

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum: Fort George Wright Cemetery)
other names/site number Smithsonian Number 45SP625

2. Location

street & number North Government Way & N Houston Rd, along the Centennial Trail ☐ not for publication
city or town Spokane ☒ vicinity
state Washington code WA county Spokane code 063 zip code 99224

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria

X A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

WASHINGTON STATE SHPO

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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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.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
	buildings
	district
1	site
	structure
	object
1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

31

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.)

Other: Cemetery

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: N/A

walls: METAL: Iron

roof: N/A

other: STONE: Granite, marble

CONCRETE

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Narrative Description

Summary

The Fort George Wright Cemetery (Smithsonian Number 45SP625) is located on the northwest side of the Spokane metropolitan area next to the Spokane River (Map 1). Approximately 1.6 acres in size, the cemetery occupies a flat space on the bluffs that run along the river, one mile northwest of the main historic Fort George Wright campus (Maps 2 and 3). It lies within the existing boundaries of the Fort George Wright Historic District (Map 4) that was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 15, 1976 (Dunton and Garrett 1976). The cemetery as a whole is a contributing element to the existing Fort George Wright Historic District. The cemetery site retains clear integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Aerial photographs from 1931 (Historic Photographs 1 and 2) depict Fort George Wright, illustrating the connection between the fort and the cemetery, both of which occupied a discrete landform overlooking the Spokane River.

The cemetery is administered by the 92nd Civil Engineer Squadron (92 CES) from Fairchild Air Force Base (Fairchild AFB), which has maintained and managed the site since 1958 (Fairchild AFB 2021).

Narrative Description

The main core of Fort George Wright was laid out in an unconventional "A" plan (Map 2) to take advantage of the Spokane River bluff's terrain and the cooling prevailing winds (Denfeld 2011). Like the main fort, the cemetery also has a symmetrical "A" plan running on a roughly south-southeast to north-northwest axis, with a flagpole centered near the top (Map 5; Plan 1). During the time that Fort George Wright was in operation, the cemetery was an integral part of the larger installation. After the fort was closed, its land was transferred to a variety of other organizations. Much of the area separating the cemetery from the core of the historic fort was incorporated into Riverside State Park, a 9,194-acre recreational area that includes the Centennial Trail, a long regional hiking route. Another former Fort George Wright parcel of approximately 5 acres, located to the south of the cemetery, now holds a Washington Army National Guard facility.

The southwestern corner of the cemetery is approximately 245 feet east of N Government Way, the primary access road to this area. Both the cemetery and the adjacent hiking trails and park area can be reached from Government Way by following a secondary access road that runs east for approximately 360 feet to a dirt parking area, and then continues running north, curving around a grassy area approximately 1.6 acres in size that does not contain any gravestones and serves as parkland. This curving road runs to the primary access gate to the cemetery and provides additional parking space for cemetery visitors. The cemetery is defined by service roads that run along all four sides. An additional service road bisects the center of the site. This road is approximately 15 feet wide for most of its length. It flares into a wider semi-circular parking area that is approximately 60 feet wide at its largest extent and 70 feet long, with a flagpole centered in the space (Plan 1). This circular parking area is approximately 25 feet south of the north gate, and approximately 210 feet north of the south gate.

The cemetery has little formal landscaping and primarily consists of grass. Shrubs, trees, and bushes are planted along all four sides of the cemetery. The cemetery includes a decorative metal fence enclosure that features an elaborate wrought iron entry gate flanked by stone piers (see Photograph 1). Although its visual appearance resembles fences from the pre-war period, it does not appear to be original. Fence sections are connected by flanges, welded to the support posts and fastened together with bolts that appear to be modern. No information was found regarding its fabrication or installation. Near the main entrance is informative signage which included history, a map, and interment roster.

Graves are laid out in rows that are perpendicular to the bisecting road, with each row containing a variable number of graves and headstones (Photographs 2, 3, and 4). Most headstones are uniform in shape and size and consist of simple stone markers with a slightly curved top, approximately 30 to 40 inches in height, 15 inches wide, and 4 inches thick. The height of the markers varies due to ground settlement. Most rows contain simple military issue headstones, but larger and more elaborate markers or monuments, as well as flush ground-mounted headstones, are scattered around the cemetery. Markers like these follow no set design and vary in size, shape, materials, and inscription. The inscriptions on the simpler headstones vary as well. The earliest ones (from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century) are simple, usually recording only the name and unit of the person interred. Later markers resemble those found in U.S. Veterans Administration cemeteries and state the name, date of birth and death of the interred, and in the case of dependents, their relationship to a service member.

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Typical examples of markers found include (Photograph 5): the *Orlo M. Beardsley / Michigan / QM Sgt [Quarter Master Sergeant] / 8 Regt Cav [8th Cavalry Regiment] / August 10 1865 / November 19 1958*. A simple cross sitting within a circle denotes the religious preferences of Sergeant Beardsley. An adjoining marker is inscribed *Edna M / Oct 14 1886 / Sep 5 1984 / Wife of QR MR Serg [Quarter Master Sergeant] / Orla M Beardsley USA*. A more recent marker includes a metal sign mounted on a pole standing near these two graves bears the text *Robert B. Beardsley / Oct 26 1921 / Jan 22 2015*. One of the more unusual headstones is that of C.W. Heideman. Inscribed *C.W. Heideman / Co.E. Signal Cops/ 1840-1925/ True Lover of Nature*. Installed a year after his death by the Heideman Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, the basalt stone monument/headstone with hollowed top that serves as a bird bath, stands a few feet from a mountain ash tree that was planted at the time of his death.

At the time of this amendment, the Fort George Wright Cemetery contains 720 graves. Researcher Salina Ann Davis estimated that this number included approximately 296 men, 62 women, and 325 children, some of who were of African or Native ancestry. The cemetery holds only 710 headstones, due to multiple names that have been engraved on some markers (Davis 1999). The cemetery is effectively closed to new interments, except for reservations made before the 1960s (Fairchild AFB undated). The first burials occurred at Fort George Wright were in 1899. These were re-interments of remains from the cemeteries of Fort Spokane and Fort Sherman, older installations that had been decommissioned. As such, older headstones do exist within the cemetery. Any person buried at Fort George Wright had a direct connection to the fort and included military personnel as well as their spouses or children (Davis 1999).

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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.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | B removed from its original location. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | C a birthplace or grave. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | D a cemetery. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | E a reconstructed building, object, or structure. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | F a commemorative property. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years. |

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Military

Period of Significance

1899

Significant Dates

1899

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

unknown

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Fort George Wright Cemetery lies within the existing/listed boundaries of the Fort George Wright Historic District. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 15, 1976, the original nomination did not address the resource status of the cemetery in the contributing / non-contributing list, and mentions the cemetery only once in the text (in reference to the boundaries in section 7). This amendment seeks to clarify the status of the cemetery.

The Fort George Wright Cemetery is historically significant under criteria "A" for its direct connection to the early military operations in the Inland Northwest, and to the establishment and use of Fort George Wright during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The cemetery is also significant under special criteria consideration "D" as a resource that falls within a district and derives its primary significance from historic events. The period of significance for Fort George Wright as a whole is listed as 1899–1958. The cemetery, still in use, was created in 1899 as part of the fort complex and is owned and cared for by nearby Fairchild Air Force Base.

The cemetery site retains clear integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Although more recent buildings have been constructed in the wooded space between the Fort George Wright Cemetery and the main fort campus, the intrusions do not diminish the physical connection and meaningful association between the fort and cemetery. Aerial views and historical accounts indicate that the cemetery and the main fort campus were understood to be constituents of a single military facility. The cemetery was deliberately built at a distance from the main fort campus, on the periphery of the property and with a scenic view, in accordance with nineteenth-century cemetery practices.

All military personnel interred at the cemetery are associated with federal armed forces. Some are individuals who hailed from other parts of the country and fought in other states or abroad, but had some type of connection to Spokane and were transported back to Fort George Wright for burial (Davis 1999).

The 1976 National Register nomination form notes that "Fort George Wright is a significant reminder of Spokane's long military history" and that "it is architecturally one of the best-preserved forts in the Inland Empire, owing its survival to a hiatus of post-war development" (Dunton and Garrett 1976:8-1).

Today, the portion of the district that contains the former Army post buildings is owned and maintained by Mukogawa Women's University. A private university based in Nishinomiya, Japan, its only international branch campus is in Spokane at the former Fort George Wright.

History of Fort George Wright

Fort George Wright was developed as a U.S. Army regimental post for infantry training and posting, and was authorized by Congress in 1896. Construction began shortly thereafter mainly between 1897 and 1906. The new fort, intended to replace the abandoned and decommissioned Fort Spokane 50 miles away and was sited along an important rail-transportation corridor that ran through the City of Spokane during the heyday of mining in the Idaho Rockies. From the outset, the fort was also well-integrated in the civic life of Spokane, and the public lobbied for its construction, donated land, and even raised funds for its construction. The first unit to arrive on post in 1899 was Company M, 24th Infantry Regiment, which was an African American Buffalo Soldier unit of 100 men. While Company M did not receive a warm welcome in Spokane when it first arrived, and some members of the public petitioned the War Department to have the company transferred elsewhere, it was eventually accepted by the Spokane community. After the Company M garrison ended in 1908, two battalions of the 25th Infantry, also a Buffalo Soldier unit, were stationed at the fort and provided valuable assistance in fighting wildfires in 1910. Eight members of the Buffalo Soldier 24th and 25th U.S. Infantry Regiments are buried in the Fort George Wright Cemetery (Davis 1999; Denfeld 2011; Dunton and Garrett 1976).

Fort George Wright was named after General George Wright, a colonel in command of the 9th Infantry Regiment in Oregon Territory. He led his men against allied indigenous forces near Spokane in the historic Battles of Four Lakes and Spokane Plains in 1858, as part of the broader campaign to "pacify" the Inland Empire. Following those battles, Wright engaged in what he himself called "slaughter and devastation" in a letter to his commanding officer (Manring 1912:213), instructing his men to destroy local tribes' settlements and food stores just before the onset of winter, slaughtering between 800 and 900 horses, and executing Yakama chief Qualchin and several Palus warriors. In 1861, Col. Wright was promoted to brigadier general and commander of the Department of the Pacific in California. On his way to accept the command of the Department of the Columbia in 1865, Wright died in the wreck of the steamer *S.S. Brother Jonathan* off

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the coast of California (Denfeld 2011); his body was never recovered. Even in his own time, men under Wright's command criticized his command decisions. Hylan B. Lyon, a 2nd lieutenant of the 3rd Artillery, later wrote in his memoirs that Wright's entrapment and execution of the Yakama chief Qualchan was "the basest piece of treachery on the part of the commander of the expedition ever charged against an intelligent American" (Coffman 1959:37). In recent years, Wright's questionable actions have received a great deal of negative attention, and Fort George Wright Drive in Spokane was renamed Whist-alks Way in 2021 (Dodd 2021, *The new namesake, Whist-alks, was the daughter of Yakama chief Polotkin and wife of Qualchan. She was present at Qualchan's extra-judicial hanging and is said to have been defiant in the face of her husband's murder, facing the foes before escaping on horseback*). The Mukogawa Women's University, the current occupant of most buildings in the historic district, recently removed the words "Fort Wright Institute" from its name (Mukogawa U.S. Campus 2020).

In 1913 the fort was temporarily converted to use as a confinement center to house federal prisoners after the 25th Infantry was deployed to Hawaii. Sometime around 1920, the 2nd Battalion of the 4th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, numbering around 350 troops, was stationed there, where they remained throughout the 1920s. By the 1930s, the fort was also used as a Civilian Conservation Corps regional headquarters, and the Work Projects Administration completed several projects there. In 1940, as the United States began preparing for World War II, the 4th Infantry Regiment was reassigned to Alaska, and the Army Air Corps began using the installation for various purposes. During the war years the fort housed an Army Air Forces convalescent hospital. Charlotte Rae Brunzell, a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps (established 1901) who was stationed at the hospital, died in 1945 and is the only female soldier interred in the Fort George Wright Cemetery (Davis 1999; Denfeld 2011).

In 1946, the fort was transferred to the command of Col. John C.B. Elliot, base commander of Geiger Field. Then in 1949 it was officially renamed George Wright AFB, and provided unit facilities and family housing for Fairchild AFB. As the main base developed, the George Wright campus was declared surplus in 1957. Over the next 5 years, the overall land for the fort would be divided and/or sold/given to a variety of entities. Among them was a bid in 1961 to transfer the lands to the Bureau of Land Management. A Congressional memo from ca. 1959 suggests that the fate of the old fort was controversial: initially the city of Spokane made the case that the property should be returned to the city, since its citizens had originally donated the land. Some federal officials preferred that a portion of land be set aside for a national military cemetery (Office of Congressman Walt Horan undated). After a request by the U.S. Army to the city/county to transfer the cemetery portion of the site to the City and/or County Parks Department was denied, plans were made by the Air Force to move the various graves to the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland. This raised great concern by a variety of groups. A Spokane Chronicle article on August 25, 1964, reported that the local American Legion Post 9 had begun a lobbying effort to stop this action. The Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary also came out against the move and adopted a resolution urging Congress to stop such efforts at their statewide conference which was held in Spokane in June of 1964. The Reserve Officers Association of Spokane followed with opposition letters, as well as the All-Veterans Association of Spokane. Tom Foley, a democratic candidate, and eventual winner, for the 5th Congressional District, also voiced his support. Under pressure to change their tune, by January 1965, the U.S. Air Force announced their withdrawal of the call to move the graves.

In the meantime, the main fort property was purchased by the Sisters of the Holy Names for use as a college in 1960; called Fort Wright College. In 1990 Mukogawa Women's University purchased most of the main fort and established a branch campus. They remain owners today.

Since the creation of the Fort George Wright Historic District, the bulk of the elements constituting the District have remained under careful management by the various owners of the site. While a few historic buildings have been lost, (including double barracks, a hospital building, and the Post Exchange structure), a majority of the listed elements remain.

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Nineteenth-Century Cemetery Design

Whether affiliated with a town, hospital, institution, or military installation, nineteenth-century cemeteries were commonly in nearby, often park-like or wooded landscapes to ensure a quiet, tranquil setting for remembering the dead. They also favored elevated outlooks at community peripheries. These two defining characteristics are found in the Fort George Wright Cemetery.

Dedicated military cemeteries were first established at the end of the Civil War in an effort to locate and rebury both Union and Confederate soldiers which were scattered across battlefield burial sites and private plots, as well as some military posts. The 1867 Congressional directive stated that reburying a soldier from another burial site or interring a recently deceased soldier, required the installation headstone (Potter and Boland 1992) and that all national cemeteries to be enclosed with a stone or iron fence. In keeping with these traditions and requirements, the planners of Fort George Wright in the late 1890s established a new cemetery to the north of the fort to create a dignified burial site, which was slightly removed from the day-to-day operations of the fort. From its elevated site, the cemetery provided views over the Spokane River and the wooded landscape surrounding the nearby fort, and that context remains visible today.

History of Fort George Wright Cemetery

The Fort George Wright Cemetery was authorized in General Orders No. 123 on December 13, 1899, by U.S. Secretary of War Elihu Root, who directed the cemetery to be used for soldiers affiliated with the fort, but also for the re-interment of remains of officers, soldiers, and others from the abandoned post cemeteries at Fort Spokane and Fort Sherman. (Davis 1999). Reports from the April 19, 1900 issue of *Spokane Chronicle* note that the quartermaster had soldiers from Fort George Wright busy with fencing and laying out the cemetery. The grounds were planned to hold 400 bodies and it would be called "Fort Wright Cemetery". Because nearby Forts Sherman and Fort Spokane were officially decommissioned around the time that Fort George Wright was established, its cemetery was a fitting place to relocate remains and associated memorials from those installations.

Fort Spokane Cemetery

Fort Spokane (originally called Camp Spokane) was established in 1880. It was built between two reservations to house soldiers who were tasked to maintain peace between Native American tribes and the increasing settler populations. These tensions had subsided by the late 1890s and in 1898, when the U.S. joined the Spanish-American War, Fort Spokane was decommissioned. Its personnel were deployed to Cuba. The next year in 1899, the Colville Indian Agency took over the fort's site and established an Indian Boarding School (Harbine undated).

Per a newspaper article in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer on June 8, 1900, they reported that 35 interred soldiers at the abandoned Fort Spokane cemetery site would be removed and reburied at the Fort George Wright Cemetery the following week. Only one disinterred body, that of Col. Means, was to be sent to the depot quartermaster in San Francisco (Seattle Post-Intelligencer 1900). Final orders for soldiers to leave the fort were carried out on September 16, 1900 (Pullman Herald 1900). Later that year, the Quartermaster General reported to the U.S. Secretary of War that a total of 42 burials at "Old Fort Spokane, Wash." had been re-interred at the "Post Cemetery, Fort Wright, Wash." in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900, and he confirmed that one set of remains from Fort Spokane was sent to the National Cemetery in San Francisco (Patten 1900:341).

Fort Sherman Cemetery

Fort Sherman (originally called Fort Coeur d'Alene), located in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, was established in 1878. Like most frontier forts in the Pacific Northwest, Fort Sherman was tasked to prevent conflicts between new settlers and resettled Native American tribes, to protect railroad and telegraph construction crews from attacks, and to guard the U.S. border with Canada. Given the diminished number of conflicts at the end of the Indian Wars, Fort Sherman was decommissioned soon after soldiers and the fort's command were transferred to the newly established Fort George Wright and then deployed to fight in the Spanish-American War in 1898 (Hentges undated). Plans were then made to dispose of the property and various buildings.

At the fort, the U.S. Army had established a one-acre cemetery. However since plans were being made for its sale, at the time of its closure in 1900, the War Department and U.S. Army took several steps to arrange for the reburial of soldiers and family members. The August 25, 1900 issue of the Coeur d'Alene Press reported that all bodies in the Fort Sherman Cemetery would be disinterred and reburied at the Fort George Wright Cemetery "unless friends look after and remove them before the general removal at government expense takes place" (Coeur d'Alene Press Aug 25, 1900).

This was followed by an article in the October 6, 1900 issue that reported that the remains of about 50 soldiers would be removed from Fort Sherman's cemetery to be reburied in the new cemetery at Fort George Wright, created for this

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purpose. Gilman & Company of Spokane, an undertaking parlor, was contracted to carry out the reburials (Coeur d'Alene Press Oct 6, 1900). Subsequent publications noted that the remains of approximately 100 soldiers and their families were removed from Fort Sherman and reburied at Fort George Wright (Coeur d'Alene Parks Department undated). Eventually the old post cemetery was deeded to the city who reestablished a cemetery at the site (now called Forest Cemetery).

Remaining Interments at Fort George Wright Cemetery

Following the re-interments from Fort Spokane and Fort Sherman to the Fort George Wright Cemetery, the burial ground remained an integral part of activity at the installation and continued to be used. Today, it contains 720 individuals: veterans from four branches of service (Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy), and often their spouses and children. Veterans from all the major wars of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries are also interred in the Fort George Wright Cemetery (Davis 1999). Not surprisingly, given the installation's later air mission, a number of interred people died in plane crashes, including the 1958 midair collision of two B-52 Stratofortresses above Fairchild AFB, which was called the worst tragedy in Air Force B-52 history at the time.¹ Also, 261 infants were buried in the cemetery between 1951 and 1959, and the reason for the great concentration in that time remains unclear.

The Fort George Wright Cemetery remained the only military cemetery in eastern Washington until the 2010 with the establishment of the Washington State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake.

¹ These and many other compelling individual stories were researched and compiled in 1999 by Salina Ann Davis and the Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office (Davis 1999).

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August 25, 1964, "More Tell Concern on Cemetery Move".
August 27, 1964, "Cost Estimate on Grave Move Said Too High".
June 16, 1964, "War Veterans and Auxiliary Gather Here".
October 5, 1964, "Reserve Opposes Grave Removal".
October 27, 1964, "Fort Grave Policy Note Said Found".
January 15, 1965, "Veterans Here Win Fight: Fort's Cemetery to Stay".

Spokesman Review.

April 20, 1929, "Pave Next Year to Fort Wright".
December 28, 1943, "Hollywood Players Bring Cheer to Soldiers".
December 10, 1946, "Geiger Command Takes Over Fort".
January 23, 1962, "Magnuson Aid South in Acquiring Fort Land".
August 24, 1964, "Cemetery Closure Plan is Opposed".
August 28, 1964, "Air Force Delays Cemetery Move, Protest Meet Quiet".

Washington State Library, 2012a, "Fort Spokane Cemetery, Washington State, Circa 1900–1909" (photograph Ich0009), *Washington Rural Heritage: Lincoln County Heritage* August 15, <https://www.washingtonruralheritage.org/digital/collection/lincoln/id/77/rec/13>.

Washington State Library, 2012b, "Fort Spokane Soldiers with Flag-Draped Casket, Washington State" (photograph Ich0010), *Washington Rural Heritage: Lincoln County Heritage* August 15, <https://www.washingtonruralheritage.org/digital/collection/lincoln/id/84/>.

Young, Samuel B. M., 1901, "Report of Maj. Gen. Samuel B. M. Young, U.S.A., Commanding the Department of the Columbia, to the Adjutant-General of the Army," in *Annual Reports of the War Department for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1901: Report of the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Army*, pp. 274–275, August 26, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, <https://books.google.com/books?id=c8NMAAAAYAAJ>

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☒ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other
Name of repository: Fairchild Air Force Base

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 45SP625

Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum:
Fort George Wright Cemetery)
Name of Property

Spokane County,
Washington
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 NE 47.683047 -117.480224
Latitude Longitude

3 SW 47.682146 -117.480709
Latitude Longitude

2 NW 47.682996 -117.480629
Latitude Longitude

4 SE 47.682245 -117.479746
Latitude Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The cemetery occupies a flat space on the bluffs that run along the Spokane River (Map 1), one mile northwest of the main historic Fort George Wright campus (Maps 2 and 3) and at the northern end of the Fort George Wright Historic District boundary in the 1976 National Register nomination packet (Map 4; Dunton and Garrett 1976: Figure 7). This addendum does not alter the existing Fort George Wright Historic District boundary delineated in 1976.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The National Register nomination form singles out 250 of the original 1,000 acres comprising the original military installation to form a District "described by an irregular outline formed by Government Way on the west, the Spokane River and post cemetery on the north and Fort Wright Drive and the original reservation boundary on the south and east." The boundary defined for the cemetery includes the area enclosed within a fence line (see Map 5). This area is within the larger listed 1976 boundary for the fort in its entirety.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian S. Shaw & Laura D. Steele, Cultural Resources Specialists (Edited by DAHP Staff)

organization Prepared on behalf of the Department of the Air Force by

Argonne National Laboratory, Environmental Science Division

date January 5, 2024

street & number 9700 South Cass Avenue, EVS/Bldg. 240

telephone 303.587.0336

city or town Lemont

state IL

zip code 60439

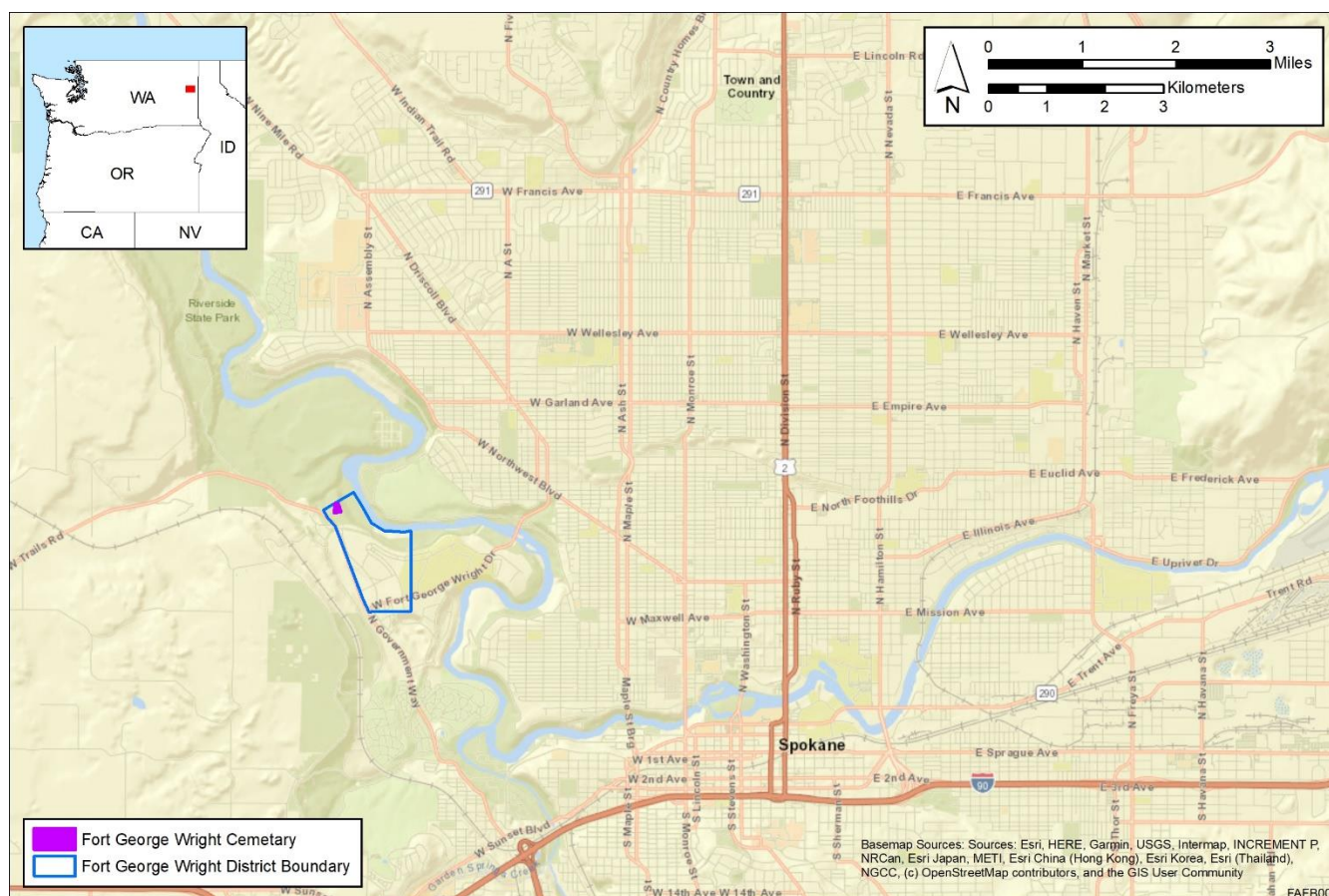
e-mail bshaw@anl.gov

Spokane County,
Washington

County and State

Submit the following items with the completed form:

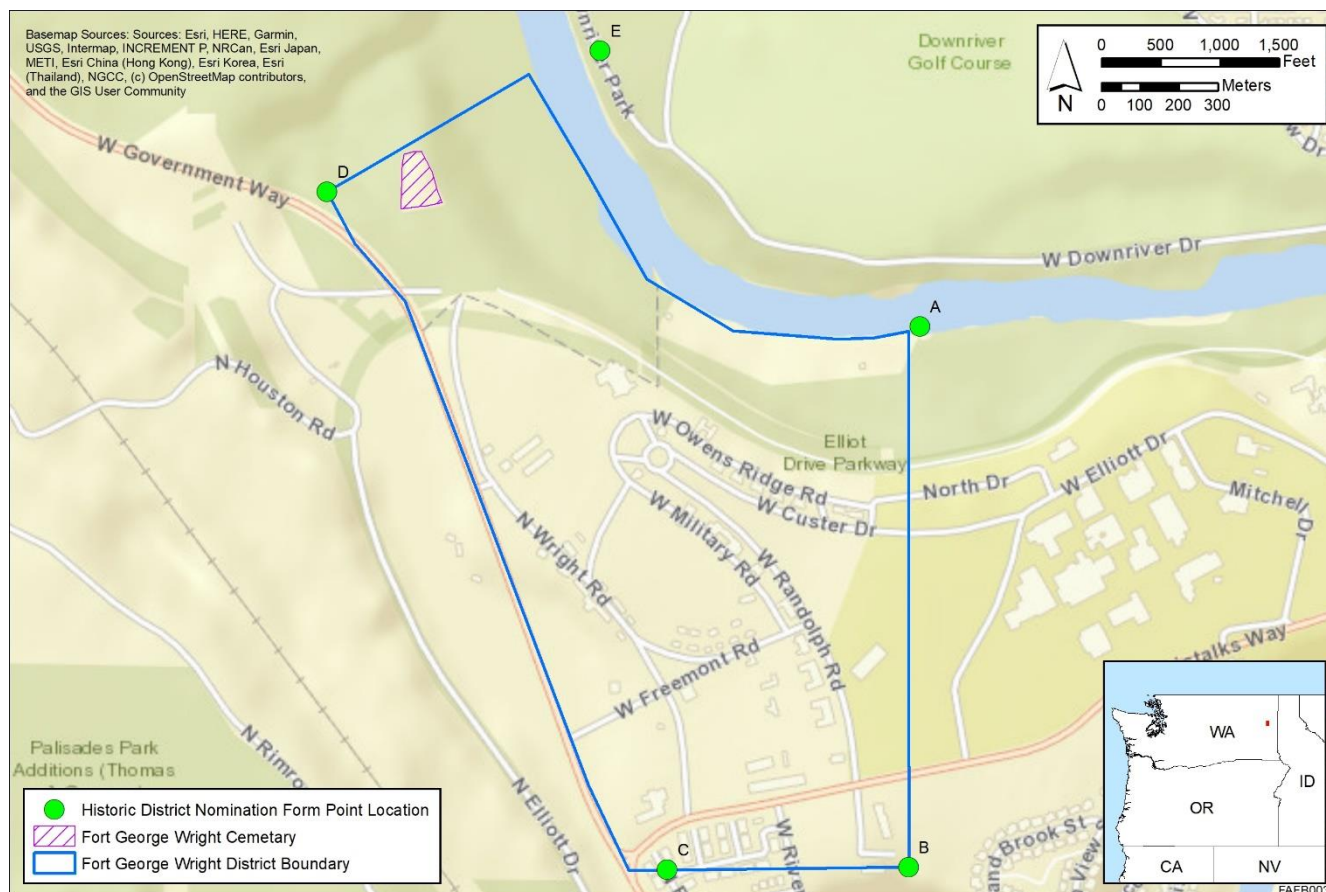
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)



Vicinity Map - 1 of 5 (WA_Spokane County_Fort George Wright Cemetery_Map 1.tiff):
Locations of the Fort George Wright Historic District and the Fort George Wright Cemetery near Spokane, Washington

Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum:
Fort George Wright Cemetery)
Name of Property

Spokane County,
Washington
County and State



Historic District Map - 2 of 5 (WA_Spokane County_Fort George Wright Cemetery_Map 2.tiff):

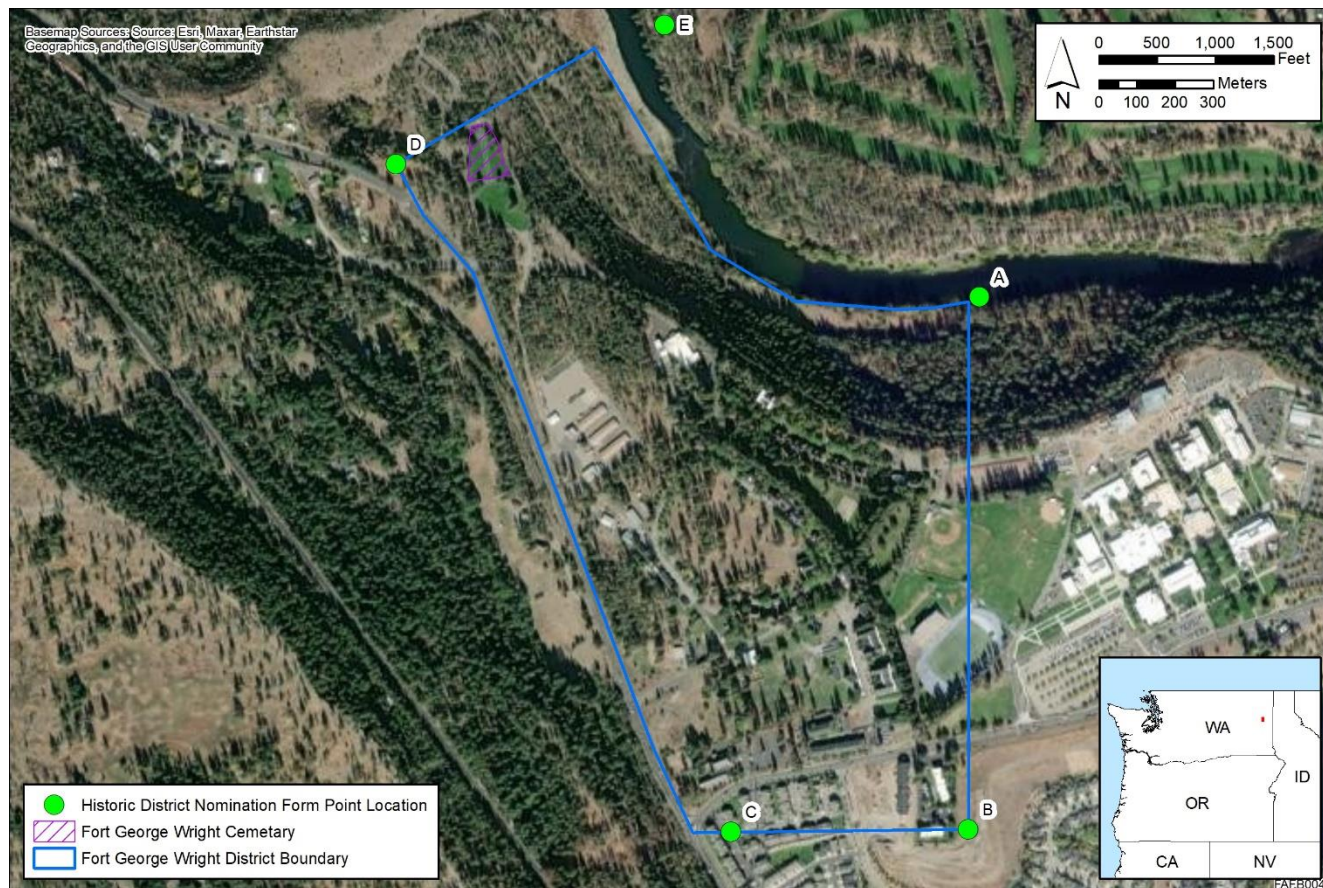
Location of the Fort George Wright Cemetery within the Fort George Wright Historic District Boundary. The green area surrounding the cemetery represents Riverside State Park. The streets in the District core (between W Military and W Owens Ridge Roads) illustrate the A-shaped plan of the historic fort.

The District boundary points are as listed in the 1976 National Register nomination packet (Dunton and Garrett 1976):

A: 11/464820/5280660, B: 11/464800/5279720, C: 11/464380/5279720,
D: 11/463800/5280900, E: 11/464270/5281140

Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum:
Fort George Wright Cemetery)
Name of Property

Spokane County,
Washington
County and State



Map 3 of 5 (WA_Spokane County_Fort George Wright Cemetery_Map 3.tiff):

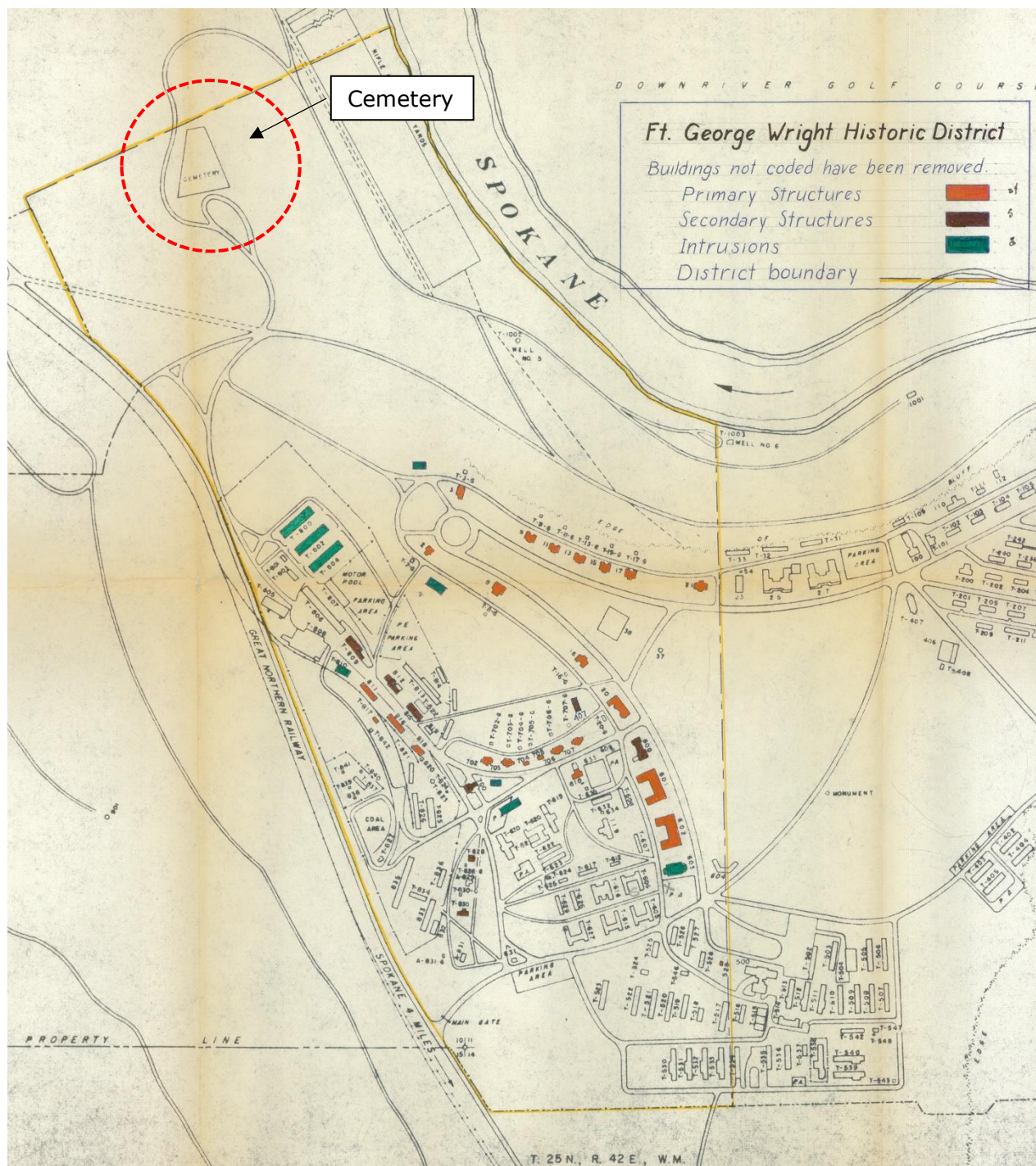
Aerial imagery ca. 2020 showing boundaries of the Fort George Wright Historic District and the Fort George Wright Cemetery (photograph by Spokane Image Consortium, Spokane County 2020, via ESRI World Imagery). Satellite imagery better illustrates how the District boundaries proposed in 1976 (Dunton and Garrett 1976) interact with the contemporary landscape.

The District boundary points are as listed in the 1976 National Register nomination packet (Dunton and Garrett 1976):

A: 11/464820/5280660, B: 11/464800/5279720, C: 11/464380/5279720,
D: 11/463800/5280900, E: 11/464270/5281140

Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum:
Fort George Wright Cemetery)
Name of Property

Spokane County,
Washington
County and State



District Rank Map - 4 of 5 (WA_Spokane County_Fort George Wright Cemetery_Map 4.tiff):

Map of the Fort George Wright Historic District boundaries from the 1976 National Register nomination packet (Dunton and Garrett 1976). Red circle indicates location of cemetery within District boundary. Note it does not show rank of cemetery.

Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum:
Fort George Wright Cemetery)
Name of Property

Spokane County,
Washington
County and State

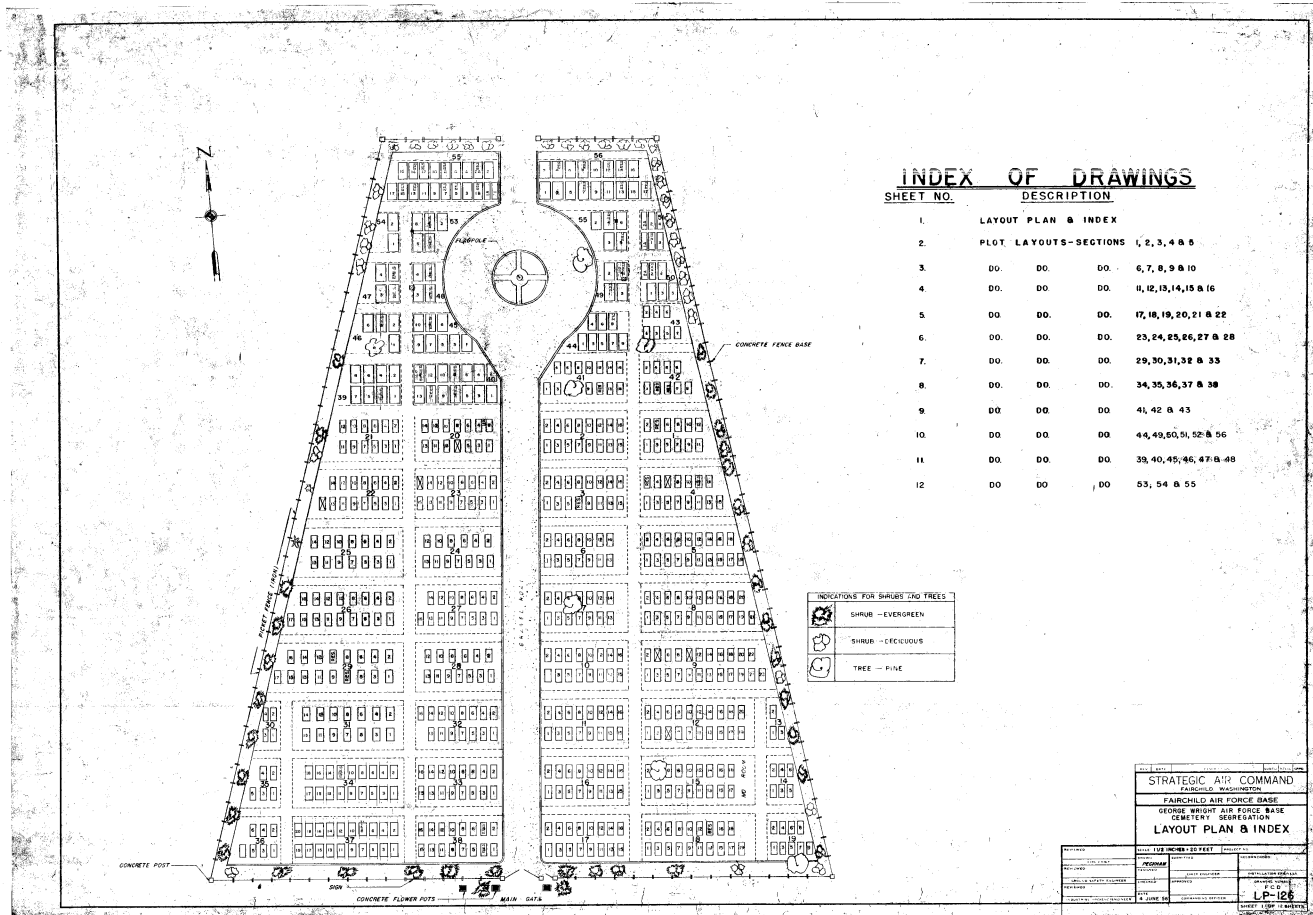


Cemetery Map - 5 of 5 (WA_Spokane County_Fort George Wright Cemetery_Map 5.tiff):

Aerial imagery ca. 2020 showing the Fort George Wright Cemetery (photograph by Spokane Image Consortium, Spokane County 2020, via ESRI World Imagery)

Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum:
Fort George Wright Cemetery)
Name of Property

Spokane County,
Washington
County and State



Cemetery Plan 1 of 1 (WA_Spokane County_Fort George Wright Cemetery_Plan 1.tiff):
Fort George Wright Cemetery layout plan and index, 1956 (courtesy of Fairchild AFB)

Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum:
Fort George Wright Cemetery)
Name of Property

Spokane County,
Washington
County and State



Historic Photograph 1 of 4 (WA_Spokane County_Fort George Wright Cemetery_0006):

Aerial view of Fort George Wright in 1931, facing north (photograph by 116th Photo Section, 41st Division, Felts Field, Spokane, October 7, 1931. Red arrow shows approximate location of cemetery. Courtesy of Spokane Public Library)

Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum:
Fort George Wright Cemetery)
Name of Property

Spokane County,
Washington
County and State



Historic Photograph 2 of 4 (WA_Spokane County_Fort George Wright Cemetery_0007):

Aerial view of Fort George Wright on May 29, 1931, facing northwest, photographer unknown (note bluffs lining the river. Red arrow shows approximate location of cemetery. Courtesy of Spokane Public Library)

Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum:
Fort George Wright Cemetery)
Name of Property

Spokane County,
Washington
County and State



Historic Photograph 3 of 4 (WA_Spokane County_Fort George Wright Cemetery_0008):

Fort Spokane Cemetery, Lincoln County, Washington, ca. 1900, photographer and exact location unknown (Washington State Library 2012a)— Note that this is *not* a photograph of Fort George Wright Cemetery.

Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum:
Fort George Wright Cemetery)
Name of Property

Spokane County,
Washington
County and State



Historic Photograph 4 of 4 (WA_Spokane County_Fort George Wright Cemetery_0009):

Fort Spokane Cemetery funeral procession, ca. 1900, photographer and exact location unknown (Washington State Library 2012b)— Note that this is *not* a photograph of Fort George Wright Cemetery

Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum:
Fort George Wright Cemetery)
Name of Property

Spokane County,
Washington
County and State



Unknown Dead Honored

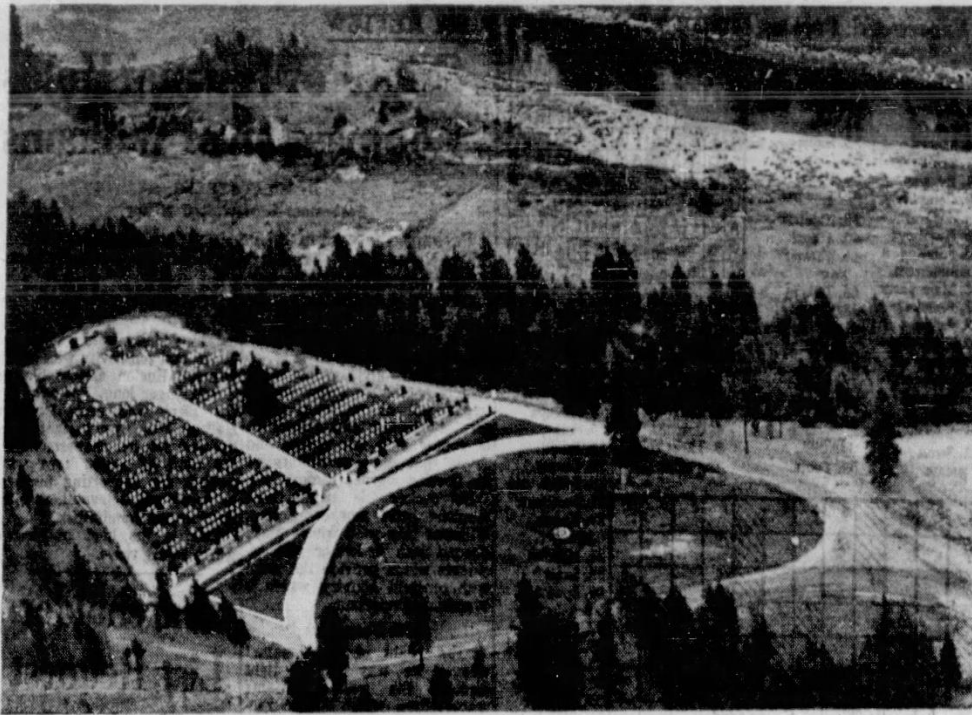
Lilacs for an unmarked grave at Ft. George Wright Cemetery are placed as Memorial Day symbols by Candy Spencer, 5, and Reuben L. Williams Jr., 4. Candy is the daughter of P. Sgt. and Mrs. Charles T.

Spencer. Reuben's father is an Air Force master sergeant. The children are neighbors at the Geiger Heights military housing project and their fathers work at Geiger. (Air Force photo.)

Spokane Daily Chronicle – May 27, 1961

Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum:
Fort George Wright Cemetery)
Name of Property

Spokane County,
Washington
County and State



Historic Fort Wright Cemetery Receives Reprieve From Air Force

Aerial view taken this week shows layout of cemetery, in existence for many years. It contains 645 graves.

Air Force Delays Cemetery Move, Protest Meet Quiet

A U.S. Air Force announcement that consideration is being given to delay moving 645 graves at Ft. George Wright Cemetery reached Spokane Thursday just prior to a protest meeting of the Spokane All-Veterans Council.

As a consequence, what gave promise of being a noisy session turned out to be a quiet discussion of the proposed move.

Seeks Care

A press release from Fairchild Air Force Base Thursday indicated that Air Force officials at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, plan to delay the move indefinitely, apparently yielding to

pressure from survivors of those buried at Ft. Wright.

The press release noted that the Air Force has been trying since 1958 to get an appropriate agency of the city, county or state government to assume perpetual care of the cemetery.

The Air Force "would react favorably to such an offer at this time," the announcement noted.

Those attending the protest meeting, however, felt it would be highly unlikely that the City of Spokane, Spokane County, or the Washington state government would agree to finance future maintenance of the cemetery.

State Rep. William L. McCormack said he would be opposed to a takeover of a military cemetery, but said he would introduce a bill calling for state maintenance, if necessary to prevent removal of the graves.

He advised representatives of all veterans organizations to urge their national headquarters to pass memorials to Congress to oppose movements of any military cemeteries.

Asks Halt

The Air Force announcement Thursday urged the next of kin of those buried at Ft. Wright not to take any further protest action until the situation is resolved.

Thomas S. Foley, Democratic candidate for Congress from the 5th District, said he agreed that appropriate action is being taken by Congressional authorities in Washington and that further protests from Spokane would be fruitless.

Thomas Holley, administrative assistant to Rep. Walt Horan, said the latter has been "very upset" about the manner in which the Air Force notified next of kin of the proposed move.

Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum:
Fort George Wright Cemetery)
Name of Property

Spokane County,
Washington
County and State



Spokane Daily Chronicle – May 20, 1975

Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum:
Fort George Wright Cemetery)
Name of Property

Spokane County,
Washington
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Fort George Wright Historic District – Cemetery Amendment

City or Vicinity: Spokane

County: Spokane

State: WA

Photographer: Brian S. Shaw

Date Photographed: August 2021

Description of Photograph(s) and number:



Photograph 1 of 5 (WA_Spokane County_Fort George Wright Cemetery_0001):

Front entrance of the Fort George Wright Cemetery, facing northwest (photograph by Brian S. Shaw, August 2021)

Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum:
Fort George Wright Cemetery)
Name of Property

Spokane County,
Washington
County and State



Photograph 2 of 5 (WA_Spokane County_Fort George Wright Cemetery_0002):

Central drive and plots of the Fort George Wright Cemetery, facing northwest toward the flagpole circle (photograph by Brian S. Shaw, August 2021)



Photograph 3 of 5 (WA_Spokane County_Fort George Wright Cemetery_0003):

Plots of the Fort George Wright Cemetery, facing southeast toward the entrance from west of the central drive (photograph by Brian S. Shaw, August 2021)

Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum:
Fort George Wright Cemetery)
Name of Property

Spokane County,
Washington
County and State



Photograph 4 of 5 (WA_Spokane County_Fort George Wright Cemetery_0004):

Central drive and plots of the Fort George Wright Cemetery, facing southeast from the flagpole circle (photograph by Brian S. Shaw, August 2021)



Photograph 5 of 5 (WA_Spokane County_Fort George Wright Cemetery_0005):

Plots of the Fort George Wright Cemetery, facing southwest from west of the flagpole circle (photograph by Brian S. Shaw, August 2021)

Fort George Wright Historic District (Addendum:
Fort George Wright Cemetery)
Name of Property

Spokane County,
Washington
County and State

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

Note the land that comprises the historic district is owned by four entities:

name Mukogawa U.S. Campus
street & number 4000 W. Randolph Road telephone 509-328-2971
city or town Spokane State WA zip code 99224

name Washington State Parks
street & number 1111 Israel Road SW telephone 360-902-8844
city or town Tumwater state WA zip code 98501

name Washington Military Department
street & number Building 1, 1 Militia Drive telephone 253-512-8989
city or town Camp Murray state WA zip code 98430

name Fairchild Air Force Base – 92nd Air Refueling Wing
street & number 1 East Bong St, Building 2285 telephone 509-247-1212
city or town Fairchild AFB state WA zip code 99011

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.