

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Long Island National Cemetery

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

Inter-World War National Cemeteries, 1934-1939

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

2. Location

Street & number: 2040 Wellwood Avenue

City or town: Farmingdale State: New York County: Suffolk

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<hr/>	
Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Katherine Schmitt FPO</u>	Date <u>2/3/16</u>
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
Signature of commenting official: <u>Ruth Purpont</u>	Date <u>1/8/16</u>
Title: <u>DSTHPO</u>	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

(8-86)

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page _____

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 16000113

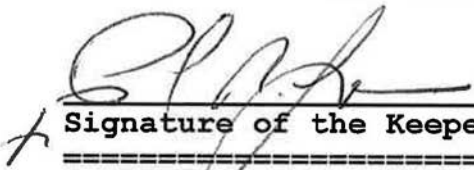
Date Listed: 03/22/2016

Long Island National Cemetery
Property Name

Suffolk NY
County State

Inter-World War National Cemeteries, 1934-39 MPS
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

3/22/2016

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

Architecture is removed as an area of significance.

[While the cemetery's historic main lodge and support buildings display distinctive architectural qualities, the current narrative does not provide specific justification for National Register eligibility under Architecture or Criterion C. As noted previously, the current nomination and MPS focus exclusively on National Register eligibility under Criterion A. With additional contextual development and evaluation the property would likely qualify for significance under Criteria C in the area of landscape architecture and/or architecture.)

These clarifications were confirmed with the FPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

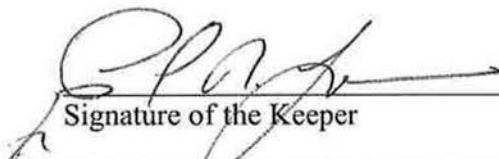
Long Island National Cemetery
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____


Signature of the Keeper

3/22/2016
Date of Action

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

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th & Early 20th Century Revival/Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Concrete, Brick, Slate, Granite, Marble, Metal: cast aluminum and bronze

Narrative Description Summary Paragraph

Long Island National Cemetery is slightly less than 365 developed acres at 2040 Wellwood Avenue in Farmingdale, New York, centrally located on Long Island in Suffolk County. Bounded by roads and Pinelawn Cemetery to the south, the Long Island National Cemetery's present boundaries are permanent.

The cemetery is east of the town of Farmingdale in a mixed-use area dominated by private cemeteries to the south and west. While the area to the west, north, and east of the cemetery contains residential and commercial buildings, the area was largely rural and used partially as farmland well into the mid-twentieth century. Congressional legislation approved on May 18, 1936, established the Long Island National Cemetery to serve New York City and the surrounding area. The first interment took place in 1937.

As of August 2014, there were 344,564 remains at Long Island National Cemetery, a majority of which were full casket interments. In-ground- and columbaria-interred cremains total 17,192 gravesites. Long Island National Cemetery closed to new interments in 1978, but continues to accept cremated remains for the columbaria and will inter eligible family members' casketed remains in the same gravesite as previously interred family members. The cemetery averages 2,000 interments per year.¹

¹ David Charles Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity, Cemeteries in American History* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991), 121; William Rhoades, cemetery director, conversation with author, October 30, 2008.

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Narrative Description

Like some other Inter-World War national cemeteries, the Long Island National Cemetery's original design was symmetrical and orthogonal. The original sections of the cemetery compose the southern third of the acreage and are largely intact. In this portion of the cemetery, Work Projects Administration (WPA) labor helped construct curbs and roads in the late 1930s.

Initial plans suggested roads named for distinguished veterans, but road names are Link, Flagstaff, Main Portal, Southern, Memorial Circle, Center Portal, West First, East First, West Second, East Second, West Third, East Third, West Fourth, East Fourth, West Fifth, East Fifth, West Sixth, East Sixth, Eastern, Cross, Central, Mall, Outer Mall, Northern, and Western drives and Memorial Drive South, Memorial Drive North, Mall Drive West, Mall Drive East, Rostrum Drive West, and Rostrum Drive East. A few rows of trees in some sections of graves indicate the former locations of roads.²

Burial sections are A-Z, 2E, 2G, 2H, 2J-2N, 2P-2Z, 3A-3F, Distinguished Service Section (DSS), and Memorial Sections MA and MB, which contain memorial headstones that honor soldiers buried elsewhere or whose remains cannot be located. The burial sections vary in size and shape.

By 1950, the cemetery extended to approximately Second Drive, while the area north of the cemetery was wooded or open farmland. The same year, the cemetery proposed the purchase of approximately 233 acres to the north, and soon completed the acquisition, bringing the cemetery to its current size. By 1960, the cemetery developed the road system up to West Fourth Drive, continuing its expansion north. Within another eight years the cemetery completed the road system, and the cemetery layout appeared much as it does today. The cemetery planted sparse quantities of trees and shrubbery as the acreage developed.³ Since 1978, the cemetery converted a portion of Central Drive into a columbarium area, and removed other smaller roads to provide more burial space.

Long Island National Cemetery's headstones reflect the style prevalent in the era of the cemetery's establishment, and the style of headstone is a major distinguishing characteristic of national cemeteries established in the twentieth century. The upright headstone appearance changed dramatically between the Spanish-American War and World War I. The oldest style of government-issued headstone, for soldiers of the Civil War and Spanish-American War, are white marble with rounded tops and have recessed shields on the face. The raised inscription includes the state of origin, unlike subsequent inscription practice, and rank if above private.

The predominant headstone at Long Island is the upright white American marble cambered "General type" introduced in 1922 for World War I soldiers, and those after. This type of

² Rhoades, conversation with author.

³ Photographs. Various dates. History Program Collection (HPC). National Cemetery Administration (NCA). Washington, DC; Photographs. Various dates. Historic Photograph Collection. Long Island National Cemetery (LINC), Farmingdale, NY.

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headstone measures 42 inches high, 13 inches wide, and 4 inches thick; approximately 26 inches is visible above ground. Inscriptions include the name, rank, regiment, division, date of birth, date of death, and home state. Originally, the emblem of belief on these headstones was limited to the Latin cross or Star of David centered above the name of the deceased. The number of available emblem of belief options began to increase after World War II.

In addition, some cemeteries permit flat, government-issued markers in specific sections. In the 1930s, the War Department introduced flat headstones to accommodate veterans buried in private/local cemeteries that did not allow upright markers, such as the lawn park and memorial park cemeteries. Congress already authorized markers of “durable stone” in 1873, thus, the Secretary of War only needed to approve a new style—flat. The first flat marble markers were produced in 1936, with flat granite markers following two years later. They measure 24 inches x 12 inches with rounded edges. The same products are used interchangeably as memorial markers.⁴ At Long Island, Sections E and 3E contain flat granite markers that date to the mid-1970s.

The cemetery contains thirty-nine group burials and nineteen Medal of Honor recipients, most buried in the Distinguished Service Section (DSS) (also called Section 3E). Sections MA, MB, and DSS hold memorial markers.⁵

Contributing Properties (30)⁶

Buildings (7): Lodge (1938), Administration Office (1938), Garage and Restroom (1937), Shelter House and Comfort Station (1938), Restroom (late 1970s), Maintenance Facility (ca. 1973), Storage (ca. 2000)

Structures (10): Main Entrance Gates (1938), Entrance Gate No. 2 (by 1941), Entrance Gate Nos. 3 and 4 (1956), Picket Fence (between 1938 and 1955), Chain-link Fence (ca. 1968), Columbaria (ca. 2002), Committal Shelters A and B (1980s), Committal Shelter C (1980s)

Objects (13): *National Cemetery Act* Plaque (1940), *General Orders No. 80* Plaque (1940), “Gettysburg Address” Plaque (1940), *Memorial Day Order* Plaque (1940), Chosin Few Memorial (2001), AMVETS All Veterans Memorial (ca. 1996), POW/MIA Flagpole (1980s), Fallen Comrades Memorial (1940; since reinstalled), Veterans Administration Plaques (2) (1973), Long Island National Cemetery Plaques (ca. 1938), United States Flagpole (1938), Water Fountain (ca. 1960), “Bivouac of the Dead” Plaque (2003)

⁴ “Design for Flat Marker,” Box 17, Folder 4, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Department of Memorial Affairs (DMA), National Cemetery Historical File, Entry 25 (NCHF E25), Records of the Veterans Administration, Record Group 15 (RG 15), National Archives Building, Washington, DC (NAB).

⁵ Memorial headstones are furnished for eligible deceased active duty service members and Veterans whose remains are not recovered or identified, are buried at sea, donated to science or whose cremated remains have been scattered.

⁶ The following information is attributed to several sources: the “Buildings and Utilities” historic record at NAB; Photographs from the HPC, NCA; Historic Photograph Collection, LINC; Rhoades, conversation with author; and a field visit.

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Buildings (7)

Lodge: Workers completed the two and one-half story Colonial Revival style lodge in 1938. It is just inside the main entrance, facing north towards the Main Portal Drive. The lodge is wood-frame with brick veneer exterior walls, and a slate-shingle hipped roof punctuated by symmetrical gable dormers on the rear roof plane. It features two gable-end chimneys projecting above the roofline, with corbeling and a dentil motif. It has a basement and boiler room with a concrete foundation. The building measures approximately 44 feet x 22 feet.

The symmetrical façade has a single, central door on the first story with a single window centered above. A pediment above the door features dentil molding; fluted pilasters flank the door, which has been replaced. Single windows in the left and right bays are also aligned vertically, and the first-story windows have a blind panel below the concrete sill, clad in weatherboard. Small louvered windows flank the door, but the majority of windows on all elevations are six-over-six, double-hung sash. The exterior chimneys bisect the side elevations. A single-story enclosed porch on the rear has a hipped roof and was added by the 1940s. There is a corbeled brick water table around the building and brick quoins give emphasis to the corners.

The addition of a one-story block to be used as an office space modified the east elevation of the building. Also featuring a basement and concrete foundation, this addition echoes the structure, form, and materials of the lodge. On the east elevation, a central single door has fluted pilasters supporting a rounded pediment. Concrete stairs with a wrought-iron balustrade approach a short concrete landing. Upon completion of a new administration building in 1950, the cemetery converted this addition into a viewing room.

Administration Office: This building is east of the lodge at the intersection of Main Portal and Flagstaff drives. Workers completed the 775-square-foot east wing of the building in 1938. The administration office expanded west in 1950 with a large, L-shaped addition. The 1938 wing has a concrete foundation and brick walls with a slate-shingle roof. Former window openings on the east elevation are bricked in and flank an offset entrance below a metal awning. Original architectural details such as cornice returns and brick quoins remain intact on the east wing. The north elevation of the east wing features a large symmetrical set of four vertical, five-light windows separated by concrete partitions with concrete panels below each window below a circular five-light gable window.

The large 1950 addition is a single story on a concrete foundation with brick exterior walls and a slate-shingle roof. It has a low slope and a hipped roof, which extends south across a breezeway to connect to the former garage and comfort station. This building reflects its mid-century construction with a large bank of band windows across most of the façade. Eighteen three-light windows, grouped into pairs share a single sill. A single door separates the bank of windows from a smaller set of six windows on the right bay, double light, paired and also sharing a concrete sill. The rear elevation has doubled and grouped band windows, and a metal awning has been added above the single rear door.

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Garage and Restroom: John H. French, general contractor from New York City, completed construction on the original portion of this building in 1937 as part of a contract to construct several buildings at the cemetery. Now serving as additional administrative and meeting space, the former garage and comfort station is south of the Administration Office. An open breezeway connects this building's roof to the roof of the Administration Office. The single-story, wood-frame building sits on a concrete foundation. Brick veneer clads the building, which lies below a hipped roof covered in slate shingle. The east elevation includes a combination of window, door, and garage door bays. A two-over-two, wood sash window marks the southernmost bay, followed by a metal door bay, three metal garage door bays, and six former garage door bays now in use as windows and/or additional entrances. A gable addition to the west elevation near its south end altered the building ca. 1950. This addition includes seven metal garage door bays.

Shelter House and Comfort Station (currently used as an office): WPA workers completed this facility on June 30, 1938. With a concrete foundation, brick walls, and slate-shingle hipped roof pierced by a brick chimney, the building shares the same architectural traits as the neighboring properties. Measuring approximately 28 feet x 37 feet, the shelter house and comfort station is the smallest freestanding historic building on the cemetery grounds. It is behind the Administration Office, in the southwestern corner of the cemetery. The façade faces west and is asymmetrical with a single door in the south bay covered by metal awning. Single windows in the central and north bays are six-over-six sash, and the building corners are highlighted by large quoins. A wood deck porch with a stair and ramp access this entrance. Both the east and north elevations also include exterior doors accessed by concrete steps with steel railings. Brick jack arches top all bays on the former shelter house and comfort station.

Restroom: Built in the late 1970s, this is a one-story brick building containing restrooms for men and women. It features a brick façade, projecting single-bay porch and a gable-on-hip roof. It is at the intersection of Western Drive and West Fifth Drive, near the maintenance facility.

Maintenance Facility: Completed ca. 1973, this maintenance building is one story in height with brick exterior. It is a multi-bayed construction with wings extending from both the north and south elevation of a central, garage building. The maintenance facility is near Wellwood Avenue north of Section 2L and south of West Fifth Drive.

Storage: This small square, brick building with a hipped roof dates to ca. 2000 and is just south of Entrance Gates No. 4 southeast of the intersection of Wellwood Avenue and West Fifth Drive.

Structures (10)

Main Entrance Gate: The main entrance gate fronts Wellwood Avenue near the southwestern corner of the cemetery property close to the lodge and administration buildings. Completed by general contractor John H. French in 1938, the main entrance gate (also known as Entrance Gate No.1) consists of two inner brick and concrete pillars on granite bases and two outer brick and concrete pillars on granite bases. The primary, inner pillars support a 29 feet wide picketed double wrought-iron vehicular gate and the outer pillars support 5 feet wide picketed single

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wrought iron pedestrian gates across sidewalks that flank the road. At the inner pillars, its highest point, the main entrance gate reaches 12½ feet tall. These pillars have 2 inch concrete caps and finials on the tops; each supports a large rectangular bas-relief concrete plaque with the Great Seal of the United States and the words “United States National Cemetery.” The outer pillars each support a bronze plaque; the north plaque reads “Long Island National Cemetery,” the south plaque reads “Veterans Administration 1930.” These outer posts have small buttresses with scrolled concrete or stone caps. Three shorter brick pillars with concrete caps extend out from these outer gateposts, spanned by iron picket fences.

Entrance Gate No. 2: Entrance Gate No. 2 is on Wellwood Avenue and links with Center Portal Drive inside the cemetery. This gate includes two approximately 12-foot-brick-and-concrete pillars that are similar to the outer pillars at the Main Entrance Gates. The pillars each hold a bronze plaque; the north plaque reads “Long Island National Cemetery,” the south plaque reads “Veterans Administration 1930.” The pillars connect a double vehicular gate of iron pickets that measures roughly 29 feet wide.

Entrance Gate Nos. 3 and 4: These gates, constructed in 1956, also include a double vehicular gate made of iron pickets measuring approximately 29 feet wide. They have single north and south gateposts, each with the Great Seal of the United States and the words “United States National Cemetery” in bas-relief in a concrete plaque. The brick pillars have concrete finial caps and granite bases. Iron picket fences extend north and west from the gateposts, connected to short brick pillars with concrete caps. Both gates are located on Wellwood Avenue, with Entrance Gate No. 3 linking to West Fifth Drive and Entrance Gate No. 4 linking to the dividing drive between Sections 2Y and 3A within the cemetery.

Picket Fence: A wrought-iron picket fence matching that present at the Wellwood Avenue entrance gates lines part of the cemetery boundary. This fence, installed as the cemetery developed between ca. 1938 and ca. 1955 primarily lines the cemetery boundary beginning at Section 2L, where it extends south along Wellwood Avenue before continuing northeast along the cemetery’s south boundary for 2,080 feet.

Chain-link Fence: Chain-link fencing dating to ca. 1968 extends along most of the cemetery’s borders, including more than half of its southern border, the entire east/north border, and more than half of its western border, with one chain-link service gate on the east border accessing Little East Neck Drive between Sections 2B and 2C.

Columbaria: Completed ca. 2002, there are three long columbaria in the middle of what used to be Central Drive. Built of concrete with hipped concrete caps, the columbaria are faced with granite. The niches sit in a rectangular grid with granite plaques. Each columbarium is four niches in height. The niches measure 10½ inches x 15 inches x 20 inches deep.

Committal Shelters A and B: Likely built in the 1980s, these simple structures have brick support posts and pyramidal roofs with wide overhanging eaves. They have concrete and brick floors and wood ceilings. These two shelters flank memorial section MB.

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Committal Shelter C: Likely built in the 1980s, this is an open-air structure with brick posts and low walls supporting vertical slatted wood walls on three sides. The east side is open and the roof is a side gable with metal and plastic covering. The shelter is between sections A, B, G, and F.

Objects (13)

United States Flagpole: New York City-based general contractor John H. French completed the flagpole and surrounding circle by February 4, 1938. The steel flagpole rests in a small circle of concrete, surrounded by red gravel and a raised circular concrete border. The flagpole sits at center on a circular island with sidewalks, landscaping, benches, memorials, and a modern committal shelter.

Veterans Administration Plaques: This bronze plaque, located on the southern gatepost of the main entrance, has the raised inscription “Veterans Administration 1930,” painted gold with a black background. The cemetery affixed this plaque to the northern gatepost in 1973. Another is on the south gatepost of entrance No. 2, also installed in 1973.

Long Island National Cemetery Plaques: Located on the north gateposts of the main entrance and entrance gate no. 2, these bronze plaques include a bas-relief, gold-painted eagle and the words “Long Island National Cemetery” with a black background. Workers installed these plaques during the earliest days of construction at the cemetery, ca. 1938.

National Cemetery Act Plaque: “An Act to Establish and to Protect National Cemeteries, Approved February 22, 1867, Section 3.” Erected in 1940 as one of four standard plaques installed by the War Department that year, the bronze plaque rests on a beveled gray granite mount, approximately 4 feet high by 3 feet wide. It is just inside and south of the main entrance gate.

General Orders No. 80 Plaque: The War Department installed the *General Orders No. 80* plaque in 1940 along with four other plaques. It is a bronze plaque on beveled gray granite mount, measuring approximately 4 feet high by 3 feet wide. The plaque is just inside and north of the main entrance gate.

“Gettysburg Address” Plaque: The 4½ feet tall “Gettysburg Address” Plaque is one of two upright bronze plaques attached to large, upright rectangular granite slabs measuring approximately 6½ feet tall and 2½ feet wide with a hipped granite cap. Also installed by the War Department in 1940, it rests on the south side of Main Portal Drive, approximately 60 feet east of the main entrance gate.

Memorial Day Order Plaque: The 4½ feet tall *Memorial Day Order* Plaque is one of two upright bronze plaques attached to large, upright rectangular granite slabs measuring approximately 6½ feet tall and 2½ feet wide with a hipped granite cap. Installed in 1940 by the

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War Department, the plaque is on the south side of Main Portal Drive in front of the former office building addition to the lodge.

Chosin Few Memorial: Installed in 2001, this is a bronze plaque on a beveled granite block. The plaque is dedicated to the memory of those who served at “The Chosin Reservoir” in North Korea. It sits within the flagpole traffic circle.

AMVETS All Veterans Memorial: This is a bevel-faced granite tablet on a rectangular granite base, inscribed with the insignia for AMVETS and the words: “In Honor of All American Veterans/Hammond-Biggs/AMVETS Post 111, Patchogue, NY.” Installed ca. 1996, the memorial is in the flagpole traffic circle.

Fallen Comrades Memorial: This memorial is a bevel-faced granite block with a bronze plaque in the center with the following inscription: “This marker erected by the veterans organizations of Nassau and Suffolk counties in memory of their departed comrades, 1940.” Around the central plaque are sixteen bronze insignias for various veterans’ organizations. This 1940 memorial was formerly near one of the entrances but is now on the west terminus of the Distinguished Service Section.

POW/MIA Flagpole: This flagpole is behind the Fallen Comrades Memorial at the west end of the Distinguished Service Section. The cemetery installed this 30 foot flagpole in the 1980s.

Water fountain: A water fountain built ca. 1960, this is a concrete platform approximately 4 feet x5 feet and had both a spigot and a white metal basin when it was in use. It retains a metal plate on the top, likely an access hatch for the plumbing below. It is northwest of the United States flagpole, at the intersection of Memorial Drive North and Flagstaff Drive.

“Bivouac of the Dead” Plaque: Installed in the lobby of the administration office in 2003, this is a cast-aluminum plaque measuring 2 feet wide and 18 inches tall.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Military

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

1936-Present

Significant Dates

1937

1973

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

War Department

Works Progress Administration

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Long Island National Cemetery's significance rests in its position as one of seven national cemeteries established between World War I and World War II, specifically in the years 1934-1939. The increased veteran population, combined with the rapidly depleting burial space at existing national cemeteries, led to a series of federal legislation during this period aimed at establishing new cemeteries: Baltimore, Fort Snelling, Fort Rosecrans, Golden Gate, Fort Bliss, Long Island, and Fort Sam Houston national cemeteries. These seven properties are nationally significant under Criterion A for their association with the expansion of the National Cemetery System during the Inter-World War period. These cemeteries are physical shrines illustrating selfless sacrifices of the U.S. military, which expand upon the burial and memorial mission established during the Civil War through the first national cemeteries.

In 2011, the Keeper of the National Register confirmed National Register of Historic Places eligibility by issuing a clarification of policy stating that all national cemeteries are considered exceptionally significant and eligible for listing in the NRHP regardless of age, and that all buildings, structures, and objects located within the boundaries of national cemeteries are considered contributing elements to each national cemetery regardless of age.⁷

The period of significance (1936-Present) at Long Island National Cemetery begins with its establishment by Congress as a national cemetery. Due to the complex nature of cemetery development, Congressional establishment was chosen as the beginning date for the Inter-World War national cemeteries because all other dates occur due to the enabling legislation.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Historical Background

Long Island National Cemetery lies in central on Long Island, New York on land once belonging to the adjacent Pinelawn Cemetery. Officials intended its construction to supplant the nearby, Civil War-era Cypress Hill National Cemetery.

The War Department established Brooklyn's Cypress Hills National Cemetery in 1862 for the burial of Civil War dead. However, the cemetery originally consisted of only 3 acres within the large and private Cypress Hills Cemetery. By 1870, the United States obtained the parcel for the sum of \$9,600. With a 15-acre addition in 1884 and another addition of a small plot in 1941, the national cemetery reached its current size of slightly more than 18 acres. Cypress Hills National Cemetery received reburials and new interments of soldiers from the American Revolution, the Spanish-American War, and the Korean and Vietnam wars. Twentieth-century wars limited

⁷ Keeper of the National Register, "National Register Eligibility of National Cemeteries—A Clarification of Policy." September 8, 2011. (Washington, DC: History Program Collection, NCA). Available at: http://www.cem.va.gov/pdf/Final_Eligibility_of_VA_cemeteries_A_Clarification_of_Policy_rev.pdf

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representation at Cypress Hills corresponded to a scarcity of burial space there by the 1930s; this dearth of burial space led to a search for additional interment space for veterans in the area.⁸

Pinelawn Cemetery

By the turn of the twentieth century, private cemeteries were enterprising businesses with profit margins and marketing plans. Pinelawn Cemetery on Long Island was one of the largest of these, and it emerged as part of the new lawn-park cemetery movement of the late nineteenth century. Design of lawn park cemeteries intended to help distance the living from the dead, with private burial places honoring rural values, family units, and the artistry of monuments. The large acreage required for these cemeteries, such as Pinelawn, and the public's growing dissatisfaction with existing, nearby cemeteries, forced them to move farther out of town. William H. Locke, Jr. and the Pinelawn Cemetery Association (PCA) opened Pinelawn Cemetery in 1902 on a rural, wooded area on the grounds of the defunct Greenlawn Cemetery. The new business combined "an innovative sales program with an intricate landscape design" influenced by the aesthetically appealing City Beautiful movement.⁹

Pinelawn Cemetery encompassed a massive 4 square miles near Farmingdale, Long Island, almost 30 miles east of Manhattan, which boasted large open spaces with scattered elms, maples, and other ornamental trees. Nationally recognized landscape architect Samuel Parsons, Jr. designed the landscape around a series of concentric circles centered on a 72-acre circle permanently reserved for parkland. Locke wanted to preserve the parkland around the Long Island Railway Station at Pinelawn so mourners and funeral parties would "enter the peace of the parkland rather than the monument landscape of the burial sections" as they disembarked the train. Locke made the cemetery a leader in innovative sales promotion by hiring off-duty insurance salesmen to offer plots for 25 cents down and 23 cents a week, a prepayment plan that helped Pinelawn compete with rural cemeteries that sold plots as needed.¹⁰

This aggressive sales pattern was due in part to the ambitious returns that Locke and his fellow PCA directors hoped to see on their investment in the enterprise. An 1899 prospectus proclaimed that its shares had already advanced from \$25,000 to \$110,000, "a practical guarantee of the success" of the cemetery. It offered a promising estimate of the property, and suggested that the 1,600 acres—minus about 320 acres for lakes, roads and walks—left about 1,280 acres, or 55,756,800 square feet. At a "conservative figure" of about \$1.25 per square foot, the cemetery's estimated gross income was \$69.7 million. This total, minus half for the cemetery association, left nearly \$35 million for division among shareholders, or \$272.25 per

⁸ Department of the Army, "Long Island National Cemetery," pamphlet (Washington, DC: Chief of Support Services, 1971); NCA, Cypress Hills National Cemetery, Cemeteries, <http://www.cem.va.gov/CEMs/nchp/cypresshills.asp>, accessed May 13, 2009.

⁹ David Charles Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity, Cemeteries in American History* (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991), 121, 137, 139.

¹⁰ Sloane, *Last Great Necessity*, 139-40.

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share. Since shares only cost \$25 in 1899, the initial stages of the cemetery planning projected astounding profits.¹¹

Despite its grandiose plans, the PCA experienced a tense fight in 1913 between stockholders and management. The promised high dividends and appreciating stock had not materialized, and stockholders brought suit against the association. The suit forced cemetery owners to sell much of their land and subdivide the central 72-acre park into burial space. A number of religious groups purchased the Pinelawn acreage and formed their own cemeteries: the New Monte Fiore Jewish cemetery opened in 1928; the Art Deco-style Wellwood Cemetery, also Jewish, opened in 1938; and St. John Catholic Cemetery opened in the 1930s. Long Island National Cemetery opened on former Pinelawn land in 1937. Somewhat ironically, this cluster of cemeteries carries out the initial vision of the grand Pinelawn Cemetery in theory, though the styles and ownership of the sites are now quite individual.¹²

Movement to Establish a New National Cemetery

Part of the attraction of Pinelawn Cemetery land was its somewhat rural location. By the 1930s, rapid urbanization in America and an aging veteran population in excess of five million made it clear that existing national cemeteries in urban locations would not be able to provide sufficient burial space for the foreseeable future. This problem was particularly acute in New York City and its suburbs, since Cypress Hills National Cemetery by this time offered only limited burial space. In 1935, the Secretary of War sent a letter to the Secretary of State noting that a study made during the previous few years predicted that Cypress Hills was likely to run out of space in less than three years. He indicated that two areas were in consideration for more burial space, at Camp Upton National Military Reservation, 60 miles east of Manhattan on Long Island, and “Pine Lawn” cemetery, which was a more desirable location but had a price tag of \$400,000.¹³

Congress responded to the need for new burial space by passing legislation on May 18, 1936, authorizing the Secretary of War to acquire by “purchase, condemnation or otherwise such suitable lands in the vicinity of New York City...for enlargement of existing national cemetery facilities.” The War Department’s policy was to expand existing national cemeteries rather than create new ones, and in the case of Long Island and other Inter-World War national cemeteries, they were either intended to supplement and expand existing facilities or to serve current needs of the armed forces. The First Deficiency Act, dated June 22, 1936, gave authority to the War

¹¹ Pinelawn Cemetery Association, Prospectus, Pinelawn Cemeteries, pamphlet, 1899, Suffolk County Historical Society, Riverhead, NY.

¹² Sloane, *Last Great Necessity* 140; Huntington Historical Society, *Huntington-Babylon Town History* (Huntington, NY, Huntington Historical Society, 1937), 272; Conversation with administrative staff at St. John Catholic Cemetery, Wellwood Cemetery, and New Monte Fiore Cemetery, October 16, 2008.

¹³ Secretary of War (unnamed and unsigned), to Hon. M.H. McIntyre, Secretary to the President, Washington, DC, February 7, 1935, Box 308, Folder 687 LINC Vol. II, Acquisition 1937, General Correspondence “Geographic File” (GCGF) 1936-1945, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General (OQMG), Record Group 92 (RG 92), National Archives at College Park (NACP).

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Department to acquire land, though none had been selected at that date.¹⁴ Local veterans took note of the search and offered their own opinions publically, as a newspaper article published in December 1936. Past Suffolk County Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) William L. McHenry penned the article and stated that having no available space in a nearby national cemetery has been the cause of “great distress” for war veterans and their relatives, who had to travel as far as Philadelphia for burial. In fact, “many civic-minded citizens, as well as veteran leaders” felt that it was a “standing disgrace to the country that the War Department has failed to find and establish a suitable national cemetery within the needed area.”¹⁵

A state VFW convention at Saratoga in 1935 unanimously approved the idea that a national cemetery should be established at Pinelawn Cemetery. McHenry claimed in his article that the officers of Pinelawn offered ample space at a very low price, “solely by patriotic motives,” and the War Department’s exploration for other alternatives around Nassau County was a waste of time. Indeed, residents of Nassau County made their opinion known. They did not want a new cemetery, as it would take land off the tax assessment rolls. The War Department investigated several locations in the New York City area before purchasing 175 acres offered by the Pinelawn Cemetery.¹⁶

Developing the National Cemetery

The United States government took possession of the acreage for the new national cemetery in January 1937, though the deed did not transfer until May of that year. The purchase price was \$200,000, half of the War Department’s initial projection. The first burials took place in March 1937, and within eight months the partially developed cemetery had 426 interments—an average of fifty-three per month. The first burials occurred in “nothing more than a plowed and harrowed field,” but within the first eight months, the establishment of permanent roads, necessary buildings and a “fairly good stand of grass over the entire 25 acre tract” greatly improved its appearance.¹⁷

Similar to the other Inter-World War national cemeteries, Long Island’s original design utilized a formal, geometric pattern with a flagpole in a prominent location. The total area of 175 acres was an approximate shape of a rectangle. The west boundary was Wellwood Avenue, the east boundary along Little East Neck Drive, and the south boundary is a straight line paralleling Pinelawn Cemetery. At the time, woods ran along what was then the north border, just north of what are now West First and East First drives. The linear road design reflected roughly the extant pattern, incorporating a boulevard running west to east, with each set of the two roads

¹⁴ Acts cited as Public No. 501-74th Congress and Public No. 739-74th Congress, respectively, in Letter from Unknown (unnamed and unsigned), to the Attorney General, March 9, 1937, Box 308, Folder 687 LINC Vol. II, Acquisition 1937, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

¹⁵ William L. McHenry, “McHenry Assails Cemetery Lassitude,” *Babylon Leader*, December 4, 1936.

¹⁶ McHenry, “McHenry Assails,” 1936.

¹⁷ Atty. Gen. H. Cummings to Hon. Harry H. Woodring, Secretary of War, Washington, DC, March 18, 1937, Box 308, Folder 687 LINC Vol. II, Acquisition 1937, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP; Maj. E. F. Olsen, Asst. Adj. Gen., to the Adj. Gen., Washington, DC, 30 November 1937, Box 308, Folder 687 LINC Miscellaneous, 1938, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

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crisscrossing in an “X” pattern near the west and east boundaries. The contractor built the main entrance gate on Wellwood Avenue near the southwest corner of the property. Workers constructed a wide road running parallel to the west boundary with a large circular section to host the flagpole, and a boulevard—a “mall” area of grass framed by two wide roads—running east from the flagpole circle to the approximate center of the property. This mall area serves as the Distinguished Service Section, which primarily consists of Medal of Honor recipients, but also includes recipients of awards such as the Distinguished Service Cross and the Distinguished Flying Cross.¹⁸

Long Island National Cemetery carved its boundaries out of a rural landscape. Though the developed Pinelawn Cemetery adjacent to its southern border was a designed landscape, the lands surrounding the east, north, and west borders of the new national cemetery consisted of cleared farmlands and large stands of forest. By the late 1940s, there were still a few homes and large cleared farmlands located on the northern part of what is now cemetery property, in the vicinity of gate No. 3, north of what are now West Fourth and East Fourth drives. There was some sparse residential development along Wellwood Avenue, the west boundary of the cemetery in 1948, mostly cleared farmland to the north, and a large swath of forest to the east. Though located about 2 miles east of downtown Farmingdale, the cemetery served a much broader constituency that could easily reach the property by the Long Island Railroad.¹⁹

By July 1938, workers cleared away 76 acres of scrub trees and underbrush, with a 60 feet wide firebreak grubbed on the north, east, and south boundary lines. The burial areas received with grass, trees, and shrubs approved by the Office of the Quartermaster General; by late 1939, 50 acres were in “a high state of improvement” and the remaining 125 acres in a “semi state of improvement.” By this time, workers cleared, fenced, and planted the latter tract with hundreds of trees in an effort to cultivate the section and keep out the recently cleared scrub growth. Cemetery Superintendent Robert A. Spence recommended a full-time summer employee to help maintain the approximately 1,200 trees and “hundreds of smaller shrubs located thruout (sic) the cemetery.” Spence also took great care in the appearance of the 2,100 interments that populated the cemetery by late 1939, as well as the buildings and grounds. The interment rate increased steadily from 1937 at approximately fifty-five per month, to about seventy-six per month in 1939. In 1940, the rate of burials required the preparation of an additional 25 acres of land, a process that lasted until well into 1941 and gave the cemetery 50 acres of prepared grave space. Burial sections generally followed the outlines created by the road pattern.²⁰

Major construction projects completed in the first years of the cemetery’s existence included a receiving vault and chapel, garage and comfort station, main entrance gate and fence, United

¹⁸ Aerial Photographs, LINC, 1948-1960. HPC, NCA.

¹⁹ Aerial Photographs, 1948-1960.

²⁰ Asst. Eng. Charles Smith, LINC Narrative Report, to the Quartermaster General (QMG), Washington, DC, July 2, 1938, Folder 600.1, LINC Reports, 1937-1939, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP; Robert A. Spence, Supplement to Estimate for Funds, LINC, 1939, Box 308, Folder 687 LINC 1940, GCGF 1936-1945, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP; Col. W.R. Buckley, Quartermaster Corps (QMC), Inspection Report, to the Commanding General, Army Service Forces, Washington, DC, September 4, 1943, Folder 333.1 LINC 1942, GCGF 1936-45, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

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States flagpole and circle, and a sewage-disposal system at a total cost of \$54,249. John H. French Company was the contractor for these projects. On January 12, 1938, general contractor Frank L. O'Connor of Farmingdale, New York completed the Colonial Revival lodge. Walters Construction Company of Woodside, New York completed an office addition on the east elevation of the lodge on June 3, 1941.²¹ The contractors erected these buildings, structures, and additions with specifications provided by the Office of the Quartermaster General and the Office of the Corps Area Quartermaster, Governors Island, New York. In accordance with the practice of other national cemeteries, the War Department installed four cast iron plaques on upright granite stands in 1940: "Gettysburg Address," *Memorial Day Order, General Orders No. 80*, and the *National Cemetery Act*. These sit near the main entrance in the southwest corner of the cemetery.²² Such plaques are common installations to national cemeteries. However, this style of plaque, set upon an upright granite stand, may be specific to Inter-World War cemeteries.²³

By August 8, 1941, buildings at the cemetery consisted of the superintendent's lodge (1938) and its office addition (1941), a multi-use garage and restroom (1937) that was extended by approximately 40 feet in June 1941, chapel and receiving vault (1938), shelter house (1938) and a pump house (1938). All of the buildings had red brick exteriors and slate shingle roofs, with some Colonial Revival detailing on the main structures. By 1938, the cemetery also had a flagpole and a temporary rostrum; the plan for an elaborate rostrum was never realized. By August 1941, the cemetery had two entrance gates on the west boundary from Wellwood Ave: the main gate on the south and a secondary gate to the north (now Entrance Gate No. 2). A chain-link fence surrounded much of the 175-acre property, but an ornamental iron fence lined the west part of the developed cemetery and 2,080 feet along the south boundary. An underground sprinkler system kept the grass irrigated. The flagpole base appeared "rather flat," according to an inspector from the Quartermaster Corps; he recommended a \$27,000 ornamental base, but the existing base was not replaced.²⁴

Though the cemetery staffed a superintendent and some full-time groundskeepers, the process of creating the roads and buildings required a great deal more labor, some of which the Works Progress Administration (WPA) supplied. The New Deal labor program, begun in 1935, primarily completed small-scale new construction, rehabilitation, and/or landscape improvement projects that could be completed in a year or less. A shelter house for the firing squad, which provided honors at funerals, received \$15,000 in WPA funding in 1938. Within a year of

²¹ Specification No. 1883E, architectural drawing, October 8, 1940, Office of the Quartermaster (OQM), Second Corps Area and the QMG, HPC, NCA.

²² Lt. Col. D.C. Cordiner, QMC, to the QMG, Washington, DC, April 9, 1938, Box 308, Folder 687 LINC Miscellaneous 1938, GCGF 1936-45, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP; Robert Spence, Supt., LINC, to the QMG, Washington, D.C, July 30, 1940, Folder 231.3 LINC 1940, GCGF 1936-45, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP; War Department, "Buildings and Utilities, Long Island National Cemetery," HPC, NCA.

²³ This style of plaque is currently found in Baltimore, Fort Sam Houston, Long Island, Fort Rosecrans, and Fort Snelling national cemeteries. The manufacturer sent this style of plaque to Fort Bliss National Cemetery, and perhaps to Golden Gate National Cemetery, but they were subsequently removed. Golden Gate and Fort Bliss national cemeteries now have similar plaques dating to 2011 and 2012, respectively.

²⁴ Spence, Supplement to Estimate, 1939; Engmann A. Anderson, Maj., QMC, Inspection of LINC, 1941, Folder 333.1 LINC 1942, GCGF 1936-45, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

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constructing the small building, the building received a soundproof partition to bisect it internally; the west half became a cemetery office and the east wall received an exterior door in June 1939. As part of another WPA project, a concrete walk, steps, platform, and ornamental steel railing using materials furnished by the War Department accessed this new door. Additionally, WPA added four garage bays to the footprint of the garage and restroom building in 1941.²⁵

Colonel John T. Harris of the Quartermaster Corps attempted to appropriate more WPA funding as the cemetery pursued construction and improvement projects, and in March 1938, Long Island National Cemetery received \$50,000 in WPA funds to employ 179 men for construction. Although funding was available, the WPA district director was unable to supply enough skilled and unskilled labor for the work at the cemetery; unskilled laborers received promotions to skilled positions in order to keep pace with the construction. The laborers had only 121 hours to complete the project. By June 1939, the cemetery employed 480 men through WPA projects. A final narrative report of the WPA projects completed at the cemetery listed: construction of the shelter house and comfort station, including its sewer line and septic tank; clearing 76 acres of scrub trees and underbrush, and a 60 foot fire break along boundary lines; construction of a rostrum; construction of 2,363 feet of sidewalks, 5,472 feet of curb and gutters; and completion of woven-wire and barbed-wire fences on the east, north, and south boundaries.²⁶

The hard work of the WPA laborers resulted in a presentable cemetery by early 1940, and Long Island National Cemetery celebrated a formal dedication ceremony on May 26 of that year. In planning for the dedication, officials acknowledged the rivalries between members of various veteran organizations seen during the establishment of the cemetery and worked to bring them altogether. The experience at Long Island also influenced preparations at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, as personnel shared precautions taken for the occasion.²⁷

The formal dedication ceremony was a well-attended success. A parade of 3,000 people composed of 100 units of veterans groups and their auxiliaries sponsored by the United War Veterans Association of Nassau and Suffolk counties celebrated the locally described "National Park at Pinelawn" or "Long Island National Cemetery at Pinelawn." Another 3,000 people

²⁵ "Buildings and Utilities, LINC." HPC, NCA.

²⁶ Smith to QMG, July 2, 1938; Col. John T. Harris, QMC, to Capt. Robert S. Beard, OQM, Governors Island, NY, 27 January 1938, Box 308, Folder 687 LINC Miscellaneous 1938, GCGF 1936-45, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP; Gibbins (no first name), telegraph to Commanding General Second Corps Area, Governors Island, NY, March 10, 1938, Folder 600.1 LINC Reports 1937-39, GCGF 1936-45, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP; Capt. Robert S. Beard, QMC, to the QMG, Washington, DC, April 19, 1938, Folder 600.1 LINC Reports 1937-39, GCGF 1936-45, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP; Capt. H.G. McNerny, Quartermaster Second Corps Area to the QMG, Washington, DC, April 20, 1938, Folder 600.1 LINC Reports 1937-39, GCGF 1936-45, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP; Robert Spence, Supt., LINC, to Federal Bureau of Identification, Washington, DC, June 6, 1939, Folder 344.1 LINC 1940, GCGF 1936-45, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

²⁷ Col. John T. Harris, QMC, to Maj. John R. Holt, Quartermaster, Fort Snelling, MN, June 17, 1939, Folder 687, Fort Snelling National Cemetery, MN Vol. V, July to Dec. 1939, GCGF 1936-45, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

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attended the service, which included the unveiling of a granite marker with bronze tablets inscribed with the emblems of the service organizations.²⁸

Mid- and Late-Twentieth-Century Development

The interment rate at the cemetery steadily increased during the subsequent decades following the first interments in March 1937. By December 31, 1947, there were more than 10,000 interments in the Long Island National Cemetery. The Department of Defense (renamed from the War Department in 1949) purchased 189.72 additional acres to the north in 1951 to meet the increasing demand for burial space. This brought the cemetery to its current size of approximately 365 acres.

In the 1950s, the cemetery cleared the newly acquired lands and laid out the street grid and burial sections by 1960. Instead of continuing the parallel, linear street, and crisscross pattern of the original roads, the new street pattern was geometric, with a central trio of northbound roads flanked by parallel east-to-west roads. This layout created a series of rectangular burial sections. Though road names suggested in the 1930s honored past presidents, the streets have names like Southern Drive, Center Portal Drive, Memorial Drive South, East Third Drive, and West Third Drive.

In 1950, the Department of Defense expanded the cemetery's chapel and receiving vault on the west elevation to house administrative space and restrooms; the chapel and receiving vault building became the superintendent's office. This conversion included replacing the chapel's original centrally set main entrance and fanlight on its north elevation with the current window arrangement and bricking in the arched window openings on the building's east elevation. In a report of recommendations for new construction and maintenance at Long Island National Cemetery, the author notes:

Much congestion of vehicles occurs at Cemetery gates due to the fact that the leading car of funerals must stop for clearance at the office located near the entrance. Existing Chapel and Vault located 250 feet beyond present office should be remodeled as the cemetery office to overcome this difficult and the existing office utilized as a reception room...

A larger and more adequate Chapel...should be constructed. Storage for 100 caskets in the rear of Chapel is desirable to permit the orderly receipt of repatriation remains and funeral arrangements with next of kin. Present storage is limited to 8 caskets.²⁹

No further information is known regarding repatriation remains or the creation of a second chapel. The cemetery never constructed a second chapel, but the garage and restroom building added another extension ca. 1950. This gable addition extended west from the south end of the former garage and restroom. A letter from a lieutenant colonel in the Memorial Division to the

²⁸ "Cemetery is Dedicated," *New York Times*, May 27, 1940.

²⁹ "Construction and Repairs for Long Island National Cemetery, Pinelawn, Long Island, New York," Box 25, Folder 5, LINC, DMA, NCHF, Records of the VA, RG 15, NAB.

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chief of engineers dated April 27, 1948, references plans for the present chapel to be reused as a “nucleus” for constructing a new, enlarged administration building.³⁰

In March 1950, on the original grounds of what is now the Memorial Circle, the Department of Defense constructed a rectangular 90,000-gallon reservoir framed by 15 foot sidewalks on each of its four sides. The cemetery renovated the reservoir into a fountain in the 1960s and 1970s, with two larger jets set upon tiered pedestals approximately 10 feet high, and four smaller jets set upon blocks approximately 4 feet high. In the late 1970s or early 1980s, space for new interments required the filling of the fountain. The outline of the approximately 60 feet x 150 feet rectangle remains visible in aerial views to the present day.³¹

As the cemetery expanded and new roads opened, it also gained additional entry gates fronting Wellwood Avenue along the cemetery’s west boundary. Built in 1956 by E.W. Jackson Contracting Co., these gates mimic the original gates in material, design, and size. By 1968, the street grid extended the length of the property and was similar to its current appearance. The chain-link fence lining much of the cemetery’s boundary to date was in place by that time. The rectangular burial sections continued as the roads extended north, but ended in a series of semi-circular roads on the north end.³²

Improvements at the cemetery and the addition of more acreage attempted to keep up with demand, which rose with the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Repatriation of remains after World War II and the Korean conflict rapidly increased the rate of interments at mid century, and by November 1, 1963, the cemetery noted its 100,000th interment. The 200,000th interment occurred less than ten years later in February 1973.³³

Passage of the *National Cemetery Act of 1973* (Public Law 93-43), signed on June 18, 1973, provided for development of the National Cemetery System. The act transferred eighty-two of the eighty-four national cemeteries to the Veterans Administration (VA).³⁴ The two exceptions were among the oldest and most recognized properties: Soldiers’ Home and Arlington national cemeteries. The eighty-two cemeteries joined twenty-one that the VA already administered as part of VA medical centers. Also transferred from the Army were thirty-three soldiers’ lots, government lots, and Confederate cemeteries dating to the Civil War.³⁵ During the 1980s and

³⁰ Lt. Col. of the Memorial Division of the OQMG (name illegible) to the Chief of Engineers (name illegible), April 27, 1948, Box 25, Folder 5, LINC, DMA, NCHF, Records of the VA, RG 15, NAB.

³¹ Historic Photograph Collection, LINC; War Department, “Buildings and Utilities, LINC,” HPC, NCA; Maintenance Ledger for “Reservoir”, Box 25, Folder 2, LINC, DMA, NCHF, Records of the VA, RG 15, NAB.

³² VA, “Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, New York,” VA Pamphlet 4027 (Philadelphia, PA: National Cemetery Supervising Office, VA, 1976); OQMG, “Long Island National Cemetery, Pinelawn, Long Island, N.Y., Layout Plan,” Washington, DC, Constructing Division, OQMG, June 26, 1937, Folder 611 LINC 1941, GCGF 1936-45, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP; Aerial Photographs, LINC, 1948-1960, HPC, NCA; War Department, “Buildings and Utilities, LINC.” HPC, NCA.

³³ VA, “Long Island National Cemetery;” Aerial Photographs, LINC, 1948-1960, HPC, NCA; Rhoades, conversation with author.

³⁴ Both the Veterans Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs are known by the acronym VA.

³⁵ Dean W. Holt, *American Military Cemeteries: A Comprehensive Illustrated Guide to the Hollowed Grounds of the United States, Including Cemeteries Overseas* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company, 1992), 5, 409; Donald

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1990s, the VA evolved. In 1989, the VA gained cabinet-level status and was renamed the Department of Veterans Affairs (also known by the abbreviation VA); in 1998 the National Cemetery System became the National Cemetery Administration (NCA).

Long Island National Cemetery closed to new interments in 1978. With finite boundaries created by established roads on two sides and Pinelawn Cemetery along the third, the national cemetery had no room for outward expansion. Instead, the cemetery removed some roads and a fountain and converted the space to more burial sections. The cemetery installed three large columbaria ca. 2002, which generated 6,000 new niches for cremated remains. Additionally, qualified relatives are allowed burial in the same plot as family members. These burial options keep Long Island National Cemetery busy, despite its status as a “closed” cemetery.³⁶

In spite of some landscape changes, additions, and alterations, Long Island National Cemetery retains its historic integrity. Largely unchanged development surrounding the cemetery, which sits at its original location, does not diminish its historic integrity. Its acreage remains as it was in the mid-twentieth century and later construction near the main entrance occurred primarily more than 50 years ago. Thus, the cemetery maintains its historic feeling and association. The sensitive alterations and additions, furthermore, do not deter overall from the cemetery’s integrity of design, association, or workmanship.

Medal of Honor Recipients (19)³⁷

The Medal of Honor is the highest award that can be bestowed upon Armed Services personnel. The honor recognizes an act of valor performed in action against an enemy force. The headstones of the recipients installed or replaced since 1976 feature the Medal of Honor emblem in gold. Headstones prior to 1976 may list the medal in text only.

Heinrich Behnke, Seaman First Class, United States Navy. Behnke received a peacetime Congressional Medal of Honor for extreme heroism when a manhole plate blew out of a boiler aboard the USS *Iowa*, January 25, 1905. He died on June 19, 1952, and is buried in Section DSS, Grave 20A.

Anthony Casamento, Corporal, United States Marines Corps. Anthony Casamento served with Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. He distinguished himself while defending his unit and aiding flanking companies at Guadalcanal, November 1, 1942. He died on July 18, 1987, and is interred in Section DSS, Grave 79A.

E. Johnson, *A Study of the National Cemetery System* (Washington, DC: VA, 1974), 15; VA, *Report on the National Cemetery System*, prepared in response to Public Law 99-576 (Sec. 412), Veterans Benefit Improvement and Health-Care Authorization Act of 1986 (February 1994).

³⁶ Rhoades, conversation with author.

³⁷ This section was compiled by information from George Lang, Raymond Luther Collins, and Gerard White, *Medal of Honor Recipients, 1863-1994: World War II to Somalia* (New York: Facts on File, Inc., 1995) and the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, “Full Archive,” www.CMOHS.org, accessed June 1, 2010.

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John Everetts, Gunners Mate, Third Class, United States Navy. While Gunner's Mate Third Class John Everetts served aboard the USS *Cushing*, he attempted to save the life of a shipmate who fell overboard on February 11, 1898. He died on September 12, 1956, and is buried in Section DSS, Grave 36A.

Robert Galbraith, Gunner's Mate Third Class, United States Navy. His citation reads "For extraordinary heroism and gallantry while under fire of the enemy at El Pardo, Cebu, Philippine Islands, 12 and 13 September 1899." His medal was issued on November 21, 1900. He died on May 13, 1949, and is buried in Section DSS, Grave 17.

William Henry Gowan, Boatswain's Mate, United States Navy. Gowan's citation reads, "For bravery and extraordinary heroism displayed during a conflagration in Coquimbo, Chile, 20 January 1909." His Medal was issued on March 19, 1909. He died on May 22, 1957, and is interred in Section DSS, Grave 7.

Sydney G. Gumpertz, Captain, United States Army. Gumpertz served Company E, 132nd Infantry, 33rd Division, and he distinguished himself at Bois-de-Forges, France, and September 29, 1918. He took on a heavy barrage of machine gun fire to capture nine enemy crewmembers. He died on February 16, 1971, and is interred in Section DSS, Grave 65.

August Holtz, Chief Watertender, United States Navy. Holtz was recognized for extraordinary heroism during a fire on board the USS *North Dakota*, September 8, 1910. He received the medal on October 4, 1910. Holtz died March 5, 1935 and is buried in Section F, Grave 916.

Stephen Edward Karopczyc, First Lieutenant, United States Army. Karopczyc sacrificed his own protection for the defense of others during an engagement with the enemy in Vietnam. Succumbing to his injuries, Karopczyc died on March 12, 1957. He is interred in Section DSS, Grave 5A.

John James Kedenberg, Specialist Fifth Class, Special Forces Group. Kedenberg served during Vietnam with the 1st Special Forces, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne). Kedenberg gave up his helicopter harness to a member of his team while taking on heavy enemy fire. He killed six before being overpowered. He died on June 13, 1968, and is interred in Section 2H, Grave 3684.

Carlos James Lozada, Private First Class, United States Army. Lozada served with Company A, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. Near Dak To, Kontum Province, Vietnam, realizing the enemy was approaching the rear of his unit, Lozada fired and killed 20 Vietnamese, disrupting their attack; he continued to deliver heavy fire until mortally wounded. He died on November 20, 1967, and is buried in Section T, Grave 2295.

Thomas Mitchell, Landsman, United States Navy. While aboard the USS *Richmond*, at Shanghai, China, Mitchell rescued a shipmate from drowning on November 17, 1879. He later died on July 18, 1942, and is buried in Section M, Grave 27661.

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Lauritz Nelson, Chief Boatswain's Mate, United States Navy. Aboard the USS *Nashville*, Nelson displayed bravery and coolness in a mission to cut a cable from Cienfuegos, Cuba, May 11, 1898 (War with Spain). He died on September 16, 1944, and is buried in Section DSS, Grave 2.

Bernard James Ray, First Lieutenant, United States Army. While serving with Company F, 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division, at Hurtgen Forest near Schevenhutte, Germany, on November 17, 1944, Ray died in a daring exploit to blast through tangled barbed wire. With only seconds to detonate, he used the primer cord wrapped around his body and rigged up a quick detonation, destroying himself and the barricade in the blast. He is interred in Section DSS, Grave 6.

Joseph Edward Schaefer, Staff Sergeant, United States Army. Schaefer served with Company I, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division, near Stolberg, Germany, on September 24, 1944, where he led a squad into battle to defend a crossroads, and crawled under fire to a nearby house to set up a defense. Facing the enemy on two sides, Schaefer left the house and attacked both forces with deadly accuracy. He and his team pressed ahead and rescued an American squad. He died on March 16, 1987, and is buried in Section DSS, Grave 80.

Charles William Shea, Second Lieutenant, United States Army. Shea served with Company F, 350th Infantry, 88th Infantry Division, near Mount Damiano, Italy, on May 12, 1944, when the squad faced three machine gun nests delivering heavy fire. He ran ahead of his pinned-down unit and captured two nests. Though machine gun fire, he crawled to the third nest to kill three Germans. He died on April 7, 1994, and is buried in Section DSS, Grave 71A.

William Henry Thompson, Private First Class, United States Army. Thompson served with Company M, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, in Haman, Korea, on August 23, 1950, when under cover of darkness the enemy overwhelmed his position in an attack. Thompson set up his machine gun in the path of the enemy and delivered accurate and withering fire. He continued to fire until he was mortally wounded. He is buried in Section DSS, Grave 19.

Michael Valente, Private, United States Army. Valente served with Company D, 107th Infantry, 27th Division, at Ronssoy, France, when on Sept. 29, 1918, he found his company pinned by heavy machine gun fire. He and another soldier rushed ahead and attacked two machine gun nests, killing or capturing several of the enemy. He died on January 10, 1976, and is interred in Section DSS, Grave 60A.

James Aloysius Walsh, Seaman, United States Navy. Aboard the USS *Florida*, Walsh displayed extreme heroism while capturing Vera Cruz, Mexico on April 21-22, 1914 (Mexican Campaign). He died on May 29, 1960, and is interred in Section DSS, Grave 47A.

John Earl Warren, First Lieutenant, United States Army. While serving with Company C, 22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, at Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam, on January 14, 1969, Warren and his unit came under heavy fire. He and others approached within 6 feet of the enemy bunker, preparing to throw a hand grenade, when an enemy grenade was thrown into his

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position. He fell toward it to shield the blast, saving three soldiers but sacrificing his own life. He is interred in Section O, Grave 33144.

Group Burials

There are thirty-nine group burials in Long Island National Cemetery containing the remains of 112 soldiers. The remains of these individuals could not be individually identified given the circumstances of their deaths. Specially designed government headstones mark these group burials and show the names, ranks, and dates of death for the known interments.

The largest group burial in the cemetery represents ten individuals, including three officers, one technical sergeant, two sergeants, and four corporals. Members of the United States Army Air Corps, these men died together during World War II on May 4, 1945, and are interred in gravesites 13630, 13631, 13649, and 13650 in Section J.

Another group burial consists of four American servicemen and two members of the British Armed Forces. Although their plane crashed in the Burmese jungle in April 1945, thick vegetation hindered attempts to locate the wreckage. In 1957, Burmese tribesmen found the wreck and alerted the United States Army, who located the plane and the soldiers' remains. The men were interred on February 5, 1958, in Section M, Grave 27188.

POW Burials

There is a World War II prisoner of war (POW) section within the cemetery, located in Section 2C. It contains the remains of thirty-seven German and fifty-four Italian foreign nationals. Thirty-six of the Italian POWs are interred in one group grave as unknowns; these men were among 1,800 POWs onboard a British-operated ship, SS *Benjamin Contee* during an aerial torpedo strike on August 16, 1943. Many men confined in the holds of the ship died, and the initial search of the ship upon its return to Bone, Algeria, failed to recover every casualty. The remains of thirty-six Italians were found in the ship when it arrived in the United States, and the men are buried in one grave.

Other Notable Burials

Other burials include the remains of Civil War soldiers and World War II French soldiers. In 1948, sixteen Civil War soldiers from the abandoned post cemetery at Fort Greble, Rhode Island, and were reinterred in a common grave at Long Island National Cemetery: Section O, site 37325. In 1943, five French seamen were interred in the cemetery with headstones paid for by the French Naval Mission but executed in the General type.³⁸ In 1952, 104 remains from the abandoned post cemetery on Fort McKinley, Maine, were reinterred in Long Island National Cemetery in Section O.³⁹

³⁸ CDR R.E. Blanchard, French Naval Mission, to Supt., LINC, December 7, 1943, Folder 293.7, LINC 1943, GCGF 1936-45, Records of the OQMG, RG 92, NACP.

³⁹ "Distinguished Personages Interred in Long Island National Cemetery," no date, photocopy, HPC, NCA.

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Conclusion

With large mature trees, a grassy lawn, and shaded roads, this peaceful cemetery hosts the remains of our nation's heroes. Most often denoted by regularly spaced, perfectly aligned upright white marble headstones, the graves of our nation's honored dead grant the Long Island National Cemetery a solemn atmosphere. With many of its original elements intact, this national cemetery maintains its Inter-World War design intentions and conveys a solemn sense of respect and honor throughout its acreage.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Suffolk County Historical Society, New York Public Library,
National Archives, Long Island National Cemetery

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 364.7

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates up to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 40.764888 | Longitude: -73.402887 |
| 2. Latitude: 40.762613 | Longitude: -73.393274 |
| 3. Latitude: 40.749674 | Longitude: -73.381601 |
| 4. Latitude: 40.745253 | Longitude: -73.400741 |
| 5. Latitude: 40.763523 | Longitude: -73.403402 |

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 18N | Easting: 634788 | Northing: 4513858 |
| 2. Zone: 18N | Easting: 634964 | Northing: 4512182 |
| 3. Zone: 18N | Easting: 636200 | Northing: 4512778 |

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

The western boundary of the Long Island National Cemetery is Wellwood Avenue; the northern and eastern boundaries roughly follow Little East Neck Drive. The southern boundary is a straight line running between Wellwood Avenue and Little East Neck Drive, which also serves as the northern border of Pinelawn Cemetery.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of this site corresponds with the legal boundary of the Long Island National Cemetery. The entire area within the boundary is developed for burial space or supporting structures.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kristie L. Person and Staci Richey/Historians
organization: New South Associates, Inc.
street & number: 6150 E Ponce de Leon Avenue
city or town: Stone Mountain state: Georgia zip code: 30083
e-mail: kperson@newsouthassoc.com
telephone: 770-498-4155
date: November 3, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Photographs

Photo Log

Name of Property: Long Island National Cemetery
City or Vicinity: Farmingdale
County: Suffolk State: New York
Photographer: Staci Richey
Date Photographed: October 13-15, 2008

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 37. View to east, Main Entrance Gate
- 2 of 37. View to east, Main Entrance Gate
- 3 of 37. View to north, Wellwood Avenue
- 4 of 37. View to south, Lodge
- 5 of 37. View to southwest, Lodge
- 6 of 37. View to north, Lodge
- 7 of 37. View to south, Administrative Office
- 8 of 37. View to southeast, Administrative Office
- 9 of 37. View to west, Administrative Office

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- 10 of 37. View to southeast, Shelter House/Comfort Station
- 11 of 37. View to southwest, Shelter House/Comfort Station
- 12 of 37. View to northwest, Garage/Office
- 13 of 37. View to west, Garage
- 14 of 37. View to west, Entrance Gates
- 15 of 37. View to south, Flagstaff Drive
- 16 of 37. View to north, Flagpole
- 17 of 37. View to east, from Flagpole
- 18 of 37. View to northeast, Entrance Gate No. 2
- 19 of 37. View to southeast, Entrance Gate No. 2
- 20 of 37. View to south, Gate Two detail
- 21 of 37. View to west, Maintenance
- 22 of 37. View to south, Maintenance
- 23 of 37. View to east, Restroom
- 24 of 37. View to west, Restroom
- 25 of 37. View to north, Western Drive and Rostrum Drive West
- 26 of 37. View to west, Gate 4
- 27 of 37. View to northwest, between Sections 3B and 2Y
- 28 of 37. View to northwest, Central Drive and Section 3D
- 29 of 37. View to southeast, Columbarium
- 30 of 37. View to southwest, West First and Center Portal drives
- 31 of 37. View to north, Committal Shelter
- 32 of 37. View to northeast
- 33 of 37. View to east, Chain-link Gate
- 34 of 37. View to west, Section 2P
- 35 of 37. View to southeast, Section 2X
- 36 of 37. View to east, Section 2P
- 37 of 37. View to north, Memorial

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 United StatesC.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, United States Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.