

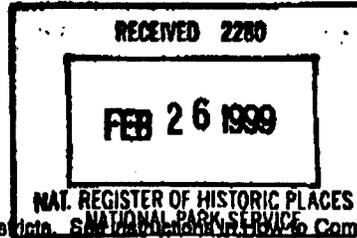
NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

293



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

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 202 Government Road not for publication N/A

city or town Salisbury vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Rowan code 159 zip code 28144

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 Brown Inspek Federal 2/28/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Preservation Officer Date

Dept 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.)

James Brown SHPO 2/11/99
Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
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 Ma J Ma-ney Date of Action 4/12/99

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
4	4	structures
4	3	objects
11	7	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)

Dutch Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Tile

other Marble

Narrative Description

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

Asbury National Cemetery
Name of Property

Rowan County, North Carolina
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

1863-1949

Significant Dates

1863

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

Salisbury National Cemetery
Name of Property

Rowan County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property 13.0

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	17	547440	3946280
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	17	547680	3946400

3	17	547720	3946360
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	17	547600	3945940

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 February 4, 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.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Salisbury National Cemetery
Rowan County, North Carolina**

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

MATERIALS:

Walls: Wood, stucco
Roof: Tin
Other: Iron, granite, bronze

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Salisbury National Cemetery is located at 202 Government Road, Salisbury, North Carolina, in Rowan County, about one-half mile southwest of downtown. The main entrance is situated near the center of the north side and is protected by a double wrought-iron gate with a pedestrian gate on each side, all supported by cast iron piers. Another wrought-iron entrance gate supported by stone piers is located on Railroad Avenue near East Monroe Street, from which an avenue extends south to the flagpole. A pedestrian gate, supported by concrete piers, is located in the southeast corner of the cemetery off Monroe Street. There are also two iron gates supported by concrete columns located along Clay Street in the southeastern corner of the cemetery. One is for pedestrians, and the other is used by maintenance personnel. An opening in the perimeter wall near Section A also provides pedestrian and equipment access to the newest burial area (Sections L and M). The older portion of the cemetery is enclosed by a substantial stone wall with a coping of granite. An area along Railroad Avenue, extending from the main entry to the pedestrian gate, is enclosed by wrought-iron fencing, and from the pedestrian gate to the southwest corner, including the newest burial sections, the area is enclosed by black chain link fencing. Pigeon Creek, a surface water drainage ditch, runs east and west through the cemetery. Two concrete pedestrian bridges with black screw pipe railing cross the creek. There is also a vehicular bridge over the creek which serves the roadway leading to the burial trenches at the south end of the cemetery. A concrete culvert bridge with wood and steel guard rails serves to cross the creek along the service road leading to the newest burial area. The lodge, now used as the administration building, is located southeast of the main entrance, and a utility building is located to the south of the lodge. A committal service shelter is situated on the left side of the roadway in the section near Railroad Avenue and East Monroe Street.

The cemetery was established in 1863. Graves were originally marked by headboards, painted and numbered, that were later replaced with upright marble headstones. In 1982, a policy decision by the Department of Veterans Affairs provided for the use of flat markers in national cemeteries. As a result, there are two sections in the cemetery (Sections G and H) in which the graves are marked with flat granite markers. The policy 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

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Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Salisbury National Cemetery
Rowan County, North Carolina**

Section number 7 Page 2

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

be upright. As of December 31, 1998, there were 17,232 graves used for the interment of 17,763 casketed remains and 352 sites used for the interment of 447 cremated remains.

The original superintendent's lodge was constructed sometime between November 1868 and August 1871. It was a one-story brick structure containing three rooms of equal size, with a projecting roof and piazza on each side. An underground cistern was attached to the lodge. A new lodge and office building was constructed in 1934. It is a two-story brick and concrete structure with frame stucco gables on the second story. The mansard roof is made of Ludowici tile shingles. The building contains seven rooms (1,742 square feet) plus an unfinished basement (882 square feet). The first floor consists of two offices, a kitchen, and a display room, and the second story contains three bedrooms and a bath. The windows on the first floor are six-over-six, and on the second floor are six-over-six double hung. There is a screened front porch. Cemetery superintendents and directors resided in the lodge until October 1989. The building is now used as the cemetery office.

The brick, stucco and concrete utility building, 37 feet 6 inches by 21 feet 6 inches, containing public toilets, was constructed in 1929. The roof is tin. The building contains two overhead garage doors, and the windows are six-over-six double hung. It was originally used as a stable, forage house and tool house. The loft has a pine floor. A garage was subsequently added. A project was completed in 1998 consisting of renovation of approximately 190 square feet of the building to provide for a staff restroom and a storage room and construction of an addition of approximately 600 square feet to provide for a foreman's office, employee lunch area and locker room, and a new public restroom. In addition, a 250-square-foot covered connecting passageway with roll-up doors for vehicle access between the burial areas and the maintenance yard and an opening in the wall to provide pedestrian access to the public restroom were included in this project.

The flagpole was originally located in the circle near the southwest corner of the cemetery, but was relocated to the circle near the northeast addition to the cemetery.

There are four commemorative monuments in the Salisbury National Cemetery:

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Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Salisbury National Cemetery

Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 3

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Federal Monument to the Unknown Dead - A granite obelisk and base, 50 feet 2 inches in height, with a base of 18 feet by 18 feet, erected by an Act of Congress approved March 3, 1873, (General Orders No. 47) to the memory of the unknown soldiers who died in the Confederate prison at Salisbury. The monument is located near the southwest corner of the cemetery. The shaft is crowned with a laurel wreath and the four sides are ornamented with laurel leaves. At the foot of the shaft are a helmet, sword and shield, bearing the National crest, coat of arms and stars. Grouped with these is a chain with broken bracelets, suggesting the condition of the dead prisoners and their happy release from captivity. Just above the shield is a tablet veiled, indicating that the dead were unknown. Above the tablet is a small laurel crown enclosing the words "Pro Patria." On December 29, 1874, a contract was entered into with Mr. Alexander McDonald of Mount Auburn, Massachusetts, for the erection of this monument for the sum of \$9,500. The contract provided for its erection by December 31, 1876.

The monument is inscribed as follows:

North Side

THIS MONUMENT WAS ERECTED BY ACT
OF CONGRESS APPROVED MARCH 3, 1873.
TO THE MEMORY OF THE UNKNOWN UNION
SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN THE CONFEDERATE
PRISON AT SALISBURY, N.C.

West Side

"THEY DIED THAT THEIR COUNTRY MIGHT LIVE."

South Side

IN 18 TRENCHES, JUST SOUTH OF THIS SPOT,
REST THE BODIES OF 11,700 SOLDIERS OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY, WHO PERISHED DURING
THE YEARS 1864 AND 1865 WHILE HELD BY
THE CONFEDERATE MILITARY AUTHORITIES AS
PRISONERS OF WAR IN A STOCKADE NEAR
THIS PLACE.

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Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Salisbury National Cemetery
Rowan County, North Carolina**

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

East Side

“FOR OUR COUNTRY ‘TIS A BLISS TO DIE”

Maine Monument: Granite, 25 feet in height, with a granite statue on top, erected in 1908, and located near the southwest corner of the cemetery. At the four corners of the first base, which is made of Vinalhaven granite, are mortars of highly polished black granite from St. George. The second base, cut from Lincolnvilleville white granite, has cut on the front “One Country, One Flag.” At each corner is a polished column of black granite. On the front of the die, facing north, is the new state seal in shield form of bronze. On the four sides of the first cap is the word “Maine” in large raised letters and at each corner a large star. On the front of the cap the army is represented by a stack of guns. On the other sides are representations of the cavalry by crossed swords, the navy by anchor, and the artillery by crossed cannons. Four large balls of polished black granite are placed at the corners. Upon the pedestal stands a soldier with a gun at parade rest, which is cut from Lincolnvilleville white granite. The statue which was cut in Quincy, Massachusetts, stands seven feet, six inches high. The total cost of the monument was \$4,755.56. It is inscribed as follows:

North Side

MAINE

MAINE'S TRIBUTE
TO
HER SOLDIERS
WHO DIED
WHILE PRISONERS OF WAR
AT
SALISBURY, N.C.
1864-1865

ONE COUNTRY - ONE FLAG

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Salisbury National Cemetery
Rowan County, North Carolina**

Section number 7 Page 5

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

West Side

THEY FOUGHT FOR
PEACE, FOR
PEACE THEY FELL
THEY SLEEP IN PEACE,
AND ALL IS WELL

South Side

“TO LIVE IN HEARTS
WE LEAVE BEHIND,
IS NOT TO DIE.”

East Side

NEITHER HUNGER,
THIRST
NOR OFFERED BRIBES,
AFFECTED
THEIR LOYALTY.

Pennsylvania Monument - A bronze statue on top of a dome of a Union prisoner of war, erected in 1909, and located near Section C. From a 20' by 20' granite base, the monument rises to a height of 40 feet. This monument was erected by authority of an Act of the Pennsylvania Legislature approved June 13, 1907, to commemorate the patriotic devotion, heroism, and self-sacrifice of the officers and soldiers of the Pennsylvania volunteers who died while confined as prisoners of war in the Confederate military prison at Salisbury and were interred among the unknown Union soldiers and sailors in the 18 trenches by the southeast side of the monument. Rough hewn granite blocks form battered corner columns, inside of which on three sides Roman arches spring from black granite pillars. On the east side is a solid wall of granite blocks. A terraced granite roof with four convex lower slopes supports a massive cupola-like base for the statue atop. The inscription reads as follows:

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Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Salisbury National Cemetery
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Section number 7 Page 6

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Plaque on left side

THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED BY AUTHORITY
OF AN ACT OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE APPROVED JUNE 13, 1907,
TO COMMEMORATE THE PATRIOTIC DEVOTION, HEROISM, AND
SELF-SACRIFICE OF THE OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS WHO DIED WHILE CONFINED AS
PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE CONFEDERATE MILITARY PRISON
AT SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, DURING THE WAR OF THE
REBELLION AND WERE INTERRED AMONG THE UNKNOWN
UNION SOLDIERS IN THE EIGHTEEN TRENCHES
AT THE SOUTHEAST SIDE OF THIS MONUMENT.
A GRATEFUL COMMONWEALTH RENDERS THIS TRIBUTE
TO THEIR HONOR AND MEMORY.

Plaque on Right Side

MANY PENNSYLVANIA SOLDIERS ARE BURIED HERE.
THEY WERE CITIZENS OF A STATE WHOSE FOUNDERS CAME ACROSS
THE SEA AND ESTABLISHED A COMMONWEALTH WHERE ALL MEN
WOULD BE EQUAL AND, UNDER JUST LAWS, FREE TO ENJOY THEIR
INALIENABLE RIGHTS IN THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS, UNMOLESTED
BY KING OR NOBLE OR PREJUDICED CLASS. THEY USED THE SWORD
ONLY TO PRESERVE THE PEACE AND UNITY OF THEIR COUNTRY.
TWICE ON THE SOIL OF THEIR STATE WERE CRUCIAL STRUGGLES
FOR THE REPUBLIC. FIRST AT VALLEY FORGE, THAT TESTED THE
COURAGE AND FORTITUDE OF THE PATRIOT ARMY; THEN AT
GETTYSBURG, THAT PROVED THE NATION COULD NOT BE BROKEN,
RESPECTING THE EXAMPLE OF THE ROMANS, WHO NEVER RAISED
EMBLEMS OF TRIUMPH OVER A FOE,
THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ERECTS THIS MONUMENT TO
PERPETUATE

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Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Salisbury National Cemetery
Rowan County, North Carolina**

Section number 7 Page 7

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

THE MEMORY OF THE DEAD AND NOT AS A COMMEMORATION OF VICTORY.
THEIR MEMORY CANNOT BE FORGOT;
FOREVER SHALL MEN'S HEARTS REVERE
THEIR LOYALTY, AND HOLD THIS SPOT
SACRED BECAUSE THEY PERISHED HERE.

Historical records indicate that the Pennsylvania monument was, at one time, used in lieu of a rostrum.

All Wars Monument - A cast stone monument located near the flagpole, was donated by the Rowan County Veterans Council on May 27, 1990, and contains plaques of each service designation (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard). The front of the monument is inscribed as follows:

DEDICATED TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF ROWAN COUNTY WHO SERVED THIS
COUNTRY WITH HONOR

THIS MEMORIAL WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY GENEROUS FRIENDS THROUGH THE
EFFORTS OF THE ROWAN COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL DEDICATED
MAY 27, 1990

On the back of the monument is inscribed:

Veterans Memorial Committee
Dante Spagnolo, Chairman

Mae Carroll
Ben Holbrooks
Gonzalee Misenheimer
Marcelle Williams
Floyd Wilkins
Jim Armbrust

V. S. Casper
John Long
Gene Sunding
Gene Ritchie
Grady Moss
Mike Richards

Jackie Poole

In the southwest corner of the cemetery is the site of eighteen burial trenches containing the remains of 11,700 Union soldiers who died while imprisoned at the nearby Salisbury Confederate Prison. Each trench is marked with a headstone at each end with the inscription "U. S. Unknown Soldier."

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Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Salisbury National Cemetery
Rowan County, North Carolina**

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The longest trenches are 240 feet long. Surrounding the burial trenches are graves of 412 Civil War soldiers, most of whom are unknown. As you enter this area, there is a plaque which was erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy on which is inscribed a map of the burial trench area and a drawing of the Salisbury Prison. The following inscription appears on this plaque:

BURIAL TRENCHES
AND
SALISBURY PRISON
YOU ARE FACING THE 18 TRENCHES USED
BY THE SALISBURY CONFEDERATE PRISON
FOR THE BURIAL OF PRISONERS, MOST OF
WHOM DIED AFTER OCTOBER 1864
ERECTED BY
THE UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY
OCTOBER 1992

A cast-bronze plaque located in the display room in the administration building is similar to those found in many other national cemeteries established during the Civil War. In many cases, the plaque is affixed to a monument made of an original cast-iron seacoast artillery tube, secured by a concrete base. A report, circa 1904, found in the National Archives, which describes each national cemetery and lists buildings, etc., shows that at the Salisbury National Cemetery, there were "gun monuments, in good condition." It is possible that this plaque was affixed to a "gun monument" and was subsequently removed. The plaque is inscribed as follows:

E PLURIBUS UNUM
UNITED STATES
NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERY
SALISBURY
ESTABLISHED 1865
INTERMENTS 12115
KNOWN 90
UNKNOWN 12025

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Salisbury National Cemetery

Rowan County, North Carolina

Section number 7 & 8 Page 9

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The exhibit room in the administration building contains displays about the Salisbury Confederate Prison, including a model made by junior high school students, sketches of the prison, and a burial map of the eighteen burial trenches containing the burial sites of 11,700 Union soldiers who died in the prison. Other military memorabilia are displayed, as well as military uniforms from different eras. There are also service flags, one for each branch of service.

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

Buildings: Lodge, utility building

Sites: Cemetery

Structures: Gates (3), perimeter wall

Objects: Unknown monument, Maine monument, Pennsylvania monument, cast bronze plaque in display room

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

Structures: Committal service shelter, gates to newest burial area (3)

Objects: Flagpole, Rowan County Veterans Council Monument, plaque in front of burial trenches

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Salisbury 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 every war and branch of service who have served their country throughout its history. Since the contributing resources were

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Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Salisbury National Cemetery
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Section number 8 Page 10

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

constructed or erected many years ago and a reasonable specific date could not be defined to end the period of significance, the date of 1949 (50 years ago was used).

Salisbury was a major military depot, housing the trainloads of materials that had been sent south from Richmond. Fearful that Raleigh would fall, Governor Zebulon B. Vance had sent large quantities of state property to the Salisbury warehouses. In addition, the town contained several military hospitals, an ordnance plant, and a state district headquarters for the Commissary of Subsistence.

Brigadier General Bradley T. Johnson was in command of the Confederate forces at Salisbury. On the morning of April 12, 1865, he was absent, as he had been ordered to Greensboro, and the job was given to Brigadier General W. M. Gardner, who had perhaps between 500 and 800 men to hold the town. Gardner had one experienced officer to rely upon, Colonel John C. Pemberton, an ordnance inspector who had formerly held the rank of lieutenant general while commanding at Vicksburg. Gardner put his force across the Mocksville road along Grant's Creek, a few miles north of Salisbury. He removed the boards from the bridge and awaited the enemy. At daylight on the twelfth, they appeared with startling suddenness. Finding his way blocked by Gardner's men, Major General George H. Stoneman sent detachments up and down the creek to cross and hit the Confederate rear. Simultaneous with these moves, details from the Eighth and Thirteenth Tennessee Union Cavalry relaid the flooring on the bridge. This allowed Miller's (first name unknown) brigade to charge across and hit Gardner in the center. Within twenty minutes it was all over. The small Confederate band scattered through the town and to the woods beyond.

Salisbury was a rich prize. Stoneman took it over quickly, placing guards at various points to enforce his orders against pillaging. For quite some time the citizens had been expecting the raiders. Since the last week in March the "excitement" in town had been "almost perpetual." Each day brought a new rumor of Stoneman's closeness and those townspeople who expected no clemency because of the prison in their midst "drowned" themselves in feeling of profound despair. Soon after entering Salisbury, General Stoneman sent out a strong detachment to capture the long railroad bridge over the Yadkin River, some six miles above town. From strong entrenchments on the north side of the river, a hastily assembled Confederate force of approximately a thousand men defended the bridge. This enemy position on the bluffs overlooking the trestle appeared so formidable to the Federals that they decided against a major assault. After feeling out the defenses and receiving in return strong Confederate artillery fire, the cavalymen pulled back to Salisbury. Since they left the long bridge intact, their return to town was not marked by "wild cheers" or "war whoops of victory."

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Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Salisbury National Cemetery
Rowan County, North Carolina**

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

On April 12 and 13, General Stoneman destroyed the public buildings and military stores he had captured in Salisbury. But first he had the contents of the Confederate supply depot thrown into the streets so that the "poor whites" and Negroes could get what they wanted. Then all that was not carted away was burned. The men of the Twelfth Ohio were given the duty of leveling the Confederate prison. Most of the town's citizens were glad when the soldiers set fire to the prison, the scene of so much unalleviated suffering and so many deaths. Also destroyed were four cotton mills, seven thousand bales of cotton, an extensive steam distillery, railroad shops, fifteen miles of track, a tannery, and ordnance works. All that remained of the Confederate prison was a small guard's cottage and the flag that had flown over the gates. As flames engulfed the large quantity of ordnance stores, the air was rent by the noise of exploding shells. Columns of dense smoke marked the city by day, while huge flames leaping skyward made the conflagration plainly visible at night for miles around.

In 1863, Salisbury had been designated by the rebel authorities as a place for the incarceration of Union prisoners of war. It was chosen for the prison site because of its proximity to the railroad (250 yards north). Among the first buildings to be constructed were a cotton mill (1841) and several cottages for brick workers. The Confederacy erected mess halls, hospital quarters, and a "dead house" (where the bodies of the prisoners were placed to await burial). The prison pen was built on the edge of the town and was not of sufficient area to comfortably accommodate the prisoners of war sent to that place. The prisoners were huddled together in a small prison pen, without shelter or proper food and clothing. An agreement was arranged by General John A. Dix, U. S. Army, and General D. H. Hill, Confederate Army in July 1862 to release all prisoners of war. If one side had more than the other, the excess number could not take up arms again. For those involved in an even trade, they could go back to fighting. There were, of course, charges and countercharges of parole violations, and the agreement lasted only about six months before it completely broke down. From early 1863, the number of prisoner exchanges grew fewer and the number of prisoners of war multiplied on each side. Some exchanges were negotiated by the military commanders on the battlefield, until General Ulysses S. Grant ordered this practice stopped in 1864. In 1865, realizing that the war was coming to a close, Grant relented and consented to a policy of even exchange. When the exchange of prisoners was stopped, the Salisbury Confederate prison facility was no longer adequate for the large number of prisoners, and conditions rapidly deteriorated. In early October 1864, there were 5,000 prisoners at Salisbury. By mid-November, this number had swelled to about 10,000. By late 1864, over ten thousand men crowded its six-acre compound, which was large enough to handle only a fraction of that number. This over-taxing of facilities and a shortage of supplies had resulted in a staggering mortality rate. As a consequence of these conditions, Confederate authorities decided to remove the prisoners as soon as a safe place could be found for them. Out of the 10,000, over 5,000 fell victim to starvation and disease. When it became apparent that the Confederacy was losing the war, the

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Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Salisbury National Cemetery
Rowan County, North Carolina**

Section number 8 Page 12

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

remaining Union prisoners were sent to Richmond, Virginia, and Wilmington, North Carolina. By March 1865, all of the prisoners, except the infirm, had been evacuated.

The small guard's cottage which remained after the prison was destroyed stands today on Bank Street in Salisbury, and the flag that had flown over the gates was taken by Union soldiers but was returned and is now on display in the Rowan Museum. An old escape tunnel still runs under the streets of Salisbury as a grim reminder of the desperate need to escape the terrible conditions of the prison.

All trace of the prison had been swept away when the cemetery was inspected on November 1, 1868. At that time the cemetery was situated on a small hill in which the Union soldiers were buried in eighteen trenches, averaging 240 feet in length, parallel to each other. In the trenches, it is estimated that there were 11,700 bodies, all unknown. The number of burials from the prison pen could not be accurately known, as no records could be found. The inspector stated that to have buried this large number in such a limited space shows that in the trenches they were placed one above another. Some few were buried in coffins, but the great mass was not. It was stated that a Major McGee, the commander of the place, used what plank was at his control for coffins, but that his requisitions for additional plank for this purpose were disregarded by the rebel authorities. To protect the trenches, a rough stone curb was placed around each one, one foot high and one foot broad. A plaque mounted on a granite base showing the location of the burial trenches was erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in October 1992.

The cemetery was designated a national cemetery in 1865, but the land was not acquired until the early 1870's. National Cemetery System microfilm records contained copies of three deeds. By deed dated January 7, 1870, a tract of land consisting of 3+ acres was conveyed to the United States in fee simple by John and Lucy Horah, for the sum of \$600. By deed dated January 7, 1874, a second parcel containing 4,882 square feet or .1 acre was conveyed by the Horahs for the sum of \$50. By quitclaim deed dated December 5, 1939, the approach road was conveyed to the United States (0.37 acre). Although these three parcels total only 3.5 acres, records contain a copy of a metes and bounds description dated February 23, 1942, which shows that the cemetery contained 5.97 or 6.0 acres plus the right-of-way of .37 or .4 acre, for a total of 6.4 acres. Subsequent additions to the cemetery were achieved through donations. In 1976, the City of Salisbury donated 2.6 acres; in 1985, the Rowan County Veterans Council donated 2.7 acres; and in 1995, the City of Salisbury donated an additional 1.3 acres. The total area of the cemetery is 13.0 acres.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Salisbury National Cemetery
Rowan County, North Carolina**

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Original burials in the cemetery included the 11,700 unknown prisoners as well as the following known soldiers who are buried somewhere in the trenches:

George Lysinger, Private, Company H, 107th Pennsylvania Infantry
Date of Death: December 18, 1864

G. W. Manville, Corporal, Company E, 15th Connecticut Infantry
Date of Death: March 21, 1865

Charles C. Palmer, Private, Company C, 1st Ohio Cavalry
Date of Death: January 25, 1865

Also among the unknowns interred in the 18 trenches are the remains of Robert Livingstone, the oldest son of Dr. David Livingstone, the noted African missionary and explorer. He enlisted in the Union Army under the name of Rupert Vincent. He was wounded near Laurel Hill, Virginia, was captured, and died in the prison camp on December 5, 1864.

Surrounding the burial trenches are three burial sites of 412 soldiers of the Civil War who had been buried at Lexington, Charlotte, Morganton, and other places, and were transferred to the national cemetery in 1866. Most of the soldiers are unknown.

Salisbury National Cemetery is also the burial site of Earl Baker Ruth, a former U. S. Congressman, Navy veteran and Governor of American Samoa. Congressman Ruth was considered an elder statesman of the North Carolina Republican Party. He is buried in Section D, Grave 48.

A carillon was presented by the American Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam (AMVETS) in 1984. It is played at funeral services and ceremonies throughout the year. A plaque recognizing the donation is located beside the walkway leading to the Pennsylvania monument.

A brick, ornamental iron, and concrete rostrum, 15 feet 8 inches in diameter, with ornamental iron framing, was constructed sometime prior to 1932, and was removed in 1946. The structure was taken to the city dump and remained there until approximately 1995. Someone noticed that it was historically significant and had it refurbished by city officials. It is now displayed in the Bell Tower Park on Innes Street in downtown Salisbury. A plaque is affixed to the rostrum which is inscribed as follows:

United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
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Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Salisbury National Cemetery
Rowan County, North Carolina**

Section number 8, 9, 10 Page 14

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The Edgar S. & Madge S. Temple Gazebo
This exquisite wrought iron gazebo is given to the citizens
of Salisbury in honor of Edgar S. & Madge S. Temple by
their family as a beautiful expression of civic pride.

The gazebo, originally located in the Salisbury National
Cemetery, was preserved by Mr. Temple as an important
artifact of Salisbury's history.

The restoration of the gazebo has been made possible by
the J. F. Hurley Foundation.

Photographs 30 and 31 show the plaque and rostrum as they appear today in the Bell Tower Park.

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

Barrett, John G. The Civil War in North Carolina. The University of North Carolina Press, 1963

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

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - UTM REFERENCES (Continued)

POINT	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
5	17	547400	3945900

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Salisbury National Cemetery
Rowan County, North Carolina**

Section number 10 Page 15

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Continued)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries are indicated on the accompanying base map.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Salisbury National Cemetery
Rowan County, North Carolina**

Section number PHOTO Page 16

SALISBURY NATIONAL CEMETERY

Rowan County, North Carolina

Armando A. Sammartino and Margaret Sue Yarborough, photographers

Dates of Photographs: May 13, 1996, and August 1998

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: Historic entrance gate, view looking south

NEG. NO. 65136-16

PHOTO 1 of 31

VIEW OF: Stationary gate at Pigeon Creek, view looking north

NEG. NO. 65137-7

PHOTO 7 of 31

VIEW OF: Gate along Railroad Avenue, view looking north

NEG. NO. 65136-17

PHOTO 2 of 31

VIEW OF: Pigeon Creek drainage ditch

NEG. NO. 65137-9

PHOTO 8 of 31

VIEW OF: Gate along East Monroe Street, view looking south

NEG. NO. 65136-18

PHOTO 3 of 31

VIEW OF: Portion of historic stone wall

NEG. NO. 65137-8

PHOTO 9 of 31

VIEW OF: Maintenance gate along Clay Street, view looking north

NEG. NO. 5126-7

PHOTO 4 of 31

VIEW OF: Flagpole, view looking south

NEG. NO. 65137-22

PHOTO 10 of 31

VIEW OF: Bridge along new service road between older and newer portions of cemetery

NEG. NO. 5126-16

PHOTO 5 of 31

VIEW OF: Lodge, west elevation

NEG. NO. 65137-18

PHOTO 11 of 31

VIEW OF: Pedestrian gate along Clay Street, view looking north

NEG. NO. 5126-10

PHOTO 6 of 31

VIEW OF: Lodge, north elevation

NEG. NO. 65137-19

PHOTO 12 of 31

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Salisbury National Cemetery
Rowan County, North Carolina**

Section number PHOTO Page 17

VIEW OF: Lodge, east elevation
NEG. NO. 65137-17
PHOTO 13 of 31

VIEW OF: Pennsylvania monument
NEG. NO. 65137-2
PHOTO 21 of 31

VIEW OF: Lodge, south elevation
NEG. NO. 65137-15
PHOTO 14 of 31

VIEW OF: All wars monument
NEG. NO. 65136-21
PHOTO 22 of 31

VIEW OF: Utility building, east elevation
NEG. NO. 5126-3
PHOTO 15 of 31

VIEW OF: Burial trenches, view looking south
NEG. NO. 65137-13
PHOTO 23 of 31

VIEW OF: Utility building, north elevation
NEG. NO. 5126-4
PHOTO 16 of 31

VIEW OF: Plaque at burial trenches
NEG. NO. 65137-12
PHOTO 24 of 31

VIEW OF: Utility building, west elevation
NEG. NO. 5126-5
PHOTO 17 of 31

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking west
NEG. NO. 65137-6
PHOTO 25 of 31

VIEW OF: Committal service shelter
NEG. NO. 5126-1
PHOTO 18 of 31

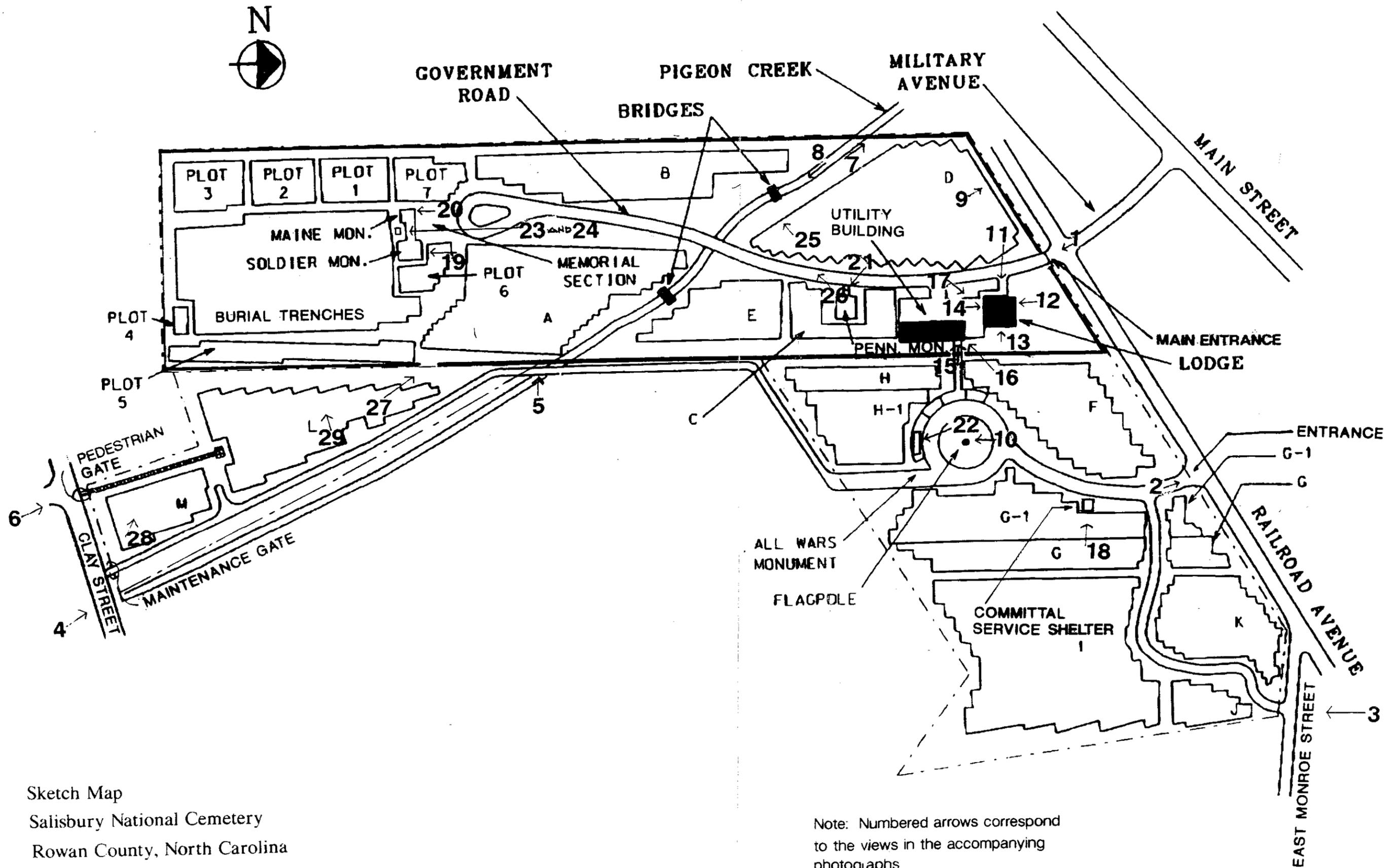
VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking southwest
NEG. NO. 65137-24
PHOTO 26 of 31

VIEW OF: Federal monument to unknown dead
NEG. NO. 65137-10
PHOTO 19 of 31

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking northwest
NEG. NO. 5126-14
PHOTO 27 of 31

VIEW OF: Maine monument
NEG. NO. 65137-11
PHOTO 20 of 31

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking west
NEG. NO. 5126-9
PHOTO 28 of 31



Sketch Map
 Salisbury National Cemetery
 Rowan County, North Carolina

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

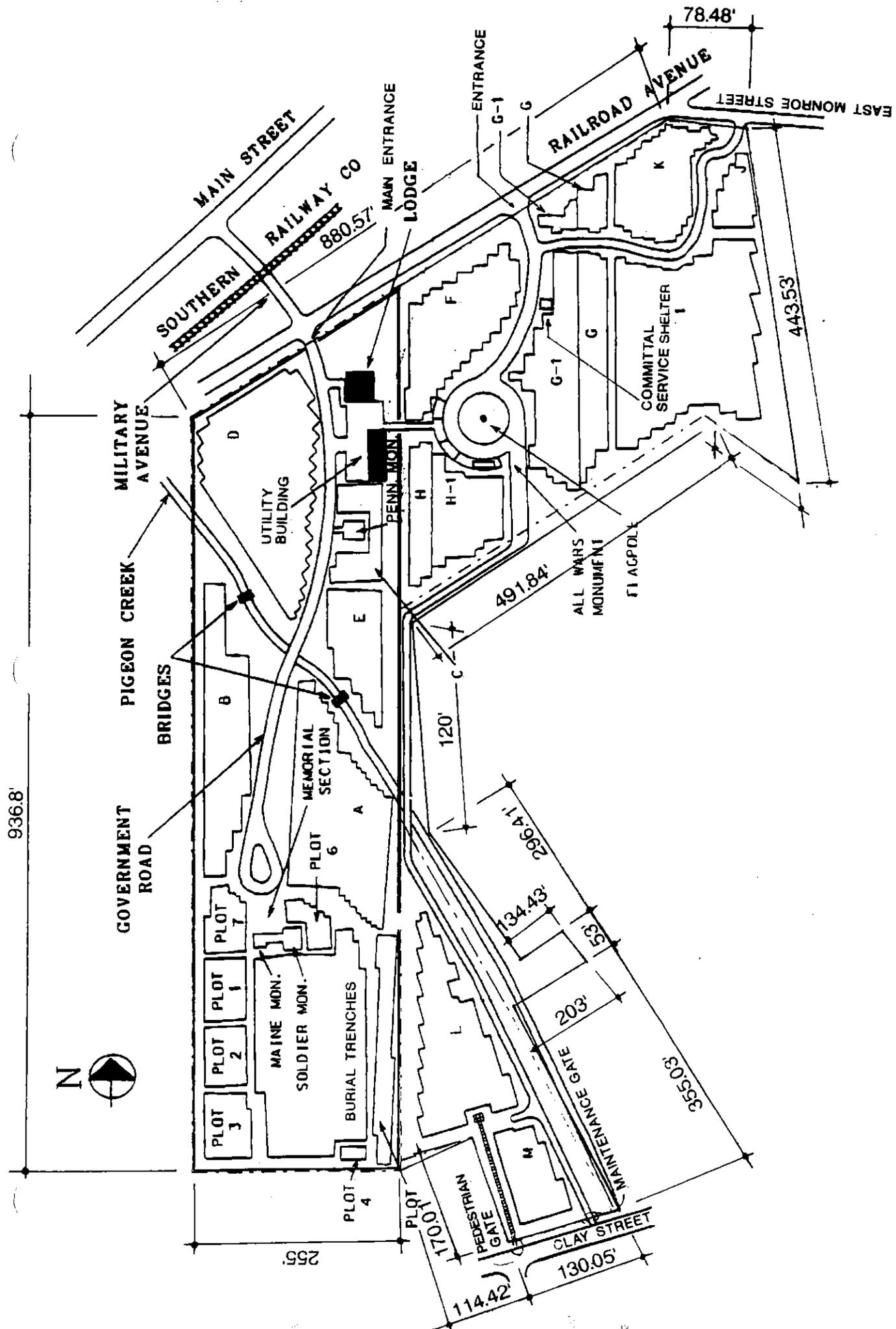
**Salisbury National Cemetery
Rowan County, North Carolina**

Section number PHOTO Page 18

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking southwest
NEG. NO. 5126-13
PHOTO 29 of 31

VIEW OF: Former rostrum, Bell Tower Park
NEG. NO. 5126-20
PHOTO 31 of 31

VIEW OF: Plaque at Bell Tower Park
identifying former rostrum
NEG. NO. 5126-21
PHOTO 30 of 31



Base Map
 Salisbury National Cemetery
 Rowan County, North Carolina

E.O. 11593

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY NOTIFICATION National Register of Historic Places National Park Service

Name of property: Salisbury National Cemetery

Location: Salisbury, Rowan County

State: NC

Request submitted by: Veterans Admin/Gjore Mollenhoff

Date received: 10-7-83

Additional information received:

Opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer:

Eligible

Not Eligible

No Response

Comments:

The Secretary of the Interior has determined that this property is:

Eligible

Applicable criteria:

Not Eligible

Comments:

36 CFR Part 63.2
Determination

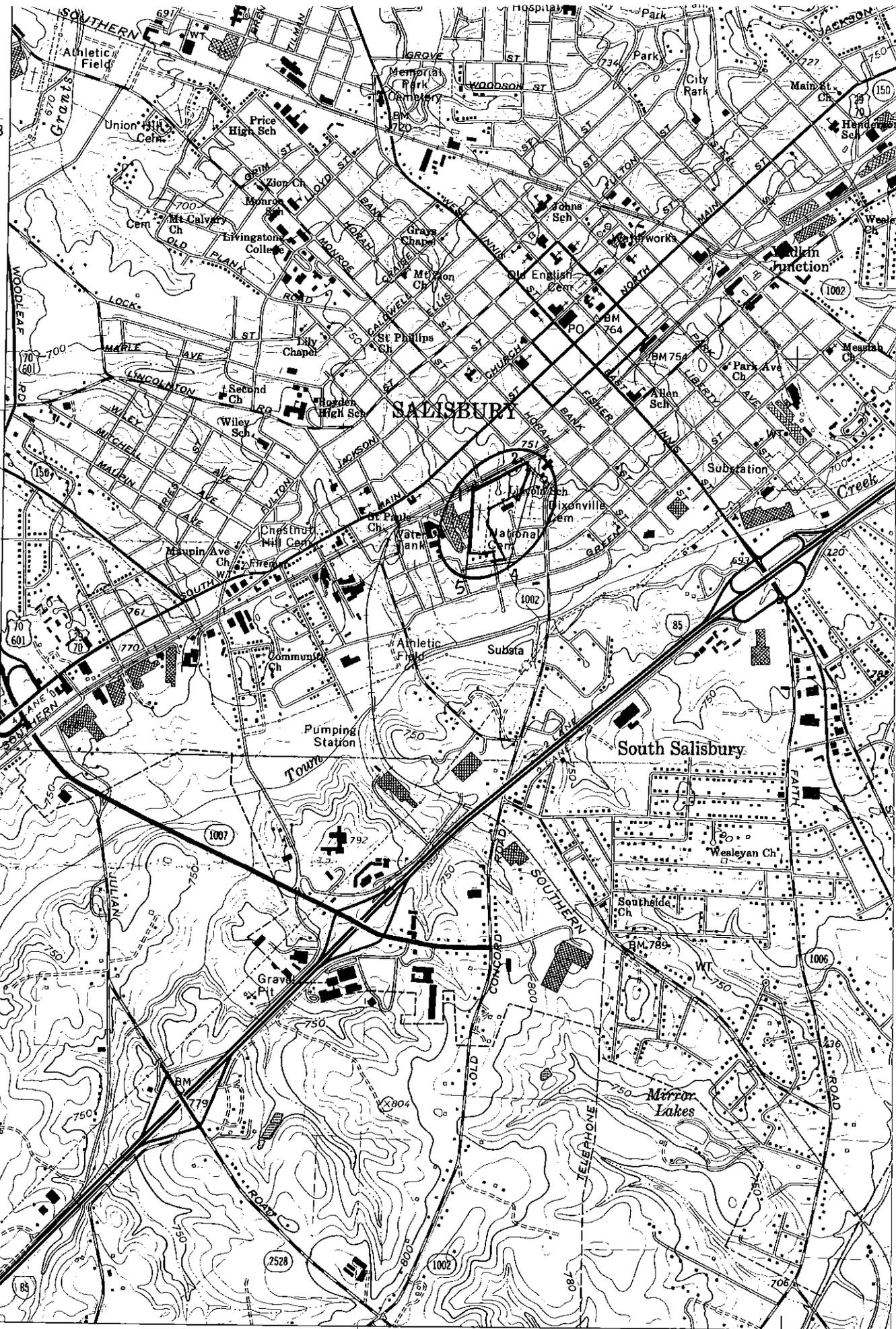
Documentation insufficient

(Please see accompanying sheet explaining additional materials required)

for Beth Savage
Keeper of the National Register
Determined Eligible

Date: October 20, 1983

SALISBURY QUAD
 showing Nat'l
 network
 within city
 7/57740/3946200
 7/57780/3946400
 7/57820/3946600
 7/57860/3946800
 7/57900/3947000



690 000
FEET

35° 37' 30" 80° 30' 546 1 560 000 FEET 548 FAITH 2.7 MI. 27' 30" GRANITE ALBE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS

CHINA GROVE
 1955 11 SE

