

COMPONENT FEATURES

By an Act to Establish and Protect National Cemeteries, approved February 22, 1867, the Secretary of War was directed to have every national cemetery enclosed with a good and substantial stone or iron fence, to mark each grave with a small headstone or block, to appoint superintendents, and to provide adequate housing facilities for the superintendents.

LODGES

The same 1867 Act led to a construction effort that resulted in lodges being constructed in most national cemeteries. They were built of various materials (brick, frame, ashlar, and coursed stone) from a prototypical design by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs. The Meigs lodges were of late Victorian Second Empire design with mansard roof, a story and a half over a basement in an inverted L-shape. The first floor contained the superintendent's office and two personal rooms. Sleeping quarters were located on the upper floor. Kitchens were originally in separate structures, but kitchen additions have been added over the years. Most roofs were mansard and many had decorative fish scale or hexagonal slate with patterns formed by variations in color. Patterns included the "U.S." initials. Building materials were chosen partly by what was locally available.



Port Hudson National Cemetery, Zachary, Louisiana

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Those Civil War Era national cemeteries at which Meigs lodges still exist are as follows:

Alexandria, Virginia
Beverly, New Jersey
Camp Nelson, Kentucky
Cold Harbor, Virginia
Culpeper, Virginia
Cypress Hills, New York
Fort Harrison, Virginia
Fort Scott, Kansas
Glendale, Virginia
Jefferson City, Missouri

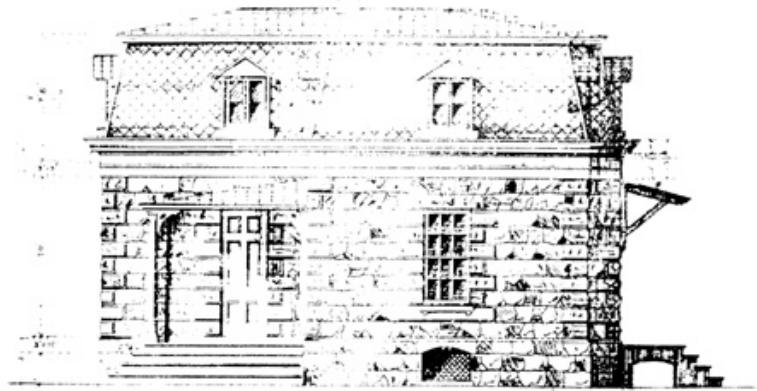
Keokuk, Iowa
Lebanon, Kentucky
Loudon Park, Maryland
Mobile, Alabama
Mound City, Illinois
Port Hudson, Louisiana
Richmond, Virginia
Seven Pines, Virginia
Staunton, Virginia

At three Civil War Era national cemeteries (Loudon Park, Maryland; Cypress Hills, New York; and Mound City, Illinois), the lodges are two-story structures of a much more simple Victorian design than the earlier one-and-one-half-story Second Empire design used as the original standard plan at the Civil War national cemeteries. The simple floor plans of the one-and-one-half-story lodge provided an office, living room, and kitchen on the first floor and three bedrooms on the upper story.

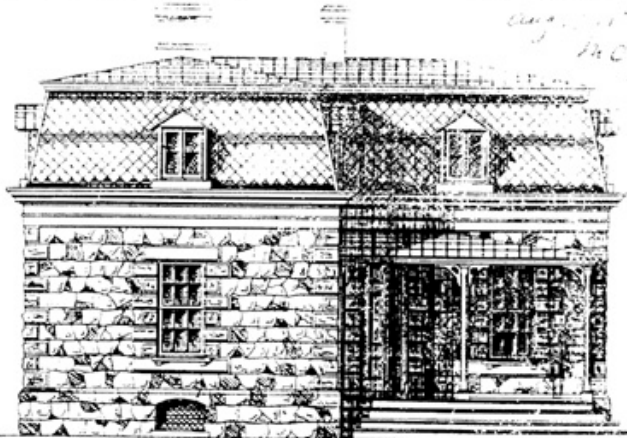


Cypress Hills National Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York

DESIGN FOR SUPERINTENDENTS LODGE.
NATIONAL CEMETERIES.



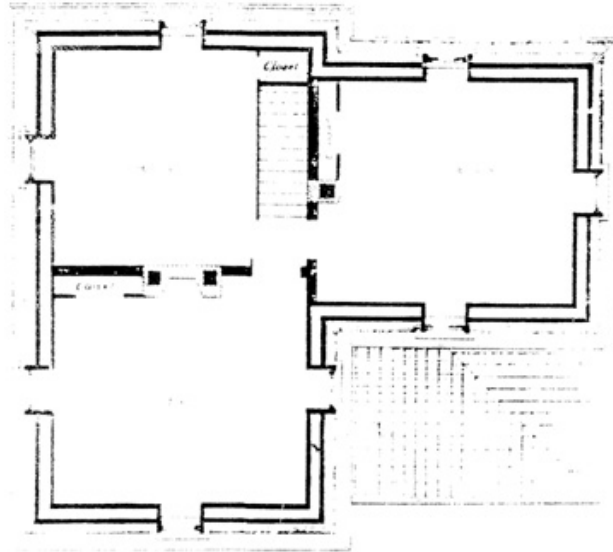
Side Elevation.



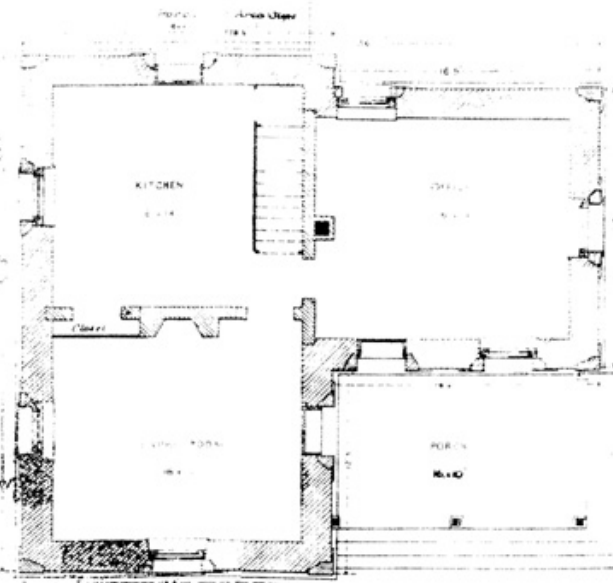
Front Elevation.

*Aug. 1871
No. 100
Lodge*

*Stair goes to which
The P.C. table*



Plan of Attic



Plan of 1st Story.

ROSTRUMS

Rostrums of various styles provided the public stage for ceremonies. Styles have varied from small, classical Greek temples, to simple pulpits or lecterns, to bandstand style structures. Materials have included marble, granite, iron and steel and locally quarried coquina. They are imposing focal points or modest platforms. As demands for burial space have mounted or the rostrums have deteriorated, some have been removed. Civil War Era national cemeteries where the rostrum or a portion thereof still remains are as follows:

Alexandria, Louisiana	Marietta, Georgia
Baton Rouge, Louisiana	Mobile, Alabama
Beverly, New Jersey	Mound City, Illinois
Camp Butler, Illinois	Nashville, Tennessee
Cave Hill, Kentucky	Natchez, Mississippi
Florence, South Carolina	New Albany, Indiana
Fort Gibson, Oklahoma	New Bern, North Carolina
Fort Scott, Kansas	Raleigh, North Carolina
Jefferson City, Missouri	San Antonio, Texas
Lebanon, Kentucky	Springfield, Missouri
Little Rock, Arkansas	Wilmington, North Carolina



Philadelphia National Cemetery,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Camp Butler National Cemetery,
Springfield, Illinois

HEADSTONES/MARKERS

In his annual report of 1866, Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs stated that a design had been adopted for a small cast iron monument. It was to be protected from rust by a coating of zinc and to have in raised letters cast inscribing the name, rank, regiment, and company of each soldier or officer. One was to be placed at every grave and would remain when the wooden headboard marker decays and perishes. It was not implemented until March 3, 1873, when Congress appropriated funds "for the erection of a headstone at each grave in the national military cemeteries to be made of durable stone and of such design and weight as shall keep them in place when set." The Secretary of War specified that the markers should be white marble or granite, 4 inches thick, 10 inches wide, with 12 inches above ground and 24 inches underground in areas south of the latitude of Washington and 30 inches in those to the north. The granite or marble block for unknown soldiers was 6 inches square by 2 feet, 6 inches, with 2 feet set in the ground. The project was completed in 1877 at a total cost of \$786,630. A second gravestone program was undertaken in 1879 and, by 1881, all soldiers' graves were marked, as provided by law.



Marietta National Cemetery, Marietta, Georgia



Camp Nelson National Cemetery, Nicholasville, Kentucky

GATES AND PERIMETER WALLS/FENCES

Section 18 of an Act approved July 17, 1862, gave the President authority to purchase cemetery grounds and to securely enclose them for use as national cemeteries. Subsequently, the Act to Establish and to Protect National Cemeteries, approved February 22, 1867, further directed the Secretary of War to have every national cemetery enclosed with a good and substantial stone or iron fence.



Cypress Hills National Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York



Corinth National Cemetery, Corinth, Mississippi



City Point National Cemetery, Hopewell, Virginia