Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

*(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)*

| STATE: | |
|---|---|
| COUNTY: | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

## 1. NAME

COMMON:
Lincoln-Herndon Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:
S. M. Tinsley Building

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
SW Corner Adams & Smith

CITY OR TOWN:
Springfield

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Illinois | | Sangamon | |

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ District ☒ Building<br>☐ Site ☐ Structure<br>☐ Object | ☐ Public<br>☒ Private<br>☐ Both | Public Acquisition:<br>☐ In Process<br>☐ Being Considered | ☒ Occupied<br>☐ Unoccupied<br>☐ Preservation work in progress | Yes:<br>☐ Restricted<br>☒ Unrestricted<br>☐ 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:
J. Myers, R. Axtoby, Mrs. H. Bartholf

STREET AND NUMBER:

| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE: | CODE |
|---|---|---|
| Springfield | Illinois | |

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

STREET AND NUMBER:

| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE | CODE |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE: | CODE |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

## 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 Tinsley Building with its wooden cornice containing rectangular attic windows and its brick piers carrying a wooden entablature at the first floor level is a good example of a commercial building in the Greek Revival style. The walls of solid brick are gathered into piers at the ground floor in order to permit relatively large shop windows. The truss roof, which can hardly be seen from the street, is carried on large hand-hewn mortised timbers. The building apparently was originally twice its present width judging by an illustration of 1850 and by the abbreviated trusses in the attic story. No doubt there were also offices on the second and third floors opening into a light court on the west side of the building. The western half of the building was demolished in 1871 when the present building on that site was erected.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Pre-Columbian
- ☐ 15th Century
- ☐ 16th Century
- ☐ 17th Century
- ☐ 18th Century
- ☒ 19th Century
- ☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1840-41

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

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

S. M. Tinsley, born in Virginia in 1805, was a resident of Springfield when in 1840 he bought property at the corner of Sixth and Adams Streets and began erecting a three-story commercial building. Tinsley, a retail merchant, was able on March 5, 1841, to move his stock of goods into the southern two-thirds of the ground floor of his new building. During the following year Tinsley managed to rent the remainder of the ground floor to the U.S. Government as a Post Office. Tinsley's most famous tenant, Abraham Lincoln, took space in 1843 on the third floor of the building over the U.S. District Court on the second floor and the Post Office on the first. He was then in partnership with Stephen T. Logan. When, in December, 1844, Logan moved out to enter a partnership with his son, Lincoln retained the office and took as his partner, William H. Herndon, a former law student in the Logan & Lincoln firm. Lincoln's election to Congress in 1847 forecast a decline in business for the partnership and in anticipation of lower revenues, Lincoln & Herndon moved to a smaller room on the same floor at the south end of the building, remaining there until 1852 when they moved to an office on the west side of the public square.

The Tinsley Building, a Greek Revival commercial structure of very good design and in an excellent state of preservation, would be a rarity in almost any city. Its greatest significance derives, however, from the tenancy in it between 1843 and 1852 of Illinois' most famous person, Abraham Lincoln.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Lincoln's Law Offices in the Tinsley Building, 1843-1852," Lincoln Lore, Sept. 1969, 1-4.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | | | | | | | OR | 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 | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | | | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " |
| NE | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | | | | | | | | |
| SE | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | | | | | | | | |
| SW | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | | | | | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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:

ORGANIZATION | DATE

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: | STATE | 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.

_____
*Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date _____

ATTEST:

_____
*Keeper of The National Register*

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-445
(5/62)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

1. STATE ILLINOIS
COUNTY SANGAMON
TOWN SPRINGFIELD VICINITY
STREET NO. SW CORNER ADAMS & SIXTH

ORIGINAL OWNER S. M. TINSLEY
ORIGINAL USE SHOPS, OFFICES, COURT
PRESENT OWNER J. MYERS, R. AXTOBY, MRS. H. BARTHOLF
PRESENT USE MONUMENT
WALL CONSTRUCTION BRICK
NO. OF STORIES THREE

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY

2. NAME S. M. TINSLEY BUILDING
[LINCOLN-HERNDON BUILDING]
DATE OR PERIOD 1840-41
STYLE GREEK REVIVAL
ARCHITECT UNKNOWN
BUILDER UNKNOWN

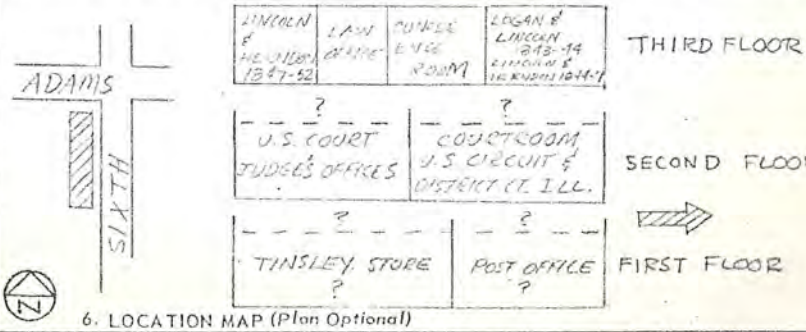
3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC YES

S. M. TINSLEY, BORN IN VIRGINIA IN 1805, WAS A RESIDENT OF SPRINGFIELD WHEN IN 1840 HE BOUGHT PROPERTY AT THE CORNER OF SIXTH AND ADAMS STREETS AND BEGAN ERECTING A THREE-STORY COMMERCIAL BUILDING. TINSLEY, A RETAIL MERCHANT, WAS ABLE ON MARCH 5, 1841, TO MOVE HIS STOCK OF GOODS INTO THE SOUTHERN TWO-THIRDS OF THE GROUND FLOOR OF HIS NEW BUILDING. DURING THE FOLLOWING YEAR TINSLEY MANAGED TO RENT THE REMAINDER OF THE GROUND FLOOR TO THE U. S. GOVERNMENT AS A POST OFFICE. TINSLEY'S MOST FAMOUS TENANT, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, TOOK SPACE IN 1843 ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE BUILDING OVER THE U. S. DISTRICT COURT ON THE SECOND FLOOR AND POST OFFICE ON THE FIRST. HE WAS THEN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH STEPHEN T. LOGAN. WHEN, IN DECEMBER, 1844, LOGAN MOVED OUT TO ENTER A PARTNERSHIP WITH HIS SON, LINCOLN RETAINED THE OFFICE AND TOOK AS HIS PARTNER, WILLIAM H. HERNDON, A FORMER LAW STUDENT IN THE LOGAN & LINCOLN FIRM. LINCOLN'S ELECTION TO CONGRESS IN 1847 FORECAST A DECLINE IN BUSINESS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP AND IN ANTICIPATION OF LOWER REVENUES, LINCOLN & HERNDON MOVED TO A SMALLER ROOM ON THE SAME FLOOR AT THE SOUTH END OF THE BUILDING, REMAINING THERE UNTIL 1852 WHEN THEY MOVED TO AN OFFICE ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE PUBLIC SQUARE.

THE TINSLEY BUILDING WITH ITS WOODEN CORNICE CONTAINING RECTANGULAR ATTIC WINDOWS AND ITS BRICK PIERS CARRYING A WOODEN ENTABLATURE AT THE FIRST FLOOR LEVEL IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF A COMMERCIAL BUILDING IN THE GREEK REVIVAL STYLE. THE WALLS OF SOLID BRICK ARE GATHERED INTO PIERS AT THE GROUND FLOOR IN ORDER TO PERMIT RELATIVELY LARGE SHOP WINDOWS. THE TRUSS ROOF, WHICH CAN HARDLY BE SEEN FROM THE STREET, IS CARRIED ON LARGE HAND-HEWN MORTISED TIMBERS. THE BUILDING APPARENTLY WAS ORIGINALLY TWICE ITS PRESENT WIDTH JUDGING BY AN ILLUSTRATION OF 1850 AND BY THE ABBREVIATED TRUSSES IN THE

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered NO Interior EXCELLENT Exterior EXCELLENT



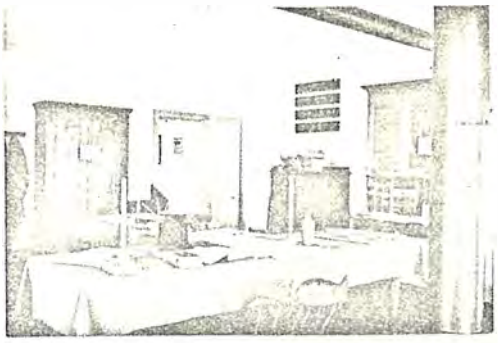

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

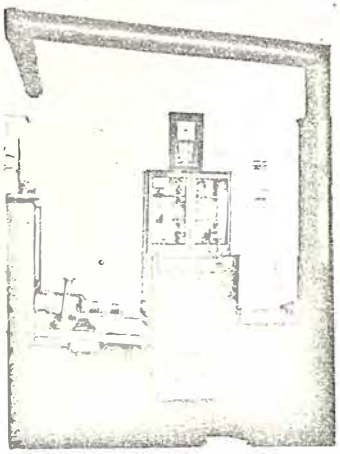
"LINCOLN'S LAW OFFICES IN THE TINSLEY BUILDING, 1843-1852," LINCOLN LORE, SEPT. 1969, 1-4.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
PAUL E. SPRAGUE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
MODERN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DATE OF RECORD SEPTEMBER, 1970



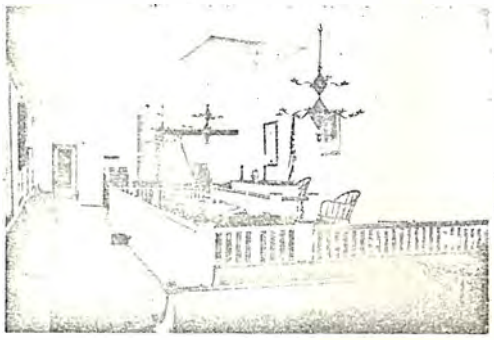
LINCOLN OFFICE, 1844-47

LOOKING SOUTHWEST

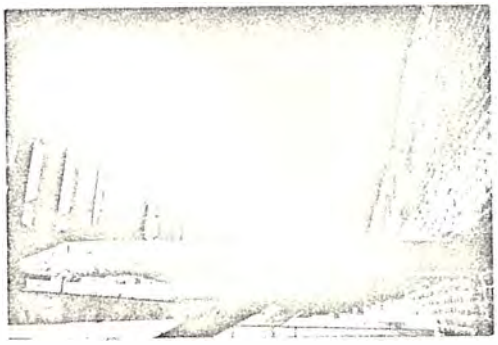


LINCOLN OFFICE, 1847-52

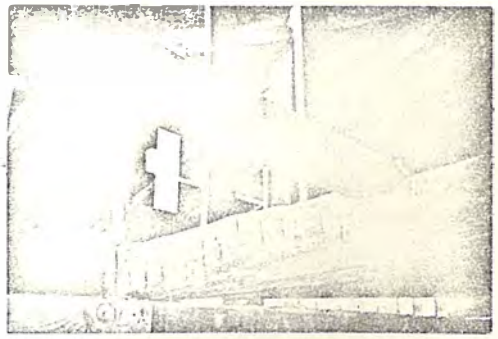
LINCOLN OFFICE, 1847-52



COURTROOM



ROOF TIMBERS



ROOF TIMBERS

ATTIC STORY. NO DOUBT THERE ALSO OFFICES ON THE SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS OPENING INTO A LIGHT COURT ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE BUILDING. THE WESTERN HALF OF THE BUILDING WAS DEMOLISHED IN 1871 WHEN THE PRESENT BUILDING ON THAT SITE WAS ERECTED.

THE TINSLEY BUILDING, A GREEK REVIVAL COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE OF VERY GOOD DESIGN AND IN AN EXCELLENT STATE OF PRESERVATION, WOULD BE A RARETY IN ALMOST ANY CITY. ITS GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE DERIVES, HOWEVER, FROM THE TENANCY IN IT BETWEEN 1843 AND 1852 OF ILLINOIS' MOST FAMOUS PERSON, ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

A. LINCOLN LAW OFFICES
KAY JEWELERS
KAY JEWELERS
ONE WAY
GRAYSON

A. LINCOLN OFFICE AND U. S. COURT
KAY JEWELERS

CHANCERY SALES!
FARMS, TOWN-LOTS, RESIDENCES, &c.,
A RESIDENCE
TOWN LOT,
A STORE HOUSE,

EXIT
LAW OFFICE OF
S.T. LOGAN & D. LOGAN
1844 · 1847
LINCOLN & HERNDON
1847 · 1852

LAW OFFICE OF
SHIELDS & CONKLING
1841 · 1843
LOGAN & LINCOLN
1843 · 1844
LINCOLN & HERNDON
1844 · 1847
Third
Lincoln
Office

# Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1579 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA September, 1969


## Lincoln's Law Offices In The Tinsley Building 1843 – 1852

*Editor's Note:* In the preparation of this article I have relied heavily on the work of James T. Hickey, the curator of the Lincoln collection of the Illinois State Historical Library of Springfield. His research notes have proved invaluable in attempting to work out the complicated history of the Tinsley Building.

Likewise, the editor is indebted to Richard M. Phillips, the editor of *Iliniwek*, whose article "Prairie Lawyer" appeared in the May-June 1969 issue. His concise account of the three Lincoln law partnerships, the different office locations by the use of floor plans and maps and the excellent photographs with which he illustrated his article have made my task much easier in attempting to present an accurate account of the historic building.

The editor also found James E. Meyer's article "Springfield The Town That Remembers Lincoln" that was published by the *Chicago Tribune Sunday Magazine* on December 15, 1968, most helpful in describing the furnishings and contents of the restored building.

R. G. M.

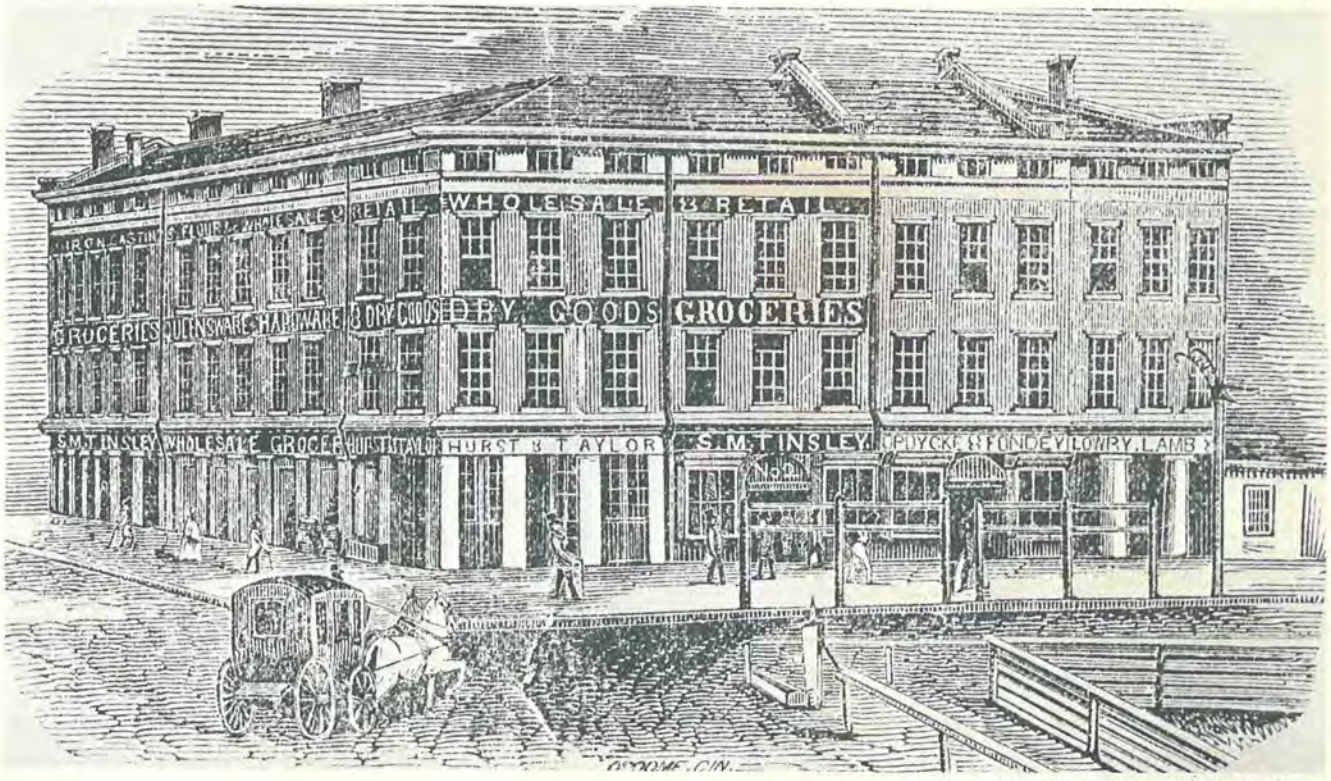
In the summer months of 1843 the law firm of Stephen T. Logan and Abraham Lincoln moved to a large office on the third floor of the Tinsley Building at Sixth and Adams Streets. Their original location had been on the east side of North Fifth Street less than one-half of a block from the Square. The present walk-up teller's windows of the Illinois National Bank mark the site. This original office was also directly across Fifth Street from the location of the former Stuart and Lincoln law office. In the Tinsley Building they probably occupied the vacated Shields and Conkling office. Although directly over the United States District and Circuit Court Room on the second floor, their advertising card in the local papers stated they were over the post office which was located on the first floor. The Tinsley Building at this time was only about three years old and was considered a show place in Springfield.

The firm's new location was announced by the following business card which appeared in the *Sangamo Journal* of July 27, 1843:

Logan & Lincoln
Attorneys and Councellors at Law, Springfield
— Office over the Post Office — third story

This law-partnership, originating in 1841, was short lived because Logan wished to form an association with his son, David. In December 1844 Logan moved to a smaller office on the third floor of the Tinsley Building, in order to practice law with his son.

Lincoln remained in the large front office, taking into




*From The Illinois State Historical Library*

**The Tinsley Building (Circa 1850) taken from a woodcut which appeared in the *Illinois State Journal* of June 1, 1850.**

*From* Iliniwek, *May-June, 1969*

**The restored Tinsley Building located on the southwest corner of Fifth and Adams Streets. Here on the third floor was Lincoln's law office from 1843 to 1852.**

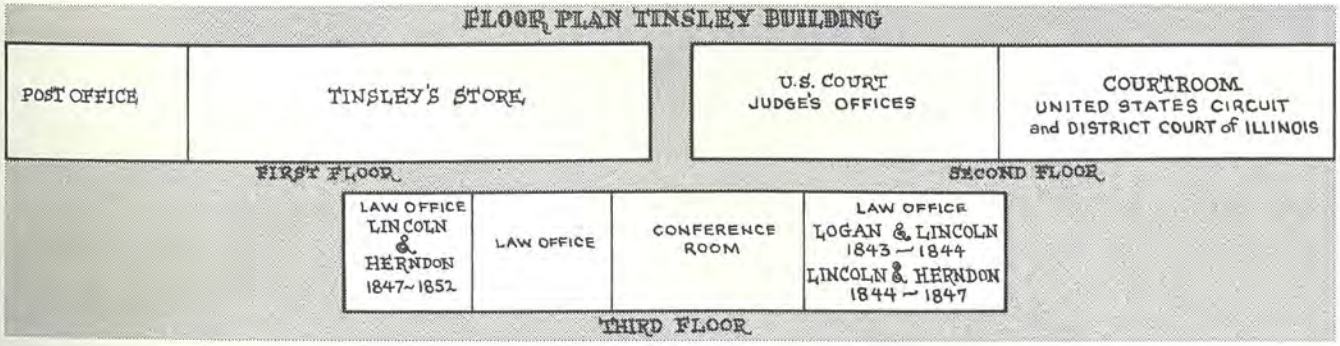
partnership William H. Herndon, a young man nine years his junior, who had just received his license to practice. Herndon had been a law student in the Logan & Herndon office. "Billy" as Lincoln always called him stayed in Springfield and took care of the office while Lincoln toured the circuit. This arrangement was ideal, and the two lawyers worked well together. During the ensuing years Lincoln was also active in politics, and on August 3, 1846 he was elected to Congress. He rode the circuit, however, until the middle of October 1847, when he made preparations to travel to Washington, D.C. to serve his one term in Congress.

Since Lincoln's absence from an active law practice would curtail the firm's income, their office was moved from the large front area of the third floor of the Tinsley Building to a small office at the rear of the third floor, which had once been occupied by Logan and his son David. Their business card appeared as follows in the local papers:

Abraham Lincoln W. H. Herndon
Lincoln & Herndon, Attorneys and
Councellors at Law, will practice in the Courts
of Law and Chancery in the State Dec. 1847

When one attempts to define the precise location of the Lincoln-Herndon law office during the entire period of the firm's existence, there is some confusion. This is due to the fact that several months' issues of the *Illinois State Journal* are missing which would have shown a change, if they had moved, in their business card. While it is impossible to document their location in the Tinsley Building after August 23, 1849 it is generally believed that they remained there until October 1852. By October 1, 1852 their office was over the McGraw & Buchanan store on the west side of the Square, in the very same back room on the second floor vacated by W. I. Ferguson, Attorney. The *Illinois State Register*, September 25th and 27th, 1852 reported that Ferguson left Springfield for permanent residence in Texas.

Today it is difficult to locate the site of the McGraw




*From* Iliniwek, *May-June, 1969*

**Floor plan of the Tinsley Building drawn by Richard M. Phillips, editor of *Iliniwek*.**

& Buchanan store on the west side of the Square. Perhaps it was in the same building as Lincoln's last (Fifth Street) law office, as there is no tradition that Lincoln was ever in any other location on the west side of the Square.

If the assumption is correct that the McGraw & Buchanan store was in the same building as the "Old Speed Store" then Lincoln was in the same building which he had entered on April 15, 1837 when he was about to begin the practice of law with John T. Stuart. Joshua Fry Speed was the partner in the James Bell & Company store located on the first floor of the building and Lincoln occupied a room with Speed on the front second floor. The Lincoln & Herndon law office was in a back room of the same second floor.

Today there are two markers on the Myers Brothers Store which gives the impression that Speed's store was next to the building in which Lincoln & Herndon had their law office. However, they were in the same building.

Lincoln is reported to have visited his Fifth Street law office for the last time on February 10, 1861. According to Herndon (Herndon & Weik, 1892 ed., II, 192-94) the President-elect made "the strange request that the sign-board which swung on its rusty hinges at the foot of the stairway should remain. 'Let it hang there undisturbed,' he said, with a significant lowering of his voice."

A sign hangs at the foot of the Tinsley Building stairway today bearing the words "Law Office — Abraham Lincoln & William H. Herndon." It is there because the building has been restored just as it was in 1843, when Lincoln moved into the top floor, front office. The original walls, floors, ceiling still stand; only the furnishings have been added.

The exterior walls of the second and third floors have been sand-blasted to restore the bricks' original color and texture so that the building appears today as if it were new. The first floor has been largely rebuilt, using 125 year old brick to match the floors above. An attractive store with 19th century fixtures occupies a portion of the first floor. Also, an old reconstructed post office adds to the attractiveness of the interior of the first floor.

The purchase and restoration of the Tinsley Building was instituted by enterprising Springfield citizens who were eager to add another historical facet to their city's splendid heritage. The restoration project was a difficult historical problem; however, with the expert knowledge of James T. Hickey, the curator of the Lincoln Collection of the Illinois State Historical Library, the project was undertaken.

Hickey made a detailed study of all the original deeds to the property, as well as the mercantile and professional advertisements in the local papers in order to determine the many occupants of the building from the date of its construction in 1840 to the present day. A comprehensive study of the history of the building was the result of this project.

Exciting discoveries were also made of old letters, newspapers of the 1840s, account books, journals, Federal Court documents, documents of the U.S. Provost Marshal during the Civil War, business catalogues, almanacs, land records when John Taylor (S. M. Tinsley's father-in-law) was receiver of the land office in Springfield, Lincoln items and other memorabilia under the attic floor (over the Lincoln-Herndon Offices) of the building. Around the turn of the century six wagonloads of old paper were hauled away from the attic or fourth floor of the building and burned. This was done by S. J. Hanes, and his son, Murray S. Hanes, witnessed the event.

The architectural design of the restored Tinsley Building is more "prairie classic" than Georgian, and its furnishing are almost stark in their simplicity. Lincoln's offices, "with layers of dust" and papers scattered about, gives the appearance of "general dishevelment that indicated the active law practice he had." The over-all appearance of the building's interior, which includes offices other than Lincoln's, and the Federal Court room, is one of disorder. According to the *Chicago Tribune Magazine*, December 15, 1968:

> "Notices of sales, political rallies, bankruptcies were tacked to the walls. Boxes for wood stood about. Sandfilled boxes for spittoons were as often missed as hit. The place jumped with legal, political and social activity."

It has been the aim of the promoters to make the law offices and courts "seem as if they were still in use." The desired historical atmosphere has been achieved with the attic papers (worth thousands of dollars) scattered through the desks and on the tables and chairs.

This new Springfield shrine is open to the public

*From* Iliniwek, *May-June, 1969*

**Lincoln's law office, third floor (front) of Tinsley Building. Occupied by Logan & Lincoln 1843-1844, and Lincoln & Herndon 1844-1847.**

with a sight and sound program, with personnel to answer questions, with a museum of documents and with elevator service available in an adjoining building. It requires some thirty minutes to make the tour and one should allow more time if possible because it is well worth all the time you can devote to it. Adults are charged 50¢, children 25¢ and families may enter upon payment of $1.25.

What would S. M. Tinsley think of his building today? Certainly he would be pleased with the restoration. There is no photograph of Tinsley and his is a sad story. He was born in Virginia. He married Hannah Taylor in 1833, and they had eleven children. The next year following his marriage he formed a business partnership with his father-in-law, John Taylor, which lasted until 1837.

The E. D. Taylor who became his partner in 1841 was not a blood relative of his father-in-law but became a relative when he married Margaret Taylor, Mrs. Tinsley's sister. Charles R. Hurst who was also a business partner of Tinsley, married Ann Taylor, another sister of Mrs. Tinsley. Hurst got into business first by buying out Joshua F. Speed when he returned to Kentucky.

S. M. Tinsley at one time had a fine home and had erected a large Metropolitan Hall. He was a director of Mechanics & Farmers Bank in 1852, opened a large lumber yard in 1856 and a large flour mill in 1859; but after that it is apparent that he ran into personal and financial trouble.

His wife died February 23, 1867, at age 56, and her funeral was held at St. Paul's. Tinsley seems to have then closed or lost his home, because on March 25, 1868, when a fire destroyed the Metropolitan Hall which he no longer owned and which had been converted into a mill, the *Illinois State Register* reported that Mr. Tinsley, the former owner, had a sleeping room in the building and nearly lost his life in the fire.

The next year (1869) Tinsley died at 62 years of age and was buried in the Hutchinson Cemetery, but his remains were moved to the Oak Ridge Cemetery in November 1870 and buried in an unmarked grave in the lot of his brother-in-law, E. D. Taylor. Tinsley left no estate to probate, and none of his eleven children seem to have resided in Springfield at the time of his death.

Is it not ironic that the restored structure on Sixth and Adams Streets is to be called The Lincoln-Herndon Building? Would not the name Tinsley Building, with its sign of "Lincoln & Herndon" swinging on its rusty hinges (they will get rusty) at the doorway on Sixth Street be more appropriate?

## History of The Tinsley Building

*July 7, 1840*
S. M. Tinsley bought a lot (Sixth at Adams) from Garrett Elkin, Thomas & Isaac Constant and William F. Elkin. Building may have been under construction.
*December 25, 1840*
First part of building occupied.
*January 27, 1841*
A notice in *Journal* stated that an art exhibit by Wilkins & Stevenson would be held in the building.
*March 5, 1841*
S. M. Tinsley & Co. (S. M. Tinsley, Wm. M. Cowgell and E. D. Taylor) removed their entire stock of goods to the new four story brick building, on the southeast corner of the public square, directly opposite the American House. (*Register* March 5, 1841) S. M. Tinsley & Company were retail merchants. Opdycke, Tinsley & Company were in the wholesale business.
*1841*
Between January 1841 and August 1843, the U. S. Post Office occupied the back of the first floor. U.S. Court moved to the second floor.
*March 19, 1841*
The *Register* reported that Shields & Conkling had moved into the new Tinsley Building. They continued to advertise at this location until May 19, 1843.
*July 28, 1842*
*Journal* carried advertisement of S. M. Tinsley offering the store room for rent recently occupied by Opdycke, Tinsley & Co.
*1843*
Between June 15, 1843 and August 31, 1843 Logan and Lincoln moved into Tinsley Building, probably occupying the vacated Shields & Conkling office.
*April 4, 1844*
The *Journal* reported that E. D. Baker and James H. Matheny had an office on the third floor. They vacated the office in December, 1845.
*August 28, 1844*
David Logan moved his office to the third floor over the post office. He moved to a new location on September 10, 1847.
*December, 1844*
Logan & Lincoln partnership ended. Logan wished to take son David as partner. David was already in the building on the same floor. Lincoln took as his partner William H. Herndon, a former student in the Logan & Lincoln firm.
*February, 1847*
A. T. Bledsoe moved into office over the post office.
*February 17, 1849*
Tinsley and Charles R. Hurst dissolved partnership. Hurst remained in building.
*March 23, 1849*
Hurst took in E. J. Taylor as partner, and firm became Hurst & Taylor. Tinsley moved to building in center block on south side of square.
*July 30, 1849*
A. Campbell advertised office in Tinsley Building.
*September 17, 1849*
Tinsley moved back to Tinsley Building to the 2nd 20 foot front, next to Hurst & Taylor on corner. He called his new store "Tinsley's No. 2."
*August 23, and 29, 1849*
According to *Daily Journal* and *Weekly Journal* Lincoln & Herndon were still listed on the third story over the post office.
*August 24, 1849*
S. T. Logan had new office west of Hawley & Loose store. This was one and one-half blocks west of Tinsley Building.
*August 27, 1849*
*Daily Journal* carried statement that William Pope, Clerk of the United States District and Circuit Courts had office over post office in the Tinsley Building.
*October 13, 1849*
Advertisement in *Register* carried announcement that Tinsley had a tailoring establishment on the second floor of Store No. 2.

(To be continued in the October issue)

*From* Illiniwek, *May-June, 1969*

**Small office on the third floor of the Tinsley Building (rear) occupied by Lincoln & Herndon, 1847-1852.**

## History of the Tinsley Building

(Continued from the September issue)

*October 17, 1849*
The Post Office was removed from building to John William's new building on 4th Street nearly opposite the store of Hickox Brothers. Two postmasters served in the building. G. W. Spottswood served as postmaster from August 1841 to November 1844, and Jonathan R. Diller served from 1844 to 1849.

*November 22, 1850*
William Peacocke's grocery moved into old Post Office room in building.

*June 7, 1850*
S. M. Tinsley sold building to Philip C. Johnson.

*April 28, 1851*
E. D. Taylor purchased stock of S. M. Tinsley. This was the store Tinsley had in west half of building. Taylor was partner of Hurst & Taylor in corner room.

*May 16, 1851*
William Peacocke offered for rent the old post office room and the second and third story of the west half of the building which was lately occupied by S. M. Tinsley.

*June 19, 1851*
An advertisement in the *Register* indicated that Peacocke moved from the Tinsley Building.

*August 9, 1851*
Tinsley offered for rent the store room vacated by Peacocke.

*February 24, 1852*
*Journal* carried advertisement that new firm of Pheasant & Pritchard had rented room vacated by Peacocke.

*October 1, 1852*
Lincoln & Herndon office over McGraw & Buchanan store west side of square vacated by W. I. Ferguson, attorney. *Daily Register* reported that Ferguson left for permanent residence in Texas September 25, 1852. (*Register*, September 27, 1852) Location of Lincoln & Herndon law office between August 23, 1849 when still in the Tinsley Building and this location is not definitely known.

*April 1, 1853*
The *Register* in statements dated April 1 and 19, announced the formation of a new mercantile firm, Yates, Smith & Co. at the old stand of Pheasant & Pritchard in the Tinsley Building. C. M. Smith was Lincoln's brother-in-law.

*April 7, 1853*
American Express Co. with S. M. Tinsley as agent was located over Hurst & Taylor (corner store) but whether second or third floor is not known.

*August 17, 1855*
A. C. Dickens, U.S. Marshal, announced the renting of the second floor of Logan Building (northeast corner of the square) thus moving the federal courts out of the Tinsley Building.

*May 22, 1854*
Philip A. Johnson *et al* sold building to James A. Barrett.

*May 28, 1856*
Barrett sold east half of building to Charles W. Matheny. The complete text of the deed recorded that Yates & Smith occupied the building next door west and back of building which had been the Post Office until October, 1849.

*February, 1858*
Hurst & Matheny formed partnership. Matheny owned building where Hurst had store for many years. The firm became Matheny & Company.

*1866*
J. H. Matheny & Whithurst, lawyers, had office in building. Structure was called Matheny Building.

*1868*
John Bressmer took over store of Matheny & Co.

*1868-1875*
Matheny & McGuire, lawyers, had office in building.

*1871*
C. M. Smith razed the west half of the Tinsley Building and also the next two store buildings (Butler Brothers) and built "Smith's Block." The room nearest the corner was occupied by Roberts & Co. The next area by T. S. Little and the third room by C. M. Smith & Co. The original old post office room in the Tinsley building which fronted on Sixth Street was connected in the back of Smith's new store. (See *Journal* January 1, 1873, February 2, 1873 and January 1, 1875)

*November 13, 1872*
C. M. Smith & Co. moved into their new building.

*1882*
Frank Burnett, lawyer, had office in building.

*1882-1914*
The Farmers National Bank occupied first floor. The bank was organized in the office of Isaac Keys on May 2, 1882 (See *Journal*, May 3, 1882)

*1884 Directory*
Offices over the Farmers National Bank were rented to W. H. Colley, R. M. S. Crook, C. P. Kane (Rooms 3 & 4) and S. D. Scholes.

*1882-1886*
Bluford Wilson & Frank H. Jones, attorneys, had office in building.

*1894*
R. H. McAnulty, lawyer, had office in building.

*1914*
After the Farmers National Bank moved out of the building in 1914, its space was rented for mercantile businesses. For many years and until restoration there was a shoe store. The second floor space seems to have always been rented for law offices. However, only one law office was left when restoration started; the rest were vacant. The third floor was occupied for the last 72 years by Murray S. Hanes and his father, S. J. Hanes, who were architects.

*February 16, 1967*
The building was purchased and restored by Mr. and Mrs. James E. Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Axtoby and Mrs. H. B. Bartholf.

*1968*
The restored Tinsley Building was opened in the fall to the public. There was no formal opening. The only literature available concerning the restored structure refers to it as The Lincoln-Herndon Building.

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## CORRECTION

The statement is made in the September, 1969 issue on page 2, first column, line three, that "Herndon had been a law student in the Logan & Herndon office." This law firm should have been Logan & Lincoln.

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## Unique Honor

Abraham Lincoln was "justifiably lauded at a Democratic political function (February 12, 1968) in Spokane . . . and then awarded an honorary membership in the Democratic party."

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The Union ladies of the interior of Kentucky are having Bell and Everett printed on their bonnet strings. *Per contra* the republican ladies West are having pictures of Lincoln on their bonnet strings, as an offset to the Kentucky ladies.

*Boston Advertiser* (August 17, 1860)