

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Chateau Laroche

and/or common Loveland Castle

2. Location

street & number 12025 Shore Drive

not for publication

city, town Loveland

vicinity of

state Ohio

code 039

county Hamilton

code 061

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Knights of the Golden Trail c/o Nicholas Kurzynski, Curator

street & number P.O. Box 135

city, town Loveland

vicinity of

state Ohio 45140

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hamilton County Courthouse

street & number Court and Main Streets

city, town Cincinnati

state Ohio

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## DESCRIPTION

condition - good, altered, original site

Chateau Laroche is located on an acre and a half hillside, overlooking the west bank of the Little Miami River north of Loveland. The complex consists of a retaining wall, gatehouse and underground garage entrance across the front and steps which lead up to the main castle and formal gardens. The main castle, built between 1929 and 1961 measures approximately 20' X 30' and has a wing which extends to the north approximately 50' that was begun in 1969 and remains unfinished. The walls are 18" thick and consist of coarsed flat field stone (approximately 56000 5 gal. buckets gathered from the river bed) over an interior of concrete bricks (reportedly 32000 hand-made in paper milk cartons). Built to give the impression of a medieval castle the original portion of the castle is a three-story rectangular structure with a projecting square tower at each corner. The third floor serves as a flat roof for the lower stories and the top of the walls are crenelated as typical of a "fighting deck" which in fact, this floor is termed. The northeast tower is slightly taller than the other three and is topped by a corbeled "lookout post." The fenestration is uniform throughout, one over one double hung sash in extremely narrow frames meant to resemble gunslits. A large chimney is in the center of the south wall. A balcony with the words "CHATEAU LAROCHE" is in the middle of the east wall and a half round projecting bay is positioned at the center of the upper floor levels of the north wall. The main door, covered with a steel bar gate, is located beneath this bay and is constructed of three layers of wood nailed together (purportedly 238 pieces of wood held by 2500 nails).

The interior of the castle includes a small basement where a furnace, tool room and small "dungeon" are located, and a first floor with a large game room, kitchen and office. The northwest tower contains a curved staircase designed to permit its defense by "a single swordsman." The second floor includes a large ballroom and master bedroom in a tower with a domed beehive style ceiling. Another tower at this level includes a bathroom, the other "a princess room" for harboring hostages. The floors are composed of 14" thick concrete beams topped with a layer of quart oil cans covered with concrete to serve as an insulating blanket. The first floor walls were completed during the 1930s and the remainder of the walls were finished by 1955. The floors were completed by 1961.

In 1969 a walled dry moat at the west end and to the north a 2-story wing to house a chapel, jail, stable, workroom and "round table meeting room" were begun. Appropriately the northern bay of the wing is built in a rounded configuration. Only the exterior stone walls and several interior brick walls are completed. It has the same type of narrow slit openings as the main castle.

A short retaining wall stretches on a line even with the east wall of the castle approximately 200' to the south. West of this and to the south of the main castle is a "formal gardens" with a large number of hot boxes. Further to the east is a larger retaining wall stretching approximately 220'. The small corbeled and crenelated gatehouse is located in this wall. Through a round arch opening are the steps to the main castle entrance. A large segmental arched opening in the north end of this wall has a wooden door (with over 9000 nails) and provides access to an underground garage.

## Significance

*newspaper*

Chateau Laroche, or Loveland Castle as it is commonly called, is significant under criterion A. An attempt to recreate a medieval European castle, it provides the physical framework for a unique youth counseling organization known as the Knights of the Golden Trail. The Knights are dedicated to the high moral standards and chivalry of a revived order of knighthood. Founded in 1927 by Harry D. Andrews as an outgrowth of his Sunday school classes at a northern Cincinnati church, the Knights now own and operate the Castle. The Castle is also significant as a singular example of a folklore structure handcrafted from homemade or natural materials beginning in 1929 and continued in various stages until the death of Andrews in 1981. The medieval theme of the structure reflects a search for a perceived purity found in ancient times and an effort to promote the reinstitution of this ideal in a twentieth century society.

Harry Andrews was born in 1890 on a farm in upstate New York and was graduated in 1916 from Colgate University where he reportedly studied Greek, Roman and Egyptian architecture. After enlisting in the U.S. Army and serving in Europe during W.W.I. he attended Toulouse University in France. Here he gained first hand knowledge of medieval architecture and folklore. Returning to Cincinnati in the 1920s he became a teacher in the city schools, and also began teaching a Sunday School class at the Northside Christian Church. In 1927 he purchased a lot at the site of the Castle to provide a place for his church classes to camp, fish, swim and boat. At the same time Andrews organized the Knights of the Golden Trail as a youth organization to foster teachings about chivalrous knights and Christianity. Taking a cue from the Boy Scouts of America with whom he maintained close links (many of the first knights were also Boy Scouts), Andrews divided his organization into three age groups: "pages" from 8 to 12, "squires" from 12 to 17, and "knights" from 18 or older. Boys were "knighted" by Andrews following a ceremony in which they swore to live by the Ten Commandments of Christianity.

When the tents initially used by the Knights on their retreats began to rot after several years, Andrews conceived of building a stone castle to use in their stead. He began building the Castle in June 1929 and had completed the first floor by the following year when the cornerstone was formally dedicated. Work on the Castle went very slowly while Andrews continued to work and later due to wartime shortages. When he lost his job as a teacher during the Depression Andrews began working for the City of Cincinnati as an Inspector on public works projects. Here he undoubtedly gained valuable experience which he incorporated into the work at the Castle. Late in the 1940s he began working for a religious publishing house.

The rate of work on the Castle increased dramatically with Andrews' retirement in 1955 when he began living at the site year-round. By October 1955 all walls were completed on the original castle and by 1960 all the floors were finished.

The folklore nature of the Loveland Castle is seen in the nature of the construction and materials. The majority of the materials in the Castle were either collected at the site or handcrafted by Andrews and his "Knights." By the mid-1960s Andrews estimated that he had gathered about 52000 Buckets (5 gal.) of stones and made 32000 concrete bricks out of quart cardboard milk cartons. Large concrete blocks were made in wooden forms with tin cans in the center to provide openings. Drain tiles were created by cutting the ends out of tin cans, laying them end to end and covering them with concrete. A form made out of inner tube halves filled with sand and with the ends tied off were used to make concrete catch-basins. By getting many of his materials donated Andrews was able to spend an average of only \$125 a year on the construction.

Andrews died in April 1981 at the age of 91 after being burned badly while attempting to extinguish a trash fire at the Castle. The 65 members of the Knights plan to finish the Castle wing begun by Andrews in 1969 and operate the complex as a service to other needy individuals and organizations.

<sup>^center?</sup>

Today Loveland Castle stands in Harry Andrews' own words "as an expression and reminder of the simple strength and rugged grandeur of the lives and homes of the mighty men who lived when Knighthood was in flower." These principles served to create a distinctive youth organization and a unique stone structure to house it. Even though portions of the current structure are less than 50 years old, it is a cultural feature without parallel in Ohio and should be considered, for that reason alone, of exceptional significance.

Nat 76. doc/nroh p

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Andrews, Harry . Chateau Laroche. Loveland, OH.: author, 1969.

Elkins, Bob. "Harry, His Castle, Stand In Defiance of Death, Time." The Cincinnati Enquirer, Nov. 18, 1979.

Gianutsos, Pete. "Builder of Castle in Loveland, Harry Andrews, dies." Cincinnati Post and Times Star, April 17, 1981.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property one and a half

Quadrangle name Mason

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property consists of four parcels numbered 685-693, 694-695, 696-697, and 698-702 in Plat Book 620, plat 0061. Also known as Lots 4328 through 4345 of the Loveland Park Subdivision (3rd subdivision).

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nicholas Kurzynski and David Simmons

organization Ohio Historic Preservation Office

date 8/85

street & number 1985 Velma Ave.

telephone 614-466-1500

city or town Columbus

state Ohio 43211

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national    state    local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration