

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Willamette National Cemetery
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 11800 SE Mt. Scott Boulevard not for publication
city or town Portland vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Clackamas code 005 zip code 97086
code 051 zip code _____

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

Kathleen Schanel 5/16/16
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
FPO VA
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
[Signature] 10.23.12
Signature of commenting official Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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] 7/5/16
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8		buildings
1	1	sites
16		structures
9		objects
34	1	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/cemetery

FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK, CONCRETE, STUCCO

roof: WOOD, METAL, GLASS, SYNTHETICS

other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Willamette National Cemetery, established in 1950, is located approximately 10 miles southeast of Portland in Clackamas and Multnomah Counties, Oregon. Situated along Mt. Scott Boulevard and northwest of Lincoln Memorial Park (a private cemetery), the 307.6-acre cemetery sits on an irregular parcel. Located on the northeast foothills of Mt. Scott, the cemetery provides scenic views of four mountains, the City of Portland, and the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. The cemetery borders residential neighborhoods on the north, east and south. With burials beginning in 1951, Willamette National Cemetery, as of June 2012, contains 151,043 interments. The total comprises 104,881 full-casket burials, 30,268 in-ground cremains and 15,894 cremains placed in the six columbaria. Willamette National Cemetery has expanded eastward since its initial development and as a result, can accommodate casket and cremains until 2019 and 2030, respectively. In October 2011, the cemetery acquired a 38.2-acre site, adjacent to the southeast boundary of the cemetery, for additional expansion. As a result, the cemetery has the potential to remain open for decades to come. Only flat granite markers are used at Willamette to mark graves and thus renders the cemetery more park-like than earlier national cemeteries with their rows of upright white marble headstones.

Narrative Description

Congressional authorization for a national cemetery in Oregon came in 1941. Following the conclusion of World War II, Portland and northwest regional leaders lobbied for the development of a national cemetery and persuaded the state to donate acreage to the federal government in 1949. The cemetery was formally designated Willamette National Cemetery in December 1950. Initially comprised of approximately 200 acres, the cemetery included a superintendent's lodge, administration and utility buildings, and a main entrance gate and fence. Subsequent landscaping and building improvements in the 1960s, '70s and '80s accommodated the growing numbers of interments. After obtaining an additional 68 acres, the cemetery expanded eastward in the 1990s.

The construction of Willamette National Cemetery has occurred in a number of increments or stages since its establishment in 1950. The original cemetery plan was laid out in a square and set on an angle, oriented southwest-to-northeast. The bottom corner was cut off by Mt. Scott Boulevard with the entrance to the cemetery placed in the middle of the property line along the boulevard. The first increment plans for the cemetery included an entrance gate and fence, a superintendent's lodge, an administration building and a utility building; these buildings were set in a group just inside the entrance and share modern architectural styling. In addition, a flagpole was located just north of the main entrance (now Gate 2) set at the center of an exedra. A 1952 aerial photograph reveals the initial development of Outer Drive, perpendicular to the entrance road and Mall Drive North and South, parallel to the entrance road. The original burial sections (Sections K, H, and G) were established adjacent along this central axis. Outside of this initial layout, the majority of the cemetery's 200 acres remained undeveloped at the time of the formal dedication in 1951 (see Figure 1).¹

The second increment plans for the cemetery (dated 8 February 1955) included designs for a rostrum and flagpole area. The flagpole was to be relocated northeast of the entrance at the far end of Section H, and a formal rostrum constructed. The central axis from the entrance gate to the rostrum was flanked by parallel roads (Mall Drive North, Mall Drive South), which formed a connecting loop at the intersection of Center Drive and the rostrum. These same drawings reveal the overall plan for development of the 200-acre tract, with roads and sections radiating out from the entrance. The plan depicts roads, such as First, Second, Third and Outer Drives, forming larger rings around Mall Drive, mirroring its orientation. Only Mall Drive North, Mall Drive South, the southern portion of Rostrum Drive and First Drive, as well as a small section of Outer Drive, had

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been developed by 1960 per a cemetery map, confirming that initial development expanded east towards the 1955 rostrum and southeast towards Sections F and G. (See Figure 2.) In subsequent years, the 200-acre tract developed according to the 1955 plan, with the exception of Second Drive South, Third Drive South and Outer Drive South. (See Figure 3.)²

Later development, including a new administration building and main entrance, and the expansion of the road network, occurred in the 1970s following the development of a master plan. Changes in the early 1980s included the development of new burial sections in the southeast portion of the cemetery. In 1983, the cemetery opened Columbarium 1, a structure containing niches in four, six and eight rows, one of the earliest examples of such an interment option in the national cemetery system. (See Figure 4.) Two permanent committal shelters were also added in the late 1980s; previously, movable temporary structures were used for committal services. In 1997, 68 additional acres were formally dedicated and provided 30,000 additional burial spaces in the northeast portion of the cemetery. Recent changes have included five columbaria in the expansion section and a public information/restroom building near the administration building. (See Figure 5.)

Today, the Willamette National Cemetery maintains an open park-like appearance, emphasizing the area's rolling hills and topography. Mature trees, including London Plane and Douglas-fir, are present throughout the cemetery and were originally planted in the 1950s and subsequent decades by local gardening clubs, in cooperation with the Army Corps of Engineers. The trees primarily border cemetery roads; others are interspersed throughout burial and support areas, providing shade and natural buffers between areas.

A cemetery fence, consisting of square brick pillars and simple metal pickets on a concrete base is present along Mt. Scott Boulevard; the other sides are enclosed by chain-link fencing. Additional features include decorative signposts, which are described in the 1950's plans as being made of terra cotta, though today are most likely cast-concrete. Also present are granite section markers and low, rounded curbs on roadways. Designed landscape elements in the cemetery include memorial trees, located near the committal shelters, which were planted in honor of individual groups of veterans. In addition, a memorial rose garden is located opposite the administration building near Columbarium 1. A smaller rose garden is located at the original 1950 flagpole location, within the exedra and opposite the Gate 2 entrance along Outer Drive; a water garden with black stones is located on a hill in Section KK.

Currently changes to the maintenance facility, east of Gate 2 are being considered. Potential work includes the construction of a new employee building to accommodate administration offices, break room, lockers, and drying room, along with a parking area of up to 45 spaces. A parking lot is planned for the vacant land between Gate 2 and the lodge, with additional parking along the entrance road. The new employee building would be constructed directly opposite the parking lot and would reflect in style, scale and materials the historic lodge, maintenance and service buildings.

As of June 2012, burials at Willamette National Cemetery are arranged within 43 burial sections, designated A–M (there are no sections labeled I or J); AA-MM (no II) and 1–7. There are also four memorial sections, designated MA, MB, MC, and MN; there are no burials in these sections, rather they are used to memorialize veterans whose remains were not recovered or identified, are buried at sea, donated to science or whose cremated remains have been scattered. The low profile of the flat granite markers helps emphasize the rolling topography and natural landscape of the cemetery. The markers at the cemetery include two sizes—a larger one for full-casket burials and a smaller one for in-ground cremains. Grave sites for in-ground cremains are smaller than those for full-casket, and thus the markers are smaller. The cemetery also includes unique bronze plaques identifying Medal of Honor recipients; these plaques are affixed to small polished granite bases and are immediately opposite the flat granite markers of the recipients.

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Contributing Resources (34)

Buildings (8): Administration Building (1001), Superintendent's Lodge (2001), Maintenance Building (3003), Service Buildings (3001 and 3002), Restrooms/Gravesite Locator, Storage Building, Storage Shed.

Site (1): 269.4 developed acres.

Structures (16): Flagpole/Amphitheater/Rostrum, Columbaria (6 units), Gate 1 (Main Entrance), Gate 2, Gate 3, Exedra, Committal Shelters (4), Vehicular Bridge.

Objects (9): Carillon and dedication plaques, Oregon Korean Veterans Memorial, Pearl Harbor Survivors Memorial, 1st Marine Division Memorial, Gettysburg Address Plaque, Blue Star Memorial Markers (2), World War I Memorial, 304th Rescue Squadron Memorial, Bivouac of the Dead plaque.

Buildings (8)

Administration Building (1001): Built ca. 1975 as the new administration headquarters for the cemetery, this one-story Brutalist-style concrete and glass building provided additional room for the growing administrative staff. It was located near the new main entrance and faces Columbarium 1. It continues to serve as the administration building and reception area. With a concrete foundation, concrete walls and large expanses of plate-glass windows, the administration building is in good condition. Attached to the building are large bronze capital letters with the cemetery name; also attached is a bronze Veterans Administration seal. The building retains its exterior appearance from time of construction; various interior changes have taken place to accommodate new technology and changing way of conducting business.

Superintendent's Lodge (Building 2001): Built as a superintendent's lodge in 1951, this one-story California ranch-style building is located on the northeast side of the Gate 2 entrance and across from the maintenance building (formerly the Administration Building). The design for the superintendent's lodge came from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Seattle office. The one-story L-shaped lodge is wood frame construction. The lower portion of the building is clad in textured, buff-colored Roman brick and the upper portion is clad in stucco and painted; a band or sill of red brick headers separates the two areas. The lodge is covered by a low-pitched gable-on-hip roof; a wide Roman brick chimney projects from the northwest side of the roof. The walls are punctuated by a number of casement windows; originally these were metal casements with multiple lights but they were replaced with single-light aluminum casements sometime in the 1990s. The front door faces the entrance road and is accessed via a short flight of stair and covered porch, which is created by the deep overhanging eave of the roof. The back door faces a large enclosed yard; large wooden brackets that extend from under the eaves frame the door. A single-car garage is located on the east side and is accessed by an overhead door. The first floor consists of a large open living/dining room at the front of the house and a galley kitchen at the back; three bedrooms and a bathroom are arranged perpendicular to the living room/dining room/kitchen block. The interior features hardwood floors in the living/dining room and bedroom spaces; a Roman brick fireplace is a focal point of the living room. The finished basement, which only exists under the living areas of the house, contains a recreation room and a laundry/utility room. The building retains much of its historic character and aesthetic integrity inside and out. It no longer serves as residential space, but is used for administrative offices.

Maintenance Building (Building 3003): Originally built as the administrative office for the cemetery, this building now serves as a maintenance office. This building was constructed in 1951 on the southeast side of the main entrance gate and across from the superintendent's lodge. The one-story California ranch-style building is similar in design to the lodge and features a concrete foundation, Roman brick and stucco-clad exterior walls, a low-pitched hip roof, metal casement windows and a brick chimney. Sketch plans from 1966 indicate that a large L-shaped addition was being planned for the administration building and alterations were

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to be made to the interior. The plans were changed after it was decided to build a new entrance and administration building at the northwest corner of the cemetery. Instead, the building received a perpendicular addition on the northeast side in the mid-1970s, changing the plan of the building from rectangular to L-shaped. Additionally the main façade/entrance was reoriented from the entrance road elevation to the opposite side facing a parking lot. The double door entrance on the entrance road side of the building was eventually closed in, though the decorative wooden brackets that begin under the eaves and extend to the small concrete porch are still present on either side of the former doorway. The perpendicular addition also eliminated a large window that wrapped around the northeast corner of the building. The building retains much of its exterior historic character and aesthetic integrity from the 1950's; the 1970s addition was carefully conceived to blend in with the older building. Changes to the interior throughout the 1970s to the present have removed all historic materials and obscured the historic layout.

(2) Service Buildings (Buildings 3001 and 3002): Service buildings 3001 and 3002 are situated south of the maintenance building on opposite sides of an asphalt-covered yard. Building 3001 was constructed in 1951 as a utility building. Building 3001 features a concrete foundation, Roman brick and stucco-clad exterior walls and a flat roof. The building includes original multi-paned metal-casement windows, non-historic garage door openings and a brick, central chimney. A ca. 1980 addition to the west elevation was constructed using similar materials as the original building and provided additional garage space. The one-story building continues to serve as a maintenance facility.

Building 3002 was erected in 1963 immediately south of Building 3001 in order to expand service activities at the cemetery. The building was very similar in design to Building 3001. A ca. 1980 addition was also appended to the west elevation allowing for additional maintenance activities.

Buildings 3001 and 3002 retain much of their exterior character and aesthetic integrity from the time they were constructed. The 1980s additions are distinct in materials and construction from the older buildings and do not negatively impact the integrity of Buildings 3001 and 3002.

Restrooms/Gravesite Locator: Completed ca. 2010 and designed by Hennebery Eddy Architects, this single-story, modern concrete and metal-clad building is located south of the administration building adjacent to Columbarium 1. The building includes an automated gravesite locator, a large map of the cemetery and restrooms for visitors.

Storage Building: Completed ca. 2000, this small storage building is located at the north end of the cemetery along Memorial Drive.

Storage Shed: Completed ca. 2000, this large maintenance shed is located at the northeast end of the cemetery along Memorial Drive.

Structures (16)

Flagpole/Amphitheater/Rostrum: The rostrum/flagpole/amphitheater area sits on the highest point in the property and is the focal point of the cemetery. The flagpole sits at the northern end of Section H and is aligned with Gate 2 (the original main entrance) to the south and the rostrum to the north. The flagpole has an ornamental, polished granite base, which includes a bronze plaque reading, "Eternal Lighting in Honor of All Our Comrades Resting Here, By Oregon State V.F.W." Flanking the flagpole are red-brown Norman brick walls with concrete caps and bases; each side includes three separate, successively higher walls. To each wall is affixed a bronze seal; five are for the military service branches and the sixth is that of the Department of Veterans Affairs. On the north side of the flagpole, stairs cascade down into the amphitheater area, which includes a manicured lawn with slightly curving stone benches facing north toward the rostrum. A central pathway bisects the benches and leads from the flagpole to the rostrum.

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Originally constructed in 1955, the rostrum has undergone a number of improvements, with its current appearance dating to ca. 1994. The rostrum consists of red-brown Norman brick walls with concrete caps and bases forming an approximate semicircle with a slightly curving wall immediately behind it and adjacent to Mall Drive. The center of the rostrum facing the amphitheater includes an engraved marble plaque stating, "To the Memory of a Supreme Sacrifice We Honor Those Who Gave their Lives for God, Principle and Love of Country." Just below the plaque and resting on the ground is a slightly raised bronze plaque noting the dedication of the permanent seating by the Oregon American Legion in 1970.

Historic photographs indicate that prior to the ca. 1994 improvements, the rostrum consisted of a simple, rectangular, raised platform of concrete with decorative metal railings set on a semicircular concrete plaza. The raised concrete speaking area included stairs on both sides, a low wall along the back of the platform and sides of the stairs, and built-in planters. The amphitheater seating consisted of wooden planks sitting on concrete supports.

Despite the most recent attempts to improve the aesthetics of the flagpole/amphitheater/rostrum area, it retains its historic form and location.

Columbaria (6 units): The cemetery includes six units of columbaria, the first of which opened in 1983 and included 3,024 niches for inurnments. Additional columbaria were opened in 1997 and more recently in 2010. Columbarium 1 is located south across from the administration building. Columbaria 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are located in the eastern portion of the cemetery. Columbaria 1, 2 and 3 are irregular and linear in orientation, whereas Columbaria 4, 5 and 6 mimic the meandering slope of the hillside. The initial 1983 columbarium includes red marble niche covers with bronze plaques and small bronze flower vases. The more recent columbaria have engraved gray granite niche covers and no vases.

Entrance Gates (Gates 1, 2 and 3) and Fence: Gate 2 was originally constructed as the main entrance to the cemetery in 1951. Situated along Mt. Scott Boulevard, Gate 2 currently serves as the entrance to the area encompassing the Superintendent's Lodge, Maintenance Building and Service Buildings. Gate 2 consists of two textured, buff-colored Roman brick pillars with pyramidal caps covered in red quarry tile. The two pillars, each with a bronze plaque identifying the cemetery (one contains the seal of the Veterans Administration, the predecessor of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the other contains an eagle with raised wings above the name of the cemetery), support double metal-picket mechanical vehicular gates. Pedestrian gates exist on either side of the vehicular entrance with the metal gates supported by the main pillars and two smaller pillars of similar design. The vehicular gate and pedestrian gates replaced original decorative aluminum gates with pierced panels.

Gate 1 serves as the current main entrance and is located at the northwest section of the cemetery. Originally built ca. 1975 when the new Administration Building was constructed, Gate 1 was updated ca. 1994. The entrance consists of a series of brick walls set on terraces, with concrete caps and bases, on either side of the roadway. Metal pedestrian gates are also located on either side of the roadway attached to the walls and tall decorative brick and concrete piers. Atop the piers are elaborate metal and glass lanterns. The piers support double metal vehicular gates. The areas outside of the cemetery at both Gate 1 and 2 are formally landscaped. Gate 3 is located at the southwest portion of the cemetery and was added ca. 1994. It provides entrance into Sections C, D and V. The double metal vehicular gate is supported by two brick pillars sitting on a concrete foundation with pyramidal concrete caps; on the opposite sides of these pillars are pedestrian gates, which are supported by smaller pillars of similar design tied into the fence system.

Willamette National Cemetery is surrounded by a fence composed of expanses of metal pickets supported by brick piers, with caps and concrete bases, as well as a simple chain link fence. The brick pier and metal fence is found along the southwest border of the cemetery following Mt. Scott Boulevard. The textured, buff-color Roman brick piers portion is the original fence, constructed in 1950-51, and includes a red quarry tile pyramidal

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cap. It extends from Gate 2 northwest along Mt. Scott Boulevard to just past Section A and south approximately mid-way to Gate 3. From that point until just past Gate 3, the fence consists of smooth red brick piers with concrete pyramidal caps; identical fencing exists from the Gate 1 to the end of the originally fencing near Section A. These portions were constructed after 1975. The remaining northern, eastern, and southern portions of the cemetery—which are heavily wooded—are surrounded by a simple chain-link fence that separates residential areas from the cemetery.

Exedra: Built ca. 1950-51, the exedra is located at the end of the entrance road from Gate 2, originally the main entrance. It consists of a semi-circular recess defined by a low wall of textured buff-colored Roman brick with a cast-stone cap and three benches with Roman brick supports and cast-stone seats. When the cemetery was dedicated the flagpole was located at the center of the exedra's multi-colored cast-stone plaza. Sometime after the flagpole was moved, a roughly oblong area at the center of the plaza was removed and replaced with a rose garden. Additionally a semicircular hedge was placed behind the low wall.

Committal Shelters (4): Built ca. 1987, Committal Shelters 2 and 4 (located near Section L and D, respectively) are rectangular in plan and sit at the center of a cast-stone and basket-weave patterned brick plaza. The metal, raised seam cross-gable roofs of the shelters are supported by eight brick and concrete piers. At the center of the roofs are tempered glass skylights; the four gable ends of each shelter contain a three-light window. The shelters are open on one of the short sides, but the other three sides are solid; the upper part of the walls is composed of large glass panels and the lower part is wood lap siding. Low brick walls with concrete caps exist on two sides of the plazas. In the late 1990s, Shelter 1 was constructed in the expansion area, near Section FF and Columbarium 3. While much larger than the other two shelters, it is similar in design and materials. The structure features decorative cast-concrete posts supporting a pyramidal standing seam metal roof. Set into the four sides of the roof are large rectangular skylights. The side facing the road, Mt. Adams Loop, is open, while the other three sides are enclosed by metal and glass doors. The floor of the shelter is composed of concrete and brick pavers. Brick walls, with cast-concrete caps and bases, stretch from the front corners of the shelter, parallel to the road, to sidewalks that provide access behind the shelter to Columbarium 3. The areas surrounding Shelters 1, 2, and 4 are formally landscaped as part of the overall design. Shelter 3, located in Section F along First Drive South, is an open-air structure composed of a simple, hip metal roof supported by metal posts; it sits on a concrete pad.

Vehicular Bridge: Built ca. 2000, the bridge features an ornamental iron railing connected to red brick piers with cast-stone caps and bases. The bridge extends over a creek and connects Sections GG and HH along Mt. Hood Drive in the eastern expansion portion of the cemetery.

Objects (9)

Carillon: The carillon bell tower is a tall steel frame with cross-bars supporting three bells located within the Flagpole/Amphitheater/Rostrum area. Erected in 1975 by the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, the carillon bells are adjacent to a large stone with a bronze plaque that reads: "These Carillon Bells in Honor and Loving Memory of All Veterans Were Donated by the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs." A second bronze plaque was added in 1989 and notes the work of Florence Mason in the beautification of Willamette National Cemetery.

Oregon Korean Veterans Memorial: The largest memorial at Willamette National Cemetery, the Oregon Korean Veterans Memorial, is located along Memorial Drive between Sections U and Y, northeast of the rostrum/flagpole/amphitheater area. Constructed in 1996 by Elite Granite and designed by Portland firm Miller, Cook Architects, the memorial consists of a series of polished, red and black granite walls memorializing the 283 Oregon servicemen and women who died during the Korean War. The main center panel, which rises above the adjacent walls, includes a depiction of two Korean War-era soldiers surrounded by the seals of the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Navy. The lower half of the panel includes the following

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text: "June 25, 1950 – July 27, 1953, Dedicated to the Memory of These Men and Women from Oregon So Their Sacrifice Will Never Be Forgotten." The panel also includes a poem by Paul E. Sanders. The flanking walls include the names of the 283 Oregonians killed during the war. Directly in front of the memorial are two simple granite benches.

Pearl Harbor Survivors Memorial: Located at the western section of the rostrum/flagpole/amphitheater area near Rostrum Drive and Mall Drive North, the Pearl Harbor Survivors Memorial is an upright, polished granite marker sitting on a rectangular, granite base. Donated in 2007 by the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, the memorial includes a depiction of the Pearl Harbor Memorial in Hawaii and includes the following text: "Remember Pearl Harbor – Keep America Alert, In Memory of the Casualties and Survivors of the Attack on Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii, December 7, 1941."

1st Marine Division Memorial: Located at the rose garden memorial near Columbarium 1, the 1st Marine Division memorial is a polished, granite marker with an affixed bronze plaque. Donated in 2003 by the Oregon/Columbia River Chapter, 1st Marine Division Association, the memorial includes the text, "Dedicated to those Men of the First Marine Division, FMF Who Gave their Lives in the Service of their Country, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Southwest Asia."

Gettysburg Address Plaque: Located opposite the administration building and directly in front of Columbarium 1 is a cast-iron plaque featuring Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. These plaques, originally added to national cemeteries in 1909 to commemorate Lincoln's birth, are a common feature in national cemeteries. The plaque is attached to two metal posts and was installed in 2009.

Blue Star Memorial Markers: There are two Blue Star Memorial markers at the cemetery. One is located in the rose garden across from the administration building and in front of Columbarium 1, and the other is located in the rose garden at the exedra opposite Gate 1. The Blue Star Memorial markers are cast-aluminum plaques attached to posts. Begun as a tribute to veterans by the National Council of State Garden Clubs following World War II, the markers are placed along highways, historic sites, national cemeteries and veterans facilities.

World War I Memorial: Located at the western section of the rostrum/flagpole/amphitheater area near the Pearl Harbor Memorial, the World War I memorial is a bronze plaque affixed to a large boulder. The plaque includes the 1918 poem by Colonel John McCrae, *In Flanders Fields*.

304th Rescue Squadron Memorial: Located in Section C, adjacent to the road leading to the Gate 3 entrance, the 304th Rescue Squadron Memorial is a polished, black granite upright marker sitting on a concrete foundation. Dedicated in 2006, the memorial commemorates the members of the 304th Rescue Squadron who perished during a training mission in 1996.

Bivouac of the Dead Plaque: This cast-aluminum plaque was installed in 2003 on an exterior wall of the Administration Building; it contains a stanza from Theodore O'Hara's poem *Bivouac of the Dead*. Historically, multiple cast-iron plaques containing lines from the poem were installed in national cemeteries throughout the United States.

Non-Contributing Resources (1)

Site (1): 38.2 acres of undeveloped acreage.

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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.)

Property is:

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Military
Politics/Government
Architecture
Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1950-present

Significant Dates

1950
1951, 1973, 1975, 1997

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Period of Significance (justification)

The beginning date of 1950 for the period of significance corresponds to the year that Willamette National Cemetery was established. Present is used as the end date as the National Park Service has determined that "present" is most consistent with the Congressional intent of the federal laws establishing the national cemeteries and with National Register policies for evaluating properties of continuing exceptional importance. A closing date of "present" allows for the recognition of the highly significant values these cemeteries have had in the recent past and the desire to honor those killed in recent military conflicts.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Willamette National Cemetery, established in 1950, emerged as the first national cemetery in the Pacific Northwest. Though authorized by Congress in 1941, the cemetery's establishment was delayed by the onset of World War II. By war's end, regional authorities renewed efforts to develop the cemetery and the state of Oregon donated the necessary land in 1949. Historically referred to as the "Arlington of the West," the cemetery emerged as the third national cemetery realized following World War II, following the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Honolulu, HI) and Puerto Rico National Cemetery (Bayamon, PR). These postwar cemeteries were developed to accommodate the growing veteran population and to provide new burial space for the national cemetery system. Influenced by the lawn and memorial park movements, Army planners recognized the Willamette site's natural aesthetic qualities, allowing native trees and uninterrupted views define the cemetery. Further, the cemetery exclusively employed flat granite markers, rather than upright marble ones, emphasizing the natural beauty of the site rather than monumentation. Willamette National Cemetery is associated with the second significant period of change and expansion for the national cemetery system (1930-1950). The period encompasses the Army's final period of expansion of the national cemetery system, with Willamette National Cemetery as the last site designed by the Army before the transfer of responsibilities to the Veterans Administration (VA) in 1973.³

The National Park Service, as manager of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), has stated that all National Cemeteries were to be considered eligible for the NRHP "as a result of their Congressional designation as nationally significant places of burial and commemoration." In addition, cemeteries would primarily be eligible under Criterion A for their association with the military history of the United States and the history of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). Additionally, those having artistic or architectural significance as designed landscapes or for the design of memorials, monuments, or historic buildings, may also be documented under Criterion C. Therefore, the Willamette National Cemetery is eligible for inclusion as a historic district in the NRHP under Criterion A and C. Criteria Considerations D (a cemetery) and G (less than 50 years old or attaining significance within the past 50 years) also apply.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Expansion of the National Cemetery System and the Establishment of Willamette National Cemetery

Following World War I, national cemetery administrators recognized the need for cemetery expansion. With 79,351 American deaths during the war, the mobilization of almost five million men and the liberalization of eligibility rules in 1920, the number of veterans eligible for burial increased significantly. By the late 1920s, the War Department recognized that the majority of its burial space—national cemeteries established after the Civil War—was located in rural areas. The rapid growth of American cities in the early twentieth century and the expanding number of eligible veterans living in urban areas convinced cemetery planners to recommend new appropriations for urban national cemeteries. As a result, between 1934 and 1937, seven new national cemeteries were created near urban areas in New York, Maryland, Minnesota, Texas and California.⁴

In the 1930s, veterans and civic groups in Oregon initiated efforts to establish a national cemetery in the Pacific Northwest. With the nearest national cemetery located in San Francisco, veterans in Oregon, Washington and other northwestern states were interested in establishing a more convenient location for burials. In 1938, a newly enacted law provided the Secretary of War the authority to establish a national cemetery in each state if land was donated to the federal government for such a purpose. Lobbying efforts by interested Oregon veterans groups intensified, resulting in several attempts to pass legislation to establish a cemetery in the Portland vicinity. On December 29, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Public Law 388 that authorized the Secretary of War to acquire suitable lands for the establishment of a national cemetery in the Portland vicinity. President Roosevelt, however, delayed the appropriation of monies for establishing the

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cemetery due to the country's entry into World War II. All funds for land purchases would instead be shifted to defense needs.⁵

At the conclusion of World War II, Portland veterans and civic groups renewed efforts to secure a national cemetery in the city. The need for a Pacific Northwest cemetery increased in 1948 following the passage of Public Law 80-526 by Congress. The new law expanded the classifications of who could be buried in national cemeteries, including wives, husbands, widows, widowers and minor children. As a result, the number of people eligible for a national cemetery burial in the region grew significantly. In 1949, the State of Oregon formally donated to the federal government 51.59 acres of land in Multnomah County and 51.04 acres in Clackamas County for the new cemetery. The state-owned land included a parcel previously donated by Harvey Scott, the editor and publisher of the Portland newspaper, *The Oregonian*. By 1952, an additional donation by the state resulted in a total of 201.45 acres of land. The acreage was situated approximately ten miles southeast of downtown Portland on the northeast flank of Mt. Scott and afforded excellent views of the surrounding valley.⁶

Immediately south of the new cemetery across Mt. Scott Boulevard was the Lincoln Memorial Park cemetery, established in 1906. Typical of lawn park and memorial park cemeteries established in the early twentieth century, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery was privately operated, located in an undeveloped area near a population center, and characterized by large expanses of lawn and natural landscaped features. Though no documentation was located to confirm this, the selection of the Willamette National Cemetery site was likely due to the proximity of Lincoln Memorial Park.⁷

The Lawn Park and Memorial Park Cemetery Movements⁸

As the name implies, lawn park cemeteries usually had lawns, but they were generally smaller and less picturesque than the larger rural cemeteries that preceded them. They eschewed natural-looking paths in favor of a more uniform sod covering. They were more systematically laid out and therefore more formal in appearance, not unlike the national cemeteries. Grave markers were more uniform and closer to the ground, and were usually made of granite, marble, or bronze. In almost every instance, these new features had a sizable cost-savings component.⁹ Examples of this type of cemetery can be found at Oak Woods in Chicago; Lakewood in Minneapolis; and Swans Point in Providence, Rhode Island; but the first of the type was Spring Grove in Cincinnati, Ohio.¹⁰

The idea for the first "lawn park" cemetery was conceived and implemented by Adolph Strauch when he re-designed Spring Grove Cemetery, beginning in 1855. To reduce the clutter of the old cemetery, Strauch removed most of the trees and created more lawn. The new cemetery became more rational and orderly, with professionals called in to lay out the graves and manage the grounds. Lot-holders had a more limited say in what they could place in the cemetery, with the superintendent usually having the last say in these matters.¹¹

As a trend, lawn park cemeteries began in 1855 and continued until the early 1900s. One of the greatest manifestations of this movement was Pinelawn Cemetery, designed by William H. Locke, Jr., on Long Island, New York. Established in 1902, this cemetery had a park-like atmosphere, borrowing certain stylized elements from the City Beautiful movement.¹² Even today, lawn park cemeteries remain the most common type of private cemetery. They are marked by a formal layout, usually with a plan, and have few decorations. Cost efficiency and the abolition of "all things that suggest death, sorrow, or pain" were the general motivations behind this change in cemetery design. In fact, the ideal of the lawn park cemetery was to eliminate most gravestones, unless they could be made flush with the ground. The development and increasing popularity of the mechanical lawnmower, beginning in the mid-1800s, also played a role in the popularity of the lawn park cemeteries.¹³

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The memorial park movement, which began in the early 1900s, was a direct outgrowth of lawn park cemeteries. It is in fact difficult to separate the two, since the memorial park movement continued the same trends. The founder of the memorial park movement, Hubert Eaton, inaugurated it in 1913 with the opening of Forest Lawn in Glendale, California. Eaton's design called for an open grassy lawn, the elimination of special family plots and monuments, and a more park-like setting that was both light and airy.¹⁴ Eaton marketed this idea, but it was strongly supported by the funeral industry. In 1917, he wrote and popularized the "Builder's Creed," which resolved to "build Forest Lawn as different, as unlike other cemeteries, as sunshine is unlike darkness." The only real difference, though, between the new movement and the older lawn parks, was the introduction of a more aggressive sales system.¹⁵

Eaton's memorial park movement made every attempt to remove evidence of death from the cemetery landscape. The park-like environment was enhanced by restrictions of family monuments and a preference for markers that were flush with the ground. As stated by Ken Worpole in *Last Landscapes: The Architecture of the Cemetery in the West*:

Eaton accelerated the trends established by Strauch, notably in rejecting the paramount visual role played by individual family monument, headstone, or tomb, in creating the cemetery presence, in carrying the parkland principle to even greater effect, almost to the point of erasing all traces of burial processes,...¹⁶

Others quickly followed in Eaton's footsteps as imitations began to appear in California and then elsewhere on the West Coast and throughout the United States. By 1935 there were over 600 memorial parks in America. In an article in *Cemetery Beautiful*, "The Ideal Cemetery – Memorial Park," J. J. Gordon summed up the ideal of the memorial park movement: "Few but have felt the chill that strikes the heart when standing in the office of some cemetery, even the most beautiful, and seeing the gleaming monuments, silent reminders of the shortness of life. [In the memorial park] there is no note of sadness."¹⁷ To achieve that note, there had to be few monuments, if any.

Professionals, who employed modern cemetery planning, ran memorial parks. Headstones were arranged in straight lines or were flush with the ground, an important consideration in an era that saw the first practical mechanical lawn movers.¹⁸ Small bronze plaques, set flush to the ground, marked most burial plots. The layout was simpler than the earlier lawn park cemeteries, more standardized, and frankly, more suburban. The popularity of the memorial park system in fact mirrored the rise of the suburbs in American life.¹⁹

Design and Construction at Willamette National Cemetery

Construction began at the Portland-area cemetery in 1950, with the cemetery receiving an official designation on December 14, 1950, as Willamette National Cemetery. The cemetery encompassed the veteran burial needs of four northwestern states—Oregon, Washington, Montana and Idaho. The cemetery was designed and planned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' office in Seattle, Washington. Like the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Honolulu, Hawaii) and Puerto Rico National Cemetery before it, Willamette was designed for flat granite markers, as opposed to the upright marble headstones that had previously marked the graves in all national cemeteries.

Despite the fact that much of the 200+ acres at Willamette were unsuitable for use as burial areas, the entire cemetery was laid out on paper, and the support buildings and structures designed. Construction would occur in six phases or increments over the next two decades. The focal point of the cemetery would be the flagpole, assembly area and rostrum to be built at the back corner opposite the formal entrance along a central axis. This area would be used in ceremonies on Memorial and Veteran's Days and less commonly at Easter sunrise services. There was no monumentation planned for the cemetery, which had been common in the post-Civil

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War national cemeteries. The Army, which had always buried in neat orderly rows and sections, embraced the broader concepts of the lawn park and memorial park cemetery movements.

Fred Rover assumed the role as the cemetery's first superintendent in January 1951 and oversaw initial construction efforts including the erection of the superintendent's lodge, administration building, utility building and main entrance and fence. All of these buildings and structures share a common architectural style. Both the lodge and administration building were designed in the California ranch-style, popular on the West Coast at the time. The style is credited to California architect Cliff May who designed and built the first such modern house in 1932. These buildings did not intrude on the landscape but rather complimented it with their one-story massing and low-pitched roofs with wide overhanging eaves. The large expansions of windows that were a trademark of the style lessened the barrier between the indoors and outdoors. The building materials included textured buff-colored Roman brick and stucco finishes, further enhancing the organic design of the buildings. Similar buildings, adapted to local customs, were being built concurrently at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii, and at Puerto Rico National Cemetery. The lodge and administration building were constructed just inside of the main gate on opposite sides of the road. The piers of the entrance gate and fence were built of the same brick as the lodge and administration building, giving a cohesive look to the cemetery.

Willamette National Cemetery, 1950s–1960s

In February 1951, World War I veteran Blaine Clayton Van Ausdell became the first veteran interred at the new cemetery.²⁰ However, the cemetery was not formally dedicated until July 22, 1951, at which time 117 veteran interments had been completed. The dedication ceremony occurred just east of the main entrance where initial development and construction was situated. An exedra and flagpole on the current Outer Drive served as the center of ceremonies. Initial cemetery staff included Superintendent Rover, a foreman, a maintenance man and a laborer.

In 1952, the Eastmoreland Garden Club received approval from landscape architects with the Army Corps of Engineers to beautify the cemetery. Initial efforts included planting rose bushes, rhododendrons, and heather at the entrance gate. In 1953, the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs also provided landscaping assistance. Mrs. Florence Mason served as the committee chair and oversaw beautification efforts at the cemetery over the next three decades. Other Portland and regional garden clubs also provided landscaping assistance in coordination with the Army. By late 1952, 10 acres of the roughly 200-acre cemetery had been developed for burial purposes, with a total of 800 interments.²¹

In 1955, the Army awarded Portland contractor Butler Construction Company a \$103,365 contract to clear and improve 12 additional acres near the main entrance. The project included grading operations, building a concrete rostrum, and installing a lawn-watering system, roads and perimeter fence. The rostrum was located near the back corner of the property in a "natural amphitheatre."²² Additional development occurred in 1959, when the Army awarded a \$93,976 contract to Portland contractor A.C. McCollister. The construction work involved developing an additional 13 acres of land, providing the cemetery with much needed burial space. At the same time local gardening club landscaping efforts continued to improve developed areas of the cemetery. In the nine years following the cemetery's establishment, a total of five garden club districts, 155 garden clubs, 22 individuals, seven patriotic organizations, and one school gave a total of \$2,464 for gardening projects. Landscaping work over the preceding decade included the planting of 445 spreading yews, 97 azaleas, 115 junipers, holly, crab apple, red oak, pink dogwood and arborvitae.²³

In 1959, Congress amended the 1948 eligibility law to include Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) members who died while in service or due to injury or disease caused by ROTC service. The expansion of eligibility for national cemetery burials was accompanied by the Army's adoption of a non-expansion policy for national cemeteries. To accommodate increased burials, the Army instituted a "one-gravesite-per-family-unit"

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policy, which was adopted by all national cemeteries in 1962. As a result of the non-expansion policy, the last national cemetery to be built by the Army was the Willamette National Cemetery in 1950. By 1967, however, the Army's policy came under review, as President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered the Veterans Administration (VA), the predecessor agency of Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), to conduct a survey of the national cemeteries.

At Willamette National Cemetery a total of 34 acres had been developed by 1965. Of the 21,335 grave sites developed, only 2,500 were unused. To address the continuing need for burial space, cemetery administrators began developing an additional 23 acres of land at a cost of \$205,292. With 57 acres of land designated for burials or under development, the cemetery included 146 acres of undeveloped woodlands. A staff of 19 men managed grounds maintenance and burial duties in 1965. A continuing problem for groundskeepers and burial staff was the site's susceptibility to erosion problems due to the region's climate and the rolling topography. As a result, new areas for burial development were limited by erosion concerns.

By the mid-1960s, veterans groups as well as families of those buried in the cemetery urged the Army to beautify the "austere" cemetery. Though local gardening clubs had donated trees, shrubs and rose bushes to the site, many pointed to the cemetery's "vast emptiness" and lack of upright headstones, mature trees, monuments and memorial art. Contributing to the cemetery's appearance was the policy of improving new burial areas by stripping all native plant materials creating a "barren, windswept appearance lacking in any feeling of privacy." Francis J. Murnane, a member of the Multnomah County Planning Commission and Portland Art Commission, led initial efforts to beautify the cemetery. In particular, he addressed the absence of an appropriate memorial at the cemetery. The Federated Veterans Council of Multnomah County and the Military Affairs Committee of the Portland Chamber of Commerce subsequently lent support in the campaign. In 1966, the Portland *Oregonian* newspaper ran a series of stories on the need to improve the national cemetery. Proponents identified Arlington National Cemetery (Washington, D.C.) and the National Cemetery of the Pacific (Honolulu, Hawaii) as similar expansive cemeteries that included grand, artistic memorials. In a letter to a House of Representatives delegate from Oregon, Col. C. A. Shaunesey, Jr., Chief of Support Services states, "In reply to numerous letters ... on the development of Willamette, we have pointed out that long-range plans provide for the creation of a cemetery of the memorial-park type, with the emphasis on landscaping and the natural beauty of the setting." Col. Shaunesey goes on to state that "The position of the Army deemphasizing monuments and structures in all national cemeteries is a long-range development based partly on practical consideration and partly on an artistic concept, often supported by the Commission of Fine Arts, that a military cemetery should be free of the ostentation of conspicuous monumentation; but should rely on the natural beauty of the setting unadorned except by the regular rows of uniform headstones."²⁴ In 1969, the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, led by Florence Mason, proposed raising money for the construction of a chapel at the cemetery. The Army, however, objected to the plan. Mrs. Mason and the committee instead began raising money for a carillon, which was eventually installed in 1975.²⁵

Master Planning at the Willamette National Cemetery

In 1970, the Willamette National Cemetery was comprised of 79 improved acres and 122 unimproved acres of steep slopes, drainage areas, and heavy-vegetation cover. The Army, cognizant of growing efforts to improve cemetery aesthetics, hired the Portland architecture firm of Fletcher, Finch and Associates along with landscape architect Robert Perron to prepare a master plan for future development of the cemetery "as a place of peace, reverence, and natural beauty." In addition to addressing the public's aesthetic concerns, the Army approved a master plan to expand public facilities, reduce traffic congestion at the entrance, provide an expanded maintenance facility, and include additional methods of interment to maximize the available space of the cemetery. The master plan built on the previous decades of incremental improvements and volunteer efforts from local gardening groups, while providing a road map for future development that integrated the older and newer portion of the cemetery into a unified whole. The master plan recommendations were comprehensive in nature and designed to guide thoughtful development:

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- *About 40 percent of the undeveloped acreage within the site can be used for ground burial purposes. The remaining area is too steep for economical use and should be left untouched. These "natural" areas will preserve the character of the site, provide a visual buffer between adjoining areas and maintain the natural water drainage channels.*
- *Mausoleum and columbarium space should be developed to increase the total number of burials which can be accommodated on the site.*
- *A new entrance should be developed to lessen congestion caused by the arrival of funeral processions and to provide a more gradual transition from adjacent public streets to the calm atmosphere of the cemetery.*
- *Two or three permanent interment service areas should be developed to replace the unsightly chapel tents.*
- *Additional off-street parking should be provided for visitors, staff, and persons awaiting the scheduled services.*
- *The office should be moved to a location relatively near the new entrance. This will place the office in an area with sufficient land to provide for adequate parking and expansion.*
- *The maintenance facility should be expanded in its present location and the present office converted for use as a maintenance department personnel facility.²⁶*

The master plan also outlined potential efforts to improve the overall landscape.

To improve the landscape form of the cemetery, certain remedial landscaping programs have been initiated. Roads will be planted with regularly spaced shade trees to introduce a sense of order. Within existing burial areas, shade trees and flowering trees will extend and accentuate the concept of small meadows framed by groups of evergreen plantings. The existing abrupt change from the grassed portions of the cemetery to the undeveloped areas will be 'softened' by the addition of native plant materials to provide an easy transition from one use to another.²⁷

The overall recommendations of the plan were, with some exceptions, adhered to in subsequent decades. Thus, the current design and character of the cemetery is due in large part to the master planning undertaken in 1970.

As a result of the master plan, development projects affecting 19 acres were carried out at a cost of \$342,843. The new work implemented several of the master plan recommendations and included landscaping, new access roads, a water system, storm drainage, an ornamental fence, and new offices and visitor facilities at the new headquarters building. As part of landscaping efforts, Army planners decided to retain the native Douglas-fir trees instead of planting new, more exotic species at the cemetery. The expansion efforts further facilitated burials at Willamette which, in 1970, remained the only national cemetery in the western United States still open for burials. By the end of the project 76 of the 200 total acres were prepared for burials.²⁸

National Cemetery Act of 1973 and Changes to the National Cemetery System

In June 1973, Congress passed the National Cemeteries Act. The act was a direct result of a VA study of the national cemetery system, completed in 1968, that recommended the transfer of all national cemeteries from the Army to the VA. As a result of the act, in September 1973, the VA assumed control of all national cemetery

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functions. Shortly after, the VA recommended the expansion of the national cemetery system, ending the Army's decades-long non-expansion policy. To accomplish such growth, the VA recommended the creation of regional national cemeteries within the 10 Standard Federal Regions. Four existing national cemeteries were designated as regional facilities, including Willamette National Cemetery as part of the northwest region (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington).²⁹ The new designation, as well as the VA's new authority to acquire land for expansion, would enable the future expansion of Willamette National Cemetery in subsequent years.³⁰

Aspects of the master plan continued to be carried out through the 1980s. Rather than locate the proposed mausoleums on land not suitable for in-ground burials, the first columbarium was built in 1983. The polished, granite covered walls included 3,024 niches available for cremated remains. The columbarium was well suited for the erosion-prone grounds of the cemetery. The use of columbaria at national cemeteries was the result of the VA adopting modern burial practices that had been employed by private cemeteries for decades. The 1983 columbarium at Willamette National Cemetery was one of the earliest examples in the cemetery system. Other modern structures constructed in the 1980s included two permanent committal shelters for interment services. Twenty acres located in the southwest portion of cemetery were developed during the early 1980s.³¹

In 1990, the DVA purchased 68 acres in what is now the northeastern portion of the cemetery. The land was formally dedicated in 1997, with renovations allowing for an additional 30,000 burials.³² In 1996, an Oregon chapter of Korean veterans raised money for the erection of the Oregon Korean War Veterans Memorial, the first and only large-scale monument in the cemetery. A few smaller monuments have been donated to the cemetery since that time. Additionally, a number of memorial trees with small bronze dedication plaques have been planted near the committal shelters. Since 2000, additional improvements at Willamette National Cemetery have included five additional columbaria, additional committal shelters, a modern public information/restroom building and two storage facilities—all elements first addressed in the 1970 master plan. In fall 2011, the DVA purchased a 38-acre parcel adjacent to the east side of the cemetery; in the coming years plans for both in-ground and above-ground burials will be generated and constructed. Currently, the cemetery can accommodate casket and cremains interments until 2019 and 2030, respectively.

Headstones and Burials at Willamette National Cemetery

Grave markers at Willamette National Cemetery reflect the post-World War II emphasis on flat markers that had previously been used only in private cemeteries. Several decades prior to the establishment of the Willamette National Cemetery, in the 1930s, a series of flat headstones were introduced by the War Department to accommodate veterans buried in private/local cemeteries that did not allow upright markers, such as the lawn park and memorial park cemeteries. Markers of "durable stone" were already authorized by Congress in 1873, thus, the Secretary of War only needed to approve a new style—flat. The first flat marble markers were produced in 1935, with flat granite markers following two years later.³³ Following the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and the Puerto Rico National Cemetery, in December 1950, the newly designated Willamette National Cemetery became the third and last national cemetery to exclusively use flat granite markers.

Veterans of the Spanish-American War, the two World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan are buried at Willamette National Cemetery, along with their eligible dependents. Among the veterans buried are four Medal of Honor recipients; the Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor bestowed on members of the U.S. Armed Forces. The flat grave markers of the recipients, located near the amphitheater area, include a small adjacent Medal of Honor marker. The recipients are:

First Lieutenant Arnold L. Bjorklund (World War II) U.S. Army, 142nd Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division (Section H, Grave 3622-O).

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Sergeant 1st Class Loren R. Kaufman (Korea) U.S. Army, Company G, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Yongsan, Korea, Sept. 4 & 5, 1950 (Section H, Grave 3622-N).

Lieutenant Colonel Stanley T. Adams (Korea) U.S. Army, 1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. Sesim-ni, Korea, Feb. 4, 1951 (Section H, Grave 3623-O).

Specialist 4th Class Larry G. Dahl (Vietnam) U.S. Army, 359th Transportation Company, 27th Transportation Battalion, U.S. Support Command, An Khe, Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam, Feb. 23, 1971 (Section H, Grave 3622-M).

In addition to the four Medal of Honor recipients, notable burials at the cemetery include U.S. Senator and Oregon House of Representatives member Alexander G. Barry; U.S. Representative from Montana Scott Leavitt; U.S. Representative and Senator from Iowa Thomas E. Martin; Oregon Governor and U.S. Senator Mark O. Hatfield; and Major League Baseball player Carson Bigbee.

Summary and Conclusion

Today, the Willamette National Cemetery retains much of its historic character with the central area (original entrance, lodge, maintenance buildings, excedra, flagpole/amphitheater/rostrum, and burial sections) dating to the 1950s and the surrounding area (new entrance, administration building, committal shelters, burial sections and columbaria) based on the 1970 master plan.

Other national cemeteries established around the same time as Willamette—National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Hawaii, (NMCP) and Puerto Rico National Cemetery—were also designed in the spirit of the Memorial Park cemetery movement. Both used flat tablet markers rather than upright ones and had extensive landscaping plans that made the cemeteries more park-like than previous national cemeteries, and all but erased the specter of death. However, both of these cemeteries—located on islands in the Pacific and the Atlantic—were also intended to house major monuments to the World War II battles in these areas. At NMCP this monument was realized with the Honolulu Memorial, which both detailed the battles that took place in the Pacific Theater and memorialized the missing from these battles. A similar monument was designed to interpret the battles of the Atlantic Theater and commemorate the missing but was never constructed at Puerto Rico. Willamette was never conceived or designed with such monumentation, and is thus the only national cemetery that most fully incorporated the tenets of the Memorial Park cemetery movement.

As one of three national cemeteries exclusively using flat markers in the post-World War II period, Willamette National Cemetery reflects the Army's intent to emphasize natural beauty through landscaping rather than ornate monumentation. Influenced by the lawn and memorial park movements, Army planners recognized the site's natural aesthetic qualities, allowing native trees and uninterrupted views define the cemetery. The creation of the cemetery in Portland also reflected recognition by national cemetery planners that new, urban sites were needed to accommodate growing numbers of veterans across the country and specifically, the Pacific Northwest. Thus, Willamette National Cemetery, reflecting a local aesthetic, is an important regional and national shrine to the nation's veterans.

Like Willamette, NMCP and Puerto Rico cemeteries also originally featured superintendent's lodges and offices just inside of the main entrance; these buildings, like those at Willamette, embraced popular local design aesthetics and blended in with the overall setting. In the case of NMCP, these buildings will be torn down in the near future to allow for the expansion of the naturally limited burial area at this cemetery site. For Puerto Rico, the combined lodge and office was replaced with a more functional administration building in the early 1980s. Thus Willamette, despite the changes made in the 1970s to the present, as a result of master planning that occurred to better meet programming/usage needs, will soon be the only national cemetery conceived in the Memorial Park style to retain its original buildings—the lodge and maintenance office—at the

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historic entrance and thus preserve the viewscape that the Army Corps of Engineers intended when they first drew up plans for the cemetery in 1950.

Over 150,000 military men and women, and their eligible spouses and dependents are buried in Willamette National Cemetery, as of June 2012. The U.S. flag flies daily over the orderly rows of white marble markers in honor of the lives and deeds of those who answered the call of duty. Set amidst the foothills of Mount Scott, Willamette National Cemetery reflects the lives of those willing to serve and protect their country in times of war and peace. The cemetery is maintained and preserved as a final resting place and memorial to U.S. military personnel.

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Willamette National Cemetery, Vertical File, History Program, National Cemetery Administration, Washington, D.C.

Willamette National Cemetery, Construction drawings and plans, Design and Construction Service, National Cemetery Administration, Washington, D.C.

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 # OR-3

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 307.6
 (Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>536876.12</u> Easting	<u>5034682.27</u> Northing	9	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>536371.85</u> Easting	<u>5033902.99</u> Northing
2	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>536939.92</u> Easting	<u>5034436.60</u> Northing	10	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>536370.34</u> Easting	<u>5033774.50</u> Northing
3	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>536541.92</u> Easting	<u>5034311.94</u> Northing	11	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>535919.05</u> Easting	<u>5033784.33</u> Northing
4	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>536541.46</u> Easting	<u>5034115.42</u> Northing	12	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>535350.98</u> Easting	<u>5034279.84</u> Northing
5	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>536894.26</u> Easting	<u>5034100.58</u> Northing	13	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>535337.84</u> Easting	<u>5034728.36</u> Northing
6	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>537001.26</u> Easting	<u>5034054.10</u> Northing	14	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>535995.19</u> Easting	<u>5034681.87</u> Northing
7	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>536830.26</u> Easting	<u>5033971.55</u> Northing	15	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>536353.47</u> Easting	<u>5034705.80</u> Northing

Willamette National Cemetery
Name of Property

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8 10 536609.22 5033898.25
Zone Easting Northing

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

The boundaries are indicated on the accompanying sketch map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

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

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: David W. Moore, Jr./Project Director; Justin Edgington/Historian (with contributions by Jennifer Perunko, Historian, National Cemetery Administration)

Organization: Hardy·Heck·Moore, Inc. Date: May 18, 2012 / August 17, 2012

Street & number: 1507 North Street, Suite 1 Telephone: (512) 478-8014

City or town: Austin State: TX zip code 78756

E-mail: dmoore@hhminc.com / jennifer.perunko@va.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

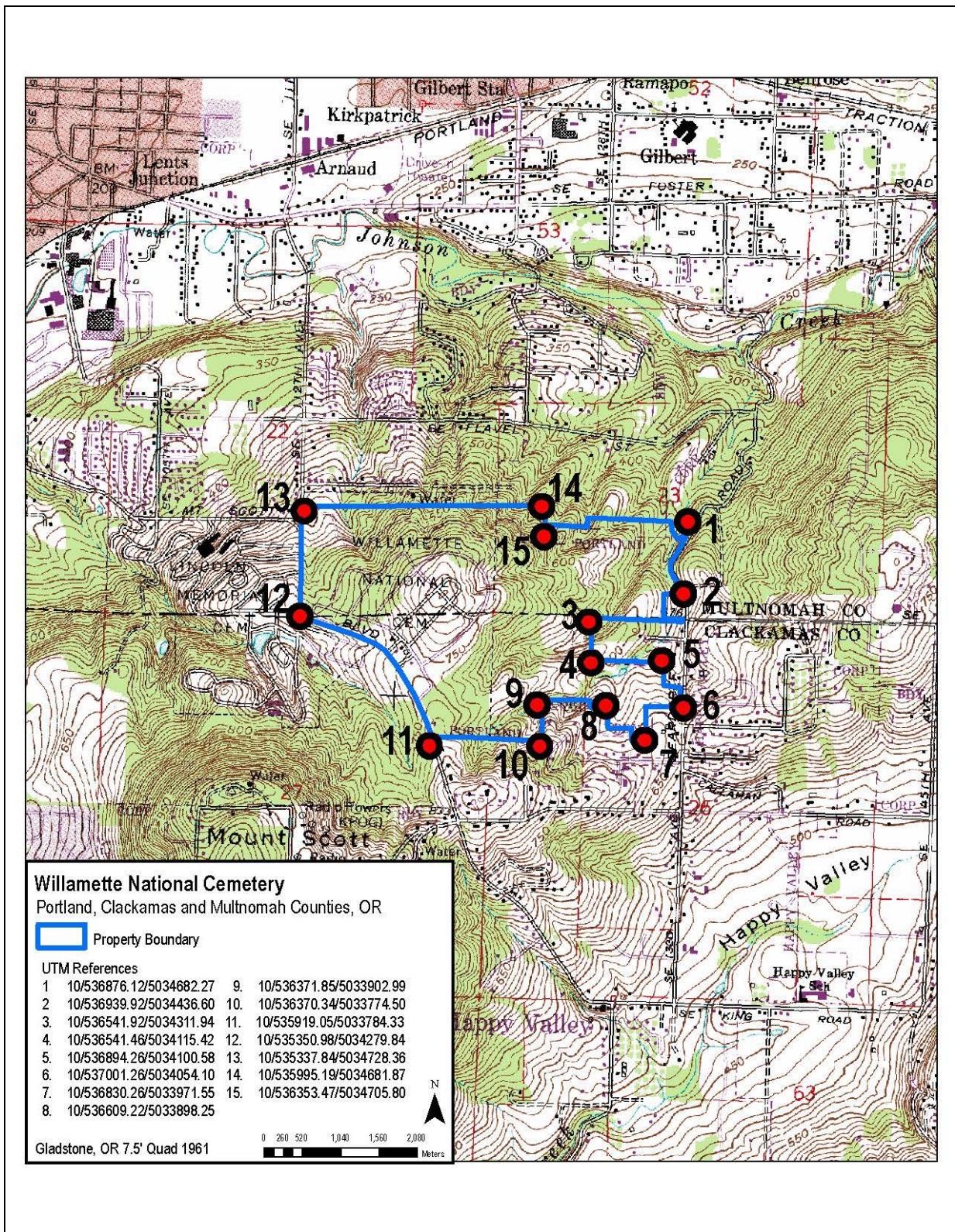
(See next page).

Willamette National Cemetery

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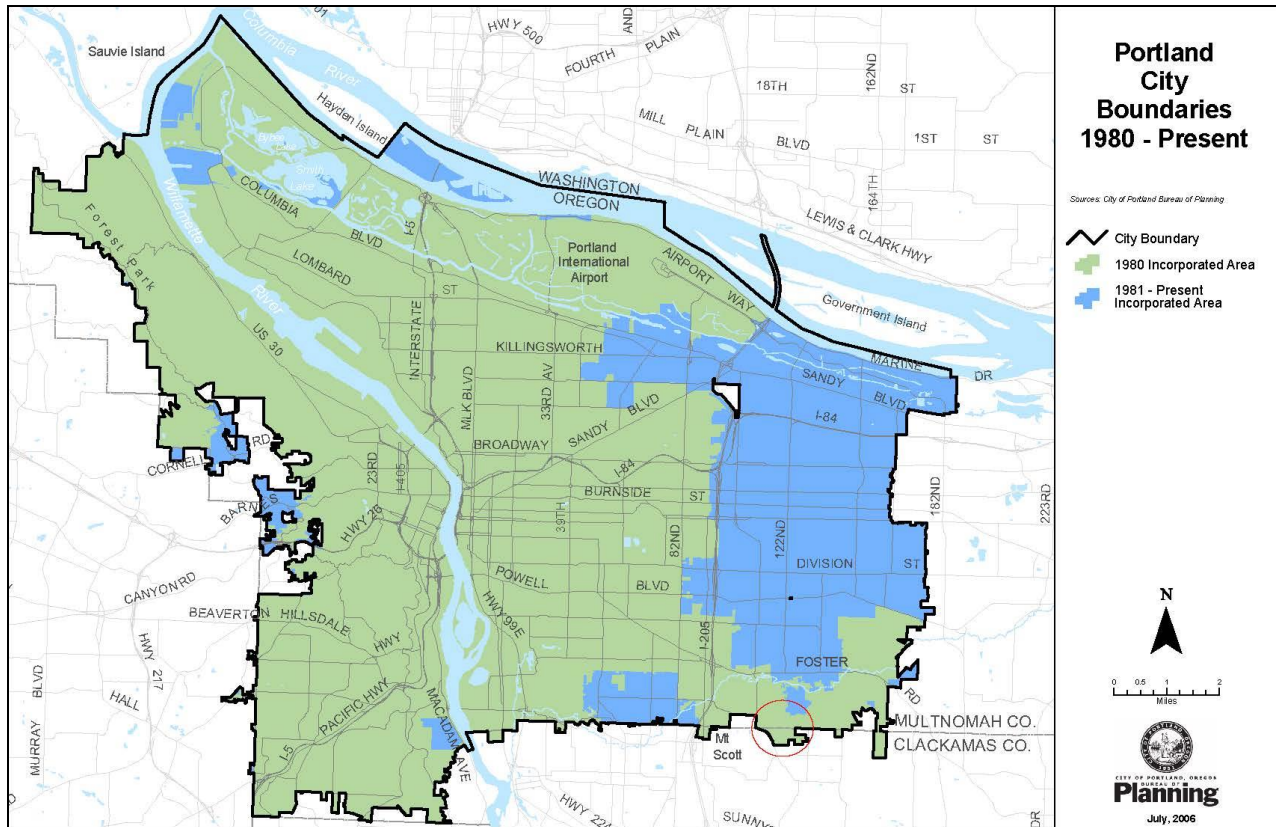
County and State



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Regional Location Map, 2012.



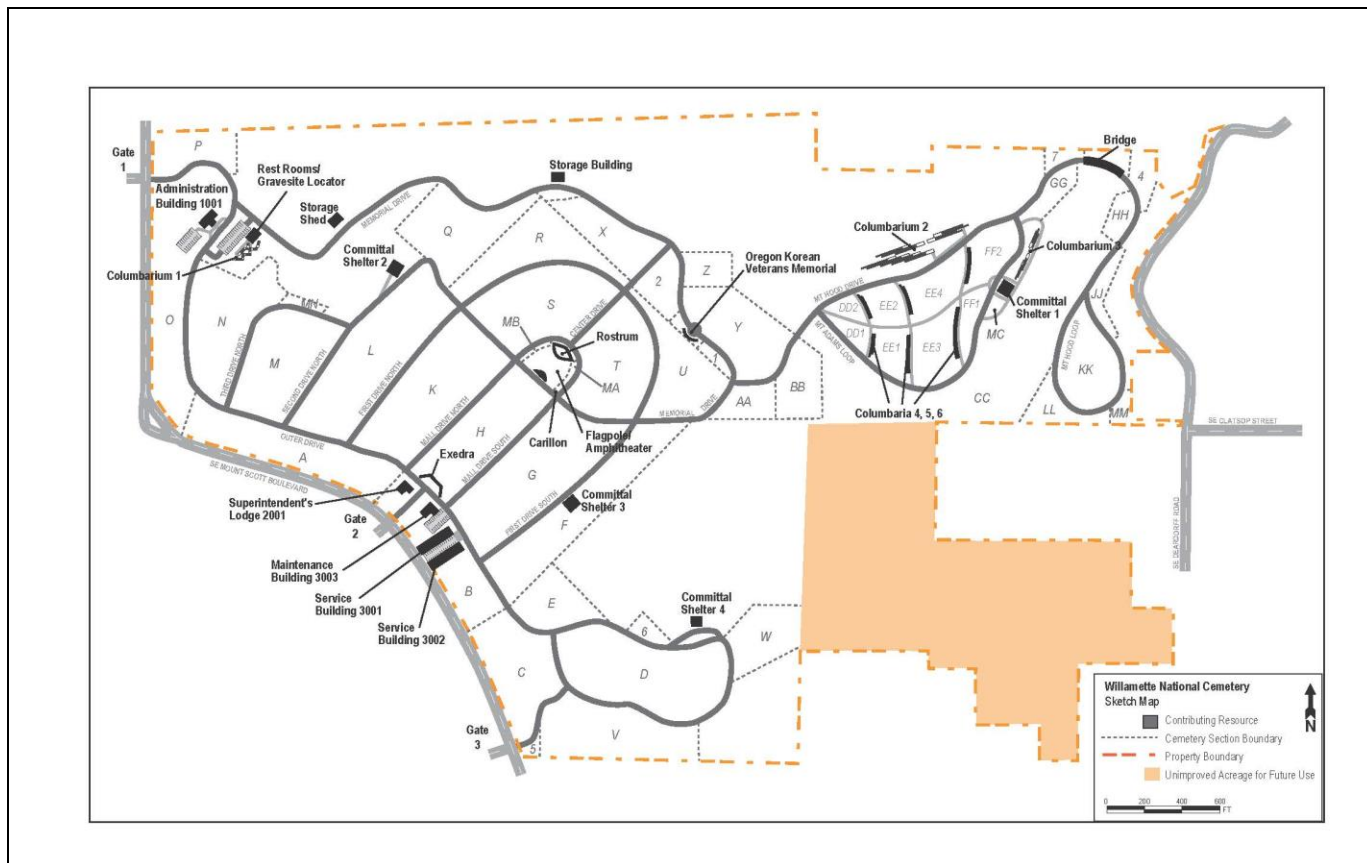
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

(See next page).

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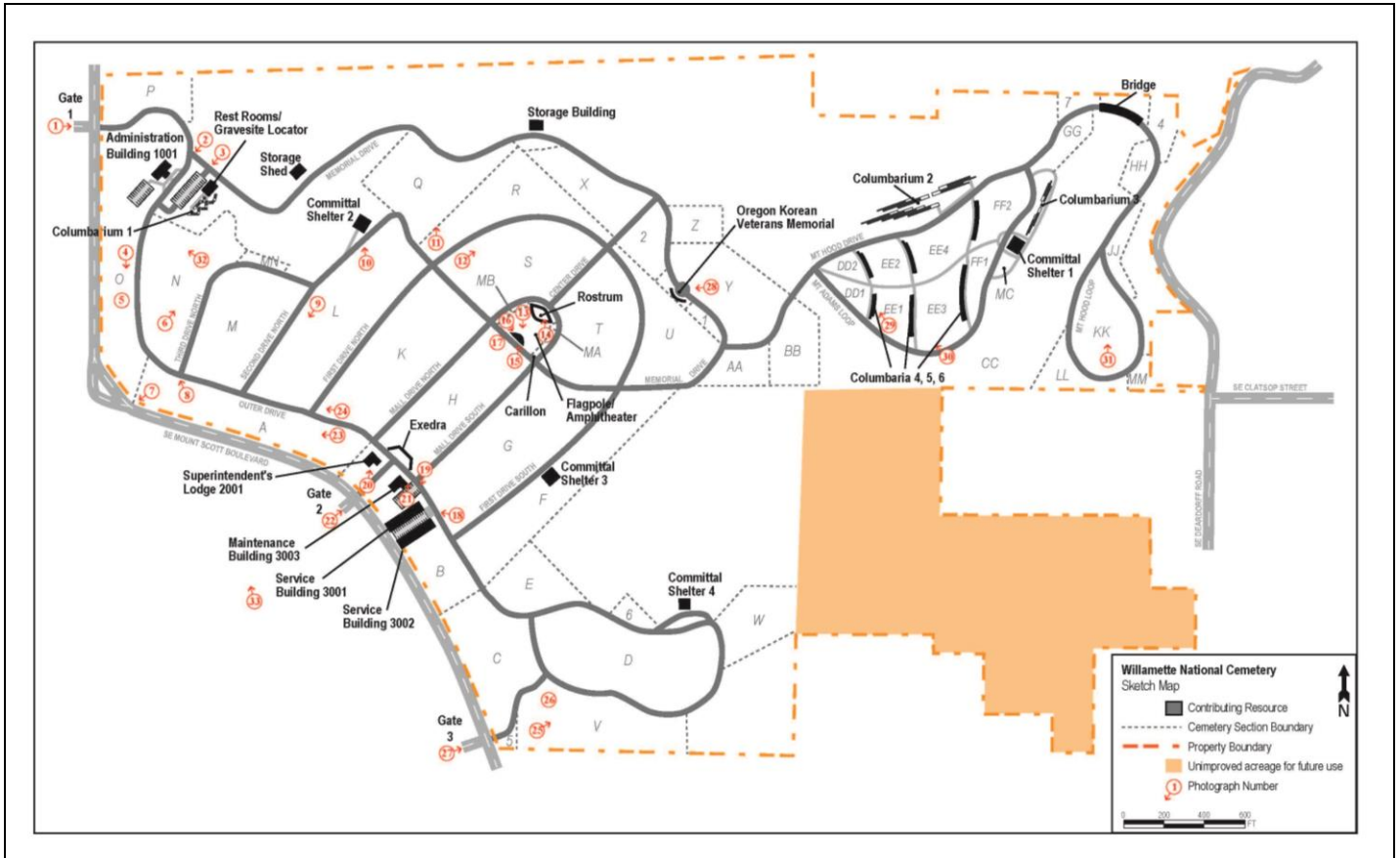
Sketch Map, National Cemetery Administration, 2012.



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Photo Location Map.



Willamette National Cemetery
Name of Property

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Willamette National Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Portland

County: Clackamas, Multnomah State: Oregon

Photographer: Justin Edgington

Date Photographed: August 2, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_0001.tif)
View to east, Gate 1 (Main Entrance)
- 2 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_0002.tif)
View to northwest, Administration Building
- 3 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_0003.tif)
View to southwest, Columbarium 1
- 4 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_0004.tif)
View to south, Section O
- 5 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_0005.tif)
Detail, Typical burial marker
- 6 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_0006.tif)
View to northeast, Section N
- 7 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_0007.tif)
View to southwest, Perimeter fence showing original and newer fence pillars
- 8 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_0008.tif)
View to northwest, Typical street marker and section marker
- 9 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_0009.tif)
View to southwest, Typical roadway (Second Drive North)
- 10 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00010.tif)
View to north, Committal Shelter 2
- 11 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00011.tif)
View to north, Section Q

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- 12 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00012.tif)
View to northeast, First Drive North
- 13 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00013.tif)
View to south, Amphitheater Area and Flagpole
- 14 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00014.tif)
View to north, Rostrum and Amphitheater Area
- 15 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00015.tif)
View to north, Flagpole
- 16 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00016.tif)
View to southwest, Carillon Bell Tower
- 17 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00017.tif)
Detail, Medal of Honor Recipient gravestone, Loren R. Kaufman
- 18 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00018.tif)
View to west, Service Building 3001
- 19 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00019.tif)
View to south, Maintenance Building
- 20 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00020.tif)
View to north, Lodge Building
- 21 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00021.tif)
View to north, Exedra
- 22 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00022.tif)
View to northeast, Gate 2
- 23 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00023.tif)
View to west, Section A
- 24 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00024.tif)
View to west, Outer Drive
- 25 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00025.tif)
View to east, Section V (cremated remains area)
- 26 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00026.tif)
Detail, Typical marker for cremated remains
- 27 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00027.tif)
View to east, Gate 3
- 28 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00028.tif)
View to west, Korean Veterans Memorial

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- 29 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00029.tif)
View to north, Columbarium 4
- 30 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00030.tif)
View to northwest, Columbarium 5
- 31 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00031.tif)
View to north, Section KK
- 32 of 32: (OR_Clackamas_Multnomah_WillametteNationalCemetery_00032.tif)
View to west, Section N with view of downtown Portland

Property Owner:

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

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

street & number 810 Vermont Avenue, NW (003C2) telephone 202-632-5529

city or town Washington state DC zip code 20420

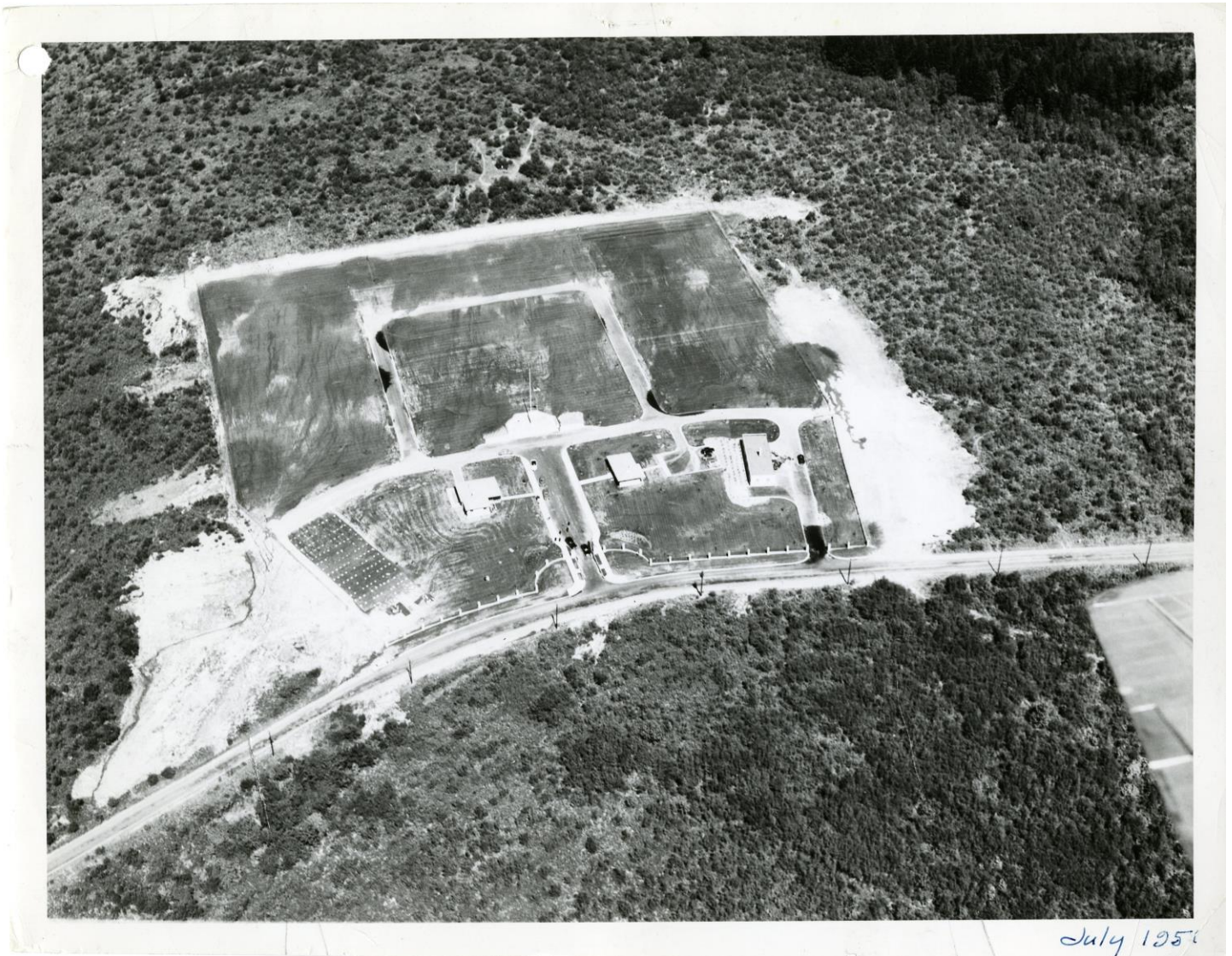
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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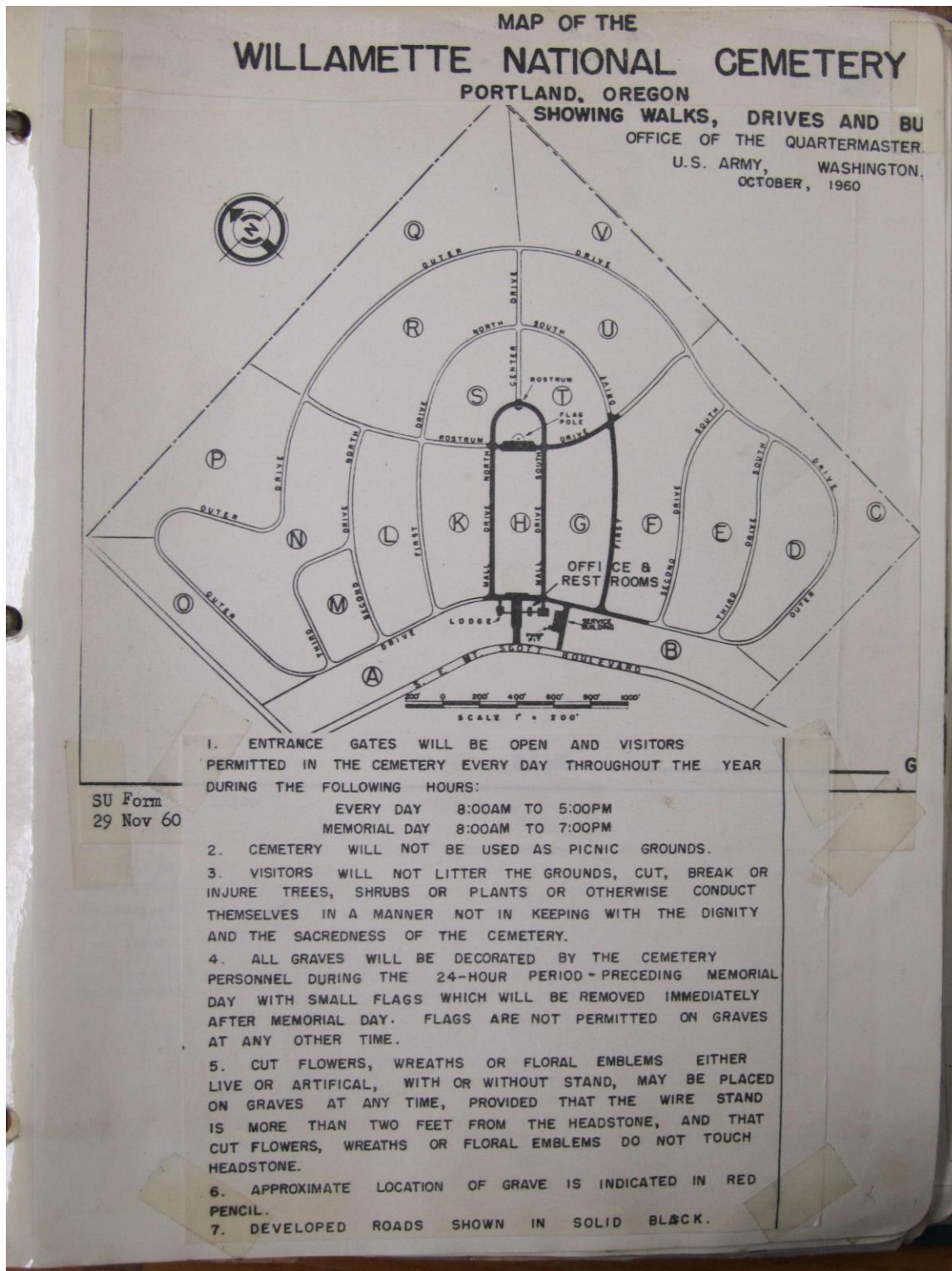
Figure 1: Willamette National Cemetery, aerial photo, July 1951.



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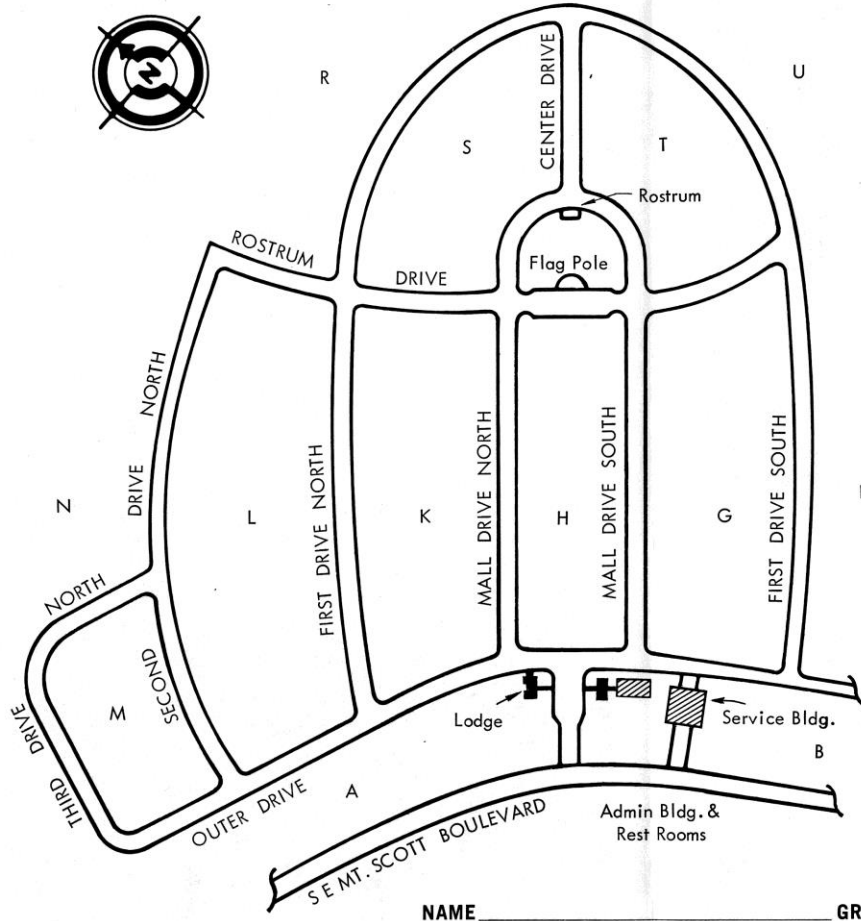
Figure 2: Cemetery layout map, 1960. Note the maps shows the entire cemetery as it was originally planned; developed roads are show in solid black.



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Figure 3: Cemetery layout map, 1972, showing expansion of the cemetery along the lines of the original plan to the west.



GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Entrance gates will be open and visitors permitted in the cemetery throughout the year during the following hours:

8:00 AM TO DUSK Everyday

2. Cemetery will not be used as picnic grounds.

3. Visitors will not litter the grounds, or otherwise conduct themselves in a manner not in keeping with the dignity and the sacredness of the cemetery.

4. All graves will be decorated prior to Memorial Day with small U.S. flags which will be removed immediately after Memorial Day. Flags are not permitted on graves at any other time.

5. Cut flowers may be placed on graves at any time. Metal temporary flower containers are permitted. Floral items will be removed from graves as soon as they become faded and unsightly.

6. Artificial flowers may be placed on graves only during the period from 10 October through 15 April. Plantings, statues, vigil lights, glass objects of any nature and any other types of commemorative items are not permitted on graves at any time.

7. Please contact superintendent for information regarding floral regulations and installation of a permanent flower container.

8. Approximate location of grave is indicated in red pencil.

9. Please bring all complaints to the attention of the cemetery superintendent.

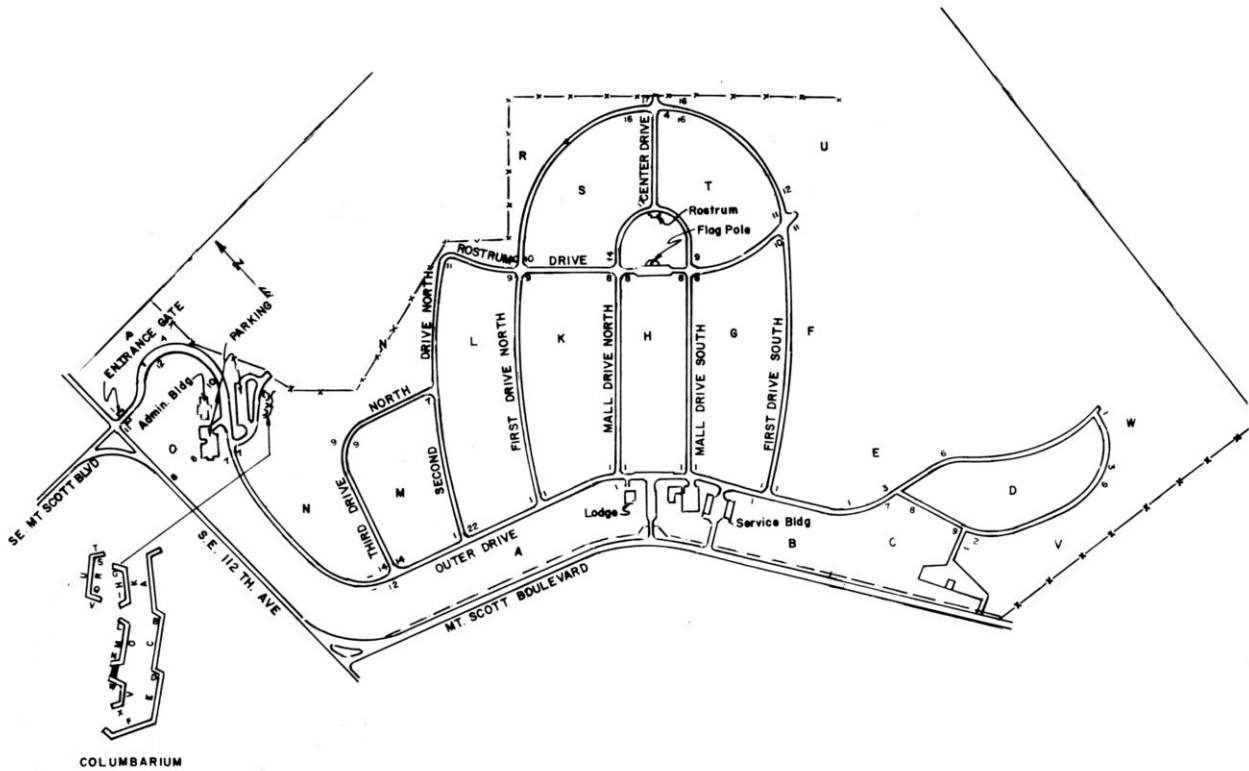
NAME _____ GRAVE _____ SECTION _____

Willamette National Cemetery
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Figure 4: Cemetery layout map, May 1987, showing the new entrance and administration building in the northwest corner of the property. Also present are expanded burial areas in the southeast corner of the property and the first columbarium near the administration building.

Willamette National Cemetery



Name _____

Grave _____

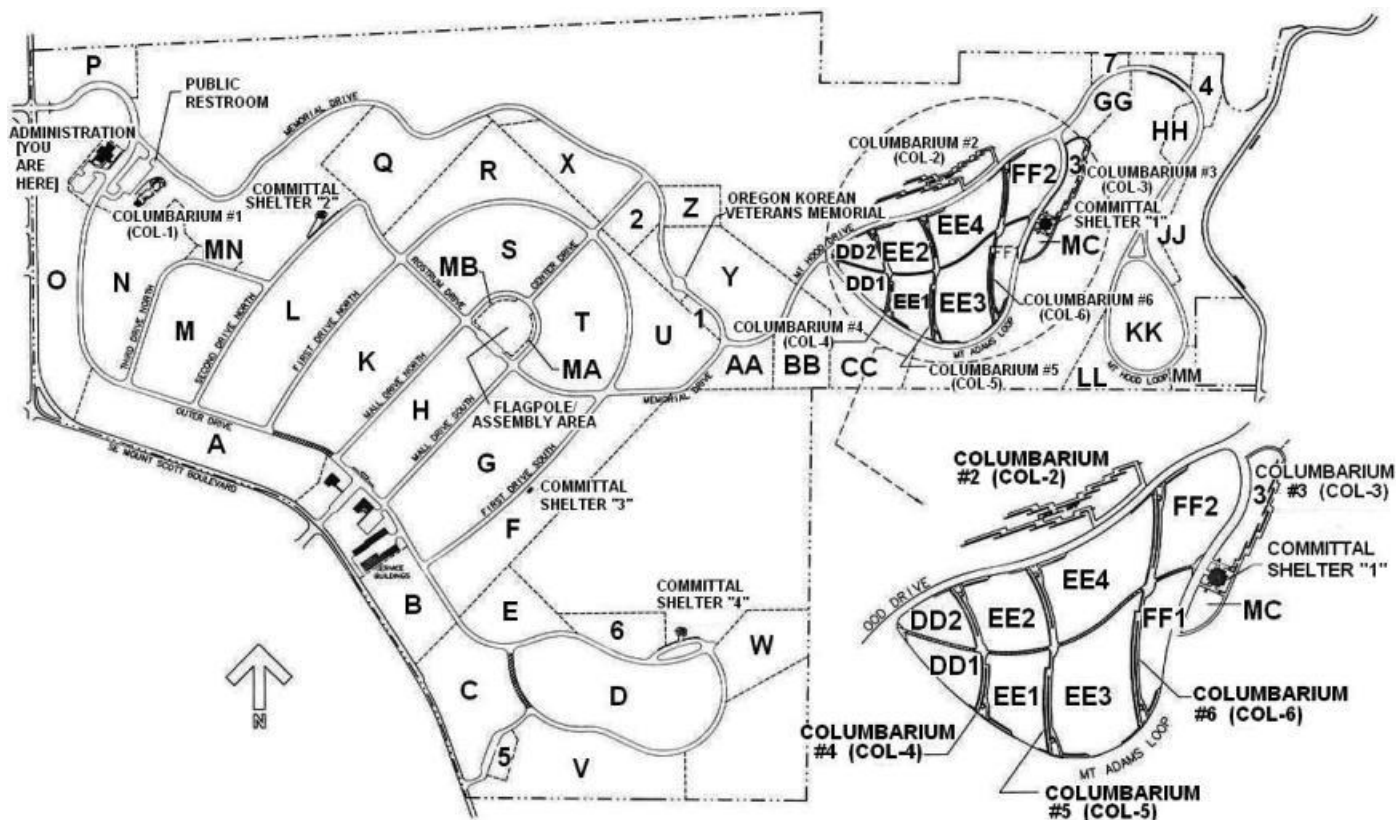
Section _____

Approximate location of grave is indicated on the map

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Figure 5: Cemetery layout map, 2011, reflects the current plan of the cemetery with the 1990s addition built out to include both in-ground burial sections and columbaria.



¹ Aerial, Willamette National Cemetery, May 1952, National Cemetery Administration History Program, Photograph Collection, Washington, D.C.
² *Second Increment Drawings*, Willamette National Cemetery, US Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle Washington, February 1955, Design and Construction Service, National Cemetery Administration, Washington, D.C.; and *Map of the Willamette National Cemetery*, Office of the Quartermaster, U.S. Army, Washington, October 1960, Willamette National Cemetery, Historical Files, Portland Oregon.
³ *History and Development of the National Cemetery Administration*, Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration.
⁴ *Inter-World War National Cemeteries, 1934-1941, DRAFT*, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Submission, July 2012.
⁵ "Cemetery Bill Signed," *The Oregonian*, December 31, 1941; "Willamette National Cemetery Briefing Book," Willamette National Cemetery Vertical File, National Cemetery Administration, Washington, D.C.
⁶ *History and Development of the National Cemetery Administration*, Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration; Fletcher, Finch and Associates, *Willamette National Cemetery: A Master Plan of Development*, date unknown, Willamette National Cemetery Vertical File, National Cemetery Administration, Washington, D.C.
⁷ "General History File," Willamette National Cemetery Vertical File, National Cemetery Administration, Washington, D.C.
⁸ This section adapted from *Inter-World War National Cemeteries, 1934-1941, DRAFT*, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Submission, July 2012.
⁹ Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission: 1900-Present, Lawn-Park Cemeteries and Memorial Parks, www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server; History and Development of Greenwood Cemetery, by Grant Peckenschneider, www.uni.edu/connors/history.html and www.uni.edu/historyofblackhawkcounty/greenwoodcem/Development/.
¹⁰ Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity*, 4-5.
¹¹ Worpole, *Last Landscapes*, 142-143; Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity*, 2, 99, 107-109.
¹² Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity*, 139-140.
¹³ Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity*, 110.
¹⁴ Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity*, 110

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- ¹⁵ Veit, Richard Francis, and Mark Nonestied, *New Jersey Cemeteries and Tombstones: History in the Landscape* (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2008), 237.
- ¹⁶ Worpole, *Last Landscapes*, 144.
- ¹⁷ Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity*, 160-161.
- ¹⁸ Veit and Nonestied, *New Jersey Cemeteries*.
- ¹⁹ Worpole, *Last Landscapes*, 145-146; Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity*, 2.
- ²⁰ Ibid.; "Ladder Plunge Proves Fatal," *The Oregonian*, February 13, 1951.
- ²¹ "Garden Club Federation Tells of New Fall Projects," *The Oregonian*, November 9, 1952; "Willamette National Cemetery Briefing Book," date unknown, Willamette National Cemetery Vertical File, National Cemetery Administration, Washington, D.C.; "Martin T. Corley, Superintendent, Willamette National Cemetery to Mr. Robert John, Veterans Administration," RG 15 - Records of the Veterans Administration, A1-26, Box 38, September 27, 1974.
- ²² "Portland Firm Low on Bidding," *The Oregonian*, May 19, 1955. "General History File," date unknown, Willamette National Cemetery Vertical File, National Cemetery Administration, Washington, D.C.
- ²³ "Cemetery Adds 13-Acre Tract," *The Oregonian*, December 6, 1959; "Funds Raised for Cemetery," *The Oregonian*, May 18, 1958.
- ²⁴ Fletcher, Finch and Associates, *Willamette National Cemetery: A Master Plan of Development*, date unknown, Willamette National Cemetery Vertical File, National Cemetery Administration, Washington, D.C.; "Austere Cemetery Seen as 'Arlington of the West,'" *Oregonian*, May 29, 1966; C. A. Shaunesey, Jr., Colonel, QMC, Chief of Support Services, Department of the Army, to Honorable Edith Green, House of Representatives, July 11, 1966, copy in NCA Historical Files; "Memorial Honors Military Dead in Hawaii Cemetery," *Oregonian*, November 14, 1966.
- ²⁵ "Martin T. Corley, Superintendent, Willamette National Cemetery to Mr. Robert John, Veterans Administration," RG 15 - Records of the Veterans Administration, A1-26, Box 38, September 27, 1974.
- ²⁶ Fletcher, Finch and Associates, *Willamette National Cemetery: A Master Plan of Development*.
- ²⁷ Fletcher, Finch and Associates, *Willamette National Cemetery: A Master Plan of Development*.
- ²⁸ "Expansion Completed at National Cemetery," *The Oregonian*, November 15, 1970.
- ²⁹ *History and Development of the National Cemetery Administration*, Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration.
- ³⁰ *History and Development of the National Cemetery Administration*, Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration.
- ³¹ "Willamette National Cemetery Briefing Book," March 19, 1981, Willamette National Cemetery Vertical File, National Cemetery Administration, Washington, D.C.
- ³² "Willamette National Cemetery Adds Space for 30,000 Burial Sites," *The Oregonian*, August 25, 1997.
- ³³ Despite repeated efforts by veterans groups to gain approval for bronze flat markers, legislation was not passed until April 1940. The law did not specify the material but rather said, "the Secretary of War is authorized to furnish ... for use on graves in cemeteries where stone markers are not acceptable, a headstone or marker of such standard design and material as may be approved by him, within the limit of prevailing costs of the standard World War type headstone" The material chosen was ultimately bronze. Flat bronze markers would not be used in national cemeteries until after 1973.