

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic "Spiegel Grove," The Rutherford B. Hayes Estate

and/or common Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center

**2. Location** Mailing address: Spiegel Grove, Fremont, Ohio 43420

street & number 1337 Hayes Avenue \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Fremont \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of 5th Cong. District

state Ohio code 43420 county Sandusky code 143

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Library

**4. Owner of Property** See Continuation Sheet

name State of Ohio/Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, Inc.

street & number State House/Spiegel Grove, Fremont, Ohio 43420

city, town Columbus, Ohio \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Probate Court, Court of Records

street & number

city, town Fremont \_\_\_\_\_ state Ohio 43420

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Ohio State Archeological and  
title Historical Society Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

date 1934 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Hayes Presidential Center

city, town Fremont \_\_\_\_\_ 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**

Spiegel Grove stands as a stately estate of 25 acres between Hayes and Buckland Avenues in Fremont, Ohio. Because pools of water would reflect the images of the many oak, maple, birch and cottonwood trees located throughout the area, Sardis Birchard, Hayes' uncle, who purchased the property, named the estate "Spiegel Grove," using the German word for mirror. The character of the estate has not changed drastically in all these years. Numerous trees still stand to shade the property, giving it an aura of wealth, while small pools of water still collect to reflect their image.

Work was begun on the mansion in 1859. Original plans were drawn up by Sardis Birchard for a frame building two and one-half stories high, surrounded on three sides by an enclosed veranda. This building, completed in 1863, was designed as a summer retreat for Rutherford B. Hayes, and his family. It contained a formal entrance hall, a large parlor downstairs, along with a bedroom and kitchen quarters. The second story was taken up with bedrooms and some storage space.

Hayes first came to Spiegel Grove to live after his second term as Governor in May, 1873. Recognizing that the house was too small for his family of seven, he commenced plans for the construction of a frame addition to the west side of the original structure for a new kitchen, woodhouse and privy.

Seven years passed before the home was altered again. During this time, Hayes had served a third term as Governor and, in 1876, had been elected President. In 1880 an addition was put on the north side, more than doubling the house in size. It provided for a library and drawing room on the first floor, with bedrooms above. It also included a number of interior changes and the expansion of the Hayes' master bedroom on the first floor and their daughter's bedroom above it with a three-story bay, with windows. The fourth story cupola was added at this time, serving as a greenhouse for Mrs. Hayes' plants. In March of 1889, the frame addition of 1873 was removed and construction began on a larger addition for a dining room and new kitchen. Mrs. Hayes died in June of that year, before construction was completed. Only the parlor, now the Red Room, and Sardis Birchard's bedroom on the second floor remain intact. With the 1889 addition, the house has remained virtually without major alteration.

Spiegel Grove contains at present some 33 rooms, including the third floor, 9 of which are furnished as bedrooms. Of these, the major rooms include:

On the first floor:

The Entrance Hall. Extending from the porch to the formal dining room, the entrance hall has several portraits. Sardis Birchard and Sophia Birchard Hayes, the President's mother, face each other near the front door. A painting of Lucy Webb Hayes tending the wounded during the Civil War hangs over the mantel. From the hallway there is the butternut stairwell with a black walnut balustrade which runs continuously from the first floor to the cupola.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1859-1893      **Builder/Architect** Sardis Birchard

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Rutherford B. Hayes, the nineteenth President of the United States, was born on October 4, 1822, at Delaware, Ohio, the fifth child born to his parents, Rutherford and Sophia B. Hayes. After graduating from Kenyon College in Ohio, he attended the law school at Harvard University before establishing himself as a lawyer in Lower Sandusky (now Fremont) and, five years later, in Cincinnati. Hayes became a major-general during the Civil War and was wounded in action several times. Elected to Congress in 1864, without campaigning, Hayes served with his regiment until the end of the War and took his seat in the House of Representatives when the session opened in December, 1865. He later served three terms as Governor of Ohio before his election to the Presidency.

Spiegel Grove, built as a summer retreat for Hayes and his family by his uncle, Sardis Birchard, between 1859 and 1863, became the family home on May, 1873, and remained a family homestead after Hayes' death and until 1965. The property was given to the State of Ohio by the Hayes children in 1912 and is managed by the Hayes Presidential Center in association with the Ohio Historical Society. The Center is open throughout the year.

BIOGRAPHY

The parents of the nineteenth President migrated from Vermont to Ohio in 1817. On October 4, 1822, two-and-one-half months after his father's untimely death, Rutherford B. Hayes was born. He enjoyed a normal, active adolescence and received a solid secondary education at schools in Ohio and Connecticut. He entered Kenyon College in 1838 and received his degree four years later. After an unrewarding year in Columbus as a lawyer, Hayes decided on more schooling and entered the Harvard Law School in 1843, graduating in 1845.

Returning to Ohio, Hayes began to crystallize the economic and political views which guided him through most of his life. A declared Whig, he adhered to a moderate point of view, believing that sound money, the limitation of slavery and some civil service reform worked for the nation's good. In the mid-1850's, he joined the Republican party, an intelligent, honest and courageous young politician. Neither brilliant nor charismatic, Hayes soon established himself as a leader of high ability.

After Harvard, Hayes settled in Lower Sandusky, where his Uncle Sardis was a leading citizen. His chief accomplishment there was to head up the committee which suggested a new name for the community, Fremont, after the dashing hero of the West, Col. John C. Fremont.

In December, 1849, Hayes moved to Cincinnati where the tempo of his life suddenly quickened. His law practice blossomed and, in 1852, he married Lucy Webb.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References Continuation sheet

Barnard, Harry, Rutherford B. Hayes and His America, (Indianapolis, 1954).  
Davison, Kenneth E., The Presidency of Rutherford B. Hayes, (Westport, Connecticut, 1972).

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 25  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_ Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

### UTM References

A	<u>17</u>	<u>322040</u>	<u>4578690</u>	B	<u>17</u>	<u>321580</u>	<u>4578300</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>17</u>	<u>321600</u>	<u>4578700</u>	D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the junction of Hayes and Wilson Avenues proceed east along the south curb of Hayes Ave. to the point of intersection with Buckland Ave., then proceed southwest along the northwest curb of Buckland Ave. to the point of intersection with Cleveland Ave., then proceed north along the east curb of Cleveland Ave. to the point of origin. This boundary comprises 25 acres.

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joseph Scott Mendinghall, Historian  
organization Historic Sites Survey date \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number 1100 L Street, N.W. telephone (202) 523-5464  
city or town Washington, D.C. 20240 state \_\_\_\_\_

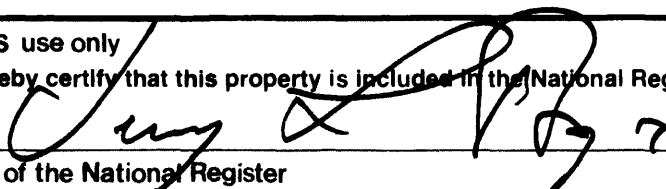
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 (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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
For NPS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
  
Keeper of the National Register date 5/16/84  
Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

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Ohio Historical Society  
1982 Velma Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43211

Leslie H. Fishel, Jr.  
Director  
Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center  
Spiegel Grove  
Fremont, Ohio 43420

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The Red Room. On the left as one enters from the porch is one of the two original rooms from the 1863 structure. In this room are Victorian furnishings covered in red damask. Over the mantel is a portrait of Fanny Hayes and on the walls are portraits of the President as a Civil War general and his son, Webb C. Hayes. A Bierstadt evening scene and a painting of Mt. Hood, one of the President's favorite paintings, face each other on the east and west walls, respectively.

The Drawing Room. Across the hall from the Red Room is the drawing room, added in 1880. Quite similar to the Red Room, but more than twice as large, it has its original flocked paper ceiling. A fireplace against the north wall with blue cloisome tile enhances the color scheme and the tile is matched in the two brass chandeliers. Other portraits in the room include one of Mrs. Hayes in her 25th wedding anniversary dress and a floor-to-ceiling likeness of the President painted during his final year in office. The room has a number of family items, including a wrought iron baptismal font bracket made by the President's grandfather. Furnishings include Chippendale ladder chairs, a Victorian pier table and a mahogany card table.

The Library. Adjacent to the drawing room, the library was altered by the President who had shelves removed from sections of two walls so that prints of personalities in the Hayes administration and former political greats could be hung. These remain today. The library was built to house an extensive collection of books since Hayes was an avid reader. Original to the room are the desk and the two wooded bannister chairs. Numerous mementoes are located in the room, including two framed photographs of Lincoln.

The Dining Room. It was built as a part of the 1889 renovation for entertaining guests. It has a white ceiling and red cherry wainscotting. The large dining room table will extend to seat 24 persons. The room is graced with four sideboards, one a gift from Charlotte DeWitt, known as the Webb sideboard, one from the Birchard family and two from the Madison White House.

The Hayes Bedroom. This room, which doubled as a family room, has a mahogany four-poster full tester bed and Victorian dresser, all original to the room. There, Victorian furnishings provide the ambience and a handmade crewel bedspread, embroidered by Lucy Cook, Mrs. Hayes' cousin, dresses the bed.

Other rooms on the first floor include a modern kitchen and the family breakfast room.

The second floor is composed almost entirely of bedrooms, with guest facilities centered in the west wing. The New Zealand Room, Oriental Room, Puerto Rico Room, Filipino Room and Santiago de Cuba Room were named by the President's son, Webb C. Hayes, some after campaigns in which he participated. Several other rooms are worthy of specific mention:

The Birchard Room. This is the second room which remains from the original house; it is kept very much the same as when Birchard used it. Some of the original furnishings include the four-poster full tester bed, a Windsor chair, washstand and

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commode, bedwarmer and footwarmer. There are several large mirrors, one reported to have been used by George Washington.

The Washington Room. This was daughter Fanny's room and it was enlarged in 1880 with the construction of the three-story bay. The furniture is ebony and was made for Fanny in 1878 for her White House room.

The Otis and Wright Rooms. These were used as bedroom and adjoining sitting room. The bed is of Spanish mahogany, a gift of Professor George Frederick Wright to the President's son, Webb C. Hayes. The President acquired the two dressers, one of rosewood and the other of cherry with Sandwich glass pulls. Other furnishings date from later generations who lived in the home.

The Carriage House. Constructed in 1873, the carriage house is a two-story frame and brick building. Today the building is occupied by the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds who has an apartment on the second floor. There is a working garage at the ground level. The carriage house and the residence fit the same architectural pattern.

The Library/Museum Building. The state of Ohio constructed the original building on the grounds of Spiegel Grove a short distance north of the residence. Completed in 1916, the building had a wing added to the south (1922) and wings added to the east and west (1968).

The Center Museum is an impressive facility which houses exhibits relating to the life and career of Rutherford B. Hayes and highlights those interests which attracted his attention. The first floor is primarily a biographical exhibit; it includes a lovely large breakfront made in Ohio expressly for the President and Mrs. Hayes and displays White House china from the Hayes tenure. A lifesize diorama of Hayes in camp during the Civil War provides a striking introduction to Hayes' active participation in that conflict. Two exhibit rooms adjacent to the atrium contain some of Mrs. Hayes' dresses on manikins.

The lower level of the Museum includes a gun room, a handsome restoration of the Presidential carriage, two dolls' houses, one exquisitely furnished with period pieces and both constructed for daughter Fanny during the White House years. One section of this level is reserved for changing exhibits and the other areas house study collections of Indian artifacts, children's toys, political badges, etc.

The Center Library has approximately 70,000 volumes, including the President's personal library. The building has four stack levels. The Library also incorporates a sizeable manuscript collection, which, in addition to the Hayes material, covers well-known nineteenth century politicians, journalists and authors, military men and prominent local citizens. The Center's photographic collection is housed in the same building. The major focus of all of these collections, which are interrelated, is the United States between the Civil War and World War I, i.e., the "Gilded Age" and

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its demise. There are some special collections of note, dealing with the Great Lakes, local history, the theatre, the Orient and railroad transportation which transcend the time period of the major focus.

The Library and Museum Building is also the site of administrative and support services for the Center.

The grave site is located on a small knoll on the south end of the estate. It is the resting place of the President, Mrs. Hayes, Webb C. Hayes I, the President's second son, and Mrs. Webb C. Hayes I. The monument was designed by the President, fashioned of Vermont granite and was moved from Oakwood Cemetery when the bodies were reinterred at Spiegel Grove in 1915.



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Committed to an anti-slavery position, he played an increasingly important role as a Republican in city politics, serving at the end of the decade as city solicitor.

When the Civil War began, Hayes enlisted as a major and rose to the rank of brevet major-general. On active duty for the duration, Hayes was hit by lightning and a Minie ball without harm, but in the battle of South Mountain, near Antietam, Maryland, he suffered a severe arm wound, from which he recovered only to serve again. On his staff at one time was the future twenty-fourth President, William McKinley. Nominated for a Congressional seat in 1864, he remained with his troops and did not campaign. He resigned after the War and took his seat when Congress convened in December, 1865. Hayes served one term, was reelected in 1866 but resigned in July, 1867, to run for Governor of Ohio. As a Congressman, Hayes was a supporter of the Radical Reconstruction program and enthusiastically served on the House Library of Congress Committee.

Hayes became Governor of Ohio in 1867. The power of the office attracted him, although his accomplishments during his three terms, 1867-69, 1869-71 and 1875-77, were modest. The first three-term Ohio governor, Hayes gave the state honest and competent leadership. He was proud of his role in creating the Ohio Agricultural and Medical College which subsequently became the Ohio State University.

As Governor before and during the Republican National Convention of 1876, which met in Cincinnati, Hayes was in a strong position to try for the nomination. Taking full advantage of his strength as a compromise candidate between two wings of the party, Hayes gained the nomination. He emerged the victor in the bitterly-disputed election of 1876 and went on to serve, as he had promised in accepting the nomination, a single term.

Hayes was not a dynamic President who, like some, could squeeze drama and excitement out of every decision. A quiet, plain-spoken man who recognized his strengths and his weaknesses, he accomplished surprising achievements in the face of a badly-divided party and an opposition party of growing strength. He brought an end to Reconstruction, returned to the office of the Presidency the lustre and honor which had eroded during the two previous administrations, fought for civil service reform, nurtured the return of prosperity, implemented specie repayment without incident, attempted to treat fairly with Indian nations and widened formal relations with China. Current polls of historians place him in the "average" category among Presidents. A distinguished historian who has studied Hayes' record, the late T. Harry Williams, concluded that "All things considered, his record of accomplishment was impressive."<sup>1</sup>

When Hayes returned home to Spiegel Grove in 1881, he maintained a detached interest in politics, following the events but refraining from public participation. He travelled extensively, was active in humanitarian causes like prison reform, education, aid for black schools, libraries and local charities. He kept his interest in veterans' affairs and organizations. He enjoyed his family and his

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community. A fascinating change occurred in his political and economic thinking, however, since by the late 1880's, he had come to oppose, privately but not publicly, what he called "government of the rich, by the rich and for the rich."<sup>2</sup> He believed that the growing concentration of wealth in America tended to "debauch society" and that one had to "Abolish plutocracy if you would abolish poverty."<sup>3</sup>

Hayes loved the peace and beauty of his home, and it was at Spiegel Grove that he died on January 17, 1893.

FOOTNOTES

1. T. Harry Williams, ed., Hayes: The Diary of a President, 1875-1881, (New York, 1965), xxvii.
2. Harry Barnard, Rutherford B. Hayes and His America, (Indianapolis, 1954), 514.
3. *Ibid.*, 513, 514.

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Charles R. Williams, ed., The Diary and Letters of Rutherford B. Hayes, 5v  
(Columbus, Ohio, 1922-26).

T. Harry Williams, ed., Hayes: The Diary of a President, 1875-1881, (New York, 1964).

In process, Hoogenboom, Ari, A Biography of Rutherford B. Hayes, to be published  
by the Regents Press of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.  
Fishel, Leslie H., Jr., "The Very Victorian Rutherford B. Hayes,"  
to be published in William C. Spragens, ed., Popular Images of  
American Presidents, to be published by Greenwood Press, Westport,  
Conn.