

ANDERSONVILLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
ANDERSONVILLE, GEORGIA
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Andersonville National Historic Site, located on Georgia Highway 49, nine miles north of Americus, Georgia, is a site being developed as a memorial to all soldiers who have been prisoners-of-war in all our country's conflicts. In the future a museum, information center, and other facilities will be constructed. Various programs will be presented telling the prisoner-of-war story, and its place in American History. At present, the Site is divided into two sections, the cemetery and the prison location.

A Superintendent, whose address is Box 85, Andersonville, Georgia 31711 is in immediate charge of the Site.

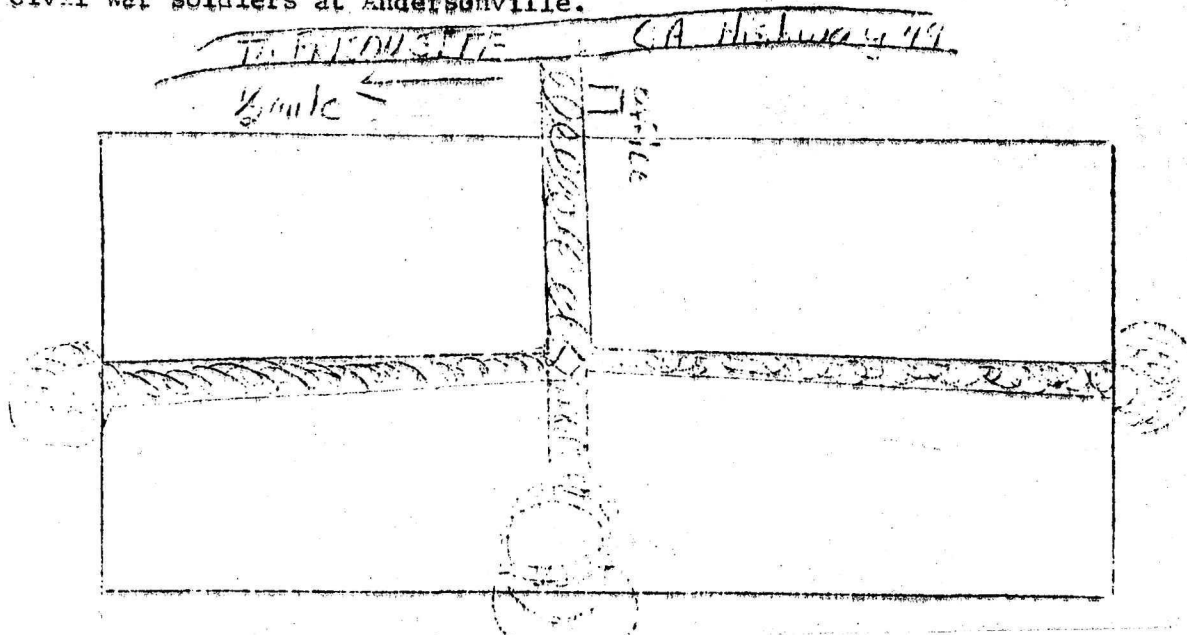
THE CEMETERY

It is estimated over 13,000 Union soldiers died at Andersonville. 12,912 were buried in shallow trenches, and the location of each individual marked by a number. Following the War, Clara Barton, founder of the Red Cross, led a group which further marked the graves, and protected the cemetery.

Originally Confederate soldiers serving as guards who died during the occupation of the prison were buried in one section of the cemetery. They were later moved by Southern patriotic organizations to Oak Grove Cemetery at Americus, Georgia. Including the Andersonville men, about 31,000 Union and 26,000 Confederate soldiers died as prisoners during the Civil War.

Following the Civil War, a number of soldiers who had been buried at scattered locations across Georgia were brought to Andersonville to be reinterred. These graves are more widely spaced than those of the men who died at Andersonville.

At the present time, Andersonville is the only National Cemetery in Georgia still accepting burials. Today veterans of all later U. S. Wars rest alongside the Civil War soldiers at Andersonville.



THE PRISON SITE

In 1864 the Confederate Government sought to locate a prisoner-of-war camp as far as possible from Union lines. The site finally chosen was Andersonville. In April of 1864 the prisoner exchange system between the Federal and Confederate Governments broke down and resulted in an increase in the number of prisoners that had to be held. Soon thousands of prisoners crowded the Andersonville stockade, and the greatest number here at one time was at least 32,000. A total of over 45,000 men were prisoners during the prison's existence. Along with Andersonville there were about 150 other prisoner-of-war camps, North and South used during the war.

1. **THE STOCKADE.** The outer row of concrete posts marks the location of the stockade fence. Built of pine logs, it was 15 feet high, and was sunk five feet into the ground.
2. **THE DEADLINE.** Twenty feet inside the stockade fence was a low railing called the "deadline". The object of this was to keep the prisoners away from the walls. Anyone crossing this line was shot.
3. **PROVIDENCE SPRING.** The stream flowing throught the stackade was at first the only water supply for the prison. Since it also served as the sewer, it was soon polluted. When a spring of good water appeared following a rain storm, it was thought to be an act of providence, hence the name Providence Spring
4. **THE DEAD HOUSE.** Men who died in the stockade were removed to a small house built of tree branches outside the South Gate. There they were picked up by wagons and hauled to the cemetery.
5. **THE SOUTH GATE.** This was the main entrance to the stockade. Prisoners entering through this gate caught their first glimpse of the interior of Andersonville Prison.
6. **THE STAR FORT.** This earthwork was ocnstructed to guard the prison and to stop possible Union Cavalry attacks on the stockade.
7. **HOSPITAL SITE.** Because of the Union blockade of Southern ports, shortage of transportation, and great demands on the existing supplies, few medicines were available. Inconsequence, little could really be done for the sick.
8. **ESCAPE TUNNELS.** Many tunnels were dug under the walls by prisoners, and numbers of men made it outside. However, they were almost all recaptured and returned to the stockade.

