

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC General Lew Wallace Study

AND/OR COMMON

General Lew Wallace Study; Ben-Hur Museum

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Pike Street at Wallace Avenue

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Crawfordsville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Indiana

CODE

18

COUNTY

Montgomery

CODE

107

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>Camp Fire Girls</u>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Crawfordsville

STREET & NUMBER

Department of Parks and Recreation

CITY, TOWN

Crawfordsville

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

Montgomery County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Crawfordsville

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

172

7 DESCRIPTION

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

According to one of Wallace's biographers, the general's study, begun in 1895 and completed in 1898, represents a challenge "in novelty to anything built in America in an epoch of architectural novelities."⁷ Designed by Wallace himself, the study is the product of boyhood dreams, a vivid imagination, and impressions gathered from a lifetime of reading and travel. The eclectic structure is a blend of Romanesque, Greek, and Byzantine influences and is a marvelously appropriate projection of its creator's personality and lifework. The building is situated on a trapezoidal, 4½-acre tract that covers most of a city block and is surrounded by a high brick wall. Wallace erected the east, north, and west sections of the wall; the south portion was built after his death. Included on the large wooded lot are a bronze facsimile of the Wallace statue in the National Capitol's Statuary Hall and a now-altered, 1½-story, gable-roofed, frame barn-carriage house, presumably the same one in which Wallace tinkered with his mechanical inventions. These are the only known extant structures that bear an intimate association with Wallace and retain their historical integrity. His frame residence once stood south of the study, on the same block but outside the wall. Except for its parquet-floored central hall, living room, and dining room, however, that building was demolished a number of years ago. The three remaining rooms were then incorporated into a modern one-story, ranch-style brick dwelling, which is now owned by Herbert C. Morrison (514 East Washbash Street, Crawfordsville). It is not included in the designated property.

Built at a cost of \$25,000 to \$30,000, Wallace's study is a southerly oriented, irregular-shaped, one-story, garnet-colored brick edifice that rises about 30 feet in height and consists of an approximately 25-foot-square main block; a small 10-foot-wide, semi-circular rear wing; and a 40-foot-high, rectangular-shaped, brick tower that graces the west side and serves as a chimney for a gargantuan hearth. Crowning the structure is a domed skylight. The study has a full basement and rests on a concrete block foundation that is faced with coursed limestone blocks on its partially exposed exterior.

Adorning the center-front of the building is a one-bay-wide, pedimented portico, the rear one-half of which is enclosed to provide a vestibule for the study interior. A brick-faced, oval window graces each side of the latter section, while a stone balustrade extends from the southeast corner of the portico eastward the remaining width of the study and then runs to the study's own southeast corner, thus, forming a small rectangular-shaped, roofless piazza. There is a

(continued)

7 McKee, "Ben-Hur" Wallace, 259.

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 checked="" 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 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 (1861-1905), 1895-1905 BUILDER/ARCHITECT General Lew Wallace

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lew Wallace was one of the late 19th-century America's most multi-faceted men. Historian and statesman Albert J. Beveridge characterized him as "a strange and fateful mingling of dreamer and warrior, of lawgiver and writer, of idealist and realist, of prophet and performer."¹ Best remembered for his authorship of Ben Hur, which is one of the three most popular novels in American literary history and which is credited with destroying the remaining prejudice against that genre of literature in rural America, Wallace was also significant in the military, political, and diplomatic fields.

In 1862 Wallace played an important role in the Union victory at Fort Donelson and won promotion to major general, the army's highest rank at the time. Two years later, he fought a delaying action at Monocacy, Md., and thereby prevented Washington, D.C., from falling into Confederate hands. After the war ended, Wallace served on the military tribunal that tried and convicted the conspirators in Lincoln's assassination. In addition, Wallace presided over the tribunal that condemned Henry Wirz, the commandant of the Confederate prison at Andersonville.

Although originally a Democrat, Wallace became an influential Republican following the war. A recent biographer, Lee S. Theisen, notes that Wallace's "view reflected the thinking of the Radicals, then became more 'regular' and finally reflected the growing tide of progressivism."² In 1878 he became Governor of New Mexico Territory and unlike most territorial Governors worked hard to improve conditions in the constituency. Most noteworthy were his attempts to end the nationally publicized Lincoln County War. Although he failed, he had a calmative effect on the territory and made possible

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¹ Proceedings in Statuary Hall and the Senate and the House of Representatives Upon the Unveiling, Reception and Acceptance from the State of Indiana of the Statue of General Lew Wallace (Washington, 1910), 26.

² Lee S. Theisen, "The Public Career of General Lew Wallace, 1845-1905," Ph.D. dissertation, University of Arizona, 1973, v.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hart, James D., The Popular Book: A History of America's Literary Taste (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1963).

McKee, Irving, "Ben-Hur" Wallace: The Life of General Lew Wallace (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1947).

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY circa 4½ acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	50,894,0	443,218,0	B	1,6	50,910,0	443,206,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,6	50,910,0	443,200,0	D	1,6	50,894,0	443,200,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See last page of description)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE George R. Adams, Managing Editor
Ralph Christian, Assistant Editor

ORGANIZATION	DATE
American Association for State and Local History	December 1975
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
1400 Eighth Avenue South	(615) 242-5583
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Nashville	Tennessee 37203

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

185

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET Wallace Study ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

similar but larger piazza rear of the building. There the small, conical-roofed, semicircular rear wing joins the study at the westernmost portion of the north facade, and from the rear of the wing, a stone balustrade extends eastward to a point opposite the northwest corner of the building. The balustrade then extends around a three-quarter circle and terminates in a downsloped railing that flanks stone steps adjoining the exposed portion of the east basement wall. Originally these steps led to a small lagoon and fountain. Historic photographs show Wallace and a grandchild "fishing" from this spot. Today, however, only three porthole windows in the exposed basement wall **plus** a section of the outer lagoon wall are reminiscent of that pool.

Perhaps the most interesting exterior feature of the study is the limestone frieze that extends around the center line of the tower and along the cornice of the building. There in sculptured relief are likenesses of characters from three of Wallace's novels. A foliated scroll pattern decorates a similarly rendered cornice frieze on the rear wing, and an anthemion pattern is displayed around the top of the tower. There are no windows in the main block, but in the rear wing there are three recessed, semicircularly arched, one-over-two, sash windows with stone lugsills and elaborate brick hoodmolds. This sill and hoodmold design is repeated in 10 bricked-in windows on the upper level of the tower: triple windows on the east and west sides and double ones on the north and south sides. Similarly shaped, bricked-in windows minus hoodmolds decorate the west side of the lower section of the tower, while both the north and south lower tower sides feature one bricked-in and one stained-glass window.

Front entrance to the study is via a 3½-foot-wide single door from the portico into the vestibule. An open doorway leads into the study proper, which, except for the small rear wing and an alcove before the hearth, consists of a single room. It is lined with bookshelves and filled with displays of Wallace's military, political, and literary memorabilia as well as some of his sketches and paintings. The floor is concrete, the walls green-painted plaster. Providing entry into the hearth alcove is a large, brick-faced, horseshoe arch which is supported by carved stone. Simple benches grace the north and south alcove walls below the stained-glass windows. The mantle is brick. At the rear of the study, on the left, a single sliding door with transom leads into the small rear wing, and in the rear of the wing, a single, hinged door leads to the basement stairway. A door at the east end of the rear wall of the main room opens onto the rear piazza.

(continued)

181

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET Wallace Study ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE two

After Wallace's death in 1905, the family opened his study to the public. In 1941 the Community House, a Crawfordsville civic group, purchased the property and donated it to the city. The Crawfordsville Parks Department now maintains the grounds and study and refers to it officially as the Ben-Hur Museum. In it one may see, virtually unaltered, an architectural manifestation of Wallace's imagination, as well as his improved rail tie plate, stone cannon balls from the castle Roumeli Hissar on the Bosphorus, the **weapons** of an Apache chief killed while reconnoitering Wallace's body guard in New Mexico, the general's Civil War military chest, a floor tile from the Mosque of Sancta Sophia in Constantinople, Wallace's writing chair, several of his uniforms, and numerous other personal effects and artifacts. The barn-carriage house is not open to the public. Since public acquisition in 1941, it has been used variously by the Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls and is considerably altered on the inside. The exterior appears little-changed, though, except for removal of a large carriage door on the north side.

Boundary Justification. The boundary includes the study, the barn-carriage house, the Wallace statue, and the brick wall that surrounds the wooded lot on which they stand. Excluded, because of lack of historical integrity and visual contact, is the Herbert C. Morrison house containing the extant portions of Wallace's residence.

Boundary Description. As indicated in red on the accompanying maps [U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series, Ind., Crawfordsville Quad., 1956; and AASLH Sketch Map, 1975], a line beginning at the intersection of Wallace Avenue and East Pike Street and running southeastward about 550 feet along the right curb of East Pike to its junction with Elston Street; thence south about 250 feet along the right curb of Elston to a point opposite the southernmost extent of the Wallace brick wall that parallels Elston; thence west about 500 feet along the south side of the Wallace brick wall that extends from the Elston Street side of the Wallace Study lot to the Wallace Avenue side, and continuing to the east curb of Wallace Avenue; thence north about 500 feet along the right curb of Wallace Avenue to the starting point.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET Wallace Study ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

the eventual resolution of that conflict. More the devoted partisan than aspirant for electoral office, Wallace made his influence felt in the inner circles of the Republican Party, delivered speeches in Indiana and other States, and wrote numerous political tracts, including a much publicized campaign biography of his fellow Indianan Benjamin Harrison.

That Wallace was a skilled diplomat became evident during his service as American Minister to Turkey from 1881 to 1885. He became a close associate of the Sultan, did much to improve relations between the United States and Turkey, tried to mediate the Turkish-British conflict over Egypt in 1881, and persuaded the Turkish government to allow the settlement of Russian Jews in Asiatic Turkey.

Designed by Wallace himself and constructed between 1895 and 1898, his study is a combination of Romanesque, Greek, and Byzantine architecture. Built of garnet-colored brick at a cost of \$25,000 to \$30,000, it shows no significant alterations. The study contains the books, manuscripts, letters, and memorabilia of a lifetime and vividly demonstrates Wallace's broad ranging interests and abilities. Except for a nearby section of Wallace's residence--three rooms now incorporated into a modern dwelling, there is no other known extant structure closely associated with Wallace.

Biography

Born April 10, 1827, in Brookville, Ind., Lew Wallace became interested in politics and literature at an early age. His father, David Wallace, was one of Indiana's leading Whigs and in 1837 was elected Governor. These years were somewhat trying for young Lew because his mother's death in 1834 and his father's frequent absences made it necessary that he be sent to boarding school. An indifferent student but an avid reader on any subject that interested him, he failed in many schools and became regarded as an incorrigible. When Lew was 16, his father turned him out of the house to earn his own living, and he went to work copying records in the county clerk's office. In 1844, he became a reporter for the leading Whig paper in Indianapolis, covering the proceedings in the State house of representatives. At this time he began to study law under his father, but the Mexican War in 1846 drew him away from his studies. He was elected lieutenant of a local company, and his regiment went to Mexico, but he saw little action.

(continued)

174

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET Wallace Study ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE TWO

In the 1848 election, Wallace supported Martin Van Buren and the Free Soil Party, not out of any admiration for Van Buren or belief in Free Soil but because he disliked Zachary Taylor, a Whig who had impugned the courage of the Indiana volunteers at Buena Vista and made little use of Wallace's regiment. During the campaign, Wallace edited a Free Soil paper and probably helped swing the State to Lewis Cass, the Democratic candidate, by splitting the Whig vote.

Wallace, meanwhile, had resumed the study of law and in 1849 passed the bar exam. Because there was an abundance of lawyers in Indianapolis, he moved to Covington, Ind., to start his practice. Here, he came under the influence of former U.S. Senator Edward A. Hannegan and eventually joined the Democratic Party. In 1851 he received that party's nomination for prosecuting attorney and was elected by a slim margin of 300 votes out of 15,000 cast. In 1852 Wallace married Susan A. Elston, daughter of wealthy Isaac C. Elston and sister-in-law of Congressman Henry S. Lane. Because of family responsibilities and his low salary, Wallace resigned as prosecuting attorney in 1853 and moved to Crawfordsville, a larger community where he was well known and related to the town's two leading citizens, Elston and Lane. After practicing law for 3 years, he ran for and was elected to the Indiana Senate for a 4-year term. Except for unsuccessful efforts to tighten the State's notoriously easy divorce law, get U.S. Senators elected by popular vote, and persuade the legislature to endorse the popular sovereignty views of Stephen A. Douglas, Wallace's term was unremarkable.

By 1856 Wallace foresaw the coming sectional conflict and organized a volunteer company of infantry in Crawfordsville. By its precision and colorful Zouave uniforms, the unit helped earn him a statewide reputation. When President Abraham Lincoln issued his call for volunteers in the wake of the attack on Fort Sumter in April 1861, Gov. Oliver P. Morton appointed Wallace as Indiana's adjutant general. Immediately he organized facilities for the reception of troops, and in less than one week, he accepted 130 companies into the State's service--70 more than Lincoln had requested.

Wallace soon resigned as adjutant general to become Colonel of the 11th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers and a leading figure in the Civil War. He first attracted public attention in June 1861, when he led a raid on Romney, Va., capturing a large amount of Confederate

(continued)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

CONTINUATION SHEET Wallace Study ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE three

supplies, causing Gen. Joseph Johnson to withdraw from Harper's Ferry, and forcing the reopening of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to Union traffic. Promoted to brigadier general, Wallace's first test under fire came later in the year at Fort Donelson where he brought up reinforcements and helped turn the tide of battle in favor of the Union. He was rewarded with a major generalship, the army's highest rank at the time. His promising military career became stymied, however, when because of confusing orders he marched his men in the wrong direction on the first day of the Battle of Shiloh, incurring the enmity of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. Although he acquitted himself well on the second day of battle, Wallace was removed from command, setting off a controversy which has continued to the present day. Wallace biographer Irving McKee asserts that he "can be censured no more than Grant. Wallace should have known by the firing where the army was; Grant should have given more explicit orders."³

For the next 2 years, with the exception of a brief command at Cincinnati where late in 1862 he skillfully organized that city's defenses and prevented a Confederate attack, Wallace remained in Indiana making patriotic speeches, raising troops, and trying to obtain another command. Finally, in 1864, President Lincoln appointed him commander of the Middle Department. Headquartered at Baltimore, Wallace, who had only become a Republican during the secession crisis, received instructions to push for the abolition of slavery in Maryland and to win the State's electoral vote for Lincoln in November. In the process, he almost eliminated the proslavery and anti-Lincoln element by the free use of search, seizure, fines, and imprisonment. In July 1864, when a Confederate army under command of Gen. Jubal A. Early threatened Washington, Wallace led an inferior force into battle against Early at Monocacy, Md. Although defeated, he probably saved the Federal Capital from capture because he "gained valuable time for the troops which Grant dispatched to protect the seat of government."⁴

(continued)

3 Irving McKee, "Ben Hur" Wallace: The Life of General Lew Wallace (Berkeley, 1947), 57.

4 James G. Randall and David Donald, The Civil War and Reconstruction, 2nd Edition (Boston, 1961), 436.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

CONTINUATION SHEET Wallace Study ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE four

Shortly after the war ended, Wallace, probably because of his legal background, served on the military tribunal which tried and convicted the conspirators in Lincoln's assassination. The Indianian also presided over the tribunal that condemned Henry Wirz, the commandant of the infamous Confederate prison at Andersonville.

During the war, Wallace became a supporter of Benito Juarez and the Liberals in Mexico and worked for an American expedition to come to their assistance. Thus in November 1865, Wallace resigned his commission and became a major general in the Mexican Army. For the next few years, he divided his time between the United States and Mexico, raising money and purchasing supplies for Juarez and trying unsuccessfully to organize an American expeditionary force.

By 1868 Wallace had returned to Crawfordsville and shifted his attention to politics. In time he became one of the leading men in the inner circles of the Republican Party. Failing to win the Republican congressional nomination in the summer of 1868, he campaigned hard for the national ticket that fall. In 1870 he gained the Republican nod for Congress but lost the general election by 393 votes. For the next few years, Wallace practiced law and delivered speeches for the Republican Party in Indiana and other States. After he failed to receive an expected appointment from the Grant administration, Wallace turned to writing, and in 1873 he published The Fair God, a novel about the Spanish conquest of Mexico, which he had started some 30 years earlier. Although the book met with some success, Wallace's main concern remained politics, and in 1876 he made numerous speeches for Rutherford B. Hayes and served as a Republican observer in the disputed States of Louisiana and Florida.

In 1878 President Hayes appointed Wallace as Governor of New Mexico Territory. Replacing Samuel B. Axtell, who was suspected of being a member of the Santa Fe Ring which was bleeding the State white amidst almost complete anarchy, Wallace, unlike most territorial officials who generally did nothing, set to work to improve conditions in New Mexico. He helped end the widely publicized Lincoln County War by declaring a general amnesty for all participants, including William Bountty (Billy the Kid). Although trouble flared up again there, its effects had less impact on the territory as a whole.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET Wallace Study ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE five

While Governor, Wallace completed the manuscript of a novel he had started in Indiana and which he entitled Ben Hur. Published in 1880; it sold poorly at first, but sales picked up, and it eventually became the third best seller of all time. According to literary historian James D. Hart, "whatever opposition to the novel as a type still lingered in the villages of America was finally broken by Ben Hur."⁵ Sold in numerous editions and acted on stage, Ben Hur made Wallace a wealthy man.

In 1881, President James A. Garfield rewarded Wallace by appointing him Minister to Turkey. He remained in this post for 4 years and has been credited with greatly improving relations between the United States and Turkey. On intimate terms with Sultan Abdul Hamid II, Wallace soothed tensions that had developed between the two countries following the murder of American missionaries by fanatic Moslems. Shortly after his arrival, he tried, albeit unsuccessfully, to mediate a Turkish-British dispute over Egypt. Wallace also became interested in the plight of the Russian Jews who wanted to settle in Palestine. Although he failed in his attempts to persuade the Turkish government to allow them to settle there, the Turks did agree to let them stay in Asiatic Turkey. "Wallace's action," says diplomatic historian Milton Plesur, "typical of the traditional Christian attitude, was unofficial and taken solely on humanitarian grounds. Nevertheless, it was significant."⁶

After Grover Cleveland became President in 1885, Wallace returned home and dedicated himself to writing and lecturing. In 1888, he became actively involved in the Presidential campaign of Benjamin Harrison, an old family friend, and wrote a campaign biography entitled Life of Ben Harrison by the Author of Ben Hur. Although Harrison offered him several positions in his administration, Wallace refused. In 1893, he published his last novel, The Prince of India, which had been inspired by his stay in Turkey.

(continued)

⁵ James D. Hart, The Popular Book: A History of America's Literary Taste (Berkeley, 1963), 164.

⁶ Milton Plesur, America's Outward Thrust: Approaches to Foreign Affairs, 1865-1900, (DeKalb, 1971), 70.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Wallace Study ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE six

During his last years, Wallace devoted some of his time to inventing improved railroad ties, rail couplers, fishing rods, and automatic fans, but his primary concerns were his autobiography and the construction of a study to house his books, manuscripts, and other memorabilia. He devoted less time to politics, but in 1896, he served as a McKinley delegate to the Republican National Convention and sat on the Resolutions Committee. By 1900, he had become alienated by the expansionist policies of his fellow Republicans and sat out the campaign. On February 15, 1905, he died at the age of 77 at his home in Crawfordsville.

Continuation Sheet Wallace Study Item Number 9 Page one

Plesur, Milton, America's Outward Thrust; Approaches to Foreign Affairs, 1865-1900 (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 1971).

Proceedings in Statuary Hall and the Senate and the House of Representatives Upon the Unveiling, Reception, and Acceptance From the State of Indiana of the Statue of General Lew Wallace (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1910).

Randall, James G. and Donald, David, The Civil War and Reconstruction. 2nd Edition (Boston: D. C. Heath, 1961).

Theisen, Lee S., "The Public Career of General Lew Wallace, 1845-1905," Ph.D. dissertation, University of Arizona, 1973.