

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.)

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:

Veterans Administration

Original Dedication Date _____ 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

Camp Butler National Cemetery

The Memorial is *currently* located at:

Street/Road address or site location RR 1 5063 CAMP BUTLER ROAD

GPS Coordinates 39° 49.925' N, 89° 33.474' W

City/Village &/or Township RIVERTON

County SANGAMON State ILLINOIS Zip Code 62707

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

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name _____

Dept./Div. _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Contact Person _____ Telephone () _____ ext _____

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

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:

Historical Story Board weatherproofed and encased In
 Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = metal framing and metal posts

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

24 inches Height 40.5 inches Width _____ 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.

STORYBOARD WEATHERPROOF FRAMED IN METAL AND METAL POSTS- CAMP BUTLER NATIONAL CEMETERY --- UNION TRAINING CAMP --- THE STATE OF ILLINOIS ESTABLISHED CAMP BUTLER IN AUGUST 1861 IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S SECOND CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SUPPRESS THE REBELLION. NAMED FOR WILLIAM BUTLER, THE STATE TREASURER, ITS LOCATION ON CLEAR LAKE WAS UNFORTUNATE. BY OCTOBER MEASLES AND TYPHOID SWEEPED THE CAMP. MEN WHO DIED WERE BURIED NEAR THE INFANTRY ENCAMPMENT. IN DECEMBER 1861, THE MILITARY RELOCATED TO HIGHER GROUND SIX MILES SOUTHWEST OF SPRINGFIELD. THE NEW LOCALE WAS SERVED BY RELIABLE ROAD AND RAIL CONNECTIONS. UNION TROOPS DEPARTED CAMP BUTLER IN EARLY FEBRUARY 1862. UNTIL FALL 1861, THE FACILITY SERVED AS A PRISON CAMP FOR CONFEDERATES. AFTER THE LAST PRISONERS LEFT, CAMP BUTLER RESUMED ITS ROLE AS A UNION TRAINING CAMP. OVER THE COURSE OF THE CIVIL WAR, MORE THAN 200,000 UNION SOLDIERS PASSED THROUGH IT. THE CAMP FORMALLY CLOSED ON JUNE 19, 1866

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*]

Inspector Identification _____ Date of On-site Survey 8/24/2026
 Your Name SANDRA COLE FLORES
 Address _____
 City OKLAHOMA CITY State OKLA Zip Code 73150
 Telephone () _____ E-Mail FLORESBRDLDY@AOL.COM

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

DUVCW TENT #18 SALLIE PEACHEATER - OKC WRC - MAL LGAR MAL

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) .

Inspector's Name SANDRA COLE FLORES

Date 8/24/2026

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.]

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TEXT

NATIONAL CEMETERY --- THE ORIGINAL 6.5 ACRE CEMETERY AS CREATED IN 1862. MORE THAN 700 UNION SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN CAMP BUTLER HOSPITAL WERE BURIED HERE, ALONG WITH A SIMILAR NUMBER OF CONFEDERATE PRISONERS. UNLIKE MOST NATIONAL CEMETERIES ESTABLISHED AFTER THE CIVIL WAR, THE FIRST INTERMENTS WERE NOT ARRANGED IN REGULAR ROWS, RATHER, GRAVES WERE "DUG AS MOST CONVENIENT" FOR NEARLY A DECADE, A PICKET FENCE SEPARATED UNION GRAVES IN THE "CEMETERY PROPER" FROM CONFEDERATE GRAVES. BY THE 1870'S A BRICK WALL ENCLOSED THE ENTIRE PROPERTY. ALL GRAVES WERE MARKED TEMPORARILY WITH WOODEN HEADBOARDS, PERMANENT HEADSTONES FOR THE UNION GRAVES WERE INSTALLED AFTER 1873 AND FOR CONFEDERATE GRAVES IN 1908. THE GRAVES OF UNKNOWN SOLDIERS ORIGINALLY FEATURED SMALL SQUARE MARBLE MARKERS. IN 1938, THE ARMY REPLACED THESE WITH UPRIGHT HEADSTONES TO CREATE A UNIFORM APPEARANCE. PHOTO EXCERPT; PRE 1908 VIEW OF CEMETERY SHOWING THE ORIGINAL SUPERINTENDENTS LODGE, FLAGPOLE MOUNT AND UNKNOWN GRAVES WITH SQUARE MARKERS. NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION.

---- SUPERINTENDENTS ---- AN 1867 LAW DIRECTED THE SECRETARY OF WAR TO APPOINT "MERITORIOUS AND TRUSTWORTHY" SUPERINTENDENT TO EACH NATIONAL CEMETERY. TO QUALIFY FOR THE POSITION, AN APPLICANT MUST HAVE BEEN AN ARMY ENLISTED MAN DISABLED IN THE WAR AND LATER CHANGES TO THE LAW ALLOWED ANY HONORABLE DISCHARGED COMMISSIONED OFFICER OR ENLISTED MAN. JAMES McCULLY, WHO LOST AN ARM WHILE SERVING IN THE 25TH INDIANA INFANTRY, WAS THE FIRST SUPERINTENDENT. HE SAW THE FIRST PERMANENT LODGE CONSTRUCTED AND INSTALLED. STONE GATEPOSTS FLANKING THE ENTRANCE AND AN IRON ARCHWAY THAT READ "NATIONAL CEMETERY" --- FROM 1906 TO 1930, SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR VETERAN W. FORD, AN AFRICAN AMERICAN, SERVED AS SUPERINTENDENT AND OVERSAW CONSTRUCTION OF THE CURRENT LODGE, FOR IS BURIED IN SECTION 3, GRAVE 869.

Inspector's Name SANDRA COLE FLORES Date 8/26/26

CAMP BUTLER NATIONAL CEMETERY



Camp Butler in 1862. National Archives and Records Administration.

Union Training Camp

The State of Illinois established Camp Butler in August 1861 in response to President Abraham Lincoln's second call for volunteers to suppress the rebellion. Named for William Butler, the state treasurer, its location on Clear Lake was unfortunate. By October measles and typhoid swept the camp. Men who died were buried near the infantry encampment.

In December 1861, the military relocated to higher ground six miles southwest of Springfield. The new locale was served by reliable road and rail connections. Union troops departed Camp Butler in early February 1862. Until fall 1863, the facility served as a prison camp for Confederates.

After the last prisoners left, Camp Butler resumed its role as a Union training camp. Over the course of the Civil War, more than 200,000 Union soldiers passed through it. The camp formally closed on June 19, 1866.

National Cemetery

The original 6.5-acre cemetery was created in 1862. More than 700 Union soldiers who died in Camp Butler Hospital were buried here, along with a similar number of Confederate prisoners. Unlike most national cemeteries established after the Civil War, the first interments were not arranged in regular rows. Rather, graves were "dug as most convenient."

For nearly a decade, a picket fence separated Union graves in the "cemetery proper" from Confederate graves. By the 1870s, a brick wall enclosed the entire property. All graves were marked temporarily with wooden headboards. Permanent headstones for Union graves were installed after 1873 and for Confederate graves in 1908.

The graves of unknown soldiers originally featured small, square marble markers. In 1938, the army replaced these with upright headstones to create a uniform appearance.



Pre-1908 view of cemetery showing the original superintendent's lodge, flagpole mound, and unknown graves with square markers. National Archives and Records Administration.



Cemetary area with flagpole and unknown markers, 1911. The original entrance was replaced in 1938. National Archives and Records Administration.

Superintendents

An 1867 law directed the secretary of war to appoint a "meritorious and trustworthy" superintendent to manage the national cemetery. To qualify for the position, an applicant must have been an army enlisted man disabled in service. A later change to the law allowed any honorably discharged commissioned officer or enlisted man to qualify.

James McCaulley, who lost an arm while serving in the 25th Indiana Infantry, was the first superintendent. He saw the first permanent lodge constructed and installed. Stone gateposts flanking the entrance replaced an iron archway that read "National Cemetery."

From 1906 to 1930, Spanish-American War veteran W. Ford, an African American, served as superintendent. He oversaw construction of the current lodge. Ford is buried in Section 3, Grave 869.