

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

ZACHARY TAYLOR HOME, "SPRINGFIELD"

AND/OR COMMON

"Springfield"

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

5608 Apache Road

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Kentucky

VICINITY OF  
CODE

021

Third  
COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

111

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES. RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES. UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE*
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

\*unoccupied pending repair

NAME

Hugh S. Hayne

STREET & NUMBER

5608 Apache Road

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

\_\_ VICINITY OF

Kentucky

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Jefferson County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey (historic photographs)

DATE

1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress/ division of prints and photographs

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (DETERIORATE) *	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

\*tornado damage

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Richard Taylor constructed "Springfield" at the highest point on his 400-acre farm, located along the Muddy Fork of Beargrass Creek, just east of Louisville, Kentucky. Though the property had several owners after it passed out of the Taylor family, a large portion of it remained intact until the later 1950's when it was subdivided. "Springfield" now stands on a three-quarter-acre lot (all that remains of the original farm) on the southeastern side of Apache Road (number 5608) midway between its intersections with Sweetbriar Road (east) and Spruce Road (west). The landmark is surrounded by substantial houses on large lots; to the southeast lies the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery, formed around the Taylor family burying ground.

The older western section of "Springfield" was constructed c. 1790. The earliest date suggested for the eastern section is 1810; some sources place it as late as 1830 (based on the style of the carved mantels and door and window surrounds). When completed "Springfield" was a 2 1/2-story, L-shaped brick house with gabled roof, containing double parlors (west), broad stairhall, dining room and kitchen (both east) on the first floor, and a hallway with two bedrooms on either side on the second. The full cellar was divided by a center hall with two rooms, used for storage or servants' quarters, on either side. Fireplaces, one in each room in the house, were served by twin interior chimneys at either end of the house. The main entrance, located in the angle of the "L" on the front (northwest) elevation, consisted of paneled double doors topped by a transom. Doors at the rear of the first and second floor halls gave access to a two-story wooden porch on the rear of the house. Windows were 12/12 sash on the first floor, 8/12 on the second, all capped by flat arches of brick and flanked by louvered blinds.

The only major alterations to the house were made during the mid to late 19th century. A bracketed cornice was installed at the eaves, one-story Victorian porches were added to the northwest (front) and southwest elevations, and the direction of the rear stairway ( in the kitchen ) was reversed. In the 1930's two bathrooms were created on the second floor. Fine walnut paneling in the main hall and dining room had been painted but was restored to its original finish in the late 1950's.

In April, 1974, shortly after the present owner purchased the property, "Springfield" was struck by a tornado and suffered serious damage from both winds and water (see photographs). The roof and front and side porches were torn off, the western gable blown out, the rear porch substantially weakened, the chimneys demolished above the roof line, and the eastern and southern walls bowed slightly. The owner plans a complete restoration of the house but estimates that the work, already under way, may take two years (1977) to complete.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

not known

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Springfield", a 2 1/2- story brick house with gabled roof, located just east of Louisville, Kentucky, was Zachary Taylor's home for more than 20 years prior to the beginning of his military career in 1808, the scene of his marriage two years later, and the birthplace of five of his six children. The original (western) portion of the house, containing four rooms, was begun by Taylor's father c. 1790; the earliest date suggested for the four-room eastern addition is 1810. Victorian detailing including a bracketed cornice and porches was added during the mid to late 19th century. The house suffered substantial damage when it was struck by a tornado in April, 1974. Restoration has begun but may take another two years (1977) to complete. The house will then return to use as a private residence and will not be open to the public.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Zachary Taylor was born at Montebello in Orange County, Virginia, in 1784 and was eight months old (1785) when his father, Richard Taylor, moved the family to a 400-acre farm on the Muddy Fork of Beargrass Creek, just east of the village of Louisville, Kentucky. The family took up residence in a small log structure, but within five years construction of a 2 1/2-story, four-room brick house, known as "Springfield", was begun. Richard Taylor prospered and by 1800 had increased his farm to some 700 acres. The second section of his brick house (2 1/2-stories, four room) may have been added as early as 1810.

Zachary Taylor assisted his father on the family farm until 1808 when, with the assistance of James Madison (a relative) and others, he was appointed a lieutenant in the 7th Infantry. He returned to "Springfield" on leave in 1810 and on June 18 married Margaret Mackall Smith. As captain and then major, Taylor served in the Northwest Territory through both Harrison's Indian campaign and the War of 1812. He left the Army at the end of the war, when reduction to peacetime strength lowered his rank, and returned to Kentucky. Though he began to work his 324-acre farm at the mouth of Beargrass Creek (received as a wedding present) he continued to live at "Springfield". Within a year President Madison reappointed Taylor to his old rank and thereafter he returned to "Springfield" only on occasional leave. Richard Taylor died in 1829 and, under the terms of his will, "Springfield" was sold to settle debts against his estate.

Taylor's reappointment was followed by 20 years of garrison life at various posts, varied in 1832 by an expedition against Black Hawk. He was



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an infantry colonel in the Northwest when the Seminole War erupted (1835) but was soon ordered to take his command to the Everglades, where he spent the next three years. Though he was promoted to brigadier general by brevet for his service in the Battle of Okeechobee, Taylor felt that he was making little progress against the Indians and in 1840 asked to be relieved. He was then assigned to Louisiana and while there established a home at Baton Rouge and acquired a large plantation in Mississippi. In 1841 Taylor was given command of the Second Department of the Army's Western Division, with headquarters at Fort Smith, Arkansas.

When Texas was annexed in 1845, Taylor was ordered to a position along the southern boundary of the new state and by the spring of 1846 had moved to the mouth of the Rio Grande with over 3,000 men and established Fort Brown. Before border skirmishes resulted in a formal declaration of war on May 13, Taylor had already defeated the Mexicans at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma on May 8 and 9. After months of waiting for adequate transport, Taylor's forces captured Monterrey in a hard-fought, three-day battle ending on September 21.

When, despite his victory, President Polk disapproved the armistice Taylor had granted on the surrender of Monterrey and Secretary of War Marcy began to make suggestions on the movement of his subordinates, the general became convinced that the Washington authorities were trying to discredit him for political reasons. Tension increased when Taylor's letter to General E. P. Gaines criticizing Polk and Marcy reached the press. Ordered to remain on the defensive at Monterrey while General Winfield Scott commandeered most of his seasoned troops for his expedition against Veracruz and Mexico City, Taylor instead crossed the mountains to Saltillo and on February 22, 1847, engaged the army of Santa Anna at Buena Vista. Outnumbered 4 to 1, the Americans under "Old Rough and Ready" (a sobriquet honoring Taylor's iron constitution) won a decisive victory and saved the north of Mexico. As news of his success spread, it was generally agreed that Taylor had been unfairly treated by an administration jealous of his growing popularity.

Whig politicians had become increasingly convinced of Taylor's potential as a presidential candidate. Early in the Mexican War, Thurlow Weed of New York began pushing him and popular enthusiasm only made his task easier. Taylor's primary advantages were his military record and his reputation as a political non-partisan (though a Whig sympathizer); in addition, his personal status as a slaveholder was certain to gain Southern votes. He was nominated on the fourth ballot at the Whig convention of 1848, defeating Clay, Webster and Scott. A split in the Democratic Party ensured Taylor's election and he was inaugurated on March 5, 1849.

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Taylor came to office with little knowledge of what was expected of him, hoping to leave all legislative matters to Congress and to confine himself to executing the laws. Initially Vice-President Fillmore had great influence with Taylor but was soon eclipsed by the astute Senator Seward of New York, who quickly showed the President the value of clever patronage. With that lesson learned, Taylor found his most serious problem to be the status of the territory recently acquired from Mexico, where he was anxious to see stable government established. He sent Congressman King of Georgia to California to initiate an application for statehood and in December, 1849, was able to report to Congress that California was ready to become a state and that New Mexico soon would be ready. When southerners objected to admission of California because slavery was prohibited there, Taylor declared himself willing to accept any law providing for admission and promised to take the field if necessary to see that law enforced. He was not willing to conciliate those who opposed his policy and described the Compromise of 1850 contemptuously as the "Omnibus Bill".

Taylor prided himself on scrupulous honesty and was mortified when charges were made that Crawford, his Secretary of War, had used his official position for personal financial gain. He immediately determined to reorganize his Cabinet but was unable to carry out his plan. On July 4, 1850, Taylor suffered a severe intestinal disturbance, possibly gastroenteritis, brought on by exposure to heat at the Washington Monument ceremonies, injudicious eating, and worry; he died five days later. Taylor's body was returned to Kentucky and interred in the family burying ground at "Springfield", which later served as the nucleus of the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery.