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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Cemeteries, Rostrums

HALS No. DC-47

Location:	Nationwide
Construction Dates:	1873–1956
Present Owners:	National Cemetery Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior Army National Cemeteries Program, U.S. Department of the Army
Present Use:	Ceremonial platforms for commemorative events
Significance:	The rostrums in the national cemeteries serve as speakers' stands during ceremonial occasions. They were developed by the U.S. Army Quartermaster's Department in response to the public adoption of the national cemeteries as places of memorial commemoration and patriotic display in the decades after the Civil War. Two standard designs were used for the rostrums in the nineteenth century, while a renewed program of rostrum construction in the late 1930s and 1940s made use of a variety of neoclassical and revival styles.
Historian:	Michael R. Harrison, 2013
Project Information:	The documentation of the 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 Lavoie, Chief of HABS. HABS Historian Michael R. Harrison wrote the historical report based on research undertaken in collaboration with HABS Historian Virginia B. Price. NCA Historian Jennifer M. Perunko provided research and editorial support. Field work for selected sites was carried out and measured drawings produced by HABS Architects Paul Davidson, Ryan Pierce, and Mark Schara.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Overview

During and after the Civil War, the U.S. Army Quartermaster's Department established and maintained national cemeteries for the burial of the Union dead. These became important memorial sites for Northerners, for African Americans in the South, and, eventually, for communities nationwide as the tradition of Decoration Day (Memorial Day) developed. To assist ceremonial use of the national cemeteries, the cemeterial branch of the Office of the Quartermaster General looked to build permanent rostrums, or speakers' stands, in those cemeteries with the highest visitorship and the greatest symbolic importance.[1] The first two rostrums were built in 1873—one designed by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs—but not until 1878 was funding available for a large-scale construction program. Under Meigs's guidance, the department developed a standard design and built thirteen examples up to 1882, plus a fourteenth to a modified design in 1883, before budget limitations curtailed plans to place rostrums at all the national cemeteries. To continue the program, the Office of National Cemeteries, under the leadership of Lieut. Col. B. N. Batchelder and Quartermaster General Samuel B. Holabird, developed a second, less expensive standard design in 1886. Examples of this second type were built in thirty-three cemeteries between 1886 and 1905, when funding again became scarce and the need for rostrums had diminished.

Just two additional rostrums were built in national cemeteries in the 1910s and 1920s, each to a new design. In 1931, a renewed need for rostrums at additional cemeteries led to the development of another standard design, one that used inexpensive materials and simple construction methods well-suited to the straitened times. Beginning in 1937, however, New Deal public works funding allowed the officers in charge of a recently expanded national cemetery system to embark on a renewed program of rostrum construction, using more or less individual designs for different cemeteries in a variety of neoclassical and Renaissance Revival styles. Although additional rostrums were planned in the 1950s, the final example was built in 1956.

Forty-two rostrums survive from the Army's long-term construction effort. Eight are maintained by the National Park Service and one by the Department of the Army, but the majority, thirty-three, are now maintained by the National Cemetery Administration within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), along with two rostrums built at Confederate cemeteries now maintained by the VA and two built at veterans' home cemeteries before World War II.

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[1] The word rostrum comes from the public speakers' platform in the ancient Roman forum on which the prows (*rostra*) of captured galleys were displayed.

The National Cemetery System

Today there are 147 national cemeteries in the United States and Puerto Rico, containing the graves of more than 3.6 million men and women. The National Cemetery Administration maintains 131 of these, the National Park Service fourteen, and the Defense Department's Army National Cemeteries Program two. These three organizations administer parts of what was once a single system set up by the U.S. Army Quartermaster's Department during and immediately after the Civil War to consolidate and maintain the graves of Union war dead. Over time, the system was expanded to accommodate the burial of all Union veterans, the dead of subsequent wars, and, finally, all honorably discharged veterans of U.S. military service and their eligible dependents.

Prior to the Civil War, the bodies of U.S. soldiers who died on active duty were buried in post cemeteries or returned to relatives for private burial. In 1850, after the Mexican War, Congress authorized the purchase of land for a U.S. military cemetery in Mexico City to which American soldiers' remains were reinterred from hastily dug wartime graves. This cemetery was completed in early 1852 and established a precedent for government-maintained cemeteries separate from U.S. military posts.[2]

The Civil War vastly expanded the need for military burial sites. The army lacked the authority to purchase land for cemeterial purposes, and initially coped by enlarging a few of its existing post cemeteries, such as the one at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and by relying on donated lots within private and municipal cemeteries near the encampments and hospitals where the majority of soldiers died. The army also created a new cemetery in 1861 on 16 acres already owned by the government at the U.S. Military Asylum (the Soldiers' Home) in the District of Columbia to serve the large military presence in the national capital.[3]

Men killed in battle, if buried at all, were interred on or near the battlefield by other troops detailed to this duty by their commanding officers or by private individuals hired on contract after the action. As the wartime mortality rate increased, the War Department issued General Orders No. 33, April 3, 1862, which directed commanding officers to establish burial grounds near battlefields "so soon as it may be in their power, and to cause

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[2] *American Cemetery near the City of Mexico*, House Ex. Doc. 84, 32 Cong. 1st sess., Mar. 23, 1852.

[3] For the history of the national cemetery system, see Edward Steere, "Origins of the National Cemetery System," *Quartermaster Review* 32, no. 4 (Jan.–Feb. 1953): 12–15, 136–39; idem, "Early Growth of the National Cemetery System," *Quartermaster Review* 32, no. 5 (Mar.–Apr. 1953): 20–22, 121–126; idem, "Evolution of the National Cemetery System, 1865–1880," *Quartermaster Review* 32, no. 6 (May–June 1953): 22–24, 124–126; idem, "Expansion of the National Cemetery System, 1880–1900," *Quartermaster Review* 33, no. 2 (Sept. –Oct. 1953): 20–21, 131–37. See also the introduction to Dean W. Holt, *American Military Cemeteries*, 2nd ed. (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Co., Inc., 2010).

the remains of those killed to be interred, with headboards to the graves bearing numbers, and when practicable, the names of the persons buried in them."[4]

The tidy consolidation of battle dead into organized cemeteries envisioned in General Orders No. 33 was not always realized because of the rapid movement of armies and because many soldiers died in small skirmishes and were buried in a multitude of grave sites scattered across the South. Nevertheless, a number of permanent cemeteries did result from this order, such as the one laid out at Logan's Crossroads, Kentucky, after the January 1862 battle of Mill Springs, and the one created in December 1863 at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Both, as it happens, were the result of orders from Gen. George H. Thomas.[5]

General Orders No. 33 made no provision for the purchase of land for burials. On July 17, 1862, Congress passed an act authorizing the president "to purchase cemetery grounds, and cause them to be securely enclosed, to be used as a national cemetery for the soldiers who shall die in the service of the country."[6] This is the origin of an official national cemetery system, and the president delegated the authority to create cemeteries through the secretary of war to the quartermaster general of the army, who, at that time, was the highly respected and capable engineer Brig. Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs. His department began establishing and administering military cemeteries during 1862 near troop concentration points such as Camp Butler, Illinois, and Alexandria, Virginia. Despite the authority to purchase land granted by congressional act, the land for most battlefield cemeteries continued to be commandeered throughout the war, with steps toward purchase and title transfer deferred until after the hostilities.[7]

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[4] *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series 3, Vol. 2 (Washington, D.C.: G.P.O., 1899), 2; Edward Steere, "Genesis of American Graves Registration," *Military Affairs* 12, no. 3 (Autumn 1948): 153; Steere, "Origins of the National Cemetery System," 136–37.

The first War Department order relating to war burials was General Orders No. 75, September 11, 1861, which ordered the quartermaster general to supply military hospitals with blank books and forms for keeping mortuary records and the materials needed to make soldiers' headboards. It also ordered commanding officers to ensure the proper registration of burials. It did not, as is claimed by Steere and others, make commanding officers of corps and departments responsible for the burial of personnel who died under their jurisdiction. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series 3, Vol. 1 (Washington, D.C.: G.P.O., 1899), 498; Steere, "Genesis of American Graves Registration," *Military Affairs* 12, no. 3 (Autumn 1948): 151; Steere, "Origins of the National Cemetery System," 15.

[5] Holt, *American Military Cemeteries*, 53, 208.

[6] *Act to define the pay and emoluments of certain officers of the army, and for other purposes*, July 17, 1862, 12 *Statutes at Large*, 596.

[7] Steere (in "Origins of the National Cemetery System," 137), Holt (*American Military Cemeteries*, 2), and other sources say that fourteen national cemeteries were established in 1862, eight in 1863, and five in 1864. These numbers are not supported by careful reading of the archival records and published reports of the Quartermaster's Department, but neither are the correct numbers evident.

When the Civil War ended in April 1865, tens of thousands of Union dead lay buried in government and private cemeteries across the North and in battlefields and prisoner-of-war camps across the South. Thousands more lay in individual and common graves in farmers' fields and other remote spots throughout the countryside, "the numerous victims," General Meigs bitterly wrote, "of skirmishes and of assassination by bushwhackers and robbers under the guise of guerillas, whose remains bleach by the way-sides and in the woodland paths of the south."[8]

In July 1865, General Meigs ordered his officers to report the number of interments made during the war. When these reports revealed how thoroughly incomplete the government's burial records were, Meigs issued another order directing his subordinates to report on the location and condition of all "cemeteries known to them" and to make "recommendations of the means necessary to provide for the preservation of the remains therein from desecration." The result revealed such a high number of scattered graves that Meigs and his officers determined that it would be impractical to enclose and maintain every wartime burial ground in situ. Instead, Meigs initiated a massive effort to consolidate Union remains into national cemeteries.[9]

The exhumation and concentration effort began in mid 1865 at the former prisoner-of-war camp at Andersonville, Georgia, and on the battlefields of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia. It was expanded to all former war theaters in 1866. The efforts of the Quartermaster's Department were supported and encouraged by a joint congressional resolution passed April 13, 1866:

> Resolved . . . That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized and required to take immediate measures to preserve from desecration the graves of soldiers of the United States who fell in battle or died of disease in the field

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The quartermaster officers' reports from the 1860s are a minefield of inconsistencies and omissions, and a wide variety of period and secondary sources confuse the dates that cemeteries were laid out with the dates they were officially "established" (i.e., designated) as national cemeteries. Further detailed research, beyond the scope of this study, is needed to clarify the layout and establishment dates of the wartime cemeteries and thereby gain a more complete picture of how the Quartermaster's Department conceived and organized its cemeterial responsibilities prior to the end of the war.

[8] "Report of the Quartermaster General," 110, in *Report of the Secretary of War* [for 1865], part of *Message of the President of the United States and Accompanying Documents to the Two Houses of Congress* (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1866). Hereafter all annual reports of the Quartermaster General are cited as **Report of the Quartermaster General** with the relevant date and page.

[9] General Orders No. 40, July 3, 1865; quote from General Orders No. 65, October 30, 1865; Report of the Quartermaster General 1865, 110; "Care for graves of soldiers," *Baltimore Sun*, Dec. 28, 1865, 1. This newspaper article appeared in numerous other papers, including ones in New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Ohio.

> and in hospital during the war of the rebellion; to secure suitable burial-places in which they may be properly interred; and to have the grounds enclosed, so that the resting-places of the honored dead may be kept sacred forever.[10]

Congress followed this resolution in February 1867 with an act "to establish and to protect National Cemeteries." This act ordered, among other things, that each national cemetery be enclosed by a stone or iron fence and that it contain a porter's lodge by the principal entrance in which an enlisted veteran would reside to guard and protect the cemetery and give "information to parties visiting the same." The act was promulgated to the officers of the Quartermaster's Department through General Orders No. 14, March 7, 1867.[11]

The consolidation effort included the expansion and improvement of existing national cemeteries and the creation of many new ones. Wartime camp and battlefield cemeteries not previously regarded as "national" were formally "established" or designated as national cemeteries for administrative purposes. Other wartime burial grounds—some considered national—were eliminated as the consolidation progressed, such as Millen National Cemetery in Georgia and Harmony National Cemetery in D.C., both closed in 1868 with their military interments removed to other national cemeteries. The consolidation lasted on a large scale until 1871 and continued on a smaller scale for much of the next decade.[12]

Political considerations as well as the quality of regional transportation connections guided the quartermasters' decisions about which wartime burial grounds to relocate and which to retain and improve. Around Richmond, Virginia—the former Confederate capital—the Quartermaster's Department left in place and even expanded numerous small battlefield

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[10] *A Resolution respecting the Burial of Soldiers who died in the military Service of the United States during the Rebellion*, April 13, 1866, 14 *Statutes at Large*, 353.

[11] *Act to establish and to protect National Cemeteries*, Feb. 22, 1867, 14 *Statutes at Large*, 399; Report of the Quartermaster General 1869, 376.

[12] Harmony National Cemetery, within the bounds of the private Columbian Harmony Cemetery in the District of Columbia, served as a burial ground for soldiers who died of infectious diseases and for contrabands (escaped black slaves) and freedmen beginning in 1863. It contained 3,653 graves by June 30, 1867. In 1868, the army removed the remains of 531 soldiers from Harmony to Arlington National Cemetery before transferring the land, which it had purchased, back to the Columbian Harmony Association. The association agreed to maintain the remaining 3,122 graves "in good order" and to "never divert the said sites to any other purpose," but the overgrown cemetery was sold to a developer and all its interments removed to Landover, Md., in 1960. Quote from David Fisher, [Agreement copy], Oct. 1, 1868, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General (RG 92), Records Relating to Functions: Cemeterial, General Correspondence and Reports (entry 576) [hereafter cited as **RG 92, entry 576**], box 75, docket for title papers; Report of the Quartermaster General 1867, 559; Report of the Quartermaster General 1868, 896; "Workers start to clear 100-year-old cemetery," *Washington Post*, May 24, 1960, A3.

cemeteries despite the creation of a national cemetery within the city itself "for the dead collected in and around the place."[13] In Tennessee, by contrast, the department established a few large, widely separated cemeteries because the rail and river connections were considered so good as to "[afford] one of the best opportunities in the country for the establishment of national cemeteries of considerable extent, laid out with taste, and to which all the bodies for a considerable circuit around each" could be removed.[14] In Kentucky, however, the department used "the lack of railroad facilities for transportation" to justify a larger number of small national cemeteries; it also cited "the loyal character of a large portion of the [state's] population, which will prevent desecration of the graves where they now are."[15]

"The difficulties encountered in various localities, in the removal of the bodies, have been of no ordinary character," Brev. Col. Charles W. Folsom, officer in charge of the cemeteries, reported in 1868.

> The indications of graves in very many instances were almost entirely obliterated, being grown over with briers, cane, and other weeds; and not unfrequently the soil [having] been cultivated and the graves so worked over as to render it impossible to locate them from any indications on the surface. These difficulties were increased by the extremely hostile sentiments of the residents in many localities, not only to those engaged in this sacred work, but even to the dead themselves.[16]

By mid 1866, the officers of the Quartermaster's Department had established forty-one national cemeteries, shielding 104,528 dead, and had plans in place for ten more. Their contractors—all the work was done by contractors—had disinterred 87,664 bodies, and the department knew of 135,881 more that awaited removal.[17] By September 1867, when the department more fully understood the true number of reburials necessary, it had established eighty-one national cemeteries containing more than 240,000 bodies, with more than 76,000 still slated for reinterment.[18] The last year of large-scale relocations was 1871, when 2,295 bodies were transferred. By the middle of that year, further consolidation had reduced the surprisingly dynamic cemetery system to seventy-four national cemeteries containing 303,536 dead. At the same time, Quartermaster's Department records listed an

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[13] *Letter of the Secretary of War Communicating . . . the report of the inspector of the national cemeteries of the United States for 1869*, Senate Ex. Doc 62, 41st Cong., 2d Sess., Mar. 15, 1870, 105.

[14] Report of the Quartermaster General 1866, 316.

[15] Report of the Quartermaster General 1866, 318.

[16] Report of the Quartermaster General 1868, 905.

[17] Report of the Quartermaster General 1866, 322–23, 326–27.

[18] Report of the Quartermaster General 1867, 546, 559–60.

additional 14,314 military interments in 316 non-national cemeteries, but these graves made up just 4.5 percent of all Union dead then accounted for.[19]

The department's initial improvements to the cemeteries—uniform headboards and record books, enclosing fences, flagpoles, and temporary superintendent's lodges—were largely completed during 1867. The construction of permanent features—brick and stone walls, brick and stone lodges, stables and toolhouses, uniform landscaping, and, eventually, permanent rostrums—began in 1868 and continued into the 1890s. The erection of permanent marble headstones and markers, authorized by Congress in 1872, was largely completed by the end of 1878.

Burial in the national cemeteries was initially limited to those soldiers, sailors, and marines who died in the Civil War, but subsequent policy changes expanded the pool of eligible veterans. On June 1, 1872, Congress opened the national cemeteries to destitute veterans and, on March 3, 1873, after lobbying by the Grand Army of the Republic, a Union veterans' fraternity, expanded the benefit to all honorably discharged Union veterans.[20] The Quartermaster's Department enlarged existing cemeteries wherever possible to meet the resulting increase in demand for burial space and established new national cemeteries as necessary. Increased military activity in the West also led to the establishment of new cemeteries in the last quarter of the century, including ones at Fort McPherson, Nebraska (1873); Little Bighorn, Montana (1879); and San Francisco (1884). Subsequent legislation opened the cemeteries to all honorably discharged veterans, providing the foundation for the greatly expanded national cemetery system that exists today.

National Cemeteries and National Memory

Historian Catherine Zipf has described the national cemeteries as "architectural monuments to the Union cause."[21] Intentionally sited and carefully maintained throughout the former Confederacy—and filled nearly exclusively with Union dead—they were political instruments that sent powerful messages about sacrifice, conquest, and victory to Northerners and Southerners alike. As tangible artifacts of the reestablishment of federal authority, the national cemeteries became key sites where Americans enacted the memorial rituals that helped them make sense of the war and its tremendous human cost.

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[19] Report of the Quartermaster General 1871, 175.

[20] *An act to amend an act entitled "an act to establish and protect national cemeteries,"* 17 Statues at Large, 202; *An act to authorize the interment of honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, and marines in the national cemeteries of the United States*, 17 Statues at Large, 605.

[21] Catherine W. Zipf, "Marking Union Victory in the South: The Construction of the National Cemetery System," in *Monuments to the Lost Cause: Women, Art, and the Landscapes of Southern Memory*, ed. Cynthia Mills and Pamela H. Simpson (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003), 27.

Although General Meigs was honored to inform the mayor of Salisbury, North Carolina, in 1880 that "the graves of the soldiers interred in the Salisbury National Cemetery may be decorated on any day of the year," it was primarily on Decoration, or Memorial, Day that the rituals of remembrance—and eventually reconciliation—were enacted in the national cemeteries.[22] Although many American cities and towns lay claim to the first Decoration Day, the day resulted from many spontaneous local commemorations held during the war and in the first springs afterward, in which communities both South and North honored their dead by decorating military graves with cut flowers.

Selected cities and towns claiming the first Decoration or Memorial Day

Arlington Heights, Virginia, April 13, 1862
Savannah, Georgia, July 20, 1862
Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, October 1864 (also claimed as July 4, 1864)
Jackson, Mississippi, April 26, 1865
Charleston, South Carolina, May 1, 1865[23]
Petersburg, Virginia, June 9, 1865
Columbus, Mississippi, April 25, 1866
Columbus, Georgia, April 26, 1866
Memphis, Tennessee, April 26, 1866
Carbondale, Illinois, April 29, 1866
Waterloo, New York, May 5, 1866
Richmond, Virginia, May 10, 1866
Winchester, Virginia, June 6, 1866
Petersburg, Virginia, June 9, 1866[24]

Different Decoration Days developed in the North and the South, in no small part because specifically Confederate commemorations served, in historian William Blair's words, "to

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[22] Quote from Montgomery Meigs to John A. Ramsey, May 6, 1880, RG 92, entry 576, dockets for Salisbury.

[23] The memorial procession, ceremony, and grave decoration organized in Charleston on May 1, 1865, is significant among the early Decoration Days because it was organized by and for the black residents of the city to honor Union prisoners of war buried on the site of the city's former horse racing course. A reported 10,000 former slaves and other black and white residents took part. See David W. Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (Cambridge, Ma.: Harvard University Press, 2001), 65-71.

[24] The claim of Warrenton, Virginia, for the earliest Memorial Day (June 3, 1861) has been omitted as it appears from all accounts to have been simply a well-attended funeral. See Ernest C. Klein, "Origin of Memorial Day," *Annals of Iowa* 39, no. 4 (Spring 1968): 311–14, and Richard P. Harmond and Thomas J. Curran, *A History of Memorial Day: Unity, Discord, and the Pursuit of Happiness* (New York: P. Lang, 2002), ch. 1. For a discussion of the origins and meaning of Confederate Memorial Day, see W. Stuart Towns, *Enduring Legacy: Rhetoric and Ritual of the Lost Cause* (Tuscaloosa, Ala.: University of Alabama Press, 2012), 15 ff.

maintain a sectional identity that defied complete assimilation within the Union."[25] White residents of the South, particularly women, decorated Confederate graves on different days in different places. In the Deep South, April 26 was the most common day selected for Confederate Memorial Day, as it was the anniversary of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's surrender to Union Gen. William T. Sherman in 1865. In the Carolinas, the date was May 10 (the day Gen. Stonewall Jackson died). Virginians selected various dates, including May 10, June 3 (Jefferson Davis's birthday), June 9 (the anniversary of the start of the Petersburg campaign), and, eventually, May 30.[26] Before the initiation of a national Decoration Day, black citizens in the South encountered resistance to their memorial efforts from whites. In April 1866, a procession of black residents in Augusta, Georgia, carrying "flowers, wreaths, and banners" was barred by the mayor and a force of police from entering a local cemetery where Union soldiers were buried.[27] Significantly, the Union burials in Augusta were removed to the national cemetery at Marietta by the end of 1868.[28]

In the North, Decoration Day first developed in imitation of, and in reaction to, Southern practice. In 1867, "loyal" white residents of Louisville, Kentucky, reacted to "rebel" whites decorating Confederate graves by organizing a Decoration Day at Cave Hill National Cemetery. "The rebel ladies have frequently strewn the graves of the rebel dead with flowers," a newspaper reporter complained, "but heretofore the defenders of the old flag have slept uncared for. The Grand Army of the Republic and loyal ladies took the matter in hand," he continued, and organized a "very large procession" to the national cemetery on the morning of June 19, "where the graves were strewn with flowers, evergreens and immortelles by fair hands of loyal women. Fully three thousand persons were present." Memorial addresses accompanied the decoration, and soldiers and a band added a degree of pomp. "The graves were nearly all ornamented with miniature flags, in addition to flowers and wreaths, and presented a beautiful effect." The reported concluded, "No negroes were present."[29]

A single annual Memorial Day developed in the North from the efforts of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), a fraternal organization founded in Illinois in 1866 to promote the interests of Union veterans and to further the political careers of Illinois Republicans Gen.

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[25] William A. Blair, *Cities of the Dead: Contesting the Memory of the Civil War in the South, 1865–1914* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 2004), 50.

[26] Martha E. Kinney, "'If Vanquished I am Still Victorious': Religious and Cultural Symbolism in Virginia's Confederal Memorial Day Celebrations, 1866–1930," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 106, no. 3 (Summer 1998): 237–66.

[27] "From Macon, Georgia," *Daily Alta California,* May 30, 1866, 1.

[28] *Report of the inspector of the national cemeteries for 1869*, 43.

[29] "Honors to the loyal dead," clipping from the *Herald*, June [20?], 1867, in RG 92, entry 576, Cave Hill.

John A. Logan and Gov. Richard Oglesby.[30] Logan was elected commander-in-chief of the GAR in 1868. In May of that year he issued an order to GAR members, authored mainly by his colleague Norton P. Chipman, designating May 30 as Memorial Day, with the hope that the observance would become an annual event. Two years previous, Logan had been the main speaker at a decoration observance in Carbondale, Illinois; his participation there was one of a number of influences that led to the GAR's call for a national Memorial Day.[31] As a result of Logan's 1868 call, 183 cemetery observances in twenty-seven states are known to have occurred. In 1869, 336 cities in thirty-one states took part, and the importance of Decoration Day (as it was most often called in the North, despite the GAR leadership's preference for "Memorial Day") only grew from there. The state of New York made May 30 a holiday in 1873; by 1890 it was a state holiday throughout the North.[32] President Andrew Johnson allowed federal employees to take time off from their duties to participate in the ceremonies of 1868,[33] but it was not until 1872 did President Ulysses Grant began the practice of closing the executive departments in honor of the day.[34] Congress moved the observance of Memorial Day from May 30 to the last Monday in May in 1968, effective 1971.[35]

Local GAR posts took the lead in organizing what became known as the "national" Decoration Day ceremonies, which took place in national and private cemeteries alike. So strong was the GAR's association with the day that General Meigs had to issue a statement in 1873 reminding the public that "all organized processions or parties desiring to take part in the ceremonies will be admitted."[36] The proceedings typically included a procession of soldiers, veterans, bands, and dignitaries; music and orations in the cemeteries; and the

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[30] The Grand Army of the Republic was intensely partisan in support of Radical Republican political issues during its first years. After initial growth, it suffered a decline in membership during the 1870s, reaching just under 27,000 members in 1876. The organization's leading role in organizing an annual and national Memorial Day contributed to a surge in new members in the 1880s. At its peak during the 1880s and 1890s—the membership in 1890 numbered over 400,000—the organization was a powerful lobby on behalf of handicapped and indigent veterans and a leading proponent of particular strandds of patriotism and American nationalism. For an analysis of the history, meaning, and social context of the GAR in late-nineteenth-century America, see Stuart McConnell, *Glorious Contentment: The Grand Army of the Republic, 1865–1900* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1992). Quote from page xiv.

[31] Norton P. Chipman and John A. Logan, Grand Army of the Republic General Orders No. 11, May 5, 1868, quoted in Robert B. Beath, *History of the Grand Army of the Republic* (New York: Willis McDonald & Co., 1888), 90–91.

[32] Blight, *Race and Reunion*, 71.

[33] Executive Order of May 28, 1868.

[34] Executive Order of May 27, 1872.

[35] *Uniform Monday Holiday Act*, Public Law 90-363, 90th Cong., 2d sess., June 28, 1968.

[36] "The national cemeteries and the G.A.R. on Decoration Day," Alexandria, Va., *Daily State Journal*, May 23, 1873, 1.

decoration of graves with small flags, flowers, or both. Organizers tended to aim for grand and dignified formality, or what the *New York Times* described in 1870 as "imposing processions and solemn ceremonials."[37] That year's observances at Cypress Hills National Cemetery in East New York (now part of Brooklyn) included an estimated 10,000 people, including 3,500 members of eighteen GAR posts, who marched into the cemetery behind a U.S. Marine band. The Brooklyn Choral Union sang a chorus from Handel's *Messiah*, and Rev. William H. Boole gave the opening prayer, followed by an introductory address by Col. A. J. H. Duganne and the main oration by Gen. James B. McKean. The decoration of the 3,000 graves in the cemetery with flags and flowers followed. The 461 Confederate prisoners' graves in the cemetery are not mentioned in reports and were probably not decorated.[38]

Decoration Day observances in the North, such as the 1870 ceremony at Cypress Hills, frequently included both white and black participation. (There were many black GAR posts, and a large number of integrated posts.) In the South, however, memorial exercises were largely segregated, as whites focused their Memorial Day activities on Confederate graves and blacks focused theirs on the Union graves in the national cemeteries. Decoration Day ceremonies were not universally observed at all national cemeteries in the South during the 1870s and 1880s, but, where they were, they were largely organized by and for the African American community. On May 30, 1871, for example, between 4,000 and 5,000 black Virginians decorated the graves at Richmond National Cemetery, accompanied by a band of musicians and a few white GAR members. Outside the cemetery gate, entrepreneurial men and women set up tents and stands to sell food and drink, leading the superintendent, white Union veteran Patrick Hart, to complain to Quartermaster Henry Hodges that he "had to be on the go all day driveing out of the cemetery the boys with baskits of kakes [and] buckits of lemonade which they ware huckstering through the cemetery."[39]

So many people attended the event at Salisbury National Cemetery that same year that the grass and shrubbery were trampled. Superintendent George W. Harbinson objected to the blatantly partisan Republicans invited to speak, feeling, he told Quartermaster James Ekin, that they excited the overwhelmingly black crowd too much. As a result, he prohibited political speechmaking on the following Decoration Day, but Ekin, passing Harbinson's report on to General Meigs, noted,

> The various National Cemeteries throughout the country were thrown open to the people on Decoration Day, by order of the Quartermaster General of the Army to enable them to testify their respect for the remains of the brave

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[37] "Memorial Day," *New York Times*, May 31, 1870, 1.

[38] Ibid.

[39] Patrick Hart to Henry C. Hodges, May 31, 1871, RG 92, entry 576, Richmond.

> men who died that the Republic might live. At some point there may have been irregularities, but I do not think the ceremonies on that account should be discontinued nor do I believe that the liberty of Speech should be abridged."[40]

Meigs agreed:

> Difficulties are to be expected in such localities as Salisbury. It is believed, however, to be best to put the grounds in order and admit the people on Decoration, and on all other, days, and not to attempt to limit free speech. The observation of the day will tend speedily hereafter to bring about a better feeling and in the end the graves will be reverenced on the true ground that they are occupied by men who died for their country—who left to their successors examples of public spirit and devotion to their native or adopted country.[41]

In 1873, a predominantly black crowd of 6,000 attended the May 30 observances at Nashville National Cemetery, and 5,000 turned out at Memphis National Cemetery the following year.[42] The cemetery superintendents were instructed to make the crowds welcome. "The 30th of May has been specially designated as the day for the annual decoration of the graves of those who died in defense of our Country," General Meigs's instructions began. They continued,

> You will therefore cause the Cemeteries under your charge to be put in as good conditions as practicable prior to that day and instruct the superintendents, or others in charge, to admit all organized processions or parties visiting them for the purpose indicated, and to extend to them all necessary facilities so far as in their power. All work on the Cemeteries will be suspended during that day, except such as may be necessary in making preparation for the occasion.[43]

By Decoration Day 1874, Salisbury has a new superintendent, who reported that 800 black citizens came to the ceremonies that year. "There were, including myself," W. W.

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[40] James A. Ekin, 4th endorsement [June 20, 1872] to the docket enclosing George W. Harbinson to James A. Ekin, June 13, 1872, RG 92, entry 576, Salisbury.

[41] Meigs, 5th endorsement [June 25, 1872] to the docket enclosing Harbinson to Ekin, June 13, 1872, RG 92, entry 576, Salisbury.

[42] "Decoration day," *Nashville Union and American*, May 31, 1873, 4; "Decoration day," *Memphis Daily Appeal*, May 31, 1874, 1.

[43] Quartermaster General's instructions quoted in A. J. McGonnigle to S. F. Barstow, Apr. 8, 1874, RG 92, entry 576, Raleigh

Richardson wrote, "but eight white people present, four being ladies," and three being the three main speakers. Flags, donated by a GAR post, decorated all graves. "Many of the people who were present had to purchase flowers. Many who could not obtain flowers brought bunches of pine and cedar. All seemed anxious to show their respect for the gallant dead."[44]

Creating a useable past from the horrendous conflict of the Civil War was a complex and contested process that played out over many years. The sectional rancor frequently heard in Americans' memorial rhetoric in the first years after the war began to be replaced during the 1870s by a rhetoric of reconciliation that embraced the Southern myth of the Lost Cause and held that "the line which separated the blue from the gray in life has been obliterated by death. . . . Both gave their lives for what they believed to be right. . . . Both conceiving that they were obeying the commands of duty, accomplished all that heroism could accomplish. Both illustrated American valor, and the deeds they performed have already become the common heritage of the nation."[45] Reconciliation allowed whites to move beyond mourning and sectional division to an appearance of national unity, but it ignored the moral struggle for the rights and freedoms of blacks that had been at the war's core. One result was an increase in joint memorial commemorations. Although Union and Confederate graves in Mound City National Cemetery, Illinois, had been jointly decorated since the very first observance at that place, and Union and Confederate veterans marked the day together as early as 1873 at St. Louis's Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, only in the mid 1870s and later did such equal treatment become ordinary.[46] For example, the Ladies Memorial Society of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, after decorating the city's Confederate graves on Confederate Memorial Day, April 26, 1876, marched to the national cemetery to decorate the Union graves, while on May 30 of that year, ex-Federal and ex-Confederate soldiers decorated the Union graves in Nashville National Cemetery together for the first time. Significantly, the Confederate graves in Arlington National Cemetery were not decorated until President William McKinley ordered them honored for the first time in 1898.[47]

Despite the increased participation by Southern whites in memorial observances in the federal cemeteries, May 30 remained an important community occasion for Southern blacks, as an 1888 article in the Wilmington, North Carolina, *Messenger* reveals:

> National Memorial Day was observed in the city yesterday. Flags were floated at half-mast from all public buildings, and business was partially

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[44] W. W. Richardson to Quartermaster General, June 1, 1874, RG 92, entry 576, Salisbury.

[45] "Decorating the federal graves," *Atlanta Constitution*, May 31, 1885, 6.

[46] "Blue and gray," Columbia, S.C., *Daily Phoenix*, June 20, 1873; "The Blue and the Gray," *Nashville Union and American*, May 31, 1873, 1.

[47] H. M. Fowler to I. O. Shelby, Apr. 27, 1876, RG 92, entry 576, Baton Rouge; "Nashville," *Memphis Daily Appeal*, May 31, 1876, 1; Zipf, "Marking Union Victory," 42.

> suspended at the Postoffice and Custom House. There was, however, no general closing of stores or turnout on the part of white people, due, not by any want of respect amongst them for the day, nor the memory of those whom it is designed to honor by its observance, but to the fact that here National Memorial day means a holiday and general outpouring of the colored people.[48]

The ceremonies that day began with an afternoon procession, estimated to include 3,000 people, from city hall to the national cemetery. "[W]hen at last the [cemetery] gates were thrown open by Capt. Grant, the foreground all about the speaker's stand was quickly filled by the eager and expectant crowd." The music was provided by an African-American band and choir. Rev. Charles T. Coerr, a white Protestant Episcopal clergyman delivered the oration.[49]

Other decoration ceremonies at the national cemeteries in the South were similar. Colored Union veterans paraded to Natchez National Cemetery in 1889, where "great throngs" carrying flowers for the decorating heard the memorial speeches. "The exercises were carried on almost entirely by colored people," a local newspaper reported, "as there are not a great many white ex-Federal soldiers in our midst, but of the few here several took part yesterday." At Beaufort National Cemetery in 1890, the Robert Anderson Post of the GAR, the only white post in the state of South Carolina, did not attend the decoration ceremonies because, the *Atlanta Constitution* reported, the observances were handled "entirely by colored people and their white republican leaders." Two years later, the same paper observed that more than a thousand black Georgians had gone by steamer and railroad to Beaufort to attend the Decoration Day exercises at the national cemetery. "Negroes have flocked into that town from all the surrounding country and probably twenty thousand will be there tomorrow, the greatest crowd ever know at that place."[50]

Southern whites frequently refused to take seriously the memorial observances blacks held at the national cemeteries, failing to appreciate them as the public celebrations of liberation that they were. "The solemnity of the exercises was much marred by the cries of cake, lemonade, and peanut-venders, who made the most noisy efforts to dispose of their wares," the *Richmond Daily Dispatch* complained in 1868. Superintendent S. S. Cole at Camp Nelson, Kentucky, informed Quartermaster Rufus Sexton in 1886, "Decoration Day was not observed at this Cemetery this year as the nice people told me that they could not come with

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[48] "The Thirtieth of May," *Wilmington Messenger*, May 31, 1888, clipping in RG 92, entry 576, Wilmington.

[49] Ibid.

[50] "Federal Decoration Day," clipping from unidentified newspaper, May 31, 1889, RG 92, entry 576, Natchez; "They didn't decorate," *Atlanta Constitution*, May 31, 1890, 3; "Flocking to Beaufort," *Atlanta Constitution*, May 30, 1892, 2.

their Familys as the crowd that had been in the habit of coming was a set of Loafers and Decoration was called a drunken picnic."[51] Reports from at Florence, South Carolina, in 1889 present another typical case. The population of Florence at the time was about 4,000, split three-fifths black and two-fifths white. There had not been a Decoration Day ceremony at Florence National Cemetery before, so a local committee of black citizens organized one. It included a procession, led by three brass bands, that the organizers described as "the largest procession ever seen in this place." Estimates vary, but between 3,500 and 5,000 people attended, all of them black except for four. William J. Elgie, the cemetery superintendent, welcomed the observance by having a temporary speakers' stand built and furnishing it with his own chairs from the cemetery lodge. Attendees began to arrive "soon after daylight, camping out, preparing, cooking, and eating breakfast, &c." Elgie worked to discourage those in attendance from wandering among the graves and sitting on the headstones. At one point one of the bands struck up a waltz, and people began to dance, but Elgin also put a stop to this. The only other incident was a small fight, which Elgin broke up; he later succeeded at having a few of the men involved arrested and fined. The sheer number of people in the small, 4-acre cemetery caused some damage to the grass and shrubs, but Elgie and his laborers quickly mended it in the following weeks.[52]

The Rev. T. T. B. Reed of Sumter, South Carolina, a GAR member and African Methodist Episcopal minister, participated in the observance and wrote to one of its organizers expressing the profound effect the day had on him:

> [I]t was not my priviledge to be, as in all preceeding years, in line with only fraternal Comrade Soldiers and Sailors, who wore the Blue, yet I am free to confess, I experienced a more hallowed significance in this last Memorial Day than the others. . . . I am pleased to testify . . . that our people did great honor to the memory of our departed Comrades . . . [and] their conduct, both in and out of the Cemetery and all along the line of our procession, was such as could only be expected from a people whose hearts are filled with gratitude for services done them as well as [to] the Nation. . . . In conclusion, please permit me to state I think it reprehensible ill grace for any one to hurl their malignant falsehoods at a set of people because they (our people) after waiting years for others to take the lead in hallowing the memory of our precious dead, and after patiently waiting to see it done and failing in the sight, happen to go and do it themselves, with such exemplary order, and

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[51] *Richmond Daily Dispatch*, June 1, 1868, quoted in Blair, *Cities of the Dead*, 72; S. S. Cole to Rufus Saxton, June 1, 1886, RG 92, entry 576, Camp Nelson.

[52] W. J. Elgie to E. B. Kirk, May 31, 1889; W. J. Bradford, et al., to the Secretary of War, June 25, 1889; Charles H. Townsend to General [R. N. Batchelder?], Aug. 6, 1889; quote from William P. Duvall, report to the Inspector General of the Army, Aug. 17, 1889; all RG 92, entry 576, Florence.

> reverence, as it was done by the Colored Societies and Citizens of Florence and vicinity."[53]

The "falsehoods" Reed mentions were from unsympathetic local newspaper accounts, which amplified the brief dancing into evidence of disrespect. The *Darlington News* reported:

> Dancing Not Decorating.
>
> Last Thursday about four thousand colored people . . . came purposely to decorate the graves of the Union soldiers . . . . This is their first decoration of the kind, and we can confidently assert that it will be their last. No fault could be found with their behavior on the streets, but while in the cemetery they used that sacred place the same as [they] would a picnic ground. While the bands were playing a dirge the young men and women began to waltz. They paid no heed to the regulations. Shrubbery, brushes, and everything of like nature were trampled upon or broken down in some manner. Capt. Elgie will report the affair to headquarters, and no doubt those in charge will prohibit such desecration in the future.[54]

Superintendent Elgie reported only the minor fight to his superiors, the damage to the grounds being nearly unavoidable, but the rumor of future exclusion led the procession's organizers to write to the secretary of war seeking protection from "those who attempted to bring dire contumely and calumny on thousands of loyal citizens when they, protected by the stars and stripes, marched out to lay flowers on the graves [of] the defenders of the Union."[55]

Army inspector Lt. William P. Duvall looked into the situation and found it to be a simple misunderstanding, but he also appears to have failed to understand how the day had a deep and even celebratory resonance for black citizens. "[T]his being the first experience of these people (they were all colored and embraced practically no ex-soldiers), they did not, perhaps *could* not, appreciate the solemnity of the occasion, and hence did not exhibit the proper frame of mind, but looked upon the whole things rather as a frolic." (Emphasis in original.) Duvall noted that one Captain Whipple, a wealthy local planter and former Union officer, was "indignant" at what he perceived as the crowd's lack of decorum, particularly

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[53] T. T. B. Reed to W. J. Bradford, July 1, 1889, RG 92, entry 576, Florence.

[54] Undated clipping from the *Kingston County Record*, quoting the *Darlington News*, included with W. J. Bradford, et al., to the Secretary of War, June 25, 1889, RG 92, entry 576, Florence.

[55] W. J. Elgie to E. B. Kirk, May 31, 1889; quote from W. J. Bradford, et al., to the Secretary of War, June 25, 1889; both RG 92, entry 576, Florence.

the fact that they had brought almost no flowers, but nevertheless concluded that "the deportment of the large crowd was acceptable and orderly."[56]

Large crowds were a common feature of Decoration Day exercises at national cemeteries in both the North and the South throughout the decades after the war. In addition to the examples already noted, Quartermaster James Ekin informed General Meigs in 1880 that between 5,000 and 7,000 citizens of New Albany, Jeffersonville, and other places in southern Indiana usually attended the decoration ceremonies held at New Albany National Cemetery. A crowd of 8,000 came to Loudon Park National Cemetery in Baltimore for the ceremonies of 1881, although local GAR officer William Ross felt that 10,000 to 12,000 attendees was typical.[57]

The First Rostrums in the National Cemeteries

The enormous popularity of Decoration Day observances in the national cemeteries led to the frequent construction of temporary speakers' stands to accommodate orators, choirs, and brass bands. In May 1870, when Gen. John Logan gave the main address at Arlington National Cemetery, the Quartermaster's Department built two temporary wood stands, one for the Marine Band and one for the speakers. At Knoxville National Cemetery in 1873, the temporary speakers' and musicians' stands built on the superintendent's initiative were completed the day before the ceremonies. In 1874, an inspector at Jefferson City noted the wooden stage for speakers built around the cemetery's flagstaff. In 1877, the wagon that carried the band into Cave Hill National Cemetery for the Decoration Day exercises doubled as a speakers' platform. At the Soldiers' Home in D.C., the crowd gathered around an old arbor during memorial observances.[58]

The repeated expense of temporary rostrums led to the construction of the first permanent national cemetery rostrums in May 1873 at Keokuk, Iowa, and Arlington, Virginia. The example at Keokuk was proposed as early as February 1873 in a letter to General Meigs from Maj. Alexander J. Perry, chief quartermaster for the Department of the Platte at Omaha, Nebraska. In May, Perry forwarded the final design, prepared in his office, to Meigs for approval, despite having already ordered construction to commence in order to be completed by Decoration Day. "I request that early action may be taken," Perry wrote

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[56] William P. Duvall, report to the Inspector General of the Army, Aug. 17, 1889, RG 92, entry 576, Florence.

[57] James Ekin to Quartermaster General, May 1, 1880, RG 92, entry 576, New Albany; Meigs to Secretary of War, June 4, 1881, and Wm E. W. Ross to Col. C. W. Foster, June 23, 1881, both RG 92, entry 576, Loudon Park; Report of the Quartermaster General 1881, 456.

[58] "Memorial Day," *New York Times*, May 31, 1870, 1; "Local miscellany," *Knoxville Daily Chronicle*, May 30, 1872, 4; Oscar A. Mack, report of inspection for Jefferson City, Oct. 21, 1874, RG 92, entry 576, Jefferson City; G. W. Northup to James A. Ekin, June [ ], 1877, copy included with a report of the Board of Trustees of Cave Hill Cemetery Company, June 1877, RG 92, entry 576, Cave Hill; A. F. Rockwell to Quartermaster General, Apr. 1, 1880, RG 92, entry 576, Soldiers' Home.

Meigs, "as there would be much disappointment should the work not be completed by that time." Meigs approved construction with the terse note, "It is too late to alter."[59]

The Keokuk rostrum was octagonal in plan and comprised a stone podium 3' high x 12' across surmounted by a wood superstructure and roof. The podium was built of quarry-faced blocks and featured shallow buttresses at each corner. A flight of four stone steps, framed by cheek walls with terra-cotta vases, led from the ground onto the rostrum's wood floor. The 12'-high superstructure, made of pine, supported a deeply overhanging pine roof sheathed in tin. The superstructure was decorated with chamfering and applied panelwork on the upright posts, scroll-sawn ornament on the arches and spandrels between the posts, and pierced and cut fascia boards. Turned balusters supported a railing guarding the perimeter of the podium. The entire composition, built for $506, was capped by a 5'-high turned finial projecting from the pinnacle of the roof (Figure 1).[60]

At Arlington National Cemetery, the rostrum was one component of an amphitheater designed by General Meigs himself to accommodate the cemetery's rapidly growing Decoration Day crowds.[61] The amphitheater contained a sunken assembly area 96' wide x 68' deep planted with grass and surrounded by an elliptical berm. An openwork wood trellis carried by three concentric rows of square, brick piers rose from the berm to create an encircling pergola that defined the area as a memorial precinct. The rostrum interrupted the pergola on the amphitheater's north side and comprised a raised base or podium, columns, and its own trellis roof. The podium was rectangular in plan and measured 41.5' wide x 28.5' deep. Its walls were articulated by slightly projecting pilasters and a regular rhythm of inset dados. Twelve unfluted Ionic columns rose from the podium to support the trellis roof. The podium and columns were made of brick, although the latter were rendered with stucco and married to cast-iron capitals and bases. Two cut-stone staircases led onto the rostrum along the sides. A marble "alter desk" or lectern inscribed "E Pluribus Unum," designed by architect John L. Smithmeyer of Washington, D.C., and made by William Struther and Sons, of Philadelphia, was added to the center front of the rostrum, facing the assembly area, in 1880.

The amphitheater was built entirely within the month of May 1873, in order to serve that year's May 30 memorial observances. Its construction required the hiring of twenty-three carpenters, twelve bricklayers, and thirty laborers. The haste with which the structure was

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[59] Alex. J. Perry to Quartermaster General, May 12, 1873; Meigs, note on docket slip, May 19, 1873, both RG 92, entry 576, Keokuk.

[60] Elevation and plan for cemetery pavilion at Keokuk, May 1873; "Description of Pavilion for National Cemetery at Keokuk, Ia. [May 1873]; W. H. Owen, report of inspection for Keokuk, June 12, 1883; all RG 92, entry 576, Keokuk.

[61] For a complete history and description of this rostrum, see "Arlington National Cemetery, Old Amphitheater," HABS No. VA-1248-A.

built is reflected in the rostrum's columns. While the cast-iron capitals and bases are stock castings intended to go with fluted shafts, the stuccoed shafts were left unfluted. Meigs had, in fact, wanted to use cast-iron shafts that matched the caps and bases, but the manufacturer, James L. Jackson & Brother of New York City, had no shafts in stock and could not produce them in the time available. Meigs wrote the firm to order the ironwork on May 5: "If there be any difficulty in getting these delivered in Washington by the 15th instant, then send only caps and bases, which I presume can be shipped immediately, and I will have the shafts built of brick and stucco." The company telegraphed on May 6 to say they could supply the capitals and bases by the 18th. Meigs agreed to this date, but the first to "dispatch each piece as soon as finished. The building is rapidly going up." He also noted, "I prefer the Roman Ionic to the Greek. But for the sake of early delivery am willing to use the Greek, i.e., the cap with ornamented neck." It is the Greek Ionic that Jackson & Brother supplied, shipping the first capital and base for approval on May 8 and the balance in three batches on the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth. Their bill for $1,464 arrived in Washington on May 19.[62]

The Arlington amphitheater still stands. With its enclosed precinct, classical details, and peristyle form, was designed to evoke the speakers' stands of classical antiquity as well as to harness the republican associations of neoclassical architecture. At the same time, the floor of the Arlington rostrum was originally sodded, and the extensive trelliswork of the pergola and the rostrum roof were covered by hanging vines in order to knit the amphitheater into the carefully curated memorial landscape of the cemetery.[63] In contrast, the modestly sized Keokuk rostrum—called simply a "pavilion" in planning documents—does not seem to have been designed with any grand associational or landscape goals in mind. Its *au courant* scroll-sawn ornament marked it primarily a garden folly, and only secondarily was it a ceremonial stand. Revealingly, Lt. Col. Oscar Mack, inspector of the national cemeteries, described the Keokuk pavilion after an October 1874 visit as "a handsome summer-house . . . containing seats for visitors, and affording fine views of the cemetery and its surroundings." A series of stereoviews from 1877 shows park benches installed in the pavilion.[64]

In 1875, the secretary of war ordered the construction of a rostrum for Decoration Day in the national cemetery at the Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois (Figure 2). Although rectangular in

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[62] "Memorial Day 1873," *Washington Evening Star*, May 30, 1873, 1; Meigs to J. L. Jackson & Bro., May 5, 1873, and May 7, 1873, both RG 92, entry 567 (Cemeterial letters sent), vol. for 1873: 220, 228; RG 92, entry 571 (Registers of letters received, 1871–89), vol. 3: 162, 164, 170, 179, 181, 182, 187.

[63] General Meigs ordered climbing plants for the Arlington amphitheater from Miller and Hayes of Philadelphia; Meigs to Miller & Hayes, May 7, 1873; Meigs to William Myers, May 7, 1873, both RG 92, entry 567, vol. for 1873, 228–29.

[64] Oscar A. Mack, *Report of the Inspector of National Cemeteries for the Year 1874*, Senate Ex. Doc. 28, 43d Cong., 2d sess., Feb. 26, 1875, 127; stereographic views of Keokuk, 1877, RG 92, entry 576, Keokuk.

plan, the resulting building bore no resemblance to either the rostrum at Arlington or the pavilion at Keokuk. Measuring about 31' wide x 21' deep x 18' high, it was built entirely of wood atop low brick foundation walls for $780. It had a heavy hipped roof supported by ten slender posts projecting from a substantial perimeter railing. Slender cross bracing inserted between the posts under the roof line formed a primary decorative element in the design. A three-sided projection at the center front of the rostrum, shielded by a pent roof, marked the speaker's position. Although smaller in footprint than the Arlington rostrum, the Rock Island speakers' stand was a bold and exciting building that fairly dominated the tiny, 1-acre cemetery. Its designer has not been identified.[65]

The First Standard Rostrums

General Meigs and the officers in charge of the national cemeteries hoped to build additional permanent rostrums during the mid 1870s. A rostrum measuring 35' long x 20' wide based on the one at Arlington was designed for Knoxville National Cemetery about 1874 or 1875, but it was not built due to lack of funds.[66] In June 1878, however, Congress approved an appropriation of $100,000 for maintenance and improvement of the national cemeteries during the 1879 fiscal year, and, with this funding in mind, Capt. Almon F. Rockwell, officer in charge of the national cemeteries, suggested to Meigs that a rostrum based on the plan created for Knoxville be erected at Soldiers' Home National Cemetery in D.C. "My idea is that, after erecting one at Soldiers Home, it will be a guide for others which I think it would be well to put up now that we have the means—Cypress Hills, Antietam, Knoxville, Camp Nelson, Vicksburg &c where decoration day is decently observed."[67]

Meigs endorsed this idea, and plans for a standard rostrum were completed in November 1878. The design, based on Meigs's Arlington rostrum, featured a wood trellis roof shading a raised, rectangular brick podium with neoclassical detailing. The Ionic columns used at Arlington were omitted in favor of twelve square Doric piers like those employed in the Arlington pergola. The podium—a platform about 5' high with perimeter walls articulated

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[65] Maintenance ledger sheet for Rock Island rostrum, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Historical File (RG 15/A-1, entry 25), Rock Island folders (hereafter cited as **RG 15**); Report of the Quartermaster General 1876, 132.

[66] When a rostrum was finally built at Knoxville in 1879, Meigs wrote to Horace Maynard, U.S. minister at Constantinople, to inform him of its completion. In reply, Maynard, who as U.S. Representative for the state of Tennessee took an interest in the development of the Knoxville National Cemetery in 1873 and 1874, wrote, "I confess my hope had grown a little weak, and the pleasure of such a communication from you was hardly anticipated." Horace Maynard to M. C. Meigs, June 25, 1879, RG 92, entry 576, Chattanooga. See also correspondence from Maynard in RG 92, entry 576, Knoxville.

[67] *An act making appropriations for the support of the Army for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, and for other purposes*, 20 Statutes at Large, 148; A. F. Rockwell, "Rostrum for the Soldiers' Home National Cemetery," June 25, 1878, RG 92, entry 576, Soldiers' Home.

by shallow pilasters and inset dado panels—was kept largely the same; as at Arlington, it was designed to be filled with earth and covered with grass, while the openwork roof was specifically intended to support climbing vines. The alternative design paths suggested by the unique rostrums at Keokuk and Rock Island were not followed in any way.

The standard rostrum measured about 38' long x 23' wide x 18' high overall and was to be built of good, hard red brick laid in lime and sand mortar, with wood girders and stringers, iron-bar railings running between the outer piers, and two sets of cut-stone steps leading up from the ground along the shorter sides.

The Quartermaster's Department awarded five contracts for the construction of standard rostrums at seven of the most visited national cemeteries at the beginning of February 1879. The selected cemeteries were Chalmette, Louisiana; Antietam, Maryland; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Knoxville, Tennessee; Vicksburg, Mississippi; Jefferson Barracks, Missouri; and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Soldiers' Home was not selected due to difficulties securing a site.

The contracts for these rostrums obligated the builders to start construction by February 15, 1879, and to finish by May 25. For the Chalmette rostrum, contractor Charles Hense of Washington, D.C., traveled to Louisiana in early February to hire workers and secure building materials. He had difficulty finding bricks of sufficient quality to meet the Quartermaster's standards, but, in consultation with James Gall Jr., the civil engineer superintending the work for the department, he was allowed to use the best he could find and to compensate for their lack of smoothness and uniformity by painting them and "penciling" in the mortar joints. By mid March, Hense's workers had the brick walls up, "the piers built, the drainage and earth filling in, the galvanized iron caps in, [and] the woodwork dressed and framed ready to put up." Despite the problems with the local brick, Gall noted that the "wood in the girders and stringers is of excellent quality, and when oiled looks well and will stand the weather." Hense had the rostrum completed by the middle of April. The other new rostrums were also completed with time to spare, except for the one at Chattanooga, which was "substantially completed" by May 29 but only accepted at the end of July after the replacement of a broken step, the leading of the railings and stanchions, and the correction of other defects.[68]

At the time of bid, the Quartermaster's Department provided each contractor with a single sheet of specifications and a single sheet of plans showing front elevation, side elevation, plan, and wall cross section; these basic construction documents left many details to the

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[68] James Gall Jr. to A. F. Rockwell, Feb. 19, 1879; Gall to Rockwell, Mar. 21, 1879; Gall, telegram to Rockwell, Apr. 19, 1879; all RG 92, entry 576, Chalmette; Gall to Rockwell, July 29, 1879, RG 92, entry 576, Chattanooga.

judgment of the builders.[69] Charles Hense noticed that the rostrum as designed was at risk for damage from water penetration through the podium walls, the podium coping, and the tops of the piers. He proposed changes when he bid for the rostrum at Chalmette:

> I would recommend that a cap of galvanized iron to be placed on the top of each of the pillars, under the wood work to prevent water from pickering into the brickwork of the pillars. Also that the top of the sustaining wall around the terrace to be covered with the best Portland Cement, for the same purpose[,] and the wall to be build [*sic*] with an air space . . . for the purpose of preventing the water entering between the terrace & wall from doing any damage by freezing &c.[70]

Hense was permitted to incorporate these changes, and they appear to have prompted Gall to propose similar preventative changes to the quartermaster general. Meigs ordered modifications to the rostrums under construction on March 4:

- Waterproofing the inside of the brick walls using cement
- Substitution of cement for lime mortar in brick work
- Substitution of cut-stone coping with molded edge for brick atop the podium walls
- Substitution of cut-stone caps with molded edge for brick atop the piers
- Installation of drainage through the earth fill within the podium
- Oiling of the woodwork

These changes added $662 each to the cost of the Knoxville and Vicksburg rostrums (for total costs of $1,452 and $1,542, respectively), $601 to Chattanooga ($1,276 total), $485 to Antietam ($1,400), and $532 to Gettysburg ($1,632).[71] Except for the drainage, the changes were not made at Chalmette, where the work was too far advanced to make them and where the contractor's alternative changes had already obviated them.[72]

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[69] Many copies of the Nov. 1878 "Plan for Rostrum for National Military Cemeteries" survive in the dockets for the various cemeteries in RG 92. No copies of the 1878 specifications have been found, but their content can be extrapolated from the 1882 revised specifications preserved in the RG 92 dockets for Fort Leavenworth.

[70] [Charles Hense], "Referring to the plans for the Rostrums . . . ," [Feb. 1873], RG 92, entry 576, Chalmette.

[71] J. M. Marshall to Quartermaster General, Apr. 1, 1879, RG 92, entry 576, Gettysburg; James Gall Jr. to A. F. Rockwell, Apr. 11, 1879, RG 92, entry 576, Chattanooga; Gall to A. J. McGonnigle, Apr. 11, 1879, RG 92, entry 576, Chattanooga.

[72] Gall to Rockwell, Mar. 21, 1879; Charles House to A. F. Rockwell, May 13, 1879, RG 92, entry 576, Chalmette.

Capt. James M. Marshall, the quartermaster responsible for calculating the additional costs at Antietam and Gettysburg, asked that gas pipe be substituted for flat iron bar in the rostrum railings, and he appears to have been allowed to make this change on these two rostrums.[73] The change was not made to the other five rostrums, and Gall wrote to Captain Rockwell in May 1879,

> The weak point in the [Knoxville] Rostrum, this and all the others, is the railing which is entirely too light to resist the pressure of persons leaning against it. I regret that this did not occur to me at the time when I suggested the other changes. The defect can be remedied to some extent, however, by putting in additional and stouter stanchions. The step railings are strong enough and well braced, the stanchions in them being very close together.[74]

Captain Rockwell, reporting the completion of the rostrums in the quartermaster general's annual report to the secretary of war, noted that "vines have been planted around [the new rostrums] to afford shade and to add to their appearance." The Hagerstown, Maryland, *Herald and Torch* reported that the Antietam rostrum was planted with "grape vines, ivy vines and canadensia," and that "ere long this structure will be covered with these vines, not only adding beauty but an agreeable shade on decoration occasions."[75]

An eighth rostrum based on the standard plan was constructed in 1880. In January of that year, James Gall visited the New Albany National Cemetery in Indiana and noted in his inspection report to Rockwell that

> There is a large Circle toward the rear end of the Cemetery, in the line of the main avenue, that appears to have been intended for a monument site, but is now vacant and bare. If no monument is to be erected, it would be well to utilize this fine piece of ground in some other way, by the erection of a large gun or group of guns, by putting a handsome vase in the centre and appropriately planting the ground about it, or, what would be still better, by building a Rostrum on it. The site is excellently adapted for a Rostrum, being surrounded by a wide carriage way, and in close proximity to a grove of trees under which the Decoration Ceremonies are usually held. The people of New Albany and Jeffersonville are strongly loyal, think a great deal of the National Cemetery, and would, I feel sure, appreciate very highly the beauty and convenience of a Rostrum erected on the site proposed.[76]

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[73] J. M. Marshall to Quartermaster General, Apr. 1, 1879, RG 92, entry 576, Gettysburg.

[74] James Gall Jr. to A. F. Rockwell, May 30, 1879, RG 92, entry 576, Chattanooga.

[75] Report of the Quartermaster General 1879, 366; "Sharpsburg Items," *Herald and Torch*, July 16, 1879.

[76] James Gall Jr. to A. F. Rockwell, Jan. 25, 1880, RG 92, entry 576, New Albany.

Gall's suggestion prompted acting Quartermaster General Stewart Van Vliet to order a rostrum built at New Albany "when funds are available." These became available within the year, and General Meigs, who had returned from extended leave, authorized construction at the beginning of September. "It will not be necessary to advertise formally in the newspapers," Meigs wrote to Deputy Quartermaster General Lt. Col. James A. Ekin at the Jeffersonville Depot in Indiana. "Written posters, and circulars addressed to builders at New Albany, Jeffersonville, and Louisville will answer the purpose. Submit the bids for action of this office before acceptance." The standard plans from November 1878 and what are presumed to have been revised specifications were sent from Washington, D.C., to Ekin at Jeffersonville, who provided them to potential bidders. Ekin advertised for bids on September 21 and opened the bids eight days later. The work was awarded to W. L. Samuels, about whom nothing is known, on a bid of $1,171. Construction began that fall and was completed sometime in early 1881.[77]

The New Albany National Cemetery rostrum was formally dedicated on May 30, 1881, during the cemetery's Decoration Day ceremonies. The Committee of Arrangements, made up of local citizens, invited Senator John A. Logan to be president of the day. When he declined, the committee invited Quartermaster General Meigs instead. "Your presence will be hailed with exultation by the people," chairman J. J. Brown wrote Meigs. "I have made arrangements to be at Arlington on that day," Meigs replied. Deputy Quartermaster General James Ekin served as president instead, introducing orations by Indiana Governor A. G. Porter and Augustus E. Willson, a Louisville lawyer and Ekin's son-in-law (and later governor of Kentucky). The elaborate ceremonies featured performances by a band of twenty instrumentalists, a children's quartet, an adult choir of 100 voices, and a Flower King and Queen with their "retinue of attendants." Before the orations, there was a formal "Presentation of the Rostrum to the President of the day and Governor Porter, by the Flower King and Queen," followed by the communal singing of "America" and of a specially composed "Decoration Hymn" dedicated to General Meigs. After the orations, the program concluded with more music and *tableaux vivants*, descriptions of which have, unfortunately, not been located.[78]

In April 1880, Captain Rockwell again recommended construction of a rostrum at Soldiers' Home so that Decoration Day crowds would not have to convene under a deteriorating wood arbor as had been done in previous years. Because the cemetery was entirely filled

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[77] Stewart Van Vliet to James A. Ekin, Jan. 28, 1880; Montgomery Meigs to James A. Ekin, Sept. 9, 1880; "Proposals for work at the New Albany National Cemetery," circular, Sept. 21, 1880; James A. Ekin, "Refers proposals to erect Rostrum . . . ," Sept. 30, 1880, all RG 92, entry 576, New Albany.

[78] "Personals," *New Albany Ledger-Standard*, Apr. 11, 1881; J. J. Brown to M. C. Meigs, May 23, 1881; Meigs to Brown, May 25, 1881; circular advertising "Decoration Day Exercises;" New Albany Decoration Day program, May 30, 1881, all RG 92, entry 576, New Albany.

with graves, Meigs, at Rockwell's suggestion, asked the governing board of the home for permission to build a rostrum to the standard design on land adjacent to the cemetery. The board denied his request. Faced with squeezing a rostrum into the cemetery, Rockwell prepared (or had prepared) a version of the standard plan that substituted a single rear staircase for the two side staircases and replaced the trellis roof on brick piers with a hip roof on cast-iron classical columns. He submitted the design to Meigs, who, instead of approving it, suggested, "Let a[n] octagonal rostrum with small iron arbor be built. Can be erected in place of summer house."[79]

This small rostrum was built in late 1880 or sometime in 1881 near the center of the eastern wall of the cemetery (not in place of the summer house). Maj. Benjamin C. Card, officer in charge of national cemeteries from April 1, 1881, described it as "much smaller and of a different shape" than the standard rostrums, and Gen. William T. Sherman described it as "a pagoda or Summer house in the midst of the Graves." These descriptions strongly suggest Meigs's design directions were followed, although no plans, specifications, or images of the rostrum have yet been found to confirm its size, design, or materials.[80]

The construction of eight permanent rostrums between 1879 and 1881 sparked interest among veterans' organizations and within the military for the construction of additional examples at other cemeteries. At the end of 1880, Maj. C. H. Carlton, an inspector with the Third Cavalry, reported to Major Card that

> [A]t least ten thousand discharged Union soldiers have settled in this County (in which Ft Scott National Cemetery is situated) and adjoining counties. When the road now being built [from the town to the cemetery] is completed, it will be the most attractive drive in the Vicinity, and bring great numbers of visitors to the Cemetery. The size of the Cemetery and lay of the ground makes it desirable that a suitable rostrum be erected.[81]

An unsigned memorandum preserved with Carlton's letter in the quartermaster's records concurs with the major's appraisal: "[A] Rostrum would, in view of the large number of people visiting the cemetery on Decoration days, be of considerable advantage."[82] External

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[79] A. F. Rockwell to Quartermaster General, Apr. 1, 1880; J. K. Barnes to Quartermaster General, Apr. 7, 1880; docket cover titled "Plan of Rostrum for the Soldiers' Home," Apr. 27, 1880 and accompanying "Plan of Rostrum for the Soldiers Home National Cemetery"; all RG 92, entry 576, Soldiers' Home.

[80] B. C. Card to James A. Ekin, Feb. 17, 1882, RG 92, entry 576, Cave Hill; W. T. Sherman to Rugus Ingalls, Apr. 12, 1883, RG 92, entry 576, Soldiers' Home. The rostrum was in place by the time of C. H. Carlton's report of inspection for Soldiers' Home, Jan. 10, 1882, RG 92, entry 576, Soldiers' Home.

[81] C. H. Carlton to B. C. Card, Dec. 3, 1881, RG 92, entry 576, Fort Scott.

[82] "Fort Scott," note filed with Carlton to Card, Dec. 3, 1881, RG 92, entry 576, Fort Scott.

pressure underscored these internal assessments. In January 1882, GAR members from Fort Scott petitioned Senator J. J. Ingalls for a congressional appropriation for a rostrum. Two weeks later, the Kansas encampment of the GAR sent a resolution to their congressmen requesting that the quartermaster general be urged to build rostrums at Fort Scott and Fort Leavenworth "such as have already been built at the National Cemetery at Vicksburg, Miss., for the better accommodation of old soldiers and those who annually meet at those places to commemorate the heroic deeds of those who sleep in those cemeteries." Meigs replied to the Kansas congressional delegation that rostrums were planned for the national cemeteries at Fort Scott and Fort Leavenworth as soon as funding was available. "No special appropriation by congress is needed," he assured Senators Ingalls and Plumb. "These improvements are part of the general scheme of improvement of the national cemeteries, and they are built out of the ordinary annual appropriations when the more imperative needs of the cemeteries do not consume the whole."[83]

A similar appeal came to the office of the national cemeteries from citizens of New Bern, North Carolina. "Decoration day has been annually observed since the National Cemetery was established at this place," resident T. H. Henry wrote, "and we have yearly put up temporary platform[s] at considerable expense, which has to be defrayed by the few old Union Soldiers and others of this City; as we understand the U.S. Government has put up permanent Rostrums at nearly all National Cemeteries, we respectfully request that one may be put up at this place. . . . We do not object to the yearly expense, although borne by a few, but we certainly would like to have the same privilege as other communities. The number of people present at last Decoration day was between four and five thousand." This plea, however, produced no immediate result.[84]

Cave Hill National Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky, was a mere 8 miles from New Albany National Cemetery and its 1881 rostrum. In January 1882, members of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Association of Louisville petitioned Quartermaster General Meigs for a rostrum "of character similar to those erected in other National Cemeteries. The large number of soldiers buried at Cave Hill and the fact that Decoration Day is always duly observed there, make it very appropriate that such a rostrum should be erected." The association's petition was forwarded to Meigs through Lt. Col. James A. Ekin, the deputy quartermaster general responsible for the cemetery, who endorsed the idea with the comment, "I know of no National Cemetery in the Country where there would be more

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[83] Meigs to J. J. Ingalls and P. B. Plumb, Jan. 16, 1882, RG 92, entry 576, Fort Scott.

[84] A T. H. Henry, et al., to Quartermaster General, June [ ], 1882, RG 92, entry 576, New Bern. A second call for a rostrum "for the better convenience and accommodation of the observances of Decoration day" came from the New Bern post of the GAR in December 1887, but it, too, was met with the official reply "that there is no appropriation from which such Rostrum could be erected at the present time. Your request will however receive due consideration when the allotments for the next fiscal year are made." Phillip J. Lee to Quartermaster General, Dec. 19, 1887; J. G. Chandler to Phillip J. Lee, Dec. 23, 1887; both RG 92, entry 576, New Bern.

propriety in erecting a Rostrum than at the beautiful and classic Cave Hill National Cemetery." Engineer James Gall Jr. also supported the idea, writing after an April 1882 inspection visit, "[A] Rostrum built there would be quite an advantage to the place. The number of people that attend the Decoration ceremonies is quite large, and a handsome, permanent structure of the kind is needed for their accommodation."[85]

"It is intended to build a rostrum at each of the prominent national cemeteries, as means are available," Major Card in Washington assured Colonel Ekin.[86] Nevertheless, despite considerable internal discussion on the point, Lt. Col. R. N. Batchelder, officer in charge of the office of national cemeteries from June 1, 1882, decided there was insufficient space to build one at Cave Hill, and the organizers of the decoration ceremonies there were forced to continue to build temporary rostrums annually.[87]

The Quartermaster's Department solicited bids for five more standard rostrums in May 1882, selecting cemeteries where Decoration Day attendance was large.[88] In addition to Fort Scott, where political pressure had been exerted, the list included Fort Leavenworth, a small cemetery near a substantial army post; Marietta, Georgia, a large cemetery on a prominent and beautiful site; Stones River, Tennessee, another large cemetery on an important battlefield; and Mound City, Illinois, which James Gall noted was "visited by as many people on Decoration Day as attend the ceremonies at the Arlington Cemetery."[89] In preparation for construction, the department revised the drawings and specifications for the standard design, keeping the overall form, dimensions, and materials but incorporating all the improvements made to the 1879 rostrums while they were under construction. (See Appendix III.)

The Marietta, Fort Leavenworth, and Stones River rostrums were all completed in November 1882. The Mound City rostrum was finished in December 1882, and the Fort Scott rostrum was completed in April 1883 (Figure 3). At Stones River, Gall reported that "the Rostrum is in every respect a good job, and adds greatly to the appearance of the Cemetery, and will afford excellent facilities for conducting the annual Decoration Ceremonies."[90]

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[85] R. M. Kelly, et al., to Montgomery Meigs, Jan. 26, 1882; "Referring to resolution of Soldiers' & Sailors' Memorial Association," Jan. 27, 1882; James Gall Jr., report of inspection for Cave Hill, Apr. 2, 1882, all RG 92, entry 576, Cave Hill.

[86] B. C. Card to James A. Ekin, Feb. 17, 1882, RG 92, entry 576, Cave Hill.

[87] R. M. Kelly to Walter Q. Gresham, Mar. 31, 1884, RG 92, entry 576, Cave Hill. See also the extensive correspondence about fitting a rostrum onto the federal land at Cave Hill in RG 92, entry 576, Cave Hill.

[88] Report of the Quartermaster General 1882, 440.

[89] James Gall Jr. to R. N. Batchelder, Aug. 11, 1882, RG 92, entry 576, Mound City.

[90] James Gall Jr. to R. N. Batchelder, Nov. 13, 1882, RG 92, entry 576, Mound City.

The 1882 rostrums, like earlier examples, were planted with vines to cover the brickwork and the roof beams. At Marietta, honeysuckle, Virginia creeper, and wisteria were planted. Sometimes these grew too well. By 1888 the Marietta rostrum was so heavily shaded by the vines and the foliage of two nearby oak trees that little grass grew on the podium floor. Similarly, an inspector in 1885 found that the vines on the Knoxville rostrum had grown so well that the superintendent "concluded they spoiled the appearance of the brick walls and columns and cut them down all except a few wisterias."[91]

In 1883, the governing board of the Soldiers' Home in D.C. finally agreed to transfer additional land to the War Department to allow expansion of Soldiers' Home National Cemetery. A new, full-sized rostrum was included in the plans to adapt this land for cemeterial purposes. The Quartermaster's Department solicited bids in July, and a contract was awarded in August or September. Construction was completed that fall after an expenditure of $1,453.66. (The name of the contractor has not been found.) A modified version of the standard design was used. While the overall dimensions and design of the brick podium were retained, the two staircases at the rostrum's shorter ends were eliminated in favor of a single central stair up the back. Instead of the standard trellis roof on brick piers or the cast-iron roof with iron columns proposed by Rockwell for this cemetery in 1880, a Tuscan-order peristyle of ten sandstone columns surmounted by an entablature was raised atop the podium. The columns and entablature blocks were salvaged from the Patent Office Building in Washington, where they had formed part of the structural masonry supporting the vaulted ceiling of the south exhibition room. The room was dismantled after a fire damaged the building in 1877, and Lt. Col. Batchelder acquired the columns and entablature blocks for reuse in the national cemeteries.

In addition to the sandstone pieces employed in the rostrum, eight identical columns and additional entablature blocks were used to create a gateway to Soldiers' Home National Cemetery at the same time the rostrum was built. "The new gate and platform . . . have made excellent application of part of the sandstone columns and entablatures which you have been so fortunate as to acquire for the National Cemeteries," Meigs wrote Batchelder. Meigs himself had been responsible in 1879 for the salvage of six Ionic columns from the old War Department Building for reuse in gateways at Arlington National Cemetery, and he had the names of Union generals cut into the columns on these gateways. The columns on the Soldiers' Home rostrum were similarly carved with generals' names—plus the name of Lincoln on the entablature—within a few years of the rostrum's completion (Figure 4). Batchelder used more of the Patent Office stonework to create a Temple of Fame at Arlington National Cemetery in 1883, and its columns and entablature were also carved

[91] W. H. Owen, reports of inspection for Marietta, May 6, 1886, and May 16, 1888, both RG 92, entry 576, Marietta; report of inspection for Knoxville, Feb. 16, 1885, RG 92, entry 576, Knoxville.

with the names of Union leaders.[92] Additional columns were installed in a rostrum at Battleground National Cemetery in 1921 (see below).

The Soldiers' Home rostrum was constructed without a covering roof, and before its first use on Decoration Day 1884, the Quartermasters' Department spent $48 for a canvas cover to screen the space encircled by the entablature blocks. In October 1885, the department awarded a contract to the civil engineers Post and McCord of New York City to fabricate and install an iron roof over the rostrum. They were paid $850 for work that also included sheathing the top of the cemetery gateway with copper. In May 1886, Flannery Brothers of Washington, D.C., received a contract to carve a marble alter desk for the rostrum. Decorated on its front with the motto "Cum tacent clamant" ("When silent, they cry out") and built for $475, this lectern was an imitation of the one by architect John Smithmeyer that had been added to the Arlington rostrum in 1880.[93]

A writer for the *National Republican* newspaper, seeing the Soldiers' Home rostrum trimmed for Decoration Day in 1886, described it as "the best adapted for its purpose of any about the city, and the green and floral display that beautified it was enhanced by the young ladies who were there to help render music appropriate to the occasion."[94]

The Quartermaster's Department constructed no more rostrums to the standard rectangular design after 1883, although temporary wood rostrums continued to be built as needed. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman was the featured Decoration Day speaker in 1885 before a crowd of 25,000 at Springfield National Cemetery in Missouri. Sherman wrote to Quartermaster General S. B. Holabird afterward to encourage the construction of more rostrums:

> My own conclusion is that the annual assemblage of our people at these National Cemeteries is having an excellent effect, and should be encouraged in every way possible. . . . Gradually you can also so order that each cemetery

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[92] Report of the Quartermaster General 1883, 420, 570–71; James Gall Jr. to R. N. Batchelder, Nov. 27, 1882, RG 92, entry 576, Soldiers' Home; "Proposals," *Washington Post*, July 23, 1883, 3; balance sheet entitled "Improvements at Soldiers Home and Loudon Park Cemeteries," Mar. 1, 1884, RG 92, entry 576, Soldiers' Home; Montgomery Meigs to R. N. Batchelder, May 31, 1884, RG 92, entry 576, Soldiers' Home; Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, "Arlington National Cemetery, Sheridan Gate," HABS No. VA-1348-B, and "Arlington National Cemetery, Ord-Wetzel Gate," HABS VA-1348-C; National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, *Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial, Cultural Landscape Survey*, vol. 1 (2001), 121–22.

[93] R. N. Batchelder, memo, "Soldiers Home account for improvement of grounds," May 10, 1884; Post & McCord to R. N. Batchelder, Oct. 9, 1885, RG 92, entry 576, Soldiers' Home; "Abstract of Proposals received . . . for furnishing Alter Desk," May 18, 1886; all RG 92, entry 576, Soldiers' Home.

[94] Quote from "Soldiers' Home ceremonies," *National Republican*, June 1, 1886, 1.

> will have a stand for the public exercises, with a reasonable space, free of graves, for the audience. At Springfield this was impossible, and Supt. McKenna did the best possible in putting a small rough platform outside the wall and against it in the new purchase. The speakers had to stand on the coping of the wall, and the vast audience had to stand for two and more hours round about as they best could. Whatever Uncle Sam does ought to be durable and generous, and I honor Gen. Meigs for what he did at Arlington and elsewhere in this connection. I am certain that every dollar spent for these purposes will pay a large interest in ardent, earnest patriotism.[95]

It was, in fact, dollars that made the difference. "Unfortunately, the appropriations for the cemeteries have been limited to $100,000 per annum for all purposes," Holabird replied to Sherman in June 1885.

> Last year strong efforts were made, without success to increase that sum by $10,000. If we can interest the Southern people in these cemeteries we may get more assistance. . . . The rostrums built by Gen. Meigs have cost so much that I think our legislators have conceived a prejudice against these expenditures. It has occurred to me that possibly rostrums of prepared timbers on some general plan, framed to put up and take down (on the same principle that we get out and prepare timbers for a military bridge) might be devised, and one kept for use at each National Cemetery where there are not masonry rostrums. They can be prepared, dressed, etc., in a timbered country, the parts painted, and stored in a shed when not in use. Again, timber rostrums might be more generally constructed. They would last at least a few years. At all events the subject shall have our best attention.[96]

Similarly, Holabird informed Secretary of War Robert Todd Lincoln, "The erection of a Rostrum at the Cave Hill Cemetery has been deferred for want of funds which could be applied to this purpose without diverting them from more urgent and necessary works of improvement." Reiterating the need in his January 1885 inspection report on Wilmington National Cemetery, James Gall told Batchelder, "There is an old dilapidated wooden structure, used as a speakers stand on Decoration days, situated in the most central part of

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[95] The cemetery superintendent estimated that Sherman's participation drew 25,000 people to the cemetery. "Gen. Sherman to the Quartermaster General," Washington, D.C., *National Tribune*, July 16, 1885, 2.

[96] "The Quartermaster-General's reply," Washington, D.C., *National Tribune*, July 16, 1885, 2.

the grounds which ought to be removed. The stand is unsightly and dangerous in its present condition and should be replaced, if possible, by a neat brick rostrum."[97]

The Octagonal Standard Rostrums

In order to continue the program of rostrum construction in the national cemeteries without securing an increase in congressional appropriations, the Quartermaster's Department developed a second standard rostrum design in 1886 that was less costly to build than the first. Referred to within the office of national cemeteries as "Design No. 2" and the "octagonal plan," it was less formal than the original rectangular design, more like a garden gazebo or band stand than a classical rostra.

Like the previous design, the new rostrum plan comprised a raised podium or base surmounted by an openwork superstructure for climbing vines. Where the previous design was a rectangle shaded by a wood trellis, the new design was an octagon with a cast- and wrought-iron roof. Intended to be built of brick or stone on concrete foundations, the base was 16' across and 4' high. Its walls were articulated by shallow corner pilasters, the faces of which were inset with dado panels. Additional inset dados decorated the flat wall surfaces between the pilasters. The interior of the base was filled four-fifths full with well-tamped earth, which was topped by a layer of grouted broken stone under a concrete floor. A pipe was designed into the center of the floor for drainage. A rowlock course of brick formed the coping around the floor, except on stone rostrums, where the coping was to be stone. A flight of cast-iron steps bordered by an iron railing led from the ground onto the rostrum. Eight iron posts about 10' high supported a 6'-high open-lattice tent- or camp-form roof, also made of iron. An iron finial in the form of an orb and flame decorated the roof pinnacle. The roof framework was to be left open and unsheathed, reminiscent of the trelliswork that covered the earlier rectangular rostrums. An open fretwork frieze and scrollwork brackets decorated the space under the roof between the tops of the posts (Figure 5).

The authorship of the octagonal rostrum design is unclear. It may have been adapted from the "octagonal rostrum with small iron arbor" built at Soldiers' Home in 1880, but this connection is uncertain in the absence of an image or plan of the first Soldiers' Home rostrum. Deputy Quartermaster General R. N. Batchelder, officer in charge of national cemeteries, signed the single-sheet plan sent to construction bidders, but his signature indicates approval of the design and is unlikely to indicate authorship. The delineator's initials, "JB," also appearing on the plan are those of James F. Batchelder, Lt. Col.

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[97] S. B. Holabird to Robert T. Lincoln, quoted in Robert T. Lincoln to Walter Q. Gresham, Apr. 11, 1884, RG 92, entry 576, Cave Hill; James Gall Jr. to R. N. Batchelder, Jan. 15, 1885, RG 92, entry 576, Wilmington.

Batchelder's son, who worked in the Office of National Cemeteries at the time as a civil engineer and draftsman.[98]

The department advertised on July 12, 1886, for bidders to construct six rostrums to the new plan in the national cemeteries at Cypress Hills, New York; Loudon Park, Maryland; Memphis, Tennessee; Little Rock, Arkansas; Wilmington, North Carolina; and Nashville, Tennessee. All were to have brick bases except for the one at Nashville, which was intended from the first to be built of local stone. The office of national cemeteries completed the final drawings and specifications for the new design on July 15, 1886, and distributed copies to the cemeteries concerned and to the quartermaster offices in New York City and Baltimore, where bidders could go to receive copies and blank bidding forms. (See Appendix IV.)[99]

Nashville, Loudon Park, and Cypress Hills were likely selected for rostrums because they were frequently visited cemeteries in or near important urban centers; the last was just then being expanded, with the construction of a new lodge and outbuilding underway in 1886. The Wilmington example likely sprang from James Gall's recommendation made in January 1885, quoted above. The Memphis rostrum stemmed from a resolution passed in the House of Representatives in February 1886 authorizing the construction of one in that cemetery. [100] A local GAR post petitioned the quartermaster general for a rostrum for the Little Rock National Cemetery in March 1886. "Decoration Day is regularly observed here by appropriate exercises," post commander Charles C. Waters wrote. "There is a beautiful grove in the South West corner of cemetery very suitable for these services. The only drawback now is that we need a permanent rostrum or platform for speakers, glee club, &c."[101]

Five bids came in, and the department opened them on August 19. A. J. Mallard of Little Rock bid $1,330 to build the rostrum at Little Rock. James H. Dyer of Washington, D.C., bid $1,574.50 and $1,600 to build those at Loudon Park and Cypress Hills. The Champion Iron Fence Company of Kenton, Ohio, bid $596 a piece to build all six. The Composite Iron Works Company of New York City bid $1,050 each for all six, and the Manly and Cooper

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[98] A blueprint copy of the design, "No. 2 Design for Rostrum for National Cemeteries. Prepared in Office of National Cemeteries, Washn., D.C., July 15, 1886," is preserved in RG 92, entry 576, Loudon Park. James F. Batchelder identified from *Register of the War Department, January 1, 1886* (Washington, D.C.: G.P.O, 1886), 82.

[99] "Rostrums," advertisement seeking bids clipped from unknown newspaper, July 12, 1886, RG 92, entry 576, Loudon Park.

[100] House Resolution 122, Feb. 15, 1886, copy filed in RG 92, entry 576, Memphis; *Rostrum in National Cemetery near Memphis*, House Report 1856, 49th Cong., 1st sess., Apr. 21, 1886.

[101] Charles C. Waters to Quartermaster General, Mar. 18, 1886, RG 92, entry 576, Little Rock.

Manufacturing Company of Philadelphia bid a range of prices from $1,369 to $1,555 to build the five brick examples.[102]

The department awarded the contract to the Champion Iron Fence Company based on its substantially lower bid. The company cast the iron superstructures at its works in Kenton, Ohio, and then shipped the pieces to the individual building sites. Beginning at Loudon Park in September and progressing in turn to Cypress Hills, Wilmington, Nashville, Memphis, and Little Rock, the company sent a mason to build the bases, then sent one or more men from the factory to assemble the superstructures.[103] At Little Rock, the company hired local man Patrick Powers to build the brick podium, and he was supervised by company man P. L. MacDowell, who came out to set up the ironwork.[104]

Col. W. H. Owen, the army engineer supervising the project for the Quartermaster's Department, visited the Champion works in September 1886. He reported,

> The bases of columns, scroll brackets, frieze, and steps are the only parts completed. These were all very satisfactory. The patterns for rope mould caps to columns are making in Philada. & expected daily. A modification of newel post to steps shown in plan has been submitted . . . by the contractor . . . & accepted . . . .
>
> [The contractors] have an admirable shop with every means & appliance known to the trade and the best workmen attainable. In their castings they use generally brass moulds instead of wood, insuring more finished work. Their geographical situation, their complete facilities, and the rare ingenuity & skill of their foreman, Mr. Hanson, enable them to do good work at very low prices.[105]

In working out the details of the ironwork, Champion submitted to Lt. Col. Batchelder a design for the newel posts based on an octagonal base Owen had seen on his visit. Batchelder approved this. He also approved the company's design for the stairs, which made use of a proprietary way of assembling cast-iron staircases that Champion was just then beginning to use. Francis O. Hanson, general superintendent of the Champion ironworks, had invented the company's new stair-construction method and submitted a

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[102] The bid paperwork is preserved in RG 92, entry 576, Loudon Park, except for Mallard's bid, which is in RG 92, entry 576, Little Rock.

[103] W. H. Owen to R. N. Batchelder, Oct. 1, 1886, RG 92, entry 576, Loudon Park.

[104] Patrick Powers to Champion Iron Fence Co., Nov. 21, 1887, RG 92, entry 576, Little Rock.

[105] W. H. Owen to R. N. Batchelder, Oct. 1, 1886, RG 92, entry 576, Loudon Park.

patent application for it in July 1886. The patent, which he assigned to the company, was issued in August 1887.[106]

The department, either at Owen' suggestion or at Batchelder's, also instructed Champion to omit the floor drain pipes from the rostrums and "to make the concrete floors higher (about one inch) in the center than at the sides." The drainage, a design holdover from the grass floors of the first generation of rectangular rostrums, was expected to be unnecessary.[107]

Additional details changed as fabrication of the ironwork progressed. The department's design called for wavy balusters alternating with straight ones on the rostrums' hand railings. Champion suggested twisted balusters instead, and sent sample balustrades of each type to Washington for approval. Batchelder selected Champion's alternative. The company also suggested shortening the roof posts. In setting up one entire side of the ironwork at their works, the company found that the rostrums "would look better if at least a foot was cut off the rope twist part of the post, we hope you will excuse us for making this suggestion—Our desire to have a perfect Rostrum is our only excuse."[108]

Champion's ironwork was primed and then finished with two coats of bronze-green paint. Champion submitted five samples of the paint made by Lucas & Company to Batchelder in October 1886, and he selected one for use on the rostrums.[109]

The department's design drawings offered the masons little guidance on how the brickwork for the bases was to be set up. The bases of the rostrums displayed certain variations in detail as a result, although they were all built to the same overall dimensions. The mason at Memphis, for example, omitted the inset dadoes on the corner pilasters.[110]

The six rostrums were completed between November 1886 and May 1887.[111] The Wilmington rostrum was built between February and April 1887. English ivy, roses, and honeysuckle were planted around it almost immediately.[112] The Cypress Hills rostrum was completed in December 1886 but exhibited some kind of problem the following spring. Champion hired Mr. Walthers, a New York contractor, to make repairs in May 1887,

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[106] Champion Iron Fence Co. to R. N. Batchelder, Sept. 27, 1886, RG 92, entry 576, Loudon Park; Champion Iron Fence Co. to R. N. Batchelder, Aug. 26, 1886, RG 92, entry 576, Little Rock; Francis O. Hanson, "Stairway," U.S. Patent 367,974, Aug. 9, 1887.

[107] W. H. Owen to R. N. Batchelder, Oct. 1, 1886, RG 92, entry 576, Loudon Park.

[108] Quote from Champion Iron Fence Co. to R. N. Batchelder, Oct. 8, 1886; R. N. Batchelder to Champion Iron Fence Co., Oct. 18, 1886; both RG 92, entry 576, Loudon Park.

[109] Champion Iron Fence Co. to R. N. Batchelder, Oct. 15, 1886, RG 92, entry 576, Loudon Park.

[110] Photograph of the Memphis rostrum appears in RG 15, Memphis.

[111] Champion Iron Fence Co. to R. N. Batchelder, May 7, 1887, RG 92, entry 576, Loudon Park.

[112] W. H. Owen, report of inspection for Wilmington, May 8, 1888, RG 92 Wilmington.

assuring the Quartermaster's Department that the work would be completed in time for Decoration Day.[113] The Little Rock rostrum, too, suffered from faulty construction. The earth fill inside the rostrum was found to be settling in summer 1887, leading to cracks in the brick base. After much discussion with the department about possible reasons for this settling and the extent of the company's responsibility for it, Champion repaired the rostrum at its owe expense in early 1888.[114]

Additional Octagonal Rostrums

A. W. Shaffer and one Mr. Brewster of Raleigh, North Carolina, Union veterans, used their own money to build a wood rostrum in Raleigh National Cemetery about 1881. "It is such as we could afford" Shaffer wrote Lt. Col. Batchelder in December 1886, ". . . but it is nothing compared with those which you are erecting in other Cemeteries. I write to express the hope that you will not deprive us of a good [rostrum] because of our voluntary action in erecting a cheap one." Batchelder replied, "The department contemplates the erection of new structures of this character at all the national cemeteries not already supplied, and it is hoped we may be able to provide one for this cemetery next year."[115]

In anticipation of further construction, Batchelder's office revised the plans and specifications for the octagonal rostrums in June 1887. His office made three main changes to the design. The inset dados were omitted from the corner pilasters on the bases, stone coping was specified for all bases, and the roofs, instead of remaining open, were to be sheathed with 5/8" galvanized iron sheets. The department also prepared a detailed estimate of materials. (See Appendix V.)

Unfortunately for Shaffer and Brewster in Raleigh, the department was not able to let contracts for additional rostrums in 1887. Money was available to contract for five more in 1888, although Raleigh was not among the cemeteries selected because of their strong Decoration Day attendance. Champion Iron Fence Company again received the contract to build all these rostrums.[116]

"A rostrum is much desired," W. H. Owen reported from Beaufort National Cemetery, South Carolina, in May 1888, and the cemetery was one of seven selected for a rostrum in 1889. Also selected was San Antonio, for which local stone was specified for the base. "Stone is recommended for foundation and upper wall," a note in the department's 1887 materials

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[113] Champion Iron Fence Co. to R. N. Batchelder, May 7, 1887, RG 92, entry 576, Loudon Park.

[114] See extensive correspondence about the damage to the Little Rock rostrum in RG 92, entry 576, Little Rock and Loudon Park.

[115] A. W. Shaffer to R. N. Batchelder, Dec. 11, 1886; Batchelder to Shaffer, Dec. 14, 1886, RG 92, entry 576, Raleigh.

[116] No contract has been found for the 1888 rostrums, but the cast-iron steps on the Richmond rostrum—the only example from the batch that survives—are stamped "Champion Iron Fence Co."

estimate reads, "because brick are dear & poor, stone cheap and plentiful, and the Supt's Lodge is built of stone." At New Bern, North Carolina, as well, the rostrum base was built out of locally quarried shell rock in order to match the material selected for the cemetery's 1873 lodge and 1880 outbuilding. Although not universally regarded as a durable construction material, shell rock was praised by civil engineer W. H. Owen on an inspection of the cemetery in 1888 as "a excellent material making a handsome building."[117]

The contract for the seven rostrums built in 1889 has not been found. Lt. Col. M. I. Luddington's report on the national cemeteries for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1890, states, "All were completed prior to Memorial Day, May 30, upon which occasion appropriate services were held at nearly all the National Cemeteries and the graves decorated with flags and flowers under the auspices of the members of the Grand Army of the Republic." Photographs indicate that Champion Iron Fence Company was the builder once again, based on the fact that the company's distinctive patented stair design was used.[118]

The army let another contract for the construction of six more octagonal rostrums in the second half of 1891. Photographs again indicate that Champion was the contractor. "[T]he government will construct at the McPherson national cemetery a rostrum for the use of speakers," the North Platte, Nebraska, *Tribune* reported in September. "The rostrum will be of stone and iron, substantial in construction, tasteful in design and very durable." The selection of sites was in part influenced by the opinions of the department's inspectors in the field. "There is no rostrum at this cemetery," Maj. J. W. Scully wrote the quartermaster general from Mobile National Cemetery in a November 1890, "and as it is frequently visited by military and civil organizations on Decoration Day and other stated occasions, I would recommend that one be erected there."[119]

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[117] W. H. Owen, report of inspection for Beaufort, May 12, 1888, RG 92, entry 576, Beaufort; Report of the Quartermaster General 1890, 720; "Estimate in Detail," June 14, 1887, RG 92, entry 667 (Records Relating to Functions: Cemeterial, Specifications, Estimates, and Proposals for Road Construction, Earthworks, and Buildings at National Cemeteries); W. H. Owen, report of inspection for New Bern, May 4, 1888, RG 92, entry 576, New Bern.

[118] Report of the Quartermaster General 1890, 720. Photographs of five of the seven 1889 rostrums appear in the quartermaster's maintenance ledgers preserved in RG 15. The photo in RG 15 of the Beaufort rostrum shows the structure as rebuilt in 1896–97.

[119] Report of the Quartermaster General 1892, 260, 391; "City and country news," *North Platte Tribune*, Sept. 16, 1891, 3; J. W. Scully to Quartermaster General, Nov. 6, 1890, RG 92, entry 576, Mobile. A copy of the contract for these rostrums has not been found, but photographs exist in the RG 15 maintenance ledgers for all the 1891–92 rostrums except those at Camp Nelson and Shiloh.

The office of national cemeteries contracted to build another group of octagonal rostrums in 1893 and a final group in late 1895 or early 1896.[120] Again, none of these contracts have been located, but the four examples built in 1893–94 still exhibited the patented stairs and other distinctive ironwork details characteristic of the work of the Champion Iron Fence Company. The rostrums built in 1896, however, employed a conventional stair design and showed other changes to the details of the ironwork, such as a return to the wavy balusters that were part of the department's original 1886 design, different newel posts, changes to the molding details on the roof posts, and more ornate scrolling ornament in the spandrel brackets. These changes imply that a different contractor built these rostrums. The identity of the company and the reason for its selection are unknown.

Among the rostrums built in 1896 was a new one for Beaufort National Cemetery, where one had already been built in 1889–90.[121] Although no documentation giving the reason for replacing the first rostrum has been found, it is possible the original structure was destroyed in one of the hurricanes that caused severe damage in Beaufort in 1893, 1894, and 1896.[122]

The lack of space for a rostrum at Cave Hill National Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky, was finally solved in 1897 when the Cave Hill Cemetery Company donated a 2,366-square-foot tract adjacent to the government's land expressly for the purpose of erecting a rostrum.[123] The office of national cemeteries returned to the rectangular plan for this rostrum. To make the structure more monumental, the office gave it a stone podium with a semicircular projection in the floor where a speaker would stand, and replaced the typical square brick columns with twelve cast-concrete Tuscan Doric columns. A trellis roof was fitted to accommodate climbing vines. The rostrum was completed May 19, 1898, and dedicated at the Decoration Day ceremonies on May 30. The contractor who built it is unknown.[124]

The final rostrum erected to the octagonal standard plan was erected at Culpeper National Cemetery, Virginia, in 1905–06 by builder H. W. McCray of Washington, D.C. Although the manufacturer of the ironwork for this rostrum is not known, the details of the work were similar to those on the rostrums of 1896–97.[125]

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[120] Report of the Quartermaster General 1893, 394; Report of the Quartermaster General 1894, 293; Report of the Quartermaster General 1896, 280; Report of the Quartermaster General 1897, 385–86.

[121] Report of the Quartermaster General 1897, 385.

[122] The photograph of the Beaufort rostrum found in the RG 15 maintenance ledgers shows the replacement rostrum that was built in 1896.

[123] Lewis W. Call, *United States Military Reservations, National Cemeteries, and Military Parks. Title, Jurisdiction, etc.* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1907), 105.

[124] Report of the Quartermaster General 1898, 427.

[125] Report of the Quartermaster General 1906, 52. McCray is named as the contractor in the RG 15 maintenance ledger for Culpeper.

Rostrums Built to Special Congressional Appropriations

By 1905, the army had constructed rostrums in fifty-one of the eighty-three national cemeteries, or about three-fifths. The Quartermaster's Department built only two new examples between that year and 1931. Although Memorial Day had begun its transition to a day of sports and leisure for most Americans by the turn of the century, memorial observances in the national cemeteries continued to attract large audiences throughout the country. It is possible the Quartermaster's Department, or the Quartermaster Corps as it was called after 1912, would have continued to build rostrums if funding had allowed. Funding lapsed, however, and the two lone rostrums built in the 1910s and 1920s were both the result of special congressional appropriations.

The first of these was constructed in 1915 at San Francisco National Cemetery, located in the Presidio. By 1910, this cemetery had grown into the nation's third-largest national cemetery, as it was the only one on the Pacific Coast until the opening of Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego in 1934. Temporary speakers' stands had been repeatedly built at San Francisco to accommodate Memorial Day observances, and in 1911 the inspector general of the Quartermaster Corps' western division recommended the construction of a permanent rostrum. A bill was introduced in Congress in 1912 to appropriate $10,000 for this purpose, but it did not pass. Instead, Congressman Julius Kahn got an authorization for $6,000 written into the 1914–15 army appropriations bill, which passed in April 1914. The Office of the Quartermaster General created a new design for this rostrum. Instead of the usual raised base with a covering roof, the design comprised a monumental stela standing behind a stepped speaker's podium within a wide, low, open-air platform. The rostrum was built of concrete and faced in sandstone. Construction began in late 1914 and was completed April 24, 1915, at a final cost of $5,835.15.[126]

Local activism also led to the construction in 1921 of a rostrum in Battleground National Cemetery, D.C. In 1919, the Brightwood Citizens' Association, an advocacy group for the neighborhood surrounding the cemetery, worked with the GAR Department of the Potomac to petition the quartermaster general and the secretary of war for a rostrum. Although the cemetery contained only forty graves, it had been the site of annual GAR-sponsored Memorial Day ceremonies since at least 1902, and, as the Citizens' Association explained, each year a temporary wood stand had been built, "always entailing a great amount of trouble, as well as some expense." The Office of the Quartermaster General produced an estimate of $2,500 to build the structure, and Congress appropriated this amount in fiscal year 1921. Eight of the sandstone Tuscan Doric columns salvaged from the Patent Office in 1877 remained available, and these were used to create a simple quadrastyle peristyle with a

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[126] *National Cemetery, San Francisco, Cal.* House Rpt. 292, 63rd Cong. 2d sess. Feb. 20, 1914; *Army Appropriations Act*, Apr. 27, 1914, 38 Statutes at Large, 364; "Plans begun to house exhibits." *San Francisco Chronicle*. July 28, 1914, 9; Report of the Quartermaster General 1915, 291, 335; Holt, *American Military Cemeteries*, 265.

full entablature set atop a shallow, stepped platform. Polished marble walls were built between the columns at the sides and rear of the rostrum. The foundations and platform were concrete. The rostrum was dedicated on Memorial Day, 1921.[127]

Confederate Rostrums

While the San Francisco and Battleground rostrums were the only ones built during this period using government money, three others fell into the quartermasters' purview because of ownership transfers involving Confederate cemeteries. In 1911, the private association that owned the Confederate cemetery adjacent to Springfield National Cemetery transferred this land to the federal government. Within the grounds stood a hexagonal rostrum with brick base and wood superstructure, built at an unknown date. The Quartermaster Corps eventually demolished this rostrum, although when it did so is not clear. In 1913, the city of Little Rock transferred its Confederate cemetery, also located adjacent to the local national cemetery, to the federal government. This cemetery contained a square rostrum of concrete and brick built through the efforts of the Memorial Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1907.[128]

Finally, a rostrum was built on private initiative in the Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery at Columbus, Ohio, sometime between 1915 and 1925. The federal government purchased this prisoner-of-war cemetery in 1879, and, although only lightly maintained, it became the site of privately organized annual decoration ceremonies starting in June 1896. Congress directed the secretary of war in 1906 to properly mark the graves of all Confederate soldiers who had died in Union custody, and, consequently, the Quartermaster's Department marked the graves at Camp Chase with marble headstones between 1908 and 1910. Sometime after this recognition effort was completed, a rostrum was built within the grounds, probably through the efforts of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, who, by that time, were the main organizers of the annual decoration exercises at the cemetery. The rostrum was built of inexpensive cast-concrete blocks in a form reminiscent of the early federal rectangular rostrums.[129]

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[127] U.S. Senate, Committee on Appropriations, *Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill, 1921. Hearings . . . on H.R. 13870 . . .* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1920), 143–50; *An Act making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1921, and for other purposes,* 41 Statutes at Large, 896; "Brightwood pays tribute to heroes," *Washington Post*, May 31, 1921, 2.

[128] Holt, *American Military Cemeteries*, 183–84, 283; maintenance ledger sheet for rostrum in the Confederate section of Springfield National Cemetery, RG 15, Springfield.

[129] William H. Knauss, *The Story of Camp Chase* (Nashville, Tenn.: Publishing House of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1906); James H. Berry, *Report of the Commissioner for Marking Confederate Graves*, House Doc. 1105, 62nd Cong., 3d sess., Dec. 9, 1912; William H. Carlile, National Register of Historic Places nomination for "Camp Chase site," Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1973; Holt, *American Military Cemeteries*, 305.

New Construction in the 1930s

The Quartermaster Corps began a new effort to build multiple rostrums in 1931. The reasons for renewed interest in rostrum building are unclear, but the resulting structures clearly demonstrate that funding for this effort was limited and that the officers assigned to create these rostrums developed a utilitarian design that was simple to build with inexpensive stock materials. The new rostrums had octagonal bases, metal superstructures, and pyramidal roofs that roughly approximated the size and form of the nineteenth-century octagonal rostrums. Instead of brick or stone bases filled with earth, however, the podiums now were reinforced-concrete slabs raised off the ground by eight concrete corner posts. In place of ornamental cast-iron, posts of 4" steel pipe held up the roof framework. Simple steel-rod fencing made up the railings as well as the ornamental grills below the eaves. Galvanized standing-seam sheathing covered the roofs (Figure 6).[130]

Six rostrums were built to this plan in 1931 at Chalmette, Alexandria, and Port Hudson, Louisiana; Greeneville, Tennessee (Andrew Johnson National Cemetery); Natchez, Mississippi; and Raleigh, North Carolina. Two additional examples of the new octagonal design were built in 1932 and 1934 at Lebanon, Kentucky, and Santa Fe, New Mexico, respectively, with the single modification that the open spaces between the podium piers were filled in to create complete perimeter walls.

In addition to this new octagonal design, the Quartermaster Corps developed a new rectangular design in order to rebuild the 1881 rostrum at New Albany National Cemetery, Indiana, which had fallen into disrepair. At New Albany, the old rostrum was taken down to its foundations in 1931 and a new structure built in its place. The inset dados, pilasters, and other surface articulation on the perimeter of the original podium were eliminated in favor of planar brick wall in the new design, a concrete floor replaced the sodded floor, and the number of square piers supporting the roof was reduced from twelve to ten through the elimination of the two interior piers. Instead of a trellis roof, the new rostrum was given an open-ended gable roof. The new rectangular design was reused in 1934 to create a rostrum for Zachary Taylor National Cemetery, Louisville, Kentucky, which had been established as a national cemetery in 1928.

The 1934 Santa Fe and Zachary Taylor rostrums were paid for in part with Federal Emergency Administration for Public Works (PWA) funds made available under the provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933. This same funding source allowed the Quartermaster Corps to build a rostrum in 1934 at the Fort Sam Houston addition to San Antonio National Cemetery (designated Fort Sam Houston National

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[130] Office of the Quartermaster General, Headquarters, Fourth Corps Area, Fort McPherson, Ga. Sheet of plans for "Standard Rostrum for National Cemetery." Mar. 12, 1931. National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Cemetery in 1937). The Fort Sam Houston rostrum was constructed to yet another new design—a stone hexagonal platform with iron railing but without roof.[131]

The sole rostrum built in 1935 was erected at Keokuk, Iowa, to replace the original 1873 rostrum, which was then demolished. This project represents a low point in the Quartermaster Corps' efforts to improve and beautify the national cemeteries, as the new rostrum was simply an octagonal concrete pad on concrete walls surrounded by an iron-pipe railing. It lacked a roof and any adornment of any kind. Its low cost—$250—speaks to its utterly utilitarian simplicity.[132]

Neoclassical Rostrums of the Late 1930s and 1940s

From this low point, the quality of materials and design improved as new funds became available for cemetery improvement in the mid and late 1930s. The creation of a new national cemetery at Fort Rosecrans in San Diego, California, required construction of a superintendent's lodge, utility building, rostrum, and other standard improvements in 1936. The rostrum's design, executed in concrete, was adapted from that used at San Francisco in 1915. In 1937, a rectangular rostrum in brick with a gable roof was included in the budget for expanding Beverly National Cemetery in New Jersey, work that also included extensive clearing, grading, planting, and road building, plus the construction of a new entrance and flagpole circle (Figure 7).

Beginning in 1935, the entire national cemetery system benefited from work-relief funding made available through the Works Progress Administration (WPA). By far the largest portion of this funding was used to undertake landscaping projects, building maintenance and improvement, road building, and other infrastructure improvements.[133] Some of the money, however, was devoted to new construction, and, between 1938 and 1942, at least seven of the sixteen rostrums constructed by the Quartermaster Corps were funded by the WPA. The source of funding for the remaining nine rostrums is unclear. There is no discernable difference in quality of design or construction between the rostrums built during this period with WPA funds and those built without them.[134]

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[131] Maintenance ledger sheet for Santa Fe rostrum, RG 15, Santa Fe; maintenance ledger sheet for Fort Sam Houston rostrum, RG 15, Fort Sam Houston; U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Appropriations, *War Department Appropriation Bill for 1935, Nonmilitary Activities, Hearings*, part 2 (Washington, D.C.: G.P.O., 1934), 9–11.

[132] Maintenance ledger sheet for Keokuk rostrum, RG 15, Keokuk.

[133] The Works Progress Administration was renamed the Work Projects Administration in 1939. Photographs of many of WPA projects completed in the national cemeteries appear in National Archives and Records Administration, College Park Md., Still Pictures Division, Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs (RG 15), "Photographs of National Cemeteries and Soldier's Plots, 1890-1943."

[134] Seven rostrums have been positively linked to WPA funding through the maintenance ledger sheets in RG 15 and the index to the WPA project files at the National Archives, College Park, Md.

These new rostrums were built to a wide variety of designs but were generally unified by the use of neoclassical details and forms intended to evoke ancient temples. Although the first two examples were quite spare—a simple stepped platform with lectern at Long Island National Cemetery, New York, and a brick podium shaded by a hipped roof carried on square corner piers at Florence, South Carolina, both completed in 1938—subsequent designs were more elaborate. The new rostrum at Cypress Hills, New York, designed in 1938 and completed in 1939, took the form of a Tuscan Doric pavilion set atop a high base; it was sited to command a sweeping view toward the main gates along the cemetery's axial road (Figure 8). The Camp Butler, Illinois, rostrum, also completed in 1939, was a duplicate in stone of the temple-like 1937 brick rostrum at Beverly. The 1939 Philadelphia and 1940 Fort Bliss, Oklahoma, rostrums featured elegant hemicycle forms, while the designs completed at Springfield, Missouri; Marietta, Georgia; and Nashville, Tennessee, in 1940 and Andersonville, Georgia, in 1941 were particularly monumental, featuring massive dressed stone walls and screens of columns (Figure 9). At Jefferson City, Missouri, the classically detailed rostrum was designed to as part of a new entrance to the cemetery. The rostrum at St. Augustine, Florida, was built in 1940 of local coquina stone to match other structures in the cemetery and given a bell-curve-shaped rear wall drawn directly from the popular design vocabulary of the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The 1942 rostrum at Santa Fe, New Mexico, was similarly finished in the Pueblo Revival style (Figure 10).[135]

All the rostrums of the late 1930s were designed by the Construction Division of the Office of the Quartermaster General. Three of the designs bear letter designations on their design drawings: Florence is labeled "Rostrum Type D," Fort Bliss is labeled "Rostrum Type F," and Long Island is "Rostrum G." Other Construction Division drawings survive bearing the labels A and E, creating a sequence of designs that suggests that, at least initially, a coherent program of classically inspired standard designs was envisioned to guide rostrum construction in the late 1930s. The resulting buildings did not end up being highly

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(RG 69, microfilm publications T935 [1935–37], T936 [1938], and T937 [1939–42]). These seven are: Long Island, N.Y. (O.P. 513-2-297 [1938]); Cypress Hills, N.Y. (O.P. 765-97-2-20 [1938]); Philadelphia, Pa. (O.P. 513-2-88 [1937] and O.P. 765-23-2-12 [1938]); Mound City, Ill. (reconstruction of existing rostrum, partly funded by WPA, O.P. 65-2-54-380 [1939]); Springfield, Mo. (O.P. 65-3-55-403 [1939]); Alton, Ill. (O.P. 665-54-2-28 [1938] and O.P. 165-3-54-271 [1941]); and Santa Fe, N.M. (O.P. 165-3-85-72 [1941], O.P. 165-3-85-175 [1941], and O.P. 265-3-85-71 [1942]).

The WPA project index is, however, incomplete, and other rostrums may have received WPA funding for which there is now no readily locatable documentation. The nine rostrums from 1938–42 for which no positive evidence of WPA funding has been found are: Florence, S.C.; Camp Butler, Ill.; Fort Gibson, Okla.; Marietta, Ga.; Fort Bliss, Tex.; Nashville, Tenn.; St. Augustine, Fla.; Andersonville, Ga.; and Jefferson City, Mo.

[135] Design drawings survive for the rostrums at Long Island, Florence, Cypress Hills, Camp Butler, Beverly, Philadelphia, Fort Bliss, Springfield, Marietta, Nashville, St. Augustine, Alton, Santa Fe, and Jefferson City in the National Cemetery Administration Drawing Files for National Cemeteries, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.

standardized, however, as no rostrums were ever built to designs A and E, and only one rostrum was built to each of designs D, F, and G. Nevertheless, the Quartermaster Corps created an undeniably dignified and monumental collection of buildings for ceremonial use during this period.[136]

Two further designs from 1944 indicate yet another attempt at standard planning. Designated "type A" and "type B," the first comprises a low stepped podium with a stela behind. The second is similar, but employs a much larger pedimented stela behind a higher stepped podium. The surviving drawings for type A indicate the design was intended to be used at Corinth, Mississippi, and Wilmington, North Carolina; in the end, however, it was only built, somewhat simplified in its details, at Alexandria National Cemetery in Virginia. Maintenance records note that the Alexandria rostrum was constructed using reclaimed marble headstones.[137] The type B plan was never executed.[138]

Two additional rostrums were constructed after Alexandria. The first was a simple semicircular paved precinct with small concrete podium and lectern built at Baltimore National Cemetery in 1951. The second was a raised platform with a lectern and screen of decorative grillwork built at the new Willamette National Cemetery in 1956. Although the Quartermaster Corps created plans in 1950 for additional rostrums—a monumental columned exedra for Long Island National Cemetery to be built in fiscal year 1952, and a type A rostrum at Fort Scott National Cemetery for fiscal year 1954—neither were funded.[139]

Veterans Administration Rostrums

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[136] Rostrum design A, if ever built, would have resulted in a small Classical Revival temple, featuring a Tuscan Doric-order peristyle on a raised rectangular podium with a gable roof. Design E would have created a Tuscan Doric hemicycle with a flat roof hidden behind a raised parapet, similar to "Rostrum Type F" built at Fort Bliss National Cemetery. Office of the Quartermaster General, Construction Division, "U.S. National Cemetery Rostrum Type 'A'," drawing 6782-103; idem, "U.S. National Cemetery Rostrum Type 'E'," drawing 6782-107; both National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.

[137] "Army expands old cemetery in Alexandria," *Washington Post*, June 22, 1945, 7; maintenance ledger sheet for Alexandria rostrum, RG 15, Alexandria, Va.

[138] Office of the Quartermaster General, Memorial Division. "Standard Rostrum Type 'A' U.S. National Cemeteries," Nov. 22, 1944, drawing no. MC-139; idem, "Standard Rostrum Type B for U.S. National Cemeteries," Nov. 22, 1944, drawing no. MC-169; both National Cemetery Administration Drawing Files for National Cemeteries, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.

[139] Office of the Quartermaster General, Memorial Division, "Long Island Nat. Cemetery, Farmingdale, Long Island, N.Y., Exedra Type Rostrum and Assembly Area, Plans & Det[ail]s," Mar. 30, 1950, drawing MC-174-E, copy in RG 15, Long Island, and idem, "Fort Scott Nat. Cemetery, Fort Scott, Kansas, Flagpole Steps, Assembly Area, Rostrum standard Type 'A'," Sept. 20, 1950, drawing no. MC-114-A; both National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.

The precedent of erecting rostrums in federal cemeteries was copied on two occasions by the Veterans Administration (VA), which, after its establishment in 1930 through the consolidation of the U.S. Veterans Bureau and the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, maintained a number of veterans' cemeteries. An elegant, neoclassical rostrum was constructed in 1936 in the cemetery of the VA home and hospital at Leavenworth, Kansas (formerly the Western Branch of the National Home) using funds bequeathed by John Joy, a Union veteran who spent his final days at the home. Joy's bequest also funded an entrance monument elsewhere on the hospital grounds. The rostrum consisted of a raised marble speaker's platform on concrete foundations supporting a trabeated limestone screen composed of square, fluted piers and fluted Doric columns. A lectern on the front of the platform displayed the motto, "The glory of their deeds lives on." Both the rostrum and the entrance monument were designed by W. Talbain, the chief of the Technical Division of the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C.[140]

The VA also built a rostrum in the cemetery at the former Pacific Branch of the National Home in Los Angeles in 1939 or 1940. This structure was constructed along with other cemetery improvements—including an entrance gate, a combined administration building and chapel, and a columbarium and memorial cloister—in a Mission Revival style, using Work Projects Administration funds.[141]

Conclusion

The U.S. Army Quartermaster's Department (and later the Quartermaster Corps) built eighty-nine rostrums between 1873 and 1951. Over time, lack of maintenance funds led to the removal of roofs and iron superstructures from many of the early standard rectangular and octagonal examples, and a large number were demolished by the corps due to deterioration in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. Others were lost due to storm damage, and the one at Culpeper National Cemetery was even dismantled for wartime salvage in 1942.

Administrative changes that began in the 1930s have placed the forty-six surviving rostrums under the care of three different federal agencies. In 1933, eleven national cemeteries and many other historic sites were transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior, where their care was assumed by the National Park Service. Four more cemeteries were transferred in 1939, 1940, 1942, and 1971. One was transferred back to the War Department in 1944, leaving fourteen cemeteries containing eight rostrums under Park Service oversight today. Arlington National Cemetery and the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery (formerly Soldiers' Home) remain with the Department

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[140] Virginia H. Adams, National Historic Register nomination for "Western Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1999; Suzanne Julin, National Historic Landmarks Program nomination for "Western Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2008 (designated 2011).

[141] The Los Angeles rostrum was built under WPA project O.P. 565-3-2-2 (1937).

of the Army. The remaining cemeteries—containing thirty-three army-built rostrums and two Confederate rostrums—were transferred to the Veterans Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs) in 1973. The VA's National Cemetery Administration now maintains these structures, as well as the two rostrums built by the VA in 1936 and 1940.[142]

[142] The cemeteries transferred to the National Park Service in 1933 were Antietam, Battleground, Chattanooga, Fort Donelson, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Poplar Grove, Shiloh, Stones River, Vicksburg, and Yorktown. Chattanooga was transferred back in 1944. Subsequent transfers were Chalmette (1939), Custer Battlefield (1940), Andrew Johnson (1942), and Andersonville (1971).

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APPENDIX I:
ROSTRUMS IN THE NATIONAL CEMETERIES
(BY LOCATION)

This table lists all rostrums that currently stand or once stood in the national cemeteries. The entries are arranged alphabetically by state, then by cemetery name. **Boldface** indicates extant rostrums. Builders' names appear in square brackets where known. Single asterisks (*) indicate contractor's bid prices; double asterisks (**) indicate total construction costs. All extant national cemetery rostrums are maintained either by the National Cemetery Administration within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the National Park Service (NPS), or the U.S. Army National Cemeteries Program. For additional information on selected rostrums, see the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) documentation referred to in the entries.*

ALABAMA	
Mobile **1891–92**	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [probably Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; roof removed; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. AL-1-B
ARKANSAS	
Fayetteville 1893–94	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [probably Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; roof removed 1957; demolished 1970.
Fort Smith 1889–90	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; roof removed 1953; demolished 1963.
Little Rock 1886	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio, $596*]; demolished at unknown date.
Little Rock **1907**	Square podium with corner piers and pyramidal roof [builder unknown]; privately built in Confederate cemetery; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. AR-2-C
CALIFORNIA	
Los Angeles **ca. 1940**	Mission Revival uncovered podium with lectern and exedra; built by Veterans Administration prior to incorporation of cemetery into national cemetery system [built with WPA funds]; extant, maintained by VA. HABS No. CA-2709-C

* This table is compiled from correspondence, reports, and maintenance ledgers preserved in the National Archives (RG 92 and RG 15), the quartermaster general's annual reports, cemetery inspectors' published reports, and War Department published contract lists.

Fort Rosecrans, San Diego 1936	Uncovered concrete platform with lectern, exedra, and stela [builder unknown, $910**]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. CA-7-B
San Francisco 1915	Uncovered sandstone and concrete platform with lectern, exedra, and stela [builder unknown, $5,835**]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. CA-1-B
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	
Soldiers' Home 1880 or 1881	Octagonal platform with iron arbor [builder unknown]; probably demolished 1883.
Soldiers' Home 1883	Rectangular podium in brick with iron roof carried on stone columns and stone entablature blocks salvaged from Patent Office Building in 1877 [builder unknown]; demolished at unknown date.
Battleground 1921	Tuscan-Doric peristyle with columns salvaged from the Patent Office Building in 1877 [builder unknown, $2,500**]; extant, maintained by NPS.
FLORIDA	
Barrancas 1891–92	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [probably Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; demolished 1941.
St. Augustine 1940	Spanish Revival uncovered platform [builder unknown, $2,625**]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. FL-3-B
GEORGIA	
Andersonville 1889–90	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; demolished at unknown date.
Andersonville 1941	Renaissance Revival pavilion with hip roof [builder unknown]; extant, maintained by NPS.
Marietta 1882	Standard rectangular podium in brick with trellis roof [Stone Mountain Granite and Railway Company, $1,500*]; demolished; bricks used to build arbor adjacent to new rostrum 1940.
Marietta 1940	Renaissance Revival pavilion [Columbus Marble Works, Columbus, Miss., $20,846**]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. GA-1-B
ILLINOIS	
Alton 1941	Moderne grand staircase and retaining wall [built with WPA funds, $19,077**]; built as entrance to Alton soldiers' lot; made a national cemetery in 1948; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. IL-1-A

Camp Butler, Springfield 1896–97	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [builder unknown]; demolished before 1939.
Camp Butler, Springfield 1939	Rectangular podium with corner piers and gable roof [builder unknown, $5,232**]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. IL-7-C
Mound City 1882	Standard rectangular podium in brick with trellis roof [John W. Adams and George Q. Adams, Chattanooga, Tenn., $1,820*]; gable roof and concrete floor added 1936; dismantled and rebuilt 1939. see HALS No. IL-9-B
Mound City 1939	Rectangular podium in brick with hip roof [part funded by WPA, $2,400**]; reconstruction of 1882 rostrum; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. IL-9-B
Rock Island 1875	Rectangular frame [builder unknown, $780*]; demolished sometime after 1950.
INDIANA	
New Albany 1881	Standard rectangular podium in brick with trellis roof [W. L. Samuel, $1,171*]; demolished and rebuilt 1931. see HALS No. IN-4-B
New Albany 1931	Rectangular podium in brick with open gable roof [builder unknown, about $2,500**]; rebuild of 1881 rostrum; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. IN-4-B
IOWA	
Keokuk 1873	Octagonal pavilion in wood on wood base [builder unknown, $506*]; demolished 1936.
Keokuk 1935	Simple octagonal concrete platform without roof [builder unknown, $250**]; demolished 1950.
KANSAS	
Fort Leavenworth 1882	Standard rectangular podium in brick with trellis roof [Michael A. McGowan, Washington, D.C., $1,697*]; demolished 1956.
Fort Scott 1882	Standard rectangular podium in brick with trellis roof [Michael A. McGowan, Washington, D.C., $1,768*]; partly rebuilt 1931; roof removed 1961; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. KS-3-A
Leavenworth 1936	Trabeated limestone screen on marble platform [builder unknown]; built by Veterans Administration prior to incorporation of cemetery into national cemetery system; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. KS-2-A

KENTUCKY	
Camp Nelson, Nicholasville 1891–92	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [probably Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; demolished 1946.
Cave Hill, Louisville 1898	Rectangular podium with concrete columns and trellis roof [builder unknown]; roof removed after 1947; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. KY-8-B
Lebanon 1932	Standard octagonal platform in concrete with steel roof [builder unknown, $932**]; roof removed 1962 or 1963; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. KY-3-B
Zachary Taylor, Louisville 1934	Rectangular podium in brick with open gable roof [builder unknown, $5,109**]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. KY-6-B
LOUISIANA	
Alexandria 1931	Octagonal platform in concrete with steel roof [builder unknown, $883**]; roof removed 1955; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. LA-4-B
Baton Rouge 1896–97	Standard octagonal podium in stuccoed brick with iron superstructure [builder unknown]; roof removed; extant, maintained by VA HALS No. LA-5-B
Chalmette 1879	Standard rectangular podium in brick with trellis roof [Charles Hense, Washington, D.C., $1,500*]; demolished at unknown date.
Chalmette 1931	Standard octagonal platform in concrete with steel roof [builder unknown]; extant, maintained by NPS.
Port Hudson 1931	Standard octagonal platform in concrete with steel roof [builder unknown, $1,424**]; roof removed 1955; demolished at unknown date.
MARYLAND	
Annapolis 1893–94	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [probably Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; demolished 1938.
Antietam 1879	Standard rectangular podium in brick with trellis roof [Jonathan Late, Hagerstown, Md., $915*]; extant, maintained by NPS. HABS No. MD-936-D
Baltimore 1951	Semicircular paved precinct with small podium and lectern [builder unknown; incorporated a 1940 retaining wall built using WPA funds]; removed 1971.

Loudon Park, Baltimore 1886	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio, $596*]; demolished May 1933.
MISSISSIPPI	
Corinth 1889–90	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; demolished 1942.
Natchez 1931	Standard octagonal platform in concrete with steel roof [builder unknown, $943**]; roof removed 1957; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. MS-2-B
Vicksburg 1879	Standard rectangular podium in brick with trellis roof [John W. Adams, Chattanooga, Tenn., $880*]; demolished at unknown date.
MISSOURI	
Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis 1879	Standard rectangular podium in brick with trellis roof [Bryan Brady, St. Louis, Mo., $978*]; rebuilt 1941 by WPA with stone cladding around podium; roof removed 1959; demolished 1961.
Jefferson City 1942	Peristyle with arcaded rear wall [builder unknown]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. MO-3-B
Springfield after 1870	Hexagonal podium in brick with frame superstructure and tin roof [builder unknown]; privately built in Confederate cemetery; demolished at unknown date.
Springfield 1888	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; demolished at unknown date.
Springfield 1940	Peristyle with corner piers and gable roof [built with WPA funds]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. MO-4-B
NEBRASKA	
Fort McPherson, Maxwell 1891–92	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [probably Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; demolished 1949.
NEW JERSEY	
Beverly 1937	Rectangular podium with corner piers and gable roof [M. B. Lewis Company, Mount Holly, N.J., $5,264]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. NJ-2-B

NEW MEXICO	
Santa Fe 1934	Standard octagonal platform in concrete with steel roof [builder unknown, $1,373**, funded by PWA]; demolished 1945.
Santa Fe **1942**	Pueblo Revival pavilion [built with WPA funds]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. NM-4-B
NEW YORK	
Cypress Hills, Brooklyn 1886	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio, $596*]; demolished at unknown date.
Cypress Hills, Brooklyn **1939**	Peristyle with gable roof atop storage building [built with WPA funds, $24,785**]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. NY-2-E
Long Island, Farmingdale 1938	Uncovered rectangular platform with lectern [built with WPA funds, $2,221**]; demolished 1960.
NORTH CAROLINA	
New Bern **1889–90**	Standard octagonal podium in shell rock with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; roof removed 1957; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. NC-1-B
Raleigh **1931**	Standard octagonal platform in concrete with steel roof [builder unknown, $987**]; roof removed 1957, extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. NC-4-B
Salisbury 1896–97	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [builder unknown]; removed 1946.
Wilmington **1886**	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio, $596*]; roof removed 1958; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. NC-5-B
OHIO	
Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery, Columbus **ca. 1915**	Rectangular podium in cast stone with hip roof [builder unknown]; privately built; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. OH-2-A
OKLAHOMA	
Fort Gibson, Okla. **1939**	Octagonal podium without roof [builder unknown, $6,000**]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. OK-3-B

OREGON	
Willamette 1956	Platform with decorative screen and lectern [builder unknown]; demolished ca. 1996 for new rostrum.
PENNSYLVANIA	
Gettysburg **1879**	Standard rectangular podium in brick with trellis roof [Perry J. and John J. Tawney, Gettysburg, $1,095*]; extant, maintained by NPS.
Philadelphia 1888	Standard octagonal podium with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; demolished at unknown date.
Philadelphia **1939**	Hemicycle [built with WPA funds, $10,290**]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. PA-2-B
SOUTH CAROLINA	
Beaufort 1889–90	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; replaced by new rostrum 1896–97.
Beaufort 1896–97	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [builder unknown]; built to replace 1890 rostrum; demolished 1966.
Florence **1938**	Rectangular platform with corner piers and hip roof [builder unknown, $2,320**]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. SC-2-B
TENNESSEE	
Andrew Johnson, Greeneville **1931**	Standard octagonal platform in concrete with steel roof [builder unknown]; roof removed; extant, maintained by NPS.
Chattanooga 1879	Standard rectangular podium in brick with trellis roof [John W. Adams, Chattanooga, Tenn., $675*]; demolished 1958.
Fort Donelson 1893–94	Standard octagonal podium with iron superstructure [probably Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; demolished at unknown date.
Knoxville 1879	Standard rectangular podium in brick with trellis roof [John W. Adams, Chattanooga, Tenn., $790*]; hip roof added by 1932; demolished 1960.
Memphis 1886	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio, $596*]; demolished 1964.

Nashville 1886	Standard octagonal podium in stone with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio, $596*]; demolished before 1940.
Nashville **1940**	Renaissance Revival pavilion with hip roof [builder unknown, $11,862**]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. TN-5-B
Shiloh (Pittsburg Landing) 1891–92	Standard octagonal podium in stone with iron superstructure [probably Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; roof removed before 1909; destroyed by tornado 1909.
Stones River **(Murfreesboro)** **1882**	Standard rectangular podium in brick with trellis roof [John W. Adams and George Q. Adams, Chattanooga, Tenn., $1,680*]; extant, maintained by NPS.
TEXAS	
Fort Bliss, El Paso **1940**	Renaissance Revival hemicycle [builder unknown, $13,600**]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. TX-2-B
Fort Sam Houston, **San Antonio** **1934**	Hexagonal podium in stone without roof [builder unknown, $827**]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. TX-3-B
San Antonio **1889–90**	Standard octagonal podium in stone with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; roof removed 1957; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. TX-6-B
VIRGINIA	
Alexandria 1889–90	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; demolished 1945.
Alexandria **1945**	Uncovered podium with stela and lectern facing a grassy assembly area [possibly Standard Art Marble and Tile Co., $16,712]; extant, maintained by VA. HALS No. VA-2-C
Arlington **1873**	Rectangular podium in brick with trellis roof [builder unknown]; extant, maintained by U.S. Army. HABS No. VA-1348-A
Culpeper 1905–06	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [H. W. McCray, Washington, D.C.]; demolished 1942 for wartime scrap drive.
Fredericksburg 1888	Standard octagonal podium with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; demolished at unknown date.
Hampton 1888	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; demolished at unknown date.

Poplar Grove, Petersburg 1896–97	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [builder unknown]; extant, maintained by NPS. HALS No. VA-56-A
Richmond 1888	Standard octagonal podium in brick with iron superstructure [Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; roof removed at unknown date; extant, maintained by VA.
Yorktown 1893–94	Standard octagonal podium with iron superstructure [probably Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; demolished at unknown date.
WEST VIRGINIA	
Grafton 1891–92	Standard octagonal podium in stone with iron superstructure [probably Champion Iron Fence Company, Kenton, Ohio]; demolished 1948.

APPENDIX II:
ROSTRUMS IN THE NATIONAL CEMETERIES
(BY TYPE) †

Non-standard rostrums, 1873–98

Date	*Cemetery*	*Podium material*	*Bid price*
1873	Keokuk, Iowa	wood	$506
1873	Arlington, Va.	brick	unknown
1875	Rock Island, Ill.	brick/wood	$780
ca. 1881	Soldiers' Home, Washington, D.C.	brick	unknown
1883	Soldiers' Home, Washington, D.C.	brick	unknown
1898	Cave Hill, Louisville, Ky.	stone	unknown

Standard rectangular rostrums, 1879–83

Date	*Cemetery*	*Podium material*	*Bid price*
1879	Chalmette, La.	brick	$1,500
1879	Antietam, Sharpsburg, Md.	brick	$915
1879	Chattanooga, Tenn.	brick	$675
1879	Knoxville, Tenn.	brick	$790
1879	Vicksburg, Miss.	brick	$880
1879	Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Mo.	brick	$978
1879	Gettysburg, Pa.	brick	$1,095
1880	New Albany, Ind.	brick	$1,171
1882	Fort Leavenworth, Kans.	brick	$1,697
1882	Fort Scott, Kans.	brick	$1,768
1882	Stones River, Tenn.	brick	$1,680
1882	Mound City, Ill.	brick	$1,820
1882	Marietta, Ga.	brick	$1,500

Standard octagonal rostrums, 1886–1906

Date	*Cemetery*	*Podium material*	*Bid price*
1886	Loudon Park, Baltimore, Md.	brick	$596
1886	Cypress Hills, Brooklyn, N.Y.	brick	$596
1886	Wilmington, N.C.	brick	$596
1886	Memphis, Tenn.	brick	$596
1886	Nashville, Tenn.	stone	$596
1886	Little Rock, Ark.	brick	$596
1888	Fredericksburg, Va.	unknown	unknown

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† Bid prices for rostrums built in 1879 taken from *Statements showing the contracts made by the bureaus of the War Department on behalf of the United States during the year 1879*, Senate Ex. Doc. 56, 46th Cong., 2d sess., Jan. 26, 1880, 9; bid prices for rostrums built between 1880 and 1905 from the original construction contracts preserved in RG 92, entry 576; cost figures for rostrums built after 1930 from the maintenance ledger sheets in RG 15/A-1, entry 25.

1888	Hampton, Va.	brick	unknown
1888	Richmond, Va.	brick	unknown
1888	Philadelphia, Penn.	unknown	unknown
1888	Springfield, Mo.	brick	unknown
1889–90	Alexandria, Va.	brick	unknown
1889–90	Andersonville, Ga.	brick	unknown
1889–90	Beaufort, S.C.	brick	unknown
1889–90	Corinth, Miss.	brick	unknown
1889–90	Fort Smith, Ark.	brick	unknown
1889–90	New Bern, N.C.	shell stone (to match lodge)	unknown
1889–90	San Antonio, Tex.	stone (to match lodge)	unknown
1891–92	Barrancas, Fla.	brick	unknown
1891–92	Camp Nelson, Ky.	brick	unknown
1891–92	Fort McPherson, Nebr.	brick	unknown
1891–92	Grafton, W.Va.	stone (to match lodge)	unknown
1891–92	Mobile, Ala.	brick	unknown
1891–92	Shiloh (Pittsburg Landing), Tenn.	stone	unknown
1893–94	Annapolis, Md.	brick	unknown
1893–94	Yorktown, Va.	unknown	unknown
1893–94	Fort Donelson, Tenn.	unknown	unknown
1893–94	Fayetteville, Ark.	brick	unknown
1896–97	Baton Rouge, La.	rendered brick	unknown
1896–97	Beaufort, S.C.	brick	unknown
1896–97	Camp Butler, Ill.	brick	unknown
1896–97	Poplar Grove, Va.	brick	unknown
1896–97	Salisbury, N.C.	brick	unknown
1905–06	Culpeper, Va.	brick	unknown

Neoclassical rostrums, 1905–31

Date	*Cemetery*	*Material*	*Final cost*
1915	San Francisco, Calif.	concrete and sandstone	$5,835
1921	Battleground, Washington, D.C.	stone	$2,500

Rostrums in federally owned Confederate cemeteries

Date	*Cemetery*	*Podium material*	*Final cost*
after 1870	Springfield, Mo.	brick and wood	unknown
1907	Little Rock, Ark.	concrete and brick	unknown
ca. 1915	Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio	cast stone and concrete	unknown

Standard octagonal rostrums constructed to simplified plan, 1931–34

Date	*Cemetery*	*Podium material*	*Final cost*
1931	Chalmette, La.	concrete	unknown
1931	Alexandria, La.	concrete	$883
1931	Andrew Johnson, Greeneville, Tenn.	concrete	unknown
1931	Natchez, Miss.	concrete	$943
1931	Port Hudson, La.	concrete	$1,424

1931	Raleigh, N.C.	concrete	$987
1932	Lebanon, Ky.	concrete	$932
1934	Santa Fe, N.M.	concrete	$1,373

Rectangular rostrums constructed to new plan, 1931–34

Date	*Cemetery*	*Material*	*Final cost*
1931	New Albany, Ind.	brick	about $2,500
1934	Zachary Taylor, Louisville, Ky.	concrete	$5,109

Non-standard rostrums

Date	*Cemetery*	*Podium material*	*Final cost*
1935	Keokuk, Iowa	concrete	$250
unknown	Sitka, Alaska	concrete	unknown

Rostrums built to a variety of neoclassical designs, 1934–56

Date	*Cemetery*	*Material*	*Final cost*
1934	Fort Sam Houston, Tex.	stone and concrete	$827
1936	Fort Rosecrans, Calif.	concrete	$910
1937	Beverly, N.J.	brick and concrete	unknown
1938	Long Island, N.Y.	concrete and brick	$2,221
1938	Florence, S.C.	brick and concrete	$2,320
1939	Cypress Hills, N.Y.	stone and concrete	$24,785
1939	Camp Butler, Ill.	limestone and concrete	$5,232
1939	Philadelphia, Pa.	limestone and concrete	$10,290
1939	Fort Gibson, Okla.	sandstone and concrete	$6,000
1939	Mound City, Ill.	stuccoed brick	$2,400
1940	Springfield, Mo.	limestone and concrete	unknown
1940	Marietta, Ga.	marble and concrete	$20,846
1940	Fort Bliss, Tex.	granite and concrete	$13,600
1940	Nashville, Tenn.	stone and concrete	$11,862
1940	St. Augustine, Fla.	coquina stone and concrete	$2,625
1941	Alton, Ill.	concrete	$19,077
1941	Andersonville, Ga.	stone and concrete	unknown
1942	Santa Fe, N.M.	stuccoed sandstone	unknown
1942	Jefferson City, Mo.	stone and concrete	unknown
1945	Alexandria, Va.	marble and concrete	$16,712
1951	Baltimore, Md.	stone and concrete	unknown
1956	Willamette, Ore.	brick and concrete	unknown

Rostrums built in Veterans Administration cemeteries

Date	*Cemetery*	*Material*	*Final cost*
1937	Leavenworth, Kans.	limestone and marble	unknown
ca. 1940	Los Angeles, Calif.	brick and concrete stucco	unknown

APPENDIX III:
SPECIFICATIONS FOR STANDARD RECTANGULAR-PLAN ROSTRUMS, APRIL 1, 1882 ‡

Specifications for Rostrums.

To be built of good hard brick, laid in mortar of equal parts of lime and cement, with due proportion of sharp clean sand.

Inside of walls to be plastered three-quarters of an inch thick with cement and sand mortar, as for a cistern wall.

Wood-work of dressed lumber, suitably and firmly framed, and oiled with three coats of linseed oil.

Cut-stone coping five and a half inches thick, twenty-two inches wide, with projections and moldings, and cut-stone caps for columns, as shown on plan.

Railing and baluster of one and a half inch gas-pipe; stanchions as shown on plan; to be painted with two coats of bronze-green.

Traps and necessary tile to carry off drainage.

Interior of Rostrum to be filled with earth and sodded, as indicated in "cross-section."

All rubbish to be cleared away on completion of work.

RUFUS INGALLS
Quartermaster General,
Bvt. Major General, U.S. Army

April 1, 1882

‡ Transcribed from a copy in RG 92, entry 576, Fort Leavenworth.

APPENDIX IV:
SPECIFICATIONS FOR
OCTAGONAL-PLAN ROSTRUMS, JULY 15, 1886 §

Specifications of Rostrums (Design No. 2) for National Cemeteries.

To be constructed in accordance with drawing herewith dated Office of National Cemeteries, Washington, D.C., July 15, 1886.

Excavation. Excavate for foundation on section lines shown.

Foundation Walls. To be of dimensions shown—of concrete—one part best American cement, two parts clean, sharp sand, three parts hard stone, broken fine.

Walls above Foundation. To be built in the best manner, of well made, hard burned, brick (except at the Nashville, Tenn., Cemetery where stone will be used) laid in mortar composed of one part cement, one part lime, and four parts clean, sharp sand. The top course to be of selected brick laid on edge, in mortar composed of one part English Portland cement, and two parts clean, sharp sand. Joints in brick work to be not over one-quarter inch thick and all joints to be thoroughly filled with mortar. Outside joints to be neatly "struck" with the trowel. Inside of brick walls to be plastered, three-quarters (3/4) of an inch thick with cement mortar (one cement, two sand.)

At the Nashville National Cemetery, substitute stone for brick. A cross section of stone wall is shown in drawing. First class rubble work, laid in lime and cement mortar as above. (All below ground to be laid in cement mortar.) To be "quarry face." Joints not over half an inch. All joints well filled with mortar. Outside joints neatly pointed.

Pilasters at corners to project two inches out and be [illegible] with wall.

Top of wall to be a coping of hammer-dressed or sawed stone of approved kind and quality and of dimensions and shape shown. To be eight of these stones—one to each side of the octagonal carefully joined at joints and grouted—the coping to be set in a good bed of Portland cement mortar.

Provide for drainage as shown, a 4 inch vitrified pipe with bend extending with proper fall to grade—distance may be estimated at 75 feet—where the end projecting from ground will be covered with a small heading thus: [two drawings, a cross section and a longitudinal section, of drain pipe exiting ground, appear here in the original].

The top of pipe to extend nearly to surface of cement floor and have a suitable C. I. [cast iron] cap with hole.

Filling. Fill inside of walls with earth, to height shown, and thoroughly tamp. On this about one foot of broken stone, also thoroughly tamped, water being sprinkled freely over

§ Transcribed from a copy in RG 92, entry 576, Loudon Park.

filling during tamping to insure a compact mass. The broken stone to be grouted. This filling is to be put in as soon as possible so as to have time to settle.

Concrete floor. After all other work, including iron superstructure, is completed, concrete floor of Rostrum as shown. Concrete to be composed as above—to be well tamped as it is put in—to be brought within one inch of height of floor when finished.

Lastly, before the concrete sets, put on one inch, in thickness, of mortar, composed of one part English Portland Cement, and one part fine screened and washed sand; to be done, in best manner, by an expert, and trowelled smooth. When finished, the floor at outer edge to be flush with top of coping and have a fall of one inch to center.

Superstructure. To be of Iron of design and construction shown in drawing.

Steps. To be of iron, constructed as shown, with rail and balusters of W. I. [wrought iron] which will be continued between posts. Top step to be sunk flush in stone coping. Superstructure to be firmly secured to base by W. I. anchors in wall as shown.

The whole to be constructed in a workmanlike manner of the best materials.

Paint. Superstructure and steps to have two good coats of oil paint, tinted as directed.

Mound. The earth from trench to be mounded up around walls as shown.

Clearing. After completion, remove all rubbish.

Inspection. Materials and workmanship to be subject to inspection and approval of an Engineer or other agent of the Department. Payment for the work to be made upon his certificate that contract has been fully complied with.

The work to be completed on or before November 15, 1886.

Official:
R. N. Batchelder
Deputy Q. M. General, U.S. Army

Office of National Cemeteries
Washington, D.C.
July 15, 1886

APPENDIX V: SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES FOR OCTAGONAL-PLAN ROSTRUMS, JUNE 14, 1887 **

[I.]
Specifications of Rostrums for National Cemeteries.

To be constructed in accordance with drawing herewith, dated Office of National Cemeteries, Washington, D.C., June 14, 1887.

Excavation. Excavate for foundation on section lines shown.

Foundation Walls. To be of dimensions shown, of concrete, one part cement, two parts clean sharp sand, three parts hard stone or brick bats, broken fine.

Walls above Foundation. To be built in the best manner of well made, hard burned brick. Base to be laid in cement mortar (one cement, two sand). Wall above base in mortar composed of one part cement, one part lime, and three parts of clean sharp sand. Joints to be not over one-quarter inch thick, all to be thoroughly filled with mortar. Outside Joints to be neatly "struck" with the trowel. Inside of brick walls to be plastered three-quarters (3/4) of an inch think with cement mortar. Mortar outside to be colored brick color. Wall to be topped with a coping of hammer-dressed or sawed stone, of approved kind and quality and of dimensions and shape shown. To be of sixteen (16) of these stones—one to each side of the octagonal, and one under each post, carefully joined at joints and grouted. The coping to be set in a good bed of cement mortar. Stones to be clamped together at back with galvanized iron clamps.

Filling. Fill inside of walls with earth to height shown, and thoroughly tamp. On this about one foot of broken stone, also thoroughly tamped, water being sprinkled freely over filling during tamping, to insure a compact mass. The broken stone to be grouted. This filling to be put in as soon as possible so as to have time to settle.

Concrete Floor. After all other work, including iron superstructure, is completed, concrete floor of Rostrum as shown. Concrete to be composed as above, except that broken stone, and not brick bat will be used—to be well tamped as it is put in—to be brought within one inch of height of floor when finished. Lastly, before the concrete sets, put on, one inch in thickness, of mortar, composed of one part imported Portland cement and one part of fine, screened and washed sand; to be done in best manner by an expert and trowelled smooth.

** Transcribed from copies in RG 92, entry 667.

When finished, the floor at outer edge to be flush with top of coping, and to have a fall of one inch from center to coping.

All Cement used in the work to be approved American, except floor covering as above.

Superstructure. To be of Iron, of design and construction shown in drawing. Roof covered with galvanized iron No. 26 corrugated 5/8".

Steps. To be of iron, constructed as shown, with rail and balusters of Wrought Iron, which will be continued between posts. Top step to be sunk flush in stone coping. Superstructure to be firmly secured to base by W. I. anchors in wall, as shown. The whole to be constructed in a workmanlike manner and of the best materials.

Paint. Superstructure and steps to have a priming of red lead and two (2) good coats of oil paint, tinted as directed.

Mound. The earth from trench, to be mounded up around walls as shown.

After completion, remove all rubbish.

Materials and workmanship to be subject to inspection and approval of an Engineer or other Agent of the United States. Payment for the work to be made upon his certificate that the contract has been fully complied with.

The work to be completed on or before [blank]

[II.]
Estimate of Materials required in the Construction of Brick-Bases for Rostrums for National Cemeteries, upon the octagonal plan, prepared June 14, 1887, in the office of National Cemeteries.

For each Brick-Base for Rostrum

15 Bbls. American Cement (best)
2 Bbls. Portland (German is best)
7 cub. yds. Sand
13 cub. yds. Broken Stone or hard brick bats (2 1/2")
6700 Hard burned, well made common Brick
130 do. Angle Brick (See Estimate in Detail) 45°
70 do. Moulded (pressed Brick) (see Detail) 8" x 4"
20 do. Moulded (pressed) Brick (see Detail) 8" x 8"
53 1/2 (cs) lin. ft. dressed stone coping in 16 pieces (see Detailed Estimate)

Outside Mortar to be colored brick color in usual way by mixing powdered pigment with the mortar.

For each Stone-Base for Rostrum

25 cub. yds. Building Stone
19 Bbls. San Antonio or other approved Am. Cement
2 Bbls. German Portland Cement
7 Cub. yds. Sand
534 1/2 (cs) lin. ft. dressed Stone Coping (same as above)

[III.]
Specification
(follow specification herewith as far as it applies.)

For Stone-Base for Rostrum (if built at San Antonio). Foundation to be first class Rubble Work, Upper Wall: "Rock Range" with dressed beds & joints, pitched Quarry-Face or Rustic Rubble.

In all the Rostrums the Coping should be set by derrick, quickly, in good bed of Portland Cement Mortar (1 Cement, 1 Sand), joints made close & filled with thin grout of Portland Cem.

The Iron Work should be put up by day work, as it would be difficult to make a definite specification for the work to be done. Still, if thought necessary, proposals could be invited for the erection of the iron superstructures, including steps & roof, "according to the drawings furnished".

APPENDIX VI:
PAINTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR ROSTRUMS, 1907 ††

Circular No. 7

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
Washington, March 19, 1907

In order to secure uniformity in the appearance of the buildings, etc., at the national cemeteries it is directed that hereafter all painting done at the several national cemeteries be in conformity with the following:

. . .

Iron rostrum.— Brick foundation not to be painted; where it has been painted, to be repainted red; railing, columns, and structural iron work, except under roof, black; top of roof, red; under side of roof, light blue.

Brick rostrum.—Brick wall and columns not to be painted; where they have been painted, to be repainted red; rafter timbers, white.

Frame rostrum— Brick foundation not to be painted; where it has been painted, to be repainted red; columns, railing, and structural work, except rafters under roof, dark gray; roof, if tin, red; if shingles and has been painted, to be repainted red; new shingle roof, shingles dipped in oil or creosote, stained red; under side of roof and rafters, light blue.

. . .

C. F. HUMPHREY,
Quartermaster General, U.S. Army

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†† War Department, Office of the Quartermaster General, "Circular No. 7," Mar. 19, 1907, National Archives, Washington, D.C., Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Records Relating to Functions: Cemeterial, War Department Orders and Circulars Relating to Cemeteries (RG 92, entry 589).

FIGURE PAGES

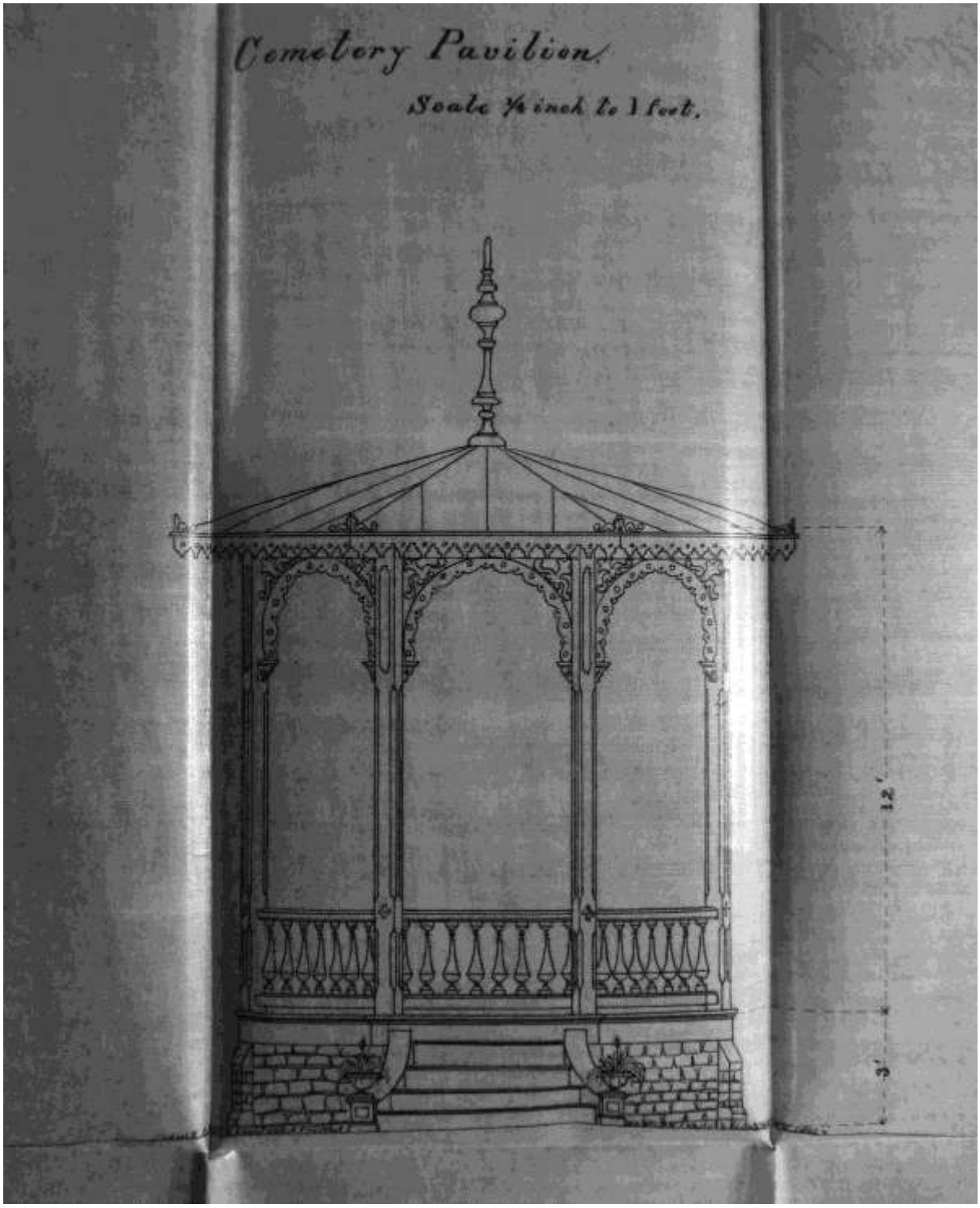

Figure 1. Elevation drawing for the rostrum at Keokuk National Cemetery, Iowa, prepared in the Office of the Chief Quartermaster, Department of the Platte, Omaha, Nebraska, May 1873. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., RG 92, entry 576,

dockets for Keokuk.

Figure 2. The rostrum at Rock Island National Cemetery, Illinois, ordered built by Secretary of War William Belknap for use during Decoration Day observances in 1875. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Historical File (Record Group 15/A-1, entry 25), maintenance ledger pages for Jefferson Barracks.

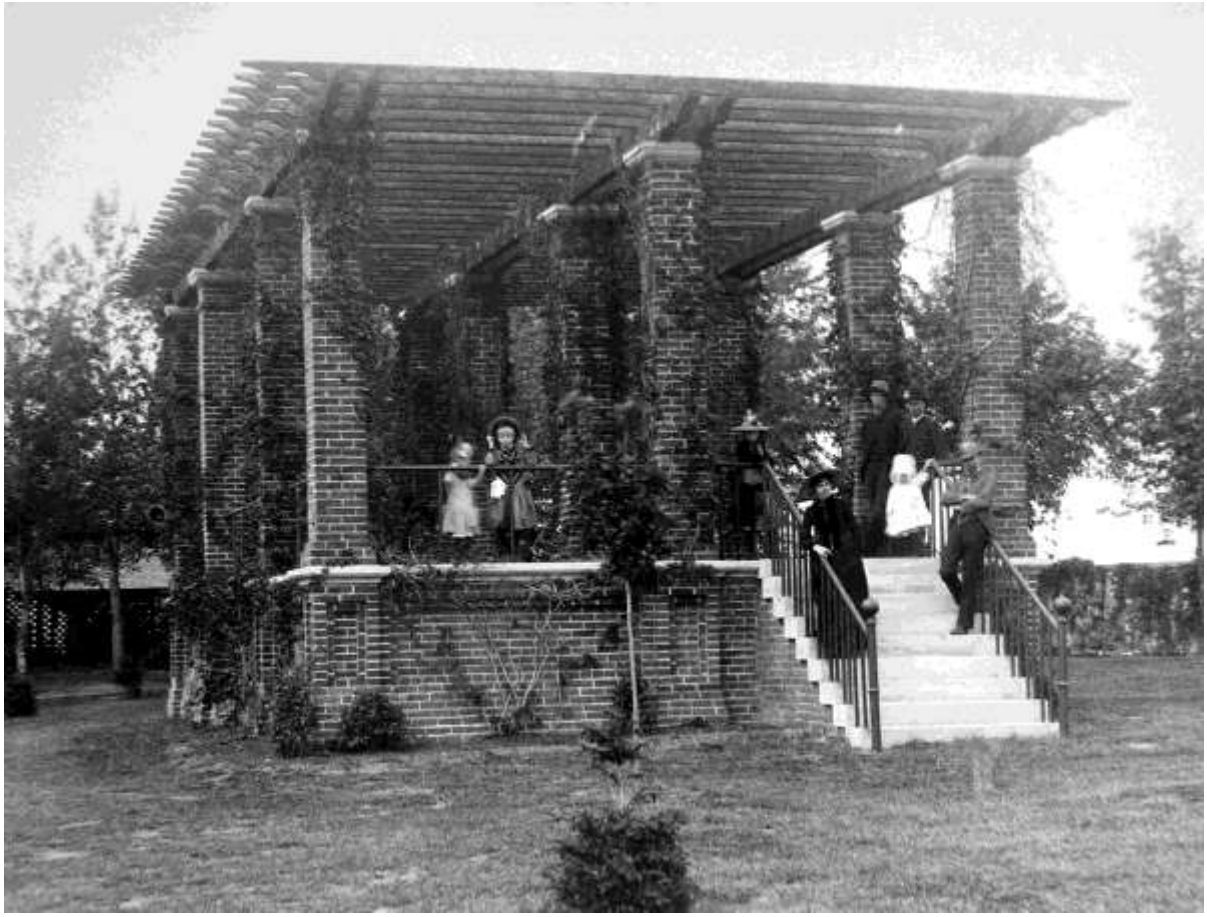

Figure 3. The rostrum at Fort Scott National Cemetery, Kansas, completed in 1882, a typical example of the standard rectangular rostrums constructed by the U.S. Army Quartermaster's Department between 1879 and 1883. National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Md., Still Picture Branch, RG 92-CA, box 2, folder 9.

Figure 4. The rostrum at Soldiers' Home National Cemetery, D.C., completed in 1883. The design was adapted from the standard design for rectangular rostrums and made use of ten sandstone columns and matching entablature blocks salvaged from the south exhibition room of the Patent Office Building after a fire in 1877. Additional salvaged columns and blocks were used to build a monumental gateway for this cemetery and a Temple of Fame at Arlington National Cemetery. Army maintenance ledger photograph provided by National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Figure 5. The standard octagonal rostrum at Wilmington National Cemetery, North Carolina, built in 1886. This is one of the first octagonal rostrums, built by the Champion Iron Fence Company of Kenton, Ohio. The sheathing over the roof framework is a later modification. This rostrum still stands, although its superstructure above the level of the handrail was removed in 1958. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Historical File (Record Group 15/A-1, entry 25), maintenance ledger pages for Wilmington.

Figure 6. The rostrum at Raleigh National Cemetery, North Carolina, built to the simplified standard plan for rostrums in 1931. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Historical File (Record Group 15/A-1, entry 25), maintenance ledger pages for Raleigh.

Figure 7. The small neoclassical rostrum at Beverly National Cemetery, New Jersey, built in 1937. A nearly identical rostrum was built of limestone at Camp Butler National Cemetery, Illinois, in 1939. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Historical File (Record Group 15/A-1, entry 25), maintenance ledger pages for Beverly.

Figure 8. The rostrum at Cypress Hills National Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York, built in 1939 with a commanding view along the cemetery's axial main drive. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Historical File (Record Group 15/A-1, entry 25), maintenance ledger pages for Cypress Hills.

Figure 9. The rostrum at Nashville National Cemetery, Tennessee, built in 1940. This monumental rostrum, nearly identical to one built at Andersonville National Cemetery in 1941, represents the larger neoclassical speakers' stands the Construction Division of the Office of the Quartermaster General was able to build at selected cemeteries immediately prior to World War II. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Historical File (Record Group 15/A-1, entry 25), maintenance ledger pages for Nashville.

Figure 10. The rostrum at Santa Fe National Cemetery, New Mexico, designed in the Pueblo Revival style in 1939 and completed in 1942. U.S. Army photograph dated May 21, 1946, provided by National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.