National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2010



Battleground National Cemetery
Rock Creek Park - Battleground National Cemetery

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Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

Battleground National Cemetery, Reservation 568, is a 1.03 acre property located at 6625 Georgia Avenue in northwest Washington, DC. The cemetery is approximately six miles north of the United States Capitol and two miles south of Silver Spring, Maryland. The cemetery is bordered on its north and south sides by residential structures. Georgia Avenue borders the cemetery to its west and Venable Street to its east.

Battleground National Cemetery was founded following the Battle of Fort Stevens, July 11th and 12th, 1864. The cemetery is located a portion of the battlefield approximately a half-mile north of Fort Stevens. Fort Stevens was one of the sixty-eight forts built as part of a defensive ring around Washington during the Civil War. By the closure of the war, the defenses of Washington included the forts, ninety-three batteries, thirty-miles of military roads, twenty miles of rilfe pits and three blockhouses. Fort Stevens guarded the Seventh Street Turnpike, present day Georgia Avenue, which was one of the major routes into the capital from the north.

On July 9, 1864, Confederate General Jubal Early led his troops towards Washington following the victory at the Battle of Monocacy, near Frederick, Maryland. On July 11th and 12th, fighting broke out between Union and Confederate troops at Fort Stevens. The Union successfully fought off the Confederates as they tried to invade the capital and drove them towards Maryland.

The Battle of Fort Stevens was the only battle to take place within Washington during the Civil War. Battleground National Cemetery was established shortly after the battle for the burial of Union soldiers killed during the fighting. Forty soldiers were buried in 1864. During the 1870s, four members of the cemetery superintendent's family were interred there. In 1936, Edward Campbell, one of the last living veterans of the battle, was buried at the cemetery. Following Major Campbell's interment the cemetery was closed to future burials.

Battleground National Cemetery is significant for its association with the Civil War and as one of the first national cemeteries. Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs selected the cemetery site on land belonging to James Mulloy, a member of the Washington police force (Floyd, Part I-VII: 9; RG 92 Entry 225). As head of the agency responsible for the recovery and burial of Union dead, Quartermaster General Meigs was following orders issued in 1862 by the War Department and acts passed by Congress regarding the acquisition of land for the burial of soldiers. In July 1862, Congress passed legislation authorizing the purchase of land for the creation of national cemeteries. In February 1867, Congress issued another act for establishing and protecting national cemeteries. It was under this act that the United States acquired ownership of Battleground National Cemetery's property. Under the 1867 law, the federal government compensated Mulloy and title to the land was turned over to the United States. The 1862 War Department orders, and the 1862 and 1867 acts of Congress, were among the first acts to establish the national cemetery system.

Quartermaster General Meigs' influence on national cemeteries is extensive. He created standardized designs for lodges, gates and outbuildings, and made suggestions for landscape design. Battleground National Cemetery's Meigs-designed lodge and maintenance building, the stone walls, central walkway

and the arrangement of the headstones, as well as the headstones themselves, maintain much of their historic appearance. These features are emblematic of early national cemeteries. During the 1870s, Meigs made suggestions for the improvement of the landscapes at the national cemeteries. Which resulted in the planting of trees, flowers and Osage orange hedges at Battleground and other cemeteries (1870 Annual Report of the Quatermaster General: 15, 69-70; VA, History and Development of the Natuonal Cemetery Administration: 4).

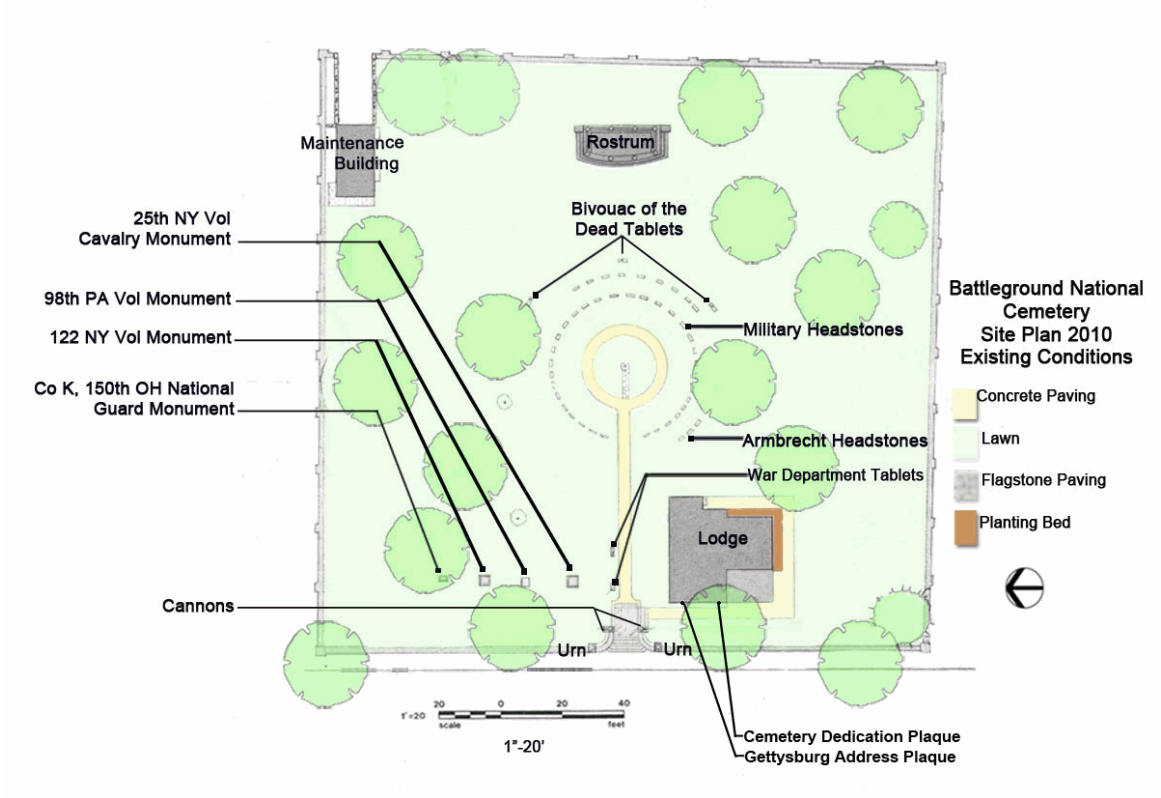
Shortly after its establishment, Battleground National Cemetery became a site of memorialization and commemoration. Observances of Decoration Day (Memorial Day) at the cemetery began as early as 1868, when the holiday was established, but formal services organized by veterans and neighbors began around 1902. At the end of the nineteenth century, veterans and states began to honor soldiers who fought in the Battle of Fort Stevens by erecting monuments at the cemetery. In 1891, a memorial to the 98th Pennsylvania Volunteers was raised. It was followed by the 1904 monument to the 122nd New York Volunteers; the 1907 memorial to Company K of the 150th Ohio National Guard; and the 1914 erection of a statue honoring the Twenty-fifth New York Volunteer Cavalry.

Battleground National Cemetery was listed on the National Register in 1980. The nomination lists its period of significance as 1864 to 1921. This CLI recommends extending the period of significance to 1936, the year the last burial took place. The National Register lists Battleground National Cemetery for its military significance. This CLI argues Battleground National Cemetery is eligible under three of the National Register's standards for evaluating the significance of properties. In addition to its military signifcance, this CLI argues the cemetery is also significant in the following areas: landscape architecture, social history and architecture

This CLI finds that the Battleground National Cemetery cultural landscape retains integrity for its period of significance, 1864-1936, with all seven aspects of integrity represented. While there have been some changes to the landscape, most notably the loss of historic vegetation, the overall integrity of Battleground National Cemetery is high and the landscape invokes the historic character of the property.

Although Battleground National Cemetery exhibits strong integrity, the cultural landscape is in fair condition. This is largely due to the condition of the lodge and rostrum. Rehabilitation work on these structures is underway, and repairs to other cemetery features suffering from deferred maintenance is scheduled. Completion of this work will greatly improve the appearance and condition of the cemetery.

Site Plan



Battleground National Cemetery existing conditions (CLP 2010)

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Battleground National Cemetery

Property Level: Landscape

CLI Identification Number: 600137

Parent Landscape: 600137

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code: Rock Creek Park - Battleground National Cemetery -BATT

Park Organization Code: 3439

Subunit/District Name Alpha Code: Rock Creek Park - Battleground National Cemetery - BATT

Park Administrative Unit: Rock Creek Park

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This Cultural Landscape Inventory was researched and written by Frances McMillen, Landscape Historian, Cultural Landscapes Program, National Capital Region. Primary and secondary source material from within the National Park Service and local repositories was utilized to complete the inventory and is listed in the bibliography. Research and editorial assistance was provided by Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect, Martha Temkin, Regional Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, Saylor Moss, Historical Landscape Architect, Deana Poss, Historical Landscape Architect, Susan Horner, National Register Historian, National Capital Region, Simone Monteleone, Cultural Resource Program Manager, Rock Creek Park, and Ron Harvey, Park Ranger.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 09/10/2010

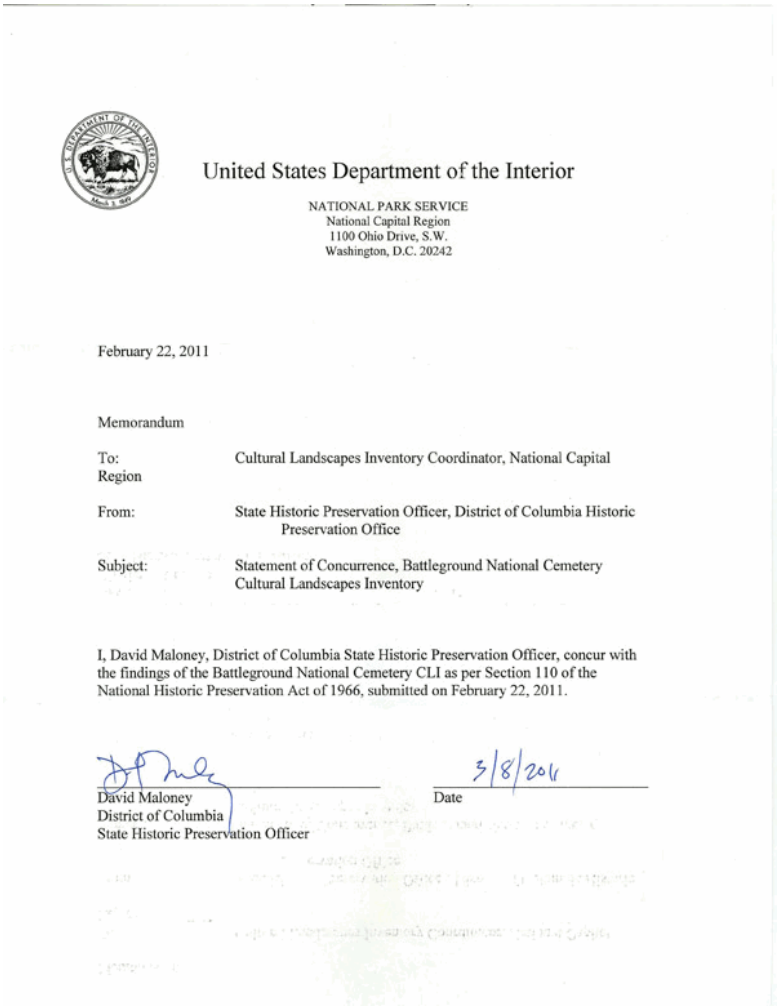
National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Date of Concurrence Determination: 09/15/2010

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia concurred with the findings of the Battleground National Cemetery CLI on 9/15/2010, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the Date of Eligibility Determination refers to this Section 110 Concurrence and not the date of National Register Eligibility, since that is not the purview of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory.

Concurrence Graphic Information:



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

February 22, 2011

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: State Historic Preservation Officer, District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Battleground National Cemetery Cultural Landscapes Inventory

I, David Maloney, District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Battleground National Cemetery CLI as per Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, submitted on February 22, 2011.

David Maloney
District of Columbia
State Historic Preservation Officer

3/8/2011
Date

Revised concurrence memo signed by the SHPO March 8, 2011.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

February 25, 2011
Memorandum:

To: Regional Landscape Architect, National Capital Region

From: Acting Superintendent, Rock Creek Park

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Battleground National Cemetery Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Stephen Syphax, Acting Superintendent of Rock Creek, concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Battleground National Cemetery, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory for the Battleground National Cemetery is hereby approved and accepted.

Stephen W. Syphax 2/25/11

Stephen Syphax
Acting Superintendent, Rock Creek Park Date

Revised concurrence memo signed by park superintendent February 25, 2011.

Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence: Other

Revision Date: 03/08/2011

Revision Narrative:

The splashpad landscape feature, constructed of re-purposed headstones, was originally listed as non-contributing. The feature's status has been changed to undetermined. The date the splashpad was installed is unknown and further research is necessary to determine if it was in place during the period of significance. Though it is unclear how common a practice it was, other national cemeteries re-purposed old headstones during the early part of the twentieth

century.

Revision Date: 02/25/2011

Revision Narrative:

See SHPO revised concurrence explanatory narrative.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Battleground National Cemetery, also known as Reservation 568, is a 1.03 acre site located in northwest Washington, DC approximately six miles north of the United States Capitol and approximately two miles south of Silver Spring, Maryland. Residential housing bounds the cemetery on its north and south sides. Georgia Avenue bounds the cemetery to the west and Venable Street bounds the cemetery to the east.

State and County:

State: DC

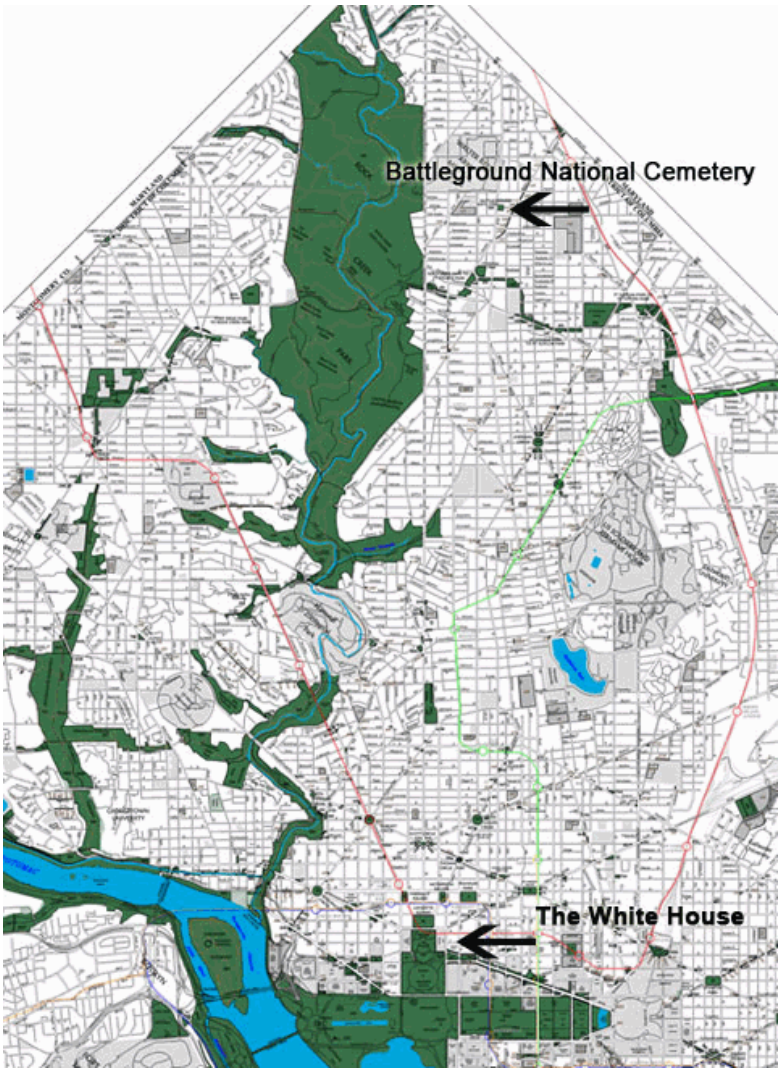
County: District of Columbia

Size (Acres): 1.03

Boundary UTMS:

Source:	USGS Map 1:100,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	324,400
UTM Northing:	4,315,260

Location Map:



Battleground National Cemetery is located in northwest Washington, DC, approximately six miles north of the United States Capitol. (NPS 869/80,251-H)

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/10/2010

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Battleground National Cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its association with the Battle of Fort Stevens, the only Civil War battle fought within the District of Columbia. The management category is "Must be Preserved and Maintained" because of its listing on the National Register.

The Management Category Date is the date the CLI was first approved by the superintendent.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

National Register Information

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register:	Battleground National Cemetery
NRIS Number:	66000032
Primary Certification Date:	04/04/1980

Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
Significance Criteria:	D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1864 - 1936
Historic Context Theme:	Shaping the Political Landscape
Subtheme:	The Civil War
Facet:	Battles In The North And South
Time Period:	AD 1864 - 1936
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Rural Cemeteries
Other Facet:	Development of early national cemeteries.
Time Period:	AD 1864 - 1936
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Architecture
Facet:	Second Empire (1850-1890)

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Military
Area of Significance Category:	Social History
Area of Significance Category:	Landscape Architecture
Area of Significance Category:	Architecture

Statement of Significance:

Battleground National Cemetery was listed on the National Register in 1980. The nomination lists its period of significance as 1864 to 1921. This CLI recommends extending the period of significance to 1936, the year the last burial took place.

The National Register lists Battleground National Cemetery for its military significance. This CLI argues Battleground National Cemetery is eligible under three of the National Register's standards for evaluating the significance of properties. Under Criteria A: Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, Battleground National Cemetery is eligible for its association with the Civil War, the development of National Cemeteries, and the efforts of Civil War veterans and others to memorialize and commemorate the war. Under Criteria 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, Battleground National Cemetery is eligible because it exemplifies the characteristics of Civil War era national cemeteries, particularly the buildings and other features designed by Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs. Battleground National Cemetery is also eligible under Criteria D: Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Battleground National Cemetery has the potential to reveal information related to its role in the Civil War. During the July 1864 Battle of Fort Stevens, fighting took place on the site of the cemetery. Further archaeological investigation on the site may uncover additional information about the battle and the development of the cemetery.

Battleground National Cemetery is eligible under Criteria A for its association with the Civil War. The cemetery is located on land where fighting took place during the July 11-12, 1864 Battle of Fort Stevens. Fort Stevens is located approximately a half-mile south of the cemetery. The fort was established as one of the ring of forts built at the beginning of the Civil War to protect Washington. Fort Stevens guarded the Seventh Street Turnpike, present day Georgia Avenue, one of the major routes into the capital from the north. On July 11th and 12th, fighting broke out between Union and Confederate troops at Fort Stevens. The Union successfully fought off the Confederates as they tried to invade the capital and drove them to Maryland. The Battle of Fort Stevens was the only battle to take place within

Washington during the Civil War. Battleground National Cemetery was established shortly after the battle for the burial of Union soldiers killed during the fighting. Thirty-nine soldiers were buried there in 1864. In 1936, the final burial took place with the interment of Edward Campbell, one of the last living survivors of the battle.

Battleground National Cemetery is also eligible under Criteria A for its association with the establishment of national cemeteries. Battleground was among the first national cemeteries established. Shortly after the Battle of Fort Stevens, Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs selected the cemetery site approximately a half-mile from the fort on the Seventh Street Turnpike, today's Georgia Avenue ("The New Burial Ground," Daily Constitutional Union, July 23, 1864; "Correspondence of The Baltimore Sun," The Sun, July 23, 1864). The land belonged to James Mulloy, a member of the Washington police force (Floyd, Part I-VII: 9; RG 92 Entry 225). As head of the agency responsible for the recovery and burial of Union dead, Meigs was following orders issued in 1862 by the War Department and acts passed Congress regarding land for the burial of soldiers. In July 1862, Congress passed legislation authorizing the purchase of land for the creation of national cemeteries. In February 1867, Congress issued another act for establishing and protecting national cemeteries. It was under this act that the United States acquired ownership of the property. Under the 1867 law, the federal government compensated Mulloy and title to the land was turned over to the United States. The 1862 War Department orders and the 1862 and 1867 acts of Congress, were among the first acts to establish the national cemetery system. Administration of Battleground National Cemetery and several other national cemeteries was turned over to the National Park Service in 1933 under Executive Orders 6166 and 6228.

Battleground National Cemetery is also significant under Criteria A for the efforts of Civil War veterans and others to memorialize and commemorate the war. Observances of Memorial Day at the cemetery began as early as 1868, but formal services organized by veterans and neighbors began around 1902. At the end of the nineteenth century, veterans and states began to honor soldiers who fought in the Battle of Fort Stevens by erecting monuments at the cemetery. In 1891, a memorial to the 98th Pennsylvania Volunteers was raised. It was followed by the 1904 monument to the 122nd New York Volunteers; the 1907 memorial to Company K of the 150th Ohio National Guard; and the 1914 erection of a lone sentinel soldier statue honoring the Twenty-fifth New York Volunteer Cavalry.

Battleground National Cemetery is eligible under Criteria 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. Battleground National Cemetery is an example of Civil War era and early national cemetery design, particularly the work of Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs. His influence on national cemeteries is extensive. Meigs created standardized designs for lodges, gates and outbuildings, and made suggestions for landscape design. The National Register listing for “Civil War Era National Cemeteries” documents fifty-nine national cemeteries administered by the Veterans Administration possessing Meigs designed lodges and other features. Battleground shares much of the same characteristics as those included in the 1994 nomination. The Meigs-designed lodge and entrance gates, stone walls, central walkway and the arrangement of the headstones, as well as the headstones

themselves, maintain much of their nineteenth century appearance. These features are emblematic of early national cemeteries. The cemetery layout and features retain a high degree of integrity.

Battleground National Cemetery is also eligible under Criteria D: Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Battleground National Cemetery has the potential to reveal information related to prehistory, its role in the Civil War, and the development of the area surrounding the cemetery. In 1934, Civil War-era munitions were discovered by workmen at the cemetery and recent archaeological investigations of locations related to the Battle of Fort Stevens uncovered military artifacts. Archaeological investigations at Battleground National Cemetery may uncover additional information about the battle and the history of the cemetery, as well as material from additional periods prior to the Civil War.

State Register Information

Date Listed: 03/03/1979

Name: Battleground National Cemetery

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Cemetery

Primary Current Use: Cemetery

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1668	Platted	Colonel Henry Darnall granted a 6,000 acres land patent called The Gyrle`s Portion
AD 1711	Land Transfer	Colonel Henry Darnall dies and wills sections of The Gyrle`s Portion to son-in-law Charles Carroll of Carrollton
AD 1773	Land Transfer	Charles Carroll Jr. of Duddington Manor leaves two tracts of The Gyrle’s Portion to his son Charles Carroll of Bellevue

AD 1842	Land Transfer	Charles H. Carroll, son of Charles Carroll of Bellevue, sells part of a tract of The Gyrle's Portion to Thomas Bowen.
AD 1844	Land Transfer	Thomas Bowen sells some of the land to N.P. Cousin Jr.
AD 1863	Land Transfer	James Mulloy purchases land from N.P. Cousin Jr.
AD 1864	Military Operation	On July 9, 1864, Confederate General Jubal Early leads his troops towards Washington following the Battle of Monocacy. On July 11th and 12th, fighting breaks out between Union and Confederate troops at Fort Stevens. The Union successfully fights off the Confederates.
	Established	Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs takes possession of a small section of the battlefield for the burial of forty Union soldiers killed during the Battle of Fort Stevens. Wooden boards are used to mark the graves.
AD 1864 - 1865	Built	A single-story wood frame building is erected for the cemetery superintendent`s residence.
AD 1864 - 1869	Planted	Several deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs are planted within the circular grave formation. Rose shrubs are also planted, but their location is not specified.
AD 1868	Land Transfer	The federal government acquires the title to the cemetery property. James Mulloy is compensated $2600.
AD 1870 - 1871	Planted	Osage orange hedge planted along the cemetery wall.
AD 1871	Planted	Forty-four trees and twenty-six shrubs are planted.
	Built	Superintendent`s lodge erected.
	Built	Stone wall enclosing the cemetery erected.

AD 1872	Built	The Seventh Street Turnpike is regraded requiring the construction of a retaining wall to support the stone perimeter wall and steps to reach the cemetery.
AD 1873 - 1874	Built	The second floor and mansard roof are added to the lodge.
AD 1873 - 1878	Built	Four members of cemetery superintendent Augustus Armbrecht`s family die and are buried at the cemetery. Three gravestones are erected.
AD 1874	Built	A green house is erected, but the location and other information is unknown.
AD 1875 - 1876	Built	White marble headstones installed replacing the wooden grave markers.
AD 1878	Built	The flagpole is blown down during a storm. The Quartermaster General authorizes a replacement "using the ornamental socket recently adopted by this office." (NARA, RG 92, E. 225)
AD 1880 - 1890	Built	Three cast iron tablets with quotations from Theodore O`Hara`s poem, Bivouac of the Dead, are issued by the War Department and installed at the cemetery. The War Department also issues a tablet stating the cemetery rules and another identifying identifying the cemetery as a National Cemetery.
AD 1891	Memorialized	The state of Pennsylvania erects a monument to the 98th PA Volunteer Infantry Regiment.
AD 1893	Planted	A map of the cemetery documents nearly fifty deciduous trees and shrubs at the cemetery. Eight shrubs, possibly boxwoods, are noted along the central path adjacent to the circle of graves.
AD 1900	Reconstructed	Brightwood Avenue is widened requiring the western section of the wall to be taken down and reconstructed.
AD 1900 - 1904	Built	Two cannons are installed at the entrance to the cemetery.
AD 1904	Memorialized	The memorial to the 122 NY Volunteer Infantry Regiment is erected.

AD 1906 - 1907	Built	The brick maintenance building is erected in the northeast corner of the cemetery.
AD 1907	Memorialized	The memorial to Co. K, 150th OH National Guard Regiment is erected.
AD 1910	Built	A plaque inscribed with Lincoln`s Gettysburg Address is mounted on the lodge.
AD 1914	Memorialized	The monument to the 25th NY Volunteer Cavalry Regiment is erected.
AD 1921	Built	The rostrum is built and its dedication is included in Memorial Day services.
AD 1933	Land Transfer	Executive Orders 6166 and 6228 transfer the jurisdiction of the cemetery to the National Park Service from the War Department.
AD 1936	Memorialized	Battle of Fort Stevens veteran Major Edward R. Campbell is buried. The cemetery is closed to future burials.
AD 2006	Rehabilitated	The military headstones are cleaned and reseated.
AD 2009	Rehabilitated	A new roof is installed on the maintenance building.
AD 2009 - 2010	Rehabilitated	The flagpole, flagpole base, Bivouac of the Dead, cemetery rules, Gettysburg Address and national cemetery tablets are reparied and repainted.
AD 2010	Rehabilitated	Repair and rehabilitation work on the rostrum and the lodge begins.

Physical History:

1688-1860

A New Community

European acquisition of land in the upper northwest section of Washington, DC where Battleground National Cemetery is located began in 1688 when Colonel Henry Darnall acquired 6,000 acres of property. The land patent "Gyrle's Portion," a 1,776 acre section of Darnall's land, encompassed much of the area around Battleground National Cemetery, Fort Stevens and the communities along the Washington Maryland border, including Silver Spring, Takoma Park and Forest Glen (Berger Volume I: 26, 31 32).

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the area around the future Battleground National Cemetery was a largely uninhabited section of the new capital. Early settlers included Robert Lamar Beall, who owned 338 acres. In 1803, John Tayloe, owner of the Octagon, where President James Madison and First Lady Dolley Madison lived temporarily following the burning of the White House during the War of 1812, acquired land south of Brightwood and named it Petworth (Grandine: 5-6). The area surrounding the future cemetery was by the 1820s home to farms, orchards and country estates (Smith 2010: 126).

Few roads passed through the region in the early 1800s. The east-west running Milkhouse Ford Road, known today as Rock Creek Ford Road, connected the area to other sections of the nation's capital. (Ogilvy: 1). Congress chartered the Columbia Turnpike Road Company in 1810 to build three turnpikes to serve Washington. The new roads would connect the nation's capital to Bladensburg and Rockville, Maryland and Alexandria, Virginia (Grandine: 7). The planned Rockville road extended Seventh Street from Pennsylvania Avenue in downtown Washington and ran north paralleling Rock Creek to the District-Maryland line. There it turned west towards Rockville, the seat of Montgomery County, Maryland (Smith 1988: 89). Construction of the turnpike was delayed until 1818 due to financial problems and was ultimately completed by the Washington and Rockville Turnpike Company in 1822. The new street was known as the Seventh Street Turnpike, today's Georgia Avenue. Tolls were collected on the turnpike and in 1825 a tollgate opened north of the turnpike's intersection with Milkhouse Ford Road (Grandine: 15; Ogilvy: 2; Boschke 1861).

The new road brought businesses to the area and they clustered near the tollgate. By 1847 Piney Branch Road was constructed and carried traffic southwest (Bushong: 46 47). It intersected with the turnpike near the Milkhouse Ford Road. In 1852, the turnpike was planked in wood and by the 1860s, a post office, tavern and racetrack were in operation in the vicinity. The Emory Methodist Church, which was founded in 1832, built a brick structure in 1856 near the intersection of the turnpike and the Milkhouse Ford Road. Tax assessments in 1855 revealed thirty one people owned property from Rock Creek Church Road to the District line (Smith, 1988: 89). Six people owned land of more than 100 acres, but the majority of the parcels were small tracts. Of the thirty one owners, five were free blacks. Some were members of a community known as Vinegar Hill located near the intersection of the turnpike and Milkhouse Ford Road (Grandine: 8; Smith 1988: 89 90).

The area became known as Brightwood in 1861 when the post office relocated from Oak Grove, a community just south of the District-Maryland line, to the intersection of Milkhouse Ford and Piney Branch Roads and the Seventh Street Turnpike. Initially called Brighton, the name was changed to Brightwood to avoid confusion with a Maryland post office of the same name (Smith 1988: 91; Grandine: 18). John Clagett Proctor, a columnist on Washington history and culture for the Washington Star from 1928 to 1951, wrote that Brightwood "never had any definite metes and bounds, and any of the territory from Silver Spring south to Rock Creek Church road and from Chillum on the east all the way over to Rock Creek on the west, geographically, may have been regarded years ago as covered by this designation" (Proctor, Proctor's Washington and Environs: 98). The area today is a much smaller community. Today' s boundaries stretch roughly from Rock Creek Park on the west, Walter Reed Army Medical Center at the north, Georgia Avenue to the east and the southern border of Madison Street (Smith 2010: 124).

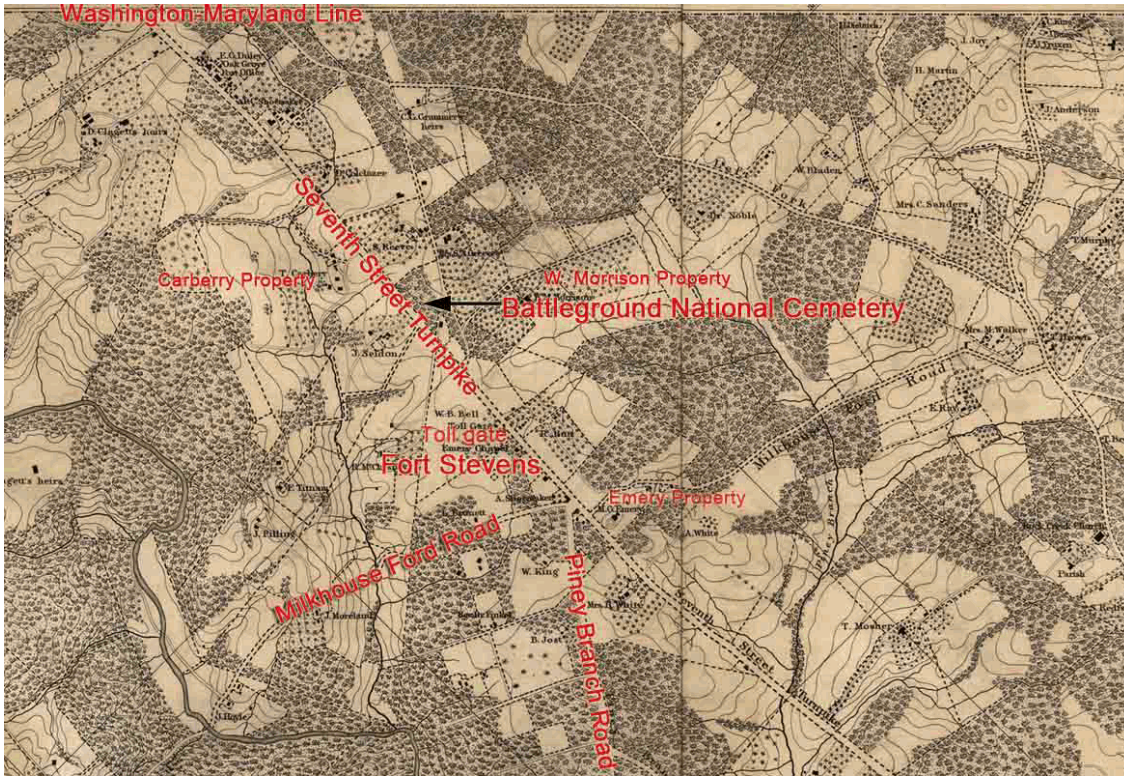
The 1861 Boschke map reveals a smattering of settlements along Piney Branch Road, Milkhouse Ford Road and the Seventh Street Turnpike. Most sites contain a single large building and what appear to be outbuildings. A small group of structures are located along the intersection of the Seventh Street Turnpike and Piney Branch Road. Another cluster is located at Oak Grove. Cultivated fields, farm roads, woodlands and gently sloping terrain are the primary features of the area. The Boschke map tells little about the character of the buildings in the area, except a few of the properties along the Turnpike suggest grand structures. The land belonging to S. Reeve, A. Shoemaker, both near the site of the future cemetery, and Matthew Gault Emery, the mayor the Washington from 1870 to 1871, include what appear to be circular and semi circular drives signifying formal entrances and the presence of more well to do residences.

Several of the larger landowners in Brightwood included men with strong business and political ties to Washington City. Seventy seven acres along the turnpike belonged to Henry Williard, owner of the Williard Hotel. Thomas Carbery, who served as Mayor of Washington from 1822 to 1823, and Thomas Lay, who was an official at the city post office, both owned land and resided in Brightwood (Grandine: 9; Smith, 92). The ancestors of columnist John Clagett Proctor owned a large amount of property to the south of Silver Spring, west of Oak Grove and accessible by the Seventh Street Turnpike. Proctor resided most of his life in Brightwood.

Two other prominent business men were John Saul and William Cammack. Both men operated large nurseries in the area. Cammack was a florist and gardener who sold vegetables at city markets. His greenhouses were located at the corner of the turnpike and Rock Creek Church Road. The intersection was known as Cammack's Corner (Grandine: 10). In 1854, the horticulturalist Saul, purchased 80 acres along the Turnpike for his nursery business. That same year he became the first chairman of Washington's Parks Commission (http://www.bfsaul.com/history.html) and was a member of the Parking Commission in the 1870s. The commission was part of Alexander "Boss" Shepherd's efforts to improve the city while he ran the city's Board of Public Works and was responsible for the planting of thousands of trees in the city during the mid nineteenth century.

Saul was a native of Ireland who came to Washington in 1851 to work on the improvement of the National Mall for Andrew Jackson Downing. He was employed on the project until 1853 when work on it ceased. He then started what would become a successful seed business. In the 1870s, he purchased more land in Brightwood for the expansion of his orchards and nurseries. An 1890 Baltimore and Ohio Railroad map shows that Saul owned property stretching from the Seventh Street Turnpike to Fourteenth Street (Grandine: 9-10). Descendents of Saul founded two local businesses still in operation today: the B.F. Saul Company and Chevy Chase Bank. (http://www.bfsaul.com/history.html; "From Battleground to Community," Cultural Tourism, DC)

Farther north along the Seventh Street Turnpike just north of the District-Maryland line was Silver Spring, John Preston Blair's country retreat. Blair purchased the property in 1842 and built his mansion in 1845. He moved permanently to the estate in the 1850s. His son Montgomery Blair, lawyer in the Dred Scott case and Postmaster General under President Lincoln, owned a farm known as Falkland. Takoma Park, Maryland is largely comprised of land from both the Silver Spring and Falkland estates (Cooling 1989: 90, 115-116).



Boschke Map, 1861, revealing the rural character of Brightwood. Sites related to the area and the Battle of Fort Stevens are identified (Library of Congress).

1861-1864

The Defenses of Washington and the Battle of Fort Stevens

On April 12, 1861, Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter, marking the beginning of the Civil War. Three days after the attack, Lincoln called for volunteers from loyal states to protect Washington. Only a few hundred marines, a handful of officers and fifty three "men of ordnance" located at the Navy Yard were available to guard the capital immediately prior to the outbreak of the war (Cooling and Owen 1988: 3; Cooling 1991: 19). By the end of April, 11,000 soldiers traveled to Washington to guard the city (Cooling 1989: 31). On April 17th, Virginia seceded from the Union.

Concerned about the close proximity of its secessionist neighbor, Union troops in the capital crossed the Potomac in late May to establish a presence in Northern Virginia. Rudimentary defenses were built in Arlington during the first weeks of the war. These defenses were primarily for guarding roads and bridges crossing the Potomac and provided more of a foundation for the construction of future forts than an adequate defense of the city (Cooling and Owen 1988: 4-5; Cooling 1989: 38). These locations later became Forts Corcoran, Haggerty, Bennett, Runyon, and Ellsworth.

When Major General George McClellan took over as Union Army Commander on the Potomac on July 27, 1861 he immediately saw the need to build up the city's protection. During the first months of the war all thought was focused on guarding the city from a southern attack. After the Union defeat at Manassas in July 1861, attention turned to the capital's continued vulnerability and the need to protect the city on all sides. Only one area north of the Potomac above Chain Bridge was guarded and key roads were not picketed. McClellan also found that soldiers were not organized effectively to guard the city (Cooling 1989: 56). According to the Major General, "there was nothing to prevent the enemy shelling the city from heights, within easy range, which could be occupied by a hostile column without resistance" (Cooling 1989: 56). Following Manassas, McClellan stated that the Confederates may have believed the capital's defenses were stronger than they were and because of this the city was spared a major attack.

On July 8th, the House of Representatives voted in favor of the construction of a ring of forts around Washington. McClellan supported proposals for the construction of a system of forty eight forts, batteries and other forms of defense (Cooling and Owen 1988: 6). McClellan appointed General John G. Barnard, chief engineer of the Corps of Engineers, in August to oversee their construction (Cooling and Owen 1988: 6; Cooling 1989: 57). Barnard was a West Point graduate who had helped construct defenses in New York, Florida, Louisiana and during the 1846 Mexican War. At the time of his appointment, the only fort protecting the city was Fort Washington, constructed following the War of 1812, and located twelve miles south of Washington on the east side of the Potomac. Other than Fort Washington, the city had little military might to defend it from attack (Leepson: http://www.historynet.com/capital defense washington dc in the civil war.htm).

The initial forts north of the Potomac, like those to the south, were constructed to protect roads entering the city from Maryland. Both heavily trafficked thoroughfares and streets that occupied "the best ground for an enemy's approach" (Barnard: 13). were the first entries to be

secured. The site for Fort Reno, originally called Fort Pennsylvania, was selected in August. The location was chosen partly because it was near three major roads: River, Brookeville and Rockville that entered the capital from Maryland (Cooling 1989: 62). Fort Reno, located in Tenleytown on present day Nebraska Avenue, was also the highest point in Washington and provided views to the surrounding country. Both Fort Reno and Fort Gaines, located on the grounds of present day American University, provided protection from enemy troops approaching between Rock Creek and the Potomac.

Fort Stevens was constructed to guard the Seventh Street Turnpike, a major entry point from present day Silver Spring, Maryland to Washington. The fort was originally named Fort Massachusetts for the Seventh and Tenth Massachusetts, who, along with the Second Rhode Island and Thirty Sixth New York regiments, built the fort. Shortly after its construction, Fort Stevens was found to be inadequate and was enlarged in 1862. In 1863, the name was changed to Stevens in honor of Brigadier General Isaac Ingalls Stevens, the governor of Washington Territory who died at the Battle of Chantilly in September 1862.

Rifle trenches stretched between Fort Stevens and Fort DeRussy to the west and Fort Slocum to the east. Both Fort Slocum and Totten, farther to the east, were built to support Fort Stevens (Cooling and Owen 2010: 9). Construction of defensive works continued throughout the war. The main forts were built approximately a half mile apart and by 1865 sixty-eight forts surrounded Washington. The defenses of Washington also included ninety-three detached batteries, twenty miles of rifle pits and thirty two miles of military roads (Cooling and Owen 1988: 6; Bernard: 63; www.nps.gov/cwdw/historyculture/index.htm).

Several Brightwood landowners were greatly affected by the construction of the fort. On August 1st, 1861 the military took possession of William M. Morrison's property. Morrison owned a farm and orchard to the southeast of the site of the future cemetery. The Army dug rifle pits that extended from Fort Stevens to Fort Slocum across Morrison's farm. They cut down trees on his land, as they did on many property owners' lands, for the construction of barracks, rifle pits, targets for practice and for fuel (HR Rep. 697, 54th Congress, pg 2).

The Battle of Fort Stevens
On July 9, 1864 Confederate General Jubal Early, following his victory at Monocacy, near Frederick, Maryland approximately forty miles northwest of the capital, led his troops towards Washington. The city was poorly defended at the time. General Ulysses S. Grant had ordered reinforcements of troops from Washington for his Virginia campaigns, leaving the capital short of soldiers. Upon receiving word via telegraph of Early's plans to invade the capital, Grant ordered the two remaining VI Corps Divisions to Washington by boat and rail. On July 10th, Grant informed President Lincoln approximately 6,000 men were on their way to the city. (Floyd, Part I VII: 5) That same day, only 17,277 men were available around the capital to fight Early's forces and only 9,000 to 9,500 were present at the forts. This figure is far below the 37,000 soldiers an 1862 panel studying the defenses of Washington determined the city needed (Cooling and Owen 2010: 19; Floyd, VII: 6).

To make up for the lack of armed protection in the city, men were gathered from every possible

location and in any condition to defend the capital. Major William H. Fry pulled together nearly 500 men from the Giesboro Depot, located south of Anacostia in the present day Bolling Airforce Base, and set out to engage Early's men in Maryland north of Rockville. Their skirmishes were, according to historian Benjamin Franklin Cooling, "the opening shots of the battle for Washington" (Floyd Part I VII: 5). Members of the Veteran Reserve Corps and the Quartermaster's Corps, two groups of men consisting of clerks at the War Department, old soldiers, semi-invalids and anyone who could fight, were called up to serve. Many were assigned to the forts. With these men operating and defending the forts, able-bodied soldiers were available to fight.

When rumors of the battle started and after gunfire broke out, Brightwood residents gathered what they could carry and fled. Aldace Walker, a soldier with the VI Corps, reported that the bombproof at Fort Stevens was "filled for days with terrified women and children" (Walker: 32). According to an article in Baltimore's The Sun newspaper, one family a mile north of Fort Stevens heard of the coming invasion and "removed the female members of the family to the fort." By the time the men returned home their house had been occupied by the Confederates. Following the battle, they found their possessions badly damaged and in disarray ("The Late Invasion Particulars of the Stomaching near Washington Residences Destroyed," The Sun, Jul 15 1864).

At Fort Stevens, members of the 25th New York Cavalry and Company K of the 150th Ohio Volunteer Infantry were manning the guns, lining the rifle pits and were spread out along the skirmish line. The 150th Ohio Volunteer Infantry guarded the northern defenses of Washington and was made up of 100 day men—soldiers who were to serve no more than a hundred days. These men, like the Quartermaster's and Veterans Corps, were a mix of young and old, wounded and sick, and some ill trained soldiers who were unable to engage in heavy fighting. Some members of Company K were students from Oberlin College, including twenty year old Private William Leach who became the first Union casualty of the battle (Judge: 233).

Confederate troops under the leadership of Brigadier General John McCausland headed towards Fort Reno via the Georgetown Pike. His troops were fired upon by Forts Bayard, Simmons, Mansfield and Reno. He then moved his troops towards Forts Kearny and DeRussy by mid-morning on the 11th (Floyd VII: 6). Around noon on the 11th, the 62nd Virginia Mounted Infantry approached Fort Stevens and staked out positions in the fields near the fort and Rebel sharpshooters occupied farmhouses near the road. Later in the day, Union troops burned houses harboring Confederate sharpshooters (Judge: 237). Confederates occupied William Morrison's orchards located southeast of the future cemetery. Union troops managed to cut Morrison's orchard down and during the battle his home was destroyed (Grandine: 26).

Around noon on July 11th, Early arrived just north of Fort Stevens. He rode ahead and was within view of the fort (Cooling and Owen 2010: 19). He observed the fort and thought it was poorly manned. Early deployed his troops, but as they advanced, Union reinforcements led by Major George G. Briggs started to arrive. The Rebels got within fifty yards of Fort Stevens. Skirmishes and heavy fire from the fort erupted. Cannon shots from Forts Slocum, Stevens and DeRussy tried to push his soldiers back. Early's forces were fatigued by the July heat, the

battle at Monocacy and skirmishes with Union troops and were in no condition for a vigorous fight. Early and his men retreated from the battlefield. This worked to the Union's advantage as it gave more time for the VI Corps, led by Major General Horatio Wright, to make their way to Washington.

On the night of the eleventh, Early and his generals decided to attack the forts at daybreak. They used Francis Blair's mansion, Silver Spring, as their headquarters. In the early morning of the twelfth, Early received word that the defenses of Washington had been reinforced and that more Union troops were most likely on the way (Cooling and Owen 2010: 19).

When the VI Corps began to arrive at the docks on the morning of July 12, they were greeted by cheering citizens and President Lincoln. Members of the public, along with Secretary of State William Seward, Secretary of the Navy Gideon Wells, and President and Mrs. Lincoln followed Wright and his men to Fort Stevens to observe the fighting. Elisha Rhodes, a captain in the VI Corps, who helped build the defenses of Washington in 1861, led a regiment from the wharf downtown to Fort Stevens on the twelfth. When they arrived at the fort, Rhodes assembled his regiment at the "old camp" at the rear of the fort. He wrote, "We did not expect in 1861 that these forts would ever be of service, but now we are glad that we helped build them" (Rhodes: 170-171).

Until mid-afternoon of the twelfth, military action around the fort consisted of a few skirmishes and shots fired at the Rebels whenever they were in reach of Fort Steven's guns. President Lincoln was there to watch the action (Floyd VII: 7). Rhodes recorded in his diary that:

"Fort Stevens was firing shells into the Rebel lines while Fort Slocum was sending its shots with fearful screams after Early's men. Our column passed through the gate of Fort Stevens, and on the parapet I saw President Lincoln standing looking at the troops. Mrs. Lincoln and the other ladies were sitting in a carriage behind the earthworks. We marched in line of battle into a peach orchard in front of Fort Stevens, and here the fight began…It was a fine little fight but did not last long" (Rhodes: 170 171).

George Stevens, a soldier in the VI Corps published a memoir of his service during the war. He wrote of the battle:

"From the parapets of Fort Stevens could be seen the lines of rebel skirmishers, from whose rifles the white puffs of smoke rose as they discharged their pieces at our pickets. The valley beyond the fort presented a scene of surpassing loveliness, with its rich green meadows, its fields of waving corn, its orchards and its groves. To the right was Fort Slocum, and on the left Fort DeRussy…The principal force of the enemy seemed to be in front of Fort Stevens, and here it was determined to give them battle. The barracks just in rear of the fort were converted into a hospital for our second division, and all preparations were made for receiving our wounded men" (Stevens: 374).

Stevens later described Lincoln's presence at Fort Stevens on the twelfth,

"Four o'clock came, but, except that the rebel skirmishers were sending their bullets whizzing over the fort, all was quiet. President Lincoln and his wife drove up to the barracks, unattended, except by their coachman…the cavalry, whose duty it was to attend upon his excellency, being left far behind. The carriage stopped at the door of the hospital and the President and his affable lady entered into familiar conversation with the surgeon in charge…Thus, for nearly an hour, they chatted of various things, when General Wright and his staff arrived on the ground, accompanied by several ladies and gentleman from the city" (Stevens: 375 – 376).

The cabinet members and others were described as watching the battle with "breathless interest" (Stevens: 376). The President remained on the parapet, but Mrs. Lincoln, disturbed by what she saw, retreated from the view (Floyd VII: 7).

On this second and last day of fighting, Lincoln earned the distinction of being the second sitting president to come under enemy fire. President Madison had been the first when he went to observe the fighting of the Battle of Bladensburg during the War of 1812. It was on July 12th that another much repeated episode in the lore of the battle occurred. While Lincoln again stood on the parapet and sharpshooters—one who occupied a tree located where Walter Reed is today—were taking shots at him, someone shouted at the President, "Get down you fool!" Various people have claimed responsibility for, or have been identified as, uttering these words over the years, including Vinegar Hill resident Elizabeth Thomas and future Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. Major General Wright relayed years later that he said to Lincoln, "Mr. President, I know you are commander of the armies of the United States, but I am in command here, and as you are not safe where you are standing, and I am responsible for your personal safety, I order you to come down" (Cox 1900: 21). Whether he listened to this advice or that of the person who referred to him as a fool, Lincoln stepped down.

According to Benjamin Franklin Cooling, the battlefield encompassed an area roughly bounded by "Walter Reed Army Medical Center (north), eastward beyond Piney Branch Road, Oregon Avenue beyond Rock Creek Park on the west, and south to Military Road/Missouri Avenue (behind Union lines). Skirmishing took place across the northern lines from west and north of Tennallytown to Rockville and east to the rail and turnpike to Baltimore at Fort Lincoln" (Cooling and Owen 2010: 173)The "epicenter" of the fighting took place "in the high ground vicinity of 13th Street and Van Buren Street north of Fort Stevens and south of Walter Reed… and eastward beyond Battleground National Cemetery and Piney Branch Road" (Cooling and Owen 2010: 173).

Fighting was intense by mid-afternoon. Gun fire erupted from sharpshooters occupying nearby houses and the line of Confederate soldiers. Cannons from Forts Stevens and DeRussy fired. To the north of the cemetery site, shells hit the Carberry and Reeves houses, where sharpshooters were hiding, and caught fire. The destruction of homes during the battle was described, "The forts began a systematic obliteration of any nearby structure that could harbor a nest of sharpshooters. Nearest to Fort Stevens, the houses of Richard Butts and W.M. Morrison to the east of the road, and of W. Bell to the west, shuddered and smoked and splintered under the rain of hot metal; they would soon be fully afire" (Judge: 237).

The battlefield stretched out a mile from Fort Stevens and fighting kept up until after dusk. Union troops near Fort Reno and the other defenses were engaged in battles with the Rebels into the early morning hours (Floyd VII: 7 8). According to Leland Brown, gun and cannon fire from Forts Totten and DeRussy helped defeat the Confederates (Brown: 42). Early's army retreated from the Washington area after dark and headed towards the Shenandoah Valley. Union troops engaged the Rebels near Poolesville, Maryland as they left, but the battle was largely over.

Battle casualty numbers differ. Some report a total Union and Confederate toll of 874 injured and killed, while others report casualties numbering 573 Union and 500 Confederate. (Floyd, VII, 8) Benjamin Franklin Cooling and Walton Owen state fifty-nine Union soldiers were killed and one hundred forty five were wounded(Cooling and Owen 2010: 182).

Battle memoirist Stevens described the wounded in his account.

"The fight had lasted but a few minutes, when the stream of bleeding, mangled ones, began to come to the rear. Men, leaning upon the shoulders of comrades, or borne painfully on stretchers…were brought into the hospital by scores…In the orchard, in the road, about the frame house and upon the summit…their forms were stretched upon the green sward and in the dusty road, stiff and cold. Many more had come to the hospital severely injured, maimed for life or mortally wounded" (Stevens: 377).

1864-1868

Founding the Cemetery

Immediately following the Battle of Fort Stevens, the dead were buried in temporary graves on the battlefield. In his memoir, George Stevens described burying fellow soldiers near the fort.

"We gathered our dead comrades from the field where they had fallen, and gave them the rude burial of soldiers on the common near Fort Stevens. None of those high in authority, who had come out to see them give up their lives for their country, were present to pay the last honors to the dead heroes. No officer of state, no lady of wealth, no citizen of Washington was there; but we laid them in their graves within sight of the capital, without coffins, with only their gory garments and their blankets around them. With the rude tenderness of soldiers, we covered them in the earth; we marked their names with our pencils on the little head-boards of pine, and turned sadly away to other scenes" (Stevens: 378).

Another veteran of the battle, James C. Cannon of Company K, 150th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, later wrote about a fellow soldier who saw several bodies that hadn't been removed and helped bury two of them on the battlefield. He also reported that on July thirteenth, "a long row of the enemy dead and dying" was located near the barracks. That day twenty-eight Confederates were buried under a sycamore tree (Cannon: 12).

Major Edward R. Campbell, who in 1936 would be the last soldier buried at Battleground, reported that he helped gather the dead and buried soldiers "without coffins or shrouds"

following the battle (Hoyt, "Days - Veteran Reviews Battle," The Washington Star, July 14, 1935). Many soldiers were buried on the south side of Fort Stevens below the barracks and mess hall (Cooling and Owen 2010: 21). A veteran of the battle wrote to the Quartermaster General on July 18, 1864 to inform the office of the location of battlefield graves belonging to members of the VI Corps who had been killed during the battle. According to the letter, twenty-eight soldiers were buried “behind” Fort Stevens. Local landmarks were used to identify other graves, including the tollgate and “in a field to the right of Fort Stevens near burnt house…" and "near burnt house to the left of road by barricade” (RG 92, E. 225).

A permanent resting place for the Union dead was chosen by Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs a short time after the conflict. Meigs selected a small patch of ground on the battlefield belonging to James Mulloy, a member of the Washington police force (Floyd, Part I-VII: 9; RG 92 Entry 225). The 1865 report of the Secretary of War described the site. “A cemetery, to contain the bodies of those who fell in defence of the nation’s capital, was laid out near Fort Stevens on the spot consecrated by their blood” (Report of the Secretary of War, 1865: 623).

The Quartermaster General
Since the early 1800s, the Quartermaster General’s office had seen to the burial or the collection of the bodies of soldiers who died while stationed in remote outposts or during combat. During the Civil War their role in caring for deceased veterans was greatly expanded. Shortly after the start of the war, the Quartermaster General was given the responsibility by the War Department for the burial of Union soldiers and officers. In addition to burying the deceased, they were to keep detailed records of the burials and mark each grave with headboards noting the soldier’s identifying information. The early headboards were made of wood with the soldier’s identifying information either painted on or written in chalk.

During the Civil War the Quartermaster General's office was responsible for supplying and outfitting the Union Army, which included everything from uniforms to horses, as well as organizing the transportation of soldiers by ship, rail, and road. During the war, the Quartermaster General’s office designed and constructed tents and other structures and later drew up standardized plans for military buildings. Quartermaster General Meigs designed the standardized features of national cemeteries, including the superintendents’ lodges, sheds and fencing (Architrave, 22-28;
http://oha.alexandriava.gov/fortward/special-sections/meigs/fw-meigs.html).

Montgomery Meigs was appointed Quartermaster General in 1861 and remained in that position until 1882. He graduated from West Point in 1836 and the following year he accepted an appointment as a Brevet Second Lieutenant with the Army Corps of Engineers. His duties included defensive fortification projects, among them managing the construction of Fort Jefferson at present day Dry Tortugas National Park. He was also involved in public works projects, including the design of the Washington aqueduct which brought water to the capital from Great Falls, Virginia. The system included the Cabin John Bridge, which for many years was the longest masonry arch bridge in the world. Rock Creek Bridge was also built as part of the project and was one of two iron arch bridges built in the United States. Meigs’ career

included work on some of Washington's landmarks, including the National Museum (now the Smithsonian's Arts and Industries Building) and the addition of the Senate and House wings and the iron dome of the U.S. Capitol. One of Meigs' best known works is the design of the Pension Building, now the National Building Museum, constructed between 1882 and 1888, following his retirement (http://www.nbm.org/about-us/historic-building/).

When the Quartermaster General and his staff were collecting the dead and establishing a cemetery following the Battle of Fort Stevens, they were adhering to procedures put in place by the War Department. On September 11, 1861, the War Department issued General Orders No. 75 assigning the Quartermaster General the responsibility for burial of officers and soldiers and maintaining a register of all burials. On April 3, 1862, the War Department issued General Order No. 33 providing guidance for burying the Union dead. The order stated, "In order to secure, as far as possible, the decent internment of those who have fallen, or may fall, in battle, it is made the duty of commanding generals to lay off lots of ground in some suitable spot near every battle-field, so soon as it may be in their power and to cause the remains of those killed to be interred…"

Prior to the establishment of the national cemeteries, no provision was made for land for burials, so the dead were interred on hospital grounds, at soldiers' camps and on battlefields. On July 17, 1862, Congress passed the first legislation in the creation of national cemeteries granting the president the authority, "Whenever in his opinion it shall be expedient, to purchase cemetery grounds and cause them to be securely enclosed, to be used as a national cemetery for the soldiers who shall die in the service of the country" (Steere: 4; http://www.qmfound.com/grave.htm; Veterans Administration "History and Development of the National Cemetery Administration").

In 1862, fourteen national cemeteries were established, including one located at Sharpsburg, Maryland for soldiers killed in the Battle of Antietam. Some of these cemeteries included burial sites used since the beginning of the war that were then classified as national cemeteries. Washington's Soldiers' Home was among this group. Six national cemeteries established in 1863 including Gettysburg. Though many cemeteries were established after the legislation authorizing the purchase of land for cemeteries was passed, some of them, as was the case with Battleground and Arlington, were established by claiming land and purchasing or acquiring the property at a later date. Battleground National Cemetery was among four national cemeteries established in 1864 (VA, "History and Development of the National Cemetery Administration").

Though the exact date Meigs chose Mulloy's land is uncertain, he was present at the battle. Meigs led a division of workers from the Quartermaster General's office at Fort Stevens where they occupied trenches and later an orchard near the fort, but were only "lightly engaged" during the battle (Steere: 11). Following the fighting, Meigs sent Captain James M. Moore to identify and bury the dead at the site he selected on Mulloy's land. Some reports state that President Lincoln dedicated the cemetery, but further research is necessary to determine this. (Architrave, 19; Barnett, "Recalls Gen. Early's Raid,"The Washington Star, July 14, 1935; http://www.qmfound.com/early_growth_of_the_national_cemetery_system.htm;)

Captain Moore was in charge of the Quartermaster General's Cemeterial Division. The unit was responsible for traveling to battlefields where they identified and buried the dead. In 1864 and 1865, Moore was in charge of burials in the Washington area. Moore had been a part of the survey of the grounds at Arlington for the establishment of the cemetery. He later was in charge of identifying and burying those who died at the Battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania and at the Andersonville prison camp. Following the Battle of Fort Stevens, Moore led a team whose task it was to recover and identify the remains of the Union soldiers killed (Steere, 11-12, 14; Anders, http://www.qmfound.com/grave.htm).

George Stevens, the veteran of the battle who published a memoir of his experiences, wrote on the re-burial of the dead. "After a few weeks their remains were exhumed from their scattered graves, they were placed together in a little inclosure on the sunny slope in front of the fort, and a beautiful monument tells the story of their noble sacrifice" (Stevens: 379).

On July 22 and 23 newspapers reported on the new cemetery. Baltimore's Sun newspaper wrote,

"The spot selected by Gen. Meigs…is an acre of ground on the battle-field about six hundred yards to the right of Fort Stevens, and about fifty yards from the Seventh street road. The duty of disinterring and removing the bodies has been entrusted to Captain J.M. Moore, who has already interred all those who fell near Fort Stevens. The ground will be provided with a handsome paling fence, and the bodies placed in a circle, in the centre of which a monument is to be erected, bearing a suitable inscription" ("Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun," The Sun, July 23, 1864).

The idea of raising a monument, as noted in the Sun article, began soon after the battle. Quartermaster General Meigs received a letter dated July 27th regarding the erection of a memorial. The letter stated,

"I have been thinking that the loyal citizens of Washington would esteem it a privilege to raise the necessary funds, in sums of $5 or less…for an appropriate monument. As the citizens, and especially those who are property holders, have been saved from plunder and distress by such a sacrifice of life, let them have an opportunity to show their loyalty and their sympathy for our brave defenders, by raising a Monument to those who have fallen. I have suggested the matter to the Editors of some of our city papers" (RG 92, E225, Box 117, transcription from MRCE).

Meigs also put forth the suggestion for a monument in his 1864 report to the secretary of war. He wrote:

"The bodies of the loyal officers and soldiers who fell in the sortie from the defenses of Washington, which drove off the rebel army in July last, have been buried in a piece of ground selected for the purpose in the midst of the battlefield, and in sight of Fort Stevens. It is hoped that Congress may see fit to cause a monument to be erected to the memory of those patriots, who fell in the defense of the capital itself" (Annual Report of the Secretary of War, 1864: 136;

Steere: 11).

In a March 1, 1865 account to the president, the secretary of war reported on the establishment of Battleground and added, “It is recommended that Congress provide for the erection of a monument...” (The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies; Series 3 – Vol 4, 1206, 1212).

The dedication of a monument at the cemetery or Fort Stevens was decades away, but the issue of compensation for, and ownership of, the land upon which the cemetery was located was a persistent concern for its legal owner. James Mulloy had not owned the property long it was claimed for the cemetery in 1864. He purchased it in July 1863 from the site’s fourth owner. Mulloy planted crops and erected fences, both of which sustained damage during the battle (RG 79, E. 163). Once his property was seized, Mulloy immediately suggested that the Quartermaster General relocate the cemetery or compensate him for his loss. Meigs did not select all of Mulloy’s land for the cemetery. In an 1868 survey of Mulloy’s property the cemetery appears as a square cut out of a large triangular piece of land and measured to be 1.33 acres. In a July 23rd letter regarding the site, an official in the War Department wrote to Quartermaster General’s office that Mulloy suggested the government buy all 7.85 acres of land he owned or move the graveyard to the southernmost corner of his property (RG 92, Entry 225, Box 117, copied from MRCE). Mulloy wrote to Meigs in October 1864 concerning the land.

"This small property which I purchased with the proceeds from a life of industry and fatigue expecting to establish on it a homestead for my large and helpless family as well as a residence for myself…You took from me without even consulting me on the subject and on which you located the present grave yard, in the very center and on the highest part of the lot, and the very part which I had arranged to build my family’s home stead on…" (RG 92 Entry 225, Box 117; MRCE).

Mulloy went on to describe some of the features of his land and the harm done by the construction of the grave yard.

"The damage done…has been increased by your men sinking a wide ditch outside the grave yard fence for the purpose of drainage, and from that ditch the drainage from the dead bodies…is conveyed into a lake of spring water which is on the remaining piece of this lot" (RG 92, Entry 225, Box 117 ; MRCE) .

He argued for compensation partly because he had been unable to sell the property at a reasonable price. Mulloy wrote that no one was interested in the land for anything other than agricultural purposes because the property was adjacent to a cemetery with a polluted water source. Mulloy and Meigs exchanged letters concerning how much he should be reimbursed. Owners of neighboring properties, some of whom also sustained damage during the battle, gave affidavits on the damage to property for Mulloy (RG 92, E. 225).

Possession of Mulloy’s land and his compensation were determined by a post Civil War act to

establish and protect National Cemeteries. The February 22, 1867 act stated that it was the duty of the secretary of war to purchase land at a price agreeable with the landowner for the establishment of a national cemetery. If the land's owner and the secretary could not agree on a price, the secretary was authorized to appropriate the land. The act stated that the land owners or the secretary could apply for appraisal of the property's value with the local court. The court was then required to determine "a just and equitable appraisement of the cash value" of the land. In the case of Battleground, Mulloy petitioned the court for appraisal and four years after his land was taken he was awarded compensation. Mulloy was paid $2,600 and the government obtained title to the land on July 23, 1868. Though shortly afterwards, a cemetery inspector suggested moving the graves to Arlington to the secretary of war in the interest of "economy." The inspector felt the expense of building the lodge, wall and employing a superintendent was too great for such a small burial ground. Quartermaster General Meigs disagreed and voiced his opposition to this proposal (RG 92, E. 225; Architrave, 19; Court information found in United States Military Reservations, National Cemeteries, and Military Parks: Title, Jurisdiction, Etc. Lewis W. Call, Office of the Judge Advocate General, 1910; The Act of February 22, 1867, sections 4-5).

The Early Years

The earliest known photograph of the cemetery taken in 1865, reveals that the 1864 description of the cemetery layout that appeared in the newspapers shortly after the battle had been implemented. The forty headstones are arranged in a circle of thirty-two graves surrounded by a semi-circular group of eight headstones. At the center is a flagpole instead of a monument. Circular pathways surround the outer graves and flagpole and connect to paths on either side of the graves. A white wooden fence encloses the graveyard. Later descriptions of the cemetery mention paths leading east to west and north to south, but only what appears to be the east to west path is visible in the photograph. A small wood-frame structure with a gable roof is located southwest of the graves and adjacent to the Seventh Street Turnpike. Evergreen and other trees are located between the graves and the lawn surrounding the headstones (Smith, "District of Columbia, Soldiers' Cemetery Near Fort Stevens (Brightwood)," Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress).

According to the Civil War Era National Cemeteries National Register Nomination "…the actual layout of the cemetery, for the most part, was left to the discretion of the cemetery superintendent who was named during the construction of these features. These superintendents responded to the style and design thinking of that era" (National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form Civil War Era National Cemeteries, F3). Given that Montgomery Meigs controlled much of the Quartermaster General's design work, his selection of the cemetery site, and the speed with which the cemetery was laid out based on descriptions of the cemetery design published in the Baltimore Sun on July 23, 1864, it is possible Meigs designed the cemetery. Captain Moore may also be responsible for the layout. In August 1864 he wrote to Meigs and enclosed "a diagram exhibiting the graves of those who fell in defense of the city…" (RG 92, E. 225; Architrave: 22). The earliest drawing, made in 1864, is spare in its details, but it included thirty-eight instead of forty graves arranged in a single circle of thirty graves surrounded by a half-circle grouping of eight graves (Architrave: 22: RG 92, Map 1, 1-2, Sequence B). A long walk leads from a gate at the Seventh Street Road to the graves. Ball's

Bluff National Cemetery, another Civil War era burial ground established in 1865 and located in Leesburg, Virginia is laid out in a similar fashion to Battleground National Cemetery. Twenty-five graves are arranged in a circle surrounding a flagpole (National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Ball's Bluff).

In 1866 a visitor described the condition of the cemetery:

"Shrubs have been planted in the grass-plats which surround these graves, and in a solitary little lodge near the gate abides their keeper—a kind, true-faced New England soldier, with an empty sleeve. The design of this little cemetery is poetic and sacred. Yet the tender care and aesthetic art which have made so superlatively lovely the cemeteries of the Soldiers' Home and of Arlington are both wanting here. You look in vain for the turfed graves, the embowered walks, the uplifted tablets on which poetry commemorates the glory of the American soldier. The graves of these sacred few are heaped with harsh gravelstones; even the humble grass cannot spread over them her gentle coverlet, while sacrilegious weeds flaunt all around…Only a few are buried here, and but few come to look where they lie. Is this the reason why this soldiers' cemetery is neglected?"

The author goes on to describe the planting of flowers by a mourner. "On a Sabbath evening in June, a pair of loving hands planted flowers on one of these graves—planted them for the sake of the boy who slept below and for the sake of his mother…" (Ames, "For What!" The Independent…, Amer. Per. Series, August 30, 1866).

The February 22, 1867 act that allowed for James Mulloy to be compensated also called for several physical improvements to protect the cemeteries and to identify the dead. It stated that cemeteries be enclosed with a stone or iron fence; lodges constructed where a superintendent could reside; and headstones provided with a number that corresponds to a burial log kept at the cemetery and at the Quartermaster General's office containing the deceased's identity. The cemeteries were to be inspected yearly by an officer of the army. The officer was to report on the condition of the cemetery and how much money was necessary to "sod the graves, gravel and grade the walks and avenues, and to keep the grounds in complete order." The act also authorized the arrest by the superintendent of anyone damaging or vandalizing a national cemetery. An appropriation of $750,000 was granted to carry out the improvements called for in the act (Act of February 22, 1867, section 1: 7).

In 1868, an inspection of the cemetery reported that no trees were planted that year, but a "substantial paling fence, with a small gate, opening on the turnpike, whitewashed, and posts with black tops" surrounded the graveyard. The report stated that the center circle with the flagpole was 21 feet, six inches in diameter. "Around the circle is a walk four feet six inches wide and exterior to it, in a circular space sixteen feet nine inches wide…" The features described match what appeared in the c. 1865-1868 photograph. The report went on to describe the features of the cemetery:

"There are four avenues, eight feet wide, leading from the centre of each side to a walk of four feet around the burial spot, dividing the ground into four large spaces for ornamentation. A

seven-foot border for shrubbery extends around the ground within the fence, also a walk four feet wide. There are a number of rose bushes and evergreens over the ground. The avenues and walks are all graveled. The graves have headboards, and are sodded. A temporary lodge has been erected near the gate…" (1869 Annual Report of the Secretary of War: 19).

The February 22, 1867 act stated that at each cemetery a “meritorious and trustworthy superintendent who shall be selected from enlisted men of the army, disabled in service” to care for the cemetery. The superintendent would live on site. Andrew McCartney assumed the job of superintendent in 1867. The 1868 inspection report stated that he was “attentive to his duties, and has the cemetery in excellent order” (Architrave, 24; 1868 Annual Report of the Quartermaster General: 19).

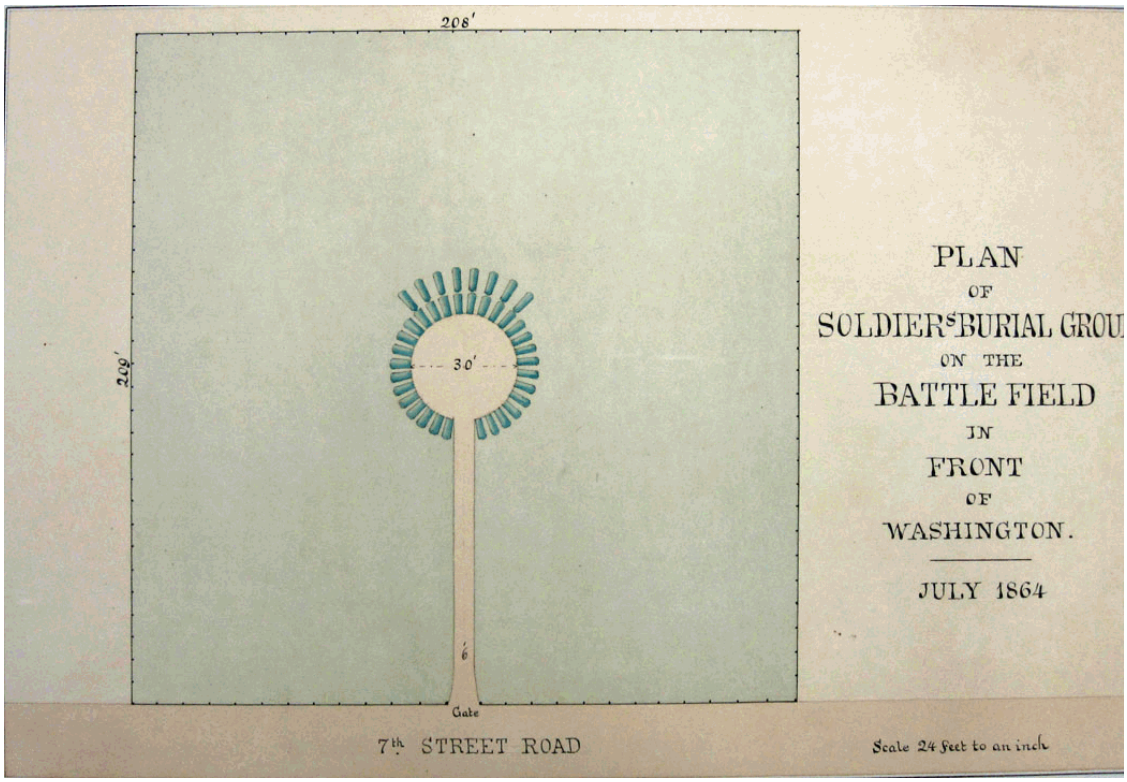
McCartney may have deserved more credit for the cemetery’s appearance than he received if the circumstances at Battleground National Cemetery reflected what was described in the 1868 Annual Report of Cemetarial Operations. The report noted the lack of funds to beautify cemeteries and mentions citizens taking it upon themselves, as in the 1866 scene published in a New England periodical, to plant flowers and trees. This suggests that McCartney, or other individuals may have provided the hedges, roses and evergreens at the cemetery as reported in 1868. It further suggests the funds appropriated in 1867 did not include money for landscape ornamentation.

"There being no appropriation…for the purchase of trees and shrubbery, the Quartermaster General has been prevented from authorizing expenditures of money for this kind of ornamentation; but the officers and Superintendents in charge of the various cemeteries have repeatedly been instructed to set out such trees and shrubs as could be procured from neighboring forests at small expense to the government; besides which a great many trees, shrubs and exotics have been donated by citizens residing near the cemeteries, and by friends of the deceased. It is so difficult and expensive in many cases, to procure such trees and shrubs as are necessary by hired labor from the neighboring forests, that I recommend that Congress be asked to appropriate a moderate sum, say $25,000 for the purchase of trees and shrubs; which if set out now will give a grateful share to those that come after us" (RG 92, E649, Box 1).

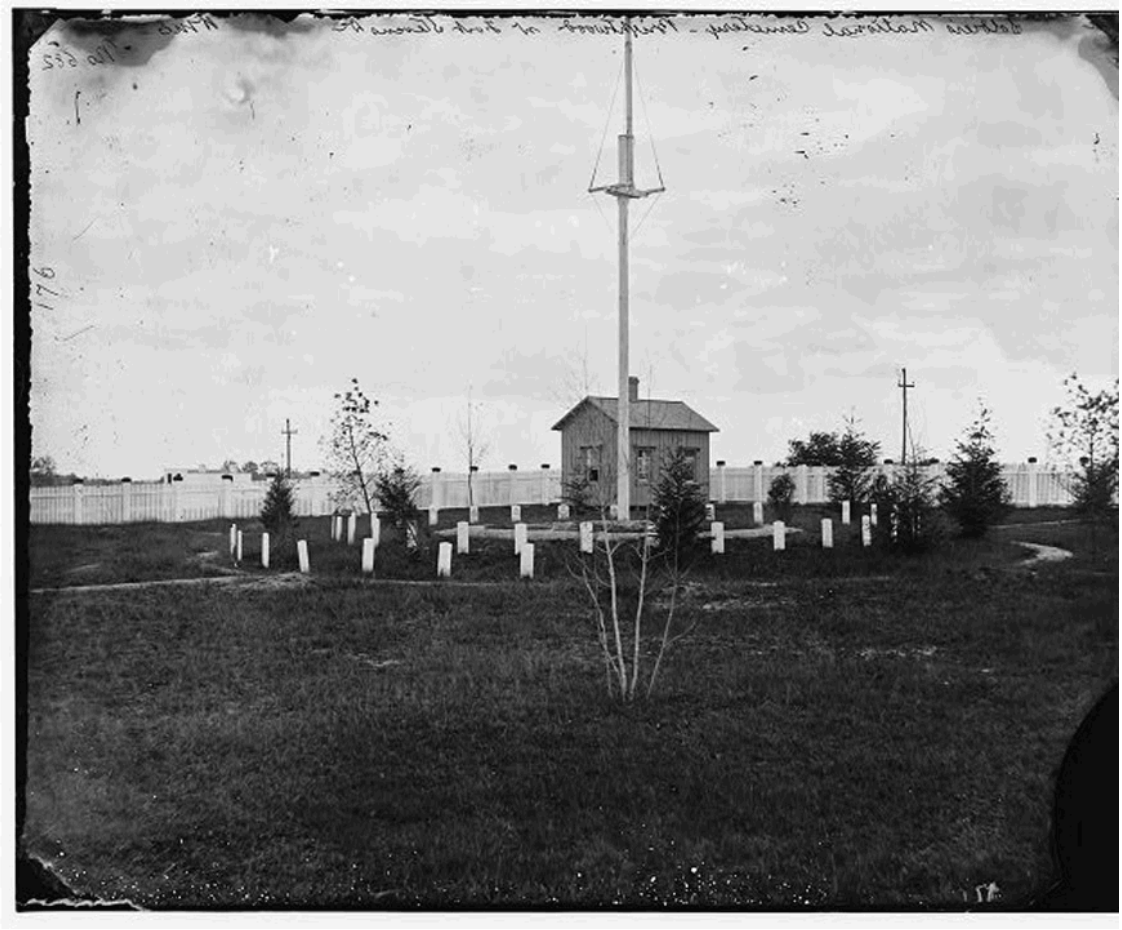
The report went on to mention efforts of the quartermaster general’s office to ornament the cemeteries.

"Subsequent to the close of the past fiscal year and on the 29 of July 1868, the Quartermaster General made application to the War Department for a number of guns and projectiles for the purpose of ornamenting National Cemeteries, which request was approved by the Hon. Secretary of War…the Chief of Ordnance was requested to issue about 150 guns and abut 3,000 projectiles for the purposes named. The guns are designed to be set up in the form of a monument, each one being set in a block of stone and held in position by a cast iron ring, or by 4 iron bolts; with 21 shots to each gun, grouped in four piles of 5 each, with one on top" (RG 92, E649, Box 1).

The following year the landscape of the cemetery is again reported on, but the decorative guns and projectiles were not in place. The 1869 report does not include a number, but notes that trees and shrubbery had been planted within the year. The report described the landscape of the cemetery, "a seven-foot border for shrubbery extends around the ground within the fence… there are a number of rose bushes and evergreens over the ground…the graves are sodded…"(1869 Annual Report of the Secretary of War: 19).



Battleground National Cemetery 1864 site plan (National Archives and Records Administration, Cartographic and Architectural Records).



Battleground National Cemetery, 1865 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division).

1869-1879

Improvements at the Cemetery and in the Community

Community Development
Outside the cemetery, life began to return to normal in Brightwood following the war. In 1866, Fort Stevens was closed. That same year schools for black and white children opened in Brightwood. Area residents were still largely engaged in agricultural work. The population started to slowly increase and people settled primarily south of Battleground along the Seventh Street Road, Military Road and Piney Branch Road. In the immediate area around the cemetery, prominent Washingtonians still continued to own, or were establishing, country homes. Alexander “Boss” Shepherd, the powerful Commissioner of Public Works and territorial governor of Washington, purchased part of the Carberry property northwest of the cemetery in the late 1860s and built a $15,000 house, by far the most expensive home in the area (Smith: 1988: 93).

In 1871, Congress authorized the Washington City government to acquire Seventh Street Turnpike and operate it as a free road. After the city took over, the tollgate was removed and the turnpike renamed the Seventh Street Road. The road was paved with cobblestones and later macadamized (Smith 2010: 131; Smith 1988: 93; Grandine: 36).

Beginning in 1873, horse-car service transported Brightwood residents on the Seventh Street Road at Rock Creek Ford Road (formerly Milkhouse Ford Road) down to the city (Smith 2010: 131). The area continued to grow and occupations reflected a shift from the area's agricultural roots to work outside the community. Census records from 1880 indicate Brightwood residents were blacksmiths, printers, servants, laborers, and government employees (UMD, 42; 1880 United States Census; Smith 2010: 132). The census reported 414 people were living on the Seventh Street Road. There were one-hundred and forty-six heads of household: sixty were African American and eighty-six white (Smith 1988: 93; UMD: 42). By the end of the decade the Seventh Street Road underwent another name change. It became known as Brightwood Avenue.

Cemetery Improvements
In the 1870s much was done to improve the national cemeteries, including Battleground. The decade got off to a good start with an appropriation of "$300,000, all of which will be necessary, and can be conveniently expended, in perfecting the cemeteries and maintaining them in good order" (1870 Annual Report of the Quartermaster General: 15). The Quartermaster General reported that the reburial of soldiers in national cemeteries who had initially been interred on battlefields and other locations, was nearly complete. Some of the provisions of the 1867 act to protect the cemeteries had not been implemented. Wooden fences and permanent headstones were still missing at many cemeteries. In his 1870 report, Meigs wrote, "Hedges will be planted within the inclosures, in order to give greater protection and to adorn the cemeteries, wherever this can be done without too much interference with walks and ditches and other improvements already executed." Contracts had been drawn up for the construction of lodges and stone walls at several cemeteries, including Battleground (AR 1870, 15).

Meigs also mentioned several ideas he had for the improvement and decoration of the cemeteries' landscape. At five of the largest cemeteries he proposed a "handsome gateway of sandstone" with "plain Doric columns and rustic piers." The first would be built at Arlington. The secretary of war supported the construction of the arches. Meigs further suggested the planting of certain plants and the arrangement of trees.

"Osage orange, honey locust, or other suitable hedge plants, around the national cemeteries, and inside of the permanent inclosure…it is confidently believed that in the course of three or four years they will become one of the chief ornaments of the resting-places of the nation's dead… Wherever there is sufficient space, and circumstances of climate and soil will permit, it is the design of the Quartermaster General to plant, on the plan of a Gothic cathedral, 'sylvan hall' or 'temple,' of elm or maple trees, making arched avenues for the protection of people assembled on decoration day, and for the decoration of the grounds" (AR 1870: 69- 70).

Meigs' ideas for cemetery improvement followed consultations in 1870 with Frederick Law Olmsted. Olmsted recommended the cemetery landscapes be, "studiously simple…the main object should be to establish permanent dignity and tranquility…a sacred grove—sacredness being expressed in the enclosing wall and in the perfect tranquility of the trees within." Olmsted recommended employing gardeners and warned against planting "cottonwoods, poplars, maples, evergreens and balsam fir" (Cass: 41). During the 1870s, national cemeteries developed their landscapes by adding trees, flowers and shrubs. Several cemeteries, including Battleground, erected greenhouses (Cass: 40-41; VA, "History and Development of the National Cemetery Administration")

In 1871, $20,000 was spent on nearly 30,000 evergreens, deciduous tress and shrubs for the cemeteries. In the fall, 14,000 more trees and shrubs, as well as 120,000 feet of hedge were to be planted (1871 Annual Report of the Quartermaster General: 137, 177). An October 1871 inspection of Battleground reported that the Osage orange hedge and a "good many trees and shrubs" were growing well (1870-71 AR: 23). Meigs' desire for his temples of trees was realized at some cemeteries. The 1871 report stated, "Wherever space permitted and other conditions were favorable, 'sylvan halls' or 'temples' of elms or maples, have been planted on the plan of a Gothic cathedral, making arched avenues…" (1871 AR: 177).

That same year Meigs reported on the conditions at Battleground, the blue stone wall enclosing the cemetery was built. The entrance to the cemetery Meigs wrote, "is closed by double iron gates, hung on square posts of dressed Seneca stone" (1870-71 AR: 22). The coping was added later and made of red sandstone (1874 Annual Report of the Quartermaster General: 26).

Along with the wall, the lodge was constructed in 1871. The quartermaster general built the cemetery lodges gradually and only when the preliminary structure, like the one at Battleground, was in need of replacement. Meigs designed two plans for the lodges. One was a single story, hipped roof building with a three rooms and a porch. The second design was a two story building with the three rooms on the first floor, three bedrooms on the upper floor and a mansard roof. Specifications were supplied by Quartermaster Generals' office for stone or brick buildings, but other local materials were allowed. In the 1871 Quartermaster General's report to the secretary of war, Meigs noted that stone or brick lodges had been built in seventeen of the national cemeteries prior to the 1871 fiscal year (Architrave: 25, 33). The red Seneca sandstone lodge at Battleground was initially a single story structure with three rooms: an office open to visitors, a living room and kitchen. When completed in 1871, the original wood frame superintendant's lodge was left standing (Report of the Secretary of War, 1871: 23). In August 1872, Meigs inspected the cemetery and wrote that he wanted a mansard roof added to the building when funds allowed. A second floor with three rooms and the roof Meigs desired was built by 1874 (Architrave: 30-31).

Also in 1872, the Seventh Street Road was re-graded and lowered several feet. A low retaining wall built of "rubble stone…laid in mortar" and measuring three feet six inches from the original wall's foundation was built to support it. Steps to the cemetery were built to accommodate the

change in height (1874 AR: 26; Architrave: 33; 1874 inspection letter, RG 92, E. 225, Box 117) At that time nothing had been done to replace the wooden headboards. Meigs noted they were faded and decaying and more permanent markers were necessary (1871 AR: 177; 1870-71 AR: 23; 1874 AR: 26).

Meigs also noted in his August 1872 inspection that a number of trees and plants, as well as some of the hedge, had died. He wrote, “there should be a Sylvan Hall here, of such size as the place will contain. I think one was planted, but I could not trace it. If planted, many of the trees must have failed.” In September, J. Bingham of the Quartermaster General’s office replied that a sylvan hall had been planted the previous spring, but some trees had died. What trees were planted and how they were arranged was not noted, but sylvan halls at national cemeteries in Natchez, Mississippi, New Bern, North Carolina and Arlington included maples, willows, locusts or oaks, arranged in a cross shape (NPS, Arlington House: 103-104; Reed, 54th MA Record: 227-228).

The 1874 inspection of the cemetery described the walks leading to and surrounding the graves:

"From the entrance a graveled walk eight feet wide extends to and around this circular plot containing the graves and then continues on the centre of the east side. A similar walk crosses the lot from the centre to the north and south sides, dividing it into four equal sections. Another graveled walk extends around the lot a few (two or three) feet inside the hedge. These walks are kept clean" ("Letter from the Secretary of War...Report of the Inspector of National Cemeteries", 1874: 26).

The inspector went on to describe the condition of the trees, grass and other plantings. The trees were not doing well. Because of a drought some had died and the inspector reported that the trees had not been properly mulched. The Osage orange hedge was located on the inside of the wall and sections of it were doing well while others were described as “thin and poor.” The inspector found fault with the superintendent for not properly caring for the grass and for using the lodge porch and the office for cooking and laundry. “He needs to be looked after, and made to keep the Lodge and Cemetery in better condition.” The inspector found the cemetery “not in as good order as it might be.” A tool house was reported to be filthy and infested with pigeons ("Letter from the Secretary of War...Report of the Inspector of National Cemeteries", 1874: 26).

The Quartermaster General’s 1874 report to the secretary of war summarized the inspector’s findings, but was less critical. The graves were described as mounded up and sodded and the grass neatly cut. The condition of the tress and hedge was not noted (1874 AR: 25-26).

A ledger kept by Quartermaster General’s office that noted the changes at each of the national cemeteries based on the monthly reports submitted, reported that in April 1874 the superintendent at Battleground stated a greenhouse had been erected at the cemetery. No additional information was provided. The superintendent that same month requested a cistern be installed and in May 1874 the ledger noted that Decoration Day had been observed at the cemetery (RG 92, Entry 644, Box 1).

The superintendent of the cemetery at the time of the September 1874 inspection was Augustus Armbrecht. He was the father of three children and a widower. His wife Sarah had died during the summer of 1873 and was buried at Battleground. Armbrecht's three children died between 1875 and 1878 and were all buried adjacent to the lodge and to the southwest of the veterans' graves. The couple's last child to die was buried in Sarah's grave. Only three headstones mark the family's graves (Harvey: 10).

The 1874 inspection of the cemetery noted the poor conditions of the wooden grave markers (1874 AR: 26) For many years Meigs resisted the use of stone markers. In his 1866 annual report he proposed a small cast iron headstone with raised letters. The marker would be coated in zinc to prevent rust. The 1867 act to protect national cemeteries called for a marble or granite headstone. Nothing was done to appropriate funds or move forward on more permanent markers until March 3, 1873 when Congress appropriated $1,000,000 for headstones. The secretary of war specified the markers should have a curved top and made of "white marble or granite, 4 inches thick, 10 inches wide, with 12 inches above ground and 24 inches underground in areas south of Washington and 30 inches in those to the north" (Civil War Era national Cemeteries Nomination Form: 16).

The inspection of Battleground in October 1876 noted the new headstones and the good work of Mr. Armbrecht. "It appeared to be in beautiful order. The graves of forty soldiers, neatly marked with handsome headstones, are arranged in a circle around the flagstaff" (RG 92 E649, MRCE). The 1877 Quartermaster General's annual report made note of the installation of forty headstones at Battleground during the previous fiscal year. By 1881 all graves in national cemeteries had been marked with a granite or marble headstone.

1880-1919

Memorials and Remembrance

During the 1880s, the Quartermaster General's annual reports do not list particular changes to the cemetery, but note how much was spent on repairs to buildings and grounds, including the purchase of plants and trees. However, during the 1880s several iron tablets, including three quoting the poem "Bivouac of the Dead" were likely to have been installed.

The poem is the work of Kentucky native Theodore O'Hara. O'Hara was a veteran of the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), the early 1850s conflict with Cuba and the Civil War. Though the poem is often associated with the Civil War because the iron tablets bearing lines from the piece are located in Civil War era national cemeteries, it was written following the Mexican-American War as a tribute to the veterans of the Battle of Buena Vista. During the battle, 267 Americans were killed and 456 were wounded.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, O'Hara wrote the poem for the 1850 dedication of a monument to soldiers killed during the Battle of Buena Vista located at the cemetery where they are buried in Frankfort, Kentucky. The poem later began appearing on boards at Civil War battlefields and cemeteries. Between 1881 and 1882, the War Department

began fabricating cast-iron boards with the poem "to take the place of notices, verses, etc., on painted sideboards…" Lines from the poem were placed at the McClellan Gate at Arlington National Cemetery possibly at the request of Montgomery Meigs. By the 1890s the tablets bearing the poem were installed at several national cemeteries. At Battleground, three tablets with quotations from the poem are located to the north, east and south of the graves (www.cem.va.gov/hist/bivouac.asp; http://www.nps.gov/archive/gett/gettncem/bivouac.htm).

Two additional tablets stating the cemetery rules and regulations were installed at approximately the same time as the Bivouac of the Dead quotations. They are now located on the north side of the walk near the entrance to the cemetery. The rules were adopted in 1875 and the Rock Island Arsenal created the tablets in 1881.

The first monument dedicated to soldiers who were killed or wounded during the Battle of Fort Stevens was erected by the state of Pennsylvania to honor the 98th Pennsylvania Volunteers. The monument is an eight foot tall granite obelisk inscribed with the names of those who died during the battle. It is located on the northwest section of the cemetery facing Georgia Avenue. The memorial was the work of P.R. and Company located in Philadelphia. Thirty veterans from Pennsylvania and the 25th New York Cavalry attended the July 13, 1891 dedication. Prior to the ceremony, veterans of the battle had been participating in a reunion at Fort Stevens ("Settling the History," WP July 14, 1891; www.nps.gov/rocr/historyculture/monuments.htm).

The granite obelisk chosen for the 98th Pennsylvania Volunteers was a common monument design and funeral form. The obelisk referenced the classical world and its use at cemeteries "became symbols for Christian belief in the eternity of the spirit." It was first used as a battlefield memorial at Vicksburg and Manassas in 1864 and 1865 and at Gettysburg in 1882 and 1886. The shaft style monument remained popular into the twentieth century, but it "varied from rude, rough-cut piles to elegant, classicized columns" (Panhorst 154-155; Rainey in Groth 78-79; National Register Bulletin Forty-One: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places, 12-13).

At the time of the dedication of the Pennsylvania monument, veterans reunions were being held, battlefield parks were being created and monuments to Civil War soldiers were being raised around the country. The battlefield parks at Chickamauga and Chattanooga were created in 1890, Shiloh in 1894, Gettysburg in 1895 and Vicksburg in 1899. The battlefields were preserved as memorial sites, but they were also used for the study of military maneuvers. Troop positions and lines of battle were marked. By the time they officially became parks, Union and Confederate veterans had been holding joint reunions and encampments on the battlefields for several years (Lee: A Battlefield Park System: 1; Lee: The First Battlefield Parks: 1). The parks, particularly Gettysburg, had also become crowded with monuments erected by states and veterans groups. The first memorial was raised at Gettysburg in 1867. Over the next twenty-eight years 200 monuments were dedicated. In 1888 alone, 150 monuments were raised at the Pennsylvania battlefield (Rainey in Groth: 70-71).

Following the creation of the first battlefield parks, bills for the establishment of multiple battlefield parks were submitted to Congress. Between 1901 and 1904, thirty-four bills were

introduced to “authorize twenty-three additional historical reservations in nine different states and the District of Columbia.” Fort Stevens was one of the many parks proposed (Lee: Later Evolution of the National Military Park Idea: 1).

In addition to the later part of the nineteenth century being a period of military park creation and memorial dedication, it was also a period of cemetery landscape improvement. According to the Civil War Era National Cemeteries National Register nomination, during the 1880s and 1890s,

"Burial grounds that first presented an unsightly appearance of bare mounded graves, wooden headboards, picket fences and frame buildings had been transformed by structures of iron, stone and marble…the national cemeteries gradually assumed an aspect of stately parks, adorned with shrubs, trees, graveled paths, and driveways and vistas of shaded greensward carpeting the mounded graves" (National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: Civil War Era National Cemeteries: E17).

It would be several more years before another monument was erected at the cemetery, but an 1893 map and photograph from 1896 reveal improvements to the landscape. The 1893 map documents a mixture of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs filling the site. The photograph primarily illustrates the features of the southeast section of cemetery, but it also reveals two urns located at the entrance and an iron fence along the top of the wall (Map: National Cemetery, Battle Ground, DC, 1893, RG 92; 1896 Photograph, RG 92, Still Pictures). Like the obelisk form used for the soldiers’ monuments, the urn is a traditional funeral form and became a popular, mass produced grave marker in the United States in the early and mid-nineteenth century. Following the Civil War it was also used in battlefield memorials (Panhorst: 159).

By 1896 the pathways extending north and east of the circular path surrounding the graves were removed. The 1897 Quartermaster General’s Annual Report noted repairs made to the lodge, outbuilding, wall, drainage and the addition of a 50 foot iron flagpole from Arlington National Cemetery (AR 1897: 385).

The wall was altered in 1900 due to the widening of Brightwood (Georgia) Avenue and the iron fence, described as a “very light iron fence about two feet high…not especially ornamental” was not reinstalled because it was no longer necessary according the Quartermaster General’s office (RG 92 E. 225 Box 117). The road expansion required setting the wall back several feet and rebuilding it. In a letter to the secretary of war regarding the setback, the Quartermaster General’s office wrote,

"The wall as it now stands, is quite an encroachment upon the public street…it appears that the present Commissioners of the District of Columbia, have caused this highway…to be widened to about ninety feet, and have already set back the fences on adjacent property…to widen this street as proposed will require the front wall of the National Cemetery to be set back a distance of between four and five feet" (RG92 E225 Box 117).

The author went on to ask whether the land should be given up to the city and the wall rebuilt at

the expense of the government. A survey of the property revealed that the wall did encroach, and by 1901, moving and rebuilding the wall was completed (AR 1900: 343; AR 1901: 358).

Outside the Cemetery Walls
Widening of Brightwood Avenue reflected the development taking place in the northern part of the city, though the area immediately around the cemetery remained largely undeveloped for many years. During the mid-1880s and early 1890s, several residential developments opened up in communities near Brightwood. Mount Pleasant and Petworth, John Tayloe's estate, developed in the 1880s and were located south of the neighborhood, and Takoma Park and Brookland to the east. An 1890s Baltimore and Ohio Railroad real estate map reveals that Brightwood still consisted of large tracts of land, whereas in adjacent neighborhoods plats were crisscrossed with newly laid streets. A 1903 Baist map also shows few buildings in the vicinity of the cemetery (Real Estate Map of the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company between Washington, DC and Rockville, MD, 1890, Library of Congress).

Following the development of suburbs north of Florida Avenue and outside L'Enfant's plan for Washington, the city's engineer commissioners urged the creation of a street plan to conform to L'Enfant's design. Congress funded a ten year mapping project beginning in 1879 and the city was given authority to approve the subdivision of property. This did not begin until 1888. Subdivisions were then required to conform to the city's master plan. The plan, however, was not developed and implemented until after the passage of the Highway Act of March 2, 1893. In 1898 a map was completed that included the layout of streets in Brightwood (Scott: 118-120). Historian Katherine Grandine wrote of the plan,

"For Brightwood…the map largely erased its separate physical identity. As much as possible, a straight grid street pattern was imposed on the landscape. Many of the older roads were shifted, straightened where appropriate, and widened…Shepherd Road became Concord Avenue; Piney Branch Road, Colorado Avenue; and Rock Creek Ford Road was joined to Peabody Street…it must have shocked older residents to see their farmlands platted and their houses located in the middle of the proposed streets" (Grandine: 67).

The 1896 Hopkins real estate map shows a system of superimposed city blocks, streets, circles and radiating avenues. Development was underway in Brightwood and its neighboring communities, but for many years after the implementation of the 1893 act, large sections of land remained untouched (Hopkins "Real Estate Plat-Book of Washington, District of Columbia. Supplement Volume Three," Sheet 22,1896).

The strong force behind the development of Brightwood was made up of local men who would later become leaders in the effort to preserve Fort Stevens and involved in organizing services at the cemetery. In 1891, they founded the Brightwood Avenue Citizens Association to lobby for improvements to streetcar service in the neighborhood and other public works projects (Grandine: 94). The first large-scale residential development, in a sense, occurred unintentionally. Local landowner Archibald White sold 82 acres of his land in 1891 for the establishment of a university. The university plan fell through due to financial problems and the land was instead subdivided into a residential development known as Brightwood Park.

The development bordered Petworth to the south, Matthew Gault Emery's family property and Shepherd Road to the north and Brightwood Avenue to the west. Sections of land belonging to the Ray family made up its eastern border. Brightwood Park consisted of 33 blocks, or sections of blocks, with lots sizes averaging 50 feet wide by 150 feet deep (Grandine: 55). By 1894, thirty-four frame houses were finished. Shortly afterwards, Harry Wardman, the developer responsible for an enormous amount of residential construction throughout Washington, started building in Brightwood Park. In 1938, when Wardman died, an estimated one-eighth to one-tenth of Washington's residents lived in Wardman houses or apartment buildings (Smith 1988: 95). By the end of the 1920s, Brightwood would become home to major Wardman development projects. The first homes he built in the area were located in Brightwood Park where Wardman constructed six detached wood-frame houses between 1897 and 1899 (Fleishman, "Wardman's World," WP October 15, 2005; Smith 1988: 95).

Cemetery, Fort and Brightwood Advocates
In 1900, the Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park Association was founded by veterans and other advocates to lobby for the establishment of a military park at Fort Stevens. The goal of the organization was to assist the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) with Memorial Day exercises at Battleground National Cemetery and "to restore, preserve, and mark, as far as possible, the historic spots associated with the Battle of Fort Stevens..." (John Clagett Proctor Papers, Historical Society of Washington). Battle of Fort Stevens veteran Major Edward Campbell, who would later be the last person buried at Battleground, was active in the organization ("For Military Park," Evening Star, December 20, 1906).

One of the key players in promoting the preservation of Fort Stevens and in participating in services at Battleground National Cemetery was Second National Bank President William Van Zandt Cox. He was active in both the Military Park Association and the Brightwood Avenue Citizens' Association. In the latter organization he served as president and served several terms as head of the history committee. Cox lectured, wrote papers and worked on events that commemorated the battle. He also was vice chairman of a committee to mark historic sites in Washington.

The Military Park Association, the Brightwood Citizens Association and the G.A.R. organized Memorial Day celebrations at the cemetery for many years. According to correspondence between the organizers, these events were attended by at least a thousand people and began around 1902 (Proctor Papers). That year the Secretary of the Treasury gave the address and Battle of Fort Stevens veteran General Frank Wheaton was in attendance. The local newspapers often carried articles on the services at national cemeteries and graveyards around Washington. Much notice was given to tributes at Arlington, but ceremonies at Battleground, Congressional and Glenwood Cemeteries, as well as at Soldiers' Home and St. Elizabeths Hospital were also covered. Like other Memorial Day celebrations held around the country, speeches, laying of flowers at the graves, and patriotic songs sung by children were common features of the services.

Soldiers from Walter Reed General Hospital, now Walter Reed Army Medical Center, located a

few blocks north of the cemetery, also attended and participated in Memorial Day services at Battleground. Walter Reed moved in 1909 from Fort McNair in Virginia because of the advocacy of Brightwood Citizens' Association member Louis Peirce Shoemaker, who vigorously promoted the neighborhood. Shoemaker also worked with Georgia Senator Augustus Bacon to aid the neighborhood. In 1909, residents supported changing the name of Brightwood Avenue to Georgia in the hopes it would encourage the senator to advocate for improvements in Brightwood. Unfortunately, Bacon died shortly after the avenue changed its name (Grandine: 73; Smith 1988: 95).

On the fortieth anniversary of the battle in 1904, the state of New York erected a monument to the 122nd Regiment of New York Volunteers, VI Army Corps. Five members of the regiment are buried at Battleground. The monument, like the memorial to the 98th Pennsylvania Volunteers, was a granite shaft located adjacent to the wall enclosing the cemetery on Brightwood Avenue. The ten foot tall monument was the work of the J.F. Manning Company, a Washington "monumental architecture" company that constructed or designed monuments and memorials around the city and the country. Their Washington work includes the Benjamin Franklin statue at 12th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, which was sculpted by Jacques Jouvenal and constructed by the company; and the 150th Ohio National Guard Monument erected at Battleground in 1907 (DCmemorials.com; District of Columbia Office of Planning, DC Inventory of Historic Sites).

According to the Washington Times, the erection of the 122nd New York monument was the effort of Colonel Benjamin F. Bingham, a former department commander with the G.A.R. who worked for several years to see to its creation. The paper reported that the survivors of the VI Corps would be present at the dedication and it was hoped that President Roosevelt would give all G.A.R. members who were employed by the federal government the day off to attend the ceremony ("Defense of Washington" The Washington Times, 1904).

In 1907, another monument joined the two shafts facing Brightwood Avenue. The state of Ohio erected a memorial to Company K, 150th Ohio National Guard. The first Union casualty of the Battle of Fort Stevens was a member of this company. The Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park Association and the G.A.R. assisted in organizing the dedication ceremony. J.C. Cannon of the 150th wrote in a letter to Major A.S. Perham, secretary of the Military Park Association regarding Ohio monument, "The stone selected to typify the principles of patriotism…it only represents the feeling we have of honor for the sacrifice of those few who died in a glorious cause and of thankfulness that we, the survivors, have lived to see what a great and powerful nation has been made possible by the service of the Union Army" (Proctor Papers).

The monument is a modest rough-cut granite structure measuring five-feet high. Its rounded arch shape resembles a large tombstone. The shape and size of the memorial may be in deference to the veterans from New York. Cannon in his July 1907 letter to Perham wrote, "I do not think it would be in place to make the exercises of as much importance as those of the New York Regts. altho (sic) the sacrifice was from one point of view, equally valuable." Though he was speaking of the arrangements for the dedication, his feelings may have been

reflected in the design of the Ohio memorial (Proctor Papers).

In the program for the dedication ceremony it was noted that a copper box was placed "in the upper surface of the foundation stone" containing bullets and buttons found on the battlefield; photos; Senate Bill 6265 which sought to create a military park at Fort Stevens; W.V. Cox's "The Defenses of Washington"; maps, badges and other items presented by members of W.V. Cox's family and the veterans. At the dedication, Cox spoke of trying to save Fort Stevens. He also remarked on the changes in the landscape since the 1864 battle. "We welcome you to Brightwood amid peaceful surroundings, trees and happy homes, in great contrast to denuded fields and forests, camps, smoldering ruins of houses, rifle trenches and the bristling battles of more than forty years ago. Welcome to historic and modern Brightwood" (Dedication Program: 6, MRCE).

Dedication and Memorial Day ceremonies at Battleground required that groups construct their own speaking platforms and assembly areas. Presumably this was the case even when the Vice President of the United States spoke at the cemetery on Memorial Day in 1919. An appropriation of $2,000 for the construction of a rostrum was requested in the Army appropriation bill in 1907 and 1908, but was never awarded. Rostrums were constructed at many national cemeteries shortly after their establishment following the Civil War. Rostrums at Antietam and Gettysburg were constructed in 1879. It would be more than ten years before a rostrum was constructed at Battleground (Proctor Papers; List of Classified Structures, Antietam and Gettysburg entries).

Though money was not made available for the construction of a rostrum in 1907 or 1908, a small brick toolhouse was constructed by 1907 and located in the northeast corner of the cemetery. The building has several elements of the standardized plan for toolhouses and stables designed by Montgomery Meigs, including the parapet wall concealing a shed roof; stepped down side elevation walls; and double-doors located at the center of the south wall (Architrave, 35).

A 1907 letter between the G.A.R. and the Quartermaster General's office regarding lumber mentions an older building at the cemetery. The letter stated, "the superintendent, Mr. Dickson, turned this lumber over to one of your Committee, as he had instructions to clear the site where the old building stood" (Proctor Papers). It is possible this is the old building referred to as the pigeon-infested structure mentioned in an 1874 inspection and located in the center of the southern section of the cemetery as documented by the 1893 map.

The state of New York erected the last monument to the veterans of the Battle of Fort Stevens in 1914. The governor of New York created a commission in 1913 to erect a "suitable monument" to the members of the 25th New York Volunteer Cavalry. W.V. Cox was the presiding officer at the ceremony, which included patriotic songs, reminiscences of the battle, a poem and music by the Fifth U.S. Cavalry Band. J. Floyd King, a Confederate general and Jubal Early's chief of artillery, spoke at the ceremony. King was also a speaker at the 1911 unveiling of the Lincoln Boulder at Fort Stevens. About twenty veterans and several hundred members of the public attended the dedication. The Star reported "there was no lack of

Confederate representatives" among the crowd and unity was a prevalent theme in the speeches delivered (Jacob: 140).

The 25th New York Volunteer Cavalry monument joined the three other veterans monuments along the northwest wall of the cemetery. The newest memorial was a "lone sentinel" figure mounted atop a six foot high granite pedestal with the inscription, "sacred to the memory of our comrades who gave their lives in defense of the national capitol." Below the inscription a bronze plaque noted the monument was erected by the state of New York in honor of the Twenty-fifth New York Cavalry.

The New York memorial cost $7,500 and was the work of the McGibbon and Curry Company. The lone sentinel model was a common style of Civil War monument that could be modified with a change of uniform, pose, gun or size. McGibbon and Curry was one of a few companies that "churned out hundreds of these statues. So great was the demand and so profitable the work that these firms sent reunion, civic, and commemorative groups all over the country illustrated catalogues offering stone and metal soldiers in Union or Confederate uniforms…in sizes to fit every budget" (Jacob: 8).

Three of the four monuments at Battleground represented popular Civil War memorial styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. According to historian Kathryn Allamong Jacob, the simplest monument "was the plain shaft or obelisk, but the most common was the lone soldier atop a simple pedestal. By the turn of the century, these frozen sentinels were ubiquitous. Hundreds stood guard over Northern and Southern town greens, courthouse squares, and cemeteries" (Jacob: 8). The memorials at Battleground illustrate the changing tastes and interests of the public.



Battleground National Cemetery, c. 1900. One of the Bivouac of the Dead tablets is visible in the foreground of the photograph (ROCR files).



This 1907-1914 view of the cemetery shows three of the four monuments dedicated to the veterans of the Battle of Fort Stevens. The final memorial was dedicated in 1914 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division).

1920-1930

The Last Structure

Six years after the dedication of the last monument, funding was appropriated for the construction of the rostrum. Hearings were held in 1920 at which General Bingham of the G.A.R., W.V. Cox and members of the Brightwood Citizens Association testified on the necessity of the rostrum. Charles Ray, the president of the Brightwood Citizens Association and descendent of Brightwood residents who had lived in the area since before the Civil War, remarked on the Memorial Day practices at the cemetery and that the organizers have been taking lumber and chairs out to Battleground for thirty years.

"We have, I should say, from 2,500 to 3,000 people present. The citizens of that community contribute to a temporary stand every year, which has to be pulled down and practically demolished. As every other national cemetery in this section of the country has a permanent rostrum from which to conduct the memorial exercises, we think we ought to have one in this little cemetery" (Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill, 1921. Part 2, 2774).

Ray went on to describe the small structure they proposed with a speaker's stand and seating space for twenty to twenty-five people. W.V. Cox remarked that participation in Memorial Day services at the cemetery had grown during World War I and "when the community realized what the Battle of Fort Stevens meant, the exercises on May 30 have become the most popular in the District…the children of Brightwood, Takoma Park, Petworth, and Saul's Addition have always been participants in these ceremonies." Cox went on to reiterate the need for the rostrum to provide "a proper place where a speaker can stand, and not stand on a pine board that is liable to break" (Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill, 1921. Part 2, 2775).

Further testimony noted that every year "the grass is trampled upon and the turf cut up so that it is out of place with the other beautiful surroundings" (Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill, 1921. Part 2, 2776). The most passionate support of the rostrum's construction came from Colonel C.C. Lancaster who said, "the associations surrounding that place…are most unique, most beautiful, most patriotic, and more interesting to the people of the United States to-day than any other place that I know of, of that character." He went on to invite members of Congress out to Battleground. "Come out to that beautiful little cemetery there and tell us what you think about it, how it inspires you, how it brings forth your eloquence, how it stirs your patriotism, and see the surroundings of that little cemetery, what happened and what were the results" (Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill, 1921. Part 2, 2777-2778).

Money was appropriated for the rostrum and it was constructed in 1921. The initial plan called for a brick structure. In November 1920, Charles Moore, chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts, visited the cemetery to look for an appropriate place for the rostrum. Following his visit, he wrote to Quartermaster Corps suggesting that a small structure with white columns be constructed instead of one built of brick. Moore stated that the best location for the rostrum was in line with the entrance and the flagpole at the back of the cemetery. His letter also commented on the condition of the plants at Battleground. Ivy was growing along the wall and, according to Moore, "this is a beautiful growth and is the finest decoration the cemetery has." He remarked on the replacement of one of the six boxwoods leading to the flagpole by "another sort of a bush entirely out of keeping with the Box. A new Boxbush should be planted in the proper place" (Moore to Lawton, November 2, 1920, RG 66, Project Files, 1910-1952, Box 28).

The Quartermaster Corps wrote back suggesting that stone columns with a modified Doric order from the old War Department building and similar columns from Soldiers' Home National Cemetery and the Temple of Fame at Arlington National Cemetery could be used in building the rostrum. Moore shared the suggestion of the columns with the Commission of Fine Arts and they later returned a sketch with the suggested columns to the Quartermaster General for approval in December 1920 (Lawton to Moore, November 12, 1920; Moore to Rogers, December 7, 1920, RG66 Project Files, 1910-1952, Box 28). The completed rostrum included eight Doric columns supporting the ceiling and a seven-foot long marble block wall on the ends and at the rear of the structure. On Memorial Day in 1921 the services included the dedication of the rostrum.

The Memorial Day services at Battleground continued to be arranged by the Brightwood Citizens Association and the G.A.R. In 1921 and 1925, local newspapers published poems

written for the occasion. Long time resident, local historian and newspaper columnist John Clagett Proctor wrote the 1925 piece entitled “Gratitude.” Proctor had composed a poem for an earlier commemoration at the cemetery and wrote an additional poem for services in 1927. Programs for the Memorial Day services often included historic photographs of Fort Stevens, the cemetery or images related to the battle. For many years the cover image was the walkway, flagpole and graves at Battleground. The image reveals four boxwoods adjacent to the path. Two are located where the main walkway intersects with the circular path around the flagpole and the other two are along the path just outside the circle of graves. A short walk from the rear of the lodge to the main pathway, that is no longer a part of the cemetery, is also pictured.



View of the cemetery looking northeast prior to the addition of the rostrum. Circa 1910 to 1920 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division).



Rostum in use during 1928 Memorial Day service (Proctor papers, Historical Society of Washington).

1931-1960

The Last Veteran

The 1930s brought physical and administrative changes to Battleground National Cemetery. At the beginning of the decade a kitchen was added to the rear of the lodge (Architrave: 38). The gable roof brick addition included a small porch with an entrance off the southeast side of the building. Throughout the decade the cemetery continued to be a place visited by prominent public figures and Memorial Day services were held each year.

In 1931, First Lady Lou Henry Hoover and Supreme Court justice and Battle of Fort Stevens veteran Oliver Wendell Holmes visited the cemetery on the justice's ninetieth birthday. Then cemetery Superintendent Captain Herbert Turner did not realize he was speaking with a Battle of Fort Stevens veteran when explaining who was allowed to be buried there. In response, Holmes said, "I am eligible to be buried here. But, I supposed they will put me over there." He pointed in the direction of Arlington National Cemetery. Holmes was one of a small number of battle veterans still living. He and two others all lived in the Washington area. When Superintendent Turner died in 1934, and Holmes in 1935, they were both buried at Arlington ("Capt. Herbert Turner Dies: Battleground Cemetery Head," WP, March 10, 1934).

The G.A.R. and members of the Brightwood community continued to organize Memorial Day services at the cemetery. John Clagett Proctor remained an active organizer and participant. In 1931, he described the services:

"There is a great difference between Battle Ground Cemetery exercises and those held at the other cemeteries, since with the former it is typically a community affair, being attended almost exclusively by those who take a pride in whatever they do, a fact always spoken of and referred to by the members of the Grand Army, who have annually, cheerfully helped us in the work, realizing as they do…that there are no exercises in the District more interesting and better conducted that are the services held here" (Proctor papers).

Well-known speakers participated in services, including the Secretary of Commerce, who delivered the main address during Memorial Day services in 1933. John Clagett Proctor again recited a poem he had written for the occasion ("Battlefield Rites Held Despite Rain," WP, May 31, 1933). A 1935 service was described in the Washington Post as, "less pretentious than the Arlington ceremonial but perhaps more impressive because of its sylvan intimacy, was the service held on the upper Georgia avenue site" ("Capital's Rites for Dead Take Political Turn," WP, May 31 1935).

Captain Turner was the last superintendent to be employed by the War Department. On September 25, 1933 the National Park Service assumed control of the cemetery. This was the result of the Reorganization Act of 1933 which allowed the president to reorganize the Executive Branch. President Roosevelt, having been swayed by National Park Service director Horace Albright that the park service would make a more appropriate and effective manager of military parks and battlefields, signed Executive Order 6166 on June 10 and Executive Order 6228 on July 28th, which turned management of the properties, as well as many monuments and fourteen national cemeteries, over to the park service. The national cemeteries included Battleground, Antietam, Vicksburg, Gettysburg and Shiloh.

Visits to the cemetery by veterans, such as Holmes and members of the G.A.R., provided a physical connection to the Battle of Fort Stevens and the Civil War, as did a discovery made on the grounds in 1934. In 1933, the Public Works Administration allotted funds for draining the cemetery. While completing the project in 1934, workmen dug up four live shells and a hand grenade in the northeast corner of the cemetery ("36 Cemeteries Get $557,161 Works Funds," WP, Oct 20 1933; "Workmen Almost Victims of Battle Fought 70 Years Ago," WP Feb 25 1934).

The following year the tool house was remodeled and two public bathrooms and a garage door at the east side were added. The work extended the structure from fifteen by twenty-six feet to fifteen by thirty-three feet.

In March 1936 the final burial took place at Battleground. Ninety-two-year-old Major Edward R. Campbell, a member of the VI Corps, was the last surviving veteran of the Battle of Fort Stevens. Campbell had been active in the Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park Association and participated in battle anniversary services up until the year before his death. He was buried with full military honors and members of the G.A.R. and Sons of Union Veterans participated in the services. Following his death, the cemetery was closed to future interments.

Within a few weeks of Campbell's death, the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, newspapers reported the group was interested in placing a memorial at the cemetery. The Commission of Fine Arts recommended at the request of the G.A.R. that a bench at the cemetery would be a fitting memorial. In September of that year they dedicated a memorial to the G.A.R. at Fort Stevens. Further research is necessary to determine if they dedicated the monument at Fort Stevens instead of one at the cemetery ("Lone Thief Steals $300 From Store," WP, Mar 29 1936).

During the 1940s two long term features of the national cemeteries were threatened. In 1941, the park service made inquiries into whether the rostrums in the national cemeteries managed by the service were in use. Arthur DeMaray, Assistant to the Director, of the National Park Service argued that rostrums that were not in use should be torn down. Luckily, Battleground's rostrum was spared because of its regular use. "The rostrum in the Battleground National Cemetery is in good condition and is used on Memorial Day; therefore it is recommended that is be allowed to remain" (Truett to Director, January 2, 1941, RG 79, Box 2700). In July 1942, the Department of the Interior's acting solicitor stated that if a cemetery no longer needed a superintendent none should be employed and lodges could be used for some other purpose than to house the superintendent or as a visitor center (Architrave: 40).

By the time it was determined an onsite superintendent was not necessary, Brightwood had greatly developed. Lots neighboring the cemetery remained largely unoccupied well into the twentieth century, but by the end of the 1920s Venable Street bordering the cemetery to the east was opened and lined by houses. Yards and the backs of homes abutted the cemetery to the south and the northern neighbor was a three-story apartment building. In 1937, the Park and Shop and Sheridan Theater opened between Fort Stevens and the cemetery. The shopping center included the 1,000 seat theater, a grocery store and other shops, including a Kresge five-and-dime (Battleground to Community, CulturalTourism, DC). By World War II much of the area developed, and with the war new apartment buildings were constructed to house the influx of people who came to Washington to work. The west side of Georgia Avenue opposite the cemetery was lined with apartment buildings.

Though no superintendent lived at the cemetery, the lodge served as a residence for NPS employees. Beginning in the 1950s, through the 1970s, a carpenter and his wife lived in the lodge, and then from 1985 to 1987, a Rock Creek Park foreman and his wife resided there. The building was also used as offices and during the mid-1990s the Rock Creek Park Archives were stored in the building (Architrave: 40-41).



Burial of Major Edward Campbell, the last interment at the cemetery, 1936 (National Archives and Records Administration).

1960-2010

1960s to the Present

By the 1960s the cemetery vegetation had thinned. The historic boxwoods that lined the central walk appeared in photographs through the mid-1960s, but by then only a few survived. They were located along the south side of the main walk, with the exception of a substantial shrub to the northwest. Photographs show some young trees planted in the southeast section of the cemetery and several mature trees located in the westernmost section (MRCE). By 1975, the boxwoods were gone. Cemetery inspections from that year made note of the landscape.

"Photographic evidence indicates that until recently, much heavier plantings were used at the cemetery. The effect created was that of a green and shady grove, of the type most people would associate with a graveyard. By comparison, today's appearance is markedly stripped-down. For instance, originally forty trees were planted in the cemetery. Their growth and health for nearly a century, contributed to the good effect just mentioned. Now, only about a dozen remain, some of those obviously sick and dying. Ceremonial entrance of lush boxwood formerly flanked pathway from the street to circular burial plot. Now gone. Other busy plantings previously around burial plot now gone. Strongly suggest some effort to increase both quality and quantity of horticultural efforts… " (List of Classified Structures, 1975 Report, NCR Files).

A later undated report on the landscape history of the cemetery noted, “twenty trees remain scattered on the lot. Four large stumps remain.” The report’s recommendations quoted from, and echoed much of the 1975 comments on the state of the landscape.

"To recreate the ‘Green and Shady Grove’ effect a number of historic trees should be added. Any existing trees that die or are diseased or in unsafe condition should be removed along with the existing large stumps and immediately replaced with historic specimens. Some of the current off site views are undesirable and consideration in placement of trees is essential.” The historic boxwoods were referred to as “‘Ceremonial Entrance of Lush Boxwoods’ formerly flanking the pathway from the street to the circular burial plot (Battleground Cemetery History Landscape Overview, NCR CLP files).

The report may date to the 1980s, when there were several efforts to repair and restore the cemetery’s features and the cemetery was listed on the National Register on April 4, 1980. The previous year it was added to the DC Inventory of Historic Sites. In 1985, the first of several “Development/Study Package Proposal” forms were completed for projects at Battleground National Cemetery. The proposals involved repairing or improving multiple cemetery features, including trees and shrubs. An August 1985 form stated, “The cemetery is a significant historic resource and preservation and complete restorative work is essential for the grounds and structure to reflect a first class park” (MRCE, ROCR).

In 1982 the condition of the cemetery was brought to the attention of a member of Congress and President Reagan’s cabinet. In August 1982 Senator Patrick Leahy wrote to Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger regarding the condition of the iron tablets. “I have recently received a complaint from a Vermont resident, temporarily living in the District of Columbia, that the metal plaques on the Battleground Civil War Cemetery on Georgia Avenue, one block from the Walter Reed Hospital, are not being properly maintained. Is the cemetery under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense? If so, what efforts are being made to improve the maintenance of this cemetery?” James J. Redmond, the superintendent of Rock Creek Park, wrote to the National Capital Region’s Interpretation, Recreation and Visitor Services Division regarding the tablets. He stated that five large interpretive markers and two canons needed to refurbished, “to make the site presentable to the public” (Redmond, Aug 19, 1982, MRCE). G. Ray Arnett, Assistant Secretary for Wish and Wildlife and Parks wrote to Senator Leahy on the condition of the tablets. "The five interpretive markers at Battleground National Cemetery will be given priority for refurbishment...this fall" (Arnett to Leahy, MRCE). In January 1983 the plaques still had not been repaired and plastic replacements were suggested ("Development/Study Package Proposal," January 10, 1983, MRCE). Further research is necessary to determine when the plaques were repaired or replaced by the current tablets. Proposals submitted in 1986 for rehabilitation work at the cemetery did not include the tablets, inferring they had been repaired or replaced by that time ("Development/Study Package Proposal," November 6, 1986, MRCE).

Through the end of the 1980s and into the mid-1990s several requests were made for repairs to the lodge. These included replacing rotting window frames and sills, installation of a sprinkler

system, repairing sagging ceilings and replacing the roof, gutter and downspouts, repointing mortar, and replacing deteriorated wood on the porch. Some repairs were made to the interior of the building, but little, if any, of the exterior work was completed. The last few years of the 1990s included reports of a homeless person living on site, repair work to a collapsed section of the cemetery wall on the east side of the cemetery, and vandals covering the rostrum with graffiti in 1998 (Architrave: 41; MRCE; LCS files).

Though the end of the decade included damage to the cemetery's resources and the need for repairs, it was also the beginning of a long term project into the cemetery's history. In 1999, Ranger Ron Harvey began what would become a nine year project researching the identities of the soldiers buried at the cemetery. Harvey spent his free time combing through Civil War records at the National Archives and cross-referencing documents related to the war. He determined that five of the headstones had incorrect information. Four of the stones incorrectly identified the deceased. In 2006, while realigning and cleaning the tombstones, Harvey discovered that several of the stones had names carved into the buried sections. The names did not provide information on the identities of those buried there, just that the stones were reused. Harvey produced a nearly one hundred page report, "Buried in History: The Five Misidentified Graves at Battleground National Cemetery," detailing his findings. A wayside was added to the cemetery correctly identifying the soldiers and the flags of the regiments in which they fought.

In 2005, the deferred maintenance at the cemetery was reflected in the DC Preservation League addition of the cemetery to its Most Endangered Places list. The league stated that, "… the only routine maintenance is lawn mowing. The threats to the historic integrity of Battleground National Cemetery are increasing every year without adequate maintenance or restoration of the historic structures" (www.dcpreservation.org/endangered/2005/2005MEP.pdf).

Beginning in 2008 repair work started at the cemetery. The central walkway was repaved in the fall of that year. In 2009, the flagpole base was repainted and restored, as were the Bivouac of the Dead, Gettysburg Address plaque, cemetery rules and national cemetery tablets. A new roof was installed on the maintenance building in 2009. Beginning in fiscal year 2010, the rostrum and lodge will undergo major restoration and repair work in preparation for the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. The work is funded through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. Following completion of the work, the lodge will house the office of the Civil War Defenses of Washington program manager.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

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This section provides an evaluation of the physical integrity of the Battleground National Cemetery cultural landscape by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1864-1936) with current conditions. Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape that allow visitors to understand its cultural value. Collectively, they express the historic character and integrity of a landscape. Landscape characteristics give a property cultural importance and comprise the property's uniqueness. Each characteristic or feature is classified as contributing or non-contributing to the site's overall historic significance.

Landscape characteristics are comprised of landscape features. Landscape features are classified as contributing if they were present during the property's period of significance. Non-contributing features (those that were not present during the historical period) may be considered "compatible" when they fit within the physical context of the historic period and attempt to match the character of contributing elements in a way that is sensitive to the construction techniques, organizational methods, or design strategies of the historic period. Incompatible features are those that are not harmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape and, through their existence, can lessen the historic character of a property. For those features that are listed as undetermined, further primary research, which is outside the scope of this CLI, is necessary to determine the feature's origination date. Landscape characteristics and features, individually, and as a whole, express the integrity and historic character of the landscape and contribute to the property's historic significance.

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for the property are spatial organization, land use, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, views and vistas, and small-scale features. The buildings and structures, already documented through the List of Classified Structures (LCS), are described here in the context of the landscape setting. This section also includes an evaluation of the property's integrity in accordance with National Register criteria. Historic integrity, as defined by the National Register, is the authenticity of a property's identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the site's historic period. The National Register recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for a site to retain historic integrity. To be listed in the National Register, a property not only must be shown to have significance under one of the four criteria, but must also retain integrity.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES.
Contributing landscape characteristics identified for Battleground National Cemetery are spatial organization, land use, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, views and vistas, and small scale features.

The spatial organization of Battleground National Cemetery resembles the layout established during the

historic period. This is evident in the arrangement of graves, vegetation, location of buildings and pathways. Though there have been minor additions to the landscape since the period of significance, the site retains its historic configuration and has a high degree of integrity.

The land use at Battleground National Cemetery has not changed since its period of significance. The site remains a burial ground, though closed to future interments, and a place of memorialization and commemoration. Services honoring veterans are still held at the cemetery. Land use at Battleground National Cemetery retains a high degree of integrity.

The existing buildings and structures at Battleground National Cemetery date to the period of significance. These include the superintendent's lodge, the wall enclosing the cemetery, stairs, rostrum and the maintenance building. Though several of the buildings and structures have undergone some modifications since the historic period they have largely gone unchanged and remain in their historic locations. These structures retain a high degree of integrity and contribute to the historic character of the site.

The majority of Battleground National Cemetery's small scale features date to the period of significance. Only a few known small scale features are no longer extant. Those that remain from the period of significance include the gate, cannons and piers, monuments, iron tablets and plaques, flagpole, headstones and urns. Only a few non-contributing small scale features have been added since the historic period. The small scale features retain a high degree of integrity.

Battleground National Cemetery's circulation patterns date to the period of significance and retain a high degree of integrity. The pathways retain their historic layout and are in use with the exception of a brick walkway on the north and west elevations of the maintenance building.

Since the period of significance the vegetation at the cemetery has decreased. Though the number of trees and shrubs declined during the period of significance, documentation suggests that much of the decline occurred after the historic period. The present day arrangement of trees and variety is compatible with the historic period. In addition, several trees may date to the period of significance. Seasonal blooming plants added after the historic period are located along the south and east sides of the lodge and surrounding the flagpole. There is moderate integrity to vegetation at Battleground National Cemetery.

Views today from Battleground National Cemetery retain a degree of integrity to the period of significance. The view from the entrance gate at the west to the east side of the cemetery, encompassing the graves, flagpole and rostrum, retains its historic character. Internal views from the rostrum to the flagpole, circle of graves, and to other points in the cemetery and public street have largely remained unchanged since the period of significance. The historic views at the cemetery retain integrity.

The Seven Aspects of Integrity

1. The location aspect of integrity involves the place where the landscape was constructed. Battleground National Cemetery occupies its historic location and the size of the site has not been modified since the historic period. The cultural landscape retains integrity of location from the period of significance, 1864 to 1936.

2. Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. The pathways, buildings and structures, and small scale features, have largely remained unchanged since the period of significance. The combination of these features maintains the historic character of the site. The most significant change to the design of the landscape is the loss of vegetation, though the current conditions maintain some of the historic character of the landscape. The design of Battleground National Cemetery retains a high degree of integrity.

3. Setting is the physical environment of a cultural landscape or historic property. The surrounding area was largely rural when the cemetery was established in 1864, but today it is a densely populated urban neighborhood. Despite the noise and other impacts from the surroundings, Battleground National Cemetery retains its internal, intimate park-like feel. Overall, the cemetery's setting retains a high degree of integrity for the period of significance.

4. Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including construction materials, paving, plants, and other landscape features. The superintendent's lodge, the rostrum, walls and the maintenance building are largely composed of their original materials. Rehabilitation work scheduled for FY2010 will repair damage to the rostrum and lodge. A limited amount of patching on the cemetery wall with material that is not complementary to its historic fabric detracts to a small degree, but does not reduce the overall integrity of the structure or the site as a whole. The same can be said of paving material used on the central walkway and flagstone pavers on the entrance steps. Flagstone is a material historically utilized at the cemetery, but further research is necessary to determine its use on the stairs during the period of significance. During the period of significance, the number of trees and shrubs was reduced, but much of the loss of historic vegetation appears to have taken place after the historic period. Though the number of trees and shrubs is less than that of the historic period, some the vegetation most likely dates to the period of significance. Battleground National Cemetery retains much of its material integrity.

5. Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. Several of the features, including the superintendant's lodge, the cemetery walls, and the maintenance building reflect the standardized designs and suggestions for materials developed by Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs for national cemeteries. The workmanship of the historic period is evident and retains a high degree of integrity at Battleground National Cemetery.

6. Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. Battleground National Cemetery, despite being surrounded by an urban landscape largely developed during the twentieth century, retains feeling from the period of significance. Because the layout, design and many of the features have largely remained unchanged, and few additions have been made since

the period of significance, historic feeling is largely preserved and retains a high degree of integrity.

7. Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Battleground National Cemetery is associated with the Battle of Fort Stevens and Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs. During the July 11 and 12, 1864 battle, fighting took place on, or very near to, the cemetery site. The property was selected as a burial ground for Union soldiers killed in the battle by Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs. Evidence of the site's connection to the battle and Meigs is tangible. Grave stones, monuments to the veterans of the conflict, structures designed by Meigs and waysides explaining the history and meaning of the site, are a few of the features that provide evidence of the cemetery's historic associations. Battleground National Cemetery's association with the Battle of Fort Stevens and Quartermaster General Meigs remains strong and the site retains a high degree of integrity for its association with this historic event and person.

Conclusion
This CLI finds that Battleground National Cemetery retains a high degree of integrity to its period of significance.

Aspects of Integrity:

Location

Design

Setting

Materials

Workmanship

Feeling

Association

Landscape Characteristic:

Spatial Organization

The locations of the flagpole, and the arrangement of the graves surrounding it, have always been the focal points of Battleground National Cemetery. These features determined the spatial organization of the site. The location of vegetation, walks, buildings and other constructed and small scale features have all been considered in relation to them. In the 1870s, numerous trees were planted in a "sylvan hall" meant to create a temple or cathedral like ceiling over the graves. How they were arranged is unknown, for many trees in the sylvan hall did not survive, but the location of the trees was determined by the graves. The lodge, maintenance building and the veteran's memorials, all constructed prior to the rostrum, were located towards the corners of the cemetery. The shape and size of the cemetery, and the room necessary for the buildings presumably played a role where they were located, but placing the monuments and buildings at a distance from the graves and flagpole preserved the focal point of the site. When the rostrum was built in 1921, it was located on axis with the flagpole and central walkway. Because of its role as a platform for ceremonies where the people assembled on the rostrum faced the graves, it maintained the primary focus and organization of the cemetery.

EXISTING
The spatial organization has not changed since the period of significance. Small scale features and vegetation have been added since the historic period, but have not altered the configuration of the site.

EVALUATION
The spatial arrangement of the cemetery has a high degree of integrity and contributes to the historic character of the site.

Land Use

HISTORIC
Since its founding in July 1864, Battleground National Cemetery has been used as a burial ground. Forty Union soldiers killed during the Battle of Fort Stevens were interred shortly after the conflict. Four additional burials took place in the 1870s, when members of the cemetery superintendent's family were interred near the lodge. The last interment took place in 1936 with the burial of Major Edward Campbell, a veteran of the Battle of Fort Stevens.

Soon after it was established, the cemetery became a place of memorialization and commemoration. Accounts of mourners planting flowers and leaving wreaths appeared in periodicals in the 1860s and cemetery reports noted the observation of Decoration (Memorial) Day since the holiday was established in 1868 (Ames, Mary Clemmer, "For What!"The Independent Devoted to the Consideration of Politics, Social and Economic Tendencies, History, Literature and the Arts," August 30,1866; RG 92, E. 644). In the 1880s and 1890s, the War Department installed iron tablets with stanzas from Theodore O'Hara's poem "Bivouac of the Dead" at national cemeteries around the country, including Battleground. Though written to honor soldiers from the Mexican-American War, the poem became associated with the Civil War. Installation of the tablets at Battleground may have occurred as early as the 1880s.

In 1891, Pennsylvania erected a monument to the 98th Pennsylvania Volunteers. It was the first of four monuments built at the cemetery. New York followed with the dedication of a monument in 1904 to the 122nd Regiment of New York Volunteers, VI Army Corps. Ohio erected a memorial to Company K, 150th Ohio National Guard in 1907. New York dedicated a memorial to the 25th New York Volunteer Cavalry in 1914.

Beginning in 1902, veterans and community members organized formal observations of Decoration (Memorial) Day. These events included speeches, patriotic songs and decorating the graves with flowers. According to organizers, hundreds and sometimes thousands of people attended the services.

EXISTING
No burials have taken place since 1936, but the cemetery continues to be a site of commemoration. Graves continue to be decorated on Memorial Day.

EVALUATION

The use and purpose of Battleground National Cemetery have not changed since the period of significance. Though it is not an active burial ground, the commemorative and memorial use of the landscape continues. Battleground National Cemetery's land use retains a high degree of integrity.

Buildings and Structures

HISTORIC

Wood Frame Superintendent's Lodge

A photograph of the cemetery taken as early as 1865 reveals a small wood-frame, single-story building with a gable roof located southwest of the soldiers' graves and adjacent to the Seventh Street Turnpike. Two windows are located on the north side of the building and a single window on the east side. The building was still standing in 1871 when the Seneca stone lodge was built, but the date it was ultimately taken down is unclear.

Tool House

A tool house was located at the cemetery as early as 1874. An 1889 report notes a "frame building south of the lodge 12x16 ft one story high." This location roughly coincides with a tool house documented on an 1893 map and located in the center of the southern portion of the cemetery. This building was torn down by 1916 and possibly as early as 1907.

Greenhouse

In April 1874, the cemetery superintendent reported a greenhouse had been erected at the cemetery, but no information on the location, dimensions or other features was provided (RG 92, E. 644, Box 1). This building does not appear on the 1893 map, or in any later documentation. It is unclear when it was taken down.

Wall (LCS 12918)

In 1871, the wall surrounding the cemetery was constructed. Along the north, south and east sides the wall was made of bluestone random rubble and measured four-feet high with a three-inch red Seneca sandstone coping. Along the west, or public road, side the wall was bluestone coursed rubble and stood at five feet high with three-inch limestone coping. In 1872, the Seventh Street Road was re-graded and lowered by several feet necessitating the construction of a three-foot, six inch bluestone wall to support the older wall. In 1900, the road was widened again and the wall was taken down and rebuilt (Secretary of War Annual Report, 1901: 358). In 1935, with the extension of the maintenance building at the northeastern section of the cemetery, a portion of the wall was removed to allow for a driveway. The wall was then rebuilt on the north and south sides of the building (Architrave: 39).

Lodge (LCS 5369)

In 1871, the red Seneca sandstone lodge replaced the frame superintendent's residence. Initially the building was a single-story, three-room structure with random coursed ashlar masonry walls, a porch and a flat roof. The entrance was located on the west side of the building facing the road. An upper floor was added by 1874 and included three rooms, a steep mansard roof with two chimneys and ten dormer windows. A heavy wood cornice was added between the first and second floors. The roof was surfaced with hexagonal shaped slate. A

brick kitchen addition was added to the rear, or east side, of the lodge between 1929 and 1930. The addition included a slightly pitched roof, brick chimney, three windows, a rear door and a porch. Two steps accessed the porch. When completed, the L-shaped building measured twenty-five feet high, thirty-eight feet wide by forty-seven feet long.

Maintenance Building (LCS 5370)
The brick maintenance building located in the far northeast corner of the cemetery was built between 1906 and 1907. It originally measured fifteen by twenty-six feet. Two windows were located on the north and east elevations and one each on the south and west sides. All the windows and doorways had stone sills. Three entrances were located on the south walls of the building—two narrow doorways to the west and east and a wide entrance in the center to allow for the passage of equipment. Based on historic photographs, the equipment door appears to be a vertical batten door with full-width strap hinges. A parapet wall screens a northward sloping shed roof. On the building's east and west sides the wall tapers down in a step formation. Two courses of projecting brick work below the cornice were located on the south elevation. On the west side rounded molding is located below the cornice. Horizontal brick work line the foundation of the building. Vertical molded bricks conceal a rounded concrete foundation complementing the molding on the western elevation.

In 1935, two public bathrooms were added to the west end of the building, as well as double batten garage doors. Several doors and windows were relocated or sealed during this remodeling. New doors were added to the north and west elevations to access the public bathrooms. An existing window on the west side was moved slightly northward and its original location was bricked in. On the south side of the building the entrance to the west was bricked in and a window was added a few feet to the left of its location. The equipment doorway was enlarged and a stone lintel and wood jambs were added. Following the work, the building measured fifteen by thirty-three feet. Also, a driveway was constructed to the east side of the building at this time (Architrave: 39; National Register Nomination Form, Battleground National Cemetery, item 7: 2; TIC drawing 858-80001, 1935).

Stairs (LCS 545783)
Seven stairs to the cemetery were added in 1872 when the perimeter wall was moved following the regrading of the Seventh Street Road. Between 1916 and 1920, the two top steps from the set of seven stairs leading into the cemetery were removed. The central walk was lowered several feet just inside the cemetery entrance creating a paved landing. Two new sets of stairs were added to the walkway: a set of three steps to the south, leading to the lodge, and an additional set of two stairs from the landing up to the central path.

Rostrum (LCS 5371)
The rostrum, constructed in 1921, is located on the east side of the cemetery and on axis with the entrance gate and the flagpole. It seats twenty people and is approximately twenty-five-feet long from north to south, fifteen-feet deep and twenty-one-feet high. Eight Doric columns measuring fifteen-feet high support the roof. A seven-foot high marble block wall is located

between the columns along the rear of the building and the north and south sides. The rostrum sits atop a concrete base. Three shallow concrete steps are located along the front and sides of the rostrum. The front of the rostrum bows outward in a slight curve.

EXISTING
Lodge (LCS 5369)
There have been no major alterations to the building since the 1930s addition. The lodge is scheduled to undergo significant repairs during FY2010. The work includes replacing the slate roof, non-historic windows, gutters and downspouts; the cleaning and repair of the masonry; the restoration of the doors; repainting all exterior wood; and replacement of the concrete slab and wood posts on the front porch. The first floor windows had shutters during the period of significance, but currently do not. Replacing the window shutters is a part of the scheduled repair work. In 1985, the current vinyl windows were installed (Architrave: 40).

Rostrum (LCS 5371)
The rostrum is scheduled to undergo rehabilitation work during FY2010. The work includes replacing the ceiling, repairing cracks and other damage to the concrete columns, cleaning the walls and replacing the concrete steps. A new roof was installed in 2001.

Stairs (LCS 545783)
The three sets of stairs at the western end of the cemetery are made of concrete and paved in flagstone. Flagstone, or any materials other than concrete, does not appear in any cemetery documentation during the period of significance. Also, the shape of the two lowest steps at the cemetery entrance has been modified since the period of significance. Initially they met the western wall at a right angle. The edges have since been rounded and the steps curve to meet the wall.

Maintenance building (LCS 5370)
A new roof was installed in 2009. The building is currently mothballed and the windows and doors are boarded up and the building is used for storage.

Wall (LCS 12918)
In 1997, a portion of eastern wall was repaired after it collapsed(Architrave: 41). Parts of the wall in the southwest and eastern sections of the cemetery were repaired with materials that did not blend well with the historic fabric.

ANALYSIS
The buildings and structures retain a high degree of integrity and contribute to the historic character of the site. The scheduled repair work on the rostrum and lodge will further enhance the historic character of the cemetery. Uncovering or re-installing the maintenance building windows would also enhance the historic character and appearance of the cemetery.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Battleground Cemetery; Lodge Building

Feature Identification Number: 143400

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Maintenance Building

Feature Identification Number: 143618

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Marble Rostrum

Feature Identification Number: 143638

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Stone Perimeter Walls

Feature Identification Number: 143660

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Stairs

Feature Identification Number: 143634

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:





Top, Superintendent's Lodge, view from the southwest (LCS 2006); Bottom, view of the building from the southeast (CLP 2010).





Top, west side of the rostrum (LCS 2006); Below, east side (CLP 2010).



Patching on perimeter wall with incompatible material (CLP 2010).

Small Scale Features

During the period of significance, Battleground National Cemetery contained many types of small scale features. Some of these are no longer extant. These include the benches, cannon balls, an iron fence, well, hydrants and a sign.

HISTORIC
Benches
Photographs from the early twentieth century reveal wood slat benches located to the southwest of the lodge, in the northwest section of the cemetery and on the south side of the main walkway near the rear of the lodge. The benches are visible in photographs from 1904 to 1911, but are not discernable in later pictures. It is unclear when they were removed.

Cannon Balls
At the top of the entrance steps two small cannon balls were mounted on the cemetery walls on either side of the stairs. They are documented in a 1904 photograph and are referred to in a newspaper article from the same time period. According to the article they were fired during the Battle of Fort Stevens (Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Washingtoniana Collection, Fort Stevens vertical files). They do not appear in later pictures of the cemetery and it is unclear when they were removed.

Iron Fence

An 1893 map of the cemetery depicts an iron fence atop the stone wall on the western side of the cemetery. The fence measured approximately two feet high. What appear to be spear shaped crowns cap the pickets, though their form is hard to determine in the photographs. In 1900, the western wall was disassembled and then rebuilt after the widening of Georgia Avenue. Presumably this is when the fence was removed. It does not appear in later cemetery documentation.

Well
Inspections note the presence of the well in the 1870s, but no additional details are provided. A well, located to the southwest of the lodge is documented on the 1893 cemetery map, but it is not noted on later maps of the cemetery and it is unclear when the well was sealed.

Hydrants
A 1916 map notes hydrants to the southeast of the lodge and along the central path northeast of the lodge. Photographs reveal them to be goose neck, white water pipes. They do not appear in later documentation of the cemetery.

Sign
An early twentieth century photograph documents a small, white sign mounted on a tree just inside the cemetery gates on the northwest side of the walkway. The sign may be the one referred to in a 1909 inspection of the cemetery that informs visitors of a guest registry located in the lodge and that information about the cemetery will be “cheerfully given” (RG 92, Entry 225).

Headstones (LCS 5377)
The cemetery has forty-one military and three civilian headstones. The military headstones circle the flagpole. Thirty-two form a full circle and the remaining nine form a half circle on the east side of the larger group of graves. Initially the military headstones were made of wood, but were replaced with white marble markers by 1876. Thirty-eight of the military gravestones have the deceased’s name, grave number and home state engraved directly on the face. The longer names curve upwards in a semi-circular fashion. Some of these headstones also list the soldier’s rank. They have a rounded top and measure thirty-six inches long, four inches thick and ten inches wide. The other four military headstones bear a recessed shield engraved with the deceased’s name and home state. They measure thirty-nine inches long, twelve inches wide and four inches thick. The headstone belonging to the last veteran buried in 1936 is this style and the other three headstones are presumably replacements of the 19th-century originals. It is unknown when they were replaced (Harvey: 7).

The three headstones belonging to the superintendent’s family are similar in size and appearance to the 1870s military headstones. The grave markers are white marble and bear the family member’s names.

Bivouac of the Dead Tablets (LCS 13003, 100213, 100214)

These three cast-iron tablets quoting stanzas from the Theodore O'Hara poem measure two-feet high by two-and-a half feet wide and are mounted on wooden posts measuring three feet high. The War Department issue tablets are painted black with embossed white text. A thin border is also painted white. They are located on the east side of the grave circle and were likely installed by 1890 and they appear in a 1900 photograph of the cemetery.

Cemetery Rules Tablet (LCS 13005)
The cast iron tablet measures four-by-four feet and is mounted on a wood post. It is located on the northwest side of the cemetery adjacent to the front walk. The white colored text is embossed and a white border frames the tablet. The rules plaque which was likely installed by 1890, has been located at or near its current location since that time.

National Cemetery Plaque (LCS 100215)
Issued by the War Department, the black cast iron tablet measures two by two-and-a-half feet and is mounted on a three foot high wooden post. The tablet quotes Section Three of the February 22, 1867 Act to Establish and Protect National Cemeteries. The raised text is painted white, as is a border around the plaque. The location of the feature has shifted over time. In photographs, and in the 1916 and 1920 maps of the cemetery, it is located on the south side of the central path and near the rear of the lodge. It is unclear when the plaque was moved to its current location on the north side of the walk.

Urns and vases (LCS 100222, 100223)
Urns and vases flanking the entrance gate and along the western wall appear on maps and in photographs during the period of significance. An 1896 photograph of the cemetery shows two large rounded planters on either side of the entrance steps filled with vegetation. The planters are white, wide-mouthed and taper down to their bases. The 1896 photograph also reveals a plant-filled white goblet style urn mounted atop a pedestal located on the southwest section of the wall. An additional urn is located on the north side of the entrance as documented on a 1916 map. When the vases and this style of urn were removed is unclear.

Cannons and Piers (LCS 545785)
By 1904, two smoothbore cannons were installed near the entrance to the cemetery. The cannons measure approximately four-feet long and are mounted on wooden carriages. Initially the cannons pointed westward, but were redirected to face north and south by the 1930s. The wooden gun carriages were originally painted a darker color, possibly black, but were later painted gray. When first installed the cannons were supported by elevated stone piers of white painted brick with stone coping. By the 1930s, stone covered piers similar in appearance to the cemetery walls replaced them. A U.S. National Cemetery iron shield was located on the west side of each pier.

Flagpole (LCS 10832)
The earliest known photograph of the cemetery reveals a flagpole at the center of the circle of graves. According to cemetery reports the flagpole blew down in 1878 and a replacement was

erected. In 1897, a 50-foot iron flagpole from Arlington National Cemetery was installed at the cemetery (1897 War Department Annual Report: 385). Three decorative rings surround the base of the flagpole. The bottommost section is made up of torches turned upside down and tied with garlands of flowers. Acanthus leaves circle the base in the middle section and spread eagles with Union Army crests fill the top ring. Rope molding separates the layers.

Gate (LCS 545783, listed with stone steps)
The black iron gates with decorative scrollwork changed location during the period of significance. Photographs and maps from the 1890s show the gates at the top of the cemetery steps where they connected with the iron fence located atop the cemetery wall. Presumably once the wall was taken down and rebuilt in 1900, and the iron fencing was not reinstalled, the gates moved to street level. A 1904 photograph shows them in this location. Following the reconfiguration of the steps between 1916 and 1920, the gates were moved back to the top of the stairs. It is likely that at this time the gates were reduced in size. Initially the gates consisted of four sections: the two latching gates at the center surrounded on either side by fencing mounted to the cemetery walls. Once moved to the top of the stairs only the latching gates remained. By the 1930s, the gates were attached to the cannon piers adjacent to the entrance.

Gettysburg Address Plaque (LCS 5376)
The Gettysburg Address Plaque is a cast-iron tablet attached to the west elevation of the lodge at the northwest corner. It measures 56 inches high by 33 inches wide. The plaque has embossed text of President Lincoln's address and is surrounded by an egg-and-dart pattern border.

Cemetery Dedication Plaque (LCS 13006)
The bronze plaque measures 16 inches by 18 inches and is mounted to the west side of the lodge adjacent to the porch. The plaque includes a modified Seal of the United States above text which reads "United States National Military Cemetery, Battle Cemetery, Established July 12, 1864, Interments 40, Known 40 Unknown." To the left of the text are two crossed cannons joined by a wreath, flags and weaponry. To the right, rifles and bayonets are joined by a wreath.

Company K, 150th Ohio National Guard (LCS 5372)
The monument, erected in 1907, measures five feet high and is an arched granite block with polished surfaces on its east and west sides. The one-foot high base and the north and south sides are rough stone. Engraved text stating, "Memorial to Co. K. 150th O.N.G.I Which Took Part in the Defense of Fort Stevens, D.C. July 12, 1864," is located on the west side of the monument below an engraving of the Ohio state seal. The monument is located in the northwest corner of the cemetery and faces Georgia Avenue.

122nd Regiment of New York Volunteers, VI Army Corps (LCS 5373)
The ten-foot high granite obelisk is mounted on a one-foot high rough-dressed pedestal. Embossed letters state the regiment name at the base of the obelisk above the pedestal.

Decorative scrolls ornament the four sides of the cap. On the west side, a bronze bas-relief of the New York state seal is located below embossed text dedicating the monument to the regiment. The text states: “To the gallant sons of Onandaga County, N.Y. who fought on this field July 12, 1864 in defense of Washington and in the presence of Abraham Lincoln.” A cross is located above the dedication. On the east side of the monument embossed lettering states: “Served Three Years in the Sixth Army Corps” above a bronze plaque listing the Civil War battles in which the regiment fought. On the north and south faces, the names of those killed or later died of their wounds during the Battle of Fort Stevens are inscribed. The monument was erected in 1904 and is located in the northwest section of the cemetery facing Georgia Avenue and is the second monument from the left, between the Ohio and Pennsylvania monuments.

98th Pennsylvania Volunteers Monument (LCS 5375)
Erected in 1891, the monument is an eight-foot high granite obelisk mounted on a rough-stone base measuring one-foot high. Embossed text with the name of the regiment is located at the base of the obelisk on the west side. A bronze regimental seal is also located on the west side of the monument below text which states, “In Memory of our comrades killed and wounded in battle on this field July 11th & 12th 1864.” The names of the wounded and killed are inscribed on the north, south and east sides. Embossed crosses are located on each side of the monument just below the obelisk point. The monument is located in the northwest section of the cemetery facing Georgia Avenue between the two New York monuments.

25th New York Volunteer Cavalry Monument (LCS 5374)
A lone Union soldier mounted atop a six-foot high granite pedestal serves as a monument to the 25th NY Volunteer Cavalry and was dedicated in 1914. The figure carries a sword in his right hand and a case in his left. A musket hangs off the right shoulder. On the west side of the pedestal embossed text states, "Sacred to the memory of our comrades who gave their lives in defense of the national capitol July 11, 1864." Below the text, a bronze bas-relief states, "Erected by the State of New York in honor of the 25th N.Y. Vol. Cav."

EXISTING
During, or since, the period of significance several small scale features have been removed, including the benches, cannon balls, the iron fence, well, hydrants and the sign. The remaining historic features, including the cannons, monuments, plaques and tablets, have not been modified since the period of significance. Those that have been changed, as well as small scale features added since the historic period, are discussed below.

Headstones
In 2006, the military headstones underwent restoration. The headstones were cleaned and thirty-seven were reseated to their appropriate height and vertical alignment (Harvey: 7). The names and other identifying information on several of the headstones have deteriorated and become hard to read due to age and exposure to weather

Bivouac of the Dead Tablets, Cemetery Rules Tablet and National Cemetery Plaque

In 2009, the tablets and plaque were repainted and new mounting posts were installed.

Gettysburg Address Plaque
In 2009, the plaque underwent conservation. The faux bronze coating was removed and during cleaning remnants of copper plating on the plaque became visible. The plaque and its fasteners were re-plated, which added 0.020" inches of copper to the feature. Three of the four zinc anchors were replaced.

Cemetery Dedication Plaque
The plaque underwent conservation in 2009. The faux bronze coating was removed and a light brown patina was applied to the feature. The fasteners were replaced by bronze replicas of the originals.

Flagpole
In 2009, the flagpole was repainted and the black iron base was restored. Several of the decorative elements were replicated, including one eagle, six acanthus leaves, three garland swags and one funerary sconce. The base was repainted and the gold ball at the top of the pole was re-gilded. During FY2010 a solar light will be attached to the pole.
Cannon Piers
The U.S. National Cemetery shields mounted on the west sides of the piers are no longer present. They were stolen within the last few years.

Gates
The gates were removed and put in storage during the FY2010 restoration work on the rostrum and lodge.

Urns
Two concrete urns are located atop the western cemetery wall on the north and south sides of the entrance steps. The urns are bowl-shaped and measure approximately twenty-four inches wide by twenty-four inches high with plain square bases. It is unclear when this style of urn was installed at the cemetery, but they appear in a 1938 photograph.

Waysides
There are two waysides at the cemetery. Both measure approximately four feet tall and contain flat angled panels with frames and legs made of steel and aluminum painted brown. One provides information on the history of the cemetery is located on the south side of the stairs at the entrance. The other provides information on the regimental flags associated with the soldiers buried at the cemetery and is located to the northwest of the circle of graves. They were installed by the NPS Fall 2009.

Manhole
A iron manhole cover sits atop a concrete base and is located in the northwest section of the cemetery.

Splashpad
A splashpad made of several discarded and damaged headstones is located behind the rostrum in the center of the structure. Further research is necessary to determine if the splashpad was constructed during the period of significance. It is included in the FY2010 rehabilitation work.

EVALUATION
Though some of the historic features are no longer present, many remain and Battleground National Cemetery's small scale features retain a high degree of integrity. Planned periodic cleaning of the headstones and restoration of the gun carriages will add to the historic appearance of the cemetery.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Headstone Circle

Feature Identification Number: 143684

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Flagpole

Feature Identification Number: 143676

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 150th OH National Guard Monument

Feature Identification Number: 143686

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 122nd NY Volunteers Monument

Feature Identification Number: 143688

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 25th NY Volunteers Monument

Feature Identification Number: 143692

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 98th PA Volunteers Monument

Feature Identification Number: 143690

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Urns

Feature Identification Number: 143720

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Bivouac of the Dead Tablets

Feature Identification Number: 143696

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Cemetery Regulations Tablet

Feature Identification Number: 143706

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: National Cemetery Tablet

Feature Identification Number: 143698

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Gettysburg Address Plaque

Feature Identification Number: 143718

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Grates

Feature Identification Number: 143747

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Splashpad

Feature Identification Number: 143745

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Manhole

Feature Identification Number: 143751

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Waysides

Feature Identification Number: 144307

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Splashpad located at the rear of the rostrum. The splashpad is made of discarded headstones and will be included in FY2010 rehabilitation work (NCR CLP 2010).



Several small scale features in this 1904 picture are no longer found at the cemetery, including benches, cannon balls, and the sign. Also note the cannons face west and the larger entrance gate located at the bottom of the stairs (NARA, RG 92).



This 1896 view of the cemetery documents the iron fence that until c. 1900 was mounted on top the perimeter wall. One of the two urns located along the western border of the site is also visible (NARA, RG 92).



Historic view of cannon with shield, left; contemporary view of cannon (MRCE; CLP 2010).

Circulation

Maps, written accounts and photographs reveal that during the period of significance Battleground National Cemetery's circulation underwent modifications, but a fairly consistent pattern was established by the end of the nineteenth century.

The cemetery's earliest circulation pattern consisted of gravel paths measuring eight feet wide which extended from the middle of each wall and met at the center of the site. There they intersected with a four foot wide gravel path circling the perimeter of the graves. An additional circular walk surrounded the flagpole at the center of the headstones. It is unclear when the crisscrossing walks were removed, but by the end of the nineteenth century only the central walk from the entrance to graves remained and did not extend beyond the flagpole. By the early twentieth century the circular path at the perimeter of the graves was no longer present. Also by this time, walks surrounding the lodge were in place. Though they underwent some changes during the period of significance, by the 1930s walks were located on the west, south and east sides of the building (1869 Sec. of War Annual Report: 19; RG 92, entry 225; 1874 Sec. of War Annual Report: 25-26).

Following the addition of public restrooms to the maintenance building in 1935, a brick walkway was added to the north and west sections of the building (Drawing: Alterations and Additions to the Tool House, 1935)

EXISTING
The current circulation pattern dates to the 1930s. No additional pathways have been added. There are some flagstone pavers at the rear of the lodge that extend to the northeast, but it is not clear when these were installed.

EVALUATION
The cemetery pathways date to the historic period and have a high degree of integrity. The brick pathway around the maintenance building is in need of repair, but the circulation pattern of the cemetery contributes to the historic character of the site.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Central walk from entrance to headstones

Feature Identification Number: 143753

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Circular walkway around the flagpole

Feature Identification Number: 143755

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Walkways around the lodge

Feature Identification Number: 143757

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Brick walk outside maintenance building

Feature Identification Number: 143759

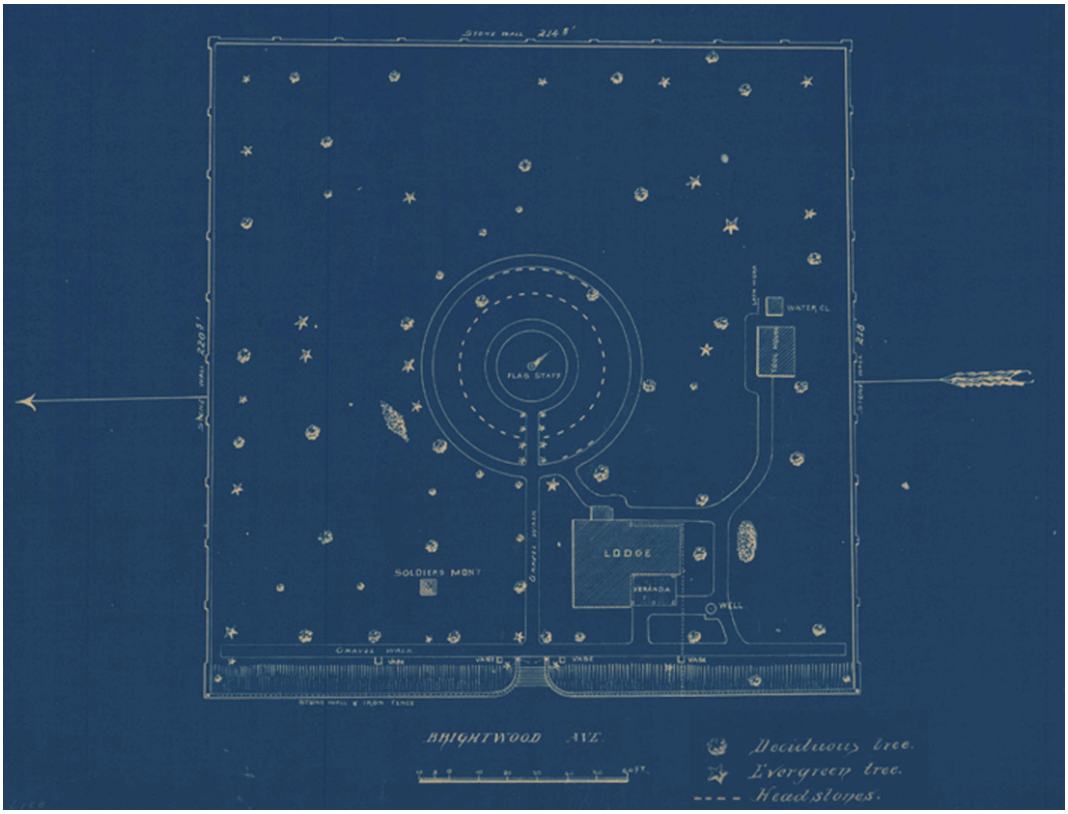
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Flagstone pavers

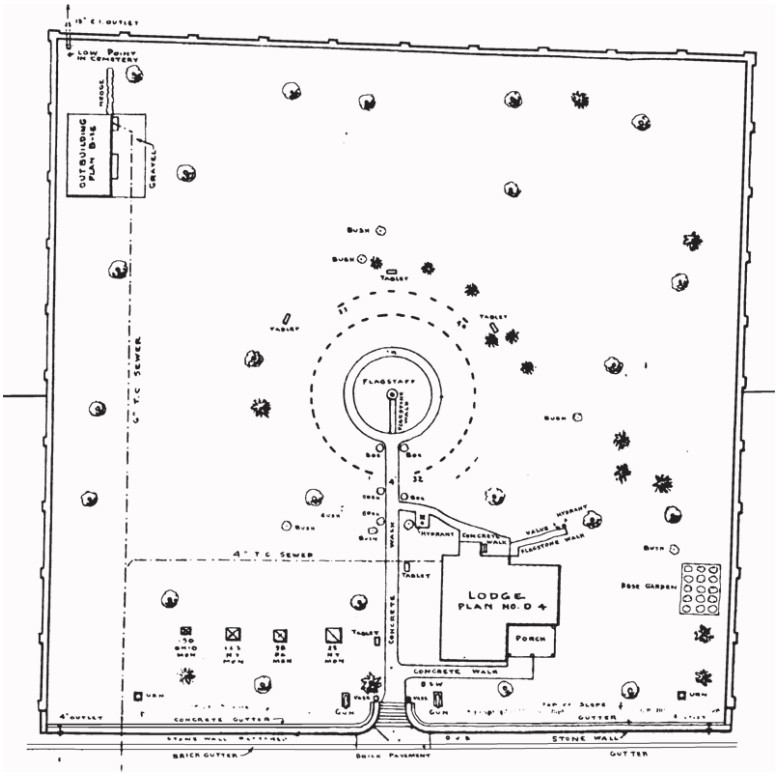
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Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

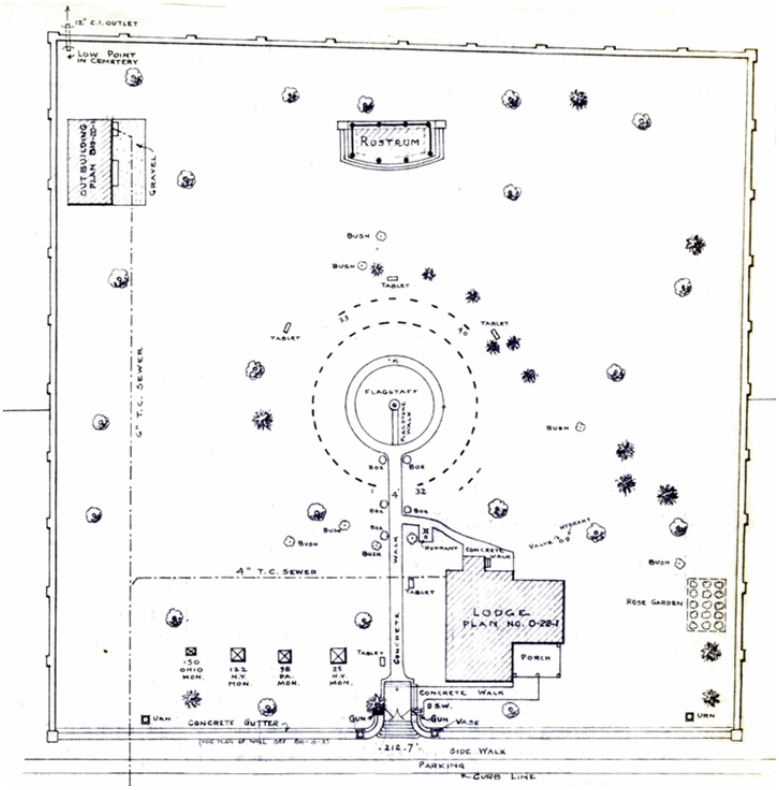
Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



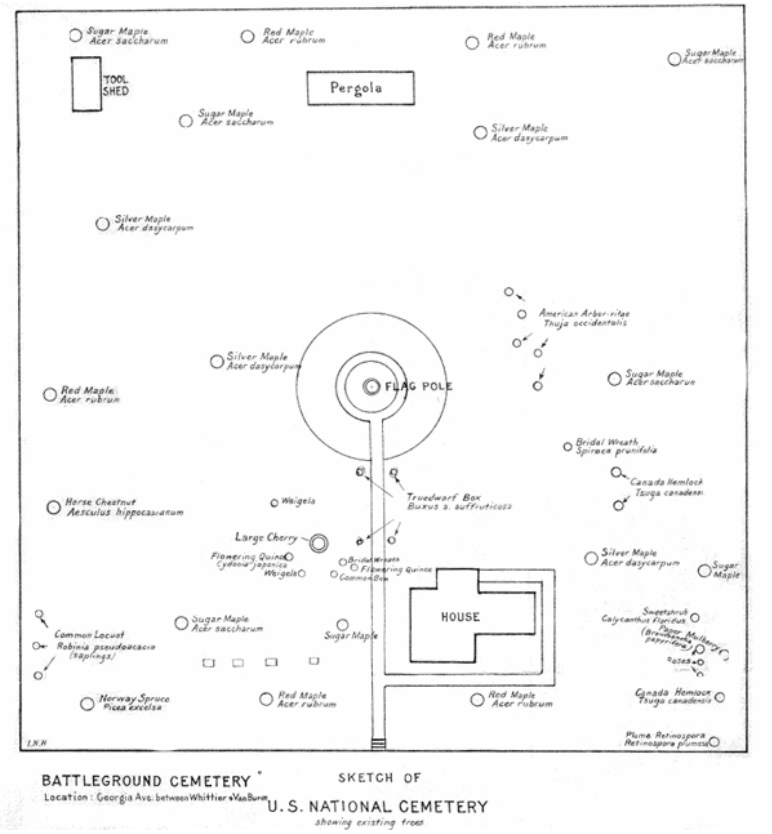
This 1893 map documents the paths surrounding the graves and flagpole; a walk running the length of the western wall; and paths accessing the lodge and outbuilding (National Archives and Records Administration, Cartographic and Architectural Records).



Battleground National Cemetery 1916 site plan. The walk along the western wall is no longer present and other walks are paved with concrete and flagstone (NCR CLP files).



Battleground National Cemetery 1920 site plan showing 1921 addition of the rostrum (NCR CLP files).



Battleground National Cemetery 1930s site plan prior to enlargement of the maintenance building and addition of the driveway (TIC drawing 858/80010).



Loose bricks and debris on walkway located on the north and west sides of the maintenance building (CLP 2010).

Vegetation

Photographs, annual reports and inspections of Battleground National Cemetery during the historic period document a landscape thick with trees and shrubs. Historic vegetation included an Osage orange hedge, boxwood and rose shrubs, and evergreen and deciduous trees. Turn of the century photographs reveal English ivy covering sections of the lodge and later photographs and documentation note it also covered the cemetery walls. Beds of seasonal blooming flowers were also a part of the cemetery landscape during the historic period (RG 66, Project Files, 1910-1952, Box 28; RG 92, 1896 photograph).

During the 1870s much was done to improve national cemetery landscapes. In 1871, forty-four trees and twenty-six shrubs were planted at Battleground National Cemetery and an Osage orange hedge was reported to be growing inside the wall enclosing the property (1871 Annual Report: 177). Some of the trees were part of the “sylvan hall,” planted between 1871 and 1872

at the suggestion of Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs. What trees were planted and how they were arranged was not noted, but sylvan halls at other national cemeteries included maples, willows, locusts or oaks, arranged in a cross pattern to resemble a gothic cathedral as specified by Meigs. Reports from the 1870s noted that several of the sylvan hall trees had died (NPS, Arlington House CLR: 103-104; Reed, 54th MA Record: 227-228; 1870 Annual Report: 69).

By the end of the nineteenth century, approximately fifty deciduous and evergreen trees filled the cemetery. Almost uniformly spaced trees line the north, west and east walls, and outside the north side of the ring of graves. Mixtures of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs dot the interior of the cemetery and three deciduous trees were located on the southeast corner of the lodge. As early as 1893, between six and eight boxwoods lined the eastern end of the central walk. The shrubs appear on maps and in photographs throughout the historic period. Early twentieth century photographs and documents show a bed of seasonal blooming plants along the western wall at the front of the lodge and an unspecified hedge at the rear of the maintenance building. In addition, a bed of fifteen rose shrubs was located in the southwest corner of the cemetery. Early twentieth century photographs also document vegetation adjacent to the central walk, but the type is hard to determine.

By 1932, the vegetation was reduced to approximately forty trees and several shrubs. Most of the trees were located in the northwestern and southwestern sections of the cemetery. As they had at the end of the nineteenth century, evenly spaced trees lined the east and west walls. Eight trees in total lined the walls with two red maples (Acer rubrum) at the center of the east wall parallel with two red maples along the west wall. Two sugar maples (Acer saccharum) are located on either side of the red maples along the eastern wall and a Norway spruce (Picea excelsa) and a Canada Hemlock (Tsuga canadensis) frame the red maples at the northwest and southwest corners. A single Plume Retinospora was noted at the southwestern edge of the property.

Clusters of trees and shrubs located in the northwest included common locust, (Robinia pseudoacacia) and in the southwest: Paper mulberry, (Broussonetia papyrifera), rose shrubs, and a Sweetshrub (Calycanthus floridus). American Arbor-vitae (Thuja occidentalis) clustered in the south central section of the cemetery. Individual silver (Acer dasycarpum), sugar and red maple, and horse chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum) were found in the northern section and a single silver maple in the southeastern part of the cemetery.

Four Truedwarf boxwoods (Buxus s. suffruticosa) were located along the central path just outside the circle of graves. Two boxwoods on the north were located opposite two on the south side of the walk (TIC 858/80010A).

EXISTING
Vegetation at Battleground National Cemetery currently consists of grass lawn, several trees and a few flowering plants. Most of the trees are mature, but two red maples have been

planted recently in the northeast and northwest sections of the cemetery. The majority of the trees are red maples, but two sugar maples, a red oak, cedar (Plume Retinospora) and a green ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica) are also present. Groups of trees are located throughout the cemetery, including a mixture of red and sugar maple and oak in the southeast section of the site. Two red maples and a cedar provide shade for the lodge and the southwestern corner of the cemetery. Additional groups include, three red maples surrounding the monuments to the northwest and sugar and red maples between the north wall, the gravestones and the maitenance building. There are no longer any hedges at the cemetery. A individual mature American boxwood is located to the northwest, but was not one of the group that historically ornamented the main walk. Seasonal blooming plants, including tiger lilies, daffodils and roses are planted on the south side of the lodge. Daffodils are also found on the east side of the building. In the circular bed around the flagpole tulips emerge in the spring and appear as a regular addition since the early 1970s. Small growths of English ivy are located on the southwest section of the wall and on the center sections of the north and south walls. A mulberry tree is growing against the wall in the southeast corner of the cemetery.

Evaluation
Documentation reveals that throughout the period of significance the cemetery vegetation was well maintained. Between thirty and fifty trees and shrubs and at least five boxwoods filled the landscape through the end of the 1930s. Historic varieties of trees and shrubs included roses, boxwood, locust and Norway spruce. Maple was the predominant tree variety as reflected in historic maps. By the 1970s the tree population had thinned and only one of the boxwoods was present. Some of the current trees may date to the historic period, but further research is necessary to determine their age. Trees planted in recent years are compatible with the historic landscape. Though the amount and variety of historic vegetation has decreased, the site maintains moderate integrity and the historic character of the cemetery is retained.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Maple trees, Acer rubrum and saccharum

Feature Identification Number: 143823

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: American Boxwood

Feature Identification Number: 143825

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

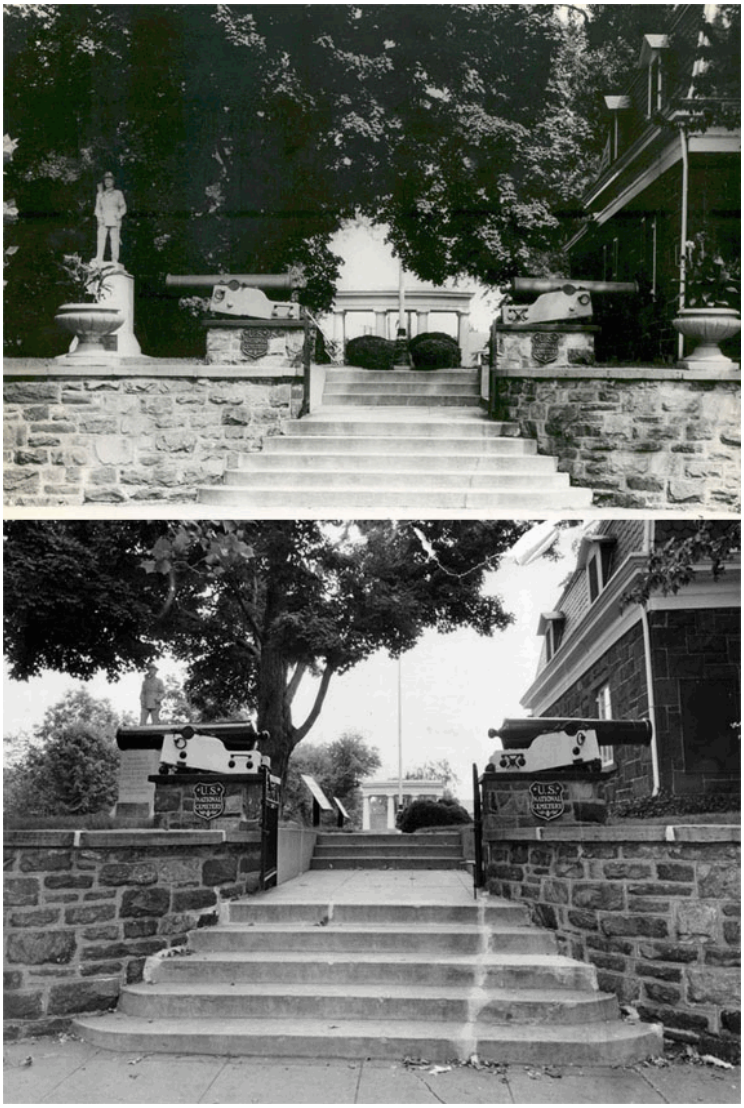
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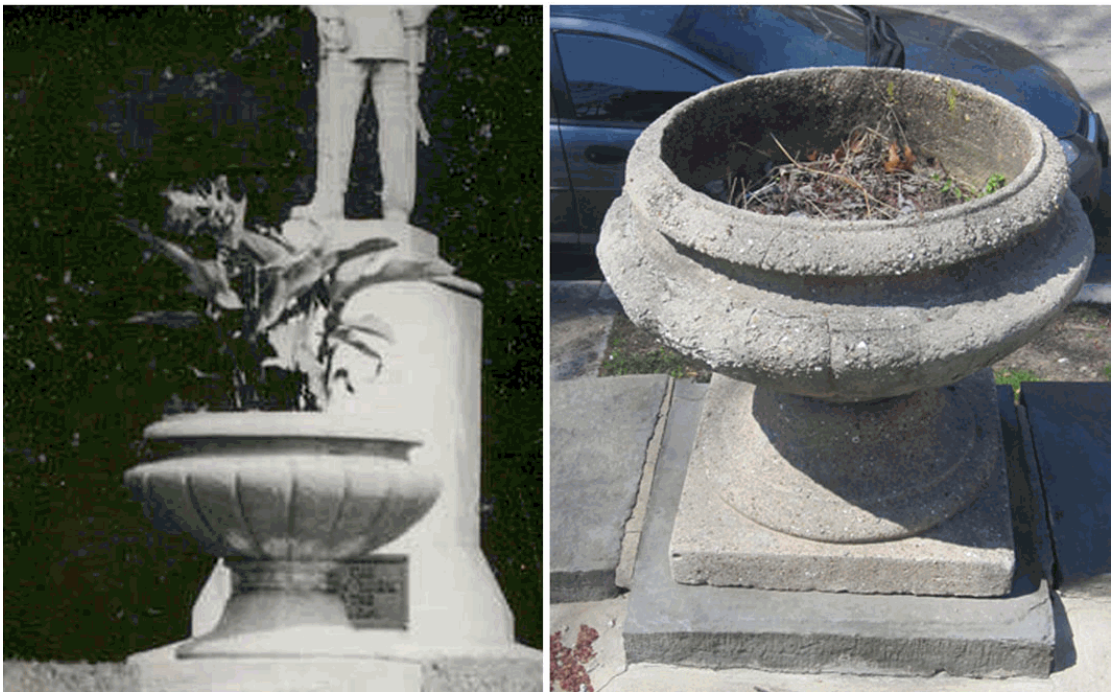
This undated view of the cemetery documents the full tree canopy and the boxwoods that for many years ornamented the central walk (Historical Society of Washington).



Boxwood located to the north of the cemetery's central walk (CLP 2010).



A photograph, possibly from the 1930s, (top) reveals the loss of vegetation as compared with a 1967 photograph of the cemetery MRCE).



Plants fill one of the urns, as pictured in the historic photo, left, and present day condition (MRCE; CLP 2010).

Views and Vistas

HISTORIC

The view from the entrance gate at the west side of the cemetery to the east, encompassing the central walk, graves and flagpole, was established at the founding of Battleground National Cemetery in 1864. This view remained largely unchanged throughout the historic period. The locations of the flagpole, and the arrangement of the graves surrounding it, have always been the focal points of the cemetery. Additions to the cemetery landscape served to increase that focus. The walls, meant to enclose the property and provide protection, also directed visitors' attention to the graves and the interior of the site. In 1921, the rostrum was built at the east side of the cemetery on axis with the flagpole and the central walk. This further blocked views beyond the cemetery walls and increased the ceremonial function of the site. It also provided an additional view of the flag and the gravestones from the east.

Significant development of Brightwood began during the historic period. By the middle of the 1930s, residential housing largely surrounded the cemetery. Following the opening of Venable Street to the east of the cemetery and to the rear of the rostrum, residential housing was visible encroached on the view to the flag, graves and rostrum from the western section of the cemetery.

EXISTING

The views of Battleground National Cemetery have not changed since the period of significance.

EVALUATION

Views today from Battleground National Cemetery retain a high degree of integrity to the period of significance. The view from the entrance gate at the west to the east side of the cemetery, encompassing the graves, flagpole and rostrum, retains its historic character. Though the housing to the rear encroaches on views, further development has not occurred since the historic period. Internal views from the rostrum to the flagpole, circle of graves, and to other points in the cemetery and public street have largely remained unchanged since the period of significance.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: View between the gate and rostrum.

Feature Identification Number: 143761

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Present day view east from the entrance (CLP 2010).

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/10/2010

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The Condition Assessment Date is the date the concurrence memo was signed by the park superintendent.

Battleground National Cemetery is currently in fair condition. Rehabilitation work on the rostrum and lodge began in FY2010 to address multiple necessary repairs and structural issues affecting both buildings. The flagpole base, cemetery regulations, national cemetery and Bivouac of the Dead tablets have all undergone rehabilitation and repainting within the last fiscal year. The central walkway was repaved in 2008.

The following measures are suggested to improve the condition of the cemetery:

Remove invasive vegetation that threatens the stability of the cemetery's structures.

Clean and repoint the perimeter wall where necessary.

Repaint and repair the gun mounts where necessary.

Regularly clean the headstones

Repair the brick walkway outside the maintenance building and remove debris.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Exposure To Elements

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Weather contributes to the deterioration of the headstones. Over time the names and information on several of the headstones has become worn down and difficult to read. The urns at the entrance of the cemetery also show signs of damage due to weather.

Type of Impact: Vandalism/Theft/Arson

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: One of the iron U.S. National Cemetery shields located on the cannon piers was stolen and has not been replaced.

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Deferred maintenance has effected several features, including the gun carriages and the brick walk outside the maintenance building.

Type of Impact: Removal/Replacement

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Trees and shrubs significant to the historic landscape have died and not been replaced.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

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