NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

258

RECEIVED 2280
APR 01 2016
Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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 Black Hills National Cemetery

other names/site number Fort Meade National Cemetery

2. Location

street & number 20901 Pleasant Valley Dr. [ ] not for publication

city or town Sturgis [X] Vicinity

state South Dakota code SD county Meade code 093 zip code 57785

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _x_ 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 _x_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

X_ national **__ statewide** **__local**

Kathleen Schanel FPO 3/22/16
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

VA
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property __ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Jay D. Vogt 03-14-2016
Signature of commenting official Date

South Dakota SHPO
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] 5/17/2016
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Black Hills National Cemetery
Name of Property

Meade County, SD
County and State

5. Classification

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

	private
	public - Local
	public - State
X	public - Federal

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

	building(s)
X	district
	site
	structure
	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5		buildings
		sites
3		structures
15		objects
23		**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.)

FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

No style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: BRICK, STONE, GLASS
roof:
other: STONE / marble, sandstone, granite

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

Black Hills National Cemetery, established in 1948, is located near Interstate 90 approximately two miles southeast of Sturgis in Meade County, South Dakota. The cemetery includes approximately 105.4 acres, of which 93.4 acres are developed and currently in use. The property has an irregular shape and includes easements for transportation systems and utilities. The Black Hills dominate the local topography. The U.S. Army established the cemetery as the Fort Meade National Cemetery; the name was changed to Black Hills National Cemetery in 1949. As of December 2011, Black Hills National Cemetery contained 23,555 interments. Only upright marble headstones are authorized for this cemetery.

Narrative Description

Black Hills National Cemetery was established in 1948 on a 105 acre tract of land that was originally part of the Fort Meade military reservation and more recently used as a Veterans Administration (VA) hospital. While the Army Corps of Engineers completed a layout plan for the entire acreage, construction at Black Hills National Cemetery has occurred in a number of increments. The initial development included only 6 acres along with the construction of an entrance, flagpole plaza, utility building and superintendent's lodge/cemetery office. Expansions and new construction were completed in the 1960s, 1970s and 1990s. The most recent improvement included the construction of three columbaria (A-C) for the interment of cremains in 2010. As of December 2011, Black Hills National Cemetery contained twelve burial sections (A-I and O-Q) and three memorial sections (MA, ML, and MG), in addition to the three columbaria.

The entrance to the Black Hills National Cemetery is located along the eastern boundary of the cemetery and faces current Interstate 90, formerly U.S. Route 14. It is marked by smooth-faced stone pillars supporting wrought-iron picket vehicular gates. On either side of the vehicular gate posts, are wrought-iron picket pedestrian gates. A fence composed of wrought-iron picket panels and stone pillars extends from the pedestrian gates along most of the western boundary. Immediately beyond the gates outside the cemetery is a railroad crossing. The remainder of the fencing around the cemetery is a mix of chain-link fence and wire and post fences similar to those used on farms and ranches in the Black Hills.

The entrance road extends only a short distance into the cemetery prior to terminating at a perpendicular road along the former flagpole plaza/ceremonial area; the square grassy area is now used as a memorial section. Long avenues— North Mall Drive and South Mall Drive—extend to the east, on either side of the memorial section and section D, ending at a loop in front of the committal shelter. Both roads were part of the original development. More current roads include the North Loop Roads and South Roads that provide access to newer sections of the cemetery; they intersect with the Mall drives at the eastern end of the cemetery. The roads are paved in asphalt and include concrete curbs. Benches and pullouts for visitors are provided along the streets.

The Mall drives are lined in flagpoles from which U.S. flags are flown from May through October, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Collectively, the flagpoles are known as the "Avenue of Flags" and were first introduced at Black Hills in the 1960s.

The vegetation at the cemetery includes mature trees along many of the streets throughout the cemetery and scattered in other parts of the developed cemetery. An irrigation pond is located south and uphill from the committal shelter and the developed area of the cemetery. The stone-lined pond is roughly kidney shaped. The

dam for the pond is on the northwest and west sides. A scattering of trees can be found around the northern and eastern sides of the pond.

Administration and maintenance buildings are clustered in the right/south side of the entrance road. These include an administration building/public restroom, and two maintenance buildings set within a maintenance yard. A large committal shelter is located at the east end of the cemetery, opposite the entrance.

The cemetery contains three memorials: a Blue Star Memorial, the Pilot Training Class 52 Charlie from May of 1952 Memorial, and the Korean War Memorial. All are located in the grassy area immediately in front of the committal shelter. Additionally, the cemetery contains two plaques—the Gettysburg Address and the Bivouac of the Dead. Plaques featuring President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address were first introduced to national cemeteries in 1909. The current cast-iron plaque is a replica of earlier plaques and was created in 2009 for the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth; it was installed at the cemetery on Memorial Day 2012. The Bivouac of the Dead plaque is a tribute to plaques that once decorated national cemeteries containing stanzas of Theodore O'Hara's famous poem about the Mexican War. A third plaque was once placed along with a tree to commemorate the U.S. Bicentennial and honor all Medal of Honor recipients. While the original tree was removed when the columbarium was constructed the plaque remains.

Descriptions of the individual contributing elements are found below.

Contributing Resources (23)

Buildings (5): Administration Building (1973/1995), Maintenance Building East (1949/1950/1995), Maintenance Building West (1967/1995), Committal Shelter (1978), and Pump House (1995)

Structures (3): Columbarium A, Columbarium B, Columbarium C

Objects (15): U.S. Flag, State Flagpole, POW/MIA Flagpole, Military Service Branch Flagpoles, Carillon, Blue Star Memorial, 52 Charlie Missing Wingman Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, a Bivouac of the Dead plaque, Gettysburg Address plaque, and Bicentennial tree plaque.

Buildings (5)

Administration Building: Located only a short distance past the main gate, the administration building is the first building a visitor to the cemetery encounters. The administration building has a rectangular footprint of approximately 2,160 square feet and it is one story tall. This building has no particular style, but is very similar to small professional buildings built during the 1960s and 1970s in cities and towns scattered across the United States. The Army accepted the building from the construction company in 1973, only a few months before the Veterans' Administration took over operation of the National Cemetery System. The building has an end gable roof covered with asphalt composition shingles and features cornice returns. A gable roof perpendicular to the main roof serves as a cover for the entry walkway from the street. The building has walls of red brick laid in common bond. The building has a mix of casement and single light fixed windows oriented both vertically and horizontally. The main door in the façade (east wall) is of the wood frame and plate glass type and it has a single sidelight. The public restrooms are located in a wing at the north end of the building. The restroom wing has solid metal doors and no windows. The restroom entry has a gable roof cover similar to the main entry, only shorter. The building is surrounded by deciduous trees and there is a collection of shrubs, trees, and rock areas to the east of the building between the façade and the main street.

Maintenance Building East: This is one of two buildings that face each other across a large parking lot and maintenance yard. The building, constructed in 1949 soon after the cemetery opened, has no particular architectural style; an extension was added during 1950. The Army renovated the building in 1967. This

maintenance building sits on a concrete foundation and pad. It is one-story tall, covering approximately 3,180 square feet. The building has an end gable roof covered with asphalt composition shingles. There are numerous metal stove and vent pipes protruding through the roof as would be expected in such a building. There are no eaves on the roof. The walls are made of brick laid in common bond. The windows are a mixture of double-hung sash and fixed one-light types. There is evidence of brick infill of former window locations in the east and west walls indicating changes to the building and its functions over time. The building has metal pedestrian doors and garage doors with two or four lights depending on their size. There are also vents in the walls and floodlights on the west wall to illuminate the parking lot/maintenance yard. Based on field observations it appears that the northern 60 percent or so of the building is an addition that includes two double sized garage bays and a chemical storage room. When these were added it appears that part of the southern portion of the building was converted for office space. These changes were made in 1995. In 1950, a rectangular extension was added on the east side of the building, which has since been removed. The building faces the paved maintenance parking lot/yard and the other maintenance building. To the north of the building there is an extension of the maintenance yard for additional equipment and supplies, a grassy area and the cemetery boundary fence. South of the building there is a red brick and cinderblock fence.

Maintenance Building West: This building sits on the west side of the maintenance yard facing the other maintenance building. It was opened in 1967 and added on to in 1995. The building has a rectangular footprint and covers approximately 3,000 square feet. The building sits on a concrete foundation and slab. It has no basement. The building has mixed heights of one-story and approximately 1.5 stories (addition). The building has end gable roofs covered with asphalt composition shingles and there are no eaves. There are circular vents in the gable ends. The exterior walls are made of red brick laid in a common bond pattern. There is a mix of fixed one light and double-hung sash windows in the building. It has a single metal and one-light pedestrian door and five double-sized garage doors, each with four lights. Floodlights are centered above each of the garage doors in the wall facing out toward the maintenance yard. The northern, over-height portion of the building includes two of the garage doors. North of the building and on the west side of the building are equipment and supply storage areas. North of the storage lot is a lawn area and the perimeter fence for the cemetery. To the south of the building is a paved area enclosed by a red brick and cinderblock fence. Behind the fence to the interior of the maintenance yard there is a fuel storage tank and pump. Southwest of the building is the employee parking lot.

Committal Shelter: The committal shelter building has an octagonal footprint and sits on a poured concrete slab. This building is a partial dugout inset into a hillside at the southwest end of the cemetery on axis with the entrance at the northeast end. The building covers approximately 2,200 square feet. The building was dedicated on Memorial Day 1978 and it was designed with the intent of capturing the historic nature of the Black Hills so that it honored the cavalry, Native Americans, Black Hills, and today's service men and women. The walls are random-shaped dressed stone and full height plate glass windows. There are fixed transom lights above the double doors. The roof is also octagonal, made of wood beams covered with asphalt composition shingles surfaced to resemble slate shingles. There's a cupola for ventilation at the peak of the roof. The hillside that the building is set into is grass covered with deciduous and evergreen trees around the building. The building opens to the north onto a paved patio and walkway area that connects to a traffic loop parking area.

Pump House: This building is a small, red brick shed-like building used as a pump house. It has a concrete foundation and red brick common bond walls similar to the other buildings at the cemetery. The building has small metal vents and a steel door. The gable roof has a skylight on its west side and is otherwise covered with asphalt composition shingles. There are electrical cabinets near the pump house. The pump house sits near a pond at the transition between the manicured, landscaped areas and the natural grass and shrubs of the undeveloped lands of the cemetery.

Structures (3)

Columbaria A-C: The three columbaria run east from the committal shelter traffic loop and are set stair stepping up hill in five levels. Each is made of random roughly dressed stone like the committal shelter building with each of the niches covered with a white marble panel and the occupied ones have the name, dates, and other information engraved in the marble plate of the niche. The columbaria are concrete capped. Sidewalks, benches, and landscaping surround the columbaria to provide a context for the visitors.

Objects (15)

U.S. Flagpole, State Flagpole, POW/MIA Flagpole, Military Branch Flagpoles: Metal poles of various heights located at the southwest end of the cemetery in front of the committal shelter.

Carillon: The carillon system is made of steel legs and steel grate panels with electronic speakers inside. The tower sits southwest and uphill from the committal shelter. It is painted green to blend into the natural backdrop of trees around the cemetery. There is a small granite and bronze dedication stone associated with the tower and with the carillon is considered one of the memorials at the cemetery. The first system was donated by the South Dakota State American Legion in 1975. A newer system was installed in 1990 and that one was replaced in 2005 with the present system. Since its initial installation in 1975 numerous veterans groups have donated tapes of religious and patriotic music for the cemetery's library.

Blue Star Memorial: The Blue Star Memorial is a cast-aluminum plaque attached to a post. It is located at the front center of the grassy median in front of the committal shelter. 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. The marker was donated by the Evergreen Garden Club of Hill City, South Dakota ca. 2000.

52 Charlie Missing Wingman Memorial: This monument features a red-gray granite block with an attached bronze inscription plaque. It was erected and dedicated in May 2007 by the USAF Pilot Training Class 52-Charlie. The monument is located next to the loop road northeast of the Committal Shelter.

Korean War Memorial: A large red granite die featuring dedication inscription on both the front and back set on a base of the same material. The monument was erected and dedicated in May 2002 by the South Dakota Korean War Veterans Association. The monument is located on the west side of the committal shelter area.

Bivouac of the Dead plaque: This cast-aluminum plaque was installed in 2003 on a granite block base. It is located at the center of the square grassy median at the end of the entrance road. The plaque contains a stanza from Theodore O'Hara's poem *Bivouac of the Dead*.

Gettysburg Address plaque: Located near the committal shelter, it is a large cast-iron plaque featuring President 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 a granite base and was installed on Memorial Day 2012.

Medal of Honor Bicentennial tree plaque: A small bronze plaque with raised inscription on a granite block base, it is located near the corner of Columbarium A. The Bicentennial tree was removed when the columbaria were constructed.

Black Hills National Cemetery
Name of Property

Meade County, SD
County and State

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.)

- [X] 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.
- [X] 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.)

Politics/Government
Military

Period of Significance

1948-Present

Significant Dates

1948
1949
1973

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Period of Significance (justification)

The beginning date of 1948 for the period of significance corresponds to the year that the lands were dedicated as Fort Meade National Cemetery with the first burials taking place that year. The next year the cemetery was renamed Black Hills National Cemetery. Today the cemetery remains active and therefore the present time is considered to be the end date for the period of significance.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)
Black Hills National Cemetery is nationally significant under Criterion A for its association with the expansion of the National Cemetery System in the years immediately after World War II.

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.[1] The period of significance for Black Hills National Cemetery begins in 1948 with its designation as a national cemetery. That date was selected because all other dates derive from the cemetery's designation.

Black Hills National Cemetery serves as a memorial to the sacrifices of the U.S. military, and is a reflection of the expanded burial and memorial mission established during the Civil War with the earliest national cemeteries. For these reasons, Criteria Consideration D is also satisfied.

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

Black Hills National Cemetery is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A for its association with the development of military and veterans cemeteries during the twentieth century by the federal government.

The history of the Black Hills National Cemetery dates to the late 1940s when Congress included funding for the new South Dakota cemetery as part of the Army appropriation bill for fiscal 1948. The Army, working with the Department of the Interior, secured the land for the cemetery following the direction of Executive Order 9337.[2] The Army dedicated the cemetery as the Fort Meade National Cemetery on October 3, 1948, due to its location on the former Fort Meade military reservation; it was renamed Black Hills National Cemetery the following year.

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

Fort Meade Military Reservation

The Army established Fort George Gordon Meade late in 1878 after General Philip Sheridan selected the location 14 miles northeast of the fledgling town of Deadwood for a post to replace the Black Hills temporary camp known as J. C. Sturgis. The camp and fort represented Army responses to calls from miners and settlers for protection from attack by local bands of Native Americans. The fort was named for Union Civil War general George G. Meade. The first Army units to occupy the post after construction was completed during the late winter of 1878-79 included companies of the 1st and 11th Infantry regiments and the reorganized 7th Cavalry. Fort Meade soon became a major force in maintaining peace in the western Dakotas because of its strategic location on the Bismarck, Fort Pierre, and Sidney trails as well as favored Sioux routes into the Black Hills. The post continued to be an important frontier outpost into the twentieth century as the area slowly matured. Later,

[1] 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

[2] Copy of Letter to Mrs. McDonald regarding Expansion of the Black Hills National Cemetery, March 2, 1961, and National Cemetery Data Sheet for Black Hills National Cemetery, June 15, 1959, Veterans Administration Records, Record Group 15, National Archives, College Park, Maryland (NACP).

on July 10, 1934, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company 2758 arrived at Fort Meade and established Camp Robert Fechner. Camp Fechner subsequently served as the CCC South Dakota state headquarters. During World War II Fort Meade saw service as a Prisoner-of-War (POW) camp until 1944. During 1944 the Army closed the fort and POW camp and turned the post over to the Veterans Administration for use as a hospital, a function it serves to this day.[3]

Development of Black Hills National Cemetery

Following World War II, the army recognized the need to expand the National Cemetery System to accommodate the increasing numbers of veterans from World War I and other conflicts that would require burial space in the foreseeable future. This need led directly to investigations of possible sites in and near the Black Hills for a new national cemetery. At the time veterans in the area who wished to be buried in a national cemetery would have been interred at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in St. Paul, Minnesota, several hundred miles distant. During July 1947 George A. Horkan, the Chief of the Memorial Division of the Quartermaster Corps, visited Fort Meade with the purpose of investigating possible sites for a new national cemetery. The existing Fort Meade post cemetery was deemed too small and remote for the intended purposes. After examining approximately 7,865 acres of the Fort Meade reservation Horkan identified a tract of land of approximately 200 acres near U.S. Highway 14 that met the requirements for a national cemetery site. He suggested that the site be known as the Black Hills National Cemetery.[4] Horkan's report resulted in further investigations of the property and eventually led to selection of the current site as a new national cemetery. The land was transferred from the Veterans Administration to the Department of the Army through withdrawals of the public domain in 1948.[5]

The cemetery was initially developed during the second half of 1948 with the dedication taking place on October 3 of that year under the leadership of the first superintendent Ernest C. Schanze. The first seven burials—all World War II dead, whose remains were being held by the Kansas City Quartermaster Depot—took place earlier on September 27 and 30, prior to the ceremonial opening of the cemetery. The interment ceremonies were attended by a large number of persons including next of kin and local residents. The Rapid City Air Force Base provided a bugler, firing squad and pall bearers; religious services were conducted by local clergy. The dedication ceremony was broadcast by a local radio station and the highlight of the program was the strewing of flowers by plane following the ceremony. October 29 saw the first burial of a former patient of the VA Hospital at the new national cemetery.[6]

At some point between Horkan's 1947 visit and the dedication, the new facility was named Fort Meade National Cemetery per Department of the Army (DA) *General Orders* No. 53, dated July 30, 1948. In June of the following year, the American Legion State Convention passed a resolution to rename the cemetery to Black Hills. The name change was apparently also backed by U.S. Senator Francis Case. That name change took affect November 11, 1949, through DA *General Orders* No. 48, dated November 1st. The army reasoned that the name change was instituted to avoid confusion with the post cemetery that still existed on the Fort Meade reservation, which was maintained by the Veterans Administration, and to leave the name available in the event the army established a national cemetery on the Fort George G. Meade army post in Maryland.[7] Political pressure, and that from veterans' service organizations, likely also played a role.

---

[3] Anonymous, *Fort Meade; the Peacekeeper Post* (Fort Meade, SD: Old Fort Meade Museum and Historic Research Association, 1987), 1-10, 12, 76, 80-81 and Anonymous, *Fort Meade History* (Fort Meade, SD: Old Fort Meade Museum, on-line document, http://fortmeademuseum.org/fmm/).

[4] George A. Horkan, Report of Visit to Fort Meade South Dakota, July 1947, National Cemetery Administration, Black Hills National Cemetery vertical file, Washington, D. C.

[5] "National Cemetery Data Sheet for Black Hills National Cemetery", 1959, Veterans Administration Records, Record Group 15, NACP.

[6] Black Hills National Cemetery, Daily Log, September 1948-June 1951, and Scrapbook.

[7] Memorandum to Quartermaster General from James E Bolan, Jr. regarding naming of National Cemeteries, date illegible, National Cemetery Administration, Black Hills National Cemetery vertical file, Washington, D. C.; "Official Report of Travel to Proposed Cemetery Site," 10 July 1947 and "Preliminary Cost Estimates," 29 March 1948, Veterans Administration Records, Record Group 15,

Within the first few years of establishment significant work took place at the cemetery with regard to the built environment. A layout plan prepared by the Army Corps of Engineers shows the overall design for the entire acreage. (Figure 1) The plan included a chapel at the western end of the cemetery, which was never constructed (though the committal shelter built in 1976 is in roughly the same location), and a superintendent's lodge and administration building on opposite sides of the entrance road. However, only about 6 acres at the cemetery entrance were prepared for burial, ceremonial and administrative purposes during the initial build-out in the late 1940s-early 1950s.

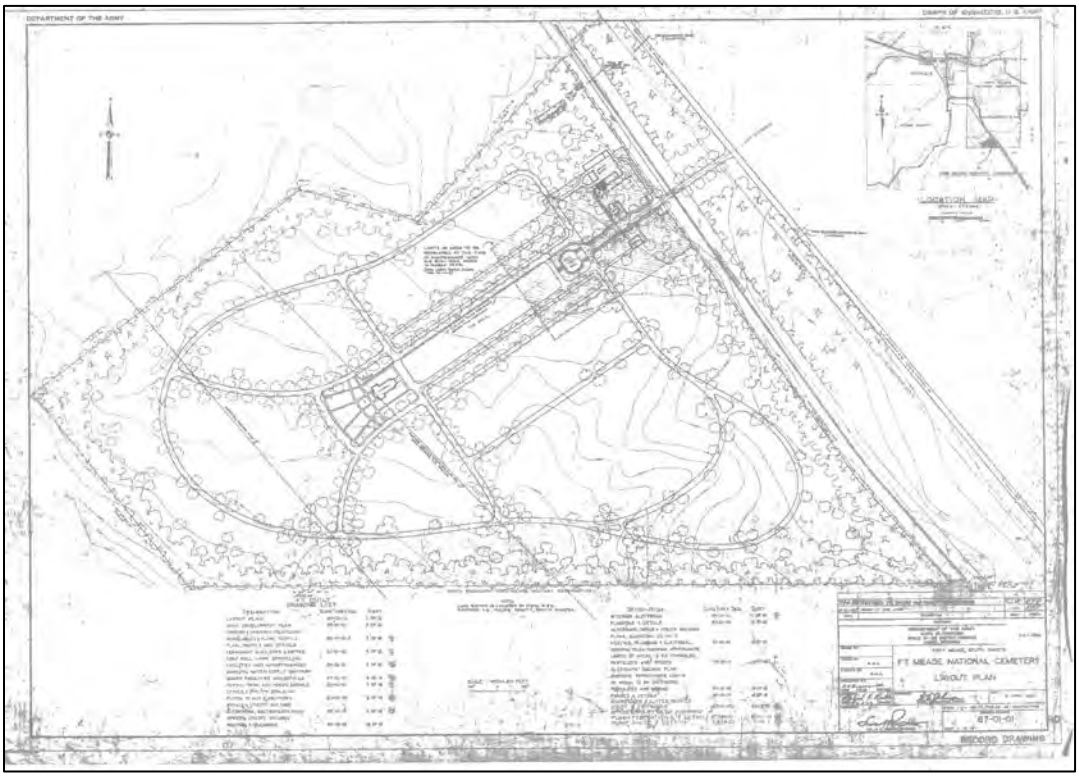


Figure 1. Layout plan, Department of the Army.

The area to be developed was rectangular in shape with the entrance on one of the short sides, facing the railroad line that extended through the larger Fort Meade military reservation. The entrance road stopped at a square-shaped island that contained a flagstone plaza and the U.S. flagpole. Plans changed somewhat during construction as the land on the left side/south side of the entrance road was developed as a burial section only and the superintendent's lodge was updated to include an office at the front for conducting cemetery business. An administration building was planned adjacent to the lodge but would not be built until 1973. Additionally, a maintenance yard was planned north of the superintendent's lodge/cemetery office (which was completed February 1951), though only a single rectangular building (originally referred to as the utility building) was constructed at first. The utility building was completed in June 1949 and was the first permanent building at the cemetery. A one room addition was added to the south side of the utility building in 1950 and was used as the cemetery office until the combined superintendent's lodge/office was constructed. In 1949 there was an attempt to dig the first well to supply water for grounds keeping; September 1951 saw the fourth well underway in an attempt to find water. The year 1951 also saw the first cemetery beautification project underway with the

NACP. Though a national cemetery was never realized at the Maryland installation, the post cemetery at Fort Meade became the Fort Meade National Cemetery in 1973 when the majority of national and veterans cemeteries were consolidated within in the National Cemetery System, a new agency of the Veterans Administration.

planting of 2229 trees including pine, red cedar, and ash. Additionally, the entrance was improved with stone piers supporting metal picket fences and gates. Attached to the central piers were bronze identification plaques.[8] A below grade concrete pump house and deep well were established at the northeast corner near the maintenance area in 1955.

Five burial sections were part of the initial development. Section A was laid out on the left/south side of the entrance road; Section B was located between the superintendent's lodge/cemetery office and the service/utility building. Extending to the back of the developed area of the cemetery behind the flagpole plaza was a long rectangular area labeled Section "D"; and other long rectangular areas that paralleled Section D and were labeled Sections "C" and "E." Part of Section E that included graves nos. 9-387 was designated as a post section for the burial of deceased members of the families of officers and soldiers, and of certain classes of government employees who are entitled to such burials under army regulations[9].

The first Memorial Day Service was held on Monday, May 30, 1949. Cemetery staff built a speakers stand in Section E for the address given by Brigadier General Samuel D. Sturgis; the town of Sturgis, South Dakota was named for his grandfather. The program featured music by the Sturgis High School Band and a fly-over by the South Dakota Air National Guard. Approximately 2,500 persons attended the ceremony, which was broadcast by a local radio station for those who could not attend. The month of September marked the year anniversary of the cemetery's first interment. In one year the cemetery saw 91 interments through all types of weather. Included were 64 soldiers from the World War II dead repatriation program and 27 other veterans or eligible family members.[10]

In 1959 a special memorial area was established as required by an act of Congress to honor those whose remains were missing or unrecoverable. Memorial section "MA" was carved out of the northern corner of section C near the flagpole plaza; it was dedicated on May 30, 1959, by U.S. Senator Case with four markers placed for men from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.[11]

Expansion of Black Hills National Cemetery, 1960s to Present

The 1960s and 1970s witnessed further development at the cemetery beginning with a five-and-a-half acre addition to the developed portion of the cemetery in 1961. The decade also witnessed the construction of the second maintenance building, and in 1967 the original Avenue of Flags was dedicated. Veterans groups from Sturgis had installed 60 flags around the entrance drive and the flagpole area forming the core of the Avenue of Flags. On Memorial Day of 1975 the cemetery extended the Avenue of Flags around the developed grounds. That same year the South Dakota State American Legion donated the first carillon system; the electronics and other components of the system have since been upgraded and expanded at various times including 1990 and 2005.

In 1973, all but two national cemeteries managed by the Department of the Army were transferred to a newly established agency—the National Cemetery System—within the Veterans Administration. The transfer was the result of extensive studies by the federal government and the passage of Public Law 93–43 by Congress. Despite the change in management, development continued at Black Hills National Cemetery. That same year, a new administration building was constructed because the small office built as part of the superintendent's lodge was no longer functional for the needs of the cemetery. During the 1970s another seven-acre expansion

[8] Black Hills National Cemetery, Daily Log, September 1948-June 1951, and Scrapbook.
[9] War Department, Office of the Quartermaster General, National Cemetery Regulations, August, 1947.
[10] Black Hills National Cemetery, Daily Log, September 1948-June 1951, and Scrapbook.
[11] "History of Black Hills National Cemetery," manuscript on file in the Director's office of the Black Hills National Cemetery, Sturgis, SD.; also various documents found in RG 15 microfilm and construction drawings.

was planned and developed. The same decade also witnessed the design and construction of the large octagonal committal shelter and ceremonial area at the southwestern end of the cemetery.[12]

The 1980s saw very little change to the built environment of the cemetery. However, during the decade the cemetery saw about 4,000 burials, an average of 400 a year.

The next extensive changes came in the mid to late 1990s as the National Cemetery Administration prepared plans for expansion of the built environment at the cemetery. This involved demolition of the superintendent's lodge/cemetery office as the building was no longer being used for its intended purpose. At the time the administration building was both altered and added on to in order to better accommodate the administrative staff and provide restrooms for the visiting public. The same plans called for a major addition to the utility building, which was first built in 1948 and added on to in 1950.[13]

Figure 2. Aerial view, 1992, National Cemetery Administration.

Today the cemetery remains open, offering a final resting place for America's veterans and their dependents.

[12] "History of Black Hills National Cemetery," manuscript on file in the Director's office of the Black Hills National Cemetery, Sturgis, SD. and Avenue of Flags information sheet, National Cemetery Administration, Black Hills National Cemetery vertical file, Washington, D. C.
[13] Robert E Holbrook, Director of Technical Service to Jim Wilson, South Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer, 18 July 1995, National Cemetery Administration, Black Hills National Cemetery vertical file, Washington, D. C.

Burials and Headstones at Black Hills National Cemetery

Black Hills National Cemetery contains burials of veterans from the Civil War, Indian Wars, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, and recent conflicts in the Middle East. The first interments at the cemetery were seven World War II casualties including Howard L. Johnson, Charles R. Durfee, Gerhard E. Biberdorf, Carl Hasselstrom, Henry F. Brown, Clinton L. Derscheid, and Charles S. Swimmer.

The post-World War I War Department designed white marble markers with slightly rounded tops, referred to as "General-type," predominate the upright grave markers at the Black Hills National Cemetery. For veterans of the Spanish-American and prior wars buried at the Black Hills National Cemetery, the engraved outline of a shield is present around the name, rank and other information about the interred. These are consistent with the nationally established standards for headstones adopted during the late-nineteenth century by the War Department. Only upright headstones are permitted in the Black Hills National Cemetery. The first headstones were set on May 11, 1949, in the post section, and sections A and B.

Black Hills National Cemetery has three notable burials. One Medal of Honor recipient, Sergeant Charles Windolph, is buried at the Black Hills National Cemetery. Sergeant Windolph was a member of Troop H, 7th U.S. Cavalry and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Congress awarded the medal for providing covering fire for his comrades who went for water for the wounded on June 26, 1876. The other two notable burials are: Senator Francis H. Case, who served in the Marine Corps in World War I and represented South Dakota in the U.S. House of Representatives (1937–1950) and the U.S. Senate (1951–1962) and Brigadier General Richard E. Ellsworth, Commander of Rapid City Air Force Base; the Air Force renamed the base Ellsworth Air Force Base to honor the General.

Conclusion

Further development of Black Hills National Cemetery will undoubtedly be distinct from the older burial sections. However, the cemetery plan harmonizes through rows of upright marble headstones marking the graves of our nation's heroes and through thoughtful additions to its landscape since its establishment. This cemetery is a lasting tribute and a shrine to the memory of the sacrifices of many servicemen and women. Founded just after World War II, Black Hills National Cemetery is a testament to the nation's dedication to its honored dead.

Black Hills National Cemetery is nationally significant under Criterion A for its association with the expansion of the National Cemetery System in the years immediately after World War II. This cemetery serves as a memorial to the sacrifices of the U.S. military, and is a reflection of the expanded burial and memorial mission established during the Civil War with the earliest national cemeteries.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Manuscripts

Black Hills National Cemetery, Construction drawings, Design & Construction Service, National Cemetery Administration, Washington, D.C.

Black Hills National Cemetery, Daily Log, September 1948-June 1951, and Scrapbook History Program, National Cemetery Administration, Washington, D.C.

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

DRAFT "Inter-war National Cemeteries: Associated Historic Contexts, National Register of Historic Places." 2011, History Program, National Cemetery Administration, Washington, D.C.

Record Group 15 Veterans Administration, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC. Also in microfilm form History Program, National Cemetery Administration, Washington, D.C.

Books

Anonymous. *Fort Meade; the Peacekeeper Post*. Fort Meade, SD: Old Fort Meade Museum and Historic Research Association, 1987.

War Department. Office of the Quartermaster General. *National Cemetery Regulations, August, 1947*.

On-Line Documents

Anonymous. *Fort Meade History.* Fort Meade, SD: Old Fort Meade Museum. Accessed November 22, 2011. http://fortmeademuseum.org/fmm/.

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 # _____
_X_recorded by Historic American Landscapes Survey # **SD-2**_____

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
_X_Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: **NCA Offices, Washington, DC**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): MD00000349

10. Geographical Data

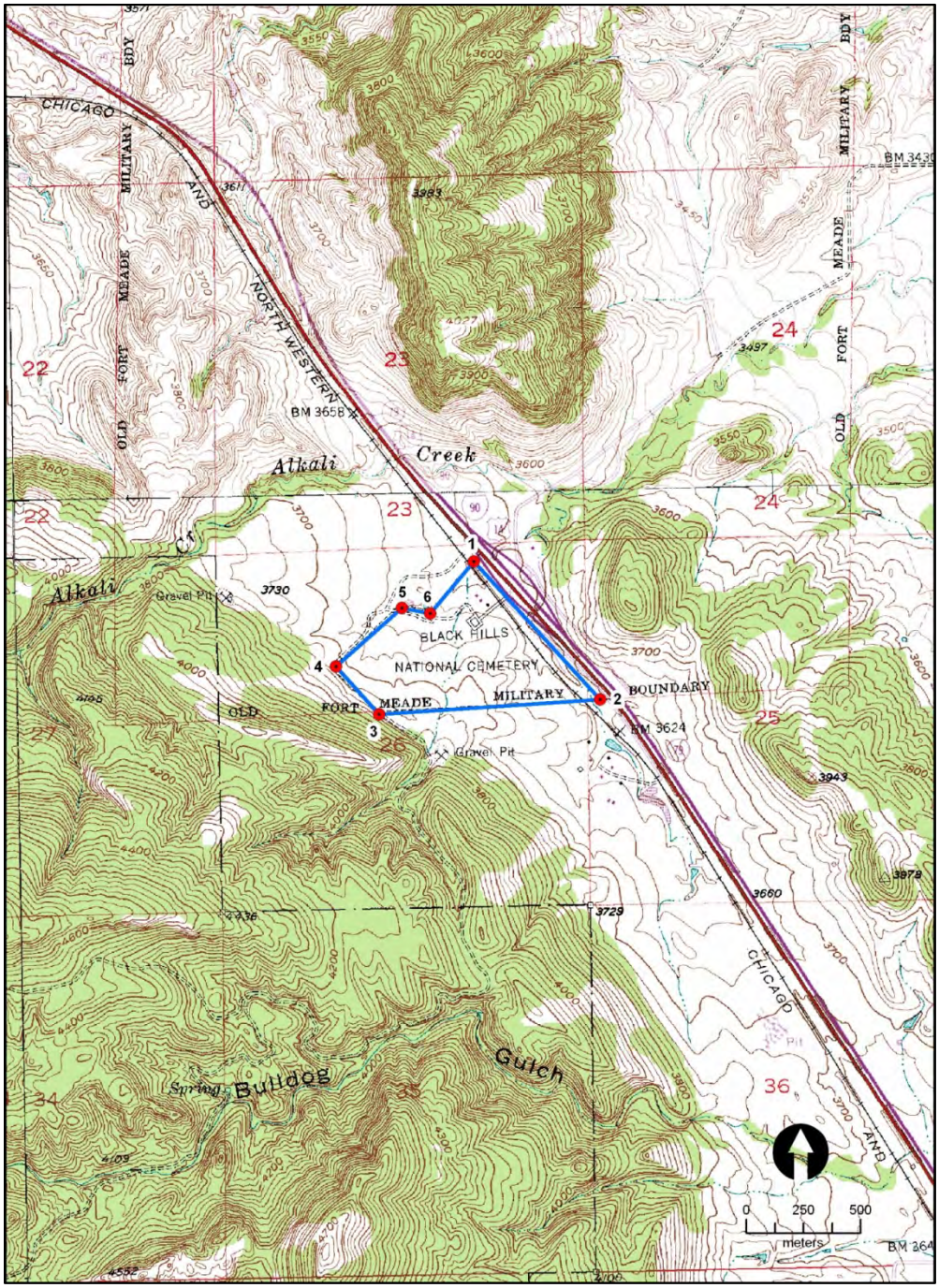
Acreage of Property 105.4
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	13	621479	4914350	4	13	620876	4913892

Black Hills National Cemetery — Name of Property
Meade County, SD — County and State

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	13	622031	4913748	5	13	621164	4914147
3	13	621065	4913682	6	13	621287	4914124



Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The boundaries are indicated on the accompanying Tilford, SD topographic quadrangle map copy.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The National Cemetery Administration recognizes the above as the existing boundaries of the cemetery. The boundaries include the developed and undeveloped parts of the cemetery.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Steve F. Mehls, Historian

organization Western Cultural Resource Management date January 30, 2012, rev. 2016

street & number P.O. Box 2326 Telephone 303-449-1151

city or town Boulder state CO zip code 80306

e-mail steve.mehls@wcrminc.com

Additional Documentation

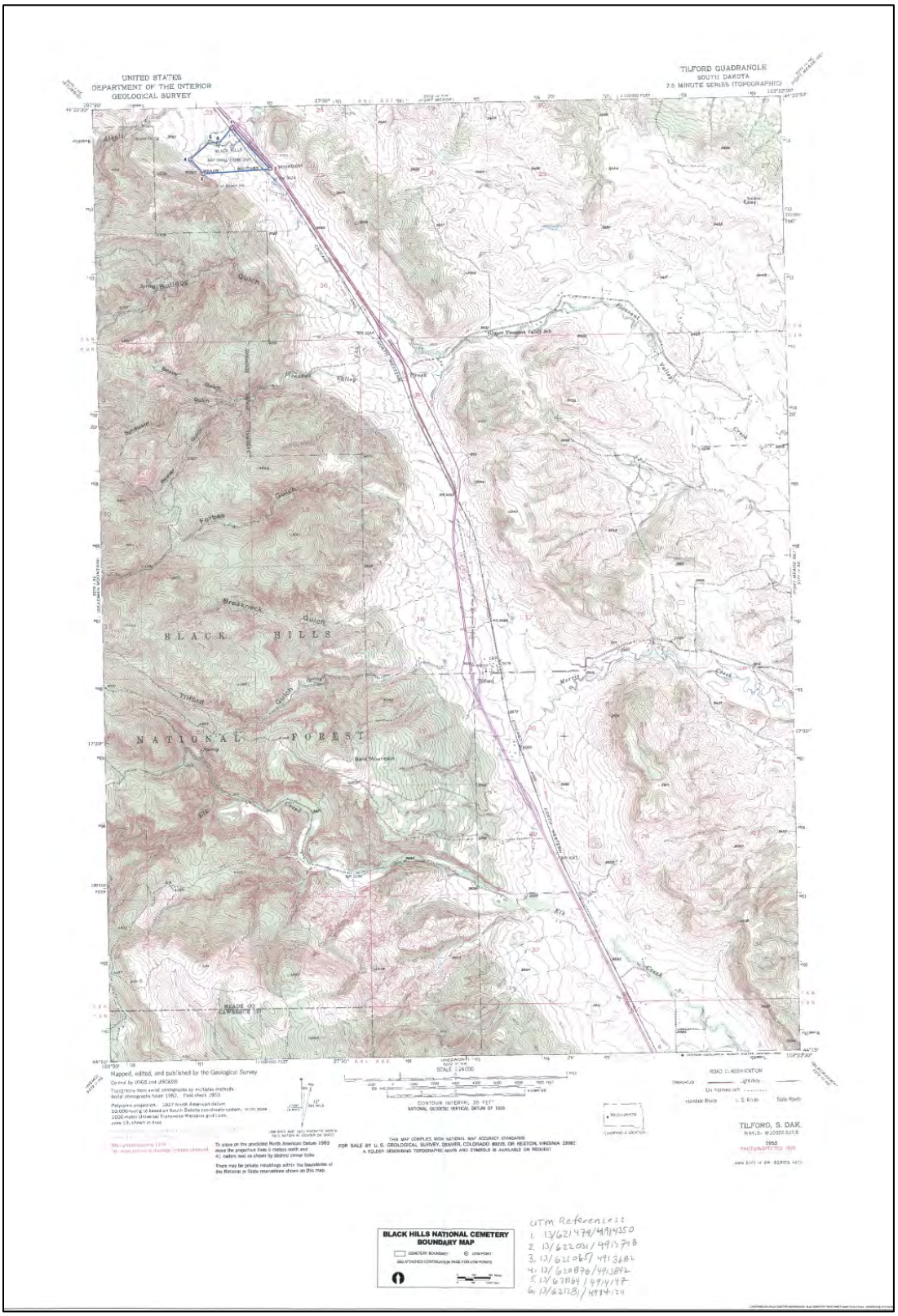
Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

(See next page)

Black Hills National Cemetery
Name of Property

Meade County, SD
County and State



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

Sketch Map

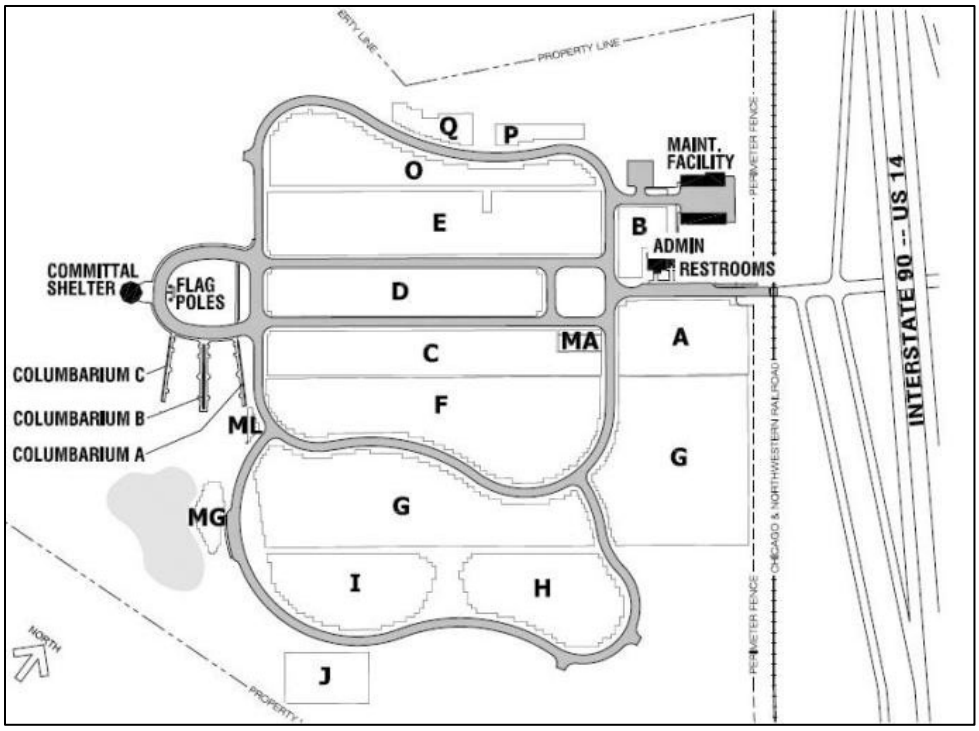
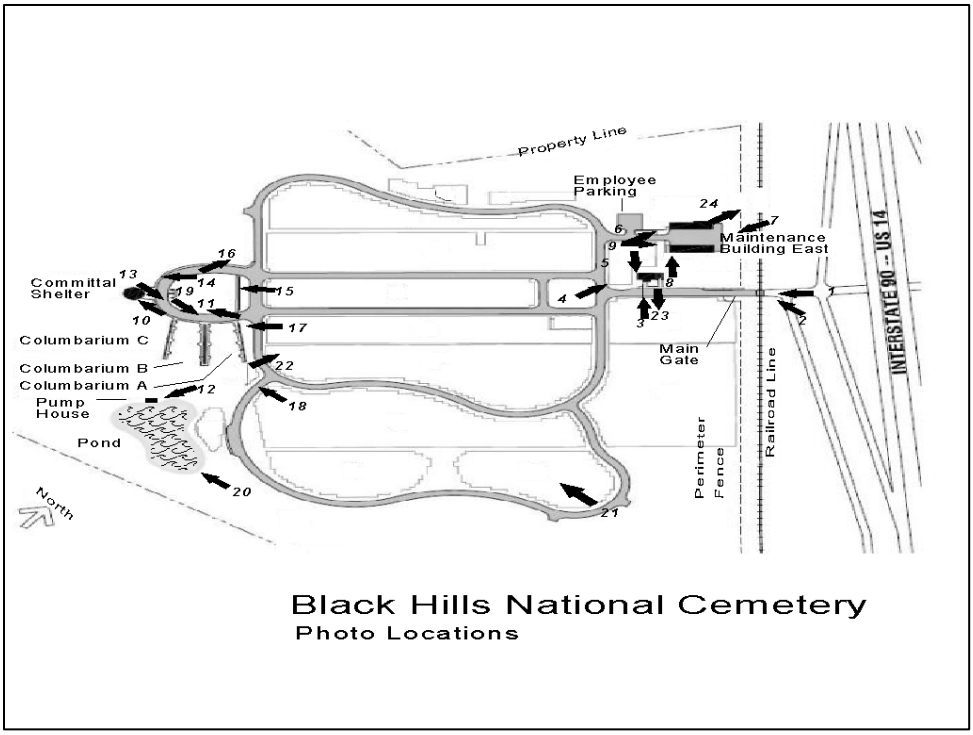


Photo Key



Black Hills National Cemetery — Name of Property
Meade County, SD — County and State

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: Black Hills National Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Sturgis

County: Meade State: South Dakota

Photographer: Steve Mehls

Date Photographed: September 29, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

001. View to southwest, Main gate
002. View to west, Northern fence and maintenance yard
003. View to northwest, Administration Building facade
004. View to north, Administration Building oblique view
005. View to northeast, Administration Building rear
006. View to north, Maintenance Building West oblique view
007. View to south, Maintenance Building East oblique view
008. View to north, Maintenance Building East rear showing window infill
009. View to northeast, Maintenance Yard
010. View to west, Committal Shelter oblique view
011. View to west, Committal Shelter oblique view with setting
012. View to south-southwest, Pump House oblique view
013. View to east, Columbaria A-C overview
014. View to west-southwest, Carillon
015. View to west-southwest, Blue Star Memorial
016. View to north, Korean War Memorial
017. View to southwest, Pilot Training Class 52Charlie from May of 1952 Memorial
018. View to west, Individual Memorial area
019. View to east, Columbarium A overview
020. View to west, Pond overview
021. View to west, Overview of northeastern portion of the cemetery
022. View to north, Overview of central portion of the cemetery with part of the Avenue of Flags
023. View to southeast, Sergeant Charles Windolph grave
024. View to north, view of two types of fencing

Property Owner:

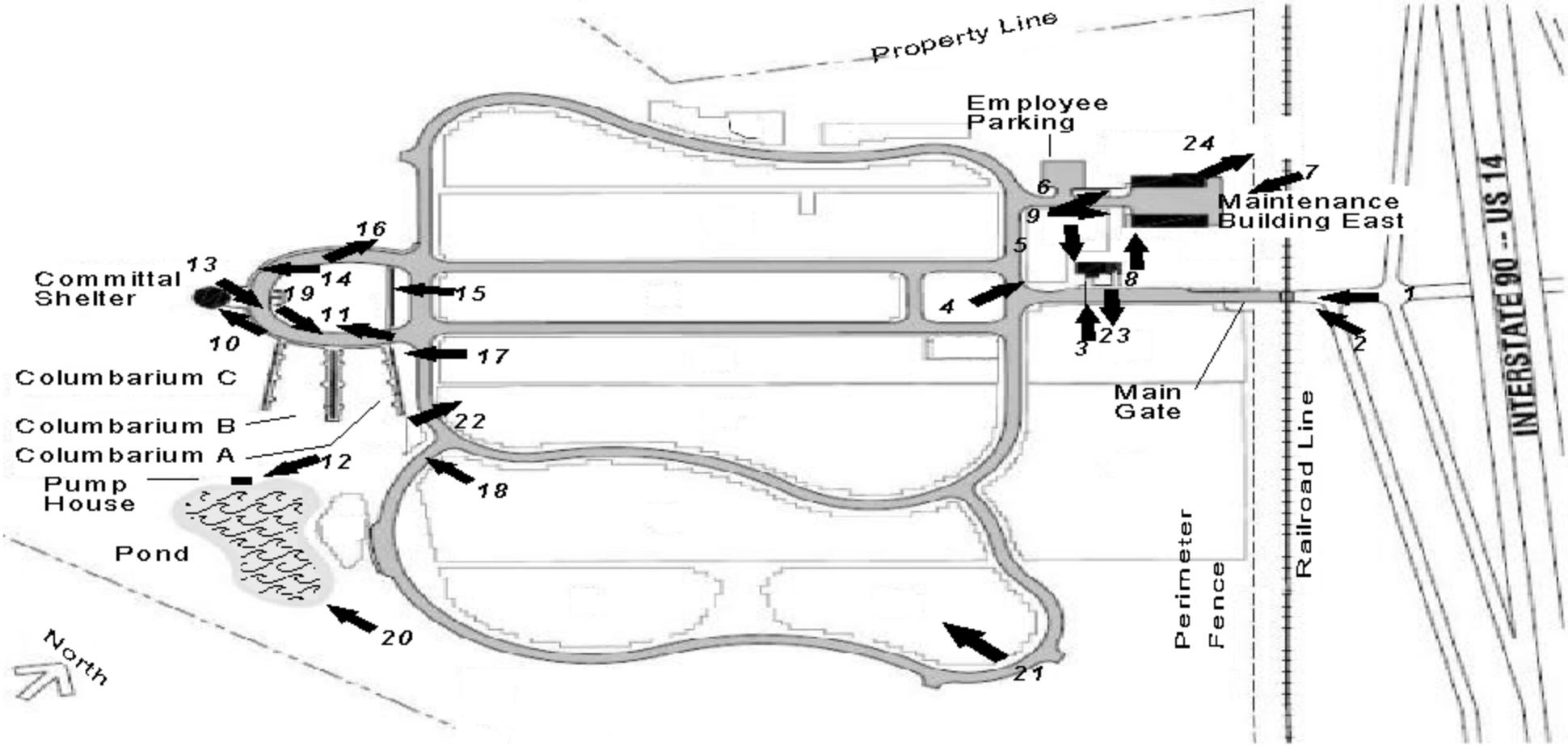
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

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

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

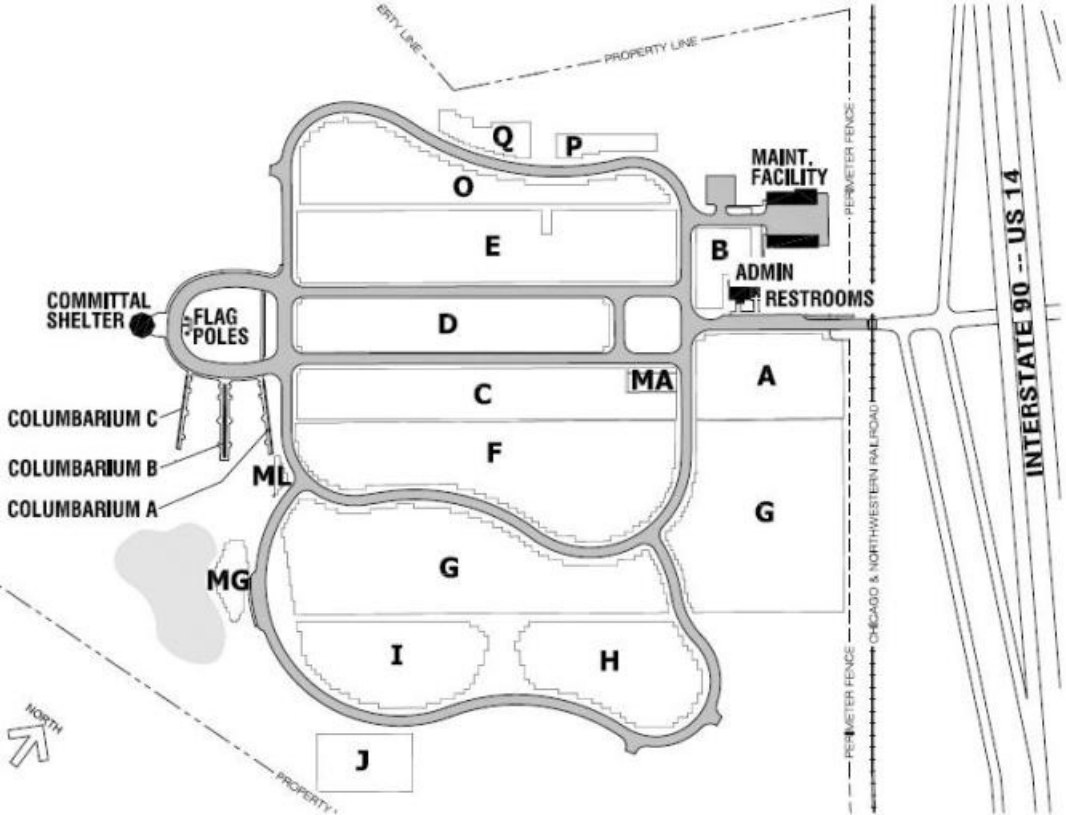
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20420

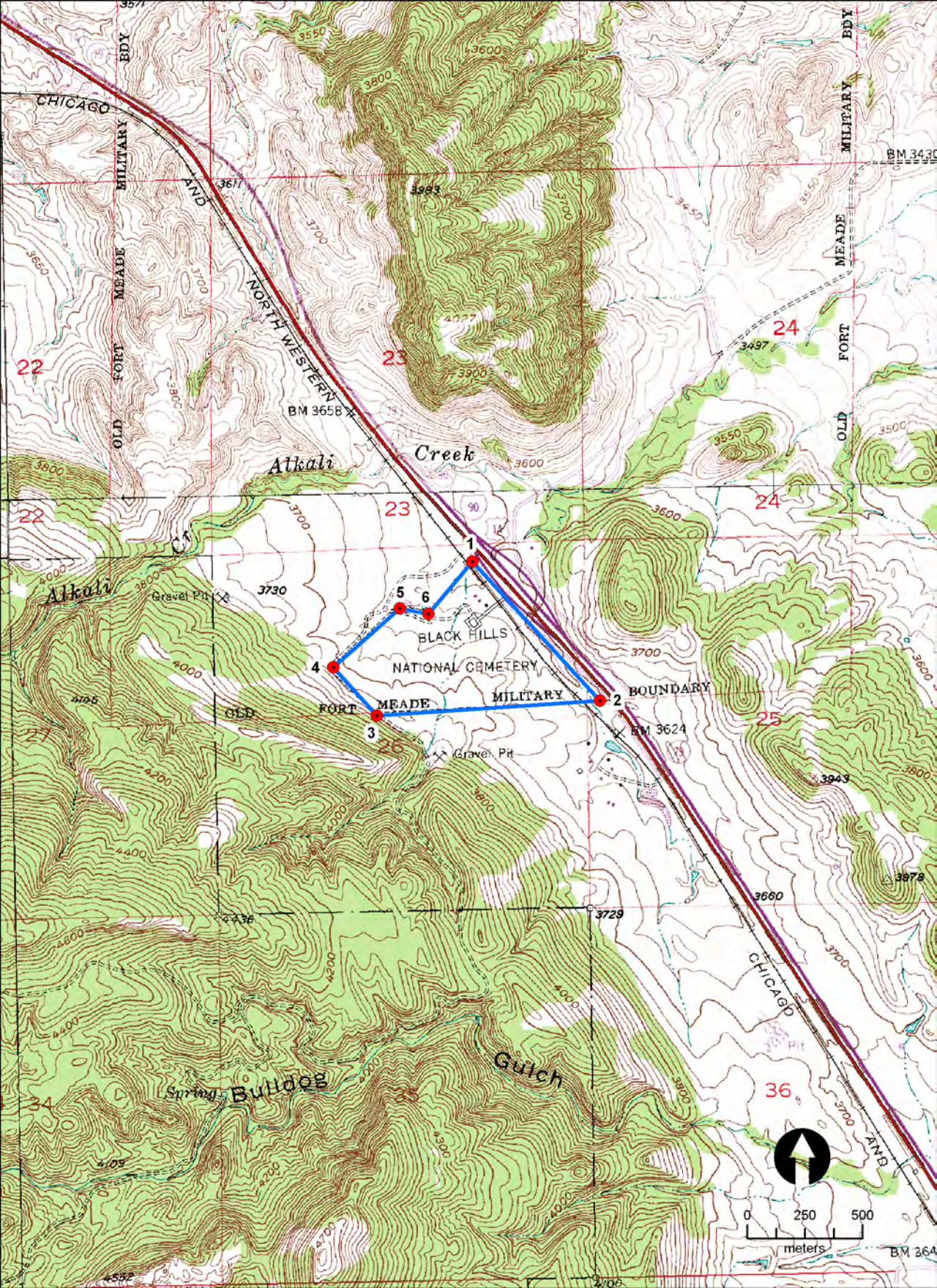
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.



Black Hills National Cemetery

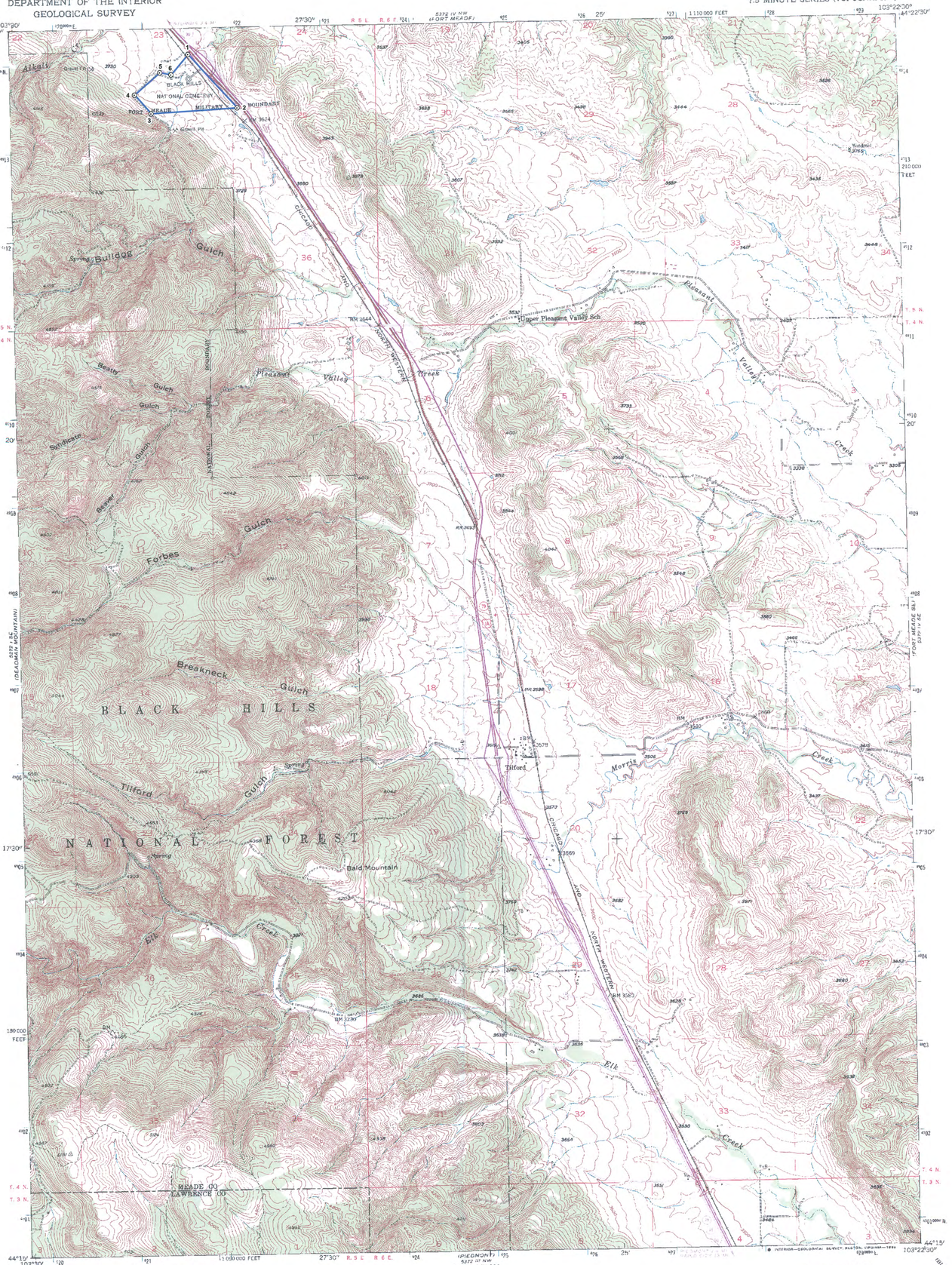
Photo Locations


PROPERTY LINE
PROPERTY LINE
PERIMETER FENCE
PERIMETER FENCE
CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD
INTERSTATE 90 -- US 14
Q
P
O
E
B
MAINT. FACILITY
ADMIN
RESTROOMS
COMMITTAL SHELTER
FLAG POLES
D
C
MA
A
F
G
G
I
H
J
ML
MG
COLUMBARIUM C
COLUMBARIUM B
COLUMBARIUM A
NORTH


CHICAGO
AND
NORTH WESTERN
OLD FORT MEADE MILITARY BDY
Alkali
Creek
BM 3658
BLACK HILLS
NATIONAL CEMETERY
FORT MEADE MILITARY BOUNDARY
Gravel Pit
BM 3624
Bulldog
Gulch
Spring
1
2
3
4
5
6
0 250 500
meters

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

TILFORD QUADRANGLE
SOUTH DAKOTA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1953

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on South Dakota coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 13, shown in blue

Revision of this map is based on aerial photographs taken 1975. No information has been added

Map photoinspected 1976
No major culture or drainage changes observed

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters north and 41 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty — Light-duty
Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route — U. S. Route — State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

TILFORD, S. DAK.
N4415-W10322.5/7.5
1953
PHOTOINSPECTED 1976

AMS 5172 IV SW—SERIES V875

BLACK HILLS NATIONAL CEMETERY BOUNDARY MAP

CEMETERY BOUNDARY — UTM POINT

SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION PAGE FOR UTM POINTS

UTM References:
1. 13/621479/4914350
2. 13/622031/4913748
3. 13/621067/4913682
4. 13/620876/4913892
5. 13/621164/4914147
6. 13/621281/4914124

C:\WORK\BLACK HILLS CEMETERY\MAPS\BLACK HILLS CEMETERY TOPO SHEET.DGN5 10-30-12.dwg - 10/30/2012 @ 10:10:46 AM

ADMINISTRATION
FOYER OPEN
GRAVESITE
LOCATOR
INSIDE

T W
HIS SON
AUG 12 1958
NOV 23 1958

TORO

25759

BLUE STAR
MEMORIAL
A tribute to the Armed Forces
that have defended the
United States of America
SPONSORED BY
Evergreen Garden Club of Hill City, SD
IN COOPERATION WITH
National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.
AND
SD Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO
ANSWERED OUR NATIONS
CALL PURSUING FREEDOM IN
KOREA
THE FORGOTTEN WAR
25 JUNE
1950
27 JULY
1953
SOUTH DAKOTA
KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
NAVY
AIR FORCE
COAST GUARD

IN MEMORY OF
LOWELL V
MOWRER
BT3
US NAVY
KOREA
FEB 9 1932
OCT 20 2006
PROUDLY
SERVED
IN MEMORY OF
JOHN SAMUEL
BRISCOE
S1
US NAVY
WORLD WAR II
AUG 8 1928
JAN 7 1959
ALWAYS &
FOREVER
LOVED
IN MEMORY OF
RAYMOND L
SMITH
TM1
US NAVY
VIETNAM
NOV 20 1942
JUL 13 2007
NAM
PROUDLY
SERVED
IN MEMORY OF
DUANE W
MCCASKEY
US NAVY
VIETNAM
JAN 8 1947
JAN 8 2009
LOVED BY ALL
WHO KNEW HIM
IN MEMORY OF
ROBERT M
TRAYNOR SR
AMM1
US NAVY
WORLD WAR II
NOV 30 1922
MAR 2 2009
FOREVER IN
OUR HEARTS

Trash

ROY D LARSON
ERMA C
PETER HEILMAN
CPL
USAAF
WORLD WAR II
FEB 17 1922
JUL 26 2011
FOREVER IN
OUR HEARTS
GORDON C WATSON
VERNON M KIRK

EDWIN C
SWANSON
CHARLES
WINDOLPH
MEDAL OF HONOR
SGT
US ARMY
INDIAN WARS
DEC 9 1851
MAR 11 1950

JOHN DEERE
JOHN DEERE
JOHN DEERE