

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

RALEIGH NATIONAL CEMETERY, LODGE

HALS No. NC-4-A

Location: 501 Rock Quarry Road, Wake County, North Carolina.

The coordinates for the Raleigh National Cemetery, Lodge are 78.620972 W and 35.774521 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 the management of Raleigh National Cemetery from the U.S. Army in 1973 (Public Law 93-43).

Date: 1938.

Builder/Contractor: Unknown.

Description: The Georgian Revival style lodge is a two-story building with a principal elevation facing north. The building is covered by a hip roof and heated by two exterior end chimneys. It is made with a veneer of bricks and it has a concrete foundation. The block-like massing of the three-bay by two-bay structure is reinforced by the use of quoins at the corners and a water table, also rendered in brick. Each window is shuttered; the wood, double-hung sash is glazed with six-over-six lights. Jack arches are used for the lintels. In keeping with the Georgian Revival style, the front door is centrally located in the north (front) façade, suggesting a center hall plan house. A pedimented surround and the sweep of steps to the landing give further emphasis to this doorway. Leader heads and downspouts are visible on the north façade. Historic photographs for the Veterans Administration show an enclosed porch off of the south rear elevation and door hoods over the side entries.

Maintenance records for the cemetery note continued work on the lodge and its surroundings. In 1938, shortly after its construction, landscaping projects helped integrate the building into its surroundings with grading, with sidewalks, and a concrete step for access to the basement. The lodge was painted at regular intervals beginning in the 1940s, the slate roof was repaired in 1949, and the rear porch was enclosed in 1960. Linoleum flooring was installed in the kitchen and bathroom, the bathroom tile was repaired and replaced where necessary, the floors were refinished, and the Venetian blinds were refurbished in 1958. The office ceiling was tiled and a fluorescent light installed in 1959; a doorbell was put at this time as well.

Site Context: The layout of Raleigh National Cemetery is rectilinear and the perimeter is marked by a brick enclosing wall. In 1936, gates were installed at the main entrance to the cemetery on the western boundary along Rock Quarry Road. The Georgian Revival style lodge faces north and is in proximity to the main entrance, just to the east. The present lodge replaced an earlier building in the Second Empire style; the Second Empire style lodge was in the same location but faced west toward the road.

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.

Between 1937 and 1940 the Quartermaster experimented with the Georgian Revival style of building, using the architectural language of symmetry to mask irregular interior plans. The Georgian Revival style lodges were two stories in height and covered by hipped roofs. Quoining and pedimented door surrounds distinguished these buildings and three were constructed according to the Georgian Revival design in Long Island, Springfield (MO), and Raleigh. The lodge in Long Island was the first completed, in 1937, but soon was improved with a substantial office wing. The last built was in Springfield, where the plan was altered to provide a larger office space. The Raleigh example was completed in 1938 and is significant as a surviving example of the Georgian Revival model developed by the Quartermaster's department in the late 1930s.

North Carolina's capital city surrendered to General Sherman's army in April 1865, and during the occupation of Raleigh by Union troops a military post, Camp Green, was established. The cemetery for Camp Green was on the site for what is now the national cemetery and thirty-two burials took place in that time. After the war, remains of those who died on the battlefields in the area were transferred to the national cemetery for re-burial. The first superintendent was appointed in 1868. A temporary, wood-frame lodge was built for his use at that time. The one-story lodge contained three rooms and cost \$800 to construct. By January 1873 this lodge wanted replacement and the Office of the Quartermaster General entertained bids for moving the wood lodge out of the way of the construction of a new, masonry lodge. The wood-frame lodge was moved to the rear of where the Second Empire style lodge would be built, and plans called for wood lodge to be retrofitted for use as a tool house and privy. The former lodge served as summer kitchen, privy, wash house, and tool house, and in the 1909 survey, it was described as the kitchen.

The Quartermaster's office produced a definitive version of the L-plan lodge in two stories, rather than the one floor design first built, in 1871. This plan was applicable to the stone and brick lodges, however, while there were specifications for both masonry types, only the two-story, L-plan of stone was drawn. Contractors, like John Comfort who was bidding on jobs in North Carolina and Tennessee, received specifications for brick masonry that called for the two-story lodge but plans for the one-story building. As a result, the lodge at Raleigh was too far along in construction to for the contractor comply with the new plans as drawn in 1873. Several features were incorporated into the building, thereby modifying the design with three closets, stone weathering, a doubling of the inside and outside studding, and a change in the porch. These improvements added \$361 to the cost of construction. By October 1873 the lodge was completed by the Quartermaster's department. Work remaining to be done included some painting on the porch. By that time, the superintendent hoped to move into the building as soon as possible.

Historic photographs show dormer windows in the mansard and wood sash, likely double-hung,

glazed with six-over-six lights. Like the lodge in Salisbury (HALS No. NC-2), the mansard of the Raleigh lodge appears shorter than the mansard of the later iterations.

Records of the Veterans Administration and photographs taken as part of their maintenance program indicate that in the 1930s the lodge had windows with six lights in the upper sash and there were pine floors throughout the interior. It was painted in 1931, and a concrete floor was put into the bathroom in 1934.

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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 , 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.