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**National Park Service**  
**Cultural Landscapes Inventory**

**August 2011**



**Vicksburg National Cemetery**  
**Vicksburg National Military Park**

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## Inventory Unit Summary and Site Plan

### Inventory Unit

**Cultural Landscape Inventory Name:** Vicksburg National Cemetery Landscape

**Cultural Landscape Inventory Number:** 550185

**Park Name:** Vicksburg National Military Park

**Park Alpha Code:** VICK

**Park Org Code:** 5609

### Landscape Description:

The National Cemetery system was established in 1867 by an act of Congress. Planning for Vicksburg National Cemetery had already begun in 1866, and the cemetery opened for burials in 1867. It is one of the country's oldest national cemeteries and has the largest number of Civil War interments of any national cemetery in the United States. Vicksburg National Cemetery is located adjacent to the northwest portion of Vicksburg National Military Park. The cemetery inventory unit encompasses 120.03 acres; however, the burials are contained in the original 40 acres of the cemetery and in two additional terraces M and W in the northwest corner of the cemetery. The original 40 acres are surrounded by the original brick perimeter wall. The original brick wall was moved to accommodate the realignment of U.S. Highway 61, and encloses the two terraces that are not part of the original 40 acres. The cemetery predates Vicksburg National Military Park, which was established in 1899. The cemetery site is located in Warren County, Mississippi, about one and one-half miles north of the historic center of the city of Vicksburg.

The original entrance to the cemetery was from the riverfront road (North Washington Street, now Fort Hill Drive), which led to the southwest corner of the cemetery. This entrance is no longer open to vehicular traffic. At the time the cemetery was established, the western boundary was the Mississippi River. Current access to the cemetery is through the park entrance on Clay Street (U.S. 80), from which the cemetery is reached on the tour road of Vicksburg National Military Park. Vehicles can also access the cemetery from Fort Hill Drive, which extends from Cherry Street; within the park the roadway becomes Connecting Avenue, which is part of the park tour road. This part of the tour road parallels the eastern edge of the cemetery and leads to the main entrance gates near the USS *Cairo* Museum. The brick perimeter wall and a chain link fence define part of the south boundary of the cemetery, while Mint Spring Bayou and thick forest vegetation form a natural edge defining the remainder of this boundary. The north boundary of the cemetery is defined by the perimeter brick wall and a chain link fence. Northeast of the chain link fence is a gravel maintenance road and a park maintenance area. Forest vegetation borders the north and northwest portions of the chain link fence.

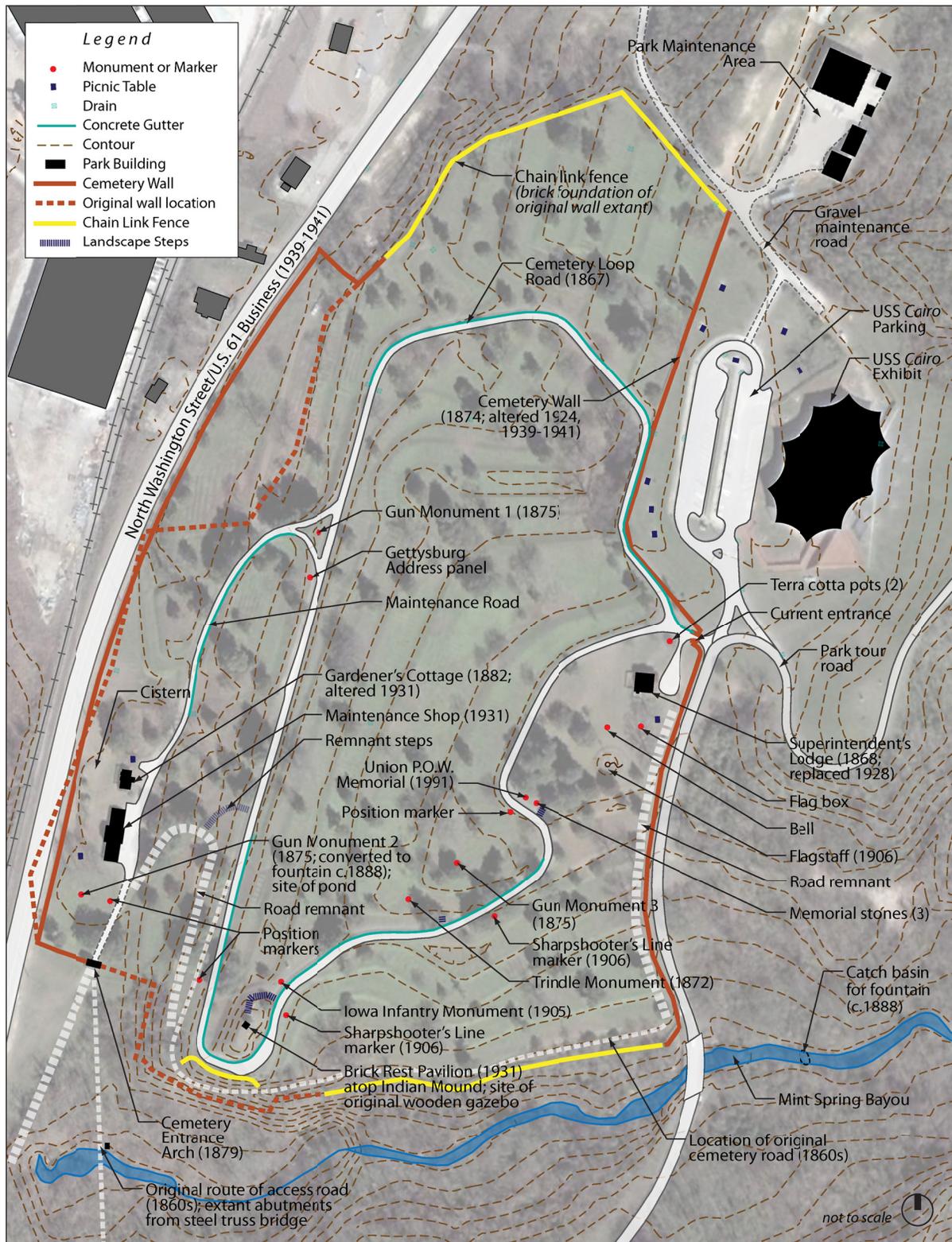
Principal characteristics and features of the cemetery landscape include the brick cemetery perimeter wall, the dramatic topography formed by the construction of multiple terraces and plateaus descending east to west, the winding loop road and drainage structures visible throughout the site, and the patterns of headstones and markers that form regular and rhythmic rows across the landscape. The terraces were graded on the existing bluff in order to prepare the site for burials on the highly erodible loess soils. One of the highest elevations in the southwest portion of the cemetery site is the Indian Mound. This topographic feature served as the site of Fort Sugar-loaf in 1797, with other Spanish fortifications also located near the cemetery site. After the Civil War and purchase of the site by the United States government, the Indian Mound remained and towered over the constructed terraces of the new cemetery, affording expansive views to the surrounding landscape. The Grant-Pemberton Surrender Monument was located on the mound in 1868. In 1875 a wooden gazebo was constructed in close proximity to the monument, complete with benches for visitor comfort and views to the landscape. The gazebo was replaced by the extant brick rest pavilion, constructed in the 1931. The Grant-Pemberton Surrender Monument was moved from the Indian Mound back to its original location at the surrender interview site in the park in 1940. Additional features of the cemetery include large deciduous and evergreen trees scattered over the site, maintaining the historical park like setting and character of the landscape.

The national cemetery continues to fulfill its purpose as a final resting place for United States soldiers and sailors who served this country in times of national and international conflict. Of the approximate 17,000 Union veterans buried in Vicksburg National Cemetery, the identities of only approximately 4,000 are known and therefore the majority of the Civil War dead are listed as unknown. Approximately 1,300 veterans of wars subsequent to the Civil War are interred in Vicksburg National Cemetery. There also are a few burials of wives and children of veterans and government workers. Vicksburg National Cemetery has been closed for burials since 1961, except for a few individuals whose reservations for interment had been accepted prior to that time.

**Inventory Unit Size:** 120.03 acres

**Property Level:** Landscape

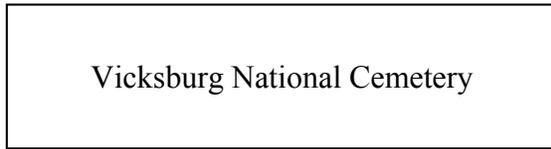
Site Plan



**FIGURE 1.** Site Plan. Dates are provided where known. Refer to Figure 16 for locations of cemetery terraces A through X. Source: JMA, 2011.

### **CLI Hierarchy Description**

Vicksburg National Cemetery (VINC) is classified as a primary landscape in the CLI database.



## Concurrence Status

### Inventory Unit

**Inventory Unit Completion Status:** Awaiting Superintendent and SHPO Signature

**Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:**

All documentation entered in this database inventory unit was obtained from the *Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Vicksburg National Cemetery Landscape*, prepared by Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., and John Milner Associates, Inc., in 2011. The information was entered into the CLI database by staff of the Southeast Regional Office.

Historical research for the CLI project was performed in accordance with the project scope of work by Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., on site at the archives of Vicksburg National Military Park. The archival collection at the park included NPS reports, historic photographs of the site, historic aerial photography, and historic maps. Additional archival documents and maps were obtained from the NPS Denver Service Center. Research was also conducted online to obtain digital reference materials from sources such as the National Archives and the Library of Congress.

Analysis and evaluation involved documenting key landscape components and analyzing the evolution of landscape development. John Milner Associates, Inc., conducted the field survey to document current conditions, primarily during the fall of 2010. Based on the history of the landscape and the evaluation of historic landscape features and patterns, landscape significance was determined. Comparative analysis between the existing conditions and the historic maps and photographs was then used to define the type and concentration of historic resources remaining in Vicksburg National Cemetery. From this information, cultural landscape integrity was determined.

<b>Park Superintendent Concurrence:</b>	<i>[In process]</i>
<b>Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:</b>	<i>[In process]</i>
<b>National Register Eligibility:</b>	<i>[In process]</i>
<b>National Register Eligibility Concurrence Date:</b>	<i>[In process]</i>
<b>National Register Concurrence Explanatory Narrative:</b>	<i>[In process]</i>
<b>Revisions:</b>	N/A

## Geographic Information and Location Map

### Inventory Unit

#### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The inventory unit boundary for this landscape corresponds to the original boundaries for the “fraction less than 40 acres” deeded to the United States government in 1866 and the additional 80 acre expansion of the cemetery in 1939 (Dabney, Vernon, and Searles, *Plat and Field Notes of the United States Military Cemetery near Vicksburg Mississippi, August 1866*, cited in Richard Meyers, *The Vicksburg National Cemetery: An Administrative History*, [Washington D.C.: National Park Service, Division of History, 1968], 9). The original 40 acre property, as described in the original plat and field survey by Dabney, Vernon and Searles, was situated “. . . immediately on the north side of Mint Spring Bayou about one and a half miles north of the city of Vicksburg and between the Yazoo Valley Road and Mississippi River, on the west side of said road, and is part of the tract of land purchased by A. H. Haynes of Saml. Edwards being part of Sections 12 & 13 of Township 16 Range 3 East.” In 1939, land was acquired for the cemetery expansion and a survey produced, including the boundaries of the additional 80 acres. The survey was produced by the National Park Service, Branch of Plans and Design, and dated September 1, 1939.

**Park Management Unit:** VICK

**Land Tract Numbers:** 06-101 through 06-143

#### GIS File Names:

VICK baseline map.dwg—AutoCAD baseline map of Vicksburg National Military Park, including built features, streams, and line of tree cover. Extends southward to include former park lands now controlled by the city and noncontiguous riverfront parcels.

VICK aerial.jpg—Black and white aerial photograph of Vicksburg National Military Park, 2006. Extends southward to include former park lands now controlled by the city and noncontiguous riverfront parcels.

### State and County

**State:** Mississippi (MS)

**County:** Warren

#### Boundary (UTM)

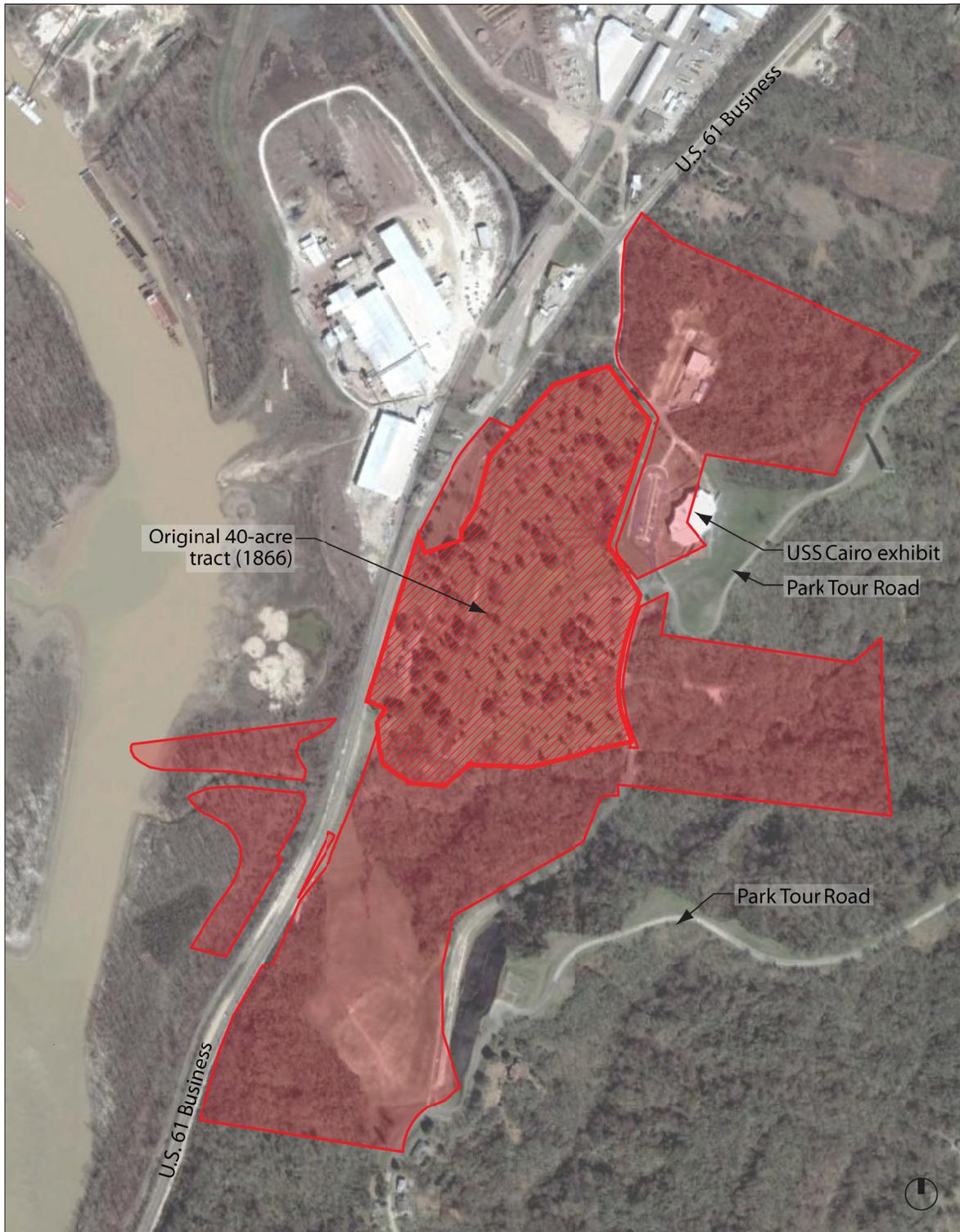
	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Easting</i>	<i>Northing</i>
A	15	700250	3584350
B	15	700650	3584350
C	15	700650	3583700
D	15	700250	3583700

UTM data from USGS topographic maps, Vicksburg East and Redwood quadrangles, 7.5 minute series, 2009.

## Location Map



**FIGURE 2.** Regional location map. Source: JMA, derived from National Park Service, "Vicksburg Area Map, <http://www.nps.gov/vick/planyourvisit/directions.htm>, accessed April 6, 2009.



**FIGURE 3.** Inventory unit boundary. Source: JMA, 2011.

## Regional Landscape Context

**Type of Context:** Cultural

**Description:**

Vicksburg National Cemetery and the adjacent Vicksburg National Military Park lie approximately 1 mile to the east and north of the historic center of the city of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Vicksburg, the seat of Warren County, is located 40 miles west of the capital of Jackson and 234 miles northwest of New Orleans, Louisiana. U.S. Highways 80 and 61 and Interstate 20 serve the region and pass within close proximity to Vicksburg National Cemetery. In 2000, the federal census tallied the city's population at 26,400 and estimates for 2010 remain approximately the same. The population of Warren County was 48,175 with a similar small growth rate into 2010. Approximately 23 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, according to census figures. Numerous industries are based in Vicksburg, including mills and cement plants; in 2006, manufacturing was identified as the city's largest economic sector.

Vicksburg National Cemetery lies to the north of the city's urban area. The landscape between the city and Vicksburg National Military Park and the adjacent cemetery is characterized by commercial, industrial, and institutional developments, as well as residential subdivisions, urban neighborhoods, and forested landscape.

Adjacent to the cemetery site to the east is Vicksburg National Military Park and tour road and specifically the USS *Cairo* interpretive site. The western boundary of the cemetery is formed by North Washington Street and the former Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad tracks (now owned by the Vicksburg Southern Railroad). Beyond that boundary lies the Yazoo River Diversion Canal, which occupies a portion of the former Mississippi River channel. In 1876, the Mississippi River formed a new channel west of the city during a flood. A diversion canal was created from the Yazoo River to the Mississippi in 1902. Industrial land use is present to the west of the cemetery and North Washington Street, and is visible from both high and low elevations of the site. The additional acreage purchased for the cemetery expansion in 1939, located north of the original 40 acres, is delineated by the brick wall. This area was never developed for burials and remains wooded for the most part, with access to maintenance buildings, located near the USS *Cairo*, that serve Vicksburg National Military Park.

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

**Description:**

Vicksburg National Cemetery is located along the west central edge of the state of Mississippi on an escarpment of bluffs. The escarpment is part of a geological formation associated with the Lower Mississippi Valley known as the Loess Bluffs (Warren E. Grabau, *Ninety-Eight Days: A Geographers View of the Vicksburg Campaign* [Knoxville, Tennessee: University of Tennessee Press, 2000], (14). It also falls within the loess hill physiographic province, an area characterized by steep hills and bluffs rising abruptly from the river alluvial plain. These hills and bluffs are between 10 and 25 miles wide; the Vicksburg region contains the thickest deposits of loess soil in the Tennessee-Mississippi-Louisiana area (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Soil Survey of Warren County, Mississippi, 1964.)

The loess originated as glacially-pulverized rock dust that was carried by wind and storms and deposited in the Mississippi floodplain during the late Pleistocene epoch. Due to the high impermeability and erodibility of loess soils, streams and gullies are incised deeply and sharply between linear ridges. This dramatic landform and topography played a key role in the 1863 siege of Vicksburg. In 1866 it proved difficult to find an appropriate site for massive re-interments and burials in this landscape due to the broken and irregular surface of the area, the steep topography, and the susceptibility of the loess soils to erosion.

**Type of Context:** Political

**Description:**

Soon after the conclusion of the Civil War, an inspection of the Vicksburg battlefield and surrounding landscape in February 1866 by Col. James F. Rushing found deplorable treatment of bodies of the deceased soldiers, including shallow graves in open fields, and hundreds of bodies thrown into large trenches. This inspection was the stimulus for securing ground to accommodate the war dead and prevent further desecration of thousands of bodies.

On July 14, 1866, Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs requested that he be given the power to establish a national cemetery at Vicksburg as well as other areas of the South. The property to be used as Vicksburg National Cemetery as described in the original plat was situated “. . . immediately on the north side of Mint Spring Bayou about one and a half miles north of the city of Vicksburg . . . and between the Yazoo Valley Road and Mississippi River, on the west side of said road . . . and is a fraction less than 40 acres” (Meyers, 9).

The land was deeded to the United States Government on August 27, 1866. Burials began in 1867, with a 260 man labor force responsible for interments as well as the grading of the grounds, installing sod on the slopes, and maintaining the graves (Meyers, 22).

The War Department supervised the site until 1933 when the administration of Vicksburg National Cemetery was transferred to the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior. From 1933 to the present, Vicksburg National Military Park has had administrative responsibility for the cemetery. The last cemetery superintendent, Randolph G. Anderson, reported directly to the park superintendent from 1933 until his retirement in 1947. The cemetery was closed to burials in 1961 except for those with outstanding grave site reservations.

## Management Information

### Inventory Unit

**Management Category:** Must Be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 08/30/2011

### Management Category Explanatory Narrative

The Vicksburg National Cemetery meets all of the criteria for Management Category A, “Must be Preserved and Maintained.” The preservation of this unit was legislated with the act of Congress, approved February 22, 1867, entitled “An act to establish and to protect national cemeteries,” which was “published for the information and guidance of the officers and agents of the Quartermaster’s Department” (*An Act to Establish and to Protect National Cemeteries*, Public Law No. 37, 1867). The site for a national cemetery at Vicksburg was secured in advance of the act of 1867. In addition, cultural landscape features within the site are related to its legislated significance.

Vicksburg National Military Park, including Vicksburg National Cemetery, was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places with establishment of the National Register in 1966. Documentation was accepted by the Keeper of the National Register in 1977. The National Register documentation for Vicksburg National Military Park lists the cemetery as a contributing feature (HS-36) and describes it as follows:

Situated on a high bluff, the Cemetery overlooks the Yazoo [River Diversion] Canal which follows the former channel of the Mississippi River. Due to the rugged nature of the terrain, extensive landscaping was necessary to prepare the grave sites; terraces were constructed, and a great variety of trees planted. The Cemetery was closed for future burials except for outstanding grave site reservations in 1961. At that time the Civil War interments totaled 17,077, of which 12,909 were unknown. An additional 1,280 graves were occupied by soldiers who had participated in the Indian and Spanish American Wars, World War I, II, and the Korean Conflict. A government headstone marks every grave, the known having the number of the grave, name of the soldier and the state from which he came inscribed. The unknown have simply the grave number. (National Register of Historic Places Nomination form, Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, Warren County, Mississippi).

The War Department supervised the site until 1933, when the administration of the Vicksburg National Cemetery was transferred to the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior. The cemetery was closed to burials in 1961, except for those with outstanding grave site reservations. The national cemetery continues to fulfill its purpose as a final resting place for United States soldiers and sailors who served the country in times of national and international conflict. As part of Vicksburg National Military Park, the cemetery is a major interpretive venue on the park’s tour road. There are, however, ongoing specific issues of concern outlined in planning documents for Vicksburg National Military Park related to maintenance and stability of the cemetery resources. These issues include: ongoing erosion problems and concerns with the underground drainage system; restoration and repair of the cemetery wall; need for a successional planting plan; restoration of historic ornamental plantings; replacement of headstones; general maintenance and repair of the buildings within the cemetery; mowing and landscape maintenance; reconstruction of the rostrum; restoration of missing/removed upright cannon markers; restoration of the fountain; and improved interpretation.

### Adjacent Lands Information

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

### Adjacent Lands Description:

Vicksburg National Cemetery is administratively independent but managed as part of Vicksburg National Military Park by the National Park Service. The park surrounds the cemetery on the north, east and south boundaries and North Washington Street is adjacent to the western boundary. The cemetery was established in 1866, well before the formation of Vicksburg National Military Park. The cemetery came under the supervision of the National Park Service in 1933. The park, including the cemetery, was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic

Places as part of its creation in 1966, and National Register documentation was prepared in 1977. The park and the cemetery contribute to the significance and integrity of each other.

The Yazoo River Diversion Canal to the west of the cemetery retains the historic landscape character of the cemetery context, as the waters of the Mississippi River formed the west boundary of the cemetery when it was first constructed. Historical views of the river and river activities have been retained over the years after the Yazoo River Diversion Canal occupied a portion of the former Mississippi River channel. Mint Spring Bayou remains intact on the southern boundary of the cemetery and contributes to the integrity of the landscape. Additional acreage is part of the cemetery on the northern boundary, outside the perimeter wall/fence. For the most part this area has remained forested, except for the park maintenance structures constructed to the west of the USS *Cairo* Museum and interpretive facility.

### **Adjacent Lands Graphic:**

Refer to Figure 1, Site Plan

### **Management Agreement**

**Type of Agreement:** None

**Expiration Date:** N/A

### **Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative**

N/A

### **NPS Legal Interest**

**Type of Legal Interest:** Fee Simple

### **NPS Legal Interest Explanatory Narrative**

All property within the boundary of the Vicksburg National Cemetery is owned by the United States and is under the administration of the National Park Service.

### **Public Access to Site**

**Public Access:** Restricted

### **Public Access Explanatory Narrative:**

Vicksburg National Cemetery is open to the public daily from 8:00 a.m. to sunset, except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Vicksburg National Military Park Visitor Center is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day of the week throughout the year except on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Due to its proximity to the National Cemetery, the nearby USS *Cairo* Museum serves as an unofficial visitor center for National Cemetery visitors. The USS *Cairo* Museum is open 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. October to March and 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., April to September.

The original entrance to the cemetery was from Fort Hill Drive, down the slope and across a bridge over Mint Spring Bayou to the entrance arch in the southwest corner of the cemetery. The archway constructed at this entrance in 1880 is extant, but the entrance is closed to vehicular access. Current vehicular access to the cemetery is through the park entrance on Clay Street (U.S. 80), from which the cemetery is reached on the tour road of Vicksburg National Military Park. Vehicles can also access the cemetery from Fort Hill Drive, which extends from Cherry Street; once in the park the roadway becomes Connecting Avenue, which is part of the park tour road. Connecting Avenue is the link between Union Avenue and Confederate Avenue. This part of the tour road parallels the eastern

edge of the cemetery and leads to the main entrance gates near the USS *Cairo* Museum. There are small areas for pull-over parking within the cemetery boundaries and a large parking lot for the USS *Cairo* exhibit and museum, which is located in proximity to the main entrance gates to the cemetery. Vicksburg National Cemetery is the Number 8 stop on the driving tour through Vicksburg National Military Park.

**FMSS Asset**

**FMSS Asset Location Code:**

## National Register Information

### Inventory Unit

**National Register Landscape Documentation:** Entered – Inadequately Documented

**National Register Landscape Documentation Date:** 12/09/1977

### National Register Explanatory Narrative:

At the time that Vicksburg National Military Park, including Vicksburg National Cemetery, was first listed in the National Register in 1966 as part of the Historic Preservation Act, a nomination form was not prepared for the property. A National Register of Historic Places nomination form was prepared for Vicksburg National Military Park by the National Park Service Southeast Regional Office in 1976 and accepted by the Keeper of the National Register on December 9, 1977. The nomination form identified the Vicksburg National Cemetery and the cemetery entrance gate as contributing features and describes them as follows:

HS-36 Cemetery: Situated on a high bluff, the cemetery overlooks the Yazoo [River Diversion] Canal which follows the former channel of the Mississippi River. Due to the rugged nature of the terrain, extensive landscaping was necessary to prepare the grave sites; terraces were constructed, and a great variety of trees planted. The cemetery was closed for future burials except for outstanding grave site reservations in 1961. At that time the Civil War interments totaled 17,077, of which 12,909 were unknown. An additional 1,280 graves were occupied by soldiers who had participated in the Indian and Spanish America Wars, World War I, II, and the Korean Conflict. A government headstone marks every grave, the known having the number of the grave, name of the soldier, and the state from which he came inscribed. The unknown have simply the grave number.

HS-37 Cemetery Arch (old main gate entrance, built in 1880): Built of Alatawa (fossiliferous) limestone at a cost of \$7,000. 36 feet 6 inches high. Two solid stone columns 17 feet in height, 2 feet 8 inches in diameter on each side of the arch. Inscription: "Here Rest In Peace 16,600 Citizens Who Died For Their Country in the Years 1861–1865"

The National Register nomination for Vicksburg National Military Park does not specifically cite the National Register evaluation criteria or criteria considerations in the significance section. Also, as the nomination is primarily focused on the overall park, it does not specifically address Vicksburg National Cemetery in the assessment of significance. Areas of significance for the park noted in the National Register nomination include military and sculpture. Other relevant categories are not cited in the nomination form, including politics/government, commemoration, conservation, landscape architecture, and archeology: historic.

The description and significance sections of the nomination do not address the cultural landscape of the cemetery. The features and characteristics of the cultural landscape, such as natural systems and features, spatial organization, topography, circulation, etc., are not described. In addition, the significance of the features of the cultural landscape of the cemetery are not assessed, nor is discussion provided as to how these features contribute to the various aspects of integrity of the cemetery, such as setting, feeling, and association, etc.

Finally, due to the nomination form in use at the time the National Register documentation was prepared, only a general period is given for significance (noted as 1800–1899), with a specific date of 1863 indicated (in reference to the significance of the battlefield). The "period" field provided on this old nomination form does not meet current National Register guidelines for assessment of the period of significance.

**National Register Eligibility:** *[In process]*

**National Register Eligibility Concurrence Date:** *[In process]*

**National Register Concurrence Explanatory Narrative:** *[In process]*

**National Register Significance Level:** National

**National Register Significance – Contributing/Individual:** Contributing

**National Register Classification:** District

**National Historic Landmark Status:** No

**World Heritage Site Status:** No

**Statement of Significance:**

Vicksburg National Cemetery was established in 1866, one year before the National Cemetery system was formed by an act of Congress. The cemetery is part of the larger Vicksburg National Military Park, which was the site of the 1863 siege of Vicksburg that was the culmination of the Vicksburg campaign during the Civil War. Covering 120.03 acres, the cemetery at Vicksburg was constructed on land that was occupied by Union forces during the siege. It is one of the country's oldest national cemeteries and has the largest number of Civil War interments of any national cemetery in the United States. Interments at Vicksburg National Cemetery began in January 1867.

The cultural landscape of Vicksburg National Cemetery is significant under National Register Criteria A, C, and D as a designed historic landscape created to commemorate and honor those who served as soldiers and sailors in the United States Armed Forces. The national cemetery does not appear to be specifically associated with the lives of individuals significant in our past and as a result does not meet Criterion B.

Per Criterion A, Vicksburg National Cemetery is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Under this criterion the site is significant both for its association with the siege of Vicksburg (May 18–July 4, 1863) that was the culmination of the Vicksburg campaign (March 29–July 4, 1863), and for the establishment of a cemetery on the battlefield for the reinterment of the Union dead. The siege of Vicksburg and the Vicksburg campaign played a significant role in the Civil War, as the outcome was an important victory for the Union which, combined with the defeat of Confederate defenders at Port Hudson, Louisiana, on July 9, 1863, gave the Union uncontested control of the Mississippi River. Vicksburg National Cemetery was subsequently established to allow for the proper burial of Union soldiers and sailors who died during the Vicksburg campaign.

Per Criterion C, Vicksburg National Cemetery embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. The cemetery, originally surrounded by a wood fence and later by a brick perimeter wall (portions of the latter remain), is defined by a series of terraces constructed to receive the original interments. In combination with the designed terraces, which organize the cemetery landscape into distinct spaces, the geometric rows, patterns, and rhythms of the headstones and markers define the spatial quality of each terrace. Tree plantings were an essential part of the development of the cemetery landscape. The design intent was to create a park-like setting for the cemetery with a peaceful and tranquil character conducive to strolling and carriage rides. Features of Vicksburg National Cemetery, including large portions of its perimeter wall, tree-lined drives and walks, and the designed terraces reflect formal design principles intended to honor the important contributions of United States soldiers and sailors.

Per Criterion D, the site is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history. While no extensive archeological investigations have been performed at the national cemetery, investigations of specific areas (such as the Indian Mound) were performed in 1975. In 1999, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers undertook a literature and records search, and conducted a survey of the Mint Spring Bluff and Bayou area abutting the south end of the cemetery. Despite the lack of prehistoric or archeological resources found during these investigations, it is likely that the national cemetery could yield information important in prehistory or history. Activities related to historic burials

and grading of the cemetery landscape have likely disturbed archeological resources and may limit the information potential of the cemetery site in this regard.

Vicksburg National Cemetery also meets Criteria Consideration D, as it derives its primary significance from age, distinctive design features, and association with historic events, as well as Criteria Consideration F, in that it is primarily commemorative in intent and its design, age, and symbolic value has invested the cemetery with its own exceptional significance.

## **National Register Significance Criteria**

### **Significance Criteria**

A: Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

C : 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 may lack individual distinction

D: Property has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

## **National Register Significance Criteria Considerations**

### **Criteria Considerations:**

D: A cemetery is eligible if it derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events.

F: A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance.

## **National Register Period of Significance**

The National Register nomination lists the period of significance as 1800–1899. A specific date of 1863 is also indicated. This date is as associated with the events of the siege and defense of Vicksburg, as the nomination primarily focuses on the battlefield. As noted above, the nomination was prepared using an older form that does not provide for the assessment of the period of significance required by current National Register guidelines. Thus, a revised period of significance is recommended.

Based on the research and site studies performed for this CLI, historic resources within the cemetery component landscape represent a period of significance covering the years 1863–1961. The period of significance begins with events of the campaign (March 29 to July 4, 1863) and siege (May 19 to July 4, 1863) of Vicksburg. It is further represented by the establishment of Vicksburg National Cemetery in 1866 as well as the development of the cemetery including the construction of the arbor on the Indian Mound in 1875, the rostrum in 1879, the Cemetery Arch in 1880, the gardener's cottage in 1883, the second superintendent's lodge in 1928 and the brick rest pavilion in 1931. A closing date of 1961 corresponds to the closing of the cemetery to future burials.

**Historic Context Theme:** Shaping the Political Landscape

**Sub-theme:** The Civil War

**Facet:** Battles in the North and South

**Historic Context Theme:** Expressing Cultural Values

**Sub-theme:** Landscape Architecture

**Facet:** Rural Cemeteries

## **National Register Areas of Significance**

### **Category:**

Identified in National Register documentation:

Military

Social History

Other relevant categories:

Archeology: Prehistoric; Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Landscape Architecture

Politics/Government

## **NRIS Information**

**Park Alpha Code/NRIS Name (Number):** VICK/Vicksburg National Military Park (66000100)

**Primary Certification Date:** 10/15/1966

## Chronology and Physical History

### Inventory Unit

**Primary Historic Function:** 07A: Funerary—Cemetery

**Primary Current Use:** 07A: Funerary—Cemetery

### Current and Historic Names

Vicksburg National Cemetery—Both Current and Historic

### Cultural Landscape Type

Historic Site; Historic Designed Landscape

### Chronology

Year	Event	Annotation
1866	Authorized	April 12: Vicksburg authorized as a national cemetery by War Department
1867–1868	Developed	Bodies are reinterred at Vicksburg National Cemetery from various locations in and around Vicksburg.
1868	Memorialized	Grant-Pemberton Surrender Monument moved to cemetery and placed at the top of the Indian Mound
1868	Built	Lodge built in the cemetery to house the Superintendent and his family.
1873	Built	A one-story brick office building constructed north of the superintendent's lodge
1874	Built	Brick wall enclosing the cemetery built
1875	Built	Arbor built atop Indian Mound
1875	Memorialized	Ten upright cannon (gun monuments) placed throughout cemetery
1878	Memorialized	Iron tablet with Gettysburg Address erected
1879	Built	Brick rostrum with wooden pergola and new entrance arch built
1882–1883	Built	Gardener's cottage, stable, and sheds built
1882	Memorialized	Iron tablets with "Bivouac of the Dead" stanzas, cemetery rules and regulations, and "Act to Establish National Cemetery," erected
Circa 1888	Built	Concrete fountain built
1889	Built	Greenhouse built
1899	Established	Vicksburg National Military Park established

1905	Memorialized	25th and 31st Iowa Infantry Monument erected
1906	Memorialized	Two bronze tablets commemorating sharpshooter lines during the siege erected
Circa 1907	Demolished	Greenhouse demolished
1911	Built	New section with 128 gravesites laid out in the northwest corner of cemetery
1924	Damaged	A fifty-nine foot portion of the exterior brick wall in the northwest corner of the cemetery collapses.
1924	Reconstructed	Collapsed 59-foot-long northwest portion of exterior brick wall reconstructed
1928	Demolished	Superintendent's lodge demolished
1928	Built	New superintendent's lodge built on site of old lodge
1931	Demolished	Sheds and stables demolished
1931	Built	New service building constructed to replace old sheds and stables
1931	Altered	Gardener's cottage remodeled and expanded
1931	Rehabilitated	Wood pergola of rostrum repaired
1931	Demolished	Arbor atop the Indian Mound demolished
1931	Built	Brick rest pavilion built at Indian Mound
1933	Land Transfer	The administration of eleven National Cemeteries, including Vicksburg, transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior
1939	Land Transfer	80 acres purchased by the cemetery from private owners
1939–1941	Moved	North Washington Street repaired and realigned
1939–1941	Reconstructed	The cemetery wall along North Washington Street is demolished and reconstructed as a result of the realignment of the highway
1940	Altered	Grant-Pemberton Surrender Monument moved from the Indian Mound to its original location at the site of the surrender interview in Vicksburg National Military Park
Circa 1940s	Demolished	Original rostrum demolished
1947	Built	Two terraces prepared for burials of returned WWII dead
1961	Preserved	May 1, 1961: Cemetery closed to future burials except for outstanding reservations
1991	Memorialized	A memorial commemorating Union Prisoners of War is erected
Circa 1990s	Memorialized	Memorial stones placed adjacent Union Prisoners of War

2010	Memorialized	August: Two unmarked graves discovered during preparation of grave for World War II veteran
2010–2011	Stabilized	Bluff along tour road above Mint Spring Bayou stabilized; chain link fence erected and firethorn planted along top of bluff

## Physical History

### Physical History Time Period

Development of the Site Prior to the Siege  
The Vicksburg Campaign, Siege and Defense, and Surrender  
Early Commemoration and Establishment of the National Cemetery, 1866  
Further Commemoration and the Establishment of Vicksburg National Military Park, 1867–1899  
Development of the National Cemetery, 1900–1961

### Physical History Narrative

#### Development of the Site Prior to the Siege

The earliest inhabitants of what is now Vicksburg occupied the area as early as 200 A.D. Beginning in the mid-sixteenth century, Spanish, French, and British expeditions explored the area that would become Mississippi. By the early eighteenth century, European settlers began to arrive in what is now western Mississippi, the inhabitants of which included the Natchez, Chickasaw, Choctow, and Houma.

In 1719, Fort St. Pierre was established twelve miles north of present-day Vicksburg, along the Yazoo River. A small French settlement developed along the river at the same time and by 1729 several large plantations existed in the area. At that time, settlement in the region occupied by the Natchez Indians, who inhabited most of what would become the state of Mississippi, included approximately 750 French settlers, soldiers, and African-American slaves.

In 1754 the French and Indian War, known as the Seven Years' War in Europe, began in North America. Lasting for nine years, this conflict was the last major colonial war between the British, and the French and their American Indian allies. As a result of this war, Mississippi and all other French territory east of the Mississippi River passed into British control. In addition, to compensate its ally, Spain, for the loss of Florida, France ceded control of French Louisiana west of the Mississippi to Spain. Following the Revolutionary War, under the provisions of the Treaty of Paris of 1783, West Florida, which included the southern half of Mississippi, came under Spanish control, while the United States gained possession of Mississippi north of the 32 degree 28 minute parallel. In 1797, Spain yielded all land in Mississippi north of the thirty-first parallel to the United States, and completely withdrew from Mississippi the following year.

The War of 1812 ended with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in 1814. Fighting continued until early 1815, when American forces defeated British forces trying to capture New Orleans. Following the war, the United States gained the territory of West Florida east of the Pearl River and south to the Gulf of Mexico, which would later become part of Mississippi. On December 10, 1817, Mississippi was admitted to the Union as the twentieth state.

In 1812, Reverend Newett Vick and his family settled on the bluffs just south of the Walnut Hills, which was the site of two Spanish Forts in the late eighteenth century. The new settlement grew rapidly and was incorporated as the town of Vicksburg on January 29, 1825. Vicksburg became the seat of Warren County and was incorporated as a city in 1836. Its location near the confluence of the Mississippi and Yazoo rivers helped the city develop into a commercial and agricultural center.

Although Vicksburg was ideally located for river and rail transport, the landscape immediately surrounding the city was not well-suited to intensive agriculture due to steep slopes and highly erodible soils. The ridgelines that encircled the city were bisected by spring channels and meandering bayous that had cut nearly impassable ravines in the loess. The landscape around the city evolved into an assortment of small farms, pastures, wooded ravines, and deeply cut springs. Roads were built along ridge spurs and following stream channels. Jackson Road (present-day Old Jackson Road), leading to Jackson, followed a ridgeline extending northeast from the city and would become an

important route in the Civil War. By the beginning of the Civil War, the population of Vicksburg was approximately 4,500.

### **The Vicksburg Campaign, Siege and Defense, and Surrender**

Rapid growth in the Mississippi River Valley, once considered the Far West, made the Mississippi River more important as the transportation artery that linked the West with ports on the Gulf and the Atlantic seaboard. In response to a Union blockade of Southern ports, including the mouth of the Mississippi River where it entered the gulf south of New Orleans, the Confederacy began to fortify strategic points along the river where it bordered the Confederate states of Arkansas Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi, and where the river extended through lower Louisiana. Vicksburg was seen as the key to control of the Mississippi River.

In September 1862, Confederate engineers began to construct fortifications at Vicksburg. Most of the available trees in the vicinity of the eight mile defense line were cut to provide lumber for construction, leaving the area around the defensive line relatively free of dense tree cover. Several river batteries were constructed on over four miles of bluffs, including Battery Barnes, constructed by Confederate engineers. These batteries were designed to close the river to Northern shipping and to protect the land between the bluffs and the river from an infantry attack. The Confederates had previously built several fortifications along the river north and south of Vicksburg.

Federal forces, led by Flag Officer David G. Farragut and Commodore David Dixon Porter, overcame the Confederate defenses along the Mississippi south of Vicksburg in April 1862. Following this victory, Farragut took several cruisers and gunboats upriver to Vicksburg, where Brig. Gen. Martin L. Smith refused to surrender the city. Farragut ordered a bombardment that lasted from mid-May through July 1862.

During the Vicksburg campaign, Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant led the Federal forces, closely assisted by Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, Maj. Gen. John A. McClernand and Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson, while Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton led the Confederate forces. Pemberton, a Pennsylvania native who sided with the South because of the influence of his Virginia-born wife, arrived in Jackson, Mississippi, on October 9, 1862, to take command of the newly created Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana.

Beginning in October 1862, Grant made several unsuccessful attempts to capture Vicksburg. In the spring of 1863, Grant planned to position his troops, who were stationed on the west side of the Mississippi, south of Vicksburg; this would allow them to attack the city from the south and east. The presence of Confederate batteries south of Vicksburg prevented the transportation of supplies and communication along the Mississippi from Union forces stationed in Baton Rouge and New Orleans. On the night of April 16, 1863, Rear Admiral David Dixon Porter's fleet, now situated north of Vicksburg, moved south on the river. At the same time, Grant organized several diversions, which resulted in large numbers of Confederate troops moving out of Vicksburg. On April 29, Union gunboats began an attack on Confederate forces at Grand Gulf, approximately thirty miles south of Vicksburg. Grand Gulf was the original landing site for Grant's troops; however, when the gunboats could not neutralize the Confederate batteries, Grant elected to find a crossing further south. On April 30, 17,000 Union troops were ferried across the Mississippi south of Grand Gulf, at Bruinsburg. The Union troops began marching toward Port Gibson, where they were met by Confederate troops who set up roadblocks west of the town. At the Battle of Port Gibson, the Confederates were outnumbered more than three to one and were defeated by the Union. Grant moved his troops northeast from Port Gibson and was met by Sherman and his troops between Port Gibson and Raymond on May 8. Four days later, the battle of Raymond was fought, 15 miles southwest of Jackson. Shortly after, the Federal assault on Jackson began, and with limited Confederate resistance, the city was soon in Federal control.

Following his victory at Jackson, Grant ordered Sherman to destroy the city's rail and industrial facilities as he moved his troops west to Bolton. Confederate troops gathered to oppose Grant and his army at Champion Hill. Pemberton's troops numbered 23,000 to Grant's 32,000. Despite the large number of troops, the Confederates were forced to retreat. The Battle of Champion Hill was the decisive battle of the Vicksburg campaign and one of the most significant of the war. Had Grant lost, he would have been cut off from his base at Grand Gulf, which would have threatened the continued existence of his army.

Union forces soon approached Vicksburg from the east and northeast and on May 19, 1863, the Federals made their first failed assault on Vicksburg. Three days later, the Union attempted another attack, which also failed. In all, the Union lost 4,200 men in the two failed attacks on Vicksburg, while the Confederates lost less than 700. Following the heavy losses, Grant decided to lay siege to Vicksburg.

The siege of Vicksburg began following the Union's failed attacks on May 19 and 22, 1863 and lasted until July 4, 1863. The 30,000-man Confederate army stationed at Vicksburg would be decimated by disease and starvation. Meanwhile, many city residents were forced to seek shelter in caves located in the surrounding hillsides. On July 3, Pemberton opened surrender negotiations with Grant. Grant demanded unconditional surrender, which Pemberton refused. Terms were eventually reached, and Confederate soldiers were forced to give up their arms and were paroled if they promised not to fight until exchanged on a one for one basis with Federal prisoners. Early on the morning of July 4, Pemberton sent Grant a message accepting the terms of surrender. Later that day, Federal soldiers marched into Vicksburg while Confederate soldiers stacked their arms.

On July 9, 1863, the Confederate defenders at Port Hudson, Louisiana, surrendered, and Union control of the Mississippi River was uncontested. On April 9, 1865, Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, and the Civil War ended.

### **Early Commemoration and Establishment of the National Cemetery, 1866**

(The following discussion is based upon the "History and Development of the National Cemetery Administration" on the Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration website, <[www.cem.va.gov/pdf/history.pdf](http://www.cem.va.gov/pdf/history.pdf)>.)

National cemeteries were first developed in the United States during the Civil War. The large number of soldiers who died during the Civil War overwhelmed the army's traditional system for managing soldiers' burials. Soldiers and sailors were typically buried at the site of death, at a military post cemetery, or in a private cemetery selected by the soldier's family. In the circumstances of the Civil War, Congress determined that those who were fighting to preserve the Union deserved special burial spaces to honor their sacrifice. Thus, national cemeteries were originally created as the final resting places for Union soldiers who died during the Civil War.

On September 11, 1861, the War Department issued two General Orders that made the Quartermaster General of the United States Army responsible for burials; ordered that a register of all burials be kept; and required that a marker be placed at the head of each grave. The first markers were wood headboards with information recorded in paint or chalk. On July 17, 1862, President Lincoln authorized the establishment of national cemeteries "for the soldiers who shall die in the service of the country." In addition to those who died during battles or of injuries received in combat, thousands of soldiers and sailors died in prison camps in both the North and the South due to overcrowding, lack of medical facilities, lack of food and shelter, and disease.

Immediately upon General Lee's surrender in 1865, the Quartermaster Department began the Federal Reburial Program to locate and identify the remains of all Union soldiers. Over a period of several years, staff searched battlefields, hospital and prison sites, and other scenes of Civil War military action. The Reburial Program was challenged by the chaotic nature of the war and the years that had elapsed since the start of the war. During the war, burials were hasty, often with little or no marking of gravesites, and death and burial records were not always well maintained. Government-issued identification tags did not exist during the Civil War, and makeshift identification marks fashioned by the soldiers themselves often did not survive. As a result of these challenges, many bodies were never identified.

As the Reburial Program proceeded in 1866 and difficulties in identifying remains became clear, a Joint Resolution of Congress required the Secretary of War "to take immediate measures to preserve from desecration the graves of soldiers of the United States who fell in battle or died of disease in hospitals; to secure suitable burial places in which they may be properly interred; and to have the graves enclosed so that the resting places of the honored dead may be kept sacred forever." This resolution was followed by the first National Cemetery Act of February 22, 1867. This substantive legislation provided funds and specific guidance for the creation of national cemeteries, including construction of features such as superintendent's lodges, perimeter walls, and headstones. It also funded purchases of land to serve as national cemeteries and provided for salaried cemetery superintendents. The Reburial Program ended in 1870, after the re-interment of 299,696 Union soldiers in seventy-three national cemeteries. Only about 58 percent of the remains could be identified.

On July 17, 1862, Congress gave President Abraham Lincoln the authority "to purchase cemetery grounds and cause them to be securely enclosed, to be used as a national cemetery for the soldiers who shall die in the service of the country." As a result, fourteen national cemeteries were established in 1862. Thirty-seven additional cemeteries, including Vicksburg National Cemetery would be established by 1867 when the National Cemetery Act was enacted

by Congress. The legislation was the first to provide funds and offer specific guidance for the operation of national cemeteries (National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, *History and Development of the National Cemetery Administration*, January 2009).

On April 12, 1866, Vicksburg National Cemetery was authorized by Gen. Montgomery Meigs. Land for the cemetery was acquired on August 27, 1866. As lands on which fighting occurred were put back into cultivation, bodies of soldiers were discovered and public outcry helped hasten establishment of the cemetery. Covering 40 acres, the cemetery at Vicksburg was constructed on land that was occupied by Union forces during the siege.

Interments at Vicksburg National Cemetery began in January 1867. Initially, 260 laborers were employed to work at the site. The majority of these workers performed landscaping work while only a small number participated in interments. By June 1867, the laborers were interring sixteen bodies per day. Throughout 1867, carriage roads were laid out following the curves of the banks and ridges in the cemetery. Terraces, five to eight feet in height, and 50 to 100 feet wide with banks, were also constructed on the eastern portion of the cemetery site at a cost of over \$40,000.

From the time development of the cemetery began in 1867, soil conditions posed a large problem. Captain James W. Scully, the commissioned officer in charge of labor at Vicksburg National Cemetery, stated in a June 1867 letter that “the composition of the soil is such that it is washed very easily by heavy rains.” As a result of the poor soil conditions several coffins were washed out by rain after the early interments.

Discussions arose about abandoning the cemetery in favor of a site south of the city. This idea gained support as the costs to correct the poor conditions at the current site quickly increased. Captain Charles Folsom, who inspected the cemetery in June 1867, stated in his “Report of Inspection” that “. . . whether the party or parties who purchased [the cemetery] also had in view to purchase a tract which would require as much work as possible to make it fit for its intended purpose, I have no means of ascertaining. They certainly could not have selected a tract around Vicksburg better adapted to that end.” Despite the problems at the site, it was decided that the cemetery would not be moved to a new location largely due to the large amounts of money that had already been paid for improvements at the original site.

By August 1868, a total of 15,595 interments, 12,000 of which were unknown, had been made at Vicksburg National Cemetery. These early interments were made in sections A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, M, and O. Remains of African-American soldiers were placed in section M, while the remains of white soldiers were buried in sections A through H and O.

Before the war had ended, commemorative efforts were underway on the battlefield. On July 4, 1864, the first anniversary of the surrender, a small stone obelisk was placed to mark the site of the surrender interview between Pemberton and Grant. The oak tree that had been located on the site of the surrender was apparently lost to souvenir-seekers. The stone obelisk marker was surrounded by a low decorative iron fence. The Grant-Pemberton Surrender Monument was moved from its original location to the railroad station on Mulberry Street in 1867. In 1868 the obelisk was moved to the cemetery and placed at the top of the Indian Mound.

### **Further Commemoration and the Establishment of Vicksburg National Military Park, 1867–1899**

Development of the cemetery continued and in 1868, Alexander Henry was appointed as the first permanent superintendent of Vicksburg National Cemetery. Shortly after Henry reported for duty in September, construction began on a lodge for the new superintendent and his family. The three-room brick structure was completed in December 1868. Similar to the superintendent’s lodges in other national cemeteries, the residence was a one story structure with corbeled brickwork and a gabled roof with bracketed overhanging eaves (Figure 4).

Despite numerous attempts to address site problems, the land at the cemetery was still prone to slides caused by excessive rain. In 1869, James Gall, a civil engineer, reported to Vicksburg National Cemetery to create a plan for the prevention of land slips at the site. Gall concluded that while the terraces had been built correctly, they lacked proper drainage. Gall recommended that a drainage system be installed consisting of drain tiles laid 4 feet below graves and 20 to 30 feet apart. The system would direct water to nearby Mint Spring Bayou. In addition to the drain tiles, a surface drainage system consisting of shallow sod gutters was recommended. Construction of the new drainage systems was initiated in 1869 and took more than four years to complete.

During the 1870s, the original cemetery legislation was amended to allow veterans of the Civil War to be buried in the national cemeteries. Prior to this only those who died during the war were buried in the cemeteries. This expanded role led to the establishment of forty-seven new national cemeteries beyond the Civil War regions of battle. In addition, veterans who died while in residence at homes established by the federal government (Asylums for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, later National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers), were buried in cemeteries developed on site at these institutions that were later designated as national cemeteries.

In 1870, General Meigs consulted with noted landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted regarding the appearance of national cemeteries. Olmsted suggested that they be “studiously simple . . . the main object should be to establish permanent dignity and tranquility . . . a sacred grove—sacredness being expressed in the enclosing wall and in the perfect tranquility of the trees within.” As a result of Olmsted’s recommendations, indigenous trees and shrubs embellished the sacred grounds of national cemeteries. Greenhouses were constructed at some cemeteries to supply plantings. In Vicksburg National Cemetery a small green house was erected in 1874 and by 1876 contained over 500 trees and shrubs including magnolias (*Magnolia grandiflora*), cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*), hollies (*Ilex opaca*), and other ornamental plants. The trees were planted over the cemetery and the magnolias specifically were planted in rows along the carriage drives.

In March 1873, plans were made to construct a cemetery office at Vicksburg National Cemetery. Prior to this, a room in the superintendent’s lodge was used as an office. The one-story brick office was completed in November 1873 on the north side of the entrance to the center drive, opposite the lodge.

The decision was made in early 1873 to construct a brick wall around the cemetery. The wall and four iron gates were completed in December 1874. Three carriage gates were located at the northeast, southeast, and southwest corners of the cemetery; a pedestrian gate was also located at the southeast corner. The carriage gate at the original rear entrance at the northeast corner of the cemetery had an adjacent pedestrian gate (Figure 11).

When the first interments were made at the cemetery in 1867, the grave markers were constructed of wood. In 1875, marble headstones were installed at the graves, as the wood grave markers showed signs of severe water damage. Also in 1875, ten upright cannon emplacements, also called gun monuments, were placed on the site; of these, three remain. In 1878, an iron tablet with the Gettysburg Address was erected.

In 1879, a brick rostrum was constructed adjacent to the flagstaff (Figure 6). The rostrum, similar to those in other national cemeteries, was an open brick structure with two sets of stairs, and covered by a wood pergola. The platform of the rostrum served as a setting for speeches and memorial events. In the same year, a new entrance arch and roadway were constructed near the southwest corner of the cemetery (Figure 7). The entrance arch, built at a cost of \$7,000, was 36 feet 6 inches tall with a 20 foot tall opening. The arch was constructed of rusticated limestone with a pair of Doric columns flanking the portal on each side. The entablature is inscribed, “Here Rest In Peace 16,600 Citizens Who Died for Their Country in the Years 1861–1865.”

On April 12, 1880, former President Ulysses S. Grant returned to Vicksburg, nearly seventeen years after he captured the city for the Union forces. Grant was greeted at the national cemetery by thousands of people who had gathered to honor him.

In 1882, iron tablets with “Bivouac of the Dead” stanzas, cemetery rules and regulations, and text of the “Act to Establish National Cemetery,” were erected.

In early 1882, plans were made to construct new outbuildings at the cemetery. Two brick outbuildings, one a stable and the other a shed, were constructed on the west end of the cemetery near the new entrance gate. A brick gardener’s cottage, with two rooms on the lower level and one large room on the upper level, was also constructed at this time adjacent to the new structures (Figure 8). (The building as constructed was a two-room cottage. The second level was expanded sometime after construction.) All of the new structures were completed by April 1883.

As noted in a report from a routine inspection in 1888, a new fountain had been constructed near the main entrance to the cemetery (Figure 5). The fountain was constructed using a 10-inch Columbiad gun placed at the site in 1875. The gun was set in a concrete basin, and a jet of water sprayed through the gun’s muzzle. The fountain was fed with water by gravity from Mint Spring. A catch basin for the fountain piping system was constructed in the middle of Mint Spring Bayou, east of the bridge at Connecting Avenue.

In 1889, work began on a new greenhouse as well as a new kitchen. The new greenhouse was constructed east of the main entrance to the cemetery, while the kitchen was constructed near the superintendent's lodge. Ornamental plants were introduced in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and planted on the terraces among the grave markers. Mound O was surrounded by a clipped privet hedge and further enhanced by multiple rose beds. Plantings of specimen trees and ornamentals continued, thus the cemetery retained its park-like character. Wooden rail fences were replaced by masonry walls, and plaques and monuments were erected to honor the dead (Figure 9 and Figure 10).

In May 1890, a week-long reunion of Union and Confederate troops occurred at Vicksburg, with a parade, fireworks, concerts, and visits to various battlefield sites and the national cemetery. The veterans also attended the decoration of Confederate graves in the city cemetery at Cedar Hill. No monument to the Confederate dead had yet been established at Cedar Hill, and the battlefield was unmarked.

In 1895, the Vicksburg National Military Park Association was formed to promote congressional designation of a park at Vicksburg. Initial association members included John F. Merry, Lt. Gen. Stephen D. Lee, Maj. L. C. Davidson, Capt. William T. Rigby, and Col. Charles C. Flowerree, some of whom were veterans of the Vicksburg campaign. (Kevin Risk, *Draft Cultural Landscape Report, Vicksburg National Military Park* (Atlanta, Georgia: National Park Service, Southeast Region), undated [status report dated March 16, 2000]). On February 21, 1899, President William McKinley signed into law an act to establish a national military park to commemorate the campaign, siege, and defense of Vicksburg. The enabling legislation called for the restoration and marking of the battlefield. The legislation also gave authority to any state that had troops engaged in the campaign, siege, or defense of the city of Vicksburg from March 29 to July 4, 1863, to erect monuments and markers in memory of its soldiers. The 1,200-acre park, as established in 1899, encompassed the entire area of the siege and defense lines around the city and included the headquarters site of Union commander Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.

Tour roads and bridges were constructed in the park by 1903. In the same year, states from which troops had served in the battle and siege of Vicksburg began to construct monuments in the park. The first monument to be constructed at Vicksburg National Military Park honored troops from Massachusetts. In 1905, a monument honoring the 25th and 31st Iowa Infantry was erected. Several trench markers were also placed during this period.

### **Development of the National Cemetery, 1900–1961**

The development of Vicksburg National Military Park brought changes to the national cemetery. In November 1906, two bronze tablets marking the location of the sharpshooter lines of the 25th and 31st Iowa Regiments were placed along the roadway in the cemetery. These markers were placed at the request of William Rigby, Chairman of the Vicksburg National Military Park Commission, who cited the last section of "An Act to establish a National Military Park at Vicksburg, Mississippi" to support his desire to erect the tablets in the cemetery. This section of the Act stated: "The provisions of this Section shall also apply to organizations and person; and as Vicksburg National Cemetery is on ground partly occupied by Federal lines during the siege of Vicksburg, the provisions of this Section, as far as may be practicable, shall apply to monuments or tablets designating such lines within the limits of that Cemetery."

In 1907, several small construction projects were completed in the cemetery. A new roof was installed on the superintendent's lodge, while a gallery was constructed connecting the lodge and the adjacent outkitchen. In the same year, the last greenhouse on site was demolished.

By 1911, limited burial space remained in the national cemetery. As a result, a new section with room for 128 graves was laid out in the northwest corner of the cemetery.

In March 1924, 59 feet of the cemetery wall collapsed. The 59-foot-long collapsed portion of the wall, which was located in the northwest corner of the cemetery, was rebuilt in May 1924.

By October 1924, the vegetation in the cemetery had become infested with Argentine ants, which threatened to kill the flowers, shrubs, and trees. Despite pleas from Superintendent William Sullivan, the cemetery did not receive the proper pesticides from the Quartermaster Intermediary Depot in Jeffersonville, Indiana, until September 1925. Despite the delay, the problem was eradicated without significant loss of vegetation.

On December 1, 1927, a fire broke out in the center room of the superintendent's lodge. As a result, the superintendent and his family were forced to live in the outkitchen until a new lodge could be constructed. Plans for a new lodge had been prepared in early 1927 and the fire helped to expedite the construction of a new building. The new lodge was to be similar to the superintendents' lodges constructed at Marietta and Shiloh national cemeteries. The old lodge was torn down in early 1928, and by August 1928 the superintendent and his family had moved into the new lodge (Figure 12). Also in 1928, the cemetery approach road from Washington Street was paved.

Shortly after work on the new lodge began, the Mississippi Power and Light Company extended its power lines to the cemetery. As a result, the new superintendent's lodge was the first building in the cemetery to receive electrical service.

In 1931, plans were made to construct a new service building (now the maintenance shops) to replace the sheds and stables constructed in 1882 and 1883. The building was constructed as a combination public toilet, stable, and vehicle building (Meyers, 169). The upper story was likely a hay loft for mules housed below. Work on the new brick structure was completed by August of 1931, at which time the earlier stables and sheds were demolished. As work was being completed on the new service building, improvements were made on the gardener's cottage. The improvements included the reconstruction of the second floor and front porch. At the same time, the wood pergola on the rostrum was repaired in a manner that would not harm the wisteria.

In July 1931, plans were made to replace the wood arbor at the top of the Indian Mound, which had been constructed in 1876. A new brick rest pavilion was completed in place of the arbor by November 1931 (Figure 13).

Three portions of the cemetery wall along the south side of the site slid into Mint Spring Bayou after a series of heavy rains in early 1933. As a result a new drainage system was constructed which was hoped would prevent any rain related damage to the area in the future.

On August 10, 1933, management of Vicksburg National Cemetery, as well as that of ten other national cemeteries, was transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior. As part of the transfer of many War Department battlefield sites to the National Park Service in the 1930s, the National Park Service acquired a number of national cemetery sites. The National Park Service acquired four additional national cemeteries in later years, and continues to maintain fourteen national cemeteries, including Vicksburg National Cemetery. In 1973, most of the cemeteries still managed by the Army were transferred to the jurisdiction of the Veterans' Administration (now the Department of Veterans' Affairs). The 128 existing national cemeteries contain over 16,000 acres of land. Since 1862, more than three million burials have taken place in national cemeteries.

Beginning in 1933, four Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps were established in Vicksburg National Military Park. Over 300 members of the CCC worked to prevent further erosion throughout the park, including erosion related site work adjacent to the Indian Mound in the cemetery. CCC members were also assigned to the cemetery to cut grass and spray evergreen trees to guard against disease. The Federal Relief Administration also provided seventy-five African-American women for general maintenance, including gathering fallen leaves that would have otherwise clogged the cemetery drains (Meyers, 184).

After several unsuccessful attempts to expand the cemetery, 80 acres were acquired from more than forty private land owners in late 1939. In the same year, North Washington Street was repaired and realigned. As a result, the existing cemetery wall along the west portion of the cemetery had to be removed and rebuilt farther east. Work on the wall began in 1939 and continued until 1942, when the work was halted due to the outbreak of World War II.

In August 1940, the Grant-Pemberton Surrender Monument, which had sat on the top of the Indian Mound since 1868, was returned to its original site at the location of the surrender interview.

As of October 1943, only fifty-seven grave sites remained available in the cemetery. Additional burial space was opened along the west wall of the cemetery following the removal of large amounts of brick debris.

In the early 1940s, with the advent of World War II, the amount of funding available to the National Park Service was significantly reduced. As a result, A. E. Demaray, Acting Director of the National Park Service, concluded that

the rostrums present in several national cemeteries were no longer serviceable and should be removed, as the money to maintain them could be better used on other items. The rostrum at Vicksburg National Cemetery was likely demolished at this time.

Randolph Anderson retired as superintendent of Vicksburg National Cemetery in March 1947. The position of cemetery superintendent was not filled and supervision of the cemetery became the responsibility of the superintendent of Vicksburg National Military Park.

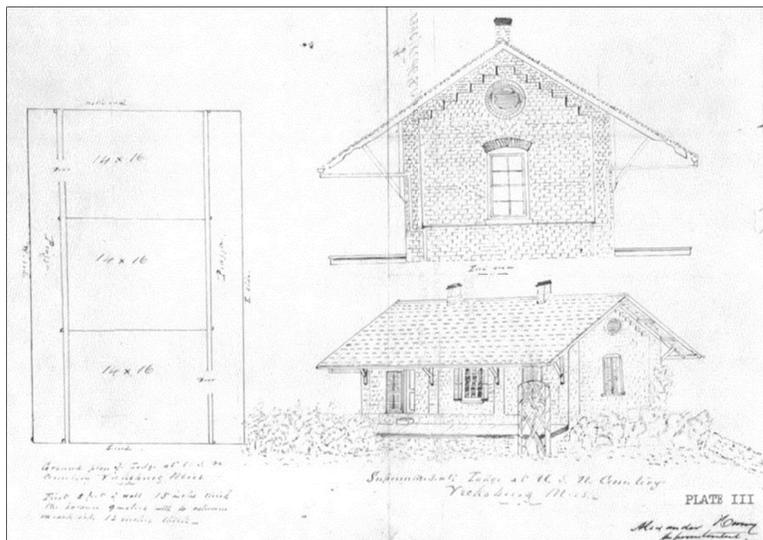
Later in 1947, two terraces were prepared along the west wall of the Cemetery for burials of World War II soldiers. The first interments of World War II dead would occur in November 1947.

A portion of the 80 acres of land acquired by the cemetery in 1939 was used for the 1947 burials, while the area acquired in 1939 south of the cemetery, outside of the original wall, was still unused as of 1957. There were no plans to expand the cemetery beyond its original boundaries despite the increased demand for burials after World War II and the Korean War. By January 1960, only 100 unreserved grave sites remained within the cemetery. As a result the cemetery was closed to future burials in 1961, with the exception of any outstanding reservations. At the time of its closing, Vicksburg National Cemetery housed 17,077 Civil War interments, 12,909 of which were unknown. In addition the Civil War interments, 1,280 graves were occupied by soldiers who participated in the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War.

In 1991, a granite monument with a bronze plaque honoring Union Prisoners of War was placed near the site of former rostrum. During the 1990s, three additional stone memorials were placed nearby.

In August 2010, two unmarked graves were discovered by cemetery workers preparing a grave for a World War II veteran. The park sought public input in attempting to identify the graves; to date identification has not been made. The veteran for whom the new grave was being prepared was interred elsewhere in the cemetery.

In 2010–2011, the bluff south of the tour road above Mint Spring Bayou was stabilized (Figure 14). A chain link fence was erected at the top of the bluff for safety purposes. At completion of the work, twenty firethorn (*Pyracantha* sp.), shrubs were planted along the top of the bluff.



**FIGURE 4.** Schematic drawing for first superintendent's lodge. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park.



**FIGURE 5.** The officers' circle and fountain, 1906. Source: Library of Congress.



**FIGURE 6.** The rostrum, 1906. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park.



**FIGURE 7.** The entrance gate. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park.



**FIGURE 8.** The gardener's cottage. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park.



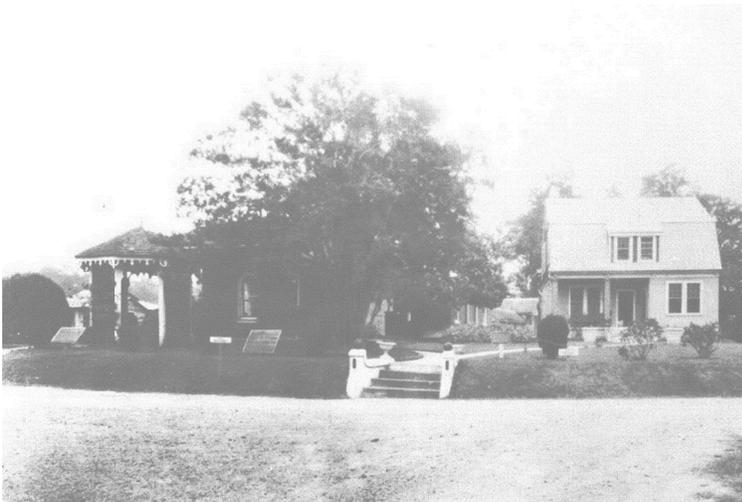
**FIGURE 9.** The Indian Mound. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park.



**FIGURE 10.** Memorial Day, circa 1905. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park.



**FIGURE 11.** The original rear gates near the northeast corner of the cemetery, now used as the primary entrance to the site. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park.



**FIGURE 12.** The Superintendent's Lodge. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park.



**FIGURE 13.** Mint Spring Bluff after 1931. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park.



**FIGURE 14.** Stabilization work at the bluff above Mint Spring was completed in 2011. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park, 2011.

## Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity

### Inventory Unit

#### Analysis and Evaluation Summary

The historic resources located within Vicksburg National Cemetery represent a period of significance from 1866 to 1961. This period addresses the location and setting of the cemetery and the burials there which began in 1867 and continued until the cemetery closed for new burials in 1961. This period also represents the burial and commemoration of Civil War soldiers and sailors and subsequently of other veterans and cemetery employees, superintendents, and their families. This period began with the efforts of the War Department to mark all of the graves in the cemetery, including the vast majority of unknowns. It is also represented by the monuments erected since 1867 to commemorate deceased, the perimeter brick wall (1874), and the status of the landscape as a national cemetery.

Although surrounding land use patterns have changed over time, many of the components that convey the historic significance of the landscape remain intact. The Yazoo River Diversion Canal to the west of the cemetery retains the historic landscape character of the cemetery context, as the waters of the Mississippi River formed the west boundary of the cemetery when it was first established. Forest vegetation forms the southern boundary of the cemetery and contributes to the integrity of the landscape context of the cemetery as it appeared after the Civil War, when forest had the opportunity to rejuvenate. Mint Spring Bayou to the south of the cemetery remains intact and contributes to the integrity of the landscape of the cemetery context.

The integrity of the site is supported by the presence and relatively good condition of much of the brick perimeter wall of the cemetery, the loop road descending from east to west, the location and condition of historic trees, the topography of the sloped terraces and plateaus for burials, and the location and condition of the monuments and grave markers. The overall integrity of the cemetery is enhanced by the preservation of the overall arrangement and pattern of the markers set within the terraced landscape.

Within the cemetery, the general pattern and extent of the man-made terrace system remains essentially the same as it appeared in 1867. This grand construction of terraces was necessary to stabilize the soil and thus create safe and appropriate sites for the numerous interments. Terrace design, construction and maintenance continued to be part of the development of the cemetery and this landform survives today in good condition, contributing to the integrity of design of the cemetery. Changes to the terraces have occurred over the years, mostly due to erosion and installation of drainage features, but these modifications of the terraces do not diminish the quality of the designed landscape. Integrity of the landscape is also supported by the Indian Mound, which has been a significant topographic high point and promontory throughout the period of significance. The top of the mound has historically been occupied by the Grant-Pemberton Surrender Monument (1868), a wooden gazebo (1870s) and the extant brick resting pavilion built in 1931. The grand views afforded from the mound and the pavilion still exist, as well as vistas to the surrounding landscape framed by large trees, contributing to the integrity of location, association, and setting of the cemetery site.

The original cemetery road was constructed in 1867 before the landscape burial terraces, traversing the cemetery site from north to south. In 1870 the road was entirely rebuilt and provided with gutters and silt basins to carry off rainwater. The carriage drive was surfaced with gravel and lined with brick drainage gutters, and provided access to most of the burial sites. Trees were planted to line the carriage drive and enhance the park-like setting of the cemetery. The extant alignment of the loop road in the cemetery remains relatively similar to the alignment from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, contributing to the integrity of design and association of the cemetery site. Changes have occurred to the road such as replacement of gravel with asphalt surface paving and replacement of brick gutters with large concrete gutters. Remnants of the brick can be found under the concrete drainage ditch. The road alignment which descends in elevation from east to west also affords views and vistas to the terraces and to the surrounding landscape, contributing to the integrity of design and association of the cemetery site.

In combination with the designed terraces, which organize the cemetery landscape into distinct spaces, the geometric rows, patterns, and rhythms of the headstones and markers create spatial quality unique to each terrace. These designed patterns of spatial organization are present and in good condition today, contributing to the integrity of the designed landscape and to its integrity of association and setting.

Tree plantings were an essential and dominant part of the historical development of the cemetery landscape. Extensive planting occurred during the late nineteenth century and into the twentieth century. The design intent was to create a park-like setting for the cemetery with a peaceful and tranquil character conducive to strolling and carriage rides. Large trees, some surviving from the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, and more recent plantings and replacement trees contribute to the historic park-like character of the cemetery. Formal magnolia tree plantings were originally installed in the cemetery along the carriage roads in 1876. Although these specific trees may not survive, replacement magnolias that are identified on the 1917 survey map are extant and are believed to be 100 years old or more. The extant ginkgo trees on the cemetery site were planted after 1917 and were identified on the 1933 tree survey. The largest of the ginkgo trees in the 1933 survey was 30 feet in height. These trees are significant landscape features retained in the cemetery. The extant vegetation of the cemetery contributes to the integrity of the designed landscape as well as the integrity of setting and association.

The buildings that remain from the period of significance, including the superintendent's lodge, the gardener's cottage, and the maintenance shop building, have been altered since original construction. Although these modifications occurred within the period of significance, the alterations are not in themselves considered to be significant. Diminished integrity associated with alterations to the individual buildings does not detract from the integrity of the site as a whole. The overall form and massing of the buildings are essentially unchanged and the buildings retain sufficient historic character to continue to support the historic context and the integrity of the cemetery landscape.

The brick perimeter wall was built in 1874 and surrounded the original 40 acres of burials. Since construction, many segments of the cemetery wall have been repaired, replaced, moved, or removed. The only remaining section of wall that is representative of the original 1874 design and construction, built on the original alignment, is a small section along the southern boundary. Construction dates for most other masonry wall sections range from the late 1930s to the 1950s, within the period of significance. Diminished integrity associated with alteration to the wall does not detract from the integrity of the site as a whole. The wall continues to function as a structure that defines the cemetery borders predominantly on the east and west borders. The wall massing, form, and general character is essentially unchanged and continues to define the spatial organization of the cemetery, supporting the historic context and the integrity of the cemetery landscape.

Three structures, the entrance arch (1879), the cemetery flagstaff (1867 and 1906), and the brick rest pavilion (1931) also remain from the period of significance. All three structures remain intact and in their original locations. The original flagstaff (1867) was struck by lightning in 1880 and destroyed. The current flagstaff was installed in 1906 in the same location. The arch remains in fair condition; however, the entrance is closed to vehicular traffic. Closing of this entrance altered the experience of the cemetery loop road but did not affect the basic physical alignment of the road. The brick rest pavilion remains in good condition and continues to afford magnificent vistas through its arched window openings to the surrounding landscape. These structures remain essentially unchanged and support the historic context and the integrity of the cemetery landscape.

## Landscape Characteristics and Landscape Features

### Archeological Sites

Due to the lack of systematic archeological investigation, the specific knowledge of archeological resources within the cemetery is limited. It is likely that most of the cemetery is heavily disturbed and will therefore have little archeological integrity as far as in situ primary deposits are concerned. Past archeological studies within the cemetery have generally been limited to areas of proposed construction activities, including road and wall improvements.

In 1975, archaeological investigations were conducted at the “Cemetery Temple Ground,” also known as the Indian Mound, before the proposed relocation of the visitor access road that closely circumvents the mound at its base. The test excavations were placed between the road and the mound, as the relocation of the road required that it be moved several feet nearer to the mound base. The only features located were stains of stump remains resulting from the presence of cedar trees that were once located in this area. No cultural materials were located. Further investigation continued by extending a 10 foot trench into the south face of the mound. Again, no prehistoric artifact materials were found. Questions remained from this investigation as to the origin of the mound. The limited test excavations were 100 percent negative in finding prehistoric artifact remains or indications of mound construction (Memorandum to Chief, Southeast Archeological Center from the Park Technician, *Test Excavations at the Vicksburg National Military Park Cemetery Temple Mound*, dated May 9, 1975).

In 1999, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers undertook a literature and records search, and conducted a survey of the Mint Spring Bluff and Bayou area abutting the south end of the cemetery (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, 1999). No prehistoric or historic archeological resources were found in the six-acre area included in the project.

## Natural Systems and Features

The primary natural systems and features of Vicksburg National Cemetery are its limestone geology, Loess Bluffs soils, Mint Spring Bayou, natural springs and seeps, and successional woodland. The cemetery is generally underlain by fossiliferous limestone, a byproduct of sedimentation that occurred during the late Mesozoic period when waters that are now the Gulf of Mexico reached much farther north and covered a large portion of the southern United States, including current-day Vicksburg. The calcareous shells of marine invertebrates, ground into fragments, form the basis of limestone and shell marl. Within the lower river terraces, layers of red, sandy clay and gravel are deposited above the limestone and shale bedrock geology. These are visible along the base of the line of bluffs at approximately river level. The fine loess particles were deposited above these layers of sediments after the retreat of Pleistocene glaciation (Maynard B. Cliff and Johanna L. Buyssee, *Archeological and Historical Inventory and Reporting for the Mint Spring Stabilization Project, Warren County, Mississippi*, 1999, cited in Mactec Engineering and Consulting, Inc., *Vicksburg National Military Park: Environmental Assessment for Landscape Rehabilitation* (Vicksburg, Mississippi: National Park Service, May 2009), 3-8.).

The unique properties of the soils of the Loess Bluffs have played an integral role in shaping the terrain of the cemetery, and required the grading of the steep slope into descending terraces for this use. Loess is composed of tiny plate-like particles locked together by calcium carbonate. The loess soil is porous but highly impermeable. Water does not percolate through loess soil, but will quickly erode the particles when it runs across an exposed surface (Christopher R. Gabel, *Staff Ride handbook for the Vicksburg Campaign; December 1862–July 1863* [Fort Leavenworth, Kansas: Combat Studies Institute, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, 2001], 49). This was a problem for the cemetery site from the beginning of construction. The officers in charge of construction expressed concerns about the soil composition and erosion, and the amount of work it would take to adequately accommodate burial sites. Capt. James Scully, appointed to supervise the cemetery construction in 1866, wrote to Capt. Charles W. Folsom that “. . . the composition of the soil is such that it is washed very easily by heavy rains which are frequent here; and large parts of the tract of forty acres were carved into deep and yawning chasms and ravines” (Captain James W. Scully to Captain Charles W. Folsom, 17 June 1867, cited in Meyers, 23).

Mint Spring Bayou passes beneath Connecting Avenue and runs the length of the southern boundary of Vicksburg National Cemetery before emptying into the Yazoo River Diversion Canal. Mint Spring Bayou has etched steeply-sloped ravines into the Loess Bluffs. Two waterfalls are associated with Mint Spring Bayou, formed from rock outcroppings. One of these, located near the south boundary of the cemetery, has a vertical drop of nearly 25 feet and has been designated a Mississippi State Natural Feature. Within the hilly topography of the Loess Bluffs, water features such as springs and seeps originate from groundwater percolating through the soil and emerging from the ground on the lower slopes, where they develop into small streams or pooled water. While springs and seeps are assumed to feed Mint Spring Bayou, their locations have not been well documented (Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., and John Milner Associates, Inc., *Vicksburg National Military Park Cultural Landscape Report* [National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, June 2009], 92–93).

Mint Spring Bluff, which forms the southwestern border of the cemetery and is adjacent to Mint Spring Bayou, is continuously threatened by severe erosion. Heavy rains over many years eroded the bluff and endangered the cemetery road. The lower road eventually sloughed toward Mint Spring Bayou and severely damaged the original cemetery wall, sections of which have collapsed into the waterway. To alleviate much of this problem, the Mint Spring Bluff Stabilization Project was begun in June 2010, and the work was completed in early 2011.

Three forest types dominate the region surrounding Vicksburg National Cemetery and Vicksburg National Military Park. These include oak-hickory woodland, oak-gum-cypress woodland, and elm-ash-cottonwood woodland. Oak-hickory forests characterize the loessal uplands. Oak-gum-cypress woodlands are typically found on the alluvial plain of the river and along many streams, while elm-ash-cottonwood woodlands are found in association with other hydric and moist-mesic soils. The cemetery is surrounded to the south and partially to the north by dense woodland that has grown up during the twentieth century. This landscape context, including the cemetery site, is part of the terrain which, before being cleared for the military efforts during the siege of Vicksburg was disturbed for hundreds of years by agricultural cultivation and foraging livestock. Following the Civil War, various non-native species were introduced to the site from Europe and Asia that are adapted to competition within disturbed environments.

**Feature: Mint Spring Bayou**

Feature Identification Number:

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Loess Bluffs**

Feature Identification Number:

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

## **Spatial Organization**

The site of the original cemetery is irregularly shaped, measuring “approximately 1,900 feet along its greatest length from north to south, and approximately 1,400 feet along its greatest breadth from east to west” (Meyers, 23). It was not considered to be a particularly suitable piece of land for the establishment of a cemetery. Captain Charles Folsom, who surveyed the tract in June 1867, described it as follows: “the ground has a commanding view, but that is its only recommendation, as it was fearfully rough before it was worked, and wholly useless for agricultural purposes” (Captain Charles Folsom, “Report of Inspection,” June 1867, cited in Meyers, 23).

The dominant character-defining spatial organization patterns within Vicksburg National Cemetery are the overall topography, with descending terraces and level plateaus that organize the cemetery landscape into distinct spaces, and the geometric rows and patterns of the headstones and markers that give spatial quality to each plateau. The “fearfully rough” ground described by Captain Folsom was shaped into numerous level terraces for burials. As the terraces descend, they form distinct spaces due to the height of the slope face. The slopes effectively enclose the level plateaus on one side, creating a sense of space and spatial organization (Figure 15). Burials occupy all of the plateaus (except the lowest terrace along the southern boundary above Mint Spring Bayou) and each plateau has a section marker (A through X) (Figure 16 and Figure 17). The burials and headstones are generally placed on each plateau in a grid pattern, with rows perpendicular to the edge of the terrace (Figure 18). There are sections of the cemetery such as section G in which the stones form distinct circular, star, and square patterns, giving spatial distinction at the ground level. Burials and headstones at Mounds O and E (officers’ circle) are organized in a circular pattern (Figure 19 and Figure 20). There is also a circle pattern in Section M on the north side of the cemetery. Later burials are placed on the margins of the terraces or fill the spaces between the more decorative patterns.

The perception of the Vicksburg National Cemetery landscape as a clearly separate space and place adjacent to Vicksburg National Military Park is defined and enhanced by the brick perimeter wall on the east and west sides of the cemetery and by a chain link fence on the north and south borders. The current perimeter wall also enclosed terraces M and W at the northwest corner of the site, which were not part of the original cemetery. Passage through the brick walls and the main gate at the entrance clearly illustrates emergence into a special place, a sacred and honored burial ground. The wall and the fences are visible from the interior of the cemetery, marking the distinction between the cemetery and adjacent land uses and circulation systems (Figure 21 and Figure 22).

The large trees in the cemetery lend more of a picturesque quality to the landscape than a strong spatial definition. The canopies of the large deciduous trees form spaces above the burial sites and the large tree plantings scattered along the loop road provide a spatial corridor and a geometric rhythm within the cemetery landscape. To the south of the cemetery, forest vegetation outside the brick wall reinforces the landscape edge that clearly separates the inside and outside of the cemetery (Figure 23).

### **Feature: Cemetery Perimeter Wall (1874)**

Feature Identification Number: Structure No. HS-950; LCS ID 090461

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

### **Feature: Landscape Terrace Plateaus (1867–1912)**

Feature Identification Number:

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

### **Feature: Geometric Patterns of Headstones (1875–Present)**

Feature: Identification Number: Structure No. HS-036; LCS ID 001358

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

### **Feature: Vegetation (1876–Present)**

Feature Identification Number:

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing



FIGURE 15. Terrace plateaus with headstones and markers. Source: JMA, 2010.

## Vicksburg National Cemetery Access Route Map

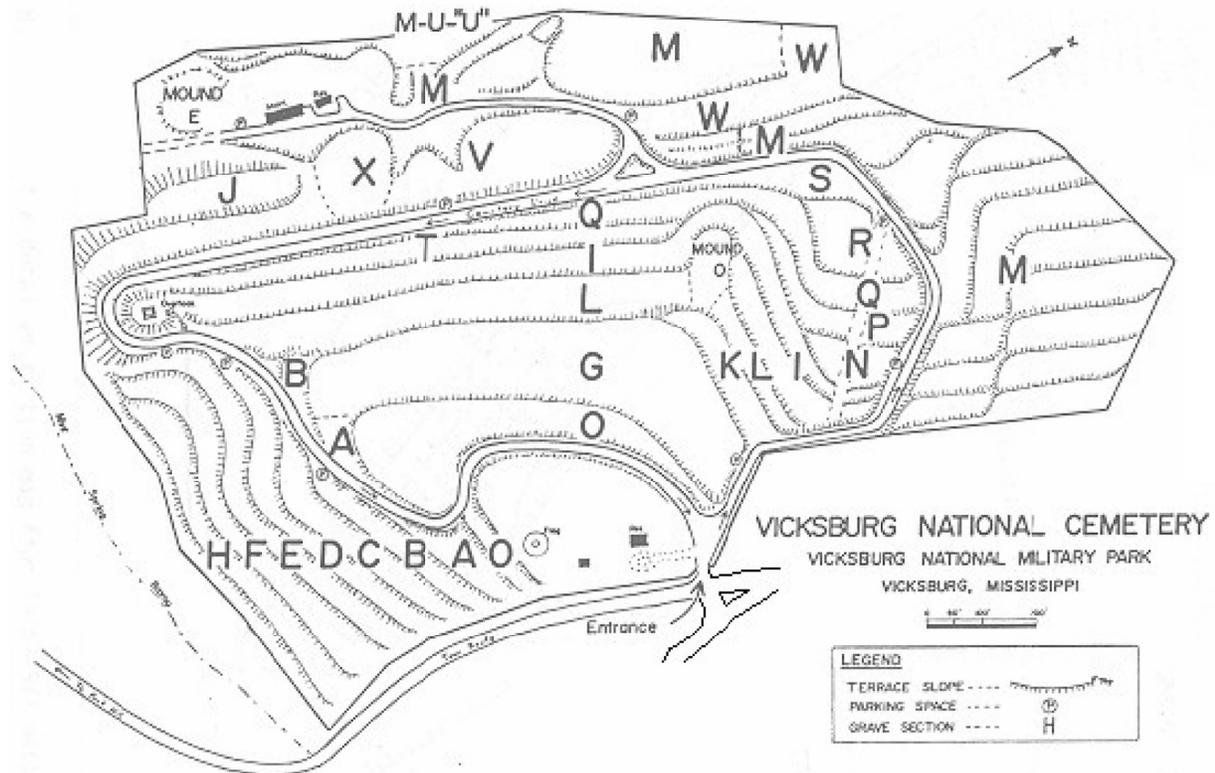


FIGURE 16. Cemetery Map with terraces and burial sections (1976). Source: National Park Service.





**FIGURE 18.** Headstone grid pattern. Source: JMA, 2010



**FIGURE 19.** Headstone circular pattern Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 20.** Headstone circular pattern Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 21.** Cemetery wall near USS Cairo museum Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 22.** Cemetery wall on east boundary. Also note forest vegetation south of cemetery. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 23.** Forest edge, south boundary of cemetery Source: JMA, 2010.

## Land Use

Vicksburg National Cemetery was established in 1866 and burials began in 1867. The primary land use of the cemetery is for burials and commemoration. The national cemetery continues to fulfill its purpose as a final resting place for United States soldiers and sailors. Of the approximately 17,000 Union veterans buried in Vicksburg National Cemetery, the identities of almost 13,000 are listed as unidentified (Meyers, 199). Approximately 1,300 veterans of wars subsequent to the Civil War are also interred in Vicksburg National Cemetery. There also are a few burials of wives and children of veterans and cemetery workers. Vicksburg National Cemetery has been closed for burials since 1961, except for a few individuals whose applications for interment had been accepted prior to that time.

Land use in the larger landscape, prior to construction of the cemetery and before the Civil War, was mainly rural agriculture. After the war, the landscape that included the present cemetery site was devastated by military actions of both Confederate and Union forces. Immediately after the war, the larger landscape surrounding the cemetery and all of Vicksburg, including the levees on the Louisiana shore, was consumed with poorly constructed graves, mass trench graves, and shallow graves. Once the land was purchased for the cemetery and made suitable for proper burials, bodies in desecrated and neglected graves were disinterred and transported for burial in Vicksburg National Cemetery.

Land use surrounding the site includes education/museum/interpretive functions at the USS *Cairo*, part of Vicksburg National Military Park (Figure 24). There is also visitor service land use, recreational land use, and commemorative land use in Vicksburg National Military Park immediately adjacent to the cemetery. There is maintenance and storm water detention land use in the north part of the cemetery property, outside of the perimeter brick wall and close to the USS *Cairo* interpretive site (Figure 25). There are also cemetery maintenance facilities in the southwest portion of the cemetery, within the brick walls (Figure 26).

There is industrial land use west of the cemetery and North Washington Street (Figure 27). The Yazoo River Diversion Canal also lies west of the cemetery and is visible from elevations within the cemetery (Figure 28). Outside of the fenced boundary and at the foot of the southern bluff of the cemetery, Mint Spring Bayou and thick forest vegetation form a natural edge defining the boundary of the cemetery.



**FIGURE 24.** USS Cairo exhibit and museum. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 25.** Maintenance complex north of the cemetery. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 26.** Maintenance shops in the cemetery. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 27.** Industrial warehouses west of the cemetery. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 28.** Yazoo River Diversion Canal west of the cemetery. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park, 2011.

## Topography

The topography of the surrounding landscape of Vicksburg National Military Park is varied and marked by dramatic slopes, and deep ravines and narrow ridges. The variations in topography are evident along the tour road as it curves around hills, dips into ravines, and climbs ridges. The cemetery topography is part of this landscape context. However, its most distinct topographic feature is the man-made terraces, constructed so that the site could function as a cemetery and accommodate thousands of burials.

The landscape topography of Vicksburg National Cemetery is one of the defining features of the entire site. The sweeping terraces (1867–1912) that descend from the area of the main entrance gate form the distinct landscape character of the cemetery. The level terrace plateaus (1867–1912) contain the cemetery burials, grave markers, and headstones. The main gate, superintendent’s lodge, and flagpole are located on a high spot of level ground at the eastern boundary of the cemetery from which the topography descends to the west, northwest, and south toward Mint Spring Bayou (Figure 29 and Figure 30).

The original topography of the site was steep with commanding views, but the surface of the landscape was carved into deep chasms and ravines due to the composition of the soil, which was easily washed away by heavy and frequent rains. The construction of the terraces was essential to make the cemetery fit for the large number of interments that it was to receive. Captain Folsom described the terraces in his 1867 inspection report (Figure 31 and Figure 32): “The terraces were originally constructed on the east side of the original carriage road that traversed the cemetery at its greatest length from north to south. The terraces were generally 50 to 100 feet wide, with banks from five to eight feet high positioned at 45 degree angles to one another” (Captain Charles Folsom, “Report of Inspection,” June 1867, cited in Meyers, 22).

The high elevations at the main gate afford views over the descending terraces to surrounding landscapes including the Yazoo River Diversion Canal. The range of elevation is from a low point of 110 feet AMSL at the west and southwest boundaries to a high point of 215 AMSL feet at the main gate, and 220 feet AMSL at the site of the flagstaff. The Indian Mound in the south area of the cemetery is also a high point with an elevation of approximately 215 to 220 feet AMSL (Figure 33). From the brick rest pavilion atop the Indian Mound there are expansive views across the cemetery to the north and to the Yazoo River Diversion Canal to the west (Figure 34). The southern bluff that supports the Indian Mound has historically been worn away and re-stabilized several times due to weathering and the action of Mint Spring Bayou. The top of the bluff, which supports the present-day cemetery road, is approximately 100 feet above the temporary construction road built to accommodate equipment for the bluff stabilization project completed early in 2011 (Figure 35 and Figure 36). A lower road, which was abandoned when the bluff began to severely erode, was also used for equipment during the stabilization project. (Refer to Figure 13.)

### **Feature: Constructed Terraces (1867–1912)**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

### **Feature: Terrace Plateaus (1867–1912)**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

### **Feature: Indian Mound**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing



**FIGURE 29.** Descending landscape terraces. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 30.** Descending landscape terraces. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 31.** Landscape terraces and wall circa 1880. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park.



**FIGURE 32.** Terraces with staircases circa 1890–1910. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park.



**FIGURE 33.** Elevation of the Indian Mound. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park, 2011.



**FIGURE 34.** Vista to the west of the Yazoo River Diversion Canal from the brick rest pavilion. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 35.** Area of south bluff stabilization. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park, 2011.



**FIGURE 36.** South bluff stabilization project. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park, 2011.

## Vegetation

The pervasive vegetative character of the cemetery site is created by groupings of large deciduous and evergreen trees throughout the site, single large specimen trees, remnants of tree rows along the cemetery loop road, the open turf in which rest the thousands of headstones and markers, and the mixed forest that surround the site on the north and south sides. Secondary to these features are the ornamental plantings that are associated with structures within the cemetery such as the superintendent's lodge and the gardener's cottage. These more formal, sometimes potted and tightly clipped ornamental plantings do not distract from the overall landscape character created by the cemetery's other vegetative resources.

Throughout the development of the Vicksburg National Cemetery special attention was given by the War Department, superintendents of the cemetery, and later by the National Park Service, to the plantings that were to go into the cemetery landscape. During cemetery and grounds construction in 1867, approximately 100 slips of weeping willows were donated to the cemetery by Andrew Johnson, President of the United States" (Meyers, 27). President Johnson sent the slips to Captain Scully from his home in Greenville, Tennessee. None of these original weeping willow trees are still standing in the cemetery today.

Extensive tree planting continued in the cemetery in the late nineteenth century and into the twentieth century. The plantings that were installed throughout the cemetery may have been added in response to Frederick Law Olmsted's advice solicited by Quartermaster General Meigs in 1870. In 1874 a small greenhouse had been erected and the superintendent at the time was propagating various plants (Meyers, 71). The tranquil character and park-like setting of the landscape developed and were maintained over time. This historical character is still present in the existing landscape of the cemetery. Existing large deciduous and evergreen trees planted in an informal pattern are found over most of the cemetery site and include a variety of oaks (*Quercus alba*, *Q. nigra*, *Q. falcata*, *Q. virginiana*), hickory (*Carya* sp.), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*), Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), and arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*) (Figure 37 and Figure 38).

Historical photographs and maps also show the more formal tree plantings in the cemetery along the carriage roads (Figure 39). In 1876 there were tree lined carriage drives in the cemetery and "approximately 500 young magnolia trees, as well as a number of cedars, holly, and other deciduous and evergreen trees were growing in the cemetery greenhouse" (Meyers, 77). The 1917 survey map of the cemetery includes tree symbols and clearly delineates rows of tree plantings along the cemetery loop road. Remnants of this historic landscape feature have been retained over the years, through replacement of diseased or dying original trees with newly planted specimens. Many of the existing magnolias are quite large and may be 100 years old. They are threatened by root exposure due to erosion of the banks of the roadway along which they are planted (Figure 40 and Figure 41).

Historic photographs of the cemetery taken before the 1930s also reveal a large number of ornamental plantings throughout the cemetery. None of these ornamental plantings are extant; they were not replaced when lost over the years. The photographs reveal that the overall planting design of the cemetery included a large and diverse amount of plant material, including ornamentals in pots along the gravel carriage roads. The plateaus of the terraces were planted with large numbers of small ornamental trees and shrubs. A large mass of roses and a large formal clipped hedge were placed in the vicinity of and around the officers' circle monument and fountain (Figure 42). These plantings are not extant and were not replaced when removed or dead. The existing cemetery landscape retains the large deciduous and evergreen trees with a small number of ornamental trees and few shrubs or potted plants. Ornamental plantings include common crape myrtle (*Lagerstræmia indica*), English boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*), firethorn (*Pyracantha* sp.), roses (*Rosaceæ* sp.) and others (Figure 43).

In 1933, the CCC was assigned to the cemetery to care for the trees. This was thought to be essential due to the collection of beautiful and rare tree specimens. Probably the most valuable specimen in the cemetery was the ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*) tree. There are currently extant specimens of ginkgo trees in the cemetery with trunk diameters of up to 5 feet (Figure 44 and Figure 45). The cemetery also had German lindens (*Tilia europæa*) that had been grafted onto native ash root-stock; this species is no longer extant in the cemetery. Outstanding existing specimens included the Spanish oak (Southern Red Oak) (*Quercus falcata*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), and Japanese magnolia (*Magnolia soulangiana*). Further research would be required to determine the age of the extant trees (Figure 46).

The expanse of grass terraces that contain the markers and headstones throughout the cemetery emphasizes the open space and burial sections and become part of the rhythm of rows created by the headstones (Figure 47). This

landscape feature has also been retained throughout the development of the cemetery in combination with the large tree plantings and the ornamental plantings. From the beginning of the construction of the cemetery and grading of the terraces, it was imperative to sod the terrace slopes and plateaus due to the highly erodible loess soils. Heavy rains and poor drainage continue to undermine steep terrace slopes and cause erosion of the surfaces of the slope faces. This condition also threatens the stability of the headstones and burial plots (Figure 48 and Figure 49). The most prevalent grass species used in the cemetery and other areas of Vicksburg National Military Park is the non-native Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), which is generally thought to provide a high level of protection against soil erosion and is consistent with the time period during which the cemetery and park were established.

The cemetery is bordered to the south and partially to the north by dense woodland that has grown up during the twentieth century. Much of the pre-Civil War vegetation surrounding the site was felled to clear the line of fire associated with the military operations conducted by Confederate and Union forces. Some of this woodland cover appears to have developed after a re-vegetation effort conducted by CCC in the 1930s to protect against erosion of the loess soils (Figure 50 and refer to Figure 22).

A site plan of the cemetery in 1917, plotted from a survey by D. L. Andrews, indicates existing trees and labels them only as deciduous and evergreen. Many of the extant magnolias in the cemetery appear on this site plan. An additional tree survey was developed in 1933, with plantings numbered and listed in a chart that also documented conditions and size. Many of the extant magnolias depicted on the 1917 site plan were 40 to 45 feet tall on the 1933 tree inventory. There were also replacement plantings installed after the 1917 site plan, including the extant ginkgo trees on the site. The largest ginkgo tree was 30 feet tall, according to the 1933 survey. Since the 1933 survey, many of the ornamental plantings in the cemetery as well as large trees have been lost, dying out from age, disease, invasive plants such as mistletoe, or storm and lightning events. In 2004, a tree survey was conducted by the park and trees remaining in the cemetery from the 1933 plan were identified (Figure 51). These trees included the following:

▪ Arbor-vitae ( <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> )	52
▪ Red Cedar ( <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> )	51
▪ Evergreen Magnolia ( <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> )	48
▪ White ash ( <i>Fraxinus americana</i> )	4
▪ Live oak ( <i>Quercus virginiana</i> )	3
▪ Magnolia ( <i>Magnolia soulangiana</i> )	3
▪ Pecan ( <i>Carya illinoensis</i> )	3
▪ Ginkgo ( <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> )	2
▪ Sweet gum ( <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> )	2
▪ White oak ( <i>Quercus alba</i> )	2
▪ Dogwood ( <i>Cornus florida</i> )	1
▪ Red oak ( <i>Quercus rubra</i> )	1
▪ White pine ( <i>Pinus strobus</i> )	1

These numbers do not account for subsequent tree removals or loss since 2004.

#### **Feature: Historic Loop Road Plantings**

Feature Identification Number:

Type of Feature Contribution:     Contributing

#### **Feature: Historic Specimen Trees**

Feature Identification Number:

Type of Feature Contribution:     Contributing

#### **Feature: Grass Burial Fields**

Feature Identification Number:

Type of Feature Contribution:     Contributing

**Feature: Ornamental Plantings**

Feature Identification Number:

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-contributing



**FIGURE 37.** Informal pattern of large trees. This view of the cemetery is from the Indian Mound. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 38.** Trees among gravestones and markers. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 39.** Tree rows along the carriage drive. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park.



**FIGURE 40.** Row of magnolias on the loop road. The brick wall at right separates the cemetery from USS Cairo. Source: JMA 2010.



**FIGURE 41.** Row of magnolias on the loop road. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 42.** Officers Circle with ornamental plantings. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park.



**FIGURE 43.** Crape myrtles near the Trindle Monument. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 44.** Historic gingko tree. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 45, left.** Historic ginkgo tree. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 46, right.** Specimen magnolia tree. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 47.** Grass open space between marker rows Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 48.** Erosion condition on west terrace which threatens the stability of headstones and burials. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 49.** Severe erosion of slope face Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 50.** Forest vegetation south of cemetery. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 51.** 1933 plan of the cemetery, annotated to indicate trees surviving in 2004. Source: JMA, 2011.

## Circulation

Circulation in and adjacent to Vicksburg National Cemetery includes North Washington Street, which borders the west side of the site, the park tour road bordering the east side of the site, the cemetery loop road, the maintenance road in the western portion of the site, concrete sidewalks at the superintendent's lodge and brick rest pavilion, and several remnant roads in the southwestern portion of the site.

The original cemetery road established in 1867 traversed the cemetery at its greatest length from south to north and was laid out to follow natural curves of banks and ridges of the cemetery. At this time there was also further provision for roads and avenues to be surfaced with gravel taken from a nearby site and for placement of the flagstaff near the main entrance, at one of the highest points in the cemetery. In 1870, under the supervision of engineer James Gall, the main road was entirely rebuilt and provided with brick gutters and silt basins to carry off rainwater. In 1870, it was recorded that 4,000 linear feet of road needed to be graded and 4,000 linear feet of brick gutters were to be laid along the road (Meyer, 52). In 1871 it was recorded that, 1,070 linear feet of brick gutters had yet to be built (Meyer, 56). By 1873 there were three carriage entrances to the cemetery, located at points along the Yazoo Valley Road, including a northern entrance, a southern entrance and a central entrance to the cemetery at an elevation high point (Meyer, 60).

By 1875, the entrance at the southeast corner had been closed and a circular return was being constructed around the gun monument on the main drive in order to relocate traffic. Use of the northern entrance had also been discontinued, leaving the central entrance near the office as the only point of ingress into the cemetery. (Meyer, 73). In 1876, there were no walkways in the cemetery, but the tree-lined carriage roads afforded access to most of the burial sections. In 1877, engineer Gall surveyed a line along the riverside of the site for the proposed approach road to the National Cemetery. In 1878, construction began on the proposed approach road and by 1879 the new entrance arch had been constructed, thus completing the formal entrance to the cemetery at the southwest corner, although the approach road outside the cemetery remained rough and was not usable until 1885. Vehicular traffic is no longer allowed through this entrance.

The major circulation feature within the cemetery is the asphalt-paved loop road (Figure 52). (Park staff indicated that initial paving this road was likely completed at the same time that the Union Avenue portion of the road was paved in 1971. The loop road was most recent repaved in 2009.) The one-way cemetery loop road enters and exits the eastern side of the cemetery off of the Vicksburg National Military Park tour road near the superintendent's lodge, and travels in a counterclockwise direction around the Indian Mound. Historically, the carriages entered through the arch and ascended the site and burial sections from the lowest elevations of the cemetery. Today, vehicular traffic enters the cemetery at one of the highest elevations and descends through the site to the burial terraces at the lower elevations. The alignment of the road system remains similar but the experience has changed. The entrance has an iron gate, painted black and gold per VA standards, with concrete piers that are part of the cemetery wall. This gate also features a pedestrian entrance on both sides. Portions of the loop road are lined with concrete gutters (formerly brick, *date of replacement unknown*) and curbs that are concrete in some places and asphalt in others (Figure 53).

An asphalt-paved maintenance road connects to the west side of the cemetery loop road. This road leads to the gardener's cottage and the maintenance shop and has several asphalt spurs for parking (Figure 54). The asphalt portion of the road ends just past the maintenance shop; the road is gravel as it continues to the entrance arch, the original entrance to the cemetery.

Between the gravel portion of the maintenance road and the cemetery loop road is the remnant of another road, which connected to the cemetery loop just west of the Indian Mound. A section of the loop road connected to this remnant road and ran along the southern boundary of the cemetery, exiting at the southeast corner of the site. This portion of the drive was discontinued in 1888. It is identified on the 1917 survey, but was no longer part of the cemetery circulation system. Currently the former road bed is grassed with tree plantings at various segments along the southern boundary. The road remnant is visible in the landscape as an unpaved, graded slope (Figure 55). The road was used as construction egress for the Mint Spring Bayou stabilization project in 2010–2011; after completion of the work, the road trace was returned to a grass-covered, graded slope. A concrete sidewalk formerly connected a portion of the road with the cemetery loop road; much of this sidewalk is no longer present, although the brick piers of a set of landscape steps and a length of broken concrete remain (Figure 56).

Few formal pedestrian paths exist within the cemetery. Visitors are permitted to walk among the graves and also use

the main cemetery loop road. The only formal sidewalks within the cemetery exist at the superintendent's lodge and the gardener's cottage, between the road and the front porch of each building. The entrance to the sidewalk at the superintendent's lodge is flanked with a short set of landscape steps, with brick piers. A few other sets of landscape steps exist (constructed with either brick or stone) in several locations to help pedestrians navigate the steep slopes between cemetery sections. Landscape steps were first constructed in the 1880s when stone steps were built for ascending the terrace where the rostrum and flagstaff were located (Figure 57 and Figure 58).

A longer set of landscape steps (first constructed in 1880) carries pedestrians from the cemetery loop road to the brick rest pavilion atop the Indian Mound. The extant steps are constructed of brick, with brick cheek walls and concrete-capped brick piers along the steps. Level sections of the path between the steps are paved in concrete and edged with brick (Figure 59). According to park staff, the Indian Mound steps and brickwork were stabilized and repaired in 2005.

In addition to the main vehicular and pedestrian circular routes, several level grass areas without graves are used as access routes for small maintenance vehicles. Two such routes are denoted by small metal posts, while others are unmarked. A short driveway loop is also located adjacent to the superintendent's lodge.

**Feature: Cemetery Loop road (1867–1888)**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Maintenance road**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-contributing

**Feature: Road remnant**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Concrete sidewalks**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-contributing

**Feature: Landscape Steps (1880)**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Maintenance paths**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-contributing



**FIGURE 52.** Asphalt paved loop road. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 53.** Asphalt curb on loop road. This curb helps prevent runoff. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 54.** Asphalt paved maintenance road. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 55.** Remnant road. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 56, left.** Sidewalk and step remnant. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 57, right.** Brick landscape steps. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 58.** Stone steps. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 59.** Brick and concrete steps to the brick rest pavilion. Source: JMA, 2010.

## Buildings and Structures

The brick perimeter wall that edges the east and west sides of the cemetery, enclosing two terraces that were not part of the original cemetery, was built in 1874 in response to post-Civil War legislation that mandated fencing of national cemeteries (*An Act to Establish and to Protect National Cemeteries*, approved February 22, 1867). The walls were 4 feet high and 2 feet thick (refer to Figure 31). The original design of the masonry wall features a coping composed of the top course of bricks, and pyramidal caps on the piers. Sections of the wall began to collapse almost immediately after construction. Within a decade, sections of the south wall above Mint Spring Bayou collapsed. Since construction, many segments of the cemetery wall have been repaired or replaced. While some sections of the wall have been reconstructed consistent with the original design and in the original alignment, other parts are outside of the original line or are visually inconsistent. Most segments of the wall do not retain the pyramidal pier caps (National Park Service, *Preservation and Reconstruction of the National Cemetery Walls Environmental Assessment, Vicksburg National Cemetery*, Vicksburg, Mississippi, National Park Service, November 2003).

The east wall is in its original alignment and largely consists of original construction, although the capping and coping have been removed (refer to Figure 22). The walls at the west and northwest sections of the cemetery, near North Washington Street, were realigned and rebuilt between 1939 and 1942 in association with highway construction (Figure 60). A large portion of the south wall has been lost as the steep slopes above Mint Spring Bayou have eroded away. In some places, chain-link fencing has been installed, but severe erosion in other places precludes any fencing at all (refer to Figure 23). Portions of the north wall have collapsed and have been removed, but the foundation for the wall still remains in the original 1874 alignment. Currently, this portion of the boundary is enclosed with chain-link fencing that follows the original wall alignment (Figure 61) (*Preservation and Reconstruction of the Nation Cemetery Walls Environmental Assessment, Vicksburg National Cemetery, Vicksburg, Mississippi*).

The only remaining section of wall that is representative of the original 1874 design, built on the original alignment, is a small section along the southern boundary. Construction dates for most other masonry wall sections range from the late 1930s to the 1950s (*Preservation and Reconstruction of the Nation Cemetery Walls Environmental Assessment, Vicksburg National Cemetery, Vicksburg, Mississippi*).

The flagstaff in Vicksburg National Cemetery is located south of the superintendent's lodge (Figure 62). It is clearly visible from the park loop road and from various vantage points within the cemetery. This location was chosen in 1867 because it was near the rear entrance and at one of the highest elevations in the cemetery. In 1880 the original flagstaff was struck by lightning and destroyed and the new one, ordered by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs, was to have an ornamental iron socket. A new flagstaff base was ordered from St. Louis, Missouri. The current flagstaff was installed in 1906. The area surrounding the flagstaff was known as Sylvan Hill and also contained the rostrum (1879) (Figure 63). The rostrum was removed from the site after World War II. The greenhouse and office building are no longer extant.

The Shingle-style cemetery superintendent's lodge was constructed in 1928, replacing an earlier lodge built in 1868 on the same site (Figure 64). The gambrel roof building is rectangular in plan, with an engaged porch at the northeast corner. Two square brick piers support the second level at the porch. The foundation is concrete. At the first floor, the walls are clad with painted weatherboard wood siding, while the gable ends and dormers are clad with weathered wood shingles. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles, has a painted wood fascia, and drains to hanging half-round gutters leading to downspouts that discharge at grade. The wood windows have divided light upper sash and single light lower sash; most openings are protected by triple track storm units. The building has two concrete chimneys penetrating the roof. In 2011, the superintendent's lodge was being painted, re-roofed, and repaired.

The gardener's cottage was constructed in 1882–1883 (Figure 65). The building was significantly renovated in 1931, including the construction of a new second floor under a gambrel roof. As part of the 1931 work, stables and other outbuildings that were originally connected to the rear of the building were demolished. The building is rectangular in plan and symmetrically arranged around a central hall. The exterior walls at the first floor and gable ends of the second floor are constructed of red brick masonry set in a common bond. The brick foundation wall is one wythe (a continuous vertical section of masonry one unit in thickness) thicker than the first floor walls, and a course of chamfered rowlock bricks demarcates the top of the foundation. The gambrel roof is covered with asphalt shingles, has a painted wood fascia, and drains to semicircular hanging gutters connected to downspouts that discharge at grade. There are two brick chimneys which project from the roof corresponding with each side of the entrance hall.

The front of the building has a covered porch at the front door with a concrete stoop, wood columns, and a shed roof covered with standing seam sheet metal. The wood double hung windows usually occur in pairs. Most of the windows are four-over-four and have aluminum triple track storm windows. The windows at the first floor and gable ends have projecting wood canopy hoods. The window sills are painted wood. In 2011, the superintendent's lodge was being painted, re-roofed, and repaired.

The maintenance shop building was constructed in 1931 (Figure 66). It is a rectangular shaped building with a two-story central portion flanked by single-story wings. The raised painted concrete foundation supports brick exterior walls set in an English bond with headers located every sixth course. The central portion has a front-gable roof while side gable roofs cover the flanking wings. All roofs are covered with asphalt shingles and drain to half-round gutters attached to painted wood fascia and downspouts discharging at grade. Openings have painted wood lintels and sills. Windows include wood multi-light pivot windows and wood multi-light double-hung windows, typically six-over-six lights. There are several pairs of sliding wood doors located inboard of the exterior wall, as well as paired and single swinging doors. The wood pedestrian doors located on the end wall are not original. Localized deterioration of wood as well as paint checking is present on the structure. Stepped cracks in the masonry wall that continue vertically through the concrete foundation appear on the north portion of the west elevation.

The Rest Pavilion was constructed in 1931, replacing an 1880s arbor on the site (Figure 67). The pavilion is constructed of red brick set in a Flemish bond pattern with a single arched entrance opening with a limestone keystone on the north and south elevations and paired arched window openings with limestone sills and keystones on the east and west elevations. The pyramid shaped roof is covered with composite asbestos shingles with copper ridge caps. At the base of the roof there is a white painted wood fascia supporting a gutter that drains into two copper downspouts located on the north elevation. Although the building is generally in good condition, there are some instances of missing and cracked brick and organic growth is present on the roof shingles.

The entrance arch at the former vehicular entrance to the cemetery from North Washington Street is a limestone structure built in 1879. The arch is approximately 35 feet tall with a 20 foot tall opening. The semicircular arch entrance portal is surrounded by rusticated ashlar masonry supporting an entablature. In front of the portal and wall on both faces of the arch is a pair of freestanding Doric columns supporting a projecting portion of the entablature. An inscription in the frieze on the south face reads "NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERY. VICKSBURG, A.D. 1865." (Figure 68) An inscription in the frieze on the north face reads, "HERE REST IN PEACE 16,600 CITIZENS, / WHO DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY, / IN THE YEARS 1861 TO 1865." (Figure 69) An inverted-arch iron swinging gate is present at the roadway. Paint deterioration and surface corrosion was observed on the gates. There is significant organic growth on the structure, particularly near the base of the arch and at the upper portion of the cornice. Water staining also appears on the structure. Several open joints were also observed present on the structure. Currently, this entrance is closed to traffic, except for construction vehicles that were temporarily using this access point in 2010.

The second entrance at the east side of the cemetery leads from the park tour road near the visitor parking lot for the USS *Cairo*. The gate is an ornate structure composed of black painted cast iron posts topped with gold painted urns and decorated with select gold painted reliefs (Figure 70). The posts, located on either side of the roadway, each supports an arched-topped black painted iron swinging gate at the roadside and a smaller swinging pedestrian gate at the opposing side of the post. Pedestrian gates terminate at cast concrete posts abutted by low brick walls. Corrosion is present in several places on the gates while portions of the gates show signs of bowing resulting from a vehicular collision with the gate. A finial is missing on the large swinging gates at the roadside.

The carriage gate originally located at the southeast corner of the cemetery is no longer extant.

**Feature: Cemetery Perimeter Wall (1874)**

Feature Identification Number: HS-950; LCS ID 090461  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Flagstaff (1906)**

Feature Identification Number: HS-905, LCS 091213  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Cemetery Superintendent's Lodge (1928)**

Feature Identification Number: HS-039, LCS 007290  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Gardener's Cottage (1882–1883, remodeled 1931)**

Feature Identification Number: HS-038, LCS 007289  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Maintenance Shops Building (1931)**

Feature Identification Number: N/A  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Brick Rest Pavilion (1931)**

Feature Identification Number: HS-040, LCS 007291  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Cemetery Entrance Arch (1879)**

Feature Identification Number: HS-037, LCS 007288  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Entrance Gate (Date to be added)**

Feature Identification Number: N/A  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing



**FIGURE 60, left.** Cemetery perimeter wall, west boundary. Source: JMA, 2010.

**FIGURE 61, right.** Wall and chain link fence, north boundary. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 62, left.** Flagstaff at cemetery high point. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 63, right.** Flagstaff circa 1880. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park.



**FIGURE 64.** Cemetery superintendent's lodge. Source: WJE, 2010.



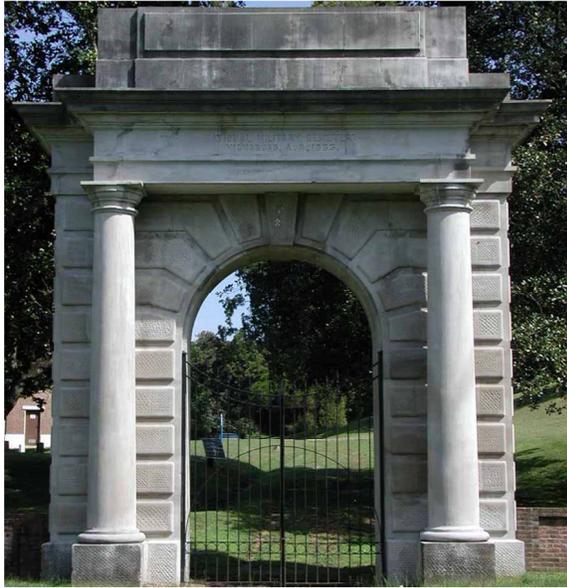
**FIGURE 65.** Gardener's cottage. Source: WJE, 2010.



**FIGURE 66.** Maintenance shops building. Source: WJE, 2010.



**FIGURE 67.** Rest pavilion. Source: WJE, 2010.



**FIGURE 68, left.** South face of the entrance arch. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park, 2011.



**FIGURE 69, right.** North face of the entrance arch. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park, 2011.



**FIGURE 70.** Entrance gate. Source: WJE, 2010.

## Views and Vistas

High above the cemetery in Vicksburg National Military Park, the public entrance to the cemetery at the eastern boundary is visible along with the brick wall, the entrance gate, the superintendent's lodge, and the flagstaff. This view to the cemetery from the park delineates the cemetery as a place adjacent but separate from the park and the USS *Cairo* exhibit (Figure 71). From North Washington Street, west of the cemetery, views at the lowest elevations of the site contain the cemetery wall and the large cemetery arch located at the original entrance (Figure 72). The extent of the brick wall is visible and is a clear indication to vehicular travelers of a place within the larger historic landscape of Vicksburg National Military Park. The wall identifies the cemetery landscape before the overwhelming views of the headstones are seen (refer to Figure 40).

Historically, the cemetery site was recognized and complimented for the grand views afforded from the natural topography. The panoramic views were retained after the construction of the terraces and the carriage roads. The descending terraces became part of the viewsheds from the higher elevations. Views to the surrounding landscapes have become framed vistas between large specimen trees or tree groupings (Figure 73 and Figure 74).

Interior views of the cemetery also remain and include descending terraces, headstones, and markers that form a landscape rhythm and pattern throughout the entire cemetery (Figure 75 and Figure 76). There are also numerous views within the cemetery site and along the loop road of the Indian Mound and brick rest pavilion. The top of the Indian Mound was originally occupied by the Grant-Pemberton Surrender Monument, which was placed there in 1868. By 1875, an arbor was constructed in close proximity to the monument. The brick rest pavilion constructed in 1931 replaced the decaying arbor, and is a distinctive landscape element and dominant visual feature of the cemetery (Figure 77). Views from the top of the Indian Mound reveal the beauty of the sculptured terraces and geometric headstone patterns and the park-like setting of the cemetery (Figure 78; also refer to Figure 37). From the interior of the brick rest pavilion, there are vistas to the surrounding landscape over the tops of the trees (refer to Figure 34).

Non-contributing views include those from the cemetery across North Washington Street to the industrial warehouses and views to the USS *Cairo* Museum, exhibit, and protective tensile structure that is visually dominant at the entrance to the cemetery.

### **Feature: Views from Landscape Context**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

### **Feature: Views of the Cemetery Perimeter Wall**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

### **Feature: Views of the Headstones and Markers**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

### **Feature: Views of Large Trees and Monuments**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

### **Feature: Views to and from the Indian Mound and Brick Rest Pavilion**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing



**FIGURE 71.** Cemetery view looking west from Vicksburg National Military Park. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 72.** View to cemetery arch from U.S. Highway 61. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park 2011.



**FIGURE 73.** View over landscape terraces. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 74.** View over multiple landscape terraces. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 75.** Interior views of terraces and headstones. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 76.** Views looking west to Yazoo River Diversion Canal from terraces. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 77.** View looking south over terraces to the Indian Mound. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 78.** View from Indian Mound. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park, 2011.

## Small-Scale Features

Small scale features in Vicksburg National Cemetery include the thousands of grave markers, various monuments, memorials, markers, wayside tablets and other signs, fencing, and a few site furnishings.

Prevalent within the cemetery landscape are the rows of white marble headstones. The original markers were wooden, decayed rapidly and obstructed the proper maintenance of the cemetery. The marble markers were installed in 1875, and carry the name, rank, and regiment of the interred, as well as the grave number. The graves in 1875 numbered 16,588. Marble markers continued to be erected after 1875 for more recent burials. More than 17,000 Union soldiers and sailors are interred in the cemetery; additionally, veterans of subsequent wars, their spouses and children, and superintendents and their families are buried here. Impacts threatening the markers include erosion and sliding of terraces; hazard trees, falling branches, and tree roots, vegetation, vandalism; park operations; and weather (LCS Condition Assessment of Cemetery Headstones. Last assessed May 18, 2006, by Brian Coffey, NPS SERO Historian).

Of the Civil War casualties, nearly 13,000 soldiers and sailors remain unidentified. Most of these interments are marked by small, square blocks, marked only with an etched number (Figure 79). These markers were placed at the graves of the unknown in 1875. The majority of these markers are in fair condition, with some deterioration of the edges, biological growth, and wearing of the engraved numbers. A few of the markers are in poor condition; some stones have deteriorated so that the numbers are no longer legible, others are missing large pieces of stone, and some have begun to be engulfed by tree roots.

Upright, rounded headstones mark the graves of identified individuals. These are incised with a variety of information, depending on the period of installation. Most of the Civil War-era burials are incised with a shield emblem and have raised letters indicating the soldier's first name or initial and last name, as well as his state (Figure 80 and Figure 81). These headstones are consistent in style with those found in other Civil War-era national cemeteries. Two headstones mark the graves of Confederate soldiers (Figure 82 and Figure 83). These headstones have a gabled top and are incised with the name, rank, company and battalion, state, and date of death.

More recent burials and replacement headstones tend to give more information about the deceased, including his corps or division, which service he was in, and his dates of birth and death (Figure 84). One of the more unusual recent headstones is that of an Australian World War II soldier (Figure 85). Each of the gravestones is also marked with a number. Where a spouse is also buried, the spouse's gravestone is sometimes placed back-to-back with that of the serviceman. Many of the gravestones have chipped and degraded edges, difficult-to-read text, and exhibit signs of biological growth. A few stones have begun to be engulfed by tree roots (Figure 86). Other damaged stones have been repaired with epoxy or stabilized with PVC or metal supports (Figure 87).

In some places, larger monuments were erected by families before the standardization of headstones. These are scattered throughout the cemetery and take a variety of forms (Figure 88 through Figure 90).

Each of the twenty-four sections of headstones, excluding the two mounds, is marked with one or two marble section markers placed close to the loop road. The section markers measure 16 inches across, 9 inches wide at the base, and have a triangular cross-section (Figure 91). Each marker is engraved on both sides with a letter, ranging from A to X, which indicates the section. Many of the markers have severely damaged edges, especially along the top edge, where the stone is thinnest.

The largest monument within the cemetery is the 25th and 31st Iowa Infantry Monument (1905), located near the steps to the top of the Indian Mound (Figure 92). The monument, with two bronze tablets mounted on its face, designates the positions of the two units during the siege of Vicksburg. The monument indicates the casualties of the unit and the dates when those casualties were incurred, and honors their service.

A smaller monument to Union soldiers who died as prisoners during the Civil War stands near the cemetery flagstaff mound (Figure 93). The monument is a metal tablet mounted to the angled top of a stone block. Adjacent to this monument are three low stone slabs, each commemorating the death of a soldier who fought in the Vietnam War (Figure 94).

Three upright cannon emplacements, also called gun monuments, are located in various places within the cemetery. Ten of these monuments were placed on the site by 1875; of these, three remain. Gun Monument 1 is located on the triangular turf island where the loop road intersects with the maintenance road (Figure 95); Gun Monument 2 is located in mound E and was once used as a fountain (Figure 96); and Gun Monument 3 in section O (Figure 97). The cannon in the triangular turf island has raised white letters, an etched eagle and some of the words are on a plaque attached to the tube. The cannon in mound E has a nozzle at the top where water would spray into the concrete basin. The fountain mechanism for use in the cannon was installed in 1888.

A monument to a former cemetery superintendent, John Trindle, and his family stands in section G of the cemetery. The monument (1875) is set in an elevated rectangle of grass and surrounded by a granite curb, which is engraved with the names of the superintendent, his wife, and their children (Figure 98). Historic photographs indicate that the elevated grass portion of the memorial was once set with ornamental plants; these are no longer in existence (Figure 99). Adjacent to this monument is a decorative grave marker (1898) for Catherine O'Shea, the infant daughter of another former cemetery superintendent, Thomas O'Shea (or Shea) (Figure 100).

Two bronze tablets, one in section B and one in section E, indicate the positions of the 25th and 31st Iowa Infantry sharpshooters during the period of May 27 to July 4, 1863. The tablets with raised lettering are mounted at an angle on stone pillars (Figure 101). The tablets have a heavy patina. Related to these tablets are three cast iron position markers indicating trench locations of Union troops under the command of C. R. Woods (Figure 102). This type of upright marker is found throughout Vicksburg National Military Park and notes troop locations. The markers are painted red or blue to indicate whether troops were Confederate or Union.

A number of cast iron tablets are placed along the loop road, each with a stanza from the poem "Bivouac of the Dead" by Theodore O'Hara, a former newspaper editor who served in the Confederate army during the Civil War (Figure 103). The tablets are painted black with raised white lettering, and mounted at an angle on square, black-painted wood posts set in a concrete base. Similar tablets are placed in national cemeteries throughout the United States.

Two other types of wayside tablets, similar in style to the poem tablets, are located along the loop road. One type of tablet gives the expected rules of behavior while visitors are in the cemetery, as set forth in 1875 (Figure 104). One of these tablets is located near the current entrance to the cemetery, and one is located near the historic entrance. The other type of tablet gives visitors the text of the act that established the national cemeteries in 1867 (Figure 105). (Similar tablets are located in national cemeteries throughout the United States.) Both types of tablets, like the poem tablets, are cast iron slabs painted black with raised white-painted letters, mounted at an angle on square, black-painted wood posts set in a concrete base.

An upright wayside display is located near the intersection of the loop road and the maintenance road. This cast iron tablet, also painted black with raised white lettering, includes the full text of the Gettysburg Address, given by President Lincoln at the dedication of Gettysburg National Cemetery in 1863. The wayside is mounted on a black metal frame with two support posts, each mounted in a concrete base (Figure 106).

Other signs within the cemetery include a metal tour stop sign at the current entrance gate (Figure 107), two small metal standard NPS identification signs indicating that the Superintendent's Lodge and the gardener's cottage are private residences, small signs on a few trees featuring the common and botanical names of the tree, and a few standard Federal Highway Administration traffic signs indicating the direction of traffic.

Other small scale features within the cemetery landscape include boundary and safety chain link fences on the north and south sides of the cemetery (Figure 108). These features are not historic and detract somewhat from the historic and aesthetic character of the cemetery. The galvanized steel chain link fence is 6 feet tall and the north fence has a gate near its northeast corner (Figure 109). The fences are in fair condition, with some areas beginning to lean and one location along the north fence damaged by a fallen tree. A new chain link fence lined with plantings of firethorn was installed near the top of the bluff following stabilization work in 2011 (Figure 110).

In two places in the cemetery, grass access roads are intended to be controlled via low gates. The gates are formed by two metal posts connected by a metal cable (Figure 111). Both the posts and cable are severely rusted and one set of gates is missing the connecting cable.

Two large, decorative terra cotta pots, surviving from the early years of the cemetery, are located near the sidewalk leading to the superintendent's lodge (Figure 112). Many more of these pots were once placed throughout the cemetery. The pots are currently planted with a variety of ornamental species, including day lily (*Hemerocallis* sp.) and English ivy (*Hedera helix*), but require maintenance to avoid development of undesirable species such as poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*).

Located near the flagstaff mound behind the superintendent's lodge are a bell mounted between two metal supports set in a 7 foot by 4 foot concrete base, and a metal box containing the U.S. flag and POW/MIA flag (Figure 113). The bell itself dates to the early years of the cemetery, and was rung for the cemetery workers. The metal flag box is nestled in a shrub bed planted with wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*) to be hidden from view as much as possible. It contains a POW/MIA flag and other materials for flagpole maintenance.

Wood and metal picnic tables are located near the maintenance shops and gardener's cottage within the cemetery walls. A few other picnic tables, placed on concrete pads, are placed in the turf area between the cemetery and the USS *Cairo* exhibit. The picnic tables are intended for the use of cemetery maintenance staff or residents only.

**Feature: Vicksburg National Cemetery Headstones (1875–present)**

Feature Identification Number: HS-036, LCS 001358  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Section Markers**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: 25th and 31st Iowa Infantry Monument (1905)**

Feature Identification Number: HS-368, LCS 003690  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Union Prisoner of War Memorial**

Feature Identification Number: HS-903; LCD ID 091211  
Type of Feature Contribution: [To be determined: LCS notes "ineligible–managed as resource"]

**Feature: Vietnam memorials**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: [To be determined]

**Feature: Gun Monument 1 (1875)**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Gun Monument 2 (Placed in 1875, became fountain 1888)**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Gun Monument 3 (1875)**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Trindle Family Grave Marker (1875)**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Catherine O'Shea Grave Marker (1898)**

Feature Identification Number: N/A  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Bronze Tablets (early 1900s)**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Position Markers (early 1900s)**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: "Bivouac of the Dead" Wayside Tablets (circa 1881–1882)**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Informational and Regulatory Wayside Tablets (1870s–1880s)**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Gettysburg Address Wayside Display**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-contributing

**Feature: Other Informational and Regulatory Signage**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-contributing

**Feature: Chain link fence**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-contributing

**Feature: Post and cable access gates**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-contributing

**Feature: Terra cotta pots**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Bell**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Flagstaff box**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-contributing

**Feature: Picnic Tables**

Feature Identification Number:

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-contributing



**FIGURE 79.** Marker for unidentified soldiers. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 80.** Civil War era rounded headstone of identified Union soldier. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 81.** Typical Civil War era headstone for a Union soldier. Source: WJE, 2010.



**FIGURE 82, left.** Headstone at grave of Confederate soldier. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park, 2011.



**FIGURE 83, right.** Headstone at grave of Confederate soldier. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park, 2011.



**FIGURE 84.** Headstones for more recent burials. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 85.** Headstone at grave of Australian soldier, World War II burial. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park, 2011.



**FIGURE 86.** Headstone engulfed by tree roots. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 87.** Stone stabilization with metal support. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 88.** Private, family monument among headstones. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 89.** Private, family monument among headstones. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 90.** Large headstone monument. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 91.** Marble section marker. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 92.** 25th and 31st Iowa Infantry Monument. Source: WJE, 2010.



**FIGURE 93.** Union Prisoner of War Memorial. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 94.** Memorial commemoration stones. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 95.** Gun monument 1, located in a triangular turf island where the loop road intersects the maintenance road. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 96.** Gun monument 2, located in mound E and once used as a fountain at this location. Source: WJE, 2010.



**FIGURE 97.** Gun monument 3 in section O. Source: WJE, 2010.



**FIGURE 98.** Trindle family grave marker. Source: WJE, 2010.



**FIGURE 99.** Trindle Family grave site and monument, view looking northeast. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park.



**FIGURE 100.** Catherine O'Shea grave marker. Source: WJE, 2010.



**FIGURE 101.** Bronze tablets with 25th and 31st Iowa Infantry Sharpshooters' positions. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 102.** Position markers for Union troops. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 103.** Cast iron tablet with stanza from "Bivouac of the Dead." Source: JMA, 2010.



FIGURE 104. Cast iron tablet with rules of behavior. Source: JMA, 2010.



FIGURE 105. Tablet for "Act to establish and protect National Cemeteries." Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 106.** Wayside with text of the Gettysburg Address. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 107.** Battlefield tour stop sign. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park, 2011.



**FIGURE 108.** Chain link fence at south boundary. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 109.** Chain link fence at north boundary Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 110.** Chain link fence with firethorn plantings at top of Mint Spring Bluff. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park, 2011.



**FIGURE 111.** Metal posts and cable gate Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 112.** Decorative terra cotta pots Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 113.** Bell and flagstaff box Source: JMA, 2010.

## Utilities

Drainage of Vicksburg National Cemetery site has been problematic and challenging from the beginning of construction in 1866-1867. In 1868, due to continued slippage of the terraces, a bulwark of posts and timbers was built to aid in stabilization. However, in 1869 it was reported that the cemetery was still subject to slides. At this time, General Meigs ordered Maj. Alexander J. Perry to contact Frederick L. Olmsted of New York (the father of modern landscape architecture and the most famous landscape architect of the time) for a recommendation for someone competent to undertake the drainage work at the cemetery. Mr. James Gall, a civil engineer, was hired in February 1869 at the recommendation of Frederick Law Olmsted.

Gall's system of under drainage of each terrace, with tile drains at 4 feet below the bottom of the graves and 20 to 30 feet apart, as well as better surface drainage removed what he considered the causes of the landslides. For the most part this approach did work and Gall continued to initiate projects of road and drainage improvements for the cemetery through the late 1880s. In the 1890s, major damage again occurred to the embankments and the cemetery road from heavy rains. Repairs were made when necessary until 1933, when the bank near the Indian Mound caved in for 100 feet and the wall along the south side of the cemetery slid into Mint Spring Bayou in three places. The cave-in was blamed on inadequate drainage. A new system of terrace drainage was installed based on recommendations by the cemetery engineer, and consisted of a system of deep seepage drainage in the face of the hill along the rock surfaces and lateral tile pipes placed at the foot of each terrace, a short distance under the surface. Surface and subsurface drainage remain an ongoing problem and challenge for the cemetery (Meyers, 177). The Mint Spring Bluff restoration project completed in early 2011 is intended to permanently stabilize the southern bluff of the cemetery which supports the loop road and the Indian Mound (Figure 114). A large retaining wall with soil-nails was built to stabilize the slope.

Surface drainage was formerly collected along the original road by brick gutters. Larger concrete gutters were constructed over the original brick, and currently contain and channel surface drainage in the cemetery. Portions of the original brick gutters are extant, and are 2 feet 8 inches wide. The concrete gutters are 4 feet wide and drain the current asphalt loop road in various places (Figure 115). There are also smaller concrete gutters and grass swales adjacent to the loop road as it descends to lower elevations (Figure 116).

The section of the loop road to the north of the entrance that runs parallel to the perimeter wall is fitted with high curbing on the west edge to prevent water from further damaging the steep road bed, which is lined with large magnolia trees (refer to Figure 53). The landscape below the roadbed in this area is highly eroded and threatens the condition of trees, burials, and the surface of the landscape (Figure 117 and Figure 118).

Subsurface drainage also remains in the cemetery through a system of piping and culverts. The drainage structures require ongoing maintenance to avoid blockage from grass, mown grass, and leaves (Figure 119 and Figure 120). Standing water collects in the brick channel at the base of the perimeter wall on the southwest boundary of the cemetery; this drainage problem is common at lower elevations of the cemetery (Figure 121). Action of surface water continues to cause erosion, which threatens the stability of the burials and the terrace slope faces (refer to Figure 48).

### **Feature: Concrete Gutters**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-contributing

### **Feature: Curbs**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-contributing

### **Feature: Brick Culvert**

Feature Identification Number:  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Cemetery Perimeter Wall Brick Gutter**

Feature Identification Number:

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Feature: Drainage Grates**

Feature Identification Number:

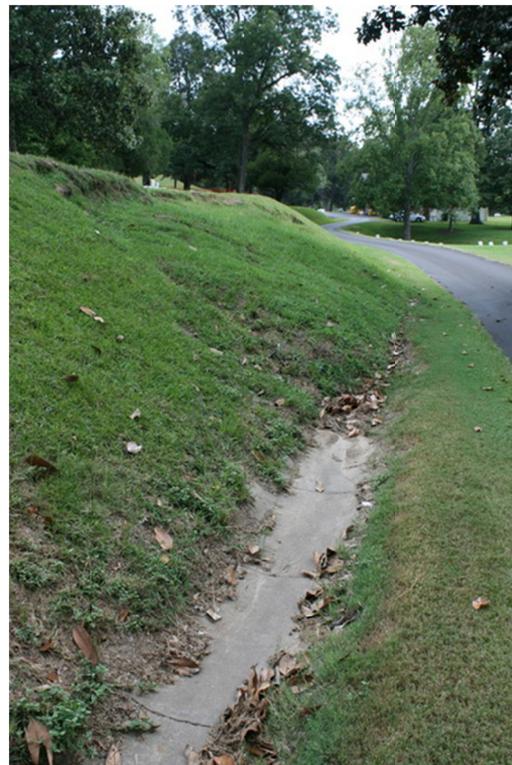
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-contributing



**FIGURE 114.** Mint Spring bluff stabilization project. Source: Vicksburg National Military Park, 2011.



**FIGURE 115, left.** Concrete gutters adjacent to asphalt loop road. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 116, right.** Concrete gutter and grass swale. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 117.** Erosion damage on terrace face below the loop road. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 118.** Erosion damage on the landscape below the loop road. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 119.** Brick culvert with leaf debris. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 120.** Landscape drainage grate. Source: JMA, 2010.



**FIGURE 121.** Standing water in brick channel of cemetery wall. Source: JMA, 2010.

## Condition Assessment

### Inventory Unit

<b>Stabilization Cost:</b>	N/A
<b>Stabilization Cost Date:</b>	N/A
<b>Stabilization Cost Level of Estimate:</b>	N/A
<b>Stabilization Cost Estimator:</b>	N/A
<b>Stabilization Measures Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Stabilization Cost Explanatory Narrative:</b>	N/A

### Condition Assessment

<b>Condition Assessment:</b>	Fair
<b>Condition Assessment Date:</b>	September 9, 2010

### Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative

Condition assessment occurred during field work, September 7–9, 2010.

### Impacts to Inventory Unit

<b>Type of Impact:</b> External or Internal: Impact Description:	<b>Adjacent Lands</b> External Areas of industrial warehouses outside the boundary of the cemetery negatively affect the integrity of historic views and vistas.
<b>Type of Impact:</b> External or Internal: Impact Description:	<b>Deferred Maintenance</b> Internal Sections of the brick boundary wall that are not monitored to address cracks, efflorescence, biological growth, foundation or slope slumps, or other distress conditions are vulnerable to future deterioration and potential structural failure.
<b>Type of Impact:</b> External or Internal: Impact Description:	<b>Erosion</b> Internal Terrace slopes are protected by grasses, but existing soil conditions have historically been and remain vulnerable to erosion and undercutting, aggravated by rainfall and inadequate drainage systems.
<b>Type of Impact:</b> External or Internal: Impact Description:	<b>Operations on site</b> Internal Monuments and markers are vulnerable to damage from mowing and trimming equipment.
<b>Type of Impact:</b> External or Internal: Impact Description:	<b>Drainage</b> Internal Culverts and drainage structures within the cemetery require ongoing maintenance to avoid blockage from debris including mown grass and to provide adequate drainage.

**Type of Impact:**

External or Internal:

Impact Description:

**Deterioration and Loss of Historic Fabric**

Internal

Monuments, section markers, headstones, and markers as well as the brick and concrete steps to the Indian Mound are susceptible to deterioration due to weathering processes and other conditions that weaken and crack bricks, concrete, and marble (Director's Order 61, recently issued, provides guidance on repair and maintenance of these historic resources.).

**Type of Impact:**

External or Internal:

Impact Description:

**Hazard Trees**

Internal

Monitoring of weakened or dead limbs and threatened trees should be continued to reduce windfall and other hazards, to protect the general health, safety, and welfare of cemetery visitors and workers.

## Treatment

### Inventory Unit

**Approved Landscape Treatment:** N/A

**Approved Landscape Treatment Completed:** N/A

**Approved Landscape Treatment Explanatory Narrative:** N/A

**Approved Landscape Treatment Document:** N/A

**Approved Landscape Treatment Document Date:** N/A

**Approved Landscape Treatment Cost:** N/A

**Approved Landscape Treatment Cost Date:** N/A

**Approved Landscape Treatment Level of Estimate:** N/A

**Approved Landscape Treatment Cost – Estimator:** N/A

**Approved Landscape Treatment Cost Explanatory Narrative:** N/A

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## **Supplemental Information**

NRID No.: 66000100

DSC/TIC No.: *to be added by SERO*

ARI No.: *to be added by SERO*