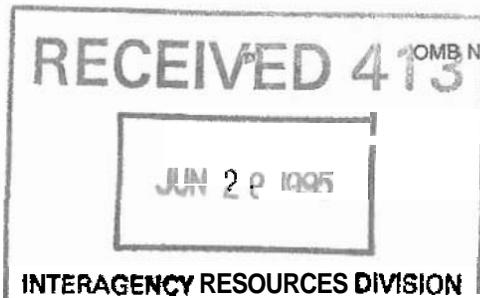


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

VLR 4/28/95  
NRHP 8/10/95  
PAGE UPDATE NRHP 1/10/01



922

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Cold Harbor National Cemetery  
other names/site number Virginia Department of Historic Resources File No. 42-136

## 2. Location

street & number SR 156, .5 mile east of junction with SR 619  not for publication N/A  
city or town Mechanicsville  vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Hanover code 0R5 zip code 23111

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Karen Rome Turpek 3/14/95  
Signature of certifying official/Title Federal Preservation Officer Date  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Julie Rossmik 10/15/95  
Signature of commenting or other official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other, (explain:)  
Signature of Keeper Patrick Andrews Date of Action 8/10/95

5. classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type (buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total). Values: Contributing (4, 1, 2, 5, 12), Noncontributing (0, 0, 0, 0, 0).

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Civil War Em National Cemeteries

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Funerary: Cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Funerary: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Late Victorian: Second Empire

Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation Stone, concrete

walls Stone, brick

roof Asbestos; Metal: Aluminum

other Stone: Marble; Brick; Metal: Iron

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Military

Period of Significance

1866-1936

Significant Dates

1866

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Meigs, Montgomery C.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A, B, C, D, E, F, G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, etc.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Federal agency, etc.

Name of repository

Department of Veterans Affairs

Cold Harbor National Cemetery  
Name of Property

Hanover County, Virginia  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.4

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 18 298660 4168500  
Zone Easting Northing

3                 
Zone Easting Northing

4                 
 See continuation sheet.

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Therese T. Sammartino, Staff Assistant, National Cemetery System

organization Department of Veterans Affairs date March 8, 1995

street & number 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W. telephone (202) 523-3895

city or town Washington, D.C. state      zip code 20420

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Department of Veterans Affairs

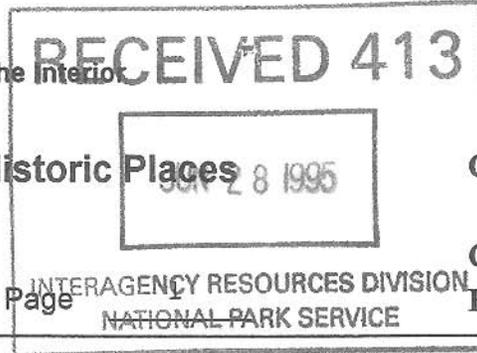
street & number 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W. telephone     

city or town Washington, D.C. state      zip code 20420

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

**Cold Harbor National Cemetery  
Hanover County, Virginia**

Section number 7

Page

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The Cold Harbor National Cemetery is located on Virginia State Highway No. 156, about nine miles east of the city of Richmond, Virginia. The cemetery is approximately square in shape with the entrance on Route 156. The main entrance, which is still in existence, was for pedestrian access only. In 1932, a ten-foot-wide entry with iron gates was installed within the wall for equipment access to the utility building. From the main entrance at the center of the south side, a concrete walk extends to the flagpole. Originally, there were two gravel walks bisecting the cemetery from the south entry to the north wall and the cross walk from the west wall to the east wall. These walks intersected at the flagpole. The entire cemetery is enclosed by a brick wall, 4 feet 6 inches high and approximately 980 lineal feet.

The cemetery was established in 1866 and contains four burial sections. The graves were originally marked by headboards, painted white and properly lettered. The boards were later replaced with upright marble markers. An intensive search over a twenty-two mile area located the initial burial place of many who were killed in action and buried on the battlefield. Lack of identification of the remains and the time lapse from the hasty battlefield burials made it impossible to identify by name or rank many of the remains reinterred in the national cemetery. As of January 31, 1995, there were 966 graves used for the interment of 2,091 casketed remains and 6 sites used for the interment of 8 cremated remains. Of the 2,099 total interments, 1,313 are unknown Civil War soldiers. A Medal of Honor recipient, Sergeant Major Augustus Barry, is buried in Section A, Grave 309. He served with the 16th U.S. Infantry and died on August 3, 1871. He was superintendent of the cemetery at the time of his death.

The cemetery was officially closed on February 27, 1970. Interments in occupied graves, as well as interments of cremated remains, continue. As of January 31, 1995, there were no gravesites available for the interment of casketed remains, but there were 11 sites available for cremated remains.

At the extreme north end of the plat are two large burial mounds, one containing the remains of 568 and the other of 321 unknown Union soldiers. Between these two mounds, the United States erected a white marble sarcophagus in 1877, which is 5 feet 2 inches in height. The inscription is in tribute to the memory of some of the unknowns interred in the cemetery and reads as follows: "Near this stone rests the remains of 889 Union soldiers gathered from the Battlefields of Mechanicsville, Savage's Station, Gaines's Mills, and the vicinity of Cold Harbor."

A tall granite monument, bearing the figure of a soldier at parade-rest, was erected in the southwest corner of the cemetery in 1909 by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is inscribed as follows: "To all Pennsylvania Regiments which participated in the operations from May 31st to June 12th, 1864, incident to and during the Battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia June 1-3, 1864." The infantry and cavalry regiments that participated are listed on the north and west sides of the monument.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Civil War Era National Cemeteries

Cold Harbor National Cemetery  
Hanover County, Virginia

Section number 7 Page 2

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)**

Another large commemorative monument erected in 1909 under the auspices of the New York State Monuments Commission bears a large bronze plaque listing the names of 219 members of the Eighth New York Heavy Artillery who were killed or died of wounds received in the Battle of Cold Harbor. It is 11 feet 4 inches high, and has a bronze tablet measuring 5 feet by 3 feet 4 inches, on which are recorded the casualties of the regiment. The monument cost \$1,143 and was dedicated on the 46th anniversary of the engagement. The 8th Heavy Artillery originally was organized at Lockport, New York, as the 129th New York Infantry and recruited principally in Niagara, New Orleans, and Genesee counties. As part of Major General Winfield Scott Hancock's Second Corps, it was commanded at Cold Harbor by Colonel Peter A. Porter, who was killed there. He was succeeded in command by Colonel Willard W. Bates.

There is a monument, 7 feet 6 inches in height, made of an original cast iron seacoast artillery tube, secured by a concrete base. The inscription on the cast bronze plaque affixed to the monument reads as follows:

United States  
National Military Cemetery  
Cold Harbor, Virginia  
Established April 30th, 1866  
Interments 1952  
Known 673  
Unknown 1279

Records available regarding these monuments focus on size, by whom erected, and/or the inscription. No information is inscribed on the monuments as to the name of the sculptor or the foundry which fabricated the memorials.

The lodge was constructed in 1870 from a design by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs and is Second Empire in style. It is an L-shaped, stone structure with a slate mansard roof (now covered with aluminum shingles). The main portion is one and one-half stories with dormer windows projecting from the mansard roof. The first floor contains an entry porch, living room, dining room, kitchen, and office. The upper story contains two bedrooms and a bath. The lodge contains a partial basement. There is a total of 1,364 square feet of living space. The windows on the first story are six-over-six double hung, while the upper-story windows are casement types with two panes in each casement. The interior retains much of the original fabric. It is finished with hardwood floors and plastered walls and ceilings. A brick and frame kitchen lean-to addition on the rear was constructed in the early 1900s. In 1925, a concrete front porch floor replaced the wood floor. A buff-colored brick garage with stone inserts was added in the 1950s.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Civil War Era National Cemeteries**

**Cold Harbor National Cemetery  
Hanover County, Virginia**

Section number 7 & 8 Page 3

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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Continued)**

A brick and concrete pump house, 11 feet by 7 feet, was constructed in 1927. In 1932, the old tool house was demolished and a new brick and concrete utility building with comfort station, 26 feet 6 inches by 11 feet 6 inches, was constructed in 1933. The roof is clad with asbestos shingles. A brick and concrete gasoline storage building, 8 feet 5 inches by 8 feet, was constructed in 1936. Its roof is clad with asbestos shingles.

The numbers shown for contributing resources within the property reflect the following:

**Buildings:** Lodge, pump house, utility building, gasoline storage building

**Sites:** Cemetery

**Structures:** Gate, perimeter wall

**Objects:** Flagpole, sarcophagus, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania monument, New York State monument, artillery monument

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Cold Harbor National Cemetery is significant under Criteria A and C, and is an important component of the multiple property submission of Civil War Era National Cemeteries. It is significant under Criterion A because of its association with the Civil War and under Criterion C, because the lodge represents a distinctive prototypical design by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs, who was acclaimed as a master architect of civil works projects for the Quartermaster Corps.

According to Battlefields of the Civil War, in 1864, Old Cold Harbor was little more than a country crossroads distinguished by a rather seedy looking tavern. Strategically, however, it gained importance when both Generals Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee recognized its significance controlling the roads leading toward the Chickahominy River and Richmond. Beyond the Chickahominy, a series of massive fortifications protected the approaches to the Confederate capital. Neither commander wanted the next major test to take place around these entrenchments.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Civil War Era National Cemeteries**

**Cold Harbor National Cemetery  
Hanover County, Virginia**

Section number 8 Page 4

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**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)**

In May 1864, the armies commanded by Lee and Grant locked in a series of brutal engagements. The Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, North Anna River, and Totopotomoy Creek became places of mass carnage as both sides waged what most hoped would be the last battles of the war. By June 1, 1864, Lee and Grant had shifted their attention to the Old Cold Harbor crossroads on the north side of the Chickahominy River. Grant ordered an attack for dawn on June 2, but high-command blundering forced its postponement for a day. On June 3, Grant decided on a head-on assault. It was probably the greatest mistake of his military career. By then Lee was ready. The fighting opened at 4:30 a.m., with a charge all along the two armies' entrenchments. The Confederates, having had two days to prepare, were well fortified. The attack was a head-on crash against the Rebel lines, relying on the sheer weight of numbers to breach them. In less than an hour, thousands of Grant's men fell dead and wounded. According to one participant, "The dead covered more than five acres of ground about as thickly as they could be laid." By the end of the day, the Union army had lost over six thousand men.

The battle took place on approximately a 2 1/2-mile front, although the armies stretched for six miles from south to north, with the Union army facing west. Grant's total strength was over 100,000 men, but less than 50,000 were actually engaged in the struggle. Lee's total strength consisted of less than 60,000 men, but only half were involved in the action of June 3. From June 1-12, the Union losses totaled 12,700; Confederate losses were conservatively estimated at 4,000.

Cold Harbor proved to be Lee's last major victory in the field and, although it was a military zero as far as Grant was concerned, it turned out to be one of the most important and significant battles fought during the Civil War. The results of this battle changed the course of the war in the east from a war of maneuver to a war of siege. It also influenced the strategy and tactics of future wars by showing that well-selected, well-manned entrenchments, adequately supported by artillery, were practically impregnable to frontal assaults.

The cemetery was established on April 30, 1866 and comprises 1.4 acres. The site originally contained about 1.3414 acres and was formerly owned by Miss Indian H. Slaughter. It was appraised under the Act of Congress approved February 22, 1867, and on October 13, 1870, the right and title thereto were purchased by the United States for the sum of \$200. On October 8, 1871, an additional strip of land, adjoining and extending three sides of the cemetery, was conveyed to the United States by Miles Garthright and Gustavus Lane for a sum of \$306.50.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Civil War Era National Cemeteries**

**Cold Harbor National Cemetery  
Hanover County, Virginia**

Section number 9 & 10 Page 5

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**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

National Cemetery System Microfilm Records

Department of Veterans Affairs Historic Preservation Office

Report of the Inspector of the National Cemeteries of the United States, 1869

Bradford, Ned. Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. New York: The Fairfax Press, 1979.

Battlefields of the Civil War, New York: Arno, 1979.

Denney, Robert E. The Civil War Years. New York: Sterling Publishing Company, Inc., 1992.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

**PARCEL 1 -1.314 ACRES**

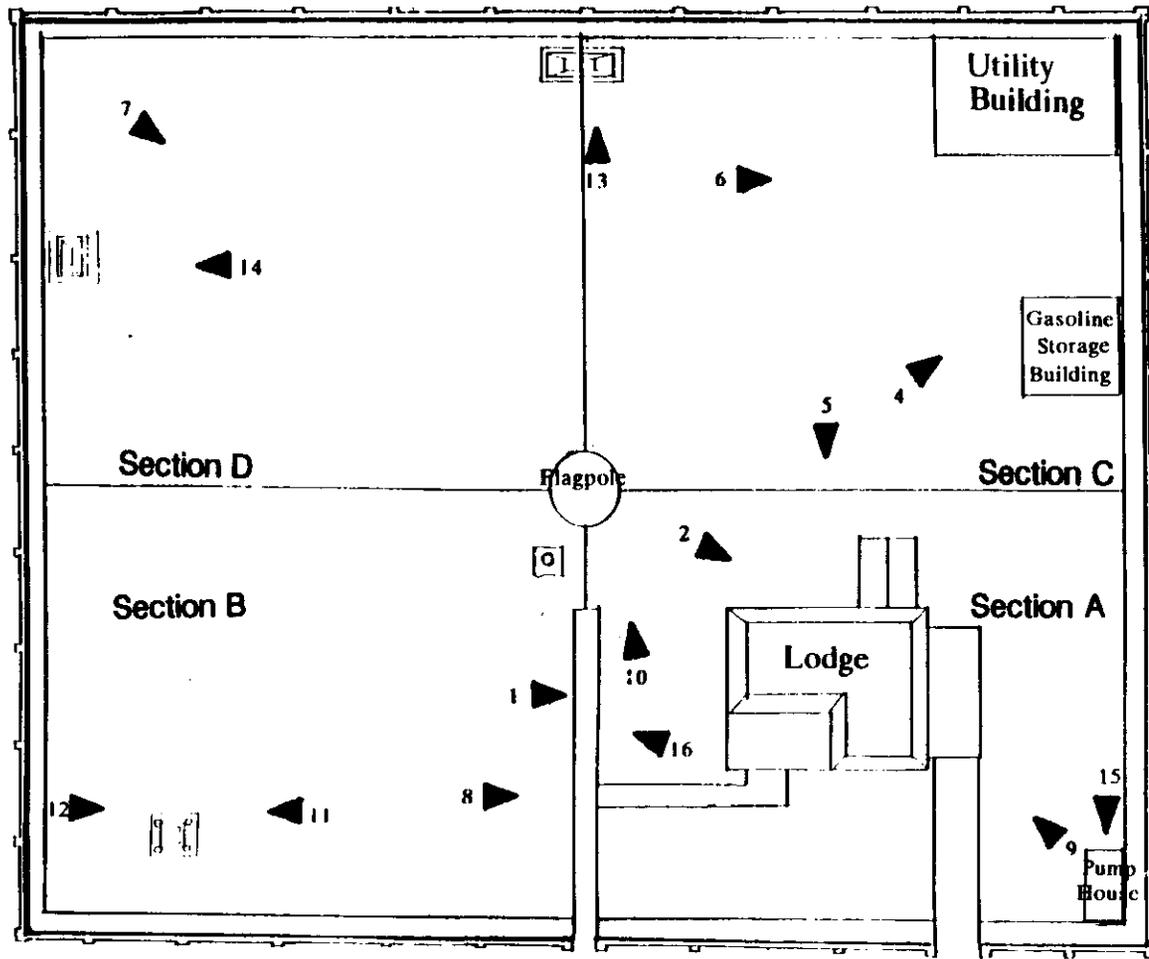
Beginning at a point in the center of the road to White House about 9/16 of a mile west from Old Cold Harbor House, and running N. 11 degrees 30 minutes W. a distance of 267 3/10 feet, thence N. 77 degrees, 0 minutes E. a distance of 219 5/10 feet, thence 11 degrees 30 minutes E. a distance of 265 feet, thence along center of said road a distance of 219 5/10 feet to the place of beginning and enclosing 1.3414 acres.

**PARCEL 2 - .088 ACRE**

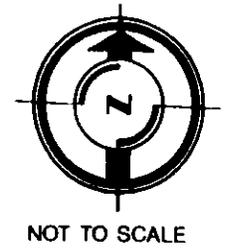
A strip of land five feet wide, running along the west, north, and east sides of the original tract of the Cold Harbor National Cemetery.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The National Cemetery System has used the existing boundaries of the cemetery.



**Sketch Map**  
**Cold Harbor National Cemetery**  
**Hanover County, Virginia**

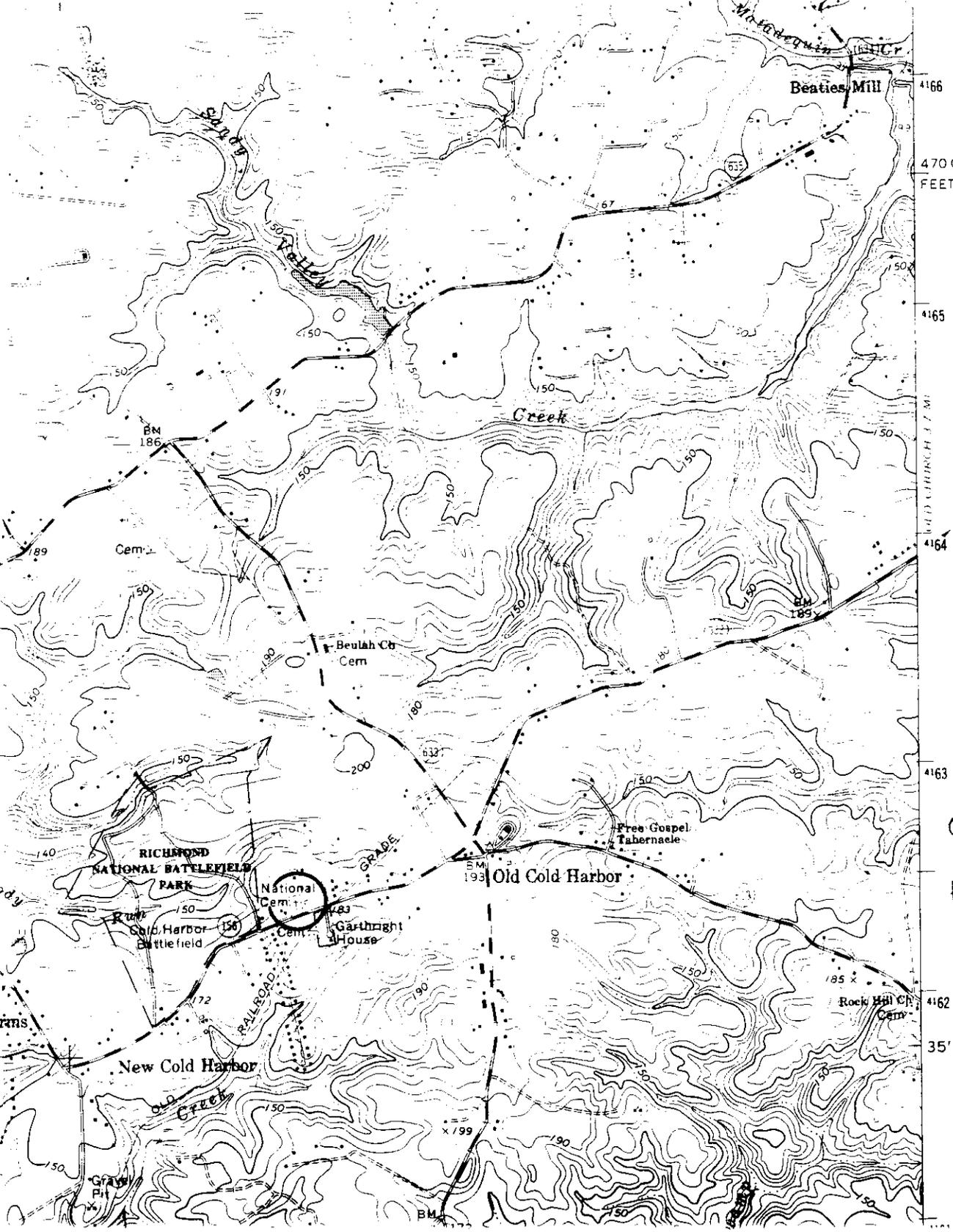


Note: Numbered triangles correspond to the views in the accompanying photographs

SEVEN PINES QUADRANGLE  
VIRGINIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5559 II NW  
(MANQUIN)

17'30" 98 299 300 2 360 000 FEET 301 77° 15' 37° 37'30"



COLD HARBOR  
NATIONAL CEMETERY  
Hanover County