

## HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

### JEFFERSON BARRACKS NATIONAL CEMETERY, LODGE

HALS No. MO-2-B

Location: 2900 Sheridan Road, Green Park, St. Louis County, Missouri.

The coordinates for Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery are 90.279903 W and 38.499319 N, and they were obtained in August 2012 with, it is assumed, NAD 1983. There is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public.

Present Owner: National Cemetery Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Prior to 1988, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs was known as the Veterans Administration.

The Veterans Administration took over management of Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery from the U.S. Army in 1973 (Public Law 93-43).

Date: 1934, razed 2004.

Builder/Contractor: Unknown.

Description: There were three lodges constructed for Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery: the first in 1867 was a temporary wood building, the second erected shortly thereafter was a one-story, brick building with a linear plan, and the third was a lodge in the Dutch Colonial Revival style constructed in part with funds from the PWA in 1934.

The brick Dutch Colonial Revival style lodge was one and one-half stories with the upper floor tucked under a gambrel roof covered in slate. The (west) front façade featured an internal porch on the north end and a pair of double-hung sash glazed with two-over-two lights. These windows mark the location of the office. The porch was screened initially, and later enclosed. Since the maintenance ledgers note care of the screens in 1948, it is likely the enclosure occurred in the 1950s, especially there was work on the porch roof in 1953 and a sunporch roof in 1956. A shed-roofed dormer consisting of four double-hung sash windows, with each sash glazed with two lights, punctuates the front (west) slope of the gambrel. The east rear elevation has a two-window shed-roofed dormer and the two double-hung sash windows are glazed with what appears to be two-over-two lights. (Venetian blinds obscure the glazing in the historic photograph in part). A door is at the south end of the east elevation; a metal awning and storm door protect the entrance.

The foundations were concrete and after a period of time settling occurred. The building was underpinned in 1944. Awnings or blinds were installed on the exterior, first in cloth and later as metal. Inside the building, the walls were painted and linoleum was installed in the office in 1950.

Site Context: The original plat of the national cemetery was rectilinear and now forms the eastern edge of the expansive grounds. The principal elevation of the Dutch Colonial Revival style lodge faced west, and the lodge itself was located southeast of Circle Drive. A flagpole was in the center of the circle. Today the entrance to the cemetery is from the north, and is west of the lodge site. The Administration building and rest rooms are in proximity to the entrance and a committal shelter is in the vicinity of the former lodge site.

History: Please see the contextual report for an analysis of the architectural development of the lodge as a building type for the national cemeteries and its place within this prescribed landscape (HALS No. DC-46).

In 1862 Congress authorized the appropriation of land for use as national cemeteries so that the Union soldiers who perished in service to their country could be buried with honor. These became the first cemeteries in the national cemetery system; by the end of the decade almost 300,000 men were buried in seventy-three national cemeteries. By that time the Office of the Quartermaster General, and the Quartermaster Montgomery C. Meigs in particular, had developed an architectural program for the cemetery. The program created for the national cemeteries included an enclosing wall demarcating the grounds and ornamental iron gates cast to instill reverence to those who entered and calm the wrought emotions of a nation in mourning for its lost sons. Specific plantings, such as the Osage-orange hedge and various trees, were selected to give a pleasing appearance and, likely, to screen outbuildings - the business of cemetery maintenance - from public view. Less a commemorative architectural statement, the superintendent's lodge combined practicality with a respectful presence.

Lodge plans first evolved from expedient wood-frame "cottages" to masonry buildings one-story in height and with a three-room floor plan. Construction of the temporary wood-frame lodges took place in the years 1867 to 1869, and overlapped with the construction of the first permanent masonry lodges built to a standard, single-story design from 1868 to 1871. Officers in charge of the cemeteries soon found the floor plans of the temporary wood lodges and the first permanent masonry lodges inconvenient and, increasingly, unattractive.

Moreover, representatives from the Quartermaster General's Office noted these three-room models were often too small for a superintendent and his family, and so in 1869, plans for a six-room, one and one-half story type were acquired from Edward Clark, Architect of the Capitol Extension. The design was refined over the next two years and in 1871 drawn for the Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs's approval. This standard plan featured a mansard roof and so became associated with the French or Second Empire style. Contemporary buildings, domestic and civic, exhibited this aesthetic and so the choice of the Quartermaster for a Second Empire style lodge is in keeping with national architectural trends as well as the personal taste of Meigs whose house also was erected in the Second Empire style. On the national stage, Alfred Mullet designed the Old Executive Office building in Washington, DC, a building whose construction in the 1870s coincided with the building of lodges in the Second Empire style in many of the national cemeteries.

The National Cemetery Administration identifies the Second Empire style lodge, referred to in

the 1880s as the “usual” type, or even the “full Meigs plan” likely in reference to the Quartermaster’s endorsement of the design, as the first generation of permanent lodges. It reflects a concerted effort to standardize what a national cemetery, including the lodge, should look like. The last cemeteries for which the Quartermaster contracted for this style of lodge were for Mobile, Alabama, and Beaufort, South Carolina, in 1881.

The L-plan was revised in 1885 for the lodge in San Francisco, and then employed for the lodges in Mound City and Loudon Park. The revised plan was further improved for the construction of the lodge at Cypress Hills. The revision to the standard L-plan primarily included a change in roof form from the mansard to a cross-gable and the use of banded brick in the exterior walls. Cypress Hills was a simpler expression of the type, with segmental arches over the windows instead of stone lintels and having no banded exterior brick in the walls. In the 1890s, the plans called for an elongated office wing. This change to the L-plan accommodated an entrance hall in the middle of the building; the elongated L-plan was built in Santa Fe, Fort Smith, and Fort Leavenworth.

By the century’s end, standards of living called for conveniences the L-plan lodges lacked. Advances in plumbing and heating technologies, in particular, made the L-plan outdated as expectations about the appropriate level of domestic sanitation that the government should provide to its employees changed. Even so, the Quartermaster omitted indoor toilets from the lodge floor plans until 1905. Maintenance of the existing lodges, as well as ell additions, addressed some of the inconveniences of the older buildings, and made the lodges more comfortable as living spaces. Between the 1880s and 1940s, improvements to the existing lodges included the installation of indoor plumbing and bathrooms, central heating, closets and cupboards; adding a kitchen ell and converting the original kitchen into a dining room; and maintenance of windows, shutters, and porches.

By 1905, the Quartermaster determined some lodges warranted a complete overall, rather than renovation, and the department began to replace some of the buildings in the national cemeteries. For the new lodges, it created a succession of twenty-two different plans between 1905 and 1960. Nine of these plans were used to build multiple lodges, but thirteen were unique designs, used only once. Compared to the extended popularity of the L-plan, which lasted from 1870 to 1881 in its mansard-roof form and to 1904 in its later variations, the rapid succession of designs in the twentieth century suggests a new awareness among those directing the cemeteries of the need to construct lodges that were aesthetically and technologically up-to-date. Over five decades, the Quartermaster endorsed a progression of plans from four-squares to bungalows to Colonial Revival designs and then to suburban ramblers. This progression paralleled the changes in form, style, building materials, and construction practices that occurred in the private housing market.

Most of the lodges built in the twentieth century are indistinguishable from typical American middle-class and upper-middle-class suburban dwellings, with the exception of a second entrance for the superintendent’s office. In some instances, such as in Hampton, Virginia, and in Annapolis, Maryland, the army made a particular effort to match new lodges to their local surroundings, usually by building period-revival designs in places where those designs would

have particular resonance. In a nod to the colonial heritage of the Chesapeake, the Quartermaster built one-and-one-half-story brick lodges in a Colonial Revival style at these cemeteries in 1940. In another example, the desire to match designs to localities prompted the alteration of the L-plan lodge at San Francisco into a Spanish Mission Revival building in 1929 and the similarly extensive reconstruction of the Santa Fe lodge into the Pueblo Revival style in 1942.

Of the twentieth-century lodge forms, the design in the Dutch Colonial Revival oeuvre was selected most often. Fourteen lodges were built using this plan between 1921 and 1934. The design called for a one and one-half story building with masonry construction at the first floor and wood-frame gambrel roofs enclosing the upper floor. The building footprint was rectangular and included an enclosed porch and office in the front, a living room and stair in the middle, and a dining room and kitchen at the rear. The second floor contained three bedrooms and a bathroom opening off of a central hall. Three versions of the design were used. The first in four lodges erected between 1921 and 1928, with hollow core tile walls covered in stucco, shingled roofs and gable ends, and dormers two windows in width on the front and rear. The second version expanded the dormer from two windows to four, adding more light the upper floor. This plan was used twice, for lodges in Nashville and Chattanooga, in 1931. PWA funds paid for the construction of lodges in 1934, including eight built to a third rendition of the Dutch Colonial Revival design. In 1934, the building materials included a brick construction on the first floor and faux half-timbered or brick gables. The Jefferson Barracks lodge is significant as an example of the third expression of the Dutch Colonial Revival design and cost just over \$10,000 to build.

After the Louisiana Purchase, the U.S. government sought a permanent military post near the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. A site was selected in 1826 and the post was named in honor of Thomas Jefferson. According to custom, several acres were reserved as a burying ground for those who died in the fort. Jefferson Barracks was a key distribution center for troops and supplies to the frontier settlements, and Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, and Ulysses S. Grant each served here. Lee commanded the post in the 1850s.

As a border state during the Civil War, Missourians had divided loyalties and was the site of frequent skirmishes between the armies. Hospitals were set up in St. Louis, and soon the cemetery within Jefferson Barracks was expanded to accommodate those who died serving in the Union Army. The original burying ground is the final resting place for the 12,000 Union soldiers as well as 1140 Confederates. It was designated as a national cemetery in 1866, and the remains of many Union soldiers were reinterred here in 1869.

The first lodge was a temporary wood-frame structure built ca. 1867. It only served as the lodge for a year or two, and then was reused as an office and ultimately as a woodshed.

In 1868 to 1869 the Quartermaster's department had a lodge constructed following the design for a one-story structure with a three-room floor plan. A piazza extended the living space and the roof projected over the porches in a continuous slope. R.F. Park built the brick lodge for a contract bid of \$3484. By the mid 1870s, the need for more space was apparent and in 1874 it was recommended that a separate office building be erected at Jefferson Barracks. The office

was completed in 1876. In 1909, in the survey of national cemeteries, the office was described as two stories, with one room per floor, and octagonal in shape.

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Historian: Virginia B. Price, 2012.

Project Information: The documentation of the lodges and rostrums in the national cemeteries was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), one of the Heritage Documentation Programs of the National Park Service, Richard O'Connor, Chief. The project was sponsored by the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) of the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Sara Amy Leach, Senior Historian. Project planning was coordinated by

Catherine C. Lavoie, Chief of HABS. Historical research was undertaken by HABS Historians Virginia B. Price and Michael R. Harrison. NCA Historians Jennifer Perunko, Alec Bennett, and Hillori Schenker provided research material, edited and reviewed written reports. Field work for selected sites was carried out and measured drawings produced by HABS Architects Paul Davidson, Ryan Pierce, and Mark Schara.