

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Rock	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.55.0012	DATE 10/15/70

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Lincoln-Tallman House ↑

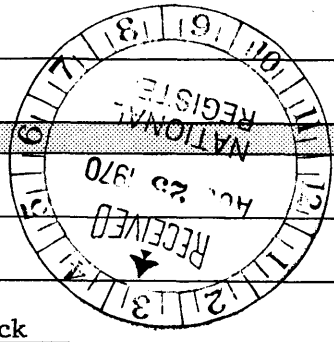
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Tallman Homestead or Tallman House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
440 North Jackson Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Janesville

STATE Wisconsin	CODE 53545	COUNTY: Rock	CODE 105
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Janesville

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Janesville

STATE:  
Wisconsin

CODE:  
48

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Rock County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Janesville

STATE:  
Wisconsin

CODE:  
48

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Janesville

STATE:  
Wisconsin

CODE:  
48

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A three story buff brick structure of ornate Italian Villa style, the house is 51 1/2 feet wide with an overall length of 100 feet, including two tandem wings at the rear. The main house is approximately square. Each corner has large cut stone quoins set with five courses of brick to a quoin. A glazed cupola surmounts the low hipped roof. The cornice is five feet wide and is supported by carved brackets. The frieze, equally wide, contains alternate panels and windows.

The one-story main portico has six columns with fluted shafts and elaborately carved capitals and bases. All are on pedestals. The front four columns are paired; the rear two single. Below a denticulated cornice is a frieze with elaborate carving. A balustrade on the portico roof encloses an open porch. The front doorway of the house has a pair of massive, solid walnut doors with elegantly carved panels. The doorway has a large rectangular frame with an ornate round-arched transom.

Another one-story porch on the right (southeast) side of the house is glassed in and serves as a conservatory. On this, the columns support horseshoe arches which crown the windows. The latter are double mullioned and have rounded tops. Below the cornice an ornate frieze extends down around and between the arches. Each arch contains a complex assortment of panes.

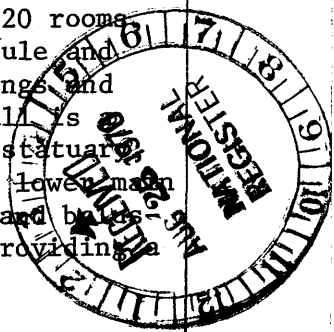
Second story windows on the front and right are double mullioned, each window having a rounded top, with each pair surmounted by a hand-carved circular arch supported by corbels. Bulls-eye lights are set between the circular window tops and smaller lights are set in the interstices. Windows on the left and rear are similar but single and simpler in design. All windows have hand-cut stone sills set on projecting stone blocks. First story windows are also double mullioned on the front and right but not on the left and rear sides of the house. The reason for this difference in fenestration is that the front and right sides (SW and SE, respectively) have three bays while the left and rear (NW and NE, respectively) have four bays, although all sides have approximately the same dimensions.

First story windows, also double mullioned on the front and right but single on the other sides, are rectangular and have protecting cornices supported by consoles. Atop the cornices stand ornamental carvings. Inside, the windows have slat blinds which slide into the wall on metal rails and sheaves.

The house is as massive and ornate inside as outside. There are 20 rooms with five large rooms on the first floor besides the hall, vestibule and pantries. Fireplaces have marble mantels and iron grates. Ceilings and doorways are elegantly corniced. At the left rear of the main hall is a solid mahogany semicircular stairway with niches in the wall for statuary and through the center of the ceiling and floor between upper and lower main halls is an elliptical opening enclosed by a solid mahogany rail and balusters. This allowed heat to rise to the second floor while also providing a view of the front door from the upstairs hallway.

The kitchen and numerous utility and storage rooms are in the basement. Faithfully restored, with minimal alteration.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1857; 1859

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture. This is the primary significance of the Tallman House. Perrin states, "A dominant type in the Romantic-Classic group [of Victorian houses] was the so-called Italian Villa....One of the finest Wisconsin survivals of this kind is the Tallman House at Janesville.... In massing, scale, and rich detail both inside and outside, the Tallman House typifies the more sophisticated Italian Villa of Victorian times."<sup>1</sup>

Historical. The historical significance is secondary. William M. Tallman had moved his law practice to Janesville from Rome, New York in 1850 and in 1855-57 built his new mansion. While a student at Yale, Tallman had become a zealous abolitionist largely under the influence of a classmate, Cassius M. Clay, who later became Lincoln's ambassador to Russia, and William H. Seward, who later became Lincoln's secretary of state. Tallman had lectured throughout the east in the cause of abolition and had been active in the "underground railroad" while living in New York state. His house at Rome was a noted station on the escape route.<sup>2</sup>

Tallman continued his abolitionist activities in Janesville, establishing his new mansion as a station on the "underground railroad,"<sup>3</sup> although historians today disagree on whether it was ever used in helping runaway slaves to escape to Canada.

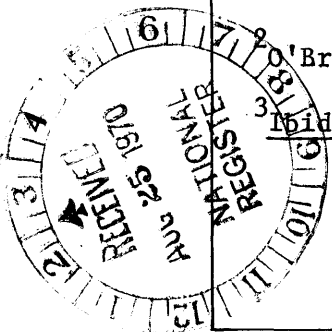
The "Lincoln-Tallman" designation of the house arises from the fact that Abraham Lincoln was an overnight guest of the Tallmans on October 1-2, 1859. This was Lincoln's last visit to Wisconsin.

<sup>1</sup>Perrin, Richard W. E., The Architecture of Wisconsin, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1967, p. 90.

<sup>2</sup>O'Brien, Peg, Janesville Daily Gazette, Janesville, Wis., July 26, 1949.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., February 10, 1950.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Buildings, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, 1962, 63-64.  
 Perrin, Richard W. E., The Architecture of Wisconsin, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1967, 90-91.  
 O'Brien, Perry, "Historic Mansion is Gift to City," Janesville Daily Gazette, Janesville, Wisconsin, July 26, 1949, pp. 1, 14.  
 O'Brien, Peg, "Tallman Mansion, Nearly Century Old, is Richly Equipped and as Sound as Year It Was Finished," Janesville Daily Gazette, Janesville, Wisconsin, July 26, 1949, p. 14.

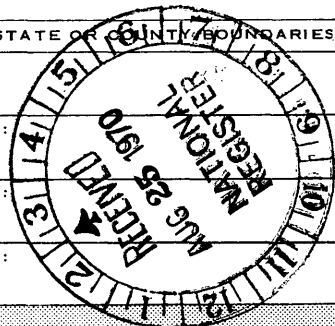
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N 42° 41' 10 "	W 89° 01' 51 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.6

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Donald N. Anderson, Assistant Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE: 5/7/70

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin 53706 CODE: 48

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Richard A. Erney  
 Title: Acting Director  
 Date: 8/20/70  
 State Historical Society of Wis.

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

Ernest Allen Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 OCT 25 1970

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: William J. Mumford  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date: OCT 12 1970

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Wisconsin	
COUNTY Rock	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.55.0012	DATE 10/15/70

(Number all entries)

LINCOLN-TALLMAN HOUSE

9. O'Brien, Peg, "Restoration of Tallman Home Makes It Center of Interest as City Prepares to Observe Lincoln's Birthday," Janesville Daily Gazette, February 10, 1950, p. 5

