

NCA's Historic Lodges "Mothballed" Through Partnership With National Park Service

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) and the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) entered into a four-year partnership in summer 2012 to "mothball" several historic superintendent lodges at Civil War-era national cemeteries. This stabilization will help protect some of the most historically significant buildings NCA oversees, some of which have been unoccupied for years.

This partnership will help NCA fulfill its responsibilities under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 to preserve and reuse its historic buildings. As with all federal agencies, NCA is obligated not to abandon its historic buildings, or permit "demolition by neglect."

Lodges contained an office for the superintendent and served as a residence for his family, and were the most prominent building in a national cemetery. They were built in architectural styles that echoed popular designs until 1950 when the U.S. Army, which oversaw the majority of national cemeteries at the time, ceased establishing new ones.

Up to thirteen lodges will be treated during this project, including six of the oldest, constructed 1871-81. The picturesque Second Empire-style design, credited to U.S. Army Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs, is the most iconic building found in NCA's cemeteries.



The mothballing process closes up a vacant building to temporarily protect it from weather and vandalism while limiting damaging temperatures and moisture. HPTC typically stabilizes building exteriors through repairs to the roof, porch and windows. Gutters and downspouts are repaired or replaced so rain drains away from foundations. Ventilators installed in window openings encourage passive interior air flow. New fire detection and security systems help protect the buildings, many of which are located in unstaffed cemeteries.



Left: The Finn's Point lodge after project completion. Right: An HPTC employee repairs the Keokuk lodge roof.

HPTC completed mothball treatments at Finn's Point, NJ, and Keokuk, IA, in FY12. Work at Loudon Park and the Baltimore's assistant superintendent's lodge in Maryland will be completed in FY13, along with lodges at Staunton, Winchester, and Seven Pines in Virginia.

This is the second lodge project shared by HPTC and NCA, coordinated by the NCA History Program, it evolved from a 2008-11 partnership in which HPTC generated Historic Structure Assessment Reports (HSARs) for 42 NCA lodges and related buildings. The work supports HPTC's mission to provide training opportunities in the renovation of historic buildings, and all treatments meet the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. All project lodges are in national cemeteries listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.