

special study

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LINCOLN RELATED SITES

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Publication of this document should not be construed as representing either approval or disapproval of the Secretary of the Interior. The purpose of this document is to provide information for further consideration of the area as a potential submission to the Congress in compliance with Section 8 of the General Authorities Act of 1970 as amended by Public Law 94-458.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN SITES
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, AREA

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to evaluate six sites associated with Abraham Lincoln in the Springfield, Illinois, area and to find a means for protecting and interpreting them. The sites are: New Salem Village, Petersburg; Colonel Matthew Rogers' Store, Athens; Great Western Rail Depot, Springfield; Old State Capitol, Springfield; Lincoln Tomb, Springfield; and Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices, Springfield. The study was requested by Illinois Representatives Paul Findley and Edward R. Madigan. See letter, Appendix C.

A team from the Midwest Regional Office and Lincoln Home National Historic Site visited the sites October 17-19.

The number of sites being considered requires that each be discussed separately. This discussion covers location, ownership, significance, resource description, threats, and a general section covering visitation, interpretation, and any other significant information.

Two of the sites are registered National Historic Landmarks and two are on the National Register of Historic Places. One site is presently being considered for nomination to the National Register, however, to date no action has been taken. These designations are identified within the respective discussions.

A meeting was held with the owners/managers of the properties while in Springfield. The discussions during this meeting brought out three concerns common to all the Lincoln associated properties. There is a need to increase visitation; a way to evenly spread the visitor among the various sites; and an absence of a coordinated effort to interpret Lincoln's life in the Springfield area.

Although each site deals with a different phase of Lincoln's life, there is no coordinated effort between the owners/managers to create a unified picture of Lincoln in the Springfield area. The closest that such an effort has been made is when Sangamon State University received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The purpose of the grant was to develop an interpretive program for most of the sites. Due to a reduction in the grant, the full program could not be implemented. Three sites were selected. The program developed is identified within the specific site discussion.

The study team developed a series of alternatives dealing with the protection and interpretation of the sites.

OLD STATE CAPITOL

Location: The Old State Capitol is in the Springfield central business district. It is bounded by Fifth, Sixth, Washington, and Adams Street. See Map-Appendix A.

Present Ownership: The building is owned by the State of Illinois and is managed by the Illinois State Historical Library.

Significance: The Old State Capitol is significant in Illinois history. Its association with Lincoln is minimal when compared with the remainder of history during its use as a Capitol. Lincoln served his last term in the legislature from December 1840 until March 1841. It was here on June 16, 1858, that Lincoln delivered his famous "House Divided" speech while seeking the Senatorial nomination. This speech gave him national recognition. The Lincoln presidential campaign headquarters was established here. On May 3 and 4, 1865, his body lay in state in the house chamber. The building also housed the State Supreme Court before which Lincoln argued many cases. Finally, he used the State and Supreme Court Libraries which were located here.

The building is a registered National Historic Landmark.

Resource Description: The Capitol was designed by John F. Rague of Springfield. Construction was started in 1837 and completed in 1839. From 1839 until 1876, it served as the capitol of Illinois. It was constructed of cut stone quarried from within the area.

The Capitol was sold to Sangamon County in 1869 but continued to serve as such until 1876. The Old Capitol then became the Sangamon County Court House. By 1899 it proved to be inadequate. In order to accommodate the need for additional office space, alterations to the structure were made in the early 1900's which destroyed the architectural integrity of the Capitol. This involved lifting the original building and constructing an entirely new first floor with the original first floor becoming the second floor. More office space was created by partitioning the building interior. The old roof and dome were replaced. The second and third floors of the building's exterior essentially remained unchanged.

Around 1961 the State of Illinois purchased the Old Capitol from Sangamon County. The Capitol was dismantled. The original first and second floors were reconstructed to reflect the Old Capitol as it was from 1839 to 1900. Any original interior fabric remaining from the original building was destroyed. The only original fabric remaining from the building is the building's exterior. The exterior appearance remains as it did when the building was originally constructed. The Capitol contains the various state offices of the period, as well as the legislative chambers, Governor's Office, and State Supreme Court. A few of the furnishings are original, however, most are reproductions or period pieces. Below the

first floor are three levels which house the Illinois State Historical Society's headquarters, library, and underground parking garage. The library contains the famous Lincoln collection.

Threats: The structure requires considerable repair work, especially the headquarters and library. During this coming year, \$380,000 is programmed to do needed repair work. Additional funds will be required in subsequent years for other repairs.

General: The visitation rate to the Old Capitol is about 170,000 people per year. There is no admission fee. To provide the needed interpretation requires 22 full-time interpreters and 6 part-time interpreters. Because of budgetary restraints imposed by the State Legislature, only 13 full-time interpreters are presently being used. The State Historian believes that budgetary restraints are directly affected by the number of visitors. The greater the number of visitors, the more money the Legislature will appropriate and vice versa. The Legislature feels that the visitation rate should be greater and, therefore, has refused to budget the necessary funds for additional interpreters. The Historical Library is looking for ways to increase visitation to the site so that they can justify more money for interpreters. A "By-Word" or wand system is in place, however, it is not in use because of administrative and budgetary problems. These problems include distribution and collection of the wands, as well as cleaning them. In addition, interpreters would still be required to be stationed on site.

During the summer evenings, the Historical Library presents a sound and light show. During the summer of 1979, 18,000 persons viewed the program. Since its inception about three years ago, the number of visitors attending the program has increased with each year. Admission to this program is free.

The Historical Library strongly prefers to continue management of the property because of its significance in Illinois history. A great deal of their interpretation deals with the Illinois state government and history from 1840-1876. The Historical Library would welcome assistance in interpretive techniques and training from the National Park Service. They do not, however, want Park Service personnel on site doing the interpretation.

LINCOLN TOMB

Location: The Lincoln Tomb is located in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield. Access is from North Grand Avenue to Monument Avenue which is located between 1st and 2nd Streets. See Map-Appendix A.

Present Ownership: The State of Illinois, Department of Conservation, Bureau of Lands and Historic Sites, administers the site.

Significance: The Lincoln Tomb is the final resting place of Abraham Lincoln, his wife, and three of his four sons. The Tomb is registered as a National Historic Landmark.

Resource Description: On hearing of Lincoln's death April 15, 1865, citizens of Springfield organized the National Lincoln Memorial Association. Their purpose was to erect a tomb and memorial in honor of the President. A design competition was held for the Tomb. The chosen design was submitted by sculptor Larkin G. Mead of Brattleboro, Vermont. Work began on the structure in 1869. On October 15, 1874, the Tomb was dedicated.

The Tomb's exterior is constructed of dressed granite from Quincy, Massachusetts, and consists of a shaft 117 feet high which rests on a simple square building. On the corners of the spire are four heroic bronze groups designed by Mead, representing infantry, cavalry, artillery, and navy of the Civil War period. On the south side of the shaft above the Tomb entrance is a ten foot statue of Lincoln. At the front entrance of the Tomb is a bronze reproduction of Gutzon Borglum's massive head of Lincoln. In the foyer is a reduced copy of the Daniel Chester French Statue in the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D. C. A circular corridor leads to the burial chamber. Along the corridor are niches containing statues representing various phases of Lincoln's life. Four bronze plaques located in each of the four bays of the corridor present the Farewell Address to Springfield, the Gettysburg Address, a portion of the Second Inaugural Address, and a biographical sketch. The ceilings in the foyer and at the burial chamber are of gold leaf. At the front entrance is a stone fragment of the ancient Servian Wall which was built around the seven hills of Rome in 578 B.C. by the sixth legendary King of Rome Servius Tullius. This stone was given by the people of Rome in 1865. They felt that there was a parallel in the lives of Tullius and Lincoln. The stone was set in place in 1931.

Extensive reconstruction was required in 1901 and again in 1931. During the second reconstruction, the Tomb was completely remodeled.

In 1895 the State of Illinois took control of the Tomb from the Monument Association.

The total park site is about 12.5 acres. The Tomb itself occupies about four acres. The remaining acreage contains support facilities for the Tomb.

Threats: The biggest threat is continuous maintenance. Until a few years ago, the Tomb was in need of a great deal of repair. The necessary repairs were made and its condition is now very good.

General: The annual visitation to the Tomb is about 356,000. Interpretation is accomplished through two interpreters. There appears to be no problem in providing adequate interpretation; however, the interpretive program could be expanded upon and improved. The Department of Conservation would like to see a passive dignified interpretive program for the Tomb. They feel the Park Service could offer a great deal of assistance in achieving this program. Park Service assistance would be welcomed by them in planning interpretive training and techniques and preservation and maintenance. It appears that the State would like to retain ownership/management of the property.

LINCOLN-HERNDON LAW OFFICES

Location: The Law Offices are located at the southwest corner of South 6th Street and Adams, Springfield. See Map-Appendix A.

Present Ownership: The building is privately owned.

Significance: During Lincoln's career as a lawyer, he occupied and practiced law in several buildings and was in partnership with various lawyers. Throughout the 1840's Lincoln's law office was located in this building. The final years of his partnership with Stephen Logan were spent here. Lincoln formed a new partnership with William Herndon. Here Lincoln and Herndon practiced law until they moved to another building. The U. S. District Court was also located in the building. It was the only Federal Court in Illinois in 1845. Lincoln argued many cases here. The property is included within the Springfield Historic District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Resource Description: The three story brick building was built in 1837. Starting sometime in the mid-1860's, the building was used as a store and storage area. During the years, the building's interior was altered. Around 1968 it was acquired by the present owners who restored the law offices and courtroom. Restoration is reported to be based on drawings and photographs from that period. It is uncertain just how much of the original fabric exists within the building.

The courtroom is located on the second floor and the law offices are on the third floor. The furnishings are period pieces consisting of desks, chairs, bookcases, and tables.

The first floor is presently leased by the State of Illinois Department of Conservation. They have subleased it for occupancy as a bookstore dealing in books, sculpture, manuscripts, and prints relating to Lincoln.

The outside of the building has been sandblasted.

Threats: The building is not immediately threatened. The owners are willing to underwrite any expenses to keep the building operational. There is the threat, however, that should the building require preservation maintenance, the owners could do harm to the building because of their inexperience in the maintenance of historic structures. A recent example is that the building was sandblasted.

General: Annual visitation is about 20,000. There is an admission charge of one dollar for adults, fifty cents for children, and two dollars for families. The building is open year round.

There is one person to provide interpretation and handle admission fees. There is a slide presentation about Lincoln the lawyer. In the courtroom is a sound program depicting cases which Lincoln argued. Both of these were produced by Sangamon State University with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. There are some small signs placed around the rooms interpreting various aspects of the rooms or artifacts.

The owners have said that they do not want to sell the building but would do so if it was in the best interest of preserving the building and in telling Lincoln's story. The State of Illinois, Department of Conservation, has shown an interest in leasing the law offices and courtrooms. They are already leasing the first floor. A lack of funding is evidently preventing the State from leasing these other two floors.

The owners did not specify how the National Park Service could be of service to them. It was felt that they would like assistance in interpretation, maintenance, and preservation. They were interested in having the owners/managers of the Lincoln sites meet to formulate a goal towards which to strive.

GREAT WESTERN DEPOT

Location: Located in Springfield on the southwest corner of 10th and Monroe Streets is the Great Western Depot. It is two blocks northeast of Lincoln Home National Historic Site. See Map-Appendix A.

Present Ownership: It is owned by a group of Springfield businessmen who lease it to Copley Press. Copley Press in turn subleases it to Sangamon State Foundation.

Significance: It was from this building on February 11, 1861, that Lincoln departed Springfield for Washington, D. C. to become the 16th President of the United States. His farewell speech to the citizens of Springfield is ranked in eloquence with that of the Gettysburg Address. The Depot has been considered by the State of Illinois for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The State has not submitted its nomination. There is concern about the architectural integrity of the building. This will be discussed below.

Resource Description: The Depot is a two story brick structure approximately 30 by 50 feet. When originally built in 1852, it was but one story. A second story was added to the Depot sometime between 1861 and 1882. The exact time is unclear. Also added at some time was a concrete loading platform. The Depot served several different railroads.

By the early 1900's it ceased to function as a rail depot. Around 1920 the building was made a part of a large warehouse which was attached to it. A group of Springfield businessmen purchased the Depot and surrounding buildings in the mid-1960's. The warehouse was razed; however, they retained the Depot. Restoration of the Depot was begun. It was opened to the public in 1968 but due to a lack of public interest, it closed in 1975. Sangamon State Foundation leased the building and reopened it in June 1978.

The front half of the first floor was reconstructed by the University to approximate the interior of the waiting room and ticket sales booth of 1861. The Foundation felt the reconstruction effort by the businessmen in the mid-1960's was inaccurate. The latest reconstruction was based on newspaper accounts at the time of Lincoln's departure. Except for a staircase and the building exterior, none of the material is original. The building exterior was sandblasted at one time and as a result is badly pitted.

Threats: The most immediate threat to the building is its uncertain future. If the Foundation fails to renew its lease, it is unknown what the owners will do with the structure. It appears though that they would let the building stand for awhile.

Another threat is the lack of expertise in maintaining and preserving the building. As an example, it was sandblasted. This resulted in the brick being badly pitted.

General: There is an admission charge of one dollar for adults and fifty cents for children with a two dollar family fee. The Depot is open from April 1 through November 1. Annual attendance is about 10,000. Interpretation is handled by one person who also sells tickets and turns the slide program on. The slide program depicts Lincoln's 12-day journey from Springfield to Washington. The program depicts the feelings and issues of the time. This program was produced as a result of a grant to Sangamon State University by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The rear of the first floor contains Lincoln's departure speech in addition to photographs of several Springfield citizens from that period of time.

The Foundation indicated that they might be willing to continue managing the site if outside funds were available to underwrite the expenses of the site. They are, however, not in the management and interpretation business. They indicated that they are actively looking for an organization to manage the site. The Foundation, if they continued to manage the Depot, would seek Park Service assistance for preservation, maintenance, and interpretation.

NEW SALEM VILLAGE

Location: Near Petersburg, Illinois, off Illinois Route 97 is located New Salem Village. It is approximately 20 miles northwest from Springfield. See Map-Appendix B.

Present Ownership: The State of Illinois owns the property. It is managed by the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Lands and Historic Sites.

Significance: It was in New Salem that Lincoln spent his early adulthood. While here, he decided to embark upon a career of law and politics. From about 1831-1835 Lincoln became involved in a variety of activities. These included being a store clerk, fighting in the Black Hawk War, serving as postmaster, and survey work. He was elected to the Illinois General Assembly in 1834.

The Village is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Resource Description: New Salem was founded in 1829 by John Cameron and James Rutledge as a private entrepreneurial enterprise. By 1839 the Village was declining in importance because of the establishment of the county seat in nearby Petersburg. By the early 1840's, New Salem no longer existed. At its prime, the Village consisted of timber houses, a tavern, shops, stores, industries, and a school/church.

In 1906 William Randolph Hearst became interested in New Salem and purchased the site. The site was transferred to the State of Illinois in 1919. In 1931 funds were appropriated to reconstruct New Salem. The National Park Service provided archeological services for this reconstruction effort.

With the exception of the Onstot's Cooper Shop, all other buildings have been reconstructed and are conjectural. All structures are of log construction. The Onstot's Cooper Shop is original. It was moved to Petersburg in 1840 and returned to New Salem in 1922. The other buildings in the Village include the following: Trent Brothers' Cabin, Miller and Kelso Cabin, Miller's Blacksmith Shop, Robert Johnson Cabin, Isaac Gulihur Cabin, Isaac Burner Cabin, Hill's Cording Mill and Wool House, Martin Waddel Cabin, First Berry-Lincoln Store, Dr. Francis Regnier's Cabin, Lukins and Ferguson Residence and Shop, Samuel Hill Cabin, Hill-McNamar Store, Dr. John Allen Cabin, Berry-Lincoln Store, Rutledge Tavern, Herndon Brothers' Cabin, Denton Offutt's Store, Clary's Grocery, the Saw and Grist Mill, and school and church.

Furnishings for New Salem are period pieces. New Salem Village is about 40 acres in size and is located within New Salem State Park.

Threats: There are no immediate threats to the Village. The Department of Conservation prizes New Salem Village. For that reason it receives considerable attention.

General: Annual visitation to New Salem Village is about 308,000 and is open year round. There is no admission fee. Interpretation consists of some living history and an audio tour. In addition to the Lincoln story, great emphasis is placed on life in this frontier village. There is great potential here to improve upon and expand the interpretation.

There is a movie produced under the grant to Sangamon State University. An area for viewing it is being set up. The area is inadequate and will create some conflict with some of the existing displays. The movie deals with New Salem as Lincoln saw it.

The Department of Conservation has no desire to give up management of the Village. Lincoln's New Salem State Park has one of the heaviest visitation rates in the state park system. They would welcome Park Service assistance in setting up a more ambitious interpretive and living history program in addition to assistance in maintenance, interpretation, and preservation techniques.

COLONEL MATTHEW ROGERS' GENERAL STORE AND POST OFFICE BUILDING(LINCOLN LONG NINE MUSEUM)

Location: The Colonel Rogers' building is located at 436 Main Street, Athens. Athens is about 15 miles northwest of Springfield, Illinois. See Map-Appendix B.

Present Ownership: It is privately owned and is leased to Long Nine, Inc.

Significance: While living at New Salem, Lincoln frequented the Rogers' Store. During periods of high water on the Sangamon River, Lincoln picked up mail here for New Salem where he was postmaster from 1833-1836. Lincoln also borrowed books from Colonel Rogers' private library. Abraham Lincoln, along with six other state representatives and senators who were members of the "Long Nine," met August 3, 1837, and celebrated their successful efforts in moving the Illinois State Capitol from Vandalia to Springfield, Illinois. The building is presently being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by the State of Illinois.

Resource Description: Colonel Matthew Rogers moved to Athens in 1819. In 1831 Rogers started construction of the two story structure. It was completed in 1832. The first floor was used as a post office and general store. The second floor served as a community meeting hall. It was in this room that the "Long Nine" met to celebrate the movement of the Illinois State Capitol. A basement which had a dirt floor served as a storage area. The building measures about 55x25 feet.

General construction is wood frame with beveled shiplapped wood siding. The interior framing lacks bolts, nails, and plates. Notching was used for this framing.

There is a wood porch with a deck extended across the entire front of the building and extending to the street.

The exterior stairway on the building's east face was removed when a brick structure was added to the rear and adjacent to the Rogers' Store. It is unknown when Rogers sold his store and when the Masonic Temple became owner of the structure.

In 1972 Long Nine, Inc. was formed to save the structure. They leased the building from the Masonic Temple. It was badly deteriorating and was being considered for demolition.

A new enclosed exterior stairway leading to the second story and basement was added to the south face of the building.

A hole was cut in the south wall to accommodate this stairway. The roof required reinforcement as well as the first floor. The wood columns in the basement were replaced with steel posts and girders. A concrete floor was added to the basement. Tie rods were added to the first floor to keep the walls from falling out. The old brick for the foundation was removed and stored. It was replaced with new mortar, colored to match the brick. The original wood of the first and second floor still exists. It has, though, been covered over. Much of the original hardware, plaster, trim, windows, doors, and woodwork is gone.

Threats: Long Nine, Inc. is in financial difficulty and will loose their lease. If they fail to find the financial resources or another group or individual is not found to protect the building, it is reported that the owners will have the building razed. The Rogers' Building has been abused through the years because of a lack of interest, maintenance, funds, and inexperience in preservation and maintenance. The building requires considerable work, especially in restoring it to its original condition.

General: The annual visitation is about 4,000. There is an admission fee of one dollar per adult, fifty cents for children, and three dollars per family. There are no interpreters. People are expected to go through the building on their own. Usually, there is one person monitoring the building and collecting fees.

The first floor is used for sale items such as pictures and nicknacks. The second floor and basement are set up as museums. On the second floor are dioramas depicting those times when Lincoln visited Athens. Also can be found an area commemorating the "Long Nine" celebration.

Within the basement are some artifacts which are not from Lincoln's time. There is a scale model of the Lincoln Tomb along with prints of the area and first day of issue envelopes commemorating Lincoln.

Long Nine, Inc. is primarily looking for money from the Park Service to keep the building open. They would also like assistance in interpretation, preservation and maintenance and would probably accept Park Service presence on the site.

ALTERNATIVES

Following are alternatives for operating and managing those sites associated with Abraham Lincoln within the Springfield, Illinois, area. It should be understood that it is New Salem Village and not New Salem State Park which is being considered within the Alternatives.

Also, the Colonel Rogers' Building is not being considered within the alternatives. It is felt that Lincoln's association with the Rogers' Building is not significant enough to justify its inclusion within the alternatives.

ALTERNATIVE 1 - LOCAL COORDINATION

Description: The National Park Service (NPS) would work with the owners/managers of the Lincoln Springfield sites in creating a unified Lincoln story in the Springfield area.

Impact: Under this Alternative, ownership, administration/management, financial support, maintenance, and interpretation would remain the same. The Park Service would be the lead agency in bringing the owners/managers together to create one common unified goal in telling the story of Lincoln in the Springfield area. NPS would coordinate the story and the owners/managers would be responsible for implementing it. The visitor center at Lincoln Home National Historic Site would be used to familiarize the visitor with the other Lincoln sites in Springfield.

ALTERNATIVE 2 - PRIVATE/FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Description: Congress would pass legislation allowing the National Park Service to enter into cooperative agreements with the various owners or managers of the sites in order to provide assistance in planning for protection, restoration, maintenance, operation, and interpretation of the property.

Impact: This Alternative would allow NPS the opportunity of providing assistance to the owners/managers of those sites requesting it and yet allowing the property to remain under existing ownership/management. Requesting such assistance from the Park Service would be at the option of the owners/managers.

Management by the Foundation or some other group of the Rail Depot would be more certain than in Alternative 1. The quality of interpretation would increase because of Park Service assistance. The Park Service could help in training the interpreters, providing hardware, and planning assistance. The Park Service could also offer assistance in maintenance, preservation, and restoration. Any funds would be provided on a percentage basis with the owners/managers of the property.

The State of Illinois Department of Conservation is seriously considering leasing the Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices.

ALTERNATIVE 3 - FEDERAL RECOGNITION/EXISTING OWNERSHIP

Description: Six sites to include Lincoln Home would be designated by Congress Lincoln National Historical Park and would be a unit of the National Park System. The sites would remain under existing ownerships/management.

Impact: Under this Alternative, the sites would receive national recognition because of their designation as a National Historical Park. This designation would unify the sites. There would be a coordinated interpretive program of Lincoln in the area, as well as an overall maintenance/preservation/restoration program. The Park Service would assist in interpretation through training, planning assistance, construction, hardware, and in preservation, maintenance, and restoration.

Ownership/management would remain the same. Visitation would probably go up and could be more evenly distributed between the sites.

Lincoln Home would be included within this new park with continued management by NPS. If the Park Service were to take over interpretation at all the sites, it would require 61 permanent and 70 temporary Park Service employees.

ALTERNATIVE 4 - FEDERAL OWNERSHIP

Description: Six sites including Lincoln Home would be designated by Congress Lincoln National Historical Park and would be administered by NPS as a unit of the National Park System.

Impact: The National Park Service would acquire in fee through purchase or donation the other five sites associated with Lincoln and administer them. This would ensure the maintenance, restoration, and preservation of the properties and the presentation of a coordinated Lincoln story in the Springfield area.

Under this Alternative, 118 permanent and 93 temporary employees would be required to administer the sites.

The library and headquarters of the Illinois State Historical Library would remain in the Old State Capitol. The Illinois Department of Conservation would continue to manage and own Lincoln's New Salem State Park exclusive of New Salem Village.

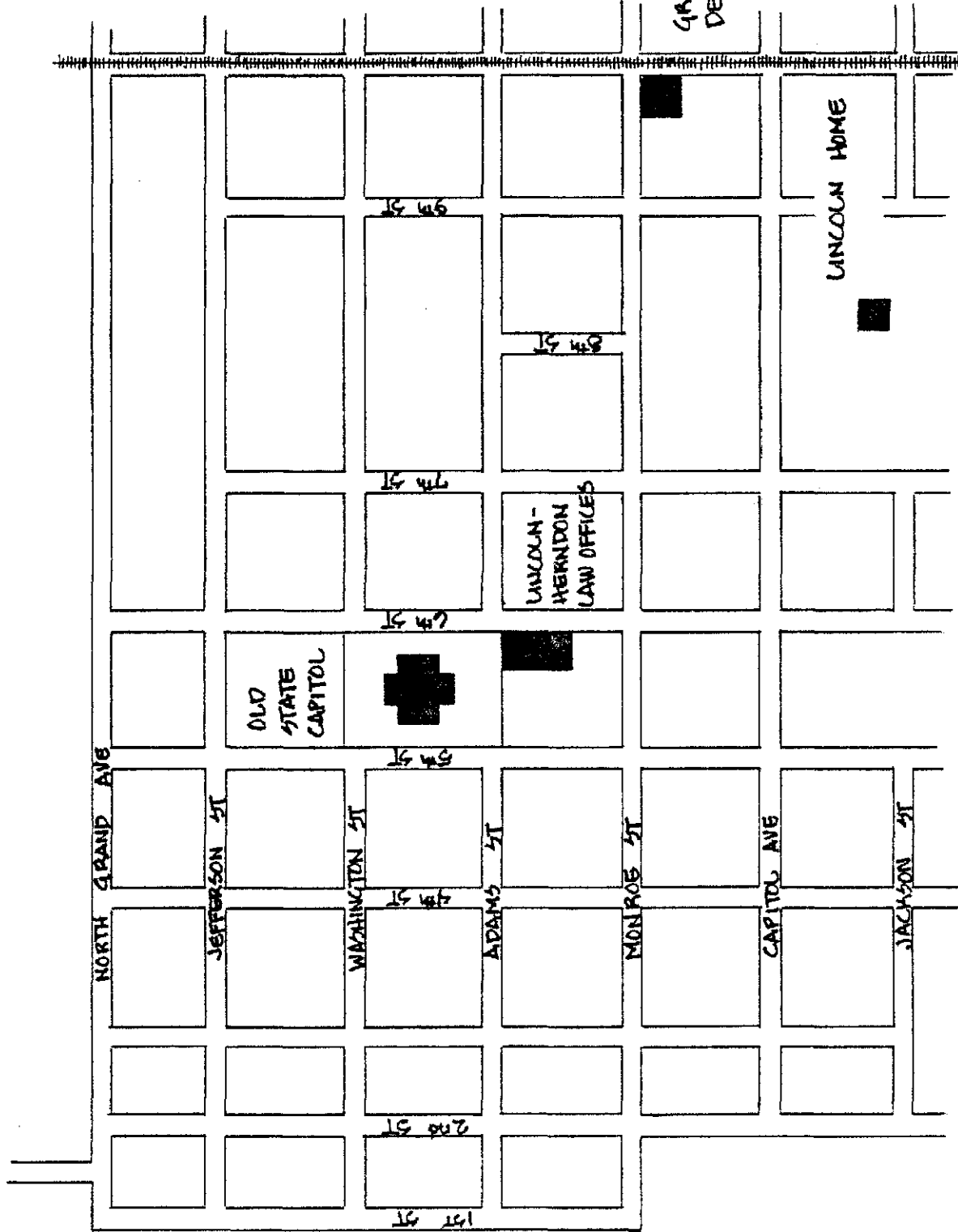
The Park Service would have to make extensive repairs to the Old State Capitol because of years of neglected maintenance by the State. The extent of those repairs and their costs are unknown at this time.

Visitation should be the same as in Alternative 3.

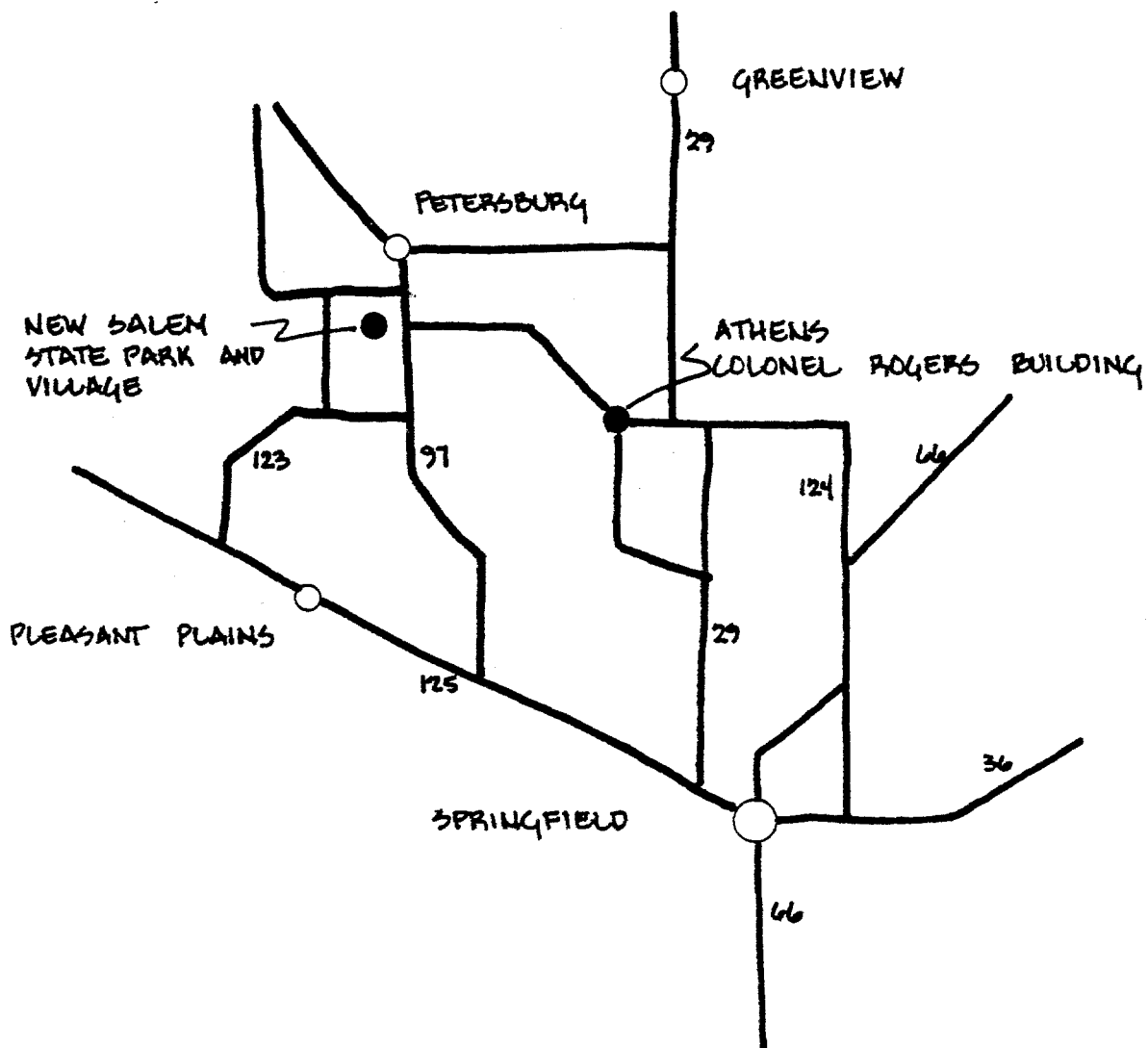
STUDY PARTICIPANTS

Thomas G. Balsanek, Team Captain, MWRO
Albert W. Banton, Superintendent, Lincoln Home
National Historic Site
Randall Biallas, Historic Architect, MWRO
Dale Smith, Interpreter, MWRO
Francis Ketterson, Historian, MWRO

LINCOLN TOMB



LINCOLN SITES - SPRINGFIELD



LINCOLN SITES SPRINGFIELD AREA



ILLINOIS
Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

September 21, 1979

The Honorable Cecil D. Andrus
Secretary
Department of the Interior
18th & C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

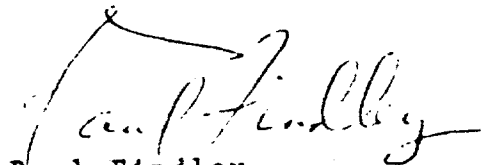
We, as representatives of congressional districts in Illinois containing several points of interest associated with the life of Abraham Lincoln, respectfully request that the National Park Service undertake a study of these sites for their possible inclusion in the national park system.

We feel the following six sites merit the consideration of the National Park Service. They are:

1. New Salem State Park, Petersburg (Menard County)
2. Long Nine Museum, Athens (Menard County)
3. Great Western Rail Depot, Springfield (Sangamon County)
4. Lincoln's Law Office, Springfield (Sangamon County)
5. Old State Capitol, Springfield (Sangamon County)
6. Lincoln's Tomb, Springfield (Sangamon County)

Please advise us as to when this study might be undertaken.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.



Paul Findley
Representative in Congress

Sincerely,



Edward Madigan
Representative in Congress

Appendix C

APPENDIX D

Comments of Owners/Managers



COMMENTS WHICH APPEAR IN THIS APPENDIX WERE SOLICITED FROM THE VARIOUS SITE OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR ADMINISTRATORS WHEN THIS REPORT WAS IN DRAFT FORM. FOR THIS REASON, MANY OF THE COMMENTS DO NOT CORRESPOND TO THE FINAL/CORRECTED REPORT. THESE COMMENTS, WHICH WERE MUCH APPRECIATED, WERE HELPFUL IN FINALIZING THIS REPORT.



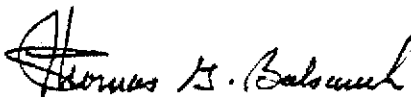
MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION - November 20, 1979

The following was dictated by telephone from Christopher Breiseth, Sangamon State University.

I think Alternative 4, while most desirable, is unrealistic politically at present while Alternative 3 would be possible and is highly desirable. The simplest change which is likely to have the greatest impact in generating the interpretation and increasing the availability of the six major sites to the project is for the Lincoln Home Visitor Center to become The Visitor Center for all the Lincoln sites. Materials such as the pamphlet "Lincoln's Thought and the Present," designed to interpret each of the six sites, would thus be available to the visitor at the beginning of the visit. More important, a new multi-media interpretation program to introduce Lincoln, Springfield, and New Salem in the Visitor Center would be the crowning efforts of the interpretive programs developed to date by the Lincoln Home staff of the Park Service and by the University.

By bringing the visitor to the Center to learn about all of the sites, one could encourage patterns of visiting which would differ for different visitors depending on time available and on interests. At present, the inherent competition among the sites has discouraged development of any materials providing guidance on how and when to visit which sites. Alternative 3 would rectify this problem. Given the concern of the Park Service to hold down the size of the crowds visiting the Lincoln Home such a comprehensive program for directing visitors to all of the sites could ease the pressure on the Home. Finally, the use of the Center in this way is an important beginning point on the long term integration of the sites under the NPS which I view as a great importance for their preservation, as well as for a comprehensive high quality interpretation.

The purpose of our efforts at the University has been to provide a conceptual framework within which to understand the significance of the life and career of Abraham Lincoln. By using the Center as the point in which the public encounters such a comprehensive interpretation, we go a long way in meeting the obligations established by our interpretation project under the funding of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Thomas G. Balsanek
External Planning Coordinator

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION - November 19, 1979

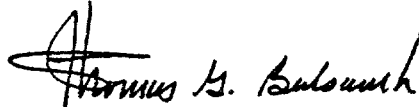
To: James E. Myers, Owner of Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices

From: Thomas G. Balsanek

Subject: Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices

I spoke with Mr. Myers about the Lincoln Sites Study to see if he had any comments. He pointed out that the second and third floor of the Law Offices have the original walls, floors, and ceilings. The first floor has no original material.

He had no other comments about the study.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas G. Balsanek". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas G. Balsanek

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION - November 13, 1979

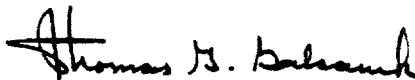
To: Randall R. Pope, Acting Regional Director

From: Bill Farrar, Superintendent, Division of Historic Sites,
Illinois Department of Conservation

Subject: Lincoln Sites Study

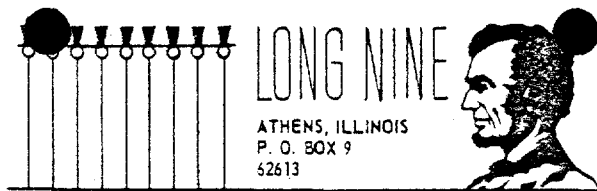
Bill Farrar spoke with Mr. Pope concerning the Lincoln sites study.

His only comment was in that of clarifying the agency title administering New Salem Village and Lincoln Tomb. It should read Bureau of Lands and Historic Sites.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas G. Balsanek". The signature is stylized with a large initial "T" and a cursive "B".

Thomas G. Balsanek
External Planning Coordinator





LONG NINE MEMBERS

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
representative
New Salem, Ill.

ROBERT L. WILSON
representative
Athens, Ill.

NELSON W. EDWARDS
representative
Springfield, Ill.

WILLIAM F. ELKIN
representative
Springfield, Ill.

ANDREW McCORMICK
representative
Springfield, Ill.

JOHN STONE
representative
Springfield, Ill.

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representative
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representative
Springfield, Ill.

JOSEPH G. HERNDON
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Springfield, Ill.

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN - ATHENS, ILLINOIS - HISTORICAL SHRINE

November 14, 1979

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Midwest Region
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Attn: Mr. Thomas G. Balsanek

Gentlemen:

Any new documentation of Abraham Lincoln's life prior to the fall of 1837 is a rare find. In Roy P. Basler's edition of The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln, less than two per cent of the some 4,450 pages deal with the first half of Lincoln's life. Approximately five per cent of the known letters and writings of this first half of his life concern Athens, Illinois. When Lincoln at age twenty-eight left New Salem on a borrowed horse and moved his entire possessions in a saddlebag to Springfield, he rode past Colonel Rogers' building at Athens. Unknown to him--or the world--on that day (April 15, 1837), his life was exactly half over to the very day of the month. His Illinois years had been so closely associated with this Rogers' store, and he would have further connections with it as the years passed.

The following comments are submitted as per your request, letter dated November 7, 1979.

SUBJECT: Colonel Matthew Roger's General Store and Post Office Building.

The Significance section of draft:

Page 19, line 11, additional information:

For \$2,000.00, Matthew Rogers, on April 5, 1837, sold the store building and its site (part of Lots 1 and 3 in Block 1 on the SE 1/4

Page 2.

of Athens) to Josiah Francis. Two days later, Francis executed a mortgage on the same property in favor of Rogers. When Francis failed to pay on time, Colonel Rogers engaged the law firm of Logan & Lincoln to sue for collection. Lincoln, himself, handled the case in Judge Samuel H. Treat's Sangamon County Circuit Court, and filed the brief, in his own hand, on June 29, 1841. Lincoln won the suit by default on December 3rd, and the tract reverted to Rogers.

During the years 1831-1837 Lincoln passed the Col. Rogers Building countless times as he traveled the "Post Road". Often he must have stopped there to rest and visit.

On November 4, 1834, young Abe Lincoln finished his survey to relocate four miles of the old Post Road which ran between Springfield and New Salem (now a portion of the Lincoln Heritage Trail) and set his surveyor's stone in the road at Main and Jefferson in front of the Colonel Rogers' Store. In fact, he probably drew his plat and recorded his field notes in this very building. His survey work is dated: "Athens Nov. 4, 1834." What other site was more convenient or available to him?

This Long Nine Building is certainly the oldest important Lincoln associated structure still standing in Illinois on its original site, and in nearly original condition. This is the opinion of Dr. Wayne C. Temple, a noted Lincolniana scholar listed in Who's Who in the World.

The Resource Description section of the draft:

Page 20, line 6:

The exterior stairway on the building's east face was added sometime after a brick structure was constructed to the rear and adjacent to the Roger's Store. On April 5, 1837, Colonel Rogers sold his store to Josiah Francis, and Lincoln recovered the building December 3, 1841, for Colonel Rogers when Francis defaulted on payment. On January 1, 1849, the building was purchased by Lewis Salzenstein. On February 3, 1886, Myer Salzenstein (son of Lewis) acquired the Store. In 1913, the building was purchased by the Van Meter Lodge #762.

Page 3.

Page 21, line 3:

A concrete floor was added to the basement, below the original dirt line.

Page 21, line 5:

A few of the old bricks for the foundation were removed and stored. These were replaced....

Page 21, line 11:

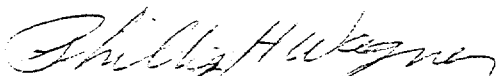
Long Nine, Inc. is in financial difficulty and will lose their lease. If they fail to find the necessary financial resources, or if another group or individual is not found to protect the building, the fate of the building is uncertain and could be again considered to be razed for a parking lot.

Alternative three or four of your draft would assure protection and preservation of this Lincoln Historic Landmark and would unify the Lincoln sites with a completely coordinated and interpretive program, which will better serve Lincoln scholars, students, and visitors from around the nation and world.

We sincerely trust that our interest in preserving Lincoln history will be beneficial to these United States, and our comments, work, and deeds, worthy of acceptance.

Respectfully submitted:

LONG NINE, INC.


Phillip H. Wagner, President

PHW:mp



ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

Old State Capitol • Springfield 62706 • 217-782-4836

November 13, 1979

Mr. Tom Balsanek
Midwest Regional Office
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Dear Tom:

Thank you for forwarding the draft report "Abraham Lincoln Sites, Springfield, Illinois, Area." I will limit my comments to the Old State Capitol since that is the structure assigned to the Illinois State Historical Library of which I am the director.

I have made several corrections of fact on the draft, so I am returning my copy to you for further use. My comments in this letter are therefore directed to your alternatives 3 and 4 and why they would be unacceptable to the State of Illinois. These alternatives call for the NPS to take over interpretation only at the Old State Capitol (alternative 3) or to acquire complete control of the Old State Capitol (alternative 4). In each alternative the Illinois State Historical Library remains in its present location beneath the Old State Capitol.

Any system of dual operation of the Old State Capitol Complex which consists of the restored Old State Capitol, the headquarters of the Illinois State Historical Library and Society, and the underground parking garage would not work for the following reasons:

1. **Security:** The ISHL is responsible for the safety of millions of dollars worth of historical materials. To have employees in the building who are not responsible to the authority of the building's owner would be unacceptable from a security standpoint. It is a little known fact (but well known in historical circles) that employee theft far outranks theft by outsiders.
2. **Building Maintenance and Operation Costs:** Because the Old State Capitol Complex is operated from a single mechanical system, it is impossible to assign costs in a fair and equitable way for the operation and maintenance of the restored Old State Capitol which is only one of the three elements of the complex.
3. **Interpretation:** The Old State Capitol is operated by the ISHL as a Lincoln site and as a site for the interpretation of Illinois history from 1840-1876 when state government moved to its present building. Tourists at the Old State Capitol are encouraged to further study the state's history through use of the Historical Library (a short elevator ride from the Old State Capitol) and schools are encouraged to use the Old State Capitol as a resource in their Illinois history courses through programs sponsored by the ISHL and Society. This means that the guides in the Old State Capitol must be supervised by the Historical Library and that guides must have

STATE HISTORIAN: William K. Alderfer

TRUSTEES: John R. Gehlbach, Chairman, *Lincoln*; Charles L. McMackin II, *Salem*; Sally B. Schanbacher, *Springfield*

Mr. Tom Balsanek
November 13, 1979


ready and easy access to the information contained in the Historical Library. National Park Service employees would not have the same library privileges or the same mission as does the present guide staff. Furthermore, it would be totally inappropriate for the federal government to engage in the teaching of Illinois history.

4. The use of the building for historical programs not related to Abraham Lincoln: The ISHL uses the building after-hours and sometimes during the day for a variety of special events. Symposia, debates, parties, commemorative occasions, dances and political events (such as the 1970 Constitutional Convention) are held at the Old State Capitol by the ISHL in cooperation with other state organizations. Again, it would be totally inappropriate for the State of Illinois to turn this function of the building over to the federal government.
5. The use of the artifact collection in the Old State Capitol: The artifacts in the Old State Capitol are used for a variety of purposes. Their first use is to interpret history at the site. They are also used for travelling exhibits such as the Illinois Historymobile, operated by the ISHL, and in course work as study collections by educational institutions throughout the state and nation. Therefore, the artifacts must be under the control and responsibility of the state's official historical agency. The ownership of the artifacts at the Old State Capitol also serve as an encouragement for donors to make contributions of collections of books, manuscripts, photographs, as well as additional artifacts to the ISHL and Society. Several large and historically valuable collections have been donated to the State of Illinois by virtue of the fact that the Historical Library is responsible for the Old State Capitol.

There are probably other reasons why alternatives #3 and #4 would be unacceptable to the State of Illinois, but I believe I have covered our major concerns.

Please do not let the above detract in any way from this agency's support of Alternatives #1 and #2. We are pleased with our relations with the National Park Service and hope to continue them in a meaningful way for the benefit of all.

Sincerely,


William K. Alderfer

WKA:omg



ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

Old State Capitol • Springfield 62706 • 217-782-4836

November 14, 1979

Mr. Thomas G. Balsanek
National Park Service
Midwest Region
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Dear Mr. Balsanek:

I have read and reread the material which was mailed to me regarding the Lincoln sites in Springfield. Congratulations on organizing all of that material so quickly.

My choices for plans to implement these sites are a combination of II and III. I feel that it is most important to be able to disseminate information from the visitors' center in the Lincoln Home Area, but I do not agree with the interpretation used in the Lincoln Home or Area. (Visitors who were told this summer that guides were not allowed to point out original furniture, etc., because of vandalism did not go away with a very friendly feeling.)

Therefore, it seems as though interpretation plans should be worked out amicably among present site owners and the NPS. It is important to unite the sites into a cohesive unit. We have needed this for a long time.

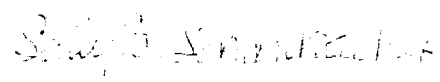
Also, in many instances, we need and should welcome any assistance the NPC could offer in the field of training, planning, assistance, construction, hardware, preservation, maintenance, and restoration. And it is obvious that all sites need funding.

I noted on page 27, Plan III, the last line which said the NPS would probably continue with the sound and light show. This also bothered me. We have worked too hard and too long for this show to see the word "probably" describe its future.

Incidentally, on page 2, the last line should read Illinois State Historical Library, on page 2, second paragraph check the authenticity of ownership.

I hope these comments are of some help and I would hope we could meet again to work out details. We need your help and your expertise. Much of Plan III I favor, but cannot accept all of it.

Sincerely,


(Mrs.) Sally B. Schanbacher
Trustee, Historical Library and
Historical Sites Commission

SBS:omg

STATE HISTORIAN: William K. Alderfer

TRUSTEES: John R. Gehlbach, Chairman, *Lincoln*; Charles L. McMackin II, *Salem*; Sally B. Schanbacher, *Springfield*

Comments by Mrs. Chas. Becker, Jr., on NPS reference L58 MWR DCL
November 14, 1979

Mr. Thomas G. Balsanek
National Park Service
Midwest Region
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Dear Mr. Balsanek:

I have been asked to comment on the report as it pertains particularly to the Great Western Depot. However I take the liberty to discuss a most outstanding interpretive, educational, and entertaining program, namely the Sound & Light Show in front of the Old State Capitol. I was appalled when I read "the Park Service would "probably" continue the Sound & Light Show". . . I realize there was no opportunity for the team to see this fine production, so perhaps its importance wasn't emphasized. Let me do so. The show is one of its kind in central United States, there being two on the East coast; it was Illinois' bicentennial gift to the nation at the cost of \$600,000. It took a committee of Springfield citizens four years to complete the research and convince the legislators and the Governor to pass the bill to implement it. It has inspired thousands of viewers to the true beauty and significance of this magnificent building.

Included in the Sound & Light package was the By Word system. Its purpose was to reduce the number of guides needed and to upgrade the quality of interpretation. However, some of the principals in management of the OSC have not favored Sound & Light on the By Word system with the result that proper attention has not always been given them.

This condition points up another problem which might be solved by coordinating all the sites under one roof. However your Alternative plans do not include one which I personally would favor, namely a unified downtown concept - embracing the principles of Alternative 3 but limiting it to include the Home, the Old State Capitol, Depot and Lincoln Law Offices under the auspices of the National Park Service. New Salem and the Tomb have flourished well under the Dept. of Conservation.

Page 2

Mr. Thomas G. Balsanek

November 14, 1979

I would exclude the Long Nine Museum for the simple reason that it does not have sufficient historical significance . . . it would detract from consideration of the six really viable sites . . . ie Congress considering a bill.

The A. Lincoln Book Store on the first floor of the Lincoln & Herndon Building sells books, manuscripts, prints and other objects relating to the life and times of Lincoln, the Civil War, and general American history and literature . . . definitely not "curios".

There should be clarification regarding Sangamon State University "subleasing" the Depot. I think it is better described as a management arrangement. The University has a great interest in and appreciation for the Depot and would not abandon it, but they cannot bear the financial burden indefinitely . . . The Depot needs major repairs - ie tuckpointing, new furnace, etc. It would of course be greatly helped if admission charge were not necessary and the Visitors Center could actively promote it.

submitted by


Molly M. Becker

As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U. S. administration.

