



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

James A. Garfield National
Historic Site

8095 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, Ohio 44060

440-255-8722
www.nps.gov/jaga

James A. Garfield National Historic Site News Release

For Immediate Release—Wednesday, November 7, 2018


Todd Arrington, PIO (440-255-8722, ext. 1238)/todd_arrington@nps.gov

President James Garfield Assassination Waysides to be Unveiled on the National Mall

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National Park Service will unveil two wayside exhibits on the National Mall interpreting the life of President James A. Garfield and his 1881 assassination on Monday, November 19, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. The waysides, located on the Mall within the historic footprint of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad station, will interpret the July 2, 1881 shooting of President Garfield inside the station and Garfield's lasting contributions as a public servant. The assassination site is the only one of the four presidential assassination sites not currently identified and interpreted.

The effort to interpret the site of Garfield's assassination has been a joint undertaking between National Mall and Memorial Parks and James A. Garfield National Historic Site. Over the past year, National Park Service employees at each park have worked with noted historians, authors, and filmmakers to develop the new interpretive panels. The waysides will be installed on the National Mall just south of the National Gallery of Art's West Building's south entrance. The National Gallery of Art is located on the site of the former Baltimore and Potomac train station.

James Abram Garfield was born in Orange Township (now Moreland Hills), Ohio on November 19, 1831, so this wayside unveiling will take place on his 187th birthday. He was a teacher and principal of the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute (now Hiram College) and an Ohio state senator before the Civil War. When that war began, he joined the Union Army, eventually rising to the rank of major general before leaving the military in late 1863 to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. He served nine terms in the House before being elected the twentieth President of the United States in 1880. Inaugurated March 4, 1881, Garfield had been president just four



months before being shot by assassin Charles Guiteau on July 2, 1881. Garfield lingered for more than two months after the shooting, dying of infection at age 49 on September 19, 1881.

President Garfield's life of public service is commemorated at monuments and memorials throughout the nation's capital and across the country. His Mentor, Ohio home, from which he ran the nation's first-ever "front porch" presidential campaign and to which his widow, Lucretia, added the nation's first presidential memorial library, is now preserved as James A. Garfield National Historic Site.

"We're thrilled these wayside panels will be going up to interpret President Garfield's assassination," said Todd Arrington, Site Manager of James A. Garfield National Historic Site. "President Garfield's reputation among the public and scholars has been rising over the past several years, thanks in large part to many of the people that helped us plan these waysides. Having millions of National Mall visitors walk by them each year will surely open more eyes to the great potential that was lost when Garfield died."

James A. Garfield National Historic Site is located at 8095 Mentor Avenue (U.S. 20) in Mentor, Ohio, approximately 25 miles east of Cleveland. The site offers guided tours of the Garfield home, museum exhibits, a biographical film, walking paths, an outdoor cell phone tour, and dozens of annual special events. The National Park Service completely restored the house in the late 1990s, making it one of the most impressive presidential homes preserved for the public. For information call (440) 255-8722, write 8095 Mentor Avenue, Mentor, OH 44060, or visit www.nps.gov/jaga. Find the site as @GarfieldNPS on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Read the site's blog at www.garfieldnps.wordpress.com.

-NPS-