

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Home and birthplace of William Jennings Bryan

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
408 South Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:
Salem

STATE: Illinois

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
24th-Kenneth Gray

CODE: 17

COUNTY: Marion

CODE: 121

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" 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)

Yes:
 Restricted
 Unrestricted
 No

Comments:
Private viewing of home

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Salem, Illinois

STREET AND NUMBER:
101 South Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:
Salem

STATE: Illinois

CODE: 17

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Clerk's Office Marion County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 217

CITY OR TOWN:
Salem

STATE: Illinois

CODE: 17

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 Federal State County Local

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William Jennings Bryan Home has changed little from the day on which it was constructed. The only major change in the house was the raising operation which was done in the early 1900s when he gave the house to the City of Salem, and asked that it be turned into a museum to house the artifacts and memorabilia of his life.

It is a white 2-story frame structure facing west to east built in 1852. The front porch has been semi-enclosed and the full length shutters have been removed from the windows. The chimney appears to have been altered somewhat over the years and downspouts and guttering have also been added. The house was moved from its original site to accomodate the library which was built on the corner where the house used to sit. The movement of the house comes to about 90 feet.

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6. 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) **1852**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bryan Home was built in 1852 by Silas Bryan, a noted Illinois state senator and Circuit Court Judge. William Jennings Bryan was born in this home March 19, 1860. The Bryans lived in this home until 1866 when they moved to a larger home located northwest of Salem.

It was here in Salem that William Jennings Bryan grew up and learned so many of the ideals and values that were to make him one of the most prominent political figures during the turn of the century.

Upon moving to Lincoln, Nebraska in 1887, Bryan became very involved in political circles. The next year he was a delegate to the Democratic State convention. In 1890 and 1892 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the State of Nebraska.

During the 1896 Democratic National Convention, he made the now famous "The Cross of Gold Speech", in which he favored the free coinage of silver. It was also at this convention that he was selected as the Democratic candidate for the Presidency of the United States. He was, however, defeated in his bid for the Presidency by William McKinley.

When the Spanish-American War broke out, Bryan expected a commission as a Colonel with the 3rd Nebraska Volunteer Regiment, after he had refused offers of commissions by many other states. After 7 months in the service of his country, he resigned his commission because he felt that he could better serve his country in the political arena during the upcoming peace talks with Spain.

In 1900 he was again nominated the Democratic candidate for President. For a second time he was defeated by William McKinley.

In 1908 for the third time in his life he was selected to be the Democratic candidate for President. The Presidency was not to be his though. He was defeated in his attempt for the Presidency by William Howard Taft.

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STATE Illinois	
COUNTY Marion	
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During the 1912 Democratic convention he was instrumental in securing the Presidential nomination for Woodrow Wilson. Following the election of Wilson as President, William Jennings Bryan served as Wilson's Secretary of State from 1913 until 1915. Bryan resigned as Secretary of State in 1915 because of the Lusitania note which he feared would involve the United States in World War I.

Bryan spent the years that followed his resignation lecturing on religious and pacifist topics.

In 1925 William Jennings Bryan was called upon to help assist the State of Tennessee in the prosecution of William Scopes for the teaching of the theory of evolution in school. What followed would have to be called one of the most famous trials in history. What had started out as a simple trial turned into a debate on the theory of evolution. Clarence Darrow, one of the greatest defense lawlers of all time was defending Scopes. Under the humid Summer heat William Jennings Bryan and Clarence Darrow battled point after point about the theory of evolution. In the end Bryan won the case, but he did not have long to enjoy his victory. Five days after the trial on July 26, 1925 William Jennings Bryan died in Dayton, Tennessee. He was lain to rest in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

There was more to William Jennings Bryan than his political interest. He was also a great humanitarian. It was through his efforts that a library was built in Salem. He donated the land and a large sum of money towards the erection of the library. The Bryan home was also a gift to the City of Salem from Bryan.

Salem is just one community that William Jennings Bryan had helped. There are countless others across the nation. In every act and deed William Jennings Bryan sought to help his fellow man. That is one reason why at times he was called "The Great Commoner". It is therefore only fitting that the community in which he was born and raised should want to honor the birthplace of a man who had helped so many. It is a just and fitting tribute to such a great human-being.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Colletta, Paolo E., The Youth of William Jennings Bryan-Beginning of a Christian Statesman, Nebraska History, The Nebraska State Historical Society, March, 1950.

Continental Historical Bureau of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, History of Salem, Illinois and Surrounding Territory.

Koenig, Louis W., Bryan.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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

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

LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
38	37	27	88	56	43

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .4

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Clyde E. Evans Planning Intern

ORGANIZATION: City of Salem DATE: 4/18/74

STREET AND NUMBER: 101 South Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Illinois CODE: 62881

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: *Cynthia J. Rivers*

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer, State of Illinois

Date: November 18, 1974

STATE: Illinois CODE: 62881

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: _____

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#9. Nebraska State Historical Society, Noted Nebraskans,
Educational Leaflet #10.

Winkelman, Phillis H., Notes on the Bryan Family,
The Nebraska State Historical Society, July, 1963.