



"Lawnfield," James A. Garfield Estate

Lake, Ohio

Name of Property

County and State

In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Barbara Powers

July 13, 2015

Signature of commenting official:

Date

DSTPO for Inventory & Registration,

Ohio History Connection SHPO

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:) Accept Additional Documentation

Patrick Andrus

Signature of the Keeper

9/29/2015

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private (furnishings):

Public - Local

Public - State

Public - Federal

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**Category of Property**

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing   |            |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| <u>1</u>     | <u>2</u>          | buildings  |
| <u>2</u>     | <u>          </u> | sites      |
| <u>2</u>     | <u>1</u>          | structures |
| <u>5</u>     | <u>5</u>          | objects    |
| <u>9</u>     | <u>8</u>          | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 5

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/Storage

AGRICULTURE/Agricultural Outbuilding

TRANSPORTATION/Pedestrian-related

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Queen Anne  
Richardsonian Romanesque

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: Sandstone  
Walls: Weatherboard  
Roof: Shingle  
Other: Brick

## Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### Summary

Lawnfield is the name applied to James A. Garfield's 157-acre Mentor, Ohio, farm by reporters during James A. Garfield's successful 1880 presidential campaign. Today, the James A. Garfield National Historic Site (NHS) preserves 7.82 acres of the Garfield family's farm. The NHS is located on Mentor Avenue (U.S. 20), 20 miles east of Cleveland. In the 1870s the area was agricultural; the NHS now is surrounded by suburban development. Included within the NHS are three buildings, one structure, and one site from James Garfield's 1877-1881 residency: the main house, the campaign office, a horse barn, a granary, and a historic lane. The house, campaign office, and historic lane figured prominently in Garfield's ground-breaking 1880 front-porch campaign. In 1885-1886, James's widow, Lucretia Rudolph Garfield, added a library and archival room (Memory Room) to the main house to preserve her husband's papers and

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mementoes of his career. After her death in 1918, her five children continued to maintain the archival collection intact. Their action prefigured today's system of presidential libraries. Lucretia Garfield and her children introduced many features of a country estate to the property, including a carriage house, a pump house/windmill, a new tenant house, a chicken coop, and curving carriageways. The years from 1885 to the 1930s when the property was used by Lucretia Garfield and her children constitute the country estate period of the property. In 1936, the children donated the main house, campaign office, and .779 acres to the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS). The WRHS then established a Lake County chapter, which is now known as the Lake County Historical Society (LCHS), to operate the property as a museum. In 1980 Congress designated the NHS, and the National Park Service (NPS) became the owner the site and its buildings. The furnishings of the main house and campaign office remain in WRHS ownership and are on loan to the NPS.

The period of significance begins in 1876, with the decision by James and Lucretia Garfield to purchase a farm in Mentor, and ends in 1936, when their children donated the core of the property to the WRHS as a shrine to their parents.

Approximately 80 percent of the furnishings in the main house and campaign office are original to the Garfield family, adding significantly to the site's integrity and interpretive potential. Some site structures are vernacular while others possess elements of the Queen Anne and Richardsonian Romanesque styles. Expanses of lawn and specimen trees from the 1885 to 1918 period remain on the site. Also present are an above-ground foundation remnant and subsurface archeological remains.

### **Prior Designations**

The December 28, 1980, congressional designation of the NHS had the effect of automatically listing the site on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).<sup>1</sup> Prior to this authorization, in 1964, when the main house and campaign office were operated by the LCHS, the James A. Garfield Home, "Lawnfield," was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL). At that time, a three-page National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings form for the James A. Garfield Home, "Lawnfield," was prepared, documenting the property under the theme of political and military affairs, 1865-1912. The form identified the main house, the campaign office, and the historic lane.

An NRHP nomination, meant to cover both the NHL and the NHS, was prepared in 1983. This nomination identified 1876-1881 as relevant for the National Register period of significance and specified military as the area of significance. It defined a boundary that enclosed 4.877 acres. The nomination touches on Garfield's congressional career and describes his 1880 campaign, but does not sufficiently develop a case for the property's national significance. The nomination focuses on the main house and also identifies the campaign office and "a replica of the type [of]

<sup>1</sup> Title XII of P.L. 96-607, Dec. 28, 1980.

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log cabin in which the President was born."<sup>2</sup> The cabin is no longer on the property. The nomination does not identify the tenant house and objects on the property.

This updated NRHP nomination and a companion NHL nomination have been prepared to elaborate on the existing documentation and resolve ambiguities. The NRHP boundary is identical to the NHS boundary. The National Register period of significance is 1876-1936.

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## Narrative Description

### Location and Setting

The NHS is located on Mentor Avenue (U.S. 20), a busy four-lane highway running east from Cleveland. In 1876, James A. Garfield and his wife Lucretia purchased a farm in an area made up of glacial lake deposits with soils of loamy sand intermixed with glacial gravel. A low ridge running diagonally across the long, narrow farm about 2,000 feet north of Mentor Avenue marked an ancient shoreline of Lake Erie. Present on the farm were fields, pastures, orchards, woodlots, and a marshy area. The tracks of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern ran across the farm approximately three-fifths of a mile north of the main house. Land use in the area was mostly small farms with "open fields, simple farmsteads, and ancillary agricultural structures."<sup>3</sup> By 1900, the area had become a favorite location for the country estates of wealthy Cleveland residents. Lucretia Garfield participated in this trend by enlarging the main house and erecting a prominent four-story well house/windmill and stylish carriage house. Around 1900, elements of a comprehensive landscape plan embracing Lawnfield and properties adjacent to it on the east and west were introduced.<sup>4</sup> Following World War II, the area developed as a bedroom community for Cleveland. Residential subdivisions now surround the NHS on the south, west, and north. Directly to the east is Faith Lutheran Church, a modernist edifice with a high-pitched front gable roof. Just east of the church is a much-altered 1830s house that once formed the centerpiece of an estate known as Eastlawn. Most of the houses in the immediate area are ranch-style houses on fairly large lots. Mentor Avenue has considerable commercial development a few blocks west of the historic site, including the Great Lakes Mall. The historic center of the town (now city) of Mentor is located three-fifths of a mile to the east.

The NHS is an irregular, roughly rectangular parcel extending approximately 850 feet north to south and 350 feet east to west. The main house fronts on Mentor Avenue and is set back approximately 60 feet from the avenue. Just northeast of the main house is the campaign office. Arrayed behind the main house within the NHS are the well house/windmill, carriage house/gas holder, tenant house, chicken coop, granary, and horse barn. The historic lane runs north-south,

<sup>2</sup> Described in the nomination as a replica, the cabin was originally built in Holmes County, Ohio, before 1862, and later dismantled and reassembled as an attraction at the 1936 Great Lakes Exhibition in Cleveland. From there it went to Lawnfield, where it was maintained as an interpretive exhibit for a number of years. "Garfield's Still Around," *Akron Beacon Journal*, Feb. 1, 1975; "Lawnfield: Memorial to James A. Garfield, 20<sup>th</sup> President of the United States," site bulletin, Lake County Chapter of the WRHS, 1962.

<sup>3</sup> National Park Service, *Cultural Landscape Report: Lawnfield, James A. Garfield National Historic Site, Ohio* (Denver: NPS Denver Service Center, February 1994) (hereinafter *CLR*), 17.

<sup>4</sup> *CLR*, 16-17, 30-34.

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beginning near the main house and ending at the north property line of the NHS. Access to the NHS is via a modern driveway along the eastern property line of the property.

## Landscape

The landscape of the Garfields' Mentor farm changed considerably over time. Most dramatically, the size of the property has been substantially reduced. Today's NHS embraces 7.82 acres of the farm's original 157 acres. In the 1870s, the great majority of the farm's acreage was occupied by woodlots and farm fields, which began approximately 750 feet north of the main house on a property about one mile deep. The farm included a one-acre parcel on the south side of Mentor Avenue containing a small frame tenant house.<sup>5</sup> James and Lucretia Garfield made a number of changes from 1876 to 1881, enlarging the main house, having outbuildings moved away from it, and planting orchards and gardens. Following Garfield's death, Lucretia and her children enlarged the main house, moved utilitarian buildings, and gave the southern portion of the property the appearance of a country estate. Beginning in 1908, they gradually began to sell off portions of the farm. The farm was still producing some fruit, grain, fodder, and dairy products at that time.

In 1893, Lucretia's son James R. Garfield purchased the Alvord property just west of Lawnfield and built his own estate, known as Hollycroft. In 1900, Caroline Robinson Mason, mother-in-law of Lucretia's son Harry Garfield, bought an 1830s Greek Revival house adjacent on the east, enlarged it, and named the estate Eastlawn.<sup>6</sup> This house, much altered over the years, remains, approximately 200 feet east of the NHS. The families in 1900 retained Pittsburgh landscape architect J. Wilkinson Elliott to create a comprehensive landscape plan for the three properties. Many of his suggestions were carried out, notably the laying out of curving drives to connect each residence to the carriage house and the erection of quarry-faced stone piers marking the carriage and pedestrian entrances to the properties from Mentor Avenue.<sup>7</sup> When the WRHS and the LCHS assumed responsibility for the site in the 1930s, they largely maintained site buildings and vegetation as they were received but made changes to site circulation to accommodate visitors.

During James Garfield's lifetime, access to the property was from a drive off Mentor Avenue just west of the house. This drive proceeded north to the farm fields and woodlots on the northern portion of the property and formed the lane used by visitors during the 1880 campaign. When elements of landscape architect Elliott's plan were introduced circa 1900, the entrance drive was moved to a location along the western edge of the Lawnfield property. The stone piers that marked this entry drive now flank the driveway of a private residence just west of the NHS. Ancillary carriage drives diverged from this main entry drive giving access to Lawnfield, Hollycroft, and the 1893 carriage barn. Between 1944 and 1950, the WRHS placed a driveway west of the Lawnfield main house that gave access to a parking area located northwest of the

<sup>5</sup> The crops planted by the Dickey family are not known. The NPS cultural landscape report concluded that orchards "unquestionably" were present when the Garfields purchased the property. *CLR*, 20. It is likely that grain crops such as wheat, oats, barley, corn, buckwheat, and rye were grown as well as grasses for producing hay. *CLR*, 21.

<sup>6</sup> This house, much altered, still stands.

<sup>7</sup> *CLR*, 19, 27-29, 37-42.

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main house. In the 1990s NPS restoration, this drive and the parking area were obliterated and a new driveway along the eastern edge of the NHS was established. The NPS then re-established the original route of the historic lane from the main house to the carriage barn.<sup>8</sup>

Certain spatial relationships have remained constant through these changes. The main house and campaign office bear the same relationship to Mentor Avenue that they did in 1880.

Additionally, the main house, campaign office, and north-south running historic lane maintain their historic relationship, allowing visitors to easily imagine the 1880 campaign activity.<sup>9</sup> Other spatial relationships within the NHS largely reflect the country estate period (1885-1930s) when the well house/windmill and carriage house were added and the horse barn and granary were moved to their current locations at the back (north end) of the NHS. Some small auxiliary structures—a privy, a coalhouse, an ice house, and a playhouse made from an old streetcar—are no longer present.

No trees dating to James A. Garfield's period of residence (1877-1881) exist on the property. A large silver maple in the back yard of a private residence just north of the NHS boundary likely was planted before 1881. This tree aligns with two sugar maples and a black walnut within the NHS planted between 1885 and 1918 along the western edge of the historic lane north of the tenant house. Other trees within the NHS dating to the country estate period include a large sycamore near the west property line, a sugar maple and red oak south of the carriage house, and a weeping European beech east of the main house.<sup>10</sup> On three sides of the main house, portions of the wide expanse of lawn that prompted journalists to name the property Lawnfield in 1880 remain. The lawn is less extensive than during the period of significance because the NHS is narrower than the historic farm property. The presence of wide expanses of lawn and trees from the country estate period add substantially to the property's integrity.

Views from the property to the surrounding area are substantially different than during the period of significance. Where the Garfields would have looked out on an agricultural landscape in the 1870s, today a visitor sees a suburban landscape. During the country estate period, views within the property changed as an apple orchard was established between the main house and the carriage barn and trees and shrubs were planted in accordance with Elliott's landscape design. During the later decades of Garfield family ownership and during administration by the WRHS, some gardens were maintained, while volunteer trees took root on portions of the property. The 1994 NPS Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) determined 1886 to 1899 as the period for treatment of the site's landscape. The NPS has maintained existing trees and removed diseased and hazardous trees, often replacing them in kind. A picket fence similar to the one depicted in 1880 photographs has been erected along Mentor Avenue. The NPS has planted screening vegetation on the west, north, and east sides of the NHS.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>8</sup> CLR, 45.

<sup>9</sup> The CLR concluded that "the 'historic lane,' as it moved north toward the relocated barn area, is undoubtedly in its original alignment." CLR, 34-35.

<sup>10</sup> CLR, 39.

<sup>11</sup> CLR, 4.

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Five buildings and three structures within the NHS were present during the period of significance and are contributing features: the main house, campaign office, tenant house, horse barn, carriage house/gas holder, granary, well house/windmill, and chicken coop. The historic lane used by visitors during the 1880 campaign and a foundation remnant north of the horse barn are contributing sites.<sup>12</sup> Several objects that date to the early twentieth century country estate period also are contributing. Four mid- to late-twentieth century commemorative objects are noncontributing, but are managed by the NPS as cultural resources. Structures erected by the NPS—a comfort station, maintenance building, an enclosure, and a reproduction gas lamp—are noncontributing.

### Summary of Contributing and Noncontributing Features

| <i>Feature</i>                                     | <i>Category</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|--|-----------------|---------------|
| Main house and original furnishings                | Building        | C             |
| Campaign office and original furnishings           | Building        | C             |
| Well house/windmill                                | Structure       | C             |
| Carriage house/gas holder                          | Structure       | C             |
| Tenant house                                       | Building        | C             |
| Chicken coop and foundations of hen house          | Structure       | C             |
| Granary  | Structure       | C             |
| Horse barn   | Building        | C             |
| Historic lane                                      | Site            | C             |
| Foundation ruins                                   | Site            | C             |
| Masonry piers                                      | Object          | C             |
| Hitching post                                      | Object          | C             |
| Carriage mounting step                             | Object          | C             |
| Watering trough                                    | Object          | C             |
| Concrete hitching post                             | Object          | C             |
| Bas-relief bust and NHL plaque                     | Object          | NC            |
| Garfield and the Civil War state historical marker | Object          | NC            |
| Flag post memorial                                 | Object          | NC            |
| Memorial with sundial                              | Object          | NC            |
| Comfort station                                    | Building        | NC            |
| Maintenance building                               | Building        | NC            |
| Maintenance enclosure                              | Structure       | NC            |
| Gas lamp   | Object          | NC            |

### Descriptions of Contributing Features

**Main house (building) and original furnishings (photos 1-14), HS-1, NPS LCS 070187:** This is a large three-story house, with a complex, roughly L-shaped footprint. The east-west running façade of the house fronting on Mentor Avenue is 62 feet wide and the depth, including all

<sup>12</sup> CLR, 32.

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projections, is 84 feet. The house was remodeled twice by the Garfield family, expanded by Lucretia Garfield, and restored in the 1990s by the National Park Service (NPS).

The original farm house on the site was constructed by James Dickey in 1831 or 1832. When James and Lucretia Garfield purchased the property in 1876, the house had nine rooms.<sup>13</sup> The family made several improvements before spring 1877. They replaced the roof shingles, improved the plumbing, and plastered and painted the interior. In 1880, the Garfields had Cleveland contractor William Judd raise the roof to provide a full second floor and make a number of other exterior and interior changes. This expansion and remodeling established the basic Queen Anne appearance of the house with a high-pitched roof, contrasting building materials, and scrollwork in the gable ends. In 1885, Lucretia Garfield hired Cleveland architect Forrest A. Coburn (1848-1897) to construct a library wing at the rear of the house and remodel several interior spaces. The addition, completed in 1886, added Richardsonian Romanesque elements: quarry-faced sandstone and arched openings on the exterior and blond oak woodwork with foliate carving on the interior. Today, the house has been restored by the NPS to its 1885-1904 appearance.<sup>14</sup>

In both the 1880 main block and the 1885-1886 addition, the wooden siding is painted gray, trim is painted a darker gray, and window sash is painted red. The roof is complex, with the main block featuring a side gable roof, broken by an off-center cross gable facing Mentor Avenue and hipped section on the right. A north-south running gable roof connects the main block to the library addition, which has an east-west running gable roof. Roof shingles are red, and there are seven brick chimneys with corbelled courses just below the cap.

The foundation of the 1880 main block is rubble stone to grade and brick above grade. The exterior cladding is clapboards. Windows on the first and second stories of this portion of the house are mostly rectangular with 2/2 sash and louvered shutters. Windows on the third floor are predominantly 1/1. Decorative scrollwork adorns the west- and south-facing gable ends and the two south-facing gabled dormers. A full-façade front porch, reconstructed by the NPS to duplicate the 1880 porch, is carried on slender, square-profile, clustered posts, with brackets under the eaves. A partial porch on the east front, also reconstructed by the NPS, features paired turned posts and a frieze of spindles.

The 1885-1886 library wing addition was sited at the back of the existing structure and is not conspicuous from Mentor Avenue. Its main decorative features are on the east and north elevations, where they would be appreciated by the family rather than passersby. The foundation of the addition is brick. A two-story section of quarry-faced sandstone on the east and north corresponds to the library portion of the addition, while the portion housing servants' bedrooms and service spaces is clapboarded. The sandstone east elevation has 1/2 and 2/2 windows at the first story. At the left of the second story on this side is a curved projecting bay carried on brackets with five narrow 1/1 windows; to the right are three fixed pane windows. The gable end at the third story has three decorative 28/1 windows and is clad in shingles and clapboards

<sup>13</sup> Rough-hewn joists in the basement are the only visible evidence of the original 1830s house.

<sup>14</sup> Paul Newman, *Lawnfield Historic Structure Report, James A. Garfield National Historic Site* (Denver: NPS Denver Service Center, 1991), 7. 16-19.

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arranged in panels. The north front is clad with sandstone on the left and clapboards on the right. An entrance on the left of this side originally gave access to storage areas, while one on the right led to the kitchen. At the second story left is a rectangular projecting bay with five narrow 1/1 windows. To the right are three arched openings corresponding to the Memorial Room; two are 1/1 windows, while that in the middle is a blind arch. The clapboarded portion has two 2/2 windows at the second story. Above the bay at the third story is a gabled dormer with a fenced balcony. Above the three arched openings at the third story is a gable end with four 2/2 windows. The 1885-1886 building campaign also added a front-gabled wooden port cochere on turned posts that projects to the northwest from the left rear of the 1880 block.<sup>15</sup>

The main entrance to the house is on the left side of the Mentor Avenue façade. A square foyer gives onto an entry hall, with a bedroom to the left that was used by James and Lucretia in the summer and later converted to a smoking room. A staircase on the left side of the entry hall was the primary access to the second floor prior to the 1885-1886 addition. The first opening from the entry hall on the right leads to a parlor, which was the family's main living space before the 1885-1886 remodeling. The second opening leads to a large reception hall that was created from the former kitchen in the 1885-1886 expansion of the house. In the left rear corner of the reception hall is a prominent staircase added in 1885-1886 to provide access to the library and Memorial Room on the second floor. The 1885-1886 work featured extensive use of blond oak woodwork with foliate carving in the Richardsonian Romanesque manner in the reception hall and stair hall. To the right of the reception hall is the dining room, which has a triple window with art glass by Tiffany Studios in a shallow bay that was added in 1885-1886. To the right of the parlor is a bedroom and small parlor used by Garfield's mother, Eliza Ballou Garfield, who lived in the house from 1877 until her death in 1888.

On the second floor in the 1880 portion are four bedrooms and the office or snugery used by James Garfield.<sup>16</sup> The bedroom at the center front was the couple's winter bedroom and Lucretia's bedroom in her widowhood. At the west end is a space that in 1880 was two small bedrooms; later the partition wall was removed to form the current room, which was daughter Mollie Garfield's bedroom. The east side of the second floor in 1880 contained two small bedrooms and a sewing room. As part of the 1885-1886 remodeling, one bedroom was converted to a bathroom and the sewing room repurposed as a bedroom, which was used by Zebulon Rudolph, Lucretia's father, until his death in 1897. The bathroom was later reduced in size and the southeast bedroom enlarged. In the 1885-1886 work, the north-south running hallway was extended to the antechamber giving onto the new library.<sup>17</sup>

The 1885-1886 addition and remodeling added a new kitchen, water closet, laundry, and storage area to the first floor behind the new reception hall. No historic photographs documenting interior finishes in these areas have been found, and they are now used by the NPS for exhibits.

<sup>15</sup> Newman, 42.

<sup>16</sup> Of British origin, the term snugery describes "a cosy [sic] or comfortable room, especially one of small size, into which a person retires for seclusion or quiet." J. A. Simpson and E. S. C. Weiner, eds., *The Oxford English Dictionary*, 2d ed., vol. XV (Oxford, England: Clarendon Press), 885.

<sup>17</sup> Ronald W. Johnson, *Historic Resource Study: James A. Garfield National Historic Site* (Denver: NPS Denver Service Center, 1984), 115.

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The staircase leading from the reception hall to the library and Memorial Room provides an impressive progression to the centerpiece of the 1885-1886 addition: Lucretia Garfield's shrine to her assassinated husband. A short first flight leads to a landing running behind the reception hall fireplace, while a second flight at 90 degrees is dominated by an 1862 portrait of the president in his U.S. Civil War uniform. The second floor landing leads into the L-plan library, which has a coffered ceiling created by boxed oak beams 12 feet overhead. This room is virtually unaltered from its 1886 appearance. The room has blond white oak woodwork, with foliate carving. Open-fronted bookcases with Garfield's books form the lower portion of the walls, with prints hung on the red-painted walls above. At the bend of the L is a prominent hearth, with a red brick fireplace surround, decorative oak woodwork, and a mirror. Behind the fireplace is the fireproof Memorial Room that once contained the records of James Garfield's career. The NPS has reconstructed the plain wood shelving in this vault, which has its original heavy steel doors, painted on their outsides with scenes of Lawnfield. Also in the addition are two bedrooms and a bath for servants entered through a door just west of the library entry.<sup>18</sup>

The third or attic story of the house contains two rooms in the 1880 core of the house and three rooms in the 1885-1886 addition. The spaces over the 1880 core were used as storage from 1877 to 1881, and later as office and administrative space by the LCHS. The three rooms added in 1885-1886 were used as overflow bedrooms and by Joseph Rudolph, Lucretia's brother, later in his life. Notable on this floor is a large metal water tank that received water pumped from the well house/windmill after its completion in 1886.

Approximately 80 percent of the furnishings in the main house are original to the Garfield family; a significant number were used by James Garfield. Lucretia Garfield left her husband's office, or snugery, on the second floor largely unchanged after his death. It today contains the desk, desk chair, and reading chair that he used. A number of the prints on the wall are original. The 1862 portrait of Garfield in his U.S. Army general's uniform on the landing outside the library entrance and his swords are original. Nearly all of the fixtures and furnishings in the library are original. They include Garfield's congressional desk and a number of prints of literary and political figures that were important to Garfield, among them Alfred Lord Tennyson, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Napoleon Bonaparte, and Williams College president Mark Hopkins.<sup>19</sup> The original books in the library represent Garfield's wide-ranging interests and include an 1859 edition of Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, Ernest Renan's *Life of Jesus*, the collected works of Edmund Burke, John Ruskin's *The Seven Lamps of Architecture*, and many works of literature by Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, Emerson, Thomas Carlyle, and the like.<sup>20</sup>

The main house is virtually unchanged from its appearance following Lucretia Garfield's 1885-1886 remodeling and expansion. The second-floor snugery where Garfield held private conversations and the reconstructed front porch fully represent his groundbreaking 1880 front-porch presidential campaign. The library containing mementoes from Garfield's career and the

<sup>18</sup> Newman, 81; Johnson, 130 .

<sup>19</sup> Not to be confused with the Mark Hopkins (1813-1878) of transcontinental railroad and San Francisco hotel fame.

<sup>20</sup> Van Dijk, Pace, Westlake & Partners, David A. Hanks & Associates, and Nina Gray, *Historic Furnishings Report: Lawnfield, James A. Garfield National Historic Site, Mentor, Ohio*, vol. 1 (Harper's Ferry: NPS Harper's Ferry Center, 1993), 47-48, 204-250.

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vault that once held his papers fully convey the significance of Lucretia Garfield's unprecedented preservation of a president's papers and legacy.

**Campaign office (building) and original furnishings (photo 15). HS-2, NPS LCS 070188.**

The campaign office is a 20-by-15-foot, one-room, wood-frame structure with a side-gable roof and a small shed-roofed porch centered on its façade. The foundation is brick and the cladding is clapboards. One 6/6 double-hung window is located on each side of the entry and in each gable end. The back (north) elevation has a pair of narrow 1/1 double-hung windows. The roof cladding is wood shingles and there is a corbelled brick chimney centered on the ridge line. Matching the color scheme of the main house, the campaign office is painted gray, with dark gray trim and red window sash; the wood roof shingles are painted red. Enclosed bookcases line the north wall on the interior. James Garfield converted this simple outbuilding to a library after he purchased the Dickey farm in 1876. Garfield himself helped to install new floor boards in the building. The building may have been moved at that time and was certainly moved no more than 30 feet north when the library wing was added in 1885-1886. In the 1990s, the NPS created a new brick foundation, installed new wood roof shingles, reconstructed the porch, and reconstructed bookshelves in the southwest corner of the interior. This building was the nerve center of the 1880 campaign, with a telegraph station giving the candidate ready access to party organizations and key leaders across the country. Here Garfield awaited returns on the night of November 2, 1880, finally closing the office at 3 am on the third.<sup>21</sup> The building is interpreted as it appeared in 1880.

The campaign office retains a very high degree of integrity, appearing much as it did during the 1880 campaign. The building was moved a short distance in 1885-1886 to accommodate the library addition, but maintains its proximity to the main house. Its entrance continues to face south toward Mentor Avenue, just as it did in 1880. Most of the materials are original, with the porch having been reconstructed by the NPS based on period photographs. The presence of original furnishings—the cast iron stove, some of the built-in bookcases, an armchair, a cross-legged table, and Garfield's own books—add significantly to the integrity.<sup>22</sup>

**Well house/windmill (structure) (photo 16). HS-6, NPS LCS 070192.** Constructed in 1894, the structure has an original 20-by-20-foot stone first story, surmounted by three reconstructed stories. The foundation is of stone, with battered, square-cut, quarry-faced sandstone walls rising to the 13-foot level. Each side of the stone base has low-slung arch, with half-moon windows in the west, north, and east elevations and a door in the south elevation. There is a stringcourse setting off the truncated top (fourth) story. The cladding of the frame portions is shingles. There are paired 4/4 double-hung windows on the second and third stories; the fourth story has three diamond pane windows on each elevation. The structure has a hipped, wood-shingle roof with bevels where the sides meet. A windmill sits atop the roof. The wooden portions are painted a cream shade with dark gray trim.

<sup>21</sup> Harry James Brown and Frederick D. Williams, eds. *The Diary of James A. Garfield*, vol. 3 & 4 (East Lansing, Mich.: Michigan State University Press, 1973, 1981) (hereinafter *Diary*), Apr. 26, 1877, vol. 3, 476; Nov. 2, 1880, vol. 4, 480; National Park Service, *Historic Structures Report: Outbuildings, James A. Garfield National Historic Site, Ohio* (Denver: NPS Denver Service Center, Sept. 1996) (hereinafter *HSR: Outbuildings*), 5-17.

<sup>22</sup> Van Dijk, et al., vol. 2, 10.

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The well house/windmill was part of Lucretia Garfield's 1893-1894 improvements to the site. The structure was practical, in that it supplied water to the Mentor farm and Hollycroft, but was also meant to be a decorative feature. The area east of Cleveland along the lake was becoming a location for the country estates of wealthy Cleveland residents in the 1880s, and Lucretia intended the windmill as a landmark. A 1930 storm severely damaged the frame portion of the windmill. This was demolished and the stone first story was roofed over. The NPS reconstructed the frame upper stories using historic photographs between 1998 and 2000. The original wooden water tank was not reconstructed.<sup>23</sup> The reconstructed structure maintains a high degree of integrity and represents the country estate period of the property.

**Carriage house/gasholder (building) (photos 17 and 18). HS-3, LCS 070189.** This is an L-shaped building, measuring 80 by 75 feet at its greatest extent, with elements characteristic of the Queen Anne style. The NPS has rehabilitated the interior for the site's visitor center. The carriage house, erected in 1893, overlapped and incorporated a portion of an existing gasholder structure, constructed when natural gas was discovered on the property.<sup>24</sup> The gasholder portion has a half-hexagon eastern elevation, a sandstone foundation, and rough-cut, quarry-faced sandstone walls. The roofing is sheet metal over boards. The original cylindrical brick gas tank and metal cap are present in the interior. The carriage house has two gabled sections running north-south and east-west. At their joining is a southwest-facing gambrel-roofed section. The second story of this portion projects out, forming an entry porch carried on four Doric columns resting on stone piers. The foundation is sandstone, the first story cladding is clapboards, and there are shingles in the gambrel gable end. Windows on the south elevation are 6/6 double-hung; those on the west elevation are 9-pane awning sash. The former carriage entrance under the porch has been converted to a glass, double-door entry to the visitor center. The three eyebrow dormers were reconstructed by the NPS in its 2001 rehabilitation. The diamond-paned windows in the gable end are original.<sup>25</sup> The structure is painted gray.

The construction of the carriage house and the well house/windmill were part of Lucretia's Garfield's conversion of the Mentor farm to a country estate. In its original 1893 configuration, the northeastern side of the northern stable wing was open. Between 1900 and 1910, this area was extended and closed in under a shed roof. In the early twentieth century, a shed-roofed dormer was placed on the west elevation to accommodate a second-floor bathroom. The WRHS made emergency repairs to the building in 1991. In 2001, the NPS removed the shed-roofed dormer, recreated the eyebrow dormers, and replaced approximately 15 percent of the exterior cladding in kind. The NPS also installed a wood-shingle roof, duplicating the original roof. The first floor became a visitor contact station, museum, and small auditorium. A portion of the horse stalls was retained to represent the original use of the building. On the second floor, the eastern wing became staff offices and the northern wing a library/meeting room.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>23</sup> HSR: *Outbuildings*, 75-79.

<sup>24</sup> It has been speculated that the gasholder was built at the same time as the library addition (1885-1886). The masonry in the gasholder, however, differs from that in the library. The library has square-cut, quarry-faced ashlar in irregular courses, while the gasholder has rough-cut ashlar in undulating courses.

<sup>25</sup> Robert C. Mack and van Kijk, Pace, Westlake Partners, *Historic Structure Report: Carriage House, James A. Garfield National Historic Site, Ohio* (Denver: NPS Denver Service Center, July 1993), 10, 21, 24.

<sup>26</sup> Mack and van Kijk, Pace, Westlake Partners, 15, 128-129.

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The carriage house/gasholder retains a high degree of integrity to the country estate period of the property. Adaptive reuse as the site's visitor center has carefully preserved the exterior appearance of the building, with the lost eyebrow dormers having been reconstructed based on period photographs.

**Tenant house (building) (photo 19). HS-4, LCS 070190.** This is a two-story, 25-by-36-foot, wood frame structure erected in 1885 as a dwelling for a farmhand and his wife. It replaced a dilapidated tenant house located on the south side of Mentor Avenue that Lucretia Garfield sold in 1885; the new owner removed the building from the farm.<sup>27</sup> The house has a front-facing gable roof with an intersecting side gable roof to the left. There is a single-story, shed-roofed wing on the west. The foundation is brick, the major cladding material is clapboard, and there are shingles in the gable ends. Fenestration is varied and includes diamond sash, casement windows, and 16/1 double-hung sash. The clapboards are painted red while the trim and gable ends are white. The tenant house has been modified in minor ways over the years. The original wood shingle roof at some point was replaced with asphalt roll but has been restored to wood shingles by the NPS. Eleanor Garfield, the widow of one of James and Lucretia's grandchildren, owned the house between 1952 and 1984. Mrs. Garfield enclosed the small incised porch on the southeast and installed several windows salvaged from Hollycroft after it burned. The NPS repaired the house in 1988, removing a nonhistoric addition on the north side. In 2001, the NPS restored the exterior and rehabilitated the interior as offices for the site's staff. The interior staircase and room arrangement on the second floor are original. The distinctive massing of the house, its clapboard and shingle exterior, and second-floor windows are original. The house's shingled gable ends and decorative multipane windows relate it stylistically to the library addition, completed at the same period.<sup>28</sup> The tenant house retains a substantial degree of integrity. The exterior is very similar to the original appearance, the major difference being that the small porch has been enclosed. Along with the carriage house/gasholder, well house/windmill, and library addition, the house strongly evokes the country estate period.

**Chicken coop and foundations of hen house (structure) (photo 20). HS-8, NPS LCS 070194.**

This is a 10-by-14-foot wood frame structure with a front-facing gambrel roof and a separate visor roof over the entry. It has a concrete block foundation and a concrete slab floor. The foundations of the brooder hen house extend 92 feet on the east side of the coop. The sheathing of the coop is clapboards with shingles in the gable ends. Single fixed-pane windows flank the west-facing entrance, and there is a four-pane fixed window on the south elevation. The chicken coop was erected in 1893; its gambrel roof and shingle cladding relate it architecturally to the carriage house. The structure is painted light gray. The WRHS accomplished emergency repairs in 1991. The NPS restoration, completed in 2003, involved removing a nonhistoric door on the north side, installing windows that matched historic windows, replacing wooden members in kind as needed, and recreating the wood shingle roof.<sup>29</sup> The structure retains a high degree of integrity to the period when the property was both a working farm and a country estate.

<sup>27</sup> Johnson, 131.

<sup>28</sup> HSR: *Outbuildings*, 40-47.

<sup>29</sup> HSR: *Outbuildings*, 98-104.

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**Granary (structure) (photo 21). HS-7, LCS 070193.** This is a 10-by-24-foot, front-gable, one-and-one-half story, post and beam structure with a board and batten exterior. It is carried on isolated concrete piers. There is a door on the north at the first floor and a door above that to the hay loft. The structure has a single, fixed-pane window in the south gable. The structure is painted gray. In the interior, an open staircase on the east wall leads to the hayloft. Physical evidence strongly indicates that the structure was on the farm when the Garfields purchased it in 1876. The structure was moved to its present location in 1893. It has been interpreted as a granary, although the character of the flooring indicates that it could not have supported large amounts of grain. For most of its history, the structure was used for storage. The LCHS in 1978 converted the interior to a classroom for use by school groups. The WRHS performed emergency repairs in 1991. The NPS in 2003 removed nonhistoric windows, replaced wood elements in kind as needed, and installed a wood shingle roof similar to the historic roof. The structure currently is used for maintenance storage.<sup>30</sup> The structure retains a high degree of integrity and represents the site's dual character as a working farm and country estate.

**Horse barn (building) (photo 22). HS-5, LCS 07091.** This is a 36-by-26-foot, side-gabled post and beam structure, built at James Garfield's direction in 1877. It has a stone foundation, board and batten siding, and a wood-shingle roof. There is sliding double door on the south (entry) elevation. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash, except for the west elevation, which has five fixed-pane windows. A cupola is centered on the ridgeline. The building is painted gray with darker gray shutters. This building served as the Garfields' carriage barn until 1893, when a new carriage barn was built, and the old barn was moved to its present location farther back on the property. The NPS did emergency repairs on the building in 1991 and restored the exterior in 2001. The 2001 work involved reconstructing the historic cupola and removing nonhistoric windows and replacing them with windows that matched the historic fenestration. The first floor is used for storage and the second floor has found an adaptive reuse as a meeting room.<sup>31</sup> Having experienced limited in-kind replacement of deteriorated material and minor reconstruction, the horse barn has substantial integrity.

**Historic lane (site) (photos 23 and 24). HS-10, LCS 070195.** The historic lane is the southernmost portion of the historic north-to-south-running route for wheeled vehicles and pedestrians that ran through the long, narrow farm. From the rear property line of the NHS the lane today runs 690 feet to the back of the main house, 785 feet to a point parallel to the front porch, and 833 feet to the sidewalk along Mentor Avenue. Throughout the period that Lawnfield was a working farm, the lane provided the primary means of access from the property's southern residential portion to the agricultural portion to the north. After Garfield became the Republican presidential candidate in June 1880, the lane was used by visiting delegations debarking from trains at a temporary platform on the farm, three-fifths of a mile north of the main house. The lane's location has consistently been delimited by structures on the property. Until 1893, a barn complex lay just west of the lane a short distance behind the main house. In the 1880s and 1890s, the erection of a tenant house west of the lane and the carriage barn, chicken house and relocated horse barn east of the lane reinforced its location. Prior to the country estate period, the lane likely was 15 to 20 feet wide and its edges were not clearly marked. During the country estate

<sup>30</sup> HSR: Outbuildings, 89-94.

<sup>31</sup> HSR: Outbuildings, 60-62.

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period, the southern portion of the lane was bounded by berms planted with hedges. A black walnut and two sugar maples planted along the western edge of the lane north of the tenant house in this period survive, as does a large silver maple in line with them just north of the NHS property line. With the buildings mentioned previously, these trees delineate the route of the historic lane. The building of a driveway and parking lot after 1939 by the WRHS obscured portions of the lane between the main house and the tenant house. The NPS reestablished the historic route in this area in 2003. To accommodate increased visitor traffic, the NPS also paved a 10-foot-wide swath of the lane with asphalt paving material tinted to resemble the soil of the area.<sup>32</sup>

The changes to the lane over time and its recent paving detract somewhat from its integrity. It is abundantly clear from historic photographs and the location of buildings and trees that on a property that never exceeded 800 feet in width, the lane has remained in the same location and has always been the primary means of access from the area of the main house to the northern reaches of the farm. The historic lane is highly significant as the route used by visitors during Garfield's precedent-setting 1880 presidential campaign. Although integrity of materials and setting has been compromised, the lane retains enough integrity of location, feeling, and association to qualify as a contributing resource.

**Foundation remains (site) (photo 25). HS-18, LCS 070203.** Located behind the horse barn at the rear of the NHS are the remains of a brick and rubble stone foundation. The foundation proceeds north from the northwest corner of the horse barn to a point just beyond the NHS boundary, then makes a 90 degree turn to the east, and runs east to another 90 degree turn to the south. Much of the foundation is buried, but its location has been verified through shovel tests. Visible at the surface is an L-shaped portion measuring 17 feet by 23 feet at the northeast corner. Site plans from 1900 and 1924 show a building in this location considerably larger than the extant horse barn, which may have been formed by combining the horse barn with another barn and sheds to form a barn complex. The foundation remains likely were a part of this former barn complex and have the potential to reveal information about the evolution of the property as a working farm.<sup>33</sup>

**Masonry piers (two objects) (photo 26). HS-14, LCS 070199.** This is one pair of five or possibly six pairs of stone piers erected circa 1900 that defined entryways into the three adjacent family properties. Three pairs of piers lie just west of the NHS on private property, and another pair, marking an entrance to the Eastlawn estate, lies approximately 470 feet east of the NHS on private property. The piers within the site measure approximately 2 by 2 feet in profile, are 3.5 feet high, and are constructed of quarry-faced sandstone blocks with beveled capstones.<sup>34</sup> The piers are associated with the country estate period at Lawnfield. Their integrity is lessened by the fact that they no longer mark a pedestrian entrance to the property, but they maintain high degrees of integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association.

<sup>32</sup> *CLR*, 32; NPS List of Classified Structures Single Entry Report, Historic Lane.

<sup>33</sup> *HSR: Outbuildings*, 62; Jeffrey J. Richner, field notes, James A. Garfield National Historic Site, July 31, 2000, NPS Midwest Archeological Center.

<sup>34</sup> *CLR*, 43.

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**Hitching post (object) (photo 27). HS-12, LCS 70197.** This is a grooved sandstone post about 3 feet 8 inches in diameter with an iron ring set into the top. The object may date to the country estate period of the property; it was moved to its present location northwest of the main house in 2001.

**Carriage mounting step (object) (photo 28). HS-13, LCS 070198.** This is a 2-foot-square brush-hammered granite block. The object may date to the country estate period of the property and was moved to its present location west of the carriage house by the NPS in 2001.

**Watering trough (object) (photo 28). HS-11, LCS 070196.** Dating to the early twentieth century country estate period, this is a 9-by-3-foot granite trough set on square piers. The east side has been repaired with cement. The NPS moved the trough to a location west of the carriage house for interpretive purposes.<sup>35</sup>

**Concrete hitching post (object) (photo 29). HS – Hitch, LCS 337058.** This is an approximately 18-inch diameter concrete ball cast to resemble stone, with an iron ring set into its top. The object may date to the country estate period of the property.

#### Descriptions of Noncontributing Features

**Bas-relief bust and NHL plaque (object) (photo 30). HS-15, LCS 070200.** This is a plaster cast of Garfield in profile and an aluminum plaque noting the NHL status, which have been mounted on a coarse-aggregate concrete plinth. The NPS moved this object from its original location west of the main house.<sup>36</sup> It is noncontributing because it has been moved and is commemorative in nature.

**Garfield and the Civil War state historical marker (object) (photo 31). HS-16, LCS 070201.** This is a standard cast aluminum plaque mounted on a precast concrete post. It was erected in 1965 by the state of Ohio west of the main house and moved to its present location by the NPS in 1995.<sup>37</sup> It is noncontributing because it has been moved, is commemorative in nature, and postdates the period of significance.

**Flag post memorial (object). HS-Flag, LCS 337064.** This is an approximately 1-foot-by-6-inch granite plaque set into the ground in the visitor center plaza. It was donated and installed by AMVETS Post 109 in 1976 near the main house. The memorial was moved by the NPS to its current location.<sup>38</sup> It is noncontributing because it postdates the period of significance.

**Memorial with sundial (object) (photo 32). HS-17, LCS 070202.** This is an approximately 3.5-foot-high cylindrical granite slab with a beveled top surmounted by a bronze sundial. The object was donated by the Monument Builders of Ohio in 1985 and carries an inscription taken from a

<sup>35</sup> NPS List of Classified Structures Single Entry Report, Watering Trough.

<sup>36</sup> NPS List of Classified Structures Single Entry Report, Garfield Bas-Relief & NHL Plaque.

<sup>37</sup> NPS List of Classified Structures Single Entry Report, "Garfield and the Civil War" Historic Marker.

<sup>38</sup> NPS List of Classified Structures Single Entry Report, Flag Post Memorial.

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James Garfield letter to his wife, Lucretia.<sup>39</sup> It is noncontributing because it postdates the period of significance.

**Comfort station (building) (photo 33).** This is a 30-foot-by-21-foot, side-gable frame building with a full-façade front porch erected by the NPS in the 1990s. It is noncontributing because it is a modern building that postdates the period of significance.

**Maintenance building (building) (photo 34).** This is a 22-foot-by 30-foot, front-gabled, frame building with a double-door entry erected by the NPS in 1990s. It is noncontributing because it is a modern building that postdates the period of significance.

**Maintenance enclosure (structure) (photo 34).** A 12-foot-by-12-foot open-topped, wood-sided enclosure that conceals a dumpster for the site's refuse erected by the NPS in the 1990s. It is noncontributing because it is a modern structure that postdates the period of significance.

**Gas lamp (object) (photo 35).** This is a nonhistoric feature in a period style erected in 2013 and located northwest of the main house. Two gas lamps were known to have been on the property in 1885. This reproduction fixture helps interpret the later history of the property. It is noncontributing because it is a modern structure that postdates the period of significance.

### Integrity Discussion

Overall, the national historic site retains a very high degree of integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Integrity of setting is somewhat compromised by the fact that the NHS contains 7.82 acres of the original 157-acre Garfield farm and that the surrounding land use is now post-World War II suburban development. The key spaces important to Garfield's 1880 presidential campaign—the front porch, Garfield's private office or snuggery, and the campaign office and associated lawn—are virtually unchanged in appearance and provide a strong tie of feeling and association to that nationally significant campaign. The integrity of the historic lane is lessened because the property is no longer a working farm and the northern portions of the farm have been developed. Additionally, the NPS restored the southern portion of the lane, including the application of tinted asphalt paving material. The presence of mature trees delineating the lane and the unchanged relationship of the lane to historic buildings on site clearly establish its historic alignment and allow a visitor to link the lane to its historic use in the 1880 campaign.

The library and Memorial Room are very little changed from their appearance when constructed in 1885-1886. The library contains James A. Garfield's books, many of his possessions, and mementoes of his career. The fireproof vault that once held Garfield's papers is intact, albeit with reconstructed shelving. The high degree of integrity of these spaces fully convey the significance of Lucretia Garfield's unprecedented efforts to collect, organize, and safeguard a president's papers, books, and mementoes.

<sup>39</sup> NPS List of Classified Structures Single Entry Report, Cylindrical Garfield Memorial with Sundial.

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The structures erected from 1885 to circa 1900 during the country estate period—the well house/windmill, carriage house/gasholder, tenant house, and chicken coop—maintain a high degree of integrity. They are on their original locations, retain their historic relationships to one another, and with the exception of the reconstructed portion of the windmill, have a high degree of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The reconstruction of the windmill was meticulously carried out based on historic photographs. The horse barn and granary were moved to their present location during the country estate period and contribute to the representation of that period of the property's history. They were used by James A. Garfield and represent the period during which the property was a working farm. Only a handful of the dozens of country estates established by wealthy Cleveland residents in Lake County survive. The NHS is an important representative of this social trend, protected by its status as part of the National Park System.

The main house, carriage barn, well house/windmill, and tenant house retain key architectural features that make them outstanding examples of the architectural styles—Queen Ann and Richardsonian Romanesque—prevalent in the 1880s and 1890s. The main house, with its contrasting materials, irregular massing, complex roof configuration, and scrollwork detailing, is a prime example of the Queen Anne idiom. The library addition on the main house, the well house/windmill, and the gasholder portion of the carriage house display the rugged quarry-faced masonry and bold arches characteristic of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Original features are either intact or, as in the case of the windmill superstructure and eyebrow dormers of the carriage house, have been carefully restored.

Archeological resources have in some areas of the site been disturbed, but archeological excavations conducted to date have revealed important information about the locations of and relationships among farm structures. Future archeological work is likely to continue to reveal valuable information about the historic use of the farm and the lives of its inhabitants.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Politics/Government

Architecture

Archeology: Historic Non-Aboriginal

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1876-1936

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1880

1885

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

James A. Garfield

Lucretia Rudolph Garfield

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

Euro-American

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

William Judd

Forrest A. Coburn

J. Wilkinson Elliott

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### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

Lawnfield is nationally significant under Criteria A and B as the home of James A. Garfield, twentieth president of the United States, and his family. Criterion B is justified by Garfield's significant military and political career. After serving one term in the Ohio Senate, Garfield rose to the rank of major general during the Civil War. He then served seventeen years in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he gained a national reputation as the Republican Party's leading voice on fiscal and economic policy. His rise from humble beginnings to the presidency epitomized for many the boundless opportunities inherent in the American way of life.

Criterion A is justified by the roles Lawnfield played in the history of American presidential campaigns and as a forerunner of the modern presidential library. Garfield's 1880 front-porch campaign, conducted from Lawnfield, introduced a potent new approach to presidential campaigning, one that was embraced and refined by subsequent Republican presidential candidates. Following Garfield's 1881 assassination, his widow, Lucretia Rudolph Garfield, added a library wing to Lawnfield to preserve the president's papers, which eventually were made available to scholars. After Lucretia's death in 1918, her children became custodians of the archive at Lawnfield, keeping it intact until an authorized biography of their father was published in 1925. They then made a series of donations of the papers to the Library of Congress. This careful preservation of a president's papers was matched only by the family of John and John Quincy Adams and was an important precedent for today's system of presidential libraries. Once opened to the public as a house museum in 1936, Lawnfield became one of a series of American presidential shrines. These stretch from George Washington's plantation at Mount Vernon in Virginia to the Ronald Reagan Ranch in California.

### **Architecture and Design**

The NHS has significance at the state level under Criterion C as an outstanding example of a country estate created in the period from 1880 to 1920, when many wealthy Cleveland residents established estate residences in Lake County. Few of these often elaborate estates survived the wave of suburban development following World War II, making Lawnfield an important representative of this social trend. The buildings within the NHS that were remodeled or added during the country estate era exhibit characteristics of the Queen Anne and Richardsonian Romanesque styles that were in fashion in the 1880s and 1890s.

### **Information Potential**

The NHS has significance at the state level under criterion D for the information it has yielded and could in the future yield concerning the use of the property by the Garfields and the Dickey family before them. Archeological investigations at the NHS have revealed the likely locations of some demolished or moved structures, notably an ice house that stood a few feet from the campaign office. Excavations have uncovered the builder's trench surrounding the main house and shed considerable light on the building history of the carriage house/gasholder. Other archeological work has given some hints concerning the configuration of the barn complex and

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other ancillary agricultural structures before many of these were moved or demolished circa 1893. Archeology has the potential to uncover additional information on the network of walks and carriage roads installed circa 1900 as part of Elliott's comprehensive landscape plan. It is known that a tennis court was present on the property, but its exact location is unknown. Future investigations may reveal the site of the court, which was a typical feature of country estates in Lake County. Recovered artifacts connected to the Garfield family include sherds from a set of china and a clay Kaspar figurine probably dating to the 1870s or 1880s. A cache of liquor and other bottles was discovered beneath the carriage house floor. A handful of prehistoric artifacts have been discovered within the NHS. These include a Late Woodland (1000 to 1600 CE) Madison projectile point.<sup>40</sup>

Many aspects of the Garfield family's use of the property are well-documented, but others are more obscure. These include the locations and functions of farm buildings now demolished and the lives of servants and tenants who lived on the property. It is likely that future archeological investigations at the property will reveal additional significant information, particularly about farming activities and the everyday lives of servants.<sup>41</sup> The NHS has experienced some soil disturbance, but a number of areas are relatively undisturbed. Few archeological surveys have been undertaken on agricultural properties in Ohio similar in size and function to Lawnfield. As part of the National Park System, Lawnfield and its archeological resources have a degree of protection that most similar properties lack.<sup>42</sup>

### Period of Significance

The period of significance begins in 1876, with the decision by James and Lucretia Garfield to purchase a farm in Mentor. The decision to purchase and operate a farm represented a conscious choice to put down more permanent roots and give the couple's children the benefit of working and playing on a farm. The decision also had political significance because Portage County, where they had long resided, had recently been removed from Garfield's congressional district. The Mentor farm was in Lake County, a long-standing part of his district. Immediately upon purchasing, the couple began to make improvements to the property, which were carried out under their supervision over the winter of 1876-1877. Thus, the decision to buy the farm and the hard work of bringing it up to date were as important as the actual occupancy, which began in spring 1877.

The period of significance ends in 1936, when the Garfield children donated the key buildings at the farm—the main house and campaign office—to the WRHS. The children continued the work of preservation of key buildings and their father's papers and mementos begun by Lucretia

<sup>40</sup> CLR, 36.

<sup>41</sup> Rose E. Pennington, *The 1993 and 1994 Archeological Investigations at James A. Garfield National Historic Site, Mentor, Lake County, Ohio* (Lincoln, Neb.: NPS Midwest Archeological Center, 2013), 27-29, 39-40; Alfred M. Lee, *Locational Reconnaissance at the James A. Garfield National Historic Site, Mentor, Lake County Ohio* (Lincoln, Neb.: NPS Midwest Archeological Center, 1994), 13, 24, 27; Archeologist, NPS Midwest Archeological Center, to Chief, Midwest Archeological Center, Aug. 3, 1990, NPS Midwest Regional Office files; Archeologist Vergil E. Noble to Chief, Midwest Archeological Center, Aug. 3, 1990..

<sup>42</sup> Barbara Powers, Ohio Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for Inventory and Registration, to Robert Blythe, March 12, 2015.

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Garfield. By the 1930s, they had donated the bulk of James Garfield's papers to the Library of Congress. The events at the site after 1936 are commemorative in nature.

## Life and Significance of James A. Garfield

### Childhood

The last U.S. president born in a log cabin, James Abram Garfield had a truly hardscrabble upbringing. The future president was born November 19, 1831, in Orange Township, Ohio, to Abram and Eliza Ballou Garfield, both natives of Oswego County, New York. The log cabin does not survive, and the site of the Garfield farm now lies in the suburb of Moreland Hills, some 15 miles east-southeast of Cleveland.<sup>43</sup> James's parents sought opportunity in the Western Reserve of Ohio, the promising northeastern portion of the state originally claimed by the state of Connecticut and later ceded to the United States. Abram Garfield farmed, hired out as a laborer, and secured a contract to build a section of the Ohio and Erie Canal, on which he lost money.<sup>44</sup>

In May 1833, Abram Garfield fell sick, probably with pneumonia, and died, leaving Eliza a widow at age thirty-one with four children to raise. Mehitabel was eleven; Thomas, ten; Mary, eight; and James, just eighteen months.<sup>45</sup> Eliza was a strong-willed and resourceful woman, determined to keep her family together on the recently purchased farm. The farm was self-sufficient in many respects, and Eliza traded clothing that she sewed for items like shoes that she could not make. Thomas instantly became the man of the house, taking on much of the farm labor and soon hiring out at twenty-five cents a day. Eliza instilled a love of learning and a deep spiritual sense in her children. She and her husband had become committed members of the Disciples of Christ shortly before Abram's death, and this religious background had a profound influence on the future president.<sup>46</sup>

A Virginia minister, Alexander Campbell (1788-1866), founded a religious movement, generally known as the Disciples of Christ or the Campbellites. He began as an ordained Baptist minister, but became dissatisfied with the petty sectarian fights among the established Protestant sects. Campbell emphasized a faithful reliance on the words of the Bible and a common-sense, unemotional approach to worship and evangelism. He did away with elaborate doctrines and formal articles of faith, insisting only on a sincere acceptance of Christ as a personal savior. Partly because of prejudice from the more established denominations, the Disciples drew close together, forming a warm, tightly knit community with its own schools and colleges. Eliza remained a devout adherent throughout her life, walking with her family to church each Sunday as the children grew to adulthood.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>43</sup> An Ohio historical marker, a life-size statue of Garfield as a young man, and a replica log cabin grace the birthplace site.

<sup>44</sup> Allan Peskin, *Garfield: A Biography* (Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1978), 5-7; Theodore Clarke Smith, *The Life and Letters of James Abram Garfield*, vol. 1 (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1925; Archon Books, 1968), 3-6. Pagination is identical in the 1925 and 1968 editions of Smith.

<sup>45</sup> A fifth child, James Ballou Garfield, had died in 1829, at two years of age. Smith, 5.

<sup>46</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 8; Smith, 9-11.

<sup>47</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 6-7; Smith, 32-33.

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By his own account, James Garfield experienced a happy and somewhat undirected childhood. He was an infant at the time of his father's death and had only minor farm chores until he was ten or eleven years old. Early on, James displayed significant intellectual ability; family tradition maintains that he was reading the Bible at the age of three. Eliza doted on him and made sure he attended school whenever one was in session nearby. She also knew hundreds of songs and poems, and the Garfield house was filled with music. As he entered his teens, James worked cutting wood and tending cattle to help support his family. A voracious and wide-ranging reader, James was also a restless and adventuresome boy. He grew weary of an endless succession of physically demanding odd jobs, and at seventeen, decided to go to sea. Unable to get work on a Great Lakes sailing ship in Cleveland, in August 1848 he settled for a job tending the mules on a canal towpath. Garfield's career as a canal boy lasted less than two months, but was widely celebrated during his 1880 presidential campaign and brief presidency.<sup>48</sup> That great champion of the self-made man, Horatio Alger, was inspired to write *From Canal Boy to President, or the Boyhood and Manhood of J. A. Garfield*.<sup>49</sup>

## Education

Garfield became seriously ill, with malaria it seems, after just six weeks on the canal and returned home to be slowly nursed back to health by his mother. During his five-month convalescence, Eliza Garfield and James D. Bates, a teacher at a nearby school, gradually persuaded him to continue his education. In March 1849, Garfield entered Geauga Academy, a Baptist school in Chester, Ohio, just east of his home. During his two terms at the academy, he became enamored of a life of learning and also experienced a religious conversion. In Garfield's own words, while on the canal he had begun "to grow reckless and forgetful of the good influences of my early boyhood."<sup>50</sup> In February and March 1850, he attended a camp meeting held by the Disciples and on March 3, 1850, answered the call and soon was baptized into the faith. James also got his first taste of teaching between his two terms at Geauga, conducting an ungraded district school at Chagrin Falls.<sup>51</sup>

Increasingly committed to the beliefs of the Disciples and unhappy with the narrowness of the Baptist approach, Garfield withdrew from Geauga Academy in fall 1850. He worked for a year as a carpenter and teacher, saving enough to enroll in fall 1851 at the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute, a newly established Disciples academy in Hiram, Portage County, Ohio.<sup>52</sup> In his three years at the Eclectic, Garfield began to come into his own. He was a diligent student, studying as much as eighteen hours a day, and began to show considerable prowess in debates. A lifelong love for the Greek and Roman classics began in these years, and Garfield was soon hired to teach these languages, along with geometry and algebra, to the lower grades at the school. He also began preaching at nearby Disciples churches; his well-received sermons earned him as much as

<sup>48</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 9-13; Smith, 16-23.

<sup>49</sup> Alger's book was published in New York by John R. Anderson & Co. in 1881. Another work was James S. Brisbin, *From the Tow-Path to the White House; The Early Life and Public Career of James A. Garfield* (Philadelphia: Hubbard Brothers, 1880).

<sup>50</sup> James A. Garfield to Eliza Ballou Garfield, Nov. 19, 1855, cited in Smith, 27

<sup>51</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 14-20; Smith, 26-33, 42.

<sup>52</sup> Now Hiram College.

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a dollar each. By early 1854, Garfield had outgrown the intellectual opportunities available at the Eclectic and began to look elsewhere to complete his college studies. He visited the premier Disciples institution, Bethany College in Virginia, where he met the denomination's founder and college president, Alexander Campbell. In the end, Garfield opted to explore broader horizons and enrolled at Williams College, located in the Berkshire Mountains of western Massachusetts at Williamstown.<sup>53</sup>

Garfield exchanged the semifrontier of the Western Reserve for New England with considerable trepidation. Far from romanticizing his rise from humble beginnings, Garfield consistently lamented missing out on the social and cultural advantages of a solidly middle-class upbringing. Garfield at first experienced some snubs at Williams, but his exceptional debating skills and warm, hearty personality soon won him many friends. As usual, he zealously plunged into his studies, adding the German language and German literature to his existing intellectual enthusiasms. The college's president, Mark Hopkins (1802-1887), became a mentor and lifelong friend. Garfield was elected a member of the editorial board of the *Williams Quarterly* and contributed many pieces to it. Graduating in August 1856, Garfield faced a decision about his future: his training had prepared him for a career as a preacher or an educator. After considerable deliberation, he opted to return to the Eclectic as a teacher at \$600 a year.<sup>54</sup>

Another important event occurred during Garfield's time at Williams: his courtship of Lucretia Rudolph, known as "Crete" to family and friends. She was the oldest child of Zebulon Rudolph and Arabella Mason Rudolph. Zebulon was a prominent Ohio Disciple and a founder and trustee of the Eclectic. The Rudolphs believed in education for women as well as men and sent Lucretia to a district school and then Geauga Academy, where as a sixteen-year-old, she first encountered Garfield. Lucretia was a member of the first class at the Eclectic, where she studied Greek, Latin, French, mathematics, and geography. She was an outstanding student, helping to found a literary society and editing the school magazine, *The Eclectic Star*. Lucretia chafed at the widespread assumption of female intellectual inferiority and argued for the right of women to speak in public. She became an instructor at the Eclectic and later taught in Cleveland and Toledo, at a time when it was unusual for a single woman to work and live independently of family.<sup>55</sup>

Garfield was increasingly attracted by Lucretia's good looks, intelligence, and steady character when both were at the Eclectic. Their courtship was anything but smooth. Women found James attractive and he kept company with others while courting Lucretia. She was independent minded and harbored doubts about the "entire submission" to a husband seemingly required by the standards of the day.<sup>56</sup> Garfield at first was not entirely comfortable with Lucretia's ideas about the role of women. He also questioned whether their temperaments were well-matched: he freely gave vent to his feelings, while Lucretia was much more emotionally reserved. Only when Lucretia showed him her diary on one of his visits home from Williamstown was he convinced

<sup>53</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 21-32; Smith, 43-52.

<sup>54</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 33-39; Smith, 69-72, 88-91.

<sup>55</sup> John Shaw, *Lucretia* (New York: Nova Publications, 2002), 2-4, 15, 20, 33.

<sup>56</sup> Lucretia Garfield to James Garfield, Aug. 19, 1858, James A. Garfield Papers, Library of Congress, cited in Betty Boyd Caroli, *First Ladies: From Martha Washington to Michelle Obama*, rev. and updated ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010), 99.

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of the depth of her love. Even after returning to Hiram, Garfield hesitated to tie himself down. Following many talks in which they weighed the consequences of the step, they were married on November 11, 1858, in her father's house at Hiram. Lucretia seemed well aware of Garfield's ambivalence about marriage, but opted to make the commitment.<sup>57</sup>

Soon after assuming his duties at the Eclectic, Garfield became chairman of the faculty and in 1857, president of the institution. As head of the Eclectic, Garfield gave less attention to theological studies and expanded secular instruction in history, science, government, and modern languages. He was omnipresent on the small campus of 250 students and also lectured and preached extensively in the area. Soon, Garfield began to look for broader fields for his abilities, and by 1859, he had begun to read law in preparation for being admitted to the bar. His growing reputation in solidly Republican northeast Ohio also opened the possibility of a political career. When the leading candidate for the Republican nomination for the 26<sup>th</sup> Ohio Senate District (Portage and Summit Counties) died suddenly, Garfield allowed his name to be put forward. Garfield's background as a speaker made him a natural on the stump and he was easily elected over his Democratic rival in October 1859.<sup>58</sup>

### A General in the Civil War

Garfield remained president of the Eclectic while discharging his duties as state senator until the coming of the Civil War. He spoke often from the senate floor, gaining in self-confidence while forming a low opinion of most of his colleagues. He also interacted with men like Governor Salmon P. Chase (1808-1873) and Congressman John Sherman (1823-1900) who would influence his career in the future. Garfield took an active part in the 1860 presidential election. Abraham Lincoln, candidate of the recently formed Republican Party, ran on a platform that opposed the extension of slavery into the territories. Leaders in the cotton states of the Deep South threatened to secede if Lincoln prevailed. Garfield and a solid majority of his constituents were committed to limiting slavery to its existing range, and the young senator added to his own reputation with more than forty appearances on Lincoln's behalf in Ohio. He had his first meeting with Lincoln when the president-elect stopped in Columbus on his way to the inauguration.<sup>59</sup> Garfield detected "a want of culture" in the Illinoisan, but applauded his "remarkable good sense" and "evident marks of indomitable will."<sup>60</sup>

With the outbreak of war in April 1861, Garfield immediately sought an officer's commission in the U.S. Army. It did not come immediately; his vote was needed in the legislature for a period, and others with more military experience stood ahead of him. Finally, he was appointed colonel of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry in September. Garfield personally filled the ranks of his regiment, enlisting many present and former students of the Eclectic. Confident of his leadership abilities, he began to pour over books on military tactics and rigorously drilled his young

<sup>57</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 29-30, 40-42, 54-55; Smith, 28, 48, 61-62, 110-111, 119; Shaw, 32; Margaret Leech and Harry J. Brown, *The Garfield Orbit* (New York: Harper & Row, 1978), 52.

<sup>58</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 49-53, 61-65; Smith, 111-113, 135-137, 140-143.

<sup>59</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 67-70, 76-77, 82-83; Smith, 146-151.

<sup>60</sup> James A. Garfield to Lucretia Garfield, Feb. 17, 1861, James A. Garfield to Burke A. Hinsdale, Feb. 17, 1861, cited in Smith, 155.

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soldiers. The Union planned an advance into Tennessee, but was threatened by Confederate activity in southeastern Kentucky. Garfield was put in command of a small force with orders to clear Kentucky's Sandy Valley of rebels. Preparing his own battle plan and taking advantage of a befuddled adversary, Garfield did just that, earning a victory at Middle Creek in January 1862 that brought him a promotion to brigadier general. His achievement was widely celebrated and exaggerated in the northern press for a short time until supplanted by news of larger Union victories at Mill Springs, Fort Henry, and Fort Donelson. After some mop-up work in Kentucky, Garfield was put in command of the four regiments of the 20<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the Army of the Ohio. The brigade reached the battlefield toward the end of the second day (April 7, 1862) at Shiloh in west Tennessee, seeing fleeting action but having no impact on the battle's result.<sup>61</sup>

As the 20<sup>th</sup> Brigade and the rest of the Army of the Ohio ground its way south from Shiloh toward the railroad hub of Corinth, Mississippi, Garfield became seriously ill and returned in early August 1862 to his wife in Ohio to convalesce. Over the course of its first four years, Garfield's marriage had not gone well, with Lucretia staying in Hiram while he was at Columbus or on active duty. Retiring to a house in Howland Springs, the couple repaired some of the damage created by absence and misunderstanding, forming a new bond that, after some further trials that winter, ultimately would grow and endure. They also bought a house in Hiram, with Lucretia supervising its remodeling and furnishing. Meanwhile, Garfield's friends were pushing to secure him the Republican nomination in Ohio's 19th congressional district. True to a lifelong conviction that it was unseemly to seek office personally, the general left all of the work of securing the nomination to his managers. It took eight ballots, but Garfield won the nomination on September 2, which was tantamount to election in his solidly Republican district. Congress would not convene until December 1863, and once recovered, Garfield sought to continue his army career at least until then. He was ordered to Washington to confer with the War Department on his future.<sup>62</sup>

A new military assignment was not immediately forthcoming, but Garfield formed an important connection with Lincoln's secretary of the treasury, Salmon P. Chase. Chase took a liking to Garfield, invited him to occupy a spare bedroom in his home, and tutored him in economic matters. At last, in January 1863, Garfield was ordered to report to Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans (1819-1898), commanding the Army of the Cumberland at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The young brigadier found another mentor in Rosecrans, who decided to make Garfield his chief of staff, much to the chagrin of the West Pointers on his staff. After seemingly endless preparations, Rosecrans finally got his army on the road south in late June. The U.S. force maneuvered the Confederate army of Braxton Bragg (1817-1876) out of Chattanooga and began to advance into Georgia. There on September 19 and 20, 1863, one of the bloodiest battles of the war unfolded in the valley of Chickamauga Creek. On the battle's second day, the Confederates rolled up the U.S. right wing, sending Rosecrans and two of his three corps commanders in headlong flight back to Chattanooga. Mindful of his honor and postwar reputation, Garfield got permission to go to Maj. Gen. George Thomas (1816-1870), whose corps held firm on the U.S.

<sup>61</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 101-130; Smith, 171-173, 179-203; 207-208.

<sup>62</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 138-148, 160-161; Smith, 229-235, 893-894.

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left. Garfield's ride did not affect the battle's outcome but was an act of considerable courage, linking him forever to Thomas, "The Rock of Chickamauga."<sup>63</sup>

## Congressional Career

With no end to the war in sight, Garfield had to choose between remaining in the army or resigning his commission and taking his seat in Congress. President Lincoln felt he could accomplish more in the House, and Garfield began his tenure there on December 6, 1863. Deeply skeptical of the president's leadership, he aligned himself with radicals in the Republican Party. He pushed for vigorous prosecution of the war, the enlistment of black troops, the abolition of slavery, and the confiscation of the plantations of slave owners. After the rebellion ended and Lincoln was assassinated, Garfield, along with many others, formed a more favorable opinion of Lincoln's leadership. Garfield supported Congressional Reconstruction without the stridency of firebrands like Thaddeus Stevens (1792-1868). He somewhat reluctantly backed the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson (1808-1875), who was acquitted on all charges by the Senate. As enthusiasm for Reconstruction waned in the North in the face of the unrelenting, violent southern suppression of blacks' civil rights, Garfield increasingly turned his attention to economic and fiscal matters.<sup>64</sup>

During his seventeen years in the House, Garfield became recognized as one of the body's most eloquent and persuasive orators. In succession, he chaired the Military Affairs, Banking and Commerce, and Appropriations Committees, losing the chairmanship of the last when the Democrats took back the House in 1875. From then until 1880, Garfield was Republican minority leader in the House. Garfield had for years studied economic policy and led his party in this area. He was a proponent of free markets and a foe of inflationary paper-money policies. Making the paper currency (greenbacks) issued during the Civil War fully redeemable in gold (known as the resumption of specie payments) was a high priority for Garfield. He was widely lauded for an address lasting 80 minutes from the House floor on November 16, 1877, in defense of resumption. Intellectually, Garfield was inclined to low tariffs, but was forced to temper his views to accommodate iron manufacturers in his district who wanted a protective tariff. More than any member in this period he fully grasped the functions of the federal government and brought system and order to a previously piecemeal approach to appropriations. In 1869, Garfield drafted a bill comprehensively reforming and professionalizing procedures for the census. He guided this through the House, only to see it die in the Senate. An identical bill was passed in time for the 1880 census, and the Democrat managing the legislation fully acknowledged Garfield's pioneering role.<sup>65</sup>

During Ulysses S. Grant's first term (1869-1873), a group of reformers emerged within the Republican Party, eventually known as the Liberal Republicans. The liberals opposed the widespread abuses of the patronage system, sought efficiency and competence in government, and promoted free-market and hard-money economic measures. Their fear of an overreaching

<sup>63</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 151-155, 166-167, 172, 191, 203-211; Smith, 241-244, 323-346.

<sup>64</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 226-233, 255-262.

<sup>65</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 262-263, 282, 286, 303, 306-307, 316, 324-326; Smith, 430-432, 518-519; 660-661; *Diary*, Nov. 16, 1877, vol. 3, 542.

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federal government led them to oppose federal civil rights legislation aimed at helping southern blacks. Garfield was sympathetic to many of the aims of the Liberal Republicans and unhappy with Grant's actions, but appalled by the liberals' selection of Horace Greeley (1811-1872) as their 1872 candidate. The Democrats also selected Greeley, and Garfield held his nose and campaigned for a second term for Grant.<sup>66</sup>

In the early 1870s, Garfield was implicated in three scandals, all of which would be brought up against him in the 1880 race. One of these was the *Crédit Mobilier* affair. The *Crédit Mobilier* was a construction company controlled by the organizers of the Union Pacific Railroad. By granting outrageously generous contracts to a company they owned, the railroad tycoons were able to rake off large sums. The Union Pacific depended on huge federal subsidies, and a number of Congressmen were sold stock in the *Crédit Mobilier* on credit or at a bargain price to ensure their support. Garfield either accepted dividends in the amount of \$329 from the *Crédit Mobilier* or took a loan in that amount from Oakes Ames (1804-1873), a fellow congressman and an agent of the *Crédit Mobilier*. The affair was incredibly confused, but Garfield was lumped with congressmen who had accepted bribes. Garfield also had a role in the so-called salary grab. In March 1873, Garfield reluctantly voted for an appropriations bill that included a retroactive salary increase for members of Congress. The retroactive raise provoked a storm of protest. Garfield was the first to return the extra pay and joined other chagrined members in repealing the increase in December 1873. The third contretemps was the most serious. It emerged in 1874 that Garfield had accepted a \$5,000 legal fee to help represent the DeGolyer McClelland Company in its bid to obtain a \$700,000 paving contract from the Board of Public Works of Washington, D.C. Since Garfield chaired the Appropriations Committee, which controlled appropriations for the district, this was a dubious arrangement. Had the full details of the legal fee emerged in 1874, it might well have ended Garfield's political career. As it happened, the details remained obscure, and he was re-elected in 1874 and again in 1876 and 1878.<sup>67</sup>

Garfield played an important part in the disputed presidential election of 1876. It appeared at first that Democrat Samuel Tilden (1814-1886), the governor of New York, had beaten Ohio Governor Rutherford B. Hayes (1822-1893). There had been, however, massive intimidation of black voters in South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana, all of which at first showed majorities for Tilden. Republican Party organizations in those states challenged the returns. President Grant appointed Garfield to a delegation sent to Louisiana to oversee the actions of the state's Returning Board, which had jurisdiction over the vote count. The Louisiana Returning Board and the officials in South Carolina and Florida certified Hayes's electors to the Electoral College. The Democrats had a majority in the U.S. House and claimed that they did not have to accept the disputed electoral votes when they were opened and counted in a joint congressional session. Garfield and other Republicans held that the president of the Senate, a Republican, alone could certify the electoral vote. In an effort to avoid a prolonged constitutional crisis, Congress in January 1877 created a special Electoral Commission, on which Garfield served, to count the votes. Meanwhile, intense private discussions went on to avoid an open break between the House

<sup>66</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 339-341; Eric Foner, *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877* (New York: Harper & Row, 1988), 489-504.

<sup>67</sup> Richard White, *Railroaded: The Transcontinentals and the Making of Modern America* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2011), 26, 28, 32-35, 63-66; Peskin, *Garfield*, 355-363, 366-371, 377-380.

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and the remainder of the federal government. The commission awarded the three states to Hayes, and ultimately the House Democrats accepted that result. Some historians have argued that the Democrats received a secret promise that Hayes would withdraw the remaining federal troops from the South. Others point out that during the campaign, Hayes had already signaled his willingness to let the southern states govern themselves. Bargain or no bargain, Hayes did withdraw the troops.<sup>68</sup>

### Purchasing a Farm

Garfield's family life was a source of strength and satisfaction to him throughout his later years in the House. After 1863, his bond with Lucretia was secure, and he depended on her advice and counsel. True to the conventions of the period, Lucretia did not appear at political events, but was a steady presence behind the scenes. James frequently sought her judgment on men and issues. The family steadily grew with the birth of seven children, five of whom lived well into the twentieth century. The children were Eliza or "Trot" (1861-1863), Harry Augustus (1863-1942), James Rudolph (1865-1950), Mary, known in the family as "Mollie" (1867-1947), Irvin McDowell (1870-1951), Abram (1872-1958), and Edward or "Ned" (1874-1876). Beginning with the winter of 1864-1865, Garfield insisted that his family be with him while Congress was in session. After renting for several years, he and Lucretia decided in 1869 to build a house at 13<sup>th</sup> and I Streets Northwest, at a total cost of \$13,000, half of which they had to borrow.<sup>69</sup> After selling the Hiram house in 1872, the family spent each summer in rented quarters at Little Mountain, a resort near Painesville, Ohio. The impermanency of this arrangement palled after a few years, and the Garfields began looking for a farm to purchase. An added incentive for a purchase came when a Democratic state legislature removed his home county of Portage from the 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.<sup>70</sup> In addition, Garfield wanted "a place where I can put my boys to work, and teach them farming."<sup>71</sup>

These motives led the Garfields to purchase 157 acres in Lake County's Mentor Township some 20 miles east of Cleveland, safely within the 19<sup>th</sup> congressional district, for \$17,910 (equivalent to about \$387,000 in 2014 dollars). They bought the 117.74-acre Dickey farm in October 1876 and an adjacent 40-acre parcel the following spring. Also purchased was a one-acre tract south of Mentor Avenue that contained a small frame tenant house. The Garfields paid about \$5,000 in cash and borrowed the rest. The farm contained a somewhat run-down nine-room, one-and-one-half-story main house, the tenant house, a barn, and other outbuildings. Typical of farms in the area, the property was long and narrow, about 800 feet wide and one mile deep, fronting on Mentor Avenue, the highway running west to Cleveland. The tracks of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad ran across the property about three-fifths of a mile north of the main house. Ready access to Cleveland and Washington via the railroad was important for Garfield's many political activities. The Garfields immediately began to make improvements to the property, looking forward to occupying it in summer 1877. Dr. John Peter Robison (1811-1889),

<sup>68</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 408-417; Smith, 614-645; Charles W. Calhoun, *From Bloody Shirt to Full Dinner Pail: The Transformation of Politics and Governance during the Gilded Age* (New York: Hill & Wang, 2010), 55-59.

<sup>69</sup> This house was demolished in 1964. Shaw, 117.

<sup>70</sup> Smith, 896-897; Peskin, *Garfield*, 430-432.

<sup>71</sup> *Diary*, Sept. 26, 1876, vol. 3, 357.

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a Mentor neighbor, fellow Disciple, and longtime family friend, acted as the Garfields' agent in much of this work. The Garfields had the barns moved from directly behind the house to a location just west of the north-south running lane. They improved the water supply, had a small outbuilding moved close to the main house and fitted up as a library, and made numerous small repairs and improvements to the main house. As soon as Congress adjourned in March 1877, James and Lucretia were in Cleveland selecting furnishings and wallpapers for the house. The family was able to occupy the house on April 17.<sup>72</sup>

Although he enjoyed it for just four summers, the Mentor farm possessed great importance for James Garfield. He and many others viewed with considerable alarm the rapid growth of industry and cities after the Civil War, fearing that the country was moving away from the traditional values of an agriculturally grounded society. Rural life was also celebrated by some of Garfield's favorite ancient Roman writers such as Horace and Virgil. Garfield relished his life on the Mentor farm, drawing sustenance from being close to the earth and its bounty. He closely supervised activity on the farm, frequently driving a team or performing other work himself. He also wanted to be an up-to-date and efficient farmer, reading up on the latest technical advances in agriculture.<sup>73</sup> An indication of his activity appears in a July 1877 diary entry: "Put the men to raking up the scattering barley, and cutting the seed grass in the northwest meadow. . . . In the p.m. sent [sons] Hal and Jim to the barley field to rake with Cub. I put on batting [battens] upon the hen house, raked some, and read and wrote."<sup>74</sup>

In early 1880, Lucretia and James believed they could afford a major remodeling of the farmhouse. The Garfields hired a Cleveland contractor, William Judd, for this work. Judd raised the first floor by at least a foot to make the house more imposing and built a new, high-pitched roof to accommodate a full-height second floor. The remodeling left the house with two bedrooms on the main floor, four bedrooms and an office for Garfield on the second floor, and several small rooms on a third floor. Lucretia made substantial revisions to Judd's preliminary sketches of the work. Once again, Dr. Robison acted as agent and Garfield made several brief trips back from Washington to monitor the progress of the work. The total cost ran to almost \$4,000 and the work was completed in May 1880.<sup>75</sup> A campaign biography described the house as "plain and unpretentious," adding that it "cannot be called grand in any sense of the word, but certainly deserves the name of a very pleasant, comfortable-looking country home."<sup>76</sup> The irregular massing, contrasting materials—clapboard, shingles, and brick—and the decorative scrollwork in the gable ends conformed to the popular Queen Anne style.

### The 1880 Campaign

The remodeling of the Mentor house was completed just in time for the 1880 presidential campaign. Garfield is often described as the darkest of dark-horse presidential candidates, but it was widely recognized that the 1880 Republican convention might well deadlock, and that

<sup>72</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 431-432; Johnson, 32-36, 48; *Diary*, March 19-March 22, 1877, vol. 3, 459-460.

<sup>73</sup> Smith, 753-754; Johnson, 52-53; Leech and Brown, 193.

<sup>74</sup> *Diary*, July 24, 1877, vol. 3, 499.

<sup>75</sup> Johnson, 73-80; Newman, 17-18.

<sup>76</sup> Brisbin, 316-320.

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Garfield was a very viable compromise candidate. The leading candidates that year were former president Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885), back from a triumphal world tour, and Senator James G. Blaine (1830-1893) of Maine. The Republican Party was split into two factions at this period, generally known as the Stalwarts and the Half-Breeds. Blaine led the Half-Breeds, while Senator Roscoe Conkling (1829-1888) of New York headed the Stalwarts. No policy differences separated the two camps; it was entirely a question of personal animosities and the control of government patronage positions. Garfield was close to Blaine, but managed to retain cordial relations with the Stalwarts. Many thought that Conkling and the Stalwarts would be able to secure the nomination for Grant, but Blaine had almost as many pledged delegates. Neither man had a majority, because of the presence of several other candidates. The strongest of these was John Sherman of Ohio, a former U.S. Senator whom President Hayes had made secretary of the treasury.<sup>77</sup>

Garfield went to the Republican National Convention in Chicago in June 1880 pledged to Sherman and placed his name in nomination. The Ohio legislature that year had made Garfield a U.S. senator, and Garfield believed that he might be ready for a presidential run in four or eight years' time. Instead, he ended up the party's 1880 choice. After more than thirty ballots, the totals for Grant and Blaine had barely budged, and the convention became desperate for an alternative. On the thirty-fourth ballot, the Wisconsin delegation began a movement toward Garfield. The Ohioan rose to protest that he had not consented to have his name placed in nomination, but was gavelled down. Within a few ballots, he was the nominee, preparing to return to Mentor and mount a campaign.<sup>78</sup>

Presidential campaign practices were evolving at this period. The concept bequeathed by George Washington and the other founders was that the candidate should remain above the fray. In this view, a would-be president was a statesman, a republican icon who would demean himself by vulgarly soliciting votes. Campaigns could be vicious and personal, but the partisan appeals were made by surrogates, not the candidate. With the expansion of the franchise before the Civil War and the growth of transportation networks in the mid-1800s, more and more Americans came to believe that presidential candidates should make their views widely known and perhaps even show themselves to the electorate.<sup>79</sup>

Contrary to a persistent myth, it was not unprecedented in 1880 for a candidate to campaign on his own behalf. All the candidates who tried it had been defeated, however, and the move was looked upon as risky. As early as 1852, the Whig candidate, Winfield Scott (1786-1866), undertook a three-week "swing around the circle," making fifty short speeches in several states, but confining his remarks to patriotic bromides. Democrat Franklin Pierce (1804-1869) of New Hampshire easily defeated Scott, 254 electoral votes to 42. In 1860, the leader of one faction of the divided Democratic Party, Stephen A. Douglas (1813-1861), toured twenty-three states, giving hundreds of addresses that boldly confronted the issues of the day. Douglas was perhaps motivated as much by a desire to prevent secession as by hopes of winning election, and he won

<sup>77</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 443-448.

<sup>78</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 452-481; Smith, 959-992.

<sup>79</sup> Gil Troy, *See How They Ran: The Changing Role of the Presidential Candidate*, revised and expanded ed. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1996), 61-62.

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just twelve electoral votes. The unsuccessful Democratic candidate in 1868, Horatio Seymour (1810-1886), made a two-week tour of midwestern states. Fresh in the minds of most political observers in 1880 was the experience of Horace Greeley, the 1872 candidate of both the Liberal Republicans and the Democrats. Long accustomed to taking a position on every issue confronting the nation as editor of the influential *New York Tribune*, Greeley campaigned vigorously in Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, making as many as twenty-two speeches a day. Grant, who remained silent, easily won re-election.<sup>80</sup> At the time, Garfield noted that Greeley's "speeches in his own behalf hurt him seriously."<sup>81</sup>

An accomplished orator, Garfield was tempted to campaign vigorously in 1880, noting that "[i]f I could take to the stump and bear a fighting share of the campaign I should feel happier."<sup>82</sup> President Hayes counseled him to do nothing of the kind, but rather to stay at home, "sit crosslegged and look wise."<sup>83</sup> Garfield's biggest challenge was to reconcile the Stalwarts to his nomination and get Conkling's forces working diligently for him. He began this effort by selecting Chester A. Arthur (1829-1886), one of Conkling's New York chieftains, as his running mate. Conkling still remained aloof, and Garfield felt compelled to visit New York City for a meeting of the Republican National Committee in early August. There he conferred with Conkling's chief lieutenants. Opposition newspapers insisted that Garfield made promises regarding patronage in New York via a "Treaty of Fifth Avenue," but this is improbable. Garfield was too experienced a politician to go beyond ambiguous statements and tie his hands as president by making binding commitments. Unwilling to see a Democrat in the White House, the Republican organizations in New York and other Stalwart states started to exert themselves for the ticket.<sup>84</sup>

Garfield coordinated every aspect of the campaign from his farm, staying in regular touch with Republican leaders in key states and overseeing the raising and allocation of campaign funds. A telegraph terminal was installed in the freestanding library (renamed the campaign office), and the candidate used three assistants: his long-time clerk George U. Rose, Joseph Stanley-Brown,<sup>85</sup> on loan from the U.S. Geological Survey, and telegrapher O. L. Judd. The candidate dictated as many as sixty letters a day from his private office in a second-floor room of the house, known to the family as his "snuggery." The front-porch aspect of the campaign began when friends and neighbors stopped by to congratulate Garfield on his nomination. As election day drew near, more and more groups took advantage of the proximity of the railroad to drop by to see the

<sup>80</sup> Troy, 51-53, 64-66, 71, 74-77; Charles Winslow Elliott, *Winfield Scott: The Soldier and the Man* (New York: Macmillan, 1937), 634-640; William Gillette, "The Election of 1872," in *History of Presidential Elections, 1789-2008*, vol. iv, Gil Troy, Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., and Fred L. Israel, eds. (Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2012), 1325-1326.

<sup>81</sup> *Diary*, Oct. 11, 1872, vol. 2, 101.

<sup>82</sup> *Diary*, Sept. 26, 1880, vol. 4, 461.

<sup>83</sup> Rutherford B. Hayes to James A. Garfield, July 26, 1880, cited in Peskin, *Garfield*, 482.

<sup>84</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 482-489.

<sup>85</sup> He was known as Joseph Brown at the time. At about the time of his wedding to Mollie Garfield in 1888, he legally changed his name to Joseph Stanley Brown. To avoid confusion, he will be referred to consistently as Stanley-Brown.

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candidate and his family. On September 4, the arrival of the first large delegation, ninety-five Indiana "ladies and gentlemen," is recorded in Garfield's diary.<sup>86</sup>

By October, something of a routine for receiving delegations had emerged. Groups would either hire carriages to bring them the one and one-half miles from the Mentor station or have the train stop on the Garfields' property and walk about three-fifths of a mile to the house. A portion of the historic lane, extending 833 feet from the rear property line of the NHS to the sidewalk along Mentor Avenue, is clearly visible today. Garfield would greet the groups from the porch, the delegation leader would make a few remarks, and the candidate would then deliver a brief address, keyed to the interests of the group. For example, when 900 Cleveland women arrived on October 27, Garfield stressed the contribution of women in maintaining home-front morale while their men were subduing the rebels in the Civil War. He studiously avoided addressing any controversial topics, such as the tariff or civil service reform. Lucretia usually served light refreshments before the delegation departed. More important visitors were invited to spend the night, sometimes forcing sons Abram and Irvin McDowell to sleep in the barn. During the campaign, an estimated 17,000 visitors came to the Garfield farm. Almost all of the delegations were from Ohio and Indiana, but their visits and Garfield's cordial reception of them were widely reported in the press, amplifying the effect. At some point during the summer, reporters began referring to the farm as "Lawnfield," in tribute to its expanses of grass, and the name stuck.<sup>87</sup>

In late September, a small but important delegation of Stalwarts paid Garfield a visit designed to underscore party unity. Senator Conkling had agreed to make a western tour for the Republican ticket, which included a huge rally at Warren, Ohio, just 50 miles from Mentor. Conkling was traveling with former president Grant, Senator John Logan (1826-1886) of Illinois, and Senator James Donald Cameron (1833-1918) of Pennsylvania. Although the Stalwarts later claimed that Garfield made them promises concerning appointments at the time, there were no private conversations during the brief visit. The Democrats alleged that a "Treaty of Mentor" with all manner of concessions to Conkling had been agreed.<sup>88</sup>

A moving scene unfolded when the Jubilee Singers from traditionally black Fisk University visited the farm after giving a concert in nearby Painesville. They sang several spirituals in the parlor to the family and a few neighbors, bringing tears to the eyes of many. Garfield's secretary Joseph Stanley-Brown transcribed the candidate's remarks to the group, which concluded with the words: "And I tell you now, in the closing days of this campaign, that I would rather be with you and defeated than against you and victorious."<sup>89</sup> Bowing to the era's prevalent racism, Brown omitted the last sentence when he released the statement to the press.<sup>90</sup>

<sup>86</sup> Smith, 1018-1019; Herbert J. Clancy, *The Presidential Election of 1880* (Chicago: Loyola University Press, 1958), 188-191; *Diary*, Sept. 4, vol. 4, 451.

<sup>87</sup> *Diary*, Aug. 22, 1880, vol. 4, 445.

<sup>88</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 500-501.

<sup>89</sup> Joseph Stanley-Brown, "My Friend Garfield," *American Heritage*, Aug. 1971, 52.

<sup>90</sup> Joseph Stanley-Brown, 51-52.

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In addition to speaking to delegations at his home, Garfield made a number of public appearances during the campaign. He spoke at the unveiling of monuments, at veterans' reunions, and from the back of his train going to and from his early August meeting with the Republican National Committee in New York. On all occasions, the candidate studiously avoided saying anything about current issues, limiting his remarks to praise of the veterans' sacrifices and the glories of the republic and its robust economy. Though he did not barnstorm in the fashion of Greeley in 1872, Garfield clearly realized that Americans were coming to expect that a presidential candidate would show himself to the electorate.

Garfield's 1880 Democrat opponent was General Winfield Scott Hancock (1824-1886), a career army officer, famous as one of the heroes of the Battle of Gettysburg. His running mate was William H. English (1822-1896), an Indiana banker. There were minor party candidates as well: The Prohibition Party ran Neal S. Dow (1804-1897) of Maine, and the Greenback Labor Party, committed to issuing paper money to relieve debt-stricken farmers and others, ran Congressman James B. Weaver (1833-1912) of Iowa.<sup>91</sup> As commander of the Army's Division of the Atlantic, Hancock remained at his home and headquarters on Governor's Island in New York Bay throughout the campaign. Party leaders and office seekers took the boat to see him, but he was largely inaccessible to voters.

There were few real issues in the race. Both parties expected a close contest and believed vague and noncommittal pronouncements were less likely to offend any bloc of voters. Hancock had never held a civil office, which was a both a plus and a minus. He had taken few public positions that could be used against him, but was open to the charge that he had never given issues of public policy any thought at all. The Republicans mocked him by publishing a booklet entitled "Hancock's Record," consisting of a succession of blank pages. Early in the campaign, the Republicans castigated the Democrats as the party of rebellion and for the suppression of black voters. Hancock's sterling record in putting down the Confederacy and his public commitment to the Reconstruction amendments to the Constitution blunted these attacks. Later in the campaign, the Republicans shifted to emphasizing that their economic policies, notably protective tariffs, protected American jobs. The Democrats' campaign plank on the tariff was deliberately ambiguous. The party's southern wing wanted low tariffs, but many voters in the key manufacturing states of New York and New Jersey wanted high tariffs to protect their industries. In an interview, Hancock pronounced the tariff a purely local issue. He may have meant that the tariff was of concern largely to local manufacturing interests, but Republicans castigated him for not understanding that the U.S. Congress set tariffs. The Democratic campaign consisted almost entirely of personal attacks on Garfield. The party pointed repeatedly to the *Crédit Mobilier*, the salary grab, the DeGolyer paving contract, and the general aura of corruption that surrounded the Grant administration. Implicit in the Democrats' campaign was that, after 20 years of Republican presidents, a change was in order.<sup>92</sup>

Hancock's campaign was hampered by a weak Democratic National Committee and divisions within the New York party. New York City Democrats in 1880 for the first time ran a Roman

<sup>91</sup> David M. Jordan, *Winfield Scott Hancock: A Soldier's Life* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1988), 281, 292-293.

<sup>92</sup> Jordan, 289-294; Glenn Tucker, *Hancock the Superb* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1960), 301.

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Catholic as a mayoral candidate. Given the widespread anti-Catholic prejudices of the period, this almost certainly depressed the vote for the Democratic ticket. After a surprise victory for the Democrats in Maine elections in September, the Republicans poured resources into Indiana's October elections. Infusions of cash, rallies featuring Roscoe Conkling, and pressure by employers on workingmen to vote Republican carried the day in Indiana. Those results demoralized Democratic leaders, and Garfield won the presidency on November 2 by 214 electoral votes to 155 for Hancock. Garfield's popular vote margin was a scant 7,000. A swing of only 11,000 votes in New York would have made Hancock president. Although he made no public protest, the general went to his grave believing that Conkling and his minions had stolen the election in New York.<sup>93</sup>

### The Impact of the First Front-Porch Campaign

The Republican Party was quick to grasp the advantages offered by a front-porch campaign. Although the term would not come into use until 1896, Garfield pioneered the elements of the approach in 1880. In essence, the technique allowed the candidate to appear before voters while retaining maximum control of his message. He appeared surrounded by the favorable images of a happy domestic life and enthusiastic supporters. Further, he remained comfortable and rested, unfatigued by travel. He could tailor his remarks to the concerns of the group in front of him, be they businessmen, iron workers, firemen, or party regulars. Friendly reporters could be relied upon to circulate glowing reports of the encounters across the nation. Republicans endorsed the front-porch approach, in part because it underscored a candidate's middle-class respectability. Relying more on working-class voters who found it harder to travel, the Democrats were less likely to embrace the technique. In addition, a front-porch campaign was feasible only for candidates with a centrally located, easily accessible home. Living in Augusta, Maine, Republican James G. Blaine in 1884 had few visitors, and felt compelled to take to the road. He deeply regretted his appearance in New York City in late October, where another speaker's characterization of the Democrats as the party of "rum, Romanism, and rebellion" cost Blaine many Catholic voters. In 1888, Republican Benjamin Harrison (1833-1901) emulated Garfield with a modified front-porch campaign. When crowds around his Indianapolis home grew large early in the campaign, he began to walk almost daily to University Park to speak to delegations, reaching around 300,000 in this manner. Following each address, he edited his remarks for newspaper publication.<sup>94</sup>

Another Ohio presidential candidate, William McKinley (1843-1901), brought a new sophistication to the front-porch approach in 1896. His staff carefully scheduled the visits of several delegations per day, who were escorted to his Canton home by a mounted and uniformed McKinley Escort Troop and brass bands. To guard against any gaffes, McKinley insisted on reviewing in advance and editing the remarks of delegation leaders. In a large tent on the lawn, visitors were efficiently served refreshments before they departed: "wets" received two glasses

<sup>93</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 510-511; Jordan, 291-307. Oil tycoon John D. Rockefeller (1839-1937) was at the fore with his money and influence on his employees in the Indiana races.

<sup>94</sup> Troy, 95; Henry Luther Stoddard, *Presidential Sweepstakes: The Story of Political Conventions and Campaigns* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1948), 103-104; Harry J. Sievers, *Hoosier Statesman: From the Civil War to the White House, 1865-1888* (New York: University Publishers, Inc., 1959), 354-363, 371-372, 406.

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of beer and a sandwich, while "dries" got two sandwiches and a cup of coffee. In a sense, McKinley and his staff were pioneers of what came to be called "media events." Although McKinley's remarks never contained anything novel, the constant coming and going of delegations and surrounding hoopla were considered newsworthy and widely published. Over the course of the campaign, 750,000 people from thirty states came to Canton to see and hear McKinley. McKinley's unsuccessful opponent, William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925), conducted an energetic and often poorly organized whistle-stop campaign. Bryan infused his supporters with energy with his touring, but many editorial writers found McKinley's approach more presidential. In their different fashions, both candidates were bowing to public expectations that a candidate be more visible.<sup>95</sup>

After the turn of the twentieth century, taking to the stump became more the rule for presidential candidates, except for incumbents. As the Democratic standard bearer in 1900 and again in 1908, William Jennings Bryan campaigned widely across the country. More and more, the organizational methods perfected by McKinley in 1896 were applied to whistle-stop campaigns, with advance men coordinating the reception at each stop. The last important front-porch campaign was that of Republican Warren G. Harding (1865-1923) in 1920. Honoring the continuity of the tradition, Harding had the flagpole from McKinley's home moved to his house in Marion, Ohio.<sup>96</sup> He also replaced his front lawn with gravel and set up campaign headquarters in a house next door. Harding spoke to hundreds of delegations, while his unsuccessful opponent, Ohio governor James M. Cox (1870-1957) traveled 22,000 miles and spoke to approximately 2 million.<sup>97</sup>

### A Brief Presidency

James Garfield had little opportunity to make a mark as president, being shot by Charles Guiteau (1841-1882) on July 2, 1881, just three months after being inaugurated. Predictably, appointments and patronage dominated his brief period as an active chief magistrate. The president struggled to accommodate the two main factions in his party with his cabinet appointments, relying on Lucretia's judgment of men as well as his own. He gave the important post of secretary of state to his long-time friend Blaine, who had considerable influence on his other choices. When objections to Blaine were raised on grounds that his first child came six months after his wedding day, Lucretia defended him for having done the honorable thing. Senator Conkling maintained that he should have a veto over all federal appointments in New

<sup>95</sup> R. Hal Williams, *Realigning America: McKinley, Bryan, and the Remarkable Election of 1896* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2010), 131-134; William D. Harpine, *From the Front Porch to the Front Page: McKinley and Bryan in the 1896 Presidential Campaign* (College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 2005), 38-43. McKinley's house has been demolished but is marked by a State of Ohio historical marker. The Canton residence of his wife, Ida Saxton McKinley, where the couple lived from 1878-1891, stands and is part of the First Ladies National Historic Site, <http://www.nps.gov/fila/index.htm>.

<sup>96</sup> Harding's home is part of the Harding Home Presidential Site in Marion, operated by the nonprofit Ohio History Connection and is open to the public, Ohio History Connection website, <http://www.ohiohistory.org/museums-and-historic-sites>.

<sup>97</sup> Paul F. Boller, *Presidential Campaigns* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1984), 179-181, 187-188, 212-213; Joe Mitchell Chapple, *Life and Times of Warren G. Harding, Our After-War President* (Boston: Chapple Publishing Co., 1924), 115-119, 125.

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York, while Blaine tried to convince Garfield to break Conkling's power. A climactic test came when Garfield appointed Blaine's preferred candidate as collector of the port of New York. Unable to persuade the Senate to back him in rejecting the president's appointment, Conkling resigned, effectively ending his political career. Blaine would go on to be the unsuccessful Republican presidential candidate in 1884. In her brief time as first lady, Lucretia began to plan a thorough interior renovation of the White House and spent much time in the Library of Congress researching its history. In early May, Lucretia contracted malaria, and her husband nursed her faithfully for a month. She was still resting and regaining her strength in Long Branch, New Jersey, when the president was shot.<sup>98</sup>

The assassin, Charles Guiteau, had failed at a number of careers, among them lawyer, debt collector, author, and husband. During the 1880 campaign, he wrote and had printed a three-page pamphlet entitled "Garfield against Hancock." Convinced that this barely coherent tract had ensured Garfield's election, Guiteau expected a diplomatic appointment from the new administration. During the campaign, he frequented Republican Party headquarters in New York. He then went to Washington where he hounded Secretary of State Blaine and other Republicans, even having a brief encounter with Garfield, to whom he gave a copy of his pamphlet. Clearly delusional about his abilities and prospects, Guiteau finally concluded that if only Chester Arthur were president, he would get his post. He bought a revolver and on July 2, 1881, he shot the president twice from behind, hitting him in the arm and the back, in the Baltimore & Potomac railroad station in Washington.<sup>99</sup>

Garfield survived the initial trauma only to suffer another 80 days in the White House and New Jersey while physicians vainly attempted to help him, doing more harm than good. His dignity and courage as he lay mortally wounded had a profound impact on the American public, which followed daily bulletins on the president's condition. When Garfield finally succumbed on September 19, in Elberon, New Jersey, there was an outpouring of grief that many thought surpassed the reaction to Lincoln's assassination. The president's body lay in state in the U.S. Capitol and then under a temporary pavilion in Public Square in Cleveland. Lucretia took the lead in planning funeral observances on September 26, when Garfield's body was taken in procession to Lake View Cemetery. She also demonstrated her commitment to gender equality by insisting that Dr. Susan Edson (1823-1897) be paid the same as the male doctors who attended Garfield. In time, a monumental, 180-foot Romanesque Revival tomb was erected in Lake View Cemetery by public subscription and dedicated May 30, 1890. Guiteau was tried, convicted, and executed by hanging on June 30, 1882.<sup>100</sup>

### James A. Garfield's Importance

Within two years of Garfield's assassination, the first significant federal service law was enacted. Although Charles Guiteau might well have focused his delusions on any profession, he was

<sup>98</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 573-574; Allan Peskin, "Lucretia Rudolph Garfield," in *American First Ladies: Their Lives and Their Legacy*, 2d ed., Lewis, L. Gould, ed. (New York: Routledge, 2001), 157-159.

<sup>99</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 582-596.

<sup>100</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 597-609; Smith, 1197-1204; Peskin, "Lucretia Rudolph Garfield," 159-160; Shaw, 21. The Garfield Memorial in The Lake view Cemetery is listed in the NRHP, NRIS 73001411.

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widely characterized as a "disappointed office seeker." His violent act was seen by many as the ultimate tragic result of the spoils system. In a supreme irony, President Arthur, who previously had grown wealthy as Senator's Conkling's hand-picked collector of the port of New York, asked Congress for civil service reform. Congress responded in 1883 with the Pendleton Civil Service Act. The act covered only 15 percent of the federal work force, but was an important first step in introducing a merit system for federal employment.<sup>101</sup> Those who looked for silver linings pointed to the act as a positive result of Garfield's death.

It is largely fruitless to speculate over the impact Garfield might have had as president. With his classical education and his habit of keeping up with the latest works in literature, science, economics, and sociology, he was one of our most erudite chief executives. Before he was shot, Garfield was beginning to think about civil service reform, federal aid to education, and a new departure in southern policy.<sup>102</sup> His record in Congress, as a stump speaker for and representative of the Republican Party nationally, and his influential 1880 front-porch campaign make him a nationally significant late nineteenth-century political figure. The resources of the NHS are closely tied to his national significance as a presidential candidate and president-elect. They also exemplify the lasting importance of his ground-breaking 1880 front-porch campaign.

For a number of years following his death, James Garfield was widely revered as the embodiment of American ideals. His assassination was viewed as a national calamity, and tributes poured in from across the country. Garfield's rise from very humble beginnings, his steadiness of character, his religious faith, and his stable and happy family life made him a paragon to many. As one eulogist put it: "He represented to them [the American public], more perfectly than any man living, the meaning of their institutions, [and] the greatness of the career that lies open before the feet of every American boy."<sup>103</sup> Hyperbolic predictions that his name would go down in history "coupled with that of Washington and Lincoln" were not borne out.<sup>104</sup> McKinley's assassination in 1901 brought renewed attention to other assassinated presidents. As literary scholar Dixon Wechter observed:

[A] whole pictography of American martyrdom sprang up. There were paperweights of "Our Assassinated Presidents," dinner-plates [sic] bearing the faces of "Our Martyrs," and a brand of cigars called Memorata which illustrated the three executives above the motto, in dubious Latin, "De moribus nil nisi bonum."<sup>105</sup>

Garfield's reputation has suffered from the generally dismissive attitude many historians have taken to the post-Civil War decades, the so-called Gilded Age. Too often the period between Reconstruction and the Progressive Era is brushed aside as a time of robber barons, hopelessly corrupt politicians, and weak presidents. Garfield's biographer Allan Peskin shrewdly observed

<sup>101</sup> Calhoun, 76-79.

<sup>102</sup> Peskin, *Garfield*, 574-581.

<sup>103</sup> "Assassination of President Garfield in Washington, July 2, 1881," unidentified clipping in *James A. Garfield Pamphlets*, Newberry Library, Chicago, Ill.

<sup>104</sup> "The Lessons of Our National Sorrow: A Sermon Delivered on the Sabbath Morning, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1881," in *James A. Garfield Pamphlets*, Newberry Library, Chicago, Ill.

<sup>105</sup> Dixon Wechter, *The Hero in America* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1941), 265. A rough translation would be "Of the dead, speak only good."

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that: "He had the misfortune of being active at a time when there were no causes worthy of his abilities."<sup>106</sup> The resumption of specie payments, rationalizing government appropriations, and streamlining census procedures lack the drama of fighting wars and expanding the functions of government. Peskin's judgment probably should be amended to read that Garfield encountered no worthy causes that were realistically achievable. Certainly continuing the struggle to ensure civil and political rights for African Americans was a worthy cause, but the North had little stomach for that once southern whites took to violence and President Hayes withdrew the last federal troops from the South.

### A Pioneering Presidential Archive

Lucretia Garfield spent the remaining 36 years of her life raising her children and safeguarding her husband's legacy. Congress granted her a pension of \$5,000 a year, and a group of businessmen raised a \$360,000 trust fund (approximately \$8.5 million in 2014 dollars) for her benefit, ensuring her a comfortable widowhood. She lived briefly in Cleveland before deciding to make Lawnfield her home. Lucretia liked nothing more than surrounding herself with her children and grandchildren at the Mentor farm. James, Abram, and Harry (for a few years) were close by, making their careers in Cleveland. She made yearly visits to the children who had moved away: Mollie in Washington, D.C., Irvin in Boston, and, later, Harry in Princeton, New Jersey and Williamstown after he became president of Williams College. When the winters in Ohio began to wear on her, Lucretia started to spend the colder months in southern California. The last large Christmas gathering in Mentor occurred in 1898. In 1903, Lucretia commissioned the brothers Charles and Henry Greene<sup>107</sup> to design a two-story, six-bedroom craftsman-style house for her at 1001 Buena Vista Street in South Pasadena. Throughout her widowhood, Lucretia zealously guarded her privacy, declining to be interviewed or included in collections on notable American women. For the rest of her life, she used only black-bordered stationery. Lucretia maintained her literary interests through membership in book clubs; she also worked on a translation of Victor Hugo's biography of Shakespeare. When World War I broke out, she helped establish the Pasadena Red Cross war committee. Lucretia Garfield continued to spend springs and summers in Mentor, and died in South Pasadena March 14, 1918. Memorial services were held in California and Cleveland, and Lucretia was buried next to her husband in the memorial tomb in Lake View Cemetery.<sup>108</sup>

Lucretia made a number of changes to the Mentor farm after James's death, the most significant of which was the addition of a spacious library and archival room to safeguard her husband's library, papers, and mementoes from his career. Until the 1970s, when Congress passed legislation redefining the ownership status of presidential papers under the purview of the federal government, the papers of U.S. presidents were considered their personal property. In many

<sup>106</sup> Allan Peskin, "Presidents Anonymous," *Timeline*, October/November 1985, 29-34.

<sup>107</sup> The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRIS 7300405). Charles Greene (1868-1957) and Henry Greene (1860-1954) are now widely recognized as the masters of the California arts and crafts bungalow, including the Gamble House, designated an NHL in 1977 (NRIS 71000155). Randell L. Makinson, *Architecture as a Fine Art* (Salt Lake City: Gibbs M. Smith, 1977), 92-93.

<sup>108</sup> Shaw, 112-120; Peskin, "Lucretia Rudolph Garfield," 160; Lucretia G. Comer, *Strands from the Weaving* (New York: Vantage Press, 1959), 46-49.

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cases this led to examples of inappropriate and unfortunate mishandling, abuse, or outright loss of presidential papers.

George Washington set the precedent for the customary treatment of presidential papers, taking his papers with him to Mount Vernon at the close of his second term in 1797. Washington planned to construct a stone building on the plantation for this collection, but died before he could begin that project. His papers ended up being disbursed and in some cases cut up for souvenirs. Throughout the nineteenth century, "presidential papers were systematically purged by editors, mutilated by autograph collectors, lifted by souvenir hunters, wasted by widows, and burned in barns and barrels."<sup>109</sup> Papers of Martin Van Buren, Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce, and Ulysses S. Grant were deliberately destroyed, either by the former president or an heir. Andrew Jackson lent so many of his papers to biographers and others that the Library of Congress had to make 100 separate accessions when it began to collect them in 1899. The few presidents who made an effort to retain papers typically did little or nothing to protect them. Papers of Andrew Jackson, John Tyler, and James Buchanan were lost to fire. The Department of State began to collect presidential papers in the 1830s, but generally had to pay for them; the government paid \$20,000 to James Madison's heirs for his papers in 1849. In an effort matched only by the Adams family, Lucretia Garfield collected, organized, and carefully preserved in one location a set of presidential papers, establishing an important precedent for the twentieth-century system of presidential libraries.<sup>110</sup>

James and Lucretia had always been mindful of James's place in history, carefully preserving personal correspondence, incoming and outgoing political correspondence, and papers from his congressional career. James began a diary when he was seventeen and kept it faithfully until the day before he was shot. He would frequently annotate incoming correspondence with "save this." While the president lay mortally wounded, Lucretia issued instructions that newspaper coverage of the shooting and its aftermath be clipped and saved. Upon the president's death, she directed that any papers remaining in Washington be collected and stored in a fireproof room at the Treasury Department. She retained Joseph Stanley-Brown, who had briefly stayed on as personal secretary to President Arthur, to take on the job of "assorting and arranging" James Garfield's papers. Stanley-Brown and his assistants performed this task over the next few years, forwarding the last of the papers to Mentor in 1885. In the meantime, sons James and Harry had catalogued Garfield's library at Lawnfield. Lucretia asked longtime family friend Burke A. Hinsdale (1837-1900) to prepare an edition of Garfield's public addresses and remarks in Congress, which appeared in two volumes in 1882.<sup>111</sup>

Lucretia and her children wanted the manuscript papers collected in one place and preserved until the family could choose a suitable authorized biographer for the president. This proved to

<sup>109</sup> Don W. Wilson, "Presidential Libraries: Developing to Maturity," *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 21/4 (Fall 1991):772.

<sup>110</sup> Wilson, 771-779; Josef F. Menez, "Presidential Papers and Presidential Libraries," *Social Science* 47/1 (Winter 1972):34-39.

<sup>111</sup> Kate M. Stuart, "Introduction," *Index to the James A. Garfield Papers* (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1973), viii-ix; Burke A. Hinsdale, ed., *The Works of James Abram Garfield* (Boston: James R. Osgood & Co., 1881).

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be a more protracted effort than originally anticipated. Lucretia approached the well-known poet and editor James Russell Lowell (1819-1891), then serving as ambassador to the Court of St. James, but nothing came of it. She also briefly attempted her own biography, but quickly abandoned it.<sup>112</sup> Until an authorized biographer was found, Lucretia kept the collection of papers intact, declining to allow anyone to examine it or to lend anything to be studied or published. To further safeguard the papers until an authorized biography was completed, she decided to build an addition onto the main house at Mentor. She was also beginning to feel, as she later expressed it, "the house here is a much more interesting monument to your father's memory than anything that can be built merely as a monument."<sup>113</sup>

In 1885, Lucretia hired Cleveland architect Forrest A. Coburn to design a major addition to the Mentor house. The centerpiece of the new wing was to be a library with a fireproof vault to contain Garfield's 2,000-volume library, his professional and personal papers, and mementoes of his life. Joseph Stanley-Brown and Lucretia worked closely with the architect on the plans, with Lucretia making the final decisions. Ground was broken for the addition in June 1885 and work was completed the following summer. The work converted the house's old kitchen to a spacious reception hall with a monumental staircase in one corner that rose to the library on the second floor. The library was a spacious L-shaped room, wrapping around a fireproof vault, known to the family as the Memorial Room. A new kitchen, laundry, and maid's room were added at the back of the first floor. The addition was carefully placed at the rear of the house so as not to compromise the view from Mentor Avenue. Contemporary accounts described the result as Queen Anne or Gothic.<sup>114</sup> The new wing converted a rambling frame house into an estate, which one newspaper branded the "most imposing" in the area.<sup>115</sup> A new tenant house was also built at this time. This replaced the small tenant house south of Mentor Avenue, which was sold and removed to a new location by the buyer.<sup>116</sup>

Lucretia made a number of other changes at the Mentor farm in this period. Natural gas was discovered on the property, and Lucretia had a stone and brick gas holder building constructed to shelter a metal tank. Gas was then used for lighting on the property and to fire a boiler that provided steam heat. In 1893, Lucretia had a stylish frame barn, now known as the carriage house, erected on the property that overlapped the gas holder structure. In 1894, a new well was excavated and a 20-foot-by-20-foot stone well house erected northeast of the main house. A wooden windmill structure surmounted the well house. The windmill atop the structure pumped water from the well, which was stored in a wooden tank in the structure and pumped to a metal tank on the third floor of the main house as needed.<sup>117</sup>

<sup>112</sup> Shaw, 108-109.

<sup>113</sup> Undated typescript in James A. Garfield NHS files, quoting a November 1892 letter from Lucretia Garfield to Abram Garfield.

<sup>114</sup> Johnson, 128-130.

<sup>115</sup> Undated newspaper clipping from circa 1886 in Garritt scrapbooks, vol. 2, 1884-1886, at LCHS, cited in Johnson, 128.

<sup>116</sup> Johnson, 131.

<sup>117</sup> Johnson, 131-133.

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In 1893, Lucretia's son James Garfield purchased the Alvord property just west of Lawnfield and built his own estate, known as Hollycroft. In 1900, Caroline Robinson Mason, mother-in-law of Lucretia's son Harry Garfield, bought an 1830s Greek Revival house adjacent on the east, enlarged it, and named the estate Eastlawn.<sup>118</sup> This house, much altered over the years, remains, approximately 200 feet east of the NHS.

With a family compound established, Lucretia Garfield, her daughter Molly Garfield Stanley-Brown, and daughters-in-law Helen Garfield and Belle Garfield began to plan a unified landscape treatment for the three adjoining estates. They hired Pittsburgh landscape architect J. Wilkinson Elliott to prepare a comprehensive landscape plan. A comparison of a surviving Elliott plan for Hollycroft and Lawnfield with a 1924 survey shows that many of his suggestions were implemented. It is likely that Elliott prepared a separate plan for Eastlawn, which has not been located. As part of Elliott's plan, paired limestone piers were erected at the entrances of the drives and walkways leading into the three estates. Curvilinear drives from each house to the carriage house and a system of curving footpaths were also established. One set of piers survives within the NHS and four sets survive on adjacent private property. Trees and shrubs were planted along Mentor Avenue to screen the estates from passers-by. A number of trees extant on the NHS today appear to have been planted in accordance with Elliott's plan. Some aspects of the plan, notably a greenhouse and a parterre garden near the chicken run, appear not to have been carried out. Future archeological investigations could shed light on those portions of the plan that were carried out but have since been obliterated.<sup>119</sup>

The improvements to Lawnfield that Lucretia Garfield had accomplished by circa 1900 transformed the property into a country estate. In so doing, she participated in a broader trend that saw many families who had made fortunes in Cleveland creating elegant country retreats away from the dirt and noise of the city. Unlike other areas near Cleveland that had industrialized, Lake County retained its rural character following the Civil War. The county's cooling lake breezes and fertile soils made it a prime location for large estates where leisure activities could be combined with raising prize-winning livestock and specimen flowers. The 1896 opening of the Cleveland, Painesville, and Eastern interurban electric line provided convenient service to the city and greatly accelerated the movement of the wealthy to Lake County. The line ran along Euclid and Mentor Avenues, passing directly in front of Lawnfield. The line was eventually extended to Ashtabula, Ohio, where it connected with another interurban that ran all the way to Buffalo, New York.<sup>120</sup>

The establishment of estate homes in Lake County began in the west around the town of Wickliffe and soon moved eastward to include the Kirtland, Mentor, and Painesville areas. By 1895, the Wickliffe Ridge had "a string of beautifully landscaped estates."<sup>121</sup> A few of the estates embraced one thousand acres. Manicured lawns, formal gardens, and swimming pools graced

<sup>118</sup> This house, much altered, still stands.

<sup>119</sup> *CLR*, 37-42, 57-59.

<sup>120</sup> William Ganson Rose, *Cleveland: The Making of a City* (Cleveland: World Publishing Co., 1950), 572; Lake County Historical Society, *Here Is Lake County* (Cleveland: Howard Allen, 1964), 111-113. The interurban line was renamed the Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula when service was extended; the cars stopped running in 1923.

<sup>121</sup> Lake County Historical Society, 114.

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these residences. A number, including Lawnfield and Lucretia's son Abram's place in the Glenville section of Cleveland, had a windmill as a focal point. A few of the more lavish estates boasted a private golf course or polo field. A 1903 book, *The Country Estates of Cleveland Men*, included Lawnfield in addition to the estates of a number of Cleveland millionaires. The country estate period reached its apogee from about 1900 to 1920, but even as late as the 1930s, a number of the properties employed from twenty-five to fifty people.<sup>122</sup>

Very few of these country estates survive in Lake County, making Lawnfield an important extant example of this social trend of the early twentieth century.<sup>123</sup> The country estate character of Lawnfield, established by Lucretia's improvements and the implementation of many aspects of Elliott's landscape design, is easily discernible. The curvilinear drives and walks of Elliott's plan have not survived, but the architectural impact of the main house, well house/windmill, carriage house, and tenant house remains, as does their relationship to one another. Adding to the integrity is the presence of the lawn and a number of specimen trees from the country estate period. The main house, well house/windmill, carriage house and tenant house have many of the signal characteristics of the Queen Anne style: contrasting building materials, irregular massing, and the use of shingles as a siding material. The quarry-faced masonry of the library addition and the well house and the oak woodwork in the library and reception hall are notable examples of the Richardsonian Romanesque style.

The library and Memorial Room assumed a prominent role in the lives of the extended Garfield clan. Reading and music-making remained important family activities, and a grand piano in the library received frequent use. A most important family event occurred in the library on June 14, 1888: the double wedding of Harry to Belle Mason of Cleveland and of Mollie to Joseph Stanley-Brown, an event reported nationally.<sup>124</sup> The special meaning that the Memorial Room had for the family is well expressed in this reminiscence from Ruth Stanley-Brown Feis (1892-1981), Mollie and Joseph Stanley-Brown's daughter:

When I was a child, my grandmother used to unlock the tall steel doors of the Memorial Room by twirling a 'combination' like a safe. We children watched, wide-eyed and fascinated. As the doors swung back, we walked into a close, musty-smelling room, halflit by pale sunlight filtering down from high windows. . . . Here too, Grandfather's Civil War sword, in its scabbard, had a special place of honor. In this quiet retreat, I used to pore over bound volumes of old newspapers, including the black-bordered ones announcing my Grandfather's death.<sup>125</sup>

It was not until 1911 that Lucretia and her children chose an authorized biographer: Theodore Clarke Smith (1870-1960). Smith was a professor of history at Williams College, where Harry

<sup>122</sup> Writer's Program of the Works Progress Administration, *Lake County History* (Cleveland: Lake County Historical Society, 1941), 7; Thomas A. Knight, *The Country Estates of Cleveland Men* (Cleveland: Britton Printing, 1903), excerpts published in *The Ohio Architect and Builder* 3/1 (Jan. 1904):28-34.

<sup>123</sup> Another surviving country estate property in Mentor, the Edward W. and Louise C. Moore Estate, known as Mooreland, is listed on the National Register (88000209). The main house on the Moore Estate was constructed between 1897 and 1900 and enlarged 1906-1907.

<sup>124</sup> Shaw, 110; "The Garfield Wedding," *New York Times*, June 15, 1888.

<sup>125</sup> Ruth S. B. Feis, *Mollie Garfield in the White House* (Chicago: Rand McNally, 1963), 123-124.

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Garfield had been selected as president in 1908. Smith was given full access to the papers, working at Lawnfield in the summers and having the papers sent to him at Williamstown during the academic year. Smith's two-volume *The Life and Letters of James Abram Garfield*, some 1207 pages of text, was published by Yale University Press in 1925.<sup>126</sup>

Once Smith's biography was published, the five Garfield children began to think more seriously about the ultimate repository for their father's papers. James had already had some preliminary conversations on the matter with the librarian of Congress when James was secretary of the interior under President Theodore Roosevelt. By the late nineteenth century, the Library of Congress had taken over the task of actively collecting presidential papers from the State Department. All five of the Garfields believed the Library of Congress was the appropriate repository, but discussions needed to take place about just what to surrender and what to retain. Further, James, who lived next door at Hollycroft and spent considerable time in the Memorial Room, was ambivalent about seeing the papers leave Mentor. In 1930, with his siblings' approval, James donated 150 bound volumes of letters from his father's public career to the Library of Congress, retaining personal and family papers, including all letters between Lucretia and James. This was the first of several donations over the course of the next three decades. The final shipment did not occur until October 1963, after historians Harry J. Brown and Frederick D. Williams had consulted the last of the president's diaries for their four-volume published edition of the diaries. President Garfield's books and many mementoes of his career have remained at Mentor.<sup>127</sup>

Lucretia Garfield and her children performed a valuable and nationally significant service by safeguarding and ultimately donating to the nation the president's papers. Unlike some presidential heirs, the children ultimately held nothing back, opting to donate all private letters between their parents, stipulating only that these remain sealed until the last of them had died. Virtually the only record of the troubled early years of Lucretia and James's marriage was thus handed on by their children to be part of the public record. By contrast, Lincoln's surviving child, Robert Todd Lincoln, destroyed "useless" papers before donating them to the Library of Congress and then instructed that the collection remain sealed for 21 years after his death. Probably because of their long-time understanding of the role of the Library of Congress, the Garfields seem never to have considered turning the Mentor farm into a permanent presidential archive. This fact allows the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center to lay claim to being the first presidential library in the modern sense. President Hayes's son Webb C. Hayes (1856-1934) gave his father's papers and his Spiegel Grove estate in Fremont, Ohio, to the state in 1910. The state erected a library and museum building, which was dedicated and opened to the public on May 30, 1916. The Hayes family knew of the Garfield family's library and Memorial Room, and surely it had some influence on their plans. Echoing the Garfields' actions, the Hayes library was fireproofed and preserved Hayes's 12,000-volume library.<sup>128</sup>

<sup>126</sup> Stuart, x.

<sup>127</sup> Fritz Veit, *Presidential Libraries and Collection* (New York: Greenwood Press, 1987), 1-5; Stuart, v-xvi.

<sup>128</sup> Thomas A. Smith, "Before Hyde Park: The Rutherford B. Hayes Library," *The American Archivist* 43/4 (Fall 1980):485-488.

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A property in many ways comparable to Lawnfield is the Adams National Historical Park in Quincy, Massachusetts. This property contains the home of two presidents, John Adams and John Quincy Adams, as well as a library built in 1870 at the direction of Charles Francis Adams, John Quincy's son. Like Lucretia Garfield and her sons, Charles Francis spent many years arranging and collating the books and papers of his father and grandfather. The library contains the personal libraries of John and John Quincy as well as a number of mementoes from John Quincy's career. These include presentation volumes given to John Quincy by foreign heads of state and the desk he used on the floor of the House of Representatives in his postpresidential career. Like the Garfield children, the Adams heirs concluded that the family papers needed professional curation and in 1905 they were donated to the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston, where they were kept under seal for 50 years. The Adams family donated the Quincy property to the federal government in 1946, at which time the secretary of the interior declared it the Adams Mansion National Historic Park. In 1952, Congress expanded the unit and redesignated it as the Adams National Historic Site. In 1960, the secretary of the interior designated as NHLs two buildings within the historic site: the John Adams Birthplace and the John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Finally, in 1998, Congress authorized the Adams National Historical Park, which includes the two birthplace NHLs.<sup>129</sup>

The first president to plan a library to be operated by the federal government was Franklin D. Roosevelt. Influenced by the Hayes library and former president Herbert Hoover's archive at Stanford University, Roosevelt in 1938 announced his intention to have a library built on his estate at Hyde Park, New York. Prominent historians at first argued that the papers should go to the Library of Congress to join those of most other presidents, but Roosevelt won them over to his plan. Funds were raised privately and Congress passed legislation to allow the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to run the facility, which was dedicated June 30, 1941. All subsequent presidents have established libraries. Congress in 1955 passed the Presidential Libraries Act, authorizing NARA to accept the donation of papers, lands, and buildings connected with presidential libraries. In the wake of the Watergate scandal, Congress passed the 1978 Presidential Records Act, providing for the first time that presidential records, with narrowly defined exceptions, were the property of the U.S. This act took effect with the beginning of Ronald Reagan's administration in 1981.<sup>130</sup>

As many have pointed out, presidential libraries are really museums and archival repositories, rather than libraries. At each library, the NARA carries out the core archival functions, while a separate, privately funded foundation maintains a museum of presidential mementoes and coordinates educational programs, symposia, and temporary exhibits. Thanks to the foresight of the Garfield family, the James A. Garfield site in Mentor fulfills the museum function of a presidential library, preserving presidential mementoes and his personal library. The family's donation of the president's papers to the Library of Congress enables that institution to fulfill the archival role of a presidential library.

<sup>129</sup> Shirley Gray Adamovich and Diane R. Tebbetts, "The Stone Library: Library of the Adams Family," *Wilson Library Bulletin* 69 (May 1995):1-4; Lewis Nichols, "The Adams Family in Word, Thought and Deed," *New York Times*, Dec. 19, 1954, 3, 14.

<sup>130</sup> Veidt, 1-5; Wilson, 771-773; Benjamin Hufbauer, "The Roosevelt Library: A Shift in Commemoration," *American Studies* 42/3 (Fall 2001):180-181.

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### The Mentor Farm Becomes a Presidential Shrine

Following Lucretia Garfield's death in 1918 and the publication of Smith's biography in 1925, the adult Garfield children faced the question of the future of the Mentor farm. With the biography finished and the president's papers earmarked for the Library of Congress, much of the reason for retaining the property disappeared. Lucretia's brother, Joseph Rudolph, remained in residence, however, and James R. Garfield lived next door at Hollycroft.<sup>131</sup> Of the children, James maintained the strongest attachment to the farm, the main house, and the Memorial Room. The size of the farm had been reduced to 67.35 acres in 1908, when Lucretia sold off a northern portion, but maintenance costs and property taxes became an increasing burden in the 1920s and 1930s. The five siblings discussed a number of options including renting out the main house, donating it to the Western Reserve Historical Society, and even demolishing it. Uncle Joe Rudolph died in January 1934 and the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS), based in Cleveland, expressed a serious interest in taking over the main house and opening it to the public. After discussions with the society, the family in June 1936 donated the main house, the campaign office, and .779 acre surrounding them to the WRHS. Most of the furnishings were provisionally left to the society, after the family had removed items they wished to keep.<sup>132</sup> The deed recording the gift stated that the property would be used "only and solely as a memorial to our father . . . and our mother" and "to preserve objects of historic interest especially connected with Ohio."<sup>133</sup> Contemporary accounts frequently stated that the site was intended to be a shrine.<sup>134</sup>

The WRHS had title to the main house and campaign office, but in February 1938 organized a branch, the Lake County Chapter of the WRHS, to operate the historic site. The Lake County Chapter maintained its offices and some historical exhibits on the third floor of the main house. A group of Cleveland businessmen raised \$10,000 for repairs, allowing the site to be opened to the public in August 1936, although it was not officially dedicated until August 22, 1938. The Garfield children ultimately donated most of the furnishings of the house to the WRHS, including the president's books, various paintings, prints, and mementoes, after making their personal selections. In 1944, the family donated an additional 3.269 acres, including the carriage house, to the WRHS. In 1956, the Lake County Chapter of the WRHS became a separate nonprofit corporation, the Lake County Historical Society (LCHS). The WRHS and LCHS reaffirmed the division of responsibilities, with the WRHS handling upkeep of the buildings and grounds, while the LCHS had responsibility for operations and housekeeping. In 1975, Eleanor B. Garfield (1899-1994), the widow of Rudolph H. Garfield (one of James R. Garfield's sons) sold to the LCHS a 3.44 acre parcel that contained the well house, tenant house, barn, granary and small outbuildings. This brought the property owned by the two societies to 7.82 acres.<sup>135</sup>

The Garfield site experienced a decline in visitation and an increase in operating costs in the 1970s. Although the property benefitted from federal preservation grants and some state funding,

<sup>131</sup> Hollycroft burned to the ground in 1965.

<sup>132</sup> Johnson, 144, 155-164; Joseph Rudolph obituary, *New York Times*, Jan. 31, 1934.

<sup>133</sup> Johnson, 163-164. citing deed executed by James R. Garfield et al. to WRHS.

<sup>134</sup> "Garfield Shrine Is Completed," *Painesville Telegraph*, Aug. 20, 1936.

<sup>135</sup> Johnson, 163-168, 178, 184-185.

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the \$10,000 a year it received from Lake County was withdrawn in 1966. Interest from the Ohio congressional delegation led to the preparation by the NPS of an alternatives study. Pursuant to that study, Congress on December 28, 1980, authorized the establishment of the James A. Garfield National Historic Site "to preserve for the benefit, education, and inspiration of present and future generations certain historically significant properties associated with the life of James A. Garfield."<sup>136</sup> The NPS was authorized to purchase that portion of the Mentor Farm owned by the LCHS, but could acquire the portion owned by the WRHS only via donation. Beginning in 1980, the NPS and WRHS entered negotiations over a cooperative plan for the ownership and operation of Lawnfield.<sup>137</sup>

In May 1984, the WRHS took over operations at the farm from the LCHS. In 1987, the NPS and the WRHS reached an agreement whereby ownership of the site's buildings and grounds was transferred to the NPS, while the society continued to operate the site. Ownership of the main house's furnishings remained with the WRHS. The NPS began an extensive program of rehabilitation and restoration at the site. A visitor center in the carriage house opened to the public in 1996, and the thoroughly restored main house was reopened in 1998. Meanwhile, the WRHS was experiencing financial difficulties. In 2008, the WRHS turned over all operations at the Garfield site to the NPS. The society and the NPS executed an agreement for the loan of the furnishings to the NPS. The initial term of the loan was five years with the understanding that the agreement would be renewed at five year intervals. The NPS currently operates the NHS, with museum exhibits in the visitor center and the main house, self-guiding tours of the property, and guided tours of the main house.<sup>138</sup>

The NHS fully conveys its significance as the home of James A. Garfield and his family, the site of Garfield's path-breaking 1880 presidential campaign, and the edifice where Lucretia Garfield undertook an unprecedented effort to gather, organize, and preserve a president's papers, library, and mementoes. The Garfield Mentor farm is one of a handful of presidential sites that conveys both the private life of the man and the most significant moment in his political career: the 1880 front-porch campaign. The well-preserved and accurately restored structures as well as the intact spatial relationships among them convey the significance of the Mentor farm as a country estate from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Archeological work undertaken to date indicates that subsurface remains of importance exist at the site and hold the potential to reveal significant additional information about farm activities and daily life on the property.

<sup>136</sup> Title XII of P.L. 96-607, Dec. 28, 1980/

<sup>137</sup> WRHS, *Annual Report of the Western Reserve Historical Society, FY1980*, 59.

<sup>138</sup> WRHS, *Annual Reports of the Western Reserve Historical Society, FY1984, FY1987, 1996*; WRHS, "State of the Society, Sep. 24, 2008; Incoming Loan Agreement between NPS and WRHS, Jan. 24, 2008, James A. Garfield NHS files. The existing loan agreement has been extended through May 31, 2015, pending a new inventory of the items involved and the conclusion of new agreement.

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"Lawnfield," James A. Garfield Estate

Lake, Ohio

Name of Property

County and State

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"Lawnfield," James A. Garfield Estate  
Name of Property

Lake, Ohio  
County and State

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"Lawnfield," James A. Garfield Estate  
Name of Property

Lake, Ohio  
County and State

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # OH-2254
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: James A. Garfield National Historic Site

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acres of Property** 7.82

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

"Lawnfield," James A. Garfield Estate  
Name of Property

Lake, Ohio  
County and State

Or

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

|          |          |           |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 17       | 470776   | 46123226  |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The following tract numbers in Lake County, Ohio:

16-B-035-A-00-001-0  
16-B-035-A-00-002-0  
16-B-035-A-00-003-0  
16-B-035-A-00-004-0  
16-B-035-A-00-005-0  
16-B-035-A-00-0014-0  
16-B-035-A-00-0015-0  
16-B-035-A-00-0017-0

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the National Register property corresponds to the boundary of the James A. Garfield NHS. All of the NHS was once part of the historic Garfield farm. A small portion of the NHS is devoted to visitor accommodation, but even this portion of the site may contain significant archeological resources.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Robert W. Blythe, Independent Historian  
organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: 4449 North Monticello Avenue  
city or town: Chicago state: Illinois zip code: 60625  
e-mail bob@rwblythe.com  
telephone: 773-463-1840  
date: August 6, 2015

"Lawnfield," James A. Garfield Estate  
Name of Property

Lake, Ohio  
County and State

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Historic images

1. General James A. Garfield in brigadier general's Civil War uniform. Brady National Photo Art Gallery, Library of Congress, LC-B8172-2218.
2. Lucretia Garfield in the 1870s. Brady-Handy Photograph Collection, Library of Congress, LC-BH826-30278A.
3. Garfield (Dickey) farm before any remodeling by the Garfields, circa 1876, James A. Garfield National Historic Site.
4. Garfield's home, Mentor, Ohio. J. H. Buford Sons. Library of Congress, LC-DIG-pga-03565.
5. Garfield greeting visitors at his Mentor farm, 1880. From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, Dec. 18, 1880, Library of Congress, LC-USZ-112153.
6. Garfield's home at Mentor. From J. B. McClure, *General Garfield, from the Log Cabin to the White House* (Chicago: Rhodes & McClure, 1881).
7. Garfield in his private office, the "snuggery," 1880. From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, Dec. 18, 1880, Library of Congress, LC-USZ-112156.
8. Garfield's campaign office (and post office), 1880. From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, Dec. 18, 1880, Library of Congress, LC-USZ-112154.
9. Garfield in the campaign office, 1880. From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, Dec. 18, 1880, Library of Congress, LC-USZ-107253.
10. The 1880 Republican ticket, James A. Garfield and Chester A. Arthur. Broadside by A. S. Seer's Lithography and Printing, New York, Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-10380.
11. The 1880 Democratic ticket, Winfield Scott Hancock and William H. English, lithographed handkerchief, Hugh McCrossan, artist, Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ds-00846

"Lawnfield," James A. Garfield Estate

Lake, Ohio

Name of Property

County and State

12. "The tribute of the students of Princeton College – the railway track strewn with flowers." From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, Oct. 8, 1881, Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-121654.
13. Martyred presidents: Lincoln and Garfield. Photographic print card, 1884-1898, Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-13965.

#### Plans

1. Site plan, James A. Garfield National Historic Site, drawn by Madeline L. Baum, April 2015.
2. Main house, first floor plan, from Paul Newman, *Lawnfield Historic Structure Report, James A. Garfield National Historic Site* (Denver: NPS Denver Service Center, 1991).
3. Main house, second floor plan, from Paul Newman, *Lawnfield Historic Structure Report, James A. Garfield National Historic Site* (Denver: NPS Denver Service Center, 1991).
4. Campaign office, floor plan drawn by Joseph Stanley-Brown, 1930s
5. Campaign office, floor plan and elevations, from NPS, *Historic Structures Report: Outbuildings, James A. Garfield National Historic Site, Ohio* (Denver: NPS Denver Service Center, Sept. 1996).
6. Site plan with exterior photograph locations.
7. Main house first floor plan with photograph locations.
8. Main house second floor plan with photography locations.

#### Photographs

- **Photo Log**

Name of Property: "Lawnfield," James A. Garfield Estate

City or Vicinity: Mentor

County: Lake

State: Ohio

Photographer: Robert W. Blythe

Date Photographed: May and December 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 35. Main House, entry façade and west elevation, looking north.
- 2 of 35. Main House, porch on entry façade, looking northwest.

"Lawnfield," James A. Garfield Estate

Lake, Ohio  
County and State

Name of Property

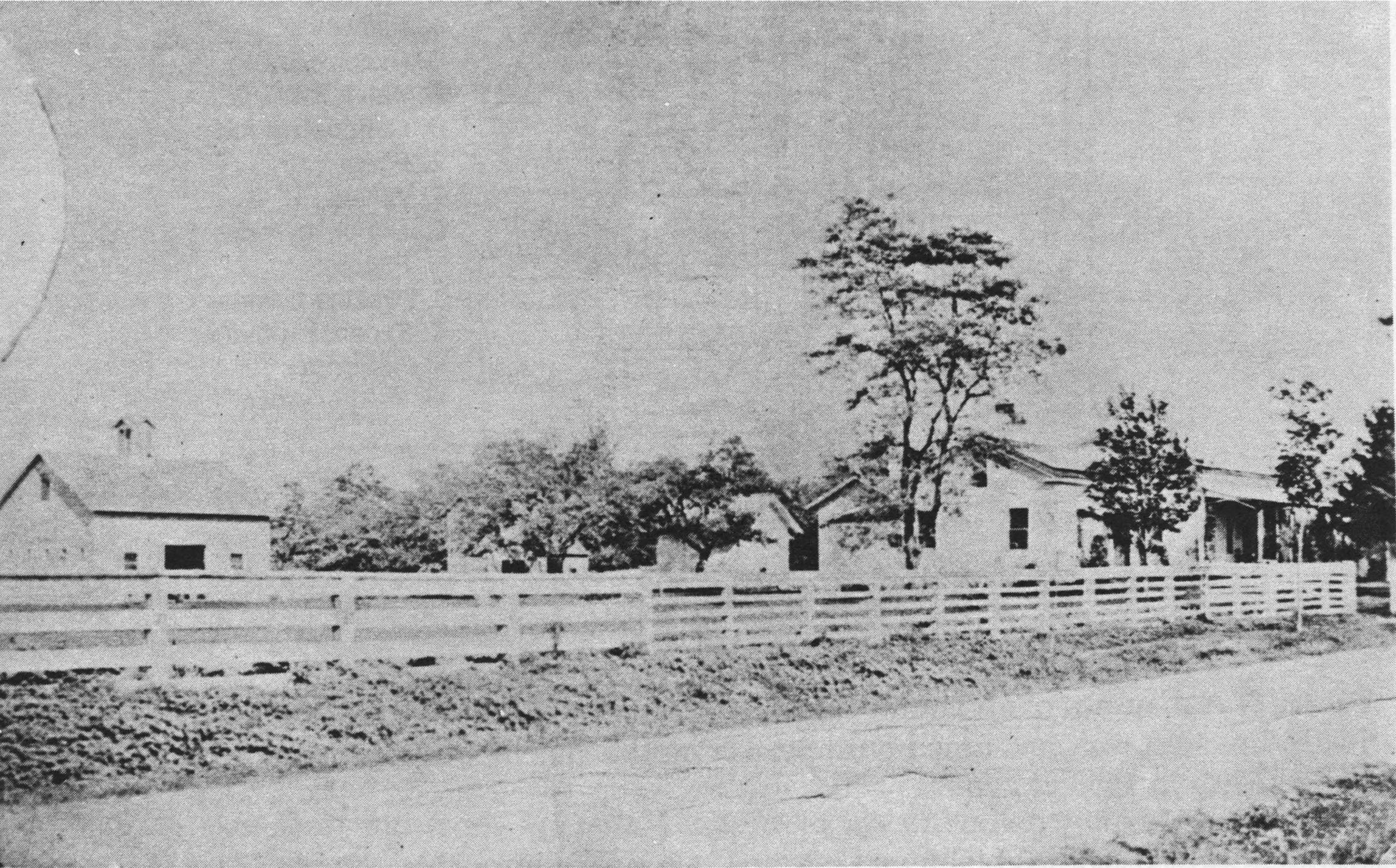
- 3 of 35. Main House, east elevation, looking west.
- 4 of 35. Main House, north elevation, looking south.
- 5 of 35. Main House, west elevation, looking east.
- 6 of 35. Main House, entry hall, looking south.
- 7 of 35. Main House, reception hall, looking northwest.
- 8 of 35. Main House, dining room, looking northeast.
- 9 of 35. Main House, parlor, looking south.
- 10 of 35. Main House, second floor office, "snuggery," looking northeast.
- 11 of 35. Main House, library, looking northeast.
- 12 of 35. Main House, library, looking west.
- 13 of 35. Main House, Memorial Room, looking west.
- 14 of 35. Main House, Eliza Ballou Garfield bedroom, looking south.
- 15 of 35. Campaign Office, south (entry) elevation and east elevation, looking northwest.
- 16 of 35. Well House/Windmill, west and north elevations, looking northeast.
- 17 of 35. Carriage House/Gasholder, west and south elevations, looking northeast.
- 18 of 35. Carriage House/Gasholder, south and east elevations, looking northwest.
- 19 of 35. Tenant House, east (entry) elevation and south elevation, looking west.
- 20 of 35. Chicken Coop, west (entry) elevation, looking east.
- 21 of 35. Granary, north (entry) elevation, looking south.
- 22 of 35. Horse Barn, south (entry) elevation and east elevation, looking northwest.
- 23 of 35. Lane, looking south from rear boundary looking toward Main House.
- 24 of 35. Lane, looking north toward Horse Barn and rear boundary.
- 25 of 35. Foundation remnants, looking north.
- 26 of 35. Entry piers, looking north.
- 27 of 35. Hitching post, looking north.
- 28 of 35. Carriage mounting step and watering trough, looking northeast.
- 29 of 35. Concrete mounting step, looking south.
- 30 of 35. Bas-relief bust and NHL plaque, looking northwest
- 31 of 35. Garfield and the Civil War state historical marker, looking west.
- 32 of 35. Memorial with sundial, looking north.
- 33 of 35. Comfort station, looking south.
- 34 of 35. Maintenance building and enclosure, looking northwest.
- 35 of 35. Gas lamp, looking north.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.







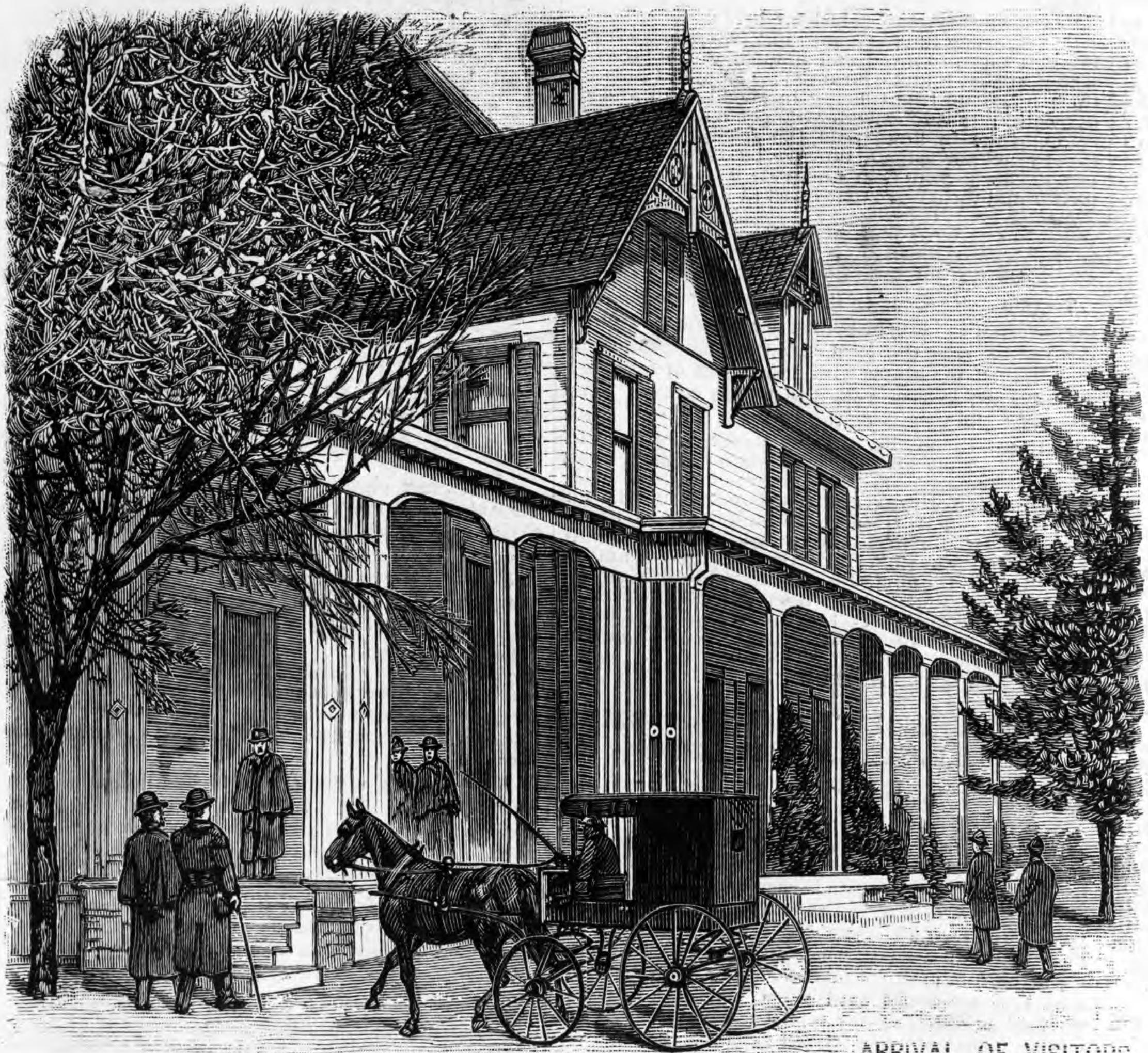


From a sketch by Saml. S. Prizzell

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LAWNFIELD,  
MENTOR, OHIO.  
THE HOME OF GARFIELD.



ARRIVAL OF VISITORS.

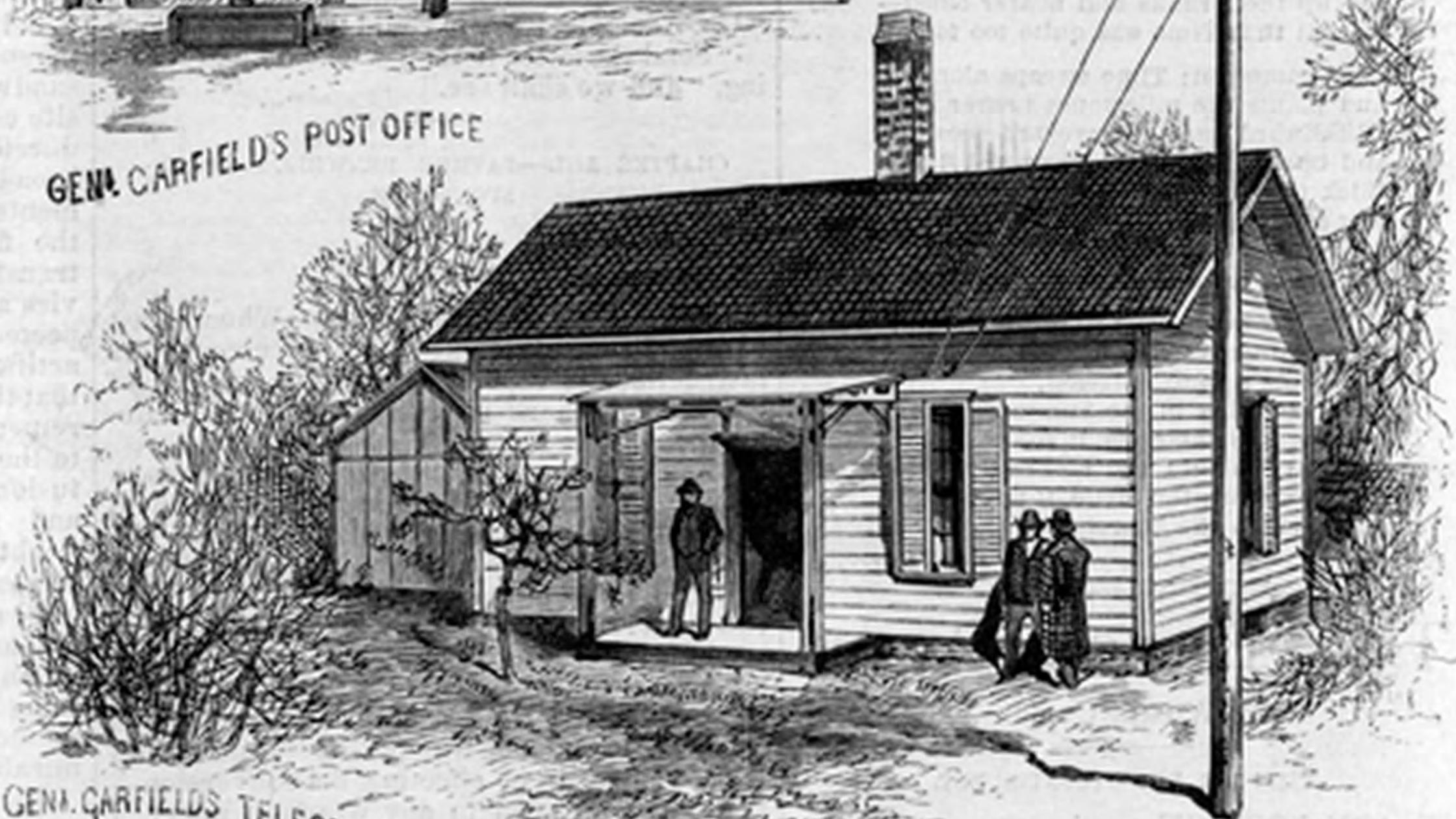


GEN. GARFIELD'S RESIDENCE AT MENTOR, OHIO.





GEN. CARFIELD'S POST OFFICE



GEN. CARFIELD'S TELEGRAPHIC OFFICE.



GENL. GARFIELD'S BUSINESS OFFICE



**JAMES A. GARFIELD**

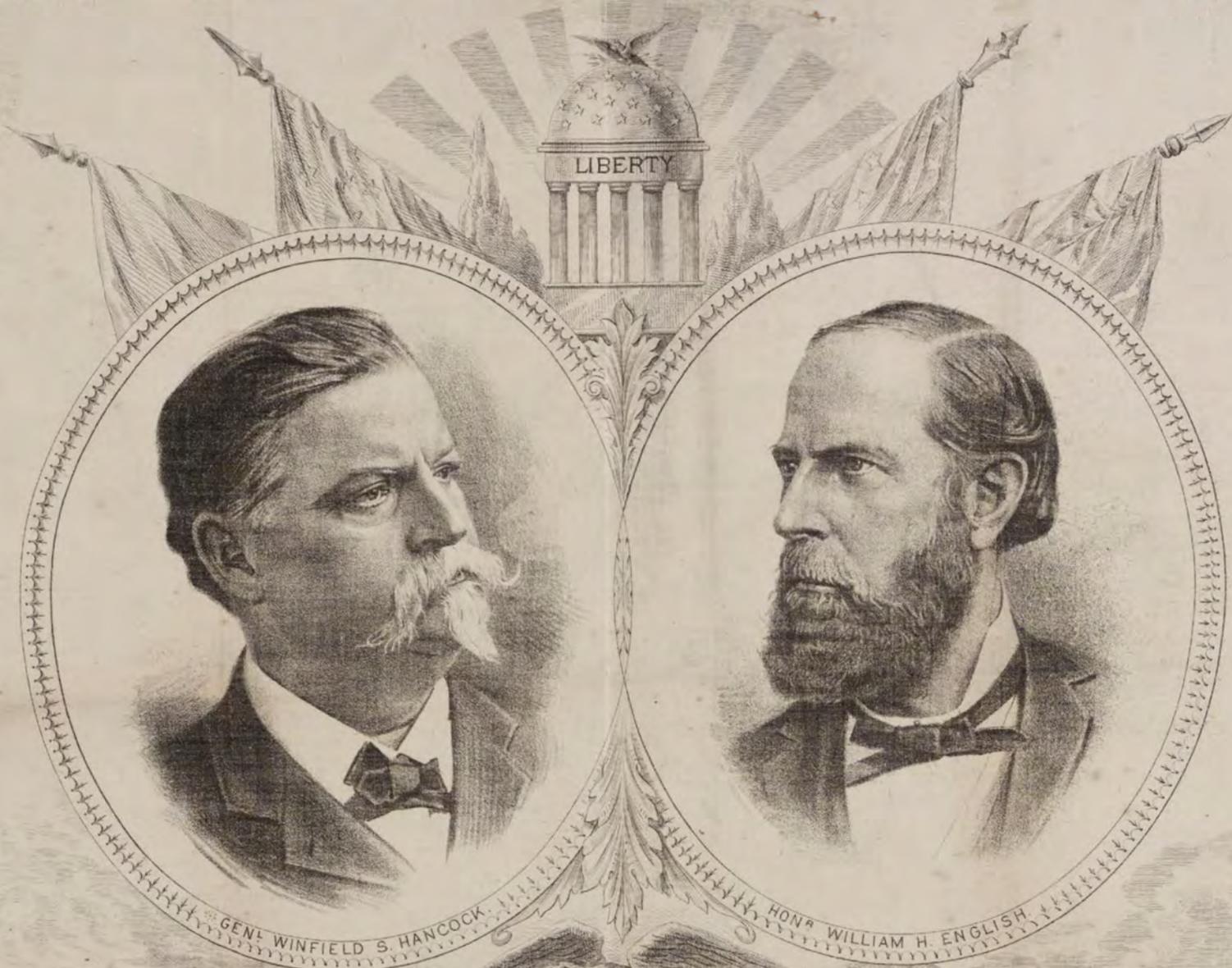
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**CHESTER A. ARTHUR**

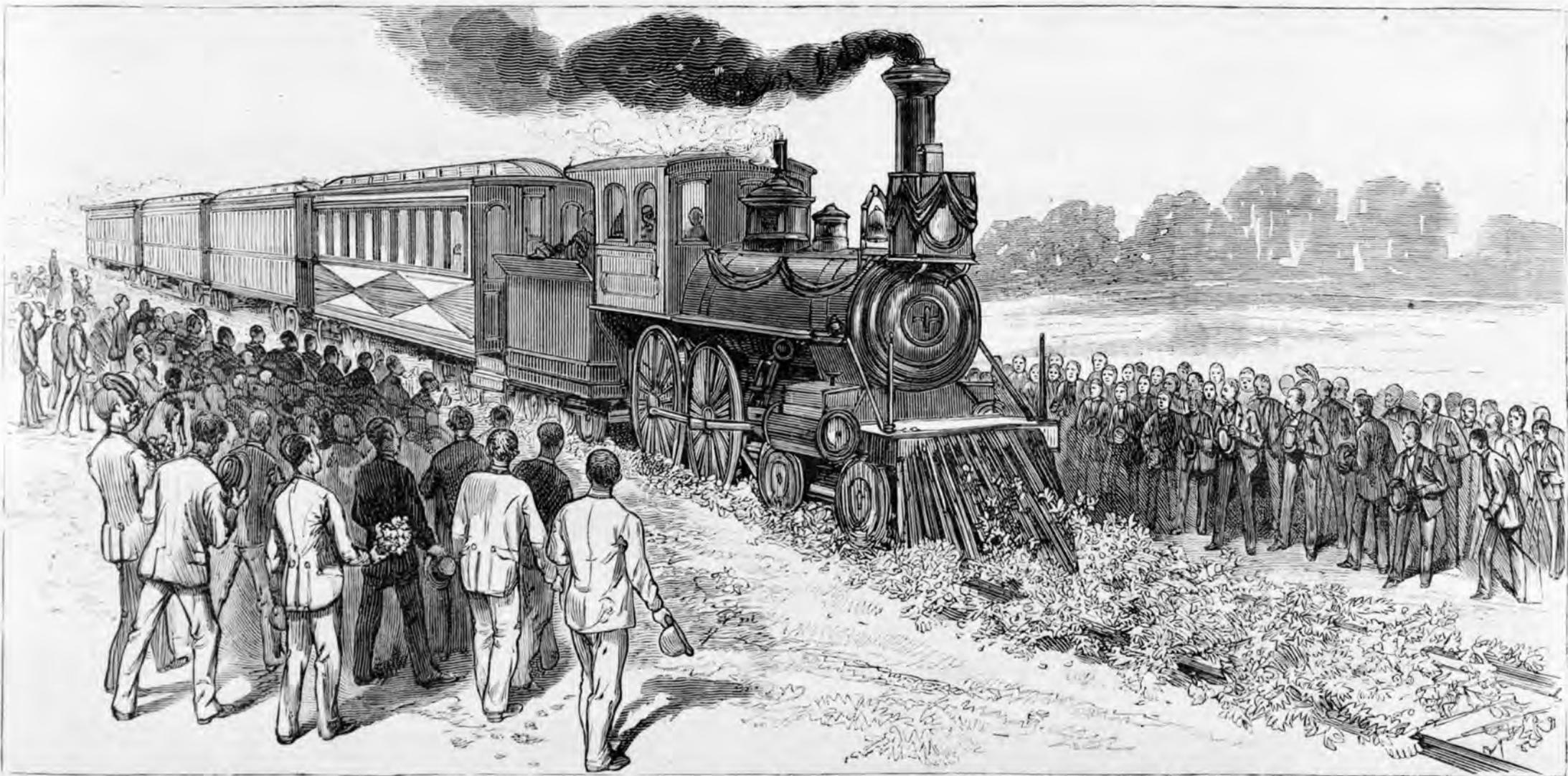
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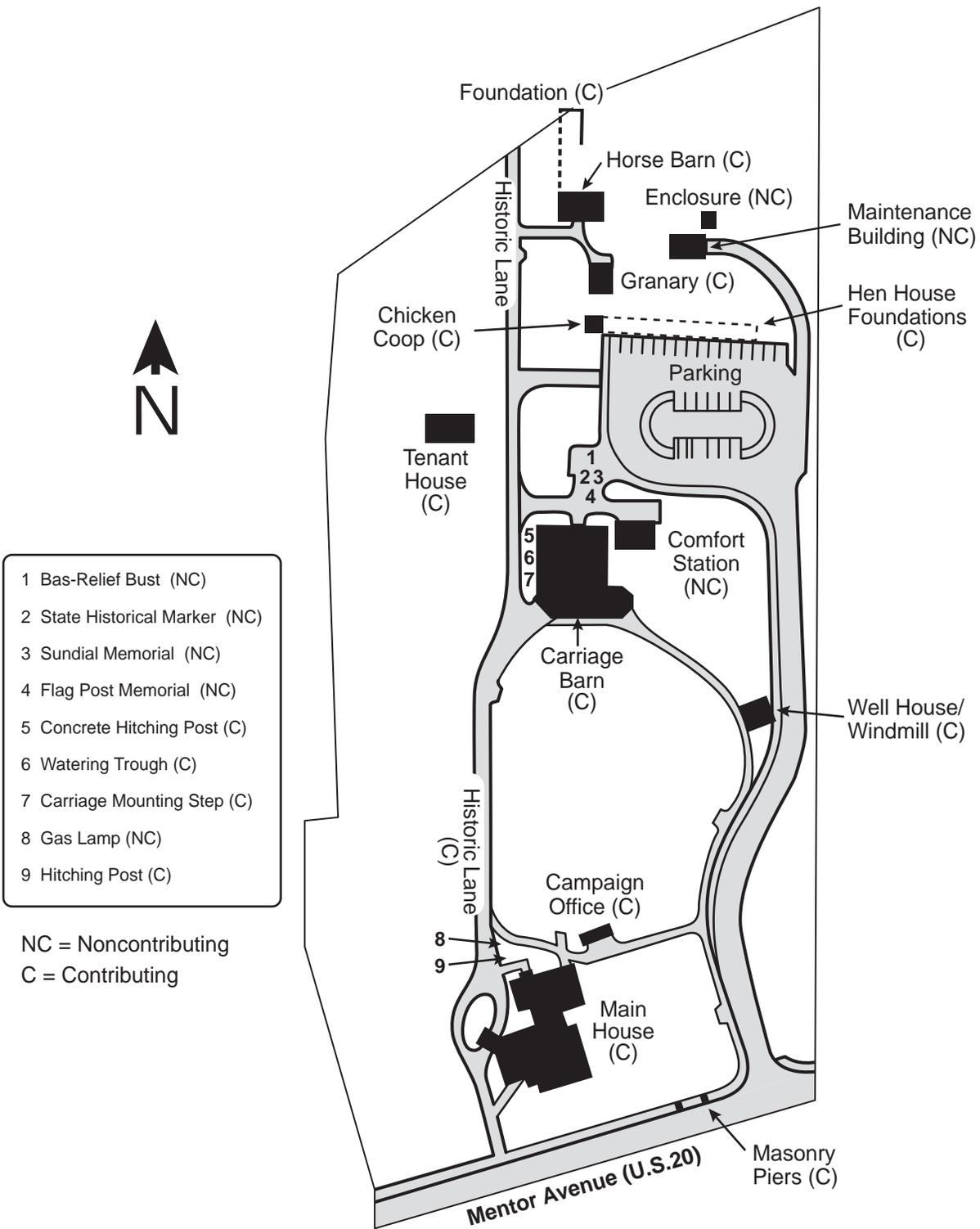




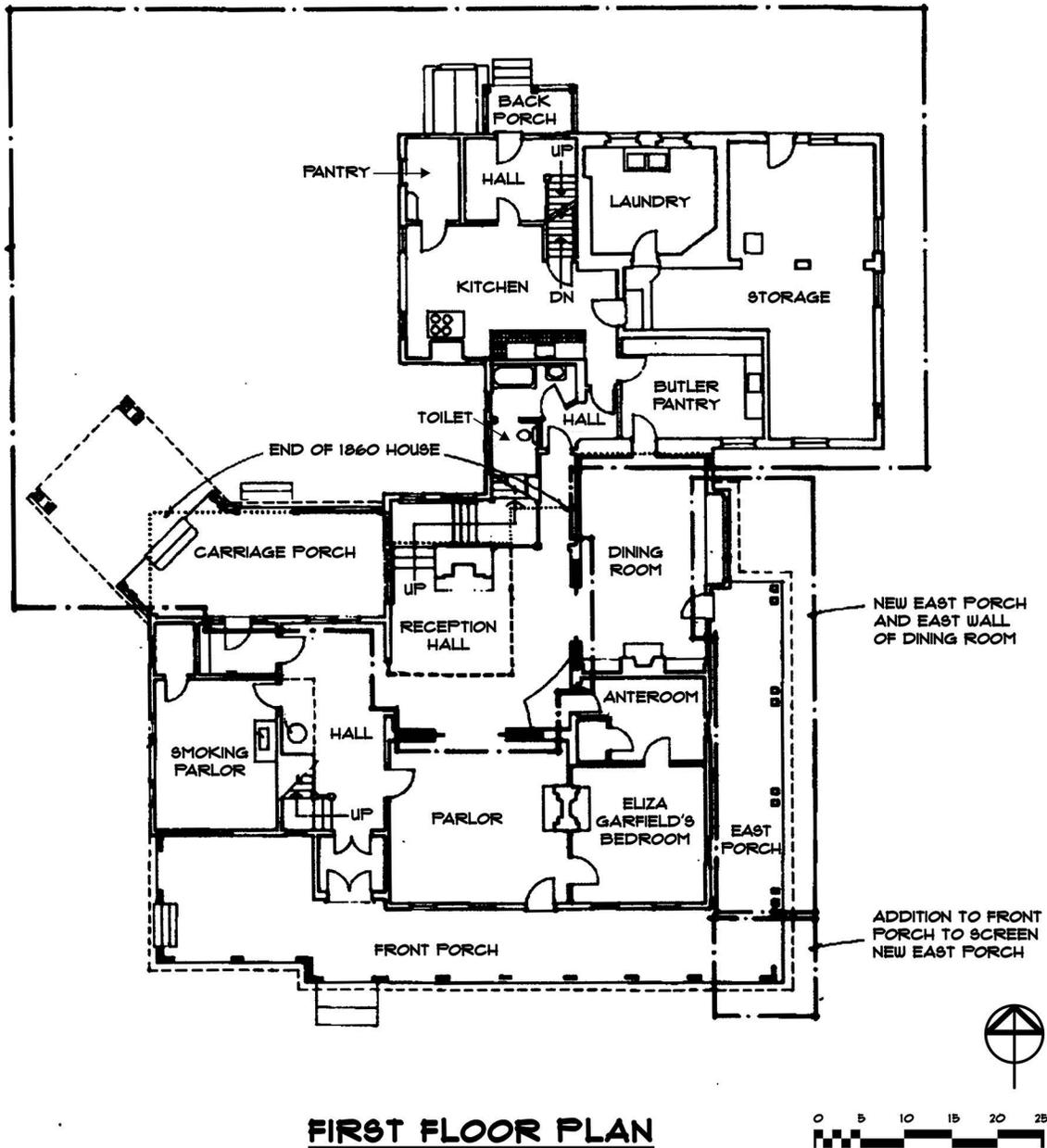
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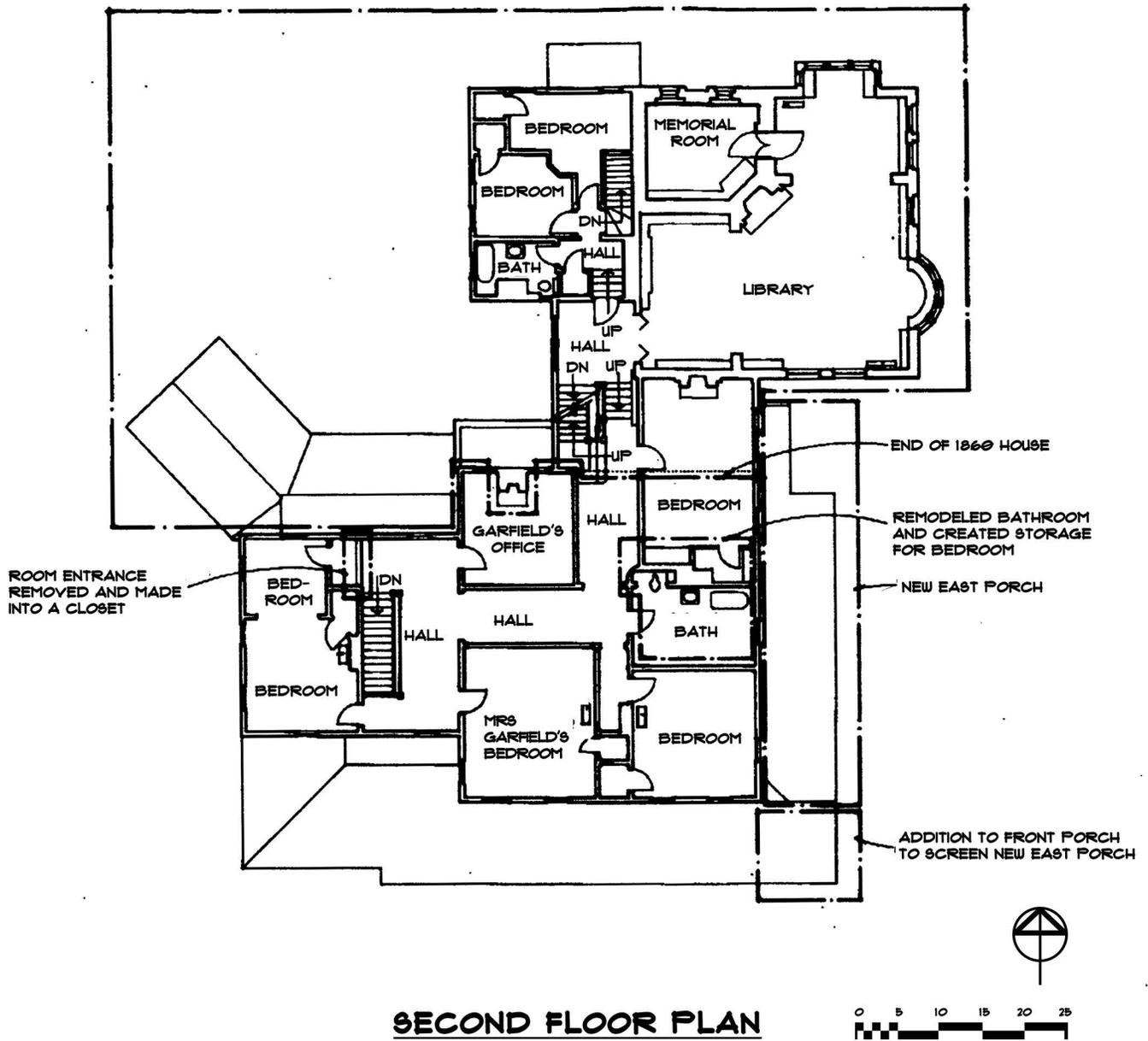




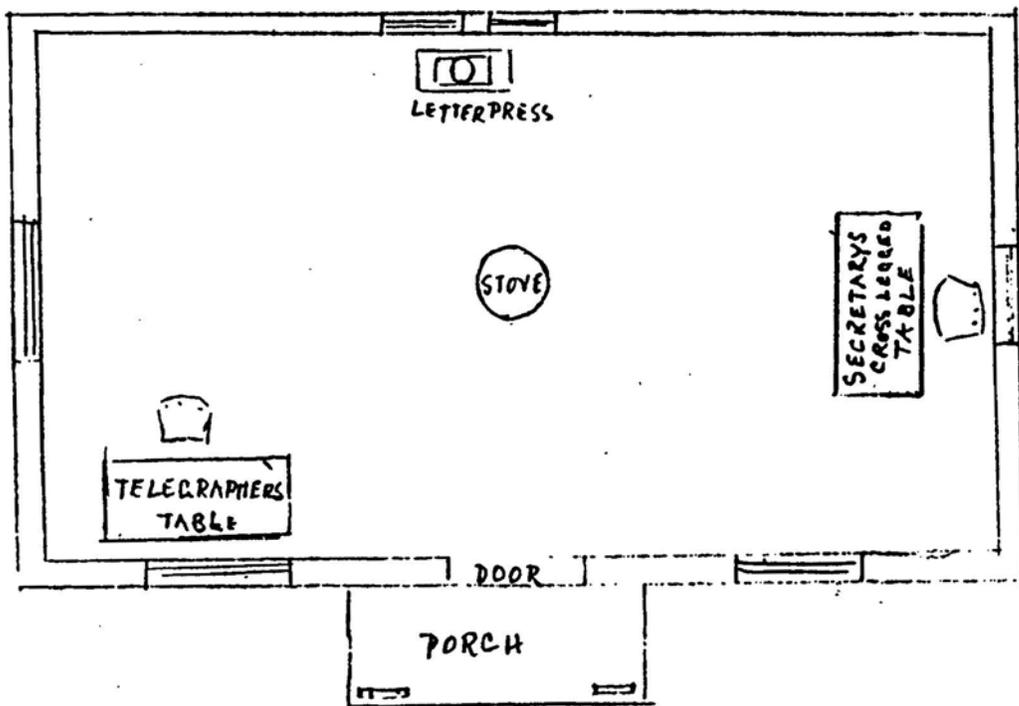
## James A. Garfield National Historic Site



Main house, first floor, circa 1885.  
 From Paul Newman, Lawnfield Historic Structure Report,  
 James A. Garfield National Historic Site.  
 Denver: NPS Denver Service Center, 1991, p. 149

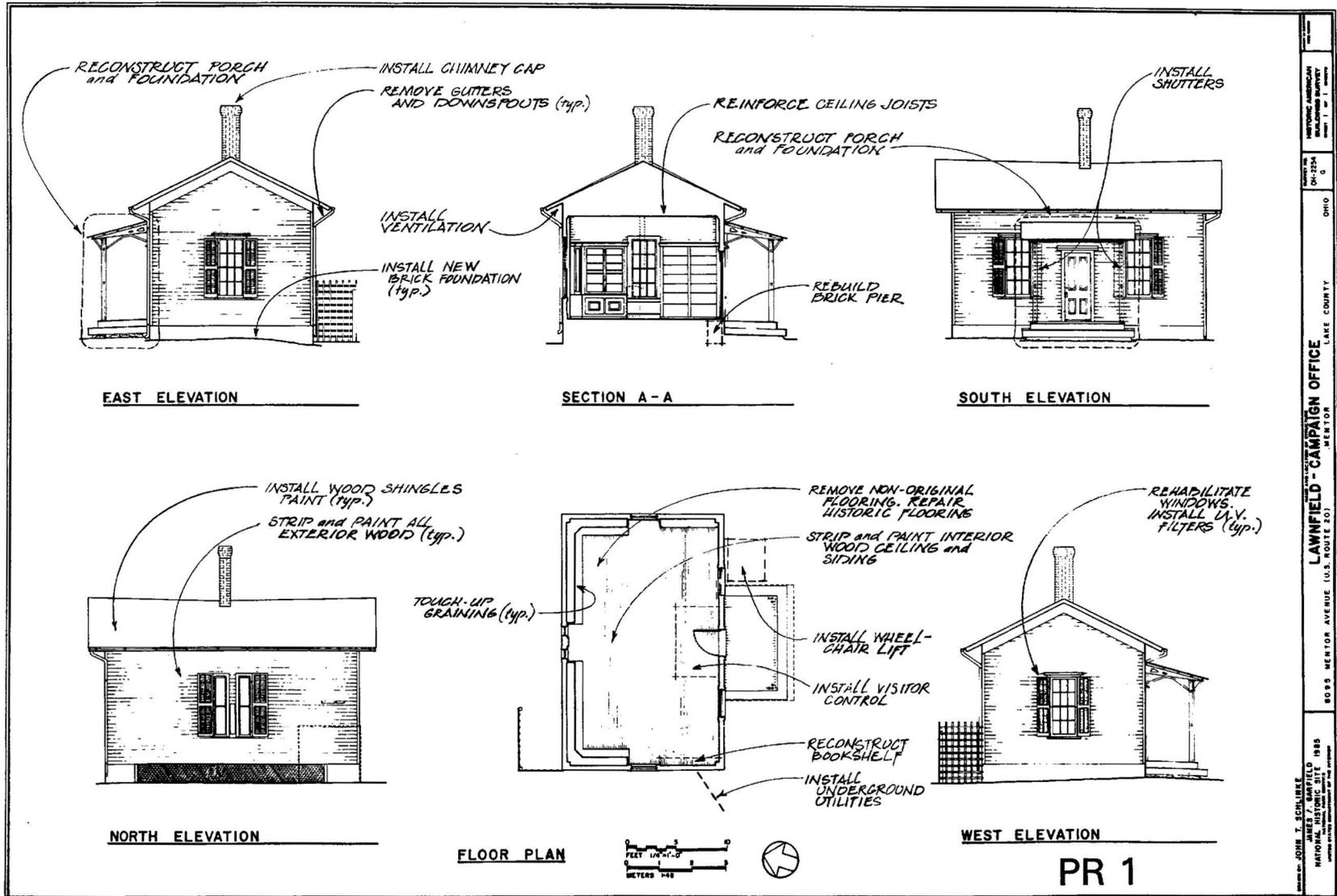


Main house, second floor, circa 1885.  
 From Paul Newman, Lawnfield Historic Structure Report,  
 James A. Garfield National Historic Site.  
 Denver: NPS Denver Service Center, 1991, p. 149



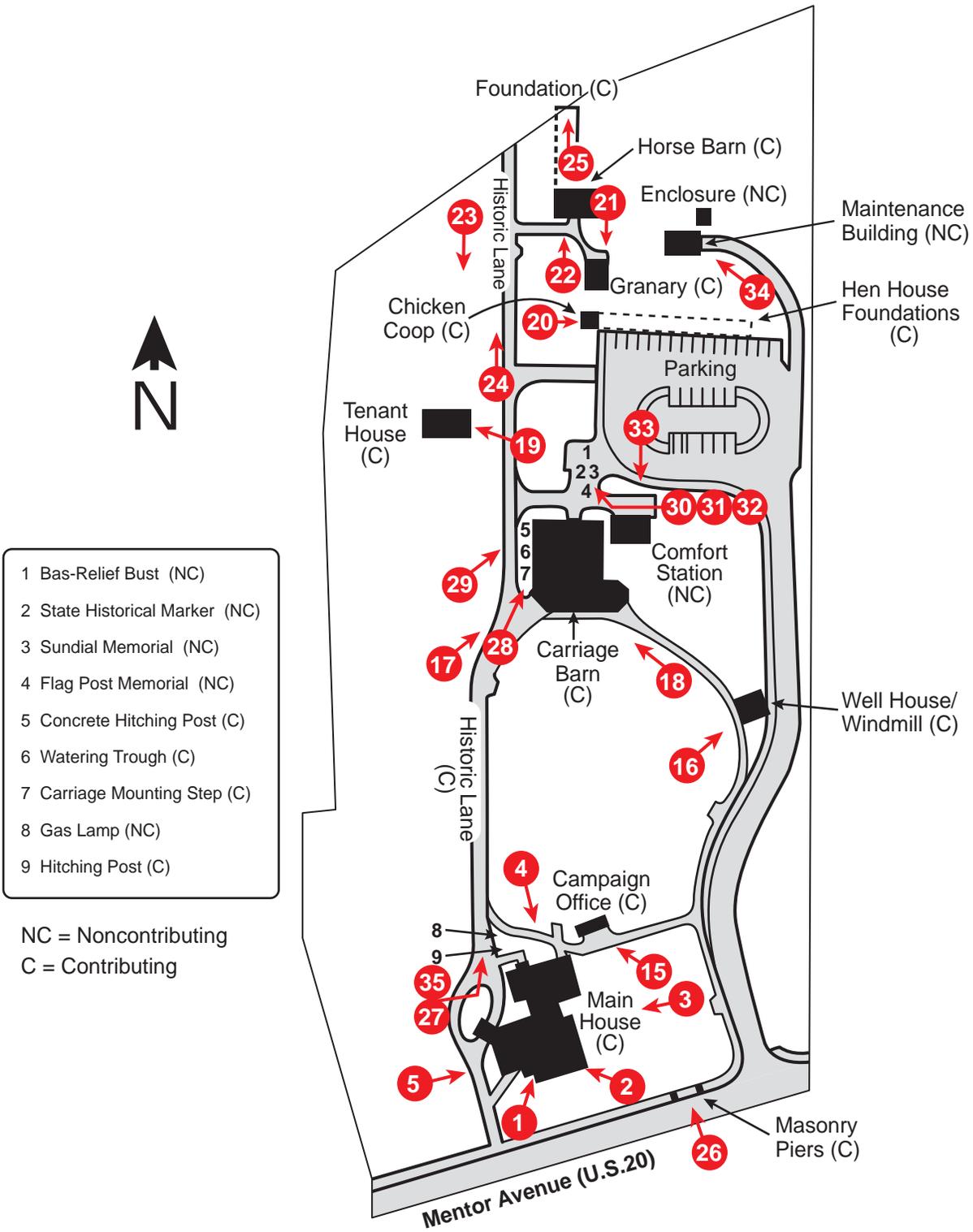
**Campaign office**  
**Joseph Stanley-Brown Sketch**

**Campaign office**  
**NPS, Historic Structure Report: Outbuildings**

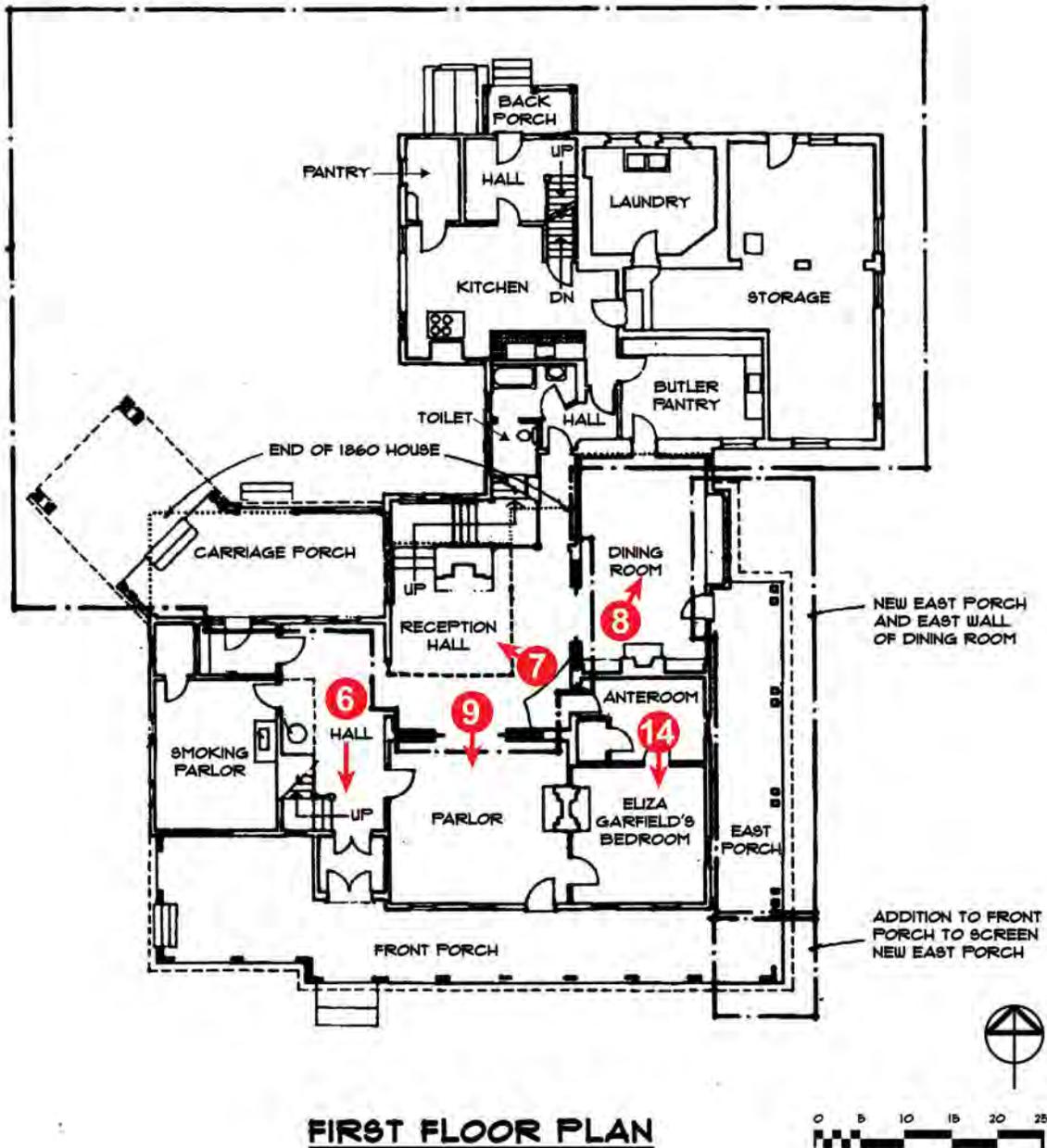


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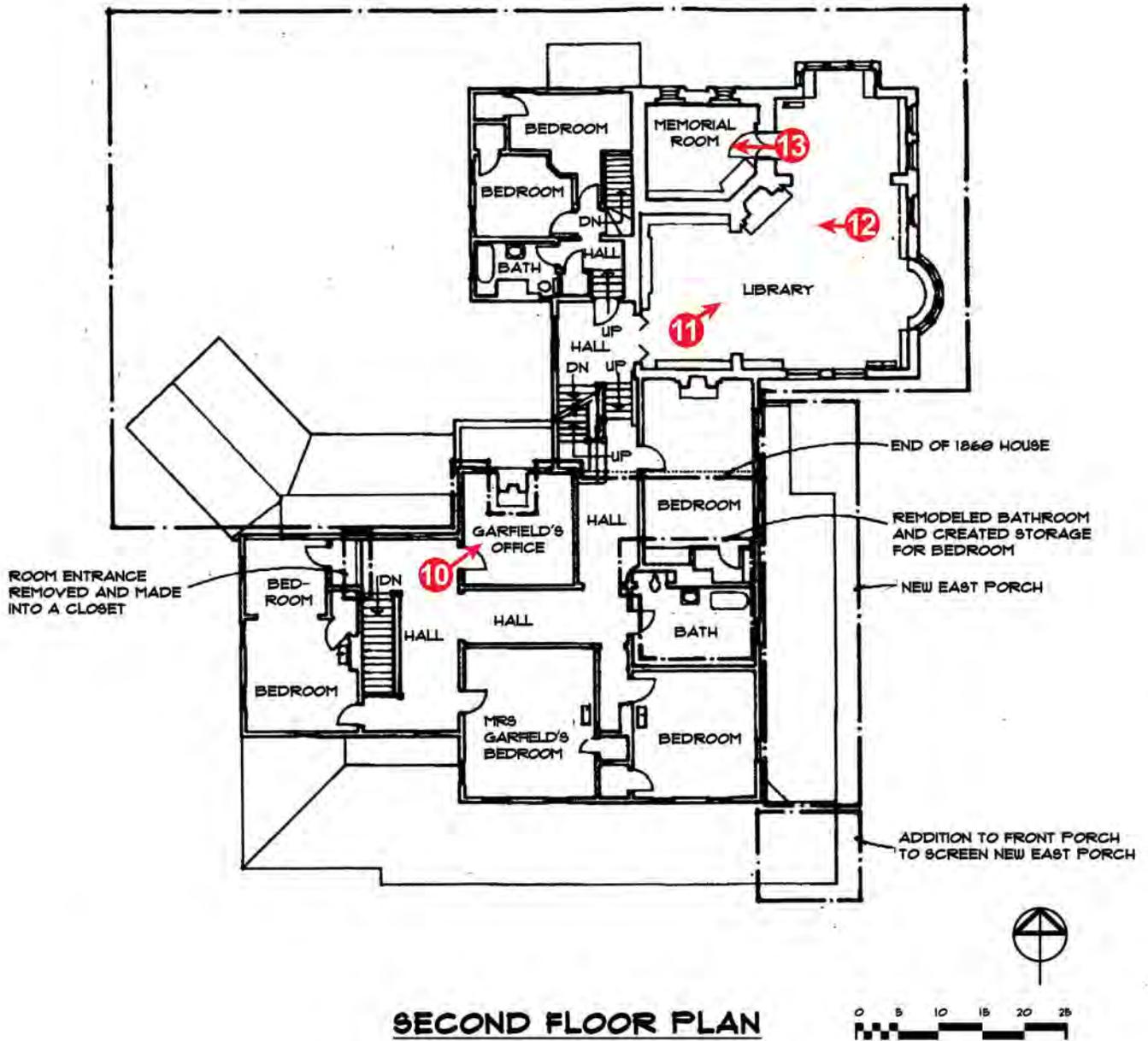
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 CHECKED BY: JAMES J. GARFIELD  
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**Photograph Locations - Exterior  
 James A. Garfield National Historic Site**



Photograph Locations - Interior, First Floor  
 Main house, first floor, circa 1885.  
 From Paul Newman, Lawnfield Historic Structure Report,  
 James A. Garfield National Historic Site.  
 Denver: NPS Denver Service Center, 1991, p. 149



Photograph Locations - Interior, Second Floor  
 Main house, second floor, circa 1885.  
 From Paul Newman, Lawnfield Historic Structure Report,  
 James A. Garfield National Historic Site.  
 Denver: NPS Denver Service Center, 1991, p. 149





















In Memoriam





















Administrative  
Offices











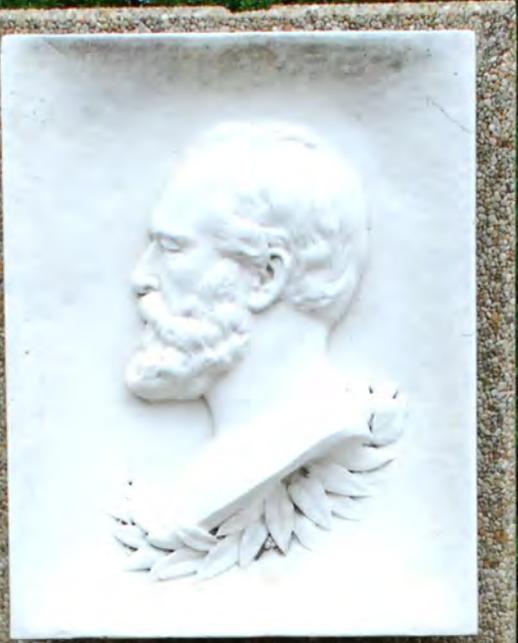












A dark, rectangular plaque with illegible text, mounted on the stone pedestal below the relief sculpture.



OHIO

HISTORICAL  
MARKER

JAMES A. GARFIELD  
and the  
CIVIL WAR

His oratorical powers made him a master recruiter.

His willingness to learn earned him important field commands.

His talents for organization won him praise, distinction and the rank of major general at the Battle of Chickamauga.

His gallant and meritorious military successes launched him into national politics and the presidency.

THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
1965

2-43

LAWNFIELD, HOME OF  
**JAMES A. GARFIELD**  
TWENTIETH PRESIDENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

"HOW SWEET AND INVITING THE  
DEAR HOME BECKONS ME AWAY AMONG  
THE GREEN FIELDS OF MENTOR."

FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY  
JAMES GARFIELD TO HIS WIFE  
LUCRETIA ON MAY 29, 1877

DONATED BY MONUMENT BUILDERS OF OHIO, 1985







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Lawnfield--James A. Garfield Estate (Additional Documentation and Boundary Clarification)

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Lake

DATE RECEIVED: 8/14/15      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/09/15  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/24/15      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/29/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000675

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

     ACCEPT         RETURN         REJECT                         DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Additional Documentation  
REVIEWER Patrick Andrus      DISCIPLINE Historian  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_      DATE 9/29/2015

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

August 6, 2015

Robert K. Sutton  
Chief Historian  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, NW #835  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Dr. Sutton:

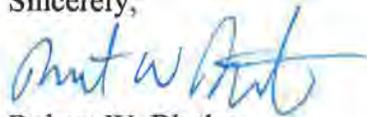
*Bob*

Enclosed is National Register of Historic Places additional documentation for the James A. Garfield National Historic Site (JAGA NHS) in Mentor, Ohio, which I have prepared under a contract with the Midwest Regional Office. I enclose both a hard copy and an electronic copy of the nomination, which has been approved by the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office. Also on the enclosed disk are current and historic images of the property and site plans.

The highest elected official in Lake County, Ohio, was provided a copy of the draft nomination on February 13, 2015, and did not respond with any comments. On the same date, the acting site manager at the JAGA NHS provided copies of the draft nomination to the Western Reserve Historical Society and the Lake County Historical Society and did not receive any substantive comments.

Please get in touch if you require any additional information. It has been a pleasure to prepare this documentation for an important historical unit of the National Park System.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Blythe  
Independent Historian  
4449 N Monticello Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60625  
773-463-1840

Enclosures

cc w/o enc.: Ron Cockrell, Senior Historian, MWRO  
Todd Arrington, Acting Site Manager, JAGA

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL  
National Park Service  
Midwest Region  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

*Rockwell  
7-1-15  
[Signature]  
7-1-15*

**NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW**

I.A.2.(H32 MWR-CR/HNRP)

July 2, 2015

To: Associate Director, Cultural Resources, WASO  
Attention: Chief Historian, Park History WASO (2261)

From: Regional Director, Midwest Region 

Subject: Approval of Additional Documentation for James A. Garfield National Historic Site and William Howard Taft National Historic Site, Ohio

The Midwest Region contracted for the completion of updated National Register of Historic Places nominations for the subject parks. The Ohio State Historic Preservation Officer recently signed both nominations and the separate contractors will soon be forwarding them to Chief Historian Robert Sutton for review and signature.

I thank the Washington Office for funding this initiative. Further, I support listing both nominations for the subject Midwest Region park areas in the National Register of Historic Places.

Should you have any questions, please call Senior Historian Ron Cockrell at 402-661-1922.

cc:  
Superintendent, Cuyahoga Valley  
Superintendent, William Howard Taft



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

RECEIVED 2280

AUG 14 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

August 13, 2015

## Memorandum

To: Acting Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

From: Deputy Federal Preservation Officer, National Park Service *Admiral Norton*

Subject: Additional Documentation for James A. Garfield National Historic Site,  
Mentor County, OH

I am forwarding additional documentation for the National Register nomination for the James A. Garfield National Historic Site. The site was administratively listed with the upon Congressional authorization as a National Historic Site in 1980, and a nomination was prepared in 1983. This document updates the resource counts and areas of significance, and adjusts the boundary. The Park History Program has reviewed the form and found the property eligible at the national level of significance under Criteria A and B, and at the state level under Criteria C and D, with areas of significance of Politics/Government, Architecture, and Archeology: Historic—Non-Aboriginal.