

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

Type of Memorial (check all applicable)

☐ Monument ☐ *with* Sculpture ☐ without Sculpture ☐ with Cannon ☐ standalone Cannon
☒ Historical Marker ☐ Plaque ☐ Other (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

Note: try to record items separately. Cannons near monuments should be recorded & photographed separately, etc. Thank you.

Affiliation

☐ GAR ☐ MOLLUS ☐ SUVCW ☐ WRC ☐ ASUVCW
☐ LGAR ☐ DUVCW ☐ Other

If known, record name and number of post, camp, corps, auxiliary, tent, circle or appropriate information of other groups:

unknown

Original Dedication Date unknown

Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

Natchez National Cemetery, on left fork of entrance road to the left of the

The Memorial is *currently* located at: flagpole

Street/Road address or site location _____

41 Cemetery Rd

GPS Coordinates N 31.58058 W 91.39556

City/Village &/or Township Natchez

County Adams

State Mississippi

Zip Code 39120

The front of the Memorial faces: ☐ North ☐ South ☐ East ☒ West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Dept./Div. National Cemetery Administration

Street Address 41 Cemetery Rd

City Natchez

State MS

Zip Code 39120

Contact Person _____ Telephone (601) 445-4981 ext _____

Is Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places ☐ Yes ☒ No ID # if known 99001387

However, the Natchez National Cemetery is on the NRHP.

For Monuments with/without sculpture:

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = ☐ Stone ☐ Concrete ☐ Metal ☐ Other

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

Material of the Sculpture ☐ Stone ☐ Concrete ☐ Metal ☐ Other Is it hollow or solid? _____

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

For Historic Marker or Plaque: Laminate and steel

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = _____

For Cannons with/without monument:

Material of Cannon = _____ Bronze _____ Iron _____ Type of Cannon (if known) _____ Rifled _____ Yes _____ No

Markings: Muzzle _____ Base Ring/Breech _____

Left Trunion _____ Right Trunion _____

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? _____ Yes _____ No

[For camp/department monuments officer's use: Cannon on list of known ordnance] _____ Yes _____ No

For Other Memorials: (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

What best describes the memorial

Materials of the Memorial

Complete for All Memorials

Approximate Dimensions (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points

18" Height 36" Width 2" Depth or _____ Diameter

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue (service, pose, etc) and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

Markings/Inscriptions (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found

Please attach legible photographs of all text &/or Record the text in the space below. Please use the addendum – narrative sheet if necessary.

A NATIONAL CEMETERY SYSTEM

{top, first third}

Civil War Dead

An estimated 700,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died in / the Civil War between April 1861 and April 1865. As the death / toll rose, the U.S. government struggled with the urgent but / unplanned need to bury fallen Union troops. This propelled the / creation of a national cemetery system.

On September 11, 1861, the War Department directed / command officers to keep "accurate and permanent records / of deceased soldiers." It also required the U.S. Army / Quartermaster General, the office responsible for administering / to the needs of troops int he life and in death, to mark each / grave with a headboard. A few months later, the department / mandated interment of the dead in graves marked with / numbered headboards, recorded in a register.

{photo with caption} Soldiers' graves near General Hospital, City Point, Va., 1863. Library of Congress.

Environmental Setting

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

Type of Location

☒ Cemetery ☐ Park ☐ Plaza/Courtyard ☐ "Town Square" ☐ Post Office
☐ School ☐ Municipal Building ☐ State Capitol ☐ Courthouse ☐ College Campus
☐ Traffic Circle ☐ Library Other: _____

General Vicinity

☒ Rural (low population, open land) ☐ Suburban (residential, near city) ☐ Town ☐ Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

☐ Industrial ☐ Commercial ☒ Street/Roadside within 20 feet ☐ Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
☐ Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors) ☐ Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)

Any other significant environmental factor _____

[To detail the condition of a monument used the addendum form for *Monument's Condition*]

Submission of this form requires at least one type of identification so that you may be contacted regarding the information on this form. This information will most likely be in the public domain. Your name is required; please include one (or more) pieces of contact information.

1. If a member of an Allied Order, the name of your camp, auxiliary, tent, circle or corps; along with your department;
2. Physical Address;
3. Phone Number
4. E-Mail address.

By submitting this, you are allowing the posting of this information on the internet.

Inspector Identification _____ Date of On-site Survey 29 March A. D. 2025
 Your Name Sumner Gary Hunnewell
 Address 2030 San Pedro Dr.
 City Arnold State MO Zip Code 63010
 Telephone () 636 464 3856 E-Mail HildifonsTook@prodigy.net

Are you a member of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.? If so, which one?

SUVCW

Supplemental Background Information

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Photographs & GPS Co-ordinates are very much desired.

Pages 4 & 5 attached to this electronic file are the Monument's Condition and the Narrative forms. Only the Monument's Condition form is required if you are requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions*.

Please mail (or e-mail pdf, and picture files) to:

Walt Busch, PDC, Chair, 1240 Konert Valley Dr., Fenton, MO 63026, cwmemorials@suvchw.org (314) 630-8407

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - Civil War Memorials Committee.

>This form may be photocopied.<

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SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM
ADDENDUM – MONUMENT'S CONDITION

Completion of this form is required when requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions*.

Condition Information

Structural Condition (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments with Sculpture, and Monuments without Sculpture including the base for Monuments with Cannon. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

	Sculpture	Base
If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed? (Look for signs of exterior rust)	_____	_____
Any evidence of structural instability? (Look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)	_____	_____
Any broken or missing parts? (Look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.)	_____	_____
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? (Also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)	_____	_____

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

	Sculpture	Base
Black crusting	_____	_____
White crusting	_____	_____
Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal)	_____	_____
Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.)	_____	_____
Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines)	_____	_____
Chalky or powdery stone	_____	_____
Granular eroding of stone	_____	_____
Spalling of stone (surface splitting off)	_____	_____
Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains)	_____	_____
Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...	_____	_____

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial? ____ Yes ____ No ____ Unable to tell

Surface Coating

Does there appear to be a coating? ____ Yes ____ No ____ Unable to determine

If known, identify type of coating.

____ Gilded ____ Painted ____ Varnished ____ Waxed ____ Unable to determine

Is the coating in good condition? ____ Yes ____ No ____ Unable to determine

Basic Surface Condition Assessment (check one)

In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?

____ Well maintained ____ Would benefit from treatment ____ In urgent need of treatment ____ Unable to determine

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on) .

Mottling (mold) beneath plexiglass (?).

Inspector's Name Sumner Gary Hunnewell

Date 31 March A. D. 2025

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM
ADDENDUM – NARRATIVE

[Generally used to record the text of monuments, but may be used for any other useful information, such as if the monument has been moved or if you have information about the day of dedication. May repeat use of page as often as necessary.]

The Memorial is *currently* located at: Natchez National Cemetery, on left fork of entrance road to the left of the Street/Road address or site location flagpole

41 Cemetery Rd GPS Coordinates N 31.58058 W 91.39556

City/Village and/or Township Natchez

County Adams State Mississippi Zip Code 39120

TEXT

{top, middle third}

Creating National Cemeteries

The authority to create military burial grounds came in an / Omnibus Act of July 17, 1862. It directed the president to / purchase land to be used as "a national cemetery for the / soldiers who shall die in the service of the country." / Fourteen / national cemeteries were established by 1862.

When hostilities ended, a grim task began. In October 1865, Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs directed officers / to survey lands in the Civil War theater to find Union dead / and plan to reinter / them in new national / cemeteries. Cemetery / sites were chosen / where troops were / concentrated: camps, / hospitals, battlefields, / railroad hubs. By 1872, /4 national cemeteries / and several soldiers' / lots contained 305,492 / remains, about 45 / percent were unknown.

{caption for Knoxville, Tennessee, Cemetery plan} Knoxville was established after the siege of the city and / Battle of Fort Sanders in 1863.. Cemetery plan, 1892, / National Archives and Records Administration.

{top, last third}

Most cemeteries were less / than 10 acres, and layouts / varied. In the Act to Establish / and to Protect National / Cemeteries of February 22, 1867, Congress funded new / permanent walls or fences, / grave markers, and lodges for / cemetery superintendents.

{photo caption} Lodge at City Point, Va., pre-1928. The first floor / contained a cemetery office, and living room and / kitchen for the superintendent's family; three / bedrooms were upstairs.

At fist only soldiers / and sailors who died during the Civil War were buried in national / cemeteries. In 1873, eligibility was expanded to all honorably / discharged Union veterans, and Congress appropriated / \$1 million to mark the graves. Upright marble headstones honor / individuals whose names were known; 6-inch-square blocks / mark unknowns.

By 1873, military post cemeteries on the Western frontier joined / the national cemetery system. The National Cemeteries Act of 1973 transferred 82 Army cemeteries, including 12 of the original / 14, to what is now the National Cemetery Administration.

Inspector's Name Sumner Gary Hunnewell Date 31 March A. D. 2025

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

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☒ Historical Marker ☐ Plaque ☐ Other (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

Note: try to record items separately. Cannons near monuments should be recorded & photographed separately, etc. Thank you.

Affiliation

☐ GAR ☐ MOLLUS ☐ SUVCW ☐ WRC ☐ ASUVCW
☐ LGAR ☐ DUVCW ☐ Other

If known, record name and number of post, camp, corps, auxiliary, tent, circle or appropriate information of other groups:

unknown

Original Dedication Date unknown

Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

Natchez National Cemetery, on left fork of entrance road to the left of the

The Memorial is *currently* located at: flagpole

Street/Road address or site location _____

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City/Village &/or Township Natchez

County Adams

State Mississippi

Zip Code 39120

The front of the Memorial faces: ☐ North ☐ South ☐ East ☒ West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Dept./Div. National Cemetery Administration

Street Address 41 Cemetery Rd

City Natchez

State MS

Zip Code 39120

Contact Person _____

Telephone (601) 445-4981

ext _____

Is Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places ☐ Yes ☒ No ID # if known 99001387

However, the Natchez National Cemetery is on the NRHP.

For Monuments with/without sculpture:

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = ☐ Stone ☐ Concrete ☐ Metal ☐ Other

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

Material of the Sculpture ☐ Stone ☐ Concrete ☐ Metal ☐ Other Is it hollow or solid? _____

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

For Historic Marker or Plaque: Laminate and steel

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = _____

For Cannons with/without monument:

Material of Cannon = _____ Bronze _____ Iron _____ Type of Cannon (if known) _____

Rifled _____ Yes _____ No _____

Markings: Muzzle _____ Base Ring/Breech _____

Left Trunion _____ Right Trunion _____

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? _____ Yes _____ No _____

[For camp/department monuments officer's use: Cannon on list of known ordnance] _____ Yes _____ No _____

For Other Memorials: (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

What best describes the memorial _____

Materials of the Memorial _____

Complete for All Memorials

Approximate Dimensions (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points

18" _____ Height 36" _____ Width 2" _____ Depth or _____ Diameter _____

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue (service, pose, etc) and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

Markings/Inscriptions (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found _____

Please attach legible photographs of all text &/or Record the text in the space below. Please use the addendum – narrative sheet if necessary.

Environmental Setting

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

Type of Location

☒ Cemetery ☐ Park ☐ Plaza/Courtyard ☐ "Town Square" ☐ Post Office
☐ School ☐ Municipal Building ☐ State Capitol ☐ Courthouse ☐ College Campus
☐ Traffic Circle ☐ Library Other: _____

General Vicinity

☒ Rural (low population, open land) ☐ Suburban (residential, near city) ☐ Town ☐ Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

☐ Industrial ☐ Commercial ☒ Street/Roadside within 20 feet ☐ Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
☐ Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors) ☐ Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)

Any other significant environmental factor _____

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1. If a member of an Allied Order, the name of your camp, auxiliary, tent, circle or corps; along with your department;
2. Physical Address;
3. Phone Number
4. E-Mail address.

By submitting this, you are allowing the posting of this information on the internet.

Inspector Identification _____ Date of On-site Survey 29 March A. D. 2025
 Your Name Sumner Gary Hunnewell
 Address 2030 San Pedro Dr.
 City Arnold State MO Zip Code 63010
 Telephone () 636 464 3856 E-Mail HildifonsTook@prodigy.net

Are you a member of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.? If so, which one?

SUVCW

Supplemental Background Information

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Photographs & GPS Co-ordinates are very much desired.

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Please mail (or e-mail pdf, and picture files) to:

Walt Busch, PDC, Chair, 1240 Konert Valley Dr., Fenton, MO 63026, cwmemorials@suvchw.org (314) 630-8407

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - Civil War Memorials Committee.

>This form may be photocopied.<

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SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM
ADDENDUM – MONUMENT'S CONDITION

Completion of this form is required when requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions*.

Condition Information

Structural Condition (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments with Sculpture, and Monuments without Sculpture including the base for Monuments with Cannon. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

	Sculpture	Base
If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed? (Look for signs of exterior rust)	_____	_____
Any evidence of structural instability? (Look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)	_____	_____
Any broken or missing parts? (Look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.)	_____	_____
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? (Also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)	_____	_____

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

	Sculpture	Base
Black crusting	_____	_____
White crusting	_____	_____
Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal)	_____	_____
Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.)	_____	_____
Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines)	_____	_____
Chalky or powdery stone	_____	_____
Granular eroding of stone	_____	_____
Spalling of stone (surface splitting off)	_____	_____
Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains)	_____	_____
Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...	_____	_____

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial? ____ Yes ____ No ____ Unable to tell

Surface Coating

Does there appear to be a coating? ____ Yes ____ No ____ Unable to determine

If known, identify type of coating.

____ Gilded ____ Painted ____ Varnished ____ Waxed ____ Unable to determine

Is the coating in good condition? ____ Yes ____ No ____ Unable to determine

Basic Surface Condition Assessment (check one)

In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?

____ Well maintained ____ Would benefit from treatment ____ In urgent need of treatment ____ Unable to determine

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on) .

Mottling (mold) beneath plexiglass (?).

Inspector's Name Sumner Gary Hunnewell

Date 31 March A. D. 2025

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM
ADDENDUM – NARRATIVE

[Generally used to record the text of monuments, but may be used for any other useful information, such as if the monument has been moved or if you have information about the day of dedication. May repeat use of page as often as necessary.]

The Memorial is *currently* located at: Natchez National Cemetery, on left fork of entrance road to the left of the
Street/Road address or site location flagpole

41 Cemetery Rd GPS Coordinates N 31.58058 W 91.39556

City/Village and/or Township Natchez

County Adams State Mississippi Zip Code 39120

TEXT

{bottom, three columns}

Reflection and Memorialization

The country reflected upon the Civil War's human toll - / 2 percent of the U.S. population died. Memorials honoring / war service were built in national cemeteries. Most were / donated by regimental units, state governments and veterans' / organizations such as the Grand Army of the Republic. / Decoration Day, later Memorial Day, was a popular patriotic spring event that started in 1868. Visitors placed flowers on /

graves and monuments, and gathered around rostrums to / hear speeches. Construction of Civil War monuments peaked / in the 1890s. By 1920, as the number of aging veterans was / dwindling, more than 120 monuments had been placed in / the national cemeteries.

{photo caption for three photos} National cemetery monuments, left to right: Massachusetts Monument, Winchester, Va., 1907, Maryland Sons Monument, Loudon Park, Baltimore, Md. 1885; and Women's [sic] Relief Corps/Grand Army of the Republic Monument to the Unknown Dead, Crown Hill, Indianapolis, Ind., 1889.

VA {seal} U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs / National Cemetery Administration

To learn more about benefits and programs / for Veterans and families, visit www.va.gov

Inspector's Name Sumner Gary Hunnewell Date 31 March A. D. 2025

A NATIONAL CEMETERY SYSTEM

Civil War Dead

At least 625,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died in the Civil War between April 1861 and April 1865. As the death toll rose, the U.S. government struggled with the urgent but unmet need to bury fallen Union troops. This propelled the creation of a national cemetery system.

On September 11, 1861, the War Department directed commanding officers to keep "accurate and permanent records" of deceased soldiers. It also replaced the U.S. Army Quartermaster General, the officer responsible for administering graves with a lieutenant in life and in death, or mark each man's burial with a headstone. A few months later, the department mandated that all dead in graves marked with numbered headboards, recorded in a register.



Union soldiers' graves at Gettysburg, Pa., 1863. Courtesy of the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Reflection and Memorialization

The country reflected upon the Civil War's human toll—2 percent of the U.S. population died. Memorials honoring war service were built at national cemeteries. Most were donated by regimental units, state governments and veterans' organizations, such as the Grand Army of the Republic. Decoration Day, later Memorial Day, was a popular patriotic spring event that started in 1868. Veterans placed flowers on

Creating National Cemeteries

The authority to create military burial grounds came to the President by Act of July 17, 1862. It directed the president to "provide land to be used as a national cemetery for the remains of soldiers who died in the service of the country." Fourteen national cemeteries were established by 1862.

When hostilities ended, a grant task began. In October 1865, Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs directed officers to locate suitable lands in the Civil War theater to find Union dead and plan to establish national cemeteries.

Meigs chose sites for new national cemeteries. Cemetery sites were chosen where troops were concentrated: camps, hospitals, battlefields, railroad hubs. By 1872, 24 national cemeteries and several soldiers' lots contained 305,492 remains; about 45 percent were unknown.



Map of the United States showing the locations of 24 national cemeteries established by 1872. Courtesy of the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

graves and monuments, and gathered around veterans to hear speeches. Construction of Civil War monuments peaked in the 1890s. By 1920, as the number of aging veterans was dwindling, more than 120 monuments had been placed in the national cemeteries.

National cemetery monuments: 1870s: Soldier's Monument, Chickamauga, Ga.; 1890s: Grand Army of the Republic Monument, Fort Sumner, N.M.; 1900s: Grand Army of the Republic Monument, Fort Sumner, N.M.; 1910s: Grand Army of the Republic Monument, Fort Sumner, N.M.



Headquarters, U.S. Army, 1862-1865. The building was used as a headquarters for the War Department and the Army. It was destroyed by fire in 1865. Courtesy of the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

At first only soldiers and sailors who died during the Civil War were buried in national cemeteries. In 1873, eligibility was expanded to all honorably discharged Union veterans, and Congress appropriated \$1 million to mark the graves. Upright marble headstones honor individuals whose names were known; 6-inch-square blocks mark unknown.

By 1873, military post cemeteries on the Western frontier joined the national cemetery system. The National Cemetery Act of 1873 transferred 82 Army cemeteries, including 12 of the original 14, to what is now the National Cemetery Administration.



The Union Army's first headstone and monument at the National Cemetery, Fort Sumner, N.M., 1873. Courtesy of the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

A NATIONAL CEMETERY SYSTEM

Civil War Dead

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Soldiers' graves near General Hospital, City Point, Va., c. 1863. Library of Congress.

Creating National Cemeteries

The authority to create military burial grounds came in an Omnibus Act of July 17, 1862. It directed the president to purchase land to be used as "a national cemetery for the soldiers who shall die in the service of the country." Fourteen national cemeteries were established by 1862.

When hostilities ended, a grim task began. In October 1865, Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs directed officers to survey lands in the Civil War theater to find Union dead and plan to reinter them in new national cemeteries. Cemetery sites were chosen where troops were concentrated: camps, hospitals, battlefields, railroad hubs. By 1872,

74 national cemeteries and several soldiers' lots contained 305,492 remains, about 45 percent were unknown.



Knoxville was established after the siege of the city and Battle of Fort Sanders in 1863. Cemetery established, 1867. National Archives and Records Administration.



Lodge at City Point, Va., Jan. 1862. The first four contained a cemetery office, and eventually three bedrooms were upstairs.

Most cemeteries were less than 10 acres, and layouts varied. In the Act to Establish and to Protect National Cemeteries of February 22, 1867, Congress funded new permanent walls or fences, grave markers, and lodges for cemetery superintendents.

At first only soldiers and sailors who died during the Civil War were buried in national cemeteries. In 1873, eligibility was expanded to all honorably discharged Union veterans, and Congress appropriated \$1 million to mark the graves. Upright marble headstones honor individuals whose names were known; 6-inch-square blocks mark unknowns.

By 1873, military post cemeteries on the Western frontier joined the national cemetery system. The National Cemeteries Act of 1873 transferred 82 Army cemeteries, including 12 of the original 14, to what is now the National Cemetery Administration.

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The country reflected upon the Civil War's human toll—2 percent of the U.S. population died. Memorials honoring war service were built in national cemeteries. Most were donated by regimental units, state governments and veterans' organizations such as the Grand Army of the Republic. Decoration Day, later Memorial Day, was a popular patriotic spring event that started in 1868. Visitors placed flowers on

graves and monuments, and gathered around rostrums to hear speeches. Construction of Civil War monuments peaked in the 1890s. By 1920, as the number of aging veterans was dwindling, more than 120 monuments had been placed in the national cemeteries.

National cemetery monuments, left to right: Massachusetts Monument, Winchester, Va., 1867; Maryland State Monument, Loudon Park, Baltimore, Md., 1855; and Women's Relief Corps' Grand Army of the Republic Monument to the Unknown Dead, Crown Hill, Indianapolis, Ind., 1886.



To learn more about Cemetery and Graves for Veterans and Families, visit www.ncma.gov





