

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC MOBILE NATIONAL CEMETERY (VA National Cemeteries TR)

AND/OR COMMON SAME

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1202 Virginia Avenue

CITY, TOWN Mobile NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

STATE Alabama VICINITY OF CODE 01 COUNTY Mobile CODE 097

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDEN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATIO |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: cemet |

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable) VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

STREET & NUMBER 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.

CITY, TOWN Washington VICINITY OF STATE D.C.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Land Management Service - VA Office of Construction

STREET & NUMBER 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE VA Historic Sites Survey

DATE Continuing FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS VA Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | National Ceme | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1865, 1936, 1973

BUILDER/ARCHITECT U.S. Army

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

National cemeteries administered by the Veterans Administration are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because they have been designated by Congress as primary memorials to the military history of the United States. These cemeteries were created in response to a national sense of obligation to care for those who served their country, and are physical manifestations of our social conscience.

The Mobile National Cemetery was established in 1865 as a burial ground for union dead. The original burials in Lot 20 were 238 who died in the vicinity. They were followed during the graves recovery and reinterment program by those originally buried at Spanish Fort, Forts Blakely, Powell, Morgan and Gains (sic). The early reinterment of black descedants from a segregated plot into the old section of the cemetery reinforced policies of some other government agencies to reward service based on service alone and not on race. It was not until 1948, however, that the armed services integrated the living. At Mobile, the decision may have been based on the separation of the military dead from the superior number of civilians buried in the Freedmen's Lot.

The cemetery is associated with the battles for Mobile and those in surrounding areas of Alabama. Through its continued use for the interment of veterans it has become associated with the military history of the United States from that date through the Vietnam Era. The cemetery was officially closed in 1963 under conditions permitting the burial of those who died in Southeast Asia. Veterans of all branches of the armed services rest together, honored in death for their contributions to the nation.

There is one recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor known to be interred in the Mobile National Cemetery. PFC John Dury New of the US Marine Corps was awarded this nation's highest award during World War II for his selfless courage in saving the lives of others by hurling himself on an enemy grenade.

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The lodge was constructed about 1880 according to a design by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs. The Second Empire design was a reverse "L" shape with a one story porch giving a generally rectangular plan. The plan for this rather basic facility was used at sites across the country. The simple floor plan provided an office, living room, and kitchen on the first floor and three bedrooms on the upper story under a slate mansard roof. Later kitchens were located in rear additions and the original kitchens converted to dining rooms.

The lodge at the Mobile National Cemetery was executed in brick with bold self-quoining over an elevated concrete foundation. There were 6/6 double hung windows on the first floor and in gable windows on the upper story. The mansard roof over the second floor was slightly concave. The lodge was located in the southeastern section of the cemetery, the present location.

The rostrum, constructed in 1892, was octagonal and resembled a bandstand. The base was of brick with recessed panels on each face. Square wrought iron standards at each corner connected a wrought iron railing and supported twisted rope columns. The eight columns supported an ornamental wrought iron fliagree with roman arches and stylized motif. Above the springline of the arches the columns became square and supported a pagoda roof with an ornamental finial.

The monument donated by the 76th Ill. Vol. Inf. Regiment contains eight sections, all but the foundation and top of Vermont marble. The brick foundation supports a square main base and monument body base, a main body or shaft topped by a crown base and crown collar. Atop the collar is a crown composed of a metal eagle on a ball.

An east-west drive bisects Part II of the Mobile National Cemetery. A grass path bisects the cemetery from north to south creating four nearly equal sections.

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PRESENT APPEARANCE

In 1936 a second parcel diagonally southeast across the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Owens Street was purchased for cemetery expansion. The tract contains a mound, a remnant of a Confederate breastwork known as the "Confederate Fortifications." A retaining wall was constructed around it the same year. A granite monument was erected in 1940 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy to mark the breastwork. This cemetery section contains the graves of four Confederates. The wall around the new section, Part II of the cemetery is simple wrought iron atop a low concrete support.

By this time the original cemetery was walled on the south side only with no separation from the Magnolia Cemetery on the other sides. To provide total separation, a simple wrought iron fence was built around the remainder of the cemetery.

The lodge has been altered and enlarged over the years. While records on some alterations are not available, the major changes can be documented. In 1931, a single story sun parlor was added off the dining room or west side of the lodge. In 1936, a single story screen porch was added to the east and a second story sleeping porch over the sun porch addition. The sleeping porch was carefully designed to retain the concave line of the original roof. During this renovation the entire structure was stuccoed for a uniform appearance. The new stucco treatment transformed the quoining into square corner pillars. The original porch has been enclosed and stuccoed to create a new office and the entry stairs are now located on the west to facilitate entrance from the entry road.

The rostrum has been reduced in height by removal of the roof and supporting columns above the surrounding railing. The base has been stuccoed. It still serves its original function.

The utility building was constructed in 1936 with additions as needed. It is brick over a concrete foundation and consisted of a two bay garage under an asbestos shingle, pitch roof. The side wall had 3 6/6 windows. A smaller three bay garage and toilet room are additions. While the building serves a necessary function, it does not contribute to the significance of the national cemetery.

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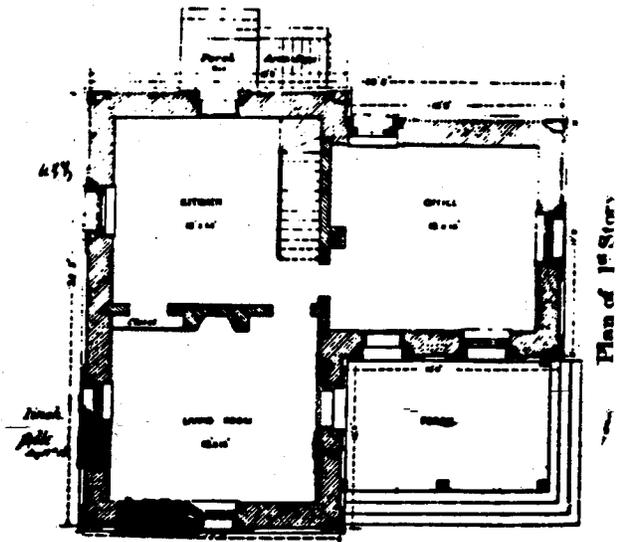
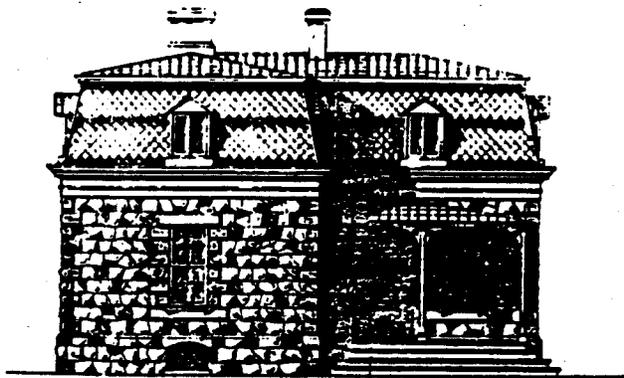
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MEIGS NATIONAL CEMETERY LODGES

Between the 1860's and the end of the nineteenth century National Cemetery lodges were constructed according to a design by then Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs. The plan of this rather basic facility was used at sites across the country. It was executed in a number of materials: ashlar stone at Grafton, West Virginia; coursed stone at Fort Harrison, Virginia; red sandstone block at Alexandria, Virginia; and in a number of variations in brick with details such as decorative self-quoining. The simple floor plan provided an office, living room, and kitchen on the first floor and three bedrooms on the upper story.

*Montgomery C. Meigs, Lodges,
National Cemeteries (1871)*



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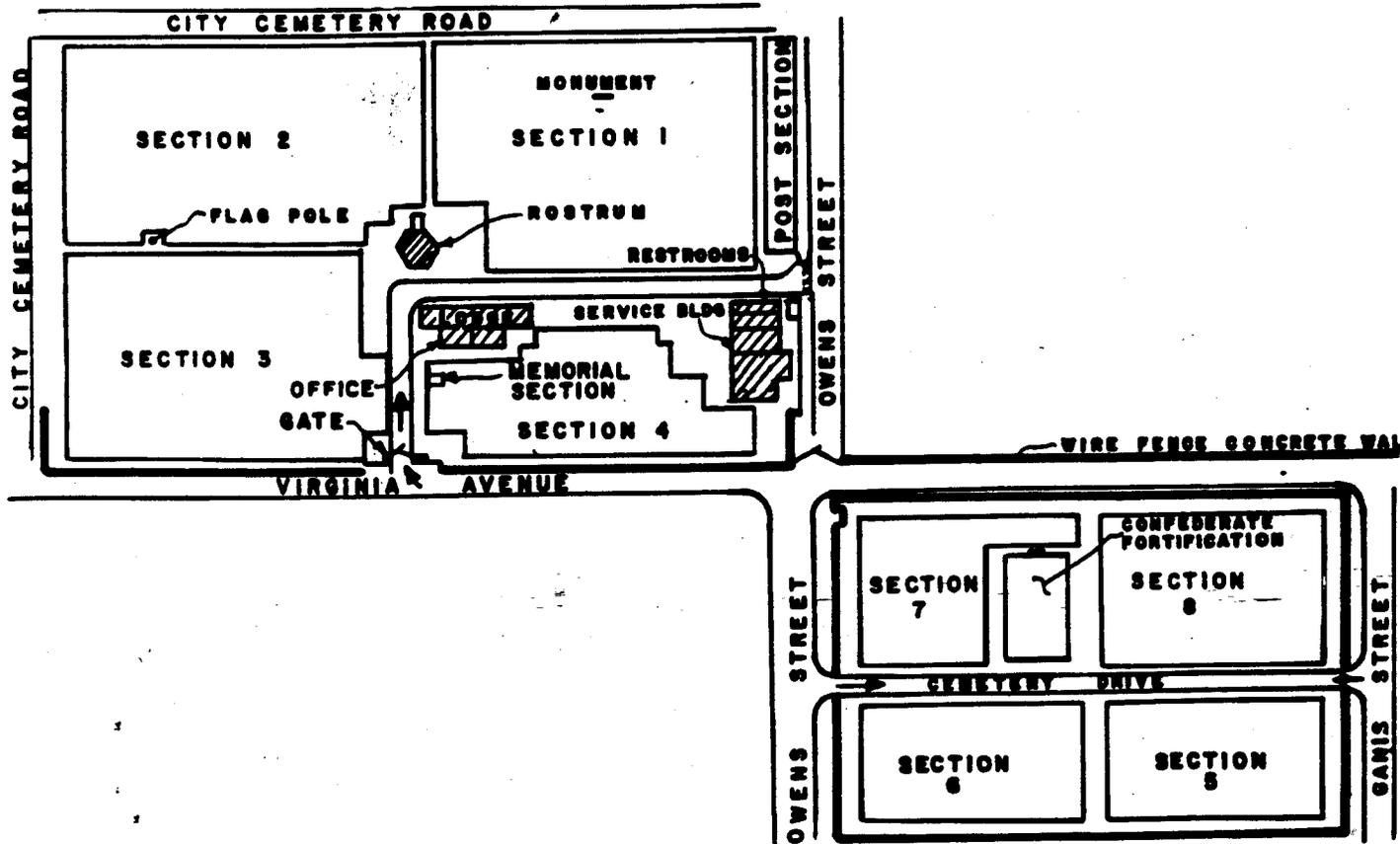
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Mobile National Cemetery



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GENERAL HISTORY OF NATIONAL CEMETERIES

The 140 national cemetery properties administered by the veterans administration include the following properties transferred by the Department of the Army under the National Cemetery Act of 1973:

81 of 82 National Cemeteries;

22 Soldiers Lots;

7 Confederate Plots;

2 of 3 Monuments; and,

1 group of Federal Lots in Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

The VA national cemeteries also include 21 VA cemeteries:

11 of which were established at the Branches of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS);

4 of which were military post cemeteries;

5 of which served VA long term care facilities; and,

1 established by Congress.

Six new expansion sites have been acquired by the VA since 1973.

The two properties transferred in 1973 but not longer controlled by the VA are the Perryville Battlefield National Cemetery in Perryville, Kentucky, and the Fort Phil Kearney Monument Site in Sheridan County, Wyoming. Both have been transferred State agency under jurisdiction of the respective State Historic Preservation Officers. Neither property contained any federal interments.

The Department of the Army retained jurisdiction over the Arlington and the United States Soldiers and Airman's Home National Cemeteries. The Department of the Navy retained the cemetery at the Sailors Home. The armed services also retain the cemeteries at the

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three service academies.

The Department of the Interior has jurisdiction of 14 National Cemeteries transferred prior to 1973.

National cemeteries were first authorized by Congress in 1862. But the basis for national military cemeteries has much earlier roots. Post and Garrison commanders had long provided burial grounds for those of their commands and their dependents. Following the Mexican War, efforts were made to recover the remains of the fatalities and bring them together in the American military cemetery at Mexico City.

As early in the Civil War as September of 1861 the War Department had issued General Orders 75 making the commanders of Corps and Departments responsible for the burial of officers and soldiers within their jurisdiction. This was followed in April, 1862, when Section II of General Orders 33 charged commanding generals in the field:

In order to secure, as far as possible, the decent interment of those who have fallen, or may fall, in battle, it is made the duty of Commanding Generals to lay off lots of ground in some suitable spot near every battlefield, so soon as it may be in their power, and to cause the remains of those killed to be interred, with headboards to the braves bearing numbers, and when practicable, the names of the persons buried in them. A register of each burial ground will be preserved, in which will be noted the marks corresponding with the headboards.

On July 17, 1862, the President was authorized "to purchase cemetery grounds... to be used as a national cemetery for soldiers who shall have died in the service of the country." By the end of the year 1 national cemeteries had been established under authority of this act, though none fell within the statutory provisions. This discrepancy appears not to have been any cause of concern as 27 national cemeteries had been established by the end of 1864.

In July of 1865, General Orders #40 required reports of interments be made to Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs. When the report

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showed only 101,736 graves, representing less than 30 percent of the union fatalities (359,528) could be accounted for, orders went out to located and mark the remaining graves. This led to the massive post war recovery and reinterment program which Meigs declared substantially complete in 1870.

Secretary of War Edwin Stanton gave personal orders that a national cemetery be established at the Andersonville Prison. Thanks to careful work by the Union officials and the accuracy of Confederate records, of the 12,912 bodies, 12,461 are known descedants and only 451 are unknown. This rate is far below the average rate of unknowns for the total of Union burials.

The recovery program took the recovery teams back along the lines of battles, retracing the marches of the great armies, in their search. They also sought out the locations of graves in private, city and family cemeteries to assure as complete an accounting as possible.

During the recovery period Congress supported the effort and in February, 1867, passed legislation directing the Secretary of War to enclose each national cemetery "with a good substantial stone or iron fence," to mark all graves with a headstone or marker to appoint superintendents (all to be veterans) and to erect suitable quarters for them. Congress also directed that there be annual inspections and a report on them to the legislature as a basis for determining necessary appropriations.

By 1870 when the recovery and reinterment program was drawing to completion, 73 national cemeteries had been established or designated and contained 299,696 union remains. The aggregate of all remains in national cemeteries, post cemeteries, private interments and remains which had been identified for reinterment totalled 315,555. It is not clear whether this figure includes only the Civil War dead in post cemeteries or any of the Confederate dead in such national cemeteries as Fort Leavenworth. From the tally of 173,109 known interments and 143,446 unknown, it would appear to be a report of Union Civil War fatalities only. Remains of just over 26,000 could not be accounted for.

The eligibility for burial in national cemeteries has expanded significantly since 1862. Some of this has resulted from interpretation, policy and tradition; some thru legislation.

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It had long been Army practice to inter in post cemeteries soldiers who died while in service and their dependents. This practice continued in national cemeteries at military posts as well. The language of the original 1862 Act covering soldiers who died "in the service of the country" was interpreted to include those dying on active duty "at any or all times...."

The ruling in support of this interpretation by Judge Advocate General Joseph Holt had come in response to petitions by Civil War veterans for burial in available space in the national cemeteries beside their comrades-in-arms.

Congress in the 1870 Army appropriations made a half step to removing the limitation of burial for the war time or current dead by covering expenses for officers, non-coms and troops in line of duty status.

In trying to meet the demands of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) to permit national cemetery burial for all Civil War veterans, in 1872 Congress approved such burial for those dying in destitute circumstances. The response was anger that Congress would turn the national cemeteries into potter's fields. Only 9 months later (in 1873) all honorably discharged Union veterans became eligible for national cemetery burial.

As early as 1867 remains from post cemeteries were being relocated to the national cemeteries being established at the forts. In 1873 Secretary of War Belknap arranged for the reinterment of his father from the abandoned Fort Washita and directed General Meigs to arrange for the removal of the other military (and dependent) remains at Washita and Fort Arbuckle (also abandoned) to the national cemetery at Fort Gibson. Subsequently military remains from abandoned forts were relocated to perpetual government care in national cemeteries.

National cemeteries had become such an ingrained part of the American memorialization of significant military events that the Custer Battlefield was declared a national cemetery in 1879 as a matter of course. In the west and southwest, remains from the Mexican and Indian wars were interred in national cemeteries routinely.

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During the Spanish American War remains were returned from overseas for either burial in national cemeteries or private family interment. In this era recovery and graves registration capability had increased so dramatically that only 13.63 percent of the dead from the eastern theaters of Puerto Rico and Cuba were buried as unknown compared with 42.5 percent in the Civil War. Only 9 of the 1,384 bodies returned from the Philippines were unidentified. Figures for World Wars I and II were 2.2 percent and 3.7 percent respectively.

Beginning with World War I the choice was given to the next of kin whether remains would be returned to this country for burial or reinterred in U.S. overseas cemeteries operated by the American Battle Monuments Commission. Three later overseas cemeteries on U.S. soil (Honolulu, Hawaii; Sitka, Alaska; and Bayamon, Puerto Rico) were incorporated into the National Cemetery System and are now operated by the VA.

In the post World War I period the new American Legion called attention to the need for expanding the National Cemetery System to provide adequate burial space for the millions of new war veterans eligible for interment. Seven national cemeteries were added to the system, four newly established, by the outbreak of World War II. These four were Golden Gate, Long Island, Fort Snelling and Baltimore.

Between 1946 and 1950 four new national cemeteries were established in the contiguous 48 states. Three were associated with military posts while the Willamette National Cemetery was a totally new site donated for national cemetery use. No new national cemeteries were established or declared until 1973 when responsibility for most national cemeteries was transferred to the Veterans Administration.

Even as the National Cemetery System of the War Department (Department of the Army) had evolved, a separate system of cemeteries (also established for Civil War veterans) had been developed. These would later become national cemeteries.

In March of 1865, President Lincoln signed the legislation creating the National Assylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers - renamed the National "Home" in 1873.

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The first three Branches of the Home, near Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Dayton, Ohio; and Togus, Maine; were far removed from national cemeteries where, after 1873 members of the Home were eligible for burial. As a result, the Managers of the Home provided for burial of deceased members in cemeteries on the grounds of the individual branches.

When the Southern Branch of the Home was established in 1870, it was located adjacent to the Hampton, Virginia, National Cemetery and deceased members were buried there except for a short period during 1898. An outbreak of yellow fever at the Southern Branch resulted in an immediate, strict quarantine. The twenty-two home members who died of various causes during the quarantine were buried in a small plot on the Home grounds.

The Western Branch of the Home at Leavenworth, Kansas, was established in 1886. Although the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery was located only a few miles north of the Home, the custom of a Home cemetery prevailed. As additional Home branches were established near Los Angeles, California; Marion, Indiana; Danville, Illinois; near Hot Springs, South Dakota; and the Mountain Branch near Johnson City, Tennessee, cemeteries were established at each. The Bath Branch, donated to the Federal Government in 1929, had been the New York State Soldiers & Sailors Home and included the Home cemetery.

As eligibility for admission to the National Home had been expanded beyond Union veterans of the Civil War to encompass those with service in other periods of our national history, so had those interred in the Home cemeteries come to represent a cross section of American veterans.

Following World War I, a number of military facilities were transferred to the Veterans Bureau (established 1921). Four of these: Forts Meade, South Dakota; Bayard, New Mexico; Lyon, Colorado; and Prescott, Arizona, included post cemeteries.

The National Home, Veterans Bureau and other veterans benefit programs were combined in 1930 to create the Veterans Administration. Five VA extended care facilities also included cemeteries for those dying at VA installations. One expansion

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cemetery, not located at an existing VA medical facility, was established at Houston, Texas, in the 1960's.

The assassination of President Kennedy and his burial in Arlington National Cemetery focused the nation's attention on national cemeteries and the burial benefits of all veterans.

Applications for burial in the Arlington National Cemetery increased so greatly that the Army was forced to adopt a more restrictive eligibility policy for burials than that in force for national cemeteries in general. This focused national attention on the relatively limited grave sites available in existing national cemeteries. The system had seen no expansion since the end of World War II. As a result of studies and Congressional hearings the decision was made by the Congress to transfer the major part of the National Cemetery System to the Veterans Administration. This brought the program for veterans burial benefits under the same agency which handles other veterans benefits programs, including the provision of the American flag to drape a veteran's casket.

The National Cemetery Act of 1973, in addition to transferring jurisdiction of the National Cemetery System, directed the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to study the overall demand for national cemetery burial and means to meet that need. As a result, existing national cemeteries are being expanded and new ones created to meet projected demand through the year 2000 and beyond.

National cemeteries have contained a number of common features. These have included flag poles, rostrums, monuments, lodges, service buildings and, of course, graves markers.

Grave Markers

There are two categories of grave markers or headstones in national cemeteries: private and government. Today private markers are permitted only in those sections of cemeteries where they were originally erected years ago. As there are few burial spaces still available in any of these sections for all practical purposes new private markers are no longer permitted in VA National Cemeteries.

Government markers have changed over the years, as the system of national cemeteries has evolved. In post cemeteries a uniform

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manner of marking graves with wooden, rounded top boards had been established prior to the Civil War. This custom continued in national cemeteries through the remains recovery and reinterment program.

Though Congress had authorized permanent markers in 1867, a dispute over whether to use marble or iron meant no permanent markers were procured until late 1873 after Congress had directed the use of durable stone and of such weight and design that they would stay in place when set. Separate styles were used for the known and unknown dead. Graves of unknowns were to be marked by a stone block 6 inches square and 2 1/2 feet long. Two feet of the length was below grade to hold the marker in place. The marker for the identified deceased was of white marble, 4 inches thick, 10 inches wide and 36 inches long. The top was curved and the face ornamented with a recessed shield and raised lettering. All individual Union graves in established national cemeteries had been marked by 1879. Group and mass graves were marked by various means.

Authority to provide government markers for the graves of veterans buried in other than national cemeteries came in 1879.

The Civil War type upright marker continued in use for the Spanish American War and for veterans of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Indian campaigns and for the graves of peacetime soldiers. This is known as the Civil/Spanish American War stone.

In 1902, to provide greater stability when set, marker dimensions were increased to a width of 12 inches and a depth of 39 inches. In 1903 this marker replaced the 6 inch square block for unknowns.

Civilian graves in national and post cemeteries were included in the graves marking program in 1904. It was not until 1906 that Congress authorized markers for the graves of the Confederate dead (in national cemeteries and northern Confederate plots). The Civil/Spanish American War marker was modified to omit the shield and provide a pointed rather than rounded top. Government furnished headstones for Confederate graves in private cemeteries was authorized in 1929 and the use of the Southern Cross of Honor permitted.

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After World War I a new headstone was proposed. Spanish American and Civil War veterans protested any abandonment of their traditional grave marker. A new marker was designated for all veterans other than these two groups who would be provided with the traditional headstone. The new grave marker 2 1/2 inches thick, 10 inches wide and 40 inches long with the rounded top was used for only 2,200 graves. Deemed unsatisfactory it was replaced in 1922 with a marble marker 13 inches wide, 4 inches thick and 42 inches long.

As private cemetery design shifted from burial grounds to memorial parks and flat or pillow markers came into use, the government authorized three types of flat markers: the marble in 1936; granite in 1939; and bronze in 1940 (for non-military cemeteries only). The surface dimensions were 12 inches by 24 inches. The bronze marker was modified in 1972. Park like cemeteries can be significantly less expensive to maintain if mowers can go over the grave markers and little or no manual trimming at individual grave sites is needed.

Since 1978 Government grave markers may be of any material, including but not limited to marble, granite, bronze or slate. Only slate is not now authorized in national cemeteries and is reserved for non-government cemeteries.

Over the years symbols of religious preference have been approved for inclusion on the general and flat grave markers. The earliest of these were the Latin Cross and the Star of David. More than twenty religious symbols, including one for Atheists, have been accepted by the Veterans Administration.

A new Medal of Honor headstone was inaugurated for the American Bicentennial. A representation of the Congressional Medal of Honor appears below the name of the deceased and above the words "Medal of Honor." The incised work is gold leafed on the marble, granite and bronze markers.

In addition to serving as headstones, Government markers may be installed in memorial sections in memory of members of the armed forces buried at sea or whose bodies could not be recovered.

Inscriptions on government headstones may include name, place of

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birth, military rank, branch of service, period of military service dates of birth and death and military awards.

For prisoners of war interred in national cemeteries the inscription is modified by limiting it to name, nationality, and date of death. Members of the armed forces of other nations (other than POWs) who have died in this country have also been buried in military and/or national cemeteries.

Civilians, as distinct from veteran or military dependents eligible for national cemetery burial, have been buried in national cemeteries for a number of reasons. Civilian employees of the military who died at forts might be buried in post cemeteries. Travelers on the Oregon or Santa Fe trails who died at or near fort might be buried in pioneer sections. In at least one national cemetery the donor of the land conditioned his gift upon establishment of a plot for his family.

Private markers in national cemeteries show a wide range of styles in memorial art which have been popular over the past 120 years. Columns, truncated shafts, obelisks, dying warriors, laurel wreaths, polished or rough hewn granite and various religious symbols, while lacking the precision and unity of row upon row of Government markers, add a visual richness and individuality to the older cemeteries in the system.

Rostrums

National cemeteries have been the focus for national ceremonies at least since 1868 when General John A. Logan, then Commander-in-Chief of the GAR issued General Orders #11 calling upon a members to observe May 30th beginning that year and "as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us" by:

strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defence (sic) of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

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Rostrums of various styles have provided the platform from which honors were rendered and speeches of rededication declaimed. Styles have varied from small, classical Greek temples to simple pulpits or lecterns or bandstand style structures. Materials have included marble, granite, iron and steel, and locally quarried coquina. They have been imposing focal points and modest platforms. As demands for burial space have mounted or where deterioration has been severe, some have been removed. Not all national cemeteries have rostrums today.

Lodges

Though Congress directed construction of superintendent's lodges in all national cemeteries, only sixty some lodges remain in VA national cemeteries, and many of these are not original. Several very small Civil War national cemeteries, such as Ball's Bluff never had lodges. None of the 21 cemeteries belonging to the VA before 1973 has a lodge.

During Meigs' tenure as Quartermaster General, standard plans for lodges were drawn. These plans were interpreted in a variety of materials; brick, frame, ashlar and coursed stone. The Meigs lodges were of late Victorian Second Empire design with mansard roof, a story and a half over a basement in an inverted L shape. The first floor contained the office and two other rooms. Sleeping quarters were located on the upper floor. Kitchens were sometimes in separate structures, but kitchen additions have been added over the years.

Other styles of lodges have been used through the years.

Monuments

Monuments, as distinct from grave markers, are found in most national cemeteries. These may be as modest as the boulder and plaque dedicated to civilian employees of the Quartermaster Corps who drowned in a flash flood while pursuing John Wilkes Booth, or as imposing as the American Battle Monuments Commission monument in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (The Punchbowl).

Monuments have been paid for by the Federal Government. They have

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been purchased with voluntary contributions from soldiers. Many states have given monuments to their fallen sons. Patriotic organizations contribute to national cemeteries and individuals have donated monuments to their former comrades-in-arms. The representational, traditional, symbolic and utilitarian are all included in national cemetery monumentation.

Other National Cemetery System Properties

In addition to national cemeteries, the National Cemetery System includes soldiers lots, Confederate plots, monument sites and plots within Congressional Cemetery.

Soldiers lots are areas set aside in other cemeteries for the burial, originally, of Union Civil War veterans. These were then donated to the Federal Government and used for veterans burials when space was available.

Confederate plots are cemeteries where Union commanders buried southern troops who died in their areas of command. Most, but not all, were prisoners.

The two monument sites are located in private cemeteries and contain large monuments in honor of Confederate prisoners whose burial places in the cemeteries cannot be identified.

The Federal Government owns 806 lots in Congressional Cemetery, the Washington Parish (Christ Church) Burial Ground. These lots contain 469 burials, 340 memorial cenotaphs (no remains), 96 private markers and 9 vacant lots. Some plots contain multiple interments. Some centotaphs occupy more than one lot.

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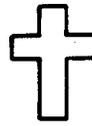
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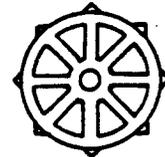
RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS ACCEPTED FOR INSCRIPTION ON GOVERNMENT MARKERS
AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE

1. Latin Cross (Christian)



1

2. Wheel Of Righteousness (Buddhist)



2

3. Star of David (Jewish)



3

4. Presbyterian Cross

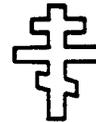
5. Greek/Russian Orthodox Cross

6. Lutheran Cross

7. Episcopal Cross



4



5



6



7

8. Unitarian Church
Flaming Chalice



8

9. United Methodist Church

10. Aaronic Order Church

11. Latter Day Saints
Mormon - Angel Moroni



9



10

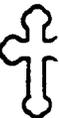


11



12

12. Native American Church
of North America



13

13. Serbian Orthodox

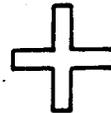
14. Greek Cross

15. Bahai - 9 Pointed Star

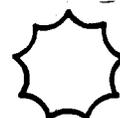
16. Atheist

17. Muslim - Crescent & Star

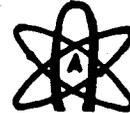
18. Hindu



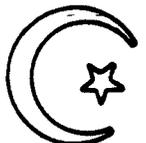
14



15



16



17



18

19. Konko-Kyo Faith

20. Reorganized Latter
Day Saints

21. Sufism Reoriented

22. Tenriko Church



19



20



21



22

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Steere, Edward; "Shrines of the Honored Dead: A Study of the National Cemetery System;" The Quartermaster Review; Quartermaster Association; 1953 and 1954.

VA National Cemetery Brochures

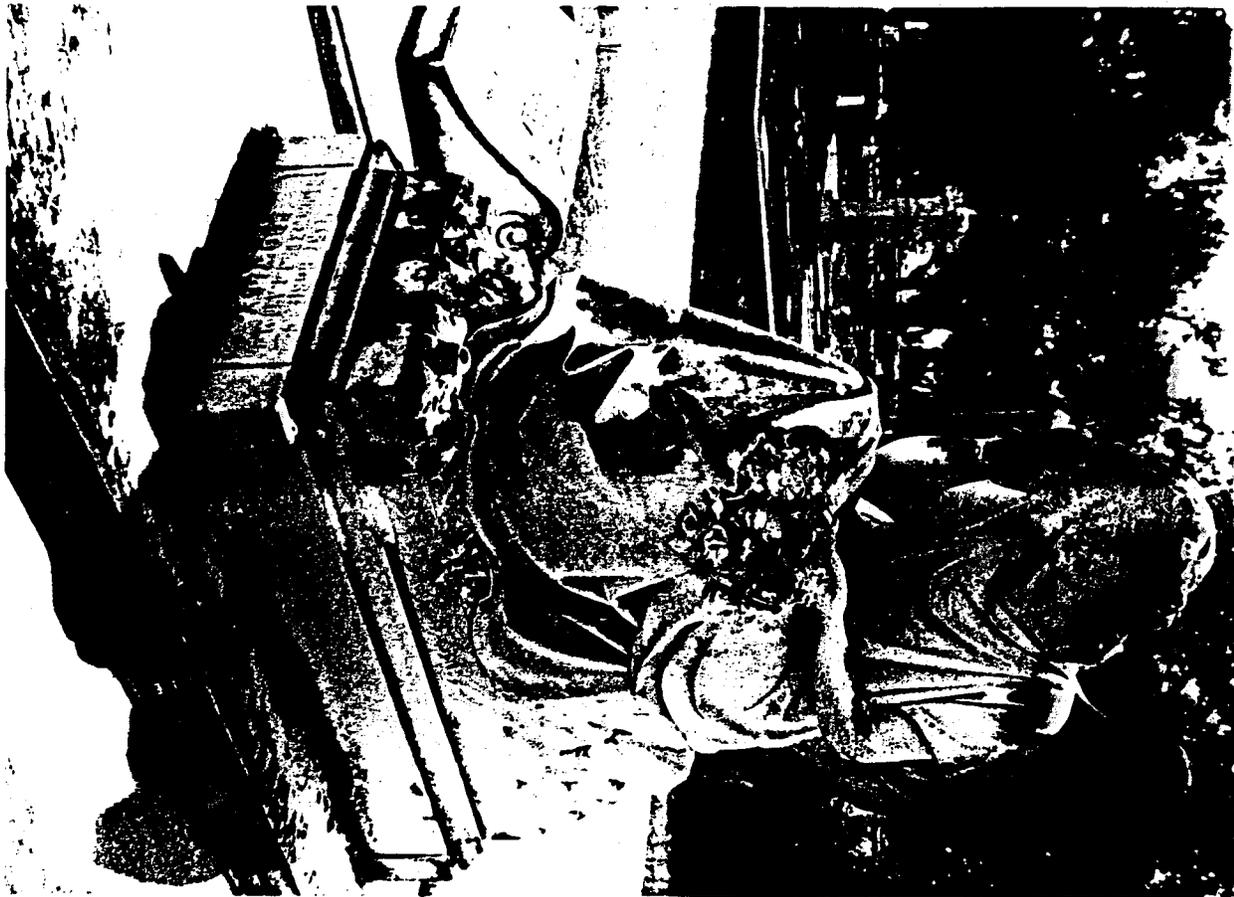
VA National Cemetery Burial Journals

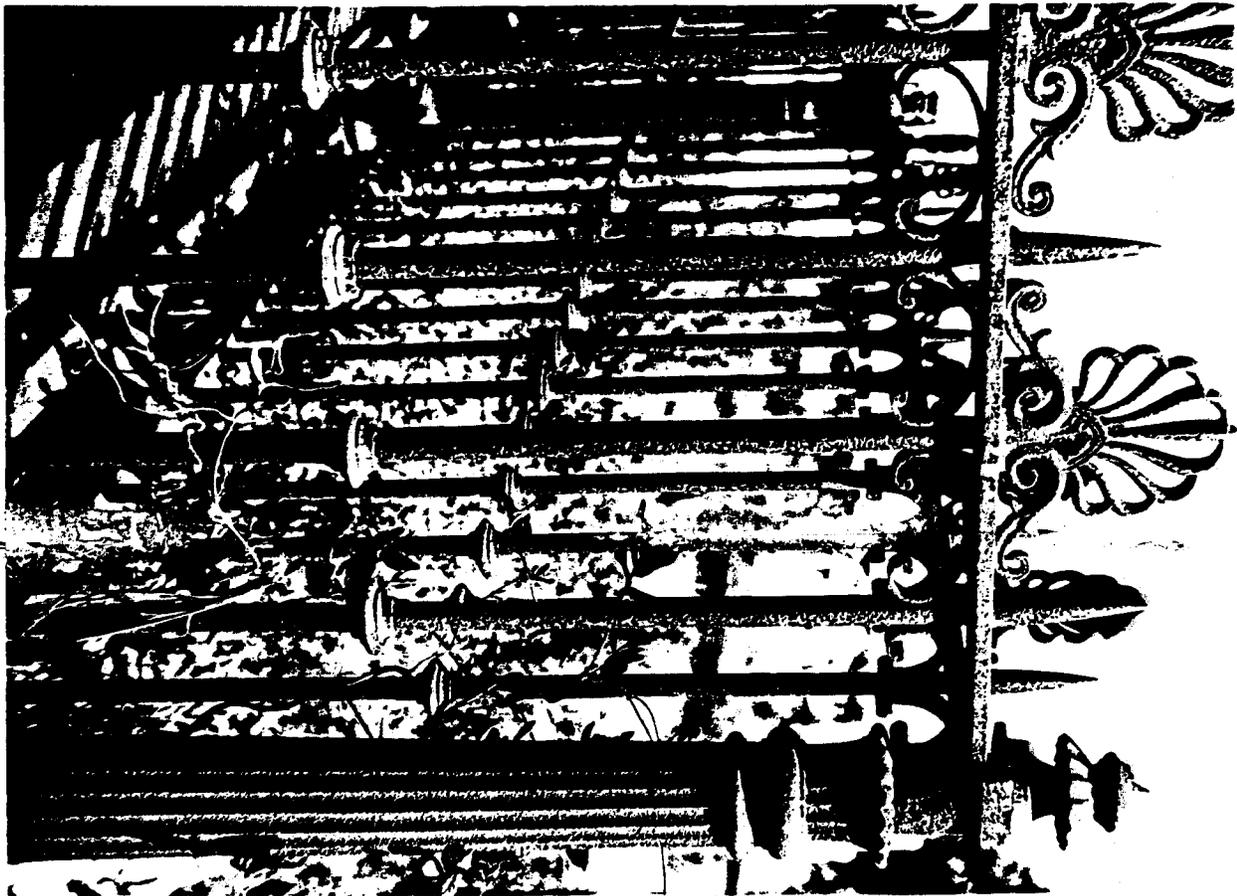
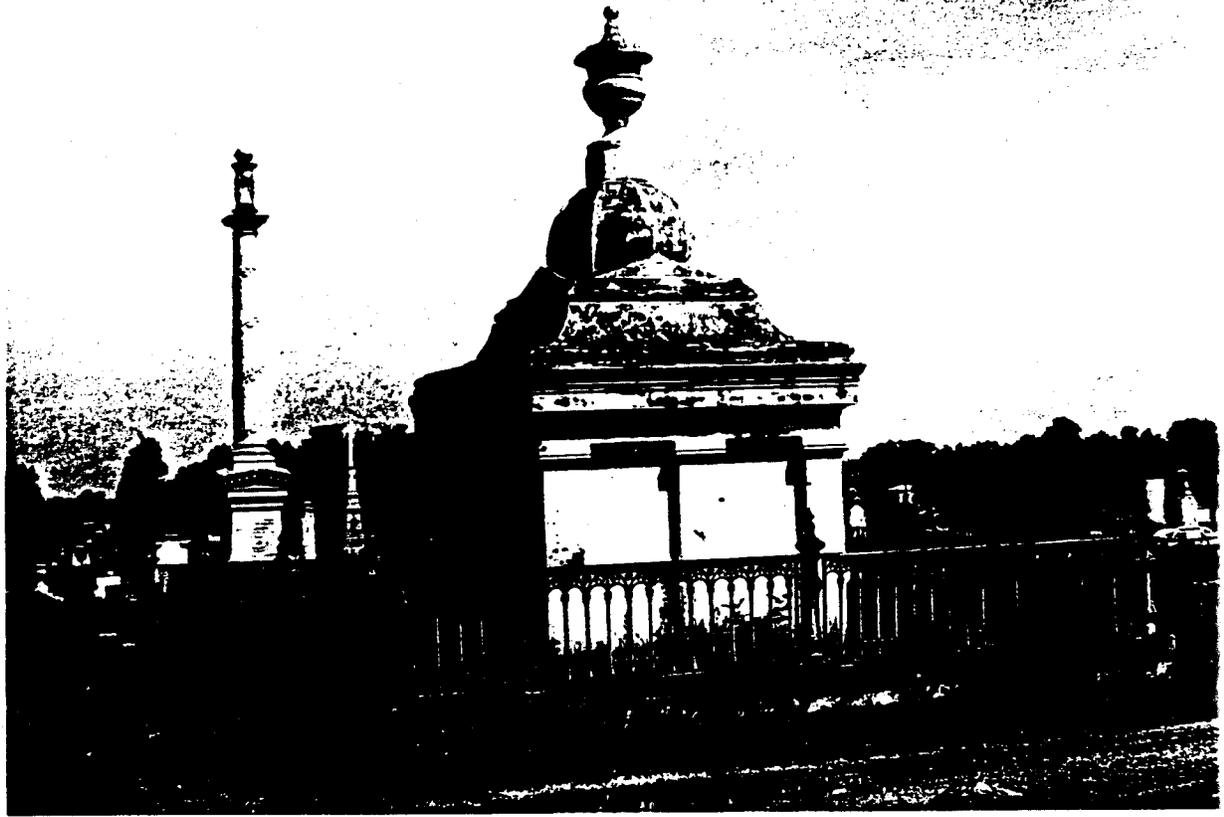
VA National Cemetery Data Sheets

VA National Cemetery Historical Journals

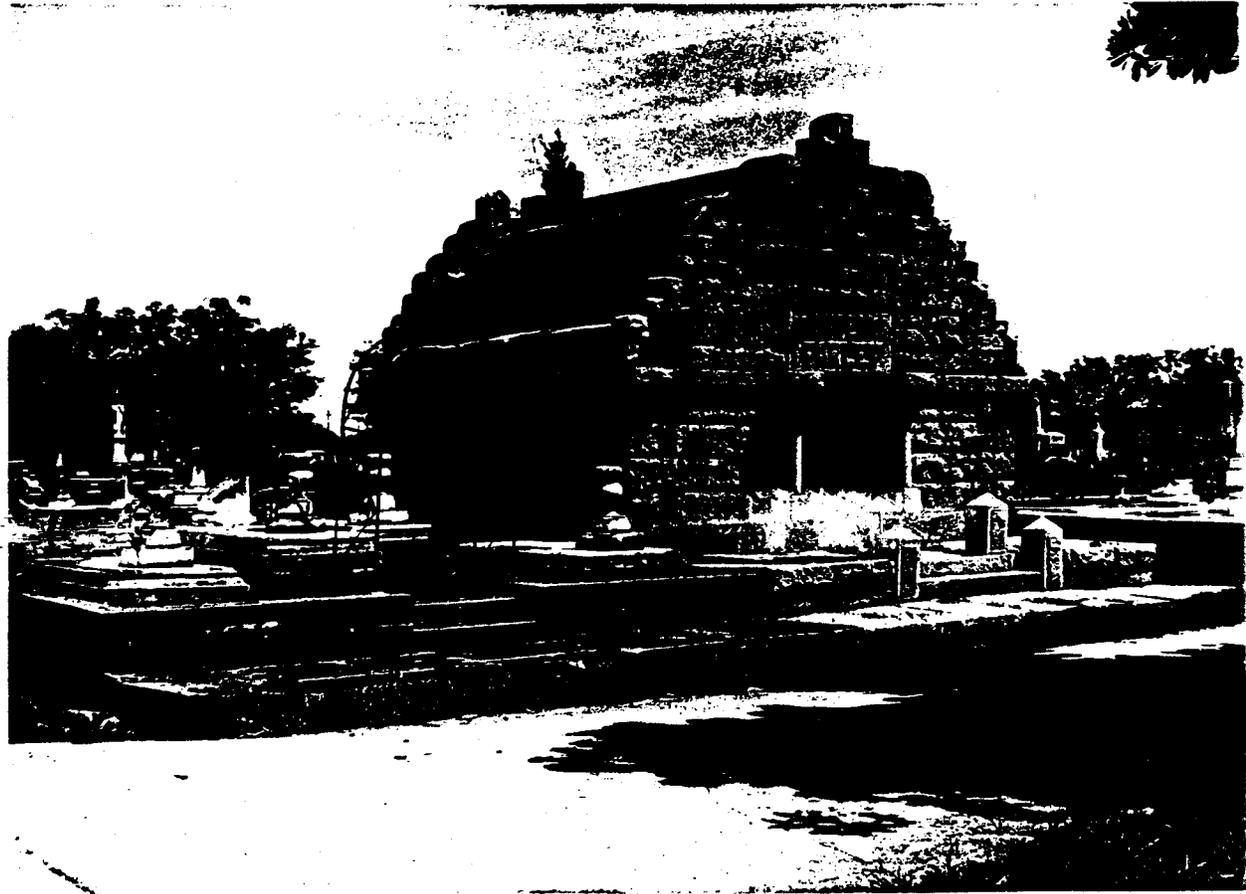
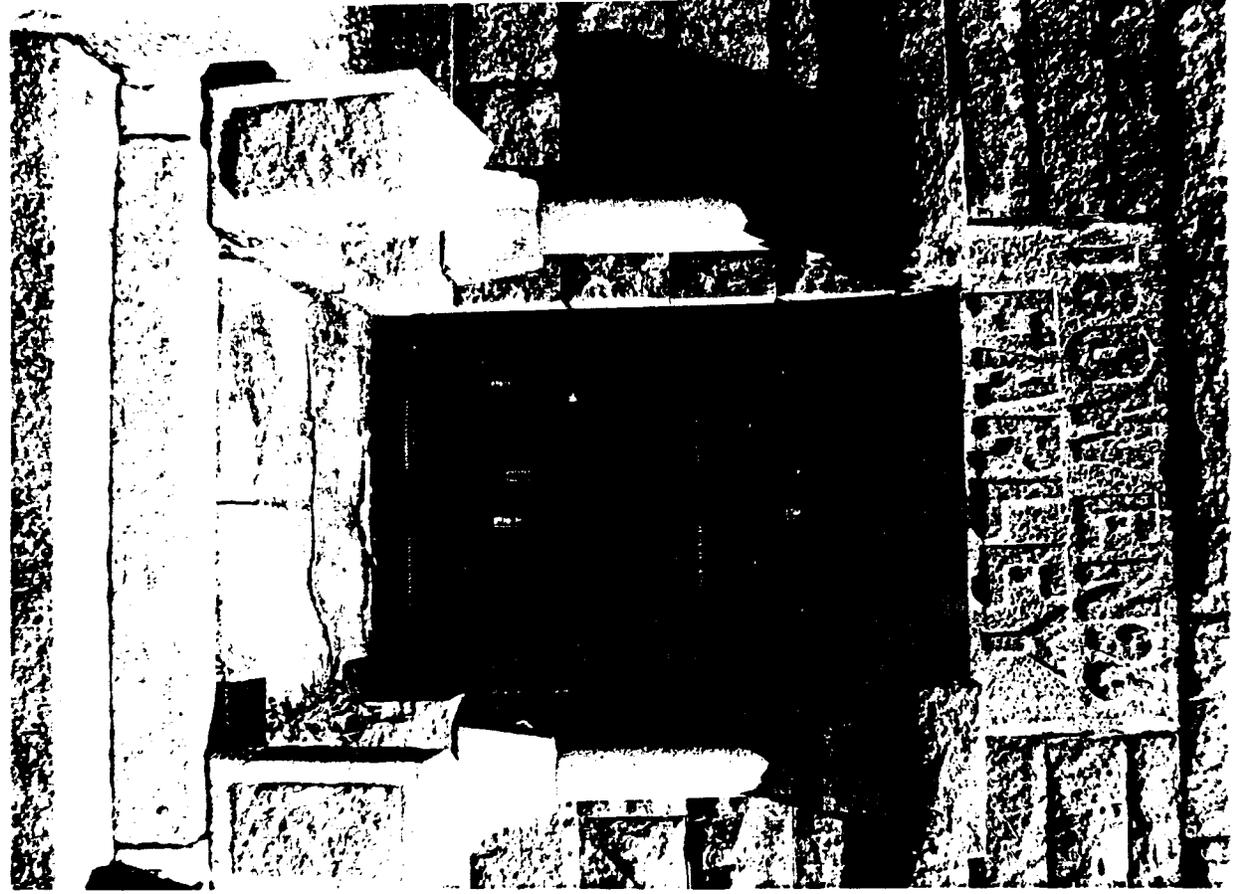
VA Title Files





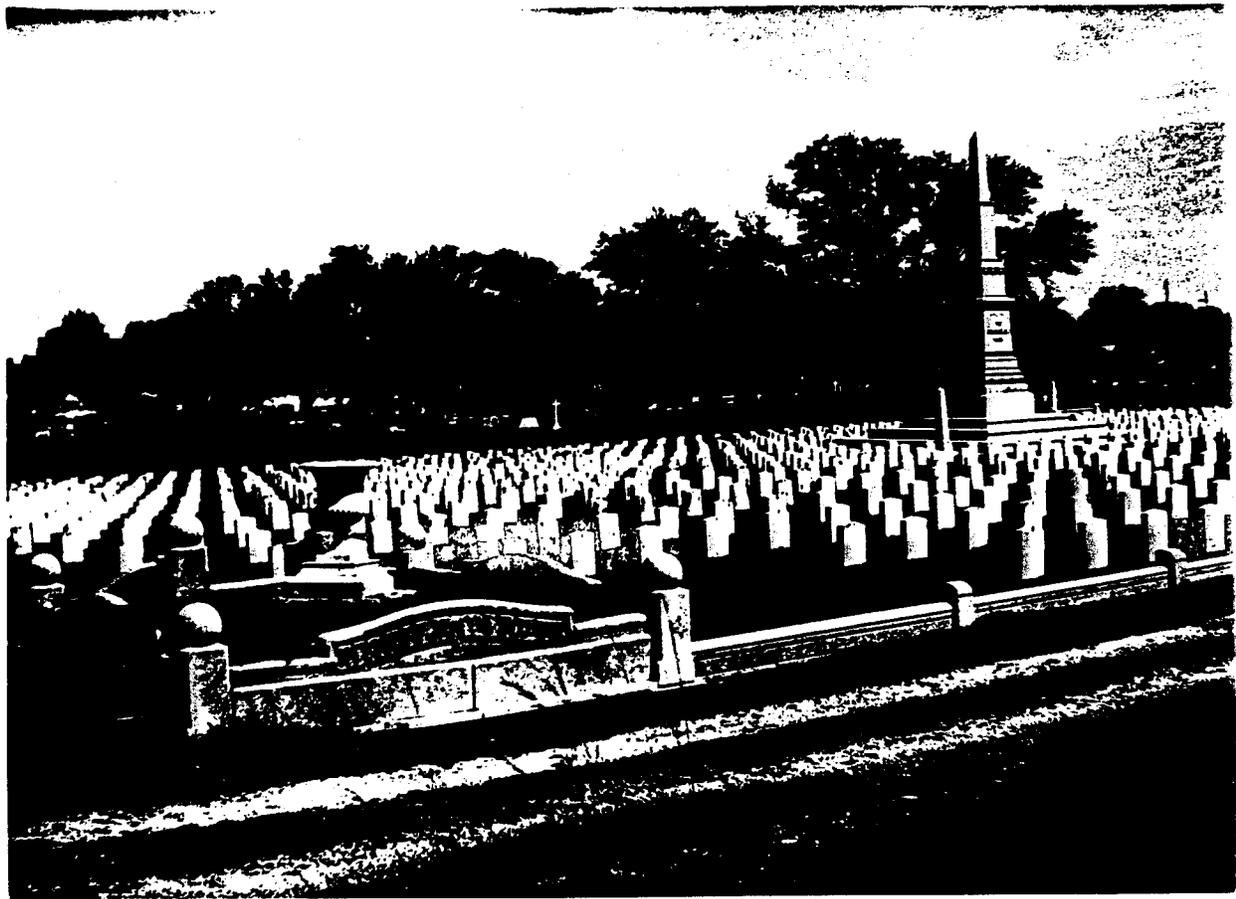
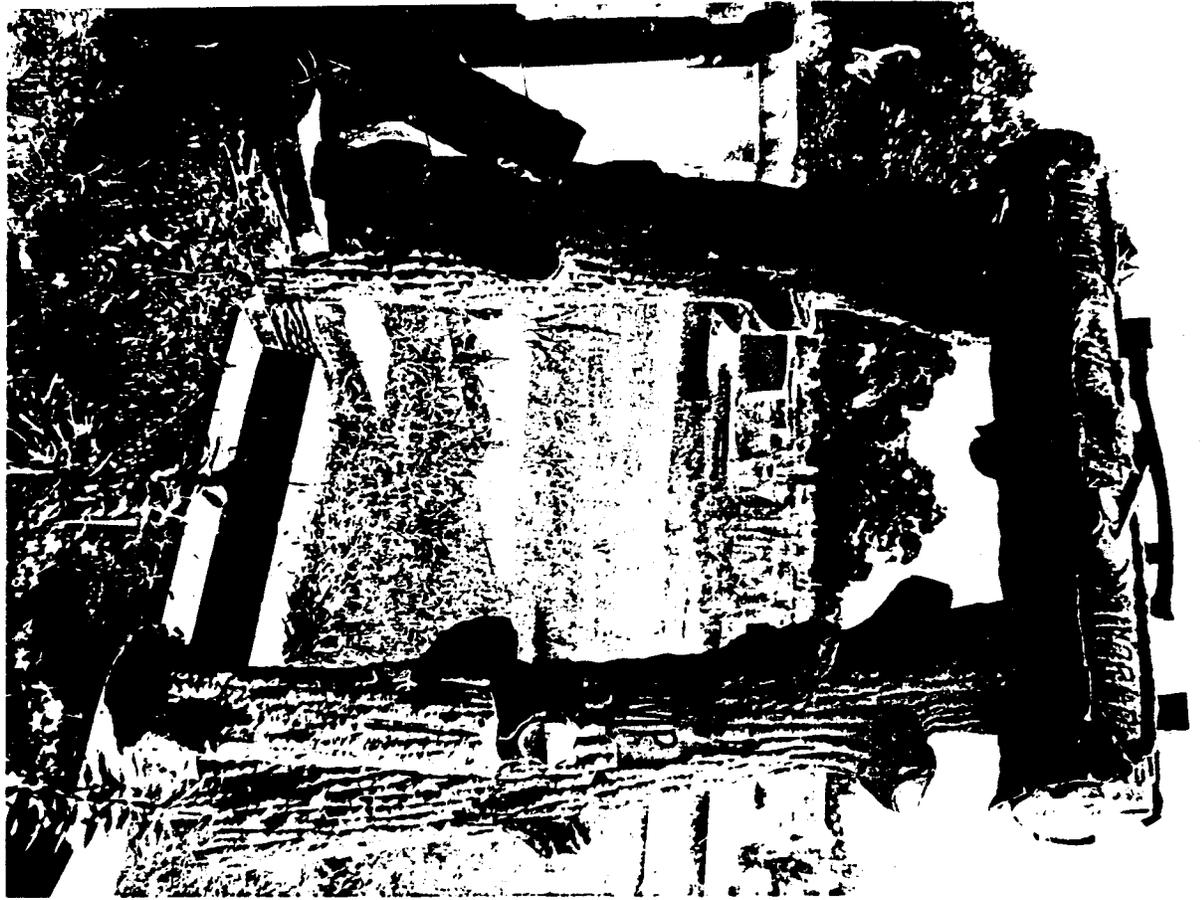




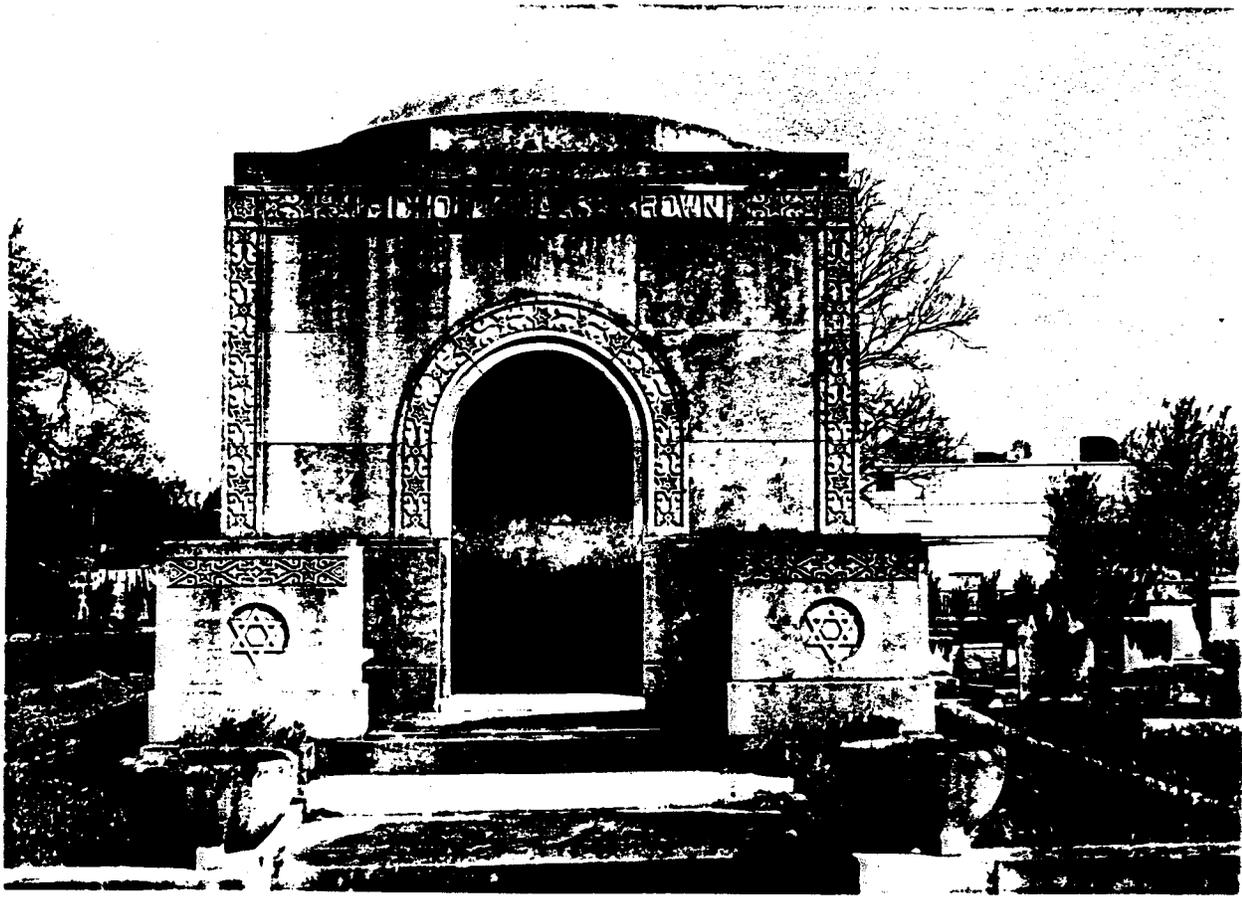


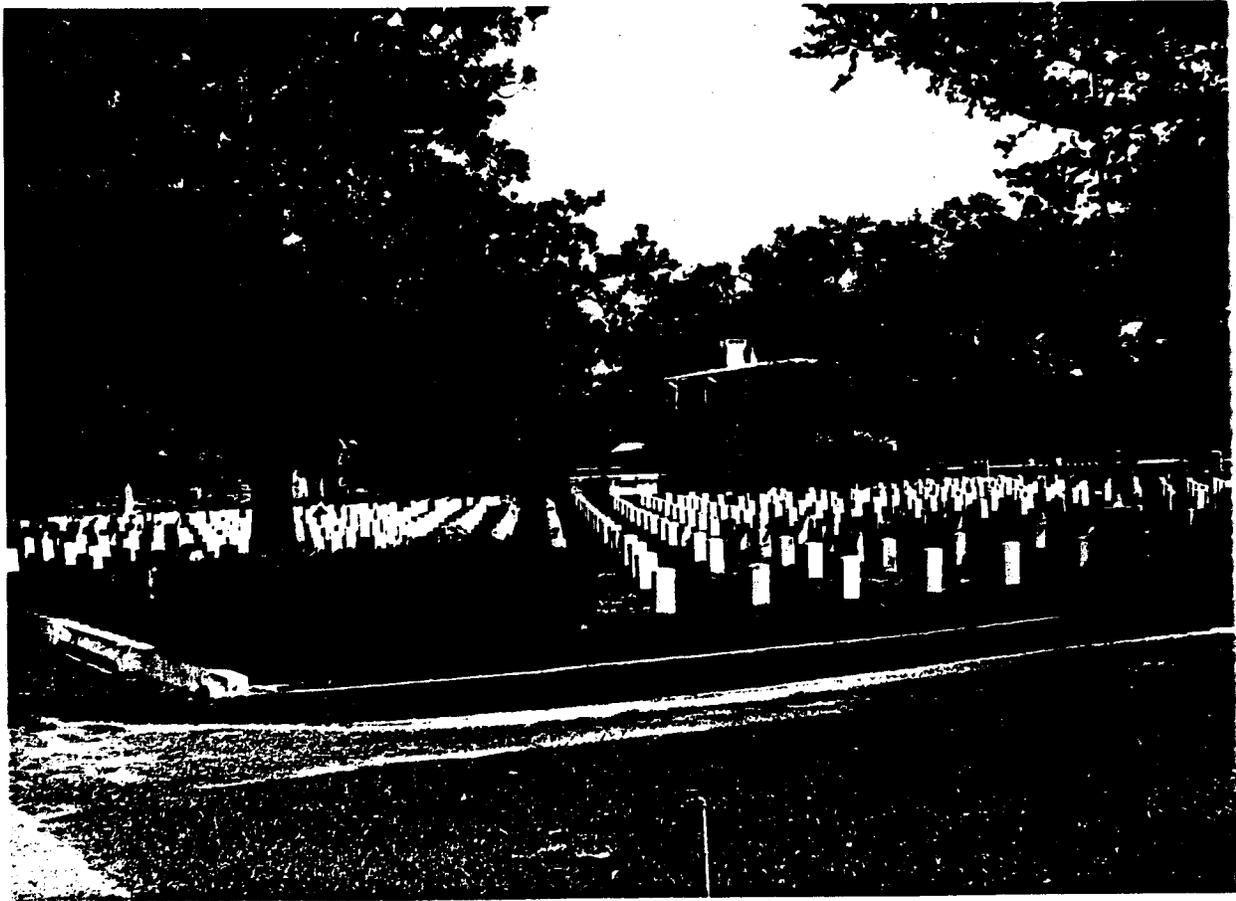








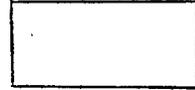




Nominated portions of the cemetery



Portions of cemetery excluded from nomination:



- A. Springhill Avenue Temple Cemetery, vacant land for future expansion
- B. Dauphin Street Synagogue
- C. Little Magnolia Annex and pauper's graves
- D. Greek and Norwegian Burial Ground
- E. Little Magnolia (Negro Squares 1, 2, & 3)

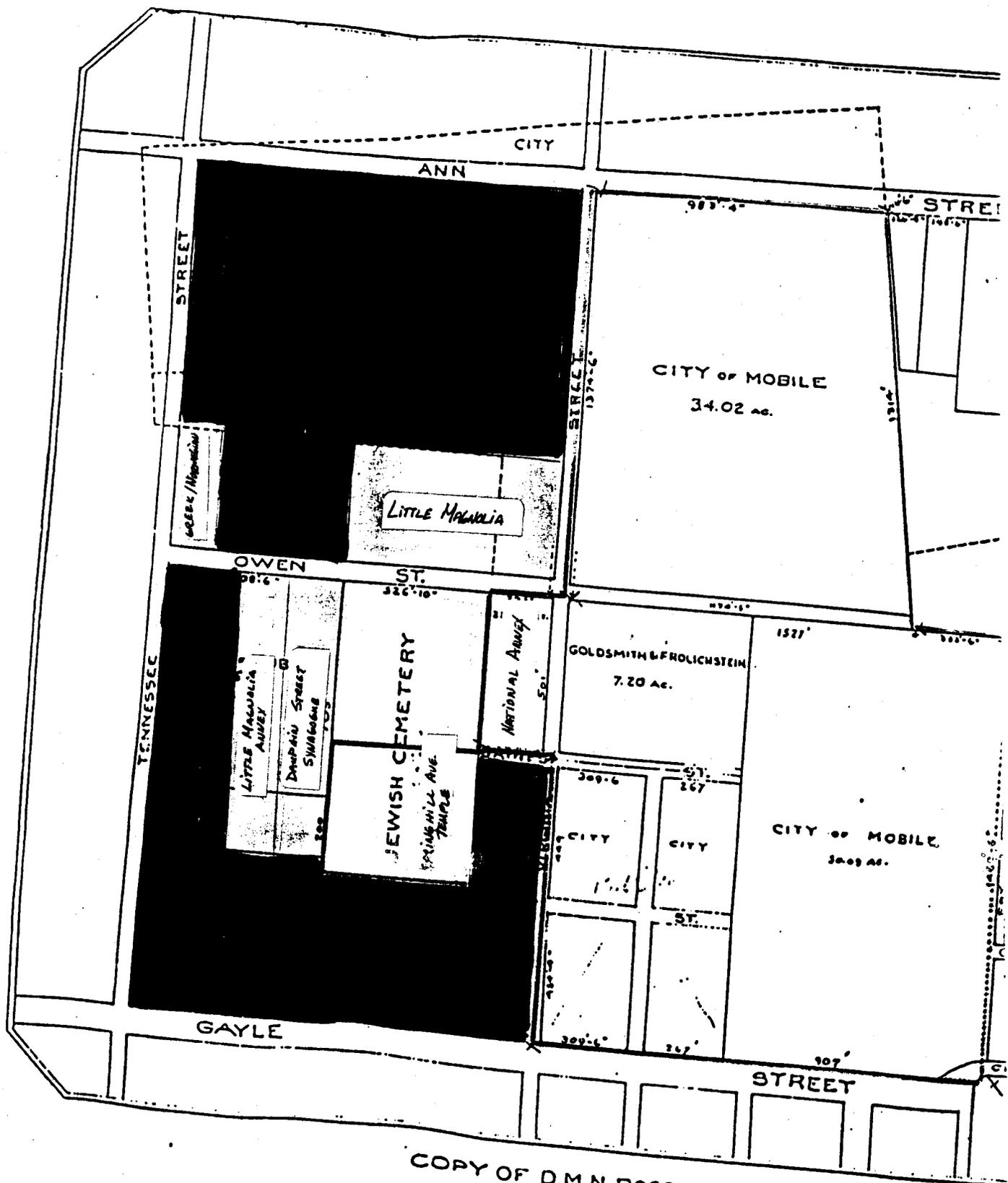
Land used for non-cemetery purposes including: Public Works, Dog Pound, Incinerator Building; Police Academy, Fire Fighting Training, Vacant Land.



SCALE-1"=50'

1917

File 47



COPY OF D.M.N. ROSS MAP OF
 MAGNOLIA CEMETERY PROPERTY
 MAR 12, 1903

SCALE 1"=50'