

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT FOR POPLAR GROVE NATIONAL CEMETERY

PETERSBURG NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD
DINWIDDIE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

SITE HISTORY

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ANALYSIS & EVALUATION

TREATMENT

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By John Auwaerter, Historical Landscape Architect
George W. Curry, Project Director
State University of New York,
College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Syracuse, New York

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Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
Boston National Historical Park
Charlestown Navy Yard, Quarters C
Boston, MA 02129
617.241-6954
www.nps.gov/oclp/

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Cover Photo: Detail, Plan of National Cemetery, Poplar Grove, Virginia. Office of the Quartermaster General, 1892. National Archives, Washington, D. C.

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Note on the treatment draft: The treatment recommendations for the grave markers reflect reorganization of grave markers in the existing conditions chapter of the 95% draft (October 2006). The revised existing conditions will be provided in the final draft of the complete CLR.

TREATMENT

Since the War Department transferred administration to the National Park Service in 1933, the landscape of Poplar Grove National Cemetery has undergone numerous changes that have altered its historic character and visual relationship to the historic National Cemetery System. While the overall structure and major built features remain intact, many of the details in the landscape have been altered, lost, or obscured. Through a fairly limited number of interventions, however, the Poplar Grove landscape can be returned to its historic character and once again provide due honor and respect to those who gave their lives in service to the country.

The intent of this chapter is to recommend changes to the landscape that will enhance its historic character and existing function. These recommendations address the scope of the forthcoming line-item construction project, PMIS 89424: “Restore Facilities, Resources & Character Defining Elements to National Cemetery Standards,” as well as other short and long-term treatment issues as revealed through research for this report. The recommendations are based on the findings of the preceding site history, existing conditions, and analysis & evaluation, as well as input from park staff provided at a discussion of preliminary treatment recommendations held at Petersburg on December 6, 2006.

[Forthcoming: address issues/comments from planned civic engagement]

This chapter begins with a preface summarizing the regulatory framework for treatment and establishes a treatment approach for the Poplar Grove landscape. The framework addresses the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards, and the relationship of National Park Service national cemetery regulations and policies to parallel regulations and policies within the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Based on this framework, the treatment approach recommends a primary treatment and an overall treatment goal that defines the intended historic character of the landscape in the context of existing use and management. A discussion of the general treatment issues associated with the treatment approach concludes the preface.

The body of this chapter consists of narrative guidelines that describe tasks necessary to preserve, enhance, and restore the historic character of the landscape based on the treatment framework and recommended treatment approach. Where appropriate, the guidelines present alternatives that are compatible with the historic character of the landscape. The narrative guidelines are supported by graphics, including a series of treatment plans showing recommended tasks and alternatives.

FRAMEWORK FOR TREATMENT

Treatment describes how a landscape should look in the future based on the objective of preserving and enhancing the historic character of the landscape. For Poplar Grove, the significance of the landscape (as recommended in the Analysis & Evaluation of this CLR) extends from the establishment of the cemetery in 1866 through the end of War Department administration in 1933. This timeframe is set within a broader period of significance from 1866 through the last burial in 2003 that recognizes the significance of post-1933 burials in the context of Poplar Grove as a national cemetery. The treatment recommendations in this chapter, while focused on historic preservation, have been developed within the context of other current park management goals, such as public access, preservation of natural resources, contemporary uses, and interpretation. Treatment does not address routine and cyclical measures, such as tree pruning and lawn mowing, necessary to maintain the existing character of the landscape.¹

The treatment recommendations in this chapter primarily concern the cemetery proper—the land within and including the cemetery inclosure wall—and the cemetery approach from Vaughan Road. The cemetery is under federal ownership and National Park Service administration, while the approach road is under separate ownership but subject to a right-of-way held by the federal government. The treatment recommendations also address the surrounding private properties that form the historic setting of the cemetery as well as a portion of the approach road. Treatment of private property is presented based on the park's intention of future public-private collaboration to achieve preservation objectives, such as through acquisition of easements or other agreements, or through federal acquisition of title to all or part of those lands.

REGULATIONS, STANDARDS & GUIDELINES FOR TREATMENT

As a component of the National Park System, treatment of Poplar Grove National Cemetery is guided by National Park Service cultural resource management guidelines and the context of planning established by Petersburg National Battlefield through its General Management Plan. Poplar Grove is also subject to NPS regulations specific to national cemeteries. Administration of Poplar Grove and the thirteen other national cemeteries within NPS is unique from a policy standpoint because it defers in part to regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which administers the contemporary National Cemetery System through the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). As reorganized in 1973, the National Cemetery System is comprised only of those national cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the Department of

Veterans Affairs (VA).² While Poplar Grove is thus not legally part of the contemporary National Cemetery System, it was historically developed as part of the system, and it is largely for this reason that National Park Service national cemetery regulations defer in part to those of the National Cemetery Administration.

In the broadest sense, the framework for the treatment of the Poplar Grove landscape, as well as all other National Register-listed or eligible national cemeteries including those within the contemporary National Cemetery System, is established through the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. The Standards outline four approaches to treatment, as applied to the entire property and including all types of resources: Preservation (maintenance of the landscape as it currently exists); Restoration (returning the landscape to a prior historic condition); Reconstruction (rebuilding of a lost landscape); and Rehabilitation (retaining the historic character of the landscape while making compatible modifications to address contemporary uses and needs; usually incorporates one or all of the other treatments). These four treatments share a common philosophical approach that emphasizes retention of historic character and repair rather than replacement of historic materials.³

Interpretation of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* within NPS management is found in a hierarchy of regulations and policies. The overall regulations pertaining to the Poplar Grove landscape are contained in 36 CFR Part 12: National Cemetery Regulations. These regulations, modeled after the parallel regulations under the National Cemetery Administration (38 CFR Part 38: National Cemeteries of the Department of Veterans Affairs) provide general direction on cemetery use, focusing on interments, special events, floral tributes, and grave markers, but provide little direction on the management of the cemeteries as cultural resources. Such overall direction is provided in NPS Management Policies (2001), which state under section 8.6.10.1 (Use of the Parks):

*All national cemeteries administered by the National Park Service will be managed as historically significant resources, and as integral parts of larger historical parks. Burials in national cemeteries will be permitted, pursuant to applicable regulations, until available space has been filled...The enlargement of a national cemetery for additional burials constitutes a modern intrusion, compromising the historical character of both the cemetery and historical park, and will not be permitted.*⁴

More specific policy is contained in NPS Director's Order #61: National Cemetery Operations. The purpose of this Director's Order (DO) is to

supplement the Management Policies and “...set forth additional policy and procedures by which the NPS will preserve and administer the national cemeteries for which the NPS is responsible.”⁵ As with the National Cemetery Regulations and Management Policies, the emphasis of DO #61 is placed on the use of the cemetery, rather than on the treatment of the landscape. While it provides the overall framework for treatment of the landscape as a cultural resource, DO #61 only contains specific policy on the installation of new headstones, markers, and commemorative monuments, and use of flags. For details on the treatment of headstones and markers, DO #61 defers to National Cemetery Administration’s *VA Manual M40-3* (Headstones and Markers). Finalized on December 1, 1982 and currently being revised, this manual details eligibility, documentation, and style of marker. Important specifications for cultural landscape treatment include the types of headstones furnished (including Civil/Spanish-American War-style headstones), disposition of removed headstones, and replacement of headstones. Much of the manual is devoted to specifications for inscriptions.⁶

While treatment of the Poplar Grove landscape is subject only to the National Cemetery Administration’s headstone and markers policy, it is important as part of the framework for treatment to understand the intent of other the administration’s management policies regarding landscape and overall character for its national cemeteries. By understanding this intent, it is possible to see how the National Cemetery Administration interprets the federal government’s historic mission to convey honor and respect in the landscapes of the national cemeteries. In response to a law passed in 1999 (Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefit Act of 1999), the National Cemetery Administration undertook a study to assess improvements needed to its national cemeteries. The National Shrine Commitment was established out of this study as the overall vision for national cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs:

A national shrine is a place of honor and memory that declares to the visitor or family member who views it that, within its majestic setting, each and every veteran may find a sense of serenity, historic sacrifice and nobility of purpose. Each visitor should depart feeling that the grounds, the gravesites and the environs of the national cemetery are a beautiful and awe-inspiring tribute to those who gave much to preserve our Nation’s freedom and way of life.⁷

As detailed in the National Cemetery Administration’s “Operational Standards and Measures” (2004) that implement the National Shrine Commitment, these characteristics are evident in the standardization and military regularity that has

become a hallmark of national cemeteries, as well as through a high level of maintenance and care in the landscape. These characteristics are evident at the National Cemetery Administration's Civil War-era Richmond National Cemetery (fig. 4.1). The Operational Standards and Measures outline requirements ranging from the percentage of the lawn that must be weed free, to the percentage of headstones that must not show evidence of debris or objectionable accumulations (fig. 4.2).⁸ Although the National Shrine Commitment only pertains to the National Cemetery Administration, its standards designed to impart honor, memory, majesty, serenity, and beauty were also found historically in the development of all first-generation national cemeteries, including Poplar Grove. Some current National Cemetery Administration standards, however, such as recommendations for installing contemporary memorial walks and avenues of flags, or even certain standards of maintenance, may not be appropriate where there is a conflict with National Park Service cultural resource management guidelines. The character of most National Park Service-administered national cemeteries, such as Antietam, differs largely through the level of maintenance directed toward the headstones and lawn (fig. 4.3).

The most detailed and appropriate framework for the treatment of Poplar Grove is the National Cemetery Regulations issued by the War Department in 1931.⁹ [Applicable excerpts in Appendix XX]. These regulations, initially published in 1911 and reflecting cemetery standards extending back to the founding of the system during the Civil War, provide detailed direction on the treatment of headstones, buildings, and grounds during the period of significance for the Poplar Grove landscape. The regulations address the care and appearance of the standard features found at Poplar Grove, as well as the overall character of vegetation. While these 1931 regulations provide an appropriate basis for the treatment of historic landscape features, they do not, however, address current uses at Poplar Grove, particularly the importance of historic preservation and interpretation.

Finally, the framework for the treatment of Poplar Grove also includes the general park planning direction provided through the recently completed General Management Plan (GMP) for Petersburg National Battlefield. While not offering any specific details on landscape treatment (except to a reference about replacing headstones), the preferred alternative in the GMP calls for the rehabilitation of Poplar Grove to reflect the original sense of contemplation, quiet, and solemnity as part of the park's "Historic Interpretive Zone." The preferred alternative, entitled "The Landscape Tells the Stories," states: "Visitors to the cemetery will experience a place much closer in design and atmosphere to the original cemetery, established in 1868 [sic]. The replaced headstones will evoke the original intentions of the designer."¹⁰ In addition, the preferred

alternative calls for National Park Service acquisition of the land adjoining the cemetery to protect the setting and the adjoining battlefield, and for rehabilitating the cemetery lodge into a visitor contact station for Poplar Grove and other areas within the park's Western Front."

TREATMENT APPROACH

Although the National Park Service has followed a general preservation approach toward the Poplar Grove landscape since the last improvement plans were drafted in the late 1970s, the loss and alteration of many historic landscape features prior to that time has meant that the landscape has been maintained in a manner that does not reflect its historic character. Appropriate treatment has also been hindered by a lack of documentation relating to the history of the landscape, private ownership of the cemetery setting and the approach road, and the long-standing limitations of funding and staffing. A revised treatment approach is needed to reestablish the historic character of the landscape and to appropriately honor the soldiers buried there, in keeping with the historic intent of the national cemetery system.

Recommended Primary Treatment

The recommended primary (overall) treatment for Poplar Grove National Cemetery is "Rehabilitation," in keeping with the preferred alternative described in the General Management Plan and the general scope of work in the upcoming line-item construction project. As stated in "DO-28: Cultural Resource Management," Rehabilitation improves the utility or function of a cultural landscape, through repair or alteration, to make possible an efficient compatible use while preserving those portions or features that are important in defining its significance. The following standards based on the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* apply to the rehabilitation of Poplar Grove:

- *A cultural landscape is used as it was historically or is given a new or adaptive use that maximizes the retention of historic materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.*
- *The historic character of a cultural landscape is retained and preserved.*
- *The replacement or removal of intact or repairable historic materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a landscape is avoided.*
- *Each cultural landscape is recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as*

adding conjectural features from other landscapes, are not undertaken. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate, and conserve historic materials and features is physically and visually compatible, identifiable upon close inspection, and properly documented for future research.

- *Changes to a cultural landscape that have acquired historical significance in their own right are retained and preserved.*
- *Historic materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a cultural landscape are preserved.*
- *Deteriorated historic features are repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires repair or replacement of a historic feature, the new feature matches the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Repair or replacement of missing features is substantiated by archeological, documentary, or physical evidence.*
- *Chemical or physical treatments that cause damage to historic materials are not used.*
- *Archeological and structural resources are protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures are undertaken including recovery, curation, and documentation.*
- *Additions, alterations, or related new construction do not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the cultural landscape. New work is differentiated from the old and is compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing of the landscape.*
- *Additions and adjacent or related new construction are undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the cultural landscape would be unimpaired.¹²*

Rehabilitation is the most appropriate treatment for Poplar Grove National Cemetery because of the need to provide for contemporary park functions and visitor services, such as interpretation, parking, and maintenance; to address the lack of historic documentation on the vegetation and to allow for modifications to accommodate grave preservation and sustainable landscape maintenance; to screen modern development within the setting of the cemetery; and to allow for continued use of the cemetery for the possible reinterment of Civil War remains. Such contemporary modifications will be in keeping with the historic character of the landscape and represent a minor component in the overall treatment. Within Rehabilitation as the primary treatment, much of the feature-level treatment will involve Preservation, Restoration, and Reconstruction in order to reestablish the historic character of the landscape.

Primary Treatment Alternatives Considered But Not Recommended

Among the other *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, "Preservation" is not recommended as the primary treatment for Poplar Grove National Cemetery because it would retain the existing appearance that is inconsistent with its historic character of the landscape and perpetuates a perceived dishonor to the veterans buried therein.

"Restoration" is not recommended as the primary treatment for Poplar Grove National Cemetery due to lack of adequate documentation, particularly regarding the vegetation, the need to address contemporary park uses and visitor needs, and the existence of post-1933 graves that extend the period of significance under Criterion A to 2003.

"Reconstruction" is not recommended as the primary treatment for Poplar Grove National Cemetery because the cemetery retains much of its historic fabric. Reconstruction as a primary treatment would theoretically involve rebuilding a vanished landscape.

Treatment Goal

The recommended overall treatment goal for the rehabilitation of Poplar Grove National Cemetery is to reestablish the character of the landscape at the end of the War Department era, c.1933, corresponding with the final years of the recommended period of significance for the landscape under National Register Criterion C. This treatment goal recognizes the continued use of the cemetery for burials after 1933, and preserves these later graves as part of the significance of the cemetery under National Register Criterion A. Aside from the graves, the changes made under National Park Service administration after 1933 are not significant within the established contexts of landscape design, the national cemetery system, and association with the Civil War. Where post-1933 features or alterations conflict with the historic character of the cemetery, they will be recommended for removal; where they are compatible with the historic character through c.1933, they may be retained for aesthetic or functional values, or simply as part of the continued evolution of the cemetery landscape.

The following paragraph describes the recommended appearance and function of Poplar Grove National Cemetery based on implementation of the treatment goal—returning to the historic character of the end of the War Department era, c.1933. (A detailed description of the historic character of the landscape is found in the Analysis & Evaluation.)

Poplar Grove National Cemetery is a sacred and well-preserved historic landscape of honor and memory. The landscape is the resource that tells the cemetery's story, from its initial establishment in 1866 through its development under the War Department into the early 1930s, as well as subsequent use for new burials through 1957 and for reinterment of Civil War remains to the present. The landscape is characterized by a circular plan with upright white marble tablet headstones and blocks, unified by lawn and shaded by an informal distribution of specimen evergreen and deciduous trees, including loblolly pines that predate the cemetery's establishment. The graves are centered on a majestic flagstaff encircled by gun monuments, and are organized by radiating and circular grass drives and walks. A screened service yard and welcoming assembly area with a well-preserved iron rostrum and Meigs-style lodge flank the entrance. The cemetery is set apart from the surrounding rural setting by a brick inclosure with gates approached through a ceremonial tree-lined road. The landscape is well maintained and retains the historic standardized features common to Civil War-era national cemeteries.

The emphasis of treatment on the late War Department era reflects a general intent of not "freezing" the landscape at a specific date, but rather evoking the character as it had evolved into the early 1930s. Aside from corresponding with the end of the period of significance, the late War Department era (c.1933) was chosen as the most appropriate treatment period for the following additional reasons:

- The War Department undertook a five-year improvement program between c.1929 and 1933 that resulted in the addition of the public restroom building and garage, the planting of 101 trees, a metal roof on the lodge, a new flagstaff, paving of the approach road and main drive, and removal of the old stable and lodge kitchen. This period reflects the maturity of the landscape after more than six decades of War Department administration. Returning the landscape to an earlier character would present inconsistencies with these post-1929 features that would not be in keeping with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*.
- Restoring the "original" plan of Poplar Grove, as described in the General Management Plan, is not feasible because there was no one original design for the landscape aside from the arrangement of the graves and circulation. Many landscape features were added and altered subsequent to the cemetery's initial development between 1866 and 1869, including building of the lodge and service buildings and removal of the

original gravel surface and brick gutters on the drives in the 1870s, addition of the Rostrum in 1897, surfacing of the main drive with gravel in c.1900, and thinning of vegetation through the early twentieth century. The improvements made between c.1929 and 1933 represented a continuation of the cemetery's historic development.

- There is a lack of graphic documentation on the landscape adequate to return to a character prior to c.1929. The earliest photograph, only showing the main entrance, was taken in 1904 (see fig. 1.57); the next oldest is looking toward the flagstaff, taken in 1914 (see fig. 1.59). While the overall plan is well documented, there is no adequate documentation on other landscape features such as vegetation prior to a planting plan made by the War Department in 1931. The 1892 Quartermaster General plan of the cemetery (see fig. 1.53) shows the location of woody vegetation, but does not indicate species, scale, or the distinction between trees and shrubs. It also does not indicate the location of flowerbeds. By 1892, there had already been much change in the vegetation in addition to natural dynamics of growth and decline, notably through the removal of the sylvan hall of elms. Returning to the dense planting scheme of c.1892 or earlier would also likely pose an impractical maintenance burden.
- The national cemetery regulations published by the War Department in 1931 correspond with the recommend treatment period, thus providing a sound basis for treatment of most landscape features. There were apparently no published set of regulations prior to 1911.

GENERAL TREATMENT ISSUES

Aside from the overarching issue of loss of historic character in the landscape, the following are general treatment issues that are addressed in the treatment guidelines and tasks described in the second part of this chapter.

Balancing Historic Character and National Cemetery Standards

Since the Civil War, the character of national cemeteries has been defined overall by the intangible attributes of respect, honor, and memory. While these attributes were manifested largely in the standardized design of the national cemeteries, there is currently some difference in how the National Park Service and the National Cemetery Administration manifest them in the maintenance and treatment of cemetery landscapes under their respective jurisdictions. The current national cemetery standards of the National Cemetery Administration may present a level of treatment and maintenance that detracts from historic character, such as removal of mature trees without replacement, installation of

contemporary site features (benches, signs, plantings) that are incompatible with the historic character of the landscape, or cleaning headstones to a pristine white three times per year that may impact the long-term conservation of the stone (see figs. 4.1, 4.2).¹³ The National Park Service, in contrast, does not routinely clean its headstones or maintain the lawn to the same uniform quality (see fig 4.3). As discussed under the preceding framework for treatment, the park service is not obligated to follow the National Cemetery Administration's landscape policies and regulations, except as they pertain to the design of headstones and markers. Despite this, a low level of maintenance in the landscape—even though it may be the best preservation approach in a material sense—may inappropriately evoke an unintended message of disrespect for the soldiers. The National Park Service must therefore carefully guard against certain aspects of maintenance and treatment that may be perceived as disrespect, but at the same time also preserve the historic character and materials of the landscape. In summary, this issue may be best addressed at Poplar Grove by adhering to historic National Cemetery Regulations (1931), in particular with regard to the cleanliness of the gravestones and overall level of landscape maintenance that may be greater than is typically found at National Battlefields or other National Park Service historic sites.

Protection of the Cemetery Setting and Approach Road

Aside from the 3.7-acre Odom Tract acquired by the National Park Foundation in 1991 that includes a portion of the approach road, all of the privately-owned land surrounding Poplar Grove National Cemetery is subject to development that could fundamentally alter the historic rural setting. In certain places, private land extends to within one-to-five feet of the inclosure wall. Since the construction of the Blaha and Peterson houses along the east side of the cemetery in c.1972, no further development has occurred, but development pressures within northeastern Dinwiddie County are growing. The preferred alternative (D) of the General Management Plan (GMP, 2004) recommends acquisition of the private property surrounding the cemetery, as part of the Globe Tavern battlefield, except for the wooded tract on the southeastern side of the cemetery. Although not part of the battlefield, this wooded tract (former Farley farm) provides an important part of the setting of the cemetery and also warrants protection. Implementation of the preferred alternative of the GMP, acquisition of the National Park Foundation-owned Odom tract, and protection of the Richardson-Farley property would provide the means to address this issue and implement appropriate treatment of the landscape setting.

Specimen Trees in Burial Grounds

At Richmond-area national cemeteries, the National Cemetery Administration generally does not consider trees to be beneficial within the burial grounds, and therefore does not replace trees when they are lost, except when they are outside

of burial grounds.¹⁴ Aside from maintenance concerns, grave markers can be heaved by tree roots and trunks, and roots can potentially disturb graves, although this is not well documented. The impact of tree roots on graves and grave markers varies depending on the root characteristics of the tree species—either shallow lateral roots, tap roots, or an intermediate spreading with deep laterals. Selection of tap-rooted trees, planting in the walks instead of between individual graves, and creating optimal growing conditions may address this issue. An archeologist should be consulted to determine what impacts, if any, there may be on the underlying graves.

Inadequacy of Existing Grave Location System

The present grave location system at Poplar Grove is provided by a worn burial ledger sign and map next to the central flagstaff, which reflects the c.1957 reordering of the cemetery into blocks and radial avenues lettered A through F. The sign has become illegible due to fading, and there are no markers identifying individual blocks, only small signs at the center identifying the radial drives. Most national cemeteries have grave section markers, and also provide grave location information at the cemetery entrance, not at the center. Introduction of a new information wayside near the cemetery entrance with a burial ledger and cemetery plan, returning the cemetery to its original division-section classification, and installation of section markers would address this issue.

Landscape Interpretation

There is presently a lack of adequate historical interpretation available to visitors when the cemetery is unstaffed. Interpretive devices are limited to a worn sign at the flagstaff that contains an illustration of Poplar Grove Church and a brief narrative on the history of Poplar Grove limited to the initial reburial phase of its development. There is no interpretation of the landscape as it presently exists, or of Poplar Grove's relationship to the national cemetery system. Interpretation is provided verbally by a park ranger, but the cemetery is only staffed part time. When not staffed, most visitors leave with a very limited understanding of the cemetery's history and significance. Reintroduction of signs (tablets) that existed historically within the cemetery, along with introduction of new interpretive signage and rehabilitation of the lodge into a visitor contact station, would address this issue. New interpretive signs should be excluded from within the cemetery except for an information wayside near the cemetery entrance that would contain grave location information, a brief historical overview, and a burial register. If exterior interpretive signs are needed, they would most appropriately be located near the visitor parking lot, outside of the cemetery inclosure wall.

Interpretation of the Civil War events prior to the establishment of the cemetery in 1866, while outside of the period of significance for Poplar Grove, can still be achieved through the landscape. Reestablishment of the grave markers in their historic upright position will provide visitors with a clear understanding of the vast numbers of fallen soldiers, and large percentage of them who were never identified as represented by the blocks (square posts). The Camp of the 50th New York Volunteer Engineers, and its namesake for the cemetery, Poplar Grove Church, can also be interpreted in the landscape. Aside from the relationship between the camp and the cemetery plan, the continued survival of loblolly pines—which surround the camp and were retained in the development of the cemetery—provide the sole surviving physical link to the camp landscape (fig. 4.4). Only four loblolly pines remain today. Reestablishing and sustaining these trees in the landscape should be a priority for treatment.

Inadequate Visitor Amenities and Accessibility

There are currently few amenities for visitors to Poplar Grove aside from restrooms, which along with the lodge are not universally (ADA) accessible. The lodge, which most recently served as a park staff residence but is now unoccupied except to serve as an office when a park ranger is present, contains no facilities for tourists or those visiting family graves. There are no benches within the cemetery, as there were historically. The cemetery assembly area, located in the open lawn in front of the rostrum, has lost most of its vegetation and has a barren and forlorn character, providing little shade during warm-weather events such as Memorial Day. The parking lot is a simple asphalt lot with worn sand coating that is not a welcoming or visually pleasing entrance to the cemetery for visitors. It is bordered by scrubby successional woods in which there are piles of compost and refuse. Providing new visitor amenities and redesigning existing non-historic ones, along with rehabilitation of the lodge as a visitor contact station, would address this issue.

Inadequate Directional and Cemetery Identification Signs

The cemetery entrance at Vaughan Road is presently identified by a modest, standard park service sign, approximately 4' x 3'. In its overall design, the sign does not denote the historic solemnity of the cemetery or Poplar Grove's historic association with the national cemetery system. In addition, the presence of a group of private mailboxes on the opposite side of the approach road detracts from the federal identity of the cemetery and its connection to the approach road. As visitors proceed on the approach road, there are small directional signs, but none that provide a sense of arrival once visitors reach the parking lot. At the cemetery gates, there are no signs identifying the cemetery by name or directing visitors toward the information signs at the flagstaff. Two iron plaques that read "U. S. National Cemetery" are affixed to the cemetery gates, but these do not identify the cemetery by name. Redesign of the Vaughan Road sign and introduction of a new sign near the cemetery gates would address this issue.

Poor Drainage and Uneven Topography

Poplar Grove suffers from two areas with poor drainage where standing water often collects after periods of rain. This problem is most acute at the low point near the northwest corner of the cemetery, where the water often covers grave markers in Division D, Section G. Another area of poor drainage is located along the south wall between Sections D and E of Division A, where water pools within the drive along the wall. In addition, several areas with the burial grounds, such as within Division B, have settled, creating an uneven surface that presents a tripping hazard and difficulties in mowing. Regrading and redesign of the drainage outlets would address these issues.

TREATMENT GUIDELINES AND TASKS

This section provides guidelines for implementing the rehabilitation of Poplar Grove National Cemetery according to the treatment framework previously outlined. These guidelines are organized by five landscape treatment areas, as shown on Drawing 7: cemetery setting and approach (CSA), cemetery inclosure (CI), service yard (SY), lodge grounds (LG), and burial grounds (BG). These are discussed in order of approach from the cemetery entrance (Vaughan Road). Each treatment area begins with an overview of issues, and then describes individual treatment tasks, listed by general priority and/or sequence. Each task lists the affected landscape features, as inventoried in chapter 3 (analysis & evaluation).

Where appropriate, tasks identify alternative treatment strategies compatible with the historic character of the landscape. Preservation is the default treatment where landscape features have no specific tasks identified. Treatment tasks are illustrated on the treatment plan (Drawing 7), cemetery approach detail plan (Drawing 8), parking lot alternatives (Drawing 9), lodge grounds plantings (Drawing 10) and on additional graphics (figs. 4.5-4.21). Tables with a summary list of tasks and list of recommended plant materials are at the end of this chapter.

CEMETERY SETTING AND APPROACH (CSA)

Overview

Overall treatment objectives for the setting and approach to Polar Grove National Cemetery (encompassing the area outside of the cemetery inclosure wall including the existing National Park Foundation-owned Odom tract) are to retain and enhance the historic rural surroundings, and to reestablish the ceremonial and solemn character of the cemetery approach.¹⁵ The entire approach road is under private ownership (with the section through the Odom tract owned by the National Park Foundation), with a government right-of-way along the entire road. The treatment tasks identify, where appropriate, alternatives based on the level of existing and proposed federal interest in the private property. Most of the treatment tasks address natural succession (woods) and modern development (Blaha and Peterson houses and drive) that have altered historic spatial character and views.

In order to ensure long-term preservation of the historic setting and approach to the cemetery given the lack of a local preservation or conservation ordinance, it is strongly recommended that the land acquisition proposal under the preferred alternative (D) of the General Management Plan (2004) be implemented,

including the need to expand the acquisition boundaries of the park (the boundaries currently correspond with the existing cemetery land in federal ownership). The General Management Plan calls for federal acquisition of all but one tract surrounding Poplar Grove as part of the Battlefield Protection Zone, intended primarily to protect the Globe Tavern battlefield (fig. 4.5). Although only approximately four of these acres (cemetery approach road and north field/Taylor farm) are specifically identified for protection of Poplar Grove National Cemetery in the General Management Plan, a far larger amount of acreage is important to the cemetery's historic setting.¹⁶ If federal acquisition of these properties in fee is not feasible, it is recommended that other means of protection be pursued, such as acquisition of development rights and easements, or legal agreements with the property owners to permit the National Park Service to carry out the recommended treatment tasks. The Odom tract, although not federally owned, is protected through its ownership by the National Park Foundation.

Among the parcels identified for acquisition, the highest priority for protection of the cemetery's landscape setting should be the north, south, and southeast fields of the Taylor farm, encompassing approximately fifteen acres of the thirty-five acre farm (see fig. 4.5). Acquisition of this land would place the approach road in federal ownership, along with the flanking fields that are critical to preserving the rural setting of the approach. The portion of the private drive parcel extending between the north field and the Odom tract should also be acquired as a first priority. The second priority for protection is the land at the head of the approach road and adjoining the cemetery on the north, east, and south sides. This includes the south pasture on the Taylor farm, the field fronting on Vaughan Road and the approach road within the adjoining farm north of the Taylor farm [31 acre parcel—ownership?], and the north and east woods (parcels containing the Blaha and Peterson residences and private drive) to a depth of approximately 200 feet from the inclosure wall. The parcel along the southeast side of the cemetery (Richardson/Farley) was not identified for acquisition in the GMP, but the wooded northern portion should be protected from development to a minimum of approximately 200 feet from the inclosure wall.

The fields adjoining Poplar Grove should be kept in traditional agricultural use to retain the historic character of the cemetery setting. Agricultural uses should be limited to cultivated crops and pasture. Introduction of new agricultural uses that differ in appearance, sound, or smell from existing and historic uses should be closely reviewed for compatibility with the cemetery setting. If agricultural uses cannot be continued in the future, the fields should be kept as meadow at a height

of approximately two-to-three feet to retain the historic spatial character of the landscape.

CSA-Task 1: Redesign Cemetery Identification Signs

- Small-Scale Features: Vaughan Road Entrance Sign (non-contributing)

Install new cemetery signs to enhance the identity of the cemetery and better reflect its historic solemnity. The existing standard park service sign at Vaughan Road should be replaced, and a new sign should also be installed on the south side of the approach road near the cemetery gates to supplement the non-historic plaques that state “U. S. National Cemetery” without identifying the cemetery by name. Since there is no historic documentation on historic signs, the new signs should employ a contemporary, compatible design using a rectangular board, simple symmetrical layout, and capital letters. The Vaughan Road entrance sign should be the larger sign, while the one near the entrance gates should be more subtle in deference to the design of the historic gates. Suggested designs are shown in figure 4.6. The non-historic stone ring around the Vaughan Road sign should be removed and the foreground maintained as well-tended lawn.

CSA-Task 2: Remove West Woods

- Natural Systems & Features: West Woods (non-contributing)
- Spatial Organization: North Field (contributing/setting)

Provided the north field of the Taylor farm is protected from development, clear the non-historic successional woods and return the land to field (Drawing 8). The land, which has an uneven topography, should be meadow maintained at a height below two-to-three feet. Removal of the west woods will restore the historic extent of the north field and provide room for reestablishing the approach road alley (CSA-Task 5).

Removal of the west woods will also reestablish the historic view of the cemetery looking from the approach road. The reestablished view would look across the south field and Odom tract toward the brick inclosure wall (west side), with a restored flagstaff rising above the canopy of the trees within the cemetery (see BS-Task 5). A similar view is extant at Glendale National Cemetery, near Richmond (fig. 4.7).

CSA-Task 3: Remove Triangular Woodlot

- Natural Systems & Features: Triangular Woodlot (non-contributing/setting))
- Spatial Organization: South Field (contributing/setting)

Provided the adjoining south field of the Taylor farm is protected from development, clear the non-historic successional woods and return the land to field, either as cultivated land or meadow maintained at a height below two-to-

three feet (Drawing 8). Returning this woodlot to field will enhance the historic open setting of the approach road and provide space for reestablishing the approach road allee (CA-Task 3).

CSA-Task 4: Redesign Odom Cemetery Enclosure

- Spatial Organization: Odom Cemetery (non-contributing)
- Small-Scale Features: Odom Cemetery fence (non-contributing)

Shift northern side of Odom cemetery fence (chain-link) approximately ten feet south (away from the approach road) to provide space for approach road allee to be reestablished under CA-Task 5 (Drawing 8). Plant a privet hedge (or similar deciduous plant) around the exterior of the fence in order to provide enclosure that is more compatible with the rural character of the landscape and enhances the private nature of this family plot (this will become more important should the parking lot be relocated to the south under CSA-Task 8). A deciduous hedge is recommended as a less conspicuous addition to the landscape than an evergreen hedge. The hedge is intended to conceal the chain-link fence and be maintained at the same height (approximately three feet tall). The hedge should be clipped into a rectangular shape with a flat top, and should grow through the existing fence. Although the Odom cemetery was never legally transferred to federal ownership, the National Park Service agreed in 1990 to maintain it as part of the donation to the National Park Foundation. This task should be undertaken in consultation with the Odom family.

CSA-Task 5: Reestablish Approach Road Allee

- Vegetation: Approach road trees (non-contributing)
- Natural Systems & Features: West woods (non-contributing), triangular woodlot (non-contributing/setting), south field hedgerow (non-contributing/setting), north field hedgerow (contributing)

Replant formal allee of deciduous trees along the entire length of the approach road, from Vaughan Road to the cemetery gates (Drawing 8). The trees should be planted at 25-foot spacing laterally, as shown on the War Department 1931 planting plan. In order to accommodate a slightly wider (4 foot) earthen shoulder, it is recommended that the trees be spaced 15 feet from the centerline of the approach road, an increase of 5' over the historic 25-foot side-to-side spacing. This wider shoulder is needed to allow two vehicles to pass if necessary on the 12-foot wide approach road, and to protect the root systems of the allee trees.

The historic twenty-five foot spacing of the trees (both side-to-side and across the road), apparently intended to provide a dense canopy as well as clear military-like cadence to the approach, may not provide adequate room for the trees at maturity. This close spacing may have been a factor in the rapid decline of

the alley in the mid-twentieth century. The increase in spacing across the road will provide some additional room. If upon consultation with a professional arborist it is felt that the twenty-five foot spacing is insufficient to ensure long-term health, the spacing may be increased to 35' on center (five feet additional room on each side of the tree). Further spacing would impact the historic rhythm and density of the alley and is not recommended.

The alley should be planted with the following species in an even distribution through the alley: red maple, tuliptree, white ash, American linden (basswood), and a viable American elm cultivar or species with similar habit, such as hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*). If the disease “ash yellowing” is anticipated in this region, then ash should not be planted in the alley. In keeping with the 1931 plan, the alley should terminate at the cemetery gates with two Norway spruce, planted slightly farther away from the centerline of the approach road so that at maturity the branches will not obstruct the cemetery gates (approximately 20' from the centerline). For further information on plant materials, see Table 4.2 at the end of this chapter. The understory of the alley should be maintained as mown lawn beneath the tree canopy, to a width of approximately thirty feet from the road's center line.

In preparation for replanting of the alley, the west woods (Odom Tract) and triangular woodlot (Taylor farm) should be cleared (see CSA Tasks 2, 3); in addition, portions of the north hedgerow (north side of north field) and south field hedgerow (east side of south field adjoining Odom cemetery) should be removed to a depth approximately fifty feet back from the approach road to provide room for the alley. Finally, the existing trees along the approach road should be removed. There are two options for treating the existing trees:

Alternate A: Remove all existing volunteer and remnant alley trees (approximately fourteen) to replant the entire alley in full.

Alternate B: Remove all existing volunteer trees, but retain the healthy remnant alley trees (approximately fourteen) to maintain some mature vegetation along the approach road in the short-term. Once the new alley trees are well established (approximately five to ten years), the old trees should be removed and replanted.

The replanting of the alley should ideally be coordinated with the relocation of the visitor parking lot, since the replanting of the trees will be impacted by the location of the entry and exit drives to the parking lot (see CA-Task 8).

CSA-Task 6: Resurface Approach Road

- Circulation: Approach Road (contributing)

Return the approach road to its historic asphalt surface (without existing sand top coat), to give it more defined and well-maintained character. The 1931 specifications prepared by the Third Corps Area of the Quartermaster General were for a 4”-stone base and 2” emulsified asphalt penetrating wearing surface (installed using the proprietary “Bit-U-Muls Method” by the Bituminous Asphalt Company). As shown on a 1939 photograph of the main drive that was resurfaced at the same time (fig. 1.71), this asphalt weathered to a gray color, and featured no curbs or other edging. The road was specified for a 12’ width; this remains the approximate existing width, except for the widened strip between the parking lot and gates. This strip should be returned to approximately 12’ and taper out to align with the inside edge of the outer (pedestrian) granite piers. Stabilized earthen turf shoulders should be maintained to either side of the approach road, with a sharp edge (but no curbing) at the pavement for a well-tended appearance. The 1931 work specified 12” earthen (grass-covered) shoulders; this should be extended to four feet on each side to provide an overall width of 20’ (12’ pavement, 4’ shoulders on each side) sufficient to allow two vehicles to pass (Drawing 8).

Resurfacing of the approach road should be coordinated with resurfacing of the main drive within the cemetery (BS-Task 4), reestablishment of the approach road allee (CSA-Task 5), and relocation of the visitor parking lot (CSA-Task 8). The approach road and main drive should have the same asphalt surface. The surface of the visitor parking lot should be visually distinct from the approach road.

CSA-Task 7: Remove South Hedgerow

- Natural Systems & Features: South Hedgerow (non-contributing)
- Vegetation: Inclosure Red Cedars (non-contributing)
- Small-Scale Features: Barbed-Wire Fence (non-contributing)

Provided the adjoining south pasture on the Taylor farm is protected from development, clear the non-historic successional woods bordering the cemetery south inclosure to return the historic open spatial character and provide a more well-tended appearance. The ground should be maintained with a low ground cover, such as the existing English ivy. The healthy remnant red cedars planted by the National Park Service in 1937 within the south inclosure are appropriate to retain, but should not be replanted. The existing remnants of the barbed-wire fence installed along with the red cedars in 1937 may be removed. If additional livestock fencing is required, it should not be visible from within the cemetery (the existing electrified wire fence is appropriate).

CSA-Task 8: Relocate Visitor Parking Lot

- Circulation: Visitor parking lot (non-contributing), approach road (contributing)
- Natural Systems & Features: West woods (non-contributing)
- Spatial Organization: Southeast field (contributing)
- Vegetation: Approach road trees (non-contributing)

Relocate the visitor parking lot, built in c.1995, to make it less conspicuous and enhance the rural character of the cemetery approach and view of the cemetery gates. The following three alternates provide alternatives for relocation using the existing footprint of the parking lot (Drawing 9):

Alternate A: Relocate the parking lot to the south side of the approach road, within the southeast field and extending into land presently under private ownership (Taylor farm). This property is presently proposed for federal acquisition under the preferred alternative of the GMP. This location would set the parking lot back from the approach road by approximately seventy-five feet outside of vista of the cemetery gates, and also outside of the foreground of the west view of the cemetery looking across the north field from the approach road (in a scenario where the west woods are removed under CSA Task 2). This alternative would also allow for a substantial buffer (field) between the parking lot and the approach road. The existing site of the parking lot would be returned to low meadow along with the site of the west woods.

Alternate B: Shift the existing location of the parking lot north and west away from the approach road and cemetery, extending into the existing west woods. This alternative would create a more substantial buffer between the parking lot and the approach road, thereby reducing the visual intrusion upon the vista of the cemetery gates. With the removal of the west woods (CSA Task 2), however, the parking lot under this alternative would remain within the foreground of the west view of the cemetery looking north across the north field.

Under both alternatives, the parking lot should be designed in an inconspicuous manner, maintaining the open spatial character of the landscape without introduction of major vertical elements. Vehicles should enter the parking lot near the main gate so that visitors experience the full historic approach, and then exit to the west. The surface of the parking lot should be distinguishable from the asphalt pavement of the approach road by using materials such as stabilized earth, different color asphalt, or gravel surface. Separate pedestrian circulation

from the parking lot to the gates should be introduced to allow visitors to access the parking lot without vehicle conflict (Drawing 9).

CSA-Task 9: Relocate Private Drive

- Circulation: Private drive (non-contributing), Approach Road (contributing)
- Spatial Organization: North field (contributing/setting)

The long-term treatment of this gravel drive, built in c.1972 to provide access to the Blaha and Peterson houses, should be removal of the section through the north field (Drawing 8). This is recommended to enhance the cemetery setting and prevent possible expansion of private use of the approach road that may arise through additional development in the private property to the north and east of the cemetery. Removal of the drive would allow the approach road to serve solely as the ceremonial approach to the cemetery, the sole function it was historically designed to serve. With removal of the west woods (see LS-Task 2), the private drive will extend through an open field and be more conspicuous in the foreground of the view of the cemetery from the approach road. Widening or paving of this drive, i.e., to accommodate additional development, would not be appropriate to the historic character of the cemetery setting and would also impact the approach road.

As part of the relocation of the private drive, the private mailboxes at the head of the cemetery approach road at Vaughan Road should be removed. The existence of these mailboxes is not befitting the historic ceremonial character of the approach road.

CEMETERY INCLOSURE (CI)

Overall treatment objectives for this treatment area, which encompasses a narrow strip of land around the perimeter of the cemetery including the brick inclosure wall and framing woods, is to preserve the serenity and sacredness of the burial grounds and enhance the historic spatial character of the cemetery. The west inclosure is recommended to become open space through removal of the west woods as part of the treatment of the cemetery setting and approach (see CSA Task 2). Treatment for this area also addresses the need to maintain access to the inclosure wall, and to improve drainage through the inclosing wall. Although the wall was historically covered in English ivy, reintroduction of this vine is not recommended due to potential damage it could cause to the masonry. The naturalized English ivy within the woods should be kept back from the wall to a minimum distance of approximately five feet.

CI-Task 1: Improve Drainage through Inclosure Wall

- Buildings & Structures: Drainage ditch (non-contributing)
- Buildings & Structures: Inclosure wall and gateway (contributing)

Modify inadequate drainage openings in the inclosure wall to enhance surface drainage from the burial grounds (Drawing 7). There are presently two drainage openings that are not functioning adequately: one in Division A along the south side of the wall and a second in Division D at the northwest corner of the cemetery (cemetery low point) that feeds into a concrete drainage ditch extending into private property.¹⁷ During times of moderate to heavy rain, the ground floods near these drain openings (fig. 4.8). In Division D, the water often covers nearby grave markers.

This problem requires addressing both the grade as well as the function of the drain openings through the wall. The grade along the inclosure wall and extending into the burial grounds should be adjusted to allow positive flow toward the drainage opening (see also BG Task 1). Once positive drainage is achieved, the outflow through the drainage openings should be assessed for adequacy. Most of the drainage openings feed into small rectangular, brick and concrete boxes that appear to have no outlet, apparently functioning as catch basins that overflow to surface drainage (figure 4.x). These basins are part of the historic fabric of the inclosure wall, but do not add to the historic character of the landscape.

The drainage opening at the low point in Division D feeds into a concrete-lined ditch, rather than a box, that extends onto private property (private drive lot). The non-historic concrete lining should be assessed for adequacy once the grade is corrected within the cemetery. Construction of the private drive and culvert over the ditch in c.1972, and subsequent alteration of the grade on its north side (probably through accumulation of debris and siltation), may be impeding proper drainage. Improvements to this drainage ditch would require the permission of the private property owner.

CI-Task 2: Enhance Wooded Enclosure on North and East Sides

- Natural Systems & Features: North woods (contributing), East woods (contributing)
- Spatial Organization: Cemetery inclosure space (contributing)

Plant trees and understory shrubs, or encourage natural succession, in the east and north woods to enhance the wooded enclosure and screening of adjoining non-historic development (Blaha and Peterson houses, private drive). These plantings should extend onto existing private property to ensure proper screening (Drawing 7). This property is identified for federal acquisition under the preferred alternative of the GMP. The vegetation should be planted to an

approximate depth of forty feet from the cemetery inclosure wall, corresponding with the south side of the Blaha-Peterson access drive and extending east of the drive along the east side of the cemetery. If growing conditions permit, loblolly pine would be the most historically appropriate trees to be planted in these woods, with aspen in the wet low area off the northwest corner of the cemetery. A five-to-ten foot clear zone should be maintained along the inclosure wall to allow access for maintenance purposes.

The portion of the woods visible from the cemetery should be kept free of dead trees, broken limbs and other debris in order to maintain a well-tended appearance.

SERVICE YARD (SY)

Overall treatment objectives for this treatment area, which encompasses a rectangular area within the inclosure wall surrounding the garage, are to restore the dignity and sacred character of the cemetery landscape by screening service activities, and to reconstruct lost historic features extant in c.1933. The service yard is intended to remain as the functioning maintenance area for the cemetery. The main drive, benches, and tablets adjoining are addressed under the Burial Grounds treatment area.

SY-Task 1: Reconfigure Service Drive

- Circulation: Service drive (non-contributing)

Realign service drive to reestablish narrow entrance (Drawing 7). The entrance should be shifted slightly east to protect the existing magnolia and also to provide a wider entrance (approximately 8-10') that will accommodate modern maintenance vehicles. Realignment of the service drive is needed to allow for reestablishment of the service yard hedge (SY-Task 2). The drive should be configured to align with the inside edge of the proposed service yard hedge (see SY Task 2). The drive should be resurfaced in gravel or an asphalt with gravel surface to distinguish it from the main drive asphalt. The service drive was not paved in asphalt during the historic period.

SY-Task 2: Reestablish Service Yard Hedge

- Spatial Organization: Service yard (contributing)
- Vegetation: Service yard hedge (non-existing historic feature)

Plant an arborvitae hedge to screen the service yard in the location of the historic hedge (removed c.1974), but shift the location slightly to accommodate the service drive entrance as reconfigured under SY-Task 1. The hedge should be located approximately twelve feet north of the edge of pavement on the main drive, align with the west side of the inclosure wall along the east side of the yard,

and extend along both sides of the narrow service drive entrance (Drawing 7). While the hedge was eight feet high by the end of the historic period, this was most likely not the desired height. The hedge should ideally align with the height of the inclosure wall (approximately four feet tall), which would define the service yard space and provide some visual screening. See Figure 1.57 for a photograph of the hedge in 1904.

The service yard hedge was Oriental arborvitae (*Thuja orientalis*, recently reclassified as *Platyclusus orientalis*), a less hardy but more drought tolerant shrub than American arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*). Oriental arborvitae is distinguished by its ascending, flat vertical branches. The variety used in the hedge is not known, but it was probably a dark green, upright variety such as ‘pyramidalis.’¹⁸ The stock size should be large enough to permit quick growth into a screening hedge (such as 4-5 feet balled & burlapped). The hedge should be clipped into a rectangular shape, although slightly battered/angled sides may be used to increase the level of light on the north side of the hedge.

The overall length of the hedge is approximately 190 feet, which depending on the stock size would require between 85 plants (24” spacing) to 63 plants (36” spacing). In planting the hedge, care should be taken not to damage the roots of the aged magnolia at the southwest corner of the service drive; smaller stock may be required around the tree. If damage to the roots cannot be avoided, the section of the hedge extending out along the drive should not be replanted until the aged magnolia is replaced (see SY-Task 4).

SY-Task 3: Build Compost Bins

- Spatial Organization: Service yard (contributing)

Build compost bins on the west side of the garage as a place to remove the existing compost and soil piles located along the north side of the visitor parking lot (Drawing 7). These bins should be built of unpainted wood and be no more than four feet high so that they are not visible from outside the cemetery and have a minimal impact on the character of the service yard. To access the bins, a drive of gravel or stabilized turf should be extended from the service drive. Bollards should be placed around the adjoining non-historic concrete wellhead to avoid vehicle impacts.

SY-Task 4: Plant Specimen Trees

- Vegetation: Specimen trees (contributing)

As shown on the 1931 War Department tree planting layout, plant a red maple at the northwest corner of the service yard, and reestablish magnolias flanking each side of the service drive entrance (Drawing 7). Aside from the magnolias, trees should not be planted near the service yard hedge to maintain adequate light

levels for the Oriental arborvitae (see SY-Task 2). Prolong the life of the aged southern magnolia that exists at the southwest corner of the service drive by pulling the pavement away from the tree (see SY-Task 1) and reducing compaction caused by parking vehicles beneath its canopy. Plant a companion southern magnolia on the opposite corner of the drive. Both trees should have at least five feet of ground between the trunk and the pavement of the service drive. If the aged magnolia is in decline when planting occurs, it should be removed and replaced in-kind.

For additional guidance on tree planting, see Burial Grounds Task 7. For additional information on plant materials, see Table 4.2 at the end of this chapter.

SY-Task 5: Return Garage to Historic Appearance

- Buildings & Structures: Garage (contributing)

Return the garage to its historic appearance by removing the non-historic exterior steel stairs and frame shed in order to enhance the historic character of the landscape (Drawing 7). Both additions will become more conspicuous with the removal of the west woods (see CSA-Task 2). Paint analysis should also be undertaken on the metal roof to determine its historic color/finish, which should match the roofs of the lodge and garage. The 1931 National Cemetery regulations call for tin roofs to be painted red, the trim white, and the doors, bronze-green.¹⁹ Paint analysis should be undertaken on these components to determine if they were historically painted according to the regulations, and to ascertain a color match for repainting. The east garage bay is a non-historic addition and may warrant removal; it most likely replaced a six-over-six double-hung window matching that on the west side of the front façade. .

Further development of this task may be warranted through completion of an historic structure report or other architectural study.

LODGE GROUNDS (LG)

Overall treatment objectives for this area, which includes the lodge and the rostrum, are to beautify the landscape as part of the cemetery entrance, reinforce its historic use as an assembly area, enhance public accessibility to the lodge and public restroom building, provide visitor orientation, and reconstruct lost features extant in the c.1929-33 treatment period. The lodge grounds, presently devoid of the extensive plantings that existed historically, do not provide a welcoming entrance to the cemetery or a comfortable assembly area.

The lodge grounds historically were dominated by a circular turn-around off of which branched a walk extending along the inclosure wall. For much of its history, this turn-around was surfaced in turf and edged by shrubs and a low border or hedge. By the late 1920s, the turn-around was probably no longer used, but its form may have still been evident in the landscape through remnant plantings. With construction of the public restroom building in 1929, portions of the turn-around were probably destroyed for construction of a septic system. Although it was an important part of the lodge grounds for most of the historic period, restoration of the turn-around as a circulation feature is not being recommended because of the limited documentation and because it probably consisted only of remnant plantings by c.1933. The existence of the turn around may be evoked through plantings (see LG-Task 3).

LG-Task 1: Construct New Walk to Public Restroom Building

- Circulation: Dirt path (non-contributing), Walk from lodge to public restroom building (contributing)

Construct a walk along the west side of the lodge to provide a new route of access to the public restroom building in place of the existing non-historic dirt path along the east side of the building. The proposed walk follows the general alignment of a walk that is shown on the 1892 Quartermaster General plan of the cemetery, and which probably survived until the construction of the public restroom building in 1929. The new walk is proposed to tie into the existing historic concrete walk along the north side of the public restroom building. It should be universally accessible (4' minimum width to accommodate one wheelchair and pedestrian); concrete (allowed to weather, not a bright white) or stabilized earth/gravel would be historically appropriate materials. If earth or gravel is used, steel edging is recommended in order to maintain the limits of the walk and retain a well-tended appearance.

Remove the existing dirt path on the east side of the lodge, and return the grade to its historic level to allow surface drainage from the lodge downspouts to reach the nearby drainage opening in the brick inclosure wall (Drawing 7).

LG-Task 2: Install New Cemetery Information Wayside

- Small-Scale Features: Grave locator-interpretive signs (non-contributing); Iron tablets (non-existing historic feature/in storage)

Install a cemetery information wayside near the cemetery entrance to replace the existing non-historic aluminum-frame signs that flank the central flagstaff. Historically, there was an iron tablet on the east side of the lodge that welcomed visitors to register (tablet "P" on Drawing 7; this should be reinstalled, see Burial Grounds Task 9). This location, adjoining the entrance to the lodge (proposed to become the visitor contact station) and before visitors enter the assembly area or

burial grounds, would be the most appropriate location for the new wayside. A second possible location is on the north side of the main drive, between the entrance gate and the service drive, in front of the arborvitae hedge. If additional information or interpretive signs are necessary, they should be located outside of the cemetery, such near the visitor parking lot.

Detailed design of this wayside is beyond the scope of this CLR. Conceptually, it should be designed in a manner that is compatible with the historic character of the landscape, using materials such as cast iron used historically in the cemetery, and with a low scale that visually recedes from the lodge and the open space of the lodge grounds assembly area. The wayside should include a graphic plan of the cemetery, a brief account of its history and significance, visitor registration, and operational information. The burial register and grave location information, currently displayed on the face of the aluminum-frame signs at the flagstaff, may more appropriately be displayed in book form within the wayside, as is done at VA National Cemeteries, in order to reduce the scale of the wayside. (The grave locator system is recommended for revision under Burial Grounds Task 3.)

An appropriate model for a sign in this wayside is one at the National Park Service-administered Antietam National Cemetery, which reproduces a historic graphic plan of the cemetery (fig 4.10). This sign relates to the historic style of signs at National Cemeteries through its use of cast metal with raised letters, but is distinguished by a different finish.

LG-Task 3: Replace Wood Privacy Fence with Grape Arbor

- Spatial Organization: Lodge grounds (contributing)
- Small-Scale Features: Wood privacy fence (non-contributing), grape arbor (non-existing historic feature)

The existing non-historic wood privacy fence that extends from the lodge to the public restroom building, and from the public restroom building to the inclosure wall, should be removed to restore the historic spatial character of the lodge grounds (Drawing 7). The wood privacy fence is not necessary because the lodge no longer serves as a private residence. In place of the fence, the grape arbor that extended off the southeast corner of the lodge until c. 1935 should be reconstructed to screen the rear kitchen wing of the lodge. This grape arbor, probably built along with the lodge kitchen wing in 1914, was a single fence (without overhead plane) approximately twenty feet long, extending to a point approximately in line with the rear kitchen wing of the lodge. No historic documentation was found on the appearance of the arbor, but the 1931 National Cemetery regulations specify that arbors should be painted white.²⁰ Given the lack of historic documentation, a contemporary but compatible design should be

used, such as white-painted four or six-inch square wood posts spaced six feet apart and six feet high, connected by a top wood crossbar with smaller cross bars below. Grape plants should be planted at each post. The variety of grape used historically is not known, nor whether it was intended for domestic use. An ornamental variety of grape, such as purple-leaved vine (*Vitis vinifer purpurea*) or crimson glory vine (*Vitis coignetiae*), would have an appropriate character.

LG-Task 4: Establish New Plantings in Lodge Grounds

- Spatial Organization: Lodge grounds (contributing)
- Vegetation: Specimen trees (contributing), Specimen shrubs (contributing)

Plant the lodge grounds with trees, shrubs, and a flowerbed to enhance the aesthetic character of the landscape as a point of entry for the cemetery, and to maintain and enhance the use of the space as an assembly area focused on the rostrum. Three alternative schemes are proposed (Drawing 10). Each makes use of tree species found historically within the cemetery (elm, linden, plum, pear, silver maple, and tuliptree), along with clipped shrubs (boxwood, crape myrtle, and arborvitae). While the species of trees and shrubs extant in 1931 is known, those planted prior to this time are not well documented. The proposed plant palette uses materials documented during the historic period, unless there are issues with disease, drought/heat tolerance, maintenance, or current availability. For example, a disease-resistant variety of American elm or another member of the elm family with a similar habit (such as hackberry) should be substituted, and sterile fruit trees should be used to reduce maintenance. Modern ornamental fruit tree cultivars, such as Bradford pear, should be avoided. The alternatives also specify establishment of a flowerbed (there were two flowerbeds near the lodge in 1933, but the location is not known). The bed should be planted with roses and peonies (documented in 1931), plus low-scale old-fashioned annuals such as wax begonias, geranium (pelargonium), and marigolds.

See Table 4.2 at the end of this chapter for further information on recommended plant materials.

Alternative 1: Contemporary Planting Scheme Evoking Turn-Around

Under this alternative, the planting scheme evokes the form of the turn-around by placing deciduous shade trees in a circular form that defines an open lawn assembly area facing the rostrum. The species of trees relates to those found in the approach road allee, as well as to those found historically in the lodge grounds. The circular form is reinforced through the planting of boxwood shrubs in half of the circle, tying into existing boxwoods (to be replanted). The large trees are intended to provide shade and cover during warm weather events, and are specified

to be three species of comparable character to provide a sense of symmetry but avoid a monoculture, which did not exist historically. Old-fashioned varieties of fruit trees (plums and pears were purportedly first planted in the cemetery by the burial corps in the 1860s), are placed along the inclosure wall as they were historically to return ornament and springtime color to the landscape.

Alternative 2: Plantings Based on 1892 Quartermaster General Plan

Under this alternative, the lodge grounds are heavily planted according to the placement of trees and shrubs shown on the 1892 plan of the cemetery made by the Quartermaster General (plant species were not indicated on the plan). This planting scheme is not a restoration, but rather a rehabilitation that, in contrast to Alternative 1, more closely recalls the plantings of the late nineteenth century. It reflects plantings that may have existed by the late War Department era had the plant materials survived to a greater extent. Although the border hedges that defined the walks and drives are not reconstructed, the extent of plantings reflects profuseness in the cemetery landscape that was generally not extant by the late War Department era. The placement of the ring of boxwoods and central flowerbed may limit the use as an assembly area.

Alternative 3: Plantings Based on 1931 War Department Planting Plan

Under this alternative, the plantings indicated on the 1931 plan are returned, and the existing aged boxwoods are retained. The 1931 plan included remnant plantings that survived by 1931, and only added three new specimen trees in a random placement. These new trees do not appear to have any relationship to the rostrum.

LG-Task 5: Reestablish Maltese Cross Hedge

- Vegetation: Non-existing historic feature

Replant a boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) hedge in the outline of a Maltese cross (5th Corps badge) in front of the lodge (Drawing 7). This hedge, which was removed in c.1985, occupied the area between the main block of the lodge and the main drive, with approximate overall dimensions of ten feet square. As shown in a 1968 photograph (see fig. 1.79), each section of the hedge was clipped into a rectangular shape, approximately 30 inches high by 18 inches wide. The ground surrounding the hedge should be maintained as lawn; the interior should be mulched (using a natural, dark brown color)).

LG-Task 6: Return Public Restroom Building to Historic Appearance

- Buildings & Structures: Public restroom building (contributing)

Return the public restroom building to its historic appearance by restoring the exterior color scheme. As with its sister building, the garage, the stucco walls of the public restroom building were most likely originally unpainted to compliment the stone walls and stucco kitchen wing of the lodge. The trim and roof of the building should also be returned to their historic colors, to match the roofs on the lodge and garage. The 1931 National Cemetery regulations called for tin roofs to be painted red, the trim white, and the doors, bronze-green.²¹ Paint analysis should be undertaken on these components to determine if they were historically painted according to the regulations, and to ascertain a color match for repainting.

The existing use of the building as public restrooms should be maintained as part of planned rehabilitation of the lodge into a visitor contact station. While access to the building is on level ground, the restrooms do not meet universal accessibility standards. When the restrooms are rehabilitated, priority should be given to maintaining existing door and window openings, and expanding the space within the building (making use of fuel and motor rooms), rather than constructing an addition. If an addition is necessary, it would be most appropriately extended off the rear west corner, where it would be least visible from the assembly area of the lodge grounds (Drawing 7).

Further development of this task may be warranted through completion of an historic structure report or other architectural study.

LG-Task7: Return Lodge to Historic Appearance

- Buildings & Structures: Lodge (contributing)

As part of its planned rehabilitation as a visitor contact station, return the lodge to its historic appearance during the late War Department era (c.1933). Returning the building to its original 1872 appearance, which would require restoration of the slate roof, wood porch floor, and darkly painted trim, as well as removal of the 1914 kitchen wing, would not be appropriate in the broader treatment of the landscape reflecting development through the early twentieth century.

Restoration to its original appearance would also change the visual connection with the public restroom building (1929) and garage (1929) created by use of the same metal roofs and same painting scheme.

While little has changed on the lodge since c.1933, the historic character of the building would be enhanced through removal of aluminum triple-track storm windows and window air conditioning units, and returning the natural finish of the stucco on the kitchen wing (paint analysis should be done to verify the stucco

was unpainted). In addition, paint analysis should also be undertaken on the metal roof to determine its historic color, which should match the roofs of the public restroom building and garage. The 1931 National Cemetery regulations called for tin roofs to be painted red. These regulations also specified that the trim be painted white; doors, bronze green; porch ceiling, light blue; and borders and letters of Lincoln Memorial tablet (on the front of the buildings), copper-bronze. Paint analysis should be undertaken on these components to determine if they were historically painted according to the regulations, and to ascertain a color match for repainting.

A universally-accessible entrance will be part of the scope for the rehabilitation project. The front door and porch appear to be the most appropriate entrance to make accessible with the least impact on the historic character of the landscape and building (Drawing 7). The concrete floor of the porch is presently ascended on the north (front) side by one and one-half steps (approximately 10”), fronted by a concrete pad extending to the main drive approximately thirteen feet in length. These concrete elements were added at the end of the historic period and are not defining elements of the building or landscape. By raising the grade of the concrete pad to the level of the porch floor, a ramp with an appropriate slope of seven percent would be created. The ramp should have a vertical edge on the west side that is kept a few inches back from the main block of the lodge, and taper to ground level on the east side. A handrail, preferably of inconspicuous pipe railing, should be added along the west side. With reestablishment of the Maltese cross hedge in front of the lodge (see LG Task 4), the ramp should be inconspicuous upon entry to the cemetery.

Further development of this task may be warranted through completion of an historic structure report or other architectural study.

LG-Task8: Return Historic Color Scheme to Rostrum

- Buildings & Structures: Rostrum (contributing)

The 1931 National Cemetery Regulations specify that iron rostrums be painted black; the roof, red (matching metal roofs on other buildings); and the underside of the roof, light blue (matching the ceiling of the lodge porch). The entire iron superstructure and metal roof of the rostrum is presently painted black. Paint analysis should be undertaken on these components to determine if they were historically painted according to the regulations, and to ascertain a color match for repainting.

The brick rostrum foundation, as with the inclosure wall, was historically covered in ivy (probably English ivy); replanting of this vine is not recommended due to potential damage to the historic masonry.

BURIAL GROUNDS (BG)

Overall treatment objectives for this area, which includes all of the cemetery within the inclosure wall with the main drive except for the service yard and lodge grounds, are to reestablish the sacred and well-maintained character of the landscape; to provide legible and historically appropriate grave markers and a grave locator system; to return the central circle/flagstaff to its historic majesty; to enhance interpretation and visitor amenities; and to return lost trees and shrubs. Treatment of the grave markers, the majority of which are Civil War and Spanish-American War style headstones and blocks that were laid level with the ground in 1934, is the task most critical to the overall rehabilitation of the landscape.

BG-Task 1: Improve Cemetery Lawn

- Vegetation: Cemetery lawn (contributing)
- Circulation: Burial grounds drives and walks (contributing)

Improve the cemetery lawn toward “Class A” level of maintenance characterized by uniformity of appearance, low tolerance for weeds, a vibrant green color, and absence of debris. The lawn should be composed of grass species compatible with the geographic region, and be maintained at a height that provides a well-tended appearance. Grass should be kept neatly trimmed around all grave markers, trees, drives, and other objects, avoiding impacts from line trimmers and mowers. The lawn was not irrigated historically, and therefore would have gone into dormancy (turned brown) during dry summer months; natural seasonal changes in the appearance of the lawn should therefore be considered appropriate.

As part of improving the health and appearance of the lawn, sunken areas and low areas prone to standing water should be raised. Sunken areas, such as in Division B (southeast side of cemetery), most likely resulted from settling of the graves and/or removal of trees. These sunken areas detract from the historic uniformity of the lawn, and also present a potential tripping hazard. In addition, there are two areas of the lawn that collect standing water at the northwest corner in Division D, Sections E and G (water often extends over the grave markers), and in Division A, between sections D and E (Drawing 7). The grade in these areas should be raised to improve surface drainage in conjunction with improvement of the drainage outlets through the inclosure wall (see CI Task 1). Raising and leveling the grade may require resetting of the grave markers. Regraded areas should be reseeded to return the uniform appearance of the lawn.

BG-Task 2: Return Grave Markers to Historic Appearance

- Small-Scale Features: Grave markers (potentially contributing/Criterion A; non-contributing Criterion C)

The general intent of this task is to return the grave markers (headstones and blocks) to their historic (1866-1933) upright position as part of the larger treatment goal of returning the landscape to its character during the late War Department era (c.1933). Treatment of the grave markers is a complex task due to the numerous types of grave markers, burials made after 1933, and National Cemetery Regulations pertaining to the disposition of replaced grave markers.

This task is organized into five parts: I. General treatment issues & guidelines for grave markers; II. Treatment alternatives for returning grave markers to historical appearance; III. Treatment alternatives for disposition of grave markers to be replaced; and IV. Treatment of potential new graves.

Part I. General Treatment Issues & Guidelines for Grave Markers*Position*

Grave markers will be level, on the center line at the head of the grave and in alignment both laterally and longitudinally with adjoining markers. Inscriptions will face the grave.

Maintenance

Grave markers will be kept clean so that the stone is clearly visible and the overall appearance is white. Grass surrounding the markers will be kept neatly trimmed. Trimming around upright headstones should not pose an increased maintenance burden, as grass trimming is currently required around each of the flat grave markers.

Replacement

The condition of the vast majority of the grave markers at Poplar Grove warrant replacement due to deteriorated and altered conditions under existing National Park Service National Cemetery Regulations and Directors Order 61, which defer to National Cemetery Administration policies pertaining to headstones and markers (VA Headstones and Markers Manual). Under these regulations and policies, a previously furnished government headstone or marker may be replaced at government (National Cemetery Administration) expense when it is:

1. Deteriorated or illegible, e.g., weatherworn to the extent it is no longer readable.
2. Cracked, broken, or destroyed due to natural causes
3. Broken or damaged, cause unknown
4. Inscription information is erroneous through no fault of the applicant.
5. Material or workmanship is not in accordance with the specifications.
6. Extenuating circumstances not covered above may warrant replacement in some cases.²²

There are presently available three styles of VA government-issued grave markers that generally correspond to those found historically at Poplar Grove:

- Historical Styles “XA” and “XB”: Civil War Union soldiers and Spanish-American War dead. White marble, cambered top, raised lettering inside a sunken shield; XA: 12” wide, 3” thick, 42” high; XB: 13” wide, 3” thick, 42” high (fig 4.11).²³
- Standard upright headstone (General style): 42” long (approximately 24” above ground), 13” wide, 4” thick (fig. 4.12).
- Flat marker: White American marble, rectangular, 24” long, 12” wide, 4” thick.²⁴ (fig 4.12)
- Blocks (“6x6x30 unknowns”): The VA does not presently have a specification or contract for this type of marker, but they can be ordered off-contract by special request. They are furnished blank, with no grave number inscribed on top (fig 4.13).²⁵

While Historical Styles “XA” and “XB” purport to be reproductions of the historic marker style, they are not exact. They combine the Civil War-style headstone and the Spanish-American War headstone as one style, when historically they were two. The profile, shield, inscription, and finish on both XA and XB are the same as the Civil War-style headstone, but the dimension should be 10” wide rather than 12” or 13”, with an above ground height of 18”. The Spanish-American War-style headstone, of which there are two variations at Poplar Grove, have different fonts and a hammered relief to the shield, and are larger at 12” wide and 4” thick, with an above-ground height of approximately 24”.

In an in-kind replacement scenario, current National Cemetery Administration specifications for Historical Styles XA and XB would require modification to replicate the historic headstones found at Poplar Grove in terms of profile, size, font, inscription layout, and finish. All headstones should contain the grave

number within the shield, which the current historic styles do not specify (fig. 4.11). In finishing the blocks, care should be taken to replicate the font of the grave number. In addition, Vermont white marble or a similar white lightly veined marble should be specified to match the marble used historically for the Civil War-style headstones and blocks and Spanish-American War-style headstones. The type of marble used for the General style and flat markers is not known.

National Cemetery regulations (headstone and marker policy) require that the old/replaced grave markers will be treated in a manner that prevents their reuse. If they are permanently removed from a grave, they must be destroyed (see III. Disposition for further discussion).²⁶ The intent of this policy is to prevent a situation such as the so-called Tombstone House, where the old headstones (or portions thereof) from Poplar Grove were used to build a house.

Inscriptions

Current National Cemetery regulations set forth specific policy on grave marker inscriptions.²⁷ In general, the overall style of the inscription (font, orientation, and layout) should be as close as possible to the historic marker. Incorporation of additional inscription on replacement headstones, such as providing the life dates below the shield as shown on the current historical styles “XA” and “XB”, would be compatible with the treatment of the cultural landscape prescribed in this chapter. However, other cultural resource disciplines may have a concern over changes to the inscriptions. In addition, other changes such as corrections in spelling of names or identification of burials as Confederate, is beyond the scope of this report. Such content changes on individual marker inscriptions would not, however, impact the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Archeology

In the installation of replacement grave markers, archeological investigation may be warranted because the relationship of the existing flat markers with the underlying grave is not known. Defining archeological investigation is beyond the scope of this CLR.

Part II. Treatment Alternatives for Returning Grave Markers to Historical Appearance

The following section provides three treatment alternatives that are appropriate to the historic character of the landscape. Each of these appropriate alternatives will return the character-defining upright white marble headstones and blocks in the landscape, but each varies in detail according to specific types of grave

makers found at Poplar Grove. This variation will affect the details of the rehabilitated landscape, but not the overall character. Each alternative includes a general description of the proposed treatment followed by a detailed description of how the alternative would be implemented according to marker types (private headstone, Civil War-style headstone, Civil War-style block, Spanish-American War-style headstone, General-style headstone, non-standard headstone, flat marker, and bronze Medal of Honor marker).

These alternatives are followed by alternatives to replacing the Spanish-American War-style headstone and Civil War-style block (applicable to Alternatives A-C), and alternatives not recommended.

Alternative A: Install New Grave Markers Replicating Historical Changes

This alternative replicates the changes made to the headstones through 1933 (including replacement headstones), and retains flat markers installed after 1933 that are original to the grave. Post-1933 replacement markers are returned to their historic upright style of marker. This alternative will thus result in a dominant upright style of headstone with scattered flat markers.

- Private headstones: Due to their unique design and workmanship, these four headstones are restored (set upright on new foundation, stone conserved).
- Civil War-style headstone: All headstones are replaced in-kind, matching the historic specifications, as upright markers.
- Civil War-style blocks: All blocks are replaced in-kind, matching the historic specifications (see also alternatives to block replacement).
- Spanish-American War-style headstone: All headstones are replaced in-kind, matching the historic specifications (including the subsets with differing fonts). These replacements include headstones original to the graves, and those installed as replacement of Civil War-style headstones or blocks (pre-1933).
- General-style headstone: All headstones originally installed upright (World War I veterans, prior to 1933) are replaced in-kind, matching the historic specifications. The headstones installed after 1933 as flat markers original to the grave are retained and replaced in situ if in poor condition; those installed after 1933 as replacement markers are replaced with the style of marker original to the grave (Civil War-style headstone or block, or Spanish-American War-style headstone).
- Non-standard headstone: Because most of these headstones are non-standard replacements at veteran graves, the appropriate type of stone should be replaced to the grave depending on the date of interment.

Although reflecting the historic development of the cemetery, the non-standard fabrication may be perceived as dishonoring the veteran. The non-standard headstone marking the graves of the infants of the cemetery superintendent (or any other veteran) should be restored to their upright position if in good condition, or replicated in-kind, rather than replaced with a standard headstone.

- Flat markers: All flat markers original to the grave will be retained in situ or replaced in-kind if in poor condition. Those installed as replacement markers (after 1933) are replaced with style of marker original to the grave (Civil War-style headstone or block, Spanish-American War-style headstone, or General-style headstone/World War I).
- Medal of Honor marker: These two markers are replaced with Civil War-style headstones, using inscription denoting Medal of Honor recipient. VA regulations allow for the inscription of the replica of the medal and the words “MEDAL OF HONOR” on the headstone.²⁸ (The existing bronze markers may be retained; see following section on disposition of markers to be replaced).

Alternative B: Install New Grave Markers Using Styles Original to the Grave

As with Alternative A, this alternative replicates most grave markers that existed in 1933 while retaining in situ those markers original to the grave installed after 1933. In the replacement grave markers, however, this alternative will not retain the record of changes made through 1933: regardless of whether the headstones were replaced before or after 1933, all markers will be returned to the style original to the grave (e.g., the Civil War-style headstones broken in the 1915 summer storms and replaced with Spanish-American style headstones will be restored back to Civil War-style headstones). The treatment of each grave marker type is the same as in Alternative A with the following exceptions:

- Spanish-American War-style headstone: Those headstones original to the grave are replaced in-kind, matching the historic specifications. Those headstones installed as replacements (mostly those marking Civil War graves except for the reinterment of 29 remains made in 1931), are returned to their original Civil War-style headstone or block.
- General-style headstone: All headstones originally installed upright (World War I graves/pre-1933) are replaced in-kind, matching the historic specifications. The headstones installed after 1933 as flat markers original to the grave are retained and replaced in situ if in poor condition. All General-style headstones installed as replacements will be replaced with the marker style original to the grave.

Alternative C: Provide Upright Headstones or Blocks to All Graves

This alternative installs new upright headstones or blocks at all graves with the exception of the private and possibly some of the non-standard markers. Post-1933 graves, including those originally having a flat marker, will receive a General-style upright headstone. This alternative will provide uniformity with the rest of the cemetery for the post-1933 graves presently with flat markers. This alternative can be developed according to either Alternative A or Alternative B with the following differences:

- General-style headstone: All headstones, including those originally installed flush with the ground after 1933, are replaced with the current upright standard General-style headstone.
- Flat markers: All flat markers original to the grave are replaced with the current upright standard General-style headstone. Those installed as replacement markers (after 1933) are replaced with styles original to the grave (Civil War-style headstone or block, Spanish-American War headstone, or General-style headstone).

Alternative to Spanish-American War-style Headstones

In any of the three above alternatives, it would be appropriate in the context of the cultural landscape to use Civil War-style headstones instead of Spanish-American War-style headstones. This substitution in the replacement stones would simplify the replacement process, and would be appropriate because the two styles are so close in appearance. Approximately sixty headstones are the Spanish-American War-style headstone, and most of these are replacements of either Civil War-style headstones or blocks.

Alternatives to Replacement of Civil War-style Blocks

Because they were not cut but rather sunk in the ground, it may be possible to return the existing blocks (6x6x30 unknowns) to their historic appearance without replacement. In addition, while most of the blocks have chipped edges, this condition is less apparent than the chipping on the headstones due to the small scale of the blocks.²⁹ Given that nearly 40% of the grave markers at Poplar Grove are blocks, alternatives to replacement could potential provide a substantial cost savings while also preserving historic materials. The following are two possible alternatives to replication/replacement:

1. Retain blocks in fair to good condition (chipping less than approximately 10% of top face area, grave number legible, stone sound) and raise to historic upright position, 6” above grade. Clean to uniform appearance.
2. For blocks in poor condition (brittle, heavily weathered and eroded, with more than 10% of the top face chipped, and/or with illegible grave number), provide a new top surface and inscription by either turning the block on end, or cutting the block (at 30” with six inches above grade, there should be sufficient length to do this, although it may require addition of a footing). Clean to uniform appearance.

Alternatives Not Recommended

1. Resetting Existing Pre-1934 Headstones Upright: This alternative is not recommended due to the deteriorated and altered condition of the existing headstones (bases cut off; chipped, heavily weathered, and cracked). Such damage and alteration is inconsistent with historic and current National Cemetery regulations intended to invoke honor and respect upon each grave. The existing headstones reflect over seventy years of neglect and if set upright would continue to detract from the historic well-maintained character of the landscape. In addition, the headstones were cut off at various angles and heights that would require custom foundations for each stone, most likely making the work of resetting the existing stones upright not economical. Such conditions would also result in inconsistent bases that would detract from the historic uniformity of the headstones.
2. Replacing Blocks with Headstones: The use of blocks for unknown graves is a character-defining feature of Civil War-era National Cemeteries, making clear in the landscape the vast number of unknown burials. Replacement of the blocks with headstones would therefore be incompatible with the historic character of the landscape.
3. Replacement only with Civil War-style Headstones and Blocks: This alternative would not retain the historic distinction between Civil War graves and graves of later wars. Although this alternative would not have a marked impact on the historic character of the landscape, it would blur the historic development pattern of the graves and suggest the cemetery only contained Civil War veterans. (As mentioned previously, replacing Spanish-American War-style headstones with Civil War-style headstones may be appropriate because both styles are close in appearance.)

4. Replacement using only Flat Markers: This alternative, which was executed at Yorktown National Cemetery in c.1941, would not achieve the treatment objective of returning the grave markers to their historical appearance.
5. Retaining Existing Conditions (retain all existing grave markers in flush position): This alternative is not recommended because the existing damaged condition of the headstones and blocks does not meet current or historic National Cemetery Regulations; because the headstones and blocks are difficult to locate and read; and because it would not achieve the treatment objective of returning the grave markers to their historical appearance.

Part III. Treatment Alternatives for Disposition of Replaced Headstones

A possible conflict between National Cemetery regulations and National Park Service cultural resource management guidelines may arise over the disposition of the existing grave markers (headstones and blocks) where a new/replacement grave marker is installed. As discussed previously under General Treatment Issues & Guidelines, National Cemetery regulations require that replaced grave markers will be treated in a manner that prevents their reuse. If they are removed from a grave, the grave marker must be destroyed. In contrast, from a cultural resource management perspective the existing grave markers may be considered as a contributing resource in the revised National Register documentation pertaining to the historic significance of Poplar Grove National Cemetery under Criterion A. However, as documented in the analysis & evaluation section of this report, the existing grave markers do not contribute to the significance of the cemetery under National Register Criterion C in the area of landscape architecture due to lack of integrity or installation after the period of significance for the landscape.

Given this dichotomy in evaluation of the existing grave markers, there are several alternatives that are appropriate to the treatment of Poplar Grove as a cultural landscape. The appropriateness of these alternatives may require further consideration by other National Park Service cultural resource management disciplines, notably museum objects and archeology.

Alternative A: Retain Existing Grave Markers In Situ

This alternative retains the existing headstones in their flat position, essentially as footstones. The headstones may require a slight shift in location (lower on the grave) to provide room for the proper alignment of the new upright headstone. A minimum of 6" should be maintained between the flat stone and the upright

marker. If the blocks (Civil War unknowns) are replaced, the old blocks should be sunk flush with the ground to the side, at the head of the grave.

For the headstones, this alternative would avoid the requirement for destruction because the headstones would not be removed from the grave and their reuse would thus be prevented.³⁰ This alternative is also consistent with the *Secretary of the Interior Standards* because the historic resource is retained, preserving the record of change over time. This record is especially important to preserve where alternative treatments (Alternatives B & C) for the new headstones do not match the historic stone. For example, under Alternative B, where new Civil War-era headstones is installed at a grave currently with a replacement Spanish-American War headstone, this old grave marker would remain visible as a record of the historical change that occurred as a result of the summer storms of 1915.

From a cultural landscape perspective, retention of the existing headstones alongside the new upright headstones will not have a marked visual impact because the old headstones in their position flush with the ground are largely invisible. Only upon close inspection will the old headstones become visible. From an archeological perspective, this alternative will also not impact the underlying grave. There may be a curatorial concern about material conservation of the old markers because the stone will continue to suffer from weathering (the horizontal position exposes the inscribed face of the stone to heavier weathering than the upright position). The alternative may also pose an additional maintenance burden to trim around both the upright and flush headstones.

This alternative has been implemented on a few graves at the National Park Service-administered Fredericksburg National Cemetery, where new headstones were installed due to errors in the inscription of the old.³¹ It was implemented on a comprehensive level in c.2000 at the Soldiers Plot of Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse, New York, a Civil War-era military plot in a private cemetery. Here, the old weathered headstones were laid flush with the ground, and new government-issued General-style headstones were installed at the top of each grave (fig 4.14). Viewed in its entirety, the retention of the old markers has a subtle impact on the historic character of the landscape. This impact is outweighed by the value of retaining the old headstones, which were not replicated in-kind, thus retaining visual historical record. The end result would be the same at Poplar Grove, the only difference being the existing grave markers were set flush in the ground many years before.

Alternative B: Burying Existing Grave Markers in Place

This alternative is a variation on Alternative A that would sink the headstones and blocks below grade, essentially making them archeological resources. The headstones would need to be buried to a depth that would prevent heaving and allow for healthy growth of turf. The blocks should be sunk to the side of their existing position at the head of the grave. Given their vertical length of 30", resetting the old blocks in a flush position lower on the grave would have the potential of disturbing the underlying remains. This alternative would avoid the requirement to destroy the grave markers because they would not be removed from the grave and their reuse would be prevented. Drawbacks of this alternative over Alternative A include loss of the visual record of the old markers, and potential archeological impacts resulting from excavation. Benefits over Alternative A may be reduced maintenance (no need to trim around old headstones); a more accurate historic character to the landscape; and material conservation of the old headstones because they would not be as exposed to weathering.

Alternative C: Removal of Existing Grave Markers

This alternative would remove the existing grave markers from their respective graves when the new headstone is installed. In keeping with National Cemetery regulations, this alternative would therefore require some means of preventing reuse of the old grave makers, either through destruction (e.g., grinding up the stones) or through removal to a place where they could not be reused (e.g., burial in a pit outside of the cemetery). This alternative poses a potential conflict with National Park Service cultural resource management guidelines if the old grave markers are considered a contributing resource (under Criterion A) because it would result in the loss of the historic resource (either through destruction or removal from its historic location). Benefits to this alternative over Alternative A would include reduced maintenance (no need to trim around the old headstones) and a more accurate historic character to the landscape. Benefits over Alternative B would include no archeological impacts to the underlying remains.

Part IV. Treatment of Potential New Graves

Poplar Grove has been closed to new burials since 1957, but remains open for the reinterment of Civil War remains discovered in the Petersburg area, with the most recent occurring in 2003. While there are no such reinterments anticipated at this time, plans should be made for where to place new graves should they be needed, especially as development pressures build in the Petersburg area. The

new burials should be made where they would not interfere with the historic plan of the cemetery or otherwise affect the historic character of the landscape (Drawing 7). According to the existing burial plan, it appears the most appropriate locations would be the rear of Division D, in sections E (adjoining grave 4269) and G (a new row to the rear of graves 4573-4576), and in Division C, section H (adjoining grave 3292 and a new row to its rear). These areas would accommodate approximately twelve new grave sites (each grave site could potentially accommodate remains from more than one individual). The drainage problem in Division D should be corrected before any new graves are established there. Due to the inaccuracy of the burial plan, further investigation or possibly archeological testing would be needed to verify that there is sufficient space.

Since reinterments will be limited to Civil War remains, markers for the graves, including those of unknown remains, should be the Civil War-style headstone. If necessary, an inscription below the shield, indicating the date of reinterment, would distinguish these headstones from the original Civil War graves.

BG-Task 3: Redesign Grave Locator System

- Small-Scale Features: Radial drive markers (non-contributing), Grave locator-interpretive signs (non-contributing)

Redesign the grave locator system by returning to the original Division-Section classification of the cemetery from the current Block classification introduced in c.1957 (Drawing 7). The Block classification combines several of the historic burial sections and therefore makes it more difficult to locate individual graves. The Division-Section plan, showing the range of grave numbers within each row, should be incorporated into a new information wayside (LG Task 2). Each section should be clearly marked from the main drives and walks. Based on available documentation, there were historically no section markers at Poplar Grove; however, marking each section is needed to facilitate grave location. At present, it is not possible to find most graves unless the visitor has a plan of the cemetery in hand. The addition of section markers should therefore be treated as compatible new additions to the landscape. The following two alternatives would be appropriate:

Alternative A: Install low granite posts, with angled tops inscribed with the Division and Section classification, at each section (total of thirty-one sections). This type of section marker is used at the Civil War-era Richmond National Cemetery (fig. 4.15). Given the radial plan of the cemetery, the most visible place for the grave markers is at the front of the section, in the middle along the circular drive (Drawing 7). Installing

multiple posts around each section (e.g., at the corners of each section) is not recommended because they would clutter the landscape.

Alternative B: Inscribe the Division and Section number on the side of the grave markers at the corners of each section. In a grave marker replacement scenario, these would either be on the narrow side of the upright headstone, or on the side of the block. Inscription of the Division and Section classification would not be possible in the few instances where there are flat markers at the corners.

As part of this task, the non-historic metal markers around the central loop of the main drive that identify the radial drives should be removed. These markers relate to the contemporary block classification which identifies the radial drives by letter, A-F. Based on available documentation, the drives were not historically classified or named, aside from the main drive.

BG-Task 4: Resurface Main Drive and Return Circular Alignment to Loop

- Circulation: Main drive (contributing)

Return the main drive to its historic asphalt surface to give it more defined and well-maintained character. The 1931 specifications prepared by the Third Corps Area of the Quartermaster General were for a 4”-stone base and 2” emulsified asphalt penetrating wearing surface (installed using the proprietary “Bit-U-Muls Method” by the Bituminous Asphalt Company). As shown on a 1939 photograph (fig. 1.71), this asphalt surface weathered to a gray color, and had no curbs or other edging. The road was specified at ten feet in width; this remains the approximate existing width. The new asphalt should be applied over the existing base of the drive, removing the existing asphalt surface(s) to return the road to its historic elevation. Resurfacing of the main drive should be coordinated with resurfacing of the approach road (CAS Task 6).

As part of this task, the central loop of the main drive around the flagstaff should be returned to its original circular alignment from its existing tear-drop shape (Drawing 7). While the present alignment was added at the end of the historic period in 1931, it was most likely added in response to wear from automobiles extending beyond the original gravel bed, and does not contribute to the historic designed character of the landscape. The tear-drop alignment detracts from the symmetry of the circular plan of the cemetery, and extends over several adjoining graves, where it is banked by a concrete curb. Given that automobiles are currently prohibited from the main drive except to provide universal accessibility, there is no need to accommodate an automobile turning radius at the central loop. As part of the realignment, the concrete curb should be removed.

The realignment should be ascertained by measuring the radius from the central flagstaff on the opposite side of the loop. The realignment should result in a loop that has a constant, symmetrical radius around the flagstaff, except where it transitions to the main drive intersection. Archeological monitoring may be necessary as part of the realignment and removal of the concrete curb to avoid disturbance to the adjoining/underlying graves.

BG-Task 5: Return Flagstaff to Historic Height & Enhance Central Circle

- Buildings and Structures: Flagstaff (non-contributing)
- Small-Scale Features: Grave locator-interpretive signs (non-contributing); Concrete pads near flagstaff (non-contributing); flagstaff floodlight (non-contributing)

Return the flagstaff to its historic height and enhance the surrounding landscape of the central circle to reflect its historic symmetrical, solemn, and majestic character. This task should be undertaken following completion of BG-Task 4 (Return circular alignment to central loop of main drive).

The existing flagstaff was installed in 1930, but was shortened after the historic period by removing the upper half and the supporting guy wires. Two alternative treatments for the flagstaff are recommended:

Alternative A: Restore the existing flagstaff by replacing the missing upper sections and reinstalling the guy wires, and painting according to the specifications in the 1931 National Cemetery Regulations: black base and guy wire turnbuckles, white shaft and guy wires.³² This option would restore the flagstaff to its historic appearance, at a height of approximately 80' or sufficiently high to reach above the tree canopy. The flag should be visible from Vaughan Road once the west woods are removed (CSA-Task 2). The flagstaff was historically fabricated of sections bolted together at flanges. The same style of flagstaff was installed at Fredericksburg National Cemetery, where it remains standing intact (fig. 4.16). This flagstaff, although shorter, could be used as a model for restoring the Poplar Grove flagstaff.

Alternative B: Remove the existing flagstaff and replace it with a new steel flagstaff with a ball finial, painted to match the specifications in the 1931 National Cemetery Regulations: black base, white shaft. Under this alternative, the flagstaff would be a compatible new addition; reproduction of the 1930 flagstaff design, with guy wires, is therefore not necessary. The height of the flagstaff should be above the tree canopy so

that the flag is visible from Vaughan Road once the west woods are removed (see CSA-Task 2).

In addition to returning the flagstaff to its historic height, enhance the surrounding landscape within the loop of the main drive by removing the non-historic aluminum-frame grave locator-interpretive signs (also recommended under LG-Task 2 and BG-Task 3), and the rectangular concrete pads that were installed after the historic period, most likely as bases for benches (fig 4.17). In addition, remove the existing non-historic flagstaff floodlight, together with its surrounding rocks and concealing boxwood, and replace with lighting that is less conspicuous in the landscape. Options may include recessed ground lighting at the base of the flagstaff or lighting installed on the shaft of the flagstaff.

Once these non-historic features are removed, improve the lawn and establish a flowerbed at the center to reinforce the flagstaff as a focal point and to beautify the landscape (fig. 4.17). The lawn panel would serve as a gathering place for ceremonies at the flagstaff. Establishing a flowerbed at this key location will also help to convey a sense of care and respect, and in its circular form, would reinforce the plan of the cemetery. In 1892, there was a circular flowerbed around the flagstaff mound, but this bed was apparently removed along with the mound in c.1913. A simple circular bed around the flagstaff, approximately six feet in width (16' overall including the base of the flagstaff), would be appropriate as a compatible new addition to the landscape. It should provide low-scale informal massing rather than strict geometric shapes or ornamental accents (the bed should not have the character of a Victorian carpet bed). A walk to the flagstaff halyard on the north side (out of view from approach up the main drive) is necessary, as well as a wider (approximately six feet in diameter) pad around the flagstaff. The most appropriate material for the walk and the pad would be concrete with a coarse aggregate, allowed to weather to a dull gray the visually recedes.

Appropriate plant material for the flagstaff flowerbed should include peonies and roses, which were documented near the lodge in 1931 at the end of the historic period (suggested planting plan in fig. 4.17). Both are long-lived plants that most likely dated back to the initial beautification of the cemetery undertaken in the 1870s. Roses were traditionally used in cemetery landscapes as symbols of the Resurrection and divine mercy.³³ Peonies are an old-fashioned plant popular in the late 19th and early 20th century for its large blooms and lush foliage. In addition to roses and peonies, low-scale flowering annuals, such as marigolds, geraniums, and/or begonias, should be included to provide season-long color in the bed. Low-maintenance and long-blooming varieties should be preferred. Garish colors are not recommended. Consideration should also be given to adding drip

irrigation or other automatic watering system within the flowerbed to ensure consistent quality and reduce maintenance.

BG-Task 6: Reintroduce Three Missing Gun Monuments

- Small-Scale Feature: Gun monument (contributing)

Reintroduce the three missing gun monuments (upright cannons) that together with the existing gun monument encircled the central flagstaff (Drawing 7). Poplar Grove was historically among the larger Civil War-era national cemeteries, and as such was outfitted with four gun monuments; the existence of only one gun monument currently places Poplar Grove in the rank of the small cemeteries, such as Glendale and Seven Pines. There are three appropriate alternatives for returning the missing gun monuments:

Alternative A: Locate the missing guns that were removed in c.1974 and reinstall together with pyramidal piles of shot on a concrete pad that match the existing gun monument. Presently there are no leads on the whereabouts of these guns.

Alternative B: Fabricate new gun monuments, and install with piles of shot on a concrete pad that match the existing gun monument. These new guns should replicate the overall dimensions and character of the historic guns so that together the four read as a unified group. The new guns should, however, should be distinguishable as contemporary replacements. This may be achieved either through alteration of the details, and/or by adding a plaque on the base pad indicating that the guns are replicas or contemporary features. Consideration may be given to durable alternate materials provide the outward appearance is consistent with the historic painted iron.

Alternative C: Install historic guns that are close in overall dimensions and character to the historic gun monuments, and install with piles of shot on a concrete pad that match the existing gun monument. Plaques should be installed on the base pads indicating that the origin of the replacement guns.

In addition to replacement of the missing gun monuments, remove the paint from the bronze shield on the existing gun monument, and replicate the missing cap consisting of a cannonball (visible in 1969 photograph, fig. 1.77).

BG-Task 7: Reestablish Historic Character of Trees in Burial Grounds

- Vegetation: Specimen trees

Reestablish the historic character of the trees in the burial grounds through removal and new plantings to approximate the general character and species composition at the end of the historic period (Drawing 7). The VA's National Cemetery policies discourage planting of specimen trees within the burial grounds, and indeed in most Richmond-area National Cemeteries, mature trees are not replaced once removed. Such a policy is not appropriate to enhancing and maintaining the historic character of Poplar Grove National Cemetery.

The following treatment recommendations are organized into three parts: I. General guidelines; II. Trees to be removed; II. Trees to be planted.

Part I: General Guidelines:*Trees and Historic Character*

As living things, trees are not static features in the landscape. Over time, they grow, decline, and eventually are removed. At Poplar Grove, certain aspects of a tree's appearance, such as the height of the lower branches, were managed, but overall the specimen trees (unlike most of the shrubs) were intended to grow naturally. The natural cycle can have a marked impact on the character of the landscape, but generally this dynamic is compatible because it characterized the landscape historically. The key to retaining historic character is therefore to ensure that over time, individual specimen trees remain as a feature in the landscape through a program of in-kind replacement. Since the end of the historic period at Poplar Grove, such a program has not been followed, and therefore a larger percentage of the specimen trees in the cemetery have been lost, impacting the historic character of the landscape.

Aged trees are also valuable because their character can add greatly to a landscape's feeling of age and provide living, tangible evidence of the passage of time. While certain specimens may have outgrown their intended space (such as encroaching on grave markers), their value as aged plant material should most always take precedent over trying to recapture through replanting their appearance and size during the historic period.

Treatment Approach and Species Selection

The preferred treatment approach for specimen trees within the burial grounds is to re-establish the general character represented by War Department's 1931 plan, "Tree Planting Layout" (fig. 4.18). The overall intent for this treatment is to reestablish the fairly even distribution of a diverse collection of species, using

both coniferous and deciduous trees. This represents a wide variety of species that will protect against widespread loss in the case of diseases and pests. All trees within or adjoining graves should be pruned up at maturity, with lower branches not extending lower than eight-to-ten feet (at maturity) in order to allow passage beneath and not obstruct sight lines.

The understory should be maintained in turf grass. Although mulch was not maintained around specimen trees during the historic period, it is recommended for new plantings to avoid impacts from mowers and to improve growing conditions. As the trees become well established, the mulch should be replaced with turf.

Where possible, trees should be planted based on the species and location documented at the end of the historic period. Many trees were planted after the end of the historic period in 1933; while not planted as in-kind replacements, most are nonetheless compatible with the historic character of the landscape, although the massings of redcedars along the inclosure wall were not characteristic of the historic period.

In keeping with Rehabilitation as the overall treatment approach for Poplar Grove, there are a number of contemporary issues that warrant some flexibility in tree planting. One issue is location: the historic placement of some trees may warrant relocation due to potential impacts on headstones and graves. A second issue is the need for alternative species, which may be warranted because trees are no longer viable due to disease; trees are not sustainable from an ecological or maintenance perspective; and trees that impact grave markers and lawn. In general, alternate species should either be those used historically within the cemetery (see Appendix H), or those that are close in appearance to the historic species.

Tree species for new plantings should include those that existed in the landscape by the end of the historic period, as well as the new plantings specified in the 1931 planting plan. In addition, species used historically within the cemetery as documented through the historic period but which disappeared by the early 1930s, are also appropriate provided they are viable species for the conditions in the cemetery. Conifers historically made up a substantial proportion of the tree stock in the cemetery, due largely to the existence of numerous loblolly pines that predated the cemetery, as well as to the conifer's traditional funerary symbolism of life everlasting.

Tree species used historically at Poplar Grove that have disease issues are primarily limited to American elm (Dutch elm disease and elm yellowing), purple beech (beech bark disease), ash including European mountain ash (anthracnose and ash yellowing), and hemlock (wooly adelgid). Trees that have ecological issues include box elder and Norway maple, which are considered invasive species in many areas. When young, lindens (especially Littleleaf linden), are not drought resistant. Sugar maples are pushing their southern range, given recent warming trends; certain cultivars such as Green Mountain, however, are better able to withstand heat.

Rooting habit is an important consideration within the burial grounds in terms of lawn maintenance and potential impacts to headstones and graves. In general, surface roots can be minimized by ensuring proper soils and moisture levels, but rooting habit is also determined by the tree species. Trees with shallow, lateral roots systems (typically lowland trees) may sap moisture from the lawn, heave grave markers, and make mowing difficult, but are unlikely to affect the underlying graves. Among the trees found historically at Poplar Grove, these include Norway maple, Norway spruce, red maple, silver maple, and willows. Trees with deep, penetrating roots (taproot) are less likely to impact grave markers or mowing, but could penetrate graves. Those found historically at Poplar Grove include eastern redcedar, loblolly pine, sugar maple, tuliptree, false cypress, and willow oak. A third class of root system has wide spreading and deep laterals that may also pose disturbance issues if planted in inadequate soils. Those found historically at Poplar Grove include American elm, linden, green ash, horsechestnut, and pin oak.³⁴

In addition to rooting habit, the density of the canopy is also an important consideration in lawn maintenance. In general, dense canopies should be avoided. Norway maple and big-leaf lindens tend to have dense canopies that create shade and drought conditions, which impede healthy lawn development. Dense canopies can also accelerate biological growths on the headstones.

Part II: Trees to be Removed within the Burial Grounds

Since the end of the historic period in 1934, the National Park Service has planted numerous trees, notably red cedars along the inclosure wall in 1937, and an assortment of specimen trees over the years. While most are compatible with the historic character of the landscape, some specimen trees conflict with historic circulation (planted in walks and drives) and site lines. As part of a replanting program, trees planted after 1934 within historic walks and drives should be removed. Surrounding the central loop, the existing trees as a collection are too dense and have low branching that obstructs view of the flagstaff from the graves.

Several hollies, cedars, and a red maple should be removed for these reasons (see Drawing 7).

Other trees planted after 1934, notably the red-cedar along the inclosure wall, should be retained until they decline, and then either be removed and not replaced, or replaced either in-kind or with the species used historically in that location (Drawing 7 and following section).

Part III: Trees to be Planted within the Burial Grounds

The recommended species and placement of trees is shown on Drawing 7. This plan follows the general intent of the 1931 War Department plan “Tree Planting Layout,” with modifications to accommodate existing trees, better use open space between sections, screen development along the east and north sides, introduce additional loblolly pine, and diversify the species palette. For the oaks, willow, water, and red oaks are added to the 1931 specification for pin oak; Red horsechestnut is substituted for European mountain ash; red, silver, and sugar maples are substituted for Norway maple; and Littleleaf linden is substituted for American linden (see Table 4 for additional information). In addition, species existing in 1931 or that existed prior to that time are also specified, including false cypress, hickory, magnolia, sweet gum, silver maple, and tulip tree. For American elms, it is recommended that a viable cultivar be used, or that hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) be substituted as a tree in the same family with a similar habit. The following is a list of the number of new specimen tree plantings recommended for the burial grounds (for details on plant materials, see Table 4.2 at end of chapter):

American elm (hackberry)	5
American holly	5
Austrian pine	6
False Cypress	2
Hickory	1
Littleleaf linden	6
Loblolly pine	35
Norway spruce	2
Pin oak	6
Red horsechestnut	4
Red oak	2
Silver maple	2
Southern magnolia	4
Sugar maple	3
Sweetgum	2

Tulip-tree	4
Water oak	1
Willow oak	8
<hr/>	
Total	98

The placement of the trees should not be made within the turf drives or walks in order to maintain the open spatial character of these circulation routes. Trees may be planted along the edges of the drives and walks. Within the burial sections, trees should not be planted between grave markers; instead, they should be planted in the walk off the foot of the grave, between the lower edge of the grave and the adjoining grave marker. Archeological testing will most likely be necessary prior to any tree planting program to ascertain potential impacts to the underlying remains.

A program of in-kind replacement should be instituted for all trees except those non-historic specimens scheduled for removal once they are in marked decline or pose a safety hazard (Drawing 7).

BG-Task 8: Plant Shrubs in Burial Grounds

- Vegetation: Specimen shrubs

Plant shrubs in the burial grounds to beautify the landscape and recall historic plantings through removal and new plantings (see Table 4.2 at end of chapter for details of recommended shrubs). Because of their limited root systems, shrubs do not have the same potential as specimen trees to impact grave markers or underlying graves. Nonetheless, archeological testing may be required prior to planting. In addition, shrubs should be planted and maintained to avoid obscuring grave markers.

During the historic period prior to 1933, there was an allee or hedge of boxwood shrubs on the walk between Divisions E and D, and scattered boxwoods along the axial north-south and east-west walks near the flagstaff that were probably remnants of larger shrub borders. Most of these shrubs were apparently clipped into low mounds. In addition, there were crape myrtles, but their location is not known.

Part I: Shrubs to Remove

All of the existing shrubs within the burial grounds should be removed except for the boxwood on the south side of the main drive near the rostrum, and the crape myrtle in Division D, section D north of the main drive. These should be retained for their aged character and to retain some historic plant material. The other shrubs should be removed either because they are in poor condition, are in the

wrong location, or because they are non-historic. These include two remnant boxwoods in the boxwood allee, and four crape myrtles east of the flagstaff in Division B.

Part II: Shrubs to Plant

Plant boxwood shrubs along north-south and east-west axial walks: None of these boxwood shrubs remain today, but they are shown in a 1939 photograph and documented on the 1931 War Department planting plan (fig 4.19). These were most likely remnants of more extensive plantings that once lined the walks as suggested on the 1892 Quartermaster General plan (see fig. 1.53). The recommended plantings re-establish the boxwoods shown on the walks the 1931 plan, and extend these symmetrically to form a cross with the flagstaff at the center (Drawing 7). Three boxwoods spaced approximately twenty-five feet apart should be planted on each side of the axial walks, beginning at the outer edge of second circular drive, for a total of twenty-four boxwoods. These should be clipped into low mounds, approximately three feet high, as shown in the 1939 photograph. Because there is no historic documentation for this exact planting, this is a compatible new addition that recalls the earlier plantings. The new plantings reinforce the center and the symmetry of the landscape by marking the filled-in walk north of the flagstaff. The shrubs will also help orient visitors to the layout of the cemetery.

Replant boxwood allee: Replant the boxwood allee or hedge that extended along both sides of the walk between Divisions D and E (Drawing 7). This allee should consist of twenty-five individual boxwood shrubs, twelve on the west side and thirteen on the east side of the walk. The shrubs should be spaced approximately eighteen feet apart. Although no historic photographs of these hedges has been found, they should most likely be clipped in low mounds, approximately three feet high, similar to the boxwoods along the east-west axial walk (fig. 4.19). While the function of this allee is not known, it was a prominent part of the landscape during the historic period.

Plant crape myrtles along circular drive: There were six crape myrtles documented in 1931, but their locations are not known. The recommended plantings, for a total of five new crape myrtles, tie into the existing crape myrtle on the third circular drive in Division D north of the main drive (Drawing 7). The shrubs should be pruned into a vase-shape that does not obstruct view of the adjoining grave markers. Because there is no historic documentation for this planting, this is a compatible new addition intended to beautiful the landscape.

BG-Task 9: Reinstall Iron Tablets

- Small-Scale Features: Non-existing historic feature (in storage)

Reinstall the standard iron signs known as tablets that are presently in storage in the loft of the cemetery garage. An inventory of the signs has not been made. Historically, there were: one “General Orders No. 80” tablet (M on Drawing 7) fronting the service yard; four “Act to Establish and Protect National Cemeteries” (N) tablets located in front of the service yard and in the burial grounds; one “Visitors Notice, Invitation to Register” (P) tablet near the lodge (should be reinstalled as part of a new information wayside, see LG Task 2); and ten four-line verses from “The Bivouac of the Dead” (O) scattered around the burial grounds. These standard tablets survive in part or entirely at Gettysburg, Culpeper, and Fredericksburg National Cemeteries (fig 4.20).

The tablets should be reinstalled on new wooden posts painted white, approximately two-to-three feet off the ground (see fig 4.19). As specified in the 1931 National Cemetery Regulations, the tablets should be painted black with the borders and letters painted with aluminum.³⁵

If any of the tablets are missing or broken, they should be replicated. The original casting forms may still exist at the Army’s Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Illinois.

BG-Task 10: Reintroduce Benches

- Small-Scale Features: Non-existing historic feature

Install fourteen benches along the main drive and central loop, and around the third circular drives to reintroduce this feature to the landscape and provide visitors with resting places (Drawing 7). Four benches should be placed symmetrically around the central loop; eight along the third outer loop drive; and two along the main entrance drive. There were nine settees in 1929, down from twenty in 1888; several still existed in 1968 (fig 4.21). The benches were historically located along the main drive around the central loop and near the rostrum; other locations are not known. According to the 1931 National Cemetery Regulations, the benches should be painted bronze green.³⁶

There are two design alternatives for the new benches:

Alternative 1 (preferred): Fabricate replicas of the 1877 settees (wood slats, wrought-iron frame) based on photographic evidence (fig. 4.21), or possibly on a surviving settee that may remain in storage in the loft of the cemetery garage.

Alternative 2: Install contemporary benches that recall the overall design and materials of the historic settees (fig. 4.16).

TREATMENT SUMMARY & PRIORITIES

The following table (4.1) summarizes the recommended tasks for the rehabilitation of Poplar Grove National Cemetery, and provides a ranking of 1 through 3 to identify priorities. Overall, those tasks with the highest priority are those needed to preserve existing historic features, notably the rural cemetery setting; those that re-establish character-defining landscape features to return a sense of honor and respect to the landscape, notably the grave markers, approach road alley, and specimen trees and shrubs; and those that enhance visitor use and interpretation, such as a new information wayside and reinstallation of the iron tablets.

TABLE 4.1: SUMMARY OF LANDSCAPE TREATMENT TASKS			
Cultural Landscape Report for Poplar Grove National Cemetery			
Task ID	Task Name	Priority 1/high 2/med. 3/low	Related Task (s)
Cemetery Setting and Approach (CSA)			
CSA-Task 1	Redesign Cemetery Identification Signs	1	
CSA-Task 2	Remove West Woods	1	CSA-Task 5
CSA-Task 3	Remove Triangular Woodlot	1	CSA-Task 5
CSA-Task 4	Redesign Odom Cemetery Inclosure	3	CSA-Task 5
CSA-Task 5	Reestablish Approach Road Alley	1	CSA-Tasks 2, 3, 4
CSA-Task 6	Resurface Approach Road	2	SY-Task 1, BG-Task 4
CSA-Task 7	Remove South Hedgerow	2	
CSA-Task 8	Relocate Visitor Parking Lot	2	
CSA-Task 9	Relocate Private Drive	3	
Cemetery Inclosure (CI)			
CI-Task 1	Improve Drainage through Inclosure Wall	1	BG-Task 1
CI-Task 2	Enhance Wooded Enclosure on North, East Sides	2	
Service Yard (SY)			
SY-Task 1	Reconfigure Service Drive	1	CSA-Task 6, BG-Task 4
SY-Task 2	Reestablish Service Yard Hedge	1	SY-Task 1
SY-Task 3	Build Compost Bins	2	
SY-Task 4	Plant Specimen Trees	2	SY-Task 1, BG-Task x,
SY-Task 5	Return Garage to Historic Appearance	2	

Lodge Grounds (LG)			
LG-Task 1	Construct New Walk to Public Restroom Building	1	LG-Task 2
LG-Task 2	Install Cemetery Information Wayside	1	LG-Task 1, BG-Task 9
LG-Task 3	Replace Wood Privacy Fence with Grape Arbor	3	
LG-Task 4	Establish New Plantings in Lodge Grounds	1	
LG-Task 5	Reestablish Maltese Cross Hedge	2	
LG-Task 6	Return Public Restroom Building to Historic Appearance	3	
LG-Task 7	Return Lodge to Historic Appearance	3	
LG-Task 8	Return Historic Paint Scheme to Rostrum	3	
Burial Grounds (BG)			
BG-Task 1	Improve Health and Appearance of Cemetery Lawn	1	CI-Task 1
BG-Task 2	Return Grave Markers to Historic Appearance	1	
BG-Task 3	Redesign Grave Locator System	1	BG-Task 2, LG-Task 2
BG-Task 4	Resurface Main Drive and Return Circular Alignment to Loop	1	BG-Task 5, LG-Task 2
BG-Task 5	Return Flagstaff to Historic Height and Enhance Central Circle	1	BG-Tasks 4, 6
BG-Task 6	Reintroduce Three Missing Gun Monuments	2	
BG-Task 7	Reestablish Historic Character of Specimen Trees in Burial Grounds	2	BG-Task 8
BG-Task 8	Plant Shrubs in Burial Grounds	2	BG-Task 7
BG-Task 9	Reinstall Iron Tablets	2	
BG-Task 10	Reintroduce Benches in Burial Grounds	3	

TABLE 4.2: RECOMMENDED PLANT MATERIALS

Cultural Landscape Report for Poplar Grove National Cemetery

Recommended Species * Alternates	Common Name (Dwg. Key)	Historic Plant Material at Poplar Grove	Notes
Trees			
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red maple (rm)	Same.	Up to 100' tall, fast growing. Heavy surface rooting; should not be planted near headstones. Use cultivar with fuller crown and less tendency toward branch die-back than species, such as "Autumn Flame."
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver maple (svm)	Same.	Up to 100' tall, fast growing. Heavy surface rooting; should not be planted near headstones.
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar maple (sm)	Same. Use as substitute for Norway maple.	Up to 100' tall, moderate growth rate. Use cultivar with better heat tolerance than species, such as "Green Mountain."
<i>Aesculus x carnea</i>	Red horsechestnut (hc)	Probably common horsechestnut, <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> European mountain ash, <i>Sorbus acuparia</i>	Up to 30' tall, <i>x carnea</i> smaller than common horsechestnut (up to 100' tall), historically limited to single specimen in lodge grounds (center of turn-around). <i>A. x carnea</i> is suitable as a replacement for European mountain ash, specified in the 1931 War Department plan, but a short-lived and diseased species.
<i>Carya spp.</i>	Hickory (hk)	Probably pignut hickory, <i>Carya glabra</i>	Up to 80' tall; existing specimen was planted after 1934.
<i>Chamaecyparis spp.</i>	False cypress (fc)	Not determined; probably a variety of <i>C. lawsoniana</i> (Lawson Cypress)	Up to 100' tall, low branching, slow growing. Thriving single specimen in Division C, Section E.
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White ash (wa)	Either white or green ash (<i>F. pennsylvanica</i>); planted in approach road allee.	Up to 80' tall; select cultivars without tendency toward twigs and with vase-shape. Both green and white ash are susceptible to ash decline and ash yellowing, which is affecting the Midwest and Northeast; not yet documented in Virginia.
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American holly (h)	Same.	Up to 50' tall, low branching. Several healthy mature specimens in cemetery.
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern redcedar (rc)	Same. Native tree, originally transplanted from surrounding fields.	Up to 40' tall, little canopy. Aside from initial planting by burial corps, there were few specimens during historic period; widely planted by NPS in 1937. Most in cemetery nearing end of lifespan.
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip-tree or yellow	Same. Originally transplanted	Up to 100' tall, fast growing. Minimal surface roots. Most of the specimens

	poplar (tt)	from surrounding woods.	were historically in the approach road allee.
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweet gum (sg)	Same.	Up to 125' tall. One thriving specimen in cemetery.
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	Southern magnolia (ma)	Same.	Up to 35' tall, low branching; several thriving mature specimens.
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway spruce (ns)	Same; cultivar not known.	Up to 200' tall; some surface rooting and heavy canopy. Should not be planted adjacent to graves due to low, wide branching. Many cultivars; chose one with graceful, dropping habit for burial grounds; use narrow cultivar for specimens to either side of entrance gates. No specimens remain in cemetery; at southern end of range.
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Austrian pine (ap)	Same.	Up to 120'; high branching. No specimens remaining in cemetery; reason not known.
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	Loblolly pine (lp)	Same. Native variety, most from pre-existing second growth trees.	Up to 100' tall, high branching; minimal surface roots. Dominant tree during historic period. Most specimens reaching end of life.
<i>Prunus americana</i>	American plum (pl)	Same.	Up to 50' tall; native tree with profuse white flowers; not usually planted as an ornamental. For maintenance purposes, a sterile variety may be warranted. No longer existing in cemetery; historically planted in lodge grounds.
<i>Pyrus spp.</i>	Pear (pr)	Not known; most likely callery pear, <i>Pyrus comunis</i> .	Up to 50' tall, common fruit tree with white flowers. Use variety/cultivar that is close in size to the American plum. For maintenance purposes, a sterile variety may be warranted. No longer existing in cemetery; historically planted in lodge grounds. Avoid contemporary ornamental cultivars such as Bradford pear.
<i>Quercus nigra</i>	Water oak (wo)	Same.	Up to 50' tall; good for wet areas; typically has surface roots. Relatively small and short-lived oak. No specimens remain in cemetery.
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin oak (po)	Same.	Up to 100' tall; not prone to surface roots. No specimens remain in cemetery; reason not known.
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Willow oak (wio)	Same.	Up to 100' tall, high canopy; limited surface roots, but massive trunk at maturity. Thriving specimens in cemetery.
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red oak (ro)	Probably introduced after 1934.	Up to 100' tall, high canopy, relatively fast growing, native. Although no documented during the historic period, the existing red oak is thriving and has a comparable habit to the willow oak. It would be a good oak to retain in the cemetery's tree stock.

<i>Tilia americana</i>	American linden, basswood	Probably same; in approach road alley.	Up to 100'; select variety that is resistant to suckering; or substitute with little leaf linden.
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Little-leaf linden (ln)	<i>Tilia americana</i> , American linden	Up to 80' tall, moderate canopy height, some surface rooting. No lindens survive in cemetery. Little-leaf linden is preferred over American linden because the canopy is less dense and allows better lawn development underneath. Care must be taken to ensure young trees do not dry out.
<i>Ulmus spp.</i> * <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	American elm (e) * Hackberry	<i>Ulmus Americana</i>	Up to 100' tall; was noted as a problem historically due to surface roots; most specimens removed during historic period. Plant only cultivar resistant to Dutch elm and elm yellowing disease (transgenic cultivar currently being tested; only cultivar resistant to both diseases). If no viable cultivar available, plant hackberry, which has a similar vase-shaped habit (in the elm family).
Shrubs & Vines			
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , 'Vardar Valley' or similar	Common boxwood, American boxwood (bx)	Probably common boxwood; (historic plants remain on site)	Most common shrub in cemetery during historic period. To be managed as shrubs clipped into mounds, approximately 3-4' high, 4-5' in diameter upon maturity. "Vardar Valley" is a dense, mound-forming variety with mid-to-dark green leaves.
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Crape myrtle (cm)	Same; color not known.	Up to 20' tall; many hybrid cultivars. Existing crape myrtles are most likely post-1934 plantings.
<i>Vitis vinifer purpurea</i> , <i>Vitis coignetiae</i> , or similar	Purple-leaved vine (grape), Crimson glory vine	Historic variety of grape not known.	For use on the grape arbor to be reconstructed at the rear of the lodge.
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> , 'Pyramidalis Compacta' or similar	American arborvitae (aa)	Historic variety not known (may have been called "cedar").	For use in alternative #2 lodge grounds plantings, as a clipped shrub. Use shorter variety with green color.
<i>Thuja orientalis</i> (recently reclassified as <i>Platycladus orientalis</i>), 'Pyramidalis' or similar	Chinese arborvitae (ca)	Historic variety not known. Probably a dark green upright variety.	For use in service drive hedge. Many cultivars on the market; use one that is dark green (not yellow), 6-8' tall at maturity.
Bedding Plants			
Various	Flowering annuals	Not known.	Use mixture of low (1-2') old-fashioned annuals with long bloom period, such as wax begonia, geranium, and marigold; for outside border of flagstaff bed.
<i>Paeonia officinalis</i>	Common peony	Not known; probably common peony	May require staking; for use in inner part of flagstaff bed.
<i>Rosa spp.</i>	Shrub rose	Not known.	Use low (2-3'), mounding rose, with extended bloom period; for use in

			inner part of flagstaff bed.
<p>Sources: L. H. Bailey, editor, <i>The Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture</i> (1900, revised 1942) Sean Hogan, consultant, <i>Flora: The Gardener's Bible</i> (2003) National Park Service, 1941 "Poplar Grove Master Plan" War Department, 1931 "Poplar Grove National Cemetery Tree Planting Layout" Donald Wyman, <i>Wyman's Gardening Encyclopedia</i> (1986)</p>			

DRAFT

ENDNOTES

¹ Such tasks are addressed in a separate cultural landscape document known in the NPS as a “Preservation Maintenance Plan.” This plan is not included in the scope of this project.

² As implemented by the National Cemeteries Act of 1973 [Pub. L. 93-43, Sec. 2(a), June 18, 1973] which transferred jurisdiction of the national cemeteries under the Department of Defense to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the “National Cemetery System” only includes those national cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Poplar Grove is part of the historical system of national cemeteries, but legally not part of the current National Cemetery System.

³ *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (1995), http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch_stnds_8_2.htm, accessed 18 December 2006.

⁴ 2001 NPS Management Policies, Use of the Parks, section 8.6.10.1, <http://www.nps.gov/refdesk/mp/chapter8.htm>, accessed 18 December 2006.

⁵ Director’s Order #61: National Cemetery Operations, www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder61.htm, accessed 2 October 2006. DO-61 was revised and opened for comment through 15 January 2003. A final version has not yet been posted on the web.

⁶ Veterans Administration, Department of Memorial Affairs, “Headstones and Markers (Manual M40-3, December 1, 1982), chapters 4, 9.

⁷ National Cemetery Administration National Shrine Commitment, “Operational Standards and Measures,” version 2.0 (October 2004), 4.

⁸ “Operational Standards and Measures, 12, 23. The VA provides additional landscape treatment guidelines through its Office of Construction Management within the National Cemetery Administration, available on its webpage at www.cem.va.gov/cem/ocm, “Site Elements / Features.”

⁹ War Department, Office of the Quartermaster General, *National Cemetery Regulations* (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1931).

¹⁰ National Park Service, “Petersburg National Battlefield Final General Management Plan/Abbreviated Final Environmental Impact Statement” (2004) (hereafter, “GMP,”), 53, 55.

¹¹ GMP, 52, 58.

¹² NPS_28 Cultural Resource Management Guideline, Chapter 7: Management of Cultural Landscapes, http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/nps28/28chap7.htm, accessed 12/18/06.

¹³ Lawrence Bibbs, Manager and Program Analyst, Fort Harrison National Cemetery, conversation with John Auwaerter and Betsy Dinger-Glisan, 7 June 2006.

¹⁴ Bibbs to Auwaerter and Dinger-Glisan, 7 June 2006.

¹⁵ Although Vaughan Road is part of the larger public approach to the cemetery, its treatment is beyond the scope of this CLR. Park managers should recognize, however, that the character of Vaughan Road from Flank Road to the cemetery is part of the cemetery's larger setting. Increased development and substantial widening or increases in traffic volume on could be detrimental to this setting.

¹⁶ GMP, 52.

¹⁷ A third drain opening in the south side of the wall within the lodge grounds/assembly area does not presently back up, but this may due to the obstruction by the gravel walk of the swale that feeds into it from the lodge gutters. Removal of this gravel walk and restoration of the swale as proposed (see Lodge Grounds) may require improvement to this drainage opening.

¹⁸ *The Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture*, s. V. "Thuja."

¹⁹ 1931 National Cemetery Regulations, 30-31.

²⁰ War Department, *National Cemetery Regulations* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1931), 31.

²¹ 1931 National Cemetery Regulations, 30-31.

²² National Park Service, National Cemetery Regulations, 36 CFR 12, and Directors Order 61, cross reference to VA Headstones and Markers Manual M40-3 (December 1, 1982), Section 9.01. Manual M40-3 is presently undergoing revision, and these provisions are subject to change. These are the criteria applicable to Poplar Grove; see manual for full list of replacement criteria, section 9.02. In order to proceed with replacement, VA Form 40-4963, "Request for Replacement of Headstone," must be submitted to the National Cemetery Administration. Given the unique circumstances at Poplar Grove, an extraordinary request will most likely be needed at an upper administrative level.

²³ National Cemetery Administration, "Headstones and Markers Pre World War I Era Headstones and Markers" webpage, <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm/hmcivil.asp>, updated June 6, 2006, 25 January 2007.

²⁴ Veterans Administration, Department of Memorial Affairs, "Headstones and Markers (Manual M40-3, December 1, 1982), Figure 4.1.

²⁵ Vicky Holly, National Cemetery Administration, e-mail to John Auwaerter, 4 December 2006. Ms. Holly directed further inquiry into the reproduction blocks to Gina White in the Program Support Unit, gina.white@va.gov.

²⁶ National Cemetery Regulations (1931), 23-24; Veterans Administration, "Headstones and Markers," Manual M40-3 (December 1, 1982), Chapter 4, section 11.

²⁷ VA Manual M40-3, Chapter 7.

²⁸ VA Manual M40-3, Chapter 5, Section 4. The specifications refer only to General-style Medal of Honor headstones.

²⁹ Although blocks at other national cemeteries (e.g., Cold Harbor, Fort Harrison, Glendale) inspected by the author (2006) had chipped edges, this chipping was not conspicuous.

³⁰ VA Manual Mro-, Chapter 4, Section II “Destruction or Removal.” “Government furnished marble, granite or slate headstones or markers that are permanently removed from a grave for any purpose must be destroyed in any convenient manner.” Since there is no inscription on the blocks aside from the grave number, it is not known if the regulations would require destruction of the stone. The issue of destroying deteriorated blocks may not present the same conflict with cultural resource management as the headstones due to the lack of inscription on the blocks.

³¹ Donald Pfanz, Historian, Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park, phone conversation with John Auwaerter, 30 November 2006.

³² National Cemetery Regulations (1931), 31.

³³ Teri Tillman, “Cemetery Roses Live On,” online article of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, www.ggb.org/gar2/topics/plants/handbooks/roses/3b.html, accessed 5 February 2007.

³⁴ Richard R. Fenska, *Tree Experts Manual* (New York: A. T. De La Mare Company, 1943), 15-16.

³⁵ National Cemetery Regulations (1931), 31.

³⁶ National Cemetery Regulations (1931), 31.



Figure 4.1: Well-tended character of VA-administered national cemeteries illustrated at Civil War-era Richmond National Cemetery (Richmond, Virginia), view looking south toward the central flagstaff mound. Note neatly trimmed grass and clean marble headstones. SUNY ESF, 2006.



Figure 4.2: Illustrations from the VA's "Operational Standards and Measures," accompanying the standard for markers that are described as showing "turf edged vertically even with the marker and free of trimming debris" (left) and "headstones, markers and niche covers that do not show evidence of debris or objectionable accumulations." The identity of the national cemeteries pictured is not indicated. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, "National Shrine Commitment Operational Standards and Measures" (Version 2.0, October 2004).



Figure 4.3: Antietam National Cemetery looking toward “At Rest” monument showing character of an NPS-administered national cemetery. Note difference in maintenance of headstones and lawn compared with figures 4.1 and 4.2. National Park Service.

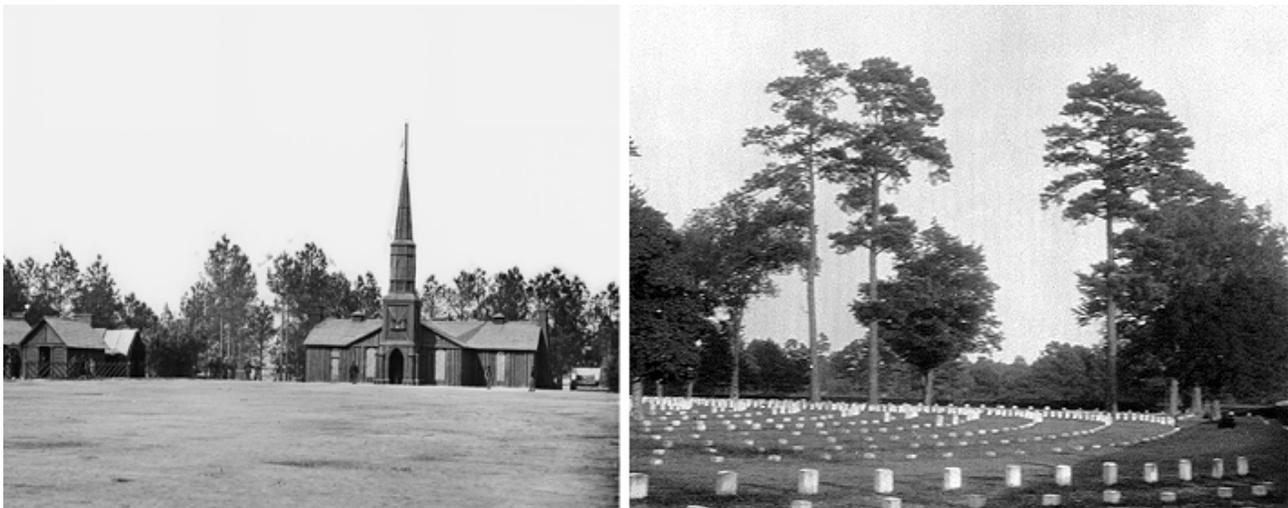


Figure 4.4: Landscape as interpretive feature for Civil War period: Loblolly pines at Engineers Camp, c. March 1865 (left), and same loblolly pines sixty-six years later in 1931. Only four loblolly pines remain in the cemetery today. Details of photographs from Library of Congress and National Archives (see figs. 1.20 and 1.65).

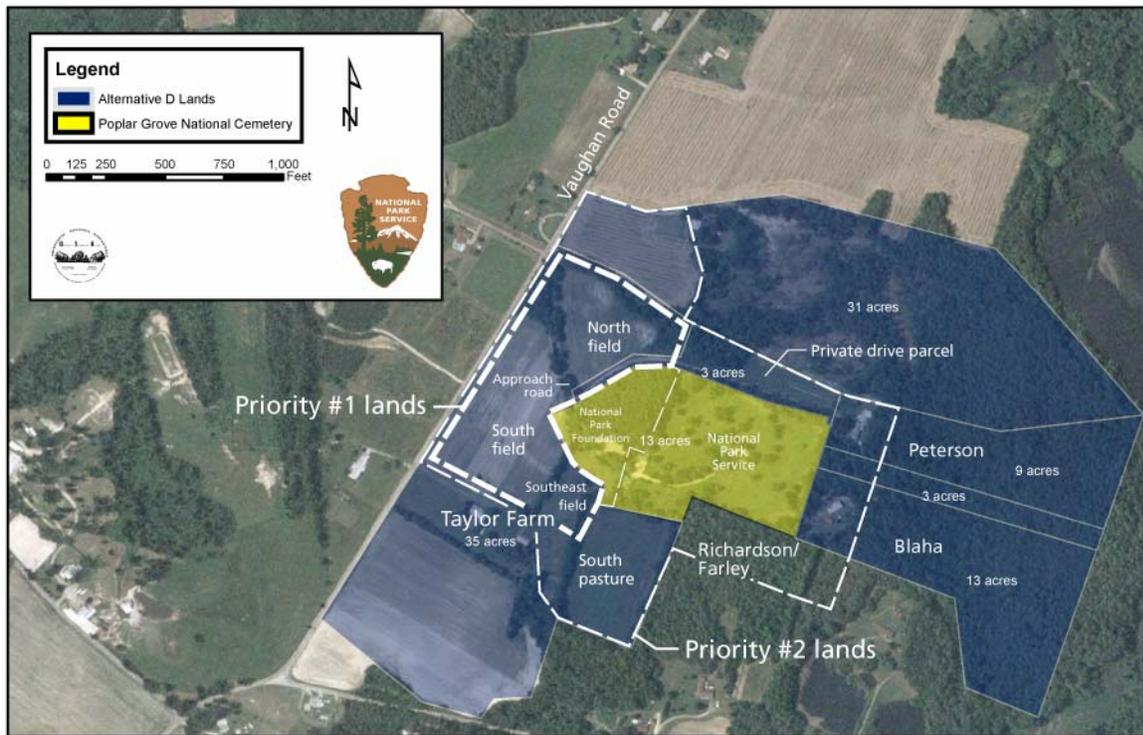


Figure 4.5: Alternative D Lands for protection, General Management Plan for Petersburg National Battlefield (2004), annotated by SUNY ESF to show lands required for protection of the cemetery setting.

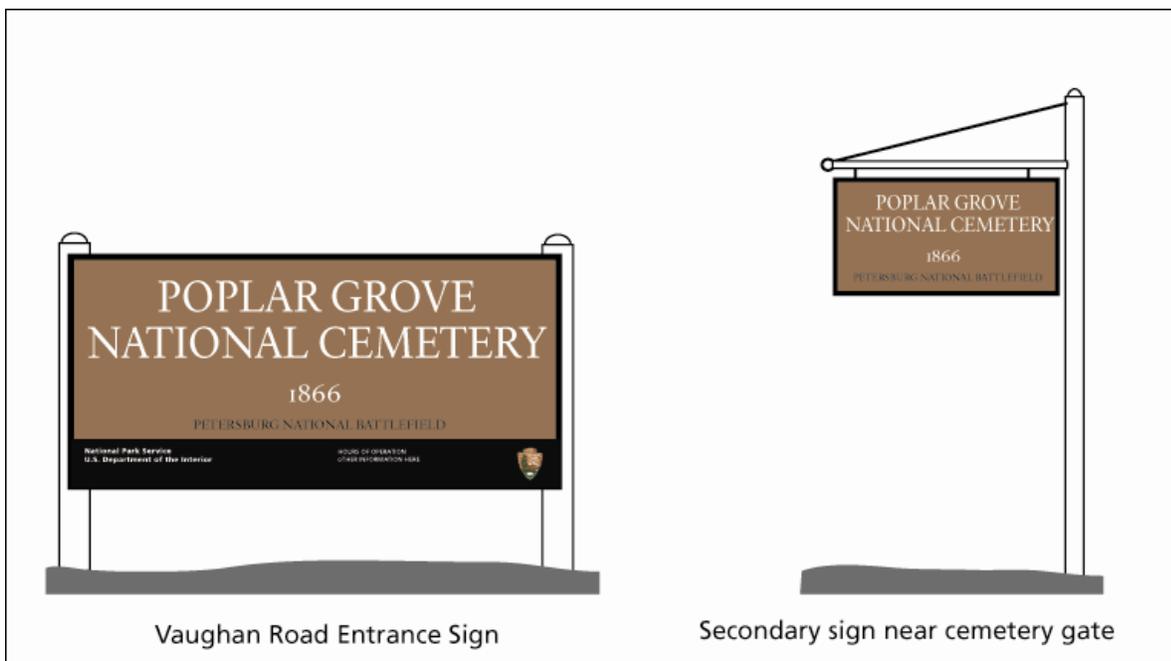


Figure 4.6: Suggested designs for signs at Vaughan Road and at the cemetery gates (not to scale). SUNY ESF.



Figure 4.7: View upon approach to Glendale National Cemetery, with flagstaff rising above specimen trees within the cemetery, a view and setting similar to historic conditions at Poplar Grove. The field extends to the cemetery inclosure wall, which is not visible in this photograph. SUNY ESF, 2006.



Figure 4.8 (left): Flooding in Division A along south side of inclosure wall related to inadequate grade and drainage through the wall. SUNY ESF, 2006.



Figure 4.9 (right): Brick outflow basin at drainage opening along south side of inclosure wall. These boxes appear to have no outlets. SUNY ESF, 2006.

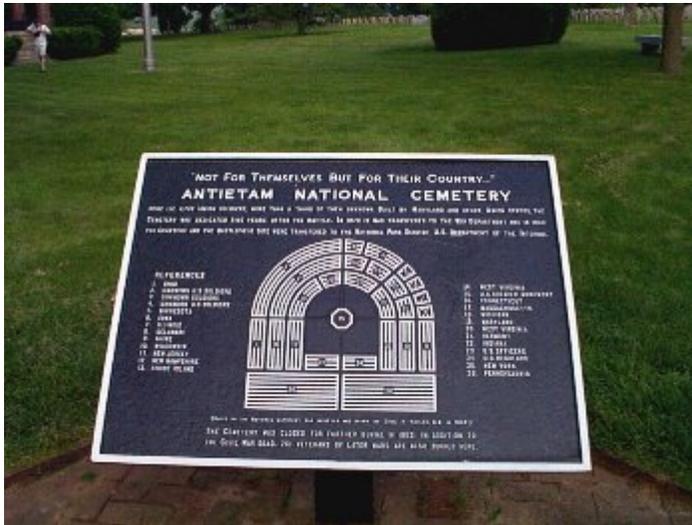


Figure 4.10: Example of an appropriate style for a new sign that would be part of an information wayside within the lodge grounds. National Park Service, Antietam National Cemetery website.



Figure 4.11: Example of recently installed National Cemetery Administration (VA) historical style stone "XA" at Glendale National Cemetery, with added inscription below. Note that the grave number, historically within the shield, was not replicated. SUNY ESF, 2006.

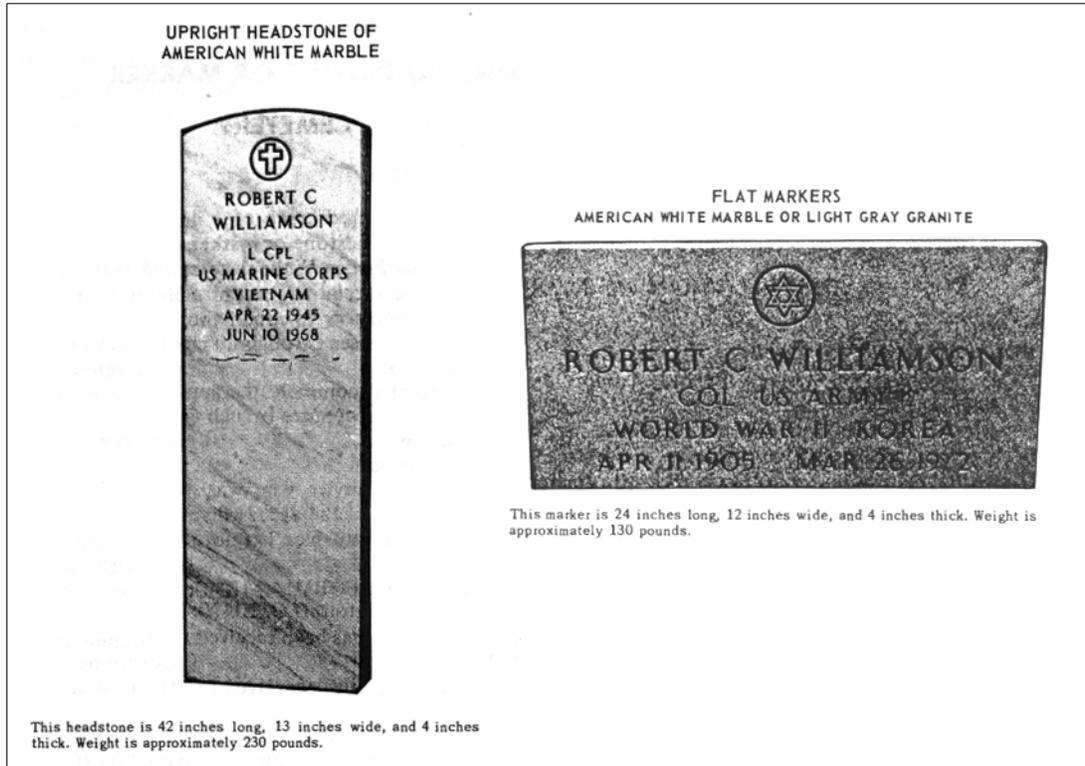


Figure 4.12 Current standard National Cemetery Administration General-style headstone (left) and flat marker (right, shown in granite). Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Memorial Affairs, "Headstones and Markers" (Manual M40-3, December 1, 1982), Figure F.1. Note: Manual M40-3 is presently being revised.



Figure 4.13: Reproduction Civil War-style block at Seven Pines National Cemetery. The font used for the grave number does not match the historic font; in addition, this block was installed at approximately 10" high, while historically the blocks were installed at 6" (historic block in background). SUNY ESF, 2006.



Figure 4.14: Illustration of alternative A implemented at the Soldiers Plot of Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse, New York. The old headstones were laid flush with the ground and new government-issued General-style headstones were installed at the top of the grave. Note that the old headstones recede in the landscape. SUNY ESF, 2006.



Figure 4.15: Granite post section marker at the Civil War-era Richmond National Cemetery (National Cemetery Administration). SUNY ESF, 2006.



Figure 4.16: Flagstaff at Fredericksburg National Cemetery showing the same type of flagstaff as installed at Poplar Grove in 1930. The existing flagstaff at Poplar Grove had its upper sections and guy wires removed after the historic period. SUNY ESF, 2007.

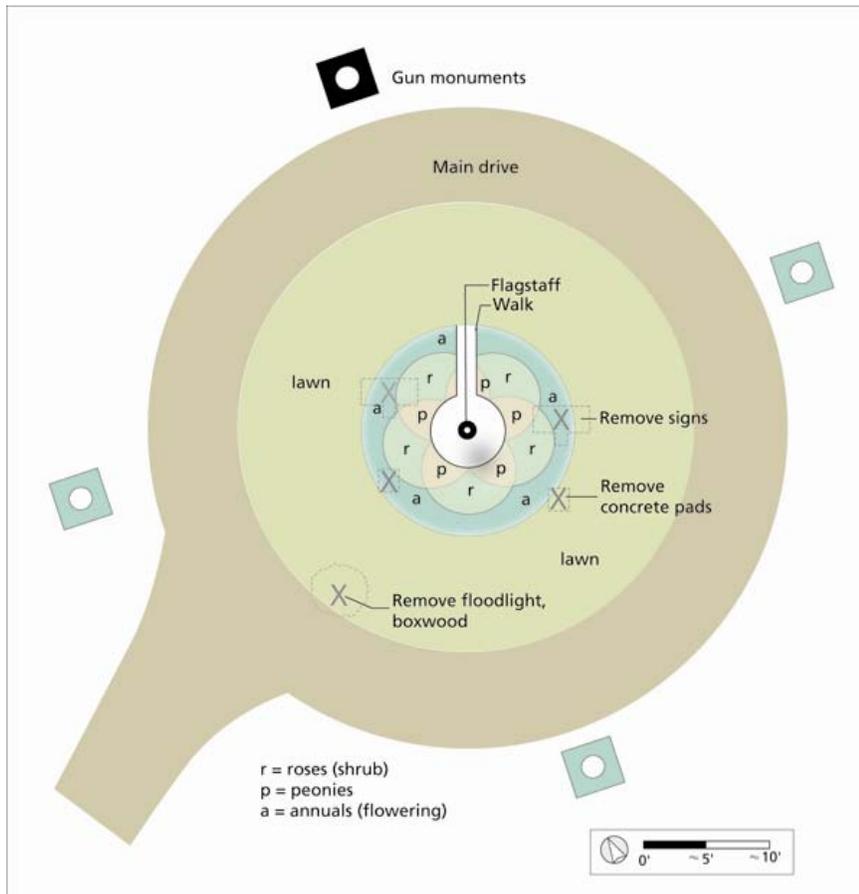
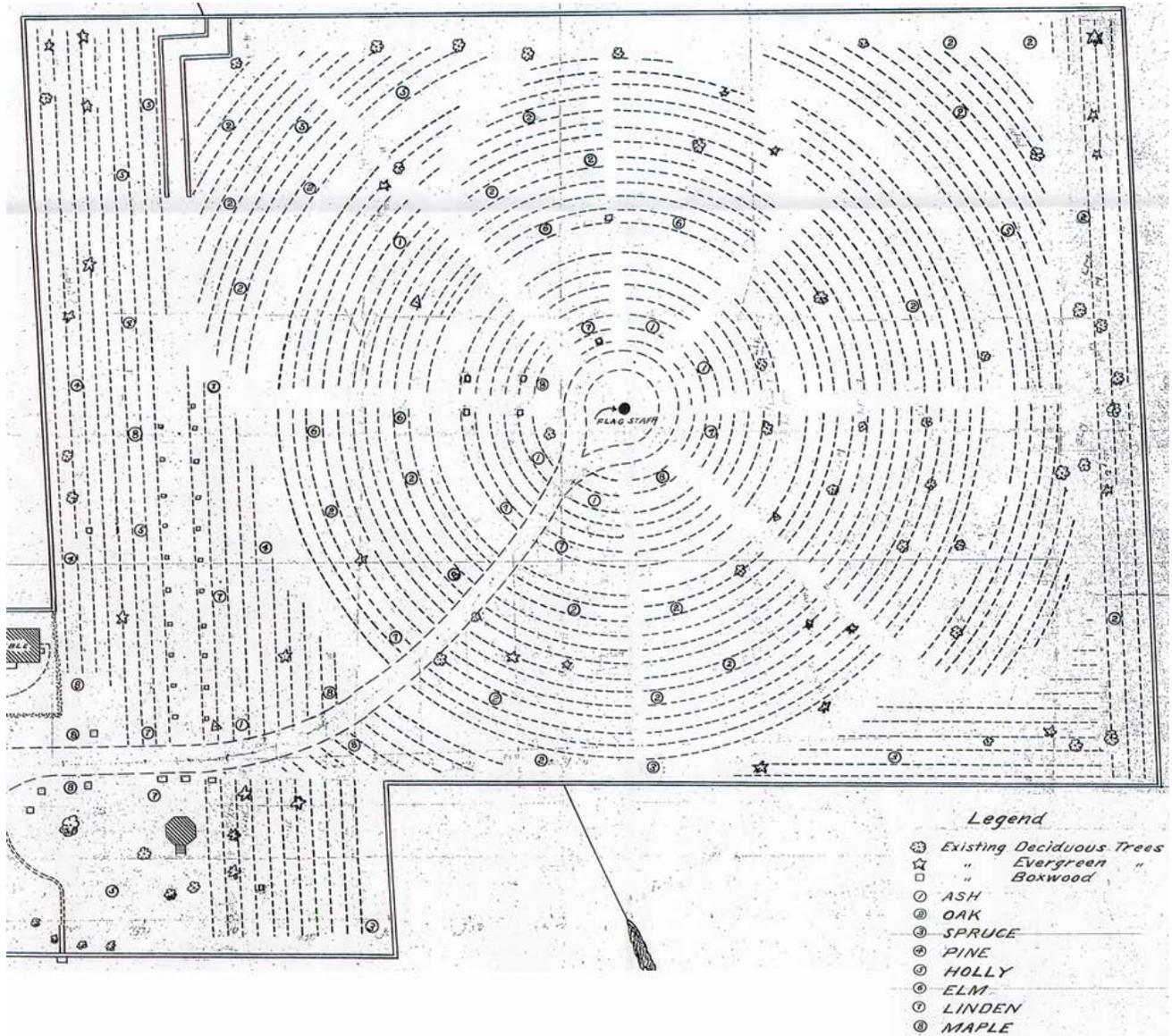


Fig 4.14: Central circle showing suggested planting plan for flowerbed surrounding the central flagstaff. SUNY ESF.



4.18: Detail, War Department 1931 planting plan, "Tree Planting Layout" illustrating distribution of specimen trees (see figure 1.64 for complete plan). The ash specified was European mountain ash; oak, pin oak; pine, Austrian pine; spruce, Norway spruce; and maple, Norway maple. This plan does not identify the species of existing trees, but these were documented on subsequent plans produced by NPS.



Figure 4.19: Detail of 1939 photograph (Figure 1.71) showing low, clipped mounded boxwood shrubs along east-west walk west of the flagstaff. These shrubs were documented on the 1931 War Department planting plan. This photograph also shows near the right lower edge one of the iron tablets.

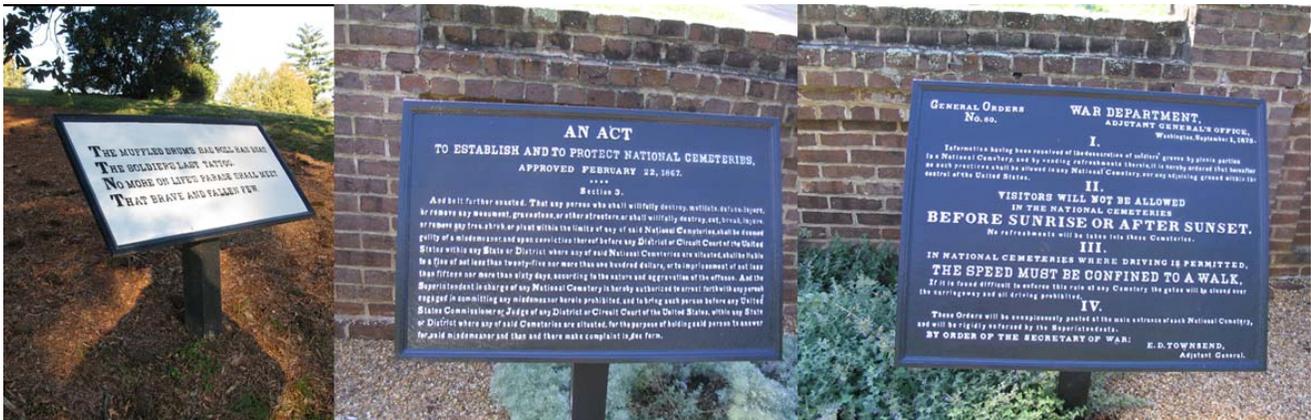


Figure 4.20: Iron tablets: Bivouac of the Dead at Fredericksburg National Cemetery (painted incorrect colors); General Orders and Act to Establish and Protect National Cemetery tablets at Culpeper National Cemetery (painted correct colors). No examples of the “Visitors Notice” tablet were found. SUNY ESF, 2006-2007.



Figure 4.21: Detail of 1968 photograph showing c.1877 wood-slat and iron frame settees (left), and example of a contemporary bench with similar design. This bench is item AL006, "Traditional Garden Bench," at Benches.com, www.benches.com, accessed 12 February 2007.

Treatment



National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
www.nps.gov/oclp

in cooperation with:

Faculty of Landscape Architecture
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry
Syracuse, New York

SOURCES

CLR Period, Existing Conditions, & Analysis Plans

DRAWN BY

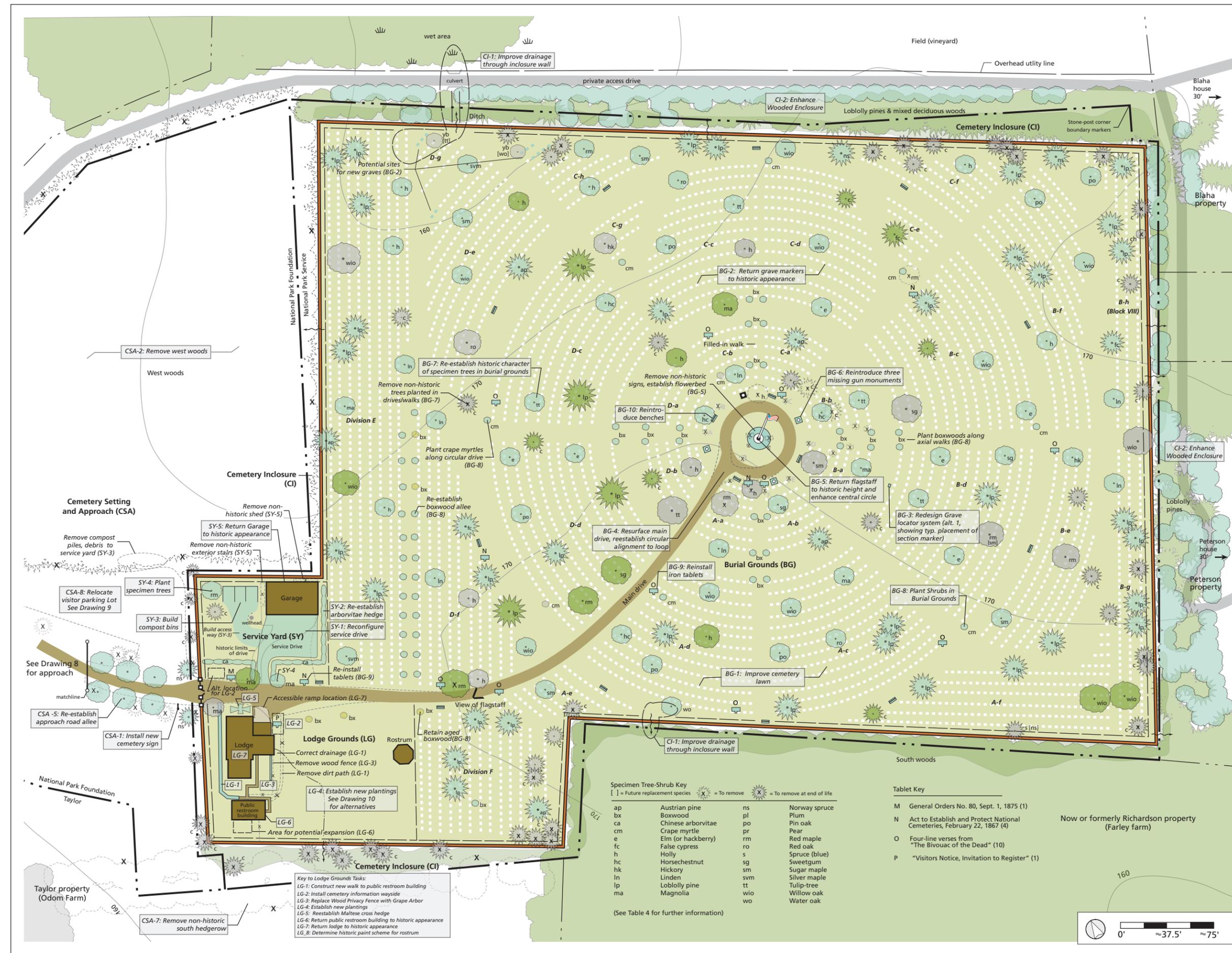
John Auwaerter, Illustrator 11, 2007

LEGEND

- Feature to be removed (dashed line)
- Non-historic features to retain (light grayscale)
- New/reintroduced feature
- Property line
- Inclosure (perimeter) wall
- Grave markers (1 dash = approx. 1 marker)
- B-g** Original division-section classification
- Building
- Surfaced drive (asphalt and/or gravel)
- Concrete walk
- Cannon monument
- Historic tablet to be reinstalled, key reference
- Bench
- Conifer tree
- Deciduous tree/shrub
- Cemetery lawn
- Naturalized English ivy
- 10' contour
- Drainage through inclosure wall
- Treatment narrative task reference by character area
- Subtask reference

NOTE

All features shown in approximate scale and location; not for construction purposes.



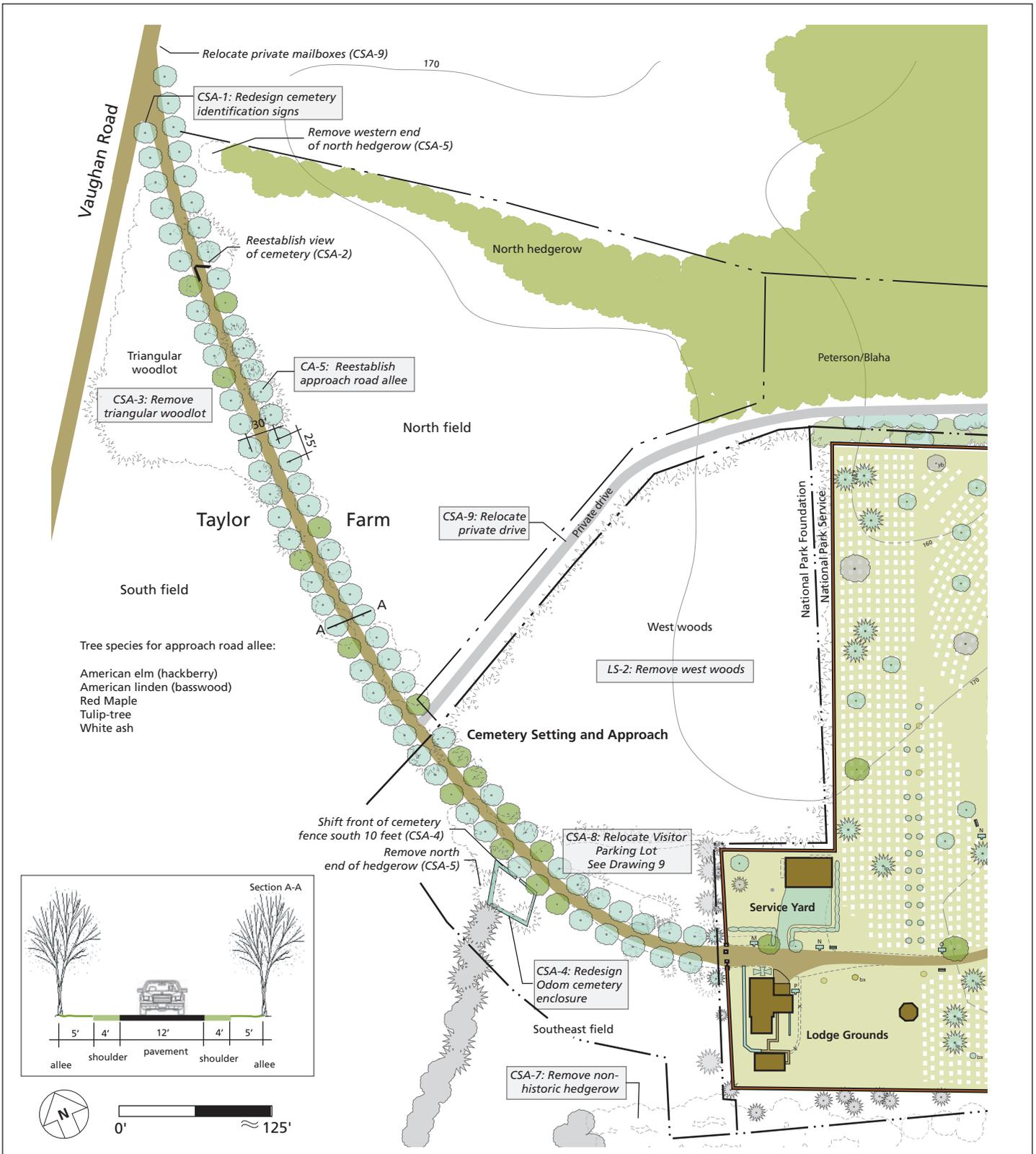
Specimen Tree-Shrub Key

[] = Future replacement species	X = To remove	X = To remove at end of life
ap Austrian pine	ns Norway spruce	
bx Boxwood	pl Plum	
ca Chinese arborvitae	po Pin oak	
cm Crapemyrtle	pr Pear	
e Elm (or hackberry)	rm Red maple	
fc False cypress	ro Red oak	
h Holly	s Spruce (blue)	
hc Horsechestnut	sg Sweetgum	
hk Hickory	sm Sugar maple	
ln Linden	svm Silver maple	
lp Lobloppy pine	tt Tulip-tree	
ma Magnolia	wio Willow oak	
	wo Water oak	

Tablet Key

M	General Orders No. 80, Sept. 1, 1875 (1)
N	Act to Establish and Protect National Cemeteries, February 22, 1867 (4)
O	Four-line verses from "The Bivouac of the Dead" (10)
P	"Visitors Notice, Invitation to Register" (1)





Cultural Landscape Report

Poplar Grove
National Cemetery

Petersburg National Battlefield
Dinwiddie County, Virginia

Treatment, Cemetery

Setting & Approach Detail



National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
www.nps.gov/oclp

in cooperation with:

Faculty of Landscape Architecture
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry
Syracuse, New York

SOURCES

1. CLR Period Plans,
Existing Conditions Plan

DRAWN BY

John Auwaerter
Illustrator 11, 2007

NOTE

All features shown in approx-
imate scale and location; not
for construction purposes.

LEGEND

- Feature to be removed (dashed)
- Non-historic features to retain
- New/reintroduced feature
- Property line
- Inclosure (perimeter) wall
- Building
- Surfaced drive (asphalt and/or gravel)

- Concrete walk
- Conifer tree
- Deciduous tree/shrub
- 10' contour
- CSA-1 Treatment narrative task reference by character area

Drawing 8

CSA Task 8 Alternatives
Visitor Parking Lot



National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
www.nps.gov/oclp

in cooperation with:

Faculty of Landscape Architecture
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry
Syracuse, New York

SOURCES

1. CLR Period Plans, Existing Conditions Plan

DRAWN BY

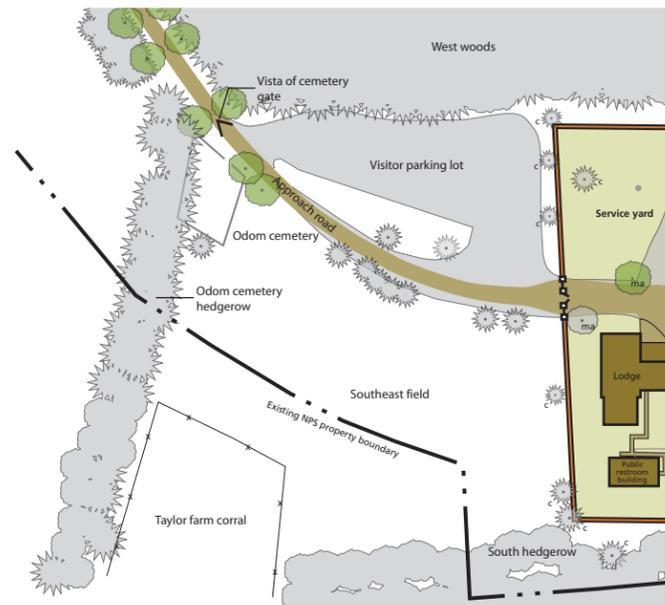
John Auwaerter, Illustrator 11, 2006

LEGEND

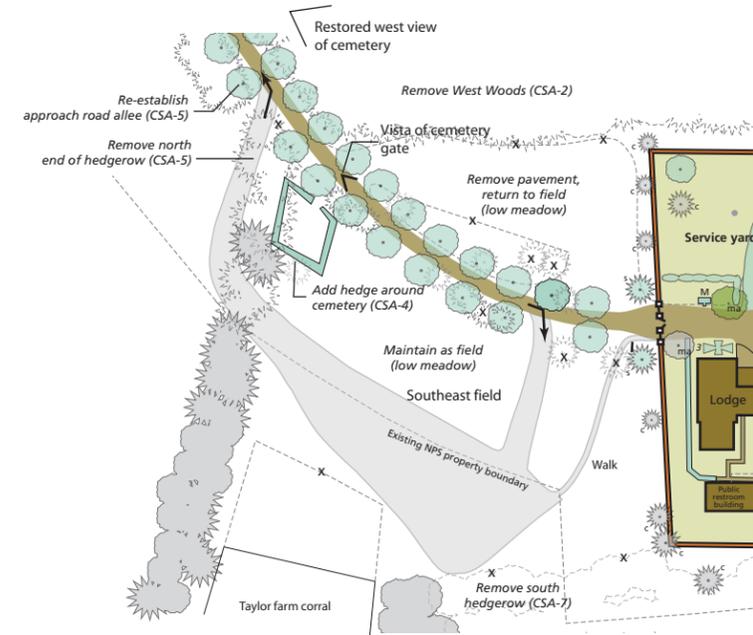
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- Non-historic features (light grayscale)
- New/reintroduced feature
- Property line
- Inclosure (perimeter) wall
- Grave markers (1 dash = approx. 1 marker)
- Building
- Surfaced drive (asphalt and/or gravel)
- Concrete walk
- Parking lot
- Conifer tree
- Deciduous tree/shrub
- Cemetery lawn

NOTES

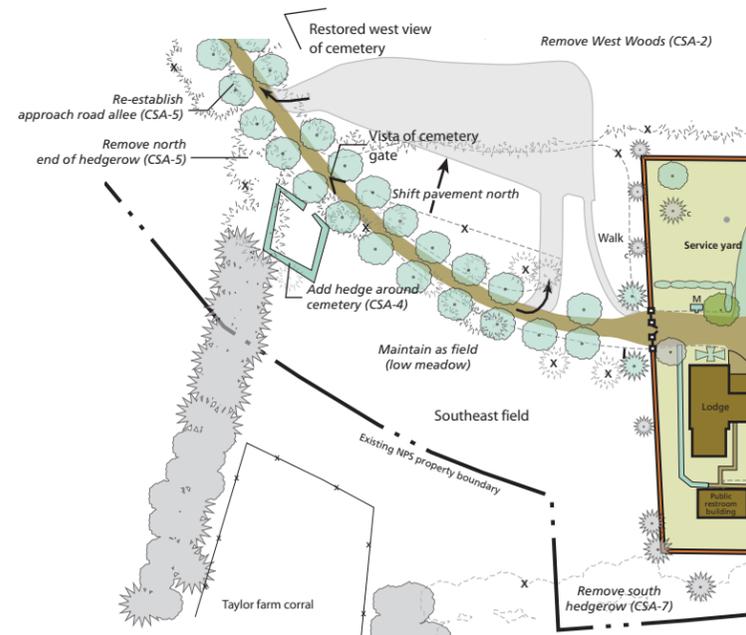
1. All features shown in approximate scale and location; not for construction purposes.
2. Alternatives assume implementation of adjoining treatment tasks.



Existing Conditions



Alternate A: Parking lot relocation with NPS acquisition of Taylor farm (using approximate existing parking lot footprint).



Alternative B: Shift existing parking area north and west (using approximate existing parking lot footprint).



LG-Task 4 Alternatives
Lodge Grounds Plantings



National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
www.nps.gov/oclp

in cooperation with:

Faculty of Landscape Architecture
SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry
Syracuse, New York

SOURCES

1. CLR Period Plans, Existing Conditions Plan

DRAWN BY

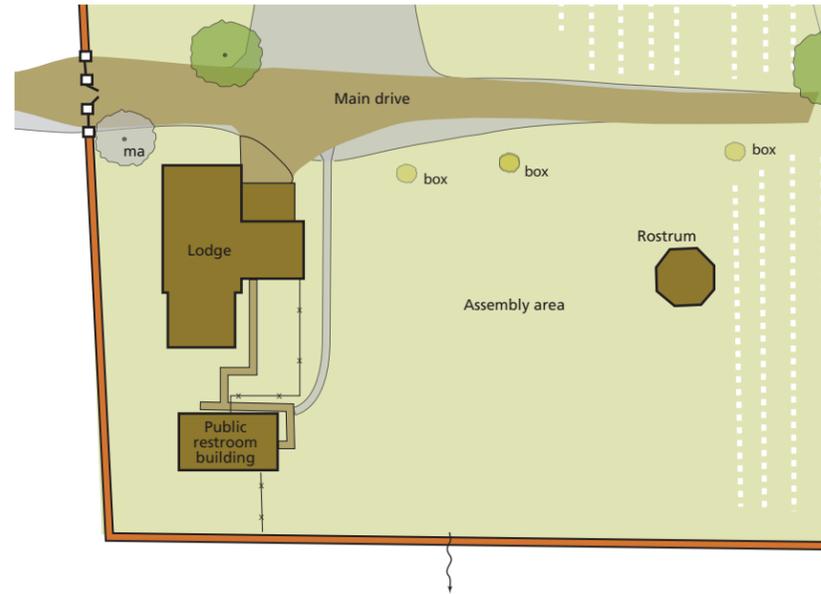
John Auwaerter, Illustrator 11, 2006

LEGEND

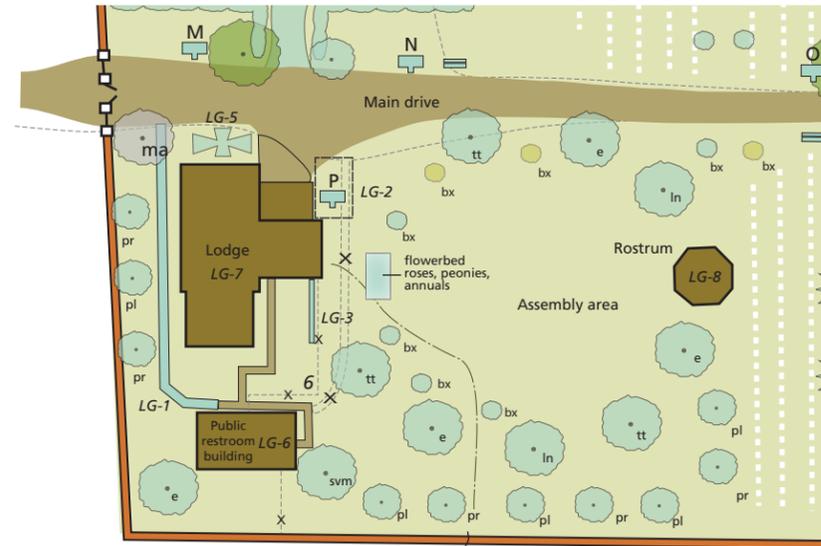
- Feature to be removed (dashed)
- Non-historic features to retain (light grayscale)
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- Cannon monument
- Conifer tree/shrub
- Deciduous tree/shrub
- Cemetery lawn
- Naturalized English ivy
- 10' contour
- Wetlands
- Drainage through inclosure wall

NOTES

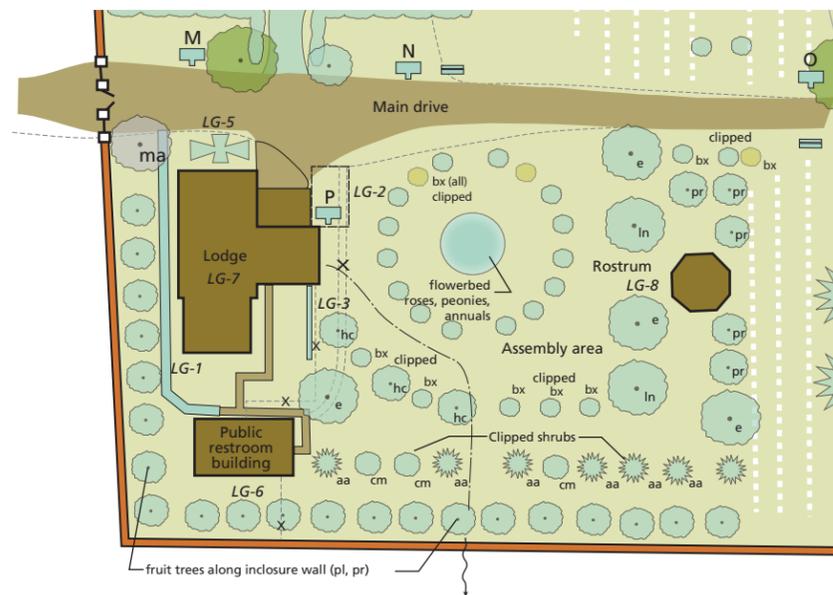
1. All features shown in approximate scale and location; not for construction purposes.
- 2.



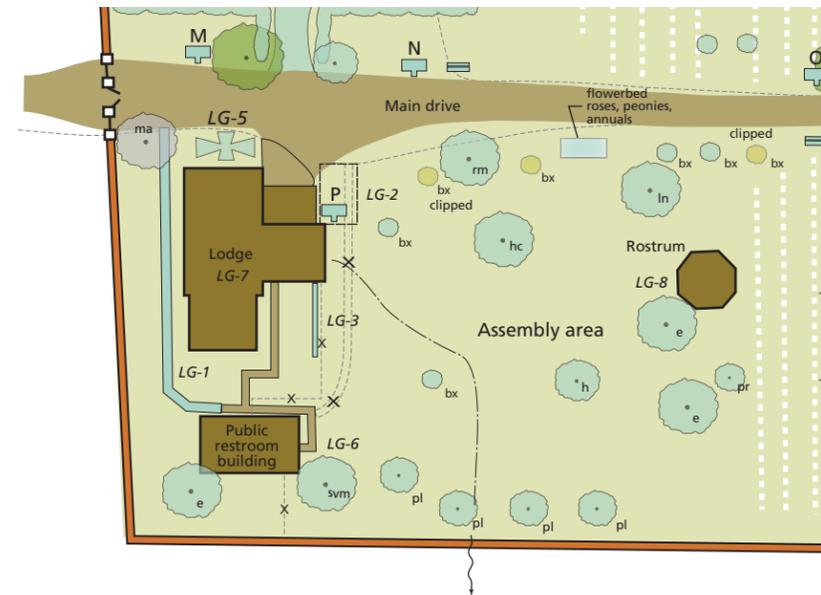
Existing Conditions



Alternate #1: Contemporary Planting Scheme Evoking Turn-Around



Alternative #2: Plantings Based on 1892 Quartermaster General Plan



Alternative #3: Planting Based on 1931 War Department Planting Plan

Key to Other Lodge Grounds Tasks

- LG-1: Build new walk to public restroom building
- LG-2: Install cemetery information wayside
- LG-3: Reconstruct grape arbor
- LG-5: Reestablish Maltese cross hedge
- LG-6: Return public restroom building to historic appearance
- LG-7: Return lodge to historic appearance and make accessible
- LG-8: Determine historic paint scheme for rostrum

Specimen Tree-Shrub Key

- aa American arborvitae
- bx Boxwood
- cm Crapemyrtle
- e Elm (resistant cultivar or hackberry)
- hc Horsechestnut (red)
- in Linden (littletree)
- ma Magnolia (southern)
- pr Pear
- pl Plum (American)
- rm Red maple
- tt Tulip-tree

