NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1387

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 Natchez National Cemetery

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 41 Cemetery Road ☐ not for publication N/A

city or town Natchez ☐ vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Adams code 001 39120

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 Rome Tupek, Federal Preservation Officer 10/18/99
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.)

[signature] 9-17-1999
Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer
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:)

for Edson H. Beall
Signature of Keeper Date of Action 11/22/99

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	0	buildings
1	0	sites
2	1	structures
0	1	objects
5	2	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 Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Concrete
walls Tile
roof Slate
other Iron

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

1866-1931

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

Natchez National Cemetery
Name of Property

Adams County, Mississippi
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10.7

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	652200	3495060
2	15	652460	3494920
3	15	652380	3494780
4	15	652170	3494800

☐ 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 Administration

organization Department of Veterans Affairs date June 8, 1999

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.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

MATERIALS

Walls: Stucco, brick
Roof: Asbestos
Other: Marble

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Natchez National Cemetery is located at 41 Cemetery Road, Natchez, Mississippi, on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, in Adams County. The site is of an irregular shape, and the grounds are laid off in various shaped burial sections which are separated by drives and walks and follow the steep topography of the site. Many of the roads are grass or grass and gravel and are terraced into hillsides, creating a unique appearance. The main entrance is situated at the southwest corner of the grounds and is protected by a double wrought-iron gate, constructed in 1932. From the entrance a road leads to a circle, upon which stands the flagpole. The grounds were originally enclosed by an oak-paling fence and gate, whitewashed, and are now enclosed by a brick wall constructed in 1873. The lodge is located to the northeast of the main entrance, and a service building is located along the eastern side. A rostrum is situated to the north of the lodge, and a committal service tent is located in the southeast corner of the cemetery.

Graves were originally marked by headboards, which were later replaced with upright marble headstones. As of May 31, 1999, there were 5,991 sites used for the interment of 6,514 casketed remains and 30 sites used for the interment of 42 cremated remains. As of May 31, 1999, there were 356 gravesites available (20 reserved) for the interment of casketed remains and 24 sites available for the interment of cremated remains. The cemetery is expected to remain open until 2004 for the interment of casketed remains and until beyond the year 2030 for the interment of cremated remains.

The original superintendent's lodge was constructed in 1871 and was a brick, one story, long and narrow structure containing three rooms and having a projected roof and piazza all around. The windows had shutters. In 1931, this structure was replaced with the present lodge, a one-story hollow tile and stucco Colonial Revival structure with a slate roof and a finished basement. The porch was remodeled in 1937, and screen wire removed and enclosed with drop siding wainscoating and double-hung sash. The roof was replaced in 1964, aluminum awning installed in 1966, and the kitchen remodeled in 1968. A public restroom facility was added in 1984. The lodge is now used as the administrative office.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The brick and concrete service building, 20 feet 4 inches by 43 feet, four inches, with an asbestos shingle roof, was constructed in 1931. New garage doors were installed in 1951.

The rostrum, 15 feet square, was constructed in 1931. The structure originally had a tin roof which was later replaced with a galvanized iron roof. The roof was removed in 1957.

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

Buildings: Lodge, service building

Sites: Cemetery

Structures: Entrance gate, rostrum

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

Structures: Committal service tent

Objects: Flagpole

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Natchez 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 all branches of service who had served their country throughout its history.

The period of significance ends in 1931, the year the lodge, service building and rostrum were constructed.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

After Mississippi seceded from the Union in 1861, the Bonnie Blue Flag of the Sovereign State of Mississippi was, for a short time, the flag of Natchez. The Stars and Bars became the sixth flag to which its citizens swore allegiance when Mississippi joined the Confederacy. Although the population of Natchez was small, 1,444 volunteered into service of the Confederate Army. The highest ranking Natchez officer was General William Martin of Monteigne who rode with J. E. B. Stuart. Since it was not considered a strategic point like Vicksburg, 72 miles to the north, Natchez suffered only minor damage.

On April 24, 1862, a Union fleet under the command of David G. Farragut captured New Orleans. Farragut next moved up the Mississippi River, capturing Baton Rouge on May 8. Four days later, on May 12, 1862, Natchez surrendered to the Federal deep-water fleet without firing a shot. Following the fall of Vicksburg in July 1863, and the capture of Meridian in February 1864, most Federal forces were transferred to other theaters of operations, but strong Federal fortifications remained at Vicksburg, Memphis, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Natchez. These fortifications not only protected Union shipping on the Mississippi River, but served as bases for Union raids into the interior of Mississippi and Louisiana. The main fortification at Natchez was named Fort McPherson. Significantly, many of the Union occupation forces and raiding parties were composed of United States Colored Regiments. Natchez remained under Federal control throughout the Civil War.

The cemetery was established in 1866 on 11.1 acres of land appropriated, and later purchased, from Margaret Chase, Thomas D. Purnell, Louisa C. Purnell, Walter R. Irvine, and Martha M. Irvine, for $1,800. In 1866, the city of Natchez had deeded to the United States the land for the approach road to the cemetery, but in 1948, this land was returned to the city.

Andrew J. Kendall, a discharged private of Company I, second regiment of Ohio veteran volunteer cavalry, was apparently the first superintendent. His appointment was dated August 6, 1867.

In his report for the year ending June 30, 1866, Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs informed Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, that many bodies were buried in the levees near the west shore of the Mississippi River at and above Vidalia, and that they were to be removed to the national cemetery at Natchez. He further noted that climatic conditions would prohibit removal of these remains until late in the fall of 1866. Other locations from which remains of Union soldiers and sailors were disinterred for reburial in the cemetery at Natchez included gravesites at Port Gibson and

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Prio's race track in Mississippi and Concordia Parish, Cross Bayou Ferry, Red River Landing, and Turnbull's Island, Louisiana, and at various places opposite the mouth of the Red River. Reinterment of the remains of Civil War combatant dead in the national cemetery was completed in 1871. The report of the inspector of national cemeteries dated March 4, 1871, indicated that a total of 3,086 interments had been made. Of these, only 253 were known.

One of the old Natchez homes, "The Gardens," adjacent to the national cemetery, served as a military hospital for Federal troops, and some of the original interments are those who died in this hospital.

Information available from burial records indicates that the remains of a considerable number of Union Navy personnel were among those reinterred at Natchez after the establishment of the national cemetery. Many of these burials were made in what is now Section D of the cemetery. A few are as follows:

William Preston –Grave 459 – Quartermaster on the U.S.S. *Hartford*, who died on May 9, 1862, and was initially buried at Quitman's Landing, Mississippi.

John Keese,– Grave 423 – Seaman, U.S.S. *Osage*, who died on May 7, 1864, and was initially buried at Acklin's Plantation, Louisiana.

T. W. Roberts, - Grave 421 - Acting Ensign, U.S.S. *Ozark*, who died on August 17, 1864, and was initially buried at Acklin's Plantation, Louisiana.

Mr. Charles L. Fetchette, a former superintendent of the national cemetery, is buried in Section D, Grave 3140. He served as superintendent from November 1883 until his death on November 12, 1898.

There is one Medal of Honor recipient buried in the national cemetery:

Wilson Brown, Landsman, United States Navy – On board the flagship U.S.S. *Hartford* during the successful attacks against Fort Morgan, rebel gunboats and the ram *Tennessee* in Mobile Bay on August 5, 1864, Brown, an African-American soldier, was knocked unconscious into the hold of the ship when an enemy shellburst fatally wounded a man on the ladder above him. Brown, upon regaining consciousness, promptly returned to the shell whip on the berth deck and zealously continued to perform his duties, although four of the six men at this station had been either killed or wounded by the enemy's terrific fire. He is buried in Section G, Grave 3152.

STRUCTURES DEMOLISHED

STABLE AND TOOL HOUSE – Brick, 16 feet by 36 feet with a tin roof, date of construction and demolition unknown.

COMFORT STATION –Brick and concrete, 12 feet by 18 feet 3 inches, with an asbestos shingle roof, located to the southwest of the main entrance, date of demolition unknown.

VISITOR'S LODGE – Brick, 12 feet square, originally with a slate roof, replaced with an asbestos shingle roof, date of construction unknown. The porch was removed in the 1940's and the building demolished in 1955.

PUBLIC RESTROOM BUILDING – Brick and concrete, with an asbestos shingle roof, constructed in 1931, and removed in 1984 when the public restroom addition to the lodge was constructed.

The Cemetery Bluff District, Natchez, Mississippi, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 24, 1980. 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.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries are indicated on the accompanying base map.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
Adams County, Mississippi
Timothy Spain, photographer
Date of Photographs: June 2, 1999

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

VIEW OF: Entrance, view looking northwest
NEG. NO. 9585-25
PHOTO 1 of 21

VIEW OF: Close-up of brick wall at entrance
NEG. NO. 9585-4
PHOTO 2 of 21

VIEW OF: Entrance gate, view looking southwest
NEG. NO. 9585-3
PHOTO 3 of 21

VIEW OF: Entrance into burial area
NEG. NO. 9585-24
PHOTO 4 of 21

VIEW OF: Flagpole, view looking south
NEG. NO. 9585-22
PHOTO 5 of 21

VIEW OF: Perimeter wall along south side
NEG. NO. 9585-11
PHOTO 6 of 21

VIEW OF: Perimeter wall along east side
NEG. NO. 9585-14
PHOTO 7 of 21

VIEW OF: Lodge, south elevation
NEG. NO. 9585-5
PHOTO 8 of 21

VIEW OF: Lodge, west elevation

NEG. NO. 9585-6
PHOTO 9 of 21

VIEW OF: Lodge, north elevation
NEG. NO. 9585-7
PHOTO 10 of 21

VIEW OF: Lodge, east elevation
NEG. NO. 9585-8
PHOTO 11 of 21

VIEW OF: Lodge, southeast elevation
NEG. NO. 9585-9
PHOTO 12 of 21

VIEW OF: Service area, view looking northeast
NEG. NO. 9585-15
PHOTO 13 of 21

VIEW OF: Service building, north and west elevations
NEG. NO. 9585-17
PHOTO 14 of 21

VIEW OF: Rostrum
NEG. NO. 9585-20
PHOTO 15 of 21

VIEW OF: Committal service tent
NEG. NO. 9585-13
PHOTO 16 of 21

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking southwest
NEG. NO. 9585-18
PHOTO 17 of 21

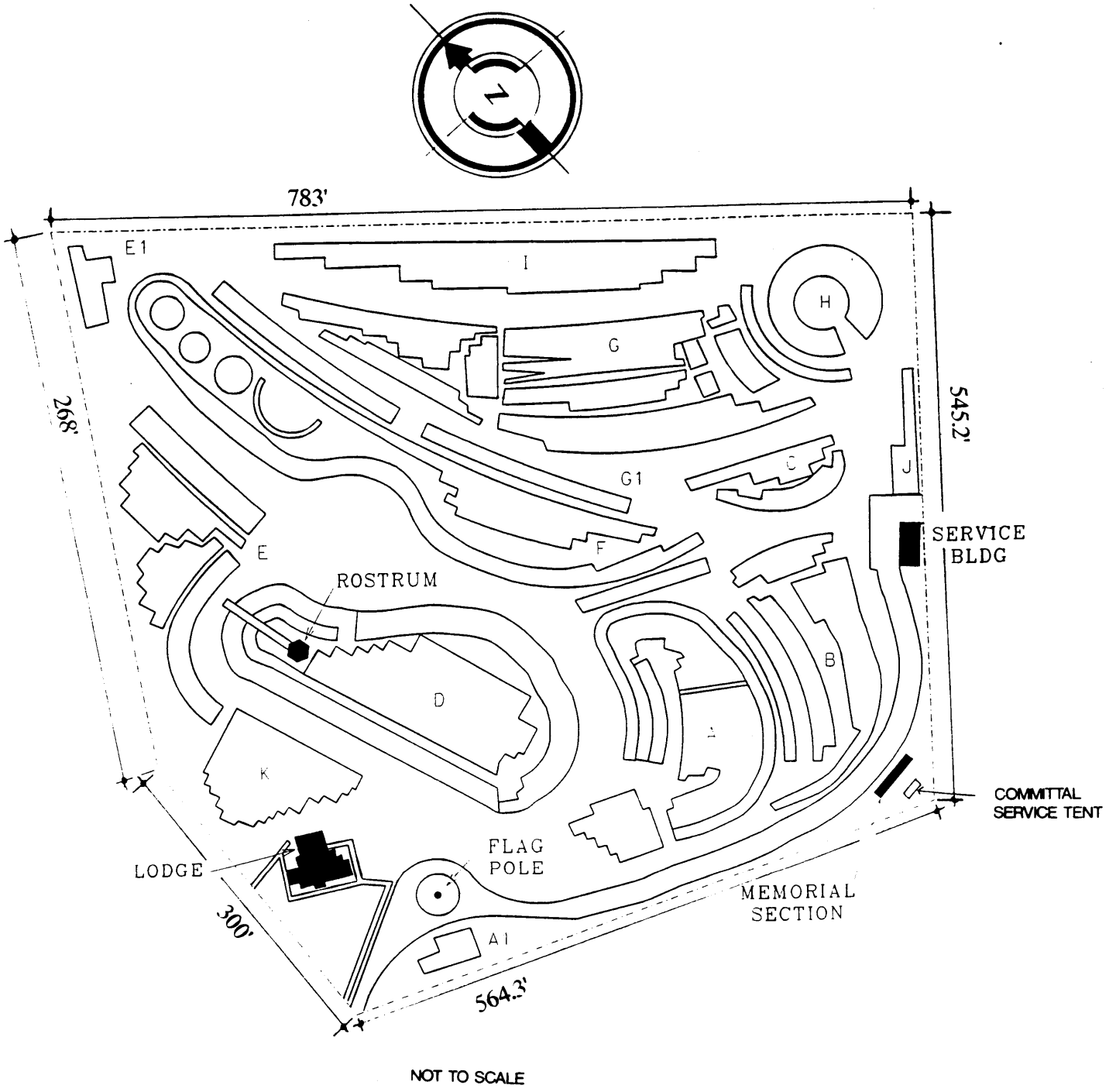
VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking northwest
NEG. NO. 9585-19
PHOTO 18 of 21

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking south

NEG. NO. 9585-21
PHOTO 19 of 21

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking north
NEG. NO. 9585-25
PHOTO 20 of 21

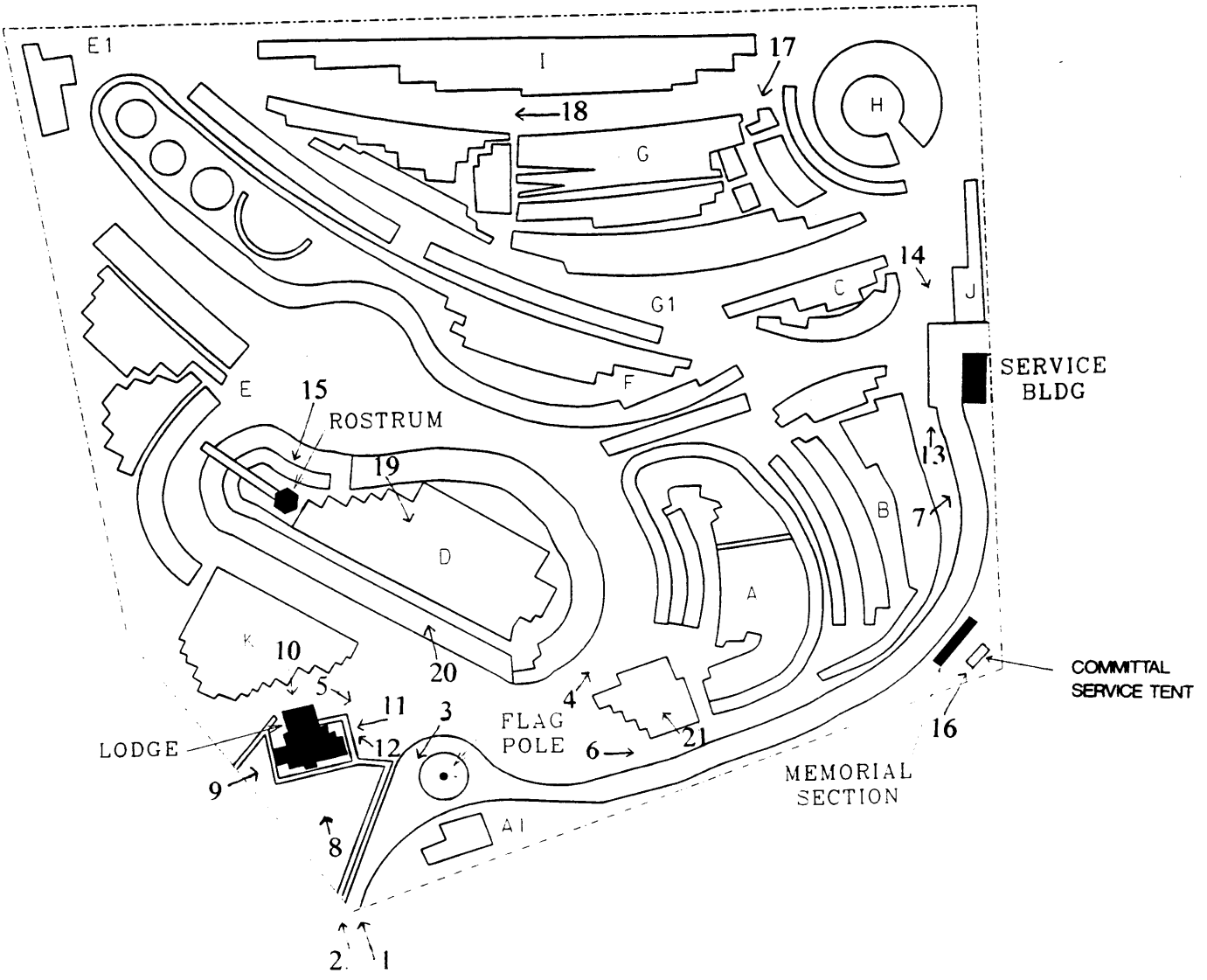
VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking north
NEG. NO. 9585-12
PHOTO 21 of 21



Base Map

Natchez National Cemetery

Adams County, Mississippi



Sketch Map
Natchez National Cemetery
Adams County, Mississippi

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

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 1 OF 21

NATCHEZ
NATIONAL CEMETERY

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 2 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 3 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 4 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 5 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 6 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 1 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 8 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 9 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 10 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 11 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 12 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 13 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 14 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 15 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 16 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 17 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 18 OF 21

DAD

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 19 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 20 OF 21

NATCHEZ NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
PHOTO 21 OF 21