

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY
JEFFERSON CITY NATIONAL CEMETERY, LODGE

HALS No. MO-3-A

Location: 1024 East McCarthy Street, Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri.

The coordinates for the Jefferson City National Cemetery, Lodge are 92.161293 W and 38.566634 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 City National Cemetery from the U.S. Army in 1973 (Public Law 93-43).

Date: 1872-73.

Builder/Contractor: Martin, Rume and Company.

Description: The Second Empire style lodge constructed for Jefferson City National Cemetery followed the definitive plans for masonry lodges in the L-plan that the Office of the Quartermaster General issued in 1871. The principal elevation is to the northeast, and the door to the now-enclosed, entrance porch is accessed by walkways from the street and entrance drive. The northwest elevation looks to the entrance drive and cemetery grounds; the cast-iron Gettysburg Address plaque is on this side of the building.

The lodge is one and one-half story over a basement. It has a shallow hip roof covered in tin over a slate-covered mansard roof. Dormer windows pierce the mansard and illuminate the second floor. The first-floor windows are glazed with multiple panes, and likely are double hung, wood sash. The doors are wood and paneled; the floors are hardwood. The window and door trimmings are stone, and quoins are used at the openings as well as at the corners of the building. The quoining lends it a weightiness and permanence worthy of the commemorative cemetery setting. The three rooms on the first floor initially served as a kitchen, dining room, and office. A porch at the north corner rounded out the living space.

Maintenance records for the national cemetery indicate that the lodge was expanded with a kitchen addition in 1931. The kitchen addition was built of brick and measures 11' x 14.' A map drawn in 1892 records the presence of a small porch at the south end of the southwest (rear) elevation, and contemporary aerial photography indicates an addition along the southeast elevation. Likely this is the kitchen. The southeast elevation of the lodge faced away from the burial sections and flagstaff.

The interior of the lodge proper was renovated in 1925, with bathrooms and alterations to the stair hall. Steam heating was also installed at this time. In 1949 concrete steps were built leading up to the lodge, and in 1951, storm windows and awnings were affixed to the window openings. In 1962 the roof was repaired, and later in the decade the lodge was painted and aluminum frames for the windows were put in place.

Site Context: The main entrance to the rectangular cemetery lot is along the northeast boundary at E. McCarthy Street, and an axial walkway bisects the grounds as it extends from the main entrance to the rostrum at the southwest boundary. The walkway divides at the rostrum platform and terminates at a pedestrian entrance south and west of the podium. The flagstaff is northwest of the axial walk, in the northeast half of the cemetery. Also in the northeast side of the cemetery is the superintendent's lodge. The entrance porch is in the north corner of the building and the cast-iron Gettysburg Address plaque is affixed to the northwest elevation. The lodge looks northeast to E. McCarthy Street and the cemetery gates. The public rest rooms, today's iteration of the tool house, is to the south of the lodge and is in the same location as the historic tool house.

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.

The Second Empire style lodge in Jefferson City National Cemetery is significant as one of the stone lodges constructed by the Quartermaster's department using the definitive version of the standard L-plan design. The Office of the Quartermaster finalized the plans in 1871, and the Jefferson City lodge was completed two years later. This makes the lodge an early example of the type and underscores its importance within the evolution of the national cemetery landscape.

The burial ground in Jefferson City became a national cemetery in 1867, several years after interments began on the grounds. In fact, between 1861 and 1867, the remains of about 350 Union soldiers from Missouri, Iowa and Illinois were interred within the boundaries of the future national cemetery. The remains of three Confederate prisoners of war were buried on the premises as well.

Investment in Jefferson City National Cemetery by the Office of the Quartermaster began in earnest in the 1870s with the construction of the masonry enclosing wall and a temporary lodge for the cemetery superintendent. The temporary, wood-frame lodge was completed by 1868 or 1869, and porches were added to make it more comfortable around 1871. Soon, however, bids for building a permanent lodge at Jefferson City were solicited. The call for proposals also included a lodge for Springfield National Cemetery in Missouri. In 1872 responses to the call for proposals were returned, and the low bid for constructing a brick lodge estimated costs at \$3200. Costs were slightly higher, at \$3400, for building in stone. The bid from Martin, Rume and Company was accepted.

The lodge in Jefferson City was stone, and by the late 1870s, rain water entered the building through the windows of the upper floor. This ruined the plaster of the ceilings on the first floor and prompted the request of the Quartermaster for exterior blinds. The tin roof and guttering needed painting by the early 1880s; by the decade's end, the interior of the lodge had become "dingy and uninviting" and some improvements, such as whitewashing the walls, were made.

Other improvements were made over time and the lodge remains on the cemetery premises today.

Sources:

Annual Report of the Secretary of War. [to Congress]. Washington, DC: GPO, 1865-1920.

Deetz, James. *In Small Things Forgotten: The Archaeology of Early American Life.* New York: Doubleday, 1977.

Dickinson, William C., Dean A. Herrin, and Donald R. Kennon, eds. *Montgomery C. Meigs and the Building of the Nation's Capital.* Athens: University of Ohio Press for the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, 2001.

General Correspondence and Reports Relating to National and Post Cemeteries, 1865-ca. 1914, Record Group 92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, National Archives Building, Washington, DC.

Holt, Dean W. *American Military Cemeteries: A Comprehensive Illustrated Guide to the Hallowed Grounds of the United States, Including Cemeteries Overseas.* Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 1992.

Message of the President of the United States [to Congress]. Washington, DC: GPO, 1862-63.

Meyer, Richard E., ed. *Cemeteries and Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture.* Logan: Utah State University Press, 1992.

National Cemetery Historical File, Department of Memorial Affairs, Record Group 15, Records of the Veterans Administration, National Archives Building, Washington, DC.

Sloane, David Charles. *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History.* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991.

Zipf, Catherine W. "Marking Union Victory in the South: The Construction of the National Cemetery System." In *Monuments to the Lost Cause: Women, Art, and the Landscapes of Southern Memory*, edited by Cynthia Mills and Pamela H. Simpson. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003.

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.