

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 23 1979  
DATE ENTERED SEP 10 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

John L. Lewis House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1132 West Lawrence Avenue

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Springfield, Illinois

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

20th

STATE

Illinois

CODE

012

COUNTY

Sangamon

CODE

167

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Special Insurance Services, Inc.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401-417 Fayette Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sangamon County Courthouse (Deed in possession of William H. Kelso,

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Eighth &amp; Monroe Street

Special Insurance Services, Inc.)

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

NONE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John L. Lewis house is a two and a half story vernacular structure with a hipped roof pierced by a single dormer window. The facade has a slightly projecting porch with doric columns. Original clapboard siding has been covered on the second floor with aluminum siding.

The main entrance to the Lewis house faces north on Lawrence Avenue and opens into a main hall. Directly east of the hall is Lewis' personal library which contains original bookshelves enclosed with glass. The kitchen, which is located behind the library, was enlarged and modernized in 1970. A side entrance is located in the kitchen.

Directly west of the main hall is the living room which has an original fireplace located in an alcove with side benches and windows. Behind the living room is a sun porch (now used as a music room) which contains a third entrance. A large dining room with a built-in buffet and ceiling high china cabinet is located directly south of the main hall. The buffet and china cabinet are walnut as is most of the interior woodwork.

The staircase in the main hall opens onto a balcony on the second floor. This level consists of four bedrooms and two original baths.

The attic originally served as a storage area but was remodeled as two bedrooms in 1973. No other structural alterations have been made since Lewis lived in the house.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Labor Movement
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1917-1965

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John L. Lewis lived in the house at 1132 West Lawrence Avenue in Springfield from 1917 until 1965, a period spanning his career as renown labor union leader.

Lewis was born of Welsh immigrant parents. He grew up in Lucas, Iowa, a coal-mining district surrounded by the turmoil of the early period of United States labor organization. (His father was blacklisted for union activities.) He left school at the age of 15 and headed for the mines. He first became noticed in Panama, Illinois, as president of the local United Mine Workers. He then became the Illinois lobbyist for the union. In 1911, he became general field agent for the AFL.

John L. Lewis had one dream in life, to become President of United Mine Worker's national organization. He achieved this goal in 1920, and held this position for the next forty years. "In February 1924, President Coolidge, Commerce Secretary Hoover, and the nation's press and especially financial journals, hailed John L. Lewis a labor statesman." (1)

As quoted in his biography, "By the mid 1930's John L. Lewis had become the most powerful labor leader in American history - the first trade unionist to be considered as potential presidential candidate." (2) In 1935, he formed the CIO. As national president of CIO, he presided over the often violent struggles to introduce unionism to various industries, particularly the steel and automobile industries. These were the Years of the Little Steel strike, the Republic Steel Massacre in Chicago, and the great sit-down strike against General Motors.

As quoted in Websters American Biographies, "A series of miner's strikes during World War II won wage increases but alienated large segments of the public and the strikes were responsible in part for the passage of the Smith-Connally Antistrike Act and the Taft-Hartley Act, both of which placed new restrictions on labor unions." (3)

As quoted in the Columbia-Viking Desk Dictionary, "His aggressive strike tactics led to conflicts with courts and government but greatly benefited the union." (4) Carol Lewis, his daughter-in-law, wife of John L. Lewis, Jr., writes in The New York Times, "He was an angry man, he was a powerful actor. He used tough means to get things done - but he got things done, and on the health and welfare

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issues he was right. Today's miners are telling us that they think he was right." (5)

Lewis worked with nine presidents of the United States. He served as President of the United Mine Workers for forty years, retiring in 1960. But, still staying on as president emeritus, he served as chairman, in Washington, D. C., of the board of directors. He died June 11, 1969 and was buried in Springfield.

- (1) Melvyn Dubofsky & Warren Van Line, John L. Lewis (New York, 1977) p. 134
- (2) Melvyn Dubofsky & Warren Van Line, John L. Lewis (New York, 1977) p. XIV
- (3) Charles Van Daren, Webster American Biographies (Massachusetts, 1975) p. 628
- (4) William Bridgewater, The Columbia-Viking Desk Encyclopedia, (New York, 1968) p. 61
- (5) Carol Lewis, The New York Times, (New York) March 15, 1978.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Dubofsky, Melvyn, and Van Line, Warren,  
John L. Lewis, A Biography, (New York, 1977)  
 Van Doren, Charles,  
Webster American Biographies, Massachusetts, 1975)  
 Bridgewater, William  
The Columbia-Viking Desk Encyclopedia, (New York, 1968)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY LESS THAN 1

QUADRANGLE NAME SPRINGFIELD WEST

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	2,71	2,710	4,410.8	1,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C					
E					
G					

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			
F			
H			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

- 127' Frontage on West Lawrence Avenue  
 120' East Side (Illinois Avenue)  
 160' West Side

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1. William and Gloria Kelso      2. Shaela C. Dunne

ORGANIZATION

2. Illinois Dept. of Conservation      DATE 1. 5/10/79

STREET & NUMBER

1. 401-417 Fayette Avenue      2. 405 E. Washington

TELEPHONE (217) 753-2500      2. 785-0271

CITY OR TOWN

1. Springfield      2. Springfield      STATE 1,2 Illinois

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X      STATE \_\_\_\_\_      LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Das Kennedy*

TITLE Director, Ill. Dept. of Conservation

DATE 6/2/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Carol Shuel*  
 KEOPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9-10-79

ATTEST: *William H. Waldman*  
 CLERK OF REGISTRATION

DATE 9.7.79

MARK 7

JUDY ✓

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ILLINOIS

STATE

Date Entered

SEP 10 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Central Geneva Historic District	Geneva Kane County
<u>Lewis, John L., House</u>	Springfield Sangamon County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy  
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson  
Honorable Tom Corcoran  
Honorable Paul Findley

**COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION**

For further information, please call the National Register at (202) 343-6401.