

Petersburg National Battlefield VirtualCache Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Site 22: Poplar Grove National Cemetery Rostrum

N 37° 09.575
W 077° 25.76



Poplar Grove Cemetery Rostrum

A stage for public speaking, this open-air eight sided iron pavilion was built in 1897 with a red-colored roof, a light blue ceiling, and black painted iron work. This rostrum reflects the growing national importance of commemoration and Decoration Day services during the late 1800s as the federal government began placing these bandstands throughout national cemeteries. During the events held at Poplar Grove, honors would be rendered and speakers would give their memorial addresses from this rostrum.

This structure matches the ones built at Richmond and Yorktown National Cemeteries, among others and today is a rare example of this type of structure in our national cemeteries.

Visit Instructions: Starting from the steps go around the Rostrum, approximately how many steps is it around the Rostrum?