

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING-LODGE  
Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery  
3006 Circle Drive  
Green Park Vicinity  
St. Louis County  
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1939

HABS  
MO-1939

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
Midwest Regional Office  
1709 Jackson Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

# HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

## ADMINISTRATION BUILDING-LODGE JEFFERSON BARRACKS NATIONAL CEMETERY

HABS No. MO-1939

- Location: 3006 Circle Drive, Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, Green Park Vicinity, St. Louis County, Missouri
- Present Owner: Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration
- Present Use: Storage
- Significance: The Administration Building-Lodge is one of three historical contributing properties in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, a historic district listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Erected in 1872 for \$5,000, it was dramatically renovated in 1935, transforming its darkly modest Late Victorian styling into a light Colonial Revival block.
- Description: Originally designated alternately the "Office Building and Comfort Station," the original one-story lodge is a brick and concrete structure with a stone foundation and a partial basement in the southwest corner. The architecture of the building is considered Late Victorian due to its symmetrical façade and prominent front porch. The windows are narrow with slightly arched detailing at the top. The circular louvered vents, which serve as ventilation to the attic, typify the classical nature of the Late Victorian period.
- The floor plan is an "L" shape with the front entrance facing east. At the north, south, and west facing walls, there is intricate brickwork. The roof is constructed with asphalt shingles. The side-facing front façade is approximately 45' long and 18' wide; the ell extension from the northwest corner is 50' long and 16' wide. The basement space measures 15'x12'. The Administration Building-Lodge is located 15'-8" to the east of the adjacent Tool House-Garage.
- The brick structure sits on a foundation of approximately four courses of light-colored rusticated dressed stone; concrete steps lead up to each doorway. The bays of all exterior walls are recessed, resulting in an ornamental, Romanesque-like effect of pilasters. The tin gable roof historically appeared exaggerated by wide eaves supported by brackets, and a central intersecting gable over the central entrance.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>U.S. War Department, Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery maintenance ledgers, contains material dated 1930s through 1960s; National Archives and Records Administration, Washington D.C., Record Group 15, Records of the Veterans Administration, Entry 25, Department of Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Historical File, Boxes 22-23.

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The lodge originally looked much like a typical late nineteenth century railroad depot.

The front façade originally featured three symmetrically placed doors; the central entrance led into a small hall, from which the men's and ladies restrooms were accessed. The flanking doors entered directly into the men's (south) and ladies (north) lounges, which had second interior doorways accessing the respective restrooms. A pair of ridge chimneys suggests that stoves originally heated the restroom/lounge spaces. A third chimney was located so as to serve the office/storage space that was accessible by a single door on the north elevation. Existing evidence shows one-over-one and two-over-two fenestration; there is a round vent on the gable end. The cast table of the Gettysburg Address was located in the north bay of the east elevation.<sup>2</sup>

History:

A brick lodge was constructed circa 1870 and located inside the fence near the original main entry gate of the cemetery. For unknown reasons, the original structure was torn down and replaced with a second lodge constructed circa 1895. A hot water heating system was installed in June 1925. In May 1935 the building was remodeled from lodge to cemetery administration office; the extent of these alterations are not documented. Just prior to August 1941, the structure suffered a fire of indeterminate severity, necessitating it being "reconditioned."<sup>3</sup> The building was remodeled again and used to house the cemetery office until 1974.

The lodge was most radically renovated in 1950-51, when it was redesigned utilizing Colonial Revival features. The cost of the work was \$2,614, which included the building's conversion to steam heat. At this time the roof was replaced with asphalt shingles and shallow eaves. All

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<sup>2</sup>Therese T. Sammartino, "Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery," St. Louis County, Missouri, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 19 February 1998.

<sup>3</sup>U.S. War Department, Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery maintenance ledgers, contains material dated 1930s through 1960s; National Archives and Records Administration, Washington D.C., Record Group 15, Box 22.

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but one chimney was removed. This remaining chimney was also used to support the public address system. A partial flat-roofed porch accessed by three steps on the south, east, and north sides, was built on the east side. It sheltered the central and southernmost doorways, and the northernmost bay that was converted to a window.

Clusters of two and three slender wooden posts supported the porch. The central doorway was expanded to include flanking six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows; three-light transoms were added above both doorways. Nine-light glazed doors were installed. The exterior of the structure was painted a light color.<sup>4</sup>

The Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration owns the building. It currently is used only for miscellaneous storage such as Memorial Day grave decorations and employee files. This building will be demolished in the near future because it is a safety concern, liability, and possible threat to employees and visitors of the cemetery. The wood porch at the front of the building is unstable and the stairs are crumbling. The side stairs are also deteriorating. The basement is uninhabitable because of the large amounts of airborne asbestos particles. The building is not being used the way it was originally intended, which was that of administrative offices, and the space that it occupies can be put to better use.

A new permanent committal shelter, a semi-enclosed structure that provides shelter from the elements for those who attend funeral services, is scheduled for construction in the near future on the site of the Administration Building-Lodge and the Tool House-Garage. This shelter will be of more use to the cemetery during the many interments conducted during each day. It will also contain space for grounds-keeping equipment storage.

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<sup>4</sup>U.S. War Department, Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery maintenance ledgers, contains material dated 1930s through 1960s; National Archives and Record Administration, Washington D.C, Record Group 92, Records of the Veterans Administration, Entry 25, Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Historical File, Box 22.

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Sammartino, Therese T. "Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery." St. Louis County, Missouri, National Register of Historic Places Nomination. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, February 19, 1998.

U.S. War Department, Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery maintenance ledgers, contains material dated 1930s through 1960s. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., Record Group 15, Records of the Veterans Administration, Entry 25. Department of Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Historical File, Boxes 22 - 23.

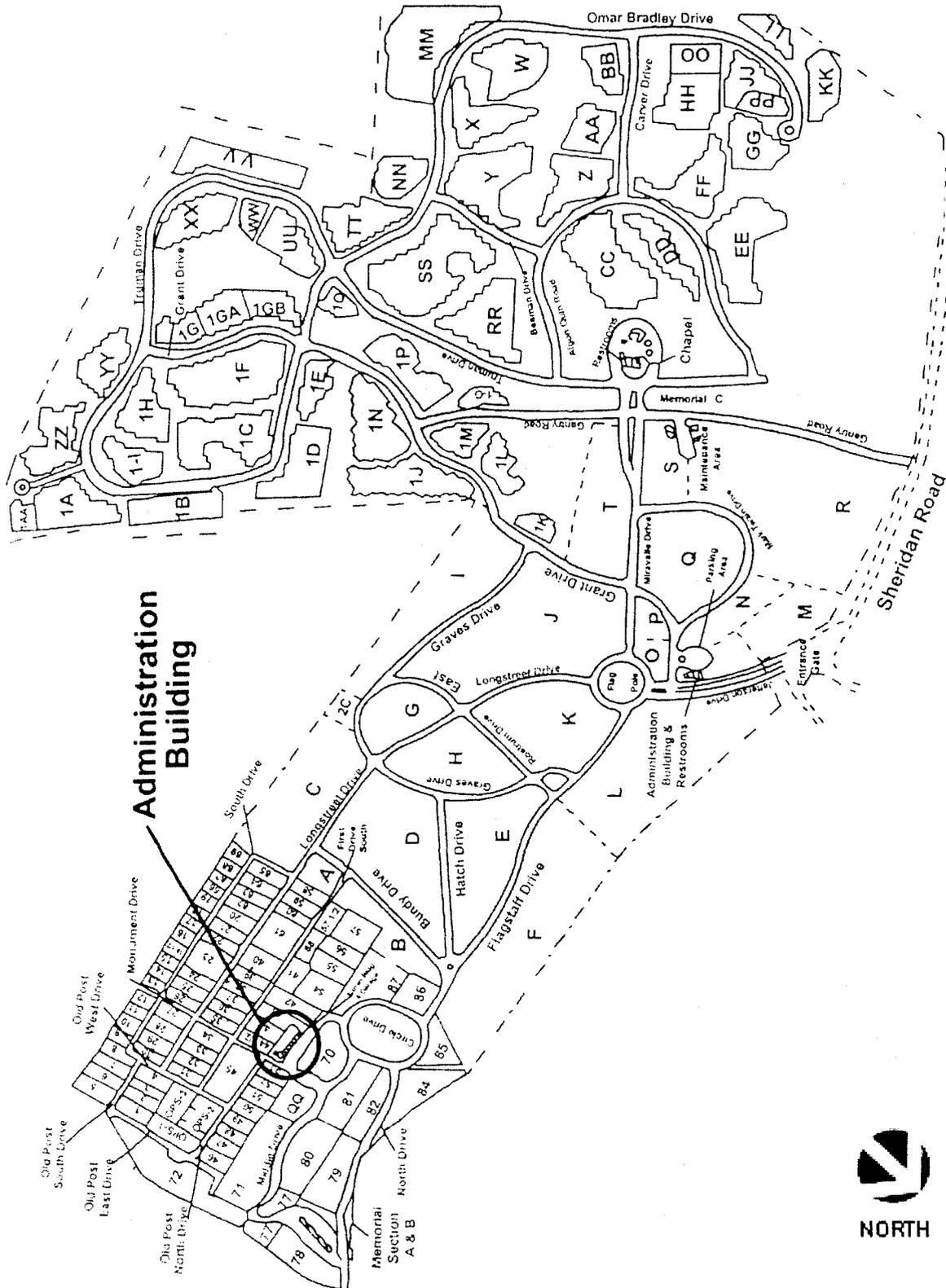
U.S. War Department, Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery maintenance ledgers, contains material dated 1930s through 1960s. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., Record Group 92, Records of the Veterans Administration, Entry 25. Department of Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Historical File, Box 22.

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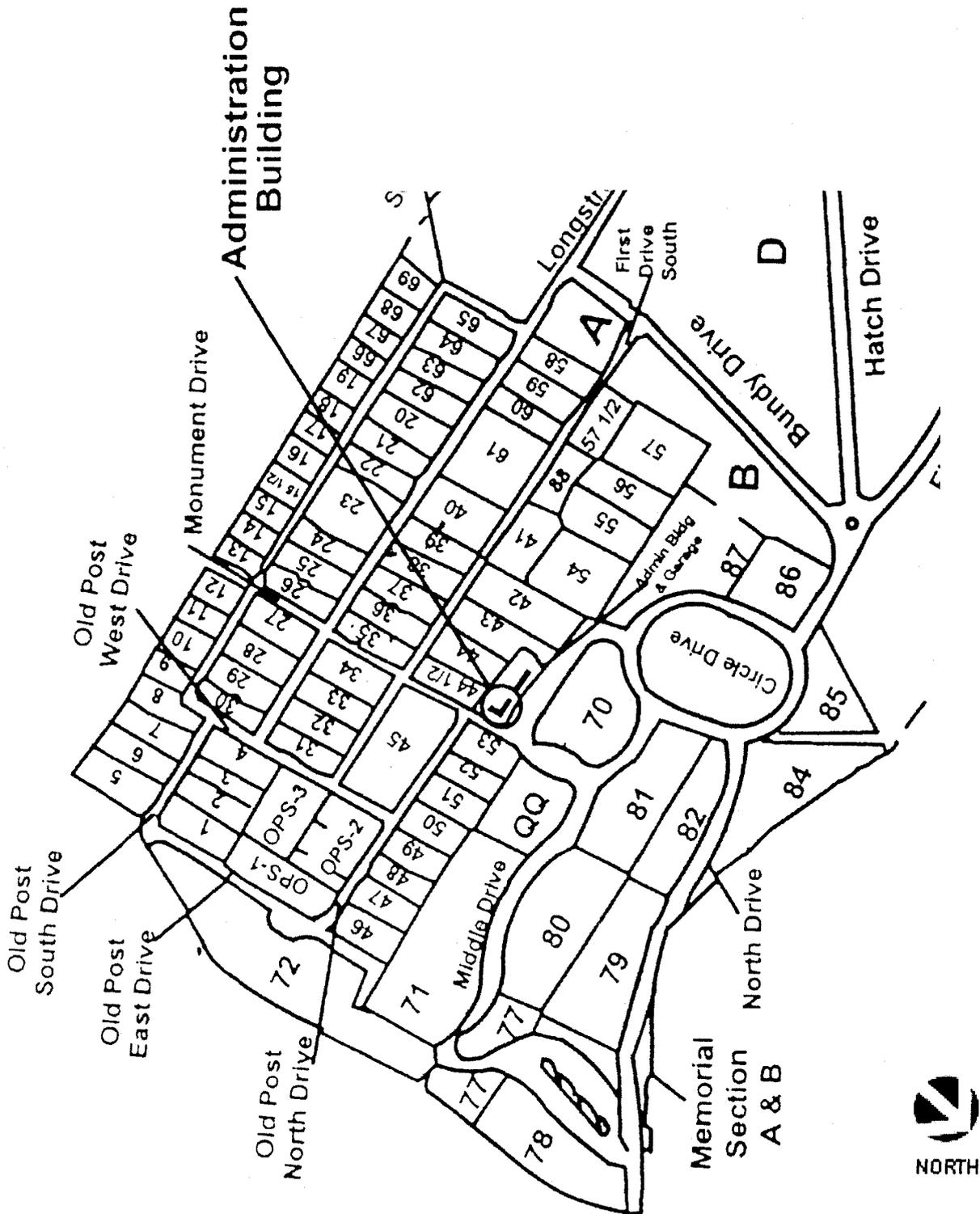
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