

## HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

### BEVERLY NATIONAL CEMETERY, LODGE

HALS No. NJ-2-A

Location: 916 Bridgeboro Road, Beverly, Burlington County, New Jersey.

The coordinates for Beverly National Cemetery, Lodge are 74.919768W and 40.056240 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 Beverly National Cemetery from the U.S. Army in 1973 (Public Law 93-43).

Date: 1878.

Builder/Contractor: William B. Marche.

Description: The Second Empire style lodge was constructed of brick on an L-plan. The lodge is one and one-half story over a basement, with three rooms per floor. The second floor is tucked under the mansard roof and illuminated by the gable-roofed dormer windows. The mansard is shingled in slate with ornamental tilework enriching the material expression of the building. A shallow hip roof surmounts the mansard; it is covered in tin. The wood sash appears to be glazed with two-over-two lights on the first floor and one-over-one lights in the dormer windows. The principal elevation faces south, and the entrance porch is located in the southeast corner in the arm of the L in plan. The porch is wood, and it was enclosed by the second quarter of the twentieth century. Quoins give emphasis to the corners of the building.

Maintenance records kept by the Veterans Administration summarize changes and repairs made to the lodge over time. From 1931 to 1934 mechanical systems were upgraded and the bathroom and kitchen received new fixtures. The roof was repaired, gutters replaced, storm windows and doors installed, screens replaced or repaired, wallpaper removed and walls painted, floors refinished, and a linen closet was made, as well as a door and transom in the dining room. The stair to the second floor was replaced. In the 1940s, routine maintenance continued with painting the woodwork and cleaning the gutters. More extensive work included that done on the roof and downspouts, drainage in the basement for the laundry tub, reinforcing the partition on the dining room, installing new sash cords, and making steps to the office. In 1956 the building was treated for termites, the bathroom fixtures changed, and combination storm and screen windows affixed to the openings. By 1965 the roofs over the porches and the kitchen needed repair and ironwork – railings mostly – was mounted.

Site Context: The lodge is located in the northernmost section of the cemetery lot. Historically the lodge was in the northeast corner of the grounds, with its principal elevation facing south to the ceremonial circle, with a small porch at the west end of the north (rear) elevation and with an outbuilding, likely the tool house, off to the east. The flagstaff was west of the lodge. The lodge was some distance from the main entrance on the west boundary of the cemetery. Today the cemetery has expanded, primarily south and then east of the lodge precinct, and tree cover obscures the lodge's surroundings. Visible still is the entrance porch at the southeast corner and an addition on the west elevation. Similarly, the circle in front of the lodge remains.

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.

Of the three L-plan lodges built in 1878, the lodge at Beverly National Cemetery is the single extant example. Its contemporaries in Alexandria, Louisiana, and San Antonio, Texas, were razed in the twentieth century. The Beverly lodge has finely appointed details, such as the corner quoins in its brick walls and the ornamental tiles incorporated into the slate of its mansard roof, which further emphasizes its importance in the history of the superintendent's lodges as a building type.

Christian Weymann sold one acre of land to the government for Beverly National Cemetery in 1864. The cemetery was in the northwest corner of the municipal burying ground and enclosed by a picket fence. Additional acreage was acquired in the ensuing decades and the cemetery contains roughly 64 acres today. The first burial occurred in August 1864; Warner Haskell was laid to rest near the north gate of the cemetery. Many of the dead came from the Federal Army Hospital and from the convalescent hospital set up in one of the Wall Rope Factory buildings. Complications from operations and amputations carried off many of the veterans, and as the population of the various soldiers' plots collectively administered as Philadelphia National Cemetery (HALS No. PA-2) swelled, other cemeteries in the area were expanded to accommodate the increased, and sobering, need. Several Revolutionary War veterans originally buried in Philadelphia proper were reinterred here, and the veterans of World War II and Vietnam are also interred here.

Due to the small size of the cemetery plot originally, the superintendent lived in rented quarters in Philadelphia and a laborer worked on the grounds. In September 1873 it was recommended that the superintendent live on-site. This shift required a change in the class of cemetery, from first to fourth, and the construction of a lodge in which he could reside. From 1874 to 1876 various negotiations for the acquisition of additional property, including one parcel with a house already on it, fell apart. In October 1876 a parcel across the road from the cemetery was purchased, and this seemingly answered the quandary over space. The contract for the lodge was awarded to William Marche of Washington, DC, and stipulated that work on the building would begin around June 10, 1878, and be completed by August 10, 1878. Marche's contract put the costs of construction at \$2475. In September the superintendent, Wesley Markwood, wrote the Quartermaster that he had completed work on the outbuildings with the exception of a final coat of paint, which he hoped to apply that day, subject to the weather. No comment on the construction or condition of his lodge was offered.

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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.