

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

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Lackawanna
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Terence V. Powderly House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Powderly (Terence V.) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
614 N. Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Scranton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
#10

STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE: **42** COUNTY: **Lackawanna** CODE: **69**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<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 <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input 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:
David T. Jones

STREET AND NUMBER:
614 N. Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Scranton

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Spruce Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Scranton

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Pennsylvania**

COUNTY: **Lackawanna**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

Powderly occupied his Scranton home for many years. Presently painted an olive-green, the clapboard, two-story house has a cross-gabled roof. A front porch, which originally extended down some distance on both sides of the house, is an attractive feature of the house. An unusual glass ante-entrance protects the front door from harsh weather.

Inside, the ground floor is quite unchanged. The hallway contains the stairway to the second floor and permits access to the living room, which is off to the left. The living room is long and has a high ceiling. Just off of the living room as you enter it is a small parlor. It overlooks the front porch and contains a fireplace. The wood work in it, as elsewhere, is dark. Back of the living room is the kitchen, which has been modernized.

The second floor has been converted into an apartment, but few basic structural changes other than the installation of a picture window have been made since Powderly's residency there. In back of the house there is a small yard.

BOUNDARIES:

Beginning at a point on the eastern curb of North Main Street, approximately 200' north of the intersection of Pettebone and North Main Streets, proceed north along said curb approximately 60' to the north property line of 614 North Main Street, then east along said line 140' to the western curb of Powderly Court, then south 60' along said curb, then west 140' to the point of origin.

These boundaries enclose the Powderly House along the lines of the original lot.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" 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) 1849-1924

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A labor leader of Jeffersonian idealism, Terence Vincent Powderly dominated the American labor movement in the 1880's. His failure to create a permanent, all-inclusive union and to make arbitration labor's principal bargaining tool does not lessen his significance. Rather, a question remains as to whether or not his program might not have been better for the Nation instead of the emergence of trade unionism and the strike in the growing conflict between labor and capital.

The Powderly House, 614 North Main Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania, is currently maintained as a private residence.

BIOGRAPHY:

Powderly became a union man early in his life. He was born on January 22, 1849, in Carbondale, Pennsylvania, to immigrant Irish parents. Upon leaving school at thirteen, he first worked on a railroad and then became an apprentice machinist when seventeen. He completed his apprenticeship in 1879 and engaged in the trade. On November 21, 1871, He joined the Machinist and Blacksmiths Union and soon became its president. One result of that triumph was that he was among the first men to lose their jobs when the Depression of 1873 crippled the Nation's economy.

The dismissed union president was a natural leader. An idealist, he envisioned a society democratic in all aspects. Slender, not too-tall, and blue-eyed, Powderly's enthusiasm and fluency endeared him to the working man. His influence upon his fellow laborers is evidenced by the fact that Powderly advocated arbitration as the best means to solve disputes with management at the very time when the worker and employer were becoming increasingly antagonistic. And for a long time, he was backed by labor. Just about the time that he became labor's advocate, he married Hannah Dever, on September 19, 1872.

Powderly's greatest success arose from his leadership of the Knights of Labor. At first a secret organization, the Knights emerged as the leading labor organization of the 1880's.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

S. Sydney Bradford, Terence V. Powderly, National Survey of Historic Sites and Building form 10-317 November, 1965.
 Richard T. Ely, The Labor Movement in America, (New York, 1905).
 Charles A. Madison, American Labor Leaders, (New York, 1950).
 Bernard Mandel, Samuel Gompers, (Yellow Springs, Ohio, 1963).
 Terence V. Powderly, The Path I Trod, (New York, 1940).

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	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
				18.443580.4585240		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Richard Greenwood, Historian, Landmark Review Task Force

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey DATE: 1-14-75

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street

CITY OR TOWN: Washington, STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)</u></p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>1/3/79</u></p> <p>ATTEST: <u>(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)</u></p> <p><u>Bill Labovich</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>Jan 3, 1979</u></p>
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CONTINUATION SHEET Powderly

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Today, we largely remember the union for three reasons: it insisted upon the unity of labor; it manifested the last of the middle class reform movements in American labor history; and it emphasized the importance of union organization. Like Powderly, it was not militant. It favored improvement through cooperation, not through battle. In its drive to establish one large union, the Knights, surprisingly, counted both Negroes and women as members.

For fourteen years Powderly led the Knights of Labor. He joined the organization on September 6, 1876, in Scranton, Pennsylvania. By September, 1879, he headed the union, having been elected the Grand Master Workmen. He remained such until November, 1893. Giving vigorous support to the Knights' goal of one great union, Powderly attracted many new members. The union abandoned secrecy in 1881, because of the opposition of the Roman Catholic Church, and by 1882 it had 42,517 members. Several successful labor struggles in 1884 and 1885 greatly increased membership, which by 1886 numbered between 700,000 and 1,000,000. The union was now the largest and most influential in the country.

It was also at its peak in 1886, and subsequently collapsed. Probably the leading cause for its failure was Powderly's and the union's opposition to strikes. Powderly never forgot the failure of numerous strikes in the 1870's. As an alternative, he espoused arbitration. To a degree, he succeeded. Some States established arbitration systems. But employers spurned arbitration, few of them at the time even recognizing the right of the working man to organize. Furthermore, as the union grew, many groups within it struck, regardless of Powderly. And even when he finally supported such strikes, his leadership proved ineffective. A great defeat occurred in the union's peak year, in 1886. The Knights on a Jay Gould railroad went out on strike. Powderly tried to negotiate with Gould, but the financier rebuffed him, and Gould finally forced the men to return on his conditions.

Other causes also contributed to the demise of the Knights. Powderly, again in 1886, did not heartily endorse the eight-hour movement and he supported the public condemnation of the Haymarket Massacre. Furthermore, apropos of the latter, he did not join in the defense of those accused of the bombing. That especially hurt the Knights in the labor movement. Even more important than the immediately preceding was the rise of a strong, aggressive personal rival, Samuel Gompers. Gompers spurred the revival of trade unionism as he led the American Federation of Labor, and he strongly supported strikes. Labor responded to his militancy. Thus during Powderly's last six years as the leader of the Knights, urban labor turned increasingly to Gompers.

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Resolute in his idealism, Powderly had to fight opponents in his own union from 1886 on. But he could not succeed as the gulf between labor and capital deepened. Opposition within the Knights caused him to resign in 1893. Thirteen years later the Knights of Labor ceased to exist.

Powderly's years after leaving the Knights remained active ones. Having studied law prior to 1893, he was admitted to the bar in 1894. Much to the surprise of his associates, he supported the Republican Party in 1894 and 1896. After the presidential election, President William McKinley appointed him as the United States Commissioner General of Immigration in 1897. Removed from that position in 1902, he assumed in 1907 a new position in the Bureau of Immigration and held that office until 1921. He died three years after leaving it, on June 24, 1924.

Powderly authored a number of works. His most significant book is entitled, Thirty Years of Labor 1859-1889, an invaluable study of the post-Civil War history of the American labor movement.