Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Illinois
COUNTY: Madison
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Lyman Trumbull House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Lyman Trumbull House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1105 Henry Street
CITY OR TOWN: Alton
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 20
STATE: Illinois
CODE:
COUNTY: Madison
CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building	☐ Public	Public Acquisition:	☒ Occupied	Yes:
☐ Site ☐ Structure	☒ Private	☐ In Process	☐ Unoccupied	☒ Restricted
☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being Considered	☐ Preservation work in progress	☐ Unrestricted
				☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☒ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. and Mrs. William H. Dittmann II
STREET AND NUMBER: 1105 Henry Street
CITY OR TOWN: Alton
STATE: Illinois
CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds
STREET AND NUMBER: Madison County Courthouse
CITY OR TOWN: Edwardsville
STATE: Illinois
CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None
☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DATE OF SURVEY:
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE:

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

145.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lyman Trumbull House is a 1 1/2-story, red brick, gable-roofed, residence with full basement and limestone foundation. Although originally rectangular shaped, the structure has a single story, L-shaped rear addition that apparently was erected sometime during the 19th century. The roof is pierced by two pairs of brick end chimneys and one interior rear chimney, also brick, and is graced on the front by three gabled dormers and on the rear by one shed and two gabled dormers. Wooden shingles covered the roof initially, but these have been replaced with asphalt.

Almost all the windows are six-over-six sash, and most have limestone sills and lintels. Except for some rear openings and the dormers, all windows have dark-green louvered shutters. Of particular interest are the two main floor windows on the three-bay front. Each is a three-part mullion opening with a six-over-six sash window in the center and a one-over-one sash window on each side. In addition to exterior shutters these windows have interior paneled shutters that fold into recessed facings.

Also adorning the front of the house is a centrally located one-bay entrance porch supported by two fluted pilasters, all of wood. Turned balusters flank the porch and the several wooden steps that lead to a brick walkway surrounding the dwelling. Underneath the porch a ground-level entrance leads into the basement. On the south side of the residence there is a second noteworthy basement entrance, and it is sheltered by a pedimented portico supported by two Doric columns.

The chief front entrance to the Trumbull House is a single door with side lights and semi-elliptical fanlight. On the main floor a central hall extends some 30 feet through the original portion of the structure and divides it into two wings. To the right are two bedrooms measuring approximately 18 feet wide and 15 feet long. On the left is a large 18- by 30-foot parlor that may have been partitioned into two rooms during Trumbull's occupancy. One fireplace in this room, along with a similar one in the second bedroom, has been sealed, but the other two fireplaces on the first story remain open and display ornamented wooden mantels. In addition to the three rooms that flank the hallway, the main floor contains two rear bedrooms and two baths. These are in the newer portion of the house.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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)* 1849-1880

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	☐ Education	☒ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☐ Religian/Philasophy	☐ Other *(Specify)*
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Art	☐ Literature	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☐ Military	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Music		
☐ Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to historian Mark M. Krug, no visitor to the gallery of the U.S. Senate during the 1850's, the Civil War, or the era of Reconstruction could have left that chamber "without being impressed by the stature and influence exerted by Lyman Trumbull."[1] This was especially true in the late 1860's, when he and Senator William P. Fessenden of Maine headed a moderate Republican-Democratic coalition that clashed frequently and oftentimes victoriously with the so-called Radical Republicans. Elected to the Senate from Illinois in 1855, Trumbull remained in that body until 1873. Between 1861 and 1871, he chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee, and in that capacity, he prepared and piloted through the upper Chamber much of the Nation's Reconstruction legislation. The Illinoisan wrote and introduced the Confiscation Acts of 1861 and 1862, the Freedmen's Bureau bill of 1866, and the Civil Rights Act of 1866. In addition he was the leading proponent of the 13th amendment, ratified in 1865, and the chief supporter of the first Civil Service Reform Act, enacted in 1870. Ultimately Trumbull embraced the Liberal Republican movement, and in 1872 he contended unsuccessfully for that party's Presidential nomination.

From 1849 to about 1863 Trumbull made his Alton home in a 1 1/2-story brick house.[2] Gable-roofed and graced by dark-green louvered shutters, the L-shaped structure is in excellent condition and is only slightly altered. The present owners are nearing completion of restoration efforts.

(continued)

[1] Mark M. Krug, Lyman Trumbull: Conservative Radical (New York, 1965), 11.

[2] Ibid., 71, 279.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Howard, Robert P., Illinois: A History of the Prairie State (Grand Rapids, 1972).

Krug, Mark M., Lyman Trumbull: Conservative Radical (New York, 1965).

McKitrick, Eric L., Andrew Johnson and Reconstruction (Chicago, 1960).

Ross, Earle Dudley, The Liberal Republican Movement (New York, 1919).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

CORNER	LATITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"

OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
38 °	26 '	30 "	90 °	10 '	33 "

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1 (one) acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
George R. Adams, Managing Editor

ORGANIZATION
American Association for State and Local History

DATE
Sept. 1, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
1315 Eighth Avenue South

CITY OR TOWN:
Nashville

STATE
Tennessee

CODE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

_____
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

_____
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973-729-147/1442 3-1

7. Description (cont'd.)

From the main hall, a double-flight open stairway, with square balusters and ornamented brackets, leads to the upper floor. This level has a modern bath and four approximately 14- by 15-foot bedrooms, each of which exhibits original plank flooring. Access from the main floor to the basement is via an open dog-leg stairway. The seven rooms on this level include storage areas, laundry facilities, and a modern kitchen, as well as the original kitchen and dining room. Although altered, the old kitchen retains a large brick fireplace that may have been used for cooking. The dining room is situated in the southwest corner of the basement and is accessible from the exterior by either the entrance underneath the front porch or the porticoed entrance on the south side of the house.

Except for addition of several rear rooms, application of a coat of rapidly deteriorating white paint on the exterior brick, removal of the shaked roof, and installation of up-to-date heating, bathing, and cooking facilities, the Trumbull House has undergone few significant alterations. The exact date of construction is unknown but is believed to be between 1820 and 1837. Trumbull bought the residence in 1849 and occupied it apparently until about 1863, when he moved his family to Chicago. The present owners acquired the structure in 1961 and are restoring it.

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

Biography

Born in Colchester, Conn., in October 1813, Lyman Trumbull descended from a prominent New England family. His grandfather Benjamin wrote the first history of Connecticut, and Jonathan, a cousin, served as Connecticut's Governor from 1769 to 1784. Although Lyman's father graduated from Yale and made his living variously as a farmer, lawyer, and judge, he did not earn enough to support his eight living children and send Lyman to college too. Consequently young Trumbull received all his formal education at Bacon Academy in Colchester.

Lyman completed his studies at age 18 and immediately took a teaching position in nearby Portland. Scarcely 2 years later, in 1833, he moved to South Carolina and became principal of Greenville Academy. Dissatisfied with this work, Trumbull decided to enter the legal profession, and after being admitted to the bar in 1836, he settled in the bustling town of Belleville, Ill., and entered into a law partnership with former Gov. John Reynolds, an influential Democrat and member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Like most other enterprising Illinois lawyers of his day, including Abraham Lincoln, Trumbull performed much of his trial work "on the circuit." Twice a year he accompanied the circuit judge to the various county seats and picked up clients as he went. While engaged in this activity Trumbull earned a reputation throughout southern Illinois as a good lawyer and political debater, and in 1840 he decided to run for public office. With Reynolds' support Trumbull won a seat in the Illinois Legislature and thereby began an outstanding political career that spanned five decades and included three changes of party.

Trumbull served only briefly in the legislature, but during that time he engineered enactment of a bill for State judicial reform and became known as a champion of the common man. This gained him appointment as Illinois secretary of state in 1841. Unfortunately service in that office ended unhappily, for Trumbull disagreed with Gov. John Ford about how to meet the State's banking crisis and was asked to resign in 1842.

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

During the next few years, Trumbull devoted most of his attention to law and his bride, Julia Jayne, whom he married in 1843. He was determined to mend his political fences, though, and he campaigned for James K. Polk in the Presidential election of 1844. In addition Trumbull broke with Reynolds, who no longer dominated the State Democratic Party. Perhaps more important, the young lawyer gained support in the State capital and in northern Illinois as a result of his efforts to win repeal of the State's repressive Territorial Indenture Act and Black Codes.

By 1846 Trumbull felt confident enough to try again for public office. He sought his party's nomination first for Governor and then for Congressman, but due largely to Ford's continued opposition, Trumbull obtained neither designation. In 1848, however, Illinoisans adopted a new constitution that provided for election of the State supreme court. Because of Trumbull's excellent legal reputation, southern Illinois Democrats persuaded him to run for one of the court positions, and he won by a wide margin.

Shortly after the election, Trumbull moved his family to Alton, where they could enjoy a more healthful climate and greater economic and cultural opportunities. The Trumbulls delighted in their new home, but Lyman disliked the restrictions that his judicial position placed on his political activity. Thus despite gaining reelection in 1852 to a full 9-year court term, he resigned in 1853 to resume practicing law.

Trumbull's decision to leave the bench coincided closely with Senator Stephen A. Douglas' introduction of the Kansas-Nebraska bill in January 1854. By allowing the citizens of Kansas and Nebraska to decide for themselves whether slavery would be permitted in their respective territories, this measure appeared to repeal the Missouri Compromise of 1820. Trumbull was not an abolitionist, but along with a number of other leading Illinois Democrats, he opposed the bill vigorously. Once the proposal became law, Douglas grew concerned about the opposition building toward him in his home State, and he returned to deliver a series of vindication speeches. Trumbull and Lincoln followed the Senator from town to town denouncing the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

This canvass established Trumbull as an effective spokesman for the anti-Nebraska wing of the Democratic Party and signaled the future course of his political career. In the fall he tried again for a congressional seat and this time, with anti-Nebraska and Whig support, he won. Before Congress convened in 1855, however, the Illinois Legislature met to choose a new U.S. Senator. When no single party or faction could muster sufficient strength to decide the election on the first few ballots, anti-Nebraska-ites and Whigs joined again and selected Trumbull for the office.

Shocked by the deep feelings of sectionalism that were manifest in the Senate, Trumbull adopted a moderate position. At the same time he was determined to oppose all efforts, especially by Douglas, to extend slavery into new territories. This attitude brought Trumbull into close alliance with Lincoln, and both supported the call for an Illinois Republican convention in May 1856. Later that year Trumbull bolted the Democratic Party completely, attended the Republicans' national gathering in Philadelphia, and campaigned for the party's candidates in Illinois.

During the next 4 years Trumbull continued to oppose the spread of slavery. He fought the proposed proslavery Lecompton constitution for Kansas Territory and spoke against the Dred Scott decision. In addition he became a focal point of the Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858. Lincoln raised some of the same questions that Trumbull had asked Douglas in the Senate, and at one point the Democratic Senator accused Lincoln of trying "to ride into office on Trumbull's back."[3]

Trumbull supported Lincoln both in his unsuccessful 1858 Senate race and in his victorious bid for the Presidency in 1860. Both men felt that the southern secessionist movement should be forcibly crushed, and both opposed the Crittenden compromise proposals and Virginia peace plan. In 1861 Trumbull ascended to the chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and from that vantage point, he urged vigorous prosecution of the Civil War. To encourage the

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[3] Quoted in ibid., p. 146.

8. Significance (cont'd.)

emancipation of slaves and their use in the war, he wrote and secured enactment of the Confiscation Acts of 1861 and 1862. Furthermore he supported legislation authorizing the President arbitrarily to arrest and suspend the right of habeas corpus for persons suspected of treason. Trumbull castigated Lincoln for undertaking such action without congressional approval, however, and doubted aloud that he had sufficient power to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Accordingly Trumbull lead the fight for the 13th amendment to the Constitution.

Following the war and Lincoln's assassination, Trumbull urged Congress to support President Andrew Johnson and give his reconstruction plan time to work. At the same time Trumbull introduced the Freedmen's Bureau and civil rights bills. These were designed to void the South's Black Codes and provide military and judicial protection to the newly freed slaves. When Johnson vetoed these measures, he alienated Trumbull and caused him to embrace congressional reconstruction.

Early in 1867 Trumbull supported passage of the First Reconstruction Act and introduced the Second Reconstruction Act. These lacked some of the harsher provisions that the so-called Radical Republicans wanted and that Trumbull opposed. Because of his moderate stance on these measures, one Senator dubbed him a "Conservative Radical." Probably this was an appropriate sobriquet, for throughout his remaining tenure as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Trumbull and Senator William P. Fessenden of Maine headed a moderate Republican-Democratic coalition that clashed frequently and oftentimes victoriously with the Radicals. In keeping with this posture, Trumbull voted not guilty on grounds of insufficient evidence at Johnson's impeachment trial.

By 1870 Trumbull was almost ready to break completely with the Republican Party. He abhorred the Grant administration's political patronage system, and he wanted to readmit the remaining unreconstructed Southern States unconditionally. Therefore in 1870 and 1871, he pressed for enactment of the Nation's first civil service reform law and opposed the

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

Ku Klux Klan or force bills. In addition, Trumbull welcomed formation of the Liberal Republican Party in Missouri in 1870. Their platform called for amnesty for the South, civil service reform, and restriction of monopolies.

For a while Trumbull tried to force the Republican Party to adopt these planks, but failing in that goal, he shifted to the new party, now organized on a national level. Liberal Republicans around the country urged him to seek the party's Presidential nomination in 1872, but he became a candidate only reluctantly and lost the honor ultimately to Horace Greeley. Unfortunately also for Trumbull, the change of parties cost him his Senate seat. When his third term expired in 1873, the Republican-dominated Illinois Legislature refused to return him to Washington.

Now a widower as well as a politician without an office, Trumbull retired to Chicago to practice law. He remarried in 1877 and served that same year as a counsel for Samuel J. Tilden in the disputed 1876 Presidential election. In 1880 Trumbull succumbed to pressure from Illinois Democrats to seek the Governor's chair but lost decisively.

During the remaining years of his life, Trumbull became closely associated with William Jennings Bryan and called often for legislative restrictions on monopolies. In 1894 the "Conservative Radical" made his last foray onto the national scene. Accepting an invitation to speak at a Chicago rally of the Populist Party he outlined a series of proposals for the control of big business and the protection of the rights of labor, and in December the Populist Convention in St. Louis adopted his statement without change as a declaration of principles. Less than 2 years later Trumbull died of cancer.

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