

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 John Sherman Birthplace

AND/OR COMMON
John Sherman Birthplace

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
137 East Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Lancaster

___ VICINITY OF

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
10th

STATE
Ohio

CODE
39

COUNTY
Fairfield

CODE
045

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Ohio Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER
Ohio Historical Center, 17th Avenue and Interstate 71

CITY, TOWN
Columbus

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Ohio

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Ohio Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER
Ohio Historical Center, 17th Avenue and Interstate 71

CITY, TOWN
Columbus

STATE
Ohio

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Ohio Landmark Survey

DATE
1970 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Ohio Historical Center

CITY, TOWN
Columbus

STATE
Ohio

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Sherman Birthplace, 137 East Main Street, Lancaster, Ohio, is a two-story structure. The original house was built in 1811. An addition of a second story room above the east porch and a room on the south side of the house was made in 1816. The present front of the house, in Victorian style, was an addition of the late 19th century and has nothing to do with the occupancy of the the Shermans. Sherman's birthplace, which was his home until he was nine and then only intermittently between 1835-1840, consists of two sections, a brick section in front and a frame section behind it. The front of the house dates from after Sherman's birth. The house is quite deep, but the rear section is rather narrow.

Entering from the south entrance (visitors usually enter from the east side entrance), one steps into the main hallway. A staircase leads up to the second floor. On the left is the Victorian parlor in which is located furniture of the period, 1880's-1890's. North of this room is the gallery, with portraits on loan from various sources. This is a temporary exhibit. This room is likewise the first room of the 1816 addition. East of this room is a small study which sits off the hallway as well as the gallery. Proceeding to the rear of the house from the gallery, one passes another staircase which leads to the second floor. North of this stairwell is the dining room and the lean-to kitchen.

Proceeding upstairs from the second stairwell, one enters the master bedroom. Simplicity is the theme. Beside this room is the children's bedroom, it is the second room of the 1816 addition. In addition to the bedrooms on the second floor are various Civil War exhibits, including the Tent Room. This exhibit represents the way General William T. Sherman lived the majority of his life. In the room directly above the Victorian Parlor are various displays including a drum which was used to rally local Lancasterians to the War, uniforms of miscellaneous local personalities, and a large picture of the Andersonville Prison.

The house is the birthplace of both John and William T. Sherman. However, the latter receives most attention as far as interpretation is concerned for the museum is geared towards an interpretation of the Civil War.

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 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 May 10, 1823-1832

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Sherman Birthplace, located at 137 East Main Street, Lancaster, Ohio, commemorates the career of a man who for more than four decades served his country in various capacities. Sherman was a congressman, 1855-61; a senator, 1861-77 and 1881-97; Secretary of Treasury, 1877-81; and Secretary of State, 1897-98.

In his four years as Secretary of the Treasury, Sherman reached the apogee of his career, steering a deft, successful course between extreme liberal and conservative views on economic matters. However, he is remembered today primarily because of two bills which he introduced, the Sherman Anti-Trust Act and the Sherman Silver Purchase Act. Both were passed in 1890, during his second period of service in the Senate.

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Lancaster on May 10, 1823, the young Sherman went to Mt. Vernon, Ohio, in 1832, after the death of his father, to live with some relatives and to attend a private school. Evidence of his high spirits at this time is indicated by how he and three companions placed a dead sheep in their teacher's chair one morning, much to the ire of the pedagogue. After four years in Mt. Vernon, Sherman returned home in 1835 and attended the local school until he was fourteen. During these years, he became a laborer on a canal. When he lost his job two years later, Sherman switched from laboring to studying law in Mansfield, Ohio. He was admitted to the bar in 1844. Even more remarkable, the young lawyer now became restrained, holding in check a hot temper. He also developed an interest in Ohio politics, and sought out the feelings of the people on the vital questions of the day. This was a practice he never abandoned, and his basically conservative instincts did not prevent him from accommodating himself to popular demands. Sherman later joined the Republican Party.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burton, Theodore E., John Sherman (Boston, 1906).
Dictionary of American Biography
 Kerr, Winfield, John Sherman, His Life and Public Services (Boston, 1908).
 Sherman, John, John Sherman's Recollections of Forty Years in the House, Senate and Cabinet (2 vols., Chicago, 1895).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 7	3, 6, 3, 2, 5, 0	4, 3, 9, 7, 0, 0, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of East Main Street with the alley, proceed north along the eastern edge of the alley approximately 126 feet to a point; thence east approximately 45 feet to the brick wall which forms the eastern boundary; thence south along the brick wall 126 feet to a point; thence west 45 feet to the point of origin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Original form completed by Willian Birdsell)

NAME / TITLE Joseph S. Mendinghall, Historian
Cecil McKithan, Historian

ORGANIZATION Historic Sites Survey Division, National Park Service DATE January 1978

STREET & NUMBER 1100 L Street, N.W. TELEPHONE 523-5295

CITY OR TOWN Washington STATE D.C. 20240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Landmark Designated according to the...
 JAN 29, 1978 date
 Boundary Certified:
 New RA J. Limery
 DATE: APRIL 10, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE

11/24/78

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John Sherman Birthplace

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Sherman's rapid success in law and politics led to his election to the House of Representatives in 1854. Seven years later, he moved to the Senate where the Civil War soon demanded all of his energies. Interestingly, Sherman was not an early supporter of emancipation, nor did he first support Negro suffrage. When Rutherford B. Hayes became president in 1887, he appointed Sherman Secretary of the Treasury. Headly had the new appointee entered the office than he was confronted by two grave issues, resumption and funding of the public debt. Undeterred, Sherman resolved both problems satisfactorily.

With the approach of the presidential election of 1880, Sherman hoped for his party's nomination. However, the Republicans nominated James A. Garfield.

Long years in the Senate followed 1880. Between 1881 and 1897 Sherman influenced the course of much legislation, notably the Sherman Anti-Trust Law and the Sherman Silver Purchase Act, both of 1890. The Supreme Court hamstrung the effectiveness of the anti-trust measure for years, but the act remains the government's basic law against undue centralization of business and industry.

At the very end of his career, Sherman became Secretary of State. Appointed by William McKinley in 1897, Sherman resigned in 1898. His resignation was brought on in part by his opposition to the imperialistic tendencies of the McKinley administration. About two years later, on October 22, 1900, Sherman died.

Sherman worked hard, and appeared to lack warmth to many outside his family. Inherently conservative, Sherman became a leading Republican, and his partisanship led him to support "the measures of his party with unswerving tenacity."¹ Sherman, himself, recognized his partisanship, writing in his autobiography:

"What I have written (here) is no doubt clouded with partisanship, but I would not be honest if I did not express my attachment to my party."²

At the same time, Sherman's keen political sense responded to the thinking of the public, and in his long career he never felt dismayed by charges of inconsistency as he changed his views on numerous matters over the years.

1. Theodore E. Burton, John Sherman (Boston, 1906), p. 419.
2. John Sherman, John Sherman's Recollections of Forty Years in the House, Senate and Cabinet (2 vols., Chicago, 1895), II, p. 1215.