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  San Antonio National Cemetery

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number  517 Paso Hondo Street

not for publication  N/A

city or town  San Antonio

vicinity

state  Texas  code  TX  county  Bexar  code  029  zip code  78202

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  state or local. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date  9-29-99

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of Keeper  Date of Action

Edison W. Ball  11/22/99
San Antonio National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, Texas
County and State

5. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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<td>(Check as many boxes as apply)</td>
<td>(Check only one box)</td>
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<td>□ object</td>
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Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

6. Function or Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Functions</th>
<th>Current Functions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Enter categories from instructions)</td>
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7. Description

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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 commemorulative 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
1867-1949

Significant Dates
1867

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository

Department of Veterans Affairs
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  3.7

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

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

MATERIALS

Other: Marble, granite

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The San Antonio National Cemetery is located at 517 Paso Hondo Street, San Antonio, Texas, in Bexar County. The grounds, rectangular in shape, are laid off into burial sections with a large circular plot at either end. The national cemetery is surrounded on all sides by the city cemeteries. The main entrance is located on the south side and is enclosed by an iron gate, four feet wide and five feet high, with carriage gates on each side. A similar gate is located on the north side of the cemetery with carriage gates, and from it extends a drive to the eastern circle. The site was originally enclosed by a limestone wall laid in cement and covered with a heavy coping, leveled on top and projecting three inches over each side. It is now enclosed by a stone wall, 4 feet high, 20 inches wide with a concrete coping four inches thick and two feet wide, constructed in 1939. The flagpole is situated in the center of the eastern circle, and a rostrum is located just to the west of the main entrance.

There are over 250 private headstones in the cemetery ranging from simple markers to elaborate monuments dating back to 1853. These monuments have been erected at private expense and are of many designs, constructed of durable stone, granite, and marble. Twelve graves in Section A are completely covered by marble slabs. All other graves are marked with upright marble headstones. As of May 31, 1999, there were 3,010 sites used for the interment of 3,162 casketed remains and 0 sites used for the interment of cremated remains. As of May 31, 1999, there were 23 gravesites available (all reserved) for the interment of casketed remains and 317 sites available for the interment of cremated remains. The cemetery closed in 1961.

Section A within the eastern circle, is an officers’ burial section, and Section J within the western circle was used for burial of the soldiers who died at the military post of San Antonio. Section D was originally a colored section.

A stone pagoda-type rostrum was constructed in 1890 at a cost of approximately $1,500. The structure is located to the east of the main entrance. The tin roof, as well as the columns, were removed in 1957.
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

There is one commemorative monument in the national cemetery:

UNKNOWN DEAD - The granite monument, 58 inches wide by 50 inches high by 25 inches thick, erected in 1912, is located in Section H, and is inscribed as follows:

TO THE UNKNOWN DEAD

The remains are interred in Graves 27 and 28, and are soldiers who were originally buried in the post cemeteries at Fort Concho, Texas. Fort Concho was a frontier Army post in San Angelo, Texas, from 1867-1899, and over 125 soldiers and military dependents buried in its cemeteries were disinterred and moved to the San Antonio National Cemetery in 1884 and 1898. After almost a century, researchers determined the names of 35 Fort Concho soldiers previously listed as unknown, 20 of which were members of the 10th Cavalry, an Army unit made up of black soldiers. After dozens of clashes with Indian warriors, Native Americans called the men “Buffalo Soldiers.” The 10th took it as a compliment and adopted the sacred buffalo as a symbol for its regimental crest. The inscription on a bronze plaque mounted on a granite base in front of this monument is inscribed as follows:

“OF THE UNKNOWN DEAD BURIED HERE IN THE EIGHTEEN HUNDREDS, THIS MONUMENT HONORS 35 SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY DURING THE INDIAN WARS AND WERE RECENTLY IDENTIFIED THROUGH RESEARCH AT FORT CONCHO NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK, SAN ANGELO, TEXAS, 1992,” followed by the names, regiments and the years of birth and death for each of these 35 soldiers.

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

Sites: Cemetery

Structures: Entrance gates (2), rostrum, perimeter wall

Objects: Flagpole, Unknown monument
NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The San Antonio 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.

A variety of ways was considered to end the period of significance. Since the contributing resources date as far back as 1890, and a reasonable date could not be defined to end the period, the date of 1949 (50 years ago) was used.

At the end of the Mexican War in 1848, San Antonio became the military headquarters of the Department of Texas and held this position until the passage of the ordinance of secession in February 1861. Soon after the fall of the Southern Confederacy, the military headquarters of this Department were again established here.

All of the military forces in Texas were surrendered to rebel forces in 1861. Though some of these resources were used to support the Confederate cause, a considerable effort was required to protect the frontier from hostile Indians in the absence of Federal troops. In 1865, Federal troops returned to San Antonio to resume operations on the frontier. The Army had leased buildings for its activities until the mid-1870’s, when the city of San Antonio donated land for a permanent military post (Fort Sam Houston).

The national cemetery was established in 1867 and the original site, comprising part of the city cemetery, was donated to the United States by the City of San Antonio. The original deed having been lost, a new deed was executed by the City on April 14, 1871, conveying approximately 1.9 acres of land. An additional tract of land was acquired from the City in 1884 for the sum of $500. This deed, dated April 10, 1884, conveyed approximately 1.8 acres of land, bringing the total acreage to 3.7 acres.

When the cemetery was established, it was under the charge of the officer of the Quartermaster’s department at the military station in San Antonio. An inspection report dated February 6, 1871, indicated that a man was hired by the Quartermaster’s department to take charge of it under the immediate direction of the post quartermaster. The man was paid $30 per month and one ration per day. The first superintendent of the national cemetery was Peter McKenna who was appointed in 1874 and was paid $60 per month. The last superintendent was Arthur W. Kerr, who served from 1974-1975. Since that time, the maintenance of the cemetery has been performed under contract with a private firm.
NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  (Continued)

Original burials were remains from the city cemetery and Austin, Indianola, Solado, and nearby places in the state.

Some noted burials in the cemetery include:

General John L. Bullis, for whom Camp Bullis was named. Camp Bullis was established on September 12, 1917, as a target and maneuver range for Fort Sam Houston and Camp Travis, Texas. The monument at his grave (Grave 174, Section A) is inscribed as follows:

GEN. JOHN L. BULLIS
U. S. ARMY
APR 17, 1841                     May 26, 1911

JOSEPHINE W. BULLIS
SEPT. 8, 1865                    DEC. 3, 1934

LYDIA L. BULLIS
SEPT. 7, 1892                    SEPT. 20, 1973

Corporal Harry M. Wurzbach, a member of the United States Congress. His monument at Grave 274, Section J, is inscribed as follows:

EAST SIDE

HARRY M. WURZBACH
CORP., CO. F, 1ST TEXAS VOL. INF.
MAY 19, 1874 – NOV. 6, 1931

HIS WIFE
FRANCES HARDEN WURZBACH
DIED JUNE 12, 1974

WEST SIDE

WURZBACH
MEMBER OF U. S. CONGRESS
NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  (Continued)

Gustav Schleicher, a German-born immigrant who became a Texas state representative and senator and was elected to the United States House of Representatives. The monument at his grave (Grave 140, Section A) is inscribed as follows:

WEST SIDE

GUSTAV SCHLEICHER
BORN IN DARMSTADT GERMANY
NOVEMBER 19, 1823
DIED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
JANUARY 10, 1879
BECAME A CITIZEN OF TEXAS
IN 1847
SCHLEICHER

SOUTH SIDE

ELECTED IN 1853 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND IN 1859 TO THE SENATE OF THE STATE MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM 1874 UNTIL HIS DEATH.

EAST SIDE

ERECTED TO HIS MEMORY
BY HIS FRIENDS AND CONSTITUENTS OF WESTERN TEXAS
A.D. 1885.

NORTH SIDE

A MAN OF GREAT GIFTS
OF MIND AND WINNING QUALITIES OF HEART.
SCHOLAR LEGISLATOR
AND STATESMAN -
EMINENT AMONG THE GREAT
NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Lt. George E. M. Kelly, for whom Kelly Air Force Base was named. His marker at Grave 117-A, Section A, is inscribed as follows:

GEORGE E. M. KELLY  
2D LIEUT, 30TH U.S. INFANTRY  
BORN DEC. 11, 1878  
KILLED MAY 10, 1911  
ON AERONAUTICAL DUTY AT  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Colonel G. M. Brooke, founder of Tampa, Florida, as a military fort. The private monument to him was removed in 1947 or 1948. It was of concrete and stucco construction with a marble inscription plate and had deteriorated badly. A regulation government headstone now marks his grave (Grave 69, Section A).

There are 256 known Buffalo soldiers buried in the San Antonio National Cemetery. These soldiers played a key role in the development of the West. In 1866, shortly after the Civil War, four new U. S. Army regiments began a lonesome duty in some of the harshest Western territory this country had to offer. These units of black soldiers were designated as the 24th and 25th Infantry and the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry. Their orders were to protect settlers moving West and fledgling railroad construction, to suppress hostile Indian attacks and to guard the U. S. mail. After dozens of clashes with Indian warriors, the men became known as “Buffalo Soldiers,” a name they wore like a badge of honor. They helped to maintain law and order and to pursue outlaws, cattle thieves, and even Mexican revolutionaries. They built or renovated dozens of Army posts and camps, strung thousands of miles of telegraph lines and mapped uncharted wilderness.

Twelve Chinese persons are buried in Section H. Employees who were working with the Quartermaster say that these Chinese came out of Mexico with the Expeditionary Forces of General John J. Pershing. When they arrived at Camp Travis, the Quartermaster established a camp for them. It was known as the Chinese refugee camp. They were employed by the Quartermaster at different jobs around the post and were also helped to get jobs in town. Some served as servants to General Pershing.
NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

There are thirteen Medal of Honor recipients buried in the national cemetery. The headstone at each grave is inscribed with an enlarged gold-leaved replica of the medal of the awarding service and the words “MEDAL OF HONOR.” Four of these soldiers were originally buried in the cemetery, as their remains were not identifiable. Research later revealed their names, and Medal of Honor headstones in their memory have been erected in Section MA, the memorial section. The nine known burials are as follows:

**David B. Barkeley, Private, U. S. Army, Company A, 356th Infantry, 89th Division** – Near Pouilly, France, on November 9, 1918, when information was desired as to the enemy’s position on the opposite side of the Meuse River, Private Barkeley, with another soldier, volunteered without hesitation and swam the river to reconnoiter the exact location. He succeeded in reaching the opposite bank, despite the evident determination of the enemy to prevent a crossing. Having obtained his information, he again entered the water for his return, but before his goal was reached, he was seized with cramps and drowned. He is buried in Section G, Grave 1302.

**Frederick Deetline, Private, Company D, 7th U. S. Cavalry** – At Little Big Horn, Montana, on June 25, 1876, he voluntarily brought water to the wounded under fire. He is buried in Section G, Grave 921.

**John Harrington, Private, Company H, 6th U. S. Cavalry** – At Wichita River, Texas, on September 12, 1874, while carrying dispatches, he was attacked by 125 hostile Indians, whom he and his comrades fought throughout the day. He was severely wounded in the hip and unable to move. He continued to fight, defending an exposed dying man. He is buried in Section F, Grave 1012.

**Henry Falcott, Sergeant, Company L, 8th U. S. Cavalry** – He was awarded the Medal for bravery in scouts and actions against Indians in Arizona from August to October 1868. He is buried in Section F, Grave 918.

**Henry A. McMasters, Corporal, Company A, 4th U. S. Cavalry** – He was awarded the Medal for gallantry in action at Red River, Texas, on September 29, 1872. He is buried in Section D, Grave 729.

**James J. Nash, Private, Company F, 10th U. S. Infantry** – At Santiago, Cuba, on July 1, 1898, he gallantly assisted in the rescue of wounded from in front of the lines and under heavy fire from the enemy. He is buried in Section T, Grave 1461-A.

**Solon D. Neal, Private, Company L, 6th U. S. Cavalry** – He was awarded the Medal for gallantry in action at Wichita River, Texas, on July 12, 1870. He is buried in Section G, Grave 1323.
NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Simon Suhler, Private, Company B, 8th U. S. Cavalry – He was cited while serving under the alias of Charles Gardner for bravery in scouts and actions against Indians, from August to October 1868, in Arizona. He was born in Bavaria and immigrated to the United States sometime before 1861, when he enlisted in the 32nd Indiana Volunteers. He was wounded at Shiloh, captured at the Battle of Chickamauga, and paroled to a Union hospital at St. Louis. He disappeared and was classified as a deserter. In June 1863, he enlisted in the 4th New York Heavy Artillery using his mother’s maiden name, Newstattel. He served until the end of the war and was mustered out in September 1865. He then traveled west to San Francisco, where on October 15, 1866, he joined the 8th Cavalry under the name Charles Gardner. Private Gardner was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1868 and was recommended for promotion to second lieutenant, although this did not happen. After being discharged in 1878, Suhler moved to San Antonio. He died on May 16, 1895. His true story finally came to light in 1987 through the efforts of a Suhler family historian and a frontier history buff in Texas. The headstone at his grave is marked with his correct name. He is buried in Section I, Grave 1610.

Lewis Warrington, First Lieutenant, 4th U. S. Cavalry – He was awarded the Medal for gallantry in combat with five Indians at Muchague Valley, Texas, on December 8, 1874. He is buried in Section A, Grave 60.

The four Medal of Honor recipients who are buried in the cemetery as unknowns and are memorialized in the memorial section are as follows:

William H. Barnes, Private, Company C, 38th U. S. Colored Troops – At Chapin’s Farm, Virginia, on September 29, 1864, although wounded, he was among the first to enter the enemy’s works. He is memorialized in Section MA, Grave 86.

George W. Smith, Private, Company M, 6th U. S. Cavalry – On September 12, 1874, at Washita River, Texas, while carrying dispatches, he was attacked by 125 hostile Indians, whom he and his comrades fought throughout the day. Private Smith was mortally wounded during the engagement and died early the next day. He is memorialized in Section MA, Grave 87.

John J. Given, Corporal, Company K, 6th U. S. Cavalry – He was awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery in action on July 12, 1870, at Wichita River, Texas. He is memorialized in Section MA, Grave 88.
NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

William De Armond, Sergeant, Company I, 5th U. S. Infantry – He was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in action from September 9-11, 1874, at Upper Washita, Texas. He is memorialized in Section MA, Grave 89.

STRUCTURES DEMOLISHED

LODGES

The first lodge was built circa 1874. It was a small stone building containing two rooms. It was stuccoed on the outside and had a very high steep roof. When a new lodge was built in 1878, the old one was used as an office and finally as a chapel. This structure was demolished in 1945. The lodge built in 1878 was a one-and-one-half-story rubble stone structure. It was demolished in 1910 and a replacement brown brick veneer lodge was constructed. It was a two-story building with three bedrooms and a basement. The lodge had a concrete foundation, wooden floors and a slate roof. This building was removed in June 1976.

UTILITY BUILDING

The main portion of this building was constructed in 1919. In 1950, a new garage was added in lieu of a wooden shed type garage which had been added in 1937. A fireproof paint and oil storage room was constructed and minor alterations to other parts of the building were accomplished in 1950. Two public restrooms were in this building.

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


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.
SAN ANTONIO NATIONAL CEMETERY
Bexar County, Texas
Louis Sinclair, photographer
Date of Photographs: May 18, 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: Main entrance gates, view looking north
NEG. NO. 9205-2
PHOTO 1 of 16

VIEW OF: Gate on north side of cemetery
NEG. NO. 9205-10
PHOTO 2 of 16

VIEW OF: Flagpole, view looking north
NEG. NO. 9205-3
PHOTO 3 of 16

VIEW OF: Perimeter wall along east side
NEG. NO. 9205-4
PHOTO 4 of 16

VIEW OF: Rostrum
NEG. NO. 9205-6
PHOTO 5 of 16

VIEW OF: Memorial to the unknown dead
NEG. NO. 9205-15
PHOTO 6 of 16

VIEW OF: Plaque in front of memorial to the unknown dead
NEG. NO. 9205-16
PHOTO 7 of 16

VIEW OF: Schleicher monument
NEG. NO. 9205-8
PHOTO 8 of 16

VIEW OF: Wurzbach grave
NEG. NO. 9205-12
PHOTO 9 of 16

VIEW OF: Kelly grave
NEG. NO. 9205-9
PHOTO 10 of 16

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking west
NEG. NO. 9205-20
PHOTO 11 of 16

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking southeast
NEG. NO. 9205-17
PHOTO 12 of 16

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking southeast
NEG. NO. 9205-19
PHOTO 13 of 16

VIEW OF: Cemetery, view looking east
NEG. NO. 9205-14
PHOTO 14 of 16
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Civil War Era National Cemeteries**

**San Antonio National Cemetery**

Bexar County, Texas

**VIEW OF:** Cemetery, view looking north  
NEG. NO. 9205-11  
PHOTO 15 of 16

**VIEW OF:** Cemetery, view looking northeast  
NEG. NO. 9205-5  
PHOTO 16 of 16
Sketch Map
San Antonio National Cemetery
Bexar County, Texas

Note: Numbered arrows correspond to the views in the accompanying photographs
HARRY M. WURZBACH
CIVIL WAR VETERAN 1861-1865
MAY 19, 1824 - NOV. 6, 1931
FRANCES DADEN WURZBACH
DIED JUNE 12, 1974