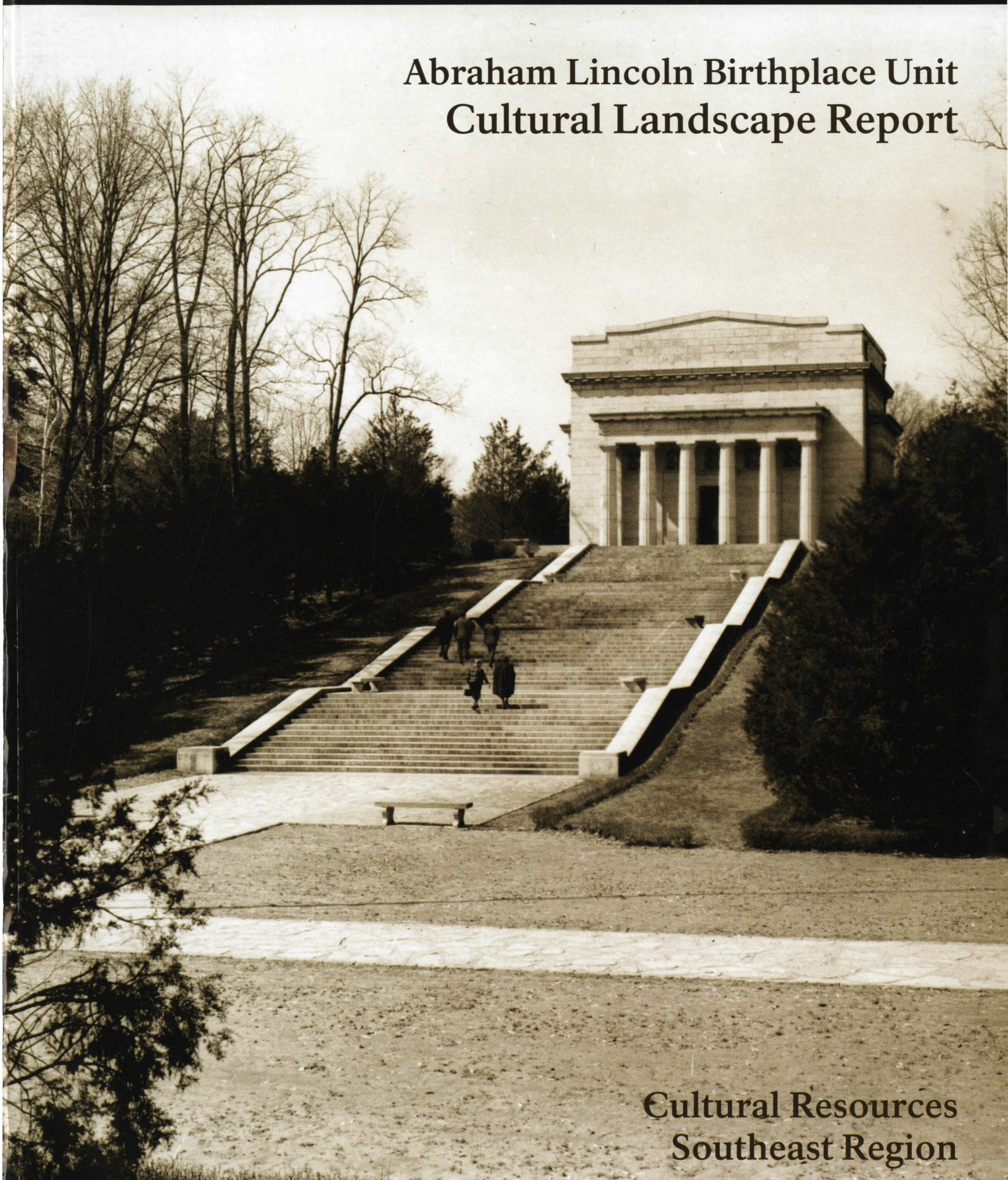
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site
Hodgenville, Kentucky

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit
Cultural Landscape Report



Cultural Resources
Southeast Region

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

Cultural Landscape Report

Prepared by Lucy Lawliss and Susan Hitchcock

National Park Service
Southeast Regional Office
Cultural Resources Division

2004



The cultural landscape report presented here exists in two formats. A printed version is available for study at the park, the Southeastern Regional Office of the National Park Service, and at a variety of other repositories. For more widespread access, this cultural landscape report also exists in a web-based format through ParkNet, the website of the National Park Service. Please visit www.nps.gov for more information.

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2004
Cultural Landscape Report
Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit,
Abraham Lincoln Birthplace
National Historic Site
Hodgenville, Kentucky

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit,
Abraham Lincoln Birthplace
National Historic Site

Cultural Landscape Report

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Figure Credits

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Foreword

We are pleased to make available this cultural landscape report as part of our ongoing effort to provide comprehensive documentation for the historic structures and landscapes of National Park Service units in the Southeast Region. Many individuals and institutions contributed to the successful completion of this project. We would especially like to thank Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site Superintendent Kenneth E. Apschnikat and Chief of Operations Gary Talley. In 2002, landscape historian Susan Hitchcock updated a draft written by NPS Park Cultural Landscapes Program Lead Lucy Lawliss several years earlier. We hope that the study will be a useful tool for park management and for others interested in the history and significance of the cultural landscape of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit.

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Introduction

Management Summary

The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site (the Park) is forever dedicated to the preservation, commemoration, and interpretation of the cultural and natural resources associated with the birth and early years of the sixteenth president of the United States and the efforts of the Lincoln Farm Association in establishing a lasting tribute to Abraham Lincoln.

This cultural landscape report (CLR) for the Birthplace Unit (the park) has evolved over a number of years but always with the same purpose driving its production: to provide Park management with an evaluation of the landscape's significance and to provide treatment recommendations for the preservation of its significant features. The CLR documents the history of the Birthplace Unit's landscape change, from its earliest agricultural use to its full-blown development as a much-visited historical park. An evaluation and analysis of these landscape changes, based on the extant resources, is used to determine a period of significance for the landscape features, which in turn helps to shape treatment recommendations developed to preserve and enhance this commemorative site.

During the years of the CLR's production, a key piece of property was added to the Park. In 2001 the Park acquired the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek, located seven miles northeast of Hodgenville, which protects the first homeplace that Lincoln remembered. Although the CLR does not address this property, the treatment recommendations for the Birthplace Unit are affected by the Boyhood Home Unit's ability to tell a part of the Lincoln story that is not being interpreted in the landscape of the Lincoln birthplace.

Prior to this CLR, the designed Memorial Landscape has not been adequately addressed in Park planning documents. The Memorial Building that houses the Birthplace Cabin and its associated monumental stairway were described in a National Register nomination written in 1977, but at the time no effort was made to nominate a landscape of significance. The Park's historic resource study, which was begun in association with the CLR and published in 2001, does include a discussion of the historic landscape based on the research for the CLR. That information is expanded in this document.

The CLR begins with an historical overview of the Birthplace Unit, documenting the evolution of the landscape, from Sinking Spring Farm to its ownership and management by the National Park Service. Existing site conditions are described and the landscape's integrity is evaluated and analyzed using National Register criteria. A period of significance is determined and landscape treatment decisions are proposed that support the preservation and interpretation of the historic setting as well as the management goals of the Park. The CLR concludes with guidance on preparing a Record of Treatment for the landscape, identifying the steps necessary to document landscape improvements as the Park moves into the implementation phase of the project.

Because of specific management needs associated with the Memorial Building's historic vegetation, the expertise of the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation was solicited. Members of the center's staff consulted on the CLR in the summer of 1998. The team helped to complete a Memorial Landscape vegetation inventory and offered recommendations to preserve and rehabilitate the historic landscape. Their contributions are incorporated into the CLR.

Historical Summary

Attracted to the uncultivated land west of the Appalachians, European Americans were moving into Kentucky by the mid-eighteenth century. The population greatly increased when the state of Virginia, still laying claim to its Kentucky counties, issued 10,000 land grants to veterans of the American Revolution to settle the area. Thomas Lincoln came with his parents to Kentucky around 1782 at the age of sixteen. In 1806 he married Nancy Hanks and in 1808, with money inherited from his father, purchased a 300-acre farm located on a rise above the "Sinking Spring." It was here that on February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born in a one-room log cabin. Due to an unsettled debt, the Lincolns were forced to leave Sinking Spring Farm after only two years, leasing land at nearby Knob Creek Farm. In 1816 the disputed property was sold at auction, and Thomas Lincoln moved his family to Indiana.

In 1906, the Lincoln Farm Association was formed to take title to the 110 acres of the birthplace farm (previously purchased in 1894 by New York restaurateur Alfred W. Dennett) and to oversee the development of the property as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln. John Russell Pope's Memorial Building, completed in 1911, became the focal point of a commemorative landscape of terraced hedges enclosed by an allée of Lombardy poplars leading to a formal plaza at the base of the temple-form building. On July 17, 1916, an act of Congress (39 Stat. 385) authorized the United States to accept as a gift, a deed from the Lincoln Farm Association which included ". . . land near the town of Hodgenville, County LaRue, State of Kentucky, embracing the homestead of Abraham Lincoln and the log cabin in which he was born." It was stated that the land described, together with the buildings and appurtenances thereon, "shall be forever dedicated to the purposes of a national park or reservation, the United States of America agreeing to protect and preserve said lands, buildings, and appurtenances, and especially the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born and the Memorial Hall enclosing the same."[1] Thus the birthplace farm was set aside to commemorate the sixteenth president of the United States, under the administration of the War Department.

The War Department carried out a number of changes to the site between 1928-1933, focusing on improvements that would accommodate visitor use. All of the War Department's work was extraneous to Pope's design with the exception of fill, which was added to the Plaza and the layout of cross-axial paths and lawn as a part of that improvement. The site was transferred to the National Park Service (NPS) in 1933. Major NPS alterations were based on a 1935 Planting Plan, which used evergreens to control views to and from the Memorial Building that had been compromised because of changing land uses outside the Birthplace Unit boundary.

Study Boundary

The Park consists of two units: the Birthplace Unit and the Boyhood Home Unit. The CLR considers the entire Birthplace Unit as part of the study area. The area consists of approximately 116 acres, which is divided roughly in half by U.S. 31E (originally the Louisville-Nashville Road). Except for a 6-acre purchase in 1949 to protect the Boundary Oak, the Birthplace Unit's property represents the land owned by the Lincoln Farm Association, purchased by the association as Thomas Lincoln's farm and Abraham Lincoln's birthplace.[2] The primary entrance to the western half of the Birthplace Unit is from U.S. 31E. This half includes the Memorial Building and the associated Memorial Landscape, the Sinking Spring, the historic location of the Boundary Oak, as well as a parking ellipse and the Visitor Center. Along the northern boundary of this western half,

1. Gloria Peterson, *An Administrative History of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, Division of History, 1968), 38.
2. The Birthplace Unit occupies the southwest portion of the original 300-acre farm that Thomas Lincoln tried to purchase. The chain of title and configuration of the original farm were well-documented in two reports written by park historian Benjamin H. Davis in 1948. See Site History for further discussion.

park housing and maintenance facilities have been developed.

These memorial resources and uses are in contrast to the development of the eastern half of the Birthplace Unit, which is primarily developed for recreational use. Facilities include picnic tables and a shelter, restroom facilities, walking trails, and parking. Because of the width of the highway and the volume of traffic, there is no accommodation for a pedestrian crossing between the two areas, and very little visual connection is available because of the rolling topography, as well as the width and plantings associated with the highway.

The larger setting of the Birthplace Unit is that portion of rural Kentucky that lies in the eastern portion of the Pennyrile.[3] This Mississippian plateau stretches from the Land Between the Lakes to the Pottsville Escarpment and includes a large karst region. It is characterized by underground streams and caves, sinkholes, small ponds, long valleys and rolling hills with occasional steep escarpments, which are formed by the dissolution of soluble limestone by water action. The most notable natural feature of the area is Mammoth Cave, the world's longest.[4] Thirty miles to the north, the Birthplace Unit contains the Sinking Spring, a steady stream of water that seeps from the base of a small knoll over a rock ledge down into a sinkhole. Thomas Lincoln's farm was named for the spring, and oral history places the birth cabin atop the knoll, the site of the present-day Memorial Building.

The Birthplace Unit's vegetation and associated management falls into three categories: hardwood-dominant woodland essentially unmanaged except for the removal of dead and dangerous trees; turf grass mown regularly to maintain open space; and formal ornamental plantings of trees and shrubs that require regular maintenance. The latter is associated with the Memorial Landscape and primarily dates to a 1935 Planting Plan of evergreens installed to control views to and from the Memorial Building. Since the 1970s, the Birthplace Unit has pursued a "beautification" program, which has resulted in numerous specimen-tree plantings in the vicinity of the Visitor Center.

3. The term Pennyrile is derived from the common plant name Pennyroyal (*Hoed puligrodes*).
4. Mammoth Cave is included in Mammoth Cave National Park. More than 350 miles of the cave have been mapped.

Scope of Work and Methodology

In addition to the CLR, a historic structure report (HSR) for the Memorial Building and Cabin[5], as well as a historic resource study (HRS)[6] for the Birthplace Unit, were published in 2001. In the former document, the Memorial Building and Cabin are addressed in detail and in the latter the historical context of the Birthplace Unit and its primary resources is covered. Therefore, the CLR will not attempt to duplicate the work of either of these documents. Rather, the CLR's focus is to evaluate the significance of the existing Memorial Landscape, which is concentrated on the western half of the property, and to provide treatment recommendations to preserve its characteristic features. The development on the eastern half of the property will be presented, but, having no effect on the Memorial Landscape, will not be evaluated for its significance.

In light of these stated goals, the CLR will not exhaustively research or describe the Sinking Spring Farm or the subsequent agricultural use of the property by the Creal family for two reasons: 1) the lack of available documentation associated with Thomas Lincoln's development and use of the property; and 2) the lack of integrity associated with these periods. The cultural landscape report will not attempt to illustrate what the landscape looked like during this period (1808-1894). The most important fact from the Thomas Lincoln period is that the Birthplace Unit is composed of a portion of the original Lincoln

5. *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Building Historic Structure Report* (Atlanta: National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, 2001).
6. Robert W. Blythe, *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site: Historic Resources Study* (Atlanta: National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, 2001).

farm as well as the location of several significant features. At its current level of development, the historic landscape of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site is most significant as a designed memorial landscape.

Summary

The landscape history of the site known today as the Birthplace Unit of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site illustrates the evolution of a relatively undeveloped farmstead to a fully developed memorial park visited by many thousands of people each year. From a review of the available documents, the integrity of the historic landscape of the Thomas Lincoln farmstead, which was also known as Sinking Spring or Nolin Creek Farm, has been lost. The most notable physical features of the historic farmstead—the Boundary Oak, the Sinking Spring, and the knoll upon which the Lincoln cabin was said to have been built—were all altered in subsequent attempts to preserve them. Other landscape features of the Lincoln farm (agricultural fields, barns, and outbuildings) either did not exist or were removed or relocated by subsequent owners. Construction of the Memorial Building by the Lincoln Farm Association, followed by the federal government's development to create a park, erased the last vestiges of the site's agricultural past. These changes took place in spite of the fact that throughout the commemorative history of the site, beginning with Dennett's 1894 purchase of the "old Creal place," each owner's stated purpose was to preserve and interpret the humble beginnings of one of our greatest presidents. Although the acknowledged importance of the simple log cabin in its rural setting remains significant to the interpretation of "Honest Abe," the "Rail-Splitter," the site continues to evolve toward a purely commemorative setting.

Site History

Virginians and North Carolinians flocked to the "Kaintuckee" backcountry after 1782 because of the thousands of land grants issued to Revolutionary War veterans by the state of Virginia, which still laid claim to the area. By 1789, Virginia relinquished its claim to the territory and in 1792 Kentucky became the fifteenth state to enter the union, charted by the likes of Daniel Boone and Richard Henderson's Transylvania Company. Thomas Lincoln's father, Abraham, moved from Virginia as early as 1782 to find fertile land and a better life here at the end of the Wilderness Road.

Thomas Lincoln-Sinking Spring Farm, 1808-1816

> I was born February 12, 1809, in the then Hardin County, Kentucky, at a point within the now County of Larue, a mile or a mile and a half from where Hodgin's Mill now is. My parents being dead, and my own memory not serving, I know no means of identifying the precise locality. It was on the Nolin.[1]

From this obscure beginning, one of the great men of American history emerged. Pinpointing the location and circumstances of Abraham Lincoln's vaguely described birthplace has been the work of many historians. The most recent scholarship documenting the history of Thomas Lincoln's real estate ventures in Kentucky was produced in a report on Knob Creek Farm, the second homestead, and the only Kentucky property remembered by Abraham Lincoln. In reviewing the county records, the author reconfirms that in 1808 Thomas Lincoln "possessed an assignment" of land, which had a long and convoluted ownership.[2]

This land, originally part of a 30,000-acre land grant of 1783 from the Commonwealth of Virginia to Joseph Smith of Baltimore, was subdivided more than once by 1808. Lincoln's claim to a 300-acre parcel relied on a "[David] Vance making 'full payment' to [Richard] Mather" for a parcel that was "to be twice as long as wide" and described as "beginning at or near a spring called the sinking spring."[3] Despite this tenuous hold, in December of 1808, Thomas moved with his pregnant wife, Nancy, and their toddler, Sarah, three miles south of Hodgen's Mill (now Hodgenville) to a property that lay along the South Fork of Nolin Creek. Once there, Lincoln established a log homestead on a rise above the "Sinking Spring"—which gave the farm its name—and set to work on improving his lot.

Early in the following year, Nancy Hanks Lincoln gave birth to a son, called Abraham for his paternal grandfather. In the two years that the Lincoln family lived at Sinking Spring Farm, they eked a living out of the land. Because no specific records exist, one can only assume that like his county neighbors, Thomas Lincoln planted primarily corn, squash, and beans. The land was mostly open with scattered trees and could be improved for agricultural use. The land was rolling, and it was on one of these small hills in the southwest corner of the property, near a source of clean water, that later accounts placed the humble, one-room log cabin of Lincoln's birth. Specific details of the farm, such as actual crops, field sizes, field arrangement, and numbers and locations of outbuildings are not known.

Although early accounts dispute the length of time the Lincoln's remained at Sinking Spring Farm, Kent Masterson Brown's Knob Creek study

1. Benjamin H. Davis, "Report on the Original Thomas Lincoln Nolin Creek Farm" (Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, 1948, (Typescript), 1.
2. Kent Masterman Brown, "Report on the Title of Thomas Lincoln to, and the History of, the Lincoln Boyhood Home Along Knob Creek in LaRue County, Kentucky" (Atlanta: National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, 1998), 35.
3. Benjamin H. Davis, "A Revised Report on the Original Thomas Lincoln Nolin Creek Farm" (Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, 1949, Typescript), 1-8.

emphatically states that the Lincolns were forced to move after only two years because of the still unsettled debt between Vance and Mather. Intent on recovering their claim to the Sinking Spring Farm, the Lincolns stayed on in Hardin County. Beginning in 1811, Thomas leased thirty acres of a 230-acre farm on Knob Creek, nine miles northeast of the Sinking Spring, owned by George Lindsey.[4] Lincoln's reasons for staying on in the area to fight for ownership of the Sinking Spring property are not known. It is speculated that part of his interest was in the acres of fertile land along this branch of Nolin Creek, as well as its year-round source of clean water. It is also possible that Thomas and Nancy Lincoln wanted to stay near friends and relations in the county. Thomas and Betsy Sparrow and their adopted son, Dennis Hanks, were kin to Nancy and lived just two miles from the Sinking Spring Farm.[5]

An 1813 suit brought by Mather to reclaim his property at Sinking Spring Farm named Vance as well as Lincoln. A series of Hardin County court cases that followed are proof of Thomas Lincoln's desire to hold on to Sinking Spring Farm. Despite his efforts, however, in December of 1816, the disputed property was sold at auction on the courthouse steps for $87.74. Thomas Lincoln, unable or unwilling to pay the sum, left Kentucky soon thereafter for Indiana, "where government lands, systematically surveyed, were being offered to settlers."[6]

Landscape Characteristics of the Lincoln Period

There are only two features from the Lincoln period that are consistently mentioned in the historical documents: the Sinking Spring and the Boundary Oak, both of which are mentioned in the first surveys of the property. Lincoln's assignment in 1808 locates the property in relation to the spring, and again in 1822 a title bond states "for a one hundred acre tract around the 'Sinking Spring' having its 'beginning at a white oak,'" which was the "original corner to David Vance's three hundred acre survey."[7] In 1837, the first recorded survey of the property establishes the presence of "a large white oak thirteen poles above the sinking spring or Rock Spring."[8]

Before the days of the railroad in Hardin County, local stage routes connected the towns, providing a circulation network. The local route from Hodgenville to Elizabethtown was considered essential as a mode of transportation for business and social purposes. The Old Cumberland Road was an important stage route from Louisville to Nashville via Bardstown.

Continued Agricultural Use, 1816-1894

After the Lincolns left for Indiana, the 300-acre Sinking Spring Farm continued to be divided over the next eighty years. John Welsh purchased the three hundred acres from the Hardin Circuit Court in 1816, and within a few years, he sold the tract off in smaller parcels. By 1837, owners of the southern half of the property, which included the spring, were Henry Brothers and Richard Creal. It is interesting to note that each subsequent deed for this southern portion of the property includes references to the spring and uses the same point of beginning, the white oak. The subdivision of the original 300-acre, mostly rectangular Lincoln farm tract to the oddly shaped 110 acres owned by the Creal family at the time of its sale to Alfred W. Dennett in 1894 has been documented and illustrated by both deed descriptions and associated plats.[9]

It is assumed by all reports that the Creal family never used the Lincoln cabin, which later documentation determined was sold and moved off the property by 1860.[10] A 1941 National Park Service report on the Creal house determined that the building that was standing alongside the

4. Brown, 31.
5. Brown, 18.
6. Brown, 48.
7. Davis, "Report on the Original Thomas Lincoln Nolin Creek Farm," 8
8. Peterson, 3-5.
9. Davis, "Deeds Showing Richard Creal's Ownership" (Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, 1948, Typescript), n.p.

Louisville Nashville Road in 1894 was an aggregation of log structures, the center portion having been raised to two stories circa 1860 with the earliest sections dating to circa 1840.[11]

The location of the Creal house relates to the construction of the Louisville Nashville Road. The road ran north-south through the property and the Creal house stood on a rise facing that road, approximately fifteen hundred feet to the east of the Lincoln cabin site. There is little doubt that the Sinking Spring continued to be the main source of drinking water for the Creals because of its consistent flow of water. What is not known is the exact size and location of plots cultivated by the Creals, or the specific crops grown during their tenure. Period photographs at the time of the Memorial Building construction show pastures and row crops surrounding the Creal house. There has been no effort to document the agricultural use of the property by the Creals because it post-dates the Lincoln years, as well as the lack of integrity associated with the Creal period. There is no intent to reestablish an agricultural presence in the Birthplace Unit.

No outside interest was paid to the property until Abraham Lincoln's rise to national prominence and his election as the sixteenth president of the United States. Even then it was minimal. As a border state, Kentucky had mixed feelings over the election of its native son. Lincoln himself, when asked about his roots, gave only vague answers and discouraged his party supporters from using the phrase "Honest Abe, the Rail-Splitter" or emphasizing his obscure birth in a log cabin. Only after a bloody Civil War and his 1865 assassination was there any sustained attention given to his humble Kentucky roots. Subsequent reports had two primary interests: the location of the Lincoln farm and the cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born.

10. Davis, "Report of Research on the Traditional Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Cabin" (Abraham Lincoln National Historic Site, 1949, Typescript), 23-32.
11. Thor Borresen, "Report on the Inspection of the Creal House" (Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, 1941, Typescript), 1-4.

One of the earliest known attempts to locate and describe the Lincoln birthplace occurred in 1865, when John B. Rowbotham, an artist-journalist, was sent by a Cincinnati publishing firm to "make a picture of Lincoln's birthplace." He described the site as follows:

> From E.T. [Elizabethtown] proceed to Hodgenville which is about ten miles southeast of there—inquire the way to Rock Spring Farm owned by Mr. R. A. Creal better known as 'old Dickey Creal.' The Farm is about 3 miles south of Hodgenville [on] a good straight road. The site of Mr. Lincoln's birthplace is on this farm about 500 yards from Mr. Creals house. It is situated on a little knoll or rising ground and is now a barley field. Some rocks indicating the site of the chimney are still there. At the edge of the field are two old pear trees planted by Th. Lincoln—between which—was a gateway leading to the house. Mr. Creal remembers him well. Near the spot is a very romantic spring from which the farm takes its name—& where no doubt Mr. L as a child often strayed.[12]

An earlier account occurred in 1860 when R. W. Wintersmith claimed in a letter to J. B. McKeehan that a "long plum stick was cut from the very place in the house where... he was born. The house has been removed."[13]

Private Commemoration of the Lincoln Birthplace, 1894-1916

Limited interest in the Lincoln birthplace continued as memorials to Lincoln were being developed throughout the northern states. In the 1870s and 1880s, Lincoln enthusiasts found their way to Hodgenville, Kentucky and would be led to the birthplace by a dwindling number of locals who remembered the site. One attempt to

12. Roy Hays, "Is the Lincoln Birthplace Cabin Authentic?" *The Abraham Lincoln Quarterly* 5 (Sept. 1948): 128-29.
13. Peterson, 8.

commemorate the Lincoln birthplace by the state of Kentucky failed in 1886, and for another decade appeals languished. In 1894, an article appeared in the *Louisville Commercial* that the 110 acres of "the old Creal place" was to be purchased for not more than $3,000 by Major S. P. Gross—the man who had successfully run the Kentucky Building's restaurant at the Chicago World's Fair—to establish a memorial "like Mount Vernon or the Hermitage" at Lincoln's birthplace. Gross's plans never materialized, but in November of that same year, Alfred W. Dennett, a New York restaurateur and speculator, bought the property for $3,000 to develop a hotel and park.[14]

Without funds to support his long-term plans, Dennett moved quickly to capitalize on an encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic to be held 50 miles away at Louisville, Kentucky, in the spring of 1895. Dennett planned to promote Lincoln's birthplace as a side trip to the thousands expected at the encampment, for which he would arrange the transportation. By charging a steep admission to the property, he hoped to recoup some of his initial investment. To add interest, Dennett assigned his associate and later caretaker of the property, the Rev. James W. Bigham, to rebuild the "log cabin. . . [with] identical logs that were in the original cabin."[15] Bigham bought a cabin from John A. Davenport (which was situated one mile north of the Sinking Spring Farm), and dismantled and reassembled it on the knoll above the spring.[16] Despite these efforts, fewer than 100 soldiers who gathered for the encampment opted for the expensive trip to see the Sinking Spring Farm and "birth cabin."

The earliest known photograph of the site was taken by Russell T. Evans, of Evans Art Company, Elizabethtown, Kentucky, in the spring of 1895 sometime after the cabin was put in place (Fig. 1). According to Peterson, this was one of a set of photographs commissioned by Bigham for souvenir or promotional material. In 1895, the photograph was published in *McClure's Magazine* to accompany an article by the editor, Ida Tarbell, "Lincoln's Boyhood in Kentucky and Indiana," in which she notes that "the cabin was long ago torn down, but the logs were saved" and "the old cabin [was rebuilt] on the original site."[17]

It is very interesting that the photograph illustrated the primary features of the site: the cabin restored to its knoll above the Sinking Spring and the full-canopied Boundary Oak in the distance. The foreground is a recently mown field, with multiple small haystacks in the middle ground. The only access to the site is a narrow dirt path, which two men with bicycles are standing astride. A lone small tree is in the foreground and a cluster of small trees surround the depression marking the "Sinking Spring," and the background appears to be a mature forest. Another interesting feature to note from this photograph is the composition of the major features. Without any other document or plat to verify the orientation of the cabin, it would seem that the Lincoln Farm Association developed the memorial site from this photograph, orienting the Pope Memorial Building, with the cabin inside, according to this image. The only reference to Dennet's having altered the character of the property at this time is to his having planted bluegrass.[18] The small size of the stacks could represent grass cuttings, but given the thick mature stand of grass in the photograph, it is unlikely that Dennet did more than overseed and harvest an existing field.

Perennially in debt, Dennett tried other means to generate income from his purchase. With little hope of regular visitation at the Sinking Spring Farm, Dennett had the cabin dismantled and sent to the 1897 Tennessee Exposition at Nashville to be displayed alongside the alleged Jefferson Davis birth cabin, another Bigham purchase. The cabins continued to tour with the hope of generating funds through admissions and souvenir sales. The logs of both cabins were finally brought to New York and stored in the basement of a mission Dennett operated until their purchase by the Lincoln Farm Association.[19]

14. Peterson, 9-11.
15. Hays, 134.
16. Robert W. Blythe, *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site: Historic Resources Study* (Atlanta: Southeast Regional Office, 2001), 28.
17. Peterson, 12.
18. Peterson, 19.
19. Blythe, 29.



FIGURE 1. View of the Sinking Spring Farm, 1895

At the same time, Dennett attempted to sell the property to the United States Government.[20] Repeated efforts failed throughout the late 1890s, and in 1899, Dennett conveyed the property for an undisclosed amount to his associate David Crear, to whom he owed debts. In 1900, Dennett personally went to Washington twice but to no avail. He wrote to Bigham that "nobody but God Almighty, in my opinion can sell that property. . . . "[21] With debts mounting, Dennett filed for bankruptcy in 1901, and the Lincoln farm was not listed among his properties at that time. In 1903, Crear filed suit in court to defend the title he claimed after Dennett's final discharge. In 1905, the LaRue County Circuit Court ruled Dennett's conveyance to Crear fraudulent, and the farm was put up for sale with the proceeds to be distributed among Dennett's creditors.

The Lincoln Farm Association

By 1905, interest in the Lincoln birthplace had grown, and the auction of the property received considerable attention from the press. The Louisville *Courier-Journal* reported on the condition of the farm as having "a decidedly run-down and neglected appearance." Portions of the fields were being invaded by young saplings, and "fences were so dilapidated that they scarcely afford[ed] sufficient protection to the few scattered patches of corn and tobacco which are to be found."[22] The 1895 Evans photograph was reproduced with this article with some later photographs of the site after the cabin had been removed. A large flagpole marks the spot of the dismantled cabin location in one of these photographs.

Thomas B. Kirkpatrick, the local postmaster, had taken an interest in the fate of the birthplace. He communicated with William Jennings Bryan, political evangelist and Democratic presidential

20. Peterson, 15.
21. Peterson, 17.
22. Peterson, 20.

nominee, about spearheading a popular subscription drive to purchase the farm and to present it to the county, state, or federal government. Despite Bryan's enthusiasm, nothing got underway. About the same time, Richard Lloyd Jones, managing editor of *Collier's Weekly*, discussed with his employer, Robert J. Collier, about "somehow marking the birthplace," knowing that any effort would require the efforts of Mr. Collier's magazine. With Mr. Collier's support, Jones traveled to Hodgenville aware of Dennett's financial troubles. Jones enlisted a local lawyer to advise him about the property so that he would know when it would be available for purchase. At the August 1905 auction, Jones had the winning bid and purchased the Lincoln farm for $3,600 in the name of Robert Collier, who took possession in December of that year. *The Courier-Journal* rejoiced that the farm had at last "fallen into the hands of men of wealth who are willing to spend large sums to beautify and ornament it in the proper way."[23]

In a series of articles in the February 10, 1906, issue of *Collier's Weekly*, Jones laid out his vision "to develop the Lincoln Birthplace Farm into a National Park." This nine-page section of text and photographs described Lincoln's Kentucky childhood, the farm, and various related sites in the area. It also announced the formation of the Lincoln Farm Association (LFA), which was to have a Board of Trustees and various committees of notables. The section closed with a page of endorsements from President Theodore Roosevelt, Vice President Charles W. Fairbanks, Secretary of State Elihu Root, Samuel Clemens, and governors and senators from across the United States. Jones described the magazine's role as holding the farm "in trust for the nation" and stressed that *Collier's* had "no ulterior motive in view."[24]

Membership in the LFA was offered to all contributors for a minimum of twenty-five cents and a maximum of $25.00, for which one would receive an engraved certificate. The money raised was to fulfill the LFA's plans "to restore the cabin to its original site, clean and protect the old spring, plant the fields in bluegrass and erect at least one monument and historical museum."[25] According to Jones, the "park" planned by the LFA would "differ widely from our other national parks, such as Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge [sic], Vicksburg and others, in that it will express our national unity rather than preserve the memory of our lamentable differences [and] to cooperate with them in making this Kentucky farm a worthy companion of Mount Vernon in the affection of the American people and the admiration of the world."[26]

The LFA was incorporated on April 18, 1906, for the purposes of honoring and perpetuating the memory of Abraham Lincoln, the taking and holding of the 110 acres of his birthplace farm (which was transferred to the LFA on June 19, 1906), and the development and maintenance of the same.[27] With an illustrious board that included such names as Augustus Saint-Gaudens (sculptor), William H. Taft (twenty-seventh president of the U.S.), Samuel Gompers (president of the American Federation of Labor), William Jennings Bryan (three-time presidential nominee), and Ida Tarbell (one of America's most respected journalists), the LFA still had to work hard to raise the necessary building funds. With hopes of having the memorial completed by the 1909 centennial celebration of Lincoln's birth, the LFA discontinued the $25.00 maximum contribution and boldly approached any and all individuals and groups that might have an interest in the birthplace development. The logs from the dismantled cabin were put on tour again to raise interest and funds (Fig. 2). With this effort underway, Jones continued to solicit the federal government's support to establish a national park. He was successful in getting a bill—H. R. 2043—introduced in Congress in April 1908. Its request for $100,000 "to aid the Lincoln Farm Association of New York to build and endow a national memorial to Abraham Lincoln on the site of the Lincoln Birthplace Farm in Kentucky," was

23. Peterson, 20-21; Hays 147-51.
24. Richard Lloyd Jones, "The Lincoln Birthplace Farm," *Collier's Weekly* (February 10, 1906), 12-18.
25. Peterson, 22.
26. Jones, 15.
27. Peterson, 23.



FIGURE 2. Railroad flatcar loaded with the logs from the dismantled cabin, 1906.

reduced to $50,000 in committee but ultimately no funds were forthcoming.[28]

By early 1907, plans were taking shape. During the intervening year, Guy Lowell, a Beaux-Arts trained architect and landscape architect, and Jules Guerin, noted artist and muralist of his day, traveled to Hodgenville for the LFA to "survey the ground and plan its [the birthplace's] development."[29] Their long-term involvement in the project is unknown, but their plans and renderings were published in *Collier's* February 9, 1907, issue. Lowell's and Guerin's designs were grandiose and extended well beyond the limits of the farm. One rendering illustrated a museum with a facade much like that of the White House. Another rendering illustrated a tree-lined avenue from the square in Hodgenville to the birthplace, a distance of approximately three miles.[30] .

By the next LFA update in *Collier's* on February 15, 1908, Lowell's and Guerin's work had been replaced with designs by John Russell Pope, a young Beaux-Arts architect, who had been selected in "an architectural competition."[31] Two sketches accompany the article updating the readers on the project's status. Pope's memorial

28. Peterson, 32.
29. *Collier's Weekly* (February 9, 1907), 13.
30. Even though Lowell and Guerin were not selected to do the final design, it is interesting to note that American classicism was clearly the LFA's style of choice. Lowell's interest in Italian gardens is clear from his selection of structural plantings and formal landscape arrangements and it is one that he popularized in his book *American Gardens*. Pope's final design employs this same formal landscape expression and may reflect the lasting influence of Lowell's and Guerin's earlier plans for the site.

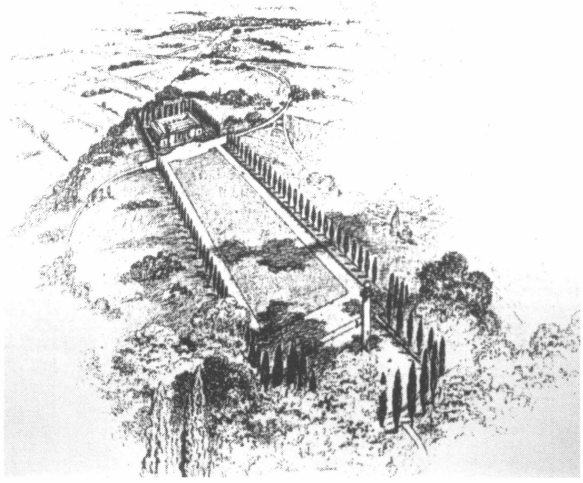


FIGURE 3. Pope's plan for a Lincoln Birthplace Memorial, 1908.

used the same classical design vocabulary evident in the Lowell and Guerin plans, but the structure is more temple-like than the previous design (Fig. 3). Unlike the Lowell and Guerin plans, which were based on a site visit and captured the reality of the hilly terrain and the shape of the site, Pope placed his building in a "broad green plaza" that showed little reference to the existing conditions. Pope's final plans for the site would change dramatically, but the Lombardy poplar allée, setting off a raised temple-like structure with forecourt, were elements that remained in the final design. This article is the first mention that the "museum will house, as its central object of interest, the weather-worn little log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born." The project, "which will tell the early yeomanry life out of which Lincoln came," was expected to cost "two hundred and fifty thousand dollars." The text

31. Richard Lloyd Jones, "The Lincoln Centenary" (February 15, 1908), 12-13. According to Pope scholar Steven Bedford, Charles McKim and LFA board member Thomas Hastings chose John Russell Pope without holding a formal competition, believing him to be the most promising young architect in independent practice.



FIGURE 4. Lincoln cabin re-erected on site for the centennial celebration, 1909.

accompanying the article, despite what Pope's rendering suggested, prescribed that the property "will be kept a farm, growing corn and squash, bluegrass and grain."[32]

The 1909 Lincoln centennial celebration was a laying of the cornerstone, not the dedication of a completed park, as hoped. Still, President Theodore Roosevelt, his wife, a number of dignitaries, and twelve thousand participants slogged through the rain and cold to see the Lincoln cabin, which had been re-erected on site to mark the location of the proposed memorial (Figs. 4 & 5). Although newspapers recorded that the celebration's decorations looked "a fright" because of the weather, they also took note of the

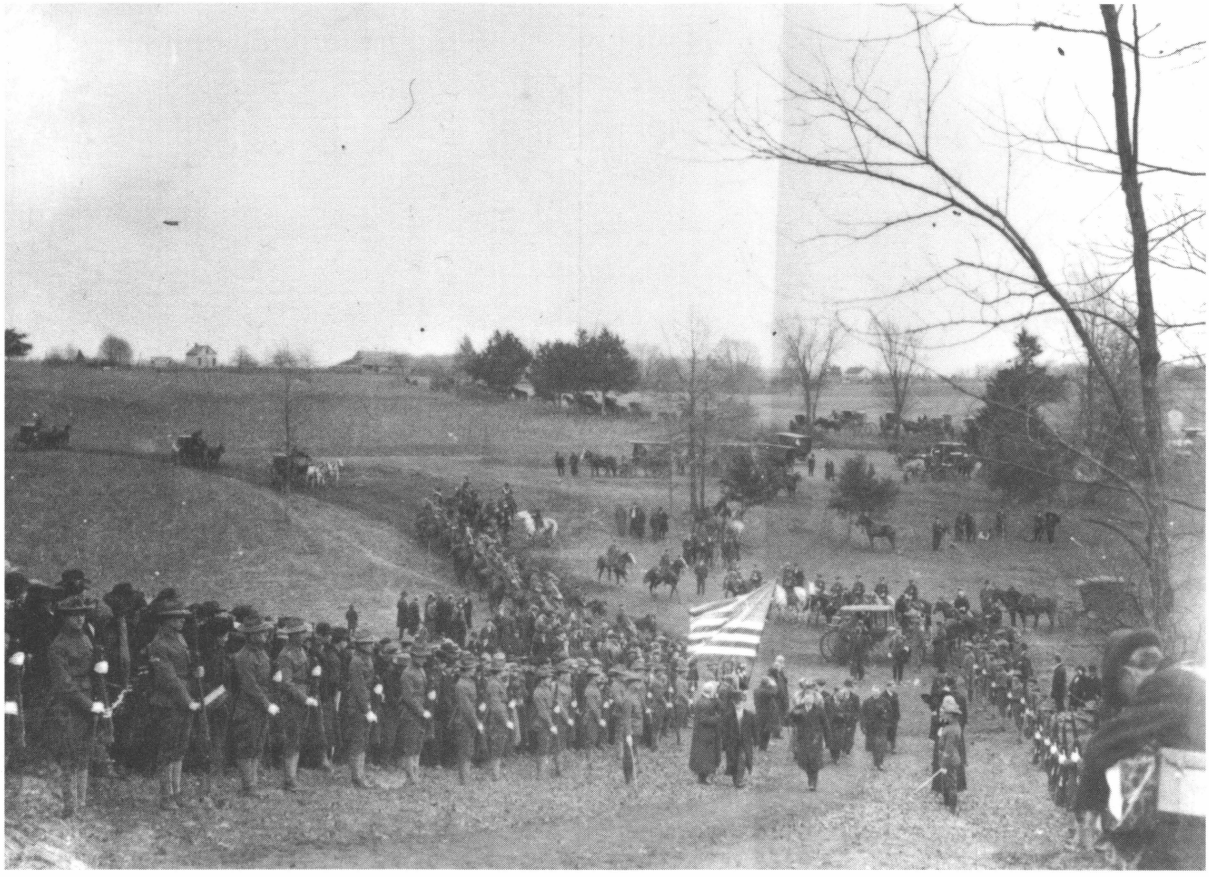


FIGURE 5. Centennial celebration, 1909.

day's significance. The *Courier-Journal* looked to a brighter future and wrote:

> When in the days to come a beautiful Doric temple enshrines the "log cabin of destiny," when landscape artists have worked a paradise, let us not forget to doff our hats, broad-brimmed or silk, to the Lincoln Park Association [sic] and its generous founders.[33]

Two years later, more than three thousand people attended the dedication of the site in the fall of 1911. President William Howard Taft, a long-standing LFA board member, gave the address, and at the close of the event, Joseph M. Folk, former governor of Missouri and president of the LFA, turned the property over to the governor of Kentucky, Augustus Willson. Governor Willson accepted the property, pending the necessary legislation, and promised that the state would augment the $50,000 trust fund established by the LFA to maintain the property.[34] Despite the park's transfer to the state, the LFA continued to pursue legislation to establish the birthplace as a national park.

The Development of the Lincoln Birthplace Memorial

The decision to radically alter Pope's initial design into its final form is not documented. One can only imagine that the funds necessary to construct the museum as originally conceived exceeded the LFA construction budget. This theory is supported by the fact that the LFA made persistent solicitations for funds with expected donations falling short of the projected construction costs. This would account for the scaled-down memorial design—from museum to one-room temple, enshrining the birth cabin.[35]

32. Jones, 12.
33. *Louisville Courier-Journal,* February 12, 1909, as quoted in Peterson, 33.
34. Peterson, 34.



FIGURE 6. Construction of the Memorial Building Stairway, c. 1910.

According to Steven McLeod Bedford, a Pope scholar, despite the project's reduction in size "the entire ensemble created a properly masculine and sacred image that was entirely appropriate to early twentieth-century conceptions of Lincoln's boyhood."[36]

The park's collection contains eleven prints by Pope's office dated October 1908 that detail the Memorial Building, Stairway, and a partial view of the Plaza with the central flagstaff.[37] An LFA report, published January 1910, documents the site construction as being well underway by the Norcross Brothers of Massachusetts after a winter of "preliminary landscape work that was considered necessary. . . on the farm itself and the terrace on which the building stands."[38] A concrete foundation for the building and steps was poured soon after, and the Memorial Building, Stairway, cheek walls, and the base of the flagstaff took shape out of Stony Creek pink granite. As completed in 1911, the Memorial Building—sited atop the knoll above Sinking Spring—was the focal point of the park. Although detailed site development plans have not been uncovered, period photographs document that the Memorial Building, as well as a formal landscape with a monumental stair and formal

35. Peterson, 31.
36. Steven M.Bedford, *John Russell Pope: Architect of Empire* (New York: Rizzoli, 1998), 122.
37. John Russell Pope, "Memorial Building Lincoln Farm," 1908. See microfilm 338/25900, National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta.
38. "Report of the Chairman of the Executive Committee to Honorary Members of The Lincoln Farm Association Concerning the Progress of the Memorial Building" (New York: 1910), 1, photocopied.



FIGURE 7. Construction shot showing agricultural setting of the site, c. 1910.

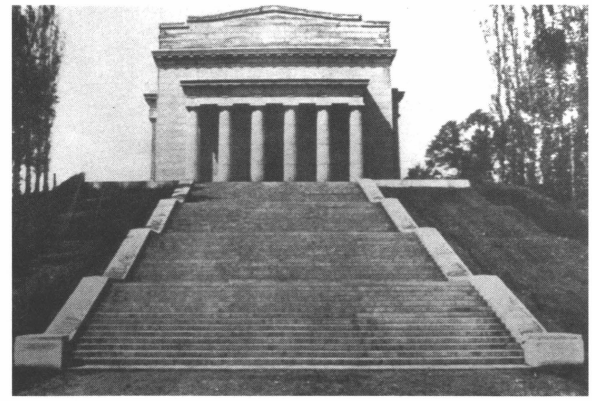


FIGURE 8. Memorial Building and Stairway, 1924.

plantings, were in place at the time of the dedication (Fig. 6).

The following is a detailed description of the major landscape features developed under the direction of Pope and the LFA. Because no master plan exists, the descriptions are derived from the numerous photographs taken during the construction of the site, the dedication ceremony, and soon thereafter.

Site Design and Layout. The centerpiece of the design is the neoclassical Memorial Building, which enclosed the Birth Cabin. It was sited atop the knoll at the spot the where the Lincoln cabin allegedly stood (identified as early as the 1860 Rowbotham sketch), and with the orientation that *McClure's Magazine* captured in its 1895 photograph. The formal axial relationship of the Memorial Building and the Plaza set up a controlled frontal view of the Memorial Building facade, which was reinforced by a symmetrical planting of Lombardy poplars (*Populus nigra* 'Italica') outside the formal stairway. From the highpoint at the Memorial Building, the visitor had a distant, southeasterly view of an agricultural patchwork, dotted with small farms and woods relatively unchanged from Lincoln's childhood (Fig. 7).

From the Jackson Highway (formerly the Louisville Nashville Road), a gravel lane wound through the site, opening onto a formal Memorial Plaza outlined with a hedge and anchored with a central flagstaff. From the Plaza, the visitor ascended fifty-six steps, one for each year of Lincoln's life. The Memorial Stairway was broken into groups of fourteen risers with four landings (Fig. 8).

The Pope renderings focus on the Memorial Building and Stairway and do not address the Sinking Spring or the Boundary Oak. Treatment of these features and the larger landscape, although recorded to have been "improved," can only be interpreted from the period photographs, which seem to indicate that no discernible work was done. The Creal house was left standing near the entrance to the property and was used as the site manager's residence. From records and photographs, the site manager was allowed to use part of the site for crops, which provided an agricultural setting (Fig. 9).

Circulation. The formal entry to the site continued to be from the Jackson Highway. The approach, although improved to a gravel surface, seems to have remained a curvilinear route, along which vehicles and visitors made their way into the Plaza, and from there, made the final ascent to the Memorial Building. No other formal paths or walks were developed at this time outside the Plaza area. Pink granite entry markers incised with the park's name were placed somewhere near the entry, although their exact location is not known (Fig. 10).

Views and Vistas. There is no specific reference to views and vistas associated with the siting of the Memorial Building and Plaza. It would seem,

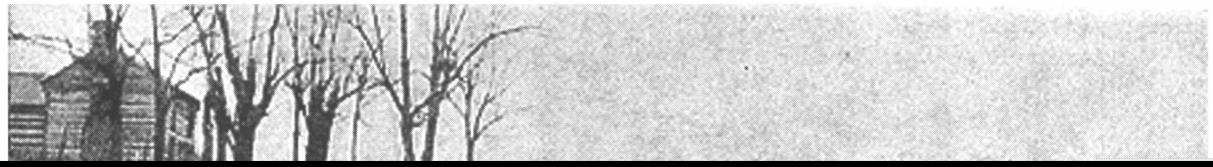




FIGURE 12. Dedication photo showing mature plant material along Memorial Stairway, 1911.



FIGURE 13. Dedication photo showing Memorial Plaza, 1911.

Rome.[39] The multi-tiered evergreen hedge planting echoed the Memorial Building facade's fine details of massing and line. The period photographs document sizeable trees (at least fourteen feet tall) and fully formed shrub plantings in place for the dedication. It is evident by the refinement of height and massing of the hedges that a considerable sum was spent to obtain mature plant material. Gaps, which are typical between new plantings, are not evident in the period photographs, and it is clear by the evenly pruned lines of the hedges that some level of management was already occurring at the site. Without additional information, it is assumed that the material of the landings was gravel, and that the lawn panels were planted in Kentucky bluegrass.[40] (Fig. 12)

Plaza and Flagstaff. The Plaza was completed as Pope planned at least as far as the drawings illustrate and period photographs document. It is clear that the taller hedge planting, which extends beyond the camera's field of view, enclosed the entire Plaza as Pope's rendering suggests it should, even to the detail of the reverse-radius corners at the base of the Memorial Stairway. The back edge, however, appears to be rectilinear. The material of the Plaza appears to be gravel, from which an elegantly detailed, white, cast-metal flagstaff emerges. The height of the flagstaff is not known,



FIGURE 14. Memorial Building Landscape with benches, c. 1920.

but it is tall enough for the flag to be out of view. The flagstaff is central to the Plaza and on axis with the center of the Memorial Building. Unlike Pope's rendering, however, which depicted a modest square base, the flagstaff base as installed was a pink granite ring, the material matching the Memorial Building and Stairway. It was approximately twelve inches tall and five feet in diameter (Fig. 13).

Small-scale Features of the Memorial Landscape. Very few small-scale features are apparent in either Pope's rendering or in the dedication photographs. The Pope rendering illustrates half-circular benches, which fit the arc formed by the hedges at the base of the steps, and while they do not appear in any of the dedication photographs, they do appear in a promotional photograph taken by Stoney Creek Granite (Fig. 14).

39. Michael Dirr, *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (Champaign, Il.: Stipes Publishing, 1990), 638.
40. A 1928 War Department report indicated that the landings were gravel and the Plaza crushed stone.

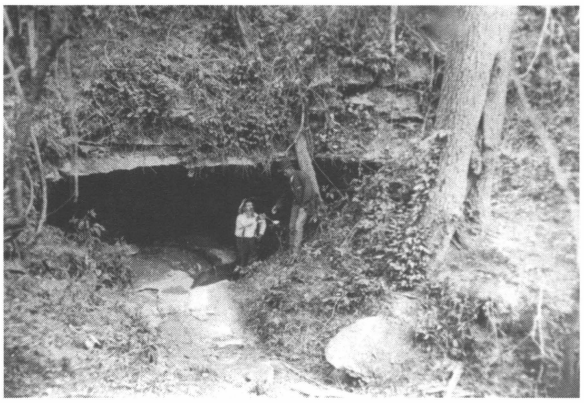


FIGURE 15. View of the Sinking Spring, 1890s.

Sinking Spring. The Sinking Spring appears to have been left in its natural state through the Pope period of design and construction. It is apparent from the photographs that many large trees existed around the spring, which are not balanced by similar plantings on the other side of the steps. Many early photographs exist to document the shady overgrown setting of the spring, and the natural rock alcove in which it existed (Fig. 15). Pope's rendering illustrated a continuing row of Lombardy poplars planted east and west at the base of the steps. Perhaps these trees were eliminated because they would have blocked the entrance to the Sinking Spring, a well-known place to visit.

Boundary Oak. No mention of the Boundary Oak is made at this period except as a point of reference in the boundary description on the property deed of transfer from the LFA to the federal government (Fig. 16).

Park Landscape and Other Vegetation. Scattered deciduous and evergreen trees are apparent in all the period photographs with agricultural fields still in cultivation. It is documented in a 1928 report that these fields were being tended by the site's caretaker still living in the Creal house.[41]

Beyond the hedge to the south, Figure 17 shows a rising, uneven terrain with longer grass and scattered evergreen and deciduous trees that



FIGURE 16. The Boundary Oak, 1919.

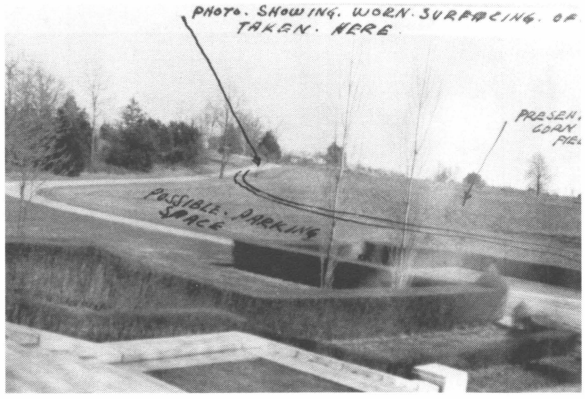


FIGURE 17. The entrance road and park landscape beyond, 1928.

41. "Report of the Lincoln Farm & Memorial" (War Department, Jeffersonville Quartermaster Intermediate Depot, July 1928, photocopy), 7.



FIGURE 18. Memorial Building Landscape, 1913.

would have predated the Memorial Building landscape improvements. The photograph suggests that the site improvements described in the 1910 report were limited to shaping the knoll and achieving a smooth even grade on the Plaza. A fence line can be distinguished along the southern property boundary, and haystacks dot the field beyond.

A series of photographs taken in July 1913 illustrates the full development of the Pope landscape. The Lombardy poplars are full and frame the Memorial Building as planned. A low hedge enclosed the terraced panels of grass with a second, taller hedge descending the slope, which at the base of the stairs, turned and enclosed the Memorial Plaza. The shadow of the flagpole is evident across the gravel Plaza and a hint of its granite base, encircled by a grass strip, is seen in the corner of the photograph (Fig. 18). At this date, the sky beyond the Memorial Building is unbroken by vegetation. Although the rest of the site was not photographed, its continued maintenance by the caretaker is documented in the 1928 report referenced above.

Abraham Lincoln National Park, 1916-Present

War Department Era, 1916-1933

Although efforts to transfer the property to the state of Kentucky failed, the LFA continued to lobby the U. S. Congress for national park status. Finally in July 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed H. R. 8351, declaring the Lincoln birthplace "forever dedicated to the purpose of a national park or reservation" and "with an endowment fund of $50,000 in relation thereto."[42] The birthplace was put under the aegis of the War

42. Peterson, 99. It is interesting to note that the Organic Act was not signed until August 25, 1916.

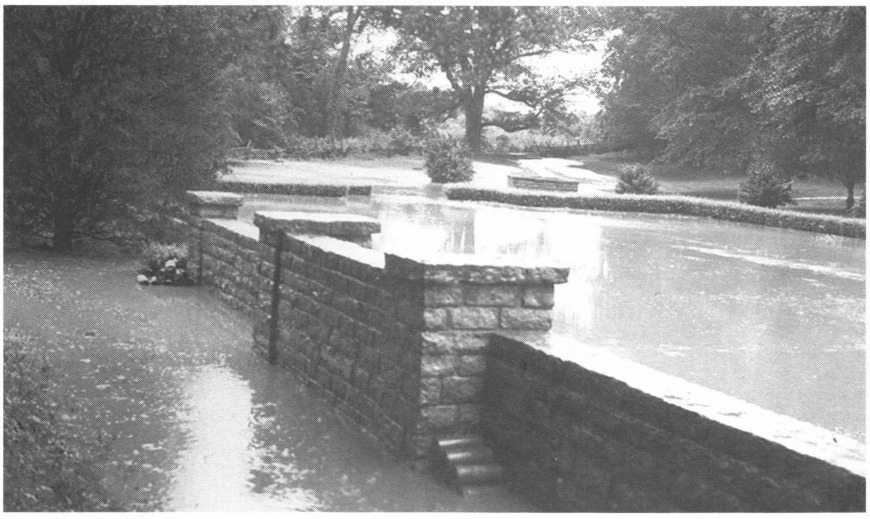


FIGURE 19. Memorial Plaza under water, 1935.

Department, whereupon the Secretary of War proceeded to draw up regulations for the park. These regulations provided for a resident "custodian" whose duty was to maintain and operate the farm. The custodian was charged with enforcement of the "rules against private notices, hunting, trapping, purchase, sale or use of liquor, solicitation, or grazing of livestock."[43] John A. Cissell, grandson of John Creal, had served in this equivalent position for the LFA since 1910 and was appointed custodian by the War Department on September 14, 1916. Richard Lloyd Jones requested and was granted the position of "commissioner," and as such, was charged with making periodic visits to the farm and submitting status reports to the Secretary of War.

Public interest in the site grew after the dedication, but the War Department paid little attention to the maintenance and upkeep of the site. The $50,000 LFA endowment funded salaries and the limited efforts of the custodian, Cissell, and his assistant, W.C. Ragsdale, who worked the acreage in "tobacco and bluegrass."[44] Just a decade after the site's designation as a national park, Jones was expressing frustration in his relationship with the War Department both for lack of authorized funds to visit the site and the inability to make necessary site improvements.

The most serious problem Jones reported was seasonal flooding that submerged the Plaza in several feet of water, for which the only outlet was the Sinking Spring.[45] Heavy rains carried silt from the surrounding agricultural fields into the Plaza, which was the low spot for approximately 105 acres. As the waters slowly receded through their only outlet—the Sinking Spring—inches of mud were deposited on the Plaza, making the surface impossible to maintain, and conditions for visitors, on foot or in vehicles, untenable (Fig. 19). In addition to the problems caused by these floodwaters, the approach road leading to the Plaza had never been paved, and during wet seasons, visitors would drive their vehicles across the fields to avoid the muddy lane.

Jones, aware of these conditions, pressed for capital investments that were beyond the limits of the LFA endowment. In 1926, he presented the War Department with a proposal for improvements totaling $50,000, based on real estimates, for a drainage system and a dam to relieve the flooding of the Plaza and to construct a "road to the Memorial Building."[46] No action was authorized during Jones's tenure because the War Department was looking for the opportunity to change the park's administration.

In July of that same year, the Secretary of War charged the Quartermaster General with the

43. Peterson, 39.
44. Peterson, 42.
45. Peterson, 43.
46. Peterson, 42.

"supervision and acting upon matters pertaining to the Lincoln Farm and Memorial," but he hesitated to dismiss Jones because of his association with the LFA. Only after a letter of complaint arrived in February 1927, from Hodgenville's Chamber of Commerce through their congressman, Representative Martin B. Madden, reporting that the "Memorial Building and its surroundings to be in a state of deterioration," did the War Department seize the opportunity to relieve Jones of his duties. In April of 1927, the Quartermaster General formally dismissed Jones, and the park's oversight became the responsibility of the Regional Quartermaster at Jeffersonville, Indiana.

In response to this administrative change, Norris Stayton, Lieutenant Colonel, Engineering Branch, Jeffersonville Quartermaster Intermediate Depot, was sent to assess the condition of the park. A survey of the property, "Plot of the Western Half of the Lincoln Farm and Memorial," had been completed in June 1928 by Francis Maslin. The "Report on the Lincoln Farm & Memorial," dated July 19, 1928, contained thirty-two, fully indexed notations, with supporting material such as annotated photographs and appendices. The report included everything from a brief history of the park to recommendations for improvements. It also contained some interesting facts such as: the "rapid increase in the number of visitors" that related to the increase of automobile traffic to Florida along the improved Jackson Highway and the growing popularity of Mammoth Cave.[47] The report emphasized the need for a surveyed boundary to reestablish property corners, as well as a detailed topographic survey.[48] It also noted that all development had been on the western half of the property, and that the eastern portion was "swampy land, it being the natural drainage basin for the surrounding country." The eastern half had "no improvements or historic features of especial interest except that it contains the only [boundary] line, . . . which remains from the original Lincoln Farm."[49]

Most important was the report's description of the existing conditions at the site and recommendations for immediate "improvements" that were not reflected on the subsequent plans drawn up by the Engineering Branch. The following is an excerpt from one of the site descriptions:

> [T]he land is rolling, bordering on ruggedness, and geologically belongs to the cavernous limestone of the middle Mississippi system. . . . about 30 acres [of the farm] are cleared for farming by the assistant caretaker, the greater part of the farm is almost impenetrable except with the assistance of a brush-hook, due to a dense undergrowth of wild grape, greenbrier, blackberry, sumack [*sic*] and other shrubs. The farm is well wooded on both sides of the highway with cedar in preponderance. Other trees in order of frequency of occurrence are – several varieties of oak, wild cherry, wild plum, sycamore, maple, ash poplar and black locust. . . . The tracts that are worked by the assistant caretaker are in corn, though at other times some hay has been grown. Nearly all the adjacent land is cleared and most of it is under cultivation. About four acres of the land under cultivation by the assistant caretaker are on the slope off onto the Memorial Building between the Plaza and the log house, presenting an unsightly appearance and at the same time contributing to the deposit of silt on the plaza by erosion. Instructions have been given to discontinue cultivation of this area and in September a mixture of three parts Kentucky blue grass and one part red top and one part white clover will be sown at the rate of 175 pounds per acre.[50] (Fig. 20)

The purpose of this grassing was to remove one source of the Plaza's mud deposit and to provide a retarding influence for surface water freely flowing from above to the Plaza. In addition to the

47. Several bus companies established a tour to Louisville, Mammoth Cave, Lincoln Birthplace, and Bardstown. By 1927 the annual visitation reached nearly 20,000.
48. The survey completed in 1928 only included the western half of the park.
49. "Report of the Lincoln Farm & Memorial," 7.
50. "Report on the Lincoln Farm & Memorial," 7.



FIGURE 20. View of Memorial Plaza with cultivated fields in the background, 1928.

engineering benefits to this solution, in the author's view, the attractiveness of the farm as seen by the visitors would be "greatly enhanced by reforesting this area with dogwood, redbud, maple and other native trees of Kentucky." The report recommended species to be planted as well as information on where to acquire the trees. Some trees—maple, dogwood, and cedar—could be "transplanted from other parts of the farm," while redbud could be transplanted from Fort Henry Knox "thirty miles away," and still others—catalpa, white ash, black locust, red oak, white oak, and tulip poplar—were available from the Kentucky Forest Service.[51] The report did not acknowledge the importance of interpreting a farm, but focused rather on the aesthetics of the site.

A detailed entry about the fences stated that they were in "poor condition and should be replaced within the next year or two." It noted that the Jackson Highway right-of-way was "unfenced," and that some property lines had "rail fences," which "are indelibly associated with Lincoln in the public mind and it is therefore considered appropriate that this type of fence be put up in the areas normally visited by tourists."[52]

A major concern for the Engineering Branch was the approach road, which connected the Jackson Highway with the Memorial Plaza. According to the report "two granite posts, 3 ¾ ft. square by 5 ¾ ft. high, with a clear opening of only 16 ft. between, mark its junction with the highway." Only eight feet wide, the approach road was worn to the "subgrade and presented an unsatisfactory condition, particularly in the steep sections . . . and in wet weather." Recommendations were made for its improvement that included reconstruction of the road and border plantings of dogwood, redbud, and maple. Realignment to eliminate a dangerous curve was recommended as was improving the pavement, which was described as a "cheaply constructed, thin, water-bound macadam road."[53]

51. "Report on the Lincoln Farm & Memorial," 8.

52. "Report on the Lincoln Farm & Memorial," 8.
53. "Report on the Lincoln Farm & Memorial," 17.



FIGURE 21. Picturesque nature of the Sinking Spring, 1928.

The report included a detailed description of the Sinking Spring as "the only natural distinguishing feature of the farm" and "picturesque as an object of interest" (Fig. 21). Access to the spring was through a "narrow opening in the hedge, . . .over a series of stone flags half way down the steep slope. The balance of the distance, of about 30 feet is by foot path." The concern was that in heavy rains, the path became covered in "six inches of silt" resulting in a "slippery, dangerous condition, as a loss of footing might mean a ten foot fall."[54] Various recommendations were proposed, and some rejected, for improving this situation. The report confirmed that the Plaza had a crushed rock base, which by 1928 was covered in ten inches of deposited silt from years of flooding. It recommended that the crushed rock in the Plaza, as well as in the stairway landings, be replaced with "sidewalk brick on a concrete foundation"[55] (Fig. 22).

Minor recommendations covered in the report included, for instance, the full-time employment of W.C. Ragsdale to work part of the farmland, occupy the log house, and care for the farm and Memorial Building, while Mr. Cissell's responsibilities remain "receiving visitors at the Memorial Building." The addition of another full-time laborer was recommended because of "policing" associated with the "construction of the proposed hotel [Lincoln Inn]" and the need to maintain the lawn and trees at a higher standard.

The final point the report addressed was the need for "commodious rest rooms . . .with modern sanitary fixtures." It recognized the need for such facilities to be sited well away from the Sinking Spring. The report recommended replacing the existing toilets, which were described as "unsanitary and certainly a menace to the health of visitors to the Lincoln Farm," with new facilities in the same location "about 200 feet from the rear of the Memorial Building." In constructing new rest rooms, it was recommended to provide a separate and sanitary source of clean water.[56]

Even before the report's completion, a 1927 memorandum from the Quartermaster General to the Assistant Secretary of War raised the issue of "extensive repairs and improvements [which] are necessary to keep this shrine in proper condition."[57] Following the report's publication,

54. "Report on the Lincoln Farm & Memorial," 20.
55. "Report on the Lincoln Farm & Memorial," 20-22.
56. "Report on the Lincoln Farm & Memorial," 23.
57. Peterson, 43.

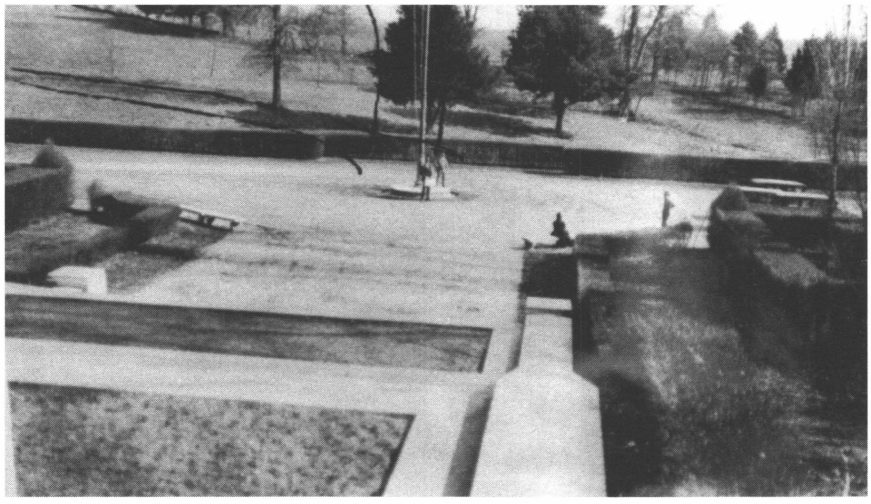


FIGURE 22. View of Memorial Plaza, 1928.

an appropriation of $100,000 was forthcoming in December 1928, "for the purpose of protecting from disintegration and of improving, beautifying and preserving" the farm. Specifically, the improvements were to include "rebuilding and extending the road from the highway to the Memorial Building, the construction of a comfort station and rest rooms, and a proper drainage system." They were also to include repairs to the existing buildings and fences, landscaping, planting, and marking of boundaries. For the most part, these recommendations addressed all the inadequacies documented in the 1928 report.

In order to carry out these improvements, Captain Francis I. Maslin was assigned as "construction quartermaster in charge of improvement and preservation of land and buildings at the farm" and reported for duty in April 1929. Peterson reports that when Maslin suggested improvements of his own, the Quartermaster General responded with a "statement of policy" that allowed approval of plans "as will restore the farm and birthplace of Abraham Lincoln to the condition it was at Lincoln's birth. . . .the surroundings must be kept simple and old-fashioned as far as possible."[58]

The following, by subject, is a description of the work carried out by the War Department between 1928 and 1933, when the park was transferred to the National Park Service. The key sources of information for this period are the "Lincoln Farm National Monument-Reservation Map" (338/9009 dated 1932, Fig. 23) drawn by the Quartermaster General, War Department documents, period photographs, and Peterson's administrative history. Peterson's work is particularly good for its detailed descriptions of the sequencing of War Department improvement projects, which is not repeated in the CLR. A fourth source is an undated set of existing conditions (338/6003) that seems to record the work accomplished by the War Department on or about the time of transfer to the NPS. They cover the western half of the site only. What is not established is whether these were the first existing drawings accomplished by the NPS or the last as-built plans documenting the War Department's efforts. In addition to showing two-foot contour elevations and individual tree sizes and species, these plans were drawn in much greater detail than any map that has been found to date and will be used to supplement information not illustrated on the plans but supported by other sources.

Site Design and Layout. Whereas the development of the Memorial Building and its immediate setting was the LFA's focus, the War Department's work emphasized improvements to the greater site. This work addressed the serious drainage and circulation problems that had developed over the decades since the opening of the park to the public. The War Department plans record for the first time how the LFA development related to the entire property and

58. Peterson, 48.

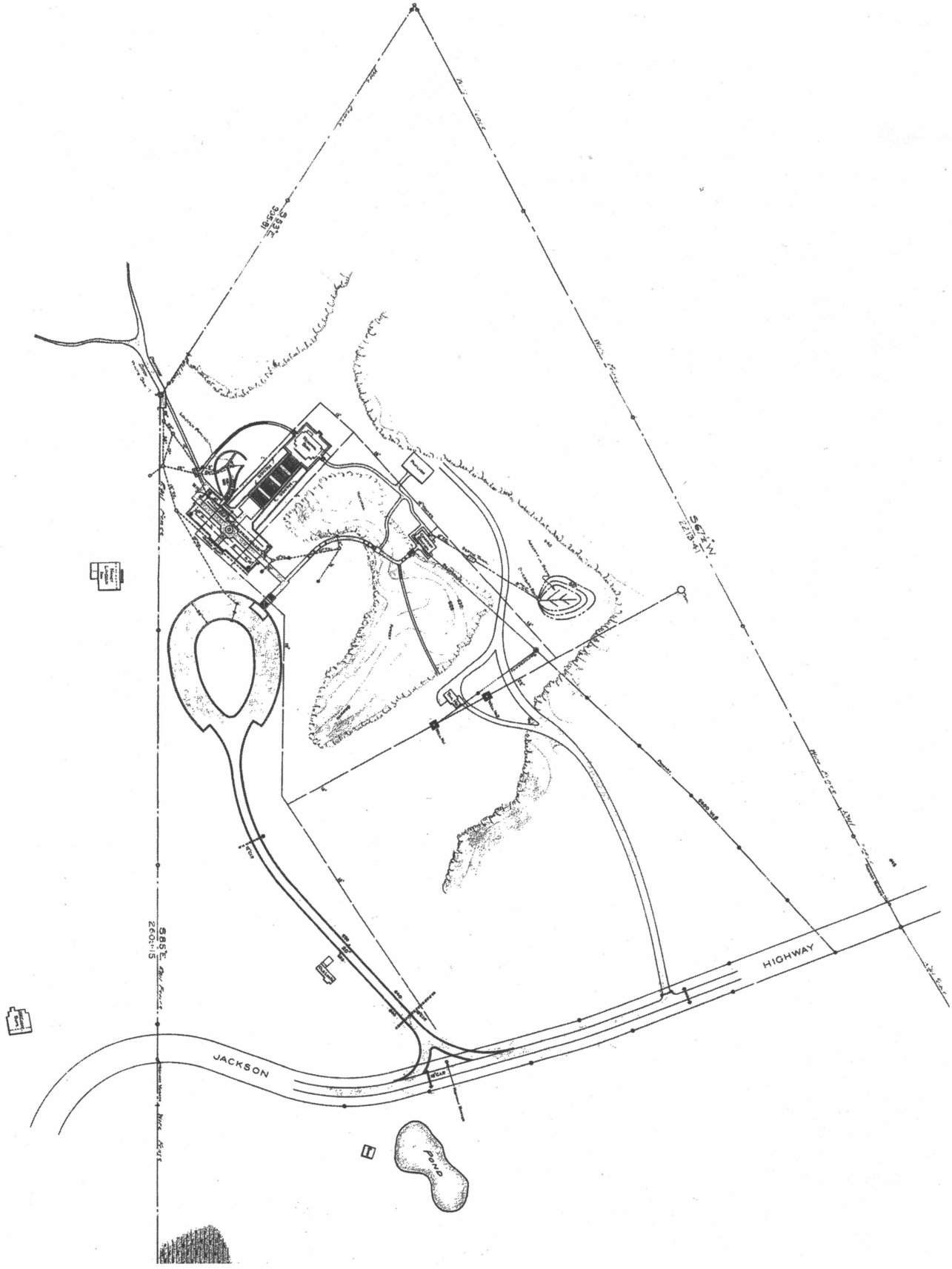


FIGURE 23. Lincoln Farm National Monument - Reservation Map, 1932.

the monumental character of the Pope-designed landscape. They illustrate how Pope's entire effort was crowded into the southwest corner of the property, with its principal views offsite (see a more detailed description under Views and Vistas).

The War Department's initial design efforts recorded on Maslin's "Plot of the Western Half of The Lincoln Farm and Memorial" proposed rerouting the approach road onto the adjacent property, south of the park, which would allow the proposed parking area to formally address the Memorial Landscape. However, the "Reservation Map" (1932), which appears to be an as-built plan of the major improvements accomplished by the War Department, recorded a solution that was within the original boundaries of the park.[59] These completed improvements included: a final alignment and paving for the approach road; a parking ellipse at the termination of the approach road; an improved Plaza with walkways on axis with the flagpole and Memorial Building, lawn and a stone wall; an underground drainage system and associated engineering structures to control the seasonal flooding of the Plaza; and steps, landing, and retaining wall associated with improving visitor access to the Sinking Spring.

In addition to these improvements, the War Department's plan provided for constructing a new comfort station, pavilion, and maintenance building, which were all located as the 1928 report suggested—approximately northeast of the Memorial Building. The plan recorded the perimeter fencing as "wire" in every case but one. The fence along the western half's south property line, adjacent to the Jackson Highway, is noted as "rail."

Circulation. The approach road and parking ellipse were major enhancements achieved by the War Department. As designed and constructed, the gently curving asphalt approach road began at a widened and improved entrance at the Jackson Highway following, for the most part, the LFA alignment. It terminated in a parking ellipse sited approximately 5 feet above and just east of the Plaza. A generously sized grass island (approximately 220 feet by 120 feet) formed the center of the ellipse. Using the more detailed, undated plans, the parking ellipse was to have had a 20-foot-wide center travel lane, with 18-foot parking lanes on either side. Although the parking was not striped, the allocated space would allow in excess of fifty parked cars (Fig. 24).

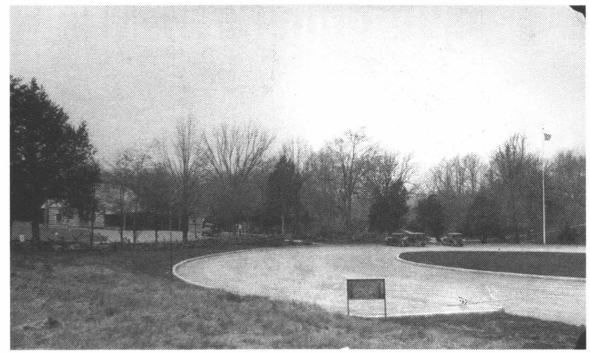


FIGURE 24. View of parking ellipse, 1930s.

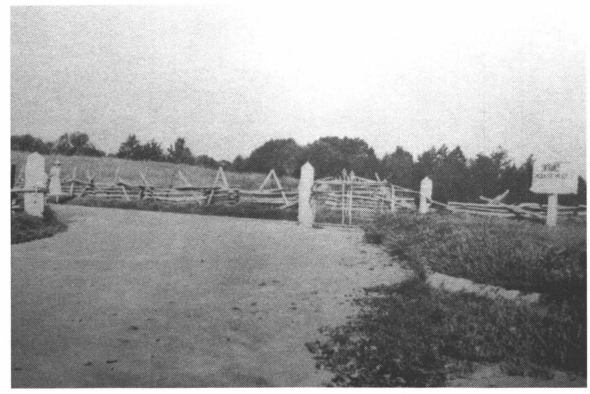


FIGURE 25. View of entrance, 1934.

Entry treatments are only documented in period photographs. Although no record details their removal, it is safe to assume that the War Department removed the LFA pink granite entry markers because of the improvements at the entrance (widening, paving, and planted islands). The LFA markers were replaced with four stone pillars with a pointed top. Wire gates were added to close the entrance when the park was closed to visitors (Fig. 25).

59. The concept of rerouting the approach road onto the adjacent property was no longer an option, as local entrepreneurs opened the Nancy Lincoln Inn directly across the property line.

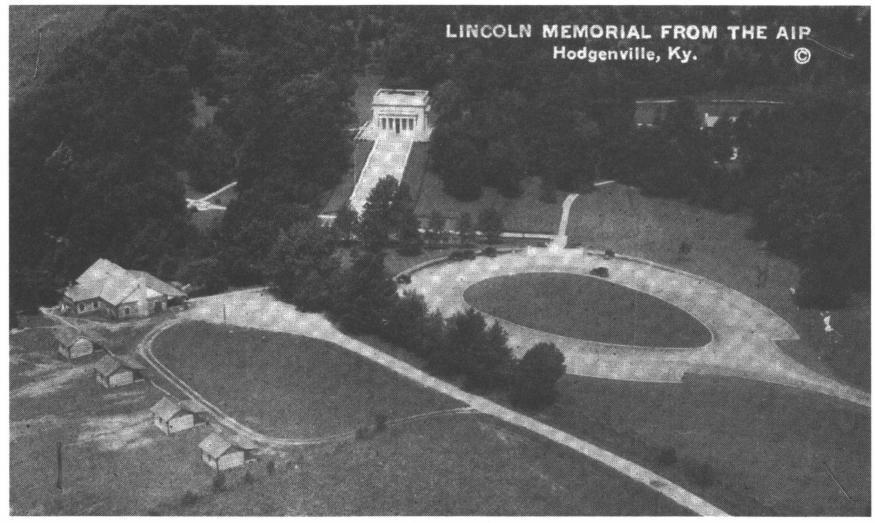


FIGURE 26. Aerial photo showing proximity of Nancy Lincoln Inn, 1938.

The location of the Memorial Landscape in the southwest corner of the property made direct access from the parking ellipse difficult. To accommodate the grade transition, a landing and a set of stone steps were placed at the northwest corner of the ellipse. At the base of the steps, an east-west stone walkway, perpendicular to the Memorial Building and centered on the flagstaff, was installed. The perimeter hedge was extended to the east to meet the walk as it approached the Plaza. A second north-south-running path was installed that was centered on the flagstaff and terminated at the north end into a flagstone landing installed at the base of the Memorial Building Stairway and to the south, into a four-foot-high freestanding ashlar stone wall. The stone used in the wall, walks, landings, and steps was limestone. With these accommodations for pedestrian circulation, the Plaza's gravel surface was changed to grass.

In addition to the main entrance road, a narrow (12-foot-wide), uncurbed service road was developed along the north side of the property to provide an alternate maintenance route to the newly constructed comfort station, pavilion, garage, and pump houses. A secondary pedestrian walk system was provided from the Plaza to these facilities by way of nearly symmetrical walks and steps, located outside the formal Memorial Building planting. The undated plans record additional flagstone walks that were constructed from the Plaza to the Boundary Oak, from the parking area to the newly constructed Nancy Lincoln Inn and from the inn to the Plaza, and from the approach road to the Creal house.

Views and Vistas. By 1929, the primary view southeast from the Memorial Building to the greater agricultural setting had been compromised by the construction of the Nancy Lincoln Inn. This grouping of buildings—a restaurant and four log cabins lined up along the park's southern boundary—faced into the park directly in view from the Memorial Building (Fig. 26). Although the most unfortunate of the adjacent land use changes in terms of the impact on the integrity of the park's setting, the Nancy Lincoln Inn was only one of many businesses that sprang up to take advantage of increased auto tourism. Farmers jumped at the chance to convert worn out agricultural fields into tourism-based development. The War Department was not blind to the impacts of this changing landscape on the Memorial Building and seemed determined to take steps to limit the access of commercial ventures "in order to preserve the integrity and dignity of the historical scene."[60] Despite these sensitive observations, the record does not show that any action was taken at this time.

Memorial Building and Landscape. The primary work undertaken by the War Department on the Memorial Building was roof repairs to correct a persistent leak. More substantial work occurred in the landscape, although no mention of it is

60. Peterson, 51.

made in the park's administrative history of 1968 or in War Department records available at the park. However, it is clear from period photographs that the Lombardy poplars, which flanked the Memorial Building Stairway, were replaced with younger specimens at about this time. It is worth noting that Lombardy poplars are susceptible to canker diseases and are often short-lived. This could account for the need to replace the original trees so soon after their initial planting. Neither the 1932 plan nor the undated plans document a line of trees in association with the hedges outside the Memorial Building Stairway. Also at this time, period photographs document that the multi-tiered hedges on either side of the Memorial Building Stairway were simplified into a single rectangle at one height. Simplification of the hedge may have resulted from either lack of staff to keep the hedges trimmed as designed or lack of training on how to care for this sophisticated planting (Fig. 27).

Plaza and Flagstaff. The Plaza, in addition to being trenched for an underground drainage system, was modified for pedestrian use. With the improvement of the approach road and construction of the parking ellipse, automobiles were no longer able to enter the Plaza. Therefore, what had been a broad gravel surface to accommodate this use was put into grass, with formal stone walks established on cross axis with the flagstaff. The stone walkways met at a stone paved circle that ringed the flagstaff. A two-foot-wide grass ring was maintained between the flagstaff base and the walkway (Fig. 28).

In addition to the walkways' construction, the undated plans document the removal of a section of hedge and the construction of a 50-foot stone wall with an integral stone seat as the central feature. This wall was centered on the flagstaff and Memorial Building at the termination of the south-running walkway.

Although not detailed in plans or documentation, it must also have been under War Department direction that the grade of the Plaza was raised sufficiently to eliminate the twelve-inch difference between the pink granite base of the flagstaff and the surrounding Plaza. It is recorded that successive flood events left silt deposits in the Plaza, which could have raised the grade regardless. But with the underground drainage system installation, as well as grading to correct surface drainage problems and grassing, the overall Plaza level was raised ten to twelve inches.

Small-scale Features. The undated plans document the addition of twelve, six-foot benches in the Memorial Landscape. Four—one at each corner—placed at the Memorial Building Terrace level, two—facing each other—on each of the stair landings, and two—at the base of the Stairway in the front corners of the Plaza. Also at this time, Peterson records that the park obtained "2,500 old rails" from Fort Knox, which were "set up around those sections of the park visible from the highway, the approach road, and the plaza."[61] Period photographs illustrate an eight-rail snake fence with a two-rail vertical cross support. A small wood entrance sign elevated on a wooden post was placed in the center of the planted island (Fig. 29).

Flood Control. Soon after construction it was obvious that the Plaza was the low point for a considerable drainage area, and controlling the seasonal floodwaters that submerged the Plaza affected the layout and design of all other features proposed by the War Department. The range of rejected solutions demonstrates the severity of the problem. Proposed solutions included diverting water to adjoining properties before it reached the farm, or impounding the water on the adjoining Nancy Lincoln Inn property. Both were rejected because of the "difficult political problems that would arise." Other potential solutions, such as pumping the water to the next watershed, creating a reservoir, or elevating the Plaza, were determined inadequate or too expensive. Finally, it was determined that a system of underground channels that increased the capacity to drain the Plaza was the most flexible solution. The resulting grid of underground piping was fed by a series of catch basins located throughout the Plaza area, as well as one at the low point in the parking ellipse. The piping directed water to one of two storage locations: a new retention area that was

61. Peterson, 50.



FIGURE 27. Lincoln Memorial Building Landscape after War Department improvements, 1932.



FIGURE 29. New entrance features, 1930s.

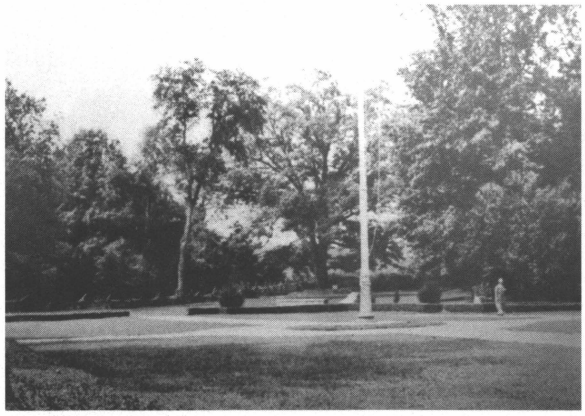


FIGURE 28. Closeup of Memorial Plaza, 1928.

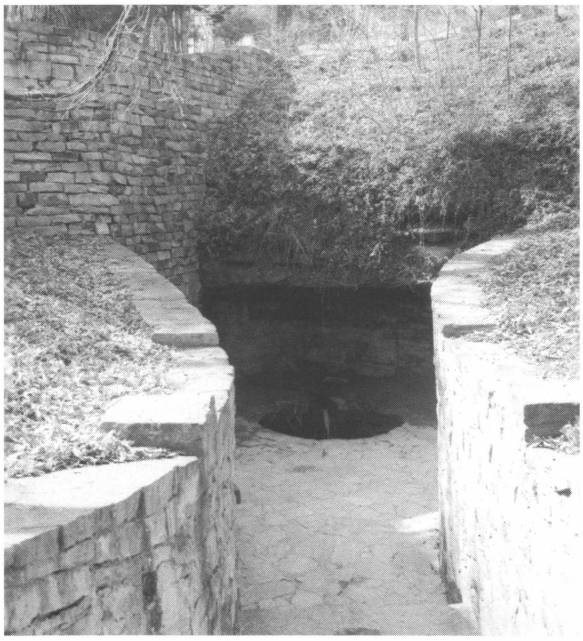


FIGURE 30. The Sinking Spring, 1938.

constructed at the base of the Boundary Oak (see a more detailed description at Boundary Oak) or an underground structure at the northwest corner of the Plaza. From the second location, water was slowly released through a twenty-inch pipe to the Sinking Spring.[62]

Sinking Spring. In order to address the visitor access hazards pointed out in the 1928 report, stone retaining walls and stone steps were constructed at the spring to formalize a safe way down to the water level. Through an enlarged opening in the Plaza hedge, a straight flagstone walk was constructed connecting the Plaza to a landing at the top of the steps. The steps descended approximately fifteen feet to another stone landing just above the spring itself. Although no photographs survive to document the completed construction, a 1934 inspection report by the NPS upon transfer of the property to their jurisdiction gives some indication of the resulting effect. The Sinking Spring, once a beautiful natural setting, had been turned into a "walled-in artificial place approached by steps walled in on each side with a high retaining wall and too much masonry"[63] (Fig. 30)

Boundary Oak. Although the Boundary Oak received no mention in the War Department's 1928 report, Peterson acknowledges that "twenty years before [the War Department], a section of the old Boundary Oak had been filled with

62. Francis I. Maslin to Quartermaster General, August 16, 1929, 1-6.

63. Peterson, 55.



FIGURE 31. The Boundary Oak, 1938.



FIGURE 32. The Creal house, 1928.

concrete and banded with iron and guy wires. The tree was in danger of being strangled by the iron band and old decay had been detected behind the concrete."[64] According to a memo from Maslin to the Quartermaster General in July of 1929, a tree surgeon was called in to assess the tree's condition, and the tree was given only a 50 percent chance of survival. In addition to this already precarious condition, the engineering solution to the Plaza's flooding problems included the construction of a retention area at the base of the oak where floodwaters could be held and allowed to dissipate slowly so as not submerge the Plaza. Period photographs show that the work did not visually impair the oak, but it surely was a factor in hastening the oak's death, which occurred in 1976 (Fig. 31).

Creal House. The War Department's 1928 report commented on the picturesque view to the Creal house, which had been vacant for years at this point and was often misidentified as the Lincoln cabin by visitors (Fig. 32). Maslin suggested that action be taken to renovate the house as either the superintendent's residence or as an exhibit on nineteenth-century farm life. However, when Maslin was relieved of his duties later that year, plans for any renovation work were shelved. No work was undertaken to improve the condition of the Creal House, with the exception of adding a flagstone path to the front of the house from the approach road.

64. Peterson, 51.



FIGURE 33. Rustic picnic pavilion and restroom facility, 1938.

Other Structures. Two rustic log structures were constructed to the northeast of the Memorial Building: a picnic pavilion and a restroom facility (Fig. 33). Both structures were a considerable distance from the parking ellipse and could not be accessed by automobile (see "Circulation" for a description of the walkways constructed to provide visitor access). A stone maintenance garage and two stone pump houses were placed off the service road.

Park Landscape and Other Vegetation. Both the 1932 Reservation Map, and the undated plans of the western half of the park, illustrate a significant amount of the western half under "natural forest growth." Maslin's 1928 report described this same wooded area as dense with underbrush and listed the following extant tree and shrub species: Trees—principally cedar, some white oak, wild cherry, wild plum, sycamore, poplar, black walnut—and underbrush—blackberry, wild grape, green brier, and sumac. The Reservation Map, the only one to illustrate the eastern half of

the park at all, does not illustrate any trees, and because of the way the topographic lines fade before reaching the property boundaries, one could assume that the eastern half was left incomplete. The undated plans illustrate a considerable amount of detail with some individual trees located, named, and sized. It is interesting to note that a clump of "peaches" existed behind the Creal house.

National Park Service: Park Development Era, 1933-1942

Just as the War Department was concluding the improvements begun in 1929, newly elected President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed an Executive Order in 1933 that transferred all federally managed historic sites, monuments, and battlefields to the NPS. As early as February 1934, the NPS sent a team to inspect the park because of unfavorable conditions that had been reported to the Director, Horace Albright. A letter Albright received was particularly disturbing because the writer, who visited the park in 1918 and had been impressed by the "natural condition of the Farm, totally void of all artificial adornment," returned to find "the entire place destroyed and commercialized." He went on to describe the "tourist cabins, curio shacks, broad expanses of hard cement, cemented spring, shrubbery planted in every corner de-naturalized . . . by the government which speaks of CONSERVATION with every session of Congress." Upon inspection of the park, the NPS team came to many of the same conclusions. Albright's conclusion was that "the whole Abraham Lincoln Birthplace area has been badly handled from a landscape standpoint and there is a great deal to do to bring it back to the ideal although in some directions steps have been taken that can never be remedied." The inspection report recommended a development plan be drafted "so as to avoid additional mistakes in the location of buildings."[65]

1935 Planting Plan. Limited funds were forthcoming in 1934-35, but they were not used for "physical improvements," which, according to Peterson, were to be funded separately under the New Deal's Public Works Administration. The first substantial expenditure came with the installation of the January 1935 "Planting Plan – Approach Areas," which covered the western half of the site. Implementation of the plan in the spring and summer of 1935 was documented in the "Report on the 'Furnishing and Planting of Trees,' Public Works Project F.P. 414" with accompanying text and photographs. In addition to documenting existing conditions of the park and the tree planting effort, the authors comment on the willingness of the owners of the Nancy Lincoln Inn (Messrs. Howell and Ferrill) to sell their property to the Federal government, which according to the report, "awaits Congressional action"[66] (Fig. 34).

The only significant work from the Park Development Era is the implementation of this 1935 Planting Plan. It affected the Memorial Building and Landscape and most especially the views and vistas. According to the report, the proposed work resulted in the expenditure of $7,867 for the planting of trees and another $2,250 for general improvement to the park grounds. The clear intent of this work was to mitigate the impact of development by primarily screening the views from the Memorial Building and Plaza to the parking ellipse and to the Nancy Lincoln Inn (Fig. 35). There was also an attempt made to screen what was described as the clear view to the Nancy Lincoln Inn from the parking ellipse, which visitors "invariably" took as "the object of their visit" (Fig. 36). In addition, plantings were needed to screen the service area from view "during the winter months as seen from the plaza at the foot of the Memorial Approach Steps."[67]

The majority of the plantings were "large native collected Cedars varying in size from 15 ft. to 20 ft. in height and so planted as to give a feeling that they were a part of a natural Cedar Grove on the grounds and yet architecturally enclose and confine the views as seen from the parking ellipse

65. Peterson, 56-57.

66. Thomas H. Jones, "Report on 'Furnishing and Planting of Trees' Public Works Project FP. 414" (Abraham Lincoln National Park, December 7, 1935), 1.

67. Jones, 1.

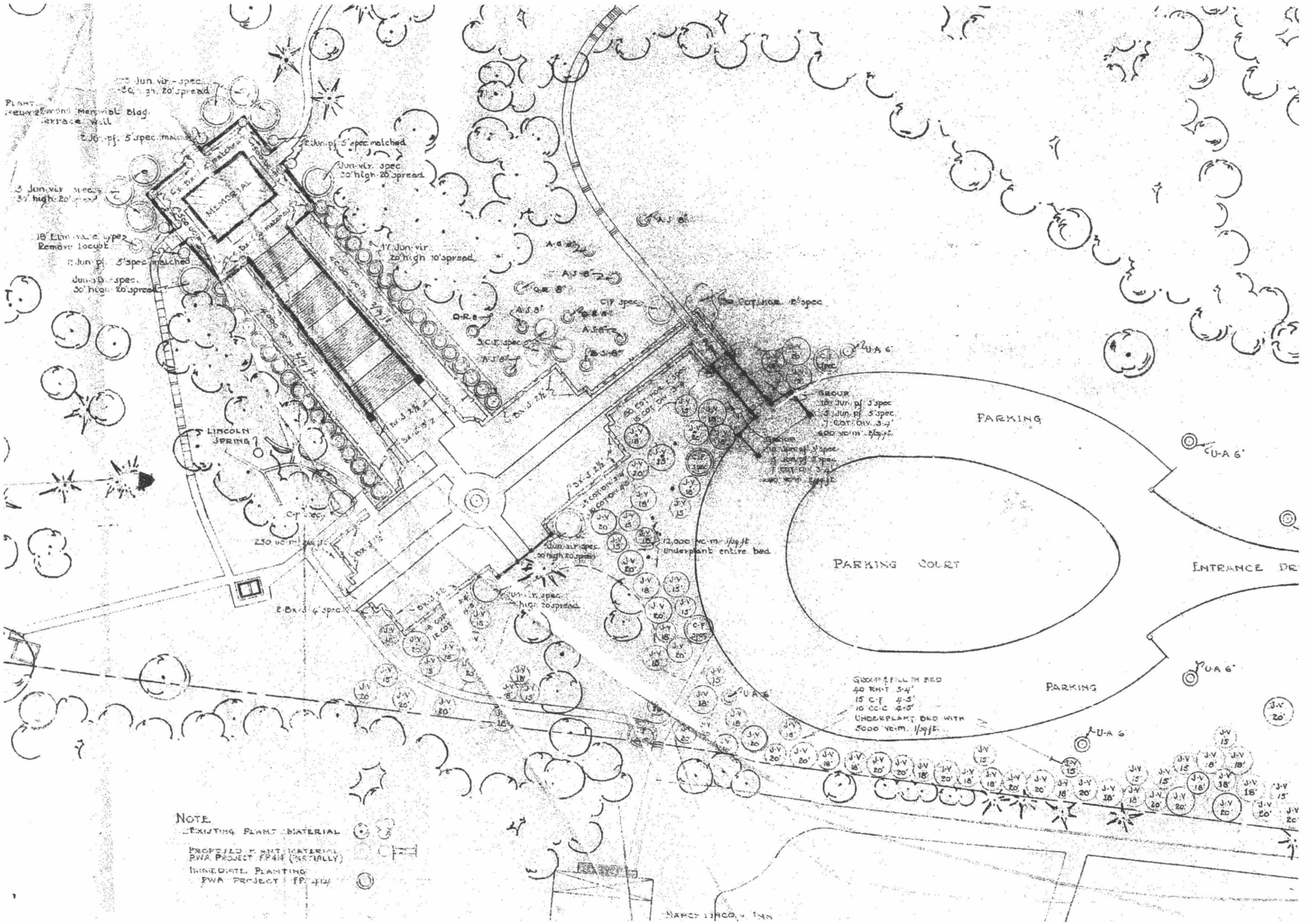


FIGURE 34. Planting Plan Approach Area [detail of larger plan], 1935.

on the Governmental controlled property." The existing conditions photographs in the report document a Memorial Building Landscape minus the Lombardy poplars. It is not clear when or why these trees were removed, but the NPS intended to use cedars "to frame the approach walk and view toward the Memorial Building as seen from the Memorial Plaza" in much the same way the poplars were used.[68] A single row of eastern red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) with a ten-foot base spread and twenty-foot height were planted parallel to the Memorial Stairway from the Memorial Plaza at the bottom leading up to the Memorial Terrace around the building at the top (Fig. 37). In addition, collected red cedars with a twenty-foot base spread and thirty-foot height were grouped to give an evergreen background and skyline effect immediately behind the Memorial Building.

In addition to the evergreen planting immediately around the Memorial Building, some large deciduous trees were planted to improve the wooded areas just outside the formal landscape and along the walk from the parking ellipse to the Plaza (Fig. 38).

These plans suggest, and the report photographs support, a theory that the second planting of Lombardy poplars by the War Department was as unsuccessful as the first. Therefore, the NPS proposal to plant a native evergreen instead made sense both from a need to control views to and from the Memorial Building Landscape, as well as to select a hardier species. Despite the size and number of red cedars specified in the plans, the report documents that these trees were successfully obtained and installed with work completed by November 26, 1935.

Despite the success in screening unwanted views to and from the Memorial Building as documented in the 1935 report, a visit by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1936 seems to have been the impetus behind the next major planning effort. In 1937 the NPS produced the "Master Plan for Proposed Development." As part of the



FIGURE 35. Screening of Nancy Lincoln Inn from parking ellipse, 1935.

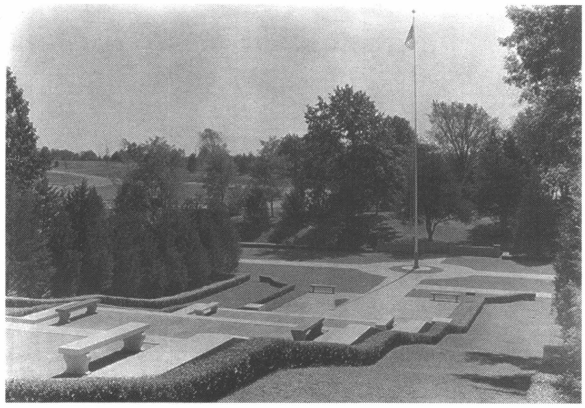


FIGURE 36. Memorial Building Landscape after planting of red cedars, 1935.



FIGURE 37. Red cedar allée framing the approach to the Memorial Building, 1935.

Master Plan, one scheme proposed eliminating the War Department parking ellipse and creating a new parking area outside the park boundary in much the same location and arrangement as Maslin's 1929 plan. This plan must have assumed the purchase of the Nancy Lincoln Inn was proceeding, and that this land was available for

68. Jones, 2.



FIGURE 38. Deciduous trees planted outside the formal landscape, 1935.

the park's use. The Nancy Lincoln Inn was illustrated in a new location adjacent to the new entrance drive at the parking area. The plan also proposed moving the Creal house away from the entrance, nearer to the Memorial Plaza, and its conversion to a Superintendent's Office and Museum. In order to address the elevation change between the Memorial Plaza and the proposed parking, a mirror image of the Memorial Building Stairway was to be constructed with a reflecting pool as the Plaza's centerpiece. The flagstaff was to be relocated to an entrance court at the top of the proposed stairway.

The other major effort of the Park Development Era was a final decision on the disposition of the Creal house. In January 1941, a "Report on the Inspection of the 'Creal House,' Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park" was submitted by Thor Borresen, Assistant Historical Technician. Borresen described the house as having been "constructed of hand hewn oak logs" and represented "several periods of construction of varying ages." In a detailed assessment of each section, Borresen determined that the structure was about 65 to 125 years old, with the oldest



FIGURE 39. The Creal house, 1938.

sections being of the highest quality log and construction technique (Fig. 39). He wrote that during its use by the "W.P.A. . . . all the clay chinking between the logs was removed and lime mortar chinking was replaced."[69] Although unsure of its historical significance in connection to the Lincoln story, Borreson recorded that Superintendent Cissell's family was kin to the Creals, and that the Creals were the only owners since the Lincolns. He also indicated that the house, as an agglomeration of log structures, was probably moved to its present site from another location, possibly after the construction of the Louisville Nashville Road in order to be closer to it. Borreson remarked that the house was an interesting artifact in that it represented the efforts of early pioneers to improve their living condition. "Beginning with a small one room cabin they gradually expanded as their incomes became larger. Thus the provider, through his determination and physical effort, provided a nominal comfort for his increasing family." He concluded the report with "[W]e would then have the two extremes. The Creal cabin group would show the humble conditions under which Abraham Lincoln was born. The formal memorial building would illustrate how a great nation perpetuates the memory of a great man."[70] Despite the interest in the structure and the fact that its like was quickly disappearing from the

69. Borreson, 2.
70. Borreson, 3-4.

surrounding countryside, the demolition and removal of the Creal house was completed in 1941.

Despite the continued dissatisfaction with the overall condition of the park, none of the work proposed in the 1937 Master Plan proceeded and no purchase of the Nancy Lincoln Inn resulted. Rather, the park's focus shifted to interpretation and the need to authenticate the Birth Cabin, which resulted in research efforts to verify the park as the Thomas Lincoln farm. In 1948, park historian Ben Davis prepared a "Report on the Original Thomas Lincoln Nolin Creek Farm, Based on Court Records," which confirmed the property's authenticity and a companion document "A Report on the Abraham Lincoln Traditional Birthplace Cabin," which left the cabin's origins in doubt. Several reports examined the birthplace cabin's authenticity and the opinions were submitted to the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments in November 1950. They recommended that the NPS make clear that "it considers the authenticity of the cabin debatable."[71] As a result of all the research, a bill was introduced and successfully passed in 1939 changing the park's name to Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park in recognition of it being the only park in the system that interpreted the life of this important American.

In 1948, a new entrance sign and four historical markers were erected in the park. The granite markers and pillars that stood on U.S. 31E were removed. Plans were finally approved in 1949 for a single-story frame superintendent's residence. Actual construction did not occur until 1951[72] (Fig. 40).

71. Peterson, 97. See Roy Hay's 1948 article "Is the Lincoln Birthplace Cabin Authentic?", which thoroughly examined the traditional birthplace cabin's origins. Park historian Benjamin H. Davis wrote three reports: "A Report of the Abraham Lincoln Traditional Birthplace Cabin," May 16, 1948; "Report of Research on the Traditional Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Cabin," February 15, 1949; "Comments on Statements Made by Dr. L. A. Warren Concerning the Traditional Lincoln Birthplace Cabin," October 7, 1950. Dr. Louis A. Warren wrote "The Traditional Birthplace Cabin," April 17, 1950.



FIGURE 40. Superindentent's residence, 1996.

National Park Service: Mission 66, 1950-1966

The Park Development Era ended with the country's entry into World War II. No new plans were drawn for the park until the next wave of NPS funding that came with Mission 66. This post-war initiative was a system-wide effort to address World War II's effects on the national parks: deferred maintenance and a tremendous jump in visitation. As an example, Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park's yearly visitation doubled from 133,503 in 1950 to 287,847 by 1956, which resulted in part from the completion of the Kentucky Turnpike and the improvement of the Jackson Highway to U.S. 31E.

In keeping with Mission 66 language and purpose, plans for an "Administration-Museum Building," which had been the goal of the earliest LFA plans, evolved into a Visitor Center in the final design, approved in 1956 (Fig. 41). Early studies considered a location behind the Memorial Building for this structure, but in the end, a site adjacent to the parking ellipse was selected. Because interpretation was foremost in the minds of Mission 66 designers, the Museum Prospectus is indicative of the park's shift in focus from the

72. See "Residence Area" drawing 338/2006 dated October 1949; Peterson 73.

Memorial Building to the Visitor Center, where a more complete and accurate story could be told.

The sesquicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth was celebrated at the park on February 12, 1959. In light of that event, the park's name was revised a third time to its present nomenclature when Congress approved "Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site."

In preparation for the sesquicentennial, the Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction produced a fourteen-sheet set of contract drawings for the Visitor Center, residences (two), and sewer and sanitary system in 1958. Included with these drawings were planting plans that covered these same areas. The Mission 66 additions and changes to the park continue to define how the site is used today. The following is a description of the work accomplished.

Site Design and Layout. The new development associated with Mission 66 altered the design and layout of the landscape as developed by the LFA and War Department. Construction of a Visitor Center off the parking ellipse with the intent to intercept visitors on their way to the Memorial Building resulted in a complete shift in how visitors experienced the site. The Visitor Center became the park's primary building, and from its exhibits a full and more accurate orientation to Abraham Lincoln could be presented. The planned experience was for visitors to then proceed to the Memorial Building, the significance of which was compromised by the questionable authenticity of the Birth Cabin. Peterson's administrative history observed that from the time of the Visitor Center's construction to the present day (1968), the policy was to avoid the Birth Cabin and to interpret by omission.

The construction of the Visitor Center required the elimination of several parking spaces (approximately 12), some of which were recouped by cutting into the parking island on the south side. A second, gravel parking lot was constructed along the south side of the entrance road in order to fulfill the need for overflow parking. In this expansion of visitor and park services, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site was able to fully function as a park.

Circulation. A major reworking of the park entrance occurred at this time. A long north-south- running grass island was added along U.S. 31E to create acceleration and deceleration lanes. The entrance was significantly widened and two additional grass islands were improved to direct traffic flow. Because of grading associated with this work, a deep swale was created that placed the park's boundary below the grade of the road, and the rail fence was moved to this location. With the exception of the spur drive that was constructed to access the two new residences, no additional roadwork was accomplished in the park.

Views and Vistas. The addition of a Visitor Center in such a prominent location changed the views to and from the Memorial Building Landscape. In addition to the building, trees added to the planting island to screen newly created parking spaces also changed views along the entrance road (Fig. 42)

The change in grade associated with work at the entrance altered views and vistas into the property from U.S. 31E. The swale that was created north of the entrance caused the park boundary to drop below that of the road. Therefore, the rail fence that defined the edge of the property dropped out of view for much of the distance.

Memorial Building and Landscape. One major change occurred at this time. The pea gravel landings along the Memorial Stairway were replaced with exposed aggregate concrete circa 1958.[73]

Plaza and Flagstaff. No work occurred in this area of the park.

Small-scale Features. Period photographs do not illustrate any benches, planters, trash receptacles, or water fountains being added to the Memorial Landscape as a result of this effort.

73. See "Replacement of Stair Landings and Walks" drawing 338/2015 dated 3/30/1955.

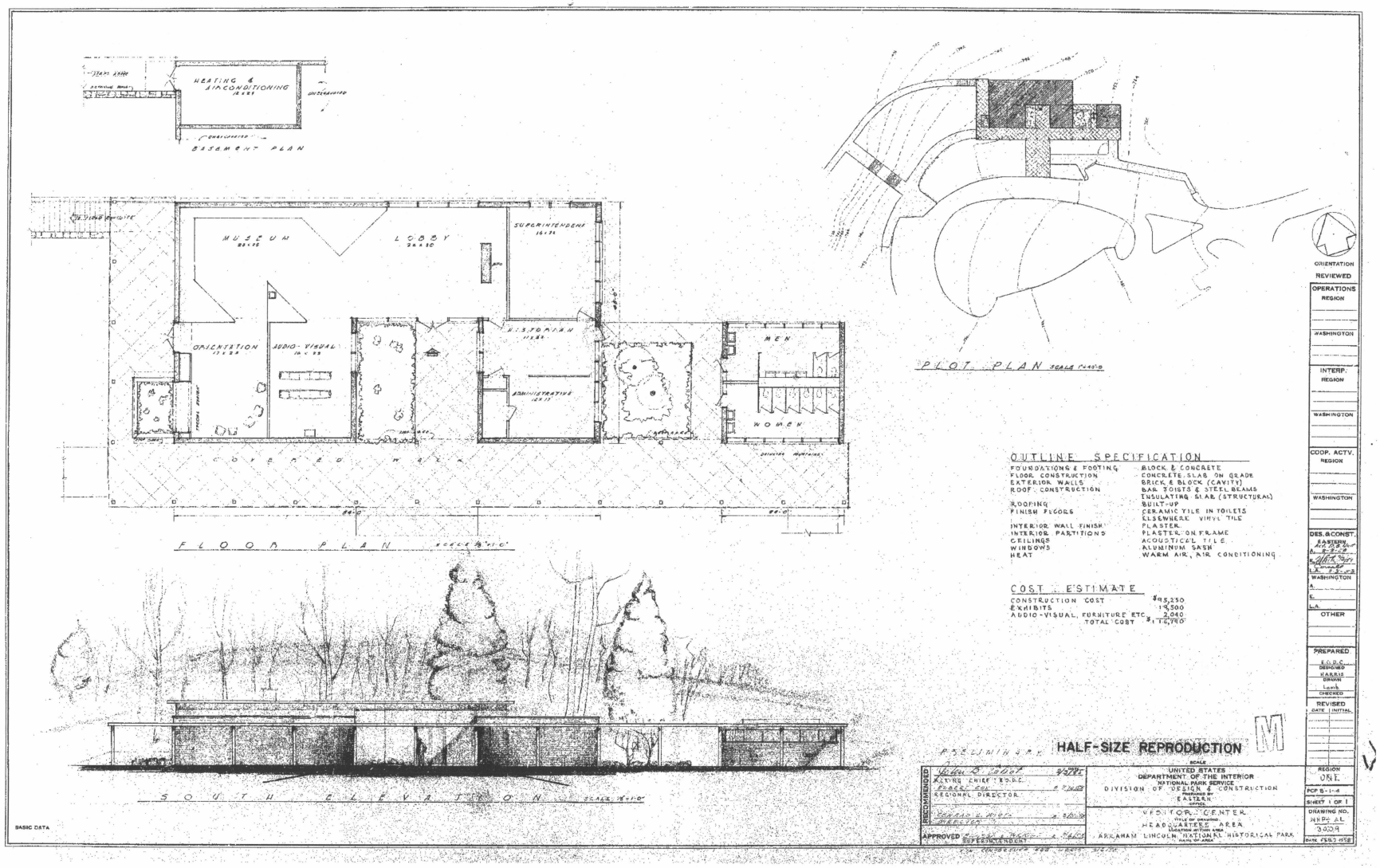


FIGURE 41. Visitor Center Floor Plan and Elevation, 1958.



FIGURE 42. Aerial photograph, 1959 (note change in vegetation from Figure 26).

Sinking Spring. No changes or improvements seem to have occurred at this time.

Boundary Oak. Although not documented, it would appear from period photographs that the park continued to change the conditions immediately surrounding the Boundary Oak. An additional six-and-one-half acres was purchased in the late 1940s to protect the oak, but period photographs document continued manipulation of the area for flood control (Fig. 43).

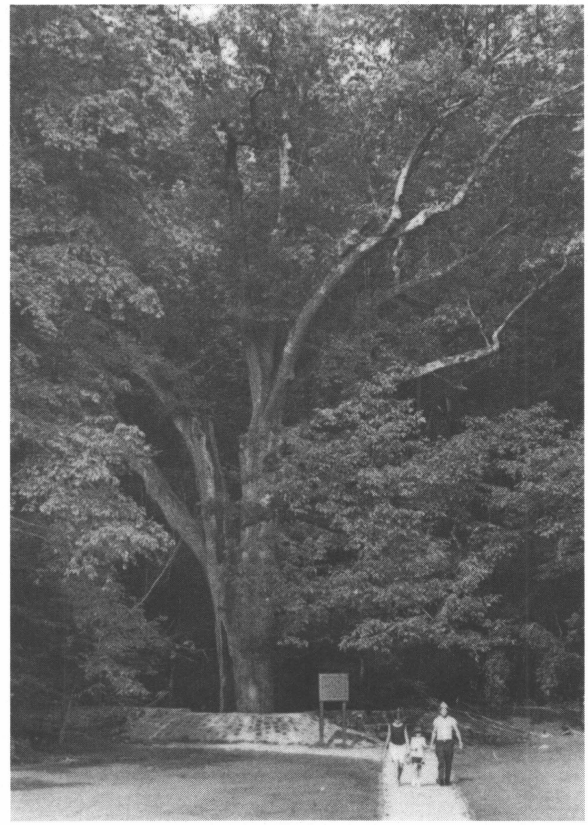


FIGURE 43. The Boundary Oak, 1959.

Other Structures. Several structures were added during Mission 66, the most important being the Visitor Center, and several structures were removed. Each of these will be described in brief detail, beginning with the removals.

The demolition of the log picnic pavilion and restrooms occurred in 1959 in association with the construction of the Visitor Center. As early as 1934, the NPS felt that the picnic structure had lost its use, as picnicking had been discontinued on park grounds. The Nancy Lincoln Inn provided



FIGURE 44. The Visitor Center, 1959.

these facilities until the recreation area was constructed in 1968. The sites were leveled and seeded.

The Visitor Center with its freestanding rest room was the most significant building constructed at the park during Mission 66 (Fig. 44). Designed in the Modern Style, the Visitor Center employed structural steel and masonry (white brick). The main entrance into the lobby was set back from the front facade, forming an entry courtyard. A covered walkway ran the length of the south and west facades of the building. The flat-roofed cover of the walkway abutted the building on the inside edge and was supported by six-inch-square metal columns spaced approximately ten feet on center along the outer edge of the walkway. A broad entry walk connected the Visitor Center to the parking ellipse with two steps occurring at the intersection of the covered walkway and the entry walk. Secondary walks half that width connected the Visitor Center to the War Department steps leading down to the Plaza and to parking.

Maintenance Complex/Park Housing. Two single-story residences were constructed west of the superintendent's residence in 1959.[74] They are wood-sided ranches with attached carports, accessed off a common drive branching off the maintenance road.

National Park Service: Post-Mission 66, 1966-Present

Since the completion of the Mission 66 development, no major additions or demolitions have occurred to the Memorial Building and Landscape. Most of the change in the park has occurred because of the need to replace aging features, or is the result of maturing plant material, particularly the aging red cedars planted in the mid-1930s.

Memorial Building and Landscape. The installation of aluminum-framed glass doors occurred at the north and south entrances to the Memorial Building in 1971. The Memorial Building and Stairway were repointed in 1985. The Stairway was cleaned and repointed in 1990. Changes also occurred inside the Memorial Building in an effort to eliminate incorrect interpretive panels, and this is covered in detail in the Historic Structure Report.[75]

74. Blythe, 44.

75. "Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Building Historic Structure Report" (Cultural Resources Division, Southeast Regional Office, 2001), 13.

Plans approved in 1983 called for the replacement of all the War Department flagstone walkways and steps with exposed aggregate concrete sidewalks. This work was completed in 1984 and included the walkway to the Boundary Oak and the walkways to the Memorial Building Terrace. A poured aggregate concrete landing was constructed at the top of the steps leading down to the Sinking Spring. In 1991, the Memorial Building's north (rear) entrance was altered to meet guidelines in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. At this time, the installation of an automatic door, concrete ramp, and hand rails occurred.

Circulation. In 2001, U.S 31E was widened to four lanes, necessitating the removal of the grass traffic islands.

Sinking Spring. In 1995, a handicapped-accessible water fountain was installed at the top of the Sinking Spring steps.

Boundary Oak. In 1976, following a year in which the area surrounding the Boundary Oak flooded, the new growth put out by the white oak failed to mature. The tree was finally taken down in 1986, and testing revealed the age to be 195 years. Before its death, the oak reached 6 feet in diameter, 90 feet in height, and had a crown spread of 115 feet (Fig. 45).

Maintenance Complex/Park Housing. The stone garage in the maintenance complex was removed in 1973, and the superintendent's residence was removed circa 1996.

Visitor Center. Plans approved in 1991 (completed in 1992) called for a permanent roof to be constructed enclosing the entry courtyard. Unlike any of the other horizontal lines of the Visitor Center, this addition was a steep tinted-glass front-facing gable. A major addition to the Visitor Center occurred between 1993-94, including the relocation of rest rooms and administrative offices and the addition of a handicapped ramp and water fountain. The installation of a new roof occurred in 2003, which changed the roof lines back to a flat profile and removed the glass atrium.

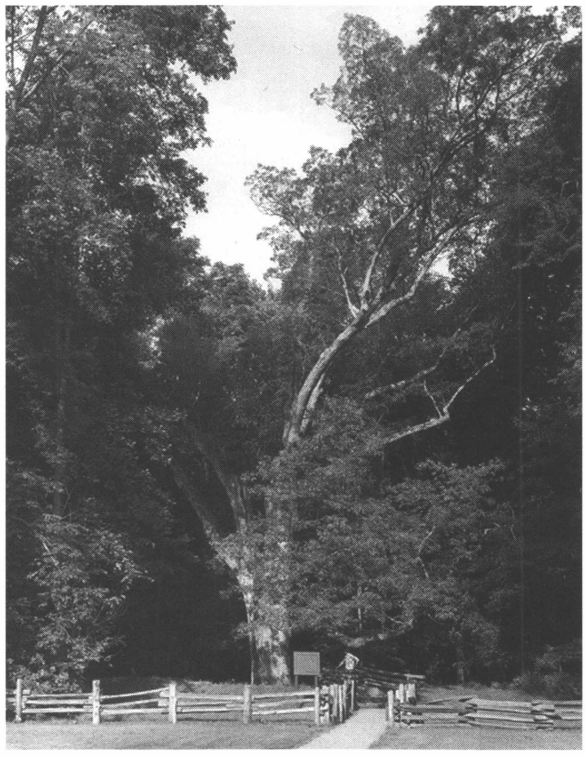
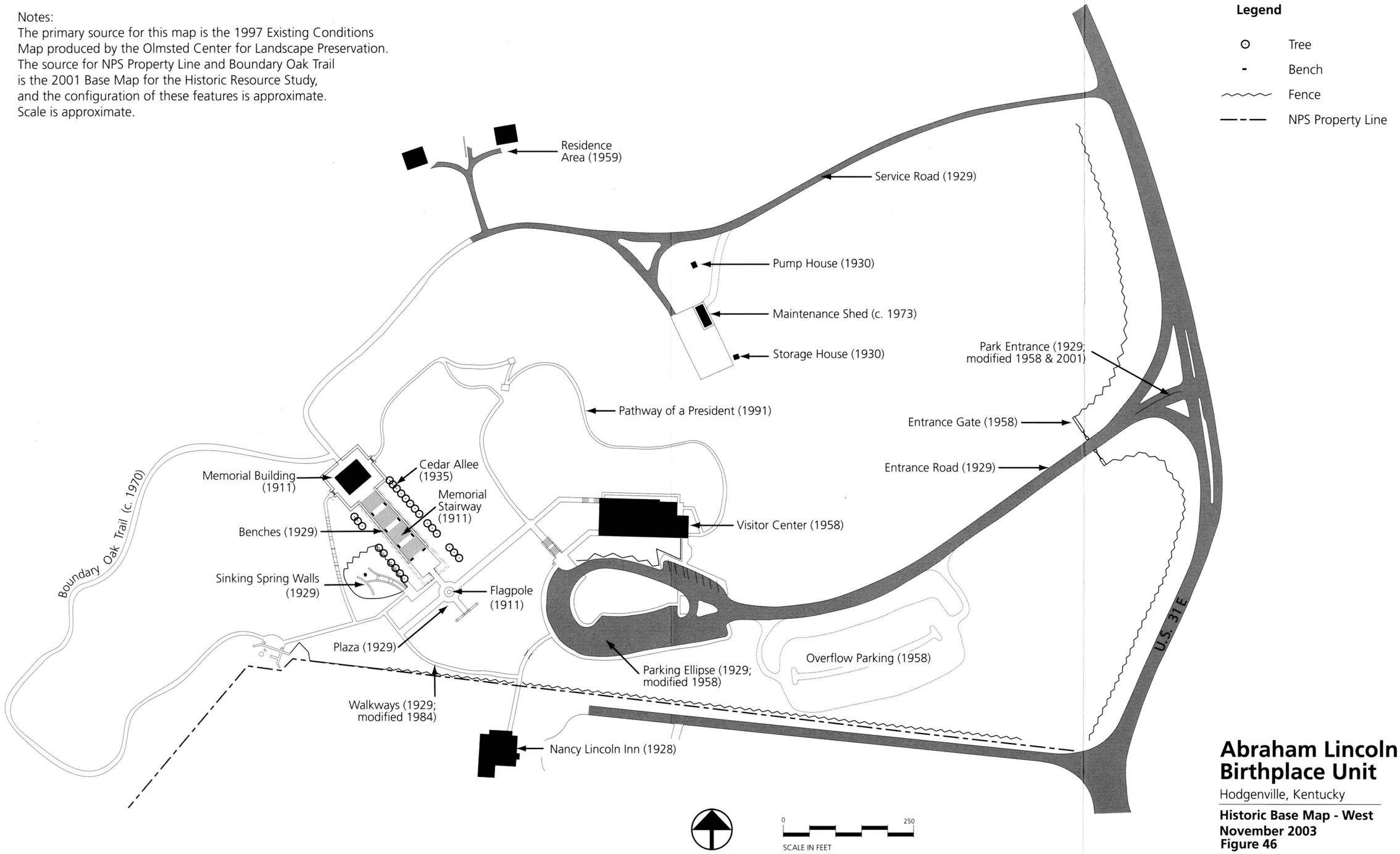


FIGURE 45. The Boundary Oak, undated.

Picnic and Recreation Area. Local pressure to provide amenities that did not exist within 40 or 50 miles of this area resulted in the eastern half of the Birthplace Unit being developed as a recreation area beginning in 1968. Picnic tables, restrooms, interpretive trails, and open fields maintained for active recreation were added to accommodate the visitor.

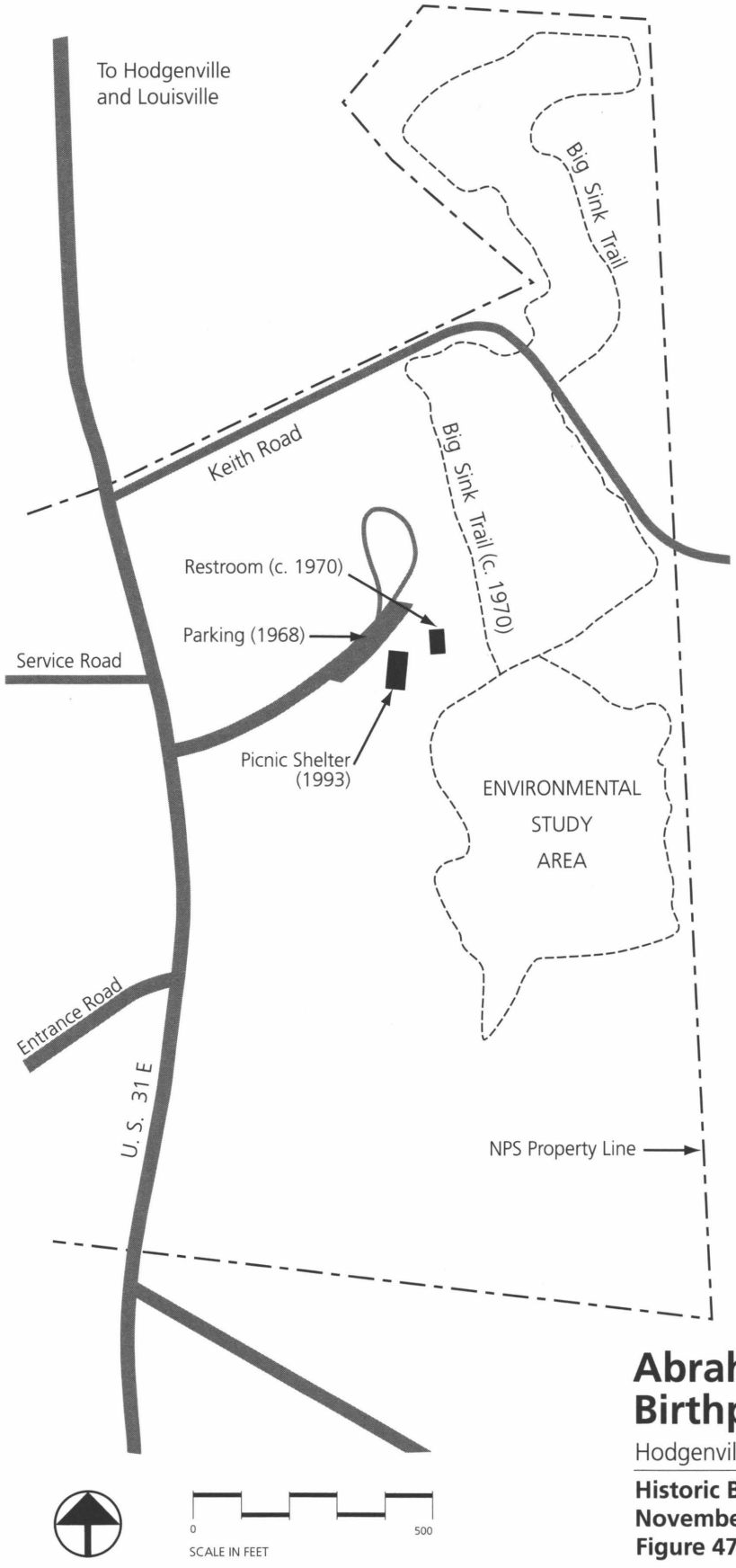
Notes:
The primary source for this map is the 1997 Existing Conditions Map produced by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. The source for NPS Property Line and Boundary Oak Trail is the 2001 Base Map for the Historic Resource Study, and the configuration of these features is approximate. Scale is approximate.



Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit

Hodgenville, Kentucky

Historic Base Map - West
November 2003
Figure 46



Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit

Hodgenville, Kentucky

Historic Base Map - East
November 2003
Figure 47

Existing Conditions

Location

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site is located in rolling hill country of LaRue County, Kentucky, three miles south of Hodgenville, the county seat, and approximately 50 miles south of Louisville (Fig. 48). The Birthplace Unit contains 116.5 acres, representing approximately one-third of the original 348.5-acre Sinking Spring Farm. The Birthplace Unit is bounded on the south by residential and commercial development. Keith Road forms a portion of the northern boundary. U.S. 31E bisects the Birthplace Unit on a north-south axis.

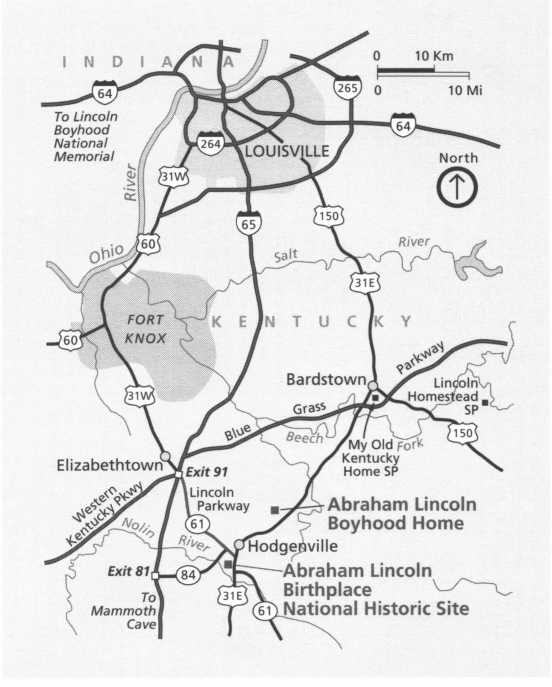


FIGURE 48. Location map, 1999.

Topography

The Birthplace Unit lies in the extreme eastern portion of the Pennyroyal, an approximately 8,000-square-mile physiographic region in west-central Kentucky. The Pennyroyal is part of the Highland Rim section of the Interior Low Plateau physiographic province. It is a karst region, the topography of which is produced by the dissolution of soluble limestone by water and is characterized by underground streams and caves, sinkholes (dolines), small ponds, long valleys, rolling hills, and occasional steep ridges and stone escarpments. The site is characterized by a gently undulating landscape with elevations ranging from 750 to 780 feet above sea level. LaRue County retains a predominantly rural character, with farms of fewer than two hundred acres producing crops of wheat, tobacco, soybeans, and corn typical. The northeastern and southeastern portions of the county are heavily forested.[1]

Spatial Organization

No major change has occurred to the design and layout of the western half of the Birthplace Unit since the completion of Mission 66 improvements that altered the way in which visitors experienced the site. The Visitor Center became the Birthplace Unit's primary building for visitor services and interpretation, and the planned experience brought visitors to the Visitor Center first and then to the Memorial Building. This reorientation of visitors was consistent with the Mission 66 philosophy of centralizing park interpretive and museum displays, park administrative offices, restrooms, and various other facilities.

The eastern half of the Birthplace Unit has been primarily developed for recreational use. Facilities

1. Blythe, 1.



FIGURE 49. Parking ellipse, 2003.



FIGURE 50. Boardwalk through wooded area, 1996.

include picnic tables and a shelter, restroom facilities, walking trails, and parking. Because U.S. 31E is a busy north/south thoroughfare, there is no accommodation for a pedestrian crossing between the two areas, and very little visual connection is available because of the rolling topography, as well as the width and plantings associated with the highway.

Circulation

Vehicles enter the Birthplace Unit from U.S. 31E onto an asphalt two-way entrance road. Traffic circulates one-way around an ellipse with angled parking on both sides (Fig. 49). A graveled overflow parking area is located east of the ellipse.

A one-lane, asphalt service road provides access to the maintenance complex and to park housing. A graveled section continues to the back of the Memorial Building. An asphalt loop with pull-off parking serves the recreation facilities developed in 1968. This drive is directly across from the service road.

A .3-mile trail constructed circa 1970 provides visitors with a short walk through the woods west of the Memorial Building. Several trails exploring the wooded areas of the eastern half of the Birthplace Unit were developed in the early 1970s. Another major addition in 1991 was a raised 800-foot-long boardwalk from the east end of the Visitor Center to the back of the Memorial Building called the Pathway of a President (Fig. 50). Its chief purpose was to provide a completely accessible route to the Memorial Building, which was previously unavailable to visitors. Almost the entire length of the route is wooded, with an overlook down onto the walkway east of the Memorial Building.[2]



FIGURE 51. Lack of screening for the Nancy Lincoln Inn, 2001.

Views and Vistas

The maturing vegetation, particularly the evergreen trees, is starting to block most of the important views associated with the Pope and War Department landscape. The only remaining unimpeded view is from the Memorial Plaza up to the Memorial Building. The woodland adjacent to the cedars, and the overly mature cedars themselves, have increasingly compromised this vista as well. At the same time, the cedars planted between the Memorial Plaza and the Nancy Lincoln Inn no longer function as a screen, due to the loss of the lower limbs (Fig. 51).

2. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1991.



FIGURE 52. Red cedar allée, 2003.

Vegetation

While the mature cedars continue to provide a vegetated edge, they lack the intended formality of the Lombardy poplars or the cedars when first planted. Today, twenty-three cedars are extant within the allée along the Memorial Stairway. These trees represent approximately one-half of the original red cedar allée (Fig. 52).

Since the planting of the first trees in the parking island across from the Visitor Center as part of the Mission 66 plans, more trees and shrubs have been added to the park landscape. While beautification of the Birthplace Unit is one goal, another is to plant trees that are indigenous to Kentucky. Lawn areas around the Visitor Center and around the recreation area (approximately thirty-six acres) are mowed on a weekly basis during the growing season to give a manicured appearance. Sodding, seeding, and fertilization are performed annually.

A plant inventory, "The Flora and Vegetation of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site," was completed in 1993 by Landon E. McKinney, botanist with the Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission. At the southern end of the site's boundary bordering U. S. 31E on the eastern side lies approximately fifteen acres of an early successional field. This field is being invaded by woody pioneering species, such as eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and black locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*). Along the western boundary of the site west of U. S. 31E lies approximately thirteen acres of an eastern red cedar-dominated forest. There is also a small patch of red cedar forest east of U. S. 31E adjacent to the northern end of the picnic grounds. The majority of the wooded acreage, approximately forty-three acres, on both sides of U. S. 31E may be classified as an American ash (*Fraxinus americana*)/sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) association. Subordinate species that may seem to dominate in sporadic patches include tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), black cherry, white and red oak (*Quercus alba* and *Q. rubra*), and bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*). Flowering dogwood is common in the understory. The extreme northeastern section of the site, covering approximately nine acres, is an

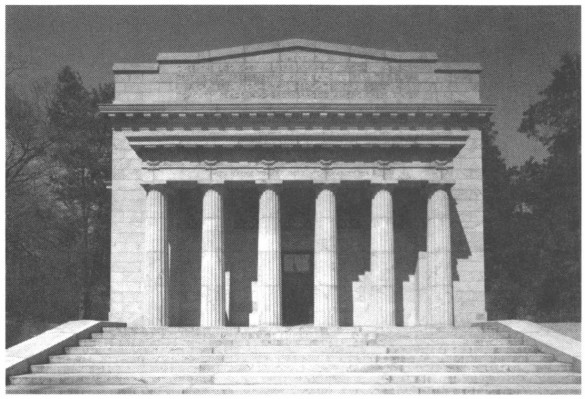


FIGURE 53. The Memorial Building, 1984.



FIGURE 54. Memorial Plaza, 1994.

impressive old-growth oak forest. Dominant oaks include white, northern red, and black (*Quercus velutina*). Major subordinates include sugar maple, American ash, and black cherry. No rare or endangered flora were discovered.[3]

Memorial Building and Landscape

The Memorial Building measures about 50 feet by 35 feet and encloses a single chamber. Constructed of pink Stony Creek granite and reinforced concrete, the building is elevated about 1 inch above the surrounding platform sidewalk. The platform sidewalk is about 75 feet by 80 feet and features several concrete benches around its perimeter. There are also steps at the center of the east, north, and west sides (Fig. 53).

Plaza and Flagstaff

The 200-foot-by-80-foot grassed rectangular Plaza is oriented on a northeast by southwest axis and is transected by exposed aggregate concrete paths and a centrally located flagpole with a pink granite circular base. An 8-foot-by-4-foot coursed limestone bench is set in a 44-foot wall and serves as the southwest Plaza boundary (Fig. 54). A limestone and concrete stair descends from the parking ellipse to the northeast Plaza entrance. This 13-foot-long stair consists of two runs of twelve and thirteen steps and two coursed limestone walls.

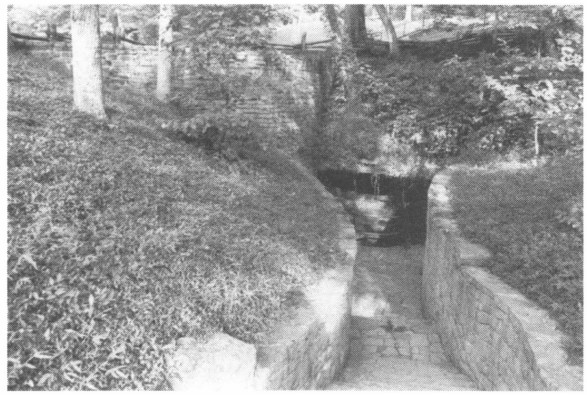


FIGURE 55. The Sinking Spring, 1994.

The Sinking Spring

The Sinking Spring lies directly south of the Memorial Building Stairway and has coursed limestone walls, progressively taller from the top of the stair to the spring, creating a stair wall that also serves as a retaining wall behind the spring. Three runs of eight flagstone steps descend to a flagstone platform, which encircles the spring pool, approximately six to eight feet below (Fig. 55). Two drain pipes are located in this sinkhole and are connected to storm drain pipes under the plaza. Two stone benches are affixed to the south wall at the platform level.

3. Resource Management Plan, 1998, 6.

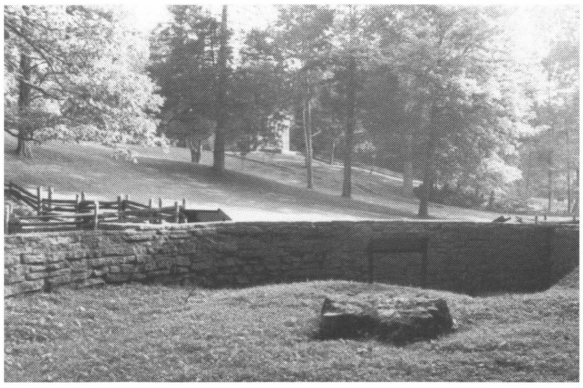


FIGURE 56. Historic location of the Boundary Oak, 1994.



FIGURE 57. Picnic area, 2003.

The Boundary Oak

The completion of a rehabilitation project occurred in 1991, including the capping of the stone wall, replacement of the rail fence, and the placement of sod in the area.[4] The historic setting of the Boundary Oak has been lost due to the limestone wall and drain that were built adjacent to it. The historic location of the Boundary Oak continues to function as a retention area that holds floodwaters and allows them to dissipate without flooding the Plaza (Fig. 56).

The cross section of the Boundary Oak is now located in the Visitor Center and serves as a template for a chronology of Abraham Lincoln's life and related events. A GPS marker identifies the historic location of the tree.

Visitor Center

The Visitor Center is a single-story, flat-roof building that has been altered over the years, the most observable change being the installation of a glass atrium over the building's originally open entry way, which occurred in 1991. The installation of a new roof and the removal of the glass atrium occurred in 2003, returning the lines of the building to a flat profile.

Picnic and Recreation Area

The picnic area, located directly across from the service road entrance, dates to 1968 and is equipped with modern barbecue grills, wooden picnic tables, and trash cans. Restrooms and a picnic shelter are centrally located within sixteen acres of open space, which is mowed regularly to maintain a manicured appearance (Fig. 57). A 1.3-mile graveled hiking trail and an environmental study area wind their way through the wooded section of the recreation area.

Maintenance Complex / Park Housing

A single-story, four-bay maintenance shed, constructed after the demolition of the stone garage in 1973, is located northeast of the Memorial Building (Fig. 58). Two stone War Department-era structures (a storage building and a pump house) are located on either side of the maintenance shed.

Two single-story, ranch-style houses, used to provide housing for seasonal employees and visitors, are located north of the maintenance drive (Fig. 59).

4. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1991.



FIGURE 58. Maintenance complex, 1996.

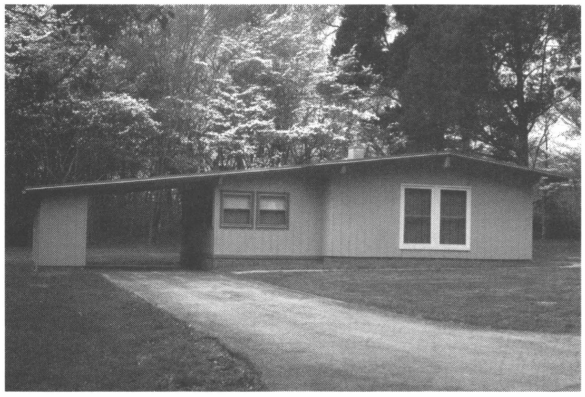


FIGURE 59. Park housing, 2001.

Small-scale Features

In 1987, the traditional rail fences within the Birthplace Unit were dismantled and reconstructed.[5] The hand-split rails are replaced on a ten-year cycle using chestnut oak or red oak. In 1991, the preservation crew completed the repointing of the Memorial Building steps.[6] In 1995, the installation of a handicapped accessible drinking fountain at the top of the Sinking Spring steps occurred.[7]

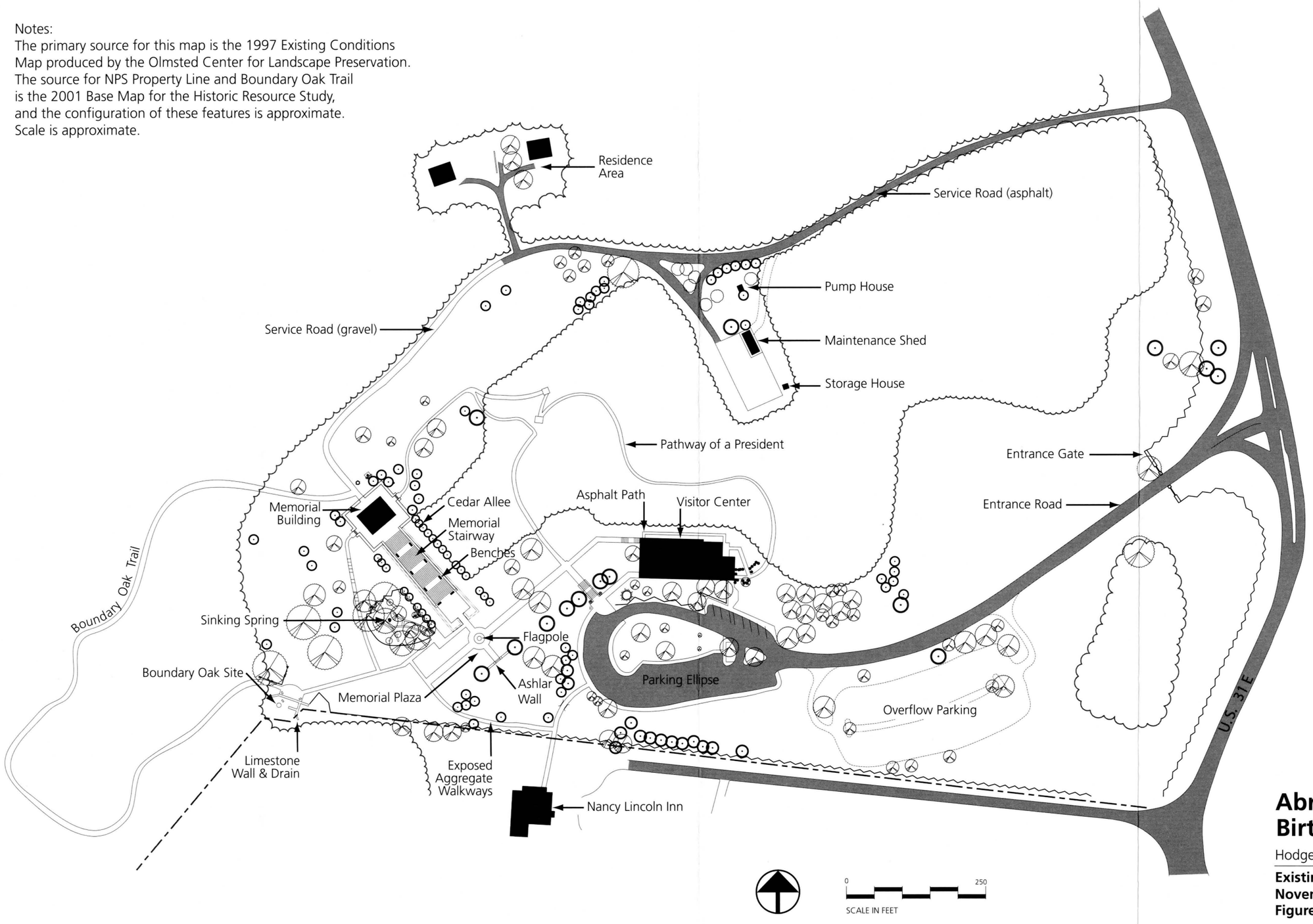
A set of historic granite entrance markers, removed in the late 1940s or early 1950s, is presently lying in the woods east of U.S. 31E.

Summary

Most of the changes and additions to the Birthplace Unit in the last several decades have been without the benefit of an overriding vision for the landscape. With the addition of the Visitor Center in the 1960s, the Birthplace Unit moved away from a Memorial Landscape within a larger agricultural setting to a homogeneous park landscape, largely undifferentiated from area to area. Mowing of large expanses of turf around the Memorial Building, Visitor Center, and picnic area occurs regularly during the growing season.

5. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1987.
6. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1991.
7. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1995.

Notes:
The primary source for this map is the 1997 Existing Conditions Map produced by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. The source for NPS Property Line and Boundary Oak Trail is the 2001 Base Map for the Historic Resource Study, and the configuration of these features is approximate. Scale is approximate.



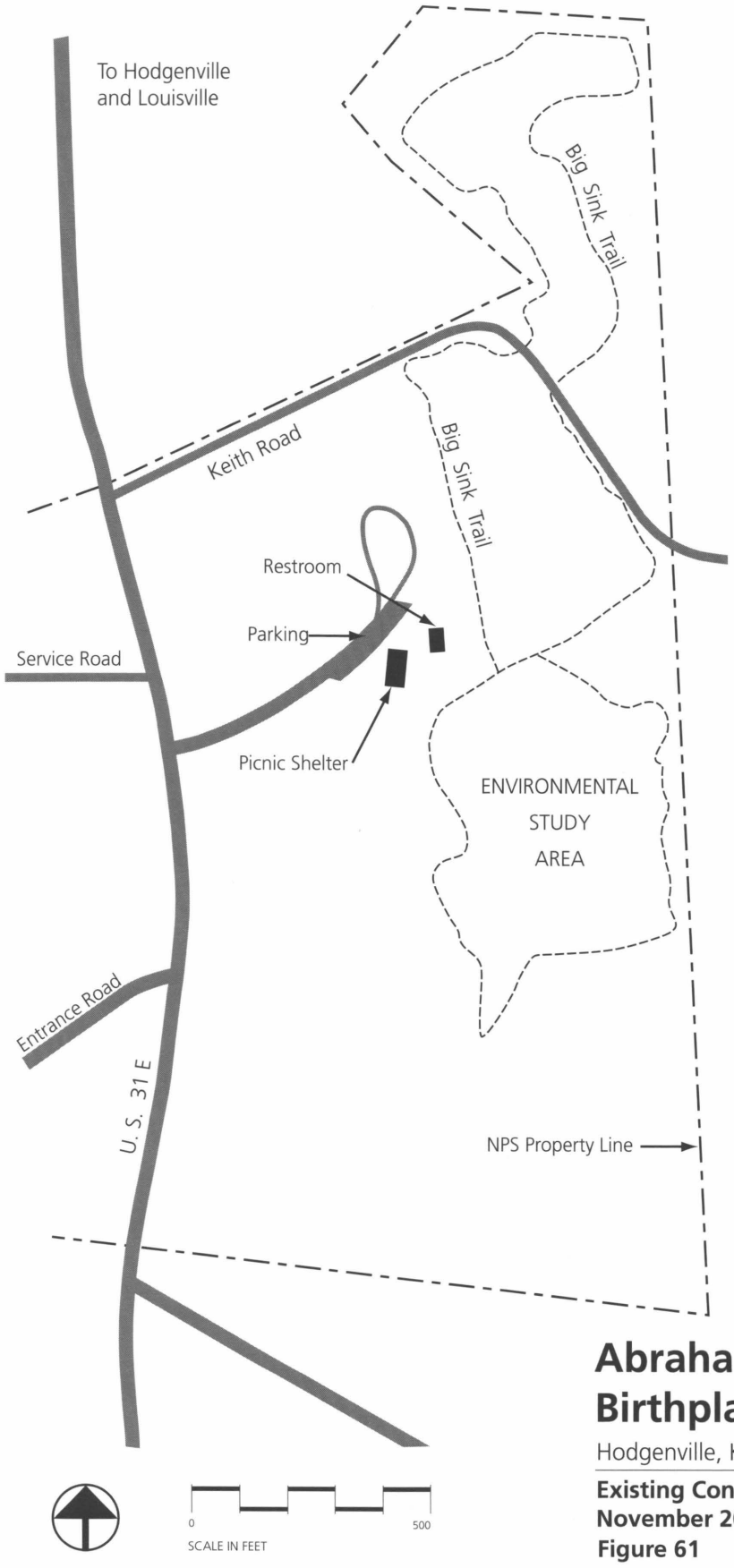
Legend

- Tree
- Tree
- Tree
- Tree
- Shrub
- Bench
- Treeline
- Fence
- NPS Property Line

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit

Hodgenville, Kentucky

Existing Conditions Map - West
November 2003
Figure 60



Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit

Hodgenville, Kentucky

Existing Conditions Map - East
November 2003
Figure 61

Analysis

The purpose of this section is to determine the significance of the designed historic landscape as it was developed in the effort to memorialize Abraham Lincoln's birthplace. The National Register of Historic Places publishes the criteria by which a designed landscape is evaluated and determined significant. According to the National Register, birthplaces do not usually qualify for designation unless they fall into a special category, which in the case of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site the exception is:

> A property [that is] primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance.[1]

The effort to determine the landscape's significance according to National Register criteria focuses on seven aspects or qualities of integrity, which are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The persistence of these qualities as they apply to the landscape determines whether the landscape "retains enough of its important features to convey its historically significant appearance or associations." The Birthplace Unit in its entirety is listed in the National Register because of its association with Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of the United States. The following evaluation focuses solely on the Memorial Landscape and whether it has significance as a designed historic landscape.

Period of Significance

Analysis of the memorial development of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site suggests that the period of significance begins with the construction of the Pope Memorial Building in 1911 and lasts through completion of the work accomplished by the 1935 Planting Plan implemented by the NPS soon after it gained management of the park (Fig. 62).



FIGURE 62. Memorial Building Landscape, 1938.

Evaluation of Integrity

The following is an evaluation of each of the qualities of integrity as they relate to the memorial development of the park. This evaluation adopts the conclusion of the Historic Resource Study that the entire Birthplace Unit is significant because it is a portion of the original Thomas Lincoln farm. However, the designed Memorial Landscape, as a component of the larger setting, is the focus of this evaluation.

1. J. Timothy Keller and Genevieve P. Keller, *National Register Bulletin 18: How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes* (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1987), 9.



FIGURE 63. Memorial Building Landscape under construction, c. 1910.

Location

The designed Memorial Landscape exhibits a high degree of integrity in relation to its location within the Thomas Lincoln property, also known as Sinking Spring Farm. The Memorial Building purposefully occupied the accepted site of the Lincoln cabin and was oriented in the same direction (southeast) as the log cabin reconstructed by Dennett and Bigham circa 1895. The Sinking Spring and Boundary Oak, adjacent to the Lincoln Farm Association development, were drawn into the memorial plan with the improvements completed by the War Department. Therefore, the Memorial Landscape occupies the heart of the Thomas Lincoln Farm as it existed at the time of Lincoln's birth (Fig. 63).

Design

The Pope design of the Memorial Building Landscape was realized with the work that was completed for the 1911 dedication of the Abraham Lincoln birthplace. Although there is no extant plan that documents Pope's hand in the selection of plant materials or layout of the greater landscape development, the fact that the work has never been attributed to another designer suggests that it is Pope's work. Related to the original design are the improvements made by the War Department, which were implemented to accommodate visitor use. All of the War Department's work was extraneous to Pope's design with the exception of fill that was added to the Plaza and the layout of cross-axial paths and lawn as a part of that improvement. For the most part, the War Department work was of high quality and did not detract from the Pope Memorial Building Landscape.

Because of development outside the park that neither the War Department nor the NPS could control, the NPS 1935 Planting Plan changed the way visitors perceived the site, from one with external views and vistas, to one that is very internally focused. Although the planting of cedars in 1935 was intended to frame the approach walk and view toward the Memorial Building in much the same way the poplars had, the long-term effect has compromised the original design. Approximately one-half of the original red cedar allée survives. Red cedars, as they age, lose the



FIGURE 64. Memorial Building Landscape after planting of red cedars, 1935.



FIGURE 65. View down Memorial Stairway, 2003.

limbs on their lower trunk, therefore causing the allée to lose its sense of enclosure. As time progresses and the remaining cedars continue to decline, the original design intent will be lost. As the major character-defining vegetative feature in the landscape, the allée's existence is essential in preserving the park's landscape. The allée is the one vegetative feature common to both the 1911 and the 1930s landscape.

NPS changes during the Mission 66 development had more effect on the War Department efforts than on the Pope design. It does not appear that the Mission 66 visitor center qualifies for architectural significance.

Overall, the landscape exhibits a high degree of design integrity.

Setting

It was the conscious choice of the LFA to memorialize the Lincoln birthplace and not to restore the cabin in its historical setting in the fashion of Mount Vernon or Monticello. Although not documented by the LFA or Pope, it would seem by the early sketches of the site, and the final decision to locate and orient the Memorial Building and Landscape in its present location, that the intent was to include the larger agricultural context as part of the setting. However, the agrarian setting of the early Memorial has been continually compromised over the years by construction and plantings that obscure views out and views in. To counter the effects of nearby development, the NPS chose to use vegetation to screen the Memorial from unwanted views and focus the visitor's attention on the Memorial Building itself (Fig. 64).

While the immediate setting created by the Memorial Landscape retains a high degree of integrity, the larger agricultural setting, which the views to and from the Memorial Building were to take advantage of, has been lost. Adding more trees and shrubs to the landscape around the Visitor Center has further reduced the integrity of the agricultural setting.

Materials

The hard materials associated with the original Pope design are for the most part intact. The pink granite on the Memorial Building that is repeated in the steps and cheek walls is in good condition. Original materials were replaced in a couple of instances. One instance is the replacement of the pea gravel landings along the Memorial Building Stairway with exposed aggregate concrete by the NPS circa 1956 (Fig. 65). The War Department replaced the gravel Memorial Plaza with grass and stone paths when the construction of the parking ellipse in 1929 allowed for the removal of automobiles from the Plaza. At some later date, the original ornamental flagstaff was replaced with a sleek, more contemporary design, diminishing the quality of the Pope landscape.

The materials of the extant War Department development suffered greater change. In 1984, the NPS replaced the axial stone paths in the Plaza with exposed aggregate concrete. Stone stairs

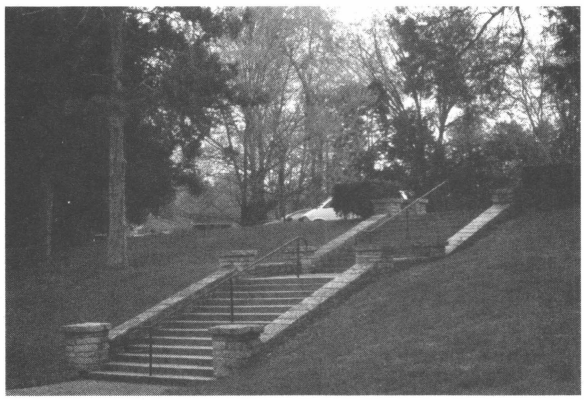


FIGURE 66. Steps leading down from parking ellipse, 2001.



FIGURE 67. Hedges along Memorial Building Stairway, undated.

leading down from the parking ellipse to paths in the Plaza were also replaced with aggregate concrete at this time (Fig. 66).

The integrity of the significant Pope-era plant material has also been altered by the NPS. The decision to replace the Lombardy poplars with cedars caused a dramatic change in the relationship of the vegetation and the architecture. Also, the simplification of the hedges along the Memorial Building Stairway diminished the integrity of the Pope design (Fig. 67).

Workmanship

The workmanship of the original Pope construction, which includes the building, associated walls, steps, and planting, was of the highest quality. This was also true of the work accomplished by the War Department. The fact that the Pope work is nearing the century mark and is still in good condition is evidence of both its quality and the continuing maintenance of the Memorial Building, walls, and steps. An exception to the high quality of workmanship occurred in 1971 when aluminum entrance units were installed on the north and south facades.

Feeling

The feeling of the Memorial Landscape—a temple set on a hill that could be seen from a distance and more importantly, seeing a pastoral landscape from the temple—has been altered over time. First, incompatible development (both within the Birthplace Unit and outside the Birthplace Unit boundary) that could be seen from the core of the Memorial Landscape diminished the integrity of feeling. Secondly, the increasing amount of vegetation, both planted and seeded naturally, that was encouraged to grow up between the incompatible development and the Memorial Landscape also contributed to a loss of integrity (Fig. 68).

The primary experience of climbing a monumental stair to the Memorial Building to view the birth cabin is still very strong, although compromised by the loss of a formally planted edge that the Lombardy poplars or the early cedars provided. The longer planned procession through the surrounding agricultural landscape to a monumental space dominated by the imposing classicism of the Memorial Building has been cut short by later construction within and outside the Birthplace Unit boundary.

Association

The association of the Memorial Building Landscape with the birth of Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth president of the United States is unquestioned. Although today it is not the most famous Lincoln memorial, it is the first memorial developed to honor the life of the assassinated



FIGURE 68. Aerial photograph showing increased vegetation, 1990s.

president. The country's long attachment to humble beginnings and "obscurity to fame" stories have their roots in the Lincoln Birthplace Memorial.

Summary

The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Building was completed in 1911, and the landscape design was developed through two phases beginning shortly after the Memorial's completion. The site's surrounding landscape was designed to provide a setting for the Memorial Building and incorporate remaining historic features such as the Boundary Oak and Sinking Spring. The landscape plan existing today is primarily the result of that NPS planting plan implemented in 1935 and completed in 1938.

The original planting in 1911 consisted primarily of a formal allée and hedge leading from the main Plaza along the Memorial Stairway to the Memorial Building. The original allée was a columnar deciduous tree, which provided a vegetative 'container' leading visitors, visually and physically, up the steps to the Memorial. The hedge along the allée was a formally sheared shrub, which added to the monumentality of the design (Fig. 69).

A second, more comprehensive planting plan was initiated in the 1930s by the NPS. As part of the NPS plan, the deciduous allée was replaced with red cedar. Although a coniferous tree, the red



FIGURE 69. Memorial Building Landscape, c. 1920.



FIGURE 70. Memorial Building Landscape, 2001.

cedar provided a design effect similar to the original deciduous trees. Today, due to the age of the red cedars in the allée and the loss of several of the trees, the original intent of leading visitors to the Memorial has been lost. The few cedars that do remain from the allée have lost their columnar shape because of their age. The existing privet hedge remains in good condition, although its arrangement is slightly altered (Fig. 70).

Treatment Recommendations

It is evident that the designed Memorial Landscape as developed by the LFA was significant but was seriously altered by subsequent attempts to "improve conditions" by both the War Department and the NPS. The War Department's work continued the formal approach of Pope's memorial design, and although they added a few small structures behind the Memorial Building—picnic pavilion, restrooms, maintenance garage, and pump houses—the overall Pope Memorial Landscape was untouched. Many of the features extant during the War Department era have been removed, including the Creal place, but these structures did not contribute to the designed Memorial Landscape. Because of development outside the park that neither the War Department nor the NPS could control, implementation of the NPS 1935 Planting Plan changed the way visitors perceived the site, from one with external views and vistas, to one that is very internally focused. The installation of red cedars accomplished two purposes—framing the approach walk and view toward the Memorial Building in much the same way the earlier poplars had and screening the Memorial Landscape from nearby intrusions.

The Memorial Landscape as implemented through the 1935 Planting Plan has been in place for more than fifty years. Therefore, the treatment recommendations presented here focus on preserving and enhancing the features associated with this landscape. The major character-defining feature of the Memorial Landscape is the cedar allée. Due to the advanced age of the red cedars in the allée and the loss of several of the trees, the allée's original intent of leading visitors to the Memorial has been lost. The few historic cedars that do remain have lost their columnar shape because of their age, and there is no longer a defined edge between the cedars and the encroaching woodland. In order to stop the deterioration of the Memorial Landscape, the allée must be rehabilitated. Its existence is essential to preserving the park's cultural landscape.

Specific recommendations concerning treatment of the allée and other landscape features are presented below and on the accompanying treatment plans (Fig. 81 & 82). These recommendations have been developed and refined through consultation between NPS regional landscape architects, park management, and other interested parties during the preparation of this cultural landscape report.

Memorial Landscape

The Memorial Landscape is considered to be all the land on the west side of the Birthplace Unit that constitutes the original LFA purchase, plus the additional land that was purchased to protect the Boundary Oak. Because of the length of time associated with the development of this area, as well as the irreversible changes to the original landscape, rehabilitation of the overall Memorial Landscape is the recommended treatment approach. Within each landscape characteristic described below, certain features, because of their historical importance and the ability to document an earlier more significant setting, will be considered as partial restorations within the overall rehabilitation framework of the Birthplace Unit landscape. It is recommended that a Preservation Maintenance Plan be developed for the Memorial Landscape to address long-term preservation of the site after suggested treatment recommendations are implemented.

Circulation and Hardscape

Walks and edgings.

- Retain the formal alignment of the walks as they pass through the Memorial Plaza (existing paving material not considered

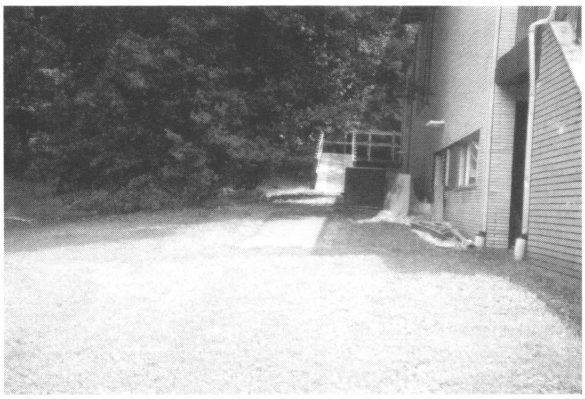


FIGURE 71. Asphalt walk at the rear of the Visitor Center, 2003.



FIGURE 72. Walkway to the Nancy Lincoln Inn, 2003.

contributing and can be changed if and when it is necessary/desirable). Away from the Memorial Plaza, walks can be less formally aligned and different materials for the walk/paths could be considered within a palette of material appropriate to the Memorial Landscape.

- Screen with native vegetation the asphalt walk at the back of the Visitor Center so that it cannot be seen from the Memorial Plaza or from the walkway that winds through the woods to the back of the Memorial Building (Fig. 71).

- Establish a fully accessible walk from the west end of the parking lot to the Memorial Plaza. Along its route develop a small plaza that aligns with the Memorial Building for a "best" view of the Memorial Building.

- Explore options for rerouting the walkway to the Nancy Lincoln Inn. The existing walkway causes confusion for the visitor as to the location of Park property, because of the Inn's proximity to the Birthplace Unit (Fig. 72).

- Maintain the stone edgings near the Sinking Spring (Fig. 73).

Walls and Steps.

- Preserve and maintain the existing steps and walls in the Memorial Plaza.

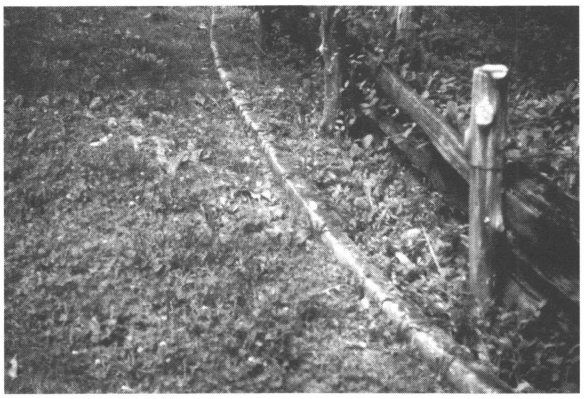


FIGURE 73. Stone edgings near the Sinking Spring, 2003.

- Preserve and maintain Memorial Building Stairway and walls.

- Remove modern features such as the old speaker grills.

- Remove the steps on the northwest side of the Visitor Center and the connecting concrete aggregate walkway (Fig. 74).

Terracing.

- Rehabilitate the lawn terraces. The original terraced lawn panels adjacent to the Memorial Building Stairway have lost their "crisp" definition over time. In conjunction with the replanting of the red cedars, strip the existing lawn, reshape the terraces, and re-sod the panels.



FIGURE 74. Steps on the west side of the Visitor Center, 2003



FIGURE 75. Loss of lower growth on red cedars, 2003.

Vegetation

Memorial Building Trees. The surviving cedars, which were the replacement trees for the Lombardy poplars, have outlived their formal design intent and should be replaced with a columnar variety of an appropriate size and character. The original design of the allée incorporated a columnar, deciduous trees species, probably *Populus nigra 'Italica'* (Lombardy black poplar), a cultivar introduced into this country in 1784. Due to *Dothichiza populea canker*, trees seldom survive longer than 30 years. *Populus nigra* 'Thevestina' (aka 'Theves' and 'Afghanica') is supposedly somewhat more disease resistant, but its growth habit is broader. For these reasons, it is felt that replacement of the current *Juniperus virginiana* with a *Populus sp.* would be of short-lived benefit with less-than-satisfactory restoration of the original design, although early photographs document some very poor specimens of this tree. Additionally, a return to the Pope-era landscape would require that the benches added by the War Department be removed, another reason that this approach was rejected.

Replanting red cedars in the allée would be the most appropriate choice at this time as a replacement plant for the historic landscape. Their continued presence would help to preserve the designed landscape implemented by the NPS in the 1930s. Cultivars such as 'Glauca' or 'Hillspire' are both columnar varieties that would be appropriate choices for establishing and maintaining the allée as it was intended. It should be noted that this is a modern cultivar that will provide a similar character to the 1930s plan. The reason the red cedar failed to accomplish the original design intent of the allée is because as it grew older, it lost its lower growth and therefore also lost its columnar form. If a columnar variety is used as a replacement, the tree will retain its columnar form and continue to create the architectural edge that defines the allée (Fig. 75).

- Remove existing red cedars on both sides of Memorial Stairway. Grind stumps to 12 in. below grade, back fill holes with topsoil, and mulch.

- Plant 34 columnar red cedars (17 each side). Use field checked 20-ft. 'Glauca' or 'Hillspire' red cedars. Plant at the most auspicious time of the year.

- Reestablish woodland edge. In order to accomplish successful replacement of the cedars, the encroaching woodland (supplemented during the Park Development-era) needs to be cut back from the allée so that adequate light, air, and space is provided. Remove trees within 20 ft. of new red cedar planting to reestablish formal allée. Thin remaining trees on both sides of new plantings to allow for light penetration.

- Do not replant cedar screen. When the cedars that were placed on the north side of the Memorial Building are dead or become hazardous, they should not be replaced



FIGURE 76. Memorial Building Landscape showing original hedge configuration, 1928.

because they have lost their purpose in the landscape (the buildings they were planted to screen have been removed).

Hedges. The formal hedges that were established by the LFA—two different heights defining the grass panels and an enclosing hedge that defined the Memorial Plaza—are important character-defining features of the original Memorial Landscape that need to be rehabilitated/restored. Because portions of the hedge need to be replanted and because the privet currently planted is invasive, a substitution may be made for the entire hedge (Fig. 76).

- Replace privet hedge with *Ilex crenata* 'Steeds' (Japanese holly). This cultivar would be an appropriate choice as it shears well and is cold hardy. Use 3 gal. containers planted 2 ft. on center.

- Replant missing hedge. The existing hedge along the Memorial Stairway represents a small portion of the 1930s hedge planting. In order to re-establish the hedge to match the alignment and heights in 1933, at least the missing outer row defining the terraced sod panels should be reestablished.

- Rehabilitate the hedge defining the edge of the Memorial Plaza to match the alignment on the 1935 Planting Plan.

- Develop maintenance guidelines for the hedges to be included in the Preservation Maintenance Plan.

Groundcovers.

- Maintain existing turfgrass species. There is no identified mix of seed to reestablish. The Park may use a turfgrass species or mix that is tolerant of site conditions.

- Replace failing turfgrass in areas where the conditions have become too shady with an appropriate native ground cover. Periodic hand weeding will be necessary (see Appendix).

- Do not replant vinca (*Vinca minor*) in grass panels on either side of the Memorial Stairway. Although these areas were specified on the 1935 Planting Plan to be planted with vinca, this plant is no longer present in these areas. Vinca is a non-native invasive plant that has escaped into the surrounding woodlands. Vinca should be controlled and



FIGURE 77. Plantings used to restrict views, 1938.

ultimately removed from the adjacent woodlands.

- Control all invasive non-native plants such as Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), and vinca in adjacent wooded areas. Encourage and reestablish native plants in the understory of wooded areas (see Appendix).

Views and Vistas

The primary view is from the Memorial Plaza to the Memorial Building. This view was reinforced by vegetation used as architectural elements to focus the visitor's eyes on the Memorial Building.

- Reestablish vegetation to reinforce the primary viewshed. See vegetation recommendations above for a detailed discussion of the planting scheme to be reestablished in this area.

The other principal view is from the top of the Memorial Building looking out across the park. As noted in the history section, by the late 1920s distant views from the Memorial Building were compromised by commercial activities along the property line and car parking within the park.

- Remove overgrown cedars that no longer screen the adjacent property.
- Reestablish screen plantings to restrict views from the Memorial Building to the zone around the Memorial Plaza with the flagstaff as the central element. Use the NPS 1935 Planting Plan as a guide (Fig. 77).

Small-scale Features

Benches. The War Department added the benches along the Memorial Building Stairway between 1928-32.

- Preserve historic benches along the Memorial Building Stairway and Plaza.

Trash Receptacles.

- Limit placement and style of trash receptacles. They should be placed no closer than the parking area. Find a style that fits the historic memorial setting—only use type with multiple bins for recycling in a specific location near the Visitor Center or in the picnic and recreation area.

Flagpole Base.

- Preserve and maintain the pink granite circular flagpole base.



FIGURE 78. Cast concrete drinking fountain, 2003.

Entrance Markers.

- Move the historic granite entrance markers located in the woods east of U.S. 31E to a secure area. Future research may indicate their original locations and allow their re-erection. Failing that, consideration should be given to using them as exhibits in the Birthplace Unit's interpretive program.

Sinking Spring

- Preserve and maintain the War Department rock work associated with the Sinking Spring.

- Relocate the cast-concrete drinking fountain away from the Memorial Plaza (Fig. 78).

- Reestablish the hedges and paths to their 1935 configuration in the area around the Sinking Spring.

Boundary Oak

The historic setting of the Boundary Oak and the Boundary Oak itself have been lost due to structures that were built in the vicinity by the War Department in an effort to resolve drainage problems in the Memorial Plaza. Because the Boundary Oak was an historic feature with tremendous interpretive opportunities, an in-kind replacement should be considered. There is sufficient documentation of this area prior to its manipulation to reconsider replanting a white oak (*Quercus alba*) once a final solution for the drainage problem has been found. The engineering study needed to resolve these problems is outside the scope of the CLR, but if it is accomplished, the project should include restoring the grade and location of the Boundary Oak so that future replanting can be undertaken.

Entrance, Visitor Center Approach, and Parking Area

- Maintain the snake rail fence. This feature is a War Department addition with an association to the early life of Abraham Lincoln. The location of the fence should be used along the boundary lines of the Birthplace Unit and to separate formally mown grass on the shoulders of the road from less frequently mown fields. Wherever possible, establish the location of the fence so that it can be seen from the entrance road.

- Do not plant new trees in the vicinity of the parking ellipse and the Visitor Center. There has been an unacceptable amount of tree planting in these locations. To the extent possible, this area should be kept open to interpret the rural setting of the birthplace.

- Minimize plantings associated with the Visitor Center, except where screening is needed at the back of this structure. All additional or replacement plantings in this area should be native plant species.

Maintenance Complex/Park Housing

- Preserve the woodland character of this area of the park.

- Control all invasive non-native plant species affecting the western half of the park.

- Preserve the two remaining War Department-era stone structures. Although they are not considered contributing because of alterations to the maintenance area, these features should be preserved if possible.

Picnic and Recreation Area

- Screen the picnic shelter/restroom structures with native vegetation, planted parallel to U.S. 31E. White pines (currently planted along Keith Road) are appropriate plantings for screening in this location.

- Reduce mowing in this area to the extent possible. Sixteen acres are currently being mowed every week during the growing season (Fig. 79).

- Maintain a buffer of tall grass between mown recreation areas and the highway to create a pastoral feeling that carries across the highway.

- Control all invasive exotics affecting the eastern half of the park.



FIGURE 79. Portion of sixteen acres currently being mowed weekly, 2003.

U.S. 31E

The dogwoods and redbuds currently planted along U.S. 31E are understory trees that have not done well and need replacing (Fig. 80). The town of Hodgenville has planted hawthorns along U.S. 31-E. Planting the same species at the park entrance would create a sense of unity along the roadway.

- Add plantings of *Crataegus virdis* 'Winter King,' a cultivar with yearlong interest, at the park entrance along U.S. 31E.



FIGURE 80. Redbuds planted along U.S. 31E, 2003.

A Memorial Stairway

* Preserve memorial stairway and walls.
* Preserve benches.
* The existing hedge may be replaced with Ilex crenata 'Steeds.'
* Reestablish at least the outer edge of the hedge defining the terraced lawn panels.
* Reshape the terraced lawn panels; do not replant with vinca.
* Replace existing red cedars with 34 columnar red cedars.
* Remove trees from within 20 feet of new planting and thin remaining trees for light penetration; encourage native plants in the understory.

B Sinking Spring

* Preserve the War Department rock work.
* Relocate cast-concrete drinking fountain.
* Reestablish hedges to 1935 configuration.
* Maintain stone edgings.

C The Plaza

* Retain the formal alignment of the walks.
* Preserve existing steps and walls.
* Restore hedges to 1935 configuration.
* Establish an accessible walk from west side of parking ellipse, including a small plaza that aligns with the Memorial Building.
* Preserve the pink granite base of the flagpole.

D Views and Vistas

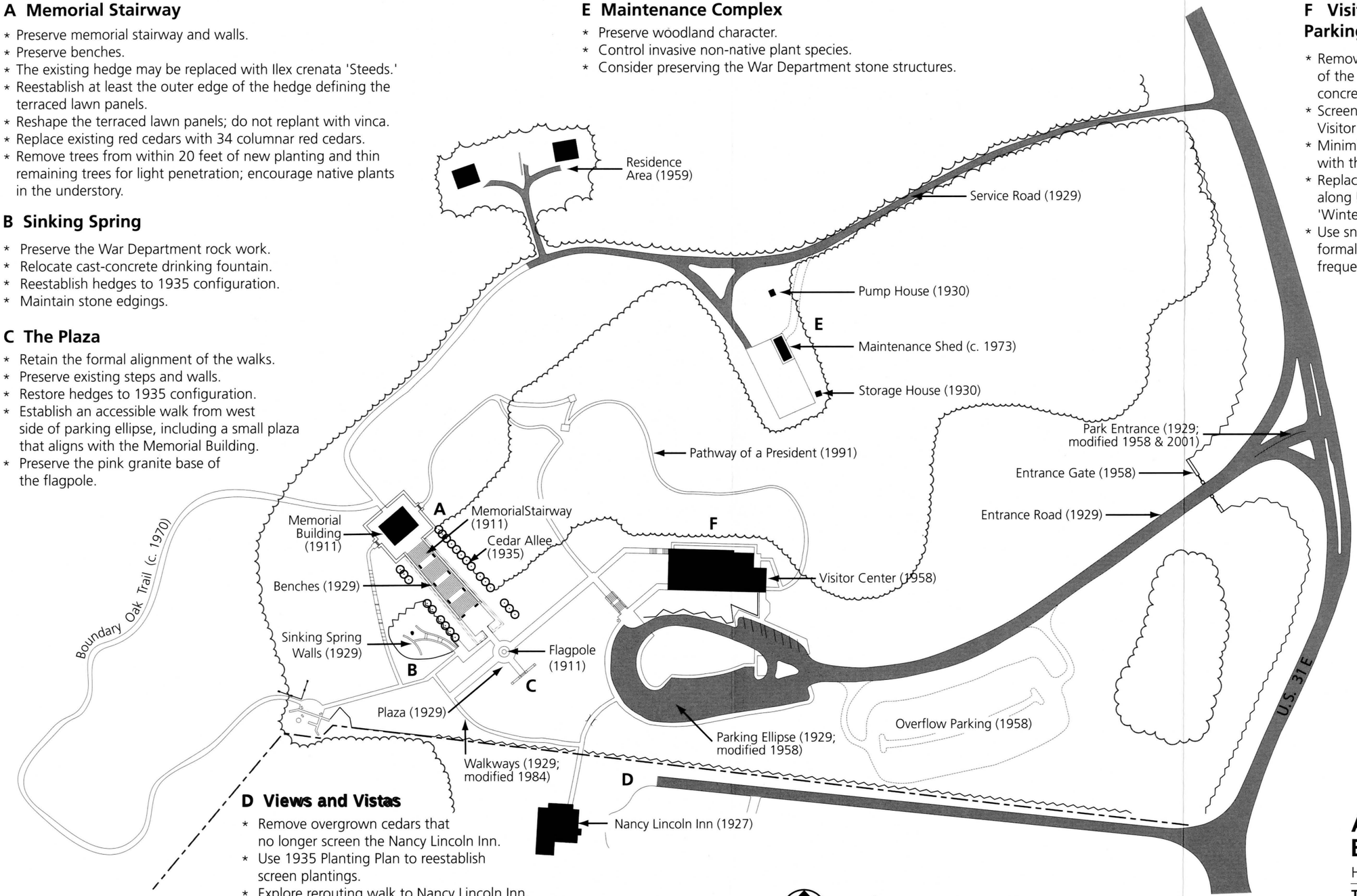
* Remove overgrown cedars that no longer screen the Nancy Lincoln Inn.
* Use 1935 Planting Plan to reestablish screen plantings.
* Explore rerouting walk to Nancy Lincoln Inn.
* Cedars planted on the north side of the Memorial Building should not be replanted.

E Maintenance Complex

* Preserve woodland character.
* Control invasive non-native plant species.
* Consider preserving the War Department stone structures.

F Visitor Center, Entrance, Parking Area

* Remove steps on the northwest side of the Visitor Center & connecting concrete aggregate walkway.
* Screen asphalt walk at the rear of the Visitor Center with native vegetation.
* Minimize other plantings associated with the Visitor Center.
* Replace dogwoods and redbuds along U.S. 31 E with Crataegus viridis 'Winter King.'
* Use snake rail fence to separate formally mown grass areas from less frequently mown areas.



Notes:

The primary source for this map is the 1997 Existing Conditions Map produced by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. The source for the NPS Property Line and Boundary Oak Trail is the 2001 Base Map for the Historic Resource Study, and the configuration of these features is approximate.

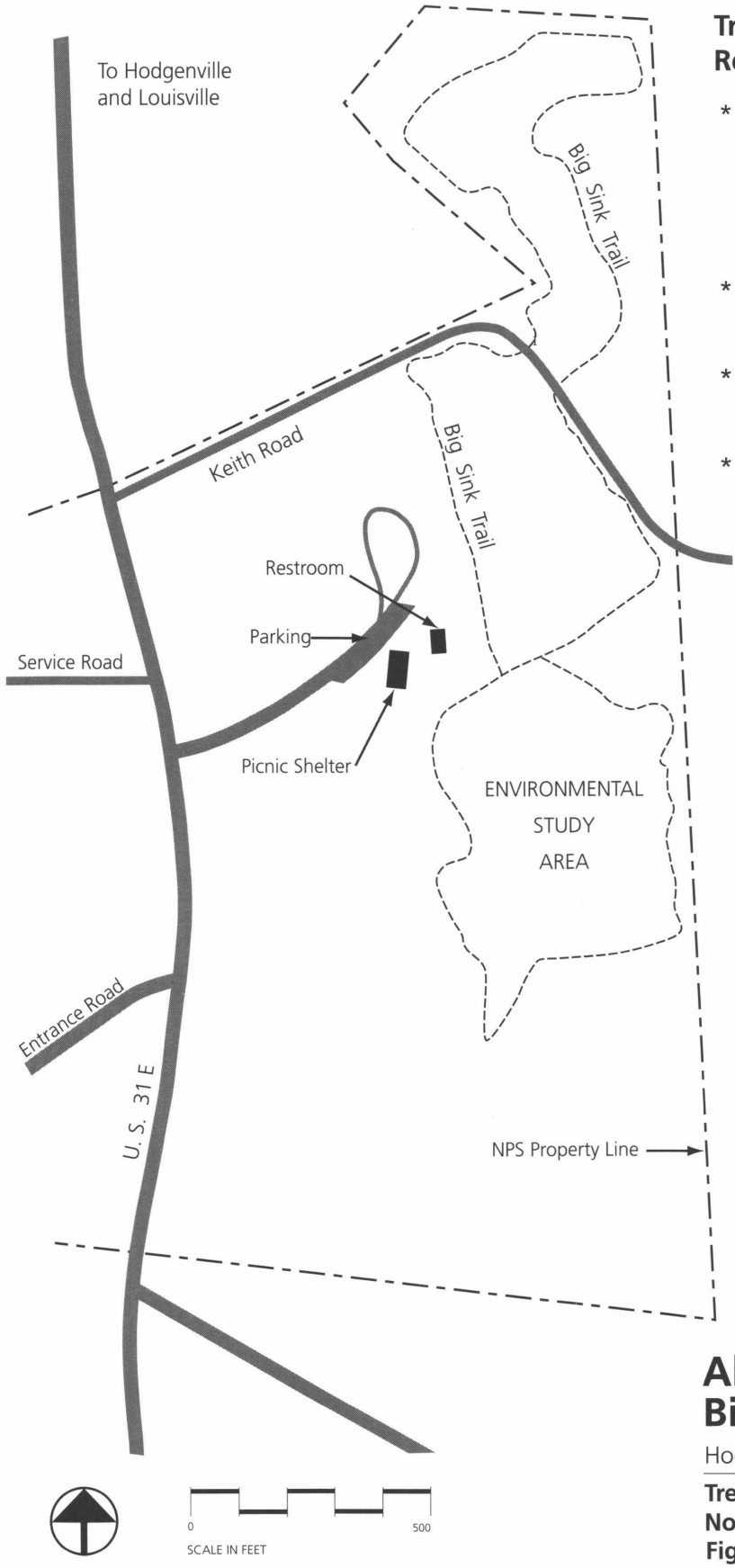
Legend

- Snake Rail Fence
- Rail Fence
- NPS Property Line
- Treeline
- Tree
- Bench

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit

Hodgenville, Kentucky

Treatment Map - West
November 2003
Figure 81



Treatment Recommendations

* Parallel to U.S. 31E, screen the picnic pavilion and restroom structure with native vegetation, such as the white pines planted along Keith Road.
* Reduce mowing of the sixteen acres to the extent possible.
* Maintain a buffer of tall grass between the mown area and the highway.
* Control all invasive exotics.

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit

Hodgenville, Kentucky

Treatment Map - East
November 2003
Figure 82

Preparing a Record of Treatment

Purpose

As both a follow-up to the CLR's recommendations and as a reference for future historic research, the park should maintain an accurate record of treatment to document the intent, extent, time, and cost of all implemented treatments. This record should describe the as-built physical work, including any modifications between the proposed and actual treatments. Systematic documentation is important whether treatment is implemented over an extended period of time or in short discrete phases. The record should document specific treatment actions, not routine preservation maintenance, unless maintenance is altered specifically as a result of the treatment recommendations.

Contents and Format

The record of treatment should include copies of field reports, condition assessments, and any contract summaries. Documentation may follow a variety of formats, including as-built construction drawings, plans, details, narrative descriptions, "before" and "after" photographs, and even videos. The Section 106 compliance documentation developed to review and approve recommended treatment actions may, in some cases, be sufficient as the record of treatment.

When treatment recommendations are not implemented immediately following the preparation of the CLR, the record of treatment should also describe any changes that have occurred to the existing condition of the landscape prior to treatment. The record of treatment may be produced as an appendix or addendum to the CLR and designated as "Part Three: Record of Treatment."

Reference Materials

The "Landscape Lines" section of *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports* (1999) explains and provides technical guidance on various landscape survey, research, and treatment techniques that may be employed in preparing a record of treatment. All parks should have received a copy of the guide during the spring of 1999. Additional copies of the guide are available for purchase from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325, Stock No. 0245-005-01187-1.

Another useful reference is the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation's *Guide to Developing a Preservation Maintenance Plan for a Historic Landscape* (1998), especially the summary, inspection, and inventory forms provided in Appendix F (p. 62), which could easily be adapted for use in compiling a record of treatment. This publication is included as an appendix to the *Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports* sent to each park. (For additional information regarding this publication, visit the Olmsted Center's web site at http://www.nps.gov/frla/oclp.htm.)

Guidelines and standardized forms for preparing a record of treatment will eventually be accessible for park use on the SERO-CRS intranet site, located at http://crs.sero.nps.gov.

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Appendix

Suggested Native Trees and Shrubs for Use in Wooded Areas

Botanical Name	Common Name
Amelanchier arborea	Shadbush
Cercis canadensis	Redbud
Cornus florida	Dogwood
Halesia caroliniana	Silverbell
Oxydendrum arboreum	Sourwood
Sassafras albidum	Sassafras
Ilex opaca	American Holly
I. glabra	Inkberry Holly ('Shamrock')
I. verticillata	Common Winterberry
Viburnum prunifolium	Blackhaw
Juniperus virginiana	Red Cedar
Kalmia latifolia	Mountain-laurel
Hydrangea arborescens	Smooth Hydrangea ('Annabelle')
Rhododendron catawbiense	Catawba Azalea
Rhododendron calendulaceum	Flame Azalea
Callicarpa americana	American Beautyberry
Itea virginica	Virginia sweetspire ('Henry's Garnet')
Hamamelis virginiana	Witchhazel
Clethra alnifolia	Summersweet
Fothergilla gardenii	Dwarf Fothergilla ('Mount Airy')

Groundcovers and Ferns for Turfgrass Replacement in Shady Areas

Botanical Name	Common Name
Heuchera americana	Alumroot
Hexastylis arifolia	Wild Ginger
Pachysandra procumbens	Allegheny Spurge
Polygonatum biflorum	Solomon's Seal
Smilacena racemosa	False Solomon's Seal
Tiarella cordifolia	Foam Flower
Athyrium filix-femina	Southern Lady Fern
Dennstaedtia punctilobula	Hay-Scented Fern
Polystichum acrostichoides	Christmas Fern

Note: Selected plants should be naturalized in drifts of not less than seven plants.



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