

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY
SPRINGFIELD NATIONAL CEMETERY, LODGE

HALS No. MO-4-B

Location: 1702 East Seminole Street, Springfield, Greene County, Missouri.

The coordinates for Springfield National Cemetery, Lodge are 93.264169 W and 37.174064 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 Springfield National Cemetery from the U.S. Army in 1973 (Public Law 93-43).

Date: 1940.

Builder/Contractor: Unknown.

Description: The Georgian Revival style lodge is a two-story, red brick building with a center-hall floor plan. The principal elevation faces east. The three-bay façade speaks to the symmetry and classicism that informed the Georgian Revival style, along with the use of a center chimney that is corbeled with dentils near the cap, the hipped roof, and the multi-pane sash windows with operable wood shutters. The rectangular massing of the building is reinforced with the use of quoining and a belt course. Dormer windows are present on the west (rear) of the building.

Photographs associated with the maintenance ledgers for the national cemetery record hoods over the secondary doors; each had a shed roof. In contrast, a pediment and fluted pilasters draw attention to the main entrance. The wood, double-hung sash windows have jack arches as lintels and sills made of concrete; at one time they were glazed with six-over-six lights while the dormer windows were glazed with one-over-over lights. Metal two- or three-light hopper windows illuminate the basement. The interior doors are wood and are paneled. The steps to the basement, on the interior, are concrete.

The screen porch on the north end of the building was enclosed in 1968. Combination storm and screen doors were added in 1960, and metal awnings were installed in 1969.

In 1996, the lodge was converted into an administration building for the cemetery.

Site Context: The original five-acre plot is enclosed by a low limestone wall, and a flagstaff is located at the center of the grounds. The lodge is located just inside the main entrance from

Seminole Street on the north side of the cemetery. It is to the west of the entrance drive and the main elevation faces east. The Georgian Revival style lodge was built in the same location as the Second Empire style lodge that preceded it; the Second Empire style lodge also faced east and a pathway led from the porch to main gate.

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.

One of the historic revival and regional house forms that the Office of Quartermaster tried in the national cemeteries was the Georgian Revival style of building. Three lodges were built according to this design between 1937 and 1940 in Long Island, Raleigh, and Springfield. The plan of the first lodge built in this idiom lacked sufficient space for the office, and a wing for the office was subsequently added in 1941. The second lodge, in Raleigh, was constructed in 1938, but it was the last, in Springfield, that had a modified floor plan and so kept the office within the footprint of the building. The Springfield lodge is significant as the fullest expression of the Georgian Revival style. It cost \$17,150 to construct in 1940.

Missouri was a contested state in the prelude to war, and although it remained in the Union, the governor refused President Abraham Lincoln's call for troops. War came with the Battle of Wilson's Creek in 1861 despite attempts at neutrality by many Missourians and the governor's pro-Southern sympathies. The national cemetery was established in 1867; a stone wall separated the Union dead from the Confederate cemetery. It is unclear how many Confederates were interred there, however, several monuments were erected in their memory.

In the 1872 a one and one-half story, L-shaped, Second Empire style lodge was built at Springfield National Cemetery. It was a brick structure resting on a stone foundation. The mansard roof was covered in slate, while the shallow hip above was covered in tin. Quoining marked the corners of the building and stone accentuated the sills. The wood sash was double hung and glazed with multi-light windows. The doors were also wood and paneled. The lodge had three rooms on the first floor, including the office, and three bedrooms on the second floor. There were two cellar or basement rooms, one each below the kitchen and living room, although digging a cellar room under the office was proposed in the late 1880s.

Bids for construction of a masonry lodge were solicited in 1872, marking a change in from January 1871 wherein erecting a "permanent" lodge in Springfield National Cemetery was deemed unnecessary. The first lodge was a one-story wood "cottage" with three rooms over a cellar, and it was kept in good order with routine whitewashing and maintenance. The interior was plastered. The superintendent was discharged and a volunteer looked after the property in the interim months (1870). Although a recommendation to build a permanent lodge in January 1871 was deemed unnecessary, the Quartermaster's Department solicited bids for a new lodge of either brick or stone in July 1871. No proposals for a stone lodge were received, and so the bid of A.T. Budlong for \$3200 for a brick lodge was accepted. For budgetary reasons, a contract was not entered into until August 1872. Between the time when the bids were originally solicited and the contract was signed, the Office of the Quartermaster General had revised the plans and specifications for the Second Empire style lodges. It was determined that it would be too expensive to build the Springfield lodge to the revised plan, so the original plan was retained. Before construction began, the superintendent asked if bedroom closets and an exterior entrance to the cellar could be added to the lodge. These features were shown on the revised plans, but not on the plans then guiding the construction. His request was approved.

The walls were problematic at Springfield, and the cellar leaked badly. Drainage took some time to correct, and the flooring – a rough board wood floor laid over concrete – was carefully monitored throughout the 1870s. In 1883 the inspector observed that the cellar no longer caused trouble, since the drainage was addressed three years prior.

Variations to the L-plan in Springfield included the placement of the chimney in the office along the exterior wall, rather than the interior partition wall, and consequently it blocked a window on each floor. The second-floor rooms were less private; the bedroom at the head of the stair, over the kitchen, was not partitioned. In 1888 a proposal for a cellar under the office was discussed as well as that for a one-room addition. Given the difficulties with the construction of the basement, it is unlikely that the cellar was expanded. However, the 1909 survey indicates the presence of an annex to the lodge providing kitchen and pantry space, so some adjustment to the room arrangement was made over time.

Through the 1930s the building was maintained in intervals and upgraded as technologies and funds permitted. These projects were listed on maintenance ledgers for the Veterans Administration and make it possible to reconstruct changes to the building. In 1917 water closets and other plumbing fixtures were installed, as well as seventeen window shades. A new heating system was introduced in 1928. In 1929-1930 the stairs were reworked, especially that leading to the basement.

In 1934 more extensive remodeling was done. Renovations included laying hardwood floors in the three bedrooms, upstairs hall, and the living and dining rooms on the first floor. At the same time, linoleum flooring was installed in the kitchen and bathroom. Room sizes were changed by moving partition walls. A first floor partition wall between the kitchen and dining room was removed. On the second, walls associated with the stairwell were erected. The sun porch was removed, and French (or double) doors leading to the exterior were installed. The bathroom on the first floor was converted into a pantry, and the fixtures from that bathroom were reused in the upstairs bath. Despite these changes to the Second Empire lodge, a new building was authorized and constructed in 1940.

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.