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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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fort Richardson National Cemetery
other names/site number Fort Richardson Post Cemetery; Fort Richardson Military Cemetery

2. Location

street & number Bldg. 58-512, Davis Hwy; not for publication
city or town Fort Richardson vicinity
state Alaska code AK county Anchorage code 020 zip code 99505

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Karen Schumert OPS 12/20/11
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
VA
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith E. Buttner 12-16-2011
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Alaska
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain.) _____

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 3/7/2012

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

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

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Blank lines for architectural classification

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation, walls, roof, other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Fort Richardson National Cemetery is located just north of Davis Highway accessed via Cemetery Road in Fort Richardson, Alaska. The cemetery is surrounded by the Fort Richardson Military Reservation. The 39-acre cemetery lies on a relatively flat plain with manicured grass and is surrounded by a forest. Fort Richardson and Anchorage both lie on a strip of coastal lowland that extends up the lower alpine slopes of the Chugach Mountains to the north of the cemetery. The cemetery has a roughly circular road system. The primary road forks within the cemetery with the branches heading roughly northwest (West Valor Road) and northeast (East Valor Road). The northeast branch continues to the back of the cemetery and terminates at a turn-around; the northwest branch terminates near Section R, the westernmost section as of 2010. Other internal roads run east-west between the two branch roads and north-south between burial sections. A large parking area located on the east side of the northeast branch of the primary road, near the Japanese memorial. At the end of July 2011, 25 of the 39 acres were developed; the additional 14 acres, mostly on the west side of the parcel, are undeveloped. There are a total of 20 designated sections for full-casket and cremain interments, and memorial markers; all government-issued markers here are the upright marble style.

The main cemetery entrance is marked by two rubble stone entrance posts with concrete foundations and caps. The posts are attached to a chain-link fence that surrounds the cemetery. The entrance posts were originally constructed in 1951 to honor Kermit Roosevelt. When constructed the west post was slightly smaller in size and simpler in shape than the east post. It was replaced circa 1984 with the current post that is identical in size and shape to the east post. The west post has two rectangular bronze plaques attached to the face. The upper plaque is reads:

FORT
RICHARDSON
NATIONAL
CEMETERY

The lower plaque reads:

THIS CEMETERY IS DEDICATED
TO THE MEMORY OF ALL THE
PATRIOTIC MEN AND WOMEN

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WHO ANSWERED THEIR
COUNTRY'S CALL TO SERVICE.
THEIR INSPIRING CONTRIBUTION
WILL HELP PRESERVE IN THE
HEARTS AND LIVES OF ALL
AMERICANS THE SPRIT OF
PATRIOTISM, THE LOVE OF
COUNTRY AND THE WILLINGNESS
TO SERVE AND SACRIFICE
FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

RONALD REAGAN
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
HARRY N. WALTERS
ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
PAUL T. BANNAI
CHIEF MEMORIAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
MAY 25, 1984

The eastern post has one granite plaque (top) and one rectangular bronze plaque (bottom). The upper plaque is inscribed:

THIS GATE IS DEDICATED TO MEN
OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE
UNITED STATES
WHO DIED
WHILE SERVING THEIR COUNTRY
IN WAR AND IN PEACE

* * *

IN MEMORY OF
KERMIT ROOSEVELT
BORN 1889 * DIED 1943
WHO FOUGHT IN THE
BRITISH AND AMERICAN ARMIES
DURING WORLD WARS I AND II

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The lower plaque reads:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
THIS NATIONAL CEMETERY HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE
THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF EKLUTNA, INC.
IN YIELDING ITS NATIVE CLAIM AND LEGAL RIGHTS
TO THE LAND. FOR THIS NOBLE AND PATRIOTIC
GESTURE THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
ALONG WITH ALASKA'S VETERANS AND
THEIR FAMILIES ARE MOST GRATEFUL
MAY 28, 1984

From the main entrance, East Valor Drive extends northwest to the administrative/maintenance complex on the north side of the road. This includes a one-story, side-gable administration building with log veneer (58-512). The southwest portion of the building is a two-bay garage, and the northeast portion is offices. Behind the building is a parking area connected to the road system and two front-gabled, wood-frame utility buildings with garage-type doors on the main façade (58-514 and 58-516). These buildings house the maintenance vehicles for the cemetery. All of these buildings were constructed circa 1990. Across East Valor Drive from the administrative complex is the committal shelter (58-518). The square, hip-roof metal building was constructed in the 2000s to provide shelter during interment ceremonies.

The parking area for the cemetery is located farther down East Valor Drive, northeast of the administrative complex. A modern prefabricated vault toilet enclosed by a wooden exterior stands at the southern end of the parking area.

Located northwest of the parking area and on axis with Old Glory Avenue is a large grassy area containing a concrete-paved ceremonial area around the U.S. flagpole and a concrete marker with an over-sized Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) insignia; five concrete bollards on each side separate this area from traffic on East Valor Drive. The POW/MIA flagpole is located just north of here, near Section K. This area is used for Memorial Day and Veterans' Day ceremonies.

Located directly north of the parking area and west of the flagpole is the Japanese burial area. A single flat marker is set into a small earthen mound, which is located about 50 feet from the

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Allied plot and near a grove of birch and spruce trees. The mound contains the ashes of the Japanese war dead. The plot is recorded in the cemetery records as Section Y, Graves 246–250. The marker bears the names of the 18 identified soldiers and “Two hundred and seventeen unknown.”¹

There is also a four-sided wooden monument, approximately 7 feet tall, on the Japanese burial plot. The following is a translation of the characters on the wooden marker:

At this place a memorial service is conducted for the dead. Accordingly, the visitor’s wish is promptly fulfilled when the soul awakes from its sleep to become a Buddha.

At Attu Island 21 years ago these soldiers died in the war, so, thinking of their souls, we hold this memorial service to their departed spirits.

They can go into Buddha’s world with Buddha’s instructions guidance.

July 26, 1964. Japan-Buddha-Cultural Association, sponsored by Comfort Soul Group.²

North of the Japanese area is the Allied burial area, which contains the graves of Soviet and Canadian personnel who died in Alaska during World War II. North of this area are three new sections (K, M, N and P) of graves for American military personnel and family members.

Located between East Valor and West Valor drives are the 12 large burial sections (A–J, L and R) and two memorial sections (MA and MB). The sections are bisected or framed by Honor Lane, Legacy Lane, Freedom Road, Tribute Lane and Old Glory Avenue. Each of the burial sections is typical of a twentieth-century American military cemetery with white marble headstones in uniform rows. Section R is for cremains only.

¹ “Japanese Gravesite: Fort Richardson Cemetery,” no date. On file, Fort Richardson File, NCA History Office, Washington, D.C.

² “Japanese Gravesite: Fort Richardson Cemetery,” no date.

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The numbers shown for contributing resources within the property reflect the following:

Sites: Cemetery

Buildings: Administration building (58-512) (c. 1990s), maintenance buildings (2 - 58-514 and 58-516) (c. 1990s), storage building (58-510) (c.1960), committal shelter (58-518) (c. 2003), vault toilet (58-520)

Structures: Entrance posts w/plaques (1951/1984)

Objects: Japanese monument (2002); U.S. flagpole, POW/MIA flagpole (c. 1990s); Gettysburg Address plaque (c. 2009)

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. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

NATIONAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

MILITARY

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

ETHNIC HERITAGE- ASIAN

Period of Significance

1942-Present

Significant Dates

1942, 1947, 1951, 1953, 1964, 1981, 1984, 2002

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
Other

Name of repository: Brockington and Assoc, Mt. Pleasant, SC

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Richardson National Cemetery is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the development of World War II-era national cemeteries. Created in 1942, Fort Richardson National Cemetery originally served as a post cemetery and a resting place for American, Canadian, Soviet and Japanese troops during World War II. The cemetery is of national significance.

History of Fort Richardson National Cemetery

The U.S. Army in Alaska from 1867 to 1939

Since the U.S. purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867, the U.S. Army has maintained a presence in the territory. After the purchase, Brevet Major General Jefferson C. Davis was named the first commander of the military district of Alaska, and served in Sitka from 1867 to 1870. After the U.S. Army withdrew from Alaska in 1877 because of the high cost of maintaining a garrison, the Army continued to operate weather stations and aided in the development of Alaska's transportation and communication infrastructure. For example, in the 1890s, Brigadier General Adolphus Washington Greely oversaw the construction of the Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System. Later, Brigadier General Wilds P. Richardson headed the War Department's Alaska Road Commission during 1905–1917 and supervised construction of Fort Egbert, near the town of Eagle, and Fort William H. Seward, as well as many of Alaska's highways.³ While the United States maintained several military installations and governmental offices in Alaska, the only national cemetery was located in Sitka, the former capital.

Temporary Interment Facility at Fort Richardson

In the late 1930s, the U.S. Army focused on the construction of bases in territories, including Alaska and Puerto Rico, where no Regular Army forces had been stationed.⁴ On April 29, 1939,

³ United States. *Building Alaska with the U.S. Army: 1867-1958* (Seattle: Headquarters, U.S. Army, Alaska, Office of the Commanding General, 1958), 27; Maurice Matloff. *American Military History* (Washington, D.C.: Office of Chief of Military History, 1969), 295-296.

⁴ Matloff, *American Military History*, 420. For information on Army construction in Alaska, see Lisa Mighetto and Carla Homstad, *Engineering in the Far North: A History of the U.S. Army Engineer District in Alaska*,

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President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8102, which established Fort Richardson and named it in honor of Brigadier General Richardson, who served three tours of duty in the Alaska territory between 1897 and 1917. Unlike most of the World War II-era posts in the United States, Fort Richardson contained many permanent features, including an airbase named Elmendorf Field, a supply depot and ground garrison for the defense of southern Alaska. The base was to serve as the citadel for the defense of the territory from any Japanese invasion. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed the first cantonment area during 1940–1941 on the site of present-day Elmendorf Air Force Base. The construction program was initiated on June 8, 1940, by the Army Construction Quartermaster Corps and was transferred to the Corps of Engineers in January 1941. By December 7, 1941, the Army had approximately 8,000 military personnel stationed at the post.⁵

As with most military posts, one of the service and support needs for the installation was a post cemetery. From the earliest days of the U.S. Army, the Quartermaster Corps was responsible for the construction and maintenance of military posts; this included the establishment of burial grounds. What emerged was a uniform system for burying, marking, and recording graves in the frontier posts. After the Civil War, the U.S. Army began the process of creating large national cemeteries as final resting places for the Union dead; many military installations continued to maintain their post cemeteries.⁶ By General Orders No. 45, Headquarters of the Army, series of 1868, commanding officers of posts were charged with the establishment and maintenance of post cemeteries.⁷

At Fort Richardson, the U.S. Army set aside approximately 39 acres, located just north of the Davis Highway, for a post cemetery. The site was far from the cantonment, but it was located on the major transportation route that connected Anchorage, Fort Richardson, and Palmer, making it easier for the Army to access the cemetery from several locations. Fort Richardson was the only

1867-1992 (Missoula, MT: Historical Research Associates, 1997), and Karl Christian Dod, *The Corps of Engineers; The War against Japan* (Washington, D.C.: Office of Chief of Military History, 1966).

⁵ *Building Alaska with the U.S. Army: 1867-1958*, 27. For a history of Fort Richardson, see Richard W. Fagen and Gladys Kirton, *History of Fort Richardson (Original Post)* (United States: s.n., 1984).

⁶ Ed Steere, "Early Growth of the National Cemetery System," *The Quartermaster Review* 33 (March-April 1953): 2-3.

⁷ United States Department of War. *Report of the Secretary of War, Being Part of the Message and Documents Communicated to the Two Houses of Congress during of the Second Session of the Forty-Second Congress.* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1871), 208.

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permanent military installation in this area to have a cemetery. Initially it was only meant to be a temporary one to hold the remains of any soldier who died in Alaska, regardless of nationality, until next-of-kin was located or the soldier's government asked for the return of the remains. The first burial of a service member occurred on January 10, 1942.⁸

As the Army established the Fort Richardson post cemetery, other events were unfolding in Alaska that would change the landscape of the cemetery. In spring 1942, the Japanese seized the islands of Attu and Kiska in the Aleutians. Because these were U.S. territories, the government attempted to keep the information quiet and began plans to reclaim the islands. In May 1943, the U.S. Army attacked at Attu. Because of several logistical and command problems, the United States suffered high casualties but recaptured the island. Several months later, the Americans captured Kiska.⁹

Because of the nature of the fighting in the Aleutians, the U.S. Army handled not just American casualties but also those of Allied and enemy forces. Thus, the Army established two sections at the post cemetery separate from those for U.S. forces. The American burials occurred in a 2-acre wood-fenced plot that consisted of four sections. The Japanese and Allied burials occurred in two sections, located outside the fenced area to the east.¹⁰

The Allied section contains the remains of Canadian and Soviet pilots. During the Aleutian Island campaign, the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) No. 8 (Bomber Reconnaissance), No. 111 (Fighter), and No. 14 (Fighter) squadrons all operated out of Anchorage and other bases to support the Americans and the over 5,000 Canadians who invaded Attu and Kiska. Twelve

⁸ The Society, *The Cemetery Book: An Indexes Compilation of People Interred in Cemeteries Located in the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska* (Anchorage: The Society, 1987), 160.

⁹ Matloff, *American Military History*, 502; Geoffrey Perret, *There Is a War to Be Won: The United States Army in World War II* (New York: Random House, 1991), 269-273.

¹⁰ FORT RICHARDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY. Undated history. On file, Fort Richardson File, National Cemetery Administration (NCA) History Office, Washington, D.C.

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RCAF airmen were buried at Fort Richardson's cemetery.¹¹ Eleven of the Canadians are in the Allied section, and one is in Section A.¹²

In addition to the Canadians, 14 Russians are interred at Fort Richardson. As part of the Lend-Lease program, several hundred Soviet pilots and 17 interpreters were stationed at Ladd Field in Fairbanks. American pilots, many of them women, would ferry American-built B-25s, A-20s, C-47s, P-38s, and other aircraft from American factories in the lower 48 states to Fairbanks. From Fairbanks, Soviet pilots would fly the planes to Nome to refuel, and then into Siberia and finally Moscow. The route was safer for the Allies than moving equipment across the Atlantic.¹³ During the missions, several Soviet personnel died, and they were buried at the post cemetery at Fort Richardson. The Soviets are buried in the Allied section.

After the Aleutian Island campaign, the Army buried the remains of a large number of Japanese soldiers at Fort Richardson. These men were buried outside the fence in the Japanese section. Development of that section is discussed later.

The main section of the cemetery is the final resting place of American soldiers, airmen and sailors. Among the notable burials is that Major Kermit Roosevelt, Headquarters, Alaskan Defense Command, who died on June 4, 1943, and was interred in the Fort Richardson cemetery on June 8, 1943, in Grave 22, Section A. Kermit was the son of Theodore Roosevelt and served in both the U.S. and British armies during World War I and II.

On August 22, 1917, Kermit was appointed an honorary captain in the British Army and saw action in the Near East before transferring to the U.S. Army. In the British Army, he served in present-day Iraq; he mastered spoken as well as written Arabic and served as a translator with the

¹¹ The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, *The War Dead of the British Commonwealth and Empire: The Register of the names of those who fell in the 1939-1945 War and are buried in the Cemeteries of the United States of America* (Maidenhead England: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 1980), iv-v, 5.

¹² Fort Richardson Post Cemetery-History. On file, Fort Richardson File, NCA History Office, Washington, D.C.

¹³ John Enders, "Reunion: When Russians Flew U.S. Warplanes," undated article. On file, Fort Richardson National Cemetery, Fort Richardson, Alaska. For a history of the Lend-Lease program with Russia, see Albert L. Weeks, *Russia's Life-Saver: Lend-Lease Aid to the U.S.S.R. in World War II* (Lexington Books, 2004).

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locals. Because of his courage, Kermit was awarded a Military Cross on August 26, 1918.¹⁴ After the war, he was active in several businesses. As war erupted once again in Europe in 1939, Roosevelt received a commission as a second lieutenant in the Middlesex Regiment.¹⁵ He served in Finland and Norway before returning to England and being discharged from the army on health grounds on May 2, 1941.¹⁶

Roosevelt soon returned to the United States, and through the assistance of his family, he received a commission as a major in the U.S. Army and transferred to Alaska as an intelligence officer. However, his drinking and depression soon took a toll, and he committed suicide, through official reports at the time listed the cause of death as a heart attack.

Formalization of the Fort Richardson Post Cemetery

After World War II, the U.S. military established a permanent presence in Alaska. From 1940 to 1950, the U.S. government expanded Fort Richardson to 62,450 acres. In 1950, the Department of Defense split Fort Richardson into Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Richardson. Elmendorf contained the original cantonment for the World War II-era base, and Fort Richardson was all new construction. When the new cantonment was completed in 1955, the new post was the largest Army base in Alaska and became home to elements of the 2nd Infantry Division and several anti-aircraft defense batteries. The 71st Infantry Division had been stationed at Fort Richardson, but was rotated to Fort Leis and deactivated.¹⁷

While the U.S. Army was expanding the fort, it was also planning to remove the burials at the post cemetery and send them south to the states. However, in 1947, Belle Roosevelt, widow of Kermit Roosevelt, wrote General Dwight Eisenhower, then Army Chief of Staff, and stated that

¹⁴ *London Gazette*: (Supplement) no. 30304, p. 9925; *London Gazette*: (Supplement) no. 30865, p. 9966; *London Gazette*: (Supplement) no. 30656, p. 5128.

¹⁵ *London Gazette*: (Supplement) no. 34709, pp. 6938–6939.

¹⁶ *London Gazette*: no. 35153, p. 2576.

¹⁷ Headquarters, United States Army, Alaska, *Building Alaska with the U.S. Army, 1867-1965* (Seattle, WA: Headquarters, United States Army, Alaska, 1965), 89-90; Fort Richardson Post Cemetery-History. On file, Fort Richardson File, NCA History Office, Washington, D.C.

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she wanted her husband to remain at Fort Richardson. Eisenhower ordered the remains to stay in place and made the temporary cemetery a permanent army post cemetery.¹⁸

The program for the repatriation of World War II dead was set up by Public Law 383, 79th Congress, and Public Law 368, 80th Congress. Congress had decided that next-of-kin would decide if they wanted their relatives to remain interred in a permanent military cemetery overseas, in a private cemetery overseas, in a national cemetery in the United States, or in a private cemetery in the United States. In the Alaskan Theatre, final interment of remains was done at either Fort Richardson Post Cemetery or Sitka National Cemetery. The remains of 27 American dead arrived at Fort Richardson and were interred on August 22, 1948.¹⁹

On July 30, 1949, Mrs. Roosevelt again wrote General George C. Marshall, asking for permission to erect a memorial to Kermit at the fort. Marshall envisioned a gateway and stone fence that would later be expanded by the Army and encircle the entire cemetery. Marshall asked the Quartermaster General, who was responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of post cemeteries, for his opinion. In 1951, Mrs. Roosevelt funded the construction of the two entrance posts in honor of her husband, and a dedicatory granite tablet was installed on one.²⁰

In 1953, a British Army physician who died in a plane crash in Alaska was interred at the cemetery. This was the last burial of a foreign national at the cemetery.²¹

Japanese Reburial at Fort Richardson, 1953

In summer 1953, the Japanese government requested that the Japanese dead at Fort Richardson Post Cemetery be disinterred so that they could be cremated in Shinto and Buddhist ceremonies. Shigeru Inada, third secretary of the Japanese Embassy in Washington, supervised the cremation

¹⁸ Fort Richardson Post Cemetery-History. On file, Fort Richardson File, NCA History Office, Washington, D.C.

¹⁹ U.S. Army, Repatriation Program, Alaska World War II Dead, 1 May 1948–5 Sept. 1948, 1. On file, Fort Richardson National Cemetery, Fort Richardson, Alaska.

²⁰ Fort Richardson Post Cemetery-History. On file, Fort Richardson File, NCA History Office, Washington, D.C.

²¹ Earl Swift, "Cemetery Promoted." *The Anchorage Times*, May 28, 1984, A-5.

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ritual. After the cremation, the U.S. Army reinterred the remains on July 13, 1953. The Japanese had 18 identified and 217 unidentified soldiers buried in the cemetery.²²

In July 1964, a group of 18 Japanese citizens visited the Fort Richardson cemetery. Included in the group were three religious leaders, the Reverends Hoin Yamada, Ken Adachi, and Cyoin Hashimoto. Hashimoto, chairman of the Japanese Buddhist Cultural Association, presided over a special ceremony at the gravesite, with prayers, singing, and meditation. One of the pilgrims who attended was Kuneo Sato, one of the 27 survivors of the battle for Attu Island. Holy water, wreaths and flowers from Japan were placed on the American graves, and the group placed a tall, four-sided wooden monument on the Japanese burial plot. In May 1981, a group of Japanese civilians in Anchorage had a new monument made in Japan and sent to Alaska, to replace the then-dilapidated original.²³ The monument was replaced again in 2002 and will continue to be replaced in the future according to Japanese custom.

Establishment of Fort Richardson National Cemetery

During the 1960s and 1970s, the Fort Richardson Post Cemetery remained active and received dead from the Vietnam War.

In 1972, the Alaska state legislature passed House Joint Resolution No. 124, asking the Federal government to designate the Fort Richardson post cemetery as a national cemetery.²⁴ The City of Anchorage and the Greater Anchorage Area both supported the resolution. At the time, Sitka National Cemetery was the only national cemetery in the state, and it was not conveniently located for the majority of Alaskan veterans. Local political leaders argued that approximately 70 percent of the state's veterans lived in the Greater Anchorage area.

At first the commanding general of the U.S. Army Alaska (USARAL) did not support the bill, because the Veterans Administration (which became the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1989) was in the process of taking over the national cemetery system from the Army; post cemeteries, along with Arlington National Cemetery and Soldier' Home National Cemetery were

²² Japanese Burial Ground, Fort Richardson. On file, Fort Richardson File, NCA History Office, Washington, D.C.

²³ Japanese Burial Ground, Fort Richardson.

²⁴ Letter from U.S. Senator Ted Stevens to Secretary of the Army Robert F. Froehlke, June 6, 1972. On file, Fort Richardson File, NCA History Office, Washington, D.C.

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to remain under Army control. However, after the transfer occurred in 1973, USARAL requested that the Fort Richardson Post Cemetery be redesignated a national cemetery.

In March 1975, U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) sent a message to Fort Richardson garrison directing preparation of a Report of Excess for the post cemetery and 200 contiguous acres. The FORSCOM request was a result of proposed legislation by Senator Ted Stevens, Senate Bill 614 (1975), which would direct the VA to establish a national cemetery at Fort Richardson. No further action was taken until April 1980, when the Department of the Army recommended reducing the contiguous area from 200 acres to 20 acres.²⁵

The next year, the creation of the national cemetery faced another obstacle. According to Section 1425(b)(2) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), PL96-487, when these lands were reported excess, they were to be conveyed to the Eklutna Native Corporation. The Corps of Engineers recommended that the VA initiate legislation to amend PL96-487 to allow a direct transfer of land from the Army to the VA. In 1982 and 1983, the Army went through negotiations with the native tribes and the environmental process to excess the land to the VA, and the Eklutna agreed to the transfer. Finally, Public Land Order No. 6534 transferred 39.01 acres of land from the Department of the Army to the VA for its 109th national cemetery.²⁶ While it transferred the land, the U.S. Army agreed to support the VA by providing administrative space; opening and closing of gravesites; setting of headstones; cutting grass and trimming around headstones; general maintenance of burial areas, removal of flowers, etc.; and snow removal.²⁷

On May 28, 1984, the VA took control of what was designated Fort Richardson National Cemetery, and 172nd Infantry Brigade Commander Brigadier General Gerald Bethke handed over the cemetery to Bill Crosby, the cemetery's first director.²⁸ At the time of the transfer, all but 700 of the 2,000 gravesites had been used or reserved.

²⁵ Fact Sheet "Proposed National Cemetery at Fort Richardson, Alaska," August 8, 1983. On file, Fort Richardson File, NCA History Office, Washington, D.C.

²⁶ Memorandum from W.D. Fote, Acting Director, Office of Construction, to Chief Memorial Affairs Director, May 23, 1984. On file, Fort Richardson File, NCA History Office, Washington, D.C.

²⁷ Letter from Paul Bannai, Chief of Memorial Affairs Director, to Col. H A Froehle, September 16, 1983. On file, Fort Richardson File, NCA History Office, Washington, D.C.

²⁸ Swift, "Cemetery Promoted," A-5.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Since the transfer, unused land has been built out to accommodate additional burials and several new administrative/service buildings have been constructed at the cemetery to support operations. Long range plans anticipate the expansion of burial sections within the cemetery on undeveloped land to the west.

Among the more recent burials at the Cemetery is that of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Staff Sergeant James Leroy Bondsteel, U.S. Army, Company A, 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. S/Sgt. Bondsteel distinguished himself while serving as a platoon sergeant, near the village of Lang Sau, An Loc Province, Republic of Vietnam, on May 24, 1969. Company A was directed to assist a friendly unit which was endangered by intense fire from a North Vietnamese Battalion located in a heavily fortified base camp. S/Sgt. Bondsteel quickly organized the men of his platoon into effective combat teams and spearheaded the attack by destroying four enemy occupied bunkers. He then raced some 200 meters under heavy enemy fire to reach an adjoining platoon which had begun to falter. After rallying this unit and assisting their wounded, S/Sgt. Bondsteel returned to his own sector with critically needed munitions. Without pausing he moved to the forefront and destroyed four enemy occupied bunkers and a machine gun which had threatened his advancing platoon. Although painfully wounded by an enemy grenade, S/Sgt. Bondsteel refused medical attention and continued his assault by neutralizing two more enemy bunkers nearby. He continued to rally his men and led them through the entrenched enemy until his company was relieved. His exemplary leadership and great personal courage throughout the four-hour battle ensured the success of his own and nearby units, and resulted in the saving of numerous lives of his fellow soldiers. He died April 9, 1987, and is buried Section H, Grave 19.

Summary

Over 5,000 military men and women, and their eligible spouses and dependents are buried in Fort Richardson National Cemetery, as of July 2011. 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. Set against the serene backdrop of evergreen trees and mountains, Fort Richardson National Cemetery reflects the U.S. military presence in Alaska during World War II and the lives of those willing to serve and protect their country in times of war and peace. The cemetery is maintained and preserved as a final resting place and memorial to U.S. military personnel

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National Park Service

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London Gazette: (Supplement)

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National Park Service

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Section number 9 Page 16

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10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 39.01 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>6</u>	<u>357361.94</u>	<u>6796507.06</u>	3	<u>6</u>	<u>357557.89</u>	<u>6796493.50</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>6</u>	<u>357319.60</u>	<u>6796251.08</u>	4	<u>6</u>	<u>357556.70</u>	<u>6796255.36</u>

 See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edward Salo, Senior Historian / Jennifer M. Perunko, Historian

organization Brockington and Associates, Inc. / DVA - NCA date 6-2009 / 8-2011

street & number 498 Wando Park Blvd., Suite 700 / telephone 843.881.312 /
810 Vermont Ave, NW (41C4) 202.632.5441

City or town Mt. Pleasant / Washington state SC / DC zip code 29464/20420

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's locationA **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

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

name Kathleen Schamel, Federal Preservation Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs

street & number 810 Vermont Avenue, NW (00CFM1) telephone 202.632.5529

city or town Washington state DC zip code 20420

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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 17

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA: VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries are indicated on the accompanying base map.

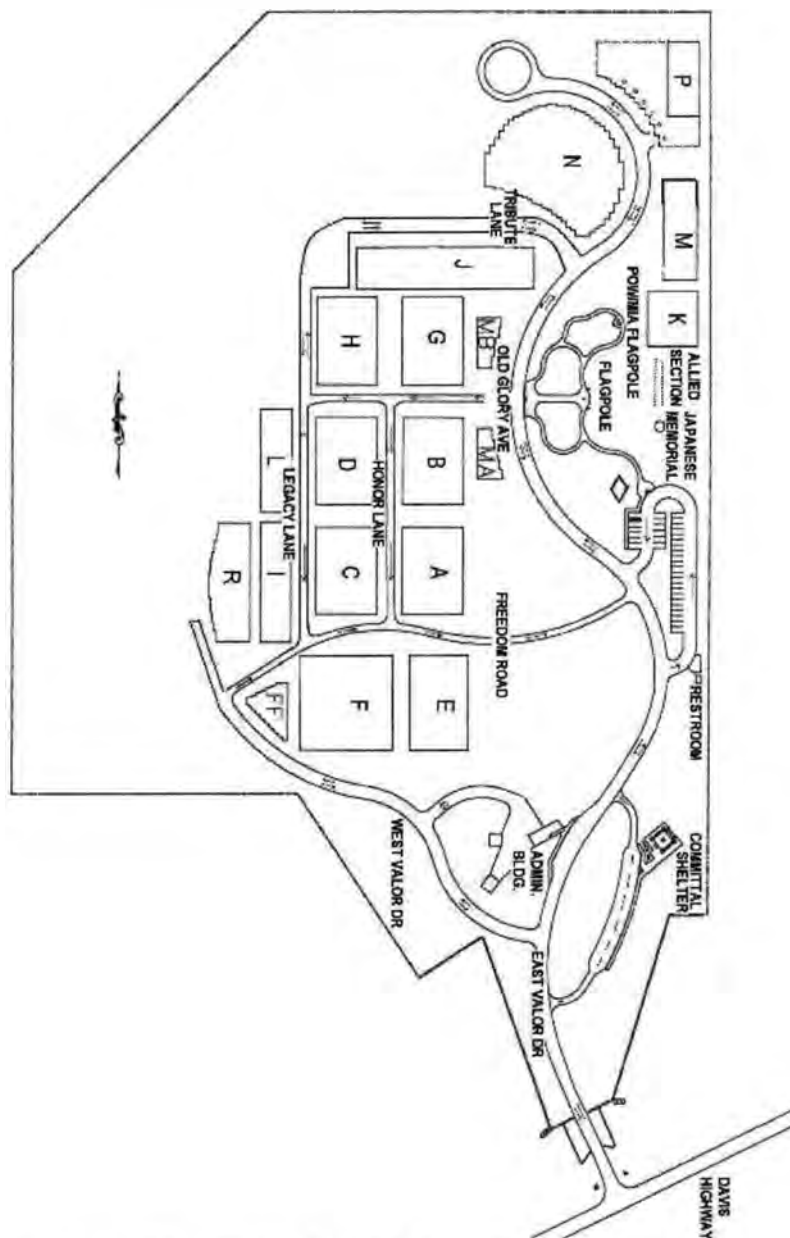
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA: BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Cemetery Administration recognizes the above as the existing boundaries of the cemetery.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 18



Site plan of Fort Richardson National Cemetery

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 19

FORT RICHARDSON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Anchorage, Alaska

Edward Salo, Photographer

Date of Photographs: April 8, 2009

VIEW OF: Japanese monument, view looking north
PHOTO 1 of 21

VIEW OF: Japanese monument, view looking west
PHOTO 2 of 21

VIEW OF: View of graves in the Allied area near the Japanese monument, view looking north
PHOTO 3 of 21

VIEW OF: Storage building, view looking northwest
PHOTO 4 of 21

VIEW OF: Graves in Section K, view looking north
PHOTO 5 of 21

VIEW OF: View from the northwest corner of the cemetery, view looking southeast
PHOTO 6 of 21

VIEW OF: Flagpole and VA marker, view looking east
PHOTO 7 of 21

VIEW OF: View of graves in Section I, view looking southwest
PHOTO 8 of 21

VIEW OF: Kermit Roosevelt grave, view looking west
PHOTO 9 of 21

VIEW OF: Main cemetery section, view looking northwest
PHOTO 10 of 21

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 20

VIEW OF: Main cemetery section, view looking west
PHOTO 11 of 21

VIEW OF: Graves in Section C, view looking north
PHOTO 12 of 21

VIEW OF: Graves in Section A, view looking northwest
PHOTO 13 of 21

VIEW OF: Committal shelter, view looking east
PHOTO 14 of 21

VIEW OF: Administration building, view looking south
PHOTO 15 of 21

VIEW OF: Rear of entrance gate, view looking south
PHOTO 16 of 21

VIEW OF: Roosevelt memorial on gate, view looking north
PHOTO 17 of 21

VIEW OF: Entrance gate, view looking north
PHOTO 18 of 21

VIEW OF: Overview of cemetery, view looking northwest
PHOTO 19 of 21

VIEW OF: Main flagpole, view looking east
PHOTO 20 of 21

VIEW OF: Vault toilet building, view looking south
PHOTO 21 of 21

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 1 & 2 Page 21

Section 1

Other names/site number ANC-00013

Section 2

“Vicinity” should not be checked.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section _____ Page _____

=====

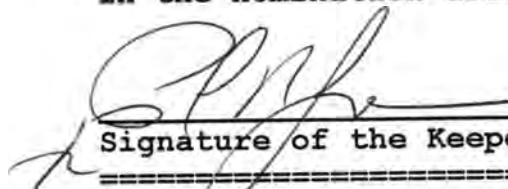
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 12000056 Date Listed: 3/7/2012

Fort Richardson National Cemetery Anchorage AK
Property Name County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

3/7/12

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Description:

The Materials block is amended to add: *Marble, Wood, and Stone under Other Materials.*

Significance:

Criteria Considerations D and G should be checked.

[The Fort Richardson cemetery meets the criteria for listing as a property of exceptional importance for its association with the development of a national system of military/veterans cemeteries. The nomination takes into consideration the ongoing role and exceptional importance of national cemeteries as public places of commemoration and honor. The National Register has determined that the "present" is the end date most consistent with the Congressional intent of the federal laws establishing the national cemeteries and with the National Register policies for evaluating properties of continuing exceptional importance.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the VA FPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Fort Richardson National Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ALASKA, Anchorage

DATE RECEIVED: 1/20/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/21/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/07/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/07/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000056

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: Y
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

 ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Fort Richardson National Cemetery meets the criteria for listing in the National Register under Criterion A in the areas of Military History, Politics/Government, and Ethnic Heritage-Asian. First established in 1942 to serve as post cemetery for the Army's nearby Fort Richardson, the cemetery is a property of exceptional importance for its association with the development of the national system of military/veterans cemeteries. The nomination takes into consideration the ongoing role and exceptional importance of national cemeteries as public places of commemoration and honor. The National Register has determined that the "present" is the end date most consistent with the Congressional intent of the federal laws establishing the national cemeteries and with the National Register policies for evaluating properties of continuing exceptional importance. The Fort Richardson National Cemetery is also noteworthy for its interment of Japanese war casualties from the World War II battles in the Aleutians.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criterion A

REVIEWER Paul Lusigwan

DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 3/7/12

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 1 of 21

RITZ, R0607, 02/19/10

7341, Fort_Richardson_Photo_1_0043



Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 2 of 21

Ritz, R0607, 02/19/10

3741, Fort_Richardson_Photo_2_0030



Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 3 of 21

Ritz, R0607, 02/19/10

3041, Fort Richardson, photo 3, 0047



Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 4 of 21

Ritz, R0607, 02/19/10

3341, Fort_Richardson_Photo_4_0029



Fort Richardson National Cemetery

Anchorage, AK

Photo 5 of 21

Ritz, RO607, 02/19/10

3341, Fort_Richardson_Photo_5_0046



Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 6 of 21

Ritz, R0607, 02/19/10

3341, Fort_Richardson_Photo_6_0045



Fort Richardson National Cemetery

Anchorage, AK

Photo 7 of 21

Ritz, R0607, 02/19/10

3341, Fort_Richardson_Photo_7_0029



Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 8 of 21

Ritz, R0607, 02/19/10

7241, Fort_Richardson_Photo_8_0027



KERMIT
ROOSEVELT

NEW YORK

MAR 20 1872
OCTOBER 10 1934
WYOMING ROAD 31
MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY
SOUTH OGDEN

Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 9 of 21

Ritz, R0607, 02/19/10

3341, Fort_Richardson_Photo_9_0031



Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 10 of 21

Ritz, R0607, 02/19/10

3341, Fort_Richardson_Photo_10_0040



Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 17 of 21

Ritz, R0607, 02/19/10

3341, Fort_Richardson_Photo_11_0039



Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 12 of 21

Ritz, R0607, 02/19/10

3341: Fort_Richardson_Photo_12_0038



Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 13 of 21

RITE: R0607, 02/19/10

3341, Fort_Richardson_Photo_13.0041



Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 14 of 21

Ritz, R0607, 02/19/10

3341, FortRichardsonPhoto14_0032



Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 15 of 21

Ritz, R0607, 02/19/10

7341, Fort_Richardson_Photo_15_0026



Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 16 of 21

Ritz, R0607, 02/19/10

3341, FortRichardson_photo_16_0025

THIS GATE IS DEDICATED TO MEN
OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE
UNITED STATES
WHO DIED
WHILE SERVING THEIR COUNTRY
IN WAR AND IN PEACE

★ ★ ★

IN MEMORY OF
KERMIT ROOSEVELT
BORN 1889 + DIED 1943
WHO FOUGHT IN THE
BRITISH AND AMERICAN ARMIES
DURING WORLD WARS I AND II

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
THIS NATIONAL CEMETERY HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE
THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF EKLUTHA, INC.
IN RESOLVING ITS NATIVE CLAIM AND LEGAL RIGHTS

Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 17 of 21

Ritz: R0607, 02/19/10

2341: Fort_Richardson_Photo_17_0034



Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 18 of 21

Ritz: R0607, 02/19/10

3341, Fort_Richardson_photo_18_0033



Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 19 of 21

Ritz, R0607, 02/19/10

0041, Fort-Richardson-Photo, 19_0032



Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 20 of 21

02/19/18, R0607,

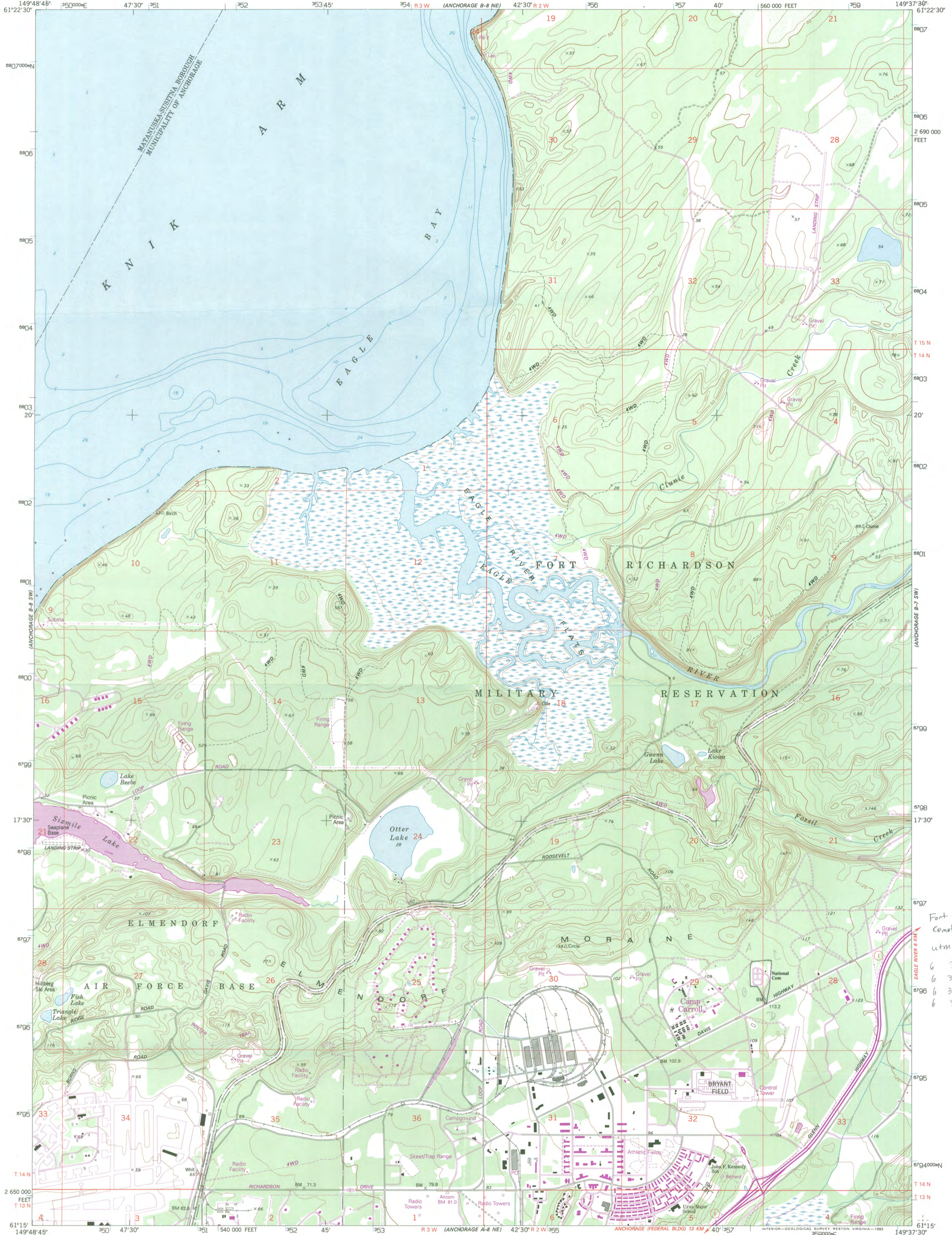
341, Fort_Richardson_Fort_Richardson_Fo



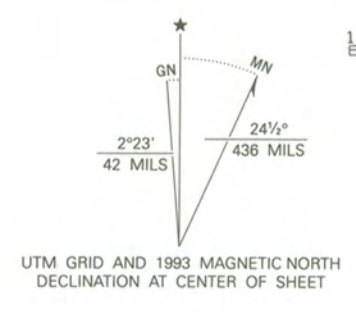
Fort Richardson National Cemetery
Anchorage, AK
Photo 21 of 21

21tz, R0607, 02/19/10

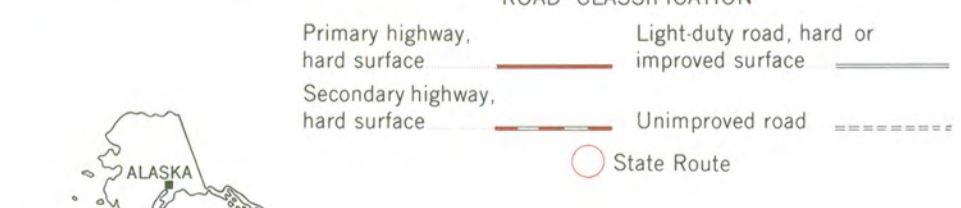
3341, FortRichardson_Photo_21.0042



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Compiled from aerial photographs taken 1972. Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1988 and other sources and has been field checked. Map edited 1993. Conflicts may exist between some updated features and previously mapped contours
1927 North American Datum (NAD 27). Projection and blue 1000-meter ticks: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 6 10000-foot ticks: Alaska Coordinate System, zone 4
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map
Swamps, as portrayed, indicate only wetter areas, usually of low relief, as interpreted from aerial photographs



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DATUM IS MEAN LOWER LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 7.9 METERS
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST METER
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.28084
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048



ANCHORAGE (B-8) SE, ALASKA
SE/4 ANCHORAGE (B-8) 1:63 360-SCALE QUADRANGLE
61149-C6-TM-025

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701; DENVER, COLORADO 80225; OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1979
REVISED 1993

Fort Richardson National Cemetery
utm:
6 357361.94 6796507.06
6 357319.00 6796251.08
6 357557.89 6796493.50
6 357556.70 6796255.36

STATE OF ALASKA

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION OFFICE OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

550 WEST 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 1310
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3565

PHONE: (907) 269-8721
FAX: (907) 269-8908

November 22, 2011

Re: 3330-1-2 Sitka National Cemetery
3330-1-2 Fort Richardson National Cemetery

Kathleen Schamel, Federal Preservation Officer
Office of Construction and Facilities Management (OOCFM1)
Department of Veterans Affairs
425 I Street, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Ms. Schamel:

I reviewed the National Register of Historic Places documentation for the two national cemeteries in Alaska, at Sitka and Fort Richardson, and discussed it with members of my staff. I concur both cemeteries qualify for listing in the National Register under criterion A, for properties associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. I have addressed each separately below.

Sitka National Cemetery.

Criterion:	A (associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history)
Criteria considerations:	none
Areas of significance:	military, politics/government
Period of significance:	1867-present
Significant dates:	*see discussion below
Level of significance:	national
Number of resources:	contributing: 1 building, 1 site, 2 structures, 7 objects non-contributing: 0
Historic function:	funerary/cemetery
Current function:	funerary/cemetery

Site number: Please add in section 1, under other names/site number, AHRS SIT-00023. In section 2, the cemetery is within the boundaries of the City and Borough of Sitka and vicinity should not be checked.

Significant dates: The reviewers disagreed with the significant dates identified in the nomination. They recommend 1867 (the year the first burial occurred in the cemetery), 1868 (the year the Army created the cemetery), 1890 (the President's executive order affecting the

cemetery), 1924 (the year it was designated a national cemetery), and 1973 (Cemetery Act that created the present boundaries). These differ from those identified, and the reviewers could not determine why 1870, 1927 are identified.

Site plan: The reviewers could not find section 1 in the new cemetery area on the site plan. They asked what MA and CIV are, and recommended a key be added to the site plan. They thought it also would be helpful to add a table that relates the contributing resources to the site plan.

Historical information:

On page 8.5: The Army left Sitka in 1877, but the Navy did not arrive until 1880. During the intervening years the Collector of Customs was the U.S. Government's defacto administrator of Alaska. Also, Sheldon Jackson school was called the Sitka Industrial Training School, not Sheldon Jackson initially, and I would take out "of New York" because the mission society was headquartered in Philadelphia.

On page 8.8.: The fort was Gibbon not Gibson. And on page 8.14: Baranof Island is spelled with only one "f".

Reviewers noted a gap in the chronology. They asked if the cemetery was taken care of by the Army troops, stationed at Sitka again in 1939 until the end of World War II.

Fort Richardson National Cemetery:

Criterion:	A (associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history)
Criteria considerations:	none
Areas of significance:	military, politics/government, ethnic heritage: Asian
Period of significance:	*see discussion below
Significant dates:	*see discussion below
Level of significance:	national
Number of resources:	contributing: 6 buildings, 1 site, 1 structure, 3 objects non-contributing: 0
Historic function:	funerary/cemetery
Current function:	funerary/cemetery

Site number: Please add in section 1, under other names/site number ANC-00013.

Address: on the cover page, section 2, the cemetery address is different from that stated in the first sentence of the narrative on page 7.1. Also the cemetery is within Fort Richardson and vicinity should not be checked in section 2.

Kathleen Schamel
November 22, 2011
Page 3

Period of significance: The summary in section 8 says the period of significance starts ca. 1946. The narrative makes the case for starting the period of significance in 1942 and the reviewers recommend that be the starting date.

Significant dates: As with the Sitka cemetery nomination, staff had questions about the dates identified. They recommend 1942 (the year the first burial occurred in the cemetery), 1947 (temporary cemetery made permanent by presidential order), 1951 (entrance posts constructed), 1953 (Japanese reburial), 1964 (Japanese ceremony and monument placed), and 1984 (designated a national cemetery). The reviewers did not think 1981 and 2002 should be identified as significant dates.

Historical information:

On page 8.6: It is Wilds P. (for Preston) Richardson not B.

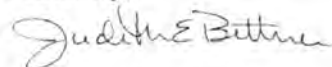
On page 8.8: After the Battle of Attu it was several months not several weeks later that the Allies reoccupied Kiska.

Bibliography: The list cites *Building Alaska with the U.S. Army* twice, and differently. These correctly should be the first and second editions.

I have signed the nominations, but ask that you make the corrections recommended above or include a copy of this letter with each nomination when submitted to the Keeper of the National Register. If you make corrections, please provide revised copies of the pages to me for our nomination files. I am keeping the cds with photographs, assuming you have the files to make the copies for submission to the National Register. Guidance to correctly label the cd and number the photographs is at www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/photopolicy/index.htm.

Thank you for pursuing formal listing of the cemeteries in the National Register of Historic Places. If you wish to discuss these comments, please contact Joan (Jo) Antonson. Her direct telephone number is 907.269.8714 and e-mail is jo.antonson@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,



Judith E. Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures: 2 nomination packages

Perunko, Jennifer

From: Perunko, Jennifer
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2011 3:53 PM
To: 'Antonson, Joan (DNR)'
Subject: Sitka and Fort Richardson National Register nominations
Attachments: Fort Richardson cover revised - Dec 2011.doc; Fort Richardson continuation revised -Dec 2011.doc; Sitka cover revised - December 2011.doc; Sitka continuation revised - December 2011.doc

Dear Jo,

I have spent the day addressing the issues brought up in Ms. Bittner's letter of November 22, 2011. Below in red are our responses. I have also attached corrected nominations for Sitka and Ft. Richardson national cemeteries. Please note that there has been a minor change to section 7 of the Fort Richardson nomination; it was recently learned that the western entrance post is not the original (1951) one but was constructed circa 1984 presumably to accommodate the name and dedication plaques; see pages 7.1. Please feel free to contact me either by phone or email if you have any questions or objections regarding the changes and corrections; or if I inadvertently missed something.

Regarding sending the signed cover pages, over night is not necessary; whatever you do when you submit to the NPS National Register program is probably fine. As long as it comes via some service other than the US Postal Service, it should not be irradiated.

Sitka National Cemetery.

Criterion:	A (associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history)
Criteria considerations:	none
Areas of significance:	military, politics/government
Period of significance:	1867-present
Significant dates:	*see discussion below
Level of significance:	national
Number of resources:	contributing: 1 building, 1 site, 2 structures, 7 objects non-contributing: 0
Historic function:	funerary/cemetery
Current function:	funerary/cemetery

Site number: Please add in section 1, under other names/site number, AHRS SIT-00023. In section 2, the cemetery is within the boundaries of the City and Borough of Sitka and vicinity should not be checked.

The site number was added and the vicinity box was unchecked.

Significant dates: The reviewers disagreed with the significant dates identified in the nomination. They recommend 1867 (the year the first burial occurred in the cemetery), 1868 (the year the Army created the cemetery), 1890 (the President's executive order affecting the cemetery), 1924 (the year it was designated a national cemetery), and 1973 (Cemetery Act that created the present boundaries). These differ from those identified, and the reviewers could not determine why 1870, 1927 are identified.

The year 1927 was a typo and has been changed to 1924 to reflect the year the cemetery was designated a national cemetery. The year 1870 was also a typo and should have been 1890. Please note I added 1925 (the year an EO reaffirmed the national cemetery status but reduced the size of the cemetery) and 1983 (the year additional property of transferred to bring the cemetery to its current size). Regarding 1868, that was not the year the Army created the cemetery but rather the year that a General Order was issued providing guidance regarding post cemeteries. For all intents and purposes the Army created the cemetery with the first burial in December 1867.

Site plan: The reviewers could not find section 1 in the new cemetery area on the site plan. They asked what MA and CIV are, and recommended a key be added to the site plan. They thought it also would be helpful to add a table that relates the contributing resources to the site plan.

A key has been added: MA = Memorial area; CIV = Civilian area; there is no "section 1" – the lettered sections in old part of cemetery are collectively considered section 1. Pages 7.1 and 7.2 have been corrected to reflect this.

Historical information:

On page 8.5: The Army left Sitka in 1877, but the Navy did not arrive until 1880. During the intervening years the Collector of Customs was the U.S. Government's defacto administrator of Alaska. Also, Sheldon Jackson school was called the Sitka Industrial Training School, not Sheldon Jackson initially, and I would take out "of New York" because the mission society was headquartered in Philadelphia.

The dates of the army and navy occupations were updated accordingly.

Regarding the school, according to the NHL nomination for the Sheldon Jackson School, it was called the Sheldon Jackson Institute in 1881 and then the Sitka Industrial Training School in 1885 so I do not see where what we had (the Sheldon Jackson Institute) was incorrect. See <http://www.nps.gov/nhl/designations/samples/ak/SJackson.pdf> However, I have edited the sentence to add the other name. Additionally, the source for this paragraph lists the organization as the Presbyterian Home Mission Society of New York. However after some additional research, I have changed this to the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions. I have also expanded this paragraph to more accurately represent the road controversy. Please let me know if these changes are acceptable to you.

On page 8.8.: The fort was Gibbon not Gibson. And on page 8.14: Baranof Island is spelled with only one "f".

Both of the typos were corrected. The fort has apparently been listed as Gibson for 30+ years in our records – I am glad to correct it.

Reviewers noted a gap in the chronology. They asked if the cemetery was taken care of by the Army troops, stationed at Sitka again in 1939 until the end of World War II.

I do not see a gap. Page 8.10 indicates that the cemetery's care was assigned to an enlisted man in the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

Fort Richardson National Cemetery:

Criterion: A (associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history)

Criteria considerations:	none
Areas of significance:	military, politics/government, ethnic heritage: Asian
Period of significance:	*see discussion below
Significant dates:	*see discussion below
Level of significance:	national
Number of resources:	contributing: 6 buildings, 1 site, 1 structure, 3 objects non-contributing: 0
Historic function:	funerary/cemetery
Current function:	funerary/cemetery

Site number: Please add in section 1, under other names/site number ANC-00013.

The site number was added.

Address: on the cover page, section 2, the cemetery address is different from that stated in the first sentence of the narrative on page 7.1. Also the cemetery is within Fort Richardson and vicinity should not be checked in section 2.

The vicinity box was unchecked. The first sentence of the narrative on page 7.1 was changed to reflect that the cemetery is north of Davis Highway accessed via Cemetery Road.

Period of significance: The summary in section 8 says the period of significance starts ca. 1946. The narrative makes the case for starting the period of significance in 1942 and the reviewers recommend that be the starting date.

This should have been changed some time ago; it has been corrected to 1942.

Significant dates: As with the Sitka cemetery nomination, staff had questions about the dates identified. They recommend 1942 (the year the first burial occurred in the cemetery), 1947 (temporary cemetery made permanent by presidential order), 1951 (entrance posts constructed), 1953 (Japanese reburial), 1964 (Japanese ceremony and monument placed), and 1984 (designated a national cemetery). The reviewers did not think 1981 and 2002 should be identified as significant dates.

The years 1981 and 2002 are the years the Japanese totem was replaced. We believe these are significant dates in the national cemetery's history.

Historical information:

On page 8.6: It is Wilds P. (for Preston) Richardson not B.

Corrected.

On page 8.8: After the Battle of Attu it was several months not several weeks later that the Allies reoccupied Kiska.

Corrected.

bibliography: The list cites *Building Alaska with the U.S. Army* twice, and differently. These correctly should be the first and second editions.

It is not listed twice but rather these are two separate volumes. I can find nothing that indicates they are first and second editions; and as there is a third one published in between these two in 1962, I do not think they could be first and second editions. I left the citations as written by our contractor.

Jennifer M. Perunko, Historian
National Cemetery Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs

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



January 12, 2012

Mr. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye St. NW
Washington DC. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed nominations for Sitka National Cemetery (Alaska), Fort Richardson National Cemetery (Alaska) and Fort McPherson National Cemetery (Nebraska). All three nominations were sent to the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO) in September 2011. Additionally the nominations were sent to the chief elected local officials of the county (or equivalent government unit) and municipal political jurisdiction in which the property is located, as well as Certified Local Governments for comment.

The Alaska SHPO signed both nominations but requested that a number of changes be made to the nominations. The majority of the changes were made. Included is a copy of the Alaska SHPO's letter along with a memo detailing what changes were made and those that were deemed not appropriate.

An employee of the Nebraska SHPO sent an email on October 20, 2011, stating that the nomination for the Fort McPherson National Cemetery would likely be presented at the January 2012 meeting of the state review board. As the 45 days review period permitted by has long passed, we are submitting the nomination without the Nebraska SHPO's signature.

We received no comments from other interested parties.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the nominations, please contact Jennifer Perunko, Historian, National Cemetery Administration at 202/632-5441 or jennifer.perunko@va.gov.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Schamel
Federal Preservation Officer

Enclosures