

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

John B. Castleman Monument
----- Name of Property
Jefferson County, Kentucky
----- County and State
97000690
----- NR Reference Number

State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this ___ additional documentation ___ move ___ removal
___ name change (additional documentation) ___ other
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.

Signature of Certifying Official/Title: Date of Action

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
___ additional documentation accepted
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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John Breckinridge Castleman

John Breckinridge Castleman was born on June 30, 1841, in Lexington, Kentucky¹. He was the seventh child of eleven children of David B. and Virginia Harrison Castleman.² They owned Castleton Farm, which was almost 2,500 acres in size, and raised Thoroughbred, Saddlebred, and Standardbred horses.

Confederate Service

At the age of 20, in April 1862, Castleman became a soldier in the Confederate Army and served in General John Hunt Morgan's unit.³ His Confederate activities were primarily in Kentucky and Indiana. Castleman achieved the rank of 'acting' Major. He was captured in October 1864, after being part of an unsuccessful effort to release Confederate prisoners held in Chicago. He was sentenced to execution, but this order was stayed by President Abraham Lincoln pending further review. Castleman was exiled first to Canada, and then he traveled to France. He was eventually pardoned by President Andrew Johnson and he returned to the United States in 1866.⁴

Education, Family, and Business

Prior to the Civil War, Castleman studied law at Transylvania University in Lexington, KY. Upon moving to Louisville after the War, he attended the University of Louisville and received a law degree in 1868.⁵

On November 24, 1868, he married Alice Barbee. Ms. Barbee was the daughter of John Barbee, who served as Mayor of Louisville between 1855 and 1857.⁶ Castleman then entered the insurance business with his father-in-law and their firm was known as Barbee & Castleman.

John and Alice Castleman had five children: David (1869-1911); Elsie (1871-1938); Breckinridge (1874-1912); Kenneth (1876-1954), and Alice (1877-1949)⁷

Castleman purchased 60 acres of property, known as Schwartz's Woods⁸, in 1870 on the perimeter of the Louisville, near what is now bounded by Eastern Parkway, Barret Avenue, Castlewood Avenue, Tyler Park Drive, and Baxter Avenue. His house, now demolished, was located near the northwest intersection of Eastern Parkway and Baxter Avenue.

Part of his property would later be purchased for the development of Tyler Park, and another southern section would be used to create a landscaped median for Eastern Parkway between Barret and Baxter Avenues. The remaining Castleman property has been developed into a residential neighborhood in the western half of Tyler Park.⁹

¹ The Encyclopedia of Louisville, Edited by John Kleber, 2001, page 163

² The Kentucky Encyclopedia, Edited by John Kleber, 1992, page 169

³ Saddle and Bridle Magazine, April 1978 issue, page 131

⁴ The Kentucky Encyclopedia, Edited by John Kleber, 1992, page 169

⁵ The Encyclopedia of Louisville, Edited by John Kleber, 2001, page 163

⁶ Courier-Journal, February 6, 1926, page 1, Allice Brabee Castleman death

⁷ IBID.

⁸ The Origins of Louisville's Olmsted Parks and Parkways, by Samuel W. Thomas, 2013, pg. 148

⁹ The Origins of Louisville's Olmsted Parks and Parkways, by Samuel W. Thomas, 2013, pg. 204

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Adjutant General of Kentucky, the Louisville Legion, and US Army service

Castleman continued his military career by helping organize the First Regiment, Kentucky State Guard, which is more commonly referred to as the 'Louisville Legion'.¹⁰ In 1880, he was elected as Colonel of the Legion and served twenty years in leadership of this unit. Kentucky Governor J. Proctor Knott appointed Castleman adjutant general of Kentucky.¹¹

When the Spanish-American War occurred in 1898, the Louisville Legion, under Castleman's command, was sent to Puerto Rico where it provided security for the island. Castleman, age 57 and now a Brigadier General in the United States Army was then assigned to be military governor of Puerto Rico.¹² He was a veteran of foreign wars.

Returning to Kentucky after the war, Castleman's unit helped quell civil unrest that resulted from the assassination of Governor William Goebel in 1900.¹³

Horsemanship

On July 9, 1900, the Louisville Horse Show Association was formed and Castleman served as its first president.¹⁴ This horse show continues today as the World Championship Horse Show held each year at the Kentucky State Fair.

As an accomplished equestrian horse rider and breeder, Castleman founded the National Saddle Horse Breeders' Association in 1891, which changed its name in 1980 to the American Saddlebred Horse Association. He served as its first president, as well as president for an overall total of six (6) years.¹⁵

In 1893, Castleman rode his Saddlebred mare, Emily, in winning the grand championship horse competition at the Columbian Exposition World's Fair in Chicago.¹⁶

Creation of the Louisville Park's System

In the late 1880s and early 1890s, Castleman was involved in helping establish a parks system in Louisville. In 1891, he served as president of the Board of Park Commissioners.¹⁷ Over the next two decades, Castleman would oversee the park's system implementation as designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and the Olmsted landscape firm of Brookline, Mass. He was president for an overall total of twenty-four years, ending in 1916.¹⁸

¹⁰ The Encyclopedia of Louisville, Edited by John Kleber, 2001, page 163

¹¹ IBID

¹² IBID

¹³ IBID

¹⁴ Courier-Journal newspaper, October 14, 1900; pg B-1 'The Louisville Horse Show'

¹⁵ Saddle and Bridle Magazine, April 1978 issue, page 134

¹⁶ The Encyclopedia of Louisville, Edited by John Kleber, 2001, page 164

¹⁷ The Origins of Louisville's Olmsted Parks and Parkways, by Samuel W. Thomas, 2013, pg. 126

¹⁸ Courier-Journal newspaper, November 9, 1916, pg.5 "President J B Castleman Praises Efficiency of Park Board Employees"

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Support for Women's Right to Vote

Alice Barbee Castleman was a leader in the suffragette movement in Louisville. She was the first Vice President of the Kentucky Equal Rights Association in 1910 and 1911.¹⁹ Her husband, John, supported her efforts both financially and emotionally in her activities to secure voting rights for all women at a time when it was unpopular to do so. According to National American Woman Suffrage Association records, Alice Barbee Castleman was a delegate for the Kentucky Equal Rights Association when they were lobbying for the passage of what became known as the "Susan B. Anthony Amendment" during the 65th and 66th sessions of Congress. In October 1913, John Castleman rode his horse Carolina in a suffragette parade, which is considered the first such demonstration in the South.²⁰

Mentor to Enid Yandell

Castleman supported and mentored Ms. Enid Yandell, the noted woman sculptor who was from Louisville, Kentucky. Early in her career, Castleman recommended Ms. Yandell to Bertha Palmer to assist with the creation of sculptures for the World Columbian Exposition that was to be held in Chicago in 1893. Ms. Palmer was born in Louisville, the former Bertha Matilde Honore, and was married to Potter Palmer, who owned the famous Palmer House Hotel in Chicago. Mrs. Palmer was the President of the Board of Lady Managers for the exposition and was influential in the planning for the fair. Ms. Yandell was selected to be part of the artistic group that crafted sculptures and decorations for the fair. She worked on the ornamentation for the Horticultural Building and the Women's Building.²¹

Castleman also attended the unveiling of several Yandell sculptures in Louisville: Hogan's Fountain, 1905, at the pinnacle of Cherokee Park and the Daniel Boone statue, 1906, at the intersection of Cherokee Road and Eastern Parkway.²²

Regret for Confederate service

Castleman recanted his Confederate service several times following the Civil War. In his June 7th, 1865 letter seeking a pardon from President Andrew Johnson, he stated:

"In the summer of the year 1862, being then less than twenty-one years of age and living near Lexington Kentucky, I was induced to engage in the Rebellion, and joined the Rebel Army. I continued in that service, and was arrested in Southern Indiana in the month of September 1864, and have been since that time a prisoner and held under charges for trial. In what I did, I was led to believe, and at the time thought, I was doing my duty. I am now convinced that my action was wrong from the beginning, and that I have committed grievous errors. For what is past, I can only express my sincere regret, and promise to strive by my future action to atone for it by faithful efforts to discharge my duty as a citizen of the United States."²³

¹⁹ Courier-Journal, February 6, 1926, page 2, Alice Brabee Castleman death

²⁰ IBID

²¹ Enid Yandell Exhibit', Speed Art Museum, October, 2019

²² The Origins of Louisville's Olmsted Parks and Parkways, by Samuel W. Thomas, 2013, pg. 178-180

²³ Letter by John Castleman to President Andrew Johnson requesting a pardon for his Confederate service: <https://castlemanfamilytree.blogspot.com/2017/08/grievous-errors-from-john-b-castleman.html>

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His most public statement of regret was at the November 9th, 1911, dedication of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial in Hodgenville. He is quoted as saying:

“ . . . In giving me my life, this man (Lincoln) gave me the light to see the wrong cause I had championed, the right cause that he battled for. I have given my life in a humble effort to carry on his work, to bring together his divided people once more”. Then pointing to the inscription on the pediment of the building, he read: “into union, peace and brotherhood among these United States.” ²⁴

Castleman spent the remaining years of his life promoting reconciliation between the North and South. He participated in the 1895 Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) reunion (Union Army) in Louisville, as well as other Union Army meetings and events. Andrew Cowan, who served in the Union Army, and he planted a ‘peace tree’ in Cherokee Park in September 1895. ²⁵At his funeral in 1918, the display of the Confederate flag alongside the American flag on his coffin was viewed as a symbol of reunification of the states, particularly during this period of World War I. ²⁶ In a similar gesture of reconciliation, Andrew Cowan hung an American Flag alongside a Confederate flag at a Confederate reunion in 1917 in Washington, D. C. ²⁷

Assistance to African Americans

Castleman led 400 members of the Louisville Legion into action on April 29, 1887, to provide protection for two African American prisoners from being lynched by a mob of about 10,000 in Louisville. Castleman’s troops intervened several more times, in Bardstown and Lebanon, to protect African Americans. ²⁸

Castleman, who was a committee member for the Kentucky State Fair, organized a special day at the fair for African Americans on September 21, 1906. ²⁹

On June 23, 1908, in Louisville, Castleman participated in an event where the famed African American leader Booker T. Washington was the featured speaker. He gave a brief talk to the audience, which was mixed with white and black attendees. Castleman spoke highly of Washington and his efforts to improve the living standards of African Americans. His remarks were loudly cheered by the African Americans in attendance. ³⁰

At a luncheon at the Galt House, in December 1908, Castleman, along with Robert Worth Bingham and other civic leaders, sought to establish a branch of Berea College in Louisville. This separate campus for Berea College would be for African American students. This effort was unsuccessful and this new campus of Berea was ultimately located in Simpsonville, Kentucky, and was named ‘The Lincoln Institute’. ³¹

²⁴ “President Taft Assists in Dedicating Lincoln Memorial”, Courier-Journal newspaper, November 10, 1911

²⁵ “A Tree of Peace”, Courier-Journal newspaper, September, 1895

²⁶ “Courier-Journal” newspaper, May 25, 1918, pg. 2, “Statue Draped with Flowers”

²⁷ “Courier-Journal” newspaper, June 6, 1917, pg 5, “Confederates Cheer Wilson; Stars and Stripes presented by Col. Cowan”

²⁸ “Courier-Journal” newspaper, May 24, 1918, pg.5, “John B. Castleman, Brave Soldier and First Citizen Dead”

²⁹ Courier-Journal newspaper, August 18, 1906, pg. 12: “Special Days Arranged for State Fair by Gen. Castleman”

³⁰ Courier-Journal newspaper, June 24, 1908, pg. 8 “No Back Doors”

³¹ “Berea’s Branch”, Courier-Journal newspaper, December 9, 1908

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Following Castleman's death, J Raymond Harris, an African American educator on staff at Central High School, wrote a May 26, 1918, letter to Courier-Journal praising Castleman's efforts on behalf of African Americans. Harris stated:

"General Castleman gave the vigor and strength of his early manhood to 'The Cause'. Which, had it been triumphant, would have delayed the unshackling of 3,000,000 human beings. Yet, no hero on the other side ever held so high a niche in the hearts and minds of colored Kentuckians. In all of his relations with them, he seemed openly conscious of the great claim weakness ever has upon strength, and no colored man ever appealed to him in vain. His kindness to us, his willingness to help with counsel and advice, were unstudied and uncalculated. The result neither of the politician's bid for popularity, nor of the selfish man's desire to advance his own interests. He gave with the consistency of the ideal Christian, gave freely of his talents, having his joy in the giving, and asking never that we should give in return save in those ways that make for uplift and betterment of the commonweal."³²

When the Louisville park system was segregated in June 1924, eight years after Castleman departed the Board of Park Commissioners and six years after his death, nineteen (19) prominent African American leaders in Louisville wrote an op-ed in the Courier-Journal on July 4th, 1924, praising him for keeping the parks integrated while he was alive. They wrote the following:

". . . General Castleman...steadfastly refused to allow any kind of racial segregation in the parks of the city . . . African Americans have used all parks of the city . . . without... hindrance through all these years and with little or no trouble of any kind."

Several of the African American leaders who authored this letter were: J. Willis Cole (who founded the African American newspaper 'Louisville Leader'), James Bond (grandfather to Civil Rights leader Julian Bond), and William Warley (who was an early leader of the local NAACP chapter and challenged discriminatory housing policies).³³

During World War I, there was an incident where several white soldiers failed to salute an African American officer. Castleman condemned this racial action by saying:

"... I will at any time salute an officer... who salutes me, without regard to the color of his skin. . . I want to urge every soldier to be a soldier in the full sense of the term. We are at war, and soldiers are under the rules of the American army. We are all one under one flag."³⁴

Honored with a Statue

To commemorate the extraordinary life of public service of John B. Castleman, a group of Louisville civic leaders organized a committee to erect a statue in his honor. Members of this committee included prominent businessmen Charles C. Mengel, John M. Atherton, Lawrence Jones, Marion Taylor, Bruce Haldeman, Bernard Bernheim, and Charles Grainger, who was Louisville mayor from 1901 to 1905.

³² Courier-Journal newspaper, May 26, 1918, pg A-4, Letter to the Editor by J. Raymond Harris

³³ Letter to the Editor by 19 prominent African American leaders in Louisville, Courier-Journal, July 4th, 1924

³⁴ The Negro Yearbook, Volume 5, 1917 – 1918, pg. 87

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In establishing the "John B. Castleman Testimonial Fund" on October 24, 1910, they documented the purpose for this statue as follows:

"No man in this community has given more abundantly of his means, time, and ability to the upbuilding of Louisville. Imbued with a civic pride, well worthy of emulation, he has found not personal sacrifice too great, not task too onerous, no duty too exacting. As the head of the Louisville Legion, he was an example to the citizen soldiery of Kentucky. In time of peril, he supplemented his unquestioned courage with a judgement that made for peace and security. As Adjutant General, he won the respect of all factions, the commendation of the Chief Executive, and the approval of the law abiding everywhere, handling with delicate skill a crucial situation. Whenever his City, State, or Nation called for volunteers, he did not allow his age (though exempt from service) to deter him from promptly answering the call. In every public station he has been efficient, untiring, and upright. In private life, he has won the confidence of his fellow citizens and the enduring affection of his friends. It is particularly fitting that this appreciation should be paid to General Castleman while he is with us in full mental and physical vigor."³⁵

The location of the statue was selected by the Olmsted landscape firm, which designed Louisville's parks system. The site was an oval round-about at the intersection of Cherokee Parkway and Cherokee Road.³⁶

The statue was sculpted by Roland Hinton Perry (1870 – 1941). Born in New York City, Perry studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in 1890 and then continued his academic studies focused on sculpting at several other Paris, France, institutions.³⁷ Perry's notable sculptures are located in New York City, NY, Washington DC, Syracuse, NY, and Gettysburg, PA. Perhaps his most famous monument is the 1907 'Peace Memorial' atop Lookout Mountain, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. It depicts a Union soldier shaking hands with a Confederate soldier, symbolizing reconciliation, unity, and peace.

Perry spent two months in Louisville, studying Castleman and preparing a plaster-of-Paris model. The statue was cast in bronze by Gorham and Company of New York. The cost was \$15,000. The design depicts Castleman in his senior years, wearing equestrian clothes, and riding his Saddlebred horse named Carolina. The figures are one and one-half times life-size.³⁸ It stands approximately fifteen (15) feet tall on a twelve (12) by twenty (20) foot base. The granite base and pedestal were designed by Frank F. Knobel of the Muldoon Monument Company.

The statue was dedicated on November 8th, 1913.³⁹

Lieut. Gov. E. J. McDermott, who accepted the statue on behalf of the state, said:

"Nature endowed this man with the handsome, manly form of the soldier and leader. Birth and breeding and kindly feeling have given him the gentle manners and the rare courtesy, which mark the gentleman and the cavalier. The trouble and griefs that have come to him must come to all of us in a long life never bowed his manly spirit or lowered his dignity or lessened his kindness. As a man, then as a citizen and as a soldier, General Castleman, after a long and useful

³⁵ Original October 24, 1910, letter titled 'The John B. Castleman Testimonial Fund' which defines the goals for this statue. This letter is archived at the Filson Historical Society in Louisville, Ky.

³⁶ Statue design, location, pg. 170: "Cherokee Triangle: History in the Heart of the Highlands", Sam Thomas, 2003

³⁷ "R. H. Perry is Dead", *The New York Times*, October 29, 1941.

³⁸ Courier-Journal newspaper, May 24, 1918, "Monument Erected by Citizens during Life of Gen. Castleman"

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life has become entitled to some distinguished mark of our esteem and affection. Here it is and here it shall remain for generations to come".⁴⁰

Louisville Mayor William Head also spoke at the dedication and praised Castleman's distinguished civic career.

⁴¹

An eloquent tribute to Castleman was made by William Goodwin, of Chicago and editor of the Breeders Gazette. He stated:

"It may seriously be doubted if ever a more life-like presentation of man and horse in bronze has even been achieved. With infinite pains the artist labored with his equine model. The statue breathes the form, pose, and life of man and mare. General Castleman is known to the livestock world as the foremost advocate of the most beautiful creation of the breeder's art, the American saddle horse."⁴²

Letters of tribute were also received from former Kentucky Governors Luke Blackburn and J. Proctor Knott, as well as former Ohio Governor James Campbell. US Army General James Wilson sent a congratulatory letter noting Castleman's US Army service in the Spanish American War.⁴³

Death

John Breckinridge Castleman died on May 23, 1918, a day before his fiftieth wedding anniversary, and the same day that his father had died in 1852. Two of his sons, David and Breckinridge, preceded him in death.⁴⁴

Funeral services were held at Christ Church Cathedral on May 26, 1918. Pallbearers were: General Walter B. Haldeman, Charles Grainger, Lyle Bayless, Samuel Thruston Ballard, Judge Matt O'Doherty, Leonard Hewett, Arthur Krock, and James Smith.⁴⁵

There was a long list of honorary pallbearers who represented the 'who's who' of Louisville civic and business leaders. These notable names included: Andrew Cowan (who served in the Union Army and was a hero at the battle of Gettysburg; he was also the visionary for the park's system), Clarence Mengel, Peter Atherton (developer and son of John Atherton), Lawrence Jones, Samuel Culbertson, Allen R. Hite, Augustus Willson (former Kentucky governor), James Ross Todd, George Norton, William Marshall Bullitt, Alex Barret, Harry A. Dumesnil, Robert Worth Bingham (former mayor and owner of the Courier-Journal newspaper), William Heyburn, Rogers Ballard Thruston (President of the Filson Historical Society), Bernard Bernheim, Horatio Newcomb, Basil Doerhoefer (National Tobacco), Louis Seelbach (owner of the Seelbach Hotel), John Caperton, Byron Hilliard, Theodore Ahrens (American Standard), William Head (former mayor), John Barr, and John Stites.

⁴⁶

⁴⁰ "Active Service", Memoirs of General John B. Castleman, 1917, Published by Courier-Journal Job Printing, pg. 266-267

⁴¹ IBID. pg. 261

⁴² IBID, pg. 263

⁴³ IBID, pg. 255 - 269

⁴⁴ "Courier-Journal" newspaper, May 24, 1918, pg.5, "John B. Castleman, Brave Soldier and First Citizen Dead"

⁴⁵ "Courier-Journal" newspaper, May 25, 1918, pg. 2, "Statue Draped with Flowers"

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Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, sent a telegram saying, "I have heard with genuine distress of the death of General Castleman. It gave me great pleasure to reckon myself among his admiring friends".⁴⁷

All the flags in the parks were lowered to half-mast, and the Board of Park Commissioners asked that at 2:30 pm, on the day of the funeral, that "all play in the parks and all recreational activities cease for five minutes as a tribute to the man who had done so much to make play in the public parks possible."⁴⁸

John Breckinridge Castleman is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky.⁴⁹

⁴⁷ Courier-Journal newspaper, May 26, 1918, pg. 9 "President Wilson Pays Tribute to Gen. Castleman"

⁴⁸ IBID

⁴⁹ Cave Hill Cemetery burial records