

**HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY**  
**FORT SCOTT NATIONAL CEMETERY, LODGE**

**HALS No. KS-3-B**

Location: 900 East National, Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas.

The coordinates for Fort Scott National Cemetery, Lodge are 94.696871 W and 37.821114 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 Fort Scott National Cemetery from the U.S. Army in 1973 (Public Law 93-43).

Date: 1874.

Builder/Contractor: S.F. Boice.

Description: The lodge is a one and one-half story building in the Second Empire style erected according to plans issued by the Office of the Quartermaster General. It is brick over a stone foundation. The building is L-shaped in plan, with three rooms on the first floor for the office, living room and kitchen, and three rooms on the second floor that served as bedrooms. The basement typically housed the coal room, some storage, and possibly laundry facilities. It was accessed from the exterior of the building through a bulkhead entry. A porch filled the space in the arm of the L in the plan, and forms the northwest corner of the building. The principal elevation faces west toward the burial ground. The mansard roof was covered in slate initially and the shallow hip above it was covered in tin. The chimneys were brick; the double-hung, wood sash was glazed with six-over-one lights. Historic photographs indicate that the dormer windows had one-over-one glazing in the early twentieth century.

Maintenance records for the cemetery span the 1920s to 1960s. In 1926 the mechanical systems of the lodge were upgraded and seventeen windows received new screens and several had shutters put in place. In 1929 a summer kitchen was constructed, but this was removed in 1940 when an addition made of brick (about 14' x 16') was appended to the L-shaped lodge. Linoleum and cabinetry were installed in 1950, and modifications were done in 1955 to arrest the sinking of the foundation. Remodeling occurred in the 1930s, including a new roof (1931), a partition between the bedroom and adjacent bathroom on the second floor (1930), a reworking of the bathroom and stair (1934), screening the back porch (1934), installing a glass door for the office and living room (1934), and painting. New porch steps were fashioned in 1949 and storm windows secured in 1951. Also in 1951 the dormer windows were rehabilitated with the removal

of the wood and metal covering. In 1958 the slate was switched out for asbestos on the roof. In the 1960s aluminum storm doors were installed, and the office was remodeled.

Site Context: The original portion of the cemetery grounds has a rectangular footprint with the main entrance on the west from National Avenue. The entry drive bisects the burial grounds on the western side and then divides to form a heart-shaped loop that included space for the flagstaff and the Ware monument. The lodge faces west, and is located in the northeast corner of the cemetery. A hedge ran from the northwest corner of the lodge to the northern boundary wall and so created a precinct for the superintendent's living quarters separate from the burial sites. The east (rear) elevation of the lodge looks to Williams Street. The tool house – now a contemporary maintenance building and public rest rooms – was located north of the lodge.

Additional acreage was added along the southern boundary line of the cemetery in 2001.

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.

The lodge at Fort Scott National Cemetery is significant in the chronology of lodge design as an example of the L-plan, Second Empire style lodge built according to the definitive plans issued by the Office of the Quartermaster in August 1871.

Today, Fort Scott National Cemetery consists of just over ten acres and just under 4000 interments. Its long history is tied to the military post and speaks to frontier culture and commercial interests. The fort was established in 1842 along what was known as military road, stretching from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. It was named for Lieutenant General Winfield Scott, and soldiers garrisoned there kept the peace between Native Americans and the white settlers and protected the caravans of supplies rattling along the Santa Fe Trail. The post was abandoned in 1853 as need for patrols in that part of the Indian Territory had subsided; only in 1857 and 1858 with the outbreak of hostilities over Kansas's fate as a slave or free state did the troops return. With the Civil War, the fort was reopened. Fort Scott was a hub for troops and supplies. Indicative of the diversity along the frontier, Fort Scott was the base for the 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas Colored Infantry. Organized in 1863, the infantry unit fought in five engagements and suffered more losses than any other regiment from Kansas. Likewise, the burials of sixteen scouts in the Indian regiment of the Union Army, attest to the presence of Native Americans in and around the fort and the Army's dependence on them in navigating the terrain.

The national cemetery had its origins in the fort. The first burial ground was on the west side of the town, but in 1861 a little over four acres was purchased for a new cemetery. Initially lots were by subscription and administered by the Presbyterian Church, but once the war broke out, it was taken over by the post. In November 1862 it was designated as Fort Scott National Cemetery. After 1865, remains of soldiers who perished in Kansas and Missouri, as well as those buried in Fort Lincoln, were reinterred at Fort Scott.

For more than a decade, the cemetery superintendent lived in rented quarters in town. Proposals for work at Fort Scott were coupled with those at Fort Leavenworth, and in 1873, both cemeteries were scheduled to have enclosing walls built. Fort Leavenworth possibly was to have a new permanent lodge erected as well, but no mention of a lodge for Fort Scott was made until

early the next year. In March 1874, bids for the brick lodge were reviewed and in June a contract was awarded to S.F. Boice. The selected contractor was not the government's first choice, but the proposals with lower cost figures were withdrawn. His bid was \$3425, just several hundred dollars more than the preferred bid. Also in 1874 a tool house was built; it was to have three arches along the front of the shed-like structure. Discussion of the form the tool house should take also revealed that the lodge was still incomplete in October 1874. The lodge was in the Second Empire style, one and one-half stories in height and with a mansard roof. It was brick on a stone foundation. At the time, some painting on the piazza was required. A cistern was to be placed to the rear of the lodge, and it was noted in the report to the Quartermaster that the location of the building was in harmony with views to and from the town. The favorable impression of the lodge remained consistent and the lodge remains on site today.

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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.