NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OMB No. 10024-0018

591

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 Port Hudson National Cemetery

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 20978 Port Hickey Road ☐ not for publication N/A

city or town Zachary ☐ vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county East Baton Rouge Parish code 033 zip code 70791

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 Toepek, Federal Preservation Officer — 4/15/99
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.)

Jon Fricker — 3/25/99
Signature of commenting or other official/Title — Date

Jonathan Fricker, Deputy SHPO, Louisiana
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 W. Beall — 5/20/99
Signature of Keeper — Date of Action

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	
3	1	buildings
1	0	sites
3	0	structures
2	0	objects
9	1	Total

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

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Funerary: Cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Funerary: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Late Victorian: Second Empire

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Concrete
walls Brick
roof Copper
other Marble

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)

Architecture

Military

Period of Significance

1867-1935

Significant Dates

1867

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder
Meigs, Montgomery C.

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 19.9

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	665560	3393180
2	15	665560	3392940
3	15	665110	3393000
4	15	665110	3393060

☐ 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 April 14, 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:

Foundation: Stone
Roof: Slate, shingle
Other: Iron, bronze

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Port Hudson National Cemetery is located at 20978 Port Hickey Road, Zachary, Louisiana, in East Baton Rouge Parish, about one mile east of Port Hickey, Louisiana, a steamboat landing on the Mississippi River, and about 1 3/4 miles southeast of the town of Port Hudson. The main entrance is at the center of the west side and is protected by a double iron gate supported by brick piers. This gate was constructed in 1932, with new bronze plaques installed in 1961. A pedestrian gate is located to the right of the front gate as you enter the cemetery. There is also an opening in the brick wall to the east of the flagpole circle, which provides access to the newer burial area. From the main entrance, a drive extends eastward to a small circle mound, in which stands the flagpole. The grounds were originally enclosed by a wooden picket fence and the entrance enclosed by double wooden gates painted black. The older portion of the grounds is enclosed by a brick wall which was constructed circa 1875. The cemetery was expanded in 1979 and 1994 along the southern and western side of the original property, and it is enclosed along the highway by an ornamental metal picket fence with brick masonry columns, installed in 1998. A small portion of this fence extends along the southern side of the new burial area. As you enter the newer burial area from the eastern end of the older cemetery area, there is a flat paved plaza which is used as an assembly area. The lodge, situated within the older portion of the cemetery, is located just north of the main entrance and to its north are located a pump house, a public rest room/employee building, and the utility building. The cemetery is well-landscaped with a mixture of mature and young trees over the entire property.

The cemetery was established in 1866. Graves were originally marked by headboards or numbered stakes, which were later replaced with upright marble headstones, except for Sections E and F. 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 sections are marked with flat granite markers.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

This decision was later reversed by the passage of Public Law 99-576, which mandated that for all interments that occur on or after January 1, 1987, the grave markers will be upright. As of December 31, 1998, there were 8,792 sites used for the interment of 9,560 casketed remains and 145 sites used for the interment of 191 cremated remains. As of December 31, 1998, there were 2009 sites available (23 reserved) for the interment of casketed remains and 809 sites available for the interment of cremated remains. The cemetery is expected to remain open until 2026 for the interment of casketed remains and until 2030+ for the interment of cremated remains.

Records show that by 1869, a frame lodge had been erected near the main gate. This structure was subsequently removed. The present lodge was constructed in 1879 and was designed by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs from the original standard plan for Civil War era national cemeteries. It is a one and one-half story brick and stone L-shaped structure, Second Empire design, with a mansard roof and dormer windows. The tall windows on the first floor were six-over-six double hung with headers and sills. The upper story had dormer style double-hung windows which replaced the original casement type. There is a belt course of concrete above the basement and another decorative brick belt course at the top. The corners have brick quoins. The first floor contains a living room, dining room, kitchen, and office. The upper level contains three bedrooms and a bath. There is a finished basement. A sun porch was added in 1931, which was later converted into an all-weather room. A rear porch which was added in 1940, was screened in 1941.

In 1998, a project to renovate the lodge into administrative office space was completed. The original sun porch which had been added to the lodge was removed and replaced with a brick and sandstone porch, and the original front façade was restored. The wood frame porch at the rear of the lodge was also removed, and a handicapped ramp was installed at the rear of the building. The majority of the mansard roof structure was demolished and rebuilt with a slate and copper roof to replicate the original. All the original windows were removed and replaced with energy-efficient windows. New doors were installed, replicating doors similar to the originals. The original fireplace was refurbished, and some original wood floors were replaced. The original exterior walls were steam-cleaned, and the damaged sandstone water table replaced with new sandstone.

A brick and concrete pump house with a sheet metal roof, constructed in 1935, is located adjacent to the lodge on the north side. The roof is slightly pitched. Each side of the building has a two-over-two double hung window with a fixed pane above. A new copper roof was installed in 1998.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The brick and concrete utility building, which was constructed in 1906, has an arched double center door flanked by arched six-over-six double windows and is located to the north of the pump house. A brick double garage addition with a single pedestrian door and an arched header, was constructed in 1949. A new shingle roof was installed in 1998, and the project also included replacement of copper gutters, replacement of rotted doors with new wood doors, and removal of the public restrooms and door openings.

A new brick building with a shingle roof with clay tile ridge cap was constructed in 1998 between the pump house and the utility building. This building contains public restrooms and is also used as an employee lunch, and locker room.

A cast bronze plaque affixed to the flagpole is inscribed as follows:

UNITED STATES
NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERY
PORT HUDSON
ESTABLISHED 1867
INTERMENTS 3804
KNOWN 542
UNKNOWN 3262

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

Buildings: Lodge, utility building, pump house

Sites: Cemetery

Structures: Gates (2), perimeter wall

Objects: Flagpole, bronze plaque affixed to flagpole

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

Buildings: Public restroom building

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Port Hudson National Cemetery is significant under Criteria A and C 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, and under Criterion C because the lodge represents a distinctive prototypical design by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs, who was acclaimed as a master architect of civil works projects for the Quartermaster Corps.

The period of significance ends in 1935, the year the pump house was constructed.

The Mississippi River was completely in Federal hands, except for Port Hudson, located just above Baton Rouge. Port Hudson occupied one of the strongest positions on the river, as well as one of the most important. It was thought that no Federal gunboat could pass the guns located on the bluffs, and holding this position would guarantee to the Confederates possession of the Mississippi northward to Vicksburg. On December 2, 1862, the temporary commander, General William N. R. Beall, reported five hundred men present for duty at Port Hudson. Late in December, Major General Franklin Gardner assumed command of Port Hudson.

General Nathaniel Banks had 42,074 troops in the Department of the Gulf. Of this number, 38,825 were in Louisiana and the rest were at Pensacola. This army was designated the Nineteenth Army Corps and was divided into four divisions. The first division was placed under Brigadier General Cuvier Grover, the second under Brigadier General W. H. Emory, the third under Major General C. C. Augur, and the fourth under Brigadier General Thomas W. Sherman. With this army, Banks was expected to help open the Mississippi as rapidly as possible. To help General Ulysses S. Grant open up the Mississippi, Banks would have to take Port Hudson. Instead of a direct assault, Banks decided to move inland toward Red River, along the network of bayous, so that he could cut off all supplies for Port Hudson and bypass it.

Lieutenant David D. Porter had been placed in command of the Mississippi Squadron in October of 1862. He was assigned the task of aiding General John A. McClernand in opening up the upper Mississippi. Confederate Lieutenant General John C. Pemberton had assumed command of the Department of Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana. In the same month, General Ulysses S. Grant was given formal command of the opposing army with instructions to operate from the north and open up the upper Mississippi.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

On May 18, General Christopher C. Augur received orders from Banks to move the major portion of his troops to the rear of Port Hudson. Early on the morning of May 21, Augur moved toward the junction of the Plains Store and Bayou Sara Roads to pave the way for Banks's landing. As the advance cavalry under Benjamin H. Grierson approached the woods marking the southern edge of the Port Hudson plain, it encountered a detachment of the Fourteenth Arkansas Infantry, led by Colonel F. P. Powers, a small cavalry force, and Abbay's Mississippi Battery. Brisk skirmishing followed. At noon, General Gardner ordered Colonel W. R. Miles to proceed with four hundred men and Boone's Louisiana Light Battery to relieve Powers, who was being hard pressed by the greater Federal force. Some Federal regiments had bivouacked below Plains Store on the Bayou Sara road. Soon rapid artillery fire was heard in the front. The Battle of Plains Store began. Later, faced by an overwhelmingly superior force, Colonel William R. Miles withdrew his men to within the entrenchments of Port Hudson. Miles's losses were eighty-nine, and the Union forces reported one hundred casualties.

On May 22, 1863, Banks and Brigadier General Cuvier C. Grover had landed unopposed at Bayou Sara and were followed by the rest of the troops from Morganza as fast as transports could be provided. Banks was informed that Major General Christopher C. Augur was at the moment engaged in a new skirmish with the Confederates. Banks pushed forward to Augur's assistance, only to find his skirmish had ended. Banks and Grover then bivouacked on Thompson's Creek, northwest of Port Hudson. Colonel Herbert E. Paine soon followed, camped behind Grover, and Brigadier General Thomas W. Sherman reached Springfield Landing on May 22 and posted his men to Augur's left. By nightfall of the 22nd, Port Hudson was virtually surrounded.

On the night of May 26, Banks called together his division commanders to plan the assault of the next day. Brigadier General Richard Arnold was assigned command of the reserve artillery and was to open fire at dawn on the Confederate works. As the soft dawn lights began to seep through the dense magnolia forest, the Federal artillery opened up all along the line. Gardner's guns answered the furious cannonade but soon slowed down to conserve ammunition. From the river, the guns of the navy joined in the crescendo, hurling shot and shell toward the water batteries and into Port Hudson itself. Forming his men in columns of brigades, Weitzel advanced through the magnolia forest toward the front. With regimental banners held high, the blue-coated troops marched out of the shadows of the forest into the sunlight.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The ravines and woods in front of the Confederate works were occupied by Isiah Steedman's outpost and skirmishers under Lieutanant Colonel M. B. Locke. As soon as the enemy came within range, the fighting became severe. Running, sliding and slipping down the embankments, Weitzel's and Paine's men entered the broken ground and maze of fallen timber, forcing the Confederates back. After more than an hour of furious fighting, Locke was forced to retire his men behind the main works. As soon as the skirmishers had reached safety, the four guns on Commissary Hill opened fire on Weitzel's men. Thomas's brigade moved ahead of Van Zandt. Deploying his men in a regimental line, Thomas moved forward. Thomas found his advance slowed to a snail's pace. Inching their way through brush-choked ravines, hills and fallen tree limbs, they found it impossible to keep ranks. Weitzel finally reached and held a ridge some two hundred yards from Steedman's works. Several charges against the works were tried by individual units, but they were driven back with fearful loss. Colonel Fearing of Paine's division ordered his front line to charge, but their line was soon broken and scattered. The second line swept forward over their fallen comrades and succeeded in driving the enemy skirmishers from their outer fortifications. When support failed to come up, Fearing's most advanced troops were forced to retreat to a more sheltered position. Here they continued to fire for the rest of the day whenever a Confederate gunner or rifleman showed his head.

General William J. Dwight, who had assumed command over the colored troops on the far Federal right earlier in the day, sought to create a diversion for Weitzel by ordering Colonel John A. Nelson, with his two Negro regiments, to move against the extreme Confederate left where the line bent southward toward the river. This portion of the battle had the distinction of being the first engagement of any magnitude between white and Negro troops in the war. Just a few more than 1,000 Negroes, without support, were ordered to take one of the strongest natural positions along the entire line. The First Louisiana Native Guards were made up of free Negroes of French extraction and the Third Louisiana Native Guards were composed of former slaves. The Third Regiment barely got into action, so about five hundred men bore the brunt of the battle. Among these were 308 casualties.

To divert a Confederate concentration on Weitzel's front, Grover sent his three regiments against the west face of the bastion at the northernmost point of the finished Confederate line. Men took cover wherever they could find it, realizing that their isolated efforts were fruitless. A lull then came. Grover joined Weitzel for a conference, and the two decided to wait until Augur assaulted the center or Sherman moved against the left before they renewed their drive on the right. Augur was ready. His men waited for a command which would be issued as soon as Sherman put in his men. Banks was unable to understand the delay, rode to Sherman's headquarters and found the general and his staff calmly eating lunch. Banks was enraged. By a quarter past two, Sherman moved out. Beall, in command of the Confederate center, began to detect signs of an imminent attack. Beall called upon

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Colonel Miles on his right for assistance. When the Federal advance got within range, Beall's artillery ran its guns into position and opened up a shower of grape, shot, and canister. One of the first casualties was General Sherman. One of his legs was shattered. When he fell wounded, the command of the left wing should have been assumed by Neal Dow, but before he learned of Sherman's injury, he himself suffered a similar fate. He was struck by a spent ball, and his arm became so swollen that he could not handle his horse. He proceeded on foot and was struck in the left thigh by a rifle ball and had to be helped to a hospital. Colonel Frank S. Nickerson, next in order of command, inherited the title, but in the heat of battle, no one bothered to notify him. Consequently, for a long period, there was no commander to assume complete control. As the afternoon wore on, officer casualties became heavier.

As soon as Augur had heard the noise of Sherman's attack on the left, he put forward his division. All was quiet until the advance had completely emerged from the woods along the road. Then, grape, canister, shot and shell filled the air and dropped among the heavily burdened fascine bearers. The main columns left the woods and advanced over the small smooth area to broken ground. The Confederates increased their fire and dozens of blue-coated men went down in the dust. The fire became so severe that soon the main line, including the officers, began to drop behind every available shelter in the shallow ravines. The Confederates slackened their fire, and about an hour later, Colonel James O'Brien sprang up waving his sword and ordering his men to charge. Less than a dozen men responded and in a half minute, O'Brien fell dead. This was the last attempt to storm the works on May 27. At five o'clock, all firing ceased. A stick topped with a white handkerchief, mysteriously arose from one of the ravines within the abatis. It was soon discovered that the flag had been raised by a colonel from one of the New York regiments who found himself in a precarious position to the front of the rest of the troops. Upon hearing this, the Confederates resumed their fire and kept it up until dark. With night coming, the medical corps and details from various regiments began to roam the abatis and look for the wounded. A fire broke out in the abatis and the wounded who had not been carried from the field were in the danger of being roasted alive. Slipping out of their works, the Confederates extinguished the fires, partly out of humanity and partly to preserve their own abatis. Surgeons worked feverishly all night with the wounded.

The next morning the Confederates opened fire but, soon after, Banks raised a flag of truce and requested permission to care for his wounded and to bury his dead. All was quiet. Immense trenches were dug near the Confederate works, and into each one of these the burial parties piled a hundred bodies and covered them over.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

At 7 p.m., the white flags were withdrawn and all men disappeared. For an hour, a heavy fire was opened by both sides and periodically through the night the Union batteries continued to throw shells toward the Confederate works. Banks totaled his losses. Out of an effective force of 13,000 men, the Union had suffered 1,995 casualties. By comparison, Gardner had suffered little from the assault. He had lost only 235 out of 4,000.

The bloody repulse of May 27 convinced Banks that he must resort to siege tactics and dig or construct gradual approaches toward the breastworks. By June 1, siege operations were begun in earnest. Night and day, for the next two weeks, regiments were engaged in digging rifle pits and zigzags, constructing breastworks and covered ways, and mounting guns. The Confederates, too, continued to strengthen their works. Gradually the siege works moved forward, forming a tighter ring around the Confederate works.

All day long and into the night, on June 10, the gunboats and artillery kept up a relentless bombardment against Port Hudson, indicating to the Confederate garrison that an attack might come at any time. Banks ordered a night reconnaissance all along the line to force the enemy artillery to unmask so that his batteries could knock them out. During the darkness and rain, many of the Federal troops fell back behind their lines. They considered the entire maneuver to be stupid and suicidal. Near dawn, on June 11, the Federal troops who remained in the abatis opened fire from the cover of the fallen timber. When the sun finally rose, orders were shouted along the line to retire, but the troops found it difficult to comply. Many of them raised up and were mowed down by the Confederate sharpshooters. Two Confederate guns were run up and peppered the area with grape and canister. The Federal artillery made short work of the two Confederate guns, leaving them in total wrecks. This early morning attack had been another mistake, as nothing constructive was accomplished. Banks was thought to have suffered more than two hundred casualties.

By the evening of June 12, Banks had completed most of his plans for another general assault. Just before noon on June 13, the gunboats, mortars, and artillery opened a terrific bombardment upon Port Hudson. Farragut, who had complained that his ammunition was running low, was assured by Banks that the general assault would take place the next day. After an hour, Banks ordered a cease-fire, and again a formal request to surrender the post was sent to General Gardner. As expected, Gardner refused. A short time later, the bombardment resumed and a slow fire was continued for the rest of the day. Late on the night before the new assault, Banks called his division commanders to his headquarters for final orders. Early Sunday morning, June 14, the artillery opened its mighty chorus along the entire Federal line. The main attack had been entrusted to Grover. who commanded the entire right wing. Grover had chosen Paine's division for the heaviest work, with Weitzel's brigade

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

acting as support. Paine ordered his columns forward. When they approached within one hundred yards of the works, the Confederates opened a heavy fire with their rifles and guns. The advance was driven back to the cover of a small ridge, where the men waited for the main body to advance. Paine had hardly uttered his command for a new charge when he was shot down. He had a bullet in his thigh and could not be rescued. He tried periodically to rally his men for another assault but found it impossible. The main assault had failed miserably. Weitzel's only approach was through a series of gorges cut by branches of Sandy Creek. Many troops were dropped by the Confederate sharpshooters. A few, when attempting to climb up the breastworks, were shot down or driven back into a ditch, where they lay among the dead and wounded. General Augur, in the center, was under orders to feint an attack to his front in an attempt to draw the Confederate troops away from the right and left, where the main assaults would take place.

In command of the Federal left was General William Dwight. Dwight's men heard Farragut's guns on the river open with one of the heaviest bombardments they had yet launched against Port Hudson. A little later, artillery fire opened along the line. When rapid rifle fire joined the chorus of the big guns, the men knew that Paine had begun his assault. When his rifle fire slowed and almost stopped, they knew the assault had failed. Weitzel and Augur too had failed.

After daylight, the Sixth Michigan and the Fourteenth Maine were ordered to the extreme Federal left to storm the Confederate works near the river. Colonel Thomas S. Clark, in command of the First Brigade of Dwight's division, started his main column forward simultaneously with the attempt on the far left. Skirmishers moved forward and, as they moved in columns of companies, were sighted by the enemy. The skirmishers advanced to a deep ravine and they froze until the main column came up. With the appearance of the main force, the Confederates opened up every gun, firing as rapidly as possible. All Clark's men were withdrawn except the skirmishers. Dwight's assault was so weak, so poorly planned, and so badly executed that it could hardly be considered an assault. As the Federal troops withdrew, they could hear the jubilant Confederates celebrating their victory. The Union losses were 1,792 and Confederates only 47.

Two days after the losses of June 14, Banks called for a thousand volunteers to serve as a storming party in a new assault; only around three hundred men volunteered. To make such an attack easier and to safeguard his men, Banks resorted to every procedure suggested by his commanders. Night and day, work was pushed on the siege fortifications at four main points along the line. While Banks's men were building their siege works, the Confederate troops strengthened their parapets. Night and day, the soldiers remained on duty behind the breastworks.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

As the June days wore on, both sides suffered. At several points along the line, an informal truce, which lasted over a week, was arranged on June 16 by the enlisted men. Both the Confederate and Union troops constructed their works in full view of the other without danger of being fired upon. Affairs grew quieter at Port Hudson during late June. There was little firing.

On June 26, Bailey's cotton-bale fortress on the far left was completed, the battery was emplaced, and the guns began a bombardment of the Citadel, a high well-fortified bluff. Three days later, General Dwight ordered Nickerson to take two regiments and to charge the position. A deep trench led from the battery to the foot of the Citadel hill. Men had begun to climb the hill when the enemy opened with a heavy rifle fire from above. Nickerson's men lay down after finding shallow depressions in the hillside. Late that afternoon, Dwight ordered the same two regiments to charge the Citadel again. The men charged by twos from their trench and attempted to run up the hill into the muzzles of the Confederate rifles. This charge was halted by orders from General Banks.

A few miles below Port Hudson was Springfield Landing, Banks's main supply depot. On the night of July 2, Colonel Powers with his cavalry and mounted Partisans moved from Clinton to destroy this important post. The Confederates set fire to huge mounds of bales, barrels, and boxes. The One Hundred Sixty-second New York rushed to the scene and killed several of Powers's men. Now greatly outnumbered, Powers attempted to fight it out, but his men became so scattered, he ordered a withdrawal. The raid had been a great success; over a million dollars worth of stores had been destroyed.

As the siege moved into July, the Federal troops continued to push their saps and zigzags closer toward the Confederate works. Captain Joseph Bailey, Dwight's untutored engineering officer, began a vast tunnel under the Citadel hill on the far left near the river. Thirty barrels of powder were then placed inside to blow up the Citadel. A second tunnel was started on Grover's front on the right near the Priest Cap. By July 7, the mine under the Priest Cap was completed and twelve hundred pounds of powder placed inside. At dawn on July 9, Banks intended to explode the mines under the Citadel and Priest Cap, and his forlorn-hope details were to rush into the breach, followed by the main army. Port Hudson would then be his.

His preparations were unnecessary. On July 7, a gunboat arrived at the upper fleet bringing news of the surrender of Vicksburg on July 4. Colonel Kilby Smith of Grant's staff carried the news to General Banks.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

On July 8, Colonel I. G. W. Steedman, commanding the left wing; Colonel W. R. Miles, commanding the right wing; and Lieutenant Colonel Marshall J. Smith; in charge of heavy artillery, were sent by Gardner to meet with Banks's commission, consisting of General Charles P. Stone of Banks's staff, General Dwight, and Colonel Birge. The officers amiably discussed the terms of surrender. An agreement was reached that afternoon, and the Confederate commission returned to Port Hudson.

The next morning, July 9, General George L. Andrews rode into Port Hudson, accompanied by Birge's group. Next came picked regiments from all the divisions. Various bands, playing lively marching tunes, lifted the spirits of the Union troops even higher. General Gardner waited with his soldiers drawn up in line. The simple surrender ceremonies were soon over.

The Port Hudson National Cemetery was established in 1867 and the original site was that selected by General Nathaniel Banks as the burial place for the Union soldiers killed in action near Port Hudson and those who died in the hospitals of the investing army. Theodore Ganson, a discharged sergeant of Company B, Forty-third Regiment of Infantry, was appointed the first superintendent on June 1, 1868.

A report dated February 24, 1868, and signed by the Acting Quartermaster General, showed 292 soldiers from the following locations were disinterred and reinterred in the Port Hudson National Cemetery. Dates of disinterments ranged from December 17, 1867, to December 23, 1868.

LOCATION	NUMBER
Upper Springfield Landing, Louisiana (8 miles southwest)	29
Prophets Island (6 miles below)	11
East Branch, Mississippi River (4 miles below)	2
Houston Place (3 miles)	9
Chamber's Place (6 miles northwest)	9
Houston Place (3 miles northwest)	12
Mr. Slaughter's Place (surrounded the national cemetery)	35
Ambrose Place (3/4 mile north)	8
Woodside Plantation (3 miles east)	29
Inside and outside fence around cemetery	49
A location 1 mile northwest	99

One former superintendent of the national cemetery is buried here. George W. Mathews, who served as superintendent from November 8, 1906, to July 8, 1918, died on July 8, 1918, and is buried in Section A , Grave 3840.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The cemetery contains 19.9 acres. The original cemetery contained 8.0 acres and was located in the center of a plantation owned by Mr. James H. Gibbons. Title was obtained by act of sale dated August 17, 1869, from Mr. Gibbons and his wife to the United States in the amount of $3,000. Subsequent land acquisitions include two donations from the Georgia Pacific Corporation, the first one of 2.5 acres in 1979, and the second of 9.4 acres in 1994.

STRUCTURES DEMOLISHED

An iron and steel rostrum, constructed in 1931with a concrete foundation and a tin roof. Records show that the roof was removed in 1955; therefore, the rostrum was removed sometime after that date.

A wooden garage with a concrete foundation and corrugated iron roof was constructed in 1935. This structure was subsequently demolished by a falling tree during a storm. The date is unknown.

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. McFarland and Company, Inc., 1992.

Winters, John D. The Civil War in Louisiana. Louisiana State University Press, 1963.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA – UTM REFERENCES (Continued)

POINT	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
5	15	665200	3393060
6	15	665200	3393175

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.

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana
Armando A. Sammartino and Ralph D'Amato, photographers
Date of Photographs: November 8, 1996, and October 28, 1998

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: Main entrance gate, view looking east
NEG. NO. 7747-1
PHOTO 1 of 23

VIEW OF: Entrance into newer burial area, view looking east
NEG. NO. 6459-22
PHOTO 2 of 23

VIEW OF: Flagpole, view looking north
NEG. NO. 7747-11
PHOTO 3 of 23

VIEW OF: Plaque at base of flagpole
NEG. NO. 7747-13
PHOTO 4 of 23

VIEW OF: Perimeter wall, view looking east
NEG. NO. 7747-10
PHOTO 5 of 23

VIEW OF Ornamental metal picket fence

NEG. NO. 6459-20
PHOTO 6 of 23

VIEW OF: Lodge, south elevation

NEG. NO. 6459-3
PHOTO 7 of 23

VIEW OF: Lodge, south and west elevations

NEG. NO. 6459-2
PHOTO 8 of 23

VIEW OF: Lodge, north elevation
NEG. NO. 6459-4
PHOTO 9 of 23

VIEW OF: Lodge, east elevation
NEG. NO. 6459-14
PHOTO 10 of 23

VIEW OF: Pump house
NEG. NO. 6459-5
PHOTO 11 of 23

VIEW OF: Public restroom building, south elevation
NEG. NO. 6459-6
PHOTO 12 of 23

VIEW OF: Public restroom building, east elevation
NEG. NO. 6459-7
PHOTO 13 of 23

VIEW OF: Public restroom building, north and east elevations
NEG. NO. 6459-12
PHOTO 14 of 23

VIEW OF: Utility building, south elevation
NEG. NO. 6459-9
PHOTO 15 of 23

VIEW OF: Utility building, east elevation
NEG. NO. 6459-10
PHOTO 16 of 23

VIEW OF: Utility building, north elevation
NEG. NO. 6459-11
PHOTO 17 of 23

VIEW OF: Utility building, west elevation
NEG. NO. 6459-8
PHOTO 18 of 23

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking southeast

NEG. NO. 7747-14
PHOTO 19 of 23

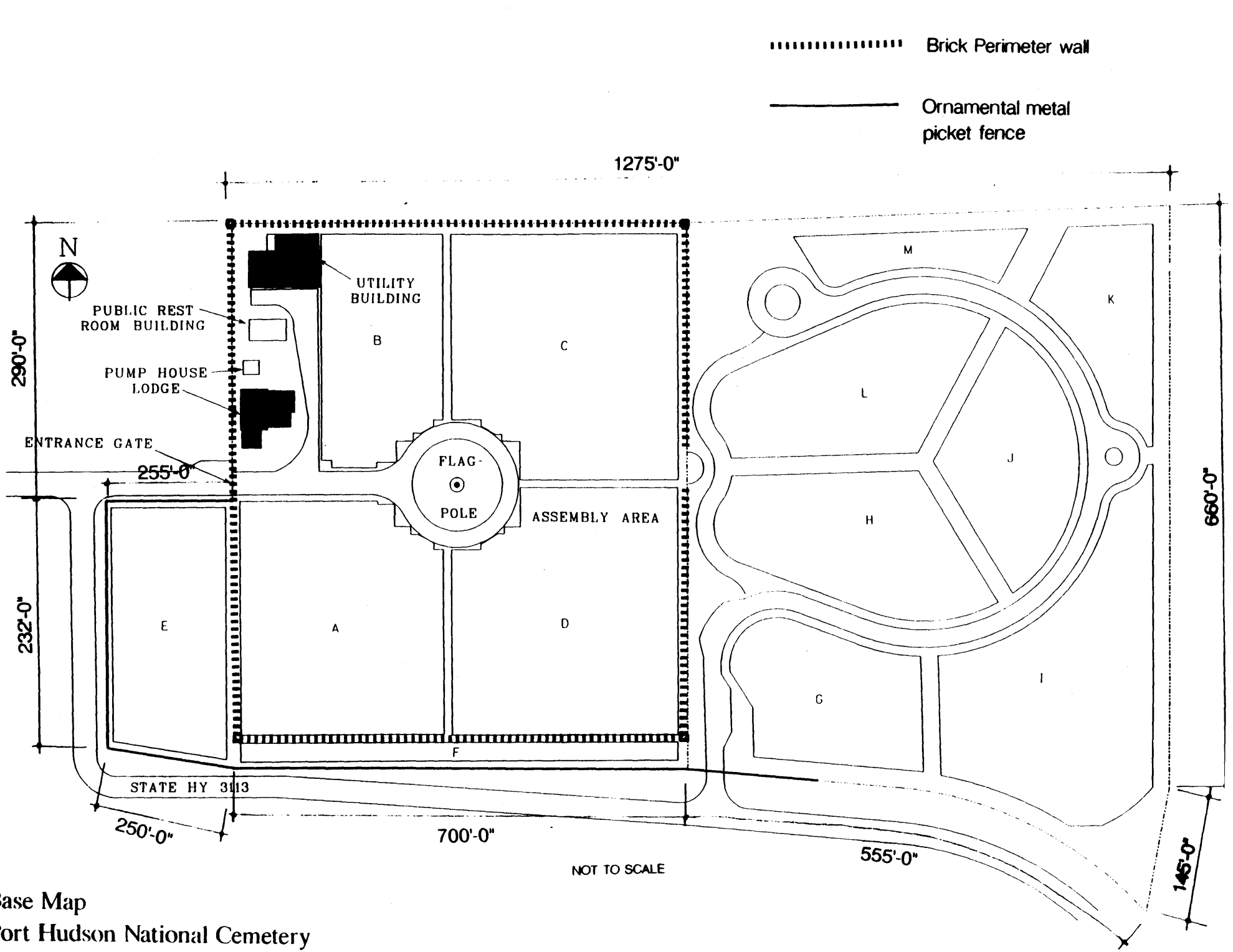
VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking southwest

NEG. NO. 6459-18
PHOTO 20 of 23

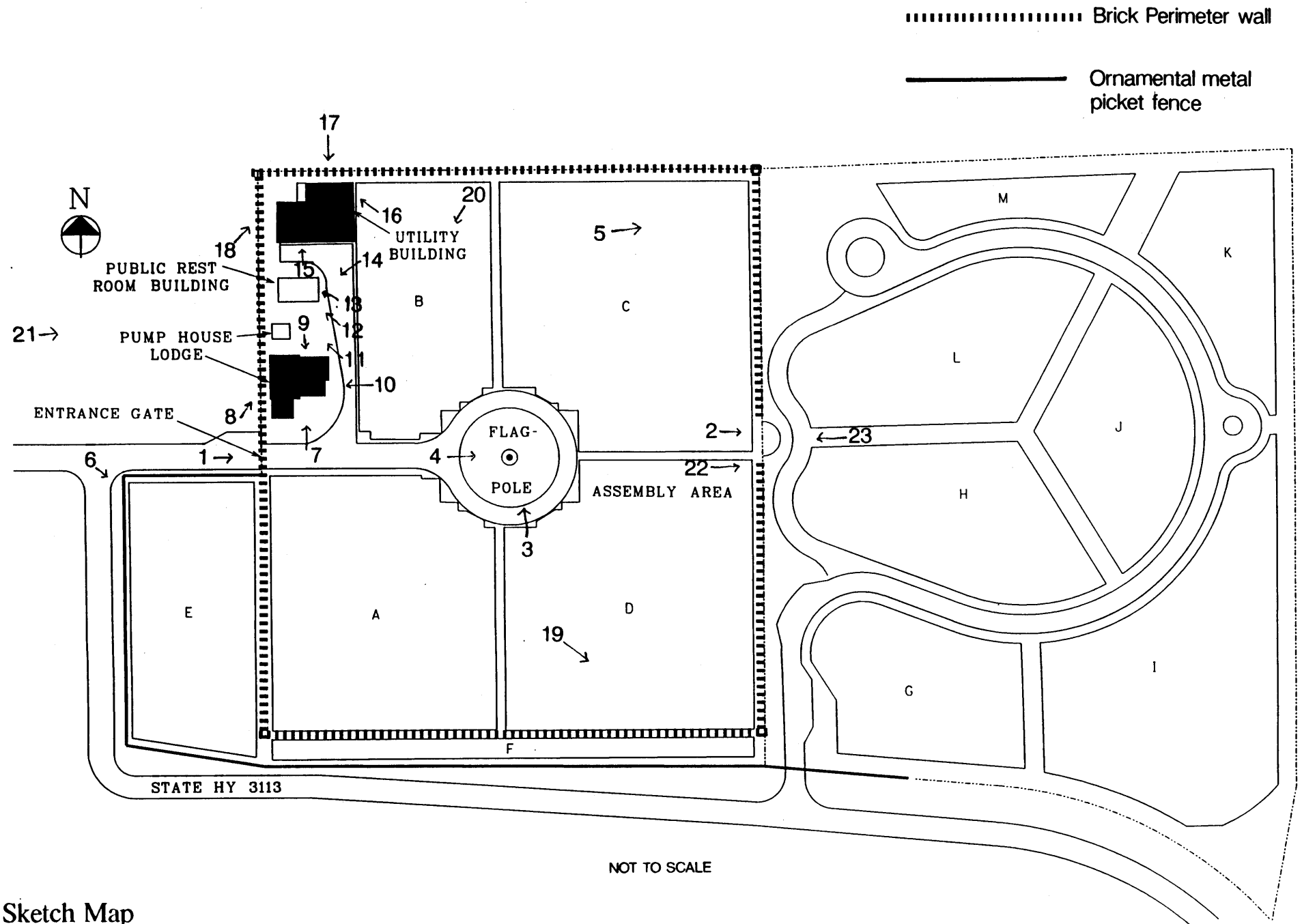
VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking east
NEG. NO. 6459-19
PHOTO 21 of 23

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking east
NEG. NO. 6459-16
PHOTO 22 of 23

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking west
NEG. NO. 6459-17
PHOTO 23 of 23



Base Map
Port Hudson National Cemetery
East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana



Sketch Map
Port Hudson National Cemetery
East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

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

PORT HUDSON
NATIONAL
CEMETERY
OPEN EVERY DAY
8-AM TO 5-PM
11 8 '96

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 1 OF 23

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
ADMINISTRATIVE
CONSTRUCTION SITE
ATTENTION:
10

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 2 OF 23

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 3 OF 23

E PLURIBUS UNUM
UNITED STATES
NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERY
PORT HUDSON.
ESTABLISHED 1867.
INTERMENTS 3804.
KNOWN 542.
UNKNOWN 3262.
11 8'96

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 4 OF 23

11 3 '76

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 5 OF 23

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 6 OF 23

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 7 OF 23

Rest Rooms
Access
Administration

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 8 OF 23

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 9 OF 23

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 10 OF 23

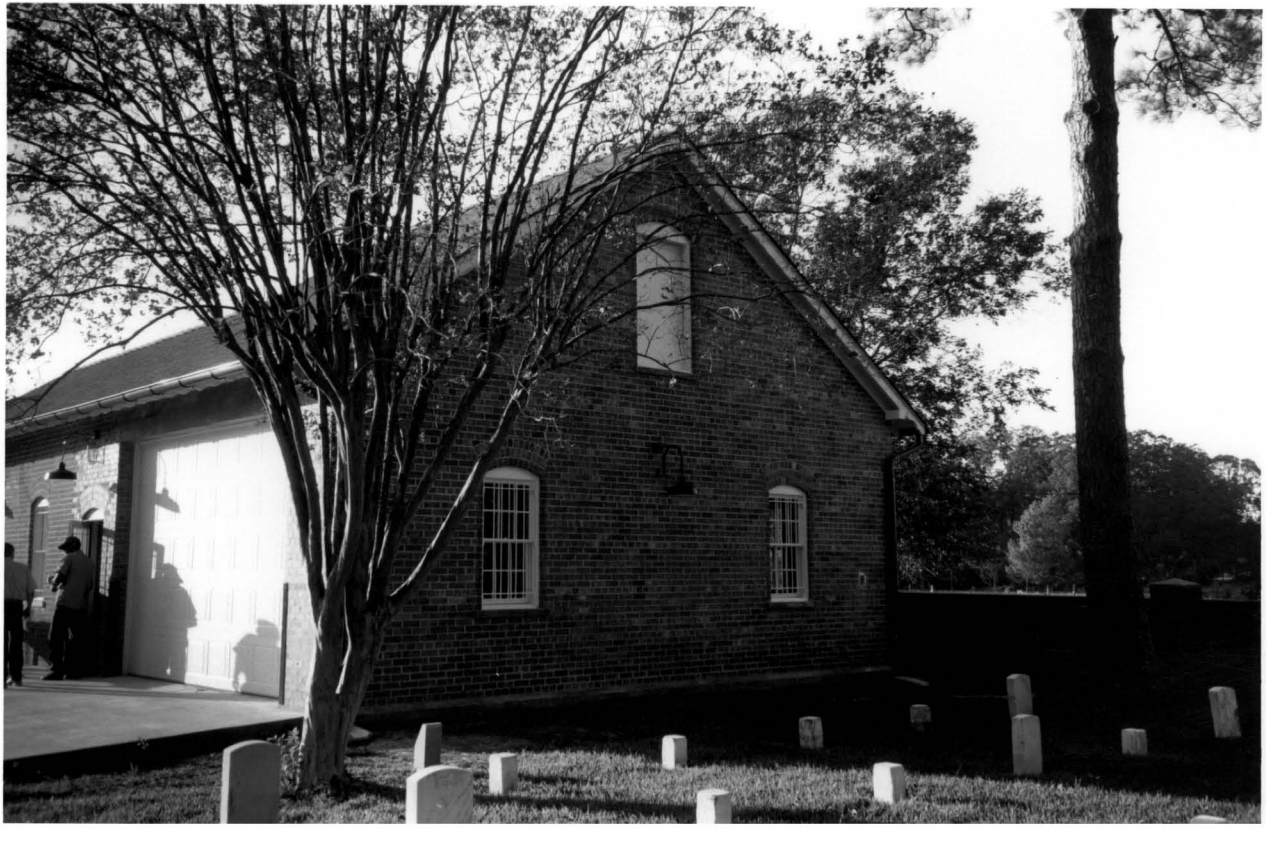
PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 11 OF 23

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 12 OF 23

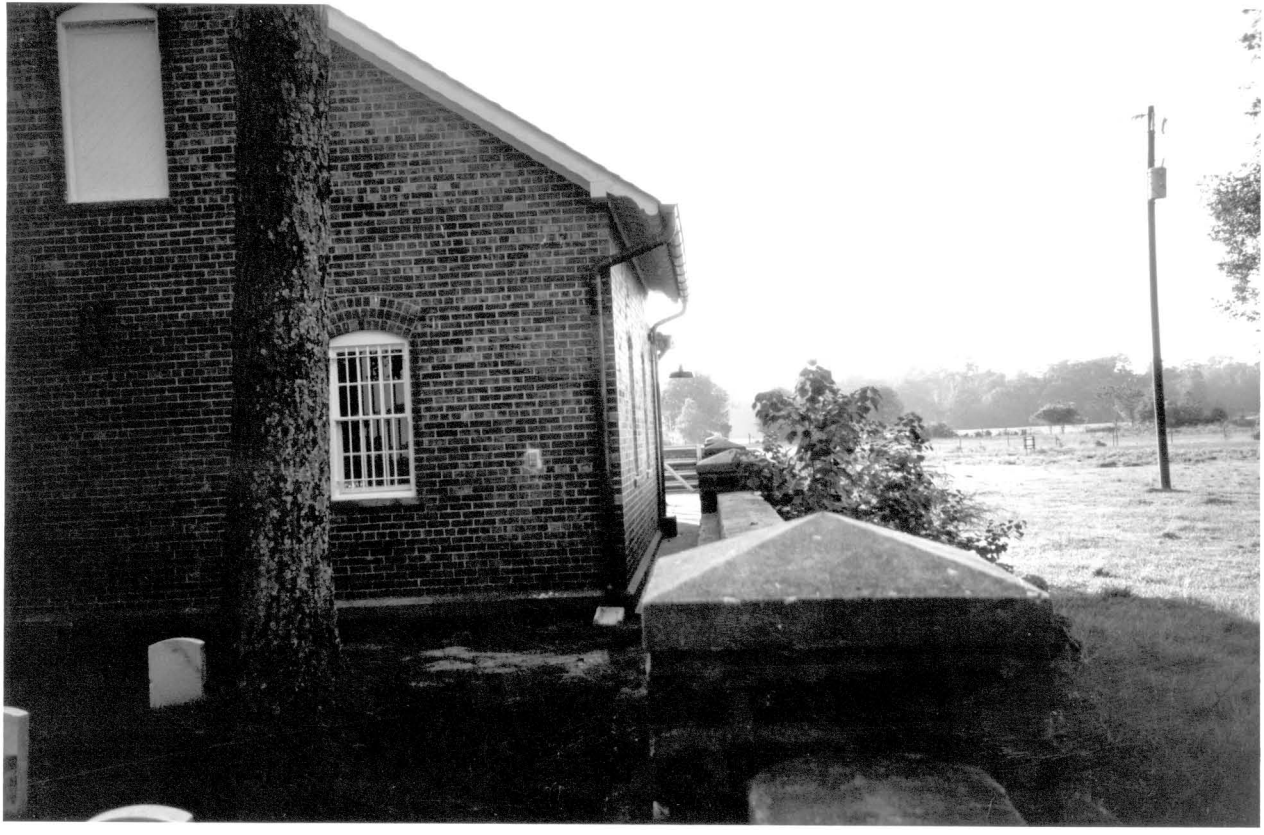
PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 13 OF 23

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 14 OF 23

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 15 OF 23



PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 16 OF 23



PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 17 OF 23

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 18 OF 23

CHARLES CEDRIC
DENNIS ROBERTSON
JEAN OLSTAVE
SIDNEY JOHN STEAS
11 8 '96

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 19 OF 23

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 20 OF 23

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 21 OF 23

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 22 OF 23

PORT HUDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA
PHOTO 23 OF 23