SALISBURY NATIONAL CEMETERY, LODGE
202 Government Road
Salisbury
Rowan County
North Carolina

HALS NC-2-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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HALS No. NC-2-A

Location: 202 Government Road, Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina.

The coordinates for Salisbury National Cemetery, Lodge are 80.492524 W and 35.684122 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 Salisbury National Cemetery from the U.S. Army in 1973 (Public Law 93-43).

Date: 1934.

Builder/Contractor: Unknown.

Description: The Dutch Colonial Revival style lodge has two floors, with the upper floor tucked under a large gambrel roof. The lodge has a concrete foundation and walls made of brick laid (or faced) with 7:1 common bond on the first-floor level and a frame and stucco combination for the second floor. The gambrel roof is shingled. A shed roof covers a series of sash windows to create one long dormer in the front (west) slope of the gambrel roof. The west front façade has paired double-hung sash windows under a jack arch on the first floor. These windowsills are likely made of concrete. There is one end chimney visible in the photographs taken for the Veterans Administration. Concrete steps lead up to the screen porch, and entryway into the lodge, and downspouts are visible near the corner.

Ledgers created for the Veterans Administration list the improvements and routine maintenance projects happening at the lodge from the time of construction through the 1960s. In 1939, for example, linoleum flooring was installed in the office and in the kitchen, and likely it was rolled over the original wood floor laid in 1934. The linoleum had to be replaced in the office in 1960. A shower was installed in 1941, and the plumbing systems were upgraded in 1956. Other systems, like the heat, were changed over time; the lodge was converted from coal heat in 1960. Storm doors were added in 1962, as the front porch was re-screened and the screens in the windows were changed to storm windows. Inside, the lodge was painted regularly, and Venetian blinds were hung in the windows in 1941.

Site Context: A low stone wall edges the grounds of the original cemetery plot and the wrought iron entrances open from this boundary at the north side. A drive runs gently toward the

southwest corner of the cemetery before dividing to enclose the initial gravesites at the southern end of the cemetery. In 1876 the Second Empire style lodge was moved closer to the entrance and the 1892 map records its shift. The arms of the L face west and south, toward the drive and landscaped yard, with the entrance porch in the southwest corner. The tool house – former lodge dating to 1869 to 1870 – is placed off the southeast corner of the L-plan, Second Empire style lodge and near the eastern boundary line. The present Dutch Colonial Revival style lodge was built in the same location as the Second Empire style lodge, and the utility building constructed in 1929 occupies the site of the former tool house.

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 twentieth-century lodge forms, the design in the Dutch Colonial Revival oeuvre was selected most often. Fourteen lodges were built using this plan between 1921 and 1934. The design called for a one and one-half story building with masonry construction at the first floor and wood-frame gambrel roofs enclosing the upper floor. The building footprint was rectangular and included an enclosed porch and office in the front, a living room and stair in the middle, and a dining room and kitchen at the rear. The second floor contained three bedrooms and a bathroom opening off of a central hall. Three versions of the design were used. The first in four lodges erected between 1921 and 1928, with hollow core tile walls covered in stucco, shingled roofs and gable ends, and dormers two windows in width on the front and rear. The second version expanded the dormer from two windows to four, adding more light the upper floor. This plan was used twice, for lodges in Nashville and Chattanooga, in 1931. PWA funds paid for the construction of lodges in 1934, including eight built to a third rendition of the Dutch Colonial Revival design. In 1934, the building materials included a brick construction on the first floor and faux half-timbered or brick gables. The Salisbury lodge is significant as an extant example of the third expression of the Dutch Colonial Revival design. It cost $9200 to build in 1934.

Located in the western part of the state and in proximity to railroad lines, Salisbury became a prisoner of war camp where Union soldiers were held beginning in 1863. Some of the early buildings in the camp were workers' housing and the cotton mill. Prisoner paroles and exchanges were more common in the first years of the war, but by 1863 had become infrequent and so the need for camps became paramount. Battlefield exchanges ceased on General Grant's orders in 1864, further swelling the camps' population and worsening conditions inside the stockades. Salisbury was second only to Andersonville, Georgia, in the number of deaths; the living conditions were abysmal. Many died from starvation and disease, and from the cold in 1864 to 1865. Over 11,000 men died and were buried in trenches. Salisbury National Cemetery was established in 1865 and Congress authorized a monument to those who died there in 1873.

A one-story, three-room, brick lodge with a linear plan and piazzas along the front and back facades was built on the cemetery grounds by 1871. The superintendent noted the lack of closets and shelving, and recommended shutters be installed on the windows. The Office of the Quartermaster General concurred with the shutter placement, and that change was authorized in November 1871. In May 1872 the lodge was described as having brick construction and being only one-story height, but to the usual plan; however, the plan enclosed with the 1872 report featured a building with an L-shaped plan. Perhaps this plan reflected an unauthorized shed addition or merely anticipated the construction of the L-plan, Second Empire style lodge in 1876. Nonetheless, in 1872, the superintendent removed the 6' wide piazzas on the north and side sides of the lodge. The footprint of the lodge measured 51' x 21' and the plan accommodated three

rooms of equal size. The lodge was one-story in height. Also at this time the fenestration was altered, with windows becoming doorways on the east end and in the middle room. Water leaks were discovered in the northeast corner of the building. Permission for a new lodge to replace this ca. 1869-70 building was soon sought, and in 1876, granted.

In 1876 a contract to Hammill and Weir for $3377 obligated the builders from Raleigh for the completion of a brick lodge of the one and one-half story, Second Empire style. The building was due to be finished by August of that year. In 1909, the survey of the cemetery included the brick lodge, noting only that its three cellar rooms were too damp to use. The present lodge in the Dutch Colonial Revival style replaced this lodge in 1934. It was built on the same location, also oriented to the west. The first lodge, minus its piazzas, was reused as a tool house until a new utility building could be constructed. This was done in 1929 and the linear lodge building was dismantled.

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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.