

VLR-4/28/95, NRHP-8/10/95

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 any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional 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 Harrison National Cemetery

other names/site number Virginia Department of Historic Resources File No. 43-134

2. Location

street & number 8620 Varina Road not for publication N/A

city or town Richmond vicinity _____

state Virginia code VA county Henrico code 087 zip code 23231

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 forth 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.)

Scott W. Taylor 3/14/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Federal Preservation Officer Date
Department of Veterans Affairs
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.)

Julie Shamik 6/15/95
Signature of commenting or other official/Title _____ Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain):	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Fort Harrison National Cemetery
Name of Property

Henrico County, Virginia
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 the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
1	0	sites
2	0	structures
2	0	objects
8	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

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)

Late Victorian: Second Empire

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

roof Slate, asphalt

other Stone: Marble: Brick: Metal: Iron

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A, B, C, D, E, F, G with checkboxes and descriptions.

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):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, etc.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Military

Period of Significance

1866-1941

Significant Dates

1866

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Meigs, Montgomery C.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Federal agency, etc.

Name of repository

Department of Veterans Affairs

Fort Harrison National Cemetery
Name of Property

Henrico County, Virginia
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>290580</u> Easting	<u>4144820</u> Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </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 Therese T. Sammartino, Staff Assistant, National Cemetery System

organization Department of Veterans Affairs date March 8, 1995

street & number 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W. telephone (202) 523-3895

city or town Washington, D.C. state zip code 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 location.

A 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Department of Veterans Affairs

street & number 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W. telephone

city or town Washington, D.C. state 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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Fort Harrison National Cemetery
Henrico County, Virginia

Section number 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Fort Harrison National Cemetery is located at 8620 Varina Road in eastern Henrico County, Virginia, eight miles southeast of the city of Richmond. The site is rectangular in form and is enclosed by a brick wall approximately 4 feet 6 inches high (1,102 linear feet). The main entrance is located along the east wall facing Varina Road. It consists of two pedestrian iron gates that are part of the original wall and a 10-foot-wide vehicular iron gate that was added in 1941. In the center of the cemetery is a 30-foot grass circle on which a flagpole has been erected.

The cemetery was established in May 1866, with six burial sections. The graves were originally marked by headboards, painted white, and properly lettered. The boards were later replaced with upright marble markers. The cemetery was officially closed on March 7, 1967. A small number of interments still occur yearly, including interments in occupied and reserved graves and interments of cremated remains.

As of January 31, 1995, there were 1,103 gravesites used for the interment of 1,511 casketed remains and 8 sites used for the interment of 11 cremated remains. Two casketed sites (both reserved) are still available, and 44 sites remain available for the interment of cremated remains. Of the 1,522 total interments, 583 are unknown Civil War soldiers. Four prisoners of war are interred among the unknown from the Civil War. A Medal of Honor recipient, Private George A. Buchanan, is buried in Section A, Grave 224. He served with Company G of the 148th New York Infantry and was mortally wounded on September 29, 1864, at Chapin's Farm, Virginia, while attacking a Confederate battery.

The superintendent's lodge was constructed in 1871 from a design by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs and is Second Empire in style. It is an L-shaped, rubble-stone structure with a slate mansard roof. The main portion is one and one-half stories high with dormer windows projecting from the mansard roof. The first floor contains a living room, dining room, kitchen, hallway, office, and a screened porch. The ceilings are approximately eleven feet high. The upper story contains two bedrooms and a bath. The lodge also contains a basement. The windows are six-over-six double-hung sash on the first story, while the upper story windows are casement with two panes in each casement. A single lean-to kitchen was added around 1900.

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Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Fort Harrison National Cemetery
Henrico County, Virginia**

Section number 7 Page 2

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)

There is a monument, 7 feet 6 inches in height, made of an original cast iron seacoast artillery tube, secured by a concrete base. The cast bronze plaque formerly affixed to the monument, which has since been stolen, contained the following inscription:

United States National Military Cemetery
Fort Harrison
Established May 1866
Interments 814
Known 239
Unknown 575

Records regarding this monument focus on its size and the inscription on the bronze plaque formerly affixed to the monument. No information is available as to the name of the manufacturer.

At the rear of the cemetery is a brick service building, 13 feet 6 inches by 45 feet 6 inches, constructed in 1932. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles (originally tin). Public restrooms are also located in this building. A brick oil house, 8 feet 5 inches by 8 feet, was constructed in 1936. Its roof is also clad with asphalt shingles.

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

Buildings: Lodge, service building, oil house

Sites: Cemetery

Structures: Gate, perimeter wall

Objects: Flagpole, artillery monument

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Fort Harrison National Cemetery
Henrico County, Virginia**

Section number 8 Page 3

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fort Harrison National Cemetery is significant under Criteria A and C, and is an important component of the multiple property submission of Civil War Era National Cemeteries. It is significant under Criterion A because of its association with the Civil War and under Criterion C, because the lodge represents a distinctive prototypical design by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs, who was acclaimed as a master architect of civil works projects for the Quartermaster Corps.

From June 1864 until April 1865, siege operations before Petersburg commanded the chief attention of General Ulysses S. Grant and the Army of the Potomac. Several attempts were made to reach Richmond from north of the James River. Forts Harrison and Gilmer, two strongly fortified positions in the outer defense of the city, were the objectives of a surprise attack made by Union forces during the early morning hours of September 29, 1864. General Grant had also sent the Tenth and Eighteenth Corps north of the James River to keep General Robert E. Lee's army busy, so that the Confederates could not send reinforcements either to the South Side Railroad or to Lieutenant General Jubal Early in the Shenandoah Valley. The Eighteenth Corps advanced rapidly and, before eight o'clock that morning, General George Stannard's division took Fort Harrison a major Confederate bastion in the defense line, and some of the surrounding entrenchments. The following day, Confederates prepared to counterattack, with Lee personally directing the assaults. Despite repeated counterattacks by the Confederate troops under Lee, Fort Harrison would remain in Union hands until the evacuation of Richmond in April 1865. The fort was renamed Fort Burnham, in honor of Union General Hiram Burnham, who was killed at Chaffin's Farm during the Federal attack on Fort Harrison. This battle was significant, as it was one of the first times black soldiers had been used in battle. It was by the orders of General Benjamin Butler, and they proved they were fit soldiers. With the cessation of hostilities, a site near Fort Harrison was appropriated for use by the United States as a national cemetery. Remains interred in the cemetery after its establishment were recovered from the battlefields of Forts Harrison and Gilmer, and from some forty locations within a five-mile area. Many of those buried at Fort Harrison are black Union soldiers who fell at the battle.

The cemetery was established in May 1866 and comprises 1.5 acres. On March 26, 1869, Alpheus W. Childrey and Harriet Ann Childrey conveyed .462 acre to the United States for the sum of \$100; on May 14, 1872, \$175.32 was paid for a parcel of land containing 1.044 acres deeded by Mattie E. and Francis E. Cox. On June 28, 1873, A. W. Childrey conveyed, by deed, to the United States an additional strip containing .043 acre for \$20.00, making a total of 1.5 acres at a cost of \$295.32.

United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Fort Harrison National Cemetery
Henrico County, Virginia**

Section number 9 & 10 Page 4

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

National Cemetery System Microfilm Records

Department of Veterans Affairs Historic Preservation Office

Bradford, Ned. Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. New York: The Fairfax Press, 1979

Denney, Robert E. The Civil War Years. New York, Sterling Publishing Company, Inc., 1992

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The cemetery is located on the west side of Varina Road which runs north-south from the intersection at New Market Road (State Route 5) to the James River. Beginning at the southeast corner of the cemetery, the property line runs north (along Varina Road) 362.5 feet to the northeast corner; turning west, it is 193.8 feet to the northwest corner; turning south 362.5 feet to the southwest corner; turning east, the southern boundary of the cemetery is 193.8 feet long.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Cemetery System has used the existing boundaries of the cemetery.

FORT HARRISON
NATIONAL CEMETERY
Henrico County

