

JEFFERSON BARRACKS NATIONAL CEMETERY
2900 Sheridan Road
Green Park Vicinity
St. Louis County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1938

HABS
MO-1938

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Midwest Regional Office
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

JEFFERSON BARRACKS NATIONAL CEMETERY

HABS No. MO-1938

Location: 2900 Sheridan Road, Green Park Vicinity, St. Louis County, Missouri.
The site is bounded by Sheridan Road on the north, Omar Bradley Drive on the west, Highway 255 on the south and the Mississippi River on the east.

Quad: Green Park Vicinity, St. Louis County

Date Established: 1827; 1866

Present Owner: Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration

Present Use: National Cemetery

Significance: There are 136 national cemeteries in the United States: 120 are managed by the National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; fourteen by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior; and two by the U.S. Army.¹ The vast majority of these cemeteries were collectively created under the auspices of the Department of War, Office of the Quartermaster General, and date to the Civil War. A few of these cemeteries, including Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, contain burials that are significantly older than their official date of establishment. Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery was established during the Civil War to bury casualties from battle. The cemetery serves as a burial site for veterans from every branch of service that served the United States from the mid-1800s to present day. The cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.²

Report Prepared by: Alicia Aboussie and Karen Samson, Ottolino Winters and Huebner Architects, St. Louis, Missouri

Date: May 9, 2003

¹In addition to these, National Cemetery Association oversees thirty-three soldiers' lot cemeteries imbedded in private or community cemeteries. The Army maintains an indeterminate number of base/post cemeteries not elevated to national cemetery status, and military branch colleges maintain their individual cemeteries.

²Therese T. Sammartino, "Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery," St. Louis County, Missouri, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 19 February 1998.

Narrative Description

I. Location and Physical Properties

The Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, established by Executive Order in 1863, is rich in our nation's history and serves as a vital link to the nation's westward expansion. It is located approximately ten miles south of the city limits of St. Louis, Missouri, on 330 acres of rolling scenic land, in the Green Park vicinity of St. Louis County. The site (located 704' west of the river) is situated on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River with moderate to severe topography.³ The landscape and soil feature numerous sinkholes characteristic of the karst topography, and the shallowness of soil cover on the limestone creates some challenges for cemetery construction and operations.⁴ It is surrounded by fencing that emulates the original fencing detail and is laid out in sections with drives and walks that create accessible pathways. There is no landscape architect of record for the original design and layout of the cemetery.

The existing cemetery is an irregular "L" shaped area. The Veterans Hospital is located to the south of the cemetery and Interstate 255 adjoins the southern boundary. Directly to the north is Sylvan Springs Park as well as the original location of the Jefferson Barracks Military Post. The cemetery is located on the west bank of the Mississippi River. Railroad tracks adjacent to the site run parallel to the river.

The cemetery landscape consists of both upright and flat marble and granite headstones, and grave markers. A number of historic monuments have been constructed throughout the years and are interspersed throughout the landscape of the cemetery. The history and physical descriptions of the most significant of these monuments are found in the History Section of this document. There are also buildings on the property that house cemetery functions and add to the visual interest of the cemetery grounds. The physical description, function, and history of these buildings are noted in the History Section of this document and are documented in separate HABS reports.

II. History

Those eligible for burial at the cemetery are veterans, spouses, disabled dependents, and dependents under eighteen years of age. Of 120 national cemeteries managed by the National Cemetery Administration, it is ranked the fourth largest in number of interments, providing over 4,000 burials annually for the Midwest region of Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Arkansas,

³*Ibid.*

⁴Harland, Bartholomew, and Associates, Murphy, Downey, Wofford and Richman, Reitz and Jens, "Preliminary Report on the Concept Plan for Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery," Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Missouri, 1973.

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and parts of Tennessee. The cemetery averages seventeen interments a day. There are more than 148,000 burials in the cemetery. Jefferson Barracks cemetery has the largest number of group burials in the nation, more than 500 in all. Over 13,000 soldiers from the Civil War are buried here as well as 3,255 unknown soldiers.⁵

The oldest portion of what today is a national cemetery served as the Jefferson Barracks post cemetery starting in 1826. A plot of twenty-nine acres was set aside for the purpose of interring military and civilian personnel who died at the garrison. This original portion of the national cemetery is located in the northeastern section and has maintained its historical integrity and appearance in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.⁶ The first recorded burial is believed to have occurred the following year, on August 5, 1827, when Eliza Ann Lash, the infant daughter of an officer stationed there, was interred (Old Post Section (OPS) - 1, Grave 2229-A).⁷ The oldest section of the much-expanded cemetery was probably the area appropriately delineated by four roads designated as Old Post Drive - East, West, North and South, respectively - containing Sections 1 - 4, and OPS - 1, OPS - 2, and OPS - 3.

The first few acres of the post cemetery were originally encircled by a crude wood fence to keep out wild animals that roamed the unpopulated area. Soldiers of the garrison on fatigue duty maintained its interior. In their performance of duty, woods were cut, graves dug, and headstones and grave markers were erected. Uniformity was not governed by any existing army regulations, and such care usually was a decision of the presiding cantonment commander. Care for individual graves was entrusted solely to the living member of the decedent's family or friends. With the changing of duty stations, the grave in the post cemetery of a friend or a loved one was usually left unattended and gradually fell into disrepair. In the passage of time, neglected graves declined into a state of abandonment. For this reason, many abandoned graves discovered years later holding unidentifiable remains are now registered by merely a number or as unknowns. The largest and most elaborate grave memorials stand in this area. Prior to the establishment of the national cemetery, it was an accepted practice of the survivors of a departed loved one to have huge monuments erected at the grave. Today large monuments are no longer permitted.⁸

⁵"Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, National, Saint Louis, Missouri, USA"
(<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Valley/9636/natcem/htm>), May 1, 2003.

⁶Harland, *et. al.*, "Preliminary Report on the Concept Plan for Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery."

⁷Dean Holt, *American Military Cemeteries: A Comprehensive Illustrated Guide to the Hallowed Grounds of the United States, Including Cemeteries Overseas* (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 1992), 201; 199-207.

⁸Sammartino, "Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery," National Register of Historic Places Nomination.

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Subsequent accretions of land are shown below.⁹

Accretion of Lands at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery

<u>Acres</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Notes</u>
8.125	1866	Designation of Army Post Cemetery
12.095	1870	Source undetermined
13.18	1875	Transfer from Jefferson Barracks
20.0	1921	Transfer from Jefferson Barracks
-5.0	1923	Return of land to Jefferson Barracks
-19.4	1931	Return of land to Jefferson Barracks
2.7	1942	Transfer from Jefferson Barracks
3.4	1943	Transfer from Jefferson Barracks
3.2	1944	Transfer from Jefferson Barracks
155.3	1948	Transfer from Jefferson Barracks
1.4	1952	Survey gain
115.6	1954	Transfer from Veterans Administration Medical Center
0.1	1962	Gain through condemnation of land
20.3	1996	Transfer from Veterans Administration Medical Center

Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery is named after the historic military post of Jefferson Barracks, established in 1826 as a frontier garrison at the eastern edge of the Louisiana Purchase. The Jefferson Barracks military reservation was named for Thomas Jefferson, who died on July 4, 1826, a few days after the site was selected by the troops. The post was established to replace Fort Bellefontaine on the Missouri River. It became the U.S. Army's first permanent base west of the Mississippi River and in the 1840s was the largest military establishment in the United States. The site was selected for its strategic and geographic location. It served as a staging place for supplies and also as a site for training and gathering troops of the Mexican War, Civil War, and various military conflicts up to World War II and also served as a hospital for the wounded during the Civil War. In the early part of the Civil War in Missouri, Jefferson Barracks served as a training post for the Union Army. All remains from Fort Bellefontaine and Arsenal Island, the island in the Mississippi River that served as a place of quarantine for soldiers with infectious diseases, were moved to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. Gradually the importance of the post lessened and the Jefferson Barracks was deactivated in 1946.

⁹Randall Watkins, "Report on the Accretion of Lands at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery." National Cemetery Administration, Office of Policy and Planning, Washington D.C., 2001.

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The Civil War initiated the beginnings of a formal network of military cemeteries. The first general U.S. cemetery legislation was an omnibus bill enacted July 17, 1862, authorizing President Lincoln "to purchase cemetery grounds, and cause them to be securely enclosed, to be used as a national cemetery for the soldiers who shall have died in the service of the country."¹⁰ By the end of the year, the first fourteen national cemeteries were created.¹¹

Beginning in 1863, Jefferson Barrack National Cemetery was opened to Union (and later Confederate) burials, as well as soldiers originally interred at other Missouri locations including Cape Girardeau, Pilot Knob, Warsaw and Rolla. The estimated 470 victims of smallpox at Arsenal Island were also reinterred here. In 1869 the cemetery experienced an enormous expansion when these recovered remains, more than 10,200 bodies, were relocated here. In 1869, the U.S. government published Volume 20 of its *Roll of Honor*, containing the names of more than 19,400 deceased Union soldiers, including those interred at Jefferson Barracks. During this era, Union dead were interred in sections by state, as far as that could be determined, including 7,536 Caucasians, 1,067 African Americans, 1,010 Confederate prisoners of war, and 556 "not of military service."¹² This section, adjacent to the Old Post Section of the cemetery, occupies twenty-nine acres and contains approximately 20,000 gravesites including remains of both Union and Confederate soldiers. The Confederate graves are identified by pointed headstones and the Union gravesites are the more standard rectangular markers.¹³

In 1872 Jefferson Barracks was categorized as a "First Class" cemetery, an Army designation based on "the extent and importance" of the facilities, which also determined that the superintendent would earn the maximum possible salary of \$75 per month.¹⁴ Following the cemetery sections, but within the original twenty-nine acres, Sections 5 through 53 were laid out; the sections currently numbered 54 - 66 and 88 contain older burials but are irregularly

¹⁰Omnibus act (1862), 37th Congress, 2nd session, Chapter 200, Section 18.

¹¹Edward Steere, "Shrines of the Honored Dead - Study of the National Cemetery System," *Quartermaster Review* (originally in six installments, 1953-54), Volume 2, 5.

¹²Office of the Quartermaster General, General Orders No. 13, 3 March 1869; U.S. Senate, "Report of the Inspector General of the National Cemeteries for the years 1870 and 1871," by Brev. Colonel Oscar A. Mack, 42nd Congress, 2nd session, 1872. Ex. Doc. 79: 90-91; National Archives and Records Administration, Washington D.C., (hereafter, Mack).

¹³"Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, Saint Louis, Missouri USA ", (<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Valley/9636/natcem/htm>), May 1, 2001.

¹⁴Office of the Adjutant General, General Orders No. 51, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington D.C., 22 June 1872.

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numbered because the ponds, sink holes and administrative open space were converted to burial areas.¹⁵

Jefferson Barracks was formally established as a national cemetery in 1866 by passage of a joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of War to take action to preserve graves from desecration and "secure suitable burial-places in which they may be properly interred...."¹⁶ Not unlike similar older, western sites like Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and Fort Scott, Arkansas, Jefferson Barracks was elevated in importance and reinvigorated "as a center of operations in the trans-Mississippi region."¹⁷ The immediate need to fulfill the legislative requirements to establish and protect national cemeteries was first served by the generation of wood and impermanent facilities. President Lincoln signed the initial legislation authorizing a system of national cemeteries in 1862, but it would be several years before specific features were required and designed by the office of the Quartermaster General. A national cemetery would typically have the following features during the transition decade of the 1870s; a masonry superintendent's lodge (serving as office and dwelling), enclosure walls with iron entrance gates, a raised masonry-and-iron rostrum, flagpole, ornamental cannon, and matrix of roads and paths.

In 1870, the cemetery "quadrangle" at Jefferson Barracks measured approximately 750' x 1,230', and was surrounded by a standardized wood picket fence "recently whitewashed." Within two years this fence was replaced by a stone wall measuring 4,269' long x 1'6" wide. A 16' wide drive was located around the interior of the fence/wall, and crossed through the cemetery delineating large sections. Narrower 10' wide paths further subdivided the grounds. An 1893 plan reported, "these drives and paths are covered with coarse broken stone, and, being but little used, are very uncomfortable to drive or walk over." The major interior paths, including the perimeter roadway, had brick gutters and were lined with dense rows or alleés of the same types of trees. The northwest quadrant was dominated by ponds, "sink holes" and an array of deciduous and evergreen trees. In addition, there were eight painted artillery guns, "planted vertically, as monuments" throughout the cemetery.¹⁸

¹⁵Office of the Quartermaster General, "Plan of Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery," *National Cemeteries in the United States* (20 July 1893), in National Archives and Records Administration, Washington D.C., Record Group 92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Entry 691/NM-81 Plans of the National Cemeteries in the United States, 1892-93, Box 1.

¹⁶Resolution No. 21 (14 Stat 353), 39th Congress, 1st Session, 13 April 1866.

¹⁷Steere, "Shrines of the Honored Dead," 13.

¹⁸"Plan of Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery" (20 July 1893); National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., Record Group 15, Records of the Veterans Administration, Entry 25, Department of Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Historical File, Boxes 22-23 (hereafter Record Group 15, Boxes 22-23); Mack. "Report of the Inspector General."

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The impermanent wood headboards painted white with black lettering were susceptible to decay, but they were employed until at least the mid-1870s. After years of disagreement and discussion over materials and design, in 1872 the Secretary of War selected two designs for the permanent veterans' headstones, an upright marble slab for the "known" and low, 6" x 6" marble or granite squares for the "unknowns." The production of these was contracted out to several companies during the balance of the decade and beyond.¹⁹

In 1875, the boundaries of the cemetery were enlarged as follows:

On the east, south, and west sides 100 feet outside the present enclosing wall, and on the north side to embrace the land lying between this front of the cemetery and the present wooden fence running toward the river from the stable, and prolonged west around the east and south sides of the post garden, provided that a suitable yard shall be reserved for the post stable.²⁰

During the early 1880s several cast-iron tablets, most containing quatrains from the "Bivouac of the Dead," an elegiac poem by Theodore O'Hara, were placed in the cemetery, a common practice throughout the national cemeteries that existed by this time.²¹ Additional textual elements inserted in the Jefferson Barracks landscape, as in national cemeteries elsewhere, included castings of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the War Department's General Orders No. 80, and text from the 1867 resolution to establish and protect national cemeteries.²²

¹⁹Sara Amy Leach, "Remembering Veterans - The Past and Present of Their Historic Headstones," *American Cemetery Magazine* (May 2003): 20-21.

²⁰Office of the Adjutant General, General Orders 106; National Archives and Records Administration, Washington D.C., 16 December 1875.

²¹"Report of R.N. Batchelder, Deputy Quartermaster in charge of cemeteries, of the affairs relating to the care and maintenance of national military cemeteries, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1882;" National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., Record Group 92, M997 "Annual Reports of the War Department," Roll 41, page 438; Sara Amy Leach, "Theodore O'Hara's 'Bivouac of the Dead,' on the National Cemetery Administration website at <http://www.cem.va.gov/bivouac.htm> (16 May 2003).

²²Untitled inventory of plaques for Jefferson Barracks (no date); Record Group 15, Boxes 22 - 23.

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As space became limited within the enclosure walls, an expansion that would more than double the size of the cemetery was underway by the early 1890s. It would encompass burial Sections 70-87 and terminate at the eastern and northern borders of the existing cemetery. The original entrance featured "double iron gates hung on handsome piers of rough dressed limestone." The Administration Building-Lodge (No. 3006) and the Tool House - Garage (No. 3005) were located on the north side of the existing cemetery. The one-story original Lodge (1870-72) was a brick L-plan containing three rooms. Both of these buildings were dramatically renovated in the mid twentieth century and fell into decline in recent years. Behind these buildings there were:

...two deep depressions in the ground, similar to the "sink-holes" in limestone formations, each having in its bottom a small pond; one has been enlarged and surrounded by a stone wall, making a miniature lake; the other is in its natural state. The ponds have subterranean communications with each other and with the Mississippi, and are affected by the rise and fall of water in that river, but are never dry.²³

West of the Lodge there was also a grape arbor, and a much larger combination Privy-Storage building, perhaps as a public convenience resembling buildings found at other national cemeteries. The domestic landscape also included a small privy and a cistern located south/southwest of the lodge, evergreen trees and shaped beds for flowers or vegetables. By the end of August 1871, more than \$142,287 had been spent on developments and maintenance at the Jefferson Barracks Cemetery.²⁴

By 1893, the approach to the entrance was established by way of a gravel road flanked by deciduous trees and "plank fences." Already there were a fountain, two sheds, two stables (one two-story brick, the other one-story frame), a two-room cottage for seasonal laborers, and a rectangular rostrum (1872) located on the expanded property.

In 1922, an Executive Order assigned 170 acres of military reservation to the Veterans Bureau (now Department of Veterans Affairs), pursuant to an act of August 9, 1921.²⁵ In July 1936, the War Department formally named Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery as a component of Jefferson Barracks, along with similar designations of military reservations at installations

²³Mack, "Report of the Inspector General."

²⁴*Ibid*; "Plan of Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery," 20 July 1893.

²⁵A few years later, five of these acres determined unsuitable for burial were returned to the Army. War Department, General Orders No. 33, 21; National Archives and Records Administration, Washington D.C., August 1923.

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including those named in honor of persons, target ranges and national cemeteries.²⁶ From April 1936 through the early 1940s, Depression-era New Deal programs brought improvements to the cemetery. Works Progress Administration (WPA) laborers were responsible for building 23,000' of hard-surfaced roads and walks, 46,000' concrete curbs, nearly 16,000' of "asphalt macadam" roads, and resurfacing of the same. They also removed some of the original stone perimeter wall and constructed nearly 4,600' of "common ashler (sic) stone wall," as well as miscellaneous grading. In 1946 a new stone boundary wall and entrance gate were erected. The WPA renovated the 1872 brick rostrum that measured 23'x 38' in 1941, which may explain the transition of a paneled brick base to one clad with dressed ashlar by 1959 when the roof and support pillars were removed. In 1961 the rostrum was removed to create seventy-eight new burial spaces.²⁷

In 1947 legislation authorized the Secretary of War to "utilize and expand existing facilities" at Jefferson Barracks "when practicable, through the use of federally owned lands under the jurisdiction of the War Department" that were no longer needed for military purposes.²⁸ Introducing another familiar feature of national cemeteries was the American Veterans of World War II and Korea, who in 1958 donated a carillon to Jefferson Barracks that was described as "a very fine instrument [whose] beautiful tones can be heard throughout the entire cemetery and beyond."²⁹ The casualties resulting from World War II introduced a new element to the cemetery when it was recognized as a central location for group interments resulting from national disasters, when individual remains cannot be identified. Among the more than 560 group burials, meaning two or more veterans in a common grave, are the 123 victims of a 1944 massacre of prisoners of war by the Japanese in the Philippines, and the remains of forty-one unidentified Marines who perished in a helicopter crash in 1968 in South Vietnam.

Three key buildings of historical significance stand in the original part of the cemetery. The first existing building, constructed in 1895, is a former Administrative Building of Late Victorian style. The second building is a Tool House-Garage, which is located next to the former Administrative Building. Both are located between Sections 53 and 54. The third building was a former cow barn located near the original entrance gate. This structure has been converted into a Maintenance Building; date of construction not confirmed.

There are several commemorative monuments located throughout the cemetery. The monuments are located randomly throughout the cemetery, not in a set order or pattern. These include:

²⁶War Department, General Orders No. 7; National Archives and Records Administration, Washington D.C., 28 July 1936.

²⁷National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., Record Group 15, Boxes 22-23.

²⁸Public Law 342, 80th Congress, chapter 467-1st session, 4 August 1947.

²⁹Letter, Colonel Elmer A. Kell, Jr., to Major Gen A.T. McNamara, 27 May 1958; National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., Record Group 92, Box 22.

Fort Bellefontaine Monument (Old Post Section-1)

This large monument, donated in 1904 by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), commemorates the unknown soldiers and officers who died while stationed at Fort Bellefontaine. The fort was established in 1804 after the United States acquired the Louisiana Purchase and was the first military post west of the Mississippi River. This fort was located in St. Louis at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River. The fort was deactivated in 1826 and the troops moved to Jefferson Barracks, located to the south of Fort Bellefontaine. In 1904 the remains of those buried at Fort Bellefontaine were relocated to the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. The monument is a reddish granite boulder. The inscription on the monument states:

MEMORIAL
TO
THE UNKNOWN SOLDIERS
WHO DIED IN CAMP BETWEEN 1806 AND 1826 AT
FORT BELLEFONTAINE
WHICH WAS ON THE MISSOURI RIVER BLUFFS NEAR ST. LOUIS
IN 1826 THIS CANTONMENT WAS CLOSED AND THE
TROOPS REMOVED TO
JEFFERSON BARRACKS
THE REMAINS OF THE OFFICIERS AND SOLDIERS WERE
REINTERRED IN THE NATIONAL CEMETERY BY THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT APRIL 15, 1904
ERECTED BY THE ST. LOUIS CHAPTER OF
THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
NOVEMBER 1904

Memorial to the Unknown Dead (Section 14)

Tent #3, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (named for Annie Wittenmyer) dedicated this monument to the unknown soldiers of the Civil War. The date of construction is unknown. Annie Wittenmyer lived from 1827 until 1900 and worked to bring food and supplies to wounded Union soldiers. She was instrumental in making reforms to ameliorate horrific conditions in hospitals and battle camps. She was well respected by Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant for her philanthropy and heroism. The monument measures 45" high x 36" wide and was erected between 1891 and 1910. It is a rough granite monument with a polished area for the inscription. The inscription on the monument states:

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IN MEMORY OF THE
UNKNOWN DEAD
1861-1865
ON FAME'S ETERNAL CAMPING GROUND
THEIR SILENT TENTS TO SPREAD
WHILE GLORY GUARDS WITH SOLEMN SOUND
THE BIVOUAC OF THE DEAD
DEDICATED BY
ANNIE WITTENMYER
TENT NO. 3
DAUGHTERS OF VETERANS
U.S.A. ST. LOUIS, MO.

Minnesota Monument (Longstreet and Monument Drive)

This monument was dedicated on May 15, 1922, by the State of Minnesota in memory of Union soldiers from the state who lost their lives during the Civil War and whose remains were buried at Jefferson Barracks. Of the 164 men who are buried here, many died of sickness and wounds that occurred during fighting. Nearly all of the wartime deaths were the result of disease. The monument features a bronze female figure on a large granite base holding a wreath in her hands representing "Memory." The inscription on the monument reads:

ERECTED A.D. 1922 BY THE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN MEMORY OF HER SOLDIERS
HERE BURIED WHO LOST THEIR LIVES
IN THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES
IN THE WAR FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF THE UNION
A.D. 1861-1865

The 56th Infantry Regiment, United States Colored Troops (USCT) Monument
(Section 57, Grave 15009)

This monument commemorates 175 non-commissioned officers and privates of the Fifty-sixth United States Colored Infantry who died of cholera in August 1866. Their remains were moved from Quarantine Station, Missouri, and interred at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. In 1939 the monument was erected and dedicated to these men. The monument is an obelisk with an inscription that states:

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TO THE
MEMORY OF
175
NON COMMISSIONED
OFFICERS
AND PRIVATES
OF THE
56TH U.S.C. INFTRY.
DIED OF CHOLERA IN
AUGUST 1866

Memorial to the Confederate Dead (Section 66)

This monument commemorates the Confederate veterans who died in the Civil War (1861-1865) and was donated by the Jefferson Barracks Civil War Historical Association, Missouri Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. It is a rough granite monument measuring 40" wide x 69" high. It was dedicated on May 1, 1988. The inscription reads:

WHO KNOWS BUT IT MAY BE GIVEN TO US.
AFTER THIS LIFE, TO MEET AGAIN IN THE
OLD QUARTERS, TO PLAY CHESS AND
DRAUGHTS, TO GET UP SOON TO ANSWER
THE MORNING ROLL CALL, TO FALL IN AT
THE TAP OF THE DRUM FOR DRILL AND
DRESS PARADE AND AGAIN TO HASTILY DON
OUR WAR GEAR WHILE THE MONOTONOUS
PATTER OF THE LONG ROLL SUMMONS TO
BATTLE? WHO KNOWS BUT AGAIN THE OLD
FLAGS, RAGGED AND TORN, SNAPPING IN
THE WIND, MAY FACE EACH OTHER AND
FLUTTER PURSUING AND PURSUED, WHILE
THE CRIES OF VICTORY FILL A SUMMER
DAY? AND AFTER THE BATTLE, THEN THE
SLAIN AND WOUNDED WILL ARISE, AND
ALL WILL MEET TOGETHER UNDER THE
TWO FLAGS, ALL SOUND AND WELL, AND
THERE WILL BE TALKING AND LAUGHTER
AND CHEERS, AND ALL WILL SAY: DID IT
NOT SEEM REAL? WAS IT NOT AS IN
THE OLD DAYS?

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Memorial to Remember All Who Served and Sacrificed within the Khe Sanh, Vietnam, Region

This monument was erected by the Khe Sanh Veterans. It was dedicated on July 16, 1999.

Memorial to all individuals who faithfully served with the Third Infantry Division - U.S. Army (Flagstaff and Rostrum Drive)

This monument was erected by Russell Dunham, Outpost 17. It was dedicated on May 20, 2000.

Memorial dedicated to all Marines and Those who Served Their Country with the U.S. Marine Corps faithfully since November 10, 1775 (Flagstaff and Rostrum Drive)

The First Marine Division Association, St. Louis Chapter, erected this monument. It was dedicated on June 25, 2000.

Memorial to Honor All Women Who Served in Navy Related Service (Flagstaff and Rostrum Drive)

This monument was erected by the Gateway Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) Unit # 5. It was dedicated on May 9, 1998.

Memorial dedicated to the memory of Merchant Marine Seamen and Navy Armed Guard (Flagstaff and Rostrum Drive)

This monument was erected by the S.S. Samuel Parker Chapter, American Merchant Marine and Navy Armed Guard Veterans. It was dedicated on November 11, 1998.

Memorial Chapel (Miravalle and Truman Drive)

In 1970, the Korean and Vietnam Gold Star Mothers and Fathers sponsored the construction of a chapel built to remember the selfless acts of Americans to defend their love for "God, Home, and Country." Dedicated in 1978, this was the first such building in a National Cemetery.

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Blue Star Memorial Marker to honor the Armed Forces who have defended the United States of America (Flagstaff and Rostrum Drive)

This monument was erected by East Central District of Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri. It was dedicated on April 26, 1998.

An Inspectors Report for 1870 states that there were eight guns planted vertically as monuments in different parts of the cemetery grounds. Three of these monuments remain at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, one near Section 44 ½, one near Section 45, and the third near Section 40. Each monument is made of original cast iron seacoast artillery tube and secured by a concrete base.³⁰

Many famous people have been associated with the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, either for having served at the military post or by being interred in the cemetery. The cemetery itself is named after President Thomas Jefferson. Military greats such as Ulysses S. Grant, Zachary Taylor, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Henry Dodge, Robert E. Lee, William T. Sherman, and Nathaniel Boone have served at the military post associated with the Cemetery.

Among the notable individual interments are three soldiers from the Revolutionary War who were moved to Jefferson Barracks from other locations during the twentieth century and seven Italian and German prisoners of war from World War II who died on U.S. soil.

There are seven veterans buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery who received the Medal of Honor. The gravestones of these veterans are inscribed with an enlarged gold-leaf replica of the medal and the words "Medal of Honor."

Lornezo D. Immell, Corporal (later First Lieutenant), Company F, Second U.S. Artillery
Received the Medal of Honor for his bravery during fighting at Wilson's Creek,
Missouri, on August 10, 1861. (Grave site 12342)

Martin Schubert, Private (later First Lieutenant), Company E, Twenty-sixth New York
Infantry
Received the Medal of Honor for his bravery during fighting Fredericksburg,
Virginia, on December 13, 1862. (Grave site 12310)

Alonzo Stokes, First Sergeant, Company H, Sixth U.S. Cavalry
Received the Medal of Honor for his bravery during fighting at Wichita River,
Texas, on July 12, 1870. (Section 63, Gravesite 11450)

³⁰Sammartino, "Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery" National Register of Historic Places Nomination.

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David Ryan, Private, Company G, Fifth U.S. Infantry

Received the Medal of Honor for his bravery during fighting at Cedar Creek, Montana, on October 21, 1876. (Grave site 11715)

Ralph Cheli, Major, U.S. Army Air Corps

Received the Medal of Honor for his bravery during fighting near Wewak, New Guinea, on August 18, 1943. (the grave is in a group burial site)

Donald D. Puckett, First Lieutenant, U.S. Army Air Corps, Ninety-eighth Bombardment Group

Received the Medal of Honor for his bravery in attempting to save the lives of his crew on July 9, 1944, in Ploesti Raid, Romania.

Bruce Avery Van Voorhis, Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy

Received the Medal of Honor for his bravery against the Japanese in the battle of the Solomon Islands on July 6, 1943.

Three veterans from the American Revolution have been reinterred at Jefferson Barracks:

Private Richard Gentry

At the Battle of Yorktown he was present during the capture of Lord Cornwallis. In 1958, his great-grandson, William R. Gentry, Jr., a resident of St. Louis arranged for the transfer of Private Richard Gentry's remains to the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

Major Russell Bissell

He was the commanding officer at Fort Bellefontaine when he died in 1807. His remains were transferred to the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in 1904.

Colonel Thomas Hunt

He fought at the Battle of Lexington and Concord in 1775, the Battle of Stony Point in 1779, as well as the Battle of Yorktown in 1781. He died in 1808 at Fort Bellefontaine and was buried there. His remains were transferred to the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in 1904.

More recent famous veterans that are buried at The Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery include:

Air Force Lieutenant Michael Blassie

Lieutenant Blassie was killed on May 11, 1972, when his plane was shot down in South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Lieutenant Blassie's story became famous when his family had DNA tests confirm his identity from the "Tomb of the Unknowns" in Washington, D.C., and subsequently requested that his remains be sent to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. On July 10, 1998, the remains were returned to St. Louis.

Jack Buck

Famed sports broadcaster and United States military veteran Jack Buck died in 2002 and received a military burial at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

III. Future Plans

The Veterans Administration (VA) currently has an expansion and renovation plan for the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery that encompasses all new water service throughout the entire facility. Included in the plans are improvements such as landscaping, fencing, grading, signage, culverts, water and sewer service, and road improvements. Some demolition of existing structures will need to occur to accomplish these goals. The main reason for the renovation is to increase the number of burial plot sites at the cemetery. There are five new committal shelters planned that will be permanent structures that offer protection from the elements. They will be used for interment services and commemorative celebrations conducted at the cemetery. The project was bid in the summer of 2002, and is anticipated to be completed in 2005.

Jefferson Barracks has plans to expand using twenty acres of land acquired from the adjacent VA Medical Center. The addition will increase the number of burial sites in the southeast corner of the cemetery as well as have one of the five new committal shelters located in this area. The purpose of these improvements is to provide additional burial sites and accessible services and pathways.

Site development in the northwest area of the existing cemetery consists of a fifteen-acre section that will provide better accessibility and services. The plans include upgrading the existing maintenance buildings. At present, this is the last planned major renovation for this facility.

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