

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

SANTA FE NATIONAL CEMETERY, LODGE

HALS No. NM-4-A

Location: 501 North Guadalupe Street, Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, New Mexico.

The coordinates for the Santa Fe National Cemetery, Lodge are 105.950170 W and 35.698363 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 Santa Fe National Cemetery from the U.S. Army in 1973 (Public Law 93-43).

Date: 1895; altered 1942.

Builder/Contractor: Unknown.

Description: The Pueblo Revival style lodge is a two-story building made of rough-cut sandstone with a flat roof covered in polyurethane. Parapets rise above the roofline. The principal elevation faces west. The windows are double-hung, wood sash glazed with two-over-two lights. With the inset porch, the lodge has a rectangular footprint and accommodates the dual purpose of the lodge as an office for the cemetery and as a residence for the superintendent and his family. Doors from the public and private spaces open onto the porch giving it two fronts. Elements of the Pueblo Revival style included in the design of the lodge include the flat roof, thick walls, and *canales* (waterspout to drain the roof).

The stone lodge initially built according to the design for an expanded L-plan with a hip roof was completely renovated in 1939 to 1942 through the WPA. Previous upgrades to the L-plan lodge included connecting it to modern water systems and installing a new steam heating system. In 1929 a cleanout door was inserted into the chimney. By 1942, when the renovations were complete, a flat roof replaced the hip roof, and the parapets were added. Also, the porch was replaced with the present stone porch at the west end of the south elevation/south end of the west (front) elevation, an addition on the north elevation for a dining room was built, hardwood floors were put down, walls were plastered, closets were made or lined with shelves, and the bathroom received new fixtures. The east door to the kitchen was closed, and two sash windows were put in its place. Systems, like electricity, were modernized. Intermittently, thereafter, the building was painted, and its roof demanded attention. Linoleum flooring was installed in the office in 1949 and shades were ordered in 1959. Aluminum doors and windows followed in 1960. Seven *vigas* and three *canales* were removed.

Site Context: The lodge faces west toward Rosalie Drive and N. Guadalupe Street, and is located to the northern edge of the original cemetery lots. The lodge is also in proximity to the main entrance gates. The grounds were expanded, and today the cemetery follows the curve of Guadalupe Street and is bounded by the highway to the north which gives it an irregular footprint. The Rostrum is located to the north end of the grounds.

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 Santa Fe lodge is significant as one of the buildings renovated through the WPA program, and as an example of the Quartermaster's effort to accommodate local building traditions in the designs for modern lodges in the national cemetery system. It is also the only example of the Pueblo Revival style adapted for housing the cemetery superintendents.

While the lodge in Santa Fe National Cemetery was substantially built, the cemetery's beginnings were less sure. The city of Santa Fe fell to the Confederates briefly only to be abandoned in April 1862. The Confederate soldiers retreated down the Rio Grande, and additional Union soldiers arrived in the summer months to further secure the area. After the war, a small cemetery was established outside of Santa Fe for the re-burial of the remains of Union soldiers who died during the war, particularly those who died during the 1862 engagements. The Roman Catholic Diocese donated the land for the cemetery to the government in 1870. Additional parcels were purchased from the church in 1875, but the cemetery was classified as a post cemetery the following year. Not until 1892 did it regain its status as a national cemetery. Two years later additional acreage was acquired and the following year, the lodge was constructed.

In 1875 improvements were underway at the national cemetery and by December plans for a permanent lodge were developing. It was recommended that the lodge be built of adobe and accompanying lists of material costs imply this option was seriously considered. Also in December 1875, officials offered an explanation for the type of lodge selected, since it differed from the definitive plan. It was put forward that with "economy" and the addition of a porch not shown on the plan, the lodge, as proposed, would resemble the Officer's Quarters, either already built on site or already approved to be built there. Plans and elevations for a lodge "contemplated" at Santa Fe follow this correspondence. The changes to the standard design for the L-plan lodge included only two rooms on the second floor for bedrooms. In Santa Fe, the sixth living room was on the main floor, providing a kitchen, dining room and family room along one arm of the L and the office on the other. The building drawn in elevation shows a cross gable, with wood sash windows glazed with four-over-four lights. The door has a transom and sidelights. The walls are smooth, possibly to represent adobe, and rest on a stone foundation. Estimates were received in January 1876. The project was suspended until the cemetery was reinstated to the national system in 1892, and the lodge built in 1895 was stone not adobe.

In 1909, the survey of the cemetery identified the lodge as a sandstone, two-story building with a hip roof and dormer window. The expanded L-plan lodge would serve the cemetery superintendent until WPA funding became available in the 1930s for a major renovation.

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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.