

City Point National Cemetery
10th Avenue and Davis Street
Hopewell, Virginia 23860

Description

The City Point National Cemetery, established in 1866, is located on the south bank of the Appomattox River. The cemetery is in the form of a rectangle with a semicircular entrance projection in the center of the east side. The entire cemetery is enclosed by an uncoursed fieldstone wall, approximately four feet in height. The main entrance is protected by a double wrought iron gate, supported by stone piers. The main entry gate was constructed in 1941, typical of that period when new entries at many of the national cemeteries replaced original gates that were too narrow to accommodate modern automobiles. This gate is marked by two limestone columns, approximately eight feet high. They are designed in a modern classical form with eagles incised on the front face and topped by limestone balls, each 12 inches in diameter. The original wrought iron entry gate (three feet wide) is now an auxiliary/pedestrian gate to the lodge. There is a third wrought iron gate (13 feet wide), which opens to the service building. The flagpole is located in the northwest quadrant of the cemetery. Graves are marked with upright marble headstones.



In 1928, the lodge was constructed. It is a one-and-a-half-story, six-room, brick and stucco building with a gambrel roof. The roof is fiberglass shingles. The lodge is located within the area of the semicircular projection on the east side of the cemetery.

In 1928, the combination brick and concrete service building was constructed. Its gambrel roof is clad with fiberglass shingles. A brick gasoline storage shed, six feet, four inches by five feet, four inches, was constructed in June 1936.



Significant Monuments/Memorials

Army of the James Monument - On a north-south axis with the flagpole is a grassed circle, 50 feet in diameter, where a white marble monument is located. The monument is approximately 20 feet high, and was dedicated to the memory of the dead from the

Army of the James. It was built under the direction of Major General B. F. Butler, Commander of the Army of the James from April 1864 to January 1865.

Civil War Activity in Area

At City Point, on the James and Appomattox Rivers, the Union Army established a great supply depot for the receipt of troops and vast quantities of all kinds of war supplies in preparation for another try for Richmond. From June 1864 until April 1865, City Point was the "busiest place in Dixie." General Robert E. Lee's outnumbered Confederates fought and starved behind their slowly crumbling defenses at Petersburg. Just eight miles away at City Point, General Ulysses S. Grant built up one of the largest supply depots of the Civil War, which kept his army the best-fed, best-clothed, and best-munitioned in the field during the ten months of its existence.



Grant's objective was to capture Petersburg, a vital communication center and then to advance upon Richmond from south of the James River. From June 1864 to April 1865, heavy siege action by the forces of the Union and desperate and stubborn defense tactics by Lee's Army of Northern Virginia characterized the campaign that brought Grant's forces to Petersburg and ultimately into the streets of Richmond.

A large Army general hospital at City Point cared for some of the sick and the wounded. A burial ground was established near the Union hospital at City Point, and many of the soldiers of the 1864-1865 siege of Petersburg and Richmond are interred near the hospital. Following the cessation of hostilities, this burial ground became a part of the national cemetery. Other remains not originally buried in the national cemetery were recovered from other burial grounds at City Point, from Point of Rocks in Chesterfield County, and from Harrison's Landing in Charles City County.