NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NAT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OMB No. 10024-0018

1135

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 Lexington National Cemetery

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 833 West Main Street ☐ not for publication N/A

city or town Lexington ☐ vicinity N/A

state Kentucky code KY county Fayette code 067 zip code 40508

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 Bonne Terpek, Federal Preservation Officer 7/30/98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Department of Veterans Affairs
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

David L. Morgan, SHPO and Executive Director, KHC 7-28-98
Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 9.3.98

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	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
10	1	objects
11	1	Total

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

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

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)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation
walls
roof
other Marble, bronze

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☒ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Military

Period of Significance

1868-1948

Significant Dates

1868

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☒ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository

Department of Veterans Affairs

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.7

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	718370	4214960	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

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

organization Department of Veterans Affairs date August 3, 1998

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

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

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

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

Property Owner

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

name Department of Veterans Affairs

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

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

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Lexington National Cemetery consists of a lot within the 170-acre Lexington Cemetery, 833 West Main Street, Lexington, Kentucky, in Fayette County. The national cemetery, containing 0.75 acre of land, is located in the southern border of the city cemetery, approximately 1,500 feet from the main entrance. The national cemetery site is somewhat triangular in shape, the graves being arranged in concentric arcs of circles, diverging in size from the apex of the triangle. The boundary lines of the national cemetery are marked with ten marble posts inscribed with the letters "US". These posts were erected in 1874 at a cost of $500. No fence or wall surrounds the national cemetery. There is a 75-foot-high flagpole located within a circle, 40 feet in diameter, near the center of the lot. A bronze plaque identifying the cemetery is located within this circle.

Graves were originally marked by head and foot boards or stakes, which were later replaced with upright marble headstones. The cemetery closed in 1939, with very few, if any, burials since that time. As of March 31, 1998, there were 1,388 sites used for the interment of 1,388 casketed remains and 1site used for the interment of 2 cremated remains. There are no sites available for interment of either casketed or cremated remains.

There are no buildings within the Lexington National Cemetery. On May 26, 1868, the Lexington Cemetery Company agreed to care for the national cemetery, and maintenance is still performed under contract.

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

Sites: Cemetery

Objects: Marble boundary posts (10)

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

Objects: Flagpole

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

Although this national cemetery meets the registration requirements of the multiple property nomination, it does not possess all the same physical characteristics. There is not a fence or wall enclosing the national cemetery. The national cemetery is located within the Lexington Cemetery, which is enclosed.

A variety of ways was considered to end the period of significance. Since the only contributing resources are the site itself and the ten boundary posts constructed many years ago, and a reasonable date could not be defined to end the period, the date of 1948 (50 years ago) was used.

During late 1863 and the early months of 1864, Kentucky was the scene of many small-scale engagements, most of which were officially described as skirmishes. A great deal of skirmishing and various actions took place in the vicinity of Lexington, Kentucky.

Confederate General John Hunt Morgan's cavalry defeated a Union cavalry force near Lexington in October 1862, entered the city, captured the garrison, and paroled the prisoners.

Morgan and some of his officers were later confined to a prison in Columbus, Ohio, from which they escaped in November of 1863. General Braxton Bragg had threatened to court-martial Morgan for disobeying orders. But, because the Confederacy needed leaders desperately, Morgan was restored to command. Then, in May 1864, Morgan informed the War Department that he was going to raid in Kentucky. He moved out toward Lexington, leaving some troopers and infantry behind to destroy supplies and search for horses. The Confederate camp was suddenly overrun by Union troopers. Two hundred fifty Confederates were captured. Morgan considered turning back to deal with the threat closing in behind him, but he ultimately decided to push onto Lexington. Lexington was so poorly guarded that John Castleman, who rode in during the early morning hours, had some difficulty in finding anyone to hear his demand for surrender. After the railroad depot and some military storehouses were burned, the battery guarding the town surrendered. Here also, a considerable amount of looting occurred.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Bragg and other Richmond authorities later received reports from Kentucky, assailing Morgan's actions there. Several of his senior officers asked the War Department to investigate the charges, and Morgan stubbornly refused to do so. On August 30, the general was suspended from command and a court of inquiry was ordered for September 10. When a Union force was moving towards Bull's Gap, Morgan ignored his suspension and moved to intercept it. He established his headquarters in Greeneville, Tennessee, on September 3. Union commanders may have been told he was spending the night there. He was killed as he tried to reach his troops. Although born in Alabama, Morgan had strong Kentucky ties. He was educated at Lexington's Transylvania College. After Mexican War service, he manufactured hemp products and conducted a general merchandising business in Lexington. He became noted for the hard-riding raids that became his trademark, and many southerners called him the "Jeb Stuart of the West." He is buried in the adjacent city cemetery.

Lexington was also the site of a reception after the Rebels, under Kirby Smith, were elated by their victory at the Battle of Richmond, Kentucky. They were received amidst loud and continued applause, waving of handkerchiefs, throwing up of hats, hurrahs for rebel soldiers, and the Confederacy. Smith savored his triumph in the heart of the Bluegrass at Lexington. He wrote to both General Bragg and President Jefferson Davis that Lexington was the place where a Confederate presence would "give the true men of Kentucky the opportunity for rallying to our standard." Except for small forces sent to Frankfort and Cynthiana, and cavalry raiding to the outskirts of Louisville and Shelbyville, and to Covington, Kirby Smith did not advance beyond Lexington. He apparently was awaiting the coming of Bragg and the union of their forces. Kirby Smith had played his part—at least in his conception of the campaign—and now, if General Bragg could defeat Don Carlos Buell, Kentucky would be claimed for the Confederacy.

The Lexington National Cemetery had first been used as a government burial ground in 1861, the first burial being Amos Barr, 14th Infantry, on November 28, 1861. On September 11, 1861, the War Department had directed, in General Orders No. 75, that commanding officers of military corps and departments were responsible for the burial of any officer or soldier who died within their jurisdiction. Partial expedients were sought by acquiring soldiers' plots in cemeteries near large general hospitals, where a far greater number of men were destined to die than fell on the battlefield. Many cemeterial associations performed a patriotic service by donating plots for Army burials. There was a general hospital located in Lexington.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The national cemetery was established in 1863, the original reservation consisting of 0.37 acre donated by the Lexington Cemetery Company, Inc. When arrangements for the care of the scattered dead in Kentucky provided for their reinterment in the Lexington National Cemetery, an agreement was made with the cemetery company to purchase an additional 0.38-acre unoccupied portion of the area in which original burials had been made. The land was purchased on July 1, 1867, for the sum of $3,222.

Original interments were of those who died in the hospitals established at Lexington and from the troops encamped in the neighborhood. Other bodies were removed from the farm of Jesse Baker, two miles distant; from Mount Sterling and its vicinity in Montgomery County; Paris in Bourbon County; Cynthiana in Harrison County; and on the line of the Kentucky Central Railroad as far as Falmouth in Pendleton County.

The Lexington Cemetery was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 12, 1976. The national cemetery is only briefly mentioned in this nomination.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

National Cemetery System Microfilm Records

Department of Veterans Affairs Historic Preservation Office

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

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

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

Harrison, Lowell H. The Civil War in Kentucky. The University Press of Kentucky, 1975.

McDonough, James Lee. War in Kentucky. The University of Tennessee Press/Knoxville, 1994.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries are indicated on the accompanying base map. Also included with this nomination is a drawing showing the location of the national cemetery within the Lexington Cemetery.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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

LEXINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
Fayette County, Kentucky
Armando A. Sammartino, photographer
Date of Photographs: October 15, 1997

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: Bronze plaque identifying national cemetery
NEG. NO. 7568-6
PHOTO 1 of 7

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking northwest, showing several boundary posts
NEG. NO. 7568-5
PHOTO 2 of 7

VIEW OF: Close view of boundary post
NEG. NO. 7568-2
PHOTO 3 of 7

VIEW OF: Flagpole, view looking northwest
NEG. NO. 7568-4
PHOTO 4 of 7

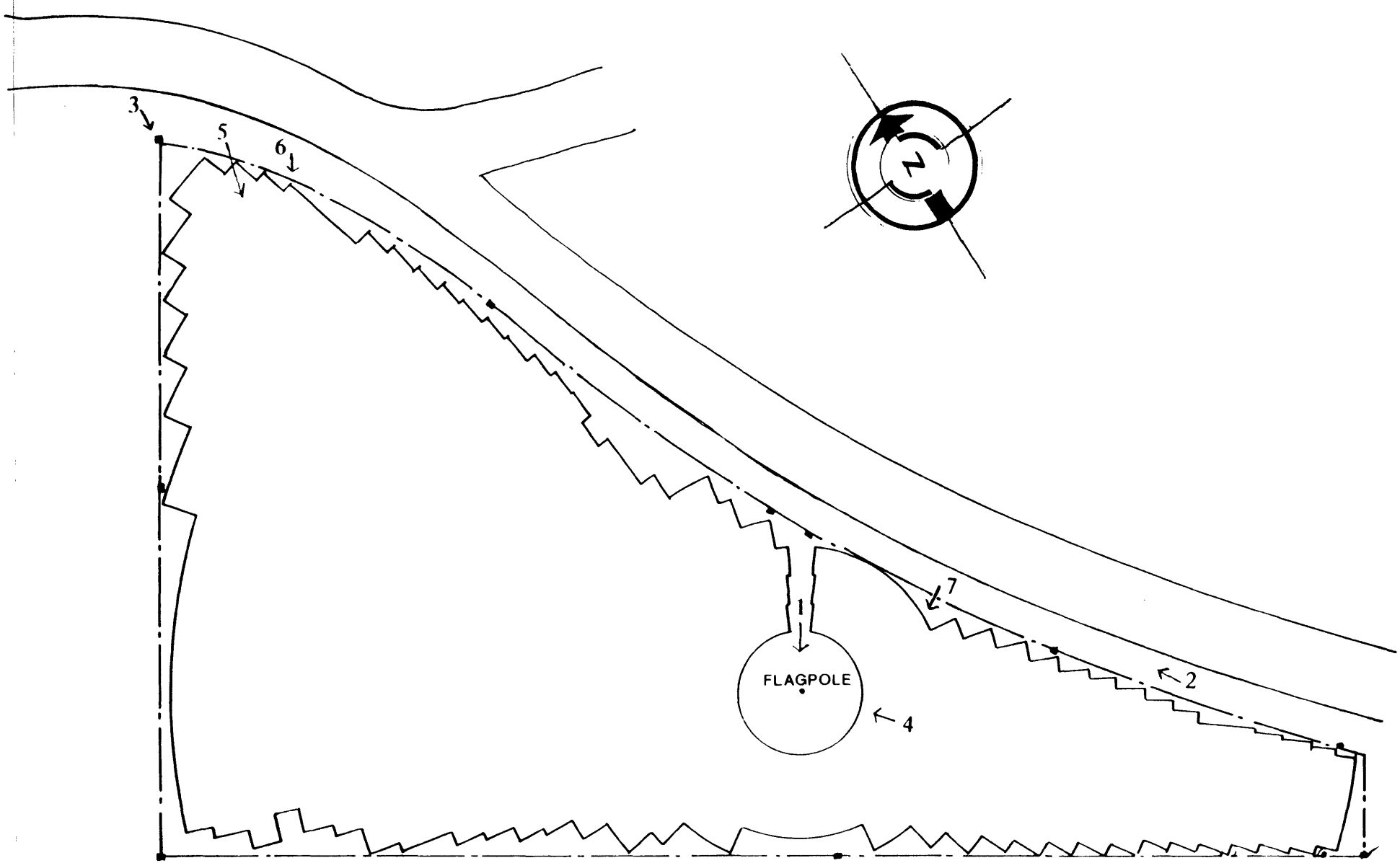
VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking south

NEG. NO. 7568-3
PHOTO 5 of 7

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking southwest

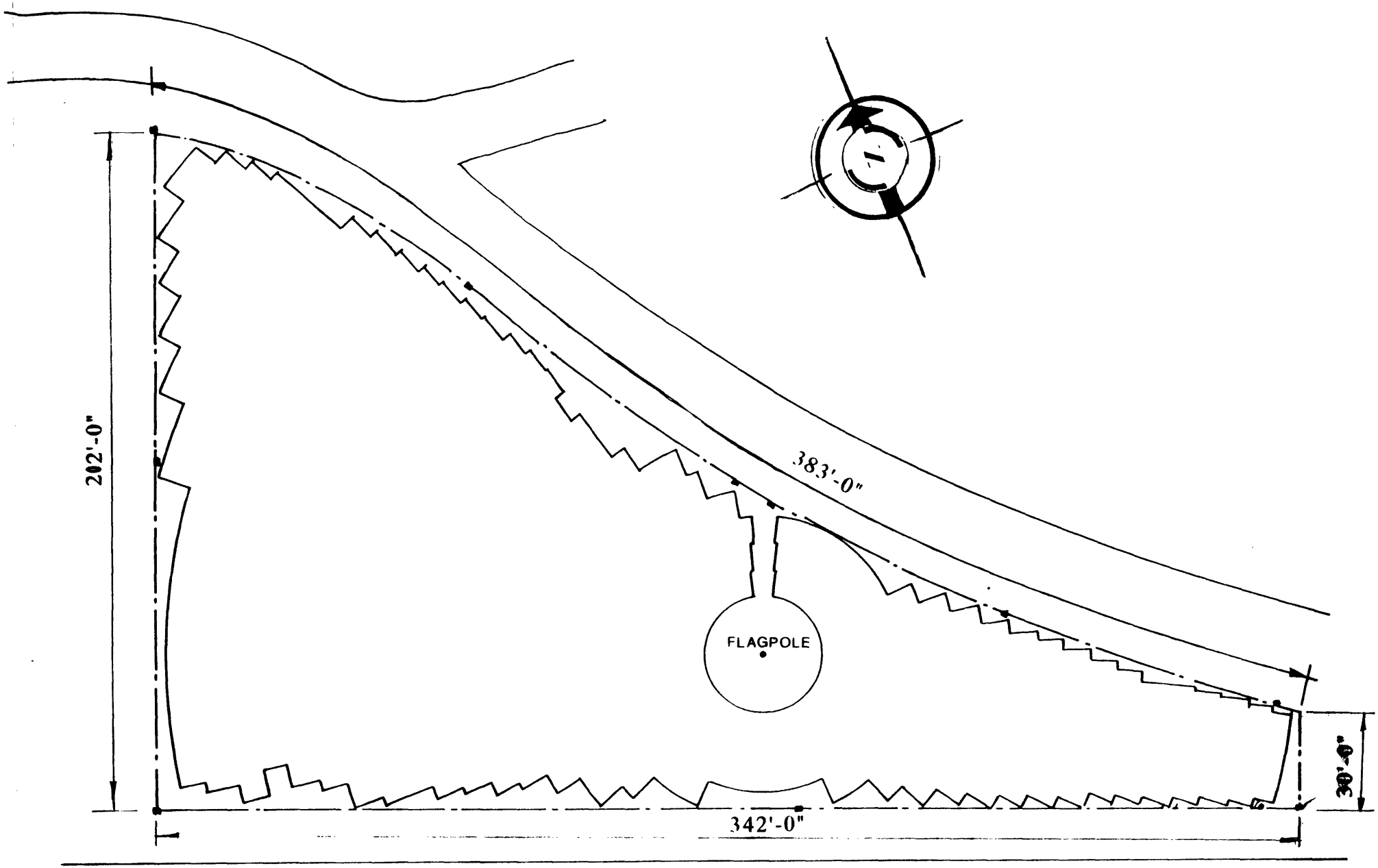
NEG. NO. 7568-1
PHOTO 6 of 7

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking west
NEG. NO. 7568-7
PHOTO 7 of 7



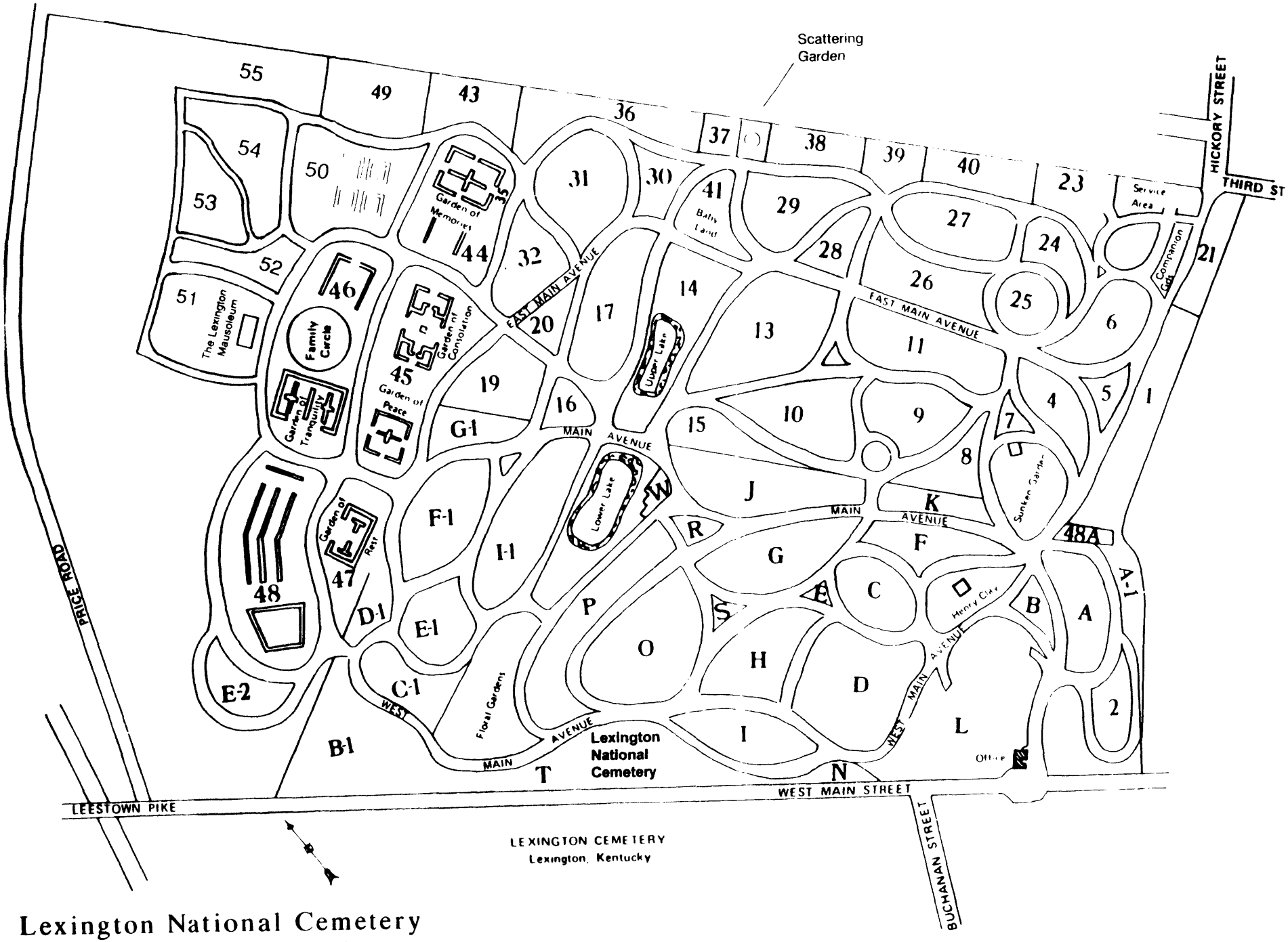
Sketch Map
Lexington National Cemetery
Fayette County, Kentucky

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

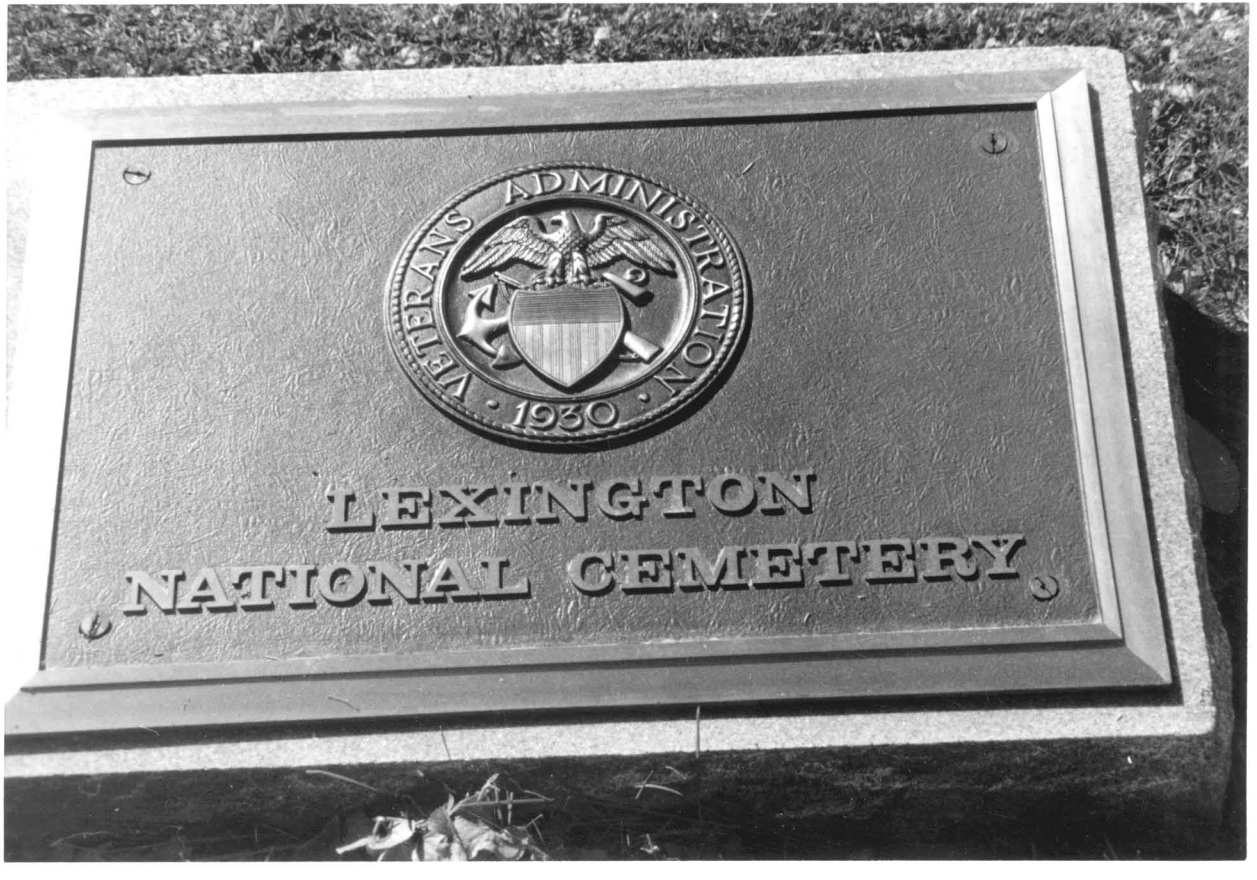
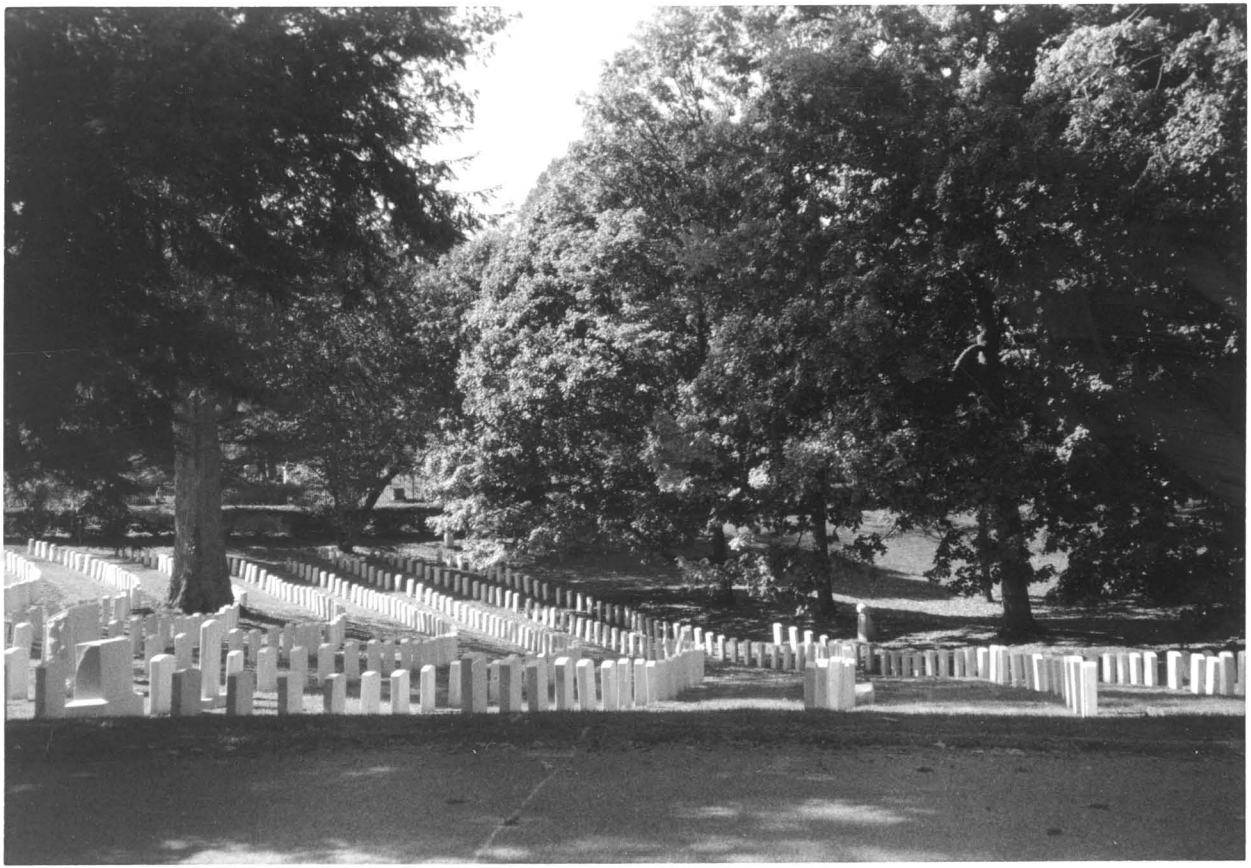


Base Map
Lexington National Cemetery
Fayette County, Kentucky

not to scale



Lexington National Cemetery
Fayette County, Kentucky


VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
1930
LEXINGTON
NATIONAL CEMETERY

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