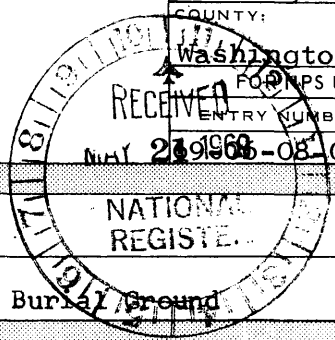


PH0011452  
STATE: Washington, D.C.  
COUNTY: Washington, D.C.  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER: 08-0014  
DATE: 6/23/69

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Congressional Cemetery  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Washington Cemetery: The Washington Parish Burial Ground

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 1801 E Street, S. E.  
CITY OR TOWN: Washington  
STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08 COUNTY: District of Columbia CODE: 001

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private Cemetery
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME: Christ Church, Washington Parish  
STREET AND NUMBER: 620 G Street, S. E.  
CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Recorder of Deeds  
STREET AND NUMBER: 6th and D Streets, N. W.  
CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 30 acres

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Properties recommended by Joint Committee on Landmarks  
DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968 Federal  State  County  Local   
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Capital Planning Commission  
STREET AND NUMBER: 726 Jackson Place, N. W.  
CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08

STATE: Washington, D.C.  
COUNTY: Washington, D.C.  
ENTRY NUMBER: 08-0014  
DATE: 6/23/69  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

·CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
·INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Congressional Cemetery is a tract of about thirty acres of ground on the north bank of the Anacostia River just northeast of Pennsylvania Avenue at Barney Circle, S. E. The main entrance to the cemetery is at 1801 E Street, S. E., at the Superintendent's lodge. The property is composed of ten squares of land acquired over a period of years. Most of the cemetery is on gently sloping ground which declines sharply on the southern boundaries near the banks of the Anacostia. There are a large number of shade trees scattered throughout the cemetery. The cemetery's streets or avenues—Congress, Tingey, Henderson, Ingle, Naylor, Tucker, Arnold, Pinkney, Prout, Richards, and Whittingham—are generally named after those who were important to the development of the cemetery or Christ Church.

To the east and south of the Superintendent's lodge, Square 1115, (see map), the original plot of the cemetery, contains many of the oldest and most interesting graves. Of particular note are the two large groupings of cenotaphs, one on the east side of the square, and one on the west. These cenotaphs, reportedly designed by Benjamin Latrobe, consist of square sandstone blocks on sandstone slabs and surmounted by short segments of columns topped with a squat cone. A number of these cenotaphs are in a deteriorated condition due to the poor quality of the sandstone used. The practice of erecting these memorials was largely discontinued after Senator Hoar of Massachusetts complained that the prospect of being buried under "one of these atrocities added a new terror to death." Also interred in Square 1115 is Vice President Elbridge Gerry under a truncated pyramidal shaft surmounted by an urn and flame by W. and J. Frazee. The marker of Push-Ma-Ta-Ha, the Choctaw chief who fought under Jackson in the Pensacola campaign, declares him "the White Man's Friend." Architects Thornton, Hadfield and Elliott are also buried in this square as are large numbers of soldiers and sailors from the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

By 1849, most of the lots in 1115 had been sold and many of the sites occupied. At that time the vestry purchased from private citizens Square 1116 directly south of the original cemetery plot. In 1855, Square 1104 south of Georgia Avenue (now Potomac Avenue) was added. In this square rest the bodies of the twenty young women who perished in the explosion of the Federal Arsenal during the Civil War. A section 200' x 478' of Reservation 13 was conveyed to the parish by the authority of Congress in 1858. In the same year, nearby Squares Nos. 1105 (between 17th & 18th, G & H Streets); 1106 (south of 1105 and extending to Barney Circle and Water Street); 1117 (south of 1116 and east of 1106); 1123 (south of Reservation 13 and east of 1116); 1130 (east of 1123); and 1148 (east of 1123) were also acquired by the vestry. John Philip Sousa and his family are interred in Square 1105.

Congress authorized the vestry to take, enclose, and use forever the street areas between these additional squares. The land acquired in the southeast section of the cemetery, lying east of 19th Street and south of G Street, was low and sometimes covered with water. Two Congressional appropriations, one in 1869 and one in 1872, provided for filling in this low land and for other improvements.

Near the center of the grounds at the intersection of Congress and Ingle Avenues is a small stucco chapel built in 1903 and similar in style to English country churches.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

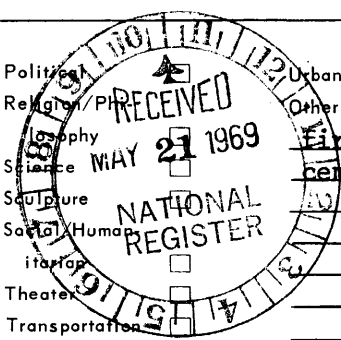
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)      1807

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |  |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>     | Education <input type="checkbox"/>    | Political <input type="checkbox"/>           | Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>             |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>    | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>  | Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/>       | Industry <input type="checkbox"/>     | Science <input type="checkbox"/>             | <u>First national</u>                               |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>    | Invention <input type="checkbox"/>    | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>           | <u>cemetery</u>                                     |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/>            | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>    | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> | _____   |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>       | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/>             | _____   |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/>   | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>      | _____   |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>   | Military <input type="checkbox"/>     |  | _____   |
|   | Music <input type="checkbox"/>        |  | _____   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated Congressional Cemetery a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. Although privately owned by Christ Church, Congressional Cemetery was the first true National Cemetery in the U. S. and is perhaps still the only truly National Cemetery due to the fact that Arlington and other national cemeteries are principally reserved for military dead. From the time of its establishment in 1807 until the end of the Civil War, three Presidents, two Vice Presidents, seventy-five Senators and Representatives, as well as many high-ranking executive, judicial and military officers and American Indians were interred in Congressional Cemetery. There are perhaps more early historical figures buried within this "American Westminster Abbey" than in any other cemetery in the country.

The original four and one-half acre tract (Square 1115) of Congressional Cemetery was purchased from the Government for \$200 on April 4, 1807, as a private burial ground by Henry Ingle, George Blagden, Griffith Coombe, S. N. Smallwood, Dr. Frederick May, Peter Miller, John T. Frost, and Captain Thomas Tingey. On March 30, 1812, several years after Christ Church was built, Ingle deeded this tract to the church under the name of "The Washington Parish Burial Ground." On May 30, 1849, the vestry changed the name to "Washington Cemetery" which is its correct name today, although it has long been known as Congressional Cemetery because of its associations with the National Legislature.

The first Congressman to be buried in the cemetery was Senator Uriah Tracy of Connecticut whose body was transferred from Rock Creek Cemetery on July 19, 1807. As early as 1817, the vestry assigned 100 burial sites for the use of the United States, and it soon became the custom to bury there the Senators, Representatives, and Executive Officers who died in Washington. In 1823, 300 more grave sites were donated for the same use. Between 1824 and 1834 Congress made several appropriations for the erection of a keeper's house, a receiving vault, and a wall around the burial ground, and for planting trees and placing boundary stones. In these various Acts, Congress added its own name to the cemetery title. From 1849 on, the cemetery was gradually enlarged by the purchase of other squares until it reached its present area of some 30 acres.

The three Presidents who were originally buried in the cemetery were W. H. Harrison, Zachary Taylor, and John Q. Adams. Their remains as well as those of a number of Senators and Representatives and Dolly Madison

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

The Congressional Cemetery, Washington, D. C., It's History, Plan and Location of Burial Sites or Cenotaphs of Persons Formerly in the Service of the Federal Government or the Confederate States of America--Including Some Brief Biographies and Records of Service, 1807-1939. Compiled by the Office of the Quartermaster General, War Department. Washington: City and Capital, Federal Writers' Project, Works Progress Administration: American Guide Series. Washington, D. C.: U.S. GPO, 1937.

Newspaper Articles, Post and Star.  
Records, Cemetery Office.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 52' 58"	76° 58' 52"				
NE	38° 52' 58"	76° 58' 26"				
SE	38° 52' 44"	76° 58' 26"				
SW	38° 52' 44"	76° 58' 52"				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Nancy C. Taylor, Landmarks Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **National Capital Planning Commission**      DATE: **April 3, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**726 Jackson Place, N. W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**      STATE: **District of Columbia**      CODE: **08**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name *Tom Fletcher*

Title Deputy Mayor-Commissioner

Date May 12, 1969

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Ernest Allen Connelly*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date JUN 29 1969

ATTEST:  
*William J. Swartz*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date JUN 23 1969      **JUN 20 1969**

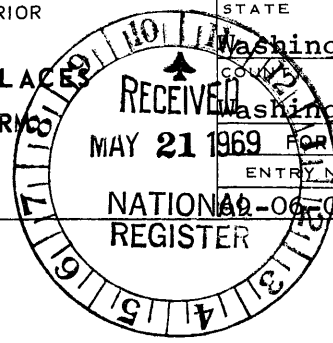
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

017-017-001-000 4110 041-00-0000-0000

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Washington, D.C.	
COUNTY	
Washington, D.C.	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
12-06-08-0014	6/23/69



(Number all entries)

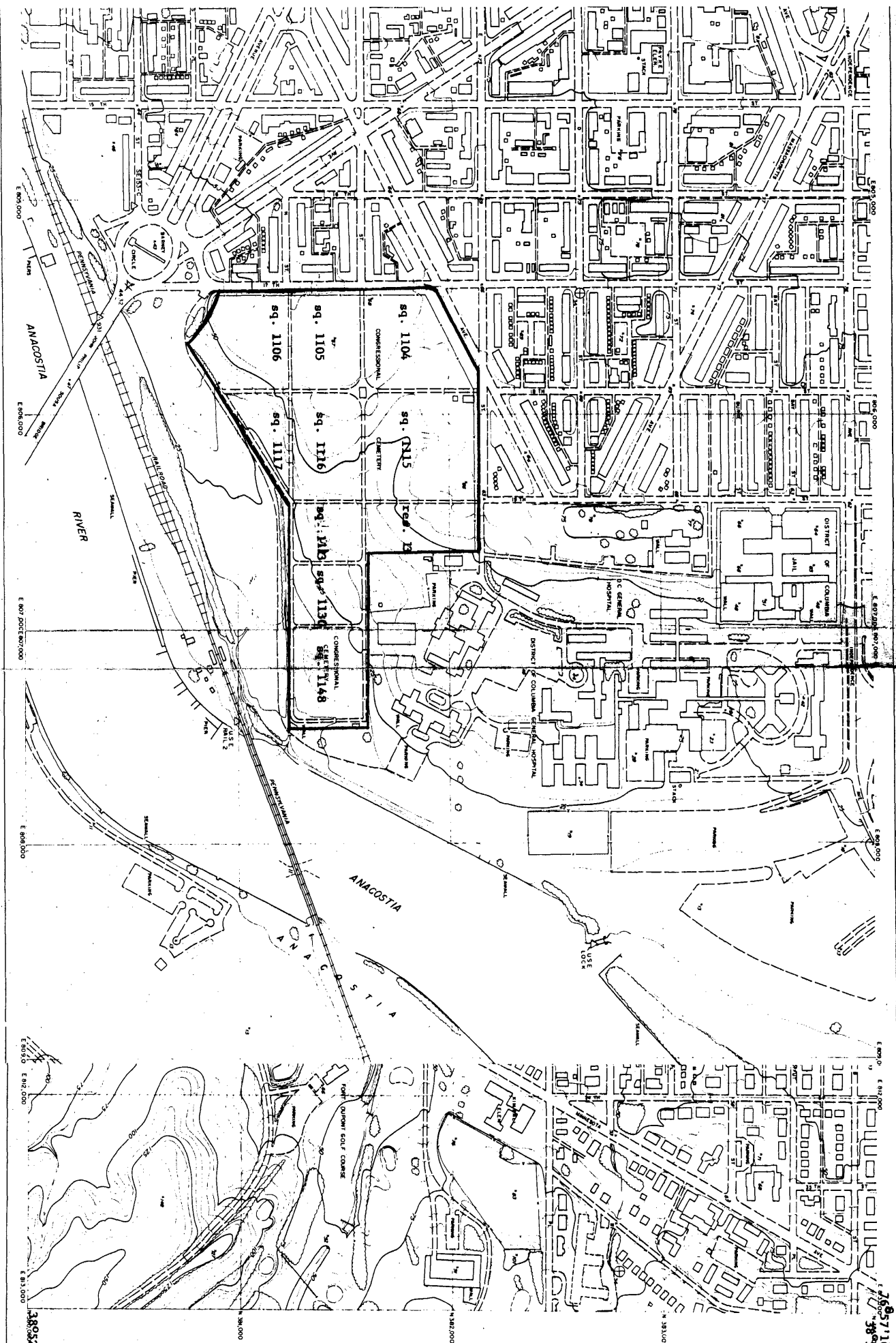
8. Significance--Congressional Cemetery

were later moved to home cemeteries. Still interred in Congressional Cemetery are the remains of 14 Senators and 43 Representatives, including Vice President Elbridge Gerry and Speaker of the House Philip P. Barbour. /

It early became the custom for Congress to erect sandstone cenotaphs--empty tombs--in honor of deceased Representatives and Senators who were buried elsewhere. For several decades, there was a cenotaph erected for each Congressman who died during the period. Under some of the cenotaphs are the actual remains of those memorialized. This practice of erecting cenotaphs was discontinued pursuant to an Act of Congress of May 23, 1876, which directed that a granite monument be erected only "whenever any deceased Senator or Member . . . shall actually be buried in the Congressional Cemetery." Since that time only three such interments have been made.

/Among the many other famous Americans still buried in Congressional Cemetery are: Scarlet Crow, Sioux Chief and U. S. scout; Colonel Tobias Lear, friend and personal secretary of George Washington; Push-Ma-Ta-Ha, Choctaw Chief and friend of General Jackson; Commodore Thomas Tingey, first Commandant of the Navy Yard; Cochise's son; John Philip Sousa, Marine band leader and composer; photographer Matthew Brady; and architects George Hadfield, William Thornton, and Robert Mills. /

Since the end of the Civil War and the establishment of Arlington National Cemetery, there have been fewer government burials in Congressional Cemetery. Of the numerous cemeteries originally within the boundaries of the L'Enfant city, Congressional Cemetery is the only one where interments are still being made.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

Prepared By ALSTER & ASSOCIATES, INC. Engineers  
 Washington, D.C. Utilizing Aerial Photogrammetric Methods

18092  
 38° 11' N. Lat.  
 6169

200 0 200 400 600 800  
 SCALE 1" = 400'

PROJECT Congressional Cemetery  
 1801 E Street, S.E.

PROJECT NO. DATE

38° 57' 16" N. Cont.  
 76° 39' 31" W. Cont.