

Joshua G. and Nancy (Bly) Leland House

Name of Property

Washtenaw, Michigan

County and State

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Joshua G. and Nancy (Bly) Leland House

Other names/site number:

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources of Northfield Township, Washtenaw County,
Michigan, 1824 – 1980

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 3850 East North Territorial Road

City or town: Ann Arbor State: MI County: Washtenaw

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A ___ B X C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title:

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: ☒
Public – Local ☐
Public – State ☐
Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) ☒
District ☐
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC – single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC – single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY – Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: wood (weatherboard), stone, asphalt

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Joshua G. and Nancy (Bly) Leland House is located at 3850 East North Territorial Road in rural Northfield Township, about six miles northeast of Ann Arbor. The house is comprised of a one-and-one-half story, front-gabled main block completed in 1846; a slightly lower, one-and-one-half-story gabled ell, likely completed at the same time and flanked by porches. The house is of frame construction, sits on a stone foundation, and retains its original fenestration, including double-hung wood windows. The interior is arranged around a center hall with public spaces oriented toward the front of the house and private family spaces toward the rear and on the upper floor. The interior retains original window and door surrounds, paneled wood doors, a staircase with original wood balustrade and newel posts, and original wood floors and baseboards throughout. The house sits on a ten-acre parcel with a combination of grassy lawn, mature trees, wooded areas, and open fields. The site also contains several non-contributing barns and prefabricated sheds that date to the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, constructed for general storage and horse husbandry.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Joshua G. and Nancy (Bly) Leland House is located in northern Washtenaw County, in southeastern Michigan, about six miles northeast of Ann Arbor. The largest city in the county and the county seat, Ann Arbor served as the primary market for farms in the region in the

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nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The topography and setting are typical of the rural Midwest with rolling hills, small streams, wooded areas, and meadows. Washtenaw County has historically been primarily agricultural, and the Leland House setting retains this rural character.

The Leland House is located in Northfield Township, which developed in the early and mid-1800s with newcomers purchasing large tracts of land, usually in increments of 60 or 80 acres, and developing compact farmsteads with domestic and agricultural outbuildings arranged around a modest farmhouse.¹ As Ann Arbor has grown throughout the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, the surrounding rural areas have been heavily developed, especially those east and south of the city. Northfield Township, north of Ann Arbor, however, remains remarkably rural. Development in this part of the county has been limited to the subdivision of former farm fields into large single-family residential lots. Most lots retain impressive mature deciduous and evergreen trees, as well as a combination of wooded areas, grassy lawns, and natural open areas. As a result, this area, including East North Territorial Road, retains much of its nineteenth-century rural character.

The house is sited on a small rise and oriented to face East North Territorial Road, which runs northwest-to-southeast on the northeast side of the house. Most of the property is wooded with the exception of the northwest corner where the buildings are located. Open areas are primarily grassy lawn, natural open spaces, or horse pasture. A dirt driveway extends from the road along the northwest side of the house, continuing southeast then northeast around the house to the road, forming a U-shape. Near the southeast corner of the house, a secondary driveway extends south toward the outbuildings, forming a loop at its southern termination. Outbuildings extend south of the house and include a c.1988 shed, a horse barn moved to the property c.2000 and expanded soon after, a c.1995 pole barn used for general storage, and five prefabricated sheds dating to the twenty-first century. In addition, a concrete silo remains extant southeast of the house, but the associated livestock barn was demolished c.2000. The nominated property encompasses the current ten-acre parcel, including one contributing building, the Leland House, as well as three buildings and one structure that do not contribute to the significance of the property.

Inventory

The following inventory includes all resources located within the nominated boundary. Construction dates and historical information were obtained from Leland family records, historic plat maps, aerial photographs, and tax records. Each resource is given a number designation that corresponds to the attached map. Prefabricated sheds are considered temporary and are therefore

¹ "Map of Washtenaw County, Michigan," (Philadelphia, PA: Bechler, Wenig & Co., 1856), http://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/clark1ic/x-002745875/39015091184773_02, UM Clark Library Maps Collection, Stephen S. Clark Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (hereafter Clark Library); "Map of the Counties of Washtenaw and Lenawee, Michigan," (Philadelphia, PA: Bechler, Wenig & Co., 1864), <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/clark1ic/x-002745877/39015091197502>, Clark Library; "M.M. Dickson & Co.'s township and sectional pocket map of Washtenaw County, Michigan," (Ann Arbor, MI: M.M. Dickson & Co., 1896), <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/clark1ic/x-004978843/39015091184815>, Clark Library; "Chadwick's 1911 map and directory of Washtenaw County, Michigan," (Ann Arbor, MI: C.W. Chadwick, 1911), https://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/clark1ic/x-000074544/39015095414580_0001, Clark Library.

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not included in the inventory or resource counts. The house is skewed about 10 degrees northeast of true north. The following inventory uses cardinal directions as a means to simplify the description of the house, while true directions are used to describe the site.

1. Joshua G. and Nancy (Bly) Leland House – 1846, c.1988

1 Contributing Building

Completed in 1846, the Greek Revival-style house is made up of two distinct sections: a front-gabled main block and a gabled rear ell with later side porches. The main block of the one-and-one-half-story house retains its front-gable form with a flat-roof porch and Classical detailing. A lower one-and-one-half-story ell flanked by later side porches is located on the south elevation of the building and largely obscured from East North Territorial Road. The house retains its original exterior fenestration, materials, and ornamentation, including weatherboard siding, six-over-six wood windows, Doric wood cornerboards, wide bands of trim at the cornices, returned cornices on the gable ends, and a stone foundation. The interior of the house was updated in the late 1980s.

Exterior

The north (front) elevation of the house is five bays wide at the first story and three bays wide at the upper story. The center bay at the first story contains a single-panel wood door with an original wood storm door flanked by twelve-light-over-one-panel wood sidelights and set in a Classical surround with square pilasters. This door is flanked by two-over-two double-hung sidelights and set in a Classical surround with pilasters supporting an entablature. The first-story entrance is sheltered by a single-bay, one-story, flat-roof entry porch supported by square Doric columns with a wide band of trim at the cornice and a beaded-board ceiling. At the upper story there is a twelve-light wood door leading to the porch roof, though exterior access is prevented by an eight-light wood storm window with a paneled apron. The remaining bays on this elevation contain six-over-six wood windows. The west elevation is three bays wide containing a secondary entrance flanked by windows. The south elevation is largely obscured by the rear ell, though a one-light wood door and a six-light wood window are visible at the upper level west of the ell and a replacement window is located east of the ell at the upper level. The east elevation is two bays wide containing six-over-six wood windows.

The one-and-a-half-story rear ell extends south of the main block, under a slightly lower roofline, and features similar but more modest detailing, including wide bands of trim and returned cornices, but narrow, plain wood cornerboards. The north half of the west elevation features a flat-roof enclosed porch, reconstructed c.1988, with two pairs of one-over-one windows on its west elevation and one pair of windows and a nine-light door on its south elevation. A door at the upper level of the main block leads to the porch roof. The south end of the west elevation contains a nine-light door at the first story and a pair of batten garage doors, likely installed in the early or mid-twentieth century, and the upper half story contains a narrow three-light wood window. The south elevation is three bays wide at the first story with the west two bays containing one-over-one windows and in the east bay, a two-panel wood door. The first story is obscured by The upper half-story on this side contains two six-over-six wood windows. A hip-roof, enclosed porch, reconstructed c.1988, spans the east

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elevation of the rear ell. The porch contains a nine-light door on its south elevation, with four six-over-one wood windows and a five-light wood door flanked by five-light wood sidelights on its east elevation. A shed-roof dormer on this elevation of the rear ell contains two single-light windows.

Interior

The house largely retains the original 1846 floor plan, with a living room, dining room, and kitchen at the first floor; family room, bathroom, and storage rooms in the rear ell; and four bedrooms and two bathrooms on the upper floor. The interior of the house is oriented around a center hall with public spaces toward the front and private spaces arranged toward the rear and on the upper level. The interior retains historic finishes including wood floors and baseboards; two-panel wood doors and fifteen-light wood French doors; and molded door and window surrounds with rosette cornerblocks. Plaster walls and ceilings were replaced with blueboard and plaster between 1986 and 1990.

Arranged around a narrow center hall, the first floor features a full depth living room on the east side of the house and a dining room and kitchen on the west side. The center hall is dominated by the original staircase, which rises southward along the west wall and features wood treads and risers, a round balustrade and curved newel post, decorative stringers, and a paneled wall below the stairs. A two-panel wood door at the south end of the hall leads to the rear ell. The living room is accessed by a pair of fifteen-light wood French doors at the north end of the east wall. Within the living room, a brick chimney and fireplace were originally located at the center of the east wall, however these features were removed between 1986 and 1990. A second set of fifteen-light wood French doors in the south wall of the room lead to the rear ell, while a single fifteen-light wood French door at the southwest corner of the room leads to an enclosed porch.

On the west side of the hall, a fifteen-light wood French door leads to the dining room at the northwest corner of the house. This room has been carpeted but retains original windows with paneled wood aprons, all within molded surrounds that extend from floor to ceiling. A two-panel wood door on the south wall of the room leads to a small passage that features an exterior door on its west wall, and a door leading to a basement stair (inaccessible) on its east wall. A door on the south wall leads to the kitchen, which was remodeled c.1988 and features linoleum flooring, laminate countertops, and wood cabinetry. A doorway on the south wall of the kitchen leads to the rear ell.

The family room extends the full width of the rear ell, accessed from the living room, center hall, and kitchen of the main block of the house. It has carpeted floors and paired fifteen-light French doors on the east and west walls, leading to enclosed porches that flank the room. The doors, along with molded door and window surrounds made by the current owners, were installed c.1988 and are similar in detailing to the original woodwork in the main block. The west porch retains wide wood flooring and a window opening on its north wall that opens into the adjacent kitchen. The east porch features wood flooring, a beaded-board ceiling, exposed exterior weatherboard, and a fifteen-light wood French door to the living room. A

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bathroom at the southeast end of the family room is accessed by a two-panel wood door. The bathroom was renovated between 1986 and 1990 and retains finishes from that time. At the west end of the south wall, a two-panel wood door leads to a passage that features an exterior door in the west wall, a door in the east wall leading to an enclosed staircase to the upper level (inaccessible), and a doorway leading south to the laundry room, which features late nineteenth century finishes. A door in the south wall of the laundry room leads to the garage/storage room (inaccessible).

The stairway rises to a transverse hall at the southeast corner for the upper floor. A bathroom and closet have been constructed at the east end of the hall. Three bedrooms are accessed from the north and west sides of the hall, with a bathroom at the northwest corner accessed only via the adjoining bedroom. This level retains wood floors, two-panel wood doors, simple molded door and window surrounds, and an original balustrade at the staircase. Closets were added in a corner of each bedroom between 1986 and 1990. A door on the west wall of the hall leads to a small bedroom at the southwest corner of the main block. A one-light-over-three-panel wood door, in which the upper corners of the light have been rounded, leads south to the exterior porch roof. A door on the south wall of the hall leads to the upper level of the rear ell. On the east wall, a bathroom at the southeast corner features late twentieth century finishes. Doors in the north wall lead to bedrooms at the northeast and north. The north bedroom features a twelve-light French door with two-over-two double-hung sidelights that leads to the exterior porch roof on the front of the house. West of this bedroom, in the northwest corner of the house, is a bathroom with late twentieth century finishes.

The upper level of the rear ell contains an unfinished attic space, believed to have served as a room for boarding laborers, that extends most of the depth of the ell. At the south end of the room, a simple staircase with a wood balustrade leads west to the first-floor passage between the family room and laundry room. Two closets, likely added later, flank a door in the south wall that leads to a bedroom above the garage/storage room. This room was not accessible.

2. Shed – 1986

1 Non-Contributing Building

A frame, gambrel-roof shed with vertical wood sheathing and plywood walls, an asphalt roof, and batten swinging doors on the northeast elevation is located southwest of the house. This building does not contribute to the architectural significance of the property.

3. Barn – c.1995

1 Non-Contributing Building

A large, front-gable pole barn with metal sheathing and an asphalt roof is located southeast of the house. The north elevation contains two sets of sliding windows and a slab door. An overhead garage door is located on the west elevation. The south elevation, facing the horse barn and pasture, contains two large sliding doors. The east elevation is blind. This building does not contribute to the architectural significance of the property.

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4. Horse Barn – c.1920, c.2000

1 Non-Contributing Building

A frame, front-gable horse barn with vertical wood sheathing, an asphalt roof, and shed-roof wings on each side is located south of the house. The east elevation faces the dirt driveway and contains sliding batten doors at the main level and batten loft doors in the gable. The north elevation faces a small livestock yard and contains two sets of sliding batten doors with barred windows. The west elevation faces a large horse pasture and contains sliding batten doors. The south elevation was not accessible. Barn doors lead to pastures enclosed with wood slat fences and metal livestock grates. The barn was constructed around 1920 in nearby Stockbridge, about twenty-five miles west of the Leland House, and was relocated to the Leland property around 2000. It was enlarged to its present appearance at that time. This building does not contribute to the architectural significance of the property.

Integrity Statement

The Leland House retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The 1846 house remains in its original location and retains most of the form, massing, plan, and fenestration present at the time of construction. The interior retains most of the original floor plan; wood floors and baseboards; wood door and window surrounds and most doors; and staircase configurations and detailing. Additions to the house include the late twentieth century construction of porches on the rear ell, which are small in scale and located toward the rear of the house; therefore, these additions do not adversely affect the overall integrity of the property. Though the agricultural outbuildings have been demolished, the house remains immediately surrounded by grassy lawns, mature trees, wooded areas, and livestock pasture, while the broader landscape remains rural farmland, similar to the nineteenth century setting.

Statement of Archaeological Potential

The Leland House is closely related to the surrounding environment and landscape. The property historically was a working farm with a full complement of domestic and agricultural outbuildings. Several outbuildings are known to have been demolished, including a large, frame livestock barn and a smaller frame barn, and other outbuildings likely to have existed on the property include smokehouse, corn cribs, chicken houses, equipment sheds, and other barns or sheds. No archaeological assessment has been conducted at the property, however, additional archival research or archaeological investigation may reveal additional resources. Archaeological deposits from remnant landscape features such as paths, fence lines, orchards, and gardens; infrastructural remains such as filled-in privies, wells, or middens; structural remains of buildings; and evidence of Indigenous cultures can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the property. Information concerning the spatial organization of buildings and infrastructure in relationship to natural and cultural elements of the landscape can be obtained from the investigation of these features.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1846

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Joshua G. and Nancy (Bly) Leland House is significant at the local level under Criterion C for Architecture as an intact and important rural, front-gable example of the Greek Revival style in Washtenaw County. Although the style was relatively common in the urban areas of the county in the mid-1800s, it was much more rare in rural areas. The Leland House is also distinctive as a front-gable example of the style, in contrast to the typical side-gable or gable-front-and-wing examples seen in the county. The house retains high material integrity including exterior ornamentation characteristic of the Greek Revival style, including a low-pitched gabled roof; a flat-roof entry porch with square Doric columns; Doric cornerboards, returned cornices, and wide bands of trim; six-over-six windows; and Classical door surrounds. The interior also

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represents the style with wood floors; two-panel doors; molded interior window and door surrounds with rosette cornerblocks; and a center hall with a straight, open staircase with turned balustrade and newel. The period of significance is 1846 when the house was constructed.

Historic context for the Leland House is provided in the related Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic and Architectural Resources of Northfield Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan, 1824 – 1980," including "Early Northfield Township: An Agricultural Landscape (1824-1880)" on context pages E5-17, "Changes to Rural Life (1880-1945)" on pages E24-28, and "The Post-War Era (1945-1980)" on pages E28-33. The property falls under the property type "Residential Buildings" on pages F34-35, including registration requirements, period of significance, and integrity assessment. Specifically, the Leland House represents an intact and distinctive example of the Greek Revival-style common to early Northfield Township.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Architecture Context

The Joshua G. and Nancy (Bly) Leland House is significant within the context of mid-nineteenth-century rural architecture of Northfield Township, and Washtenaw County more broadly. Houses constructed in the popular styles of this time period, primarily Greek Revival and Italianate, are found in abundance in the cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, as well as within the smaller towns of Chelsea, Dexter, and Saline.² However, surviving examples of the Greek Revival style in the rural areas of the county are uncommon.³

The earliest surviving residences in Washtenaw County were constructed in the Greek Revival style, which was based on classical Greek architecture, an interest in which was spurred by early nineteenth century archaeological investigations in Greece, empathy for the Greek war for independence (1821-1832), and a waning affection for British styles. The style was popular in Washtenaw County from the 1840s through the 1870s, spread by carpenter's guides and pattern books. Characteristic detailing of the Greek Revival style includes low-pitched gabled forms; flat-roof one- or two-story entry porches with square or round columns; entrances with sidelights, transoms, and Classical surrounds; bands of trim or dentil detailing at the cornice, sometimes with partial returns; and frieze-band windows. Interior details typically include a center-hall plan with an open, straight stair, often with turned balusters, handrails, and newels; two- or four-panel wood doors and six-over-six windows set in molded surrounds with

² Virginia McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2015), 247-302, 317-330, 345-370, 387-405; Susan Wineberg and Patrick McCauley, *Historic Ann Arbor* (Ann Arbor, MI: Ann Arbor Historical Foundation, 2019), 2-9.

³ Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski, "Architectural Survey of Northfield Township, Washtenaw County," 2021.

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cornerblocks; wood floors and plain or molded baseboards; and mantels with Classical columns or pilasters.⁴

Among the rural Greek Revival-style residences in Northfield Township, the Leland House is distinctive as a remarkably intact, front-gable example of the style. Most Greek Revival-style homes in the county are one-and-one-half-story, side-gable forms, or two-story, front-gable forms with one-and-one-half-story, side-gable wings on one or both sides of the main block. These include the 1864 Wheeler-Leland House at 7285 Whitmore Lake Road, which features a two-story front-gable wing with a one-and-one-half-story side-gable wing featuring frieze-band windows characteristic to the Greek Revival style. However, the house was later updated with elaborate turned and sawn porch ornamentation, cornices, and brackets. The 1844 John Renwick House at 6150 Sutton Road is a one-and-one-half-story, side-gable example of the style, featuring a symmetrical façade with square Doric columns supporting the porch, sidelights flanking the entrance, pedimented window surrounds, and frieze-band windows at the upper half-story. While the majority of Greek Revival-style homes in Washtenaw County represent these forms, Northfield Township also includes the notable exceptions of the 1864 Nathan Devereaux Octagon House at 66425 Eight Mile Road (NR 2003) and the 1833-1834 Christian Zuck House at 9301 Main Street, an example of a two-story core flanked by one-story side wings form.⁵

Many mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival-style buildings in the county were later updated in the late nineteenth century with Italianate or Queen Anne detailing, or in the early twentieth century with the elaborate Classical detailing of that period. In addition, most extant examples of the style in Washtenaw County have been altered with the application of replacement materials, the removal of historic fabric, and the construction of additions. As a result, the Leland House is significant for the retention of its original form and fenestration, as well as exterior materials and stylistic detailing. The house retains ornamentation characteristic of the Greek Revival style, including weatherboard siding, wide cornerboards with Doric capitals, a wide band of trim, and returned cornices. At the entrance, the original flat-roof entry porch is supported by heavy square columns, narrow multi-light sidelights flank the door, and a Classical surround features pilasters. The interior also retains Greek Revival-style ornamentation, including molded door and window surrounds with rosette cornerblocks, elaborate paneled aprons below the six-over-six double-hung windows in the living and dining rooms, and a straight, open staircase with decorative balustrades, newels, and stringers, as well as a center hall floor plan common to nineteenth-century homes.

⁴ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 246-264; Wineberg and McCauley, *Historic Ann Arbor: An Architectural Guide*, 1-2; Szcodronski, "Architectural Survey of Northfield Township," 45-46; Gabrielle M. Lanier and Bernard L. Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), 138-139; Stephen Calloway and Elizabeth Cromley, eds., *The Elements of Style, Revised Edition: A Practical Encyclopedia of Interior Architectural Details from 1495 to the Present* (New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 1991, Revised Edition 1996), 204-231.

⁵ Szcodronski, "Architectural Survey of Northfield Township"; Washtenaw County, "HistWeb Historic Resource Database," <https://www.washtenaw.org/649/Historic-Resource-Database>.

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For additional historic context about the Greek Revival style in Northfield Township, see the related Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Resources of Northfield Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan, 1824-1980," context pages E16-17.

Background History and Genealogy

The Joshua G. and Nancy (Bly) Leland House is located in northern Washtenaw County, in southeastern Michigan, about six miles northeast of Ann Arbor. Prior to European settlement, the area was occupied by Potawatomi and other Indigenous peoples who established seasonal settlements on the waterways. European settlement of what became Washtenaw County began in the early nineteenth century, with primarily New Englanders seeking cheaper land and better soils, especially following the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. Within decades, Indigenous tribes had left the Michigan Territory, many removed by force beyond the Mississippi River.

Among those who moved westward to the Michigan Territory in the early nineteenth century were Joshua G. Leland (1805-1876) and Nancy Bly Leland (1808-1879). Joshua G. Leland was born in 1805 in New York to Colonel Joshua and Waitstill (Greenwood) Leland, who had moved to New York from Massachusetts following Col. Leland's service in the Revolutionary War. Nancy Bly was born in New York in 1808 to Asa and Polly Bly, who like the Lelands, had left Massachusetts for New York. Leland and Bly married in New York in 1827 and had three children, Juliette Leland Townsend (1828-1908), Anna Leland Worden (1829-1928), and Joshua B. Leland (1830-1863).⁶

The Lelands traveled to Michigan in 1831 and settled in Ann Arbor. The following year, they purchased 160 acres of land in Northfield Township, including the current ten-acre parcel, from Benjamin and Elizabeth Sutton.⁷ The first European settlers in Northfield Township, the Suttons sold livestock, fruit saplings, and other supplies to newcomers, likely including the Lelands.⁸ Nathan Sutton, Benjamin's father, held the mortgage on the Leland property.⁹ The Lelands built a log home on the property in 1832 (no longer extant). They had two more children, Sylvia Leland Laraway (1834-1916) and Emory Ezra Leland (1845-1924).¹⁰

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, *1840 United States Federal Census*, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8057/>; U.S. Census Bureau, *1850 United States Federal Census*, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8054/>.

⁷ "Benjamin Sutton & Elizabeth, his wife, to Joshua G. Leland," June 23, 1832, Deed Book C, Page 418, Washtenaw County Register of Deeds (hereafter referred to as WCRD), Personal Collection of Ed and Rose Vincent (hereafter referred to as Vincent Collection).

⁸ Wystan Stevens, ed., *Northfield Harvest: A Pictorial History of Northfield Township and the Whitmore Lake Area* (Whitmore Lake: Northfield Township Historical Society, 1999), 51-54; Szcodronski, "Architectural Survey of Northfield Township."

⁹ Mortgage, "Joshua G. Leland & Nancy, his wife, to Nathan Sutton," June 23, 1832, Mortgage Book 1, Page 369, WCRD, Vincent Collection; Discharge of Mortgage, "Nathan Sutton to Joshua G. Leland and Nancy, his wife," September 8, 1834, Mortgage Book 1, Page 369, WCRD, Vincent Collection.

¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau, *1860 United States Federal Census*, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7667/>; U.S. Census Bureau, *1870 United States Federal Census*, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7163/>.

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Joshua G. Leland emerged as an important community leader. In 1840, he leased a parcel at the corner of East North Territorial and Earhart Roads for the purpose of erecting a school house, which was named the Leland School (extant).¹¹ He served as president of the Washtenaw County Agricultural Society, the Farmers' Insurance Company, and the county Pioneer Society. He helped establish the Washtenaw County Mutual Fire Insurance Company, as well as serving as Vice-President and later President.¹² He also had a career in local politics, elected as the first Northfield Township Justice of the Peace in 1832, and elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1844 and again in 1846. It was during this period, in 1846, that the Lelands built the Greek Revival-style home with lumber milled in Flint and hauled by wagon to the site.¹³

In addition to his political service, Leland was also a prosperous farmer. By 1856, in addition to the 160-acre home place, he had expanded his land holdings with 80 acres on East North Territorial Road west of the home place, and about 140 acres on Earhart Road north and east of the home place.¹⁴ The Lelands produced grains typical to Washtenaw County, including wheat, Indian corn, oats, Irish potatoes, buckwheat, clover, and hay; raised typical livestock including horses, oxen, milk cows, sheep, and hogs; produced milk, butter, and wool; and maintained an orchard and small vineyard.¹⁵ Farm products were likely taken to Ann Arbor-area markets by wagon and later by train.¹⁶

In the early 1870s, Joshua and Nancy Leland left the farm and moved to a home at the corner of Maynard and William Streets in Ann Arbor (no longer extant). Joshua G. Leland died in 1876 after suffering a bite from a rat, and Nancy Bly Leland passed in 1879. The home place property, 130 acres at that time, passed to their only surviving son Emory Ezra Leland, who had taken over farm operations some years previously.¹⁷

¹¹ "Joshua G. Leland to William Naylor and others," May 1, 1840, Deed Book Q, Page 646, WCRD, Vincent Collection.

¹² Stevens, *Northfield Harvest*, 63-64, 96, 121-123; "The Washtenaw Mutual Fire Ins. Co.," *Michigan Argus*, December 30, 1870, Ann Arbor District Library, <https://aadl.org/node/287185>; "Washtenaw Mutual Fire Insurance Company," *Michigan Argus*, October 11, 1861, Ann Arbor District Library, <https://aadl.org/node/274683>; "Annual Meeting Farmer's Insurance Co.," *Ann Arbor Argus*, January 11, 1895, Ann Arbor District Library, <https://aadl.org/node/126640>; Samuel Willard Beakes, *Past and Present of Washtenaw County* (Chicago, IL: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1906), 684; "Emory Ezra Leland," Biographical Sketch, Vincent Collection.

¹³ Stevens, *Northfield Harvest*, 63-64, 96, 121-123; Library of Michigan, "Legislator Details: Joshua G. Leland," *Michigan Legislative Biography*, <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/legislators/Legislator/LegislatorDetail/4030>; Beakes, *Past and Present of Washtenaw County*, 769.

¹⁴ 1856 Plat Map, Clark Library; 1864 Plat Map, Clark Library.

¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, *1850 United States Federal Census – Schedule 4 – Production in Agriculture*, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; U.S. Census Bureau, *1860 United States Federal Census – Schedule 4 – Production in Agriculture*, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

¹⁶ Stevens, *Northfield Harvest*, 97-104; Szcodronski, "Architectural Survey of Northfield Township," 25, 33, 36.

¹⁷ Will, "Joshua G. Leland," April 26, 1876, Deed Book 83, Page 389, WCRD, Vincent Collection; "Charles H. Worden, Executor, to Emory Leland," June 13, 1879, Deed Book 93, Page 388, WCRD, Vincent Collection; Stevens, *Northfield Harvest*, 121-123; Find a Grave, U.S., *Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current*, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60525/>.

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Emory Leland attended grade school at the Leland School, completed high school in Ann Arbor, and attended Albion College about fifty miles west of Ann Arbor.¹⁸ Following college, he returned to the family farm and assumed management of farming operations. He married Sarah Sawyer (1845-1894) in 1868, and they had six children: Joshua G. Leland (1879-1907), Thad Emory Leland (1871-1945), Claude R. (1873-1954), Laura Gertrude Leland Suck (1875-1962), Anna Leland Shinar (1876-1962), and Ira Sawyer (1878-1955).¹⁹

Leland appears in the agriculture schedules of federal and county censuses in 1870, 1880, 1884, and 1894. These records show the Lelands continued to produce generally the same crops and livestock products as the previous decades, growing wheat, Indian Corn, oats, barley, Irish potatoes, apples, clover, and hay; raising horses, mules, milk cows, sheep, hogs, and chickens; and producing wool, milk, butter, and eggs.²⁰ Plat maps show the farm was smaller by this time, with 130 acres of the original home place and forty acres on Earhart Road.²¹

Sarah Sawyer Leland died in 1894, and two years later, Emory Leland remarried her widowed sister, Ada "Addie" Sawyer (1858-1959).²² He left the farm and relocated to Whitmore Lake soon after, working as a salesman for the Deering Harvester Company.²³ The farm then passed to their son Claude. Claude Leland married Margaret Gann of Detroit in 1902, and the following year they relocated to Colorado where their daughter, Madalyn Leland Vose (1904-1985), was born.²⁴ By 1910, they had returned to the family home place in Northfield Township, which they appear to have rented from Emory and Addie Leland until 1921 when they purchased the property.²⁵ Emory and Addie Leland remained in Ann Arbor until their deaths in 1924 and 1939, respectively.²⁶

Like his father, Emory Leland was an important community leader and politician. In 1878, he founded the annual Farmers' Picnic that included attendees from Washtenaw, Livingston,

¹⁸ "Emory Ezra Leland," Vincent Collection.

¹⁹ 1870 Federal Census; U.S. Census Bureau, *1880 United States Federal Census*, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/6742/>; *Michigan, U.S., Marriage Records, 1867-1952*, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/9093/>; Find a Grave.

²⁰ U.S. Census Bureau, *1870 United States Federal Census – Schedule 3 – Production in Agriculture*, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; U.S. Census Bureau, *1880 United States Federal Census – Schedule 2 – Production in Agriculture*, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

²¹ 1896 Plat Map, Clark Library; 1911 Plat Map, Clark Library.

²² Find a Grave; Michigan Marriage Records.

²³ Beakes, *Past and Present of Washtenaw County*, 29-30; U.S. Census Bureau, *1900 United States Federal Census*, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7602/>; "Emory Ezra Leland," Vincent Collection.

²⁴ Michigan Marriage Records; "Emery," *Ann Arbor Argus-Democrat*, June 12, 1903, Ann Arbor District Library, <https://aadl.org/node/454864>; U.S. Census Bureau, *1910 United States Federal Census*, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7884/>.

²⁵ "Emory E. Leland & Addie L. Leland to Claude R. Leland and Margaret A. Leland," January 3, 1921, Deed Book 226, Page 86, WCRD, Vincent Collection.

²⁶ 1920 Federal Census; 1930 Federal Census; Find a Grave.

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Oakland, and Wayne Counties, and he served on its board of directors for many years.²⁷ Around 1890, he was appointed to the board of directors for the Washtenaw Mutual Fire Insurance Company and by 1905 was the president and chief executive officer. He was elected to serve as Northfield Township Supervisor in 1875 and 1895-1896.²⁸ He also served on the board of directors for the Ann Arbor Savings Bank.²⁹ In 1904, he was elected as a Washtenaw County probate judge, serving in that role from 1904-1908 and 1912-1924. He was apparently well-liked by his constituents, who referred to him as the “farmer judge.”³⁰ “The integrity and trustworthiness of Judge Leland in all matters of business connection and public trust are above question,” asserted a 1905 biographical sketch of Leland, “and in the discharge of his duties of his present position he is fully justifying the confidence reposed in him.”³¹

Margaret and Claude Leland continued to operate the farm with assistance from hired laborers until their deaths in 1952 and 1954, respectively. The property passed to their only child, Madalyn, who had married Gardiner Vose in 1928 and relocated to Detroit.³² The property was sold out of the Leland family in 1977, at which time much of the acreage was subdivided and later developed as Leland Acres subdivision. The current 10-acre parcel was purchased by the current owners in 1986.³³

The contributions of the Leland family to the history and landscape of Northfield Township have been honored by their contemporaries in the naming of the crossroads community Leland Corners, later known as Emery, and located adjacent to the Leland home place at the intersection of Earhart Road with East North Territorial and East Northfield Church Roads. This hamlet, now defunct, once included the Leland School (extant) and the Leland Cemetery (extant) at the north end of the Leland property, with the Leland railroad station (no longer extant) and Emery Post Office (no longer extant) at the south end.³⁴

Additional historic context about the formation of Washtenaw County and Northfield Township, Indigenous peoples, early European settlement, and agricultural trends may be found in the

²⁷ Stevens, *Northfield Harvest*, 121-122 312-313; “A Grand Success Was the Farmer’s Picnic at Whitmore Lake Last Saturday,” *The Ann Arbor Democrat*, September 9, 1898, Ann Arbor District Library, https://aadl.org/files/documents/pdf/aa_democrat/aa_democrat_18980909.pdf.

²⁸ Beakes, *Past and Present of Washtenaw County*, 29-30, 773-774; Stevens, *Northfield Harvest*, 346.

²⁹ “Emory Ezra Leland,” Vincent Collection.

³⁰ Stevens, *Northfield Harvest*, 124; Beakes, *Past and Present of Washtenaw County*, 29-30; “Emory Ezra Leland,” Vincent Collection.

³¹ Beakes, *Past and Present of Washtenaw County*, 29-30.

³² 1910 Federal Census; U.S. Census Bureau, *1920 United States Federal Census*, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/6061/>; U.S. Census Bureau, *1930 United States Federal Census*, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/6224/>; U.S. Census Bureau, *1940 United States Federal Census*, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2442/>; U.S. Census Bureau, *1950 United States Federal Census*, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/62308/>; Michigan Marriage Records; Find a Grave.

³³ “Madalyn L. Vose to Irene G. Culling,” October 25, 1977, Deed Book 2092, Page 94, WCRD; “Estate of Irene G. Culling to Edward Vincent and Rosemarie Christy,” November 20, 1986, Deed Book 2095, Page 495, WCRD; Washtenaw County, *MapWashtenaw*, Aerial Imagery, <https://www.washtenaw.org/1197/MapWashtenaw>.

³⁴ Stevens, *Northfield Harvest*, 121-123.

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associated Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Resources of Northfield Township,
Washtenaw County, Michigan, 1824-1980," context pages E6-16, E24-25, and E31-33.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 10.0

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 42.365355 Longitude: -83.685830

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary follows the current tax parcel lines for parcel Washtenaw County tax parcel B-02-26-400-003: starting at the northwest corner of the property at latitude 42.3668, longitude -83.6868, then southeast following East North Territorial Road approximately 460 feet to latitude 42.3665, longitude - 83.6851, then south approximately 905 feet to latitude 42.3640, longitude - 83.6852, then approximately 455 feet west to latitude 42.3641, longitude - 83.6868, then approximately 1000 feet north to the starting point.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary selected reflects historic and current ownership. Though the Leland family owned a much larger parcel when the house was constructed, most of the acreage has been subsequently sold and no longer retains integrity to the period of significance. The boundary selected represents land historically associated with the house and provides an appropriate setting for the historic buildings.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski, Owner & Architectural Historian
organization: Firefly Preservation Consulting, LLC
street & number: 58 Fox Hill Court
city or town: Chelsea state: MI zip code: 48118
e-mail: cheri@fireflypreservation.com
telephone: 615-604-5618
date: September 2024

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Joshua G. and Nancy (Bly) Leland House
City or Vicinity: Ann Arbor
County: Washtenaw State: MI
Photographer: Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski
Date Photographed: October 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #0001: Northwest Elevation
1 of 33

Photo #0002: Southwest Elevation
2 of 33

Photo #0003: South Elevation
3 of 33

Photo #0004: Southeast Elevation
4 of 33

Photo #0005: East Elevation
5 of 33

Photo #0006: Northeast Elevation
6 of 33

Photo #0007: North Elevation – Entrance Detail
7 of 33

Photo #0008: Center Hall – Facing North
8 of 33

Photo #0009: Center Hall – Facing South
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Photo #0010: Center Hall – Facing East
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Photo #0011: Center Hall – Rosette Cornerblock Detail
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Photo #0012: Living Room – Facing Southeast
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Photo #0013: Dining Room – Facing Northeast
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Photo #0014: Dining Room – Window Surround Detail
14 of 33

Photo #0015: Dining Room – Two-Panel Wood Door Detail
15 of 33

Photo #0016: Kitchen – Facing Southeast
16 of 33

Photo #0017: West Porch – Facing Southwest
17 of 33

Photo #0018: Family Room – Facing Northwest
18 of 33

Photo #0019: First Floor Bathroom – Facing Southwest
19 of 33

Photo #0020: East Porch – Facing Southeast
20 of 33

Photo #0021: Laundry Room – Facing East
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Photo #0022: Rear Ell Staircase – Facing East
22 of 33

Photo #0023: Upper Level – Center Hall – Facing Northeast
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Photo #0024: Upper Level – Southwest Bedroom – Facing West
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Photo #0025: Upper Level – Rear Ell Attic/Boarder's Room – Facing South
25 of 33

Photo #0026: Upper Level – Southeast Bathroom – Facing East
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Photo #0027: Upper Level – Northeast Bedroom – Facing Northeast
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Photo #0028: Upper Level – Center Hall – Facing Southwest
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Photo #0029: Upper Level – North Bedroom – Facing Northwest
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Photo #0030: Upper Level – Northwest Bathroom – Facing South
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Photo #0031: Sheds – Facing Southwest
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Photo #0032: Horse Barn – Facing South
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Photo #0033: Barn – Facing North
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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.