

**HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY**  
**WINCHESTER NATIONAL CEMETERY, LODGE**

**HALS No. VA-19-A**

Location: 401 National Avenue, Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia.

The coordinates for the Winchester National Cemetery, Lodge are 78.156167 W and 39.184983 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 Winchester National Cemetery from the U.S. Army in 1973 (Public Law 93-43).

Date: 1871; second-floor addition, 1914.

Builder/Contractor: John J. King.

Description: Originally constructed to the L-plan design for a one-story, stone lodge with a hipped roof, the 1871 building was expanded in 1914 with the addition of a second-floor. Although built to the same L-plan as the better known lodges designed with an L-shaped footprint and Second Empire style mansard roof, the lodge in Winchester retained its hipped roof and received a full second story. The second-floor was made of frame and stuccoed which lends the building a historic revival aesthetic through the gesture to half-timbering associated with Tudor buildings. The stone walls of the first-floor and the double hung, wood sash windows are typical of the L-plan lodges; the entrance at the porch in the north corner is also a key feature of the L-plan and facilitated separate entries for the public office and private living quarters. The principal elevation faces northwest to the entrance walk. The cast-iron Gettysburg Address plaque is affixed to this façade.

Site Context: The lodge is located just inside the main entrance to the cemetery from National Avenue along the north northeast boundary of the burial ground. The entrance porch to the lodge serving both the office and residential wings is at the north corner of the building. It is visible from the entrance gates, just to the east, while the flagstaff is on axis with the entrance. The immediate entry is paved, but the axial processional to the flag is a grass walkway with graves to either side. A low stone wall defines the perimeter of the cemetery lot.

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 L-plan lodge built in Winchester represents the emergence of this definitive design in the 1870s, built as it was according to a one-story plan initially and then expanded to accommodate a second-floor under the mansard roof. 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 lodge located in Winchester National Cemetery is a significant building in the evolution of

national cemetery design and is representative of the transition from one-story lodges to the better-known, and fully expressed, L-plan design. Winchester, along with City Point, Cold Harbor, Fort Harrison, and Staunton, was among the first of the national cemeteries to have an L-plan, stone lodge. Its one-story, hipped roof form was an initial expression of the L-plan concept, and all of the lodges built in this way were expanded. This signifies the strength of the design concept within the Quartermaster's department and the department's almost immediate recognition of the need for more living space in the buildings. The incorporation of the old frame lodge into the domestic interior of the new lodge is in keeping with the repurposing of cemetery structures that occurred in the nineteenth century and is illustrative of the development of what constituted appropriate living space for superintendents.

Dedicated in April 1866, Winchester National Cemetery is one of the oldest burying grounds in the national cemetery system. By the time of the Civil War, Winchester had long been recognized as a site of strategic importance and during the course of the war the city changed hands seventy-one times. Five battles were fought nearby. General Thomas Jonathan Jackson (that is, "Stonewall" Jackson) had his headquarters here in 1861 and 1862. Winchester opened into the Shenandoah Valley, supplied vital materials, and was a source of industry with its agricultural production, mills, and factories. Control over the city was much prized and bitterly contested. Many of the Confederate dead from those engagements were buried in the Stonewall Confederate Cemetery within the grounds of Mt. Hebron Cemetery. Mt. Hebron Cemetery is across the road from the national cemetery, recalling the battle lines drawn in death as in life.

Winchester National Cemetery is the final resting place for those killed in the Third Battle of Winchester in September and October 1864. James A. Garfield and Rutherford B. Hayes served the Union army in that campaign; each man would go on to become President of the United States. There are thirteen monuments in the cemetery, dedicated to various regimental units. Six of the thirteen were sponsored by the states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York and Massachusetts. Title to the land on which the cemetery had been established during the war was finally acquired in 1871.

In 1870-71, even as the government negotiated title to the land, work on the architectural landscape of the cemetery began with a call for proposals to replace a temporary, wood-frame superintendent's lodge with a permanent masonry structure built to a new L-plan design. The new lodge was also one-story in height. Details in the call for proposals paint a more complete picture of the one-story, stone building, by adding a pitched roof as well as interior dimensions to the description. The floor plan featured three rooms, each measuring 14' x 16' with 10' ceilings, and dictated that the office be in front. The remaining two rooms would serve as a kitchen and living room for the superintendent. In the space of the L-plan was a porch, measuring 10' x 16'.

Two proposals were received. The Quartermaster's department accepted the lower bid for \$2550 from John King. King expected to begin work in mid December 1870.

Precipitating the discussion of a new lodge was a request of the Quartermaster by the cemetery superintendent for repairs in November 1870. The superintendent wrote that the wood frames for the windows and doors had shrunk, letting in the rain and wind, and that the roof leaked for lack

of tin or zinc. Apparently some materials were left off the building when a kitchen was constructed. Correspondence about the need for repairs, and the deferral of those jobs reveal that funds were already designated for a new lodge. Further correspondence notes that the existing lodge, to be replaced, was a frame building. It was determined that the only suitable location for the new lodge was exactly where the temporary wood-frame lodge stood, therefore, the frame building was moved back to make room for the scaffolding and construction. It also provided quarters for the superintendent in this interim period during the demolition of the temporary lodge and construction of the new lodge. It was proposed that the temporary, wood-frame lodge building be moved forward and attached to the new stone lodge in 1871, as work was winding down. The temporary, wood-frame lodge would then be a "sleeping compartment." Having it join with the new lodge also gave the superintendent a place to live while the dampness of the new stone dissipated. Likely the frame lodge was attached to the southeast (rear) elevation of the new building. By 1873, inspections of the lodge indicated that the tin roof needed painting and that some repairs to the window casings were required. By 1892 there was a garden northwest of the lodge, across the entrance walk from the front façade as well as two service buildings southeast of the lodge.

In 1914 a second story was added to the three-room lodge, providing bedrooms in the rooms above the office. The second story was framed out and stuccoed over with ornamental half-timbering. The roof was hipped. The frame ell, which was also the original lodge, remained in place. At some point, around this period, the porch was enclosed. The frame wing was replaced in 1936 to 1937 with a brick ell almost 13' square. It accommodated a laundry, and had a basement. The concrete coalbunker was probably located in this subterranean space. At this juncture the kitchen chimney was partially rebuilt as well. Maintenance ledgers kept by the Veterans Administration recorded these changes, as well as routine repairs and painting projects undertaken on the property.

In 1990 it was observed that there were over 5000 interments in Winchester National Cemetery, and that the lodge had been leased to the historical society.

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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.