOTO 18 of 27

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking west

NEG. NO. 48050-18
PHOTO 13 of 27

VIEW OF: Utility building, Phoebus Section,
south elevation
NEG. NO. 48049-4
PHOTO 19 of 27

VIEW OF: Close-up of monument to
Confederate dead
NEG. NO. 48050-16
PHOTO 14 of 27

VIEW OF: Utility building, Phoebus Section,
west elevation
NEG. NO. 48049-6
PHOTO 20 of 27

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking north

NEG. NO. 48050-17
PHOTO 15 of 27

VIEW OF: Cemetery, Phoebus Section, view
looking south toward perimeter wall
NEG. NO. 48049-15
PHOTO 21 of 27

VIEW OF: Flagpole, view looking east

NEG. NO. 48049-3
PHOTO 16 of 27

VIEW OF: Phoebus Section, view looking west
toward flagpole
NEG. NO. 48049-13
PHOTO 22 of 27

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Hampton National Cemetery
City of Hampton, Virginia

Section number PHOTO Page 15

VIEW OF: Original brick perimeter wall,
Phoebus Section
NEG. NO. 48049-17
PHOTO 23 of 27

VIEW OF: Main entry gate, Phoebus Section,
view looking south
NEG. NO. 48048-5
PHOTO 26 of 27

VIEW OF: Postern gate at the south boundary,
Phoebus Section
NEG. NO. 48049-19
PHOTO 24 of 27

VIEW OF: Cemetery, Phoebus Section, view
looking southeast
NEG. NO. 48048-10
PHOTO 27 of 27

VIEW OF: Cemetery, Phoebus Section, view
looking north from the flagpole circle
NEG. NO. 48049-2
PHOTO 25 of 27

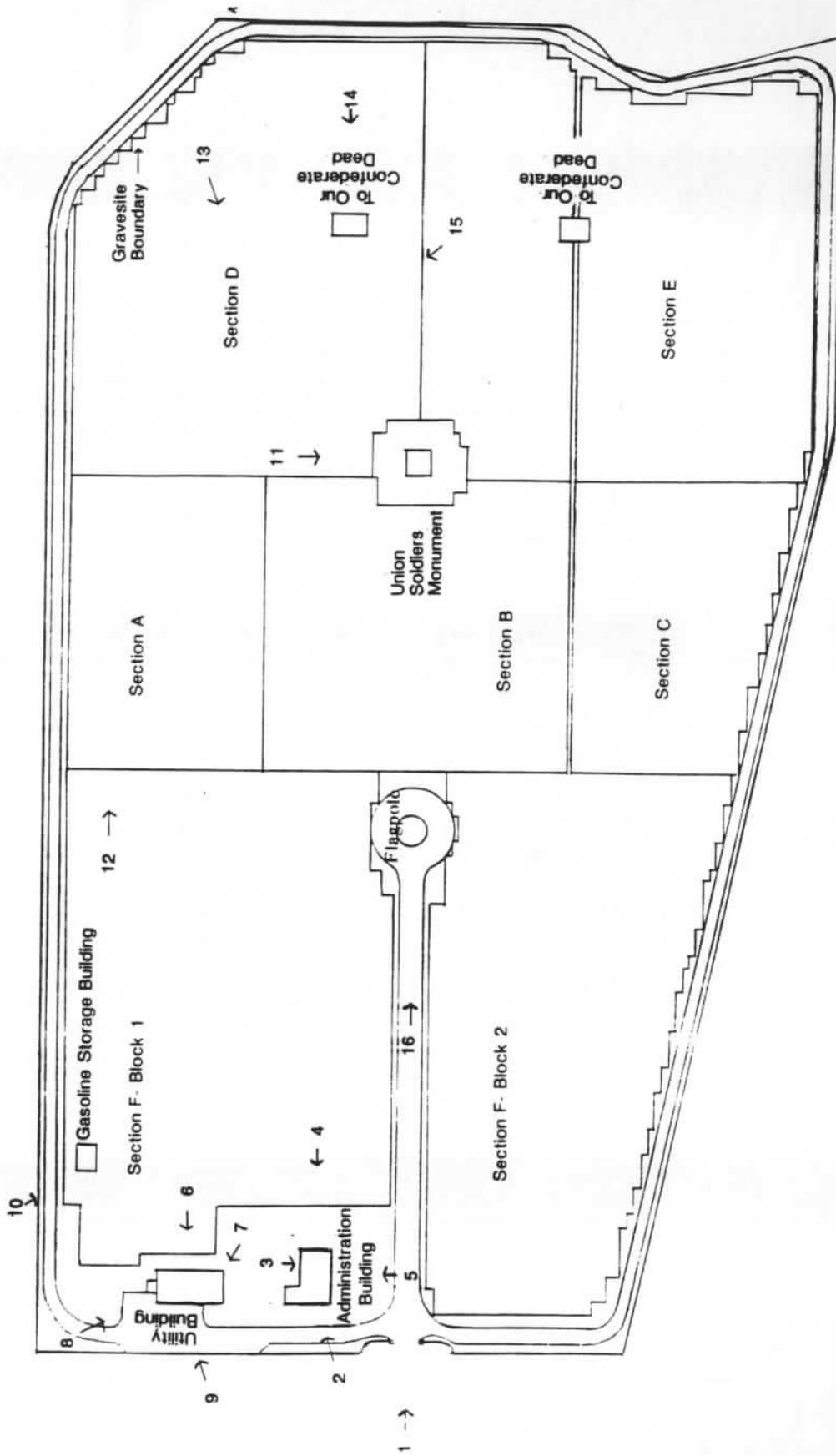
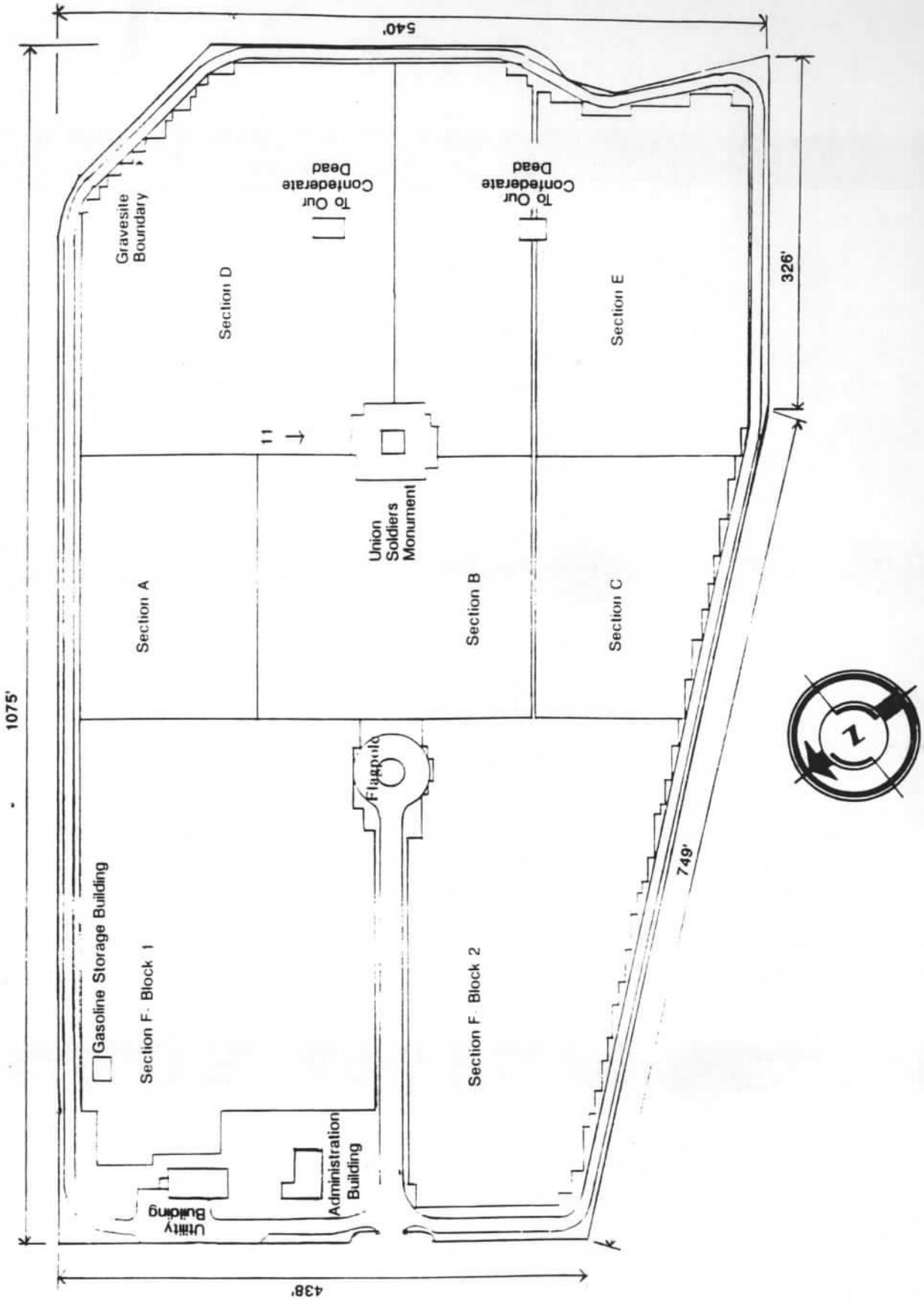


Photo Reference

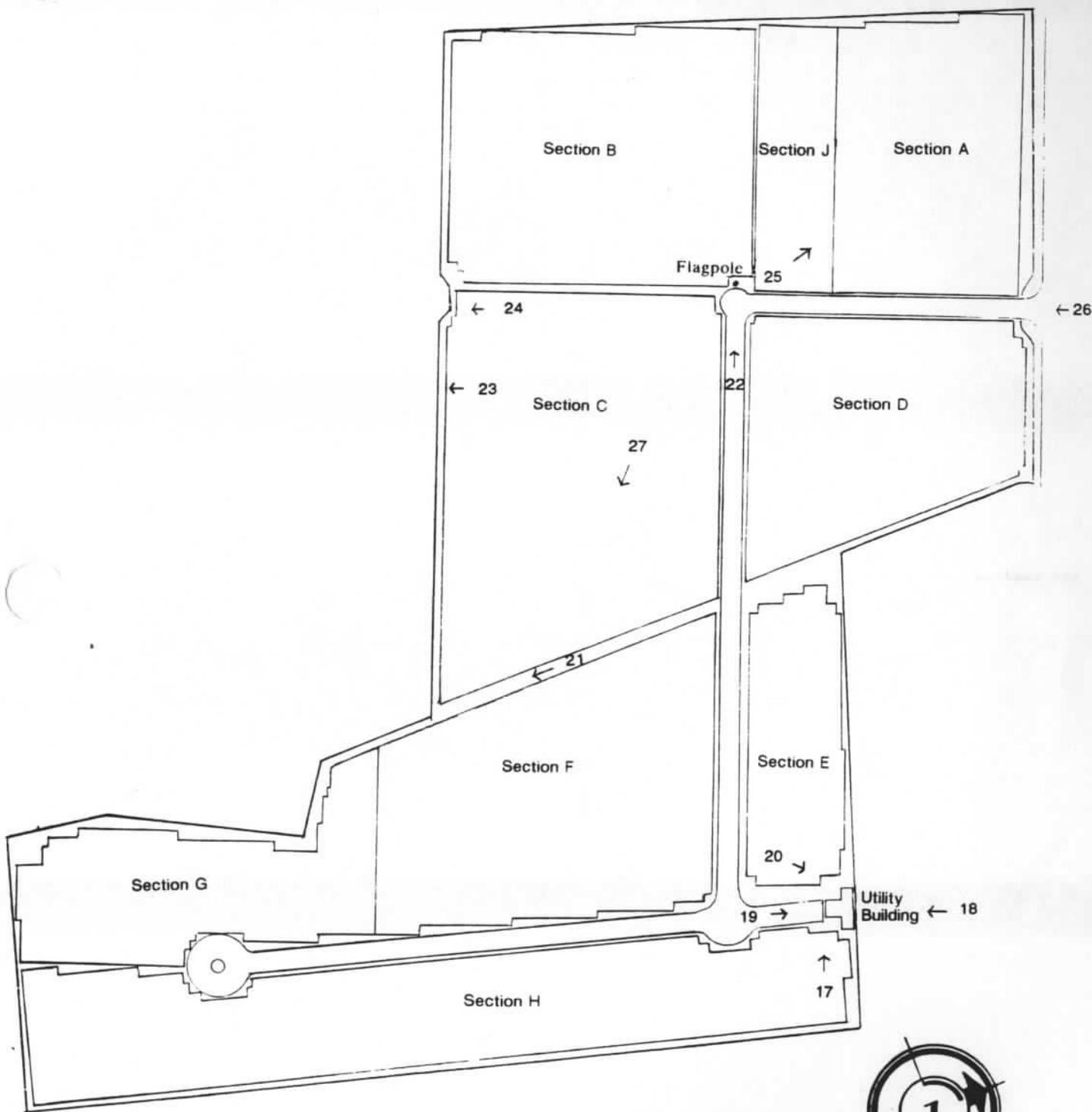
**Sketch Map
Hampton National Cemetery
City of Hampton, Virginia**

Not To Scale

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

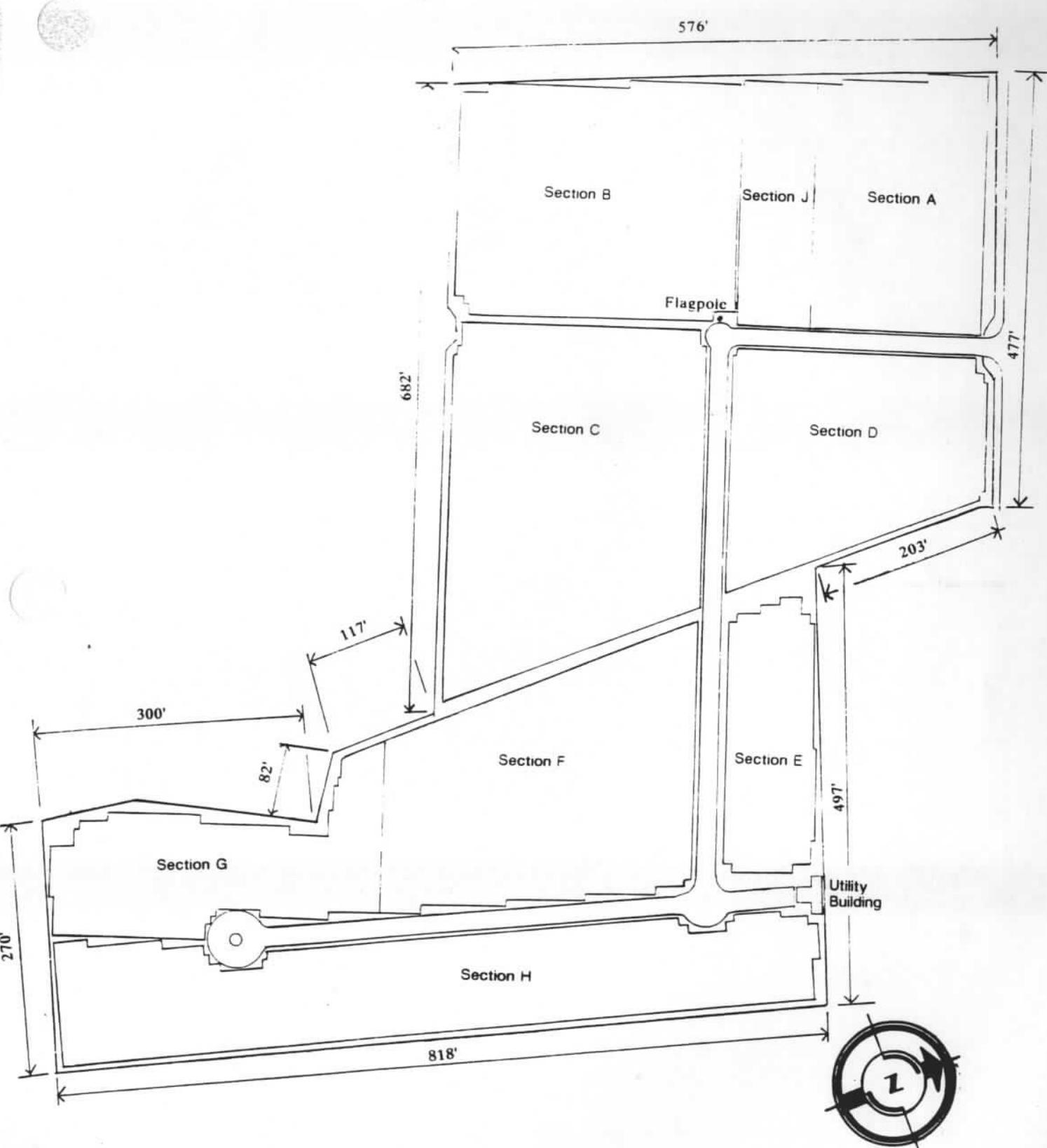


Base Map
 Hampton National Cemetery
 City of Hampton, Virginia



Site Map
 Hampton National Cemetery
 Phoebus Addition
 City of Hampton, Virginia

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



Site Map
 Hampton National Cemetery
 Phoebe Addition
 City of Hampton, Virginia