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NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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NAT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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 Nashville National Cemetery

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 1420 Gallatin Road, South ☐ not for publication N/A

city or town Nashville ☐ vicinity N/A

state Tennessee code TN county Davidson code 037 zip code 37115

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 Ronne Trepek, Federal Preservation Officer
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.)

Herbert L. Harper 10/21/96
Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date

Tennessee Historical Commission
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 Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 12-20-96

Nashville National Cemetery
Name of Property

Davidson County, Tennessee
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☒ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	2	buildings
1	0	sites
3	1	structures
7	0	objects
13	3	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)
Colonial: Dutch Colonial

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Stone; stucco; wood
roof Wood: shingle; Metal: Tin, copper
other Metal: Iron, cast iron; Stone: Marble, granite, limestone; Brick

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

Nashville National Cemetery
Name of Property

Davidson County, Tennessee
County and State

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

1866-1940

Significant Dates

1866

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 64.5

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	524875	4010740
2	16	524790	4010290
3	16	524310	4010320
4	16	524330	4010780

☐ See continuation sheet.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

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

organization Department of Veterans Affairs date October 15, 1996

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

Maps

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

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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 Nashville National Cemetery is located at 1050 Gallatin Road, Madison, Tennessee, about six miles north of Nashville. The site is almost square in shape, and the grounds are laid off in irregular burial sections. The main entrance is situated near the center of the east side. In 1870, a smooth rusticated limestone arch, about 32 feet high and 25 feet 10 inches wide, with two Tuscan columns, was constructed on each side. It is similar in design to the one at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia. Under the arch is a wrought-iron gate, which was the original entry to the cemetery. In the early 1940's, new entries were constructed on each side of the arch. These new entries are typical of those constructed in national cemeteries during the period, replacing original gates that were too narrow to accommodate modern automobiles. Wrought-iron fencing supported by concrete pillars extends for approximately fifty feet from the entry. The portion of the perimeter wall along Gallatin Road is built of rough-dressed blocks of limestone of nearly uniform thickness and presents the appearance of dimension stone work. On all other sides of the cemetery, the wall is built of rubble limestone, laid in mortar and covered by a coping of sawed limestone slabs. An iron pedestrian gate is located on the north side. A rear entrance gate, used by cemetery vehicles, is located in the southwest corner. The tracks of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad run directly through the cemetery, dividing it into nearly two equal parts. These two parts of the cemetery are separated by a tunnel under the railroad tracks. A natural water course enters the cemetery near the northwest corner forming a pond and runs south to the railroad tracks, then turns to the northeast passing somewhat to the north of the main entrance. The lodge, administration building, and utility building are all located in the northern portion of the cemetery. The rostrum is located on the west side of the cemetery. A committal service shelter is located east of the rostrum.

The cemetery was established in July 1866. The site for the cemetery was chosen by General George H. Thomas, Federal commander at the Battle of Nashville, and for a time after the war, the person in charge of U.S. military forces around the city. Thomas chose this site along the rails of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad in order, he said, that "no one could come to Nashville from the north and not be reminded of the sacrifices that had been made for the preservation of the Union." At first, the cemetery was bordered by the railroad, but it soon spread across so that the railroad almost equally divided it. In about 1915, the railroad bed was elevated above the graves. A newspaper article dated August 1, 1975, states that Mr. William Kaiser, who was cemetery director from February 1975 to September 1983, found what appeared to be the remains of a spiral staircase coming down from the railroad. In earlier times, when people more commonly visited cemeteries, travelers could alight directly from an inbound train into the cemetery.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The first superintendent of the cemetery was William A. Graham, a discharged private of Company A, 45th Regiment of Infantry. His appointment was dated August 6, 1867.

Graves were originally marked by wooden headboards or by stakes painted and numbered and, in a few cases, by marble slabs erected by friends of the decedents. The headboards and stakes were later replaced with upright marble markers. Graves in four sections of the cemetery (Sections CC, EE, FF, and JJ) are marked with flat granite markers. In 1982, a policy decision by the Department of Veterans Affairs provided for the use of flat markers in national cemeteries. As a result, the graves in these four sections are marked with flat granite markers. This decision was later reversed by the passage of Public Law 99-576, which mandated that for all interments that occurred on or after January 1, 1987, the markers will be upright. The cemetery closed in 1993. As of August 31, 1996, there were 30,558 graves used for the interment of 32,642 casketed remains and 279 sites used for the interment of 398 cremated remains. Interments of casketed remains in occupied graves and reserved graves, as well as interments of cremated remains, continue. As of August 31, 1996, there were 1,235 gravesites available for the interment of casketed remains and 116 sites available for the interment of cremated remains.

The original superintendent's lodge (a cottage) was constructed some time prior to February 1869, in the northwest portion of the cemetery. By 1870, a new wooden lodge had been erected near the main entrance, which was later removed. The old lodge in the northwestern portion of the grounds was replaced by a stone building, one and one-half stories, with a French roof. There were three rooms on the ground floor, three chambers, and a cellar. This was later replaced by the present lodge, which was constructed in 1931. It is a two-story hollow tile, stucco and concrete structure, with a mansard roof, containing seven rooms and a basement. The roof is composition shingles. There is a screened front porch and an enclosed back porch with a tin roof. The rear porch steps were replaced in 1968.

A stone office building, 17 feet by 19 feet, was constructed circa 1933. An addition to the building was constructed in 1949. This structure was subsequently removed, and the existing one-story brick administration building with a slate roof was constructed on the same site in 1974.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The stone and concrete utility building, 18 feet by 31 feet, was constructed circa 1887 of Ashlar limestone and is located in the northwest center of the grounds. The building is a one-story structure with a central two-story gabled entry with larger ashlar stone than the rest of the building. It is utilitarian in materials and design without an intended architectural motif. It is elegant because of its simplicity. It was originally built to accommodate work animals, carts and wagons which were part of the cemetery equipment, with the front portion originally being the stables. In 1932, one room and toilet were added to the left wing of the building. The building contains three garage bays, and the roof is asphalt shingles. An addition with a metal roof, containing a garage service area, was constructed on the right wing in the 1970's

The stone rostrum, approximately 49 feet by 17 feet, with stone walls and iron columns, was constructed in 1940. The floor is flagstone over reinforced concrete and the roof is copper composition shingles. It is located near the center of the west wall.

A stucco and concrete storage building is located near Section TT. The roof is tin. This was formerly the public restroom building, and the windows and doors have been barred.

The arch located in the central portion of the cemetery under the railroad tracks contains the following inscription:

HERE REST IN PEACE 16,516 CITIZENS
WHO DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY
IN THE YEARS 1861 TO 1865

A frame, stucco and concrete oil storage building, 7 feet 6 inches by 13 feet 6 inches, was constructed in 1933 and demolished in 1959. The roof was composition.

A greenhouse which was constructed circa 1932 was removed during fiscal year 1966.

A small natural water course enters the cemetery near the northwest corner and runs in a southeasterly direction until it reaches the vicinity of the railroad, then turns to the northeast, and passes a little to the north of the main entrance. The bed of this stream is maintained by stone walls. Another small streamlet runs northeast through the southeast portion of the lot, passing out a little to the south of the main entrance. These two streams receive the surface-water and answer for open drains.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

There is one large commemorative monument in the Nashville National Cemetery:

Minnesota Monument - In 1920, the State of Minnesota erected a monument in memory of Minnesota soldiers buried within the cemetery. The monument depicts a bronze female figure and is located in Section MM. It is inscribed as follows:

ERECTED A.D. 1920 BY THE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN MEMORY OF HER SOLDIERS
HERE BURIED WHO LOST THEIR LIVES
IN THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES
IN THE WAR FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF THE UNION
AD 1861-1865

Five artillery monuments, each 7 feet 6 inches in height and made of an original cast-iron seacoast artillery tube secured by a concrete base, are placed in different parts of the grounds. They are located in Sections, A, B, O, P, and NN. A bronze shield is affixed to the monument located in Section NN and is inscribed as follows:

UNITED STATES
NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERY
NASHVILLE
ESTABLISHED JAN 28TH 1867
INTERMENTS 16530
KNOWN 12524
UNKNOWN 4006

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

John Carr - Private, Company G, 8th U.S. Cavalry - Commended for gallantry in action at Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona, on October 29, 1869. He is buried in Section KK, Grave 16550.

Charles P. Cantrell, Private, Company F, 10th U.S. Infantry - At Santiago, Cuba, on July 1, 1898, he assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and under heavy fire from the enemy. He is buried in Section 1, Grave 132.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

William Franklin Lyell - Corporal, U.S. Army, Company F, 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division - Near Chup'ari, Korea on August 31, 1951, Corporal Lyell, a member of Company F, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. When his platoon leader was killed, Corporal Lyell assumed command and led his unit in an assault on strongly fortified enemy positions located on commanding terrain. When his platoon came under vicious, raking fire which halted the forward movement, Corporal Lyell seized a 57-mm. recoilless rifle and unhesitatingly moved ahead to a suitable firing position from which he delivered deadly accurate fire, completely destroying an enemy bunker and killing its occupants. He then returned to his platoon and was resuming the assault when the unit was again subjected to intense hostile fire from two other bunkers. Disregarding his personal safety, armed with grenades he charged forward hurling grenades into one of the enemy emplacements, and although painfully wounded in this action he pressed on, destroying the bunker and killing six of the foe. He then continued his attack against a third enemy position, throwing grenades as he ran forward, annihilating four enemy soldiers. He then led his platoon to the north slope of the hill where positions were occupied from which effective fire was delivered against the enemy in support of friendly troops moving up. Fearlessly exposing himself to enemy fire, he continuously moved about directing and encouraging his men until he was mortally wounded by enemy mortar fire. He is buried in Section 1, Grave 151.

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

Buildings: Lodge, utility building

Sites: Cemetery

Structures: Gate, perimeter wall, rostrum

Objects: Flagpole, Minnesota monument, artillery monuments (5)

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

Buildings: Administration building, storage building

Structures: Committal service shelter

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nashville 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.

Nashville was an important city during the war years, being the capital of Tennessee, a secessionist state, but one in which there was considerable sentiment for the Union cause. Its location on the Cumberland River and its position as one of the foremost railroad centers of the South made Nashville a site of prime importance in the military plans of Union and Confederate forces. Federal armies held Nashville for most of the last three years of the war and, during that time, it became one of the chief supply bases for the Union forces. Coincident with its mission as a supply base for the sinews of war in the form of men and materiel, Nashville and its environs saw the establishment of an extensive system of military hospitals to care for the sick and wounded of the war.

The strategic position of the City of Nashville as a vital and important supply depot made it the objective of a daring counter offensive by the forces of the Confederacy during the final months of 1864.

By the end of October, General John B. Hood's Army of Tennessee was at Florence, Alabama, and on November 19, it began its forward movement across the Tennessee. As yet, neither General George Thomas nor Major General John M. Schofield was strong enough to oppose Hood, but reinforcements were on the way. On November 21, Hood's army marched north crossing the border into southern middle Tennessee, where Hood hoped to interpose himself between General George Thomas at Nashville and General John Schofield's 23,000 troops at Pulaski, 30 miles south of Columbia. Both armies raced for Columbia, but Schofield's arrived first and threw a heavy line of breastworks around the south of town. On November 29 Hood caught up with Schofield at Spring Hill, just south of Franklin; that night while Hood was asleep Schofield escaped through the Confederate lines to Franklin. Schofield reached Franklin, fifteen miles farther north, at noon on November 30, 1864, and began strengthening some already existing earthworks. When complete, these rebuilt Federal breastworks had exterior ditches and earthen walls topped with protective head logs. When Hood learned of Schofield's escape, he became furious, blaming his subordinates for this failure. He mercilessly marched his army at quick time until they reached the rim of Winstead Hill, south of Franklin, about 2:00 p.m. on November 30. He decided to make the fight which was vigorously denounced by the majority of his generals. At 3:00 p.m., Hood ordered a direct frontal assault of the Federal works, marching about eighteen Confederate infantry brigades across the open fields in front. As the Confederate line reached the main works, a portion managed to breach the defenses near the

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

center, but reserve forces under General Emerson Opdycke were soon able to plug this gap. Much hand to hand combat ensued until the battle came to a halt. That night, Schofield quietly pulled his army out of Franklin, leaving behind his dead and wounded. The best estimate of Hood's losses at Franklin is approximately 7,000 men, including 1,750 killed on the field, about 4,500 wounded, and another 702 taken prisoner. Within five hours, at least one-third of the Confederate infantry sent into battle was lost. There were five Confederate generals killed outright, and another died of wounds a few days later. Five others received lesser wounds and a twelfth was captured. Ninety field officers became casualties, and in one brigade, only a captain was left to command. Among those killed was 36-year-old Major General Patrick Cleburne, the "Stonewall Jackson of the West." By contrast, the Federals lost only 2,326 men, of which 189 were killed.

After Franklin, Schofield withdrew to Nashville, where General Thomas was rapidly building up a force strong enough to take the offensive. Hood followed and, on December 2, had his army in position south and east of the city, astride the Franklin Pike and the railroad to Chattanooga. The reinforcements which Grant had arranged for were coming in rapidly, and within a few days Thomas had a force of close to 70,000 men to deal with about 19,000 under Hood. There were two lines of earthworks encircling the city of Nashville. An inner line close to the city limits was seven miles long and was supported by twenty artillery batteries. A longer outer line rested on a range of hills running through the outskirts of town. General Thomas placed approximately 55,000 of his troops on this outer or front line while some 5,000 soldiers of the Quartermaster's Corps were given the job of defending the inner works. A cavalry force of over 10,000 troopers was assembled to support the infantry. There was a two-week period of inactivity on the part of General Thomas, who blamed his unwillingness to attack the Confederates as due to ice and snow storms and his shortage of horses to remount his cavalry. General Grant sent Thomas a point blank order to attack. Meanwhile, Grant had become impatient to the point of ordering Major General John A. Logan to proceed to Nashville to supersede Thomas. On the 14th the weather cleared, and Thomas moved out. The first day of the battle began when Thomas's blue lines slowly edged their way through heavy fog and, with about 35,000 men, struck Hood's left. Hood's right flank was held in position by more Union forces. The Federal onslaught was almost irresistible, driving the gray-clad veterans more than a mile to the rear, where they held on the Franklin Pike, but barely. The weather was foul, with melting ice. Both lines were adjusted somewhat during the night.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

At about 6:00 on the morning of December 15, 1864, in a dense fog, General James B. Steedman's division led the Federal attack by hitting the lunette and its attached lines on the Confederate far right. In spite of several desperate charges, these troops, composed largely of members of the United States Colored Infantry, were not able to turn the Confederate right, but by keeping General Benjamin F. Cheatham's Confederate troops occupied all day, they fulfilled their assigned role of carrying out a diversionary attack.

By the morning of December 16, Hood had reduced his previous five-mile line of defenses to three. Even as he prepared to make another stand, he took the precaution, to the dismay of his troops, of sending his wagon trains to Franklin in case of defeat. At 4:00 p.m., General Thomas launched a combined assault. General John McArthur's and General Darius N. Couch's commands, operating from behind (hastily built earthworks) spontaneously attacked the Confederate left on the slopes of Shy's Hill. This, combined with attacks by General Schofield's corps to the west and Wilson's dismounted cavalry (carrying Spencer repeating carbines) to the south of Shy's Hill led to the collapse of the Confederate left wing. As the left was overrun, the middle soon gave way, followed by the fall of the far right on Peach Orchard Hill. Thomas had engaged about 55,000 men and suffered 3,600 casualties, mostly wounded (2,562). Hood's force had a little over 20,000 men, and he lost 4,500 captured and another 1,500 killed and wounded. Nashville was perhaps the most complete victory of the entire war, for it utterly destroyed Hood's army.

National Cemetery System files contained a handwritten paper from Archives File 1865 regarding the site chosen for the Nashville National Cemetery. It reads as follows:

"During the War

On or about 1 March 1862, W.R. Cornelius, Undertaker, was ordered by Capt. Gillem, OQM, to bury the U.S. Soldiers who died in the Hospitals in the southern portion of the City Cemetery, situated on the west side of Cherry St., S. Nashville and containing about 5 acres, being the same grounds formerly used by the Confederate Government for the burial of their dead. When these premises were exhausted, the said Cornelius was directed by Capt. Lamb, OQM, to bury the deceased soldiers at a point between the N & C and T & A RR's in a small triangular piece of ground containing about 3 acres located near the above burial grounds. When this was exhausted the said Cornelius made application on 11 Apr. 1864 to Capt. Jno F. Isom AAQM for more ground when he, Capt. Isom and the Medical Director, Surgeon Clendinen (?) selected the grounds situated on the west side of Cherry St. and south of the Nashville Chattanooga R.R. which was still in use in 1865. This contained approx. 11 acres with a total of 14, 484 interments.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Choosing Site for the N/C

Major General Geo. H. Thomas, Commanding Military Division of the Tennessee, Nashville, Tenn. was desirous to establish the cemetery on the ground where many of the dead fell in the battles before Nashville; but the price of land per acre was too great. A site on the Charlotte Pike, 4 1/2 mi from the City containing 58 acres was considered and very desirable; but it was some distance from a R.R. and that in the minds of both Genl. Thomas and Maj. Genl. JL Donaldson was a fatal objection. They wanted a place easy of access, commanding in position, reasonable in price, susceptible of ornamentation, etc. So a second site on Gallatin Pike containing 65.47 acres (13.91 acres at $90; 19.76 ac at $90; 17.126 acres at $85; 14.34 ac at $85) was chosen instead since the Louisville and Nashville Railroad ran directly through it and it was bounded on one side by the Gallatin Pike, so that there was both RR and Turnpike communications. It was considered likely that L &N RR would transport bodies at a reasonable rate. The acreage was beyond the amount allowed for 20,000 bodies (the estimated interments to be made) but necessary to allow the excess of ???to provide a regular figure. Chaplain Earnshaw who had been responsible for ? was absent from the City and took no part in the examination of the grounds.

A Report on Nat'l. Cem., Dept. of the Cumberland No. 11, Nashville, states the cemetery is situated approx. 6 miles from Nashville and was purchased of George Maney and the Craighead heirs at $52 per acre. The selection was made by Brevet Lt. Col. A.W. Walls, OQM and the purchase was made by order or the QMG in July 1866. The work commenced in October 1866.

The grounds were enclosed by a substantial wooden picket fence erected by contract 6440' in length, laid off by aces and walks from 12 to 25' into sects designated by letters, the graves marked with numbered stakes w/original headboards stacked in bulk on the grounds. The construction of the cemetery had been under the charge of Chaplain Wm. Earnshaw, USA. The grounds were planned and laid out under the personal supervision of Mr. J.R. Willett, late Major of the ? Eng. Corps. On the 26th Sept. 1867, Bvt. Lt. Col. Tredwell Moore, QM, USA was placed in charge of the completion of the cemetery."

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Original interments were remains removed from temporary burial grounds around Nashville (general hospitals in the City), from battlefields nearby, from Franklin and Gallatin, Tennessee, and Bowling Green and Cave City, Kentucky, and from many other places in both Kentucky and Tennessee. Many remains were brought to the cemetery from burial places along the line of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad as far as Mumfordsville, Kentucky. Also, remains were brought from the line of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad to the Tennessee River at Johnsonville, and from the Edgefield, Kentucky and Memphis branch of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

Deaths in military hospitals from wounds and disease were considerable, and a very large proportion of the burials in the cemetery were remains of soldiers who died in the Nashville military hospitals and who were interred in temporary hospital cemeteries.

There are many private monuments and markers within the Nashville National Cemetery. One of the oldest private markers is a spire in Section M, Grave 16234, dedicated to the memory of James A. Leonard, 1st Kansas Battery, who was killed by guerrillas on January 23, 1864, and was buried on January 27, 1864.

Two former superintendents of the national cemetery are buried here. Corporal Harrison E. Pond, who served as cemetery superintendent until his death in 1921, is buried in Section M, Grave 16813. His successor, Sergeant John B. Wilson, QMC, who served as cemetery superintendent from 1921 until his death in 1929, is buried in Section A, Grave 5237A.

Other distinguished persons buried in the Nashville National Cemetery include Barry Sadler, famous for his hit song *Ballad of the Green Berets.* He was buried in Section NN Grave 64, on November 9, 1989. Chaplain Erastus M. Cravath, who was one of the founders of Fisk University in Nashville and served as its president for 25 years, was buried in Section MM, Grave 16694 in 1900.

There are seven group burials for 28 servicemen who served during World War II. Circumstances of death of these members of the Armed Forces precluded identification of their remains for individual burials and they now rest in common graves with their comrades in arms who perished with them.

Public Law 625, 81st Congress, authorized the burial in Nashville National Cemetery of the bodies of members of the Tennessee Air National Guard killed in a plane crash near Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on July 23, 1950. The grave is located in Section BB, and the marker is inscribed as follows:

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

RAPHAEL AUSTIN GREGORY JR PFC
RAYMOND TAYLOR KIMBRO PFC
OSCAR T THORNEBERRY CPL
OLLIE H WILLIS JR PFC
JAMES E WRIGHT CPL
FOUR UNKNOWNS
TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD
JULY 23 1950

The Nashville National Cemetery consists of 64.5 acres. National Cemetery records show that the land was acquired in three separate transactions. On July 3, 1866, in accordance with a decree of the Court, the "Craighead Tract" of about 45.3 acres was transferred to the United States in fee simple by Morton B. Howell, Master of the Chancery Court at Nashville, for the sum of $6,926.45. On January 28, 1867, 17.7 acres were purchased in the same manner for $2,732.50. By deed dated October 17, 1879, from J. Watts Judson, 1.5 acres was conveyed, in fee simple, for $400.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

National Cemetery System Microfilm Records

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

Report of the Inspector of the National Cemeteries of the United States for 1870-1871

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

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

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

A Survey of Civil War Period Military Sites in Middle Tennessee, Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Archaeology, Report of Investigations No. 7, 1990.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries are indicated on the accompanying base map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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

NASHVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY
Davidson County, Tennessee
Armando A. Sammartino, photographer
Date of Photographs: May 21 and 22, 1996

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

VIEW OF: Main entrance gate, view looking west
NEG. NO. 65215-9
PHOTO 1 of 25

VIEW OF: Pedestrian gate, north side
NEG. NO. 65217-14
PHOTO 2 of 25

VIEW OF: Flagpole, view looking northwest
NEG. NO. 65217-19
PHOTO 3 of 25

VIEW OF: Tunnel under railroad tracks in center of cemetery
NEG. NO. 65217-21
PHOTO 4 of 25

VIEW OF: Lodge, south elevation

NEG. NO. 65217-10
PHOTO 5 of 25

VIEW OF: Lodge, west elevation

NEG. NO. 65217-9
PHOTO 6 of 25

VIEW OF: Lodge, north elevation
NEG. NO. 65217-12
PHOTO 7 of 25

VIEW OF: Lodge, east elevation
NEG. NO. 65217-11
PHOTO 8 of 25

VIEW OF: Administration building, south elevation
NEG. NO. 65217-18
PHOTO 9 of 25

VIEW OF: Administration building, west elevation
NEG. NO. 65217-15
PHOTO 10 of 25

VIEW OF: Administration building, north elevation
NEG. NO. 65217-16
PHOTO 11 of 25

VIEW OF: Administration building, east elevation
NEG. NO. 65217-17
PHOTO 12 of 25

VIEW OF: Utility building, south elevation
NEG. NO. 65217-6
PHOTO 13 of 25

VIEW OF: Utility building, west elevation
NEG. NO. 65217-5
PHOTO 14 of 25

VIEW OF: Utility building, north elevation

NEG. NO. 65217-8
PHOTO 15 of 25

VIEW OF: Utility building, east elevation
NEG. NO. 65217-7
PHOTO 16 of 25

VIEW OF: Storage building, Section TT
NEG. NO. 65217-24
PHOTO 17 of 25

VIEW OF: Rostrum
NEG. NO. 65217-3
PHOTO 18 of 25

VIEW OF: Perimeter wall along north boundary

NEG. NO. 65217-13
PHOTO 19 of 25

VIEW OF: Minnesota monument

NEG. NO. 65217-25
PHOTO 20 of 25

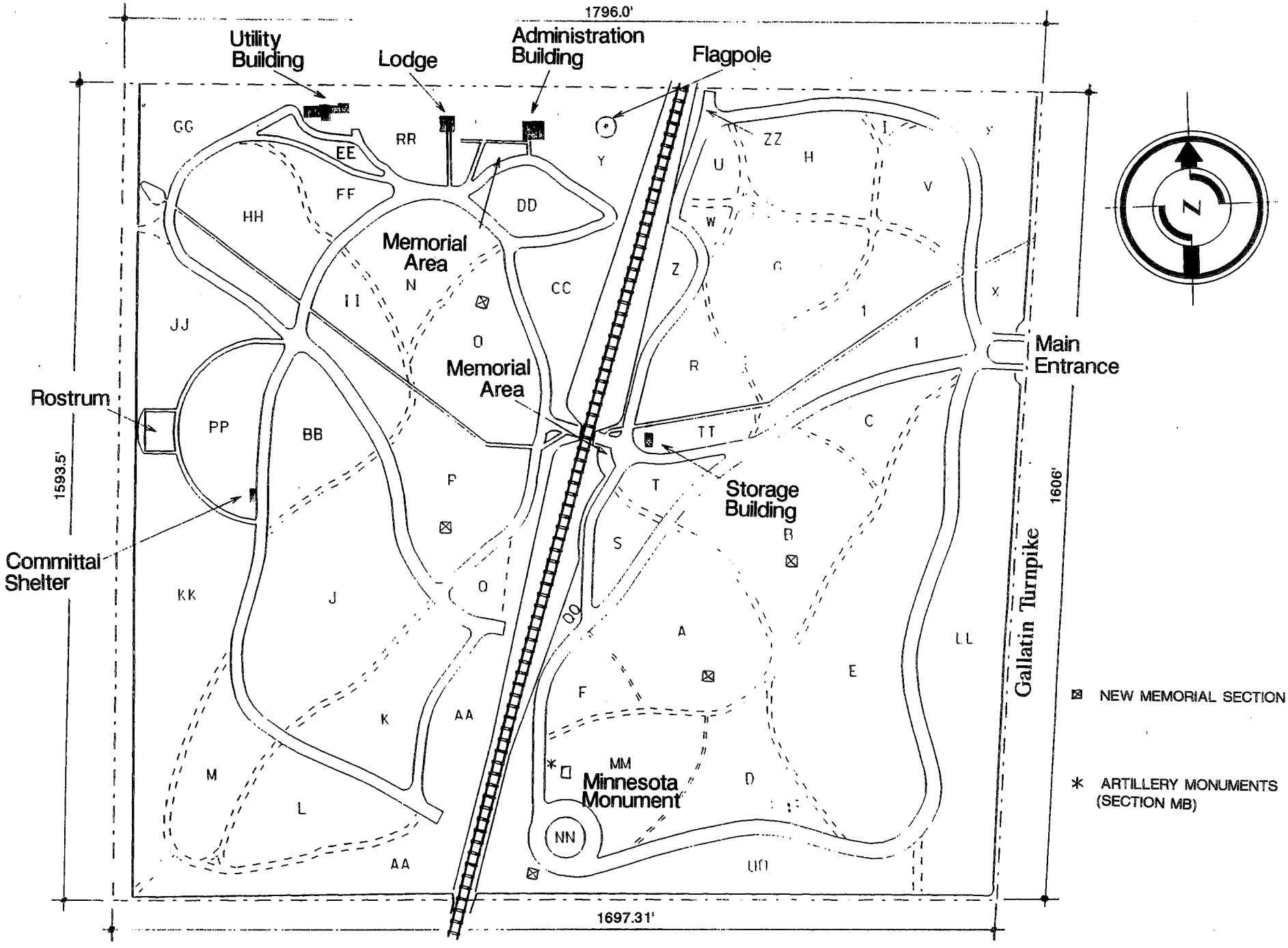
VIEW OF: Artillery monument, Section A
NEG. NO. 65217-2
PHOTO 21 of 25

VIEW OF: Committal service shelter
NEG. NO. 65217-23
PHOTO 22 of 25

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking northwest, showing artillery monument
NEG. NO. 65217-22
PHOTO 23 of 25

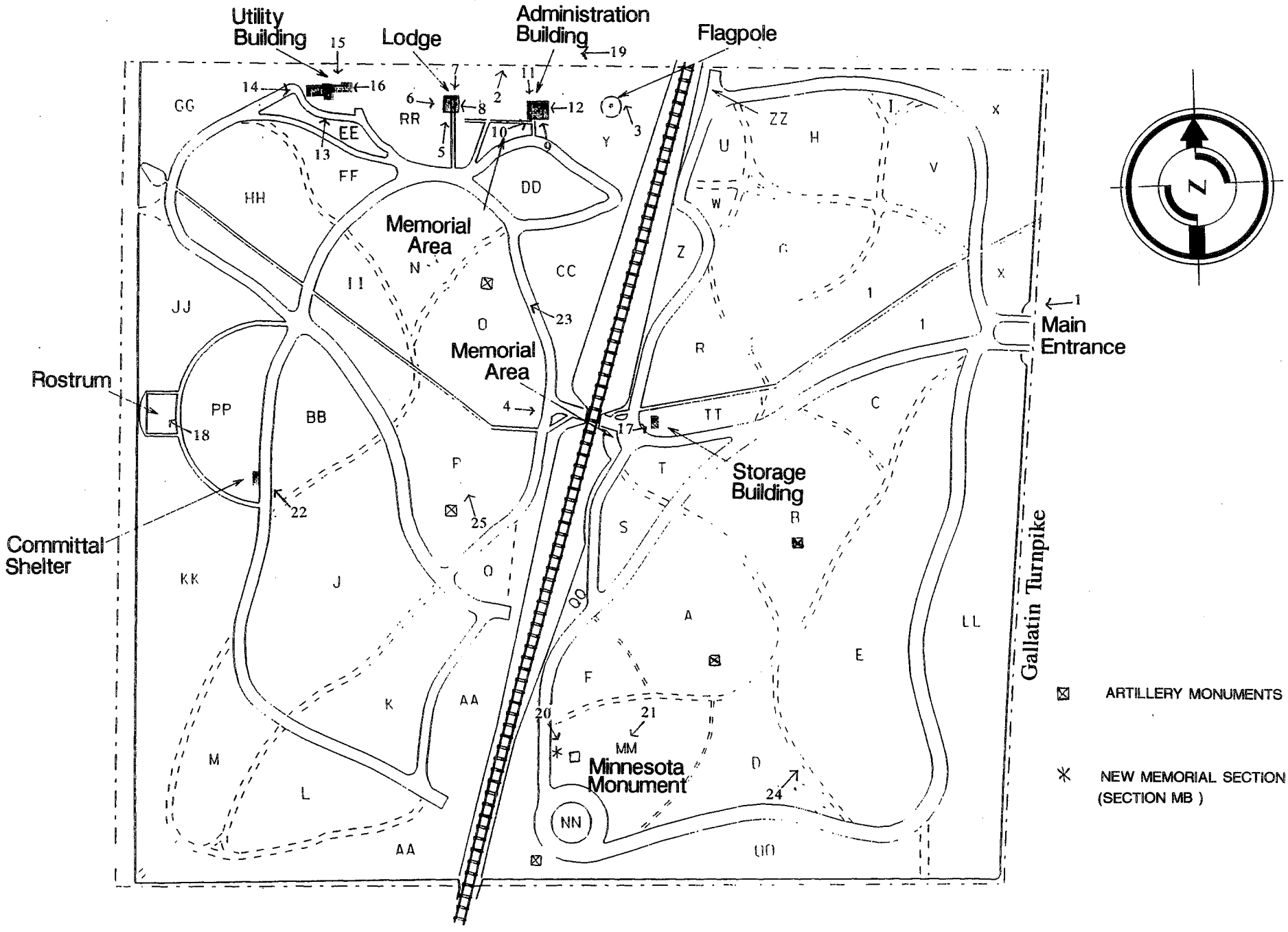
VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking northeast
NEG. NO. 65215-5
PHOTO 24 of 25

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking east
NEG. NO. 65215-3
PHOTO 25 of 25



Base Map
Nashville National Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennesse

NOT TO SCALE



Sketch Map
Nashville National Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennesse

NOT TO SCALE

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