

Tour Stop 2

Moesch Monument

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Anton Moesch died in the Wilderness and, like most soldiers, was buried on the battlefield. Years later, his comrades returned to the Wilderness, retrieved his remains, and reburied them in the national cemetery. Moesch is one of just 2,473 soldiers in the cemetery whose identities are known. Identified soldiers occupy a single grave marked by a rounded tombstone on which are inscribed the soldier's name and state. The remaining 12,770 soldiers have not been identified. They occupy graves marked by small square granite blocks. On the blocks are two figures: the top figure identifies the grave plot; the lower one identifies the number of bodies in that grave.

Tour Stop 3

Parker's Battery Memorial

Five months after the Battle of Fredericksburg, during the Chancellorsville Campaign, Union troops again attacked Marye's Heights. This time only a few hundred Confederates defended the ridge, and this time the Union forces succeeded in taking it. They captured seven guns, among them two pieces of Captain William Parker's Virginia Battery, which was posted here. Although hundreds of Confederate soldiers perished defending this ridge, none are buried here. Southern soldiers who died in this area are interred at Confederate cemeteries located in downtown Fredericksburg and at Spotsylvania Court House.

Tour Stop 4

Humphreys' Decision Monument

Among the last and most nearly successful of the many charges made against Marye's Heights in December 1862 was that made by General Andrew A. Humphreys' Pennsylvania Division. Surging forward at dusk, Humphreys' men got within 100 yards of this ridge before being driven back by the fire of Confederate riflemen located in the Sunken Road below. In 1908 the State of Pennsylvania erected this monument to honor the more than one thousand soldiers of Humphreys' division who were casualties in that attack.

Tour Stop 5

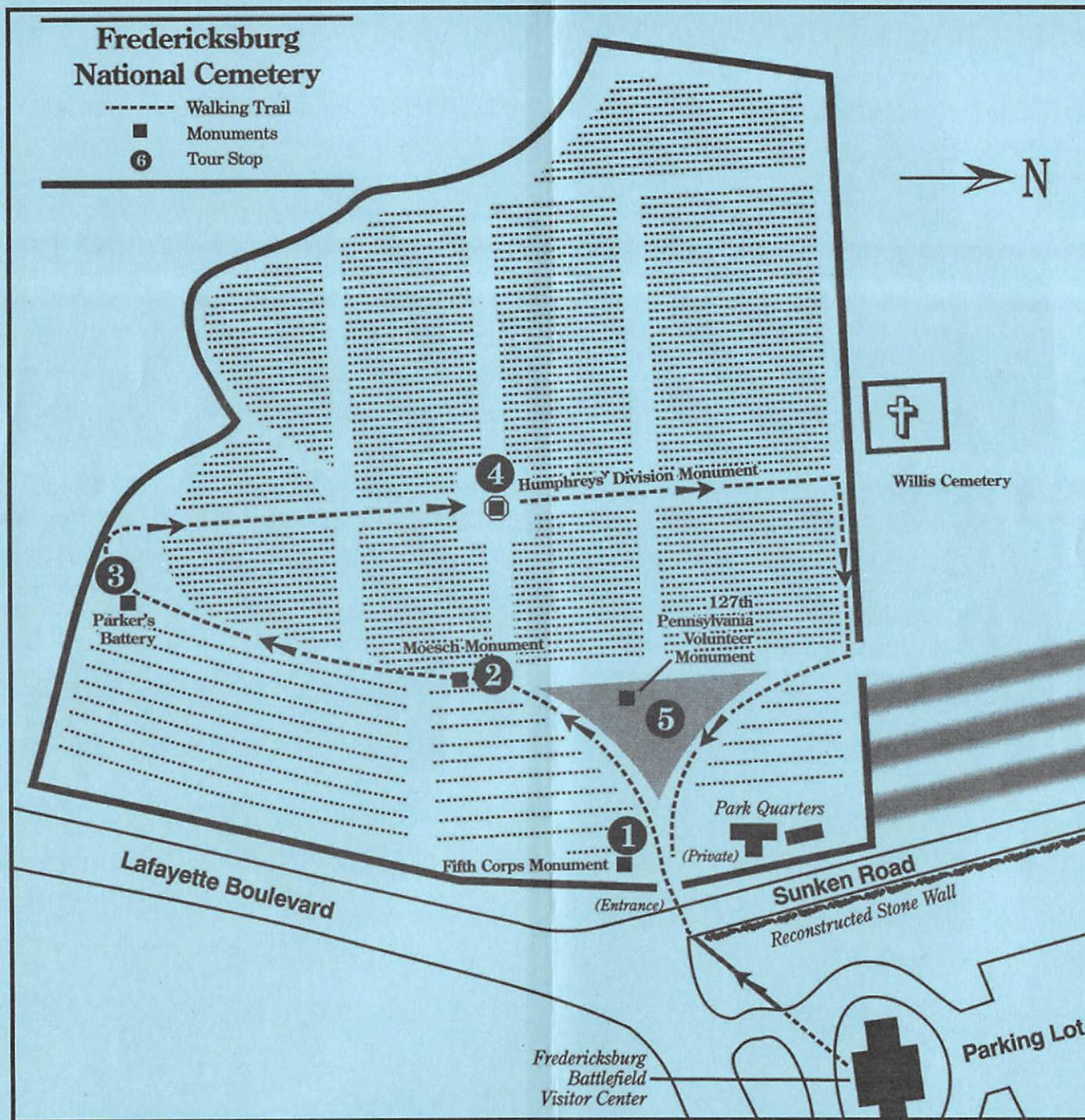
127th Pennsylvania Volunteer Monument

The 127th Pennsylvania was a nine-month regiment. It saw action in just two battles, both at Fredericksburg. On December 13, 1862, it lost one-third of its men in a failed attempt to storm these heights. Five months later, in May 1863, it supported the Sixth Corps in a successful attack across the same ground. Below the monument and throughout the cemetery are plaques containing verses of the poem "The Bivouac of the Dead." Written by Theodore O'Hara to honor Kentucky soldiers killed in the Mexican War, the poem is now associated with national cemeteries throughout the country.



Fredericksburg National Cemetery

A Walking Tour



When the Civil War ended, the people of Fredericksburg set about the task of restoring shell-damaged buildings and war-torn lives. But the evidence of the war lingered on, in the trench-scarred hillsides and crude cemetery plots scattered haphazardly across the nearby battlefields. Thousands of soldiers who had died in battle lay under stark mounds of earth with little, if anything, to identify them.

In April 1866, nine months after the war's end, Congress directed the Secretary of War to establish a system of national cemeteries for the burial of soldiers who had died in defense of the Union. At Fredericksburg, the Government constructed a cemetery on Marye's Heights, the formidable ridge that had defied repeated Union assaults during the Battle of Fredericksburg.

As you enter the cemetery on this 30-minute walking tour, you will encounter steep slopes and uneven ground. Please watch your footing. The map on the left will guide you along the route.

Tour Stop 1

Fifth Corps Monument

Among the Northern units that attacked Marye's Heights on December 13, 1862, was General Daniel Butterfield's Fifth Corps. In 1901, Butterfield erected this monument to honor the soldiers of his command. It is one of eighty monuments in Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. Behind the monument are the graves of several officers, including Lieutenant Colonel Edward Hill of the 16th Michigan Infantry, who won the Medal of Honor leading his troops in a charge at the Battle of Cold Harbor. He is one of the highest ranking officers in the cemetery.