ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERY, LODGE
104 Marine Street
Saint Augustine
St. Johns County
Florida

HALS FL-3-A
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

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SAINT AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERY, LODGE

HALS No. FL-3-A

Location: 104 Marine Street, Saint Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida.

The coordinates for the Saint Augustine National Cemetery, Lodge are 81.509500 W and 29.886432 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 Saint Augustine National Cemetery from the U.S. Army in 1973 (Public Law 93-43).

Date: 1938.

Builder/Contractor: Unknown.

Description: The two-story, Spanish Revival style lodge was built of coquina stone, and covered with a weathered shingle, side-gable roof. The city council approved the design, which featured an overhanging balcony on the front facade, a center chimney, wood sash windows and shutters, and a small wing to the west side. The principal elevation faces south.

Contemporary images of the cemetery reveal that the lodge has double-hung, wood sash windows glazed with six-over-six lights and central doorway in the south (front) elevation. The east side elevation, facing the street, is two bays while the north (rear) is three bays. One of the shutters on the centrally-placed window on the second floor is missing and a small, one-story enclosure with a flat roof extends off the rear door. The back door from this enclosure, which was likely a porch initially, is protected by a shed-roofed hood.

Site Context: The lodge is located in the northwest corner of the rectilinear cemetery and an iron fence runs along the north and east sides of the lodge plot. At the main entrance, south of the lodge along Marine Street, the enclosing wall becomes solid, likely stuccoed brick or stone. The entrance walkway takes the form of a shallow serpentine, undulating north to the lodge and south to accommodate the flagstaff before sweeping north again to terminate at the west boundary along Charlotte Street. The burial sections are south of the drive and the graves are arranged in rows.

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 Spanish Revival lodge in Saint Augustine National Cemetery is significant as the sole example of its type constructed by the Quartermaster's office. Built in 1938, the lodge represents an effort by the U.S. Army and the Quartermaster to integrate designs for housing the cemetery

superintendents with contemporary trends in residential architecture that favored the use of historic revival and regional forms in house plans.

One of the oldest cities in the United States today, St. Augustine began as a Spanish colony and home to a Franciscan monastery and convent. In the mid-eighteenth century when Florida was an English colony (1763-1783), the military took over the convent and constructed barracks there. The Spanish continued to use the site for military purposes on their return in 1783. Once Florida was ceded to the U.S., in 1821, land at what was then known as the St. Francis Barracks was reserved for a burying ground. In the 1840s the remains of many men were reinterred in the cemetery, including those who fell with Major Dade in 1835 and in other conflicts with the Seminole Nation. After 1842, when hostilities ceased, the city prospered. When the Civil War began, however, trade was disrupted and loyalties were divided. In March 1862, St. Augustine surrendered to Union forces rather than risk bombardment. In 1881 the post cemetery was declared a national cemetery and a frame lodge with two floors and a one-story office wing was constructed around that time. The lodge built in ca. 1881 had a front-gable roof and came to be described as a Folk Victorian building. Yet even as late as 1909, in the survey of the national cemeteries was completed for the Office of the Quartermaster General, no permanent lodge had been erected on the grounds. That would happen in 1938 with the placement of the Spanish Revival lodge in the cemetery.

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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.