

*already on NR*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAR 19 1980  
DATE ENTERED *approved 4/4/80*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Battleground National Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

6625 Georgia Avenue, N.W.

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Washington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

STATE

D.C.

CODE

11

COUNTY

CODE

001

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Cemetery

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

National Capital Region, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20242

— VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, *State Pa.*

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. D.C. Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

515 D Street, N.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

NPS List of Classified Structures

DATE

1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS National Capital Region, National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

**CONDITION**

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Battleground National Cemetery occupies 1.03 acres of level ground on the east side of Georgia Avenue approximately one-half mile north of Fort Stevens, where its 40 Civil War interments met their fate.

The cemetery measures approximately 220 feet on its east and west sides by 210 feet on the north and south. It is surrounded by a two-foot-thick stone wall. On the north, east, and south the wall is of bluestone random rubble four feet high with a three-inch sandstone coping; on the west the wall is of bluestone coursed rubble five feet high with three-inch limestone coping. Ten-foot piers connect the differing walls at the northwest and southwest corners. Stone steps between curved, dressed Seneca sandstone wall sections at the center of the west wall rise from the Georgia Avenue sidewalk to a double iron entrance gate capped by decorative scrollwork. Flanking the gate are elevated stone piers bearing "U.S. National Cemetery" shields and topped by smoothbore Civil War cannon approximately four feet long mounted on wooden carriages.

A straight concrete walkway extends from the entrance eastward and forms a circle in the middle of the cemetery. At the center of the circle is a 50-foot metal flagpole with a decorative cast iron base. Surrounding the walk is a circle of 32 headstones of the standard segmentally-topped military design; 12 additional stones in two groups comprise segments of an outer circle. The stones for the 40 original burials are replacements for wooden markers placed initially.

Four granite commemorative monuments face the west wall of the cemetery in a rank north of the entrance walkway. Furthest left and north is the Company K, 150th Ohio National Guard Infantry monument, erected in 1907. Approximately five feet high on a one-foot pedestal, it has polished flat surfaces front and rear and rough sides rounding at the top. To its right is the 122nd New York Volunteers monument, erected in 1903. This decorated obelisk bearing the names of the unit's killed and wounded at Fort Stevens stands ten feet tall on a one-foot pedestal. Next in line is the 98th Pennsylvania Volunteers monument, placed in 1891. This modified obelisk, eight feet tall on a one-foot base, also bears the names of the regiment's casualties at Fort Stevens below relief crosses on each face. Last is the 25th New York Volunteer Cavalry monument, erected in 1914. It features a life-size portrait statue of a Union cavalryman atop a six-foot pedestal.

The cemetery superintendent's lodge or residence stands opposite the rank of monuments on the south side of the entrance walkway. It was built in 1871 as a one-story, L-shaped Seneca sandstone structure of three rooms, replacing a small wooden cottage nearby. In 1873 it was enlarged by a frame second story within a steep mansard roof surfaced with slate in a hexagonal pattern. A covered porch fronts the house to the right of the "L" projection. A later one-room brick addition with gable roof, chimney, and a small covered porch extends to the rear opposite the

(continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

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front "L." The ground floor windows in the original portion have sandstone lintels and sills and six-over-six double-hung sash; the wood gabled dormers in the mansard second story contain two-over-two-over-two casement windows. Shutters formerly on the sandstone section are no longer present. Two standard national cemetery plaques are mounted on the front of the house: a 2-1/2-by-4-foot plaque bearing the text of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and a smaller plaque identifying the cemetery and the number of interments. The house remains occupied.

Directly opposite and facing the entrance gate, on the east side of the cemetery, is a Doric-style rostrum erected in 1920-21 for Memorial Day ceremonies. It measures approximately 25 feet long (north-south) by 15 feet deep by 21 feet high. Eight 15-foot columns rising from the concrete base three steps above grade support the roof. The base, columns, and cornice at the front (west) of the rostrum are bowed outward in a curve. A seven-foot marble block wall runs between the columns on the ends and rear. The rostrum is designed to seat 20 people.

A rectangular brick maintenance building stands at the northeast corner of the cemetery. Built in 1906-07, it was subsequently extended seven feet at its east end and now measures approximately 15 by 33 feet. A parapet wall on the south stepped down on the east and west conceals a shed roof sloping to the north. The south side is broken by two doors and two windows; the west end contains another door and window. Two wider openings have been filled in.

Two cast iron War Department plaques bearing national cemetery regulations are angled atop three-foot posts on the north side of the entrance walkway. Three other plaques bearing lines from Theodore O'Hara's poem "The Bivouac of the Dead" are similarly mounted around the east side of the headstone circle. All are standard national cemetery issue and measure two feet by 2-1/2 feet.

The cemetery once contained some 40 trees and a boxwood hedge flanking the entrance walkway, creating a richly vegetated appearance. The boxwood is gone and only about a dozen trees remain. Large stumps testify to the tree loss.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1864-1921

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Battleground National Cemetery is significant for its association with the only military engagement ever fought in the District of Columbia. It is the District's only national cemetery for Civil War casualties, and it is the Nation's smallest national cemetery in number of burials.

On July 11-12, 1864, a Confederate force under Lt. Gen. Jubal Early advancing on Washington from the northwest confronted Union defenders at Fort Stevens, one of the earthworks forming a defensive perimeter around the Nation's Capital during the Civil War. Faced with Union reinforcements, the Confederates withdrew after an exchange of fire that left 59 Union soldiers dead and 145 wounded. Forty of these dead were carried to a field one-half mile north of Fort Stevens and interred in what was established as Battleground National Cemetery.

The Federal Government acquired title to the one-acre cemetery tract in 1867. The War Department developed and maintained the cemetery until 1933, when it was transferred to the administration of the National Park Service. The 40 Civil War interments were augmented by those of four civilian relatives of a cemetery superintendent in the 1870s and a 92-year-old veteran of the Fort Stevens engagement in 1936. The cemetery has since been closed to further burials.

With Fort Stevens, also administered by the National Park Service, Battleground National Cemetery stands as a physical reminder of the most direct military threat to Washington since the British invasion of 1814. (Fort Stevens is listed in the National Register as part of the Civil War Fort Sites district.)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Benjamin F. Cooling. Symbol, Sword, and Shield: Defending Washington during the Civil War. Hamden, Ct.: Archon Books, 1975.  
 National Park Service. Battleground National Cemetery List of Classified Structures Field Inventory Reports. Historic Resource Services Division, 1975.  
 . Battleground National Cemetery Files. Historic Resources Services Division, National Capital Region.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.03  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	3 2 4 4 0 0	4 3 1 5 2 6 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Battleground National Cemetery encompasses all that 1.03-acre tract of land owned by the Federal Government on the east side of the 6600 block of Georgia Avenue, N.W.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE  
Barry Mackintosh, Regional Historian  
 ORGANIZATION National Capital Region, National Park Service DATE February 15, 1980  
 STREET & NUMBER 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W. TELEPHONE (202)426-6660  
 CITY OR TOWN Washington STATE D.C. 20242

**12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION NOT APPLICABLE--FORM CONSTITUTES DOCUMENTATION OF EXISTING NATIONAL REGISTER PROPERTY.**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ NONE \_\_\_

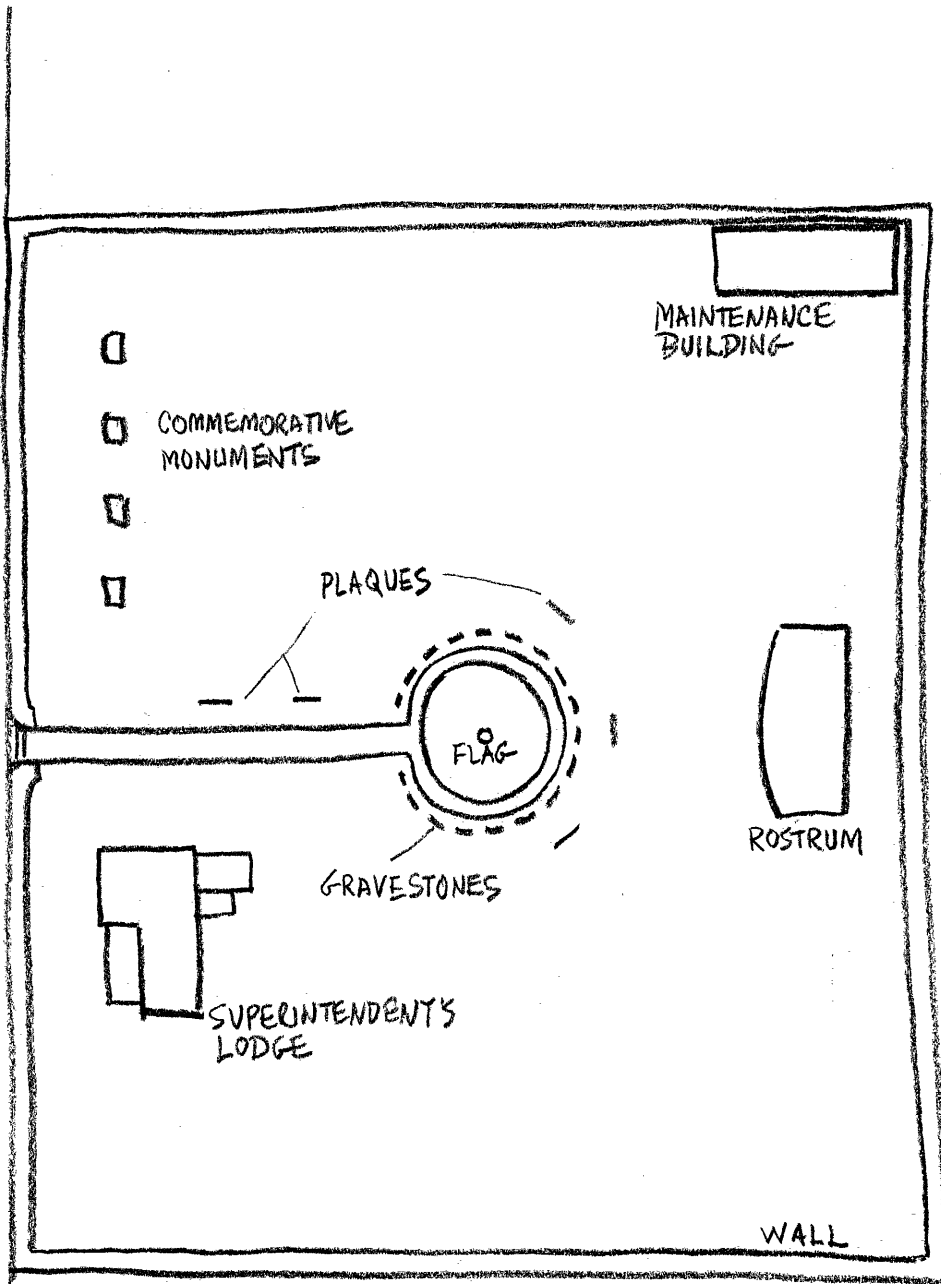
In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE J. R. Holland DATE MAR 7 1980  
 TITLE Assistant Director, Cultural Resources

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE 1/9/80  
 ATTEST: Wm. J. Beebe DATE April 2, 1980  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



GEORGIA AVENUE



# BATTLEGROUND NATIONAL CEMETERY

SKETCH PLAN - NOT TO SCALE

MAR 19 1980