

Fort Bliss National Cemetery

Name of Property

El Paso, Texas

County and State

with Texas Pink Granite bases. Stone finials cap the four main roughly 16-foot-tall posts, while the central post has a rounded pediment and the Great Seal of the United States in bas-relief on the front elevation. The central post connects to the flanking posts by iron picket fences and simple buttresses with scrolled caps. The side gateposts connect to a short wall with scroll-top, Mission-style coping. The gateposts, featuring simple hipped caps, flank the pedestrian entrances (4½ foot opening) and join the curved entrance wall; the latter is painted stone measuring approximately 6 feet tall and 1½ feet thick.

Installed in 1941 is a standard bronze plaque on the east gatepost of the main entrance gates. The plaque is in the 1930s style with an eagle and the words “Fort Bliss National Cemetery.” On the west gatepost of the main entrance, is another standard bronze plaque installed ca. 1973 that reads, “Veterans Administration, 1930.”

Located at the rear of the cemetery along its southern border terminating at Haan Road, these double iron-picket vehicular gates attach to uncoursed-rubble stone gateposts. These 1914-constructed gates served as the main entrance to the Post Cemetery. This entrance became a service gate ca. 1939, when contractors constructed the main entrance on Fred Wilson Avenue. As the original wall received additional stone courses, the height of the stone walls adjacent to the gateposts increased (see Wall – Post Section).

Built by the Works Progress Administration and completed by April 19, 1940, the native stone wall originally ran the entire perimeter of the national cemetery; it measures approximately 1,100 feet along the south and north borders, and 2,800 feet on the east and west borders. Built of irregularly coursed, rough-cut rubble granite, the wall is about 6 feet high by 1½ feet wide, with interior stone buttresses. Two openings in the wall in the northwest corner of the cemetery accommodate the extension of North Drive into a newer section, and a view southeastward into the historic Post Cemetery. Otherwise, the wall remains intact and in good condition with good historic integrity.

Rostrum: The raised Neoclassical rostrum, completed December 7, 1940, stands within Section I on axis with the entrance. Constructed of Texas Pink Granite with a concrete foundation, the rostrum has a wood cornice and beadboard ceiling. Built by H.C. Shelton and Sons of Lawton, Oklahoma, the rostrum is semicircular in plan, featuring square posts set on square bases with recessed panels. Posts along the rear (south) elevation feature pilasters on the exterior and interior. The front elevation includes a central, integrated podium of Texas Pink Granite. It connects to flanking posts by a simple picket balustrade. A projecting cornice with closely spaced, decorative scroll-sawn rafter tails circumscribes the flat roof. Stairs lead to the rostrum from the rear elevation. The rostrum is approximately 353½ square feet, with a radius of 15½ feet and a foundation height of more than 3 feet. It is 11½ feet from the ground to the cornice line. Five circular, bronze military service insignia on metal posts are adjacent to and north of the rostrum, Section I. Each measure approximately 2 feet tall and represents one of the five branches of the United States Military. The cemetery installed these in the past few decades.

Fort Bliss National Cemetery

Name of Property

El Paso, Texas

County and State

that cemetery funds had to bear the expense of relocating the polo field if the Office of the Quartermaster General chose this location. Colonel Harris wrote in March 15, 1939, that the Office of the Quartermaster General established the final location, and urged preparation of the cemetery for burials as soon as possible. Harris expected to complete the grave layout by April. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) funded the polo field relocation.²⁴

The plan encompassed 60 acres in a rectangular shape, including the old Post Cemetery. Plans outlined the entrance to the Post Cemetery on the southern border of the property, and the entrance to the national cemetery on the north border along Fred Wilson Avenue. A newspaper article from April 1939 published a rendering of the cemetery's proposed entrance showing with the superintendent's lodge, utility building, gates, and flagpole (fig. 1). The rendering shows the area dense with mature trees, shrubs, and grassy lawns. As the cemetery developed, the placement of the front gates, roads, flagpole, and lodge followed the plan portrayed in the rendering. Two entrance gates joined by a central fence and grassy island accommodated a boulevard running on axis south to the flagpole circle. Sidewalks lined the west road and encircled the flagpole plaza.

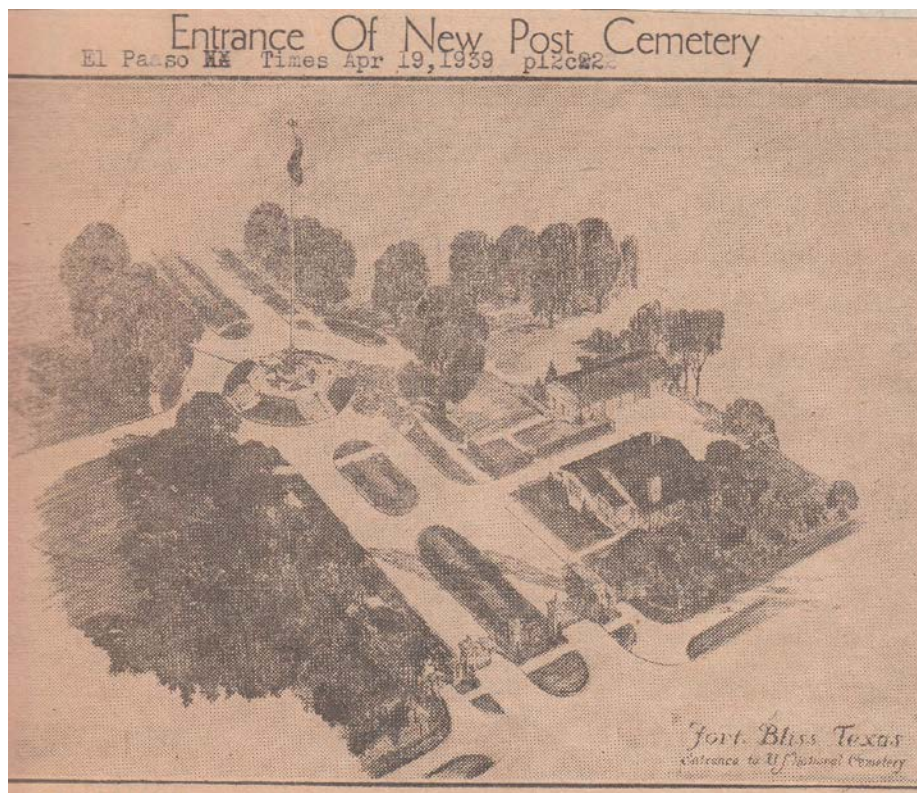


Fig. 1 Rendering of Fort Bliss National Cemetery, 1939.

²⁴ Col. John T. Harris, Quartermaster Corps (QMC), to Quartermaster, 8th Corps Area, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, February 13, 1939, Folder 687 Fort Bliss 1940, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP; Col. James R. Hill, QMC, to Col. John T. Harris, Office of the Quartermaster, Washington, DC, March 3, 1939, Folder 687 Fort Bliss 1940, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP; Capt. H.O. Godwin, Constructing Quartermaster, QMC, to the Quartermaster General, Washington, DC, March 25, 1939, Folder 687 Fort Bliss 1940, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

Fort Bliss National Cemetery
Name of Property

El Paso, Texas
County and State

Southwest of the entrance were the lodge, along with a parking lot and utility southwest of the building. A 1948 aerial view of the cemetery confirms that the plans in the rendering came to fruition (fig. 2)

Fig. 2 Aerial view of cemetery grounds, 1948 (USASC)



Fort Bliss National Cemetery

Name of Property

El Paso, Texas

County and State

This view also reveals that the burials began in the northern half of Section E, adjacent to North Drive. Letters designated burial sections, and the road system served as dividing lines for most of the interior sections. Rectangular sections of varying size enclosed the road system.²⁵

The setting of the new national cemetery was initially somewhat disparate; a desert and large fort nursery to the east, and a polo field to the west. To the south was a portion of the fort and open land traversed east-to-west by Cemetery Road, which accessed the original entrance to the Post Cemetery. The area to the north was crossed by Fred Wilson Avenue and beyond that a barren tract containing an east-to-west railroad and a spur that ran south along the east side of the cemetery property.²⁶

During the planning phase of the cemetery in March 1939, Colonel Harris developed a site plan in anticipation of the cemetery superintendent using the layout to plan burials. The construction of the roads and sidewalks was a secondary consideration for the War Department, which suggested that it was necessary to “proceed along certain lines and first construct the buildings and inclosure (sic), flagstaff and base,” and then work on roads, curbs, and water and sewer systems. Workers completed the superintendent’s lodge, utility building, and entrance gates by early October 1939, while the flagstaff and base neared completion by that time. To expedite construction and meet the opening date deadline in March 1940, workers laid out approximately 400 feet of the northernmost part of the cemetery with paved concrete curbed streets. The Office of the Constructing Quartermaster commented in an April 24, 1940 letter that although the office recommended asphalt, workers used concrete due to extreme heat. The Southwest heat had a tendency to cook the oil out of the black asphalt roads carrying little traffic, causing them to crumble and check badly. The same letter reported the recent completion of the cemetery wall and the start on the rostrum. Improvements such as the construction of roads, walks, curbs, water and sewer system, seeding, landscaping and fertilizing soon followed.²⁷

In 1944, a representative from the Quartermaster General’s office recommended planting grass throughout the entire cemetery property instead of just in the sections where burials occurred. He excluded from his recommendation a small 5-acre plot at the extreme south end of the property used as a nursery for the cemetery. At the time, World War II prisoners of war (POWs) maintained the grass and planted trees and shrubs. The cemetery installed a sprinkler system in 1944-45, and cemetery Superintendent Anthony J. Nettke continued to plant palm trees, shrubs, and grass during his tenure; he transferred to Golden Gate National Cemetery in 1945. Despite the desert conditions, grass planted in the cemetery survived enough that by 1947, a newspaper article described the “green-carpeted grass” in the cemetery. A 1948 aerial view of the cemetery depicts a concentration of oak and elm trees in the post section, with young ash trees planted

²⁵ “Entrance of New Post Cemetery,” *El Paso Times*, April 19, 1939; USASC, April 15, 1948.

²⁶ USASC, April 15, 1948; “Beautiful Site at Fort Bliss May Become National Cemetery,” *World News*, May 24, 1936.

²⁷ Secretary of War Harry H. Woodring, to Hon. R.E. Thomason, Washington, DC, October 4, 1939, Folder 687 Fort Bliss 1940, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP; Maj. Barlow Winston, Constructing Quartermaster, QMC, to Col. Charles C. Reynolds, QMC, Washington, DC, April 24, 1940, Folder 687 Fort Bliss 1940, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

Fort Bliss National Cemetery

Name of Property

El Paso, Texas

County and State

along the roadways forming allées. A few cypress trees adorned the front part of the cemetery and flared out in a line around the sides and rear of the rostrum. Grass is present in a somewhat patchwork appearance. Dark circles on the image represent the locations of thriving grass within the reach of revolving water sprinklers.²⁸

Labor hired for the cemetery and through the WPA constructed the national cemetery. The New Deal labor program, begun in 1935, primarily completed small-scale new construction, rehabilitation, and/or landscape improvement projects that could be completed in a year or less. In addition to the initial cemetery appropriations in excess of \$44,000, the cemetery received a second \$25,000 WPA project, of which approximately \$22,000 paid for labor and \$3,000 for supplies. This left Captain H.O. Godwin, Constructing Quartermaster of Fort Bliss, responsible for supplying labor for general clearing and grading, and quarrying stone for the wall. Godwin requested an additional \$56,260 in March 1939 for labor and materials needed to create infrastructure and roads. Local veteran groups continued to support the cemetery's establishment and in an April 24, 1939 letter to Senator Morris Sheppard (D-TX), noted that the cemetery needed an additional \$60,000 to accelerate its construction to meet the needs of the significant number of military personnel in El Paso. Representatives from two camps of United Spanish War veterans, three Veterans of Foreign Wars, three American Legion posts, and one Retired Personnel Association lobbied for the opening and dedication of a new national cemetery at Fort Bliss; advocates from the nearby base joined their cause. By October 1939, the request for appropriations resulted in another \$75,000 allotment from the WPA for completion of a stone wall, roads, and other work.²⁹

The initial flurry of construction at the cemetery accomplished a great deal. WPA labor built the native rubble-stone wall that encloses the cemetery, which was completed on April 19, 1940. Workers completed the flagstaff and base, which featured Texas Pink Granite, on September 28, 1939. Local contractor J.E. Morgan and Sons of El Paso built the one-story utility building (no longer extant), the superintendent's lodge, and the entrance gates and fences, which all had an official completion date of September 9, 1939. The buildings and gates utilized similar materials and styles to convey a harmonious group of structures; stucco and stone convey the Spanish Revival style, reflecting the architectural traditions typifying the American Southwest. An unknown builder completed the Texas Pink Granite rostrum, located centrally on the cemetery grounds, on December 7, 1940.³⁰

Levering Brothers, Inc., the company that fabricated the bronze *General Orders No. 80, National Cemetery Act, Memorial Day Order*, and "Gettysburg Address" plaques for Baltimore, Fort Sam Houston, Long Island, Fort Rosecrans, and Fort Snelling national cemeteries, sent a similar style

²⁸ "Fort Bliss National Cemetery Cont'd," no date, HPC, NCA, Washington, DC; "Cemeteries Prepared for War Dead," *El Paso Times*, September 14, 1947; USASC, April 15, 1948; "Fort Bliss N/C," no date, HPC, NCA, Washington, DC.

²⁹ Godwin to Quartermaster General, March 25, 1939; John H. McCormack and Joseph Bradford, to Hon. Morris Sheppard, Washington, DC, April 24, 1939, Folder 687 Fort Bliss 1940, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP; Woodring to Thomason, October 4, 1939.

³⁰ War Department, "Buildings and Utilities, Fort Bliss National Cemetery," photocopy, HPC, NCA, Washington, DC; Winston to Reynolds, April 24, 1940.

Fort Bliss National Cemetery

Name of Property

El Paso, Texas

County and State

of plaque to Fort Bliss National Cemetery, and perhaps to Golden Gate National Cemetery, but they were subsequently removed. Golden Gate and Fort Bliss national cemeteries now have similar plaques dating to 2011 and 2012, respectively.³¹ Such plaques are common installations at national cemeteries. However, this style of plaque, set upon an upright granite stand, may be specific to Inter-World War cemeteries.

The War Department (renamed the Department of Defense in 1949) pressured for money and materials as well as the order of construction in an effort to open the cemetery “without sacrificing the plan for establishing a national cemetery at Fort Bliss of such beauty of layout, construction and general planning that it will be a national shrine.” The efforts resulted in the first burial in the new cemetery on March 7, 1940: Sgt. James F. Featherstone, Quartermaster Corps, in Section E, Grave 8741.³²

Fort Bliss National Cemetery hosted a dedication ceremony ten days later on Sunday, March 17. The event had more than 1,000 attendees. Right Rev. Frederick B. Howden, Episcopal bishop for New Mexico and Southwest Texas, delivered the dedication address. Other speakers followed, including former Mayor Tom Lea, as spokesmen for the veteran organizations. He predicted that the cemetery would earn the moniker “Arlington of the Southwest.” Congressman R.E. Thomason, one of the men responsible for drafting the legislation to create the cemetery, sent his regards from Washington, DC and complimented the veterans of El Paso for their “unselfish and unremitting efforts” to obtain a suitable burial place. The simple ceremony included a performance of the National Anthem by the 7th Cavalry Band, an invocation by a reverend, and a benediction by a rabbi.³³

Cemetery director Anthony J. Nettke continued to improve the cemetery grounds through the early 1940s. Nettke occasionally used POWs imprisoned at Fort Bliss for labor. Italian and German POWs fertilized grassy areas and areas soon to be planted with grass and planted trees and shrubs in 1944. In summer 1945, Nettke supervised German POWs painting the interior of the lodge building, and “an excellent job was performed.”³⁴

Changes and Improvements

Following completion of the construction of the Fort Bliss National Cemetery in the late 1930s and early 1940s, the landscape did not markedly change during the subsequent sixty years. By 1965, the developed areas of the cemetery stretched from Fred Wilson Boulevard to First Drive

³¹ C.C. Reynolds, Col., QMC, to BNC Supt., July 26, 1940, Folder 293.6, BNC Baltimore, Maryland 1940, GCGF 1936-45, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

³² Woodring to Thomason, October 4, 1939; “Cemeteries Prepared,” 1947.

³³ “El Paso Joins Army in Dedication of New National Cemetery Here,” *El Paso Times*, March 18, 1940; “Program, Dedication Exercises held at Fort Bliss National Cemetery,” March 17, 1940, Folder 687 Fort Bliss 1940, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

³⁴ “Fort Bliss National Cemetery Cont’d,” no date.

Fort Bliss National Cemetery

Name of Property

El Paso, Texas

County and State

South, in addition to the Post Cemetery. By 1988, plans commenced to develop the proposed Center Drive South and Second Drive South in the southern half of the property.³⁵

As with other national cemeteries, Fort Bliss has a number of notable burials, including Medal of Honor recipients and Colonel Bliss, for whom the fort was named. In 1955, the City of New Orleans condemned the decaying Girod Street Cemetery, which included the grave and monument for Colonel William Wallace Smith Bliss, to make way for a new building and highway. The Army took this opportunity to remove Bliss's remains and the large marble grave monument. A cast-iron coffin reportedly perfectly preserved Bliss' remains, which a glass casket window displayed. He was reburied in the Fort Bliss National Cemetery in the grass traffic island on axis with the cemetery entrance. A standard, marble headstone marked the grave.³⁶

By the end of 1968, the cemetery had 3,222 interments, with almost 17 acres undeveloped. In 1984, the VA reduced grave size from 5 feet x10 feet to the smaller 4 feet x 8 feet in an effort to extend the life of national cemeteries; here the change resulted in an additional six years of burials. At the time, Fort Bliss National Cemetery marked interments by laying flat granite markers in Sections C1 and H in the northeast corner of the cemetery rather than upright headstones. The cemetery then interred 700 burials per year, utilizing 40 of its 60 acres.³⁷

During the 1980s and 1990s, Fort Bliss National Cemetery and the VA itself evolved. In 1989, the VA gained cabinet-level status and was renamed the Department of Veterans Affairs (also known by the abbreviation VA); in 1998 the National Cemetery System became the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). By the 1990s, cemetery officials foresaw depletion of burial space, and in 1998, the fort donated 22 acres of land west of the cemetery to NCA to provide more burial area. Even so, in 2000, the cemetery had about 33,000 burials and the director anticipated a potential closing date of 2005, as the cemetery had only about 4,000 gravesites left. The new property became a \$1.3 million expansion project, including new roads, a maintenance building, and a committal shelter. Planning for the new section continued into 2000, with construction beginning soon after. Work finished in the new space in 2003. It is large enough to support 20,000 more burials with an estimated casket and cremation space depletion date of 2025.³⁸

Passage of the *National Cemetery Act of 1973* (Public Law 93-43), signed on June 18, 1973, provided for development of the National Cemetery System. The act transferred eighty-two of the eighty-four national cemeteries to the Veterans Administration (VA). The two exceptions were among the oldest and most recognized properties: Soldiers' Home and Arlington national

³⁵ DOA, "El Paso Presents: Fort Bliss U.S. Army Air Defense Center, Unofficial Guide, 1965" (El Paso, TX: Denton Publications, 1965), 14, Border Heritage Center Collection (BHCC), El Paso Public Library, El Paso, TX; DMA, "Fort Bliss National Cemetery, Pamphlet 40-4M, October 1988" (Washington, DC: VA, 1988).

³⁶ "Body of Col. Bliss Located in New Orleans Cemetery," *El Paso Times*, November 11, 1955; "Fort Bliss National Cemetery," 2008.

³⁷ "Government Cuts Grave Size at Cemetery," *El Paso Times*, March 18, 1984.

³⁸ "Bliss to Add 22 Acres for More Graves," *El Paso Times*, May 27, 2000; "Fort Bliss National Cemetery," ca. 1980.

Fort Bliss National Cemetery

Name of Property

El Paso, Texas

County and State

cemeteries. The eighty-two cemeteries joined twenty-one that the VA already administered as part of VA medical centers. Also transferred from the Army were thirty-three soldiers' lots, government lots, and Confederate cemeteries that dated to the Civil War. Within the VA, Fort Bliss became part of the National Cemetery System (NCS); the NCS was elevated to become a departmental bureau, the NCA, in 1998.³⁹

NCA initiated a water-conservation facelift at the cemetery that drastically changed the landscape in 2006-2007. The cemetery's grounds featured grass and shrubbery for many years, although the grass struggled to survive in the arid climate. NCA removed most of the grass in the cemetery and installed native decomposed red granite from the nearby Franklin Mountains. Fort Bliss is the first national cemetery to undergo such a landscape conversion, although conservation efforts take place across the national cemetery system.⁴⁰ Plantings of flowers, trees, and shrubs softened the new landscape and created vibrant contrast to the white marble headstones and red gravel. While the dramatic landscape alteration initially generated some erosion and slumping issues, reported widely in the media, the cemetery grounds offer a colorful resting place in harmony with the desert surroundings.⁴¹

Other changes to the cemetery surrounding the xeriscaping project and the early years of the twenty-first century include the addition of two committal shelters (2000 and 2004), a new maintenance facility (2004), and a restroom and visitor information center (2007). The construction of the new visitor information center and adjacent parking lot required the demolition of the service building and restroom building (originally constructed in 1939). In 2007, the superintendent's lodge added an ADA ramp. During the same project, workers enclosed the front porch of the building and replaced the windows. Today, the lodge serves as administrative offices.⁴²

A primary defining characteristic of Fort Bliss National Cemetery is the neat rows of graves themselves. Marked by upright white marble headstones and flat markers aligned in straight rows, these resting places for America's honored dead make this cemetery a site of importance for not only Fort Bliss, El Paso and Texas, but the nation.

Fort Bliss National Cemetery is a well-maintained and somewhat secluded plot of ground despite the proximity of the interstate highway to its northern edge. The stone wall enclosing the cemetery sets it apart from its busy surroundings near the highway, and though some elements of the cemetery have changed, it still retains many important aspects of its Inter-World War era

³⁹ Dean W. Holt, *American Military Cemeteries: A Comprehensive Illustrated Guide to the Hollowed Grounds of the United States, Including Cemeteries Overseas* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company, 1992), 5, 409; Donald E. Johnson, *A Study of the National Cemetery System* (Washington, DC: VA, 1974), 15; VA, *Report on the National Cemetery System*, prepared in response to Public Law 99-576 (Sec. 412), Veterans Benefit Improvement and Health-Care Authorization Act of 1986 (February 1994).

⁴⁰National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona was the other early example.

⁴¹ Van Bibber, October 28, 2008; "Fort Bliss Cemetery Sinking," *El Paso Times*, September 15, 2007; VA, *5 Year Capital Plan, 2005-2010* (Washington, DC: VA, 2005), 94; Associated Press, "Xeriscaping at Fort Bliss Draws Criticism From Families," *Laredo Morning Times*, June 18, 2007.

⁴² Van Bibber, October 28, 2008.

Fort Bliss National Cemetery

Name of Property

El Paso, Texas

County and State

appearance. In spite of the major xeriscaping project, minor road changes, acreage additions, and the construction of new buildings, structures, and monuments, Fort Bliss National Cemetery retains its integrity. Its overall location remains intact despite acreage increases and changes to its surroundings have been gradual over time. The xeriscaping project successfully sustained the workmanship, design intent, and feeling of the cemetery.

Medal of Honor Recipients (4)⁴³

The Medal of Honor is the highest award that can be bestowed upon Armed Services personnel. The honor recognizes an act of valor performed in action against an enemy force. The headstones of the recipients installed or replaced since 1976 feature the Medal of Honor emblem in gold. Headstones prior to 1976 may list the medal in text only.

Staff Sergeant Ambrosio Guillen, United States Marine Corps. Sergeant Guillen was a platoon sergeant who participated in the defense of an outpost forward of the main line of resistance in Korea. His unit became pinned down during an attack on the outpost. He deliberately exposed himself to gunfire while directing his men into defensive positions. Wounded in battle, he continued to direct his men until they defeated the enemy into withdrawing. He died of his wounds shortly after the battle on July 25, 1953, and is buried in Section E, Grave 9171.

Corporal Benito Martinez, United States Army, killed in action in Korea. Corp. Martinez's position was attacked by the enemy and instead of retreating, he remained at his post for six hours killing several enemy combatants and refusing assistance by telephone, making a last call to let his company know the enemy was converging on his position. His actions allowed the Americans to regroup and mount an organized defense. He died September 6, 1952, and was buried in Section B, Grave 366-A.

Corporal Frank Brattling, Indian Campaigns, Company C, 8th United States Cavalry. Corp. Brattling distinguished himself in service near Fort Selden, NM, July 8–11, 1873. Brattling was part of a 465-mile tracking and engagement of a group of American Indians who had stolen cattle. When within 20 paces of the group, Brattling was shot through the heart. He is recognized in the Memorial section.

Private George Hooker, Indian Campaigns, Company K, 5th United States Cavalry. Private Hooker distinguished himself at Tonto Creek, Ariz., January 22, 1873. He was killed while defending his company's position and cited for gallantry. He is recognized in the Memorial section.

⁴³ This section was compiled with information from George Lang, Raymond Luther Collins, and Gerard White, *Medal of Honor Recipients, 1863-1994: World War II to Somalia* (New York: Facts on File, Inc., 1995) and the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, "Full Archive," <http://www.cmohs.org/>, accessed June 1, 2010.

Fort Bliss National Cemetery
Name of Property

El Paso, Texas
County and State

Other Notable Burials

There are fifty-five Chinese air cadets who perished during training activities at the fort from 1942 to 1947. They are buried in the post section D.

There are twenty-two German, seventeen Italian, and three Austrian World War II POWs, and three Japanese civilian internees. Many of these were reburied at Fort Bliss in the post section in 1946. These individuals died and were originally buried at prisoner-of-war and interment camps in Florence, Arizona (POW Camp Lordsburg), and Roswell, New Mexico.

A German civilian scientist who conducted research at Fort Bliss during World War II is also interred in the Fort Bliss National Cemetery.

A small group of Buffalo Soldiers is buried in Section FF.

Fort Bliss National Cemetery
Name of Property

El Paso, Texas
County and State

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Fort Bliss National Cemetery

Name of Property

El Paso, Texas

County and State

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Fort Bliss National Cemetery
Name of Property

El Paso, Texas
County and State

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscapes Survey # TX-2

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: El Paso Public Library, University of Texas, El Paso, National Archives, Fort Bliss National Cemetery

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Fort Bliss National Cemetery
Name of Property

El Paso, Texas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 82.149

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 31.826010 | Longitude: -106.427284 |
| 2. Latitude: 31.826194 | Longitude: -106.421999 |
| 3. Latitude: 31.819864 | Longitude: -106.421811 |
| 4. Latitude: 31.819808 | Longitude: -106.425437 |
| 5. Latitude: 31.822198 | Longitude: -106.425665 |
| 6. Latitude: 31.822177 | Longitude: -106.427235 |

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 13N | Easting: 364946 | Northing: 3522039 |
| 2. Zone: 13N | Easting: 365433 | Northing: 3522045 |
| 3. Zone: 13N | Easting: 365436 | Northing: 3521336 |
| 4. Zone: 13N | Easting: 365101 | Northing: 3521341 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Fred Wilson Avenue bounds the cemetery on the north, while a railroad spur and J.E.B. Stuart Road line the east perimeter. The cemetery's stone wall forms the south boundary, which runs parallel to and approximately 300 feet north of Haan Road. The western boundary follows the western stone wall for the southern portion, but near First Drive South juts westward for approximately 550 feet before heading due north to meet the northern border along Fred Wilson Avenue.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of this site is consistent with the boundaries of the currently developed landscape of Fort Bliss National Cemetery. That landscape is within the greater legal boundary of Fort Bliss. Burial space and cemetery support buildings and structures compose the acreage within the boundary of Fort Bliss National Cemetery.

Fort Bliss National Cemetery
Name of Property

El Paso, Texas
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kristie L. Person and Staci Richey, Historians
organization: New South Associates, Inc.
street & number: 6150 E Ponce de Leon Avenue
city or town: Stone Mountain state: Georgia zip code: 30083
e-mail: kperson@newsouthassoc.com
telephone: 770-498-4155
date: November 3, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Photographs

Photo Log

Name of Property: Fort Bliss National Cemetery
City or Vicinity: Fort Bliss, Vicinity of El Paso
County: El Paso State: Texas
Photographer: Staci Richey
Date Photographed: October 26-29, 2008

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 37. View to southwest, Entrance Gates
- 2 of 37. View to west, Gates and Wall
- 3 of 37. View to south, Entrance Gates
- 4 of 37. View to east, Gates and Wall
- 5 of 37. View to west, Lodge Façade
- 6 of 37. View to east, Lodge Rear Oblique
- 7 of 37. View to northeast, Lodge Rear Oblique
- 8 of 37. View to southwest, Restroom and Visitor Information Center Oblique
- 9 of 37. View to east, Flagpole
- 10 of 37. View to south, Flagpole Base

Fort Bliss National Cemetery

Name of Property

El Paso, Texas

County and State

- 11 of 37. View to south, Mall Drive West
- 12 of 37. View to southwest, Rostrum Façade
- 13 of 37. View to southwest, Rostrum Façade
- 14 of 37. View to north, Rostrum Rear
- 15 of 37. View to north, From Rostrum
- 16 of 37. View to northwest, Traffic Median
- 17 of 37. View to south, Lieutenant Colonel Bliss Grave
- 18 of 37. View to southeast, Section A
- 19 of 37. View to north, East Drive
- 20 of 37. View to northeast, East Committal Shelter
- 21 of 37. View to south, Wall and Buttress
- 22 of 37. View to southwest, Wall
- 23 of 37. View to northeast, Section K
- 24 of 37. View to southwest, Memorial Section
- 25 of 37. View to southwest, Rear Gate
- 26 of 37. View to northwest, Gate House
- 27 of 37. View to northeast, Gate House
- 28 of 37. View to southwest, Road and Wall
- 29 of 37. View to south, Southern Wall
- 30 of 37. View to northwest, Section J
- 31 of 37. View to south, West Drive
- 32 of 37. View to southwest, Maintenance Building
- 33 of 37. View to east, First Drive South Landscaping
- 34 of 37. View to northwest, Section I
- 35 of 37. View to west, New Maintenance Building
- 36 of 37. View to northwest, New Section
- 37 of 37. View to south, Section FF

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.