**Form 10-300**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

*(Type all entries — complete applicable sections)*

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**1. NAME**

- **COMMON:** Mary Todd Lincoln House
- **AND/OR HISTORIC:** Mary Todd Lincoln House

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**2. LOCATION**

- **STREET AND NUMBER:** 574 West Main Street
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Lexington
- **STATE:** Kentucky

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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Yes: Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRESENT USE** *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Commercial
- Private Residence
- Museum

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**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

- **OWNER'S NAME:** Mr. Sterling Coke
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** Georgetown Pike
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Lexington
- **STATE:** Kentucky

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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

- **COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:** Fayette County Courthouse, Clerk's Office
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** East Main Street
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Lexington
- **STATE:** Kentucky

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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

- **TITLE OF SURVEY:** Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky
- **DATE OF SURVEY:** 1970-71
- **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:** Kentucky Heritage Commission
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** 401 Wapping Street
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Frankfort
- **STATE:** Kentucky
The property is a two-story solid brick **Georgian Colonial**

residence. **Original Appearance as Todd residence:** Brick were

laid in Flemish bond on the front and one side of the structure.

A belt course and water table were also part of the construction.

The interior of the home included an ell and eight or nine

rooms. On the Main Street entrance is a hall about eight feet

wide which extends 40 feet to the ell in the rear. Large

parlors were located on each side of the hall. Also on the

first floor was a library with a door that led into the parlor.

A stairway ascends from the hall to the second floor,

above which is a finished attic. The second floor contained

a ballroom and bedrooms for the family.

The grounds of the rear lawn were ample for a coach house,

stables and servant quarters. A large formal lawn was on the

side lawn. Through the lower edge of the property ran the

Town Fork of the Elkhorn Creek.

**Present Appearance:** Located in downtown Lexington, adja-

cent to the other buildings of Van Deren Hardware Company, the

house is in poor condition. Changes have been made both in the

exterior and interior. The area is zoned commercial. The

building has been used as a warehouse and as a store or sales

room, but at present is vacant.

The house is divided into two parts. A separate store-

front entrance has been added to the front of the building.

Partitions and paneling were erected when the house was used

for a sales room. Some of the original doors and mantels

have been taken down and stored in a back room.

All the land around the house has been developed commerci-

ally. A small parking lot is located at the side and rear

of the house.
The house at 574 West Main Street was built between 1810 and 1820. The builder is not known but is believed to be either William Palmateer, the first owner of the home or Mathias Shryock, a Lexington builder and father of the noted Kentucky architects Gideon and Cincinnatus Shryock.

Until 1832, the structure served Lexington as a tavern or inn under a variety of names. Unable to pay a mortgage which he owed a Lexington bank, Palmateer was forced to sell his inn and other properties. Robert S. Todd, a prominent businessman, bought the house at 574 West Main Street for $1,321.00.

Mary Todd was fourteen years old when her family moved from West Short Street to West Main Street. Her mother dead, her father had remarried and their family was increasing in number. For four years Mary attended boarding school during the week but returned to her home on the weekends. She continued to live at the West Main address, until 1839 when she moved to Springfield, Illinois to live with her sister, Mrs. Ninian Edwards.

Caught up in the social life in Springfield, she eventually married a young lawyer named Abraham Lincoln in 1842. After her marriage, the Lincolns visited in Lexington and the Todd home on three occasions.

Elected to Congress from Illinois in 1847, the young Lincoln family stopped in Lexington while en route to Washington. It was Mary's first opportunity to introduce her husband to her friends and relatives in central Kentucky.

(see continuation sheet)


### 10. Geographical Data

**Latitude and Longitude Coordinates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corner</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>38° 3' 5&quot;</td>
<td>84° 30' 10&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>0° 0' 0&quot;</td>
<td>0° 0' 0&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>0° 0' 0&quot;</td>
<td>0° 0' 0&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>0° 0' 0&quot;</td>
<td>0° 0' 0&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Approximate Acreage of Nominated Property:**

One tenth acre

**List All States and Counties for Properties Overlapping State or National Boundaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 11. Form Prepared By

**Name and Title:**

Kathy Lambert, Assistant Curator

**Organization:**

Kentucky Department of Parks

**Street and Number:**

State Office Building Annex

**City or Town:**

Frankfort

### 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:**

[Signature]

**Title:**

[Title]

**Date:**

[Date]

### National Register Verification

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

**Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation**

**Date:**

[Date]

**Attest:**

[Signature]

**Date:**

[Date]
# 8. Statement of Significance.

In 1849, a second visit was made in order to aid in the settlement of a lawsuit involving the estate of Mary's father, who had died of cholera that summer.

The final and third visit was made by the somewhat smaller Lincoln family in 1850, after the death of their younger son, Edward. The trip was both an effort to escape the sorrow of their loss and to assist in the settlement of the estate of Mary's grandmother.

Mary's stepmother sold the house in 1852 as part of the final settlement of her husband's estate. She received $2,950 for the property.