



**Name of Property:** James A. Garfield Home (“Lawnfield”) (updated documentation)  
**City, State:** Mentor, Ohio  
**Period of Significance:** 1876-1886  
**NHL Criteria:** 1, 2, Exception 2  
**NHL Theme:** IV. Shaping the Political Landscape  
 1. Parties, protests, and movements  
 2. Governmental institutions

**Previous Recognition:** 1964 National Historic Landmark  
 1980 National Register of Historic Places

**National Historic Context:** *The Presidents of the United States: Historic Places  
 Commemorating the Chief Executives of the United States* (1976)  
*Presidential Sites: An Inventory of Historic Buildings, Sites, and  
 Memorials Associated with Former Presidents of the United  
 States* (Special Study)  
 VII. Political and Military Affairs, 1865-1939  
 B. The Republican Era, 1877-1900

- NHL Significance:**
- The James A. Garfield Home (“Lawnfield”) is the surviving property most closely associated with James A. Garfield’s mature political career including his service in the House of Representatives and as President of the United States.
  - The estate is the locale of Garfield’s innovative 1880 front-porch presidential campaign. Here, Garfield introduced a campaign tactic that was emulated and refined by several

subsequent presidential nominees.

- The library/archival room addition to the main house erected at the direction of Garfield's widow Lucretia was an important early precedent for the system that would become today's presidential libraries.

**Integrity:**

- The main house, campaign office, tenant house, and associated lawn at Lawnfield possess a very high degree of historic integrity and convincingly convey the national significance of the property.
- The key spatial relationships among the historic lane, main house, and campaign office are unchanged, allowing visitors to readily imagine the 1880 campaign events.
- Approximately 80 percent of the furnishings in the main house are original to the Garfield family, adding substantially to the house's integrity.
- The NPS restored the main house including the reconstruction of the 1880 front porch, which the Garfield family had replaced with a smaller porch. The campaign office building was also restored based on historic photographs.
- Integrity of setting is somewhat compromised as the surrounding land is now suburban residential rather than agricultural.

**Owner of Property:** National Park Service

**Acreege of Property:** Approximately 5.2 acres of the original 157-acre farm owned by the Garfields.

**Origins of Nomination:** The National Park Service Midwest Regional Office hired an independent historian to complete an updated National Historic Landmark nomination.

**Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:**

- This updated documentation will strengthen the existing NHL designation and more fully recognize the significance of James A. Garfield's political career.
- This nomination also recognizes the significant role of this property in Garfield's innovative 1880 front-porch campaign in the context of evolving nineteenth-century campaign practices.
- This nomination documents the significant precedent-setting decision that his widow, Lucretia Garfield, made to collect and preserve Garfield's papers and mementoes in order to create a record of his political career and presidency. This contrasts with the widespread neglect of presidential papers in this period.

**Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:** None known.

**Landmarks Committee Comments:**

**Landmarks Committee Recommendation:** Approval of updated documentation. Dr. Allan moved, Mr. Hoyos seconded; unanimous approval.



**Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of ):**

**Advisory Board Recommendation:**