

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Fort Lyon National Cemetery  
other names/site number U.S. Naval Hospital Cemetery; Fort Lyon VA Hospital Cemetery / 5BN.1331

### 2. Location

street & number 15700 County Road HH

N/A	not for publication
X	vicinity

  
city or town Las Animas  
state Colorado code CO county Bent code 011 zip code 81054

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this X nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
X national    statewide    local  
Kathleen Ashwood 10/12/16  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
FPO, Department of Veterans Affairs  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government  
In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.  
[Signature] 10/4/16  
Signature of commenting official Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer Title History Colorado  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
X entered in the National Register    determined eligible for the National Register  
   determined not eligible for the National Register    removed from the National Register  
   other (explain:)  
by Barbara Ogil 1-17-17  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8		buildings
1		sites
5		structures
7		objects
21	0	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FUNERARY/cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

foundation: \_\_\_\_\_  
walls: \_\_\_\_\_  
roof: \_\_\_\_\_  
other: STONE / marble, sandstone, granite  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

Fort Lyon National Cemetery is located near the shore of John Martin Reservoir, approximately five miles east-northeast of Las Animas in Bent County, Colorado (Figure 16). The cemetery sits north of the former Veterans Administration hospital complex at Fort Lyon that is currently operated by the State of Colorado as the Fort Lyon Correctional Facility (Fort Lyon was listed in the National Register in 2004; NRIS.04000388; 5BN.117).<sup>1</sup> The dedicated cemetery land includes approximately 51.7 acres, of which 10.7 acres are developed and currently in use for funerary purposes. The cemetery parcel has an irregular rectangular shape. (Figure 8) The Great Plains and Arkansas River dominate the local topography. Previous National Register draft documentation indicates that the Army established a cemetery at new Fort Lyon in 1867, however, no evidence has been found to indicate that this burial ground was at the same location as the present cemetery (Figure 1).<sup>2</sup> The Navy established the present cemetery—and a companion one for civilians—in 1907 for the interment of patients who died at the tuberculosis hospital built at the site in 1906. The hospital changed hands among government agencies in the 1920s and 1930s prior to the Veterans Administration (VA) taking control. The cemetery was operated as part of the medical facility until 1973. During September of that year the VA transferred the cemetery to the National Cemetery System—a new agency within VA – and it was renamed Fort Lyon National Cemetery. As of June 2016, Fort Lyon National Cemetery contained 2,542 interments. Among the most significant features of the cemetery are the small, separate civilian section in the southeast corner of the cemetery between sections J and H and the restroom storage building completed in 1943 (Figure 4).

#### General Description

Fort Lyon National Cemetery contains burials of veterans from the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, and recent conflicts in the Middle East, in addition to civilians interred before designation as a national cemetery. Youayoshi Hoshi, a Japanese-American from Pennsylvania, became the first veteran interred at Fort Lyon in 1907. Additionally, the cemetery contains memorial markers for soldiers and veterans from Colorado volunteer units from the Civil War and conflicts with Native Americans, as well as the other wars mentioned above, whose remains were unavailable for interment.

The current design of Fort Lyon National Cemetery dates to the late 1930s when the Veterans Administration improved and expanded the facility (Figures 3-5).<sup>3</sup> The design is notable for its symmetry and precision in plan. A central axis extends from the entrance gate. It consists of open space with areas of green grass; the flagpole stands in the center of the open area providing a focal point. A drive runs along either side of green space to

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<sup>1</sup> The National Register listing of Fort Lyon included the undeveloped, i.e., noncontributing, sections of the cemetery. The developed section is outside the boundary. The two pump houses were not enumerated in the property description or included in the resource count. "Fort Lyon," Nomination, 2004, 101-102; and Dale Heckendorn, Colorado Historical Society, to Darlene Richardson, NCA Historian, electronic communication, 16 December 2004, Fort Lyon National Cemetery Vertical File, Washington, D.C.

<sup>2</sup> Sandra M. Webb and Karen R. Tupek, Fort Lyon National Cemetery, National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, n.d., National Cemetery Administration, Fort Lyon National Cemetery Vertical File, Washington, D. C. Note: The draft inventory-nomination for federal properties likely dates to 1980; at the time of the nomination, no buildings or structures were within the cemetery boundaries. Only the flagpole was in place. The map used is the same as that seen in a cemetery brochure dating to 1978. The Inventory was prepared by VA, not NCA specifically.

<sup>3</sup> In July 1939, enlargement of the cemetery at the VA facility at Fort Lyon included plans for extending the fence, providing a second gate, developing roads, building curbs, and installing a water supply system with hydrants for irrigation. Projected costs were \$4000. In anticipation of the approval of the work at Fort Lyon, the land was graded and "will be planted with young trees this year, in order that shade and lawn may be available when expansion becomes actually necessary." Those young trees are today's mature elms and cedars. (see note 4 below) The work of enlarging the cemetery was planned for 1942. Chief, Maintenance & Operation Division, to Chief, Technical Division, Memo, 26 July 1939, Fort Lyon National Cemetery Vertical File, Washington, D.C.

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facilitate circulation through the cemetery grounds and to the burial sections east and west of central axis. The Committal Shelter was built north of the flagpole in 1995 (Photograph 9 and Figure 17).

The water rights for Fort Lyon National Cemetery are not shared with other entities. The water comes from the Arkansas River and the cemetery irrigation system consists of pump houses, pipes, and wells. The irrigation system was upgraded in 2010. The water is not reclaimed or reused.<sup>4</sup>

The vegetation includes mature trees along parts of the central mall and the southern and eastern edges of the cemetery as well as scattered in other parts of the developed cemetery. These are predominantly elm and cedar.<sup>5</sup> Immature trees are present along the eastern driveway through the cemetery and around the committal shelter as well as elsewhere. The approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile-long street into the cemetery from the west is lined with evergreen trees on both sides. The row of junipers on this access road creates an allée. The allée is formal feature keeping with the symmetrically designed landscape of the cemetery proper (Figure 2).<sup>6</sup> A cemetery fence, consisting of square, rough-faced, random ashlar stone pillars with wrought iron picket panels serves as the southern border where the main gate, also with wrought iron panels mounted on stone gateposts, is located (Figure 4).<sup>7</sup> The remainder of the fencing around the developed area is a chain-link fence painted black (Photograph 22). Other features include a stone and concrete grave locator stand, granite section markers and squared curbs on asphalt paved roadways (Photograph 20).<sup>8</sup> In 2016, the cemetery had ten burial/memorial sections designated A through J; Section J is for the burial of cremains only, Section I is a memorial section, and Section G is unused.

The grave markers at the Fort Lyon National Cemetery are almost exclusively the post-World War I style, white marble markers with slightly rounded tops, referred to as "General-type" (Photograph 16). There are a limited number of flat marble markers in the cemetery in sections E and F along the fence line (Photographs 18 and 19). Variations were noted in the lettering on the headstones and the use of emblems of belief at the top, center of the headstone/marker. For veterans of the Spanish-American and prior wars, the engraved outline of a shield is present around the name, rank and other information about the interred. These recessed-shield type headstones are consistent with the nationally established standards for headstones adopted during the late-nineteenth century by the War Department and revised by that agency following World War I (Figure 11).<sup>9</sup> There are two gray granite headstones in the civilian section of the cemetery: one is an upright stone and the other is a flat stone (Photograph 17 and Figure 12).

In 2011, the Keeper of the National Register confirmed National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility by issuing a clarification of policy stating that all national cemeteries are considered exceptionally significant and eligible for listing in the NRHP regardless of age, and that all buildings, structures, and objects located

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<sup>4</sup> Joseph Turnbach, Director, Fort Lyon National Cemetery, to Virginia B. Price, NCA Historian, electronic communication, 13 April 2016. In the 1940s, a 4-inch hard water line ran to the cemetery for irrigation purposes. "Data Regarding VA Cemeteries Which May Be Suitable for Use As National Cemeteries," n.d., Fort Lyon National Cemetery Vertical File, Washington, D.C. Water lines were included in the initial design layout, completed in 1947. L. Wilson, Construction, Supply, and Real Estate, Memo 3 November 1947, Copy on file, Fort Lyon National Cemetery Vertical File, Washington, D.C. Regarding the 2010 upgrades (new pipes), Steve Davis, NCA, to Virginia B. Price, 2 September 2016.

<sup>5</sup> Joseph Turnbach, Director, Fort Lyon National Cemetery, to Virginia B. Price, NCA Historian, electronic communication 12 August 2016. Two spruce trees were by the cemetery entrance in ca. 1980. Sandra M. Webb and Karen R. Tupek, Fort Lyon National Cemetery, National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, n.d., National Cemetery Administration, Fort Lyon National Cemetery Vertical File, Washington, D.C.

<sup>6</sup> The allée-like element is visible in aerial photographs as early as 2001, as shown in Figure 2 and in Photograph 21.

<sup>7</sup> The existing iron fencing was replaced in kind during FY10 (October 2009-September 2010). Joseph Turnbach, Director, Fort Lyon National Cemetery, to Virginia B. Price, NCA Historian, electronic communication 13 April 2016.

<sup>8</sup> The earliest drawings include the interior roadways of the cemetery grounds. In 1946, a plan for the developed portion of the cemetery recorded the circulation pattern along with other cemetery features, noting "gravel" and "surface treated" for the roadways. See Figures 3 and 5. In 1976, drawings for improving the interior roads and repairs to curbs were made; likely the initial asphalt paving was done following approval of the three plans on file. Fort Lyon National Cemetery Architectural Drawing File, Washington, D.C.

<sup>9</sup> National Cemetery Administration, "Inter-World War National Cemeteries: Associated Historic Contexts, Multiple Property Documentation Form National Register of Historic Places," 2011 (listed, National Park Service 2016).

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within the boundaries of national cemeteries are considered contributing elements to each national cemetery regardless of age.<sup>10</sup> Descriptions of the individual contributing elements are found below:

### **Contributing Resources (21)**

**Site (1):** As indicated in the 2011 Clarification of Policy from the Keeper of the National Register, the overall acreage within the boundaries of the cemetery is considered one contributing site, which includes all of the buildings, structures, and objects as below noted.

**Buildings (8):** Restroom/Storage Building (1943), Administration Building (modular) (2004), Maintenance Garage (2010), Pump House (1984-85), Storage Shed (portable) (2, both built in 1995), Undeveloped Area Wood Pump House (post-1956), Undeveloped Area Stone Pump House (1941).

**Structures (5):** Main Gate, Gate 2, Committal Shelter, Grave Locator Stand, and Well.

**Objects (7):** Flagpole, POW/MIA Flagpole (ca.1990s), *Bivouac of the Dead* Plaque (2003); Flagpole dedication plaque (ca.1977), *Bivouac of the Dead* stanza plaques (2) (ca.1985); and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address Plaque (2012).

### **Buildings (8)**

**Restroom/Storage Building (1943)** (Photograph 4 and Figure 4): This small, rectangular, one-story building planned as part of the 1939–1941 expansion of the cemetery was completed in 1943. It reflects the general public building flavor of that era. The building's gable-end roof is covered with asphalt composition shingles and has boxed cornices. The walls are load-bearing masonry and are made of rough-faced, random ashlar stone and red brick. The building has multiple doors including a non-historic hollow core wood door, a pair of non-historic wood doors each with one light, and an in-filled door opening in the west wall. The windows are the original four-light fixed openings with stone lintels and sills. There are two brick in-filled window openings in the west wall.<sup>11</sup>

**Administration Building (2004)** (Photograph 3): The administration building is a single wide, rectangular modular building brought to the cemetery during 2004. This one-story, modern wood building appears to sit on its undercarriage. It is raised off the ground approximately 3 feet. There is plywood skirting around the undercarriage. This rectangular prefabricated office building has balloon framed walls and is covered with textured weatherboard panels. The doors are of the one-panel, one single light type and the windows are aluminum sliding and are surrounded with 1 inch by 4 inch wood trim pieces. The doors have a similar trim treatment. The building has a gently arched roof that appears to be covered with metal sheets.

**Maintenance Garage (2010)** (Photograph 6): The maintenance garage is a one-story, rectangular pole barn covered with metal sheets. The building was constructed during 2010. The façade (east wall) has three bays denoted by three pairs of center-opening doors. There is a pedestrian door in the south wall of the building. The walls are made of wood framing covered with ribbed metal siding. Light is provided to the interior through translucent fiberglass panels at the tops of the long walls. The foundation is a set of concrete footers that the wall frame uprights are mounted to. The building has an end gable roof covered with ribbed metal sheets. The interior floor is made of pea gravel that continues into the parking lot/maintenance yard to the east of the building.

<sup>10</sup> Keeper of the National Register, "National Register Eligibility of National Cemeteries—A Clarification of Policy." 8 September 2011 (see [http://www.cem.va.gov/pdf/Final\\_Eligibility\\_of\\_VA\\_cemeteries\\_A\\_Clarification\\_of\\_Policy\\_rev.pdf](http://www.cem.va.gov/pdf/Final_Eligibility_of_VA_cemeteries_A_Clarification_of_Policy_rev.pdf))

<sup>11</sup> From the existing photographs and plan (1943), likely the window openings in the west elevation mirror the rectangular proportions of those on the east shown in Photograph 4 and Photograph 5. See Figure 4.

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**Pump House (1984-1985) (Photograph 10):** The pump house is a small square building near the main gate that houses the pump and other machinery used for the cemetery's irrigation system. The building is one-story and has an end gable roof covered with asphalt composition shingles and boxed cornices. The walls are made of panels covered with stucco that has been textured to look slightly rustic. There is one door in the west wall. The building has no windows. It sits on a concrete pad. The building was constructed during 1984-1985. The well and pump to the north of the pump house were installed at the same time.

**Storage Shed West (1995) (Photograph 8):** This building is a small, prefabricated, storage shed, like ones commonly found in backyards, maintenance yards, and other places across the nation. It has a gable-end roof with slightly overhanging eaves covered with asphalt composition shingles. There is a hatch in the roof that was once used to access pump equipment. The walls are balloon frame and covered with textured weatherboard panels. The foundation is wood skids that rest on a poured concrete pad. The building was placed in its current location during 1995. It is identical to the building labeled Storage Shed East.

**Storage Shed East (1995) (Photograph 8):** This building is a small, prefabricated, storage shed, like ones commonly found in backyards, maintenance yards, and other places across the nation. It has a gable-end roof with slightly overhanging eaves covered with asphalt composition shingles. There is a hatch in the roof that was once used to access pump equipment. The walls are balloon frame and covered with textured weatherboard panels. The foundation is wood skids that rest on a poured concrete pad. The building was placed in its current location during 1995. This building is identical to the building labeled Storage Shed West.

**Undeveloped Area Wood Pump House (after 1956)<sup>12</sup> (Photograph 12):** Built after 1956, the pump house is a small square building in the undeveloped area of the cemetery approximately 0.4 mile west of the western fence of the developed section of the cemetery along County Road HH. It is one story and houses a pump and other machinery for the irrigation system. The building has a gable-on-hip roof covered with asphalt composition shingles and boxed cornices. The walls are made of wood paneling on wood framing. There is one door with a small window in the west wall. The building has no other windows. It sits on a concrete pad.

There are pipes and water control valves set below ground with pipes and cranks extending above the ground surface to operate the valves. These sit southeast of the building and there is a partially collapsed wire fence enclosure around it.

**Undeveloped Area Stone Pump House (1941) (Photograph 13):** This pump house is a small rectangular building in the undeveloped area of the cemetery approximately 0.6 mile west of the western fence of the developed section of the cemetery very near the main gate to the Fort Lyon complex on Fort Lyon Road. It is oriented at approximately 30° west of north-south. The building is one-story and has a gable-end roof covered with asphalt composition shingles. There is a hatch in the roof on the front (southwest) side. The building has masonry walls of coursed rubble and mortar. There are boarded up window openings with stone sills in all the walls. There is a door with a small window in the southwest wall. The foundation was unavailable for inspection. The building was constructed during 1941. There are valves and water pipes, including a manhole-sized pipe, south of the building's southern corner that rises about 3 feet from the ground.

## Structures (5)

**Main Gate (Photograph 1 and Figure 4):** The main gate is located in the center of the south fence. The gate consists of rough-faced, random ashlar stone gateposts with a pair of center opening wrought iron picket panels. Two bronze plaques are mounted in the gateposts: one with the name of the cemetery and the other with the Veterans Administration crest. The main cemetery fence, consisting of wrought iron picket panels and

<sup>12</sup> It appears to be in place by 1969. See Figure 18.

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rough-faced, random ashlar stone posts, continues from either side of the gate and serves as the cemetery's southern border (Photograph 2).<sup>13</sup>

**Gate 2 (ca. 2001) (Figure 14):** Gate 2 is a chain-link gate from the maintenance yard to Avenue A (the western road around the cemetery).

The secured maintenance yard and gate into the cemetery proper by way of Avenue A became necessary once the VA hospital was closed. The cemetery needed its own facilities for maintenance and Gate 2 with its associated fencing dates to this period. It was in place about 2001 (Photograph 7).<sup>14</sup>

**Committal Shelter (1995) (Photograph 9):** The committal shelter is a rectangular, one-story structure made of wood. It has a gable roof supported by partially arched wood rafters and is made of wood planks covered with asphalt composition shingles. The roof is supported by a series of vertical wood posts that also serve as the structural framing for the partial walls. The partial walls are made of vertical planks and dimensioned lumber framing. The upper portion of the wall area is open and the partial walls in the lower part of the wall do not extend to the ground. The posts for the roof and partial wall support are set in steel brackets held into the poured concrete floor by bolts. The committal shelter was built in 1995.

**Grave Locator Stand (mid 1970s) (Photograph 5):** The grave locator stand is made of coursed rubble capped with a poured concrete slab. The locator map is on a metal slide out tray under the concrete cap. The stand is located south of the restroom and storage building on the west side of Avenue A. It was installed in the mid-1970s.

**Well (1984-1985) (Photographs 11 and 24):** The well was installed at the same time as the nearby pump house, but the wood shingled cover dates to 2015. The cover is reminiscent of a gable roof. At the base, the cover measures almost 9 feet by 7 feet, and it rises 9 inches from the ground to the eaves, and up to 3 feet at the peak.<sup>15</sup>

## Objects (7)

**Flagpole (Photographs 1 and 14):** The flagpole is located in approximately the center of the developed area of the cemetery. It is a 75-foot high metal pole with upward focused spotlights surrounding it to keep the American flag illuminated at night. It sits in a grass-covered area with driveways on all four sides. The flagpole was dedicated in 1977.

**POW/MIA Flagpole (Photograph 1):** The POW/MIA flagpole is located north of the main gate immediately north of the split in the road to form a circle around the cemetery. The metal flagpole is noticeably shorter and smaller than the main flagpole described earlier and is used to fly the black and white POW/MIA flag.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Drawings for fencing around the cemetery date to the late 1920s, and the main gate for the cemetery was part of the initial design and development phase after the VA received the property from the Navy. The idea for stone piers at the entrance was approved in 1943, with blueprints developed shortly thereafter. L.H. Tripp, Director of Construction, to Manager, VA, Fort Lyon, Colorado, Letter 7 April 1943, copy in Fort Lyon National Cemetery Vertical File, Washington, D.C. For plans, see Figure 4 and 6.

<sup>14</sup> Gate 2 dates to about 2001. Joseph Turnbach, Director, Fort Lyon National Cemetery, to Virginia B. Price, NCA Historian, electronic communication, 20 September 2016.

<sup>15</sup> The flat cover shown in Photograph 11 was also made of wood. It weathered badly and was replaced by an Eagle Scout Project in 2015 with the gable-roofed cover described above. Joseph Turnbach, Director, Fort Lyon National Cemetery, to Virginia B. Price, NCA Historian, electronic communication, 20 September 2016.

<sup>16</sup> In 1990, Congress established national POW/MIA Recognition Day. The Act honors the service of those imprisoned during war and those who remain missing. It designated the POW/MIA flag as the symbol of national observance. The flag represents an ongoing commitment to U.S. service members whose fates remain unknown. It is flown in all our national cemeteries. For more on the POW/MIA flag, see <http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/celebrate/powmia.pdf> (accessed 9 August 2016).

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**Plaques (5) (Photographs 15 and 23):** Other objects in the cemetery consist of several plaques, three specific to Fort Lyon National Cemetery and two part of the commemorative iconography found throughout the national cemetery system.

There are three plaques in the grassy area around the main flagpole. Each is composed of a concrete block with a bronze plaque attached to the slanted top face. These include two featuring lines from the poem *Bivouac of the Dead* by Theodore O'Hara; the two plaques were donated by veterans service organizations. The third plaque marks the dedication of the flagpole and dates from 1977 (Photograph 15).

South of the committal shelter there is a granite block with a cast aluminum plaque containing stanzas from the "Bivouac of the Dead" that was placed south of the committal shelter in 1985 (Figure 10).<sup>17</sup>

During 2012, a cast-iron plaque with Lincoln's Gettysburg Address mounted on a large gray stone was placed inside the cemetery boundary near the main gate (Photograph 23). The Gettysburg Address plaque was cast at Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, in 2009, as part of the Lincoln Bicentennial. The bicentennial plaques replicate those produced at the arsenal for Lincoln's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday that were installed in national cemeteries existing at that time.

### **Integrity**

Fort Lyon National Cemetery retains a high degree of integrity particularly in the overall design, setting and location of the site. The national cemetery includes the military and civilian burying grounds laid by the U.S. Navy in 1906 and the designs by the VA in the 1930s to 1945 that guided the layout, landscaping, and construction in the cemetery, including the restroom and storage building, seen today. The continued operation of the adjacent hospital throughout the twentieth century, and its successful re-use as a Correctional Facility, maintained a consistency in setting and location. Walls, gates, flagpoles, identifying signage and plaques, administrative and storage facilities, committal shelters, and rows of headstones and markers provide a continuity of materials, workmanship, feeling and association across the national cemetery system.

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<sup>17</sup> For more about the Bivouac of the Dead plaques in NCA national cemeteries, see <http://www.cem.va.gov/ceh/history/bivouac.asp>.



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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Military

**Period of Significance**

1907-present

**Significant Dates**

1907

1922

1973

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

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### Period of Significance (justification)

The beginning date of 1907 for the period of significance corresponds to the year that the first burial took place at the naval hospital cemetery that evolved into Fort Lyon National Cemetery. Today the cemetery remains active, and therefore the present time is considered to be the end date for the period of significance. The period of significance (1907-present) is in keeping with the 2011 clarification of policy relating to national cemeteries and the on-going need for burial space and the development that entails. The policy issued by the Keeper of the National Register states all national cemeteries are considered exceptionally significant and eligible for listing in the NRHP regardless of age, and that all buildings, structures, and objects located within the boundaries of national cemeteries are considered contributing elements to each national cemetery regardless of age.<sup>18</sup>

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### Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Fort Lyon National Cemetery is nationally significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of military and veterans cemeteries during the late nineteenth and early twentieth-centuries by the federal government. It is also significant for its association with the history of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Fort Lyon has a history that dates back to the Civil War, the Colorado gold rush, and conflicts between Euro-American settlers and Native Americans in what is now Colorado in the late-nineteenth century. However the post cemetery closed. The U.S. Navy created the antecedent of the national cemetery in 1906 as part of its adaptation of the military post into a tuberculosis hospital complex. The cemetery opened in 1907. Its history would then be intertwined with Colorado as a place renowned for the treatment of tubercular patients.

Thus, Fort Lyon National Cemetery's national significance rests in its active association with the U.S. military since the late nineteenth century and in its connection to a VA hospital throughout the twentieth century. As one of the VA hospital cemeteries, Fort Lyon National Cemetery reflects the evolution of the VA's cemetery program from one of caring for veterans through domiciliary programs to overseeing the national cemetery system.<sup>19</sup> Fort Lyon National Cemetery is important as one of the handful cemeteries that were operated by the Veterans Administration prior to the National Cemeteries Act of 1973.

Fort Lyon National Cemetery serves as a memorial to the sacrifices of the U.S. military, and is a reflection of the expanded burial and memorial mission established during the Civil War with the earliest national cemeteries. For these reasons, Criteria Consideration D is also satisfied.

### Early History of Fort Lyon Military Post

Fort Lyon and Fort Lyon National Cemetery represent the final location for a frontier post in southeastern Colorado along the Arkansas River. The original or Old Fort Lyon began as Bents' New Fort, the second frontier trading post operated by the Bent brothers along the river. They had moved west from St. Louis to take part in the fur trade. Their post became a popular stopover on the mountain route of the Santa Fe Trail as well as a place of trade relations between Native Americans and Euro-Americans.<sup>20</sup> The Bents relocated their post

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<sup>18</sup> Keeper of the National Register, "National Register Eligibility of National Cemeteries—A Clarification of Policy." September 8, 2011. (Washington, DC: History Program Collection, NCA). Available at:

[http://www.cem.va.gov/pdf/Final\\_Eligibility\\_of\\_VA\\_cemeteries\\_A\\_Clarification\\_of\\_Policy\\_rev.pdf](http://www.cem.va.gov/pdf/Final_Eligibility_of_VA_cemeteries_A_Clarification_of_Policy_rev.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> *History and Development of the National Cemetery Administration*, Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration.

<sup>20</sup> See MPDF Historic Resources of the Santa Fe Trail (2013),

[http://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/files/OAHP/crforms\\_edumat/pdfs/624.pdf](http://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/files/OAHP/crforms_edumat/pdfs/624.pdf)

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to a point near the mouth of the Purgatory River and after a few years of operation sold it to the federal government in 1860. The U.S. Army renamed the post Fort Wise for the governor of Virginia, but following the outbreak of the Civil War (1861) the post was renamed Fort Lyon after Brevet Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon, the first Union general to die in the Civil War.<sup>21</sup> During the war, troops from Fort Lyon patrolled approximately four hundred miles of the mountain route of the Santa Fe Trail west from Fort Larned, Kansas. The Army found the post's location susceptible to flooding and after the Civil War ended plans were made to relocate the post approximately twenty miles farther east along the Arkansas River.

In 1867 the new Fort Lyon opened at its present location. As part of the new post the Army included a cemetery.<sup>22</sup> A post cemetery had existed at the old Fort Lyon—per burial records it contained about 44 burials of both soldiers and civilians.<sup>23</sup> The Army built the new post and it hosted elements of Army units well known in the nineteenth-century West including the 7th Cavalry that gained fame from the Custer massacre a few years after its posting at Fort Lyon and Buffalo Soldiers (African-American troops) near the end of the post's active life. During the 1870s and 1880s the Great Plains of southeastern Colorado witnessed tremendous change including the arrival of railroads, the development of huge cattle ranches, and hundreds of homesteaders settling the lands that could be irrigated along the Arkansas, Purgatory, and other rivers. All these factors led to the Army's decision to close Fort Lyon in 1889. On August 31st, the final troops left and the equipment was shipped to Fort Logan in Denver. The post on the Arkansas was left in the hands of a caretaker and slowly began to disappear as the adobe deteriorated back into the ground. The Army exhumed the remains of both soldiers and civilians from the post cemetery and sent them to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for reburial in 1890.<sup>24</sup>

The post remained in the hands of the caretaker until 1897 when it was abandoned. It remained inactive during the first years of the twentieth century.<sup>25</sup>

### **U.S. Naval Hospital at Fort Lyon and the Establishment of the Cemetery, 1906-1921**

In 1906 the U.S. Navy acquired Fort Lyon and began an improvement program to convert the abandoned post into a hospital for sailors suffering from tuberculosis. At the turn of the century the most common medical practice for the treatment of tuberculosis was to move patients to drier climates and stress nutritional programs to build up their strength and resistance. Fort Lyon's arid climate made it a good location for such a hospital. Improvements the Navy made included new hospital buildings and wards similar to those found in other contemporary Colorado and Southwestern sanatoria such as Fort Stanton, New Mexico, for merchant marine sailors (opened 1899) and later Fort Whipple, Arizona, (1918) and Army General Hospital No.21 (Fitzsimons, 1918; 5AM.123) on the outskirts of Denver. The Navy also built a water and sewer system and installed a power plant so the hospital could be run on steam and electricity.<sup>26</sup> Additionally the Navy set up two

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<sup>21</sup>David Lavender, *Bent's Fort*, (New York: Doubleday and Company, 1954), 378-79, 392 and State Historical Society of Colorado, *Bent's Old Fort*, (Colorado Springs: Williams Printing, 1979), 38 and 47.

<sup>22</sup>The Book Committee, *Bent County [Colorado] History*, (Holly, CO: The Holly Publishing Company, 1988), 19, 22; hereafter cited: The Book Committee, *Bent County*, and Charles W. Hurd, *Boggsville; Cradle of the Colorado Cattle Industry*, (Grand Junction, CO.: Occupational Training Center, 1975), 59-62.

<sup>23</sup>Ancestry.com. U.S. Military Burial Registers, 1768-1921 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2007. Accessed 24 September 2012. Original data: Burial Registers for Military Posts, Camps, and Stations, 1768-1921 (National Archives Microfilm Publication M2014, 1 roll); Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Record Group 92; National Archives, Washington, D.C. Records indicate that most of the burials from old Fort Lyon were reinterred at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. It is not clear if the remains were first moved to new Fort Lyon prior to reburial at Fort Leavenworth.

<sup>24</sup>The Burial Registers indicate the remains were reinterred at Fort Leavenworth in April 1890.

<sup>25</sup>Hurd, *Boggsville*, 61, and Webb and Tupek, Fort Lyon National Cemetery Nomination.

<sup>26</sup>Anonymous, "The History of Fort Stanton," electronic document, <http://fortstanton.org/history/>, accessed 8/20/12; Phyllis Eileen Banks, "Fort Stanton and Its Past," *Southern New Mexico.com*, electronic document, <http://southernnewmexico.com/Articles/> Southeast/

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cemeteries in the northeast corner of the reservation: one for Navy personnel being treated at the facility and the other for civilians at the facility either employees or family members. The Naval cemetery consisted of four rows of graves running north-south; officers were buried at the south end. The civilian cemetery was located slightly east of the Naval cemetery and consisted of two rows of graves.

The Navy continued to operate the hospital and cemetery through World War I. When America entered the war in 1917 German ships in American ports were seized and their sailors treated as prisoners of war (POWs). The captured German sailors suffering from tuberculosis were sent to Fort Lyon as POWs. Those who died while incarcerated at Fort Lyon were buried in the cemetery along with U.S. Navy sailors (Figure 13).

### **Establishment VA Hospital and Expansion of Cemetery, 1921-1973**

The Navy continued to operate the hospital and cemetery until November 1921 when the Navy transferred it to the U.S. Public Health Service.<sup>27</sup> At that time, there were approximately 200 Navy burials and 26 civilian burials in the cemeteries. Within a few months, on August 31, 1922, under the authority of Executive Order 3543 the Public Health Service turned the hospital over to the newly created Veterans Bureau, which continued to operate it until 1930. That year President Herbert Hoover established the Veterans Administration (VA) in order to consolidate all veterans' services under one agency, and the hospital came under the control of the new agency.<sup>28</sup> During 1933 the VA converted the facility from a respiratory hospital to a psychiatric hospital and nursing home with 600 beds for mental patients and others needing long-term care. In recognition of the likelihood that the facility would be used for many years into the future, the VA undertook a construction program that lasted from 1930 to 1945. The initial focus was to replace the wood buildings constructed by the Navy with more permanent brick and masonry ones. It was during this construction period that much of the current landscaping and driveways were installed and the restroom and storage building was constructed at the cemetery. In 1938 the cemetery planned for a 100 percent increase in the cemetery's size to 7.5 acres and consolidated the Navy and VA sections into one unit for operating purposes. During the period the VA drew plans of the layout for the cemetery that remains the layout in the developed area today (Figures 3 and 5).<sup>29</sup>

After World War II the hospital at Fort Lyon continued to care for psychiatric patients; by 1946 the hospital served the needs of more than 1,000 patients. In 1948 the station manager continued to encourage the VA to authorize completion of the 1930s cemetery expansion plans and development of the additional acreage proposed ten years earlier. His pleas found a receptive audience and by the end of 1948 the cemetery contained approximately 7.5 acres of which slightly over 3 acres were used and the remaining space was undeveloped.<sup>30</sup> At that time, the military cemetery contained only two sections—present-day sections A and B.

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Lincoln/FortStanton.html,2002, accessed 8/12/2012; U.S. Army, "Chapter XVII, The General Hospital (Tuberculosis) General Hospital No. 21, Denver, Colo.," electronic document, <http://history.amedd.army.mil/booksdocs/www/MilitaryHospitalsintheUS/chapter17.htm>, accessed 8/20/2012; Jeanne Abrams, *Blazing the Tuberculosis Trail: The Religio-ethnic Role of Four Sanatoria in Early Denver* (Denver: Colorado Historical Society, 1990), 21-24; Stephen W. Yost and Steven F. Mehls, Archaeological Data Recovery at AZ N:7:108 (ASM): the Historic Fort Whipple Barracks Landfill, (Prescott: Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe, 2011), 18, 74-76; and Kathy Lingo, Anne Bond, and Dulaney Barclay, *Fort Lyon National Register Nomination*, 24 July 2003; listed in the National Register 5 May 2004, copy on file at the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

<sup>27</sup>Webb and Tupek, Fort Lyon National Cemetery Nomination, and Nancy Goldsberry, "Fort Lyon: 138 Years of History," *LaJunta (Colorado) Tribune Democrat* 2 April 1999, clipping file, Woodruff Public Library, LaJunta, CO. hereafter cited: Goldsberry, "Fort Lyon."

<sup>28</sup>Goldsberry, "Fort Lyon," and The Book Committee, *Bent County*, 23; and Letter from Wade Sayre to Assistant Administrator for Construction, Supply and Real Estate, 8 January 1947, National Cemetery Administration, Fort Lyon National Cemetery Vertical File, Washington, D.C.

<sup>29</sup>The Book Committee, *Bent County*, 23; Goldsberry, "Fort Lyon;" and "Project 65-2-84-113," Project 165-2-84-7," Letter from C.H. Miller to the Director of Supplies, 25 February 1938 and Plan of Cemetery, Showing Proposed Extensions 3 August 1939, National Cemetery Administration, Fort Lyon National Cemetery vertical file, Washington, D.C.; and Project 165-85-7," T937 Roll 3 1939-1941, Record Group 69, National Archives, College Park, MD.

<sup>30</sup>"Report of Cemeterial Data, 1948," and VA Cemetery Study-January 1948, Fort Lyon, Colorado," National Cemetery Administration, Fort Lyon National Cemetery Vertical File, Washington, D.C.

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Section B was the original Navy cemetery and contained only graves of Navy personnel. Section A was established when the cemetery came under the VA and contained graves of veterans who died at the facility. With the anticipation of future burial needs, sections C and D were laid-out west of the present sections and separated from A and B by a three grassy islands. The center island was to contain the cemetery's flagpole (Figure 5). The design is notable for its precision with the newer burial sections (C and D) mirroring the first sections east of the central pathway and flagpole (See Sketch Map).

Throughout the remainder of that decade and into the 1950s and 1960s the hospital kept up with national trends in the treatment of mental illness and developed halfway houses and other programs to help the patients reintegrate into non-institutional life.

### Creation of Fort Lyon National Cemetery and Later Changes

As a result of the National Cemetery Act of 1973, 81 Army-operated national cemeteries and 24 VA-operated veterans cemeteries, were consolidated under a new agency within VA: the National Cemetery System, later renamed the National Cemetery Administration. All VA veterans cemeteries became known as national cemeteries. The transfer was the result of extensive studies by the federal government and the passage of Public Law 93-43 by Congress. Despite the new management little changed in the day-to-day operations at Fort Lyon. However, due to its modest size and its presence on a VA hospital campus it did not warrant a full-time director, rather it was overseen by the Engineering Services department at the hospital. In order to meet continuing burial needs, in the 1980s, additional burial sections east and south of the original burial sections were laid out (Figure 15).<sup>31</sup>

President George H. W. Bush elevated the Veterans Administration to the Department of Veterans Affairs, a cabinet-level agency, on March 15, 1989. The new department examined its roles and facilities during its first year as a movement began within the department to reorganize and consolidate facilities. By 1999 the plans had matured to the point that the decision was made to close the hospital.<sup>32</sup> As part of the closure planning for the hospital the VA looked for alternatives to demolition of the facility. By the end of November the VA had developed a plan to transfer the Fort Lyon facilities to the Colorado Department of Corrections for use by prisoners with mental issues and elderly inmates. The VA found suitable locations for their nursing home operations and placed more funding at the disposal of regional veterans' clinics. The VA initiated the final steps to complete the transfer of the hospital to the state on December 1, 1999.<sup>33</sup>

During the debate regarding the future of the hospital concerns were voiced for the national cemetery and the VA reassured the public that the cemetery would remain part of the national cemetery system.<sup>34</sup> The closure of the hospital and end of VA presence there led directly to the installation of the modular administration building, the sheds, and maintenance garage because the space used for those activities had been on the hospital campus and was no longer available to the cemetery. The national cemetery is operated by a small staff that reports to Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver (5DV.4344).

<sup>31</sup>Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration (NCA). *History and Development of the National Cemetery Administration*. (Washington, DC: Communications & Outreach Support Division, 2009); available online at <http://www.cem.va.gov/pdf/history.pdf>. Accessed 10 October 2011.

<sup>32</sup>Department of Veterans Affairs, *VA History in Brief* (Washington, DC: Department of Veterans Affairs, n.d.). Document available online at [http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/archives/docs/history\\_in\\_brief.pdf](http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/archives/docs/history_in_brief.pdf).

<sup>33</sup>Goldsberry, "Fort Lyon;" Nancy Goldsberry, "Fort Lyon Provides Care to Veterans," *LaJunta (Colorado) Tribune Democrat* 26 March 1999, clipping file, Woodruff Public Library, LaJunta, CO.; "Semi-approval Given to Close Ft. Lyon," *LaJunta (Colorado) Tribune Democrat* 24 November 1999, clipping file, Woodruff Public Library, LaJunta, CO.

<sup>34</sup>"Ft. Lyon Being Transferred to DOC," *Rocky Ford (Colorado) Daily Gazette* 29 November 1999 and "Future of Fort Lyon Cemetery Guaranteed," *Pueblo (Colorado) Chieftain* 1 December 1999, National Cemetery Administration, Fort Lyon National Cemetery Vertical File, Washington, DC.

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## **Conclusion**

Over 2,500 military men and women, and their eligible spouses and dependents, are buried in Fort Lyon National Cemetery, as of June 2016. With over 40 acres of undeveloped land, Fort Lyon National Cemetery is estimated to be able to accommodate burials through the year 2030.

The U.S. flag flies daily over the orderly rows of white marble headstones in honor of the lives and deeds of those who answered the call of duty.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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State Historical Society of Colorado. *Bent's Old Fort*. Colorado Springs: Williams Printing, 1979.

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"Semi-approval Given to Close Ft. Lyon," *LaJunta (Colorado) Tribune Democrat* 24 November 1999, clipping file, Woodruff Public Library, LaJunta, CO.

Goldsberry, Nancy. "Fort Lyon: 138 Years of History." *LaJunta (Colorado) Tribune Democrat* 2 April 1999. Clipping file. Woodruff Public Library, LaJunta, CO.

Goldsberry, Nancy. "Fort Lyon Provides Care to Veterans." *LaJunta (Colorado) Tribune Democrat* 26 March 1999. clipping file. Woodruff Public Library, LaJunta, CO.

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### Photographs

Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) Collection, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. David Haas, Photographer, May 2006, for National Cemetery Administration.

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### Plans and Maps

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Washington, D.C. National Cemetery Administration. Fort Lyon National Cemetery Architectural Drawing File. "Cemetery Fence." 1927.

Washington, D.C. National Cemetery Administration. Fort Lyon National Cemetery Architectural Drawing File. "Existing and Proposed Expansion of Fort Lyon Hospital Cemetery." 1946.

Washington, D.C. National Cemetery Administration. Fort Lyon National Cemetery Architectural Drawing File. "Grave Site Plan." 1970.

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Washington, D.C. National Cemetery Administration. Fort Lyon National Cemetery Architectural Drawing File. Topographical Maps. var. dates.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscapes Survey #CO-3 \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Fort Lyon National Register Nomination, 2003; listed, 5 May 2004; only the undeveloped section of the national cemetery is included in this nomination. The cemetery land was not included in the resource count.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 5BN.1331

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 51.7  
 (Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)  
**UTM References (NAD 83)**  
 (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

The UTM reference point was derived from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHP by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

1 13 663 995 4216 869  
 Zone Easting Northing

3 13 664 173 4216 75  
 Zone Easting Northing

2 13 664 170 4216 908  
 Zone Easting Northing

4 13 663 054 4216 689  
 Zone Easting Northing

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

The Fort Lyon National Cemetery is located in: the east half of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter; the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter; the north half of the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter; the north half of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter; and the west half of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 4, township 23 south, range 51 west of the 6<sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian, Las Animas County, Colorado. It has a common address of 15700 County Road HH, Las Animas, Colorado.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The National Cemetery Administration recognizes the above verbal boundary as the existing boundaries of the cemetery. The boundaries include the developed and undeveloped parts of the cemetery, which are both historically associated with the Fort Lyon National Cemetery.

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**Additional Documentation**

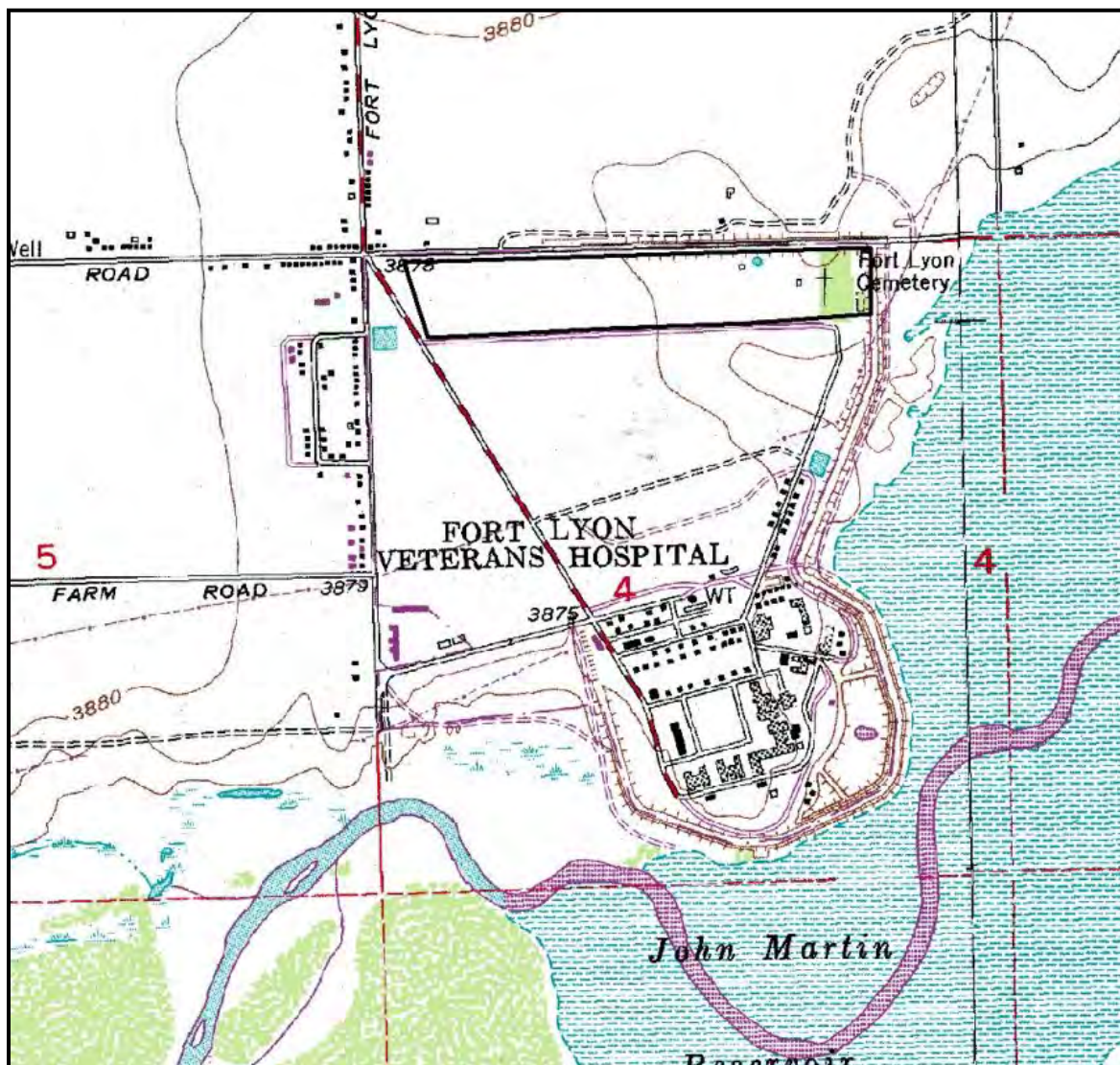
Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Maps:**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

**USGS Topographic Map (7.5 minute series)**  
Las Animas Quadrangle  
Regional perspective

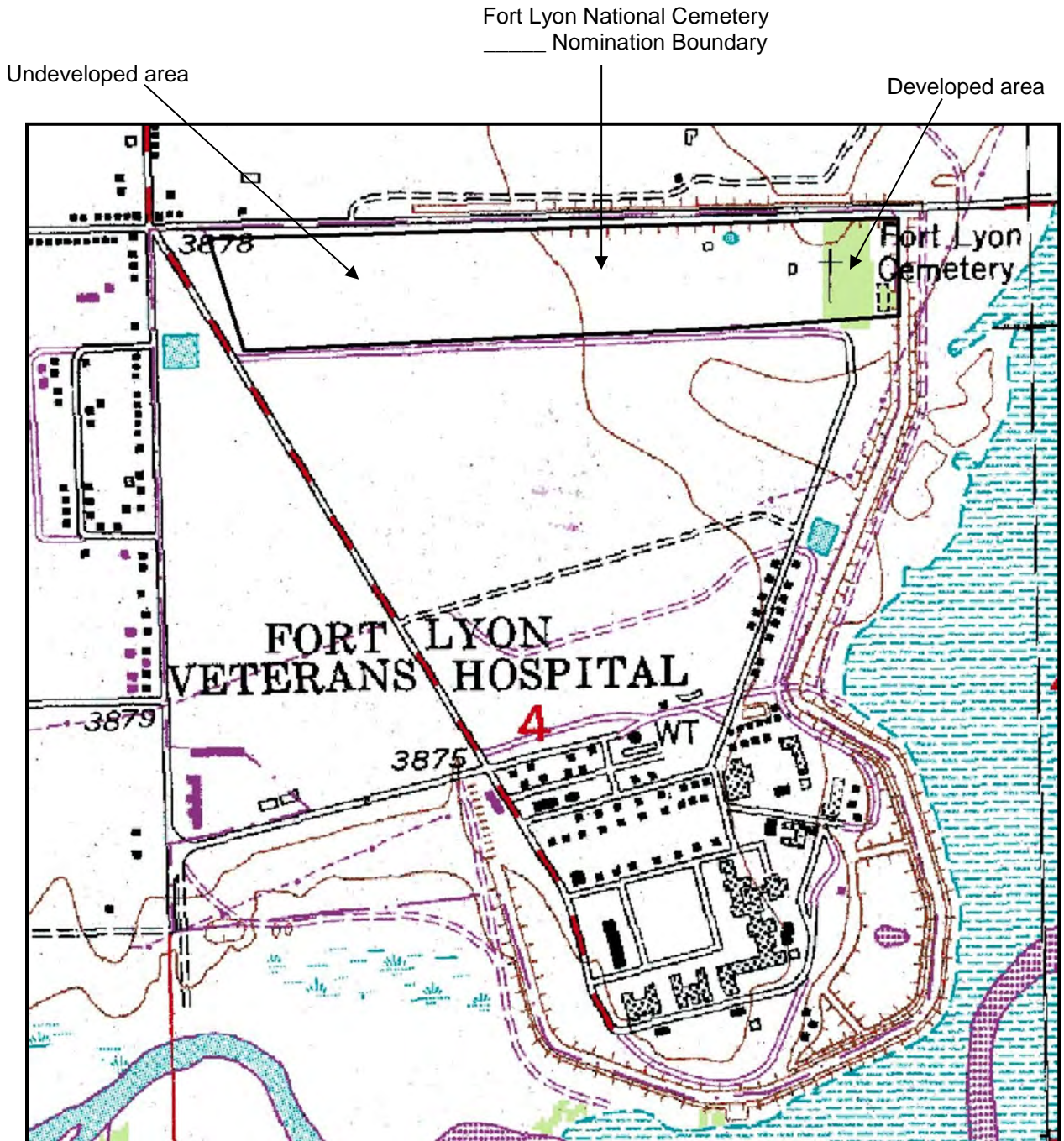
Elevation 3780'



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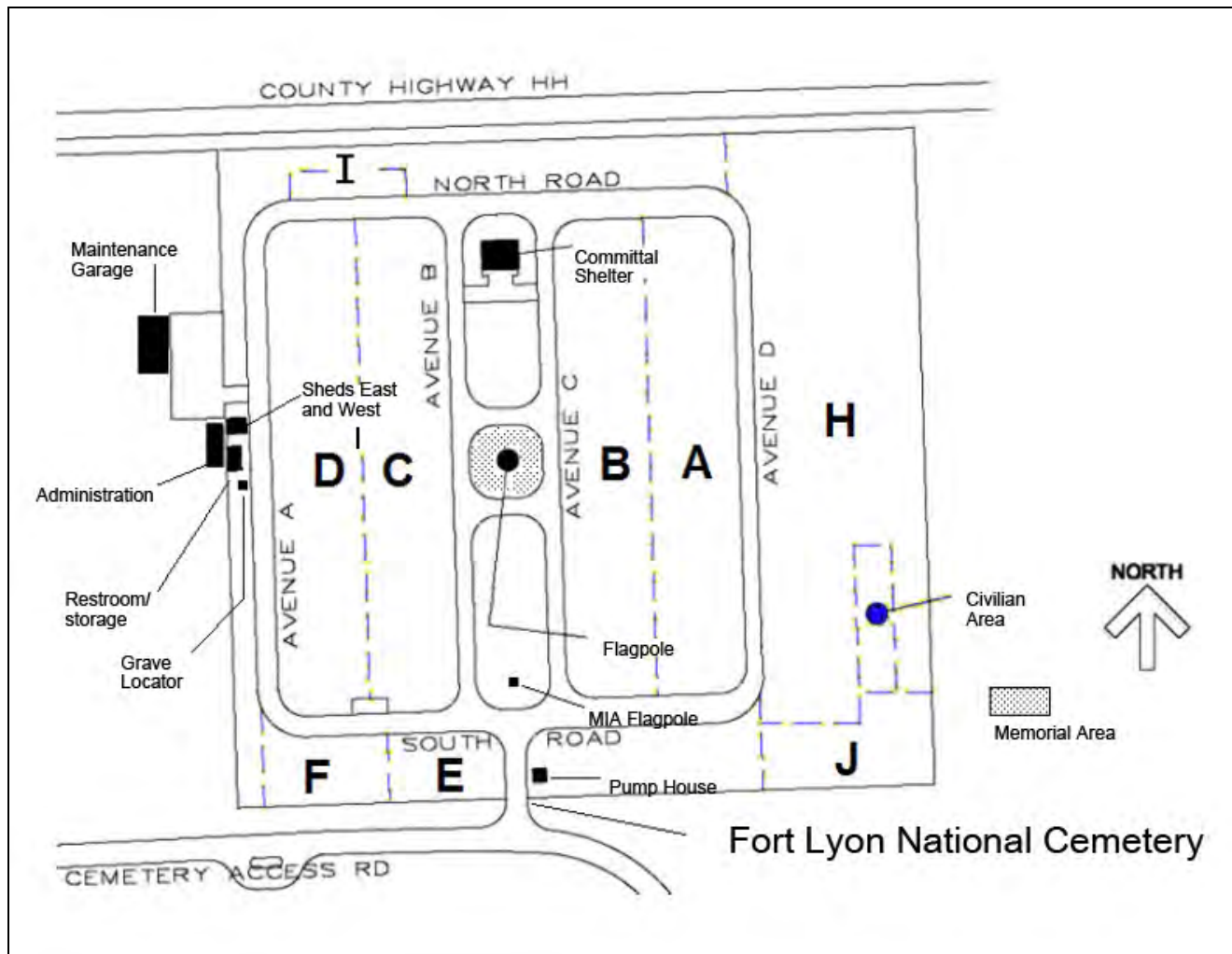
**USGS Topographic Map (7.5 minute series)**  
Close-up perspective



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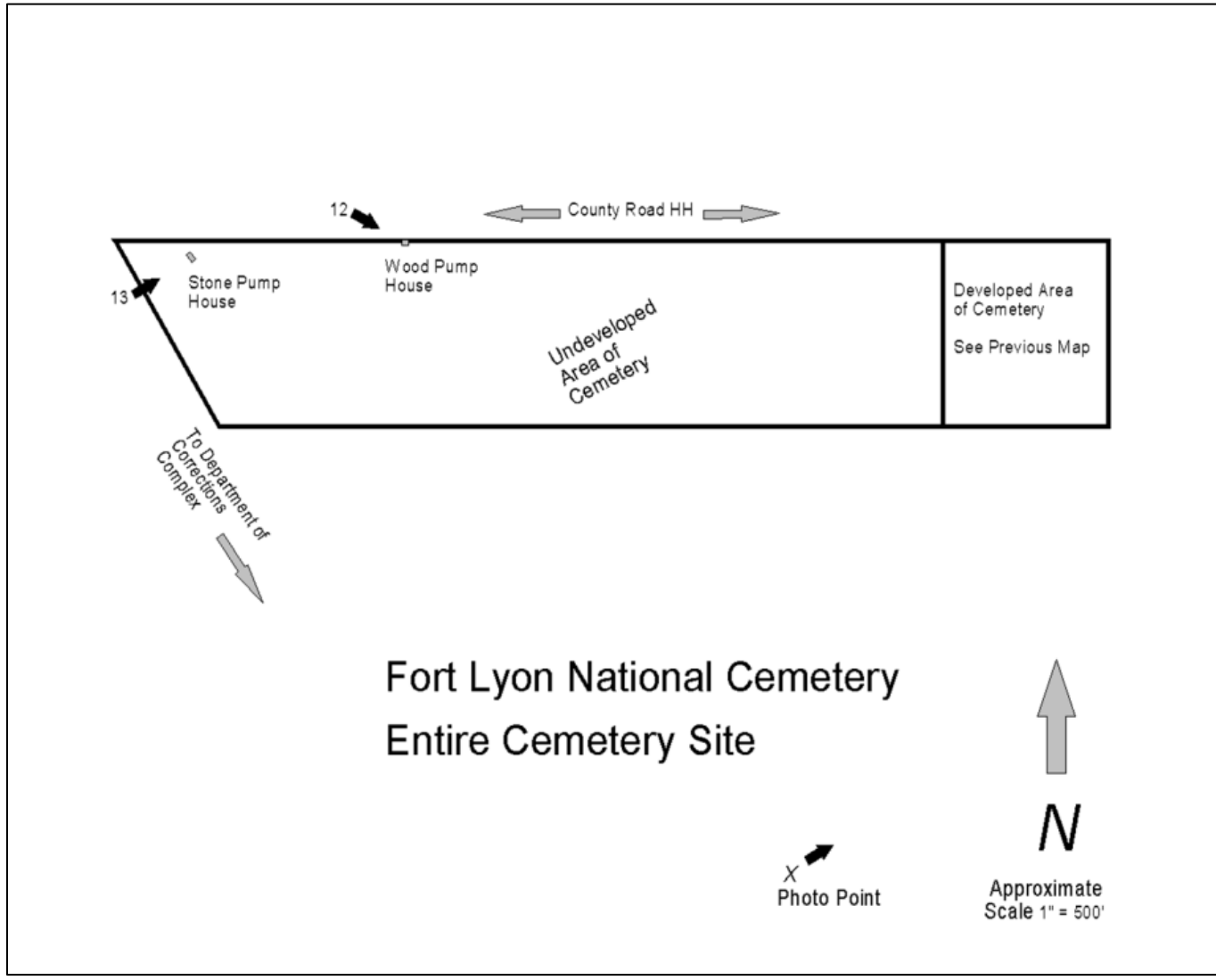
**Sketch map of the developed section of the Fort Lyon National Cemetery**



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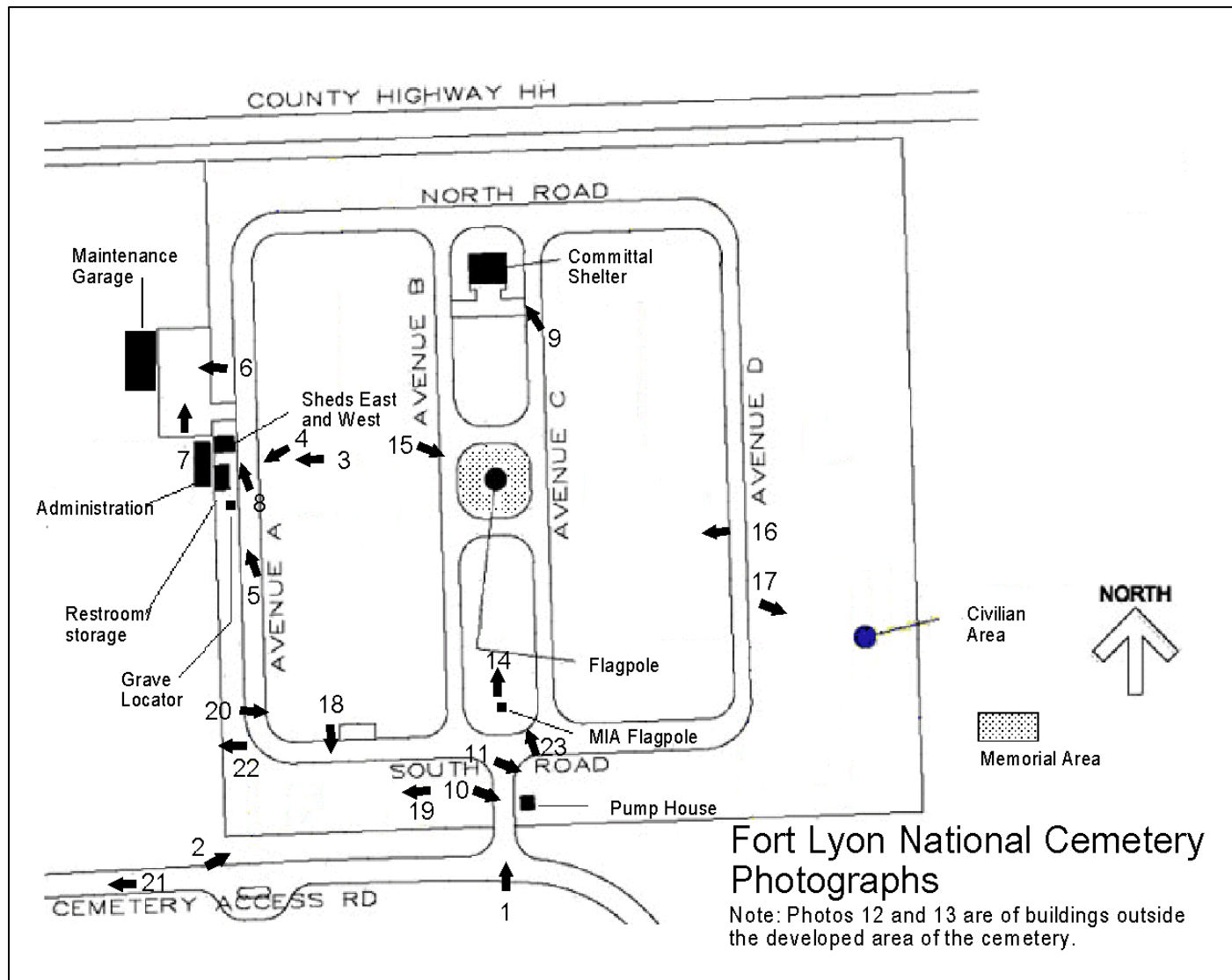
**Sketch map of the undeveloped and developed section of the Fort Lyon National Cemetery with photo key for the undeveloped section**



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### Photo Key for developed section of Fort Lyon National Cemetery



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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Steven F. Mehls, Historian (for owner)  
organization Western Cultural Resource Management date August 30, 2012; revised 2016  
street & number P.O. Box 2326 telephone 303-449-1151  
city or town Boulder State CO zip code 80306  
e-mail [steve.mehls@wcrminc.com](mailto:steve.mehls@wcrminc.com)

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### Current Photographs:

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Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map(s).

Name of Property: Fort Lyon National Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Las Animas  
County: Bent State: Colorado

Photographer: Steve Mehls  
Date Photographed: October 6, 2011, August 22, 2012

### Current Photograph Log

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

001. View to north, Main gate
002. View to east-northeast, Southern fence
003. View to west, Administration Office facade
004. View to southwest, Restroom/storage Building oblique view
005. View to north-northwest, Grave locator and Restroom/storage Building
006. View to west, Maintenance Garage
007. View to north, Maintenance Yard
008. View to northwest, Sheds east and west
009. View to northwest, Committal Shelter
010. View to east-southeast, Pump House
011. View to east-southeast, Well Cover
012. View to southeast, oblique view of wood Pump House in undeveloped area
013. View to northeast, façade and setting of stone Pump House in undeveloped area
014. View to north, Flagpole and area between Avenues B and C
015. View to southeast, Memorial area around flagpole
016. View to west, Typical upright headstones
017. View to east-southeast, Civilian area
018. View to south-southeast, Area with flat markers in southwest corner of the cemetery; Ft. Lyon Correctional Facility (former hospital) in background
019. View to west, Typical flat grave marker
020. Detail, Typical section marker and curb of Avenue A
021. View to west, Tree-lined approach road to the cemetery main gate from the west
022. View to west, Undeveloped area of the cemetery and view of typical chain-link perimeter fence
023. View to north, Gettysburg Address plaque

Photographer: Joseph Turnbach  
Date Photographed: February 13, 2015

024. View to the southeast, new well cover. Note pump house, entrance, and fencing in the background.

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**Historic Image/Figure Log**

All historic images and figures are on file with the National Cemetery Administration, Washington, D.C.

**Figure No. Description**

1	Three Topographical Maps, from 1891, 1922, and 1948, to show the location of Fort Lyon but without a reference to the post cemetery location. The maps from this time period pre-date the reservoir as well. Topographical Map, 1954, showing Fort Lyon Veterans Hospital. The cemetery is north of the hospital complex and just south of Trail Road.
2	Aerial photograph, 2001, that shows the trees planted along the access road that comes into the cemetery from the west. Once the Juniper trees are mature, the plantings will resemble an allée or landscaping feature of designed gardens and pathways. [Note: Cemetery at the top of the image, within highlighted area.]
3	Plan of Cemetery Showing Proposed Extensions, 1939.
4	Addition to Cemetery, including the Tool House – Toilet Building Location, 1943.
5	Existing and Proposed Expansion of Ft. Lyon Hospital Cemetery, 1946.
6	Cemetery Fence, 1927.
7	Above, Grave Site Plan, Fort Lyon, 1970, and below, Ft. Lyon VA Hospital, Plat of Proposed and Existing Cemeteries, 1974.
8	Land Survey Plat, 1986/2001, and Aerial Photographs, 2005 and 2009, to illustrate the site integrity and symmetry of the designed cemetery landscape.
9	Aerial Photograph of Fort Lyon National Cemetery (upper left and center) in 2013.
10	Bivouac of the Dead plaque, Photograph, 2005.
11	Headstone marking the grave of a veteran of the Spanish-American War (far left) and a sample to illustrate several of the emblems of belief permitted on government-issued headstones and markers.
12	View of the civilian burial section showing the two granite headstones.
13	View of headstone for German POW.
14	Maintenance Yard and Gate 2 opening onto Avenue A in 2005.
15	Topographical Map (1979) showing developed section of the cemetery and tool house.
16	Topographical map (1985) showing the location of Fort Lyon National Cemetery (including the private cemetery section) in relation to the John Martin Reservoir and (former) Fort Lyon Veterans Hospital.
17	View looking south through the Committal Shelter to the cemetery entrance, 2004.
18	Detail from a site plan of Fort Lyon in 1969 that includes the present national cemetery. The developed cemetery grounds are marked, as well as a proposed expansion for additional burial sections. West of the proposed area is likely the wood pump house (marked) shown in Photograph 12.



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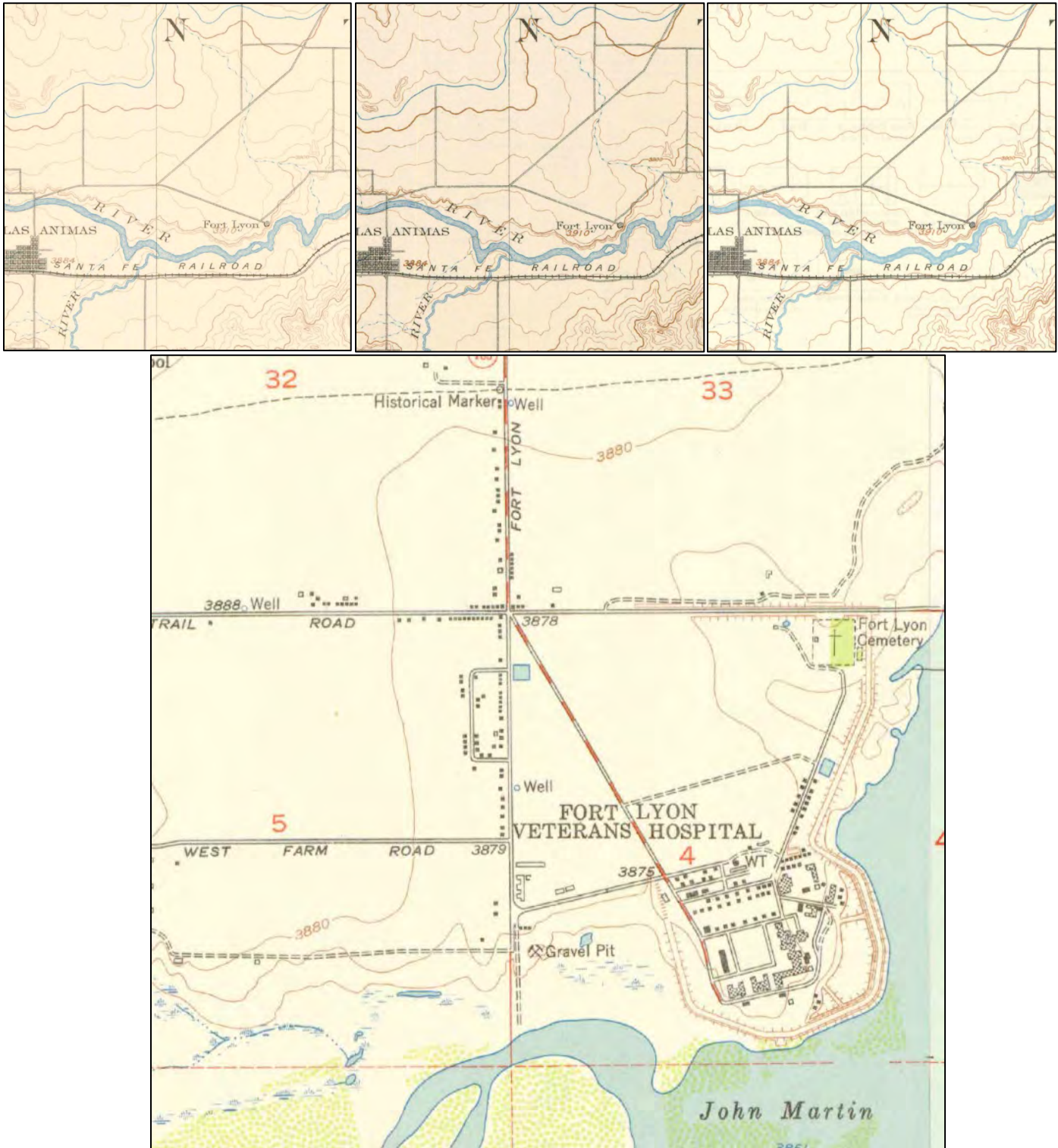


Figure 1. (Top) Three Topographical Maps, from 1891, 1922, and 1948, to show the location of Fort Lyon but without a reference to the post cemetery location. The maps from this time period pre-date the reservoir as well. (Bottom) Topographical Map, 1954, showing Fort Lyon Veterans Hospital. The cemetery is north of the hospital complex and just south of Trail Road.

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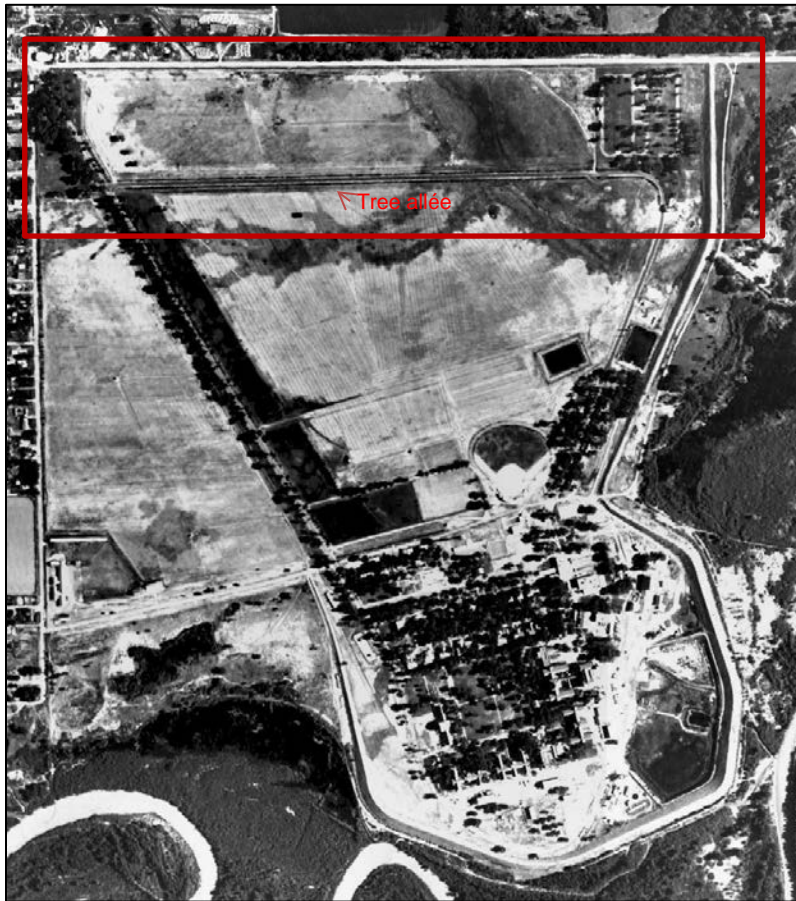


Figure 2. Aerial photograph, 2001, that shows the trees planted along the access road that comes into the cemetery from the west. Once the Juniper trees are mature, the plantings will resemble an allée or landscaping feature of designed gardens and pathways. [Note: Cemetery at the top of the image, within highlighted area.]



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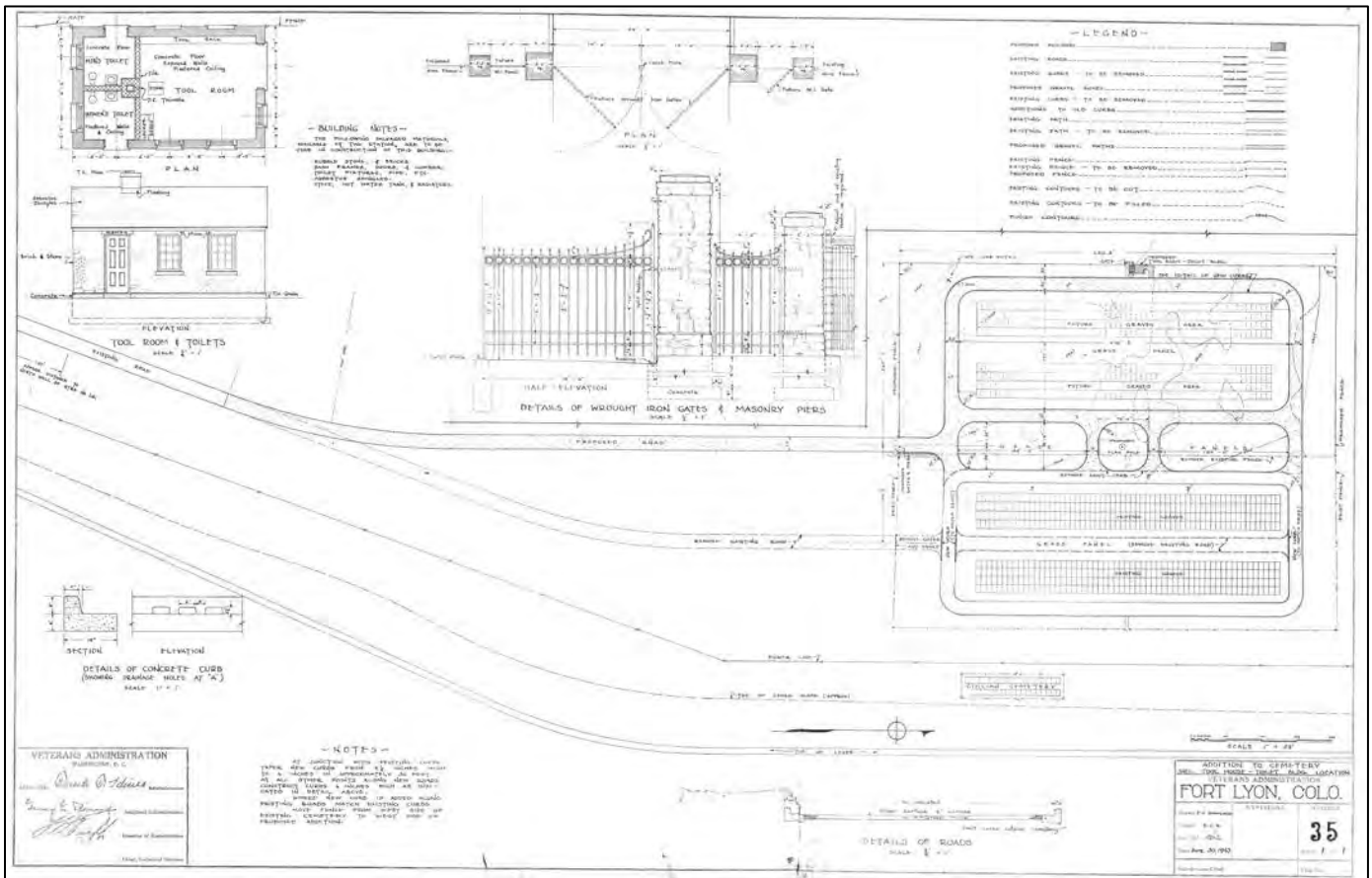


Figure 4. Addition to Cemetery, including the Tool House – Toilet Building Location, 1943.

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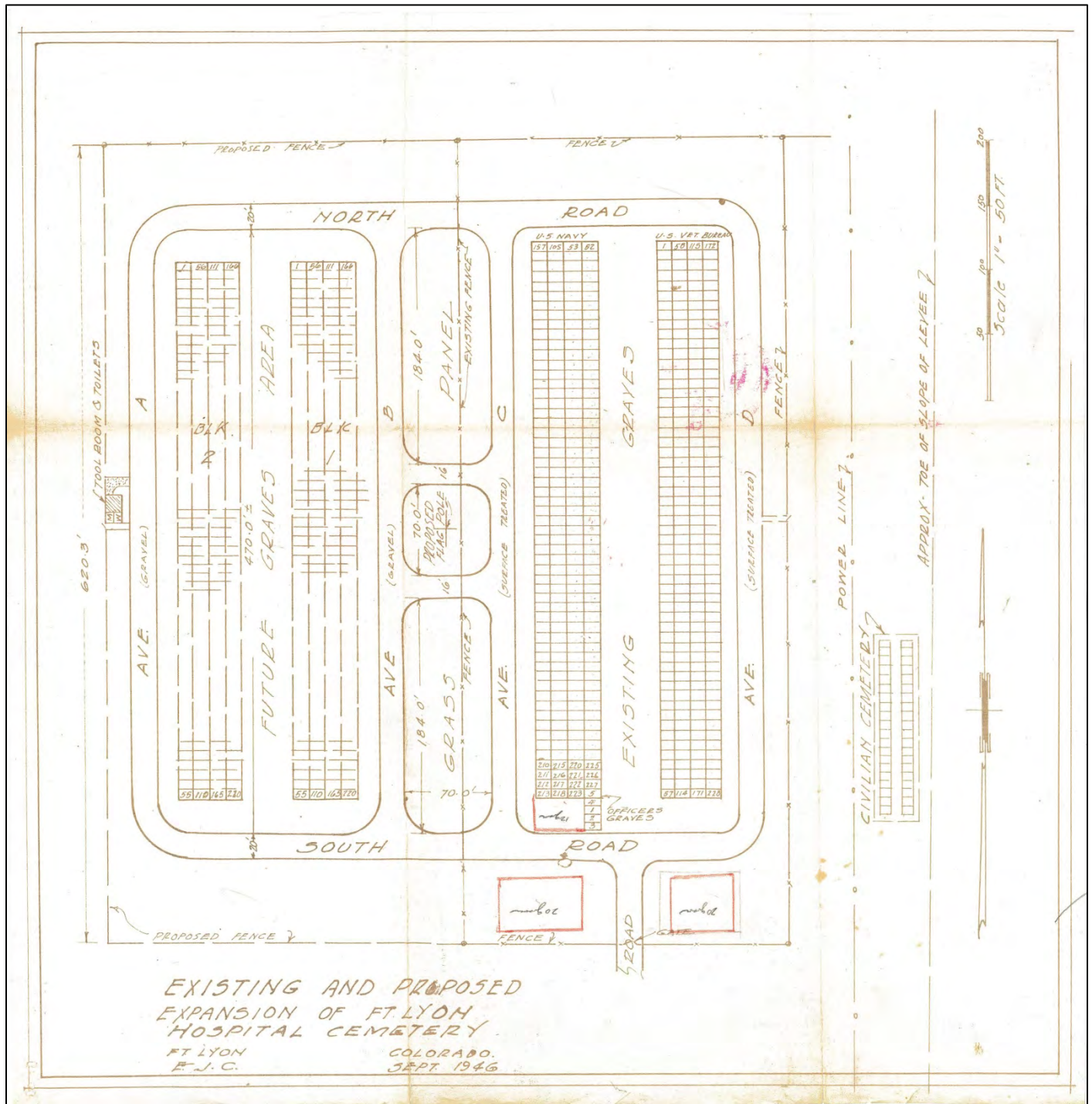


Figure 5. Existing and Proposed Expansion of Ft. Lyon Hospital Cemetery, 1946.

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Bent County, CO  
 County and State

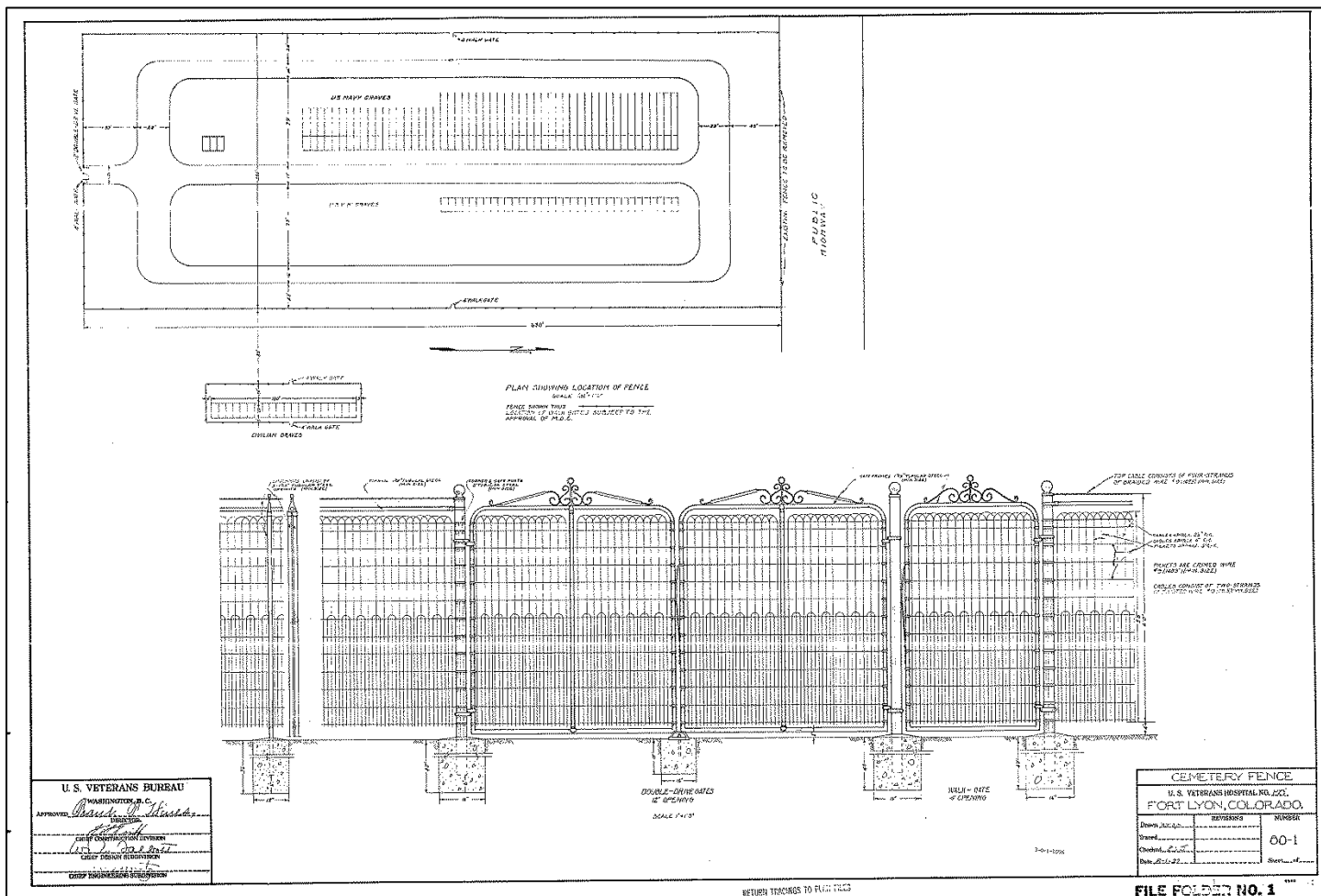


Figure 6. Cemetery Fence, 1927.

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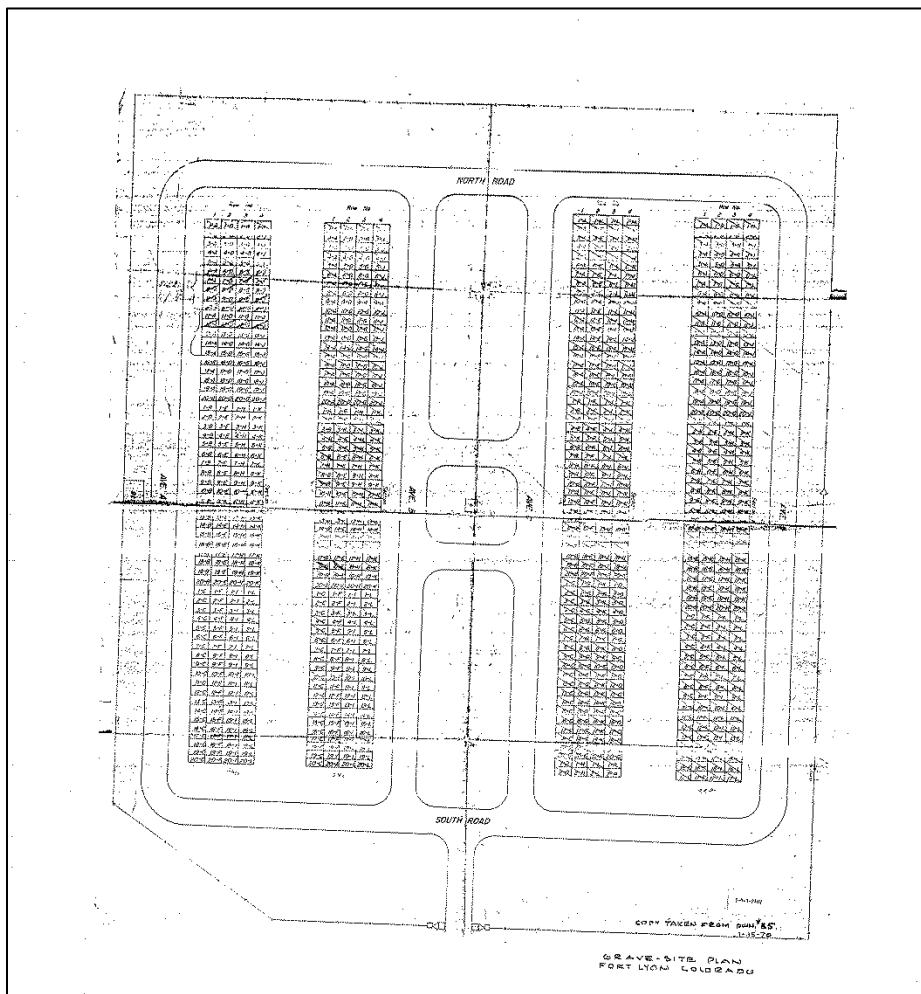
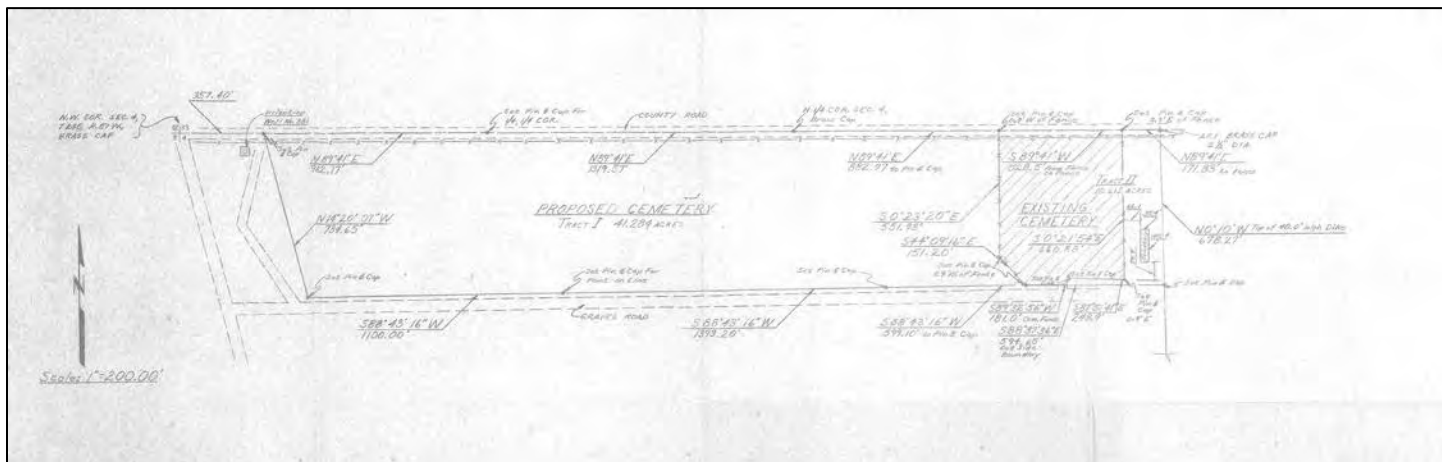


Figure 7. Above, Grave Site Plan, Fort Lyon, 1970, and below, Ft. Lyon VA Hospital, Plat of Proposed and Existing Cemeteries, 1974.



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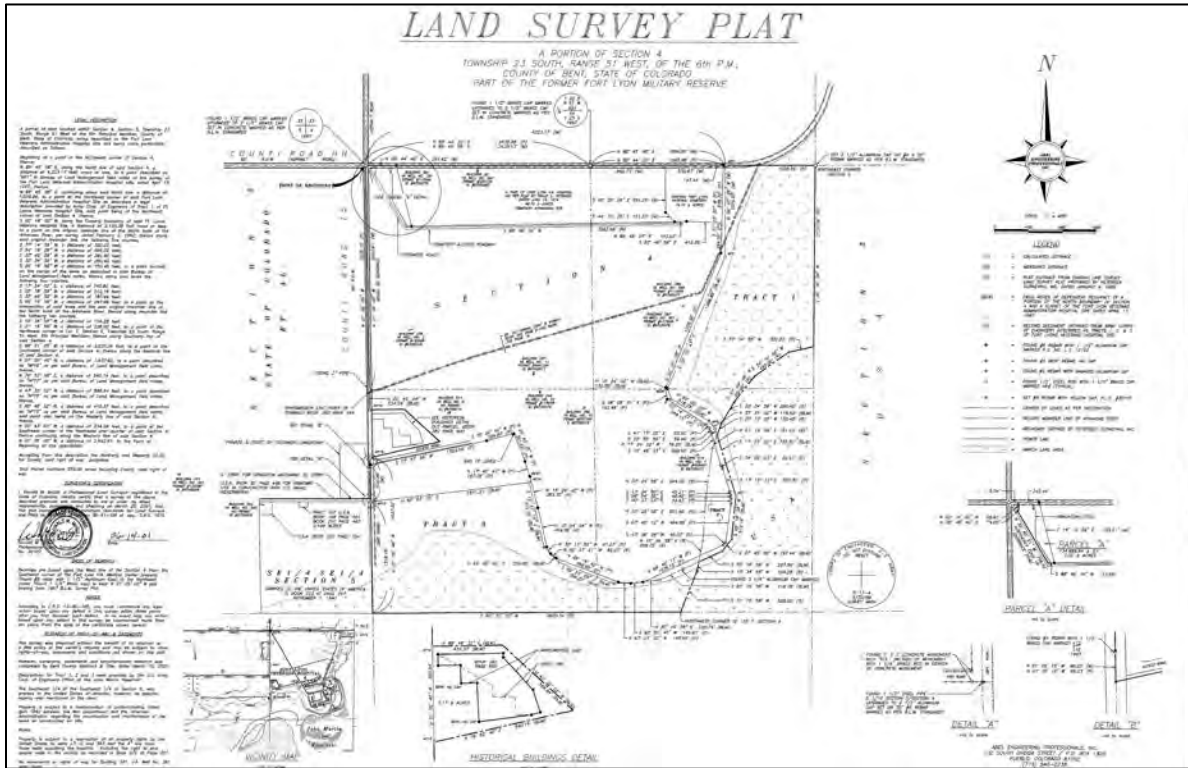


Figure 8. Above, Land Survey Plat, 1986/2001, and below, Aerial Photographs, 2005 and 2009, to illustrate the site integrity and symmetry of the designed cemetery landscape.





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Figure 9. Aerial Photograph of Fort Lyon National Cemetery (upper left and center) in 2013.

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Figure 10. Bivouac of the Dead plaque, Photograph, 2005.



Figure 11. Headstone marking the grave of a veteran of the Spanish-American War (far left) and a sample of three to illustrate several of the emblems of belief permitted on government-issued headstones and markers. Photographs, 2005.

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Figure 12. View of the civilian burial section showing the two granite headstones.



Figure 13. Headstone for German POW buried at Fort Lyon National Cemetery.

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Figure 14. View of Maintenance Yard and Gate 2 opening onto Avenue A in 2005.

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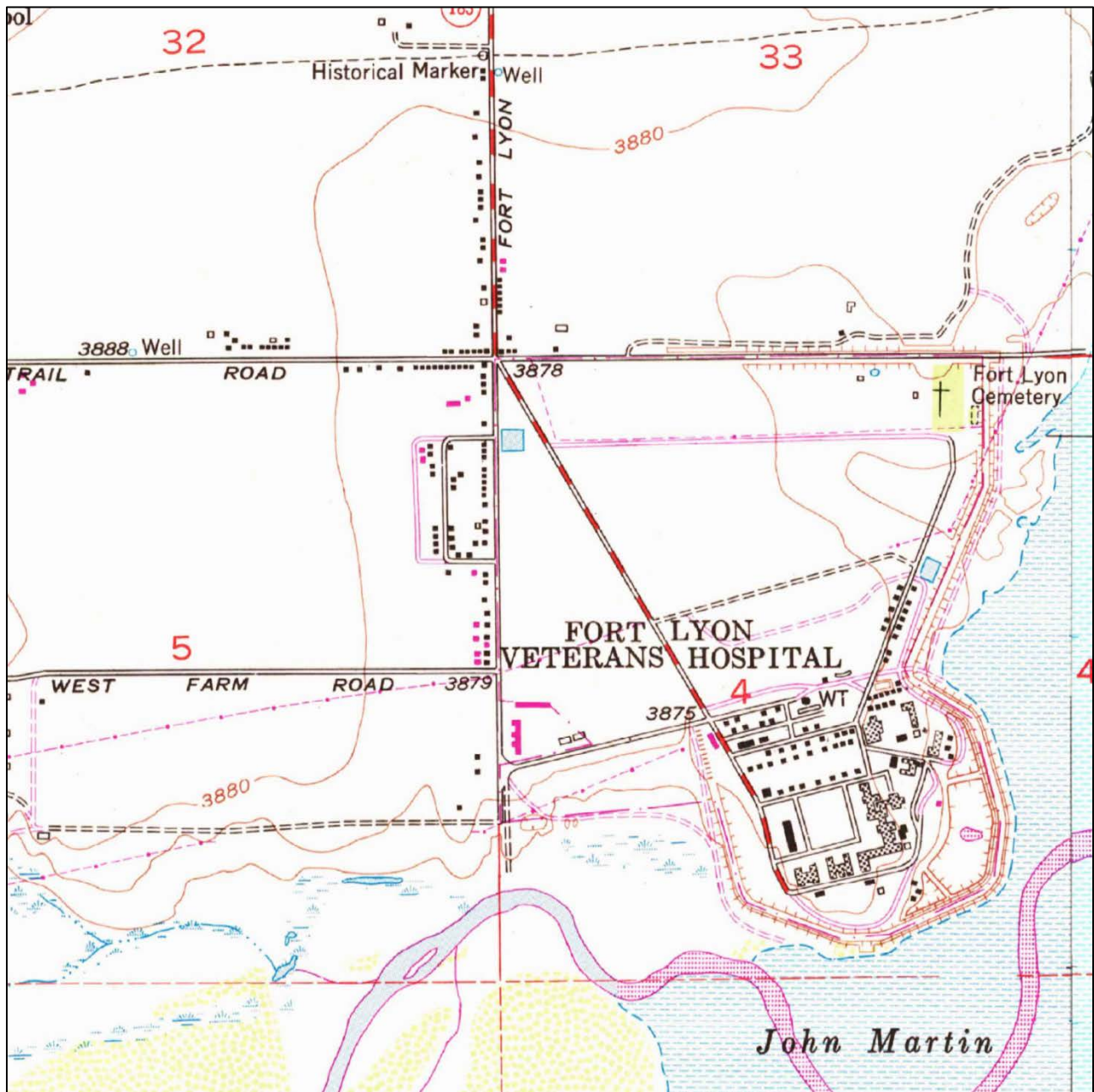


Figure 15. Topographical map (1979) showing the developed section of the cemetery and tool house.

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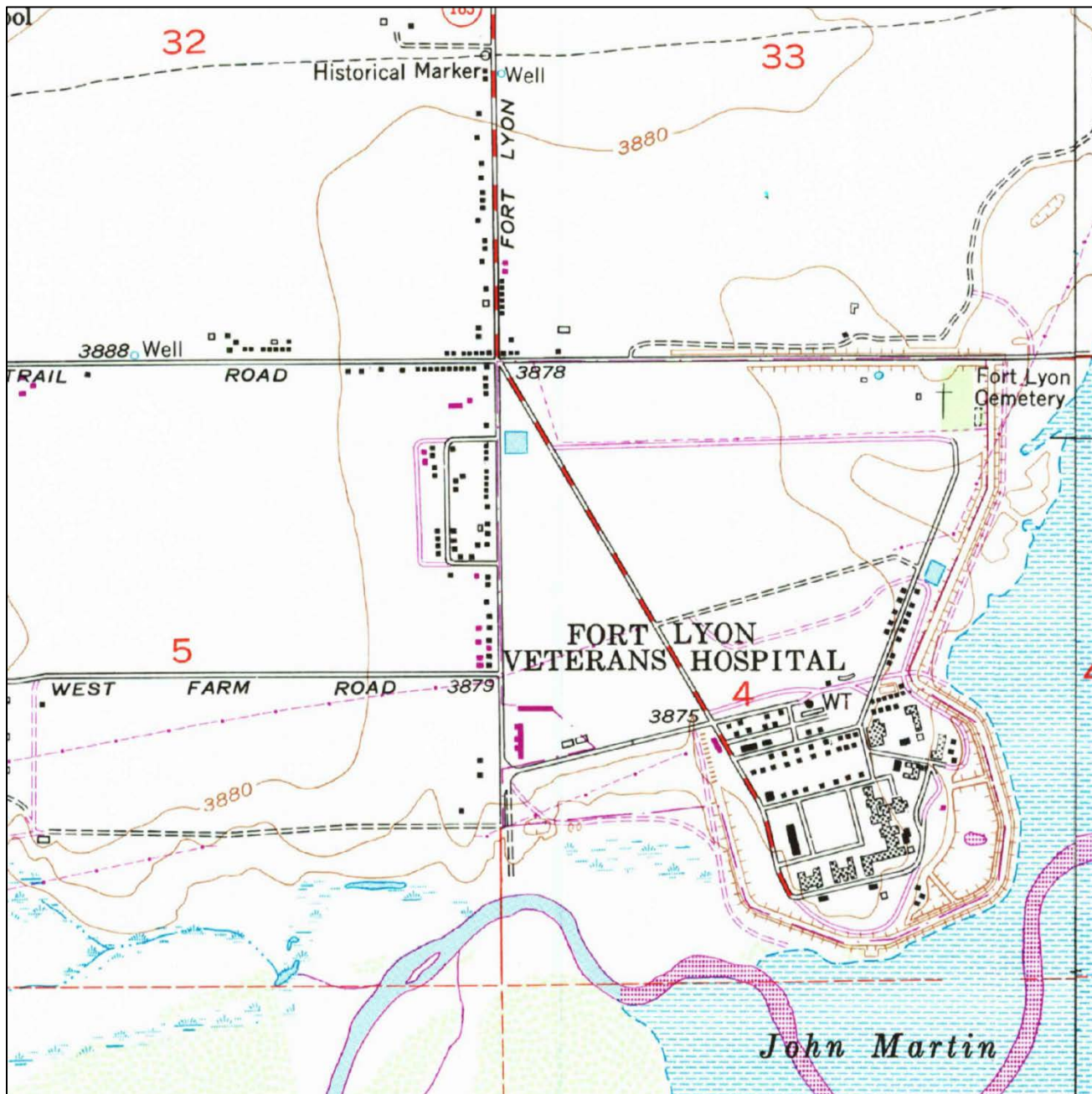


Figure 16. Topographical map (1985) showing the location of Fort Lyon National Cemetery (including the private cemetery section) in relation to the John Martin Reservoir and (former) Fort Lyon Veterans Hospital.

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Figure 17. View looking south through the Committal Shelter to the cemetery entrance, 2004.



Figure 18. Detail from a site plan of Fort Lyon in 1969 that includes the present national cemetery. The developed cemetery grounds are marked, as well as a proposed expansion for additional burial sections. West of the proposed area is likely the wood pump house (marked) shown in Photograph 12.

Fort Lyon National Cemetery  
Name of Property

Bent County, CO  
County and State

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**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

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name: Kathleen Schamel, Federal Preservation Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs  
street & number: 810 Vermont Avenue, NW (003C2) telephone: 202-632-5529  
city or town: Washington state: DC zip code: 20420

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.











DANGER  
PESTICIDE  
STORAGE AREA



DO NOT DRINK







TORO

39498

WORKMAN

480000

















  
MILTON H  
WHITE JR  
SSG  
US ARMY  
KOREA  
VIETNAM  
JUL 24 1926  
AUG 7 1999

  
S. W. QUAINANCE  
CPL COL  
1 US VOL CAV  
SP AM WAR  
SEP 30 1861  
JAN 31 1942

  
ANDREW J  
MORRISON  
TEXAS  
WAGNER  
155 INFANTRY  
MAY 2 1922

  
ALPHA LOUIS  
MCCLURE  
MAY 11  
1904  
MAY 8 1982

  
FRANK  
GORDON  
ROUNDY  
SEP 1905  
SEP 1947  
MAY 2 1974

  
FREDERICK  
DAVIS  
DITZ  
MAY 1908  
MAY 1982

  
ROBERTO  
MORRISON  
MAY 2 1922

  
SOLLY  
MORRISON  
MAY 1922

  
CPL PHILIP  
EOT  
1904  
MAY 1932

  
PAUL  
MORRISON  
MAY 1922











112A

JAMES CLENTON TONIGATI  
PVT US ARMY  
WORLD WAR II  
APR 13 1918 FEB 9 2000

SEC

D





ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT LINCOLN  
AT THE DEDICATION OF  
THE CETTYSBURG NATIONAL CEMETERY  
NOVEMBER 19, 1863.

FOUR SCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO OUR FATHERS BROUGHT FORTH ON THIS CONTINENT, A NEW NATION, CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY, AND DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL.

NOW WE ARE ENGAGED IN A GREAT CIVIL WAR, TESTING WHETHER THAT NATION OR ANY NATION SO CONCEIVED AND SO DEDICATED, CAN LONG ENDURE. WE ARE MET ON A GREAT BATTLE-FIELD OF THAT WAR. WE HAVE COME TO DEDICATE A PORTION OF THAT FIELD, AS A FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR THOSE WHO HERE GAVE THEIR LIVES THAT THAT NATION MIGHT LIVE. IT IS ALTOGETHER FITTING AND PROPER THAT WE SHOULD DO THIS.

BUT IN A LARGER SENSE, WE CAN NOT DEDICATE—WE CAN NOT CONSECRATE—WE CAN NOT HALLOW—THIS GROUND. THE BRAVE MEN, LIVING AND DEAD, WHO STRUGGLED HERE, HAVE CONSECRATED IT, FAR ABOVE OUR POOR POWER TO ADD OR DEDUCT. THE WORLD WILL LITTLE NOTE, NOR LONG REMEMBER WHAT WE SAY HERE, BUT IT CAN NEVER FORGET WHAT THEY DID HERE. IT IS FOR US THE LIVING, RATHER, TO BE DEDICATED HERE TO THE UNFINISHED WORK WHICH THEY WHO FOUGHT HERE HAVE, THUS FAR SO NOBLY ADVANCED. IT IS RATHER FOR US TO BE HERE DEDICATED TO THE GREAT TASK REMAINING BEFORE US—THAT FROM THESE HONORED DEAD WE TAKE INCREASED DEVOTION TO THAT CAUSE FOR WHICH THEY GAVE THE LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION—THAT WE HERE HIGHLY RESOLVE, THAT THESE DEAD SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN—THAT THIS NATION, UNDER GOD, SHALL HAVE A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM—AND THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/2/2016      Date of Pending List: 12/27/2016      Date of 16th Day: 1/11/2017      Date of 45th Day: 1/17/2017      Date of Weekly List: 1/25/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- |                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal       | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL                | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape           | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource     | <input type="checkbox"/> Period             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other        | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
|                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG                 |   |

Accept       Return       Reject      1/17/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:      see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
Office of Construction & Facilities Management  
WASHINGTON DC 20420



November 29, 2016

Paul Loether, Director  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Paul:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is pleased to submit the nomination for Fort Lyon National Cemetery (Colorado). The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Fort Lyon National Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have questions regarding the nomination, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 202-632-5529.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Schamel".

Kathleen Schamel  
Federal Preservation Officer

Encl.