



## Arlington National Cemetery

### *Facilities Maintenance Complex*

**CONTEXT:** The **Arlington National Cemetery** is a final resting place for those in the military who have served our Nation and provides a haven of beauty and reverence for more than three million annual visitors. The 639-acre grounds are comprised of land once owned by George Washington Parke Curtis, grandson of Martha and George Washington, and later occupied by Confederate General Robert E. Lee. In 1864, the property became a Civil War burial site when the War Department officially set aside approximately 200-acres for use as a military cemetery. Since then, the Arlington National Cemetery has evolved into a sacred national shrine and a grave site for more than 400,000 men and women who have honorably sacrificed their lives. As the cemetery grew and evolved over time, there came need for a consolidated facility for burial operations, grounds maintenance, and vehicle storage. Recognizing the sacred nature of the site, the facility needed to adequately house these utility functions while screening operations and providing an appropriate backdrop for ceremonial processions and funerals.

**SOLUTION:** Located on approximately 6.5-acres of land at the south entrance to the Cemetery, the new **Facilities Maintenance Complex** is integrated into the historic landscape as a continuous stone wall backdrop to the ceremonial grounds. The garden wall separates the



Location:  
**Arlington, VA**

Scope of Work:  
**Master Planning, Architecture**

Size:  
**25,000 SF**

Construction Completion Date:  
**1996**



contemplative world of the Cemetery with the functional, utilitarian world of maintenance equipment that must operate completely behind the scenes. A series of pyramidal slate roofed pavilions rise above the stone wall ramparts facing the graves. Shielded from the ceremonial areas, the individual pavilions function as carpentry, electric, and mechanical shops opening out to a work yard. Because of the great national landmark significance of the Cemetery Grounds, the US Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capitol Planning Commission, and a host of related Federal and State design review agencies were involved in the project approval process. The National AIA award winning design was praised by then US Commission of Fine Arts Chairman J. Carter Brown for its "sculptural simplicity" and "powerful expression in the context of the cemetery's sacred grounds."

