

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home

AND/OR COMMON

General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Corner of Worlow and State Streets

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Laclede

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

6

STATE

Missouri

CODE

29

COUNTY

Linn

CODE

115

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

State of Missouri, Missouri State Park Board

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson City

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Linn County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Linneus

STATE

Missouri

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue; Missouri State Historical Survey; NR

DATE

1963; 1968; 1969

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Missouri; Mo. State Park Board; NR

CITY, TOWN

Columbia; Jefferson City; Washington

STATE

Missouri; D.C.

# 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

Built around 1857-58, this residence became John J. Pershing's home in 1866. He lived here for about 11 years, or until he was about 17, and his family remained here until after he had entered West Point. Other than military quarters that he occupied on a temporary basis, this is the only known extant structure associated with Pershing.

Prior to 1952, the property belonged to various families. In that year it was acquired by the State. Now the Missouri State Park Board has restored the house and opened it to the public as a museum with a small admission fee. In the rear, renovated out-structures include a shed, a privy, and a cellar. To the north, a small park surrounds Carl Mose's bronze statue of General Pershing.

The property is well maintained. A brick sidewalk runs along State and Worlow Streets, and the area is residential.

The House. The two-story, gable-roofed, basically T-shaped residence sits on a low stone foundation. After the Pershing occupancy, a partial basement was created to accomodate a furnace; the Pershings had relied on stoves and two fireplaces for heat. Stoutly built, the house walls are pine lath with oak studs and brick interfill that extends to the second floor. Gray-painted weatherboards cover the exterior, although originally the building may have been all white. White-painted wood quoins and porch trim decorate, along with bargeboard trim and ridge-end finials and pendants at the south and east gable ends. A roof with a north-south ridge tops the main section, and a roof with a east-west ridge surmounts the north wing. Sloping roofs cover one-story rear extensions of uncertain date.

Many of the house's six-over-six and four-over-four sash windows have exterior label molding ornamentation, but not those beneath the one-story, hip-roofed front porch. This three-bay-wide wooden porch extends across the house front to the north wing, and the wing has a first-story, front-facing bay window. A large, gray-painted brick central chimney stands near the intersection of the main and wing roofs. Another central gray-painted brick chimney serves the main block, and a third stack tops one rear extension, the kitchen.

(continued)

## 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES      1866-ca. 1880      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Unknown

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to historian Dixon Wecter, John J. Pershing is representative of a new type of military hero created by the exigencies of modern war--a type which has made "teamwork rather than individual brilliance the new order of the day."<sup>1</sup> Pershing's reputation, says military scholar Russell F. Weigley, "is less that of a battle captain than of an architect of the Army. His A. E. F. was not only the first modern American combat army but the nursery of much good to follow."<sup>2</sup> Pershing not only organized the largest army in American history, but by resisting French and British demands for integration with their troops during World War I, he provided the manpower necessary to turn the tide in 1918 in favor of the Allies and effect the November armistice which ended the war. In addition, as Chief of Staff from 1921-1924, Pershing helped lay the groundwork for improved military organization during World War II. His own prestige upgraded the position of Chief of Staff, and his War Plans Board enabled the General Staff to play a larger role in operations planning.

Pershing's character developed in large measure as he grew up in this house between 1866 and about 1877, and for that reason and because it is the only known permanent residence associated with him, this house museum represents him well. The restored, two-story, T-shaped dwelling has weatherboard siding and gingerbread trim. The house, along with a shed, a privy, and a cellar, and a small park and bronze statue of General Pershing, is well maintained by the Missouri State Park Board.

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1 Dixon Wecter, The Hero In America (New York, 1941), 407.

2 Russell F. Weigley, History of the United States Army (New York, 1967), 422.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clendenen, Clarence C., Blood on the Border: The United States Army and the Mexican Irregulars (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1969).

DeWeerd, Harvey A., President Wilson Fights His War: World War I and the American Intervention (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1968).

(continued)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

No UTM ticks on indicated U.S.G.S. map

Lat. 39° 47' 16" Long. 93° 10' 9"

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The landmark consists of the city lot(s) at the corner of Worlow and State Streets as owned by the State of Missouri and contains the outbuildings and features specified in section 7 (Description) and the accompanying sketch map.

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 Cathy A. Alexander and Ralph Christian, Assistant Editors

ORGANIZATION American Association for State and Local History

DATE October 1975

STREET & NUMBER 1400 Eighth Avenue South

TELEPHONE (615) 242-5583

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE 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

105

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET Pershing Home ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE One

The single, wooden front door has four molded panels, a two-pane rectangular transom, and four-pane side lights. Beyond the door is a wide center hall. Reasonably suitable period items furnish six of the dwelling's nine rooms plus the hall. Interior walls and ceilings are plaster, and most are covered with period-type papers. Pine and fir create baseboards and ceiling cornices. The 5-inch-wide pine floor boards remain upstairs but on the first story, 1-inch-wide boards replace the original. The graceful, walnut-railed, rounded stairs in the front hall are original. The house's two fireplaces and mantels have been reconstructed, and the stoves are not original to the dwelling.

North of the front hall is the parlor, which contains a reconstructed fireplace on the west wall and period furniture. Behind the parlor stands the suitably furnished dining room with a period stove and ceiling fixture. Beyond the dining room is the kitchen which may be a later addition. The kitchen has an exterior rear door. South of the front hall lies a first-floor bedroom with a period stove, and west of the hall, two rooms, possibly additions, make up the museum administrator's private office. Upstairs, the two front bedrooms have period furnishings, and the north one contains the second reconstructed fireplace. Behind it is a third bedroom, now the museum room. It contains items associated with the general's life. Other alterations may include the removal of a veranda from around the whole house and the addition of screen doors over entrances. A furnace, fire sprinklers, and indirect lighting have also been added.

None of the small restored outstructures behind the house is open to visitors.

The Shed. Like the house, the one-story, gable-roofed shed is constructed of pine lath, oak studs, and brick interfill. It has gray-painted weatherboard siding, white-painted wood quoins, one gray-painted brick chimney, a door in the east side, and no windows. It is known variously as the smokehouse, the summer kitchen, and the shed.

(continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Pershing Home ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE TWO

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The Privy. This one-story, gable-roofed structure stands at the edge of the property rear of a reconstructed garden. The gray-painted, weatherboard-covered building has a single door and one window.

The Cellar. With wooden bulkhead entrance, the cellar lies beside the rear (kitchen) door. It may have served as a fruit, root, or storm cellar. Between the cellar and the shed stands a pump for a living well that may date from the Pershings' day. A pump and cistern nearer to the house probably dates from a later period.

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Continuation Sheet Pershing Home Item Number 9 Page one

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Smythe, Donald, "The Early Years of John J. Pershing, 1860-1882," Missouri Historical Review, LVIII (October, 1963), 1-20.

Smythe, Donald, Guerrilla Warrior: The Early Life of John J. Pershing (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1973).

Vandiver, Frank E., John J. Pershing and the Anatomy of Leadership, The Harmon Memorial Lectures in Military History, Number Five (Colorado Springs: United States Air Force Academy, 1963).

Wecter, Dixon, The Hero In America (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1941).

Weigley, Russell F., History of the United States Army (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1967).

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CONTINUATION SHEET Pershing Home ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

Biography

Born January 13, 1860, in Laclede, Mo., John Joseph Pershing witnessed the hardships of war early in his life. In 1863 Confederate raiders attacked Laclede, a stronghold of Unionist sentiment, and at the age of 3, Pershing "was introduced to fear and to the realities of the adult world."<sup>3</sup> This incident, however, was an anomaly, and his childhood, for the most part, passed uneventfully. Neighbors later recalled him as a quiet boy who was dependable and serious.

In 1873 young John found himself faced with adult responsibilities when his father, one of Laclede's most prosperous citizens, lost most of his holdings in the Panic of 1873. The elder Pershing accepted a position as traveling salesman, and 13-year-old John took complete control of the nearby family farm and operated it for the next 6 years. Farming, however, was not his vocational choice. Harboring a desire to attend college and become a lawyer, Pershing eventually turned to teaching as a means of financing his education. Between 1879 and 1881 he taught in Prairie Mound, Mo., and in a Negro school in Laclede and completed a course in teaching at Kirksville Normal School (now Northeast Missouri State College).

In 1881 Pershing sought and obtained an appointment to the United States Military Academy, not out of any great desire for a military career but because it offered a free education and excellent preparation for law school. He entered West Point in June 1882, at the age of 22. Although not a brilliant student, Pershing demonstrated a great capacity for leadership during his 4 years at the Academy. He earned the highest possible cadet rank, and each year he served as president of his class.

Upon graduation in 1886, Pershing was assigned to the cavalry, and for the next 5 years, he served at a number of forts in the West. His first assignment was Fort Bayard in New Mexico

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3 Donald Smythe, "The Early Years of John J. Pershing, 1860-1882," Missouri Historical Review, LVIII (October, 1963), 3.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Pershing Home ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE TWO

Territory where he chased the last followers of the recently captured Geronimo. For the most part, Pershing's duties over the next few years consisted of checking on Indian scares and catching cattle thieves, but in 1890, he took part in the expedition that helped put down the Ghost Dance Rebellion in South Dakota.

In 1891 Pershing took on a new assignment as Professor of Military Science at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Here he had an excellent opportunity to demonstrate his ability as an organizer by taking a moribund department and transforming it into one of the university's strongest. He organized a crack drill team which later took the name of Pershing Rifles, the first of many to use this title. Also, during his 4 years at the university, Pershing studied law, receiving his degree in 1893. He briefly considered leaving the Army to practice law, but a close friend, Charles G. Dawes--later Vice President under Calvin Coolidge, dissuaded him from this course.

Pershing returned to **cavalry** duty in 1895 and went to Montana, where he served in the Negro 10th Cavalry and earned the nickname, "Black Jack." A short stint on the staff of Commanding General Nelson A. Miles followed, and in 1897 Pershing returned to West Point to teach tactics and enforce cadet discipline. His homecoming to the Academy proved unhappy, however. Because of his unbending strictness, he found himself extremely unpopular with the cadets.

When war broke out with Spain in 1898, Pershing, still a lieutenant at the age of 38, rejoined the 10th Cavalry as quartermaster and took part in the invasion of Cuba. Commended for his coolness under fire at San Juan Hill and his ability to keep his men supplied, he was promoted to captain and brevetted a major before the war ended.

In 1899, Pershing sought and received assignment to the Philippine Islands. There, during three tours of duty in the next 15 years, he earned a reputation as one of the Nation's ablest officers. Because of his pacification of the warlike Moros with little bloodshed, he was recommended for promotion to brigadier general. Finally, in 1906 President Theodore Roosevelt advanced

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CONTINUATION SHEET Pershing Home ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE three

him to the rank over 862 senior officers who stood ahead of the Missourian on the promotion list. In 1907, Pershing, who had recently married, returned with his family to the Philippines where he commanded the largest concentration of American troops outside the continental United States. From 1909 to 1913, he served as Governor of Moro Province, amply demonstrating his ability as an administrator.

Because of poor health, Pershing left the Philippines in 1914 and assumed command of the San Francisco Presidio. As tensions with Mexico increased and border incidents multiplied in 1915, he and part of his command were placed on border duty in El Paso, Tex. While he was away on this assignment, fire broke out in his quarters at the Presidio, and his wife and three of their four children died. Pershing had little time to grieve, however, for in March 1916, Pancho Villa conducted a raid on Columbus, N. Mex., killing several civilians. President Woodrow Wilson retaliated by sending Pershing and several thousand troops into Mexico to capture Villa. Pershing, "in charge of the most modern expedition ever put in the field by the United States," chased Villa deep into Mexico.<sup>4</sup> The Americans did not capture him but dealt his army heavy blows from which it never recovered. This incursion, says military historian Clarence C. Clendenen, revealed Pershing as "an experienced field commander who could handle large organizations scattered over a vast region and who was bold without being rash and ruthlessly determined--a combination of qualities that made him the logical choice when President Wilson had to decide upon a commander-in-chief for the American Expeditionary Force in Europe."<sup>5</sup>

When war broke out with Germany in April 1917, Pershing commanded the Army's Southern Department. He was the Wilson administration's choice to command American forces in Europe not only because of his experience in Mexico but because he had

(continued)

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4 Frank E. Vandiver, John J. Pershing and the Anatomy of Leadership, The Harmon Memorial Lectures in Military History, Number Five (Colorado Springs, 1963), 16.

5 Clarence G. Clendenen, Blood on the Border: The United States Army and the Mexican Irregulars (New York, 1969), 359.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Pershing Home ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE four

remained free from political entanglements unlike his nearest rival Leonard Wood. In May 1917, Pershing and his staff sailed to France and, after a spirited welcome, established their headquarters at Chaumont. Here, exercising the greatest authority of any American general since Ulysses S. Grant, he organized the largest army in the **history of the United States.**

Despite French and British demands for the use of American troops, Pershing took time to make sure that they were properly trained before they were committed to battle. He especially angered the Allies by refusing to integrate American troops into their armies. According to historian Harvey A. DeWeerd, he "foresaw that the American Army would play an important role in the final defeat of Germany. For this reason he wanted it to be strong, independent, and operating in its own theater."<sup>6</sup> Events in 1918 proved Pershing correct because fresh American troops gave the Allies the impetus to crack the German lines. This resulted in the armistice which ended the war.

In 1919 Congress made Pershing General of the Armies, a title held previously only by George Washington. Although Pershing harbored ambitions for the 1920 Republican Presidential nomination, the desire for normalcy caused the party to nominate Warren G. Harding instead. In 1921 President Harding appointed Pershing Chief of Staff, and during the next 3 years he "laid the groundwork for the reorganization and modernization of the Army which would prepare it for World War II."<sup>7</sup> His own prestige served to upgrade the position of Chief of Staff, and the War Plans Board that he organized enabled the General Staff to play a larger and more important role in World War II.

Pershing retired from the Army in 1924, and for the next few years he served on a number of diplomatic missions. Much of his time was devoted to the American Battle Monuments Commission, and

(continued)

6 Harvey DeWeerd, *President Wilson Fights His War: World War I and the American Intervention* (New York, 1968), 211.

7 Vandiver, *John J. Pershing and the Anatomy of Leadership*, 20.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Pershing Home ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE five

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he made frequent trips to the battlefields in France. In 1931 he published his memoirs, My Experience in the World War. During World War I, Pershing had recognized George C. Marshall's potential and in the late 1930's worked tirelessly to get him promoted, first to brigadier general and later to Chief of Staff. By 1941 Pershing's health had begin to decline, and he was admitted to Walter Reed Hospital where he lived in a special suite until his death in 1948 at the age of 88. He died one of the greatest military heroes in American history.

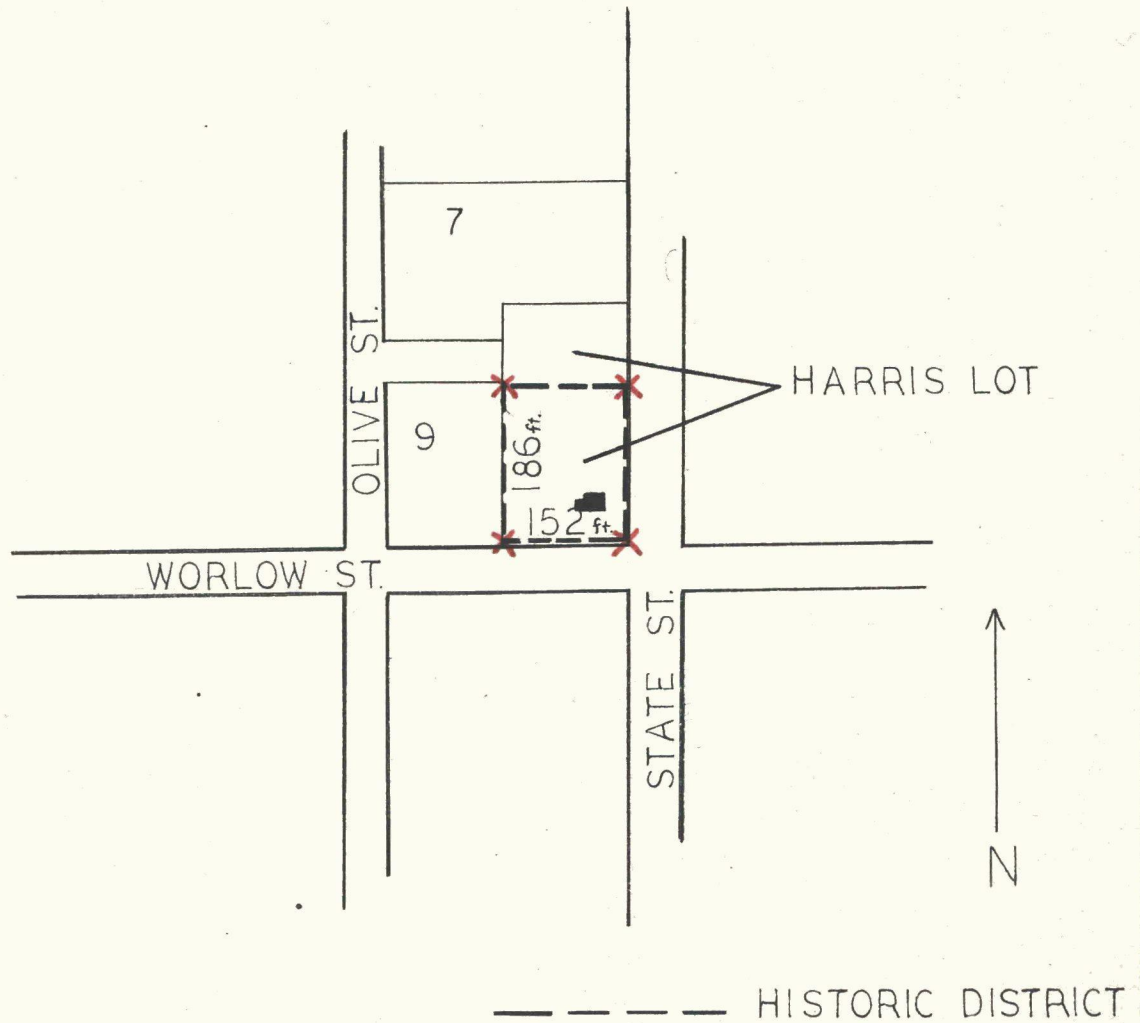
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Linn	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

JOHN J. PERSHING BOYHOOD HOME  
LACLEDE, MO.



MSPB PROPERTY MAP  
F. PHELPS, 9-14-64

MSHS, 4-7-69  
Steven Teczar



General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home

Laclede, Missouri

Photo: AASLH, 1975

General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home  
Laclede, Missouri Linn County

Form No. 10-301a  
(Rev. 10-74)

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**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home

AND/OR COMMON

General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Laclede

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Linn

STATE

Missouri

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Cathy A. Alexander, Assistant  
Editor, AASLH

DATE OF PHOTO

September 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Historic Sites Survey, NPS, Washington, D.C.

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

East (front) facade

PHOTO NO.

1

INT: 2983-75



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General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home

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Laclede

\_\_\_VICINITY OF

COUNTY  
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**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Cathy A. Alexander, Assistant  
Editor, AASLH

DATE OF PHOTO September 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Historic Sites Survey, NPS, Washington, D.C.

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

South side

PHOTO NO.

2



780 P. 418  
**PERSHING  
FAMILY HOME**  
GEN. JOHN J. PERSHING  
BORN SEPT. 13, 1860  
DIED JULY 13, 1948  
RESTORED IN 1957 BY  
MO. STATE PARK BOARD

MO.

26 PERS

58-LACL

1-2

Pershing (General John G.) Boyhood Home  
Laclede, Linn Cty, MO

Courtesy of HABS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC      General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home

AND/OR COMMON

General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN  
Laclede

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY  
Linn

STATE  
Missouri

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

Missouri; Brookfield Quad.

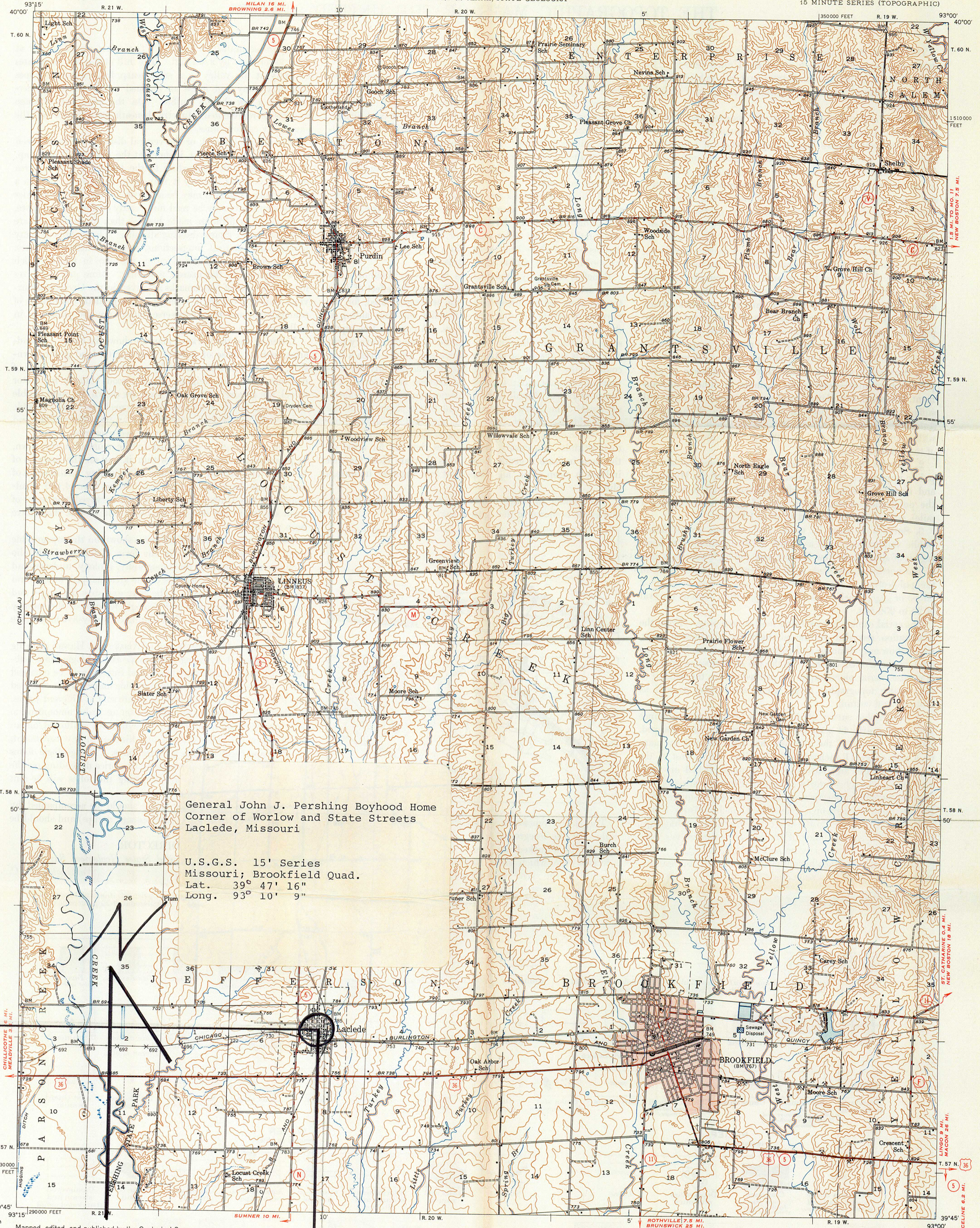
SCALE 1:62500

DATE 1948

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



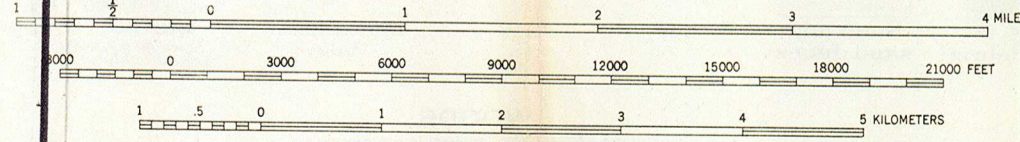
General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home  
Corner of Worlow and State Streets  
Laclede, Missouri

U.S.G.S. 15' Series  
Missouri; Brookfield Quad.  
Lat. 39° 47' 16"  
Long. 93° 10' 9"

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken 1939  
Topography by plane-table methods, 1945-1946  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system, central zone.  
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

SCALE 1:62500



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
HARD-SURFACE ALL WEATHER ROADS DRY WEATHER ROADS  
Heavy-duty 4 LANE LANE Improved dirt...  
Medium-duty 2 LANE LANE Unimproved dirt...  
Loose-surface, graded, or narrow hard-surface   
 U. S. Route State Route

BROOKFIELD, MO.  
N 3945-W 9300/15  
PRINTED 1948

August 27, 1975

Mr. James L. Wilson, Director  
Missouri State Park Board  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Earlier this year, Mr. George R. Adams, Managing Editor, corresponded with you about the possibility of our preparing reports for the National Park Service on Missouri sites, related to the theme Political and Military Affairs, 1900-1929.

This September, as part of a trip through the Midwest, I hope to see Honey Shuck (the Champ Clark House) in Bowling Green, and the General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home in Laclede. We are in contact with Champ Clark Honey Shuck Restoration, Inc., and I expect to visit that site on September 29, about 10:00 A.M. If you would notify the General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home of our interest, or name someone that we can contact there, we would be most grateful to you. I would like to see the Pershing Home and Park on September 30, about 9:00 A.M., if that is convenient. Please let me know, as soon as possible, if it can be arranged.

I would be pleased to have you or your representative join me at one or both of the Missouri sites. Do not feel that you must make time for these visitations, however, if to do so would cause you any inconvenience.

Thank you so much for your assistance. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Cathy Alexander  
Assistant Editor  
Historic Landmarks Project

CA:mdm

GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING BOYHOOD HOME

NHL

October 10, 1975

Mr. G. Baskett, Administrator  
General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home  
Laclede, Missouri 64651

Dear Mr. Baskett:

Thank you again for showing me the John J. Pershing Boyhood Home. I thought the house museum was very interesting, and in spite of the rainy weather, I enjoyed my visit thoroughly.

We will now be able to prepare a thorough and accurate report on the Pershing Boyhood Home, and we are grateful to you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Cathy Alexander  
Assistant Editor  
Historic Landmarks Project



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

MAY 11 1976

Memorandum

To: Director, National Park Service

From: Secretary of the Interior (sgd) Tom Kleppe

Subject: Landmark Recommendations of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments, 74th meeting, April 5-7, 1976, Washington, D. C.

On the recommendations of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments, and pursuant to the authority contained in the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U. S. C. 461 et seq.), I do hereby take the following actions:

1. Designated as National Historic Landmarks

Arizona

Fort Huachuca

California

Hearst San Simeon Estate, "La Cuesta Encantada," San Simeon

Connecticut

Charles E. Norton House, Plainville

District of Columbia

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Carter G. Woodson House

Charolette Forten Grinke House

Washington Navy Yard

U. S. Marine Corps Barracks and Commandant's House

Andrew Mellon Building

Florida

Tampa Bay Hotel, Tampa

Georgia

Fox Theatre, Atlanta  
Owens-Thomas House, Savannah  
Telfair Academy, Savannah  
Green-Meldrim House, Savannah  
Thomas E. Watson House, 310 Lumpkin Street, Thomsen  
Henry W. Grady House, Athens

Illinois

Arthur H. Compton House, Chicago  
Robert A. Millikan House, Chicago  
Frank R. Lillie House, Chicago  
Jean Baptiste Point Du Sable Homesite, Chicago

Indiana

General Lew Wallace Study, Crawfordsville

Kansas

William Allen White House, Emporia  
Carry A. Nation House, Medicine Lodge

Massachusetts

William E. B. DuBois Boyhood Homesite, Great Barrington  
William Monroe Trotter House, Dorchester  
William C. Nell Residence, Boston  
Maria Baldwin House, Cambridge

Michigan

Park-Davis Laboratory, Detroit  
Herbert H. Dow House, Midland

Mississippi

Oakland Memorial Chapel, Alcorn University, Alcorn  
I. T. Montgomery House, Mound Bayou

Missouri

General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home, Laclede

Montana

Rankin Ranch, Avalanche Gulch

New Jersey

Lucy, the Margate Elephant, Margate  
Cape May Historic District, Cape May  
Old Queens, New Brunswick  
Great Falls of the Passaic/S.U.M. Historic District

New York

James Weldon Johnson Residence, New York City  
New York Amsterdam News Building, New York City  
Will Marion Cook House, New York City  
Louis Armstrong House, Corona  
Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington Residence, New York City  
Villa Lewaro, Irvington  
Ralph Bunche House, Kew Gardens  
John Roosevelt "Jackie" Robinson Residence, Brooklyn  
Samuel J. Tilden House, New York City  
Old New York County Courthouse, New York City  
John D. Rockefeller, Sr. Estate, Mount Pleasant

Ohio

Captain Edward V. Rickenbacker House, Columbus  
John B. Tytus House, Middletown

Pennsylvania

Fairmount Water Works, Philadelphia  
Allegheny County Court House and Jail, Pittsburgh  
Fallingwater, Mill Run  
Henry O. Tanner Homesite, Philadelphia  
Charles B. Dudley House, Altoona  
Edward G. Acheson House, Monongahela  
Smithfield Street Bridge, Pittsburgh

Rhode Island

Ocean Drive Historic District, Newport  
Bellevue Avenue Historic District, Newport  
Arcade, Providence  
Lippitt House, Providence

South Carolina

Denmark Vesey House, Charleston  
South Carolina State House, Columbia

Tennessee

Alvin Cullom York Farm, Fentress County

Texas

Galveston-East End Historic District  
Galveston-The Strand Historic District  
Samuel T. Rayburn House, Fannin County

Virginia

Charles Richard Drew House, Arlington  
Benjamin Banneker: SW-9 Intermediate Boundary Stone, Arlington

2. Designated as Natural Landmarks

California

Sharktooth Hill, Kern County

Georgia

Big Hammock Natural Area, Tattnall County  
Ebenezer Creek Swamp, Effingham County

Mississippi

Bienville Pines Scenic Area, Scott County  
Green Ash-Overcup Oak-Sweetgum Research Natural Areas,  
Sharkey County  
Harrall Prairie Hill, Scott County

Montana

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, Beaverhead County

New York

Moss Island, Herkimer County

South Dakota

Cathedral Spires and Limber Pine Natural Area, Custer County

Texas

Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Randall and Armstrong Counties

Vermont

Battell Biological Preserve, Addison County  
Canfield Fisher Memorial Pines, Bennington County

You are directed to take such further steps as may be necessary to effectuate the above actions.

Special Study:

Pershing House, Fort Bliss, Texas

Quarters No. 1, traditionally the post commander's residence at Fort Bliss, was occupied by Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing from the spring of 1914 until March 1916, when President Wilson ordered him to lead the punitive expedition into Mexico. When the expedition was recalled early in 1917, Pershing was promoted to command of the Southern Military Department in San Antonio, and thence, on May 26, to command of the American Expeditionary Force. The 2½-story brick house, owned by the Federal Government and administered by the United States Army, is well-maintained.

The Regional Director, Southwest Region, recommends deferral of consideration of this building until the World War I theme study is undertaken.

8-25-65

Special Site Report on  
THE PERSHING HOUSE, TEXAS

Location: El Paso County, in the Old Post at Fort Bliss.

Ownership and Administration: United States Army.

Significance: Soon after his return to the United States from the Philippines, where he had subdued and brilliantly governed the difficult Moro Province, Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing, in the spring of 1914, assumed command of Fort Bliss and the troubled El Paso Military District along the Mexican border. During the ensuing 2 years--climaxed by President Wilson's pro-Carranza intervention in Mexican political and military affairs and Pancho Villa's retaliatory raid on Columbus, New Mexico--Pershing used diplomacy and displays of force to head off the violence that constantly threatened the border. On several occasions Villa and other Mexican revolutionists crossed the border as Pershing's guests. They were entertained, and implicitly warned, by sitting with Pershing during military reviews at Fort Bliss.

As Villa's antagonism toward the United States became more pronounced, violent incidents increased. The murder and mutilation of 19 young American engineers at Santa Isabel, Chihuahua, in January 1916 was instantly charged against Villa--though he blamed a renegade lieutenant. Cross-border hatreds, fused by this deed, exploded in the pre-dawn of March 9, 1916, when some hundreds of Villistas attacked Columbus, killing 15 Americans and partially burning the isolated border town. Troops of the 13th Cavalry, stationed at nearby Camp

Furlong, rallied and drove off the raiders after inflicting heavy casualties.

The next day, March 10, President Wilson ordered General Pershing to take command of a Punitive Expedition whose objective was to pursue the Villistas into Mexico and destroy them. Pershing stripped Fort Bliss of combat troops and set up headquarters for the expedition at Columbus. Using light cavalry columns, motorized transport, and aerial reconnaissance, Pershing--contrary to the usual accounts--executed his orders with dispatch and brilliance. Within 2 months he had run the Villista bands to the ground, inflicted heavy casualties upon them in a series of hard-fought engagements, and relegated future border incidents to the level of isolated acts of brigandage. Villa himself, wounded in a brush with Carranza forces, holed up and escaped capture.

With American involvement in Europe increasingly certain, employment of most of the Regular Army and more than 100,000 National Guardsmen on the Mexican border could no longer be sustained. Further, the Carranza government and army had turned upon Pershing--even though destruction of the Villistas was to their interest too. On February 5, 1917, the last American soldier left Mexico.

Despite unfavorable newspaper accounts--caused largely by wavering diplomacy that sabotaged military operations and the nearly crippling hostility of the Mexican land and people--General Pershing emerged from the Punitive Expedition as the American military man most likely to succeed. Within the strict bounds of his orders, the campaign had been a military success, no matter the frustrating political outcome.

His cavalry, aided by the first American employment of combat aviation, had carried out its last operation on foreign soil in a manner strikingly reminiscent of the Indian Wars 30 years before. Even aging Apache scouts, once commanded by Generals Crook and Miles, had been used. More significant, the mobilization and employment of large bodies of troops (160,000 Regulars and Guardsmen in August 1916), with the attendant problems of supply, transport, and critically important development of skilled command staffs, gave the American military establishment a leg up for the larger war that lay ahead.

Throughout the campaign Fort Bliss had served as Pershing's logistical support base. His operational headquarters, however, was at Columbus. Shortly after the expedition ended, Pershing moved up to command of the Southern Military Department, headquartered at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. On May 26, 1917, the President designated him commander of the A.E.F. His achievements in Europe resulted in his lionization by the American people. As General of the Armies (September 3, 1919) he was the focal point of an outpouring of adulation and respect hardly matched in our history. Similar expressions after World War II were diffused among a dozen service and theater commanders, but Pershing emerged as the supreme American military hero of World War I.

It was from the Pershing House at Fort Bliss that General Pershing was called to command the Punitive Expedition; this command groomed him for Europe. In the eyes of Army authorities at Fort Bliss and in Washington, this sequence suggests that the Pershing House should

be considered for recognition as a Registered National Historic Landmark.

Present Status: The Pershing House, known also as Quarters No. 1, was built in 1910 in the old officers' row at Fort Bliss. Traditionally it has been the home of the commanding officer of the post, though it is now occupied by the commandant of the Army Air Defense School. Of brick construction, the 2-1/2-story residence is in the heart of the old post, surrounded by officers' quarters, barracks, and the former post headquarters--all built in 1893. As shown by the accompanying photographs, both historical and modern, the house has been well maintained and has retained integrity in terms of historical appearance. Modern frame additions in the rear have been tastefully made and are not considered impairments. Modernization of the interior to accommodate modern appliances, furnishings, etc., has not substantially altered interior design and trim.

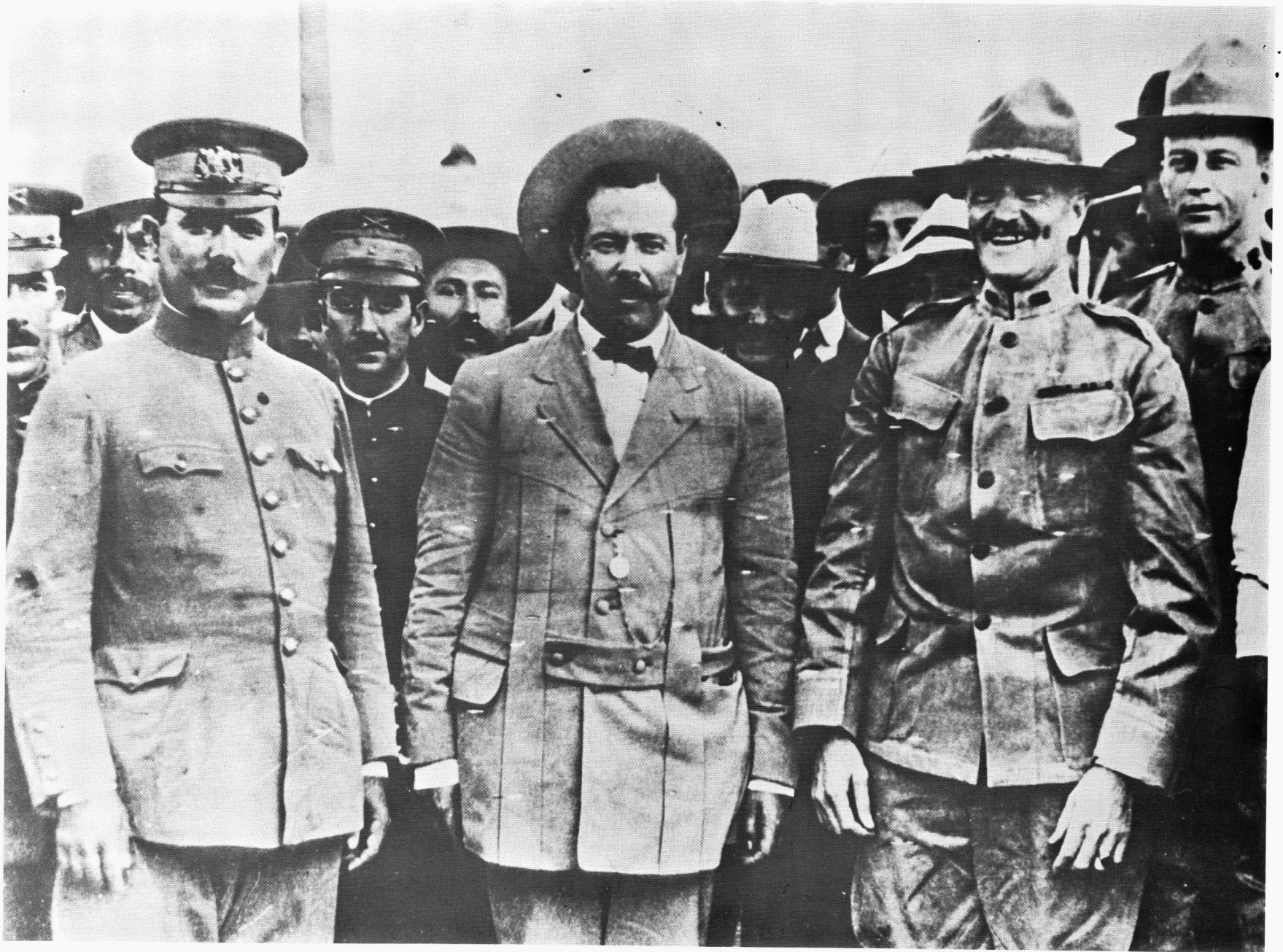
References: S.F. Bemis, The Latin American Policy of the United States (New York, 1943); Haldeen Brady, "Pancho Villa at Columbus," Southwestern Studies, III (Spring 1965); C. C. Clendenen, "The Punitive Expedition of 1916: A Re-Evaluation," Arizona and the West, III (Winter, 1961); W.A. Gano, The History of the United States Army (New York, 1942); R.K. McMaster, Musket, Saber, and Missile: A History of Fort Bliss (El Paso, 1962); Richard O'Conner, Black Jack Pershing (New York, 1961); Frederick Palmer, John J. Pershing, (Harrisburg, 1948); John J. Pershing, My Experiences in the World War (New York, 1931); J. Fred Rippy, The United States and Mexico (New York, 1931); Col. Frank Tompkins, Chasing Villa (Harrisburg, 1934); H.A. Toulmin, With Pershing in Mexico (Harrisburg, 1935).



FORT BLISS: The Pershing House.  
NPS Photo, 4/65.



FORT BLISS: Brig. Gen. Hugh L. Scott and William Cody at porch of the Pershing House, ca. 1914. Courtesy, Fort Bliss PIO.

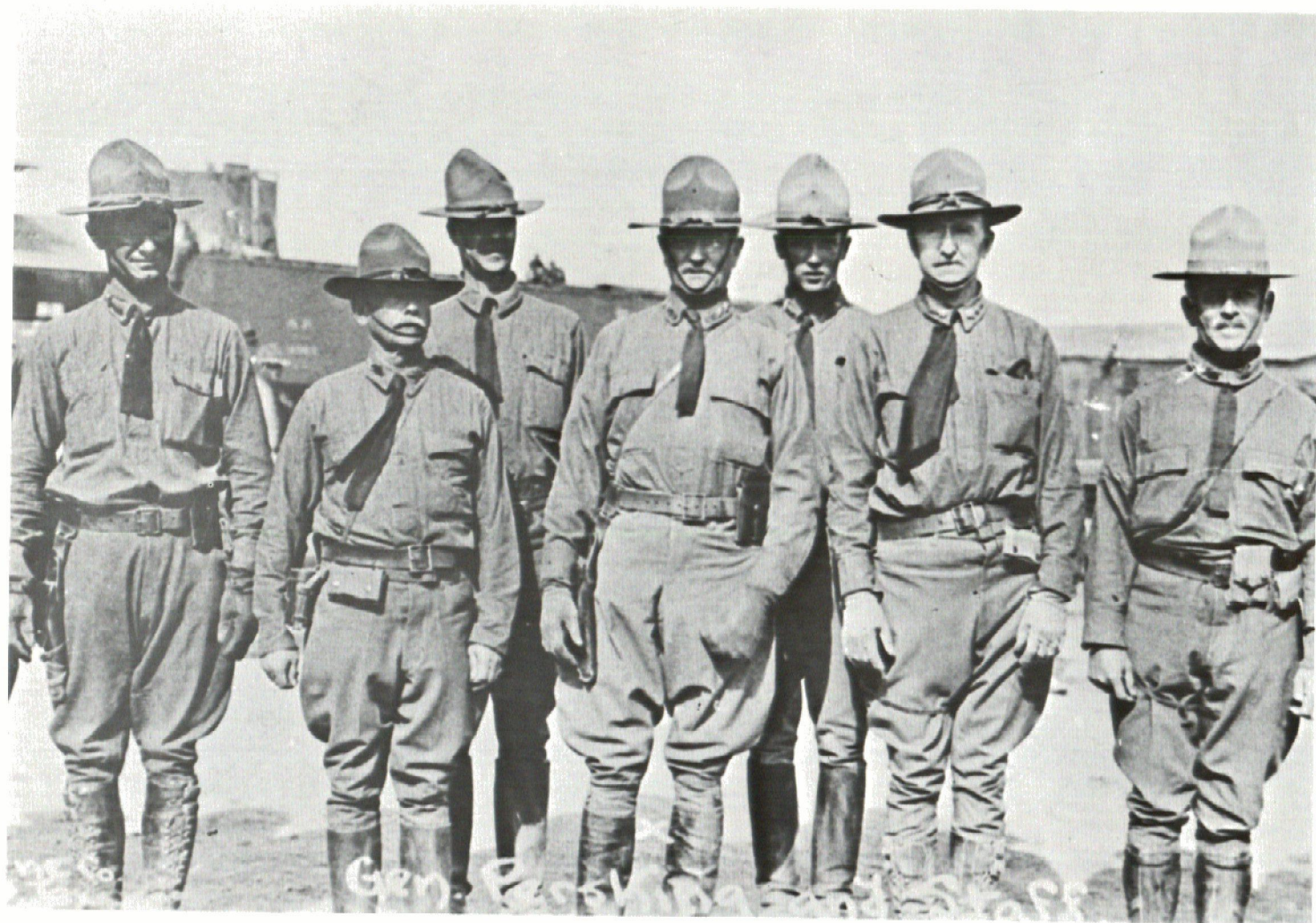


Pancho Villa and General Pershing in El Paso before border troubles erupted. Courtesy, Fort Bliss PIO.



Pancho Villa and Troops on the Move in Mexico.

Courtesy, Fort Bliss PIO.



FORT BLISS: General Pershing and Staff at beginning of  
Villa Campaign.  
Courtesy, Fort Bliss PIO.