

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

ANNAPOLIS NATIONAL CEMETERY, LODGE

HALS No. MD-6-A

Location: 800 West Street, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

The coordinates for the Annapolis National Cemetery, Lodge are 76.505221 W and 338.976582 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 Annapolis National Cemetery from the U.S. Army in 1973 (Public Law 93-43).

Date: 1940.

Builder/Contractor: Unknown.

Description: The present lodge is one of two built by the Quartermaster's department in a Colonial Revival style comparable to house forms found throughout the Chesapeake region. The other example of the type is in Hampton, Virginia (HALS No. VA-6).

The Annapolis lodge is a side-gable, one and one-half story building made of brick on a concrete foundation. It is heated by two interior end chimneys and lit by double-hung sash glazed with multiple panes. There are four dormer windows in the front elevation, each corresponding to an opening below. The first-floor bays have double-hung sash windows, with shutters, to the outside and two single doors – that is, window, door, door, window – to the inside bays. Wide, low steps ascend to these doorways. The doors are paneled and the glazing of the windows appears to be six-over-six lights. The roof was originally slate. The floors are wood, except for the kitchen where linoleum was installed instead.

Maintenance ledgers indicate that awnings were installed on the lodge in 1941, iron grilles were made for two doorways, painting occurred, and work was done for the hot water system. In 1953, the building was painted and an asphalt-based tile was laid in the office as flooring. The other floors in the lodge were refinished in the following year. In 1957 vinyl tile was put in the kitchen, updating the linoleum, and the basement was renovated. Storm doors were added in 1958.

Site Context: The west (front) façade of the lodge faces the entrance drive to the cemetery grounds and its south side elevation looks to West Street. The lodge is in the southeast corner of the cemetery grounds, and the building is positioned just east of the entrance drive and in

proximity to the street and entry gates. The lodge is separated from the street by a small yard and by the low wall of stone that edges the cemetery grounds. Visible in historic photographs is the south elevation with an integral rear porch under a salt box roof at the south end of the east (rear) elevation. Today, mature tree cover obscures a close view of the building. A gable-roofed utility shed lines the north side of the lodge's yard, with West Street wrapping around the east and south sides. A small parking area is in front of the building, and the entrance drive terminates at the flagpole, with a circular end point to facilitate traffic flow. The burial grounds stretch north and west of the lodge.

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, residential standards rendered the L-plan obsolete. Advances in plumbing and heating technologies, and an increase in the average standard of living for many Americans, made the L-plan outdated for expectations about the appropriate level of domestic sanitation and comfort 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.

Characterized by a symmetrical front facade with double entrances—one for office, one for private quarters—and four gabled dormers projecting from a steeply sloping roof, the Colonial Revival design used in Hampton and Annapolis included the standard interior spaces: office, living room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, and bathroom. A rear porch under a partial saltbox roof supplemented the living quarters.

Established in 1862, Annapolis National Cemetery ranks among the first burying grounds set aside for the remains of Union soldiers. Most of the interments came from the nearby hospitals and a disproportionate number of them belonged to the 67th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment. Twenty-four men died while their unit was garrisoned in Annapolis. Continuing the custom from the War of 1812, captured troops were paroled to lessen the expense of maintaining and guarding them. Annapolis was selected as the holding center for Union prisoners and City Point, Virginia, was the location for the Confederates. The paroled prisoners were quartered in Camp Parole, just outside of the city, until it was time for them to be sent home. Those who died in the camp while waiting for a one-to-one prisoner exchange, or who were themselves returned prisoners of war, were buried in Annapolis National Cemetery. The first lodge on the property was a temporary wood lodge built in 1867 or 1868; it was later moved and reused as a kitchen. In 1870 to 1871, a new permanent lodge was erected. It was one-story, with a three-room linear plan. There was a piazza on the north and south elevations. The roof projected over these piazzas or porches. This linear plan was an early attempt to accommodate the private needs of the superintendent and the public needs of his station. The rooms were a bedroom, kitchen, and office. Generally the kitchen moved out and a living room or dining room proper could be fashioned inside. In 1874 the one-story, piazza-dominated lodge was in good repair at the time of the Quartermaster General's inspection.

It is likely the lodge shown in historic photographs with the maintenance ledgers was an expansion of the original building, and this second story addition was completed ca. 1880. Considering the second floor as an addition accounts for the awkward proportion of wall plane to window opening. Upon closer scrutiny of the photographs, plain pilasters of brick mark the bays in an effort to bring cohesion to the façade. The first floor is obscured by a long porch. Both the porch roof and the side-gable, main roof are standing seam metal (tin). There are two interior chimneys. This lodge received electricity in the mid 1920s, underwent various repairs and refinishing of its doors, floors, and walls, and painting inside and outside. In 1931 the roof and skylight were repaired. Several years later, window screens and storm doors were affixed to the building and a concrete porch floor and steps were poured.

According to the maintenance ledgers, the present Colonial Revival style lodge was completed in 1940.

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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.