

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

Warren G. Harding Home

AND/OR COMMON

Warren G. Harding Home

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

380 Mount Vernon Avenue

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Marion

___ VICINITY OF

7th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Ohio

CODE

39

COUNTY

Marion

CODE

101

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ___ DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- ___ STRUCTURE
- ___ SITE
- ___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- ___ PRIVATE
- ___ BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- ___ IN PROCESS
- ___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- ___ UNOCCUPIED
- ___ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- ___ YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- ___ NO

PRESENT USE

- ___ AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- ___ COMMERCIAL
- ___ PARK
- ___ EDUCATIONAL
- ___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ___ ENTERTAINMENT
- ___ RELIGIOUS
- ___ GOVERNMENT
- ___ SCIENTIFIC
- ___ INDUSTRIAL
- ___ TRANSPORTATION
- ___ MILITARY
- ___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Harding Memorial Association-Paul D. Michael, President

STREET & NUMBER

116 S. Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Marion

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Ohio

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds; Marion County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Corner of Center and Main Streets

CITY, TOWN

Marion

STATE

Ohio

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Warren G. Harding Home sits at 380 Mt. Vernon Avenue on the north side of the street. The House was designed by the Hardings one year before their marriage. It is a two and one-half story clapboard structure painted green. The front porch runs across the front facade and the foundation is Indiana limestone.

In the front reception hall of the house the Hardings were married in 1891. It is a modest house like most of the houses on the street. As described by Francis Russel it is "style-less." This statement may be exaggerated, for the Harding Home is attractive. The house has very large windows trimmed with wooden curlicues, scalloped shingles, and inserts of garish stained glass.

From the wide porch one enters the reception hall. The woodwork of the interior is almost completely done in oak. On the left is the front parlor. It has oak parquet floors, typical high victorian ceiling and tall stained glass windows. It is furnished in victorian manner. Adjacent the parlor is the dining room which is lighted by the opalescent glow of the parlor windows. The walls are covered with brown wall paper. In Mr. Harding's study are oak bookcases. An oak balustraded staircase leads from the reception hall to the second floor. There are four bedrooms located on this level. All quite simple in design, being square, the most impressive is the master bedroom located on the front, north side of the house. The Hardings had two single beds and the original furnishings are located in the room. Interestingly, Mrs. Harding had built-in closets which was a novelty at the time. One of the most interesting rooms on this level is the bathroom which contains an oak toilet seat and wooden bath.

Though typical, the house was very well constructed and attests to Hardings rise into the middle class.

Located a short distance to the rear of the house is the Administration Building. Built as the campaign headquarters, it is a single story clapboard building. It is painted white. The little house is now used as part of the museum and displays various Harding mementoes. Here are pictures, campaign posters, cartoons, speeches, and other presidential valuables. The facility is used frequently by local schools and complements an understanding of local history.

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 checked="" 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 1891-1923

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Warren G. Harding's election as the 29th President of the United States confirmed the tradition that any American youth could aspire to occupy the oval office of the White House. Today, his election still reminds us that the nation's highest office is within the reach of men of all talents.

President of the United States from 1921 to 1923, Warren G. Harding spent most of his adult life with his wife in this two-story board home at 380 Mount Vernon Avenue in Marion. Planned and built by the couple in 1890, a year before their marriage, it was their home while Harding edited the Marion Star and progressed from State Senator to Lieutenant Governor and finally United States Senator. On the spacious front porch of the Marion home he conducted his Presidential campaign in 1920, welcoming and shaking hands with thousands who gathered on the lawn surrounding the house. The Hardings left for Washington in 1921, and three years later death struck the 29th President before his term had ended.

Mrs. Harding upon her death, bequeathed the property to the Harding Memorial Foundation to be maintained as an historic house museum.

Biography

Warren Gamaliel Harding, 29th President of the United States, was born November 2, 1865 at Corsica (Bloomington), Morrow County Ohio, to Dr. George T. and Phoebe Dickerson Harding. Warren was the first of eight children and began his formal education at the public school at Caledonia in Marion County, Ohio. Apparently, though, ambition slumbered in the socially active youth. At the request of his mother, who wanted him to be a minister, Harding graduated and entered the Ohio Central College, now long defunct, at Iberia near his boyhood home. Because of his poor parents, Harding had to work his way through college as a laborer. Upon graduation, with the bachelor of science degree, Harding became a ~~teacher~~ instead of preaching. He taught one term and then resigned.

Harding then entered the profession, which would gain him prominence, journalism. At the age of 19, in 1884, at a cost of \$300, he purchased the Marion Daily Star, which he published successfully until he sold it in 1923 to Brush-Moore Newspapers Inc.

With financial resources growing, Harding soon bought out his partner and as the years passed and Marion grew, Harding and his paper continued to prosper. Having captured the eye of Florence Kling De Wolfe, Harding was married in July, 1891, in spite of her parents strongest objections. His success also enabled him and Florence to be the first family in Marion to purchase an automobile.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dictionary of American Biography

Adams, Samuel Hopkins, Incredible Era (Boston, 1939).

Schriftgiesser, This Was Normalcy (Boston, 1948).

Russel, Francis, The Shadow of Blooming Grove, Warren G. Harding in His Times, (McGraw Hill Book Company: New York) 1968.

Warren Gamaliel Harding, (The Harding Memorial Association: Marion) 1972.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3/4 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 320430 4494810
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Harding home sits on the north side of Mt. Vernon Avenue on a city lot comprising approximately 3/4 an acre. The lot is about 150 x 200 feet. The boundary is coterminus with the property line.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph Scott Mendinghall, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street N.W.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington,

STATE

D.C.

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Landmark June 23, 1965

Designated:

Joseph Scott Mendinghall

DATE Boundary Certified: 3/4/77

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE 3/4/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Warren G. Harding Home ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Just as the Marion Star spurred Harding's economic and social success, so did it aid his political career. A handsome and affable man, he became a state senator in 1898 and was elected lieutenant governor in 1902. Harding ran for the governorship in 1910, but was defeated. Undaunted, he was elected to the United States Senate in 1914. In Washington, Harding's convivial attributes made him overwhelmingly popular.

For some time before 1920, Harding's friend, Harry Daughterly, had thought that Harding could be the Republican Party's candidate for the presidency. A deadlock in the 1920 convention led to the fulfillment of Daughterly's dream. After the party's leaders had consulted with Harding, he was nominated. Harding, following the advice of Boies Penrose and other party leaders, decided to campaign from his front porch. He did so, seldom tiring from meeting the unending streams of delegations and ordinary people who came to Marion. This remarkable campaign ended with a smashing victory.

Harding throughout his political career won distinction as an orator and debator. He had a strong voice rich in expression. This combined with his talent for affective use of words and phraseology, enabled him to capture and hold the rapt attention of audiences.

At the time of his election, Harding received the largest majority of votes cast for a presidential candidate. This victory carried Harding and his friends from Marion to the White House.

The Harding years were most controversial. Embodied with conflict and scandal, the weight of office took its toll on the president. On the political side, Harding is credited with bringing a **war-weary and war-worn** people healing and strength. In his inaugural address in 1921, he said "Our supreme task is the resumption of our onward, normal way. Reconstruction, readjustment, restoration--all these must follow. I would like to hasten them." This Harding did try to accomplish, though personal problems and presidential conflicts marred the way.

The cares of office soon began to weigh on the President, however, and his health began to decline. He and a party traveled to Alaska in the summer of 1923 and Harding apparently benefited from the trip. But a relapse occurred after the return to San Francisco, and he died at 7:30 p.m., August 2, 1923.