

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

Inter-World War National Cemeteries, 1934-1939

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

2. Location

Street & number: 1520 Harry Wurzbach Road

City or town: San Antonio State: Texas County: Bexar

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.

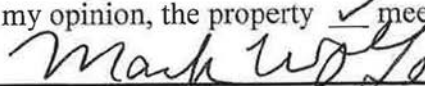
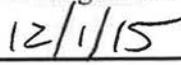
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<p>Signature of certifying official/Title:  State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>Date </p>
--	--

<p>In my opinion, the property <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>Signature of commenting official:  SHPD</p>	<p>Date </p>
<p>Title:</p>	<p>Texas Historical Commission State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

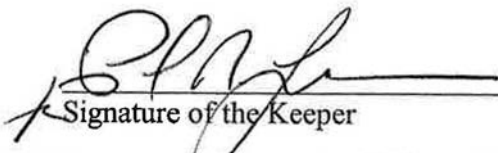
Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____


Signature of the Keeper

3/8/2016
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
Public – Local
Public – State
Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>14</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u>14</u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>35</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Funerary/Cemetery

Domestic/Institutional Housing

Landscape

Recreation/Culture/Monument

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Funerary/Cemetery

Landscape

Recreation/Culture/Monument

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th & Early 20th Century Revival/Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Concrete, Stucco, Mission tile (Spanish tile), Granite, Marble, Metal: cast aluminum and bronze

Narrative Description Summary Paragraph

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, established by the United States War Department in 1937, is approximately 338 acres located at 1520 Harry Wurzbach Road in San Antonio, Texas. The cemetery borders Fort Sam Houston along the eastern boundary and partially on the southern boundary; it borders a golf course along the remaining southern boundary. Harry Wurzbach Road and a large residential area define the west boundary. Winans Road, which holds varied development to the north, serves as the northern border for the cemetery. Winans Road leads directly into Fort Sam Houston, as does Nursery Road, which bisects the cemetery property.

The cemetery contains roughly 338 acres. Unlike some other Inter-World War national cemeteries, Fort Sam Houston has a generous amount of undeveloped acreage within its boundaries. Just over 200 acres of the cemetery's holdings have been developed. As of July 2014, there were 128,067 interments: 99,525 full-casket burials and 8,768 cremains placed in columbaria units and 4,076 in the ground. The cemetery has the potential to remain open for decades into the future.

Fort Sam Houston created a Post Cemetery in 1924 with the intent of eventually converting it to a national cemetery.¹ The War Department announced a transfer of slightly more than 60 acres, including the Post Cemetery, from the military reservation on August 6, 1931, designating the site as an addition or annex to the San Antonio National Cemetery. The latter, located about 5 miles away at 517 Paso Hondo Street in San Antonio, was small, running out of space, and had no adjacent land on which it could expand. In 1937, the War Department declared a new name for the former annex to be "Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery." In 1941, an Army inspection

¹The first interment in the Post Cemetery was made in 1926.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

reported that the cemetery was about 60 acres and maintained a superintendent's lodge, utility building, and comfort station; of these, only the lodge is extant today. A stone wall paralleled the main road, formerly Austin Road, now named Harry Wurzbach Road, and included the gate. By March 22, 1941, the cemetery had approximately 1,398 interments; it averaged approximately 187 interments per year by 1943.² The cemetery developed to the east and south as a result of land acquisitions from the 1970s through 2009.

The historic integrity of the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery is high. Overall, its historic design, monuments, buildings, and structures are intact, and any alterations and additions are sympathetic and have taken place within the cemetery's period of significance. In general, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery retains integrity in the areas of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description

The design of Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery evolved after its establishment. The initial concept followed plans from the late 1920s, with a large capsule shape bisected by east-to-west avenues and three central circles. The main entrance was on modern Winans Road (former Dashiell Road), between sections PC and PF, the old Post Cemetery sections. This configuration is extant and includes the United States Flagpole at its center. While no longer present, shrubbery planted in the shape of stars originally highlighted the capsule form. This area comprised a small portion of the original approximately 60 acres, which extended east to Nursery Road. By 1948, the cemetery had a second capsule east of the original, with cross avenues connecting the two; at this time, the main entrance was relocated to Harry Wurzbach Road.

The prisoner of war (POW) cemetery in the southeast corner of the property, called both a "cemetery" and a "POW Section" in reports from 1946 and 1953, was created in 1947 because of the closure of POW camps after World War II and the subsequent necessity of removing burials from those places to a permanent cemetery. By 1952, the cemetery altered the second capsule shape into a simple rectangle, and the road system continued to expand with the development of the cemetery, eventually encompassing the POW burials. The road system between Harry Wurzbach Road and New Braunfels Street, Winans Road and the section division line running east to west above Medina Loop, is essentially intact from its 1961 appearance. Allées of trees

² David Charles Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity, Cemeteries in American History* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991); Engmann A. Anderson, Report of Inspection of National Cemetery Activities at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery (FSHNC), March 20, 1941, Folder 333.1, General Correspondence, "Geographic File," (GCGF) 1936-45, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General (OQMG), Record Group 92 (RG 92), National Archives at College Park (NACP); Marion Coffee, FSHNC, Grave Sites Consumed, Reserved and Available, March 22, 1941, Folder 293.5, GCGF 1936-45, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP; F.D. Rupe, Report of Inspection of FSHNC, May 27, 1943, Folder 333.1, GCGF 1936-45, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP. Regarding the 1924 establishment of the Post Cemetery and first interments in 1926, see also, "Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery," HALS report, 2011, Library of Congress (HALS No. TX-3), 7. Note 15 of the HALS report cites Communication Received, 1926-1934, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, Record Group 24, NARA, copies on file Fort Sam Houston Museum.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

flank the north and south stretches of Sam Houston Circle between San Marcos Street and New Braunfels Street. These allées also appear in a 1961 aerial photograph, although they have matured in the past half century.³

In 1974 and 1975, the Department of the Army transferred to the Veterans Administration (VA) another approximately 32 and 15 acres, respectively.⁴ By 1978, the road system west of Nursery Road was almost the same as its current layout. Additional transfers of fort lands to the VA from the 1980s lie east of Nursery Road: slightly less than 8 acres in 1989, approximately 40 acres in 1997, roughly 169 acres in 2005, and nearly 14 acres in 2009. In the west half of the cemetery, the cemetery added Medina Loop south of original sections between 1961 and 1978 and Alamo Loop after 1978. Areas in the older, west portion of the cemetery lie in a grid of square and rectangular burial sections identified by letters; numbered burial sections are newer, typically framed by cemetery roads, and usually larger than their earlier counterparts. Fewer cemetery roads placed east of Nursery Road allowed for a repeat of the grid pattern, but with larger burial areas.⁵

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery's headstones reflect the era of establishment. The style of headstone is a major distinguishing characteristic of national cemeteries established in the twentieth century. The upright headstone appearance changed dramatically between the Spanish-American War and World War I. The oldest style of government-issued headstone, for soldiers of the Civil War and Spanish-American War, are white marble with rounded tops with recessed shields on the face. The raised inscription includes the state of origin, unlike subsequent inscription practice, and rank if above private.

The predominant headstone at Fort Sam Houston is the upright white American marble cambered "General type" introduced in 1922 for World War I soldiers and those after. This type of headstone measures 42 inches high, 13 inches wide, and 4 inches thick; approximately 26 inches is visible above ground. Inscriptions include the name, rank, regiment, division, date of birth, date of death, and home state. Originally, the emblem of belief on these headstones was limited to the Latin cross or Star of David centered above the name of the deceased. The number of available emblem of belief options began to increase after World War II.

In the 1930s, the War Department introduced flat headstones to accommodate veterans buried in private/local cemeteries that did not allow upright markers, such as the lawn park and memorial park cemeteries. Congress already authorized markers of "durable stone" in 1873, thus, the Secretary of War only needed to approve a new style—flat. The first flat marble markers were produced in 1936, with flat granite markers following two years later. They measure 24 inches

³ Historic Photograph Collection, FSHNC, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Historic photographs, History Program Collection (HPC), National Cemetery Administration (NCA), Washington, DC; "141 Ex-Enemies Buried at Ft. Sam," *The Light*, July 20, 1948; "History of Cemetery, 19 November 1946," revised September 30, 1953, HPC, NCA, Washington, DC.

⁴ The Veterans Administration was re-named the Department of Veterans Affairs when it was elevated to a cabinet-level status in 1989. It remains known by the acronym VA.

⁵ National Cemetery Administration (NCA), "Land Survey Inventory of Federal Acreage, Quarterly Report: 1st Qtr/FY 03," December 31, 2002, updated April 7, 2009, History Program Collection (HPC), NCA, Washington, DC.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

x12 inches with rounded edges. The same products are used interchangeably as memorial markers.⁶ At Fort Sam Houston, four sections contain 7,091 flat granite markers: Section 1 (burial dates from 1983 to 1985), Section 2 (burial dates from 1982 to 1983), Section 8 (burial dates from 1985 to 1987), and Section 14 (burial dates from 1985 to 1986).

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery contains a former Post Cemetery in the northwest corner (Sections PA through PI), and a POW section in the former southeast corner, Section ZA. Many of the German POWs buried in this area have government-issued headstones with swastikas in iron crosses and German inscriptions—apparently the only examples of this emblem found in National Cemetery Administration (NCA) properties—although other national cemeteries hold German POW interments. There are a total of fifty-seven private headstones varying in size, shape, and materials throughout Sections B, E, I, M, R and PC. Many of these are upright granite markers on granite bases. The cemetery has twelve Medal of Honor recipients as well as twenty-seven Buffalo soldiers in Section PE.⁷ Sections MA, MA2, and MA3 hold memorial markers.⁸ There is a memorial walkway located in the eastern half of the cemetery, meandering along the columbaria units.

Contributing Properties (45)⁹

Buildings (7): Administration Building, Administration Office (secondary office space), Administrative Kiosk, Restroom (2), Maintenance/Garage, Maintenance Building

Structures (14): Carillon Bell Tower, Rostrum, Columbaria, Gates, Walls, and Fences, Assembly Area Shelter, Committal Shelters (5), Gazebo, Vehicular Bridge, Pedestrian Bridge, Drainage Ditches

Objects (14): “Bivouac of the Dead” Plaque, Bicentennial Tree Plaque, *General Orders No. 80* Plaque, “Gettysburg Address” Plaque, *Memorial Day Order* Plaque, *National Cemetery Act* Plaque, Memorial Path, All Airborne Forces Memorial, American Ex-POWs Memorial, Ft. Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment Memorial, Unknown Dead of All Wars Memorial, National Sojourners & Alamo Camp Heroes of ’76 Memorial, United States Flag and Flagpole Circle, POW/MIA Flagpole

⁶ "Design for Flat Marker," Box 17, Folder 4, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Department of Memorial Affairs (DMA), National Cemetery Historical File, Entry 25 (NCHF E25), Records of the Veterans Administration, Record Group 15 (RG 15), National Archives Building, Washington, DC (NAB).

⁷ William A. Trower, Jr., cemetery director, conversation with author, October 30, 2008.

⁸ Memorial headstones are furnished for eligible deceased active duty service members and Veterans whose remains are not recovered or identified, are buried at sea, donated to science or whose cremated remains have been scattered.

⁹ Information regarding property types and dates of installation is attributed to: National Cemetery Administration, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Cemetery Survey Report, by Sara Amy Leach, 2007; War Department, “Buildings and Utilities in National Cemeteries, Fort Sam Houston Annex to San Antonio National Cemetery,” no date, HPC, NCA, Washington, DC; Photographs. Various dates. HPC, NCA, Washington, DC; Trower, conversation; Maintenance Ledgers, FSHNC, DMA, NCHF, Records of the VA, RG 15, NAB; Historic Photograph Collection, FSHNC, Fort Sam Houston, TX; and a site visit.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

Buildings (7)

Administration Building (former Lodge): Built as a superintendent's lodge in 1934, this Spanish Revival one-story concrete-block building is banked, and as a result has a basement exposed along the west elevation. Located inside the main entrance and facing the main road through the cemetery, it now serves as the Administration Building and reception area. With a concrete foundation, stucco exterior walls and Mission tile roof, the lodge/administration office retains much of its integrity.

The H-plan building has double front gables attached by a central side-gable hyphen, a design taken from a standardized Army design of Company and Field Officer's Quarters. The War Department constructed similar buildings in North Carolina and California.¹⁰ The overhanging eaves have intricately scroll-sawn decorative brackets. The recessed central bay features a porch with engaged roof and two doors, one in its right bay with another single door on the west elevation; a window is enclosed in the left bay. The square porch posts have heavy scrolled brackets spanned by slender iron balustrades, which extend down the central staircase. The installation of a simple exterior elevator resulted in the removal of part of the balustrade on the porch.

On the west elevation, the lower level has two large vehicular doors in the left and central bay; the central bay door is enclosed. A shallow pent roof clad in Mission tile and supported by knee braces with scroll-sawn decorative rafter tails shelters the bays. Two small windows are in the right bay of the lower level. On the first story, three of the four bays contain single windows, all of which appear to be modern replacements; the central bay has paired windows with a decorative iron balconet.

The rear elevation has the same doubled front gable projections in the left and right bays as the facade, framing a recessed porch, which is now enclosed. The left projecting bay has an exterior chimney stack flanked by single windows.

On the east elevation of the building is a central projecting bay with three windows and, left and right bays with single windows. A water table course circumscribes the building.

The building was retrofitted as office space and limited interior character-defining materials remain.

Administration Office: Originally built as an administrative office and now serving as office and storage space, workers constructed this north-facing, Spanish Revival building in 1953 between the lodge and the entrance gate. Featuring a concrete foundation, concrete-block and stucco exterior walls, and Mission tile roof, this building mimics the neighboring lodge in materials as well as massing. It is a raised single-story building on a banked basement. The lateral gable roof is clad in Mission tile; a small blind dormer decorated with tile in stucco sits

¹⁰ Bethany C. Grashof, "A Study of U.S. Army Family Housing Standardized Plans, 1866-1940," Vol. 5, 1917-1940, (Atlanta: Georgia Institute of Technology, 1986).

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

above the central bay of the façade (north elevation). While there is no overhang on the east and west elevations, the overhanging eaves on the façade and rear (south) elevations have doubled, scroll-sawn brackets. The three-bay symmetrical façade has single, multi-pane casement windows in the east and west bays, while the central bay has a recessed porch. A single door flanked by single, slender, multi-paned window makes up the central bay, while heavy scrolled brackets adorning the square porch posts create a Mission-style profile. Wrought-iron balusters feature small central circles.

Two single windows adorn the first story of the west elevation, while small rectangular windows mark the basement level. On the rear elevation, there is a single, multi-paned casement window in the left elevation, while the central bay is altered by the addition of double doors. A large ca. 1981 contemporary addition to the rear connects to the main block of the building by a round-topped Plexiglass hyphen; it has a rectangular, front-gabled roof section supported on either end by a short wall, with a cantilevered semi-circle bay on the rear, approached by stairs with a semi-circular turn. The east elevation has two symmetrical, single multi-paned windows on the first story, with a single door and window on the basement level. Metal awnings were added to the windows, likely in the 1950s.

Administrative Building/Visitor Information Kiosk: Built to provide services to visitors in the east end of the cemetery, the administrative building and information kiosk was completed ca. 2010. It has roughly a 85 foot square footprint, including a verandah (8 feet, 6 inches) that wraps around all four sides of the building (85 feet x 82 feet). The front façade faces west toward the established burial sections of the cemetery. Parking is allocated in space immediately to the south of the building. The hip roof is covered with standing seam metal; the exterior walls are made of concrete block and cast stone, with natural stone facing on the verandah piers. Aluminum-frame windows are glazed with four lights

Restroom (2): Completed ca. 1984, this single-story, concrete-block restroom is in the Spanish Revival style. Its stucco exterior and Spanish tile roof blend with the lodge and administration office buildings located to its north. A central, recessed entry on the west façade leads to two doors, each leading to a restroom. The second restroom (26 feet x 42 feet) was completed by 2014 and is located at the east end of the cemetery near the columbaria court and public information building. The west-facing masonry building rests on a concrete foundation and has a hip roof covered by standing-seam metal. Storefront windows and doors set in aluminum frames and accented by cast stone sills introduce light to the interior, while limestone veneer distinguishes the base of the four columns that define the entrance porch. The walls are concrete masonry blocks; interior finishes include ceramic tile, plaster and painted surfaces.

Maintenance/Garage: Completed in 1987, the maintenance/garage exhibits some Spanish Revival details to mirror the historic structures nearby including stuccoed exterior walls and a Mission tile roof. This building has three vehicular doors along the west façade. It is located behind the former Lodge and Administration Office and current Restroom buildings, and near burial section AH. It is accessible by the secondary entrance to the cemetery the feeds into Austin Loop Drive.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

Maintenance Building: Completed ca. 2000, this large, stucco-and-concrete, block-on-slab maintenance building has multiple building sections below side-gable, standing-seam metal roofs. Several paired metal doors and garage door bays lead to the building's interior. Additional fenestration is sparse and consists of metal sliding windows. This building is at the east end of the cemetery adjacent to Winans Road and accessible from within the cemetery grounds from Sam Houston Boulevard. It is set within a work yard measuring about 275 feet north to south by 410 feet east to west and containing ample parking for utility vehicles and landscaping equipment. The immediate environs are paved, while a storage and work zone at the northwest and western boundaries appears to a surface covering of packed dirt. Burial section 39 is to the west of the parking lot (67 feet x 188 feet) for the maintenance facility, while sections 42-45 are across Sam Houston Boulevard to the south of the Maintenance Building and servicing lot.

Structures (14)

Rostrum: The cemetery superintendent and three cemetery staff groundskeepers completed building the rostrum on June 30, 1934. The uncovered, six-sided platform on a foundation of concrete and rough-cut, irregularly coursed limestone; the bottom two rows of limestone flare outward. An iron railing framing the platform is painted black and extends as a balustrade along the north-facing stairs. It is reflective of patterns found in the main entrance gates.

Gates, Walls, and Fences: Completed in June 1934 on the west boundary of the cemetery along Harry Wurzbach Road, the main entrance gates consist of four ashlar-cut, irregularly coursed limestone pillars with pyramidal concrete caps. The two larger, interior pillars support large double iron-picket vehicular gates that feature a circle motif. The larger pillars connect to the shorter pillars to the north and south by single picketed iron pedestrian gates. Curved stone walls extend to the north and south from the shorter pillars. Installed in 1960 is a bronze, rectangular plaque with an eagle and the words "Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery," located on the north gatepost of the main entry gates. This plaque was originally placed on the south gatepost. Installed in 1973 is a rectangular, bronze plaque with the words: "Veterans Administration, 1930." It is on the southern gatepost of the main entrance. It may have originally been installed on the north gate.

A section of wall along Harry Wurzbach Road on the west boundary of the cemetery was the original portion of the west enclosure wall. Completed in 1934, it extends south approximately 1,200 feet from just southwest of the intersection of Winans Road and Harry Wurzbach Road. The walls are 4 feet high, composed of uncoursed cut-rubble limestone capped by a peaked concrete coping about 2 feet wide and 4 inches thick at the edge. These dimensions repeat on other stone walls located along the northern and southern cemetery boundaries.

Located along Winans Road and perpendicular to Macedonia Street within the cemetery, these double iron vehicular gates were likely completed in 1941 in conjunction with this section of the stone enclosure wall. This opening served as the main entrance until the early 1930s. Four

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

pillars of ashlar-cut, coursed limestone topped with pyramidal concrete caps support iron picket gates, now permanently closed. These detailed gates have doubled pickets along the base and a number of additional iron features that add delicacy to the overall design. Located on the east gatepost of this entrance, likely placed there in 1941, a rectangular bronze plaque reads: "Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery."

Located along the northern border of the cemetery and extending from Harry Wurzbach Road to just east of New Braunfels Street, the stone northern enclosure wall is approximately 1,854 feet long and about 4 feet high. A peaked concrete coping caps the large cut uncoursed rubble limestone wall. Construction ended on the westerly 548 feet portion of this wall by 1941; the eastern section, beginning at approximately San Marcos Street, was built in 1944. Larger stones than those in the 1941 section distinguish this section. Portions of this wall suffer from leaning, areas of poor repointing, and minor material loss.

Constructed ca. 1944 along Winans Road, the northeast gates are double iron picket vehicular gates that straddle Sections O and U, the former axis of the second capsule shape created in the road layout by 1948. The gateposts are ashlar cut, random-coursed limestone with flat concrete caps; the shorter posts have pyramidal concrete caps.

Marking a segment of the cemetery's southern border by 1961, the southern enclosure wall was likely constructed in the mid to late 1950s, as it does not appear on a 1950 aerial photograph. It extends east from Harry Wurzbach Avenue approximately 275 feet, with a height of approximately 4 feet. Similar to the adjacent stone wall along Harry Wurzbach Road, this wall features rough-cut, uncoursed rubble limestone with wide, peaked concrete coping. Stones in this wall are somewhat larger than those used in the 1934 wall. The wall is largely intact, but suffers from some loss of material.

Workers completed the service gates on the west boundary fronting Harry Wurzbach Avenue, south of the main entrance, on June 30, 1953. The gate accesses the interior service road. Simpler than the formal main entry, the double vehicular picket iron gates hang from two random-coursed, ashlar-cut limestone pillars with pyramidal concrete caps. The ironwork features a circle motif similar to the main gates. The pillars are attached to the stone walls.

Constructed in the 1990s, a fence lines the northern border of the cemetery adjacent to Winans Road. Largely composed of simple plain iron pickets, regularly spaced pillars highlight the fence. Ashlar cut, regularly coursed limestone with pyramidal concrete caps compose the pillars.

The fences and gates lining each side of Nursery Road along the southern boundary of the cemetery property consist of approximately 8 feet tall iron-picket sections and chain link. The cemetery erected these in the 1980s to 1990s.

Carillon Bell Tower: Erected in 1982 behind the rostrum, this is a metal bell tower composed of a pair of two-pronged metal frames intersecting at the center axis to four central, fixed bronze bells in a vertical alignment. A metal mesh cap covers the speakers. An adjacent metal post

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

holds a small bronze plaque that holds donation information in a bas-relief inscription: "Donated by the Veterans of Greater San Antonio Area Auxiliaries and Patriots 1982."

Columbaria: Built between 1993-1999, forty rectangular columbaria units containing sixty-four niches each group in the eastern half of the cemetery along a paved memorial walkway. Placed irregularly, perhaps to mimic the meandering drainage ditch nearby, the columbaria are concrete with limestone cladding; niche covers are both marble and marble with bronze plaques. They vary slightly in scale, with the majority ranging from 7 feet x 20 feet to 5 feet x 12 feet to 3 feet x 9 feet, with benches interspersed throughout this memorial area framing section 9. Additional columbaria units were constructed ca. 2010 at the far east end of the cemetery grounds in a courtyard partially enclosed by wall (76 feet x 173 feet) on the north, south, and east sides. The wall also contains burial niches. Between the columbaria sections are benches for visitors' use and landscaped reflection areas.

Assembly Area Shelter: Part of the recent expansion of the cemetery, the Assembly Area Shelter provides a gathering space for services held in the eastern most burial sections. It is set within a circular drive and is south of the ca. 2010 Administrative Kiosk, Restroom, and Columbaria facilities. The circular space measures about 275 feet in diameter and is framed by a perimeter walkway. The shelter is fed by six walkways and amphitheater-style seating faces a stage covered by trapezoidal shaped and blue colored hipped roof.

Committal Shelters (5): Built in the 1990s, the five committal shelters are open-air structures with concrete floors, wood posts and hip roofs clad in Mission tile. Interior ceilings are exposed steel and wood rafters with tongue and groove. Landscaping and seating often accompany each shelter.

Gazebo: Built ca. 1990, this wood gazebo is north of the lodge and was likely built with a pre-fabrication kit, featuring six sides and lattice.

Vehicular Bridge: Built in the 1990s, this pre-cast concrete, triple-box culvert bridge has limestone-clad abutments and an ornamental iron railing.

Pedestrian Bridge: Built in the 1990s and continuing a footpath across a drainage canal, this bridge is a pre-cast, triple box culvert with a concrete bed. It features an ornamental metal railing.

Drainage Ditches: Built in the 1990s, these ditches are concrete. Large boulders flank the ditches. They are in the east part of the cemetery, intersecting San Antonio Boulevard and running northwest behind the columbarium.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

Objects (14)

United States Flagpole and Flagpole Circle: Completed in 1938, the raised circular platform features a star design made of “rustic mosaic”—flagstone rubble pieces in pigmented concrete—framed by granite curbing. The ornamental base circle is approximately 20 feet in diameter. The flagpole is steel, approximately 75 feet tall, and is a prominent feature of the landscape centrally located on San Antonio Boulevard at the historic entrance. There are several spotlights around the flagpole base aimed up at the pole, and a short row of trimmed boxwoods line the edges of the flagpole traffic circle, which measures approximately 40 feet in diameter.

General Orders No. 80 Plaque: Purchased in 1939, this bronze plaque sits atop a beveled granite block located just inside the main gate and north of San Antonio Boulevard. This is likely the original location, as it matches the location indicated on a 1938 plan for the “Location of Tablet Monuments.”¹¹

“Gettysburg Address” Plaque: Erected in 1939, this 4½-foot-tall bronze plaque rests on an upright granite tablet measuring approximately 6½ feet tall and 2½ feet wide. It is southeast of the flagstaff circle in Section C. The cemetery acquired this plaque at the same time as the *Memorial Day Order*, *General Orders No. 80*, and *National Cemetery Act* plaques. This is likely the original location, as it matches the location indicated on a 1938 plan for the “Location of Tablet Monuments.”¹²

Memorial Day Order Plaque: Purchased for the cemetery in 1939, the *Memorial Day Order* Plaque rests northeast of the flagpole area in section PA. The upright monument measures approximately 6½ feet tall and 4½ feet wide, and features a bronze plaque with raised lettering on a granite tablet. This is likely the original location, as it matches the location indicated on a 1938 plan for the “Location of Tablet Monuments.”¹³

National Cemetery Act Plaque: Purchased for the cemetery in 1939, this bronze plaque is painted black and silver and mounted on a beveled granite block, located just inside the main entrance gate and south of San Antonio Boulevard. This is likely the original location, as it matches the location indicated on a 1938 plan for the “Location of Tablet Monuments.”¹⁴

“Bivouac of the Dead” Plaque: Erected in 2003, this is a cast-aluminum plaque mounted on a beveled granite block. This plaque is in front of the lodge and south of San Antonio Boulevard. The historic placement of “Bivouac of the Dead” verses in national cemeteries during the nineteenth century inspired the installation of such plaques in later national cemeteries.

¹¹ Constructing Division, Office of the Quartermaster General, “Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Fort Sam Houston, TX, Location of Tablet Monuments,” May 26, 1938, Folder 293.7, Ft. Sam Houston, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

¹² Constructing Division, 1938.

¹³ Constructing Division, 1938.

¹⁴ Constructing Division, 1938.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

POW/MIA Flagpole: This is a steel flagpole flying the POW/MIA flag. It sits behind the rostrum and near the Carillon Tower. It rests in a concrete platform with three memorial benches.

Bicentennial Tree Plaque: Placed in 1976, this is a small interpretive bronze plaque on a small beveled granite block, located near the road at Section C/A1.

Memorial Path Group

Meandering around the west, north, and east perimeter of Section 9 in the east half of the cemetery, the Memorial Path features a concrete sidewalk flanked by five Texas pink granite memorials and five accompanying marble benches. Memorials along the trail are uniform in size and shape.

All Airborne Forces (82nd Airborne Division) Memorial: Located on the Memorial Path between Sections 8A and 9 near San Antonio Boulevard, this is a Texas pink granite block with a beveled face installed in 1995. It measures approximately 2 feet wide, 1½ feet deep, and 1½ feet tall.

American Ex-POWs Memorial: Located on the Memorial Path between Sections 8A and 9 near San Antonio Boulevard, this is a Texas pink granite block with a beveled face installed in 1995. This memorial measures approximately 2 feet wide, 1½ feet deep, and 1½ feet tall. The American Ex-POWs, San Antonio Chapter No. 1, donated it.

Ft. Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment Memorial: Located on the Memorial Path between Sections 8A and 9 near San Antonio Boulevard, this is a Texas pink granite block with a beveled face installed in 1995. It measures approximately 2 feet wide, 1½ feet deep, and 1½ feet tall.

National Sojourners & Alamo Camp Heroes of '76 Memorial: Located on the Memorial Path between Sections 8A and 9 near San Antonio Boulevard, this is a Texas pink granite block with beveled face and bronze plaque installed in 1999. It measures approximately 2 feet wide, 1½ feet deep, and 1½ feet tall.

Unknown Dead of All Wars (VGSAA) Memorial: Located on the Memorial Path between Sections 8A and 9 near San Antonio Boulevard, this is a Texas pink granite block with a beveled face installed in 1995. It measures approximately 2 feet wide, 1½ feet deep, and 1½ feet tall. The Veterans of the Greater San Antonio Area donated this memorial.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
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 the boxes that apply.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Military

Social History

Period of Significance

1926-1937

1937-Present

Significant Dates

1937

1973

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

War Department

Department of Veterans Affairs

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery's significance rests in its position as one of seven national cemeteries established between World War I and World War II, specifically in the years 1934-1939. The increased veteran population, combined with the rapidly depleting burial space at existing national cemeteries, led to a series of federal legislation during this period aimed at establishing new cemeteries: Baltimore, Fort Snelling, Fort Rosecrans, Golden Gate, Fort Bliss, Long Island, and Fort Sam Houston national cemeteries. These seven properties are nationally significant under Criterion A for their association with the expansion of the National Cemetery System during the Inter-World War period. These cemeteries are physical shrines illustrating selfless sacrifices of the U.S. military, which expand upon the burial and memorial mission established during the Civil War through the first national cemeteries.

In 2011, the Keeper of the National Register confirmed National Register of Historic Places eligibility by issuing a clarification of policy stating that all national cemeteries are considered exceptionally significant and eligible for listing in the NRHP regardless of age, and that all buildings, structures, and objects located within the boundaries of national cemeteries are considered contributing elements to each national cemetery regardless of age.¹⁵

The first period of significance represents the first burial at the Post Cemetery section now included in the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, in 1926, and ends with the establishment of the national cemetery in 1937. The second period of significance (1937-Present) at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery begins with its establishment as a national cemetery apart from San Antonio National Cemetery. Due to the complex nature of cemetery development, Congressional establishment was chosen as the beginning date for the Inter-World War national cemeteries because all other dates occur due to the legislation. At Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, the burial grounds' beginnings as a post cemetery and annex facilitated its maturation into a national cemetery in 1937 and ensured integrity of setting.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Historical Background

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery is in San Antonio, Texas, which has long been a strategic military location. The history of the cemetery ties into the history of nearby Fort Sam Houston. In 1718, Spanish soldiers established a military camp here.. Baron de Ripperda built the first permanent barracks in 1773. Euro-American settlers moved west in the early 1800s, and in 1836 a secularized San Antonio mission, the Alamo, was the site of a pivotal battle during the Texas Revolution. Colonel William S. Harney led the first United States troops into San Antonio in 1845. By the next year, the United States annexed the Republic of Texas, and the United States Army established a quartermaster depot in San Antonio that served the Americans during the

¹⁵ Keeper of the National Register, "National Register Eligibility of National Cemeteries—A Clarification of Policy." September 8, 2011. (Washington, DC: History Program Collection, NCA). Available at: http://www.cem.va.gov/pdf/Final_Eligibility_of_VA_cemeteries_A_Clarification_of_Policy_rev.pdf.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

Name of Property

Bexar County, TX

County and State

U.S.-Mexican War (1846-1848). The Post of San Antonio became the headquarters of the 8th Military Department, though the title was transferred to the City of Austin in 1869. San Antonio's post supplied forts throughout the state during the mid-nineteenth century.

The Secretary of War authorized the construction of a permanent post at San Antonio in 1875. By 1880, the United States Army designated the Post of San Antonio as the headquarters for the Department of Texas, with several illustrious generals serving at the post in the subsequent decade. A particularly notable campaign that launched from the post in 1885-1886 led to the capture of the famed Apache leader Geronimo in the Arizona Territory. In 1890, the War Department officially named the post "Fort Sam Houston" in honor of the first president of the Republic of Texas, and in the following year the War Department constructed sixty buildings there. Most of the fort's personnel participated in the Spanish American War in 1898 as the 18th Infantry and the 5th Cavalry shipped out for battle, leaving "only two officers and eight enlisted men at the post."¹⁶ The fort briefly hosted Theodore Roosevelt, who stopped with his Rough Riders to receive provisions before their mission to Cuba. Fort Sam Houston also served as a major training and departure point for the war. Continued growth at the fort generated an expansion program in 1905, including an aircraft hanger. The fort gained general depot status by 1917 and supplied the Mexican frontier, including troops involved in the pursuit of Francisco "Pancho" Villa by General John J. Pershing. Fort Sam Houston experienced some physical deterioration in the 1920s, including the desertion of the affiliated Camp Davis to the northeast and the demolition of its buildings in 1928. The fort again expanded in the 1930s and 1940s, becoming the largest army post in the United States in 1940. It served as a major internment center for prisoners of war (POW) during World War II. By 1949, when it was the headquarters for the 4th United States Army, there were 1,500 buildings on more than 3,300 acres. The fort remains one of the country's key military installations, and is currently the headquarters for the United States Army Medical Command.¹⁷

Throughout its existence, the fort in San Antonio utilized a few different burial grounds. The City Cemetery accommodated the post's interments from the early 1800s until 1867, at which time the San Antonio city government donated a tract of land to the federal government. The new San Antonio National Cemetery land was less than 2 acres in an urban setting, some 5 miles away from the Fort Sam Houston. Surrounding development almost immediately landlocked the cemetery. The growth of Fort Sam Houston and its personnel demanded an increasing amount of burial space. In response, the War Department set aside a portion of the military reservation as a Post Cemetery through *General Orders No. 5*, dated March 13, 1924; however, the first interment did not take place until 1926 in what is now Section C of Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.¹⁸

¹⁶ American Association for State and Local History, *Fort Sam Houston: National Register of Historic Places Documentation Form* (Nashville, 1974).

¹⁷ American Association, *Fort Sam Houston*; Joint Base San Antonio, "JBSA-Fort Sam Houston," <http://www.jbsa.af.mil/library/history/history-fortsamhouston.asp>, accessed September 26, 2014.

¹⁸ NCA, "Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery," <http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/ftsamhouston.asp>, accessed December 15, 2009.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

According to a flurry of correspondence in 1926 between the Quartermaster Corps and the Adjutant General in Washington, DC, officials first planned for the Post Cemetery on the military reservation to become an addition to San Antonio National Cemetery. Some confusion arose between the Quartermaster General in Washington and the Quartermaster for Fort Sam Houston's 8th Corps Area about soldiers eligible for burial in the Post Cemetery being buried in the San Antonio National Cemetery instead of the new Fort Sam Houston Post Cemetery. This came about largely because there was still a Post Section located within San Antonio National Cemetery. Also, as early as 1926, the projected use of the new Post Cemetery was as a national cemetery whenever the San Antonio National Cemetery ran out of space. It contained space for only 351 graves, just 37 in the Post Section, and officials expected to run out of burial space in less than five years. Several factors opposed an effort to convert the new Post Cemetery to a national cemetery, however. War Department policy in 1926 barred an increase in the number of national cemeteries, and appropriations for both 1927 and 1928 omitted provisions for expansion of the cemetery, despite an obvious need for interment space. Former servicemen were not eligible for burial in post cemeteries by decision of the Secretary of War dated May 5, 1925 (6th Ind. A.G. 687-(3-19-25) Misc.-D). Major General B.F. Cheatham, the Quartermaster General, concluded that despite these conflicting needs, it was quite evident "that the possibility of the Post Cemetery ever being made a national one is remote."¹⁹

Despite the prediction, depletion of space in nearby San Antonio National Cemetery and the swollen veteran population eligible for burial there prompted the War Department to act. It announced on August 6, 1931, the transfer of 60 acres—including the Post Cemetery—from the military reservation for use as an annex to the national cemetery. It retained this function and the name "San Antonio National Cemetery Annex" until 1937, when the War Department formally renamed it the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.²⁰ As the War Department's policy was to expand existing national cemeteries rather than create new ones, in the case of Fort Sam Houston and other Inter-World War national cemeteries, they were either intended to supplement and expand existing facilities or to serve current burial needs of the armed forces.

Cemetery Development

The original design for the Post Cemetery was a single capsule shape in a north-to-south lengthwise orientation. By 1927, the cemetery had an entrance from the north, fronting what is now Winans Road. Workers completed the capsule shape along the south boundary by 1929. With the new designation as a national cemetery annex, the cemetery underwent some expansion and construction projects in the early 1930s. Two additional entrances, including one on the west boundary paralleling what is now Harry Wurzbach Road, reoriented the cemetery. Plans drawn in 1934, and updated several times until 1942, suggested an additional capsule east of the original, with several parallel east-to-west roads intersecting the capsules. Burial sections laid

¹⁹ Col. J.R. Pourie, Quartermaster Corps (QMC), to Quartermaster, 8th Corps Area, Ft. Sam Houston, TX, June 25, 1926, HPC, NCA, Washington, DC; Maj. Gen. B.F. Cheatham, Quartermaster General, to the Adj. Gen., War Department, Washington, DC, July 24, 1926, HPC, NCA, Washington, DC.

²⁰ NCA <http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/ftsamhouston.asp>; Maj. John T. Harris, QMC, to the Adj. Gen., War Department, March 19, 1931, HPC, NCA, Washington, DC.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

out in these plans showed the Post Cemetery as occupying the northeast half of the first capsule and the adjacent rectangular and square burial sections along the north and east, designated with a “P” before the section letter. The southern part of the capsule and adjacent burial areas were for the national cemetery. Like in the Post Section, this part divided married and single enlisted men. The plans also had a “Colored Enlisted Men” section along the south, in sections A and D. Minimal landscaping on the 1934 plans called for shrubs planted in the shape of stars in the west half of the first capsule shape (fig. 1).²¹

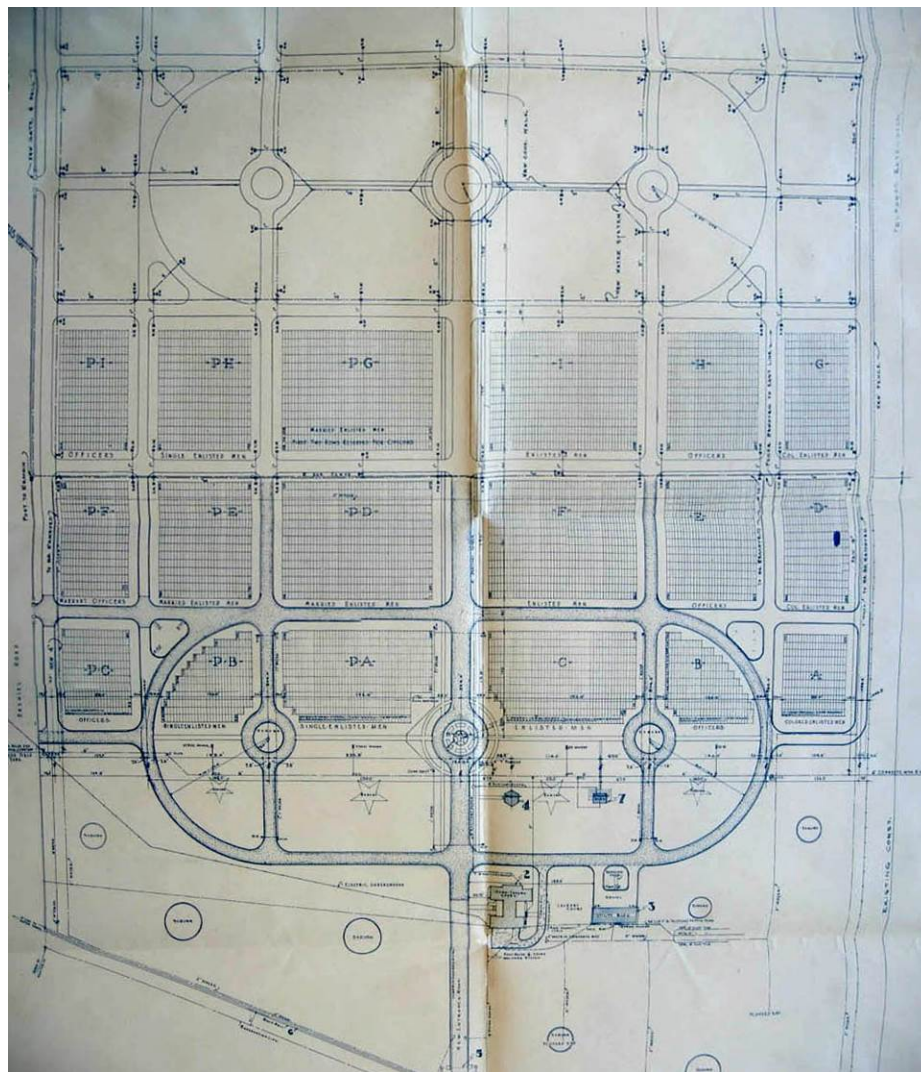


Fig. 1 Plan of Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery (NACP)

While the cemetery technically remained an annex to San Antonio National Cemetery, a large new construction project concluded between November 16, 1933, and June 30, 1934, through

²¹ United States Army Corps of Engineers, “East San Antonio, Tactical Map,” Revised 1927, The Center for American History Collection, University of Texas, Austin, TX; Office of the Post Utilities Officer, Fort Sam Houston, TX, “Proposed Expansion, Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery,” 1942, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Archival Collection (FSHNCAC), Fort Sam Houston History Museum (FSHHM), Fort Sam Houston, TX.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

funds allotted by the Quartermaster office. At a total cost of \$34,954, nearly \$21,000 of which went toward civilian labor, the project included construction of the caretaker's lodge (\$18,882), a restroom building (\$1,376), a rostrum (\$827), a stone wall (\$9,447), an entrance road 350 feet long and 24 feet wide with some sidewalks, concrete driveway and entrance area (\$2,034), as well as repairs to driveways, water and sewer systems from the original Post Cemetery. All the work finished by June 30, 1934, at \$45 below the budgeted cost, perhaps because the cemetery superintendent and his grounds crew built the rostrum themselves. Labor hired and materials purchased during the project were at rates prescribed by the National Industrial Recovery Act.²²

The Spanish Revival-style superintendent's lodge erected in 1934 is similar to four other buildings constructed by the War Department at other military installations. Used as company and field officer's quarters, the one-story "Bungalow" has an "H"-shaped footprint distinguished by two projecting front gables and a recessed central bay on the facades. The lodge has a hollow tile frame clad in stucco, with a Spanish tile roof.²³ H.H. Moeller of San Antonio completed the utility building in 1938 (demolished ca. 1980) at the cost of \$7,266. Similar in materials and style to the lodge to the north, the one-story, rectangular utility building was also stucco on hollow tile. Also in 1938, Chamberlain and Strain of San Antonio built the new flagpole with a circular base of Texas pink granite. The cemetery installed four standard bronze plaques, "Gettysburg Address" Plaque, *Memorial Day Order Plaque*, *General Orders No. 80*, and *National Cemetery Act Plaque*, ca. 1940.²⁴ Such plaques are common installations to national cemeteries. However, this style of plaque, set upon an upright granite stand, may be specific to Inter-World War cemeteries.²⁵

As of March 1941, the cemetery employed a superintendent and three regular laborers to maintain the 25 developed acres at the time, including the Post Section. In summer 1941, contractor Edward Herbaleb constructed a 548 feet long stone wall along the north boundary of the cemetery, including entry gates. This connected to the stone wall along the west boundary and utilized the same Texas limestone. Golglazier and Hoff, contractors, surfaced roads in the cemetery. The roads were an asphalt and gravel mixture and measured approximately 3,910 feet by 1943; sidewalks, 4 feet high and 5 feet wide, totaled 1,300 feet.²⁶

²² "Fort Sam Houston Annex, Completion Report on New Construction at San Antonio National Cemetery," HPC, NCA, Washington, DC; Anderson, Report of Inspection; War Department, "Buildings and Utilities."

²³ Grashof, "Standardized Plans;" The lodge is similar to four other buildings erected by the War Department at Randolph Field, TX; Fort Bragg, NC; March Field, CA; and Rockwell Field, CA.

²⁴ Office Post Quartermaster, Fort Sam Houston, TX, "Completion Report, for Utility Building Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 1938," FSHNCAC, FSHHM, Fort Sam Houston, TX; Lt. Col. C.L. Middleton, QMC, "Completion Report for Resurfacing of Roads and Construction of Inclosing Wall at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery at Fort Sam Houston, 1941," HPC, NCA, Washington, DC; Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, "Record of Permanent Property Installed," no date, FSHNCAC, FSHHM, Fort Sam Houston, TX.

²⁵ This style of plaque is currently found in Baltimore, Fort Sam Houston, Long Island, Fort Rosecrans, and Fort Snelling national cemeteries. The manufacturer sent this style 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.

²⁶ Anderson, Report of Inspection; Rupe, Report of Inspection.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

Name of Property

Bexar County, TX

County and State

Cemetery roads and sidewalks framed burial sections laid out in a geometric grid and labeled by letters. Although burial sections followed a formal arrangement, burials within those sections did not occur in a regular order in the late 1930s. A cemetery inspection in 1938 led to a complaint from Colonel John T. Harris of the Quartermaster Corps, Washington, DC, who suggested that placing burials irregularly in various sections “does not tend to a well kept, uniform appearance and detracts materially from the general appearance of the cemetery.”²⁷ In response, the adjutant general explained that workers dug graves west to east, but a recent request from the quartermaster general office to go from south to north necessitated a change in direction. Interments also skipped some graves due to collapse because of soil conditions. Nonetheless, the adjutant general promised to open graves in regular order and avoid skips as much as possible.²⁸

Labor and funding appropriations for the cemetery had a direct impact on its appearance and development continued in the mid to late 1930s. By late 1939, the War Department developed approximately 25 acres and employed three full-time laborers to maintain the grounds. A neglected lot in the southwest corner, visible to passing traffic, was a concern for the Fort Sam Houston quartermaster. He explained to the Office of the Quartermaster General that the \$23,699 allotted for next year’s cemetery budget fell too short of the requested \$41,385 and was too small to fund additional labor. The Quartermaster General’s Office agreed that the cemetery needed attention, because it “was begun wrong and has continued that way.” There was no irrigation system and no decision as to which water-supply system might work best in the Texas climate. Labor shortages created additional frustration. Prisoners from the post served as laborers to open new graves (approximately fifteen per week), staying just ahead of the funerals. The strained labor situation afflicted Texas in 1939, and other military projects fell behind because of the shortage of WPA labor. With these labor and funding shortages, the cemetery officials requested further assistance from the War Department (renamed the Department of Defense in 1949) for basic upkeep and development needs.²⁹

Construction projects in the 1940s and 1950s continued to develop and beautify the cemetery facilities. The cemetery received a \$26,800 allotment in 1944 that supported additional development of the acreage—new roadways, sidewalks, boundary walls and water lines. Part of this initiative developed the second capsule-shaped portion of the design. Although the original three-capsule design advanced as far as the second capsule by 1948, cemetery workers altered the second capsule to a rectangular form in the late 1950s in order to create a more precise road layout. The cemetery utilized the capsule design to create eight sections within a block, but as the roads extended east, the sections became much larger and a single section made up a single block bounded on all four sides by cemetery roads. A large planting plan resulted in more than

²⁷ Col. John T. Harris, QMC, to Quartermaster, 8th Corps Area, Fort Sam Houston, TX, April 1, 1938, Folder 293 FSHNC 1942, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

²⁸ Maj. C.A. Easterbrook, Adj. Gen., to Commanding Gen., Fort Sam Houston, TX, April 6, 1938, Folder 293 FSHNC 1942, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, Record Group 92, NACP.

²⁹ Col. John P. Hasson, QMC, to Colonel John T. Harris, OQMG, Washington, DC, September 18, 1939, Folder 687 FSHNC Miscellaneous 1938, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP; Col. John T. Harris, QMC, to Col. John P. Hasson, Quartermaster, 8th Corps Area, Fort Sam Houston, TX, September 21, 1939, Folder 687 FSHNC Miscellaneous 1938, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

300 new shrubs and trees in March 1952, including crepe myrtles, oaks, sycamore, and poplar. In June 1953, the cemetery opened its new administration building, completed at a cost of \$28,117. Built with similar materials and in a similar style as the lodge, the administrative building removed the office function from the lodge and provided public restrooms. The building was part of a larger construction project totaling \$64,314 that included the new building, remodeling the utility building, repairing the lodge foundation, and installing new curbs, roads, and sewers throughout the cemetery.³⁰

Changes and Improvements

During the latter half of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century, the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery witnessed several significant changes, including new federal management, additional buildings, and a large land expansion. In 1974, the Army transferred nearly 32 acres adjoining Fort Sam Houston National Cemeteries' grounds from the base; another 15 acres were similarly transferred in 1976. These expansion projects came as a response to predictions that the cemetery was rapidly running out of space.³¹

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 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.³²

During the 1980s and 1990s, Fort Sam Houston 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 NCA. During this period, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery gained both new buildings and land. Workers enlarged the administrative office through a rear addition in 1981 and completed the nearby restroom building just three years later. The cemetery installed the carillon tower 1982. An acquisition of approximately 8 acres in 1989, and another in 1997 of 39 acres, expanded the cemetery east across Nursery Road. The expansion eastward continued in 2005 with the acquisition of approximately 170 acres, and in 2009 with acquisition of nearly 14 acres from the

³⁰ War Department, "Buildings and Utilities;" "History of Cemetery, 19 November 1946," Revised September 30, 1953, HPC, NCA, Washington, DC.

³¹ "Cemetery at Ft. Sam Will Expand," *The Light*, May 5, 1976; "Army Gives Land to Cemetery," *The Light*, April 17, 1974.

³² 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).

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

Department of the Army. These additional acres developed with traditional in-ground burial space and columbaria, a memorial walkway, and a large new maintenance facility.³³

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery retains its historic integrity. Many of its historic features remain intact despite several expansions that enlarged the cemetery; these changes had little impact on the historic core of the property located west of Nursery Road. It is this portion of the cemetery where the earliest burials are located, original road design and burial layout is most evident, and where the historic buildings and structures stand. The historic lodge, rostrum, flagpole area, and signage cluster east of the entrance. Mature trees create shady allées along the oldest roads here, and the historic limestone walls and iron gates signify the former borders and traffic patterns of this formerly modest cemetery. New sections of the cemetery concentrate largely across Nursery Road and to the east of the historic cemetery; although, the southern portion of the cemetery west of Nursery Road, which is organized in numerical sections, is also a later addition.

Medal of Honor Recipients (12)³⁴

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.

Lucian Adams, Staff Sergeant. Staff Sergeant Adams, United States Army, 30th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division, distinguished himself in service near St. Die, France, on October 28, 1944. While attempting to re-establish a supply line his unit was attacked by Germans in the surrounding forest. Finding several of his comrades killed or wounded, he charged ahead alone through the forest, becoming the object of intense enemy fire. He nonetheless destroyed three machine gun nests and killed nine Germans, clearing the forest for the supply line. He was buried in Section AI, Grave 555 following his death on March 31, 2003.

Roy P. Benavidez, Master Sergeant. Master Sergeant Benavidez served with the United States Army, Detachment B-56, 5th Special Forces Group, in Vietnam. He distinguished himself on May 2, 1968, after carrying injured comrades away from enemy fire, retrieving classified papers, and being wounded repeatedly. He was subsequently clubbed by an enemy rifle and attacked with a bayonet, which he used to kill the enemy. He was finally loaded onto a helicopter and returned to base, where a doctor wrongly declared him dead. Benavidez was treated for his injuries and recovered. He was buried in Section AI, Grave 553 following his death on November 29, 1998.

³³ F. Lawrence Oaks, State Historic Preservation Officer, to Kathleen M Schamel, Federal Preservation Officer, VA, June 2, 2008, HPC, NCA, Washington, DC.

³⁴ This section was compiled by 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," www.CMOHS.org, accessed June 1, 2010.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

Cecil H. Bolton, First Lieutenant. First Lieutenant Bolton, United States Army, Company E, 413th and 104th Infantry, fought gallantly in a pitched battle the night of November 2, 1944, in Mark River, Holland. He returned mortar fire with two machine guns and continued to direct fire until a German shell knocked him unconscious and wounded his legs. His leadership helped Company E, 413th Infantry, overcome enemy resistance. He was interred in Section PC, Grave 22-J following his death on January 22, 1965.

William J. Bordelon, Staff Sergeant. Staff Sergeant Bordelon of the United States Marine Corps, 1st Battalion, 18th Marines, 2nd Marine Division distinguished himself during World War II on the Gilbert Islands, November 20, 1943. Bordelon attacked several enemy pillboxes under heavy fire and rescued several soldiers after being shot and having an explosive detonate in his hand. He died in a blast of enemy fire just before detonating a fourth pillbox he attacked. He is interred in Section AI, Grave 558.

William G. Harrell, Sergeant. Platoon Sergeant Harrell, United States Marine Corps, distinguished himself as an assault group leader attached to the 1st Battalion, 28th Marines, 5th Marine Division, and engaged in hand-to-hand combat with enemy Japanese soldiers at Iwo Jima on March 3, 1945. Harrell killed five Japanese soldiers during the attack and lost both hands. He was interred in Section W, Grave 3247 following his death on August 9, 1965.

Lloyd H. Hughes, Second Lieutenant. Hughes, of United States Army Air Corps, 564th Bomber Squadron, 389th Bomber Group, 9th Air Force, was cited for conspicuous gallantry in action. He piloted a 9th Air Force heavy bombardment aircraft on August 1, 1943, in Romania. Despite serious damage to his aircraft, Hughes continued his course, dropping his bomb with great precision. He attempted to land his plane, but it crashed and was consumed by fire. He is buried in Section U, Grave 53.

Milton A. Lee, Private First Class. Private First Class Lee distinguished himself in Phu Bai, Thua Thien Province, Vietnam. He pressed through heavy fire to attend to wounded comrades, then killed four of the enemy and overtook their weapons and position. Although mortally wounded, his actions on April 26, 1969 saved the lives of others and were instrumental in destroying key enemy positions. He is interred in Section X, Grave 2475.

Jose M. Lopez, Sergeant First Class. Sergeant First Class Lopez, United States Army, 23rd Infantry, 2nd Infantry Division, distinguished himself near Krinkelt, Belgium, December 17, 1944. Lopez carried his heavy machine gun to defensive positions while under fire from German soldiers. Lopez killed at least 100 of the enemy and continued firing until he was out of ammunition. His gallantry prevented his company from being outflanked and allowed a support line coming up to create a defense. He was interred in Section AI, Grave 542 following his death on May 16, 2005.

James E. Robinson, First Lieutenant. First Lieutenant Robinson served with Battery A, 861st Field Artillery Battalion, 63rd Infantry Division near Untergriesheim, Germany, on April 6, 1945. After eight hours of desperate fighting and heavy casualties amongst his comrades, Robinson

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

rallied twenty-three remaining uninjured riflemen and walking wounded. He received a serious wound to the throat in a subsequent advance, and despite great pain and loss of blood, continued to direct artillery fire at the enemy. He died of his wound, and is interred in Section T, Grave 98.

Louis R. Rocco, Chief Warrant Officer. Chief Warrant Officer Rocco, United States Army, Advisory Team 162, United States Military Assistance Command, distinguished himself in battle northeast of Katum, Vietnam, on May 24, 1970. He aided wounded soldiers after being injured himself in a helicopter crash. He was interred in Section AI, Grave 549 following his death on October 31, 2002.

Cleto Rodriguez, Private. Private Rodriguez (retired master sergeant), Co. B, 148th Infantry, 37th Infantry Division, was cited for his actions as an automatic rifleman at the Paco Railroad Station, Manila, Philippine Islands, on February 9, 1945. In just more than two hours, Rodriguez and a fellow soldier killed more than eighty-two Japanese soldiers, paving the way for an advance and an overwhelming victory. He was buried in Section AI, Grave 700 following his death on December 7, 1990.

Seth L. Weld, Colonel. Though injured himself, Colonel Weld, Company L, 8th United States Infantry, assisted a wounded officer and a fellow soldier who were surrounded by forty of the enemy on the Philippine Islands on December 5, 1906. He used his rifle as a club and beat back the assailants, rescuing his party. He was interred in Section AH, Grave 189 following his death on December 20, 1958.

Group Burials

There are ten group burials containing a total of forty-eight decedents in the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. The circumstances of death—such as airplane crashes—precluded the separation of the remains and therefore the comrades-in-arms share a common grave. Larger marble government headstones with the names, ranks and dates of the decedents in each group denote interred individuals. The largest group burial is of ten soldiers.³⁵

POW Burials

Before the expanding national cemetery surrounded it, a separate enclosure on the southeast corner of the cemetery stood apart from the remaining grounds. Established in 1947 and landscaped alongside its neighboring grounds, the enclosure had planted trees and grass. In a 1948 news article, the writer referred to it as the only “POW cemetery” in the 4th Army area. It holds the remains of 141 prisoners of war: 132 from Germany, five from Italy, three from Japan, and one from Austria. The graves each received the same General headstone, though for some of the Germans, an etching of swastika in an “iron cross” sits above the names, while others have no symbol at all. The swastika symbol on a federally furnished headstone within an American national cemetery is an ironic and unique attribute of the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery;

³⁵ VA, “Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery,” pamphlet (Washington, DC: VA, no date), HPC, NCA, Washington, DC.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

it appears to be the only such cemetery to have headstones with this symbol. Remains in this now-nondescript part of the cemetery, Section ZA, transferred from various POW camps in Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas. As those POW camps closed after World War II, the temporary cemeteries used for deceased POWs closed and remains went to the national cemetery serving the area – Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.³⁶

Notable Reinterments

“Houston Riot” Burials

One controversial group burial at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery was a group of seventeen African-American soldiers reinterred on May 19, 1937, in the Post Section; they were originally buried near Salado Creek. The men were among nineteen soldiers executed by hanging for their part in the “Houston Riot” in 1917. The Third Battalion of the black 24th United States Infantry arrived in the outskirts of Houston in July 1917 to help guard the construction site of Camp Logan, a new military installation. The African-American soldiers endured daily racial slurs and tension. On August 23, 1917, the police arrested and beat a Third Battalion soldier, Alonso Edwards, for interfering in the arrest and assault of a black mother of five small children. When a black military policeman with the Third Battalion, Corporal Charles Baltimore, inquired about the situation, white police officers beat and arrested Baltimore before taking him to the police station, from which he was soon released. Rumors of Baltimore being shot and killed by the white police incited a group of black soldiers to march on the station to demand his release, if indeed he was still alive. By 8 p.m. that evening, increasing tension and rumors of an impending white mob attack led to mass arming by the black soldiers. Over 150 black troops conducted a two-hour march through Houston, and a tumultuous riot ensued as local armed whites met the black soldiers. The conflict resulted in the death of twenty people, including four soldiers, four policemen, and twelve civilians. The riot erupted amidst strained racial relations and the resulting military tribunal led to guilty convictions for 110 black enlisted men, of which sixty-three received sentences of life in federal prison and nineteen “mutinous soldiers” sentenced to hanging. No white civilians received punishments for the riot.³⁷

In 1940, three years after the reburial in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio’s local newspaper, the *Evening News*, accused this reburial of occurring in secret, which resulted in controversy. Morris Sheppard used his official letterhead from the United States Senate, Committee on Military Affairs, to question the Secretary of War about the burials after the newspaper article. His June 20, 1940, letter noted that he received the news from a prominent citizen of San Antonio. The scathing attack argued that the seventeen men were removed from

³⁶ “141 Ex-Enemies Buried at Ft. Sam.” *The Light*, July 20, 1948; “The History of Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery,” no date, HPC, NCA, Washington, DC; The iron cross is a Prussian military decorated instituted in 1813, but revived in 1939 on the day German forces invaded Poland by Adolph Hitler, with the addition of a centrally placed swastika. Encyclopedia Britannica, “Iron Cross,” <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/294416/Iron-Cross>,” accessed December 17, 2009.

³⁷ Robert V. Haynes, “Houston Riot of 1917,” *The Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/jch04>, uploaded June 15, 2010, accessed September 29, 2014

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

their dishonorable graves to ones of honor, a “gratuitous insult to the honorable dead of the Army,” and that the bodies should have been destroyed. The upset citizen called for an investigation, charges brought against whoever called for the reburial, and removal of service for that individual.³⁸ The Secretary of War defended the decision because the burials had drawn considerable visitors, resulting in annoyance and “unfavorable reactions.” Therefore, the general of the fort decided to remove the graves to the national cemetery. Despite this simplistic explanation, there is some mystery suggested by a memorandum in the War Department explaining that the “entire history of the case” is in “Secret File 293.8.”³⁹

Buffalo Soldiers

There are twenty-seven “Buffalo Soldiers” from the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry buried in Section PE. These African-American soldiers served during the Indian Wars era, and their remains reinterred in this cemetery after the frontier posts holding their graves closed. The frontier posts included Fort Clark, Fort McIntosh, and Fort Ringgold.

Others

Raymond Hatfield Gardner, Scout, United States Army. Gardner was better known as “Arizona Bill.” He served with the 5th Regiment Cavalry, Company A and C, during the Indian Wars and served as an Indian scout. He worked in a wild west show, had a radio program, and wrote a book about his life as Arizona Bill. He was buried in a pauper’s grave after his death in 1940, but reinterred at this cemetery in 1976 in Section AC, grave 287-B.

William Randolph, Captain, United States Army Air Corps. In 1949, Captain William Randolph, for whom Randolph Air Force Base is named, was reinterred in the national cemetery. Randolph died in a plane crash shortly after takeoff in Texas in 1928; he is buried in Section Q, grave 133.

There were an unknown number of reinterments from other Texas cemeteries in 1947, including abandoned post cemeteries at Fort Clark (est. 1852), Fort McIntosh (est. 1849), and Fort Ringgold (est. 1848), resulting in interments of veterans from the Civil War, Spanish War, and Indian Wars. These forts all closed after World War II, when the War Department began scaling back the number of military installations during peacetime.⁴⁰

Also located in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery are fifty-seven private markers allowed at the cemetery under an older policy. The cemetery permitted private markers in only Sections C and A1. Many of these markers are upright granite headstones on granite bases.

³⁸ Hon. Morris Sheppard, to Hon. Harry H. Woodring, Secretary of War, Washington, DC, June 20, 1940, Folder 293, FSHNC 1942, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP; Harry H. Woodring, Secretary of War, to Hon. Morris Sheppard, United States Senate, Washington, DC, no date, Folder 293, FSHNC 1942, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

³⁹ War Department, Memorandum Washington, DC, February 11, 1941, Folder 293, FSHNC, Miscellaneous, 1941-42, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

⁴⁰ “The History of Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery;” Trower, conversation.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

Conclusion

Maintaining much of its historic integrity, this cemetery also retains the defining characteristics of national cemeteries. Neatly aligned rows of marble headstones, most of them upright, mark the graves of our nation's honored heroes. Mature trees shade the avenues of the cemetery's historic roads, and the marble headstones form neat lines punctuating the green grass carpeting. The national cemeteries created in the Inter-World War era met a substantial need for American veterans, and in the process created distinct funerary landscapes. Utilizing local styles and materials, the elements of these cemeteries blended well with their communities, while creating lasting shrines to the nation's veterans.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Unpublished

American Association for State and Local History. *Fort Sam Houston: National Register of Historic Places Documentation Form*. Nashville, 1974.

Anderson, Engmann A., Report of Inspection of National Cemetery Activities at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery (FSHNC), March 20, 1941; Folder 333.1, General Correspondence, "Geographic File," (GCGF) 1936-45; Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General (OQMG), Record Group 92 (RG 92); National Archives at College Park (NACP).

Coffee, Marion, FSHNC, Grave Sites Consumed, Reserved and Available, March 22, 1941; Folder 293.5, GCGF 1936-45; Records of the OQMG, RG 92; NACP.

Constructing Division, Office of the Quartermaster General, "Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Fort Sam Houston, TX, Location of Tablet Monuments," May 26, 1938; Folder 293.7, Ft. Sam Houston, GCGF 1936-1945; Records of the OQMG, RG 92; NACP.

Design for Flat Marker, Box 17, Folder 4; FSHNC, Department of Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Historical File; Records of the Veterans Administration, Record Group 15; National Archives Building, Washington, DC (NAB).

Easterbrook, C.A., Maj., Adj. Gen., to Commanding Gen., Fort Sam Houston, TX, April 6, 1938; Folder 293 FSHNC 1942; GCGF 1936-1945; Records of the OQMG, Record Group 92; NACP.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Archival Collection. Fort Sam Houston History Museum. Fort Sam Houston, TX.

Harris, John T., Col. QMC, to Col. John P. Hasson, Quartermaster, 8th Corps Area, Fort Sam Houston, TX, September 21, 1939; Folder 687 FSHNC Miscellaneous 1938; GCGF 1936-1945; Records of the OQMG, RG 92; NACP.

Harris, John T., Col., QMC, to Quartermaster, 8th Corps Area, Fort Sam Houston, TX, April 1, 1938; Folder 293 FSHNC 1942; GCGF 1936-1945; Records of the OQMG, RG 92; NACP.

Hasson, John P., Col., QMC, to Colonel John T. Harris, OQMG, Washington, DC,

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

September 18, 1939; Folder 687 FSHNC Miscellaneous 1938; GCGF 1936-1945;
Records of the OQMG, RG 92; NACP.

Historic Photograph Collection. FSHNC. Fort Sam Houston, TX.

History Program Collection. National Cemetery Administration (NCA). Washington, DC.

Keeper of the National Register, "National Register Eligibility of National Cemeteries – A Clarification of Policy," National Register Statement of Policy. September 8, 2011, Washington, DC.

Maintenance Ledgers; FSHNC; DMA, NCHF; Records of the VA, RG 15; NAB.

NCA. Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Cemetery Survey Report, 2007.

Rupe, F.D., Report of Inspection of FSHNC, May 27, 1943, Folder 333.1, GCGF 1936-45, Records of the OQMG, RG 92; NACP.

Sheppard, Morris, Hon. to Hon. Harry H. Woodring, Secretary of War, Washington, DC, June 20, 1940; Folder 293, FSHNC 1942; GCGF 1936-1945; Records of the OQMG, RG 92; NACP.

War Department, Memorandum Washington, DC, February 11, 1941; Folder 293, FSHNC, Miscellaneous, 1941-42; GCGF 1936-1945; Records of the OQMG, RG 92; NACP.

Woodring, Harry H., Secretary of War, to Hon. Morris Sheppard, United States Senate, Washington, DC, no date; Folder 293, FSHNC 1942; GCGF 1936-1945; Records of the OQMG, RG 92; NACP.

Published

Congressional Medal of Honor Society. "Full Archive." www.CMOHS.org. Accessed 2008-2010.

Department of Veterans Affairs. *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.

Encyclopedia Britannica, "Iron Cross."
<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/294416/Iron-Cross>. Accessed December 17, 2009.

Grashof, Bethany C. "A Study of U.S. Army Family Housing, Standardized Plans, 1866-1940." Vol. 5, 1917-1940. Atlanta: Georgia Institute of Technology, 1986.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

- Haynes, Robert V. "Houston Riot of 1917." *The Handbook of Texas Online*.
<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/jch04>. Uploaded June 15, 2010.
Accessed September 29, 2014.
- Holt, Dean W. *American Military Cemeteries: A Comprehensive Illustrated Guide to the
Hollowed Grounds of the United States, Including Cemeteries Overseas*. Jefferson, NC:
McFarland and Company, 1992.
- Johnson Donald E., *A Study of the National Cemetery System*. Washington, DC: Department
of Veterans Affairs, 1974.
- Joint Base San Antonio. "JBSA-Fort Sam Houston."
<http://www.jbsa.af.mil/library/history/history-fortsamhouston.asp>. Accessed September
26, 2014.
- Lang, George, Raymond Luther Collins, and Gerard White. *Medal of Honor Recipients,
1863-1994: World War II to Somalia*. New York: Facts on File, Inc., 1995.
- National Cemetery Administration. "Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery."
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/ftsamhouston.asp>. Accessed December 15, 2009.
- Sloane, David Charles. *The Last Great Necessity, Cemeteries in American History*.
Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991.
- United States Army Corps of Engineers, "East San Antonio, Tactical Map," Revised 1927,
The Center for American History Collection, University of Texas, Austin, TX.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

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-3

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: Fort Sam Houston Museum, Texas Historical Commission,
University of Texas, Austin, National Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 338.165

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: 29.478363 | Longitude: -98.433447 |
| 2. Latitude: 29.478379 | Longitude: -98.417947 |
| 3. Latitude: 29.474793 | Longitude: -98.417600 |
| 4. Latitude: 29.474562 | Longitude: -98.413539 |
| 5. Latitude: 29.471826 | Longitude: -98.415259 |
| 6. Latitude: 29.471772 | Longitude: -98.418322 |
| 7. Latitude: 29.473366 | Longitude: -98.418798 |
| 8. Latitude: 29.474654 | Longitude: -98.421223 |
| 9. Latitude: 29.474118 | Longitude: -98.421387 |
| 10. Latitude: 29.474207 | Longitude: -98.422703 |
| 11. Latitude: 29.475385 | Longitude: -98.423054 |
| 12. Latitude: 29.475297 | Longitude: -98.425983 |
| 13. Latitude: 29.476181 | Longitude: -98.426041 |
| 14. Latitude: 29.476193 | Longitude: -98.427537 |
| 15. Latitude: 29.472535 | Longitude: -98.430184 |
| 16. Latitude: 29.475016 | Longitude: -98.435328 |

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 14 N | Easting: 554933 | Northing: 3261126 |
| 2. Zone: 14 N | Easting: 556467 | Northing: 3260798 |
| 3. Zone: 14 N | Easting: 556467 | Northing: 3261128 |
| 4. Zone: 14 N | Easting: 554768 | Northing: 3260775 |

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

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

The west boundary of Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery is Harry Wurzbach Road; the northern boundary is Winans Road. The east boundary is approximately 1,050 feet east of the Winans Road intersection with Forbush Road. For the southern boundary east of Nursery Road, the cemetery boundaries are its own property line, an undeveloped wooded area, and a small section of the post hosting a warehouse, all part of Fort Sam Houston. The southern border of the cemetery west of Nursery Road follows the property line and borders a golf course.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for the NRHP listing of Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery corresponds to the boundary of the cemetery. All of the land within this boundary is either burial space, holding cemetery support facilities, or under development to receive interments or construct additional support facilities for such interments.

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.

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

Photographs

Photo Log

Name of Property: Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio

County: Bexar

State: Texas

Photographer: Staci Richey

Date Photographed: October 30-31, 2008

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

- 1 of 55. View to east, Entrance Gates
- 2 of 55. View to south, Street View
- 3 of 55. View to northeast, 1934 Stone Wall
- 4 of 55. View to east, South Gatepost
- 5 of 55. View to east, North Gatepost
- 6 of 55. View to west, Entrance Gates
- 7 of 55. View to southeast, Administration Office
- 8 of 55. View to south, Administration Office
- 9 of 55. View to east, Administration Office
- 10 of 55. View to northwest, Administration Office
- 11 of 55. View to southeast, Bathroom
- 12 of 55. View to south, Lodge
- 13 of 55. View to southwest, Lodge Entry
- 14 of 55. View to southwest, Lodge
- 15 of 55. View to northeast, Lodge
- 16 of 55. View to north, Lodge
- 17 of 55. View to west, Service Gate
- 18 of 55. View to east, Memorial Section
- 19 of 55. View to south, Rostrum and Carillon Tower
- 20 of 55. View to southwest, Rostrum
- 21 of 55. View to northeast, Flagpole
- 22 of 55. View to east, Flagpole base
- 23 of 55. View to southeast, "Gettysburg Address" Plaque
- 24 of 55. View to north, *Memorial Day Order* Plaque
- 25 of 55. View to south, *National Cemetery Act* Plaque
- 26 of 55. View to northwest, *General Orders No. 80* Plaque
- 27 of 55. View to northwest, North Gate
- 28 of 55. View to west, Stone Wall
- 29 of 55. View to north, Secondary Gate
- 30 of 55. View to west, Street View
- 31 of 55. View to east, Street View To Fort Sam Houston Entry

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
Name of Property

Bexar County, TX
County and State

- 32 of 55. View to west, Street View
- 33 of 55. View to southeast, Cypress Trees And Fence
- 34 of 55. View to west, POW Section
- 35 of 55. View to southwest, Section R
- 36 of 55. View to south, New Braunfels Street
- 37 of 55. View to northwest, Committal Shelter 4
- 38 of 55. View to southeast, Landscaping
- 39 of 55. View to northwest, South Stone Wall
- 40 of 55. View to south, Golf Course
- 41 of 55. View to east, Sam Houston Circle
- 42 of 55. View to northeast, Section E
- 43 of 55. View to northwest, Section B
- 44 of 55. View to west, San Antonio Boulevard
- 45 of 55. View to west, Nursery Road Entry
- 46 of 55. View to east, Nursery Road Entry
- 47 of 55. View to southeast, Section 13
- 48 of 55. View to north, Memorial Path
- 49 of 55. View to southeast, Columbaria
- 50 of 55. View to east, Vehicular Bridge
- 51 of 55. View to northwest, Section 26
- 52 of 55. View to southeast, Section 50
- 53 of 55. View to northeast, Maintenance Building
- 54 of 55. View to west, Section 27
- 55 of 55. View to southwest, Post Section

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, United States Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.