

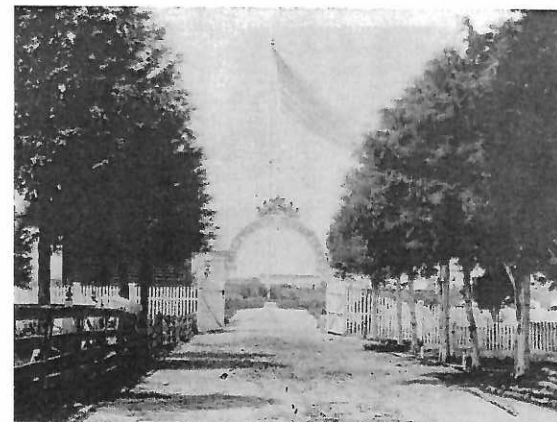
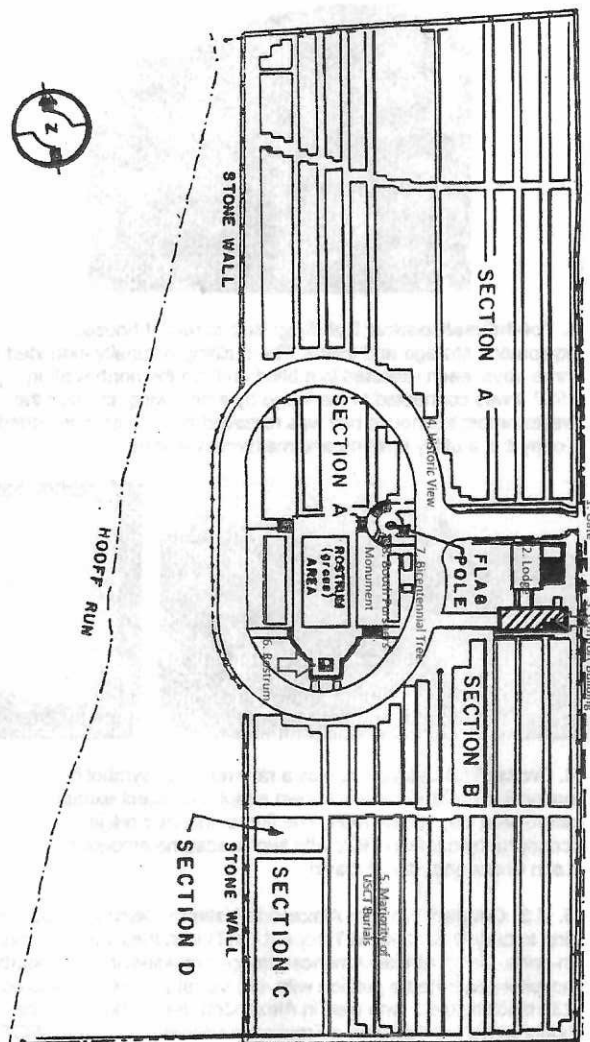
At a Glance: Alexandria National Cemetery

- Established in 1862 as one of the first national cemeteries.
- When it was almost at capacity, the Quartermaster began to plan and develop Arlington National Cemetery.
- Contains 4,087 individuals/graves: 3,991 known, 96 unknown.
- First national cemetery where white and black soldiers were interred together, by military order in 1864.
- The superintendent's lodge is a standard Second Empire design built at 55 national cemeteries, 1870-1881.
- The lodge is one of only two in the system built of Seneca sandstone, the local "brownstone" quarried in this area.
- Closed to casket burials in 1967.

Directions from the King Street Metro Station:

Walk east on King Street toward Old Town, turning right onto Daingerfield Road. Cross Duke Street at the light, and follow the bicycle/pedestrian route along Hooff Run. At Jamieson Avenue turn left. There is a pedestrian gate along Jamieson Avenue. Enter the cemetery and walk through until reaching the main gate at Wilkes Street.

6-2014



Walking Tour of Historic Alexandria National Cemetery

1450 Wilkes Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Alexandria National Cemetery is located at the southern boundary of historic Alexandria, Virginia. Established in 1862, the 5.5-acre cemetery contains the remains of veterans who served in every major conflict from the Civil War through the Vietnam War.

This is one of 131 national cemeteries managed by the National Cemetery Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



1. Entrance: Formal cast-iron gates installed in 1892 feature familiar military images—eagles, flags, cannon. Identical gates were used at other cemeteries. The original entrance had a wooden arch (cover photo).



2. Superintendent's Lodge: Constructed in 1871, interior severely damaged in an 1878 fire, restored in 1887. Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs oversaw the development of this Second Empire design. It was built in stone or brick at more than 50 national cemeteries across the country. Only the lodges here and Battle Ground National Cemetery, D.C., are constructed of locally quarried Seneca sandstone. There are two front doors: one leads to the cemetery office, the other to the residence.



3. Toolhouse/Comfort Building: Built in 1887 it housed equipment, storage and toilets. The building originally extended to three bays, each reflected in a blind arch on the north wall. In 1927 it was connected to the lodge by a new wing. In 1952 the westernmost toolhouse bay was removed and the garage added. Today it is a utility building and maintenance shed.



4. Cross: This Latin cross was a rare religious symbol in a national cemetery. Little is known about this object except it was short-lived, ca. 1860s-1900. The first authorized religious iconography came in 1922 with two headstone emblems of belief: Latin Cross and Star of David.

5. U.S. Colored Troops: Alexandria National Cemetery was the first to bury U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) with their white brothers-in-arms. Union African-American troops convalescing in a nearby hospital generated a petition with 443 signatures which assured 230 black soldiers who died in Alexandria during the war were honored here rather than a Freedman's cemetery. Many USCT are buried in Sections B and C.



6. Rostrum: This 1945 marble rostrum replaced the original brick and wrought-iron rostrum from 1890. Although based on a standard plan from 1944, this is thought to be the only example of "Standard Rostrum Type A" built in the national cemetery system.

7. Bicentennial Tree: Recognized first in 1980 as a "living witness to the American Revolution," this sweet gum tree is thought to be over 200 years old. Only one other surviving bicentennial tree is found on public property in Alexandria.



8. Monument Dedicated to the Pursuers of Lincoln's Assassin: Four Quartermaster Corps employees drowned in the Rappahannock River on April 24, 1865, in pursuit of Abraham Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth. The men are buried nearby, in Section A, graves 3147-3177. On July 7, 1922, a granite boulder with an attached bronze tablet was erected in the cemetery in memorial of these men.