

NHL, Political and Military Affairs after 1865 (XXI)

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE: Ohio
COUNTY: Hamilton
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
George Hunt Pendleton House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
George Hunt Pendleton House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
559 East Liberty Street (Liberty Hill)

CITY OR TOWN:
Cincinnati

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Multiple

STATE: **Ohio** CODE: **39** COUNTY: **Hamilton** CODE: **061**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
H. Oelerich Realty Company

STREET AND NUMBER:
559 East Liberty Street (liberty Hill)

CITY OR TOWN:
Cincinnati

STATE:
Ohio

CODE:
39

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hamilton County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
1000 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Cincinnati

STATE:
Ohio

CODE:
39

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Ohio Landmark Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Ohio Historical Center

STREET AND NUMBER:
17th Avenue and Interstate 71

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbus

STATE:
Ohio

CODE:
39

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Ohio**
COUNTY: **Hamilton**
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The George Hunt Pendleton House, located at 559 Liberty Hill, as the street has been recently renamed, sits at the summit of a high hill giving it a spectacular view of the city of Cincinnati and Kentucky. The house is modest in proportions. Built in 1879, the structure is a handsome three-story brick building with mansard roof. in Victorian styling. The entrance doors sit in a depressed covered foyer. Three bays wide the exterior is accented by high windows on all three levels.

The house has seen numerous functions since it was the residence of Pendleton. While used as a tenement, with some nine apartments, the Pendleton House fell into quite bad repair. For years it was left to decay at the hands of the elements. Having recently shifted owners the building has been renovated, though there has not been a concern shown for authentic historic restoration. The building is now used as an office building with apartments located on the upper level. The business offices of the present owners are located in the building on the first floor. The historic landmark plaque is located on the exterior of the building on the northwest corner facing Liberty Hill and is apparent to the passer-by.

BOUNDARY INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION

The George Hunt Pendleton House sits on the side of Liberty Hill. The boundary at the property, which is less than one acre, follows the lot lines.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

051

Today employment in the Federal Government is built on a rigid system maintaining standards of excellence based on competitive qualifications and equal opportunity for all under protection of the law. These present laws are based in part on the civil service reform movement of the late nineteenth century.

The assassination of President James A. Garfield in 1881 produced a powerful demand for reform in the Federal Civil Service. A small group of liberals had vainly labored for reform before 1881, to the annoyance of politicians, who jeered at the reformers and scoffed at, in Roscoe Conkling's phrase, "snivil service reform." Pendleton had exhibited almost no interest in reform before 1880, and indeed the liberals had looked askance at him because of some of his activities. Nevertheless, Pendleton introduced a bill calling for reform in December 1880 and again a year later. In the latter year, he discarded his own civil service reform bill, substituting for it a bill largely written by a former senator, Dorman B. Eaton. Even after Garfield's death, Congress continued to reject civil service reform.

BIOGRAPHY

George Hunt Pendleton was born on July 29, 1825. He became a lawyer, and as happened to so many men of the bar, he became a politician. Ohio elected him to the Senate in 1857. A democrat, Pendleton acted as the leader of the peace group in the Democratic Party during the Civil War; moreover, he vigorously opposed Abraham Lincoln's broad assumption of power during the conflict. When the Democrats nominated General George B. McClellan as their presidential choice in 1864, they chose Pendleton for the vice-presidency. Following the Republican Party's triumph in the election, Pendleton, who was known as "Gentleman George" because of his dignified manner, retired from Congress in 1865. He did not return to Washington until 1879, when he was re-elected to the Senate, and it was during this term that he became associated with civil service reform.

Opposition to civil service reform was strong. Typical of the climate of opinion in the Senate were the remarks of a Michigan Congressman:

If Jonah was one of these modern civil service reformers, my sympathies are all with the whale.¹

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crider, John H., The Bureaucrat, (New York, 1944).
Dictionary of American Biography
 Fish, Carl Russel, The Civil Service and the Patronage, (New York, 1905).
 Hoogenboom, A., Outlawing the Spoils (Urbana, Illinois, 1961)
 Howe, George F., Chester A. Arthur, (New York, 1935).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		UTM	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		16.715770	.4331960	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one acre.**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Joseph S. Mendinghall, Historian, (Original form prepared by S.S. Bradford)

ORGANIZATION: **National Park Service-Historic Sites Survey** DATE: **5/30/75**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L. Street, NW.

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C. 20240** CODE: **II**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: **Landmark**
 Designated: **Jan. 29, 1964** date
 Title: **Boundary Certificate**
 Date: **May 25, 1977** date

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: *[Signature]*

Keeper of The National Register

Date: **12/7/77**

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1 ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Neither does the available evidence indicate that Pendleton made valiant efforts during 1882 to secure the passage of his bill.

The Pendleton bill languished until the fall elections of 1882. Congress had seen fit to ignore petitions demanding reform, one from Boston bore over ten thousand signatures, as well as other evidences of public desire for the end of the spoils system.

But the politicians quickly responded to the plea for reform when the voters rejected Republican congressional candidates in New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Connecticut, and New Jersey in November, 1882. When Congress reassembled in 1883, little time was lost in passing the Pendleton bill, even though the great majority of the members of Congress were still personally opposed to reform. As a recent scholarly study of the rise of civil service reform says,

The sudden reaction in favor of reform had started the night of the recent election: the decisive catalytic agent had been reformer (Grover) Cleveland's overwhelming defeat of machinist (Charles James) Folger (in New York).

The Pendleton act covered only a limited number of Federal positions when passed. But successive extensions by Presidents have given general coverage to Federal Employees, as well as stimulating States to adopt similar measures. Today's Federal Civil Service Commission, competitive examinations for positions, and prohibition against forced contributions to political parties, all stem from the act of 1883.

Pendleton's association with the reform act led to his defeat for re-election in 1884. Ohio politicians in general resented the role played by Pendleton in applying Senatorial patronage to local Cincinnati politicians. They likewise resented the civil service law. The Ohio Senate thus elected another in place of Pendleton in 1884. Cleveland's accession to the presidency in 1884 benefited Pendleton. The new president rewarded the ex-senator with the American ministry in Germany. Pendleton, who married Alice Key, a daughter of Francis Scott Key, died in Brussels on November 24, 1889.

¹Hoggenboom, Outlawing the Spoils, p. 224.

²Ibid, p. 251-52.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2 ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

It appears that the Pendleton House had a direct association with the final drafting of the Pendleton Act. In one room of the 24-room Pendleton House, a Senate sub-committee in 1882 completed revisions of the draft bill. The U.S. Civil Service Commission was removed from Washington and met in the Pendleton House in 1883-1884, the first two years of its existence. Pendleton had served as chairman of the Civil Service Committee and had lived in the house for several months in 1879 prior to his return to the Senate.