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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek
Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park

Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek

Cultural Landscape Report



Cultural Resources
Southeast Region

Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek

Cultural Landscape Report

January 2013

Prepared by
The Jaeger Company

Under the direction of
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About the cover: Lincoln Tavern circa 1930s. Photo in ABLI archives.

The 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 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.

Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek

Cultural Landscape Report

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Foreword

The Boyhood Home Unit of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park is a unique resource. The view down the valley between the knobs is little changed from its appearance when the Thomas Lincoln family, including their youngest child Abraham, farmed these fields in the early 19th century. The area closer to the road is a window into the early days of tourism in Kentucky when people braved unpaved roads in early automobiles to visit this site and the relatively new Abraham Lincoln National Park, now the Birthplace Unit of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park. The combination of all of these elements tells a story of early frontier life, building the character of a future leader, and private efforts to memorialize the boyhood home of one of the country's greatest presidents. Preserving these important windows into the past is the goal of this cultural landscape report.

Many individuals and institutions contributed to the successful completion of this project. We appreciate the efforts of the Jaeger Company's Emmeline Morris, Daniel Lawson, and Keyes Williamson. This effective project team was responsible for completion of the contract to produce this cultural landscape report. Thanks also to the supportive park staff whose contributions in project meetings, site research visits, and draft reviews ensured the project remained on track and relevant to park needs and concerns. Special thanks go to park ranger Jennie Jones for her early support and efforts to identify the need for the project and ensure a successful start. Guidance also came from the Southeast Regional Office, with Tracy Stakely serving as project manager and Cultural Resources Division staff providing project reviews and assistance to the contractors. Tracy's efforts to coordinate the efforts of the contractors, Southeast Region, and the park staff have helped make this a great cultural landscape report. The contributions of all involved are greatly appreciated and will be reflected in the ongoing preservation and management of the significant landscape at Knob Creek.

William T. Justice
Superintendent
Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park

Introduction

Management Summary

This Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) is for the Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek, a unit of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park (ABLI) in LaRue County, Kentucky. The Lincoln Farm Association (LFA), a nonprofit organization founded by Robert Collier, initiated the idea of creating a memorial park at the site of Lincoln's birth on Sinking Spring Farm outside of Hodgenville, Kentucky. LFA purchased the site in 1905 and in 1911 completed a Memorial Building where they displayed what they believed to be the cabin in which Lincoln was born. LFA donated the buildings and 110 acres to the United States government in 1916. The War Department managed the property as the Abraham Lincoln National Park. The site transferred to the National Park Service (NPS) on August 10, 1933. In 1998, Congress authorized the addition of the Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek, where Lincoln's family moved when he was two years old. NPS took control of the property on November 6, 2001, and held a formal dedication on February 12, 2002. The park was designated Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park and consisted of two units, the Birthplace Unit and the Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek. The 228-acre Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek is located seven miles north of Hodgenville, Kentucky, on United States Highway 31E. Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek is approximately ten miles northeast of the Birthplace Unit of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park. Figures 1.1 and 1.2 illustrate the location of and relationship between the park units.

Chapter 2: Site History gives an overview of the Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek. The Site History borrows from primary and secondary sources of information, including documents gathered from ABLI park records and archives. Chapter 3: Existing Conditions provides a comprehensive description of cultural landscape resources at the Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek, including natural and cultural resources. The inventory includes information gathered during a site visit by project team members in July 2011. Chapter 4: Analysis of Evaluation uses criteria developed by the National Register and the *Secretary of Interior Standards for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* to evaluate the historic integrity of existing landscape resources. Chapter 5: Provides Treatment Recommendations to guide future management decisions related to the Park's historic landscape resources.

Historical Summary

In 1860, during his campaign to become President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln wrote, "I was born February 12, 1809, in Hardin, Kentucky. My earliest recollection, however, is of the Knob Creek place."[1] Lincoln's birthplace was a farm known as Sinking Spring. Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln, purchased the Sinking Spring farm, but a former owner would contest the sale in court. Thomas Lincoln, beginning around 1811, rented 30 acres along the banks of Knob Creek from its owner George Lindsey. The farm consisted of three fields lying between the conical hills characteristic of the "Knob" region of Kentucky. The Lincoln family included, in addition to young Abraham, Thomas and Nancy Lincoln, Abraham's parents, and his sister Sarah. Some time around 1814, Thomas Lincoln, Abraham's younger brother, was born. He died as an infant from an unknown illness and they buried him in the cemetery of a neighboring family, the Redmons.

While living at the Knob Creek farm, Thomas Lincoln continued his quest to purchase the Sinking Spring farm, pursuing the title for the property in local court. He lost his case in 1815. The following year, the Lincolns again faced eviction from their home when people sued George Lindsey over the ownership of the Knob Creek property. The Lincolns packed their belongings and in the fall of 1818 moved to Indiana for 14 years followed by another move to Illinois.

[1] Paul M. Zall, ed., *Lincoln on Lincoln* (Lexington:The University Press of Kentucky, 1999), 25.



Figure 1.1: Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park Location Map

Knob Creek left an indelible mark on Lincoln's memory. As President, Lincoln recalled specific events that occurred on his family's farm.

After the Lincolns departed Kentucky, Hardin County (now LaRue County), continued to be rural in character with small farms spread across the land. In the early 20th century, the rise in automobile travel and the improvement to rural roads combined to increase tourism in the area. Present LaRue County was created from Hardin County in 1843. Motorists arrived to visit places associated with Abraham Lincoln. In the early decades of the 20th century, the Lincoln Trail offered an established route for motorists to follow Lincoln's journey from Kentucky, to Indiana and Illinois.

A local historian, Louis Warren, published numerous articles and brochures narrating Lincoln's early years. Knob Creek plays a significant role in Warren's telling of the Lincoln story. Chester and Hattie Howard purchased the Knob Creek farm in 1931, wanting to create a memorial to Lincoln and profit from the expanding tourism economy. Because the actual Lincoln boyhood cabin was no longer standing, the Howards reconstructed one using logs taken from an old cabin believed to date to the early 1800s. They employed the assistance of local residents who claimed to have visited the actual Lincoln cabin and remembered its location and construction. The reconstruction occurred between 1931 and 1933.[2]

The Howards also constructed the Lincoln Tavern[3] adjacent to the reconstructed cabin. From 1933, when they opened the site, to 1942, when LaRue County banned the sale of alcohol, the Lincoln Tavern was a popular nightspot where locals flocked to dance and listen to live bands. After 1942, the managers of the site focused on the reconstructed cabin and interpreting Lincoln's life. The Howards converted the Lincoln Tavern into a museum and visitor center, where travelers found refreshment, restrooms, and a collection

[2] In this report, the log cabin will be referred to as the "reconstructed cabin."

[3] In this report, the tavern will be referred to as the "Lincoln Tavern."

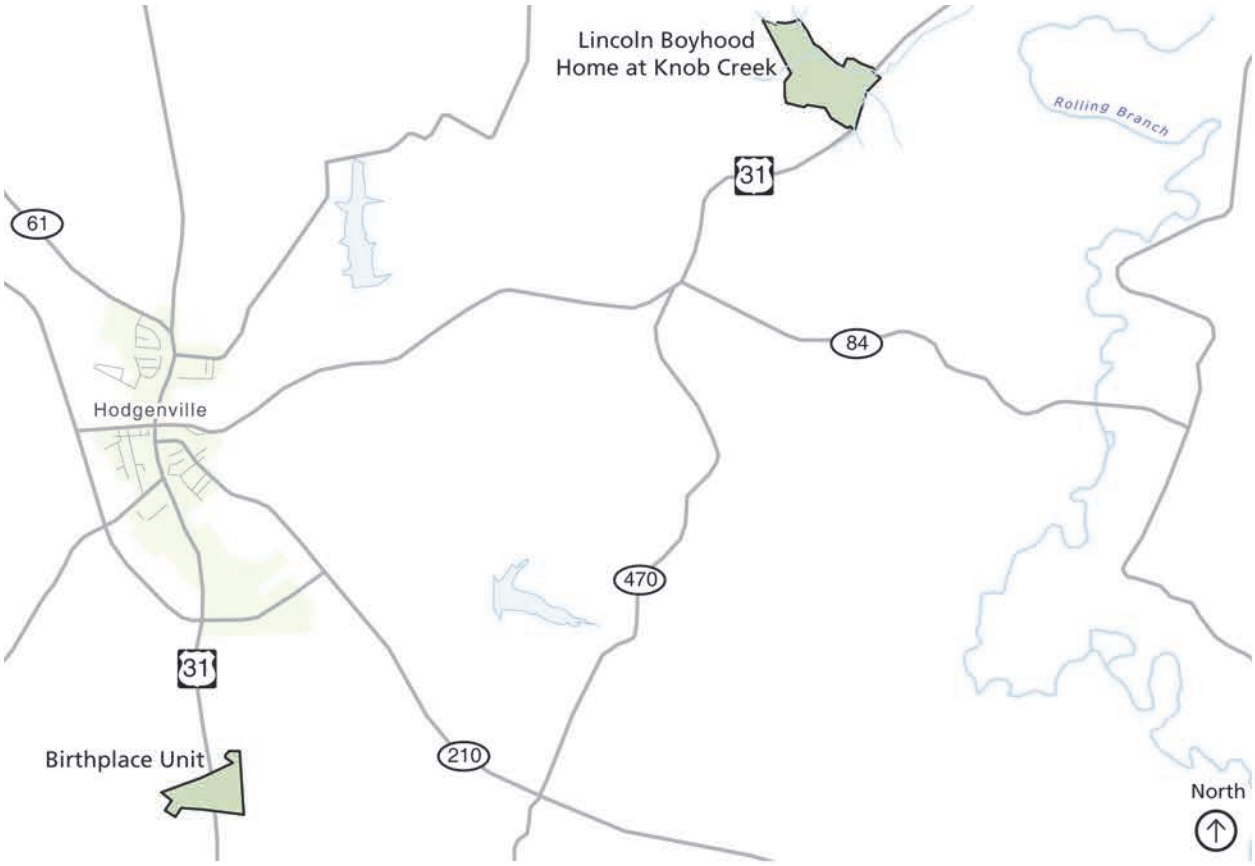


Figure 1.2: Map showing the relationship between the park units, which are approximately 10 miles apart from one another

of Lincoln memorabilia. The landscape character established by Chester and Hattie Howard strongly influenced subsequent periods. They located the two historically significant buildings on the site, both oriented towards Highway 31E. The Lincoln Tavern occupies the visual center of the site with the reconstructed cabin standing a short distance to its northeast. They created the semi-circular entrance drive that centered on the Lincoln Tavern. This drive provided direct and easy access to the reconstructed cabin and Lincoln Tavern from the main road. They established an area of lawn surrounding the reconstructed cabin and Lincoln Tavern where they planted a variety of hardwood specimen trees. They cultivated two adjacent fields, one to the southeast of the reconstructed cabin and one north of the Lincoln Tavern, which perpetuated an agricultural setting in keeping with the expected appearance of the place in the early 19th century. They constructed a post and rail fence around the reconstructed cabin and planted the area around the reconstructed cabin to appear like a 19th century frontier farm. By 1959, the historic significance of the Knob Creek site was generally accepted and led to it being included in the yearlong celebration of Lincoln to coincide with the sesquicentennial anniversary of his birth.

Several of Chester and Hattie Howard's children managed the site during the 1930s and 1940s. In 1950, Fred Howard, their son, and his wife, Brooks Howard, ran the reconstructed cabin and Lincoln Tavern. Fred and Brooks largely continued the landscape aesthetic established by their predecessors. Sometime around 1949, a stack rail fence replaced the post and rail fence installed in the early 1930s. This style of fence and its configuration remain relatively constant for the next three decades. Fred and Brooks Howard purchased the site from Chester and Hattie Howard in 1964 and continued to operate it until Fred's death in 1980. Brooks tried unsuccessfully to sell the property in the early 1980s. A group of Howard family members created the Lincoln Boyhood Home, Inc., and purchased the property at an auction in 1986. They kept the site functioning similar to how Hattie and Chester had 50 years earlier. The Lincoln Tavern displayed

Lincoln memorabilia and Kentucky crafts. The reconstructed cabin had furniture typical for an early 19th century pioneer farm family. They nominated the site for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places and it was accepted on November 16, 1988. The historic significance of the site, according to the nomination, derived from its being a 20th century tourist attraction commemorating Lincoln. The period of significance according to the National Register is 1933 to 1938. The Lincoln Boyhood Home, Inc., made several significant additions to the site, adding a picnic pavilion, and an outdoor restroom. They also partially constructed another log cabin.

NPS and members of the Howard Family discussed the possibility of having the Federal government acquire the site as early as 1970. These conversations continued through the 1980s and 1990s as the Howards and then the Lincoln Boyhood Home, Inc., faced declining visitation and increasing operation costs.[4] On November 6, 1998, the United States Congress authorized Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park to expand its boundaries to include the Knob Creek Farm site. Because the legislation specified that NPS could only accept the site as a donation, a group of historic preservationists created an organization called the Preservation of Lincoln's Kentucky Heritage to purchase the property from the Lincoln Boyhood Home, Inc., They donated the property, through the Fiscal Court, to NPS on November 6, 2001.

NPS removed the picnic pavilion and made numerous improvements to the site. They closed both the reconstructed cabin and the Lincoln Tavern while studying their condition. NPS completed Historic Structure Reports for both the reconstructed cabin and the Lincoln Tavern in 2005 and 2006 respectively. They have performed archeology to search for evidence of the Lincolns occupation of the site. More recently, NPS extensively restored the reconstructed cabin, reopening it to the public in 2009.

[4] Jerry L Schober, Superintendent of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site at the time, wrote a memorandum on April 23, 1970, to the Director of the National Park Service about the historic significance of Knob Creek and introduced the idea of purchasing a portion of the site. Nicholas J. Eason, Superintendent of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, reported to the Southeast Regional Director about his conversation with Mrs. Mary Brooks Howard in February 1980.

The Site History, provided in Chapter 2, organizes the site into periods of development. These periods reflect changes in ownership and management of the site. The different site managers made additions to the site that resulted in different landscape characters in the different periods.

These periods are:

- Knob Creek before 1811
- Lincoln Family at Knob Creek (1811-1816)
- Knob Creek after the Lincolns (1817-1930)
- Chester and Hattie Howard Period (1931-1949)
- Fred and Brooks Howard Period (1950-1985)
- Lincoln Boyhood Home, Inc., Period (1986-2001)
- National Park Service Period (2002-Present)

Scope of Work and Methodology

According to the Project Statement the CLR will (1) describe the historical development of Knob Creek Farm; (2) document the existing site conditions; (3) provide analysis of the landscape's National Register significance; (4) identify the site's character-defining features; (5) determine an appropriate treatment strategy, and (6) develop treatment recommendations that facilitate preservation of these resources, address park management concerns, and inform future development and preservation. The CLR will also include a prioritized list of draft NPS Project Management Information System (PMIS) statements for landscape preservation/ rehabilitation projects.

The park's General Management Plan (2006) called for improvements to the facilities for visitor use, including the restoration of the Lincoln Tavern and the reconstructed cabin. This CLR is necessary because NPS is considering a proposal to make significant changes to the Boyhood Home Unit at Knob Creek that potentially impact historic landscape features. This CLR will help inform the decision process as NPS works to improve

interpretation of the site, address circulation concerns, and provide for the health, safety, and welfare of park employees and visitors.

This CLR uses primary and secondary sources to establish the historic significance of the landscape and identify a period or periods of significance. The Site History section relies heavily upon previous studies of the site. Two Historic Structure Reports by Joseph K. Oppermann were especially helpful. Kent Masterson Brown's *Report on the Title of Thomas Lincoln to, and the History of, the Lincoln Boyhood Home Along Knob Creek in LaRue County, Kentucky*, provides a comprehensive history of Lincoln's parents and the events surrounding their move to Knob Creek.

Using information gathered during site visits, this CLR identifies landscape characteristics and associated features that contribute to the historic significance of the site. This CLR furthermore compares the historic condition of a particular resource with its current condition to evaluate its historic integrity.

Description of Study Boundaries

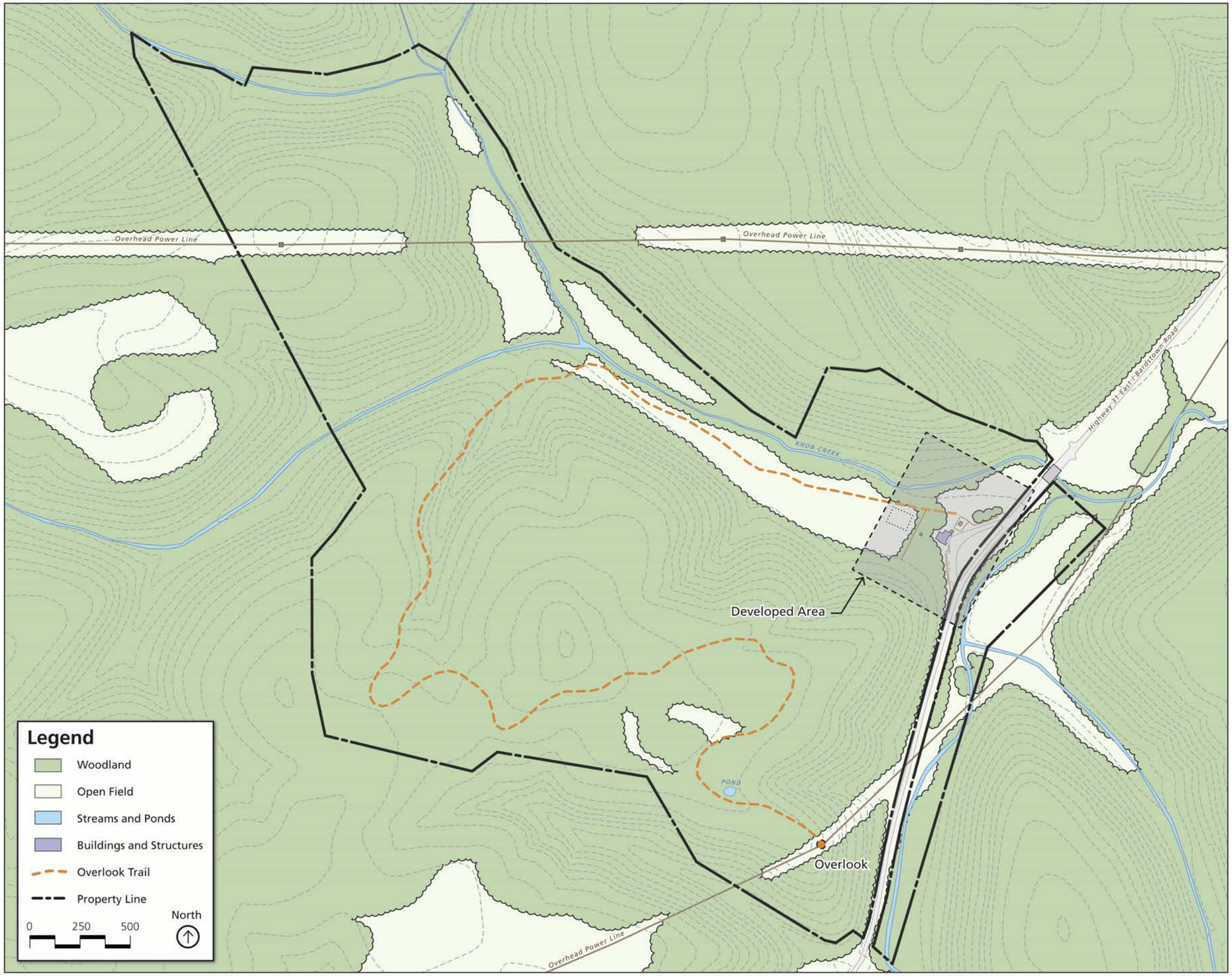
The Study Boundaries include the 228 acres the National Park Service received as a donation on November 6, 2001. It includes the Lincoln Tavern, the reconstructed cabin, Knob Creek, agricultural fields, and forested areas. (See Illustration 1.1).

Summary of Findings

The Howard Family made a significant contribution to regional roadside tourism and the commemoration of Abraham Lincoln by ultimately preserving a significant landmark associated with his formative years. The commemorative mission continues today under management by the National Park Service.

An assessment was made of character-defining landscape features to inform future management decisions that may impact significant cultural landscape features. Treatment recommendations were created to guide future management decisions related to the Park's historic landscape resources.

Overall, the recommended treatment for Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek is rehabilitation. This treatment focuses on preservation of existing historic landscape features, while allowing for improvements that enhance the integrity of the historic landscape. Improvements to facilitate contemporary use are permissible so long as they do not diminish resource integrity. Examples of recommended treatments include: preservation and restoration of premier resources, recommended partnerships with adjacent land owners and managers for historic viewshed preservation, revegetation of historic landscapes according to available historic photographs, locating new facilities to minimize impact on historic resources, acquisition of adjacent property, and vegetation management. Specific projects have been defined for implementing treatment recommendations in Chapter 5 of this document.



Site Map



Regional Map

Regional and Site Map

Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek
Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park
Cultural Landscape Report
July 2012

Illustration 1.1

Site History

Introduction

Abraham Lincoln is a central character in the story of America. Lincoln rose from humble beginnings, born in a simple log cabin, to become the President of the United States just as a calamitous Civil War threatened to destroy the nation. With Lincoln's leadership, the Union prevailed, preserving the Republic and emancipating a race of enslaved people. On Good Friday, April 14, 1865, a few days after the Confederate Army surrendered its forces ending the war, John Wilkes Booth shot Lincoln in the back of the head as he sat beside his wife watching a performance of *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theater in Washington D.C. Lincoln died at 7:22 a.m. the following day, having never regained consciousness from the mortal injury. As news of his death sank into the collective heart of the nation, the memory of his life story elevated Lincoln in the minds of Americans to an exalted, almost legendary status. Lincoln's life, his rise from log cabin to White House, became the central myth of America, where any person can attain greatness through honesty, integrity and industry. As a byproduct of the apotheosis of Lincoln, Americans sought tangible evidence of his simple origins. Within a few years, the curious and devoted turned their attention to the hills of Kentucky, where Lincoln was born and where he spent the first, formative years of his life. The seeds of his virtue and character that grew into greatness were sown on a simple farm on the edge of the frontier where he and his father tended fields along the banks of Knob Creek.

Knob Creek before 1811

History of Early Kentucky

Knob Creek farm is located at the boundary of two physiographic zones: the Pennyrile Plain (Northern karstic Mississippian Plateau) and the Outer Bluegrass (Knobs) regions. This area is known as the Muldraugh Hills, an escarpment extending across modern day Kentucky. Historians suggest that the region was a likely location for Paleo-Indian populations who occupied the area as early as 13,000 B.C. These cultures flourished in the region until the arrival of European settlers in the middle of the 17th century. Many Algonkian and Iroquoian groups, including Miami, Shawnee, Potawatomi, and Delaware, used central Kentucky as hunting grounds.[5] By 1650, Shawnee tribes north of the Ohio River and Cherokee and Chickasaw tribes living south of the Cumberland River competed for control over the land. According to Cotterill's *History of Pioneer Kentucky*, the English colonies of America spilled over their boundaries in the 18th century as settlers moved west in search of new land. Thomas Walker and Christopher Gist led the first surveying party into the region in the 1750s. After the French and Indian War, in the 1760s, several expeditions successfully ventured into the region. Daniel Boone visited a few years later in 1767. In 1774, James Harrod established the first permanent European settlement, Fort Harrod, at the current location of Harrodsburg. During the colonial period, Virginia claimed the region but designated it as its own county, Kentucky County, in 1776. Kentucky County split in 1780 into Jefferson, Fayette, and Lincoln counties.[6] In 1786, representatives from Kentucky passed a law declaring independence. It became the 15th state of the United States on June 1, 1792.[7] In the late 1700s and early 1800s, there were few settlements in the area around Knob Creek. Those who stayed cleared land for small farms and built simple cabins for their families.

[5] For a comprehensive history of American Indian culture in Kentucky see: Charles Lawson, Robert Nickel, and Christopher Lydick, *Archeological and Geophysical Testing of the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Hodgenville, Kentucky* (2006).

[6] Lincoln County Kentucky is named for Revolutionary Army hero Benjamin Lincoln, no relation to President Abraham Lincoln.

[7] A general history of Kentucky is found in R. S. Cotterill, *History of Pioneer Kentucky* (Cincinnati: Johnson and Hardin, 1917.)

Early History of Lincoln Family in America

The first Lincoln ancestor in America was Samuel Lincoln, who settled in Hingham, Massachusetts from England in 1637. One of Samuel Lincoln's descendents, Captain Abraham Lincoln, served in the Virginia Militia during the American Revolution. Afterwards, he received "treasury warrants" for land in Kentucky, in return for this service. Abraham's first wife, Mary Shipley Lincoln, died in 1776, leaving him with four children—Mordecai, Josiah, Mary, and Nancy. He remarried and his second wife, Bersheba Herring Lincoln gave birth to Thomas Lincoln, on January 6, 1778, in Rockingham County, Virginia. Abraham moved his family to Kentucky in 1782. By 1785, he was living at Long Run, in today's Jefferson County. A group of American Indians raided Abraham's farm in 1785, while he was outside tending his fields with his son Thomas. Thomas watched as the Indians attacked and killed his father. Bersheba Lincoln, Abraham's widow, moved her family to Beech Fork, in present-day Washington County, Kentucky, where two of her stepsons, Josiah and Mordecai, lived. According to tax assessment records for 1792, Bersheba owned one horse and 10 head of cattle, but lived on land owned by her stepson.[8]

Thomas Lincoln moved to Elizabethtown, Kentucky, around 1796, the year he would turn 18. There he worked doing several jobs for Samuel Haycraft and possibly served as an apprentice to carpenter Joseph Hanks. Lincoln apparently purchased a tract of land in Cumberland County in November 1801. By 1803, Thomas Lincoln was farming a 238-acre farm on Mill Creek in Hardin County, approximately 12 miles from Elizabethtown, Kentucky. The ownership of the Mill Creek farm is not clearly shown in the tax assessor records. Dr. John F. Slater conveys the property to Lincoln in 1803, but Lincoln was never taxed for the land until 1809. Kent Masterson Brown suggests that Lincoln never occupied the property or his ownership was somehow in question. The dispute was resolved and Lincoln paid taxes on the land between 1809 and 1814. In 1814, he sold 200 acres of the farm and apparently abandoned the remaining 38 acres.[9]

Thomas Lincoln moved between Cumberland County and Washington County in the early 1800s. On June 12, 1806, he married Nancy Hanks at the cabin of Richard Berry in Washington County. The couple moved to Elizabethtown, where Thomas worked as a carpenter. Lincoln leased two lots in Elizabethtown and owned a horse, according to tax records from 1808. On February 10, 1807, Nancy gave birth to their first child, Sarah.

By December 1808, Thomas, Nancy, and infant Sarah were on a farm outside of Hodgen's Mill (now Hodgenville) in Hardin County. Thomas and Nancy Lincoln may have chosen Hardin County because Nancy's relatives Thomas and Betsy Sparrow lived in the area. Thomas paid Isaac Bush $200 in cash and received an assignment for the 300-acre Sinking Spring Farm. Sinking Spring farm, approximately 2.5 miles south of Hodgenville on the south fork of the Nolin River, got its name from the spring on the property. On February 12, 1809, Thomas and Nancy's second child, Abraham, named for his grandfather, was born.

In 1811, Thomas and his young family left Sinking Spring farm because of a dispute over Thomas' ownership of the land. According to Kent Masterson Brown's study into the legal proceedings regarding the property, Thomas Lincoln purchased the land from Isaac Bush, who had purchased the land from David Vance. David Vance had an agreement to purchase the deed on the property from Richard Mather. Vance, however, never fully paid Mather and Mather remained the rightful owner of the property according to the tax assessment records of Hardin County. Vance's failure to satisfy his obligation voided the legality of the subsequent transactions, ending with the one between Lincoln and Bush. Thomas Lincoln was likely aware of the uncertain chain of ownership, but moved to Sinking Spring farm under "tenuous circumstances."[10]

[8] This report relies upon Kent Masterson Brown's examination of the Lincoln family, especially for information regarding Thomas Lincoln's land transactions. See: Kent Masterson Brown, *Report on the Title of Thomas Lincoln to, and the History of, The Lincoln Boyhood Home along Knob Creek in LaRue County, Kentucky*, (Unpublished Report of National Park Service). For an early account of Lincoln's parentage see: J. Henry Lea and J. R. Hutchinson, *The Ancestry of Abraham Lincoln* (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1909.)

[9] Brown, 6-8.

[10] Brown, 21. See also *Lincoln Lore*, No. 148, February 8, 1932.

Lincoln tried to pay Mather directly for the land. Mather refused and, in 1813, filed a complaint in Hardin County court against Vance, Bush, and Lincoln seeking the money Vance owed him. Judge Alfred Metcalf, who presided over the case, entered judgment on September 12, 1816, that Lincoln or Bush, in order to settle the matter, had 10 days to pay Mather $61.50 plus interest.[11] Neither Bush nor Lincoln paid Mather for the property. In December 1816, the Sinking Spring farm, birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, was sold on the courtyard steps for $87.74.[12]

Lincoln Family at Knob Creek (1811-1816)

Sometime prior to May 11, 1811, Thomas Lincoln moved with his family to a 30-acre farm seven miles north of Hodgenville on Knob Creek in Hardin County. The farm on Knob Creek was part of a 228-acre tract owned by George Lindsey. Lincoln leased 30 acres of rich bottomland along the banks of Knob Creek while trying to resolve the problems with his title on the Sinking Spring farm. The location of the farm at Knob Creek was more isolated than Sinking Spring farm. It was seven miles along a winding road from Hodgenville, the closest town. Elizabethtown was 19 miles away. Lincoln built a log cabin on the property and cleared three fields extending northeast up the creek. Lincoln's neighbors were mostly small farmers working on rented land. According to tax records, George Lindsey was one of only a few landowners in Hardin County. Lindsey apparently left Hardin County, but allowed Lincoln to live on his property. Lincoln was not assessed taxes on the land for four years, until 1815, when he finally appears as possessing 30 acres.

The farm sat among a series of conical hills in an area commonly called the "Knobs." The Knobs are a part of Muldraugh Hill, a limestone, siltstone, and shale escarpment stretching across central Kentucky. The Old Cumberland Trail, one of the major routes between Nashville, Tennessee and Louisville, Kentucky, passed through the valley east of the farm directly in front of the



Figure 2.1: View of Turnpike, date unknown

Lincoln cabin. On May 18, 1816, Thomas Lincoln became surveyor of this section of the road. Biographers of Thomas' son suggest that the road played a significant role in the development of young Abraham because he met a variety of people travelling the road and because he likely witnessed slaves being marched down the road.[13] The Kentucky legislature funded improvements to the road as early as 1821 and this section became the Bardstown and Green River Turnpike by 1835 when a road company by that name incorporated to construct a road from Bardstown to "some point on the Green river, in the direction to Tennessee" (Figure 2.1).

Five decades later, while President, Lincoln reminisced about Knob Creek with a group of visitors. He told the group "I remember the old home very well. Our farm was composed of three fields, which lay in a valley surrounded by high hills and deep gorges. Sometimes when there came a big rain in the hills the water would come down the gorges and spread over the farm. The last thing I remember doing there was one Saturday afternoon; the other boys planted the corn in what we called the 'big field'—it contained seven acres—and I dropped the pumpkin seed. I dropped two seeds every other hill and every other row. The next Sunday morning there came a big rain in the hills; it did not rain a drop in the valley, but the water, coming down through the gorges, washed ground, corn, and pumpkin seeds and all clear off the field."[14] Robert Thompson described the land and Knob Creek that flowed through the Lincoln Farm.

[11] Brown, 22-30.

[12] Brown, 30.

[13] Current National Park Service Interpretive Sign "Slavery in Kentucky."

[14] Ida Tarbell. *In the Footsteps of the Lincolns.* (New York, 1924), 105.

During the Lincoln's time, it was "a large stream of clear water. There was very little cleared land, only small fields. The hills that rise on all sides were the most picturesque of the famous Muldraugh ridge, and the valleys were very fertile."[15]

In her 1896 biography of Lincoln, Ida Tarbel quoted Dr. Christopher Columbus Graham, who described the land along Knob Creek as "shaded with big trees and papaw and sassafras thickets. . . ."[16] Lincoln also recalled attending a nearby school. Lincoln said that his sister Sarah and he "were sent for short periods to A.B.C. schools, the first kept by Zachariah Riney and the second by Caleb Hazel."[17] The school was approximately two miles north of the farm on the west side of the Turnpike. According to Lincoln biographer Fred Kaplan, "at six years of age, for a few weeks in the fall of 1815, in the town of Knob Creek, Hardin County, Kentucky, the boy went to his first school taught by a typical frontier teacher commissioned by local parents."[18]

Sometime between 1811 and 1814, Nancy Lincoln gave birth to another son, who they named Thomas after his father. Thomas died within a few days. Because the Lincolns did not own the Knob Creek property, they buried the infant in the nearby Redmon family cemetery.[19] Around 1814, as mentioned above, Lincoln sold 200 acres in Hardin County.

A family from Pennsylvania contested George Lindsey's ownership of the property around Knob Creek in 1815. On December 27, 1815, Thomas Lincoln received an eviction notice from the local court and became a defendant in a suit to determine the legal ownership of Knob Creek farm. Lincoln was just one of several farmers renting from Lindsey named in the suit. In 1816, the judge found in Lindsey and Lincoln's favor and dismissed the case.

During his time at Knob Creek, Thomas continued trying to recover the Sinking Spring farm until September 12, 1816, when the court ruled against Lincoln and gave him 10 days to purchase the land from Richard Mather. According to Abraham Lincoln's biographical sketch of his father, "from this place he removed to what is now Spencer County Indiana, in the autumn of 1816. This removal was partly on account of slavery; but chiefly on account of the difficulty in land titles in Kentucky."[20]

Knob Creek after Lincolns left Kentucky (1817-1930)

Lincoln History after Kentucky

In Indiana, Thomas Lincoln built a cabin and cleared fields to sow crops. In October 1818, Nancy Lincoln died when Abraham was 9 years old. In December 1919, Thomas Lincoln returned briefly to Elizabethtown, Kentucky, where he married Sarah Bush Johnston. In the 1830s, Thomas moved his family again to Illinois. Young Abraham Lincoln drove a herd of oxen for his father to New Salem, Illinois, in 1831. When in Illinois, Abraham worked a variety of jobs including rail-splitter, storekeeper, postmaster, surveyor, and sailor.

In the spring of 1832, Abraham Lincoln volunteered in the Illinois Militia during the Black Hawk War. His company elected him captain. That year he also unsuccessfully ran for a seat in the Illinois State Legislature. In 1834, Lincoln ran again for the State Legislature, this time winning. He was 25 years old. Lincoln began practicing law in 1836. He moved to Springfield, Illinois in 1837 after it became the state capital. He won reelection to the Illinois State Legislature and became state leader of the minority Whig Party in 1840. In 1842, Lincoln married the socially prominent Mary Todd. Todd was originally from Lexington, Kentucky, but moved to Springfield in 1839. She and Abraham had four sons.

[15] Robert Thompson. Typed statement dated October 3, 1934. On file at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site (Hereafter "ABLI") .

[16] Ida Tarbel. T*he Early Life of Abraham Lincoln* (New York: S.S. McClure, 1896) 233.

[17] Brown, 35.

[18] Fred Kaplan, *Lincoln: The Biography of a Writer* (New York: Harpers, 2008) 3.

[19] Workers with the Works Progress Administration discovered the gravesite in 1933.

[20] Ida Tarbell. *The Life of Abraham Lincoln, Volume 1*. (New York: The McMillan Company, 1920), 18.

In 1846, Lincoln won election to the United States House of Representatives. He served one term. Lincoln returned to Springfield to resume his successful law practice. Lincoln joined the new Republican Party in 1856 and became their candidate for United States Senate in 1858. During this election, Lincoln and his rival Stephen Douglas held a series of debates that lifted his reputation in national politics even though he lost the general election.

In 1860, the Republican Party nominated Lincoln as their presidential candidate. He won barely 40 percent of the popular vote but, because of sectional differences of opinion over slavery, the Democratic Party split their votes between northern and southern candidates catapulting Lincoln to a victory in the Electoral College. Lincoln announced his commitment to preserve the Union, but the Southern states seceded and banded together as the Confederate States of America prior to his inauguration. The Civil War erupted after Confederate forces fired upon a United States garrison at Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. The war waged on until 1865, when Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his troops to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. A few days after the surrender, John Wilkes Booth assassinated Lincoln while he watched a play with his wife at Ford's Theater in Washington D.C. Lincoln's body was laid to rest in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois.

Kentucky after the Lincolns

By the end of the 19th century, national interest in Lincoln's life included a fascination with his rural origins.[21] Joseph Opperman observes "Legends of his rural boyhood coincided with a general idealization of the past, brought about by technological advances of the late nineteenth century, the country's centennial, and urban growth."[22] Biographers of Lincoln interviewed childhood acquaintances to gain information about Lincoln's development. Ida Tarbell extensively quoted Austin Gollaher's reminiscences. "Abraham Lincoln and I had been going to school together for a year or more, and had become greatly attached to each other."[23] Gollaher told a story about he and Lincoln playing in Knob Creek. "One Sunday my mother visited the Lincolns, and I was taken along. Abe and I played around all day. Finally, we concluded to cross the creek to hunt for some partridges young Lincoln had seen the day before. The creek was swollen by a recent rain, and, in crossing on the narrow foot log, Abe fell in. Neither of us could swim. I got a long pole and held it out to Abe, who grabbed it. Then I pulled him ashore. He was almost dead, and I was badly scared."[24]

Local residents often directed travelers looking for Abraham Lincoln's birthplace to a remnant chimney at Sinking Spring farm. Soon after the Lincoln family abandoned Kentucky for Indiana, Richard Mather, owner of Sinking Spring farm sold the land to John Welsh. Welsh in turn partitioned and resold the property. The Creal family bought the 110 acres around the spring where Abraham Lincoln was born.

According to local legend, a local farmer dismantled the cabin that was Lincoln's birth cabin and reused the logs to construct another dwelling on a nearby farm. In 1894, Alfred Dennett and James Bingham purchased Sinking Spring farm from the Creal family with plans to turn the site into a tourist attraction and profit from travelers' interest in Lincoln. Bingham purchased the cabin believed to be the Lincolns' cabin from the Davenport family in 1895. He reconstructed the cabin on the hill overlooking the Sinking Spring.

To generate interest in the Lincoln site they were developing, Dennett and Bingham dismantled the cabin and moved it to Nashville in 1897 to be a display at the Tennessee Centennial Exposition celebrating 100 years of statehood. Following that, the cabin travelled to New York to be an exhibit at the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo in 1901. Afterwards, the logs went into storage in the basement of the Poppenhusen Mansion in College Point, New York.

[21] Merrill D. Peterson discusses the apotheosis of Lincoln in *Lincoln in American Memory* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.)

[22] Joseph K. Opperman, *Historic Structure Report: Boyhood Home Unit Lincoln Tavern* (National Park Service, ABLI: 2005), Page I. A. 6. See also Joseph K. Opperman, *Historic Structure Report: Boyhood Home Unit Lincoln Cabin* (National Park Service, ABLI: 2005).

[23] Tarbell, *The Life of Abraham Lincoln, Volume 1*. 44.

[24] Ibid.

Beginning around 1905, Lincoln enthusiasts organized the Lincoln Farm Association, whose purpose was to construct a formal memorial to Lincoln at his birthplace. Robert J. Collier, publisher of Collier's Magazine led the Association's effort to purchase the cabin and Sinking Spring farm. Richard Lloyd Jones, representing Collier, purchased the farm in 1905 after Alfred Dennet declared bankruptcy. The Lincoln Farm Association retrieved the cabin from storage and shipped it back to Kentucky. Robert Collier hired John Russell Pope to design a grand memorial building and landscape at the Sinking Spring site. On the one-hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth, February 12, 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt laid the cornerstone for the Lincoln Memorial Building. President William Howard Taft presided over its dedication during a ceremony on November 9, 1911.

In 1929, James R. Howell constructed the Nancy Lincoln Inn adjacent to the Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Building. The group of buildings lined along the park's southern boundary included a restaurant/gift shop and four log cabins. The cabins offered lodging for tourists visiting the Lincoln Memorial. Howell wanted the cabins to recreate the experience of life in the early 1800s, when the Lincolns lived at the farm.

Kentucky residents also had a state chapter of the Lincoln Monument Commission. This group installed a sculpture of Lincoln by Adolph A. Weinman in the square at Hodgenville on May 31, 1909. The more famous memorial to Lincoln on the National Mall in Washington D.C. was dedicated on May 30, 1922.

Lincoln Farm Association donated the Sinking Spring farm site and the Memorial Building to the United States Government in 1916 with a $50,000 endowment. The Birthplace Site and Memorial Building became the Abraham Lincoln National Park. The War Department managed the park until 1933, when they transferred the property to the National Park Service. The park was designated the Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park in 1939.[25]

Another factor contributing to the increase in visitors touring LaRue County searching for sites associated with Lincoln was the increased availability and use of the automobile in the first decades of the 20th century. LaRue County business leaders, hoping to boost the local economy, supported the Central Lincoln Road around 1911. Its purpose was "to aid, assist, and encourage the reconstruction of the great historic highway leading from Louisville to the Lincoln Home, Mammoth Cave, Nashville and points in the South, and to make it a part of a great interstate highway from the [Great] Lakes to the Gulf coast."[26] The increased use of the automobile in the early 20th century and a popular "good roads" movement among rural people prompted the federal government to pass legislation to appropriate money for road improvement. The Federal Road Acts of 1916 and 1921 resulted in road improvement projects in areas like LaRue County. In 1926, the federal government paved the turnpike in front of the Knob Creek farm site with gravel and officially designated it as Highway 31E. The Lincoln Trail replaced the Central Lincoln Road in the 1930s when the Lincoln Trail Commission created an automobile route for tourists interested in retracing the Lincolns' move from Knob Creek to Indiana and Illinois.

LaRue County residents capitalized on travelers' interest in Lincoln. Louis A. Warren, editor of the *LaRue County Herald*, published popular pamphlets and books on Lincoln and edited *Lincoln Lore*, the Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation.[27] Warren contributed new information about Lincoln that he uncovered in local courthouses and made numerous important discoveries documenting the Lincolns moves through Kentucky, to the farm at Knob Creek,

[25] On August 11, 1939, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Senate Bill 2046 designating the park, Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park. On September 8, 1956, President Dwight David Eisenhower signed HR S764 designating the park, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. On March 30, 2009, President Barack Hussein Obama signed Public Law 111-11 designating the park, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park. For the purposes of this report, the park is referred to by its current designation, *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park*. Sinking Spring Farm is referred to by its current designation, *Birthplace Unit*, except when described historically. The designation *Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek* is used to refer to the farm at Knob Creek except when described historically.

[26] Keith A. Sculle, "The Howard Family Legacy at the Knob Creek Farm," *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association*, Vol. 26, No. 2 (2005): 23-48.

[27] See in particular Warren's book *Lincoln's Parenthood and Childhood*, (New York,: Century Co, 1926).

and then farther west to Indiana and Illinois. Louis Warren's reputation as a Lincoln scholar influenced popular perception of the role of the landscape around LaRue County in the Lincoln narrative. Warren clearly promoted Knob Creek in a 1933 *Lincoln Lore* article where he wrote "the importance of this site is becoming more and more significant as the boyhood days of Lincoln, from two to seven years of age, were spent here."[28] John J. Barry, editor of the *Rolling Fort Echo* in New Haven, searched surrounding counties for Lincoln sites.

Kent Masterson Brown wrote that the "most notable aspect of the Knob Creek farm is that Abraham Lincoln actually remembered his days there as a youth, and it remains today much as he would have remembered it. The viewsheds have been little altered from those his eyes would have seen."[29] The appearance of the land, according to these historians, changed little in the interim decades, possibly because it remained agricultural which preserved its character. The Knob Creek property passed through a few families after 1816, when Abraham Lincoln's father Thomas moved the family from Kentucky to Indiana. The owner during the Lincoln occupation, George Lindsey, sold Knob Creek at auction to William Bush in June 1831. Bush sold the property the following month to Charles Boon. Boon's heirs sold two tracts of land that included the Knob Creek farm site at auction in 1850 to Nicholas A. Rapier. Rapier purchased an additional 50 acres from the Boon family in 1858. The land passed through several complicated transactions, but remained in the Rapier family until 1911, when John W. Crady acquired full rights to 380 acres, including the Knob Creek farm site. Crady added 62.5 acres to his property over the next several years.

Robert Thompson, who was born "December 18, 1841, on Knob Creek…about two hundred yards from Abraham Lincoln's cabin home," described the appearance of the area during his youth. "In those days Knob Creek was a large stream of clear water. There was very little cleared land, only small fields. The hills that rise on all sides were the most picturesque of the famous Muldraugh ridge, and the valleys were very fertile. The seven acre field which Lincoln spoke of as being the "Big Field," and the one that he planted the pumpkin seeds in, was evidently just back of the cabin."[30] Illustration 2.1 shows the appearance of the property based on the limited available information.

Chester and Hattie Howard Period (1931-1949)

Chester and Hattie Howard Develop Knob Creek (1931-1933)

The sister of James R. Howell, developer of the Nancy Lincoln Inn was also interested in developing a site dedicated to Lincoln and spearheaded the effort to create a memorial for Lincoln at Knob Creek. Hattie Howell was born approximately 10 miles from Knob Creek in Ball Hollow. She married Chester Howard in 1908. Chester was the successful owner of a distillery supply business in nearby Howardsville, a town his family helped found in 1833.

Hattie and Chester Howard befriended Louis Warren, who elevated the importance of Knob Creek as the place that most influenced the early childhood of Abraham Lincoln. Warren pointed to Lincoln's own words, penned for an 1860 campaign sketch "I remember [Knob Creek] well—but I was not born there… I was born in Nolin, nearer to Hodgenville than the Knob Creek place is. My earliest recollection, however, is of the Knob Creek place."[31]

The landscape of LaRue County became in Warren's telling of Lincoln's narrative more than the setting of Lincoln's life. The landscape was a force in Lincoln's life; it shaped who he became as an adult. As a result, the landscape provided insight into Lincoln's character for those interested in better understanding the martyred president. Warren's writings on Lincoln often recounted the natural aspects of the farm, including "a healthy location, pure water, nourishing food for mother and child."[32] In his 1926 book on Lincoln's childhood, Warren wrote: "The Knob Creek home

[28] *Lincoln Lore*, No. 227, August 14, 1933.

[29] Brown, 33.

[30] Thompson,1934.

[31] Brown, 33-34.

[32] Sculle, 27.



Figure 2.2: Logs from Gollaher Cabin, circa 1931



Figure 2.3: Reconstructed cabin, circa early 1930s

on the highway from Louisville to Nashville was the first home that Abraham remembered and the home which exerted the greatest influence on his young life. This site was the most picturesque of the three home-sites that Thomas and Nancy had occupied, situated as it was between the forks of Knob Creek, the fertile bottoms extending from the home in three different directions. The knobs of mountainous proportions, with their steep inclines to the creek-bed below, offered all that nature could provide to challenge the adventurous spirit of a growing boy." Keith Sculle carefully details how Warren's interpretation of Lincoln's childhood veers towards environmental determinism, as when he wrote that "We should register the inspiration of the mountain-like knobs that towered over the cabin roof, and the beautiful scenery that must have quickened the latent impulses of the youth as he spent his play-days along the banks of Knob Creek."[33]

Hattie and Chester Howard purchased both parcels, totaling 442.5 acres, from John W. Crady on August 26, 1931. They moved into an existing farmhouse across the highway from the supposed site of Lincoln's boyhood home. That year, they worked with 91-year-old neighbor Robert "Uncle Bob" Thompson to construct a cabin that would represent the boyhood cabin.[34] According to a statement Hattie Howard arranged to be typed and signed on October 3, 1934, Thompson said "I well remember the Lincoln cabin. It was a one-room cabin with a fireplace in it. I have played in it many times when I was a child, and I was about thirty years old before it was torn down." If Thompson was correct, the structure stood until sometime around 1871. He claimed that towards its end, farmers "used [it] for a corn crib, and hogs were fed around it."[35] A newspaper report in 1895 suggested that Charles Rapier used the logs to build a stable at his farm and it later washed away in a flood. Hattie Howard told her children that a flood destroyed the cabin and the owners burned the remains.[36]

In 1931, Robert Thompson and John Barry, who also claimed to have known the original cabin, both showed Hattie Howard the location of the original cabin. Hattie and Chester Howard took the logs from a single pen log cabin once owned by the Gollaher family believed to date from the early 1800s.[37] The Howards dismantled the cabin and moved the logs to Knob Creek where Robert Thompson oversaw the reconstruction of the Lincoln Cabin. A historic photograph reportedly shows the logs piled in the field (Figure 2.2). When completed in 1932, the reconstructed cabin faced Highway 31 East. It had one door and one small window on its main (east) wall and a large chimney protruding from its north wall. Inside, the one room cabin has a small loft accessed by a ladder. The Historic Structure Report of the reconstructed cabin concludes that it is "clearly a 1930s construction, an attempt to convey the basic idea of Lincoln's boyhood cabin, rather than an authentic reconstruction to 1811-16" (Figure 2.3).[38]

[33] Ibid.

[34] Sculle dates the reconstruction to 1932, see Sculle, 31.

[35] Thompson, 1934.

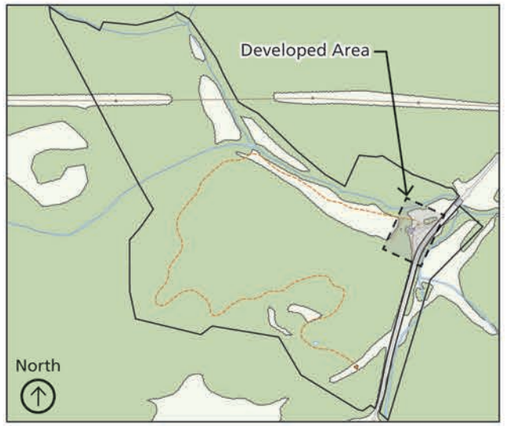
[36] Sculle, 31.

[37] Robert Thompson wrote in his 1934 statement that the "Gollaher home stood up the "hollow" just back of the Lincoln home".

[38] Opperman, *Lincoln Cabin Historic Structure Report*, 1.B.1-2.



Site Development - Pre-Development Map (1930)



Location Map

Note:

This map illustrates landscape characteristics that are documented in historic images and described by Robert Thompson, in 1933.

Site History

Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek
Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park
Cultural Landscape Report
July 2012

Illustration 2.1

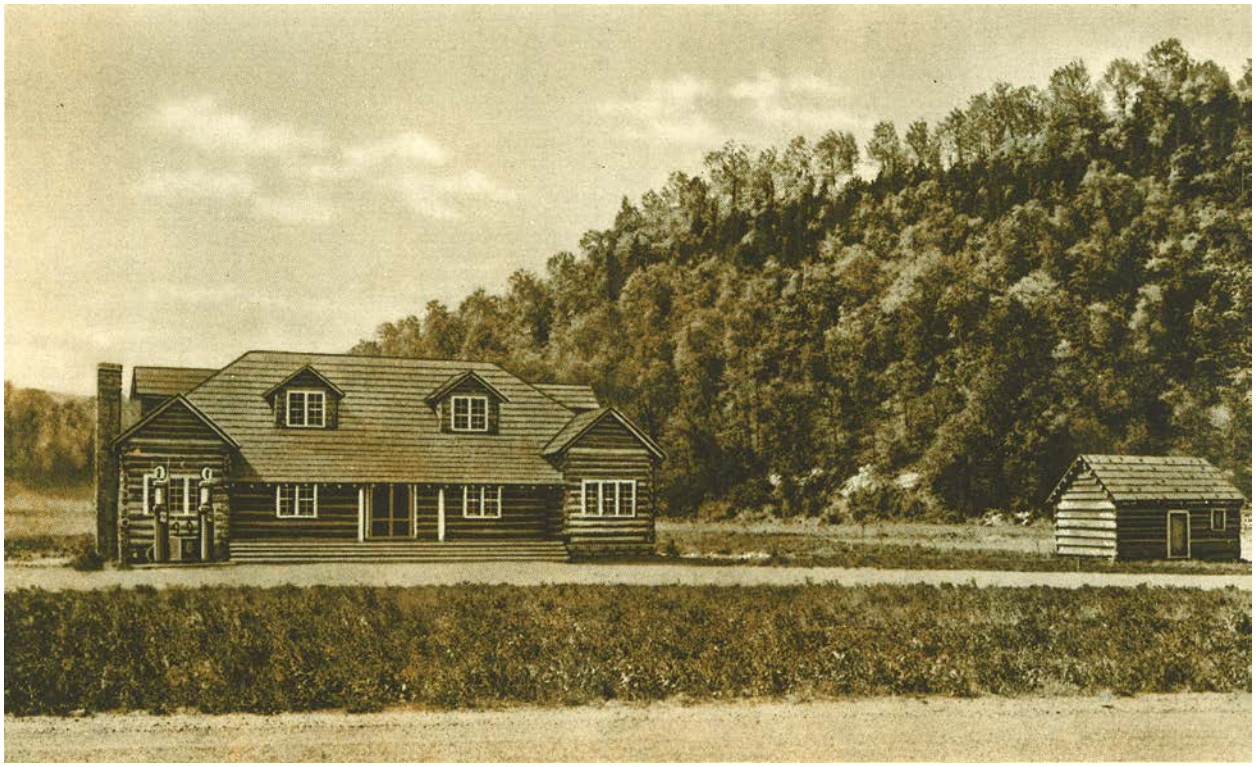


Figure 2.4: Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin, circa 1933

Chester and Hattie called the place the "Abraham Lincoln's Boyhood Home." The Howards refused the city's offer to extend water lines into the valley, hoping to discourage additional residential or commercial development that would compromise the historic setting or compete with their attraction. Chester Howard designed a tavern building to go immediately next to the reconstructed cabin. He prepared for its construction in 1931, but it was not completed and opened to the public until late 1933. The building, which they called the Lincoln Tavern, reportedly cost $4,200 to build. (This report will also use Lincoln Tavern when discussing this building.) The Lincoln Tavern had a gas pump and public restrooms. They had a large sign advertising gas mounted behind the pumps. They served refreshments in a large open room on the first floor. The second floor featured an apartment that was the residence of the site manager. An early image of the recently finished Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin show it before the Howards added any fences, a feature that became ubiquitous in subsequent periods (Figure 2.4). A rough cover of vegetation covers the ground in front (southwest) of the Lincoln Tavern, between the building and the highway. The character of the ground cover is more analogous to an abandoned field than a mown lawn. The wide, semi-circular entrance drive and the parking area in front (southwest) of the Tavern appear to be gravel, the same material as the highway. A photograph from this same period shows a road passing to the left (southwest) of the building. This may have been a parking space or a road towards the fields, but it is more likely, based on later photographs, related to construction of the Tavern (Figure 2.5).

There are no large trees visible in the earliest images of the site, but very young, leafless, trees appear to have been planted in the vicinity of the reconstructed cabin (see Figures 2.2 and 2.3). Within a few years, as can be seen in photographs, the Howards landscape additions included numerous trees and fences. Later photographs show the extensive landscaping of the Howards from this early period. A historic picture postcard shows the reconstructed cabin enclosed in a post and rail fence with several shrubs, possibly roses, planted at its base (Figure 2.6). The Howards appear to be recreating their vision of a pioneer landscape. They planted several small shrubs and perennial flowers along the foundation and ornamental trees in the yard in front (southeast) of the reconstructed cabin. They also planted large hardwood trees in the area behind (north and northeast) of the reconstructed cabin. The



Figure 2.5: Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin, circa 1933



Figure 2.6: Reconstructed cabin, circa late 1930s to early 1940s

Howards also cultivated the field between the reconstructed cabin and the creek, presenting visitors with an agricultural setting in keeping with Thomas Lincoln's farming of the site. The edge of the field is visible in Figure 2.4. Knob Creek is visible in the background of Figure 2.4 and there are no trees or shrubs growing along its banks.

A picture postcard from the same period, "Lincoln Tavern and Replica of Lincoln's Boyhood Home," shows recently planted trees growing in the open space between the Lincoln Tavern and the highway. There are shrubs growing along the foundation of the building. This image shows that the Howards had a stack rail fence along the entrance drive on both sides of the Lincoln Tavern (Figure 2.7).

Lincoln Tavern Period 1934-1942

The Lincoln Tavern Historic Structure Report states that the Lincoln Tavern "represented an imaginative effort that combined a profit-making enterprise with an appearance not incongruous to the scene."[39] After prohibition ended in 1933, Fred and Brooks started having dances

[39] Opperman, *Lincoln Cabin Historic Structure Report*, 1.A.9-10.



Figure 2.7: Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin, circa late 1930s

in the big room on Saturday nights that became extremely popular and attracted a crowd from the surrounding counties. Between 1934 and 1942, the Lincoln Tavern functioned as a visitor center for the reconstructed cabin during the day and as a nightclub in the evening. In the Lincoln Tavern, visitors received brochures that reprinted much of the biographical information Louis Warren had written about Lincoln's life at Knob Creek. The dances and live entertainment usually happened on the weekends from April to October. A photograph from this circa 1940 period shows a band performing on the front porch. A beer sign hangs from the front façade. A large evergreen shrub blocks the front window. The post and rail fence is visible where it ends at the southeast corner of the building. Behind the fence, a large tree has grown almost as tall as the building (Figure 2.8). Another photograph from the same period shows cars parked in front of the building and along the entrance drive. The large tree growing near the southeast corner of the Lincoln Tavern is present. A large evergreen shrub, similar to the one seen in Figure 2.7, grows in front of the windows on the southwest corner of the building. Trees are visible growing in the open space west and northwest of the Tavern. The entrance drive and parking areas are gravel (Figure 2.9).

After LaRue County banned alcohol sales in November 1942, the Lincoln Tavern discontinued the dances. In an interview, Brooks Howard suggested they were already gravitating more towards historical programs focused on Lincoln Tavern and the reconstructed cabin. She said, "the dances. . .no longer were profitable and tourism had grown to the place we felt we could economically make the change. We had also become very uncomfortable combining the two



Figure 2.8: Lincoln Tavern, circa late 1930s to early 1940s



Figure 2.9: Lincoln Tavern Parking Area, circa late 1930s to early 1940s

things; we felt the Lincoln site was too important to compromise in any way."[40] The popularity of the Lincoln Tavern and its importance to the site

[40] Sculle, 14.



Figure 2.10: Boy Scouts camping at Knob Creek, 1959

is suggested in the post cards from this period that typically give the Tavern top billing (Figure 2.7.) Fred converted the Tavern into a museum with historic artifacts and a gift shop that sold Kentucky crafts. He had interpretive signs constructed, including ones quoting Louis Warren's books on Lincoln. Inside the Tavern, Chester and Brooks Howard hung large signs recounting the history of the "Knob Creek Home of the Lincolns," followed by Louis Warren's signature.

Beginning in the early 1940s, the Boy Scouts of America developed a 32.1-mile hiking trail called the Lincoln Heritage Trail. (The trail is now known as the Kentucky Lincoln Trail.) During the annual hike from Elizabethtown to the Memorial Building at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace near Hodgenville, Boy Scouts spent the night at the reconstructed cabin, which was approximately the halfway point. They camped in the big field behind the reconstructed cabin and the Lincoln Tavern (Figure 2.10).

Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Under Multiple Site Managers (1943-1949)

Chester and Hattie's son Paul Howard ran the site in 1932 after graduating from the University of Kentucky. He lived across the street from the reconstructed cabin in his parents' house; otherwise, site managers typically lived in the upstairs apartment of the tavern. Chester and Hattie's daughter, Helen Howard Peake, managed the site for most of the period between 1935 and 1949. For a short period in 1940, Earl W. and Nell Everly served as site managers. They were the only non-Howard site managers from 1932, when the site opened, to 2001, when it passed from Howard ownership.



Figure 2.11: Entrance to Knob Creek, 1949



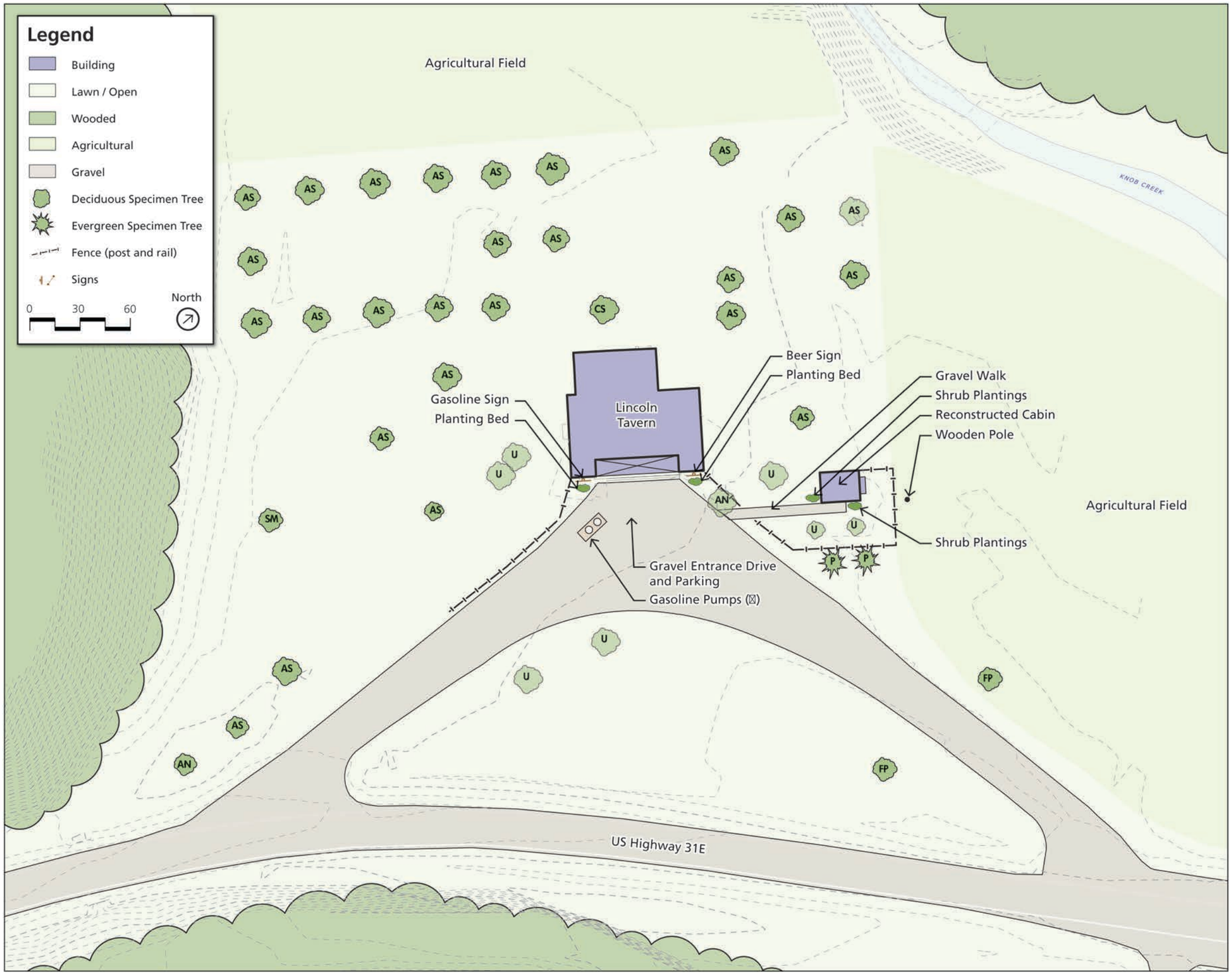
Figure 2.12: Reconstructed cabin and Lincoln Tavern, circa late 1940s to early 1950s

A 1949 photograph shows a white sign posted near the intersection of the drives into the site and the highway. It read "Knob Creek Lincoln Boyhood Home." The same photograph shows that the Howards, by this time, installed a flagpole next to a snake rail fence in front (southeast) of the reconstructed cabin. Two evergreen pine trees stand out in the winter landscape. They are visible in front of the reconstructed cabin southeast of the flagpole (Figure 2.11). A picture postcard from this same period also shows that the Howards had a large rectangular wooden sign posted in the green space in front of the Lincoln Tavern. This sign is of similar construction as the entrance signs. It too was painted white with black lettering. It read "From 1811 to 1816 my earliest recollection is of Knob Creek," followed by Abraham Lincoln's signature. The character of the landscape at the end of this period had evolved significantly from the earliest images of the site soon after construction of the reconstructed cabin and Lincoln Tavern. The small trees visible in early photographs are now mature, several considerably taller than the building. The yard behind the reconstructed cabin is full of trees, as is the west side of the green space between the Lincoln Tavern and Highway 31E (Figure 2.12). Illustration 2.2 shows the character of the landscape during this period.

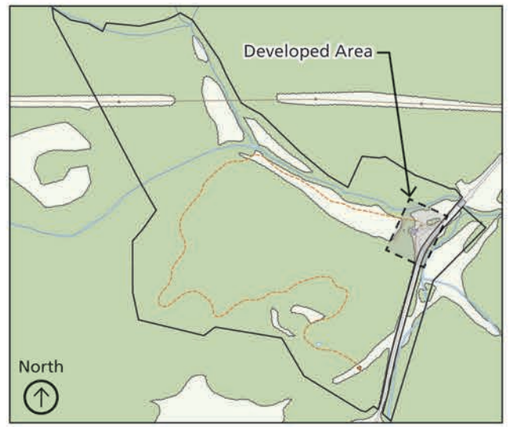
Fred and Brooks Howard Period (1950-1985)

Early Fred and Brooks Howard Period and the Sesquicentennial Celebration 1950-1959

Chester and Hattie's youngest son, Fred, took over managing the site in 1950. Fred married Mary Brooks Williams in June 1950 and they lived upstairs in the Lincoln Tavern for a few years. Fred and Mary Brooks Howard ran the Lincoln Boyhood Home site until 1980, when Fred died. A picture postcard, with the date August 7, 1952, written on the reverse side, shows the area around the Lincoln Cabin during this period. There are a few ornamental shrubs and small trees growing in the lawn surrounding the cabin. The area beyond the Lincoln Cabin looks to be under cultivation. A snake rail fence separates the cabin area from the gravel entrance road (Figure 2.13). An aerial from 1951 shows the character of the property (Figure 2.14). Deciduous hardwoods and evergreens cover the hills framing either side of the valley through which flows Knob Creek. The valley is cleared and under agricultural use. The fields are plainly visible in the photograph. It is apparent that the Howards managed the field east and southeast of the reconstructed cabin differently than the other fields. Even in winter, faint shadows appear that suggest the Howards had established by this time trees around the reconstructed cabin and Lincoln Tavern. The trees appear more clearly in an aerial photograph from 1959 (Figure 2.15). The trees read in this image as a thick canopy on the northwest and northeast sides of the Lincoln Tavern. The use



Site Development - Chester and Hattie Howard Period (1931-1949)



Location Map

Plant Key

AN	Box Elder	*Acer negundo*
AS	Silver Maple	*Acer saccharinum*
SM	Sugar Maple	*Acer saccharum*
CS	Northern Catalpa	*Catalpa speciosa*
FP	Green Ash	*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*
P	Pitch Pine	*Pinus rigida*
U	Undetermined	

Note:

This map illustrates landscape characteristics that are documented in historic images. The map shows the location of vegetation seen in historic images and existing vegetation inferred to be from the period based on a comparison of diameter of tree trunks.

Site History

Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek
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Illustration 2.2

of the fields is consistent with the 1951 image. In both aerials, the creek appears open, without trees or shrubs growing along its banks.

The aerials also show land use patterns of the property during this period. The north branch of Knob Creek winds its way up the narrow valley, which is framed on either side by steep-sided knobs. The Howards obviously still farmed the valley. A visible line on the 1951 aerial marks the edge between the field north of the Lincoln Tavern and the field extending up the valley. The knobs are mostly covered in a mixed forest composed of both hardwoods and evergreens. There are, however, three fields visible on top of the knobs south and southwest of the valley. The largest of the fields is the most southern, closest to the highway. A small pond is visible in the southern corner of the open area. Two more fields appear on adjacent knobs.

Sometime in the 1950s, Fred constructed a wooden shed in the yard behind the reconstructed cabin. During this same period, around 1950, the Howards put on a new wood shake roof and rebuilt the firebox and surround inside the cabin using limestone. In 1952, Stanley Kubrick used Knob Creek to film the movie, *Mr. Lincoln*. A postcard postmarked 1952, but taken before the Howards replaced the roof, shows a glimpse of the reconstructed cabin landscape during this period. A large shrub grows against the northwest wall. Two small ornamental trees are blooming in the yard in front (southeast) of the cabin. Their distinct habit and white flowers are consistent with sumac trees, but seem like an unlikely plant for the Howards to have planted. A weeping willow is barely visible in the yard behind (northeast) the building. The snake rail fence runs along near the edge of the entrance road. The flagpole is set just inside the fence. Another photograph shows the reconstructed cabin with what appears to be a new roof, dating the photograph to the early 1950s. This photograph shows the distinctive ornamental trees gone from the reconstructed cabin yard. The weeping willow and pine trees are considerably taller. An interpretive sign appears in the yard northeast of the reconstructed cabin. A cherry tree is growing immediately behind the sign (Figure 2.16). A postcard postmarked 1955 also shows the interpretive sign in the side yard. It is painted brown with white lettering. The earlier signs were white backgrounds with black lettering. The change may reflect the Howards adopting the color palette

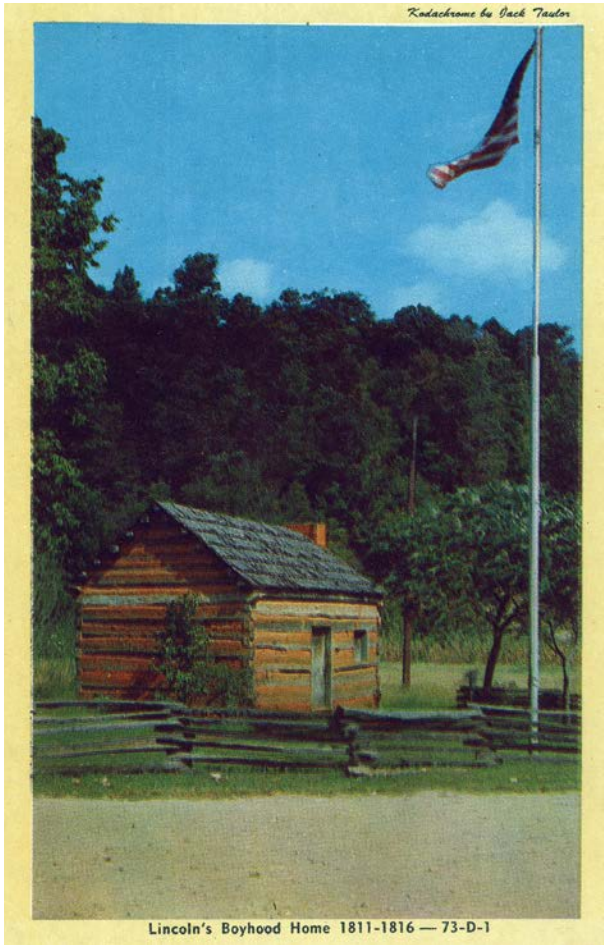


Figure 2.13: Postcard circa 1952

the National Park Service used at the Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park. The front yard is grass with a few shrubs. The dirt path from the parking area leads directly to a stone step in front of the reconstructed cabin door. The entrance drive appears paved (Figure 2.17). A similar view from a picture postcard shows that the Howards added a rustic wood bench next to the path during the period. A section of fence near the weeping willow appears to enclose partially the northeast yard behind the reconstructed cabin (Figure 2.18). The shrub appears to be still growing on the northwest wall of the cabin. The small shrub in the yard is possibly a rose bush. The yard is grass. In all of the images from this period, large mature trees are visible in the area behind the reconstructed cabin and Lincoln Tavern. In several instances, the silhouette of their trunks indicates that these trees have attained sizable diameters.

In 1958, Knob Creek was part of the reenacted trip of the Lincoln Family from Kentucky to Indiana to kick off the sesquicentennial celebration of



Figure 2.14: Aerial, 1951

Lincoln's birth that occurred the following year. Numerous articles and promotional brochures related to the 1959 sesquicentennial celebration contain images of the landscape during this period. An image from the 1958 reenactment shows the snake rail fence extending down the entrance road towards the highway (Figure 2.19). This fence appears again in an image from a magazine article from the same period. This image also confirms that the Howards cultivated the field between the reconstructed cabin and the creek (Figure 2.20).

Later Fred and Brooks Howard 1960-1986

Fred Howard purchased the site and surrounding 200 acres from his parents Hattie and Chester on October 20, 1964. National Park Service staff at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site discussed acquiring the reconstructed

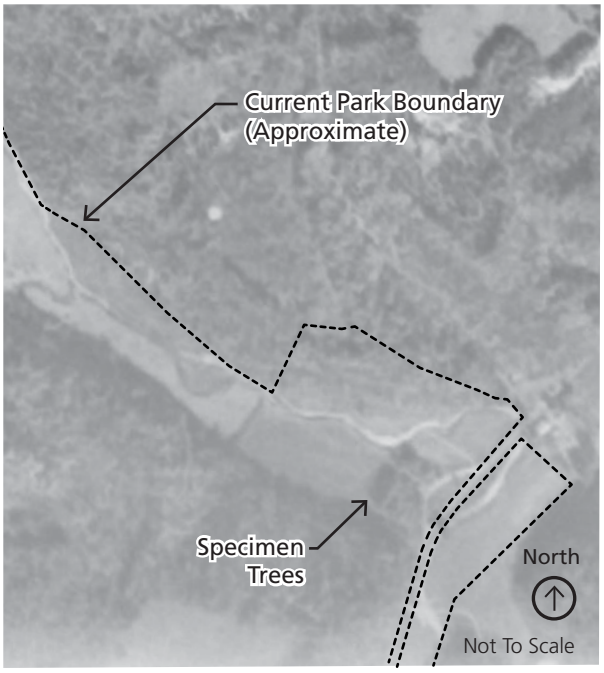


Figure 2.15: Aerial, 1959

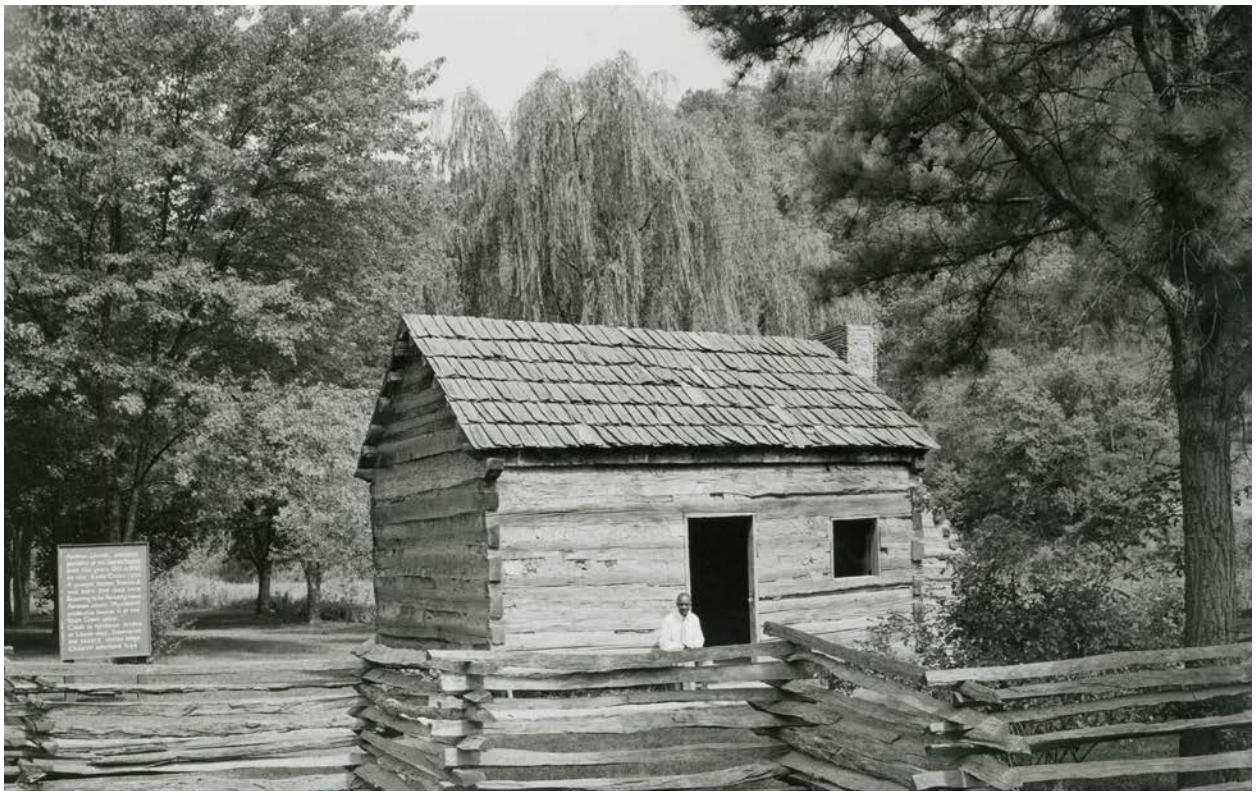


Figure 2.16: Reconstructed cabin from south, circa 1950s



Figure 2.17: Reconstructed cabin from southeast, circa 1950s



Figure 2.19: View of reenactment, circa 1958



Figure 2.18: Close-up of the reconstructed cabin, 1950s



Figure 2.20: View of the reconstructed cabin with fences, circa late 1950s

cabin as early as 1970. Superintendent Jerry L. Schober wrote National Park Service Director George B. Hartzog on April 23, 1970, outlining the interpretive benefits of acquiring Knob Creek.[41] A photograph from 1975 shows the declining condition of the reconstructed cabin and fences. The fence in the foreground of the photograph appears to be the same fence from the late 1940s. The Howards have added onto the fence by this period. The fence wraps around behind the reconstructed cabin. Another fence is visible in the background. The walkway in this image appears to be concrete and extends a few feet beyond the door into the reconstructed cabin. A wooden bench is in a similar location as in photographs from previous years (Figure 2.21).

Fred Howard died in 1980 leaving the property to his wife, Brooks. In February 1980, Mrs. Howard apparently expressed to Nicholas Eason, Superintendent of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, that she was interested in selling the property. Eason wrote the Regional Director to say "basically, it appears that Mrs. Howard is definitely interested in selling to the National Park Service."[42] Without an offer from the National Park Service, Mrs. Howard continued running the Tavern and reconstructed cabin after her husband's death in 1980 in much the same way they had managed the site since the 1950s. The Lincoln Tavern provided visitors information and refreshments. The main room displayed historic tools, Lincoln memorabilia, and local crafts. She tried to nominate the property for the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination failed because she listed its significance as the Lincoln home but there were no existing resources from that period. Visitation decreased to the point where Brooks Howard tried to sell the property in 1981 and 1985, unsuccessfully asking for one million dollars. Only 16,283 visitors paid to visit the Lincoln Boyhood Home in 1985 compared to approximately 300,000 who visited the Birthplace Unit. When Brooks Howard decided to auction the property, the buildings, and all their contents, two of her grandsons, Julian and Millburn Howard, rallied 15 other family members to form the Lincoln Boyhood Home, Inc., on January 28, 1986. They bought the 200-acre site for $120,500. The



Figure 2.21: Reconstructed cabin with fences, circa 1975

deed was recorded on February 1. [43] They reopened the site on April 1st. Fabian Howard, Fred and Brooks Howard's son, managed the site until 2001. Illustration 2.3 shows the landscape at the end of this period.

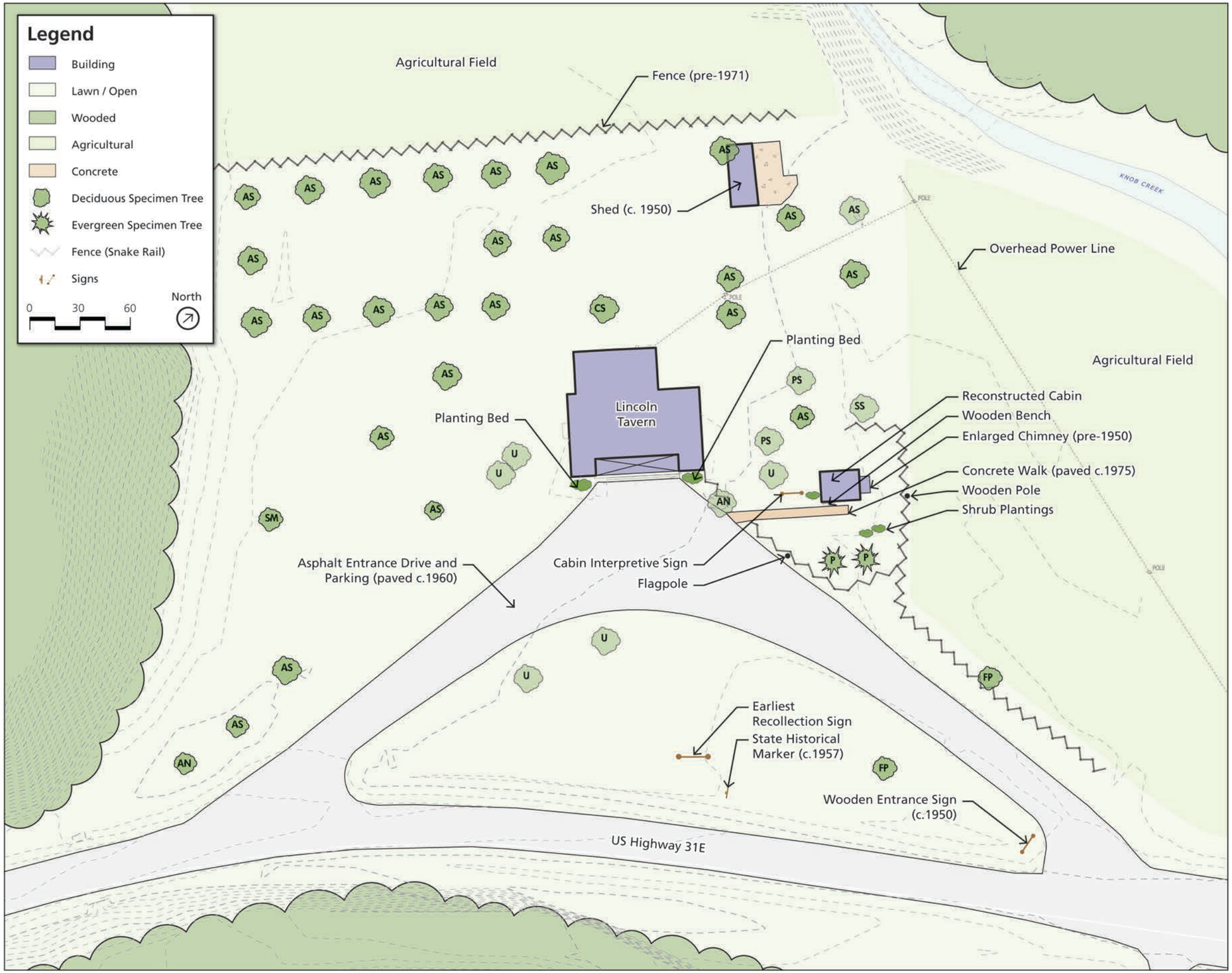
Lincoln Boyhood Home, Inc., Period (1986-2001)

The Lincoln Boyhood Home, Inc., kept the place operating generally in the same fashion as it had under Brooks Howard. One of the family members, Lois Wimsett, created an interpretive program she based on stories passed down by Hattie Howard and from local historians Louis Warren and John Barry. A brochure for the site during this period advertises special guided tours and quiz packets for school groups. According to Keith A. Schulle's history of the Howard family operation of the site, the family group stocked a "wider range of items" at the Lincoln Tavern gift shop than had been sold

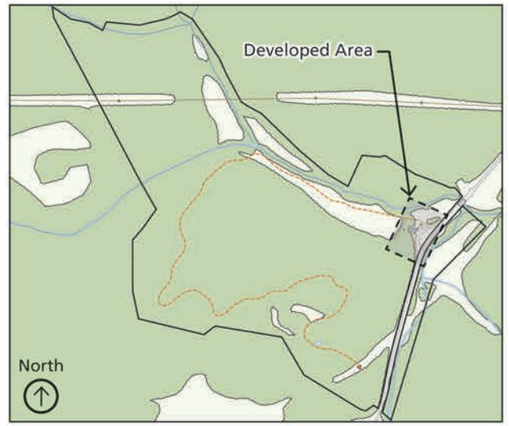
[41] Jerry Schober to George B. Hartzog, April 23, 1970.

[42] Nicholas J. Eason to Regional Director, Southeast Region, February 27, 1980.

[43] Brown, 59.



Site Development - Fred and Brooks Howard Period (1950-1985)



Location Map

Plant Key

AN	Box Elder	*Acer negundo*
AS	Silver Maple	*Acer saccharinum*
SM	Sugar Maple	*Acer saccharum*
CS	Northern Catalpa	*Catalpa speciosa*
FP	Green Ash	*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*
P	Pitch Pine	*Pinus rigida*
PS	Cherry	*Prunus spp.*
SS	Weeping Willow	*Salix spp.*
U	Undetermined	

Note:

This map illustrates landscape characteristics that are documented in historic images. The map shows the location of vegetation seen in historic images and existing vegetation inferred to be from the period based on a comparison of diameter of tree trunks.

Site History

Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek
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Illustration 2.3

there before. Lincoln Boyhood Home, Inc. did annual maintenance on the reconstructed cabin, including chinking the interstices between the logs with clay mud from the creek. Between 1986 and 2001, the Lincoln Boyhood Home, Inc., replaced the log chimney twice, using oak logs salvaged from historic cabins in the area. According to the Lincoln Cabin Historic Structure Report, they also replaced rotten logs and termite damaged flooring in the cabin during this period. The Lincoln Boyhood Home, Inc. constructed outbuildings using logs cut from a family member's property. Around 1988, they built an open-sided pavilion for special events and picnics (Figure 2.22). A brochure from this period states that the groups could reserve the picnic grounds and pavilion for "private parties, family reunions, company picnics, etc." They had circular picnic tables distributed across the lawn area east of the Lincoln Tavern and several tables set on the concrete pad under the pavilion.

A photograph in the 1988 National Register nomination shows building material piled near the storage shed that looks to be for the restroom building constructed around this time. The restroom was behind the Lincoln Tavern near the picnic area. Its timbers and gabled roof made the building appear to be an historic log cabin. The timbers rest on a limestone foundation and had flat stone pavers at the entrances to the rest rooms (Figure 2.23). They maintained the snake rail fence around the reconstructed cabin. They nailed the stacked rails to a wooden four-by-four where the sidewalk passed through the gap in the fence. The fence during this period appears to have deteriorated further.

Before 1994, they added two large stone and wooden signs at the two entrances on Highway 31E. The signs read "Abraham Lincoln's Boyhood Home Knob Creek." The grounds around the signs featured low-growing junipers in front and a flowering shrub, possibly spirea, behind the sign (Figure 2.24). A document from 1994, with pictures of the site, shows a newly established planting area adjacent to the southeast corner of the Lincoln Tavern. Two young shrubs, a spirea and a snowball viburnum flank the plaque commemorating the Site's listing on the National Register.[44] Parking was



Figure 2.22: Picnic pavilion, 2001



Figure 2.23: Restroom, 2001



Figure 2.24: Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin, 2001

informal, with spaces aligned along the north side of the entrance drives into the property. Sometime during this period, they installed a new flagpole in the green space between the Lincoln Tavern and the highway. A 2001 photograph shows that site managers had installed modern box lights atop a tall light pole in front of the Lincoln Tavern. They added a planting bed in front of the house, where a concrete wheelchair ramp extended into the parking lot. The parking lot, by 2001, was asphalt. The bed had a short stone stacked wall. The plants

[44] Carolyn Link, Superintendent Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, to Deborah D. Apoldo, Executive Director National Park Trust, September 10, 1993.

included forsythia and flowering bulbs. They had a propane tank in the yard behind the Lincoln Tavern at the base of a large catalpa tree.

The family group tried again to nominate the site to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. This nomination focused on LaRue County tourism and the significance of the site as a memorial to Lincoln. The statement of significance read: "The Lincoln Boyhood complex is significant under Criteria A for its role in LaRue County tourism and under criterion consideration F as a commemorative monument and its place in Abraham Lincoln iconography. . ..The complex was completed in 1933 and has been a major tourist site in the county since its construction. In the past 50 years the complex has assumed its own historical value as a commemorative monument as the site of Lincoln's boyhood home."[45] This nomination was successful and the site was listed on the National Register as a historic district on October 4, 1988.[46] The reconstructed cabin and Lincoln Tavern are the only contributing buildings. The modern picnic pavilion and the wooden shed were non-contributing. The Howards installed a plaque on a stone monument in front of the Lincoln Tavern to commemorate the listing on the National Register. According to a "project fact sheet" around 1996, "a small portion of the land is still devoted to farming." The Boy Scouts were also still using the site as a campground during their hikes of the Lincoln Heritage Trail.[47]

The Chief of the National Register Programs Division visited the site in July 1996. He reported "the Knob Creek Farm Site, by virtue of its longer association with Abraham Lincoln is more significant than the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHS."[48] Approximately 30,000 to 40,000 people visited the Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek during this period, much less than the estimated 250,000 annual visitors to the Birthplace Unit at Hodgenville. Keith Sculle's history quotes Fabian Howard's concerns about the financial sustainability of the site. Howard said "the biggest thing we were going to run into" is "that we didn't have anybody to take it over." They were not, according to Sculle, making money managing the site, though, he argues, it was not their primary motivation.[49] The family rejected an offer from children's book author Judy Potts and Philip R. Jonsson, a philanthropist whose foundation supports educational programs. Gary Talley, the Chief of Operations at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park helped convince the family group that the National Park Service would be the most appropriate steward of the property.

By April 1997, the National Park Trust examined the site as a potential acquisition project. Supporters of the plan formed the Friends of Abraham Lincoln to lobby The NPS to take over the property. The NPS hired Kent Masterson Brown to do deed research to confirm that the Lincoln Family had in fact lived at the site. Brown concluded that "the approximately two hundred (200) acre tract, known as the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home, does, in fact, contain the site of Thomas Lincoln's Knob Creek Farm. It is the only farm in Kentucky Abraham Lincoln actually remembered. The present owners of the tract, the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home, Inc., and the Lincoln National Bank of Hodgenville, Kentucky, have good and lawful title. . .and the tract is traceable all the way back to George Lindsey, Thomas Lincoln's landlord."[50] The NPS also hired Karen E. Hudson to evaluate the reconstructed cabin's condition and to "determine whether materials used in its construction could have come from the Gollaher cabin and thus potentially date to the time of the Lincolns' tenure at Knob Creek."[51] On November 6, 1998, the United States Congress authorized the acquisition of Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek and its addition to Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. The legislation, however, specified that the acquisition could only occur by donation and

[45] National Park Service. *Lincoln Boyhood Home, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form,* Washington D.C., October 12,1988.

[46] The Abraham Lincoln National Historic Site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966.

[47] See Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Project Fact Sheet on file at the Park.

[48] See the correspondence on file at the park between the Chief, National Register Programs Division, National Park Service, and SSO Superintendent, Appalachian Cluster dated July 8, 1996.

[49] Sculle, 31.

[50] Brown, 80.

[51] Karen E. Hudson. *Architectural Evaluation Lincoln Boyhood Home Knob Creek Farm LaRue County, Kentucky* (1997).

appropriated no federal funds for this purpose. In the fall of 1998, the National Park Trust made an offer to purchase the property from the seven Howard family members who owned it. The family declined, believing the Trust's offer was too low and presented the Trust with an asking price of one million dollars.

In February 1999, a group of concerned citizens began meeting to discuss ways to facilitate the acquisition. In May, they agreed to form a new organization called Preservation of Lincoln's Kentucky Heritage to facilitate the transaction between the Howard family and the National Park Service. Using money they raised from local and state organizations and $500,000 from the State of Kentucky, the Preservation of Lincoln's Kentucky Heritage group purchased the property from the Lincoln Boyhood Home, Inc., for one million dollars. The transfer of the deed from the Howard family to the LaRue County Fiscal Court happened on April 28, 2001. The Fiscal Court conveyed the deed to the tract on November 5, 2001. Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site took control on November 6, 2001. They held a formal dedication ceremony on February 12, 2002. See Illustration 2.4 for detailed information related to the development of the site during this period.

National Park Service (2002-Present)

A condition of the sale of the Knob Creek property to the NPS, "Exhibit B: Excluded Property," provided the Howard family the right to disassemble and remove an unfinished cabin they were building behind the tavern, north of the log restrooms. The building was side gabled. Its front elevation (south) had a door and two windows. A shed-roofed porch spanned the rear (north) elevation. There was a dinner bell mounted on top of a wooden pole near the southeast corner of the cabin. The family had permission to remove this and a pile of chimney rock that was for the "unfinished cabin"[52] (Figure 2.25).

[52] See the *Option Agreement for Sale and Purchase of Real Property between Lincoln's Boyhood Home, Inc., (Seller) and Preservation of Lincoln's Kentucky Heritage, Inc. (Buyer),* February 1, 2000.



Figure 2.25: Reconstructed cabin with another unfinished cabin in background, 2001

In April 2002, NPS personnel removed the picnic pavilion based on the recommendation of Dr. Bill Sites of the United States Forest Service, who pointed out structural defects. In 2003, the NPS entered a contract with Leong, Inc., to stabilize the reconstructed cabin and Lincoln Tavern. They constructed temporary shoring on the outside walls and inside the chimney to stabilize the reconstructed cabin in September 2003. They removed the original hand-hewn flooring and floor joists, which they stored in a storage room inside the Lincoln Tavern. They installed bracing on the interior of the Lincoln Tavern to support the upper floor. They installed gutters on the Lincoln Tavern and added soil around the foundation to improve drainage.

The NPS performed regular maintenance on the grounds beginning soon after their acquisition of the property. They had the rear fields mown and hay harvested. They removed the previous owner's signs on the grounds, which they stored in the Lincoln Tavern. They added picnic tables and trash cans to the visitor use areas. They added the National Park Service logo to the existing entrance signs, but thieves stole the iconic arrowhead signs in March 2003. In May 2004, the NPS used HAZMAT funds to remove the 1930s underground storage tank for the gasoline pumps. Mammoth Cave Biological Technicians and volunteers from Western Kentucky University planted 400 American chestnut trees on the property in February and March of 2004. They planted an additional 200 American chestnut trees in 2005. In 2005, the NPS worked with a forester with the State of Kentucky to identify the trees on the property and manufactured signs to interpret the trees.

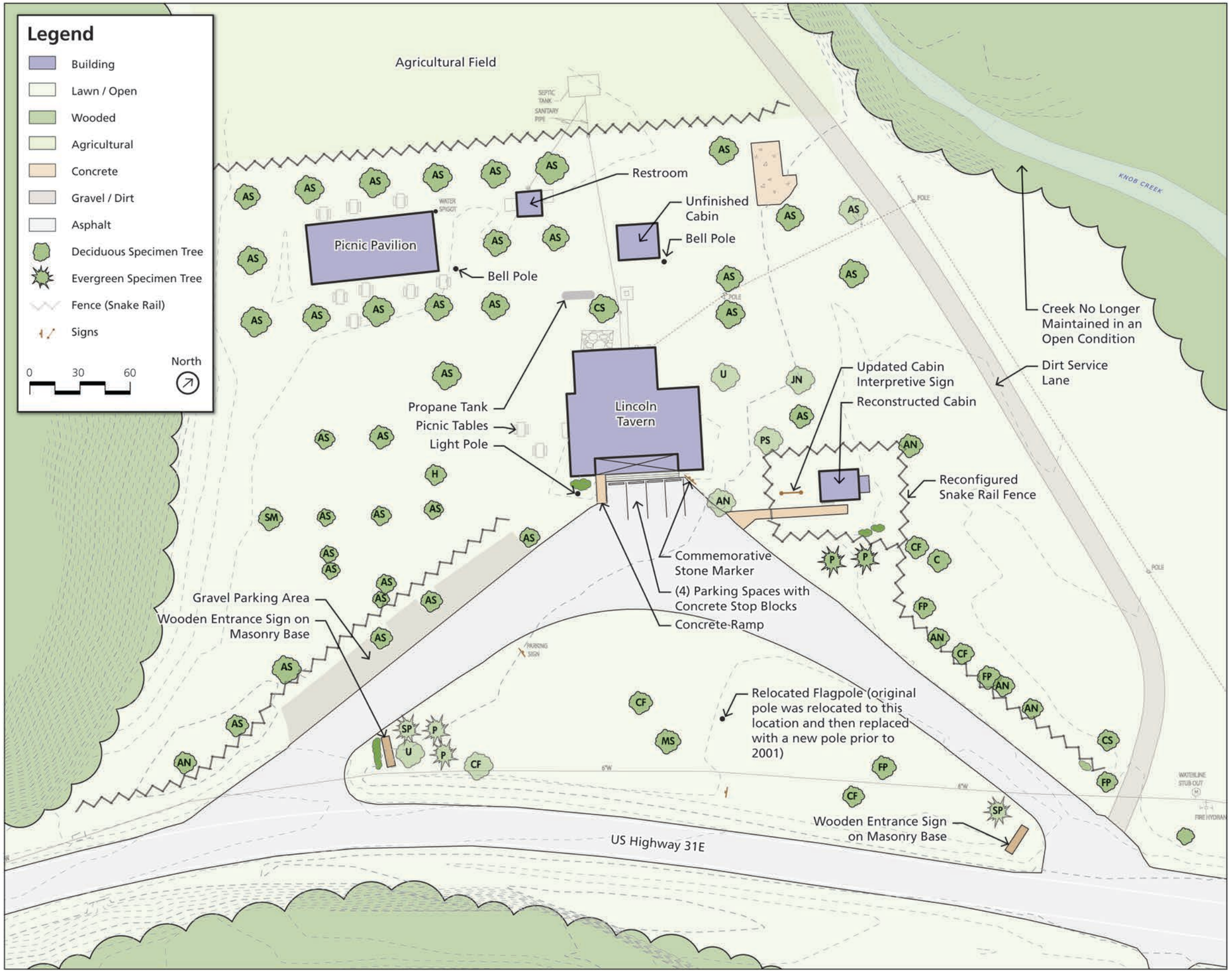
The Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) surveyed the property with shovel pits and ground penetrating radar in October and November 2004 looking for resources from the Lincoln period of occupation. The survey failed to identify evidence of the Lincoln period of occupation and recovered very few artifacts from that period in their shovel test-pits. In August 2005, the Federal Highways Administration resurfaced the parking lot. In December 2005, while preparing a Cultural Landscape Inventory of the site, staff members from Southeast Regional Office of National Park Service visited the site to determine the feasibility of constructing a new parking lot.[53]

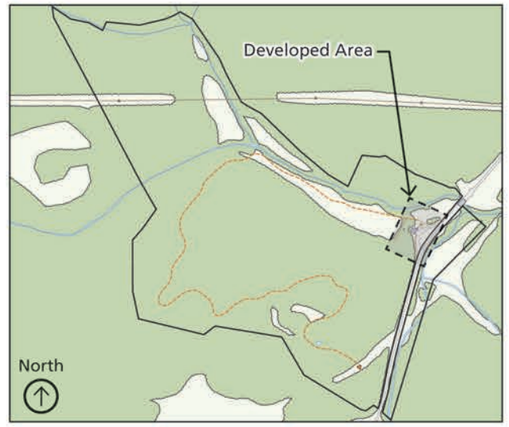
NPS staff placed a ranger station at the site, before 2006. They typically staff the office from April to October. Because of their physical condition, National Park Service closed the Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin to the public. A June 2008 Historic Structure Assessment Report by staff from the Historic Preservation Training Center concluded that even with the stabilization done a few years earlier, the deterioration of the reconstructed cabin was significant enough that without immediate action "significant historic fabric could be lost."[54] In 2008, the NPS and the Boy Scouts of America signed a Memorandum of Understanding allowing the Boy Scouts to re-open and use a section of the Kentucky Lincoln Trail that crossed the Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek. The NPS constructed a storage shed at the edge of a field in 2010.

As of summer 2002, the NPS opened the site to the public during daylight hours. They have interpretive staff at the site from early April to late October. The operating hours and seasons are available on the park website: http://www.nps.gov/abli/planyourvisit/hours.htm. The NPS maintains four buildings on the property: the reconstructed cabin, the Lincoln Tavern, the Ranger Station, and the restrooms. The Lincoln Tavern is closed to the public. After completing an extensive rehabilitation of the reconstructed cabin in 2009, the interior of the reconstructed cabin is now open to the public to view during hours of operation. The NPS maintains an interpretive garden northeast of the Lincoln Tavern, where they plant crops typical of a Kentucky homestead from the 19th century. The NPS maintains a snake rail fence along the entrance road and along the edge of the large field north of the Lincoln Tavern. These fences are typically four rails in height. The fields have mostly grass species that the NPS periodically mows. Interpretive panels on the property tell different facets of the story about the Knob Creek farm and Abraham Lincoln. Hiking trails through the woods provide visitors with access to an adjacent knob from which there are views across the property. The NPS allows picnicking at a concrete pad southwest of the Lincoln Tavern that was part of the picnic pavilion demolished in 2002. Illustration 3.1 shows the existing conditions of the site.

[53] David Hasty and Beth Wheeler. *Cultural Landscape Inventory: Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 2006).

[54] National Park Service Historic Preservation Training Center, *Historic Structure Assessment Report Lincoln Boyhood Home Replica*, (Frederick, MD: NPS, 2008). 5





Location Map

Plant Key

AN	Box Elder	*Acer negundo*
AS	Silver Maple	*Acer saccharinum*
SM	Sugar Maple	*Acer saccharum*
CS	Northern Catalpa	*Catalpa speciosa*
CF	Cornus florida	*Flowering Dogwood*
FP	Green Ash	*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*
H	Hickory	*Carya spp.*
JN	Black Walnut	*Juglans nigra*
MS	Crabapple	*Malus spp.*
P	Pitch Pine	*Pinus rigida*
PS	Cherry	*Prunus spp.*
Sp	Spruce	*Picea spp.*
U	Undetermined	

Note:

This map illustrates landscape characteristics that are documented in historic images. The map shows the location of vegetation seen in historic images and existing vegetation inferred to be from the period based on a comparison of diameter of tree trunks.

Site Development - Lincoln Boyhood Home, Inc. Period (1985-2001)

Site History

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Illustration 2.4

Existing Conditions

Introduction

The focus of this section is the developed area of the Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek, with consideration given to the entirety of NPS-owned property at the site. The property comprises a total of 228 acres and consists of a mixture of wooded and agricultural land surrounding the northern fork of Knob Creek in LaRue County, seven miles northeast of Hodgenville, Kentucky. The developed area includes the National Register designated historic district and the adjacent agricultural fields, hills and forests. The historic district includes two buildings dating from the 1930s built as a tourist destination commemorating Abraham Lincoln's time spent at the site during childhood. The park also includes a picnic area, an interpretive garden, and a semi-circular entrance drive with a small parking area clustered alongside the old Bardstown-Green River Turnpike, currently US Highway 31E. Illustrations 1.1 and 3.1 map the existing conditions of the site in detail.

This section of the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) will inventory the existing conditions of property using a combination of contemporary photographs, plan view graphics and narrative descriptions. The first half of the section will document the natural systems and features while the second section documents cultural features.

Natural Systems and Features

Geology

Geology serves as the foundation of the ecosystem within the park and many of the factors that led to the decision by the Lincoln family to settle here were geologic in nature. The steady supply of water provided by Knob Creek, the fertile alluvial soil surrounding the creek, and the topographic limitations imposed by the surrounding knobs, or hills, can all be traced back to the area's unique geology and were part of the reason the Lincolns' settled here.[55] Karst features and processes dominate the landscape of the park and the surrounding area. A Karst landscape is one that is formed by the chemical erosion and weathering of sedimentary rocks like limestone and dolomite. The dissolution of these materials over time forms unique features such as sinkholes, ridgetop ponds, springs, caves, and sinking streams which are interconnected underground throughout the landscape. Unique Karst features at Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek include a small ridgetop pond near the summit of the southwestern knob and rare limestone glades. These glades are typically found on exposed south or west facing slopes and contain characteristic plant communities that have developed in response to the harsh, dry and rocky conditions in which they occur.[56]

The park unit is contained within a portion of Kentucky known as the Knobs Region. The Knobs Region forms the smallest physiographic region in the state and creates a natural boundary between the Pennyroyal Plateau and the Bluegrass Region. Once continuous with the adjacent Pennyroyal Plateau, these isolated, steeply sloping hills were separated from the plateau by stream erosion.[57] The knobs are erosional remnants known as monadnocks, which are composed of erosion-resistant limestones and shales. The tops of the knobs at Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek are capped with Salem and Herrodsburg Limestone, while the steep side slopes are composed of shale from the Mississippian age Borden Formation. The lowlands are comprised of Alluvium. Figure 3.1 maps these geologic formations in detail.

Topography and Hydrology

The northern branch of Knob Creek and its unnamed tributaries divide the park from the

[55] T. Thornberry-Ehrlich. 2010. Abraham Lincoln Birthplace *National Historical Park: Geologic Resources Inventory Report*. Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/GRD/NRR—2010/219. (National Park Service: Ft. Collins, Colorado, 2010), v.

[56] Ibid, 11.

[57] http://www.uky.edu/KGS/geoky/regionknobs.htm



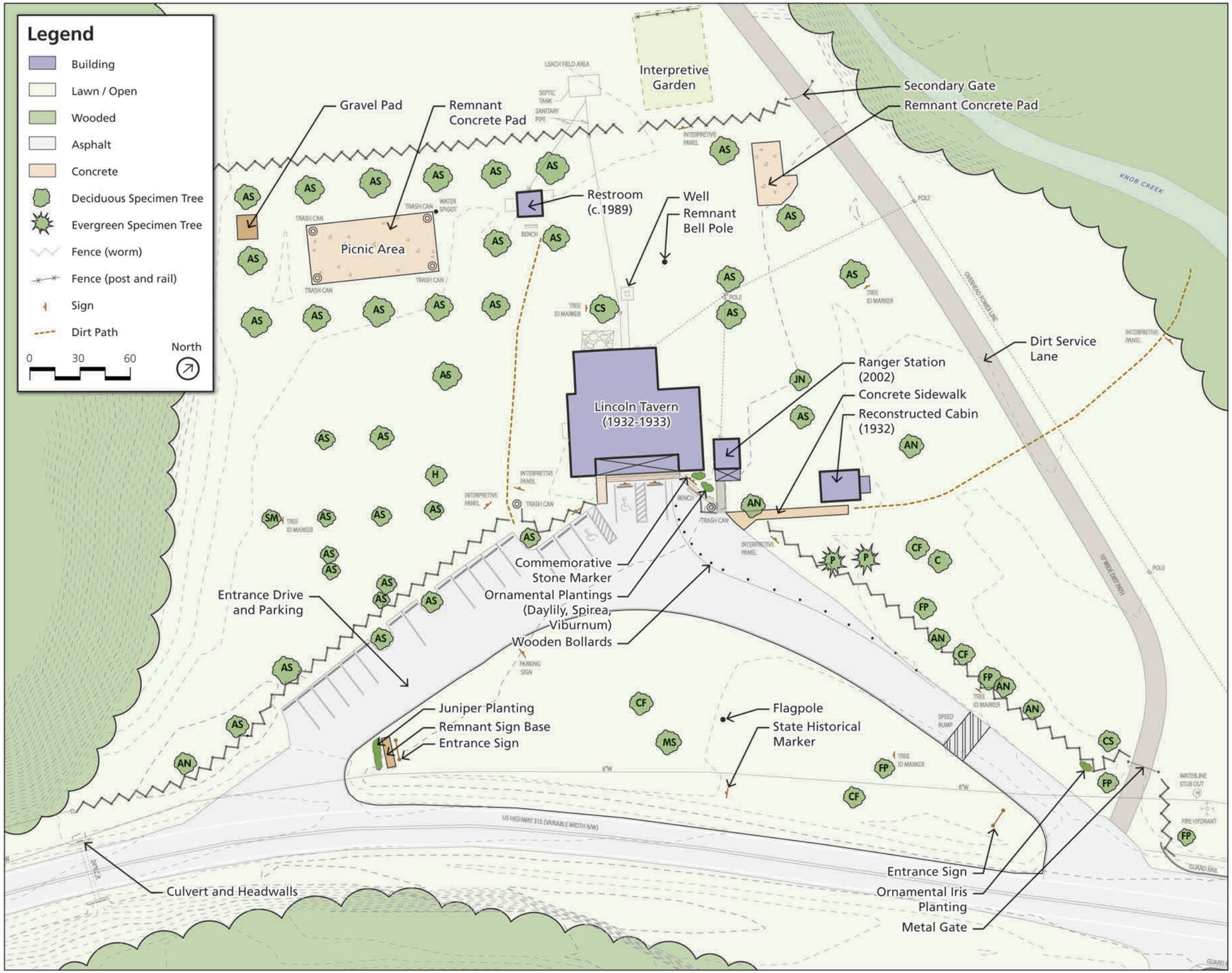
Figure 3.1: Geology Map



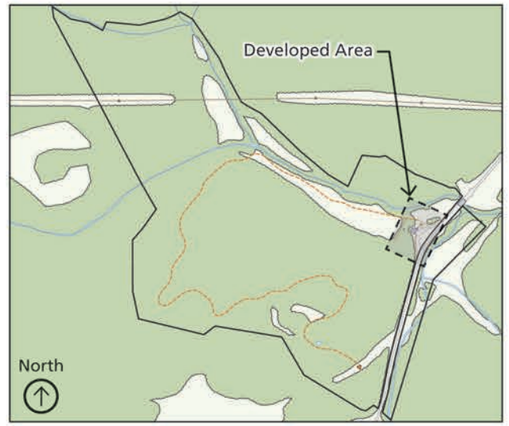
Figure 3.2: Knob Creek, 2010

northwest to the southeast, winding through a series of steep unnamed knobs before joining up with the southern branch of Knob Creek in the northwestern corner of the site. After leaving the project area, Knob Creek winds through the Knobs Region of Kentucky before flowing into Rolling Fork near the town of New Haven. From there, Rolling Fork continues to the Ohio River, which eventually combines with the Mississippi River before emptying into the Gulf of Mexico near New Orleans, Louisiana.

Knob Creek is a defining feature of the original Lincoln childhood landscape and lends its name to the historic farm. The story of a young Abraham Lincoln falling into the creek during his childhood and nearly drowning adds to the significance and importance of this natural resource to the interpretation and commemoration of Lincoln at this site. The creek has changed little since Howard Family developed the property in the early 1930s, and it is still prone to flood events like the one Lincoln experienced during the time he spent here as a child. Because the majority of its tributaries are located in natural wooded portions of NPS property, Knob Creek remains in good condition (Figure 3.2).



Developed Area



Location Map

Plant Key

AN	Box Elder	*Acer negundo*
AS	Silver Maple	*Acer saccharinum*
SM	Sugar Maple	*Acer saccharum*
CS	Northern Catalpa	*Catalpa speciosa*
CF	Cornus florida	*Flowering Dogwood*
FP	Green Ash	*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*
H	Hickory	*Carya spp.*
JN	Black Walnut	*Juglans nigra*
MS	Crabapple	*Malus spp.*
P	Pitch Pine	*Pinus rigida*

Existing Conditions

Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek
Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park
Cultural Landscape Report
July 2012

Illustration 3.1

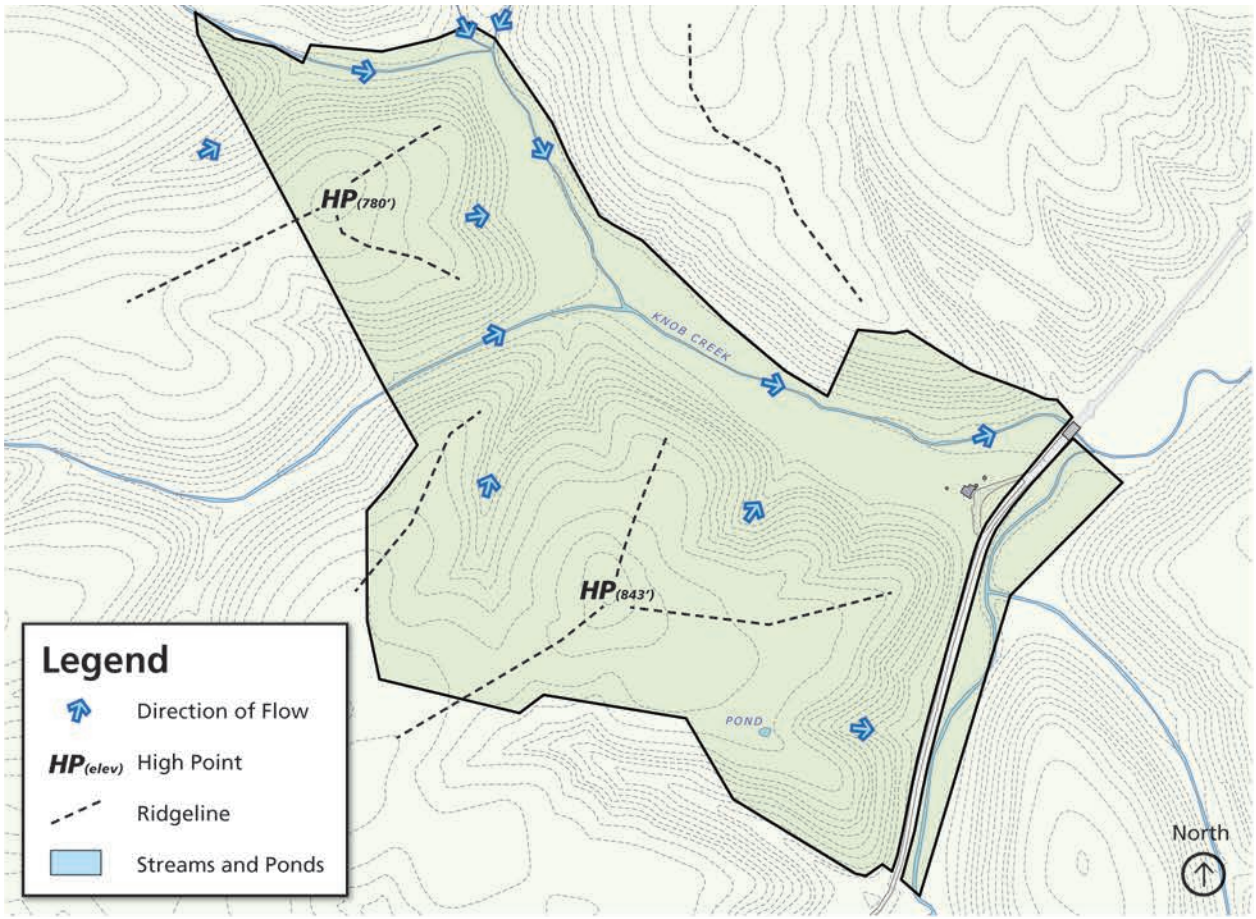


Figure 3.3: Topography and hydrology map

The unique topography of the park is the result of streambed erosion, which formed the steep hills and narrow valleys characteristic of the site and surrounding area. The steepness of the knobs and the slenderness of the valley leave very little developable land on the property. The extreme topography of the land undoubtedly played a role in the siting of both original Lincoln Farm and the commemorative buildings constructed by the Howards in the early 1930s. The highest point within the park is found at the top of the larger of the two knobs at an elevation of 843'. The other prominent knob located within the property has an elevation of 780' at its summit. The lowest point in the park occurs at the confluence of the northern and southern branches of Knob Creek, in the northeastern corner of the site. The elevation here is approximately 520'. A small ridgetop pond is located near the top of the larger knob and is accessible from the park trail system. Knob Creek is prone to violent flooding on occasion due to the steepness of the surrounding topography and the high water table found here. Figure 3.3 illustrates the system of watercourses and associated topography that comprise Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek.

Soils

The USDA Soil Conservation Service considers the soil type underlying the three agricultural fields, Sensabaugh Silt Loam, to be Prime Farmland. Prime Farmland has the soil quality, growing season and moisture supply needed to produce strong yields of various agricultural crops. This soil gives high yields with low inputs of energy and can be farmed indefinitely with proper management. The fertility of this type of soil likely played a role in the Lincoln Family's decision to settle here. The remaining site acreage is comprised of Caneyville Rock Outcrop Complex, Garmon Silt Loam, and variations of Hagerstown Silt Loam. All three of these soil types are associated with the steeper, rocky slopes of the surrounding knobs and ridges. Figure 3.4 maps the soil types found within the park in detail.

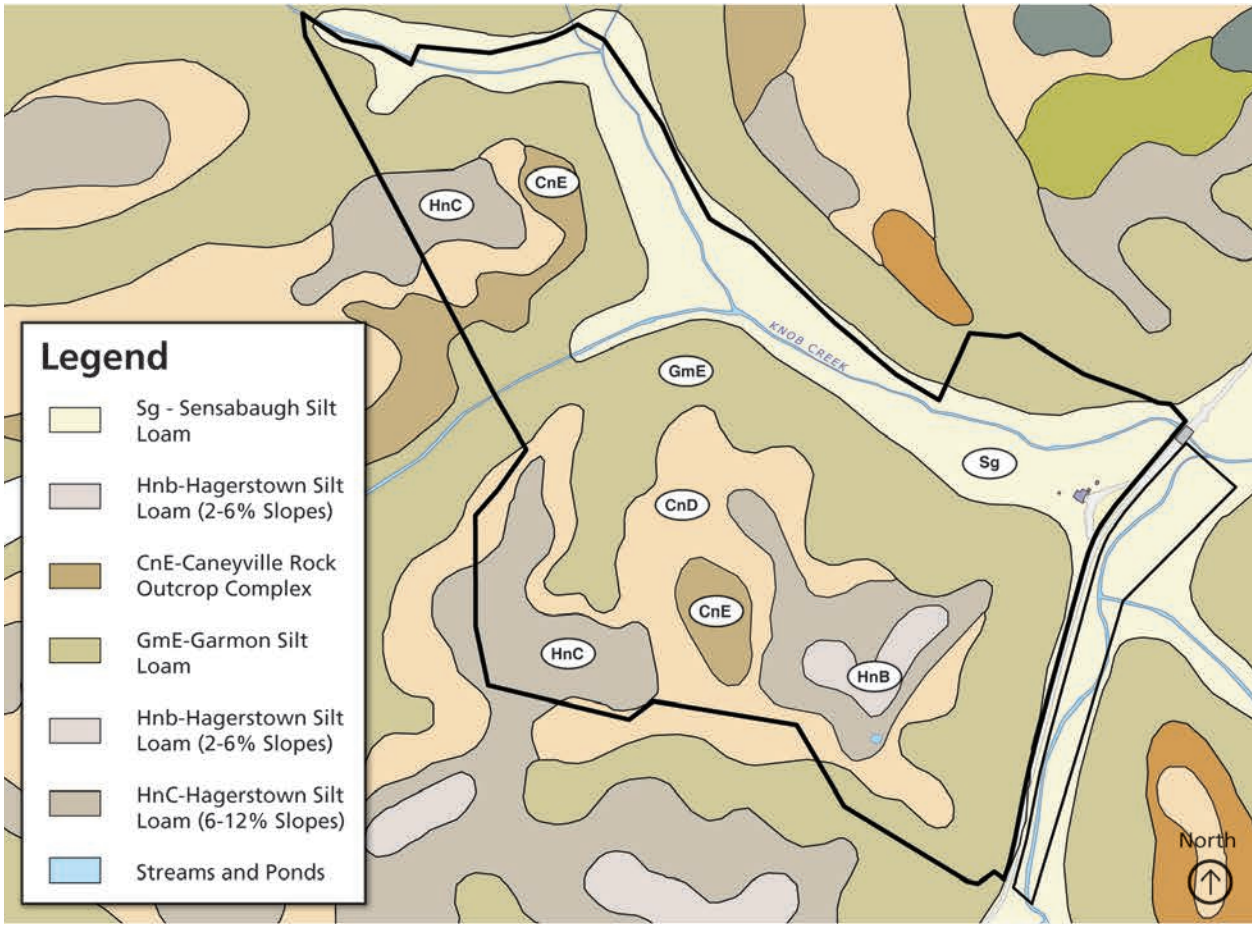


Figure 3.4: Soils map

Vegetation

NatureServe conducted an inventory of the plant communities within both the Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek and the Birthplace Unit in April of 2008. The study identified 553 plant species known to occur on the property, with at least 65 of these classified as non-native plant species.[58] Several of the non-native plants are known to be invasive exotic species, which pose a threat to native plant communities.[59] The invasive plants that pose the greatest threat to the native plant communities at Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek are multi flora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). The following information about plant communities found on the property was informed from their study and observations made during fieldwork in July 2011. Figure 3.5 maps the vegetation types found at Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek.

Two globally rare plant communities are present at the Boyhood Home Unit, the Central Limestone Glade and the Highland Rim Limestone Cliff / Talus Seep. The Central Limestone Glade plant community occurs on the south and southwest facing slopes of the knobs (Figure 3.6). Tree canopy in this community is sparse and often stunted with eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and American hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) dominating. Other species commonly found in this community include: eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), eastern prickly pear (*Optunia humifusa*), straggling St. Johns wort (*Hypericum dolabriforme*) and pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*). The equally rare Highland Rim Limestone Cliff / Talus Seep community is known to occur in a single location within the unit, at the bottom of a north-facing slope in the extreme northern corner of the property (Figure 3.7). This shrubland community

[58] Erin Lunsford Jones and Milo Pyne. 2008. *Vascular Plant Inventory and Plant Community Classification for Abraham Lincoln National Historic Site*. Durham, North Carolina: NatureServe, 1.

[59] Most invasive exotic species out-perform native plants due to a relative lack of naturally occurring pests and disease.



Note: This map and legend were created using data produced by the Center for Remote Sensing and Mapping Science at the University of Georgia in conjunction with a report by Jones, Pyne and NatureServe titled, *Vascular Plant Inventory and Plant Community Classification for Abraham Lincoln National Historic Site.*

North

Legend

- Central Limestone Glade (5131)
- Highland Rim Limestone Cliff / Talus Seep (4708)
- Rich Levee Mixed Hardwood Bottomland Forest (8429)
- Beech-Maple Unglaciated Forest (2411)
- Low Plateau Mesic Sugar Maple-Hickory Forest (4741)
- White Oak-Mixed Oak Dry-Alkaline Forest (2070)
- Giant Cane
- Cultivated Meadow (4048)
- Successional Broomsedge (4044)
- Right of Way (Successional Broomsedge)
- Red-cedar Successional Forest (7124)
- Virginia Pine Successional Forest (2591)
- Successional Tuliptree Forest (7220)
- Human Influence (e.g. old or present home site)
- Streams and Ponds
- Road

Figure 3.5: Vegetation map



Figure 3.6: Central Limestone Glade, 2008



Figure 3.7: Highland Rim Limestone Cliff / Talus Seep, 2008

occurs on a nearly vertical limestone slope. The following plants have been documented at this location: Ohio buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*), smooth hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*), mapleleaf waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum canadense*) and yellow jewelweed (*Impatiens pallida*). The area just north of this plant community is privately owned and undeveloped. The NatureServe report recommended that an effort be made to procure a permanent buffer around this area. Both of these plant communities may contain species of special concern or plants that are considered threatened or vulnerable in the state of Kentucky.

Five natural forest types have been documented at Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek, including Rich Levee Mixed Hardwood Bottomland Forest, Beech-Maple Unglaciated Forest, Low-Plateau Mesic Sugar Maple-Hickory Forest, Mixed Oak Forest, White Oak-Mixed Oak Dry-Alkaline Forest. An individual summary of each forest type is included below.

Occurring along the streams and lowlands within the property, the Rich Levee Mixed Hardwood Bottomland Forest contains the following common canopy species: sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), box elder (*Acer negundo*) and black walnut (*Juglans nigra*). The understory varies from dense to sparse depending on location and native species such as American elder (*Sambucus canadensis*), coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*) and invasive exotics like Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) and multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) are found here.

The Beech-Maple Unglaciated Forest occupies the mesic slopes of the knobs. A dense canopy layer dominated by sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) and American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and a sparse sub canopy characterize this rich community of plants. Characteristic species include tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) and Ohio buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*). The herbaceous layer includes several species of ferns and some beautiful spring wildflowers such as twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*), jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) and squirrel corn (*Dicentra canadensis*).

Small patches of Interior Low-Plateau Mesic Sugar Maple-Hickory Forest are scattered across the knobs at Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek. The canopy is dominated by sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) and mockernut hickory (*Carya alba*). Past logging for oaks may have allowed these species to flourish and may also explain the presence of the forest type within the park. The subcanopy layer often contains flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) and rusty blackhaw (*Viburnum rufidulum*), while the herbaceous layer is dominated by Bosc's witchgrass (*Dichanthelium boscii*) and bottlebrush grass (*Elymus hystrix*).

A dry variant of Mixed Oak Forest was identified in the NatureServe study. This forest type is uncommon at Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek and occurs in areas too small to be mapped. Species here include white oak (*Quercus alba*), scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*), black oak (*Quercus nigra*) and blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*). Sassafras

(*Sassafras albidum*) and hillside blueberry (*Vaccinium pallidum*) are common in the shrub layer with downy yellow false foxglove (*Aureolaria virginica*), poverty oatgrass (*danthonia spicata*) and St. Andrews cross (*Hypericum hypericoides ssp. multicaule*) comprising the sparse herbaceous layer.

White Oak-Mixed Oak Dry-Alkaline Forest was observed atop the knobs, in areas that were formerly logged and left clear for agriculture and/or grazing. Clearing within the past 60 years may explain the lower than expected concentration of oaks found in some locations. The canopy is typically dominated by white oak (*Quercus alba*) and northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), but in areas where the oaks have been logged, hickory (*Carya spp.*) and sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) are found. Other tree species include blue ash (*Fraxinus quadrangulata*), eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and redbud. A rich herbaceous layer is associated with this forest type and Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), northern maiden hair (*Adiantum pedatum*) and mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) occur in abundance.

Small patches of giant cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*) exist along the edges of fields and floodplains at the park. These areas are often infested with an invasive exotic called multi flora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), which in addition to their small size, disqualifies the patches as representative occurrences of a rare plant community known as Floodplain Canebrake.

There are five successional/human-modified plant communities present within the park: Cultivated Meadow, Successional Broomsedge Vegetation, Red Cedar Successional Forest, Virginia Pine Successional Forest and Tuliptree Successional Forest. These communities are described individually below.

The Cultivated Meadow encompasses the three former agricultural fields within the park. These areas are mown seasonally and contain a variety of species including fescues, wild orchard grass, alfalfa, clovers and other native and exotic herbaceous species (Figure 3.8). These areas are significant as they were likely the portions of the property cultivated by the Lincoln Family during their time at Knob Creek Farm.



Figure 3.8: Cultivated meadow, 2011

Successional Broomsedge Vegetation is found in the existing powerline corridors and at the edges of fields, lawns and cleared areas. Broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*), beaked panicgrass (*Panicum anceps*) and early goldenrod (*Solidago juncea*) comprise the majority of this community with occasional hardwood and pine saplings.

Red Cedar Successional Forest is found on the eastern side of US Highway 31E adjacent to an open field and on the tops of the knobs where old fields have been left to return to forest. Concentrations of eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), winged sumac (*rhus copallinum*) and Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*) are common in these areas.

Virginia Pine Successional Forest is common in upland areas of the park that were formerly under cultivation. Mesic soils foster the growth of tree species such as Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*), tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and black oak (*Quercus velutina*). The dominant herbaceous species in these areas is fan clubmoss (*Lycopodium digitatum*).

The semi-natural, Successional Tuliptree Forest plant community is typically found adjacent to the Rich Levee Mixed Hardwood Forests. Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), black walnut (*Juglens nigra*) and northern spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) are common species associated with this community.

Four hundred American chestnut trees (*Castanea dentata*) were planted by the NPS, “on top of the south ridge” at Lincoln Boyhood Home at

Knob Creek in February and March of 2004 by Mammoth Cave National Park Biological Technicians Brice Leech, Michelle Weber, Jennifer Hewitt, and student volunteers from Western Kentucky University.[60] The following year, an additional 200 of these trees were planted at the park.[61] According to Park staff, these trees were planted as seedlings provided by the American Chestnut Cooperators Foundation in Newport, Virginia, as part of a restoration project. Additional trees were planted along the north branch of Knob Creek in the first and second agricultural fields. The saplings were produced from seed taken from surviving American chestnut trees. The condition of the restoration is unknown.

The remainder of the property consists of a maintained landscape associated with the developed area of the park. The vegetation in this portion of the property is described in detail in the cultural resources section of this chapter.

Cultural Features

Land Use

Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek provides opportunities for education and reflection on events associated with the childhood, development and commemoration of the 16th president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. Through the preservation of the park's historic resources and the park's interpretive program, visitors gain a greater understanding of the events that transpired at the site while the Lincoln family lived here, as well as an understanding of early automobile tourism in the United States. Secondly, the park provides recreational opportunities. Picnic facilities located beneath a mature canopy of maple trees and over 1.5 miles of hiking and nature trails draw visitors year round by providing opportunities to take in the beauty of the park and experience the naturalized portions of the property. A small interpretive garden consisting of various crops typical of an early 1800s homestead continues the tradition of agriculture at the site and is used by the park as an interpretive element.

[60] Superintendent Annual Report, 2004 (copy in ETIC Archives).

[61] Superintendent Annual Report, 2005 (copy in ETIC Archives).



Figure 3.9: The Lincoln Tavern, 2011

The rural setting surrounding the park consists primarily of undeveloped hilltops and agricultural valleys, which convey the character of the landscape Lincoln remembered at Knob Creek.

Buildings and Structures

A total of five buildings and structures exist at Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek. The majority of these buildings occur in the northeastern corner of the site within the developed portion of the park adjacent to US Highway 31E. The developed area contains two historic buildings, a detached restroom facility and a contemporary ranger station building. The historic buildings are the focal point of the commemorative landscape. A prefabricated maintenance shed is located in the interior of the park. The shed is visible from the park trail system and positioned at the far western edge of the first agricultural field, near the confluence of Knob Creek and one of its tributaries. The following section provides a detailed description of each building and structure contained within the park.

Lincoln Tavern. Constructed in 1932-1933, the Lincoln Tavern is a one-and-a-half story log building set on a concrete block foundation. The Lincoln Tavern faces southeast toward US Highway 31E in an effort to attract tourists and complement the nearby reconstructed cabin. The building is vernacular in style and rustic in appearance. The exterior features unhewn logs with cement chinking, a composite shingle roof, and a prominent limestone chimney (Figure 3.9). According to family lore, the tavern was built using logs from the surrounding farm and forest for a

total cost of $4,200.[62] The main façade features a large central porch flanked on both sides by prominent front-gabled side bays. Two gabled dormers protrude from the roof above the porch. Both of these dormers are finished with split shake siding.

The style of the building was undoubtedly influenced by the Nancy Lincoln Inn, built a few years earlier by relatives of the Howard family near the Birthplace Unit. The architecture of both of these buildings owes much to the Old Faithful Inn at Yellowstone National Park. Designed by Robert Reamer and opened in 1904, the Old Faithful Inn is a masterpiece of rustic architecture. This iconic building sparked a revival of log built houses across the United States in the 1920s-1930s and represents the essence of National Park Service architecture at the time, which is presumably something that the Howards were trying to emulate at both of their tourist sites in Hardin County. Like the Old Faithful Inn, the Lincoln Tavern features native wood and stone construction, dramatically pitched rooflines and exposed support beams on the interior. Both buildings simultaneously stand out and blend in with their surroundings, a hallmark of rustic park architecture.[63]

Very little alteration to the Lincoln Tavern exterior has occurred over the years and the building retains a high degree of integrity. Notable exterior alterations include the removal of two gasoline pumps and the elimination of two large metal signs advertising Falls City Beer and the brand of gas available for sale. The screened porch at the rear of the Lincoln Tavern was enclosed prior to NPS ownership. In addition, the original wooden shake roof has been updated with contemporary asphalt shingles. In 2003, the NPS performed stabilization work on the building consisting of interior bracing intended to support the upper floor of the building. The NPS installed gutters, capped the chimney and added soil around the building to direct water away from the foundation. The NPS also replaced the front and back doors of the Lincoln Tavern with contemporary metal doors. These doors are temporary. These stabilization efforts have prevented further deterioration of the building; however, the Lincoln Tavern is in fair condition due to ongoing structural integrity concerns.[64]

The building is not open to the public currently, however, a planning effort is underway to rehabilitate the Lincoln Tavern and convert it to a visitor contact station. The completion of a Historic Structure Report in 2006 for the Lincoln Tavern is to guide the rehabilitation of the building. The building rehabilitation plan and a site development plan are going on concurrently with the Cultural Landscape Report. Plans for the exterior of the Lincoln Tavern include replacing the asphalt roof with cedar shake, rehabilitation of the front porch to address safety and termite issues, repointing of all mortar joints, cleaning of all logs, repair or replacement of damaged logs, and re-chinking where required. The NPS plans to add a side exit to the Lincoln Tavern in one of the window locations to bring the building up to fire code. They also plan to locate a fenced service yard at the back of the building and to add lightning protection to the building. The interior of the Lincoln Tavern will contain a small kitchen facility, several ranger offices, a retail area, and a large space devoted to site interpretation.[65]

Reconstructed Cabin. This reconstructed cabin was erected to resemble the single-pen log cabin that Abraham Lincoln is believed to have lived in as a young boy.[66] The building was completed in 1932 by the Howard family using wood from a circa 1800 cabin that was located on a nearby farm. The Howard family built the reconstructed cabin on what was believed to be the approximate location of the cabin that Lincoln lived in during childhood. A man named Robert Thompson, who remembered the original Lincoln family cabin, provided guidance to the Howard family concerning the appearance and location of the cabin. The reconstructed cabin was built from hewn logs with half dovetail notching and mud chinking (Figure 3.10). The gabled roof features

[62] Joseph K. Opperman, *Historic Structure Report: Boyhood Home Unit Lincoln Tavern*, (National Park Service, ABLI: 2005)

[63] Jayne Clark, *Staying Faithful to 'Parkitecture'* (*USA Today*, 2004)

[64] All stabilization efforts were completed by NPS Historic Preservation Training Center, based in Frederick, MD.

[65] Information regarding the current planning effort at the Lincoln Tavern provided by: Tim Bemisderfer, NPS Landscape Architect, Southeast Region, Facility Support Division. See also, *Tavern and Site Rehabilitation Construction Plans,* (National Park Service, 2012)

[66] Opperman, *Historic Structure Report: Boyhood Home Unit Lincoln Cabin*, (National Park Service, ABLI: 2005)



Figure 3.10: Reconstructed Cabin, 2011



Figure 3.11: Ranger Station, 2011

wooden shake shingles and the building is set on a stone foundation. A single doorway and window punctuate the main façade and a prominent mud and log chimney extends from the north gable end. Prior to 1950, the Howards added a limestone hearth, which increased the overall dimensions of the chimney. In 2003, the NPS stabilized the reconstructed cabin. In October of 2008, the NPS began an extensive rehabilitation of the reconstructed cabin that was completed in January of 2009. The NPS Historic Preservation Training Center completed all of the rehabilitation work on the reconstructed cabin. The building is in good condition today and the interior is open to the public during operating hours.

Ranger Station. A prefabricated, temporary staff building was delivered and set up at the Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek on January 25, 2002.[67] Situated between the Lincoln Tavern and the reconstructed cabin, this building is utilitarian in appearance and serves as the ranger station for the park, providing shelter and storage for interpretive staff (Figure 3.11). The ranger station is a simple frame structure overlain with wood clapboard siding and set on a temporary concrete block foundation. The roof is metal, and both the front and side elevations contain a single six-over-six-sash window. The building is accessible from the parking lot by a raised wooden boardwalk. The ranger station features a front gabled roof overhang, which extends outward from the core of the building to provide a covered porch for park visitors and rangers near the entrance. The building is non-contributing and in good condition.

[67] Superintendent Annual Report, 2002 (copy in ETIC Archives).

Restroom. Located just north of the picnic area, this small log building provides restroom facilities to park visitors (Figure 3.12). Lincoln Boyhood Home, Inc., built the restroom in the late 1980s to service a new outdoor picnic pavilion that was under construction at the same time. The restroom building features rough-hewn log construction set atop a rustic course of limestone, all of which rests on a concrete foundation. The gabled roof is finished in corrugated metal that has oxidized. A roof vent protrudes from the center of the building and both restroom entrances contain a small concrete paver pad extending out from each door. The restroom is in good condition and non-contributing due to the date of construction.

Maintenance Shed. A wooden maintenance shed is visible from the park trail system at the far edge of the largest agricultural field. The prefabricated building is located near the intersection of Knob Creek and one of its tributaries and faces southeast. There is an interpretive panel nearby related to the Boy Scouts use of the site on their annual Kentucky Lincoln Trail hike, which began in 1942 and continued into the 1990s. The location of the shed was likely chosen because of its central position within the property and its proximity to the park trail network, a portion of which is used as a service road by maintenance staff. The building contains detailing not usually found on practical structures of this type; including a gambrel roof, log siding, and an ornamental door casing (Figure 3.13). The roof features asphalt shingles and a metal, garage-style door provides access to the interior. Installed in August of 2010, the building is in good condition. NPS staff uses the shed for storage of small equipment and supplies associated with the maintenance of the park.



Figure 3.12: Restroom, 2011



Figure 3.13: Maintenance Shed, 2011

Cultural Vegetation

The vegetation surrounding the historic buildings and other cultural resources consists of a variety of mature specimen trees planted within mown lawn, with ornamental shrub and flower plantings at specific locations. Plant locations and species information is included in Illustration 3.1. The canopy is dominated by Silver Maples (*Acer saccharinum*). Other tree species onsite include box elder (*Acer negundo*), northern catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), dogwood (*Cornus florida*), pine (*Pinus spp.*) and redbud (*Cercis canadensis*). Additional trees are planted along the entrance drive and parking area. The condition of the trees varies from good to poor, with numerous healthy trees and a few trees in decline.

Two pine trees (*Pinus spp.*) exist at the front of the reconstructed cabin. These two trees appear in an historic photograph dated 1949 (Figure 2.11) and are visible in multiple photos throughout the 1950s and 1960s. The trees are in fair condition today, as they are beginning to decline due to their age (Figure 3.14). These trees are considered contributing resources.

A single box elder (*Acer negundo*), is visible in an undated historic photograph in an opening in the fence, between the Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin (Figure 2.7). This tree persists in the landscape today, but is in poor condition due to advanced age (Figure 3.15). Two silver maple trees are visible in multiple historic photographs dating from the commemorative period of significance. Figure 2.6 shows three trees planted at regular intervals in a cluster arrangement along the edge of a mow line behind the reconstructed cabin. Two of these trees exist in the landscape today and remain in good condition (Figure 3.16). The current trunk diameter of these two existing silver maples and the existing box elder were compared with the remaining existing specimen trees onsite to determine which additional specimen trees located in the developed area are likely to be historic. Based on this comparison, all existing trees with a trunk diameter greater than 24" are considered historic and contributing resources.

A grove of trees consisting primarily of silver maples (*Acer saccharinum*) surrounds the picnic area (Figure 3.17). These trees were planted at regular intervals around the picnic area with additional specimens located behind the tavern and reconstructed cabin. An aerial photograph from the 1950s shows trees of considerable size in this location, which dates the time of the existing tree planting to the 1930s or early 1940s. This date of planting, combined with their current trunk diameter, dates this grove of trees to the period of significance. The grove was likely planted at the same time as the two existing maples visible in Figure 2.6 and described in the previous paragraph. The condition of the silver maple grove varies from good to poor.

Historic photographs of the Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin show ornamental plantings that no longer exist at the site. An undated photograph shows what appears to be a sumac tree planted in front of the reconstructed cabin (Figure 2.6). A large weeping willow (*Salix spp.*) is visible in several later period photographs of the reconstructed cabin (Figure 2.16).

A few pockets of non-native ornamental plantings exist at the foundation of the Lincoln Tavern. Historic photos show that these areas have been



Figure 3.14: Pine trees in front of the reconstructed cabin, 2011



Figure 3.15: Box elder in decline, 2011



Figure 3.16: Silver maples behind the reconstructed cabin, 2011



Figure 3.17: Silver maple grove at picnic area, 2011

planted with ornamentals since the 1930s. While the shrubs that remain today do not date to that period and are not the same species, they are in keeping with the foundation planting tradition established by the Howards.

There is a small patch of ornamental iris planted along a portion of fence near the service road gate and a mature juniper planting is located near a remnant sign base at the southern vehicular entrance to the park. Additionally, the NPS maintains a small interpretive garden at the edge of the first agricultural field. This garden is described in detail in the small-scale features section of this chapter.

Small Scale Features

Interpretive Garden. The park uses the northeast corner of the large agricultural field for interpretive agriculture (Figure 3.18). This small plot is intended to represent the two crops known to have been cultivated by the Lincoln Family at the site: corn and pumpkins. An underground well that



Figure 3.18: Interpretive Garden, 2011



Figure 3.19: Picnic Area, 2011

once served the Lincoln Tavern provides water to the garden. The well water is contaminated and not fit for consumption; therefore, park staff destroys all of the crops produced in the garden when they mature. An interpretive panel provides information on frontier life and agriculture at the eastern boundary of the garden.

Picnic Area. An area for visitor picnicking is located in the western corner of the developed area of the park, behind the Lincoln Tavern (Figure 3.19). A total of eight picnic tables and four trash receptacles are located on a concrete pad that is surrounded on all sides by regularly spaced silver maples (*Acer saccharinum*). The maple grove is described in detail in the cultural vegetation section, earlier in this chapter. The concrete pad is a remnant from a picnic pavilion that the Howards erected in the 1980s. The NPS demolished the pavilion shortly after acquiring the property. The remnant concrete pad is in fair condition.



Figure 3.20: Trash receptacle, 2011

Trash Receptacles. Five contemporary trash receptacles exist at the park. Four are located in the picnic area, one at each corner of the remnant concrete pad. The fifth trash receptacle is located near the parking area at the beginning of the dirt path that leads to the restroom. All five are catalog items constructed of recycled plastic that are in good condition (Figure 3.20).

Picnic Tables. Eight contemporary picnic tables are evenly spaced throughout the picnic area (Figure 3.21). These tables are catalog items consisting of aluminum decking with tubular metal frame supports. The tables appear to be new and are in good condition.

Benches. Two types of benches exist at the site. Both are contemporary catalog items made of recycled plastic (Figure 3.22). The benches appear to be from the same product line as the park trash cans, as they are an identical grey color and built of similar materials. Backless versions of the bench are most common and are found at the restroom



Figure 3.21: Picnic table, 2011



Figure 3.22 Bench types, 2011

building, in front of the Lincoln Tavern, and on the porch of the Ranger Station. A version with a backrest is encountered along the park trail system before the trail begins its steep ascent to the summit of the southeastern knob. The benches are in generally good condition; however, the bench located along the trail is in fair condition due to damaged slats.

Flagpole. A metal flagpole is located near the center of the landscape island that separates the entrance drive and parking area from US Highway 31E (Figure 3.23). The apex of the flagpole contains a decorative ball finial. The date of construction is undetermined, as no documentation of the current flagpole was found in the research phase of this project. Historic photographs dating from the 1940s to the 1960s show a similar flagpole on the other side of the entrance drive, in front of the reconstructed cabin (Figure 2.11, Figure 2.12, Figure 2.13, and Figure 2.20). The finial and pole details on the original flagpole differ from the



Figure 3.23: Flagpole, 2011



Figure 3.24: Relocated flagpole, date unknown

current flagpole. An undated postcard shows that the original flagpole was relocated to the site of the current flagpole at some point in the past (Figure 3.24). However, the current flagpole replaced the



Figure 3.25: Fence types, 2011



Figure 3.26: Post and rail fence, c. 1930s

relocated original pole sometime prior to 2001. The current flagpole is a character-defining feature in good condition.

Fences. "Worm" or "Snake" fencing lines the entrance drive and separates the developed portion of the site from the agricultural fields. The fence typically consists of four wooden rails laid on top of one another and set on a small stone at each intersection of the rails (Figure 3.25). Photographs from the 1930s show wooden fencing in approximately the same location as the existing fence, however, the type of fence differs from what is used today. The original fence type appears to have been post and rail (Figure 3.26). In addition to the worm fencing, a short section of contemporary two-rail wood fence defines the western boundary of the interpretive garden (Figure 3.25). According to the CLI, the NPS installed all of the current fences in 2001; they are in good condition.

Bollards. Twelve wooden bollards with reflectors were installed as part of a 2005 resurfacing project completed by the Federal Highway Administration.



Figure 3.27: Bollards, 2011



Figure 3.28: Typical interpretive panel, 2011

The bollards are simple 4"x4" posts with circular red reflectors mounted on the top (Figure 3.27). They are in good condition.

Signs. A variety of sign types exist at Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek. Each sign type is categorized by function and use within the park, and described in detail below.

Interpretive Panels– Eight interpretive panels are scattered throughout the property. Constructed of metal posts, which hold a vandal-proof integrated graphic board, each sign contains information related to a different interpretive theme associated with the property (Figure 3.28). Themes include: the Lincolns at Knob Creek, the wildlife present within the park, the Boy Scouts' use of the site, the evolution of present day US Highway 31E as a route through the surrounding knobs, the role of slavery in the nearby valley, and the use of the Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin as a roadside attraction. All of the panels appear to be in good condition; however, there are eroded areas at the base of several signs from visitor foot traffic.



Figure 3.29: State historical marker, 2011



Figure 3.30: Trail markers along Overlook Trail, 2011



Figure 3.31: Entrance sign, 2011

State Historical Marker– A Kentucky Department of Highways historical marker is located alongside US Highway 31E, adjacent to the flagpole. This iron plaque is mounted on a circular metal pole. The plaque features embossed letters, provides a brief narrative description of Lincoln's connection to the site, and includes the famous Lincoln quote, "My earliest recollection is of the Knob Creek place" (Figure 3.29). According to the Kentucky Historical Society, this marker was ordered in 1956 and likely installed in 1957, dating it to the commemorative period. The marker was refurbished in 2007 and is in good condition.

Trail Signs and Markers– Along the Overlook Trail, there are a variety of trail signs and markers. A simple pressed-metal sign on a wooden post serves as a directional aid along the trail and a larger wooden sign with routed letters appears mounted on a tree later on in the hike. Both signs are in good condition (Figure 3.30). According to park staff, the Boy Scouts made and mounted the routed wood sign during their use of the site in the 1950s to mark the route of the Kentucky Lincoln Trail.

Entrance Signs– Two reflective metal signs are located along US Highway 31E, one at each vehicular entrance to the site. These signs have a light brown background and each displays the NPS arrowhead logo on one side with the park and inventory unit name on the other (Figure 3.31). These signs were added by the NPS sometime after 2001 and are in good condition.

Regulatory and Road Signs– Other prominent sign types found within the park are regulatory and road signs. These are typically made of reflective metal with light colored lettering (Figure 3.32). These signs mark sensitive areas, direct visitors around the site, and outline park rules and regulations.

Tree Identification Markers– In 2005, the State of Kentucky Forester visited the park and assisted NPS staff in identifying tree species in the developed portion of the site near the Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin. The park contracted with a manufacturer to create tree identification signs to interpret the identified trees.[68] The markers consist of a hinged wooden

[68] Superintendent Annual Report, 2005 (copy in ETIC Archives).



Figure 3.32: Various regulatory and road signs, 2011

signboard mounted on top of a wood post (Figure 3.33). Park visitors must flip open the hinged portion of the sign in order to reveal information related to a specific tree species located nearby. The identification markers are in fair condition overall, as the metal mounting hardware on many of the signs is starting to rust.

Remnant Sign Base– When the NPS acquired the property, there were two routed wood entrance signs mounted on masonry bases at each vehicular entrance to the site (Figure 3.34). These signs are visible in photographs taken in the 1990s, but their date of construction is unknown. All that remains today is a single concrete and stone sign base located at the southern entrance to the park (Figure 3.35). This remnant sign base is in poor condition overall with visible concrete cracking and failing mortar joints. According to the CLI, the northern sign and base were destroyed in a traffic accident.

Commemorative Stone Marker– A metal plaque commemorating the listing of the property on the National Register is mounted on a limestone block located at the base of the Lincoln Tavern in a small ornamental planting area (Figure 3. 36). The stone marker is set into the earth and reads, "This property was placed on the National Register of



Figure 3.33: Tree identification marker, 2011



Figure 3.34: Routed wood sign on masonry base, 2001



Figure 3.35: Remnant sign base, 2011



Figure 3.36: Commemorative stone marker, 2011



Figure 3.37: Picnic pavilion, 2001



Figure 3.39: Remnant concrete pad, 2011

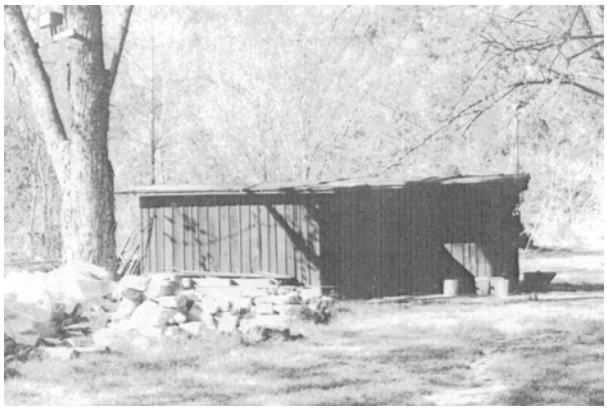


Figure 3.38: Utility shed, 1988



Figure 3.40: Gravel pad demarking the previous Maintenance Shed location, 2011

Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior". The National Register Nomination for the site was certified in 1988, which dates the commemorative marker to the contemporary period. The marker is in good condition.

Remnant Concrete Pads. The remains of two non-historic buildings are located between the entrance drive and the first agricultural field, behind the Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin. The first served as a foundation for a large picnic pavilion that was removed in April of 2002 (Figure 3.37). The NPS currently uses this concrete pad as a picnic area, discussed earlier in this chapter (Figure 3.19). The second pad is smaller and was once the foundation for a shed-roofed utility building that was removed during the Lincoln Boyhood Home, Inc. period (Figure 3.38). The pad is in fair condition and does not contribute to the significance of the site (Figure 3.39). In addition, there is a small gravel pad located south of the picnic area (Figure 3.40). The gravel appears to be new. Originally, the Maintenance Shed was installed in this location before it was relocated to the interior of the site.

Gates. An NPS standard metal gate is located near the northern intersection of the entrance drive and US Highway 31E. The gate restricts access to a service road that leads into the interior of the site and eventually becomes part of the park trail system. The gate is brown in color and features a stop sign and reflectors mounted across the front (Figure 3.41). Another gate is positioned further along the service road near the interpretive garden. This gate consists of a wood post and a metal post located on either side of the path with a wound metal cable strung in between (Figure 3.42). Both gates are in good condition.

Well. A concrete and stone well is located directly to the rear of the Lincoln Tavern (Figure 3.43). The well was likely used as the Lincoln Tavern's water source from the 1930s until it was determined to be contaminated and capped. It no longer supplies the Lincoln Tavern with water and instead provides water for use in the interpretive garden. The structure of the well is in fair condition, with some concrete and mortar deterioration visible.



Figure 3.41: Metal service road gate, 2011



Figure 3.43: Concrete and stone well, 2011



Figure 3.42: Secondary service road gate, 2011



Figure 3.44: Remnant bell pole, 2011

Remnant Bell Pole. A short wooden pole protrudes from a concrete footer at the rear of the Lincoln Tavern near the well. This pole was much taller originally and served as the base for a metal bell that was located here in the 1980s. The bell and upper portions of the pole were removed when the NPS took over ownership of the property in 2001. The pole and base are in poor condition and are non-contributing due to their age (Figure 3.44).

Nesting Box at Pond. A nesting box for aquatic bird species is located at the pond atop the southeastern knob. Mounted on a metal pole near the pond's edge, the nesting box appears to be in good condition. The Howard Family placed the nesting box in this location prior to NPS ownership of the property (Figure 3.45).

Culvert and Headwalls. A concrete headwall with a 24" metal pipe is located near the southern intersection of the entrance drive and US Highway 31E (Figure 3.46). The headwall functions as intended, but is in fair condition due to cracks in the concrete. This drainage structure is non-contributing.



Figure 3.45: Nesting box and ridge top pond, 2011

Water Spigot. A painted metal water spigot is located at the northwestern corner of the remnant concrete pad in the picnic area (Figure 3.47). The lever was locked in the off position with a chain during the field investigations for this report, but it appears to be in good condition. The water from this spigot comes from the contaminated well described earlier in this chapter.



Figure 3.46: Culvert and headwalls, 2011



Figure 3.47: Water spigot, 2011

Fire Hydrant. A painted metal hydrant is located near the northern intersection of the entrance drive and US Highway 31E (Figure 3.48). The hydrant appears functional and in good condition.



Figure 3.48: Fire hydrant, 2011

Spatial Organization

Three distinct open fields comprise the flat lowlands along Knob Creek, while the remainder of undeveloped portions of the park consists of woodland canopy. The three former agricultural fields are mown seasonally today. The fields appear to have been actively farmed during the 1950s and1960s, and have been maintained in an open condition since the 1930s. While the layout of the farm during the Lincolns' time is unknown, the layout and composition of the agricultural fields has not changed dramatically since the 1930s and it is likely that they were in a similar configuration during Lincoln's time because of soil and topographic constraints. Historic photographs show that the fields were once more open than they are today, with agriculture activities occurring right up to the edge of Knob Creek. These photos also show that both banks of the creek were kept free of woody vegetation in the past (Figure 2.6, Figure 2.13, and Figure 2.14).

The spatial organization of the developed portion of the site is relatively unchanged from the 1930s. The Lincoln Tavern, reconstructed cabin and the semi-circular entrance drive are all in their original locations adjacent to US Highway 31E. Both buildings are oriented toward the highway in an effort to increase their visibility to passing motorists traveling along the highway. The design and location of the entrance drive was likely intentional, as the drive seems to funnel traffic heading from either direction on the highway into the property. Presumably, the entrance drive configuration, and the prominent location of the buildings were part of a strategy to lure passing tourists into the site.

The entrance drive is carefully situated in a slight bend in US Highway 31E, with the buildings located at the mid-point of the curve. The cluster of buildings acts as a focal point and serves to draw passing drivers into the site. Because of the relationship between the entrance drive, the buildings, and US Highway 31E, each entrance to the site feels like a natural continuation of the highway, rather than a designated pull off. This relationship has created safety and visibility concerns for motorists entering and exiting the park today, but was probably a key part of the overall design of the site as a tourist destination in the 1930s.



Figure 3.49: Dirt path from parking area to restroom building, 2011



Figure 3.50: Concrete sidewalk to reconstructed cabin, 2011

Circulation

Pedestrian. Pedestrian circulation within the park consists of an informal system of dirt paths, sidewalks and trails that connect the cultural and natural features to one another and provide access to the interior of the park. Illustrations 1.1 and 3.1 provide detailed maps of the pedestrian circulation system.

In the developed portion of the site, a narrow dirt path leads from the parking area to the restroom building and picnic area (Figure 3.49). This dirt path is in good condition. A short section of concrete sidewalk provides universal access from the parking area to the reconstructed cabin (Figure 3.50). A segment of wooden ramp leads from the parking area to the Ranger Station. Another narrow dirt path links the reconstructed cabin to nearby Knob Creek, where an interpretive panel provides information related to Abraham Lincoln's near drowning in the creek (Figure 3.51). This path is



Figure 3.51: Dirt path from the reconstructed cabin to Knob Creek, 2011

in poor condition because of erosion issues. Paths of compacted dirt are an appropriate material to the 1930s period of significance; however, they fail to provide universal access to many of the park resources. Both the concrete sidewalk leading to the reconstructed cabin and the section of wooden ramp that provides access to the Ranger Station are in good condition and universally accessible.

A 10' wide dirt lane travels along the northern edge of the developed area and serves as the starting point of the Overlook Trail. This 1.5 mile trail allows visitors and NPS staff access to the undeveloped areas of the park. The trail narrows as it follows Knob Creek to the end of the first agricultural field. After reaching the far edge of the first agricultural field, the trail turns to the south and ascends the north face of the southeastern knob. After this steep incline, the trail winds across the top of the knob and passes by a small pond before terminating in a cleared overlook area. The overlook provides an exceptional view of the valley below. The NPS uses the lower portions of the Overlook Trail as a service drive when needed, allowing authorized vehicular access to the interior of the property. The trail along the agricultural field is maintained by mowing and the condition is good. As the trail ascends the southeastern knob, the surface becomes more rugged with some portions covered with loose stones making the trail hard to traverse. As the trail reaches the top of the knob, the surface primarily becomes tall grasses and forbs indicating low usage and deferred maintenance of the trail. This is further evidenced by fallen limbs that cross the trail from storm damage in Spring 2011.



Figure 3.52: Semi-circular entrance drive and parking, 2011



Figure 3.53: Parking bays separated by tree planting, 2011

Vehicular. The primary vehicular circulation feature at the Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek is a semi-circular entrance drive with an attached parking area that was constructed in the early 1930s to provide vehicular access and parking to the newly constructed Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin (Figure 3.52). The entrance drive intersects with US Highway 31E at an acute angle at two locations, one to north of the Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin, and one to the south. A detailed map of the current circulation routes is included in Illustration 3.1. The general configuration of this entrance drive has not changed since it was constructed; however, the surface material has been updated over time. The drive and parking area were originally surfaced in dirt and gravel, but have been paved with asphalt several times over the years, most recently by the NPS in 2005.[69] Two accessible parking spaces and a single reserved parking space are located immediately in front of the Lincoln Tavern. The parking area extends to the southeast from this location, following the entrance drive and providing 15 additional spaces oriented at a 90-degree angle to the travel lane. The parking stalls are tucked between a series of mature maple trees, which separate the bays of parking from one another (Figure 3.53). All of the spaces are striped and feature concrete stop blocks. The entrance drive and its associated parking area are contributing resources and are in good condition.

As one of the only natural passageways through the surrounding knobs, US Highway 31E follows a historically important trade route through the region, and its alignment has remained relatively unchanged since the early 1800s. This historic route, formerly known as the Bardstown-Green River Turnpike, was present during the Lincoln's tenure at Knob Creek Farm. A young Abraham Lincoln likely experienced locals and travelers passing by and there is evidence that Lincoln's father, Thomas, collected tolls from travelers.[70] Though not owned or maintained by the NPS, US Highway 31E is a contributing resource and is in good condition.

Utilities

Electricity is provided to the Lincoln Tavern and Ranger Station via an overhead line, which enters the site in the northwestern corner of the property from US Highway 31E. The line parallels a dirt service path for approximately 400 feet before making a 90-degree turn and connecting with the rear façade of both buildings. The lines appear to be in good condition. In addition to the power lines that provide electricity to the developed portion of the site, two large transmission lines traverse portions of the property. One travels east to west across the summit of the northernmost knob while the other crosses the site at the southeastern corner, near the overlook. Both of these transmission lines have a negative impact on views.

A septic system serves the restroom building and the Lincoln Tavern. The leach field area is located in the first agricultural field near the interpretive garden. The date of construction for this system is unknown.

[69] Superintendent Annual Report, 2005 (copy in ETIC Archives).

[70] On-site interpretive panel.



Figure 3.54: View across agricultural fields, 2011



Figure 3.55: View of surrounding countryside from top of overlook, 2011

A county water line follows the right-of-way of US Highway 31E. According to the most recent survey of the property, a 1" stub out connection to the water line is located adjacent to the northern entrance drive. A fire hydrant is located next to this water connection. Municipal water is not provided to any of the park buildings from this source. A well located at the rear of the Lincoln Tavern provided the tavern and the restroom building with ground water during the Howard family's tenure of the property. The well is now contaminated. The NPS uses water from the well to water the interpretive garden. Because the water used in the interpretive garden is contaminated and the plants are inedible, the NPS disposes of all of the plants grown in the garden once they reach maturity.



Figure 3.56: Maintenance shed visible from park trail system, 2011

Views and Vistas

While there are no documented, planned, or designed views at Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek, several impressive views exist within the landscape. At the rear of the Lincoln Tavern, along the fence line that serves as the boundary of the first field, there is an outstanding view across the agricultural fields to the wooded interior of the park (Figure 3.54). This view is framed by the surrounding knobs and remains unmarred by development except for a glimpse of an overhead power line in the distance. This view also contributes to the setting once viewed by a young Abraham Lincoln living at Knob Creek. There is an attractive view of the surrounding rural landscape visible from the top of the southeastern knob at the end of the Overlook Trail (Figure 3.55). The NPS recently installed a contemporary maintenance shed at the far end of the first agricultural field. This building is visible from the park trail system, and detracts from an otherwise attractive view of the woodland edge of the agricultural field (Figure 3.56) In addition; the views from the front of the Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin looking east and west along US Highway 31E have likely changed little from the 1930s.

Analysis and Evaluation

Introduction

For cultural landscapes such as the Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek, documenting existing conditions and analyzing and evaluating natural and man-made historic resources is critical in the development of a strategy for their management and preservation. Cultural landscape analysis involves two primary activities: evaluating historic significance and assessing historic integrity. Both use criteria determined by the National Register of Historic Places, which has developed nationally recognized methods for evaluating the significance and integrity of historic buildings and landscapes.

The evaluation of historic significance identifies the important historical associations of the property, as well as its architectural, archeological, and social value. The property's significance is tied to a discrete period of time (period of significance) in which its important contributions were made and the broader historic contexts (historic context themes) within which the activities that occurred on the property may be placed. The analysis and evaluation considers the site's history within recognized historic contexts to determine its contribution to the broad patterns of American history. It is important to note that historic resources, particularly cultural landscapes, change through time. As a result, a cultural landscape may have several areas of historical significance and multiple periods of significance.

In order to determine whether a landscape feature contributes to the historic significance of the landscape at the Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek, this chapter compares the existing conditions of landscape features to its understood historic character. The object of this analysis is to identify the specific features associated with the historic periods and assess to what degree they continue to convey their historic significance. Figures at the end of this chapter compare existing conditions to historic scenes. To aid in this assessment, landscape features are categorized based on their contribution to our understanding of the historic character of the landscape during the period or periods of significance. These categories are:

Contributing (C)
Noncontributing (NC)
Missing (M)
Undetermined (U)

Contributing landscape features survive from the periods of significance and continue to reflect their historic appearance and function. Non-contributing landscape features include those added to the site since the periods of significance or that no longer retain enough physical integrity to convey their historic appearance or function. Missing features existed during the period of significance but have been removed, destroyed, or cannot be recognized in their current condition. Undetermined include features whose age cannot be determined or whose contribution to the historic landscape is unknown. Please refer to the table at the end of this chapter for a summary of this information (Figure 4.6).

The process to identify landscape elements follows a National Park Service methodology that categorizes all landscape elements as one of 13 landscape characteristics:

Archeological Sites
Buildings and Structures
Circulation
Arrangement of Buildings
Constructed Water Features
Cultural Traditions
Land Use
Natural Systems and Features
Other
Small-Scale Features
Spatial Organization
Topography
Vegetation
Views and Vistas

National Register Status

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 authorized the creation of the National Register of Historic Places as the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. The National Park Service is responsible for maintaining the list and coordinating with public and private entities to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources. The National Park Service has developed criteria for evaluating historic resources to determine their eligibility for listing on the National Register. The National Register Criteria for Evaluation examines a property's age, integrity, and significance. To be considered historic, a property typically needs to be at least 50 years old. To possess integrity, a historic landscape needs to look the way it did in the past. The categories of integrity used to evaluate a property include: location, design, setting, material, workmanship, and feeling or association. The property must also be associated with historical events, activities, or developments that were important in the past. The National Register identifies the type of significance of a property based on the following criteria:

A. Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
B. Association with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
C. Embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
D. Yielding or potential to yield information in history or prehistory.

For properties meeting special requirements, Criteria Considerations may be applied. The property must first meet one or more of the four criteria for evaluation, listed above, and possess integrity. There are seven total Criteria Considerations, which are as follows:

a. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
b. A building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
c. A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life; or
d. A cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, from association with historic events; or
e. A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
f. A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or,
g. A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

The Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on November 16, 1988, as a district. Its National Register Information System Number is 88002531. The nomination form considered the site as locally significant under National Register Criteria for Evaluation A for its associative value in the significance of LaRue County Tourism surrounding Abraham Lincoln. The National Register statement of significance also suggests that the site deserves Criteria Consideration F as a commemorative monument to Abraham Lincoln. Criteria Consideration F states that a property primarily commemorative in intent can be National Register eligible if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance. The National Register nomination listed its area of significance as recreation and culture as well as Lincoln Iconography.

Statement of Significance

In the early 20th century LaRue County became a center for Lincoln memorials and artifacts. Lincoln's birthplace south of Hodgenville became a national site in 1916 and as roads improved during the 1920s thousands of tourists traveled to the county to visit his birthplace memorial. In 1933, the Lincoln Boyhood Home complex was constructed to take advantage of this tourist trade and honor the site of the home of Lincoln's family from 1811 to 1816. Located adjacent to US Highway 31E, this tourist attraction became a well known stop between Bardstown and Hodgenville and continues to be a major tourist attraction in the county. Since its development in the early 1930s few major changes have occurred to the buildings and site.

Criterion A: Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek as significant under criterion A for its role in LaRue County tourism because the Boyhood Home at Knob Creek was one of two major monuments to Abraham Lincoln in LaRue County and one of only four Lincoln residences open to the public.

Criterion Consideration F: A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance. Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek has developed commemorative significance because it reflects the values and culture of the generation who developed the site as a Lincoln-themed destination designed to attract and accommodate automobile tourism. In the past 50 years, the complex has assumed its own historical value as a commemorative monument as the site of Lincoln's boyhood home.

The Lincoln Tavern and the reconstructed cabin are outstanding examples of this unique American phenomenon, made possible by the expansion of the highway system in the 1930s. (Figure 4.1). The Howard family constructed the buildings and landscaped the site to evoke the rustic setting of the 19th century Kentucky frontier. (Figure 4.2). The evolution of the property culminates with the 1959 sesquicentennial celebration of Lincoln's birth. By 1959, the landscape aesthetic was fully developed and remained relatively unchanged until the late 1980s. (Figure 4.3). Most of the character-defining features of the commemorative period are visible today and continue to contribute to an observers' experience of the site. The existing landscape characteristics that contribute to the site's historic significance as a commemorative property include the spatial organization, buildings, circulation features, and vegetation. The arrangement and orientation of the Lincoln Tavern, set as the focal point of the semicircular entrance drive, continues to convey its original function as a tourist destination. (Figure 4.4 and Figure 4.5). The reconstructed cabin is located so that fences and vegetation visually separate the reconstructed cabin from the tavern and entrance road. The natural systems and features that form the setting of the site are also relatively unchanged since the commemorative period. The existing vegetation reflects the original design that, in addition to framing views across the site, created a shady refuge for visitors during the summer months when visitation peaks.

While there are existing landscape characteristics that warrant consideration as the setting of Abraham Lincoln's childhood, no original buildings or structures exist, therefore eliminating Criteria B, C and D. The landscape of the entire site retains a similar rural character and appearance to what may have existed during the Lincoln period (1811-1816). "My earliest recollection . . . is of the Knob Creek Place" and natural landscape features still exist on site that would have formed the setting for his childhood. Knob Creek still runs through the pastoral landscape, where fields occupy the valleys from which rise the steep sided conical hills characteristic to this region of Kentucky. While not considered part of the period of significance for the cultural landscape, it should be noted that the Lincoln period is significant because of its association with Abraham Lincoln and because the property reflects the theme of western expansion of the Colonies and the United States.

There is no documented evidence of the exact appearance of the landscape at the time of the Lincolns' tenure or evidence of that continuation through the present. However, because the property is defined by significant natural features, including steep, forested knobs rising up from the flat valley through which flows Knob Creek, it is estimated that the setting is virtually unchanged

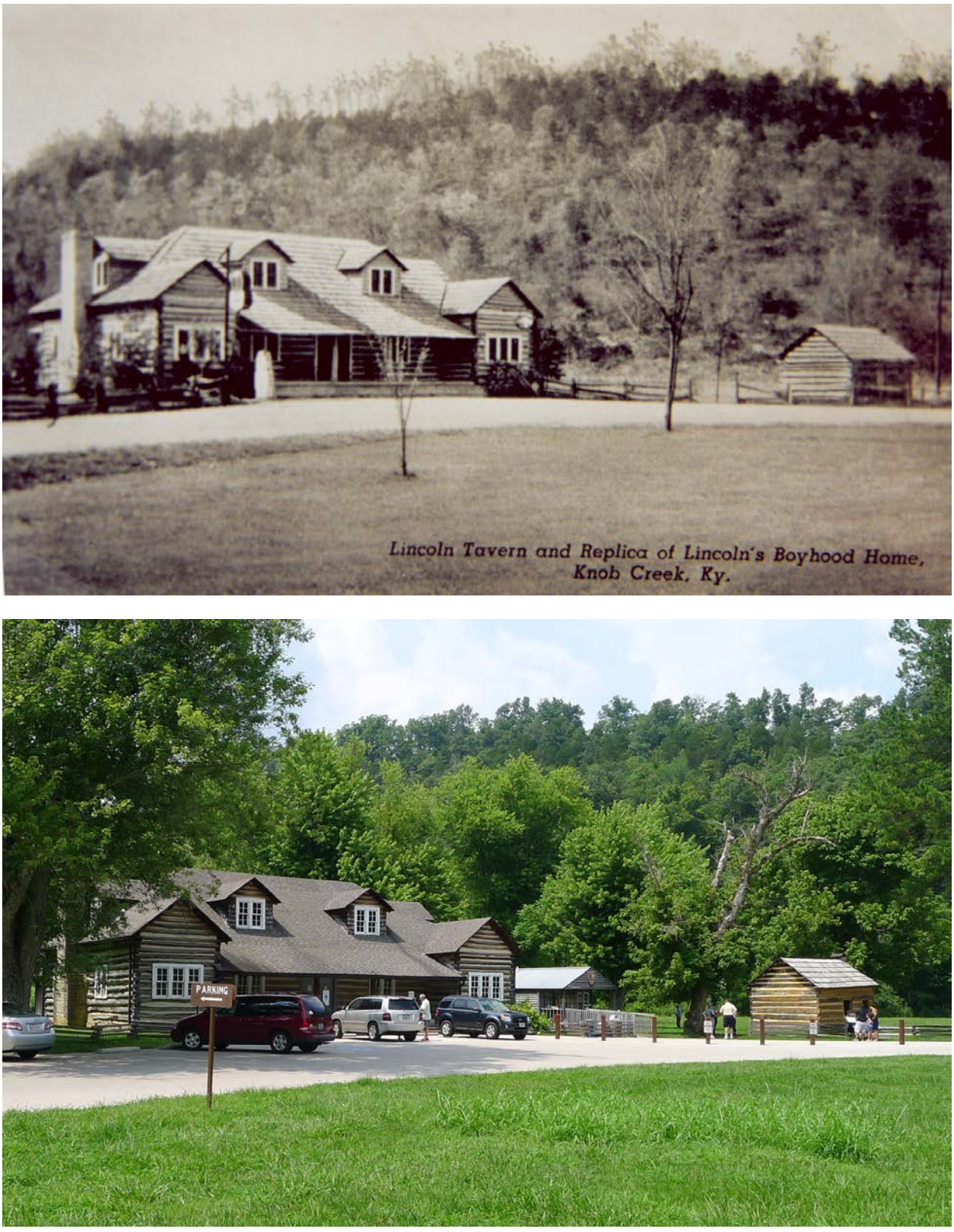


Figure 4.1: Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin, circa late 1930s photograph compared to 2011 photograph

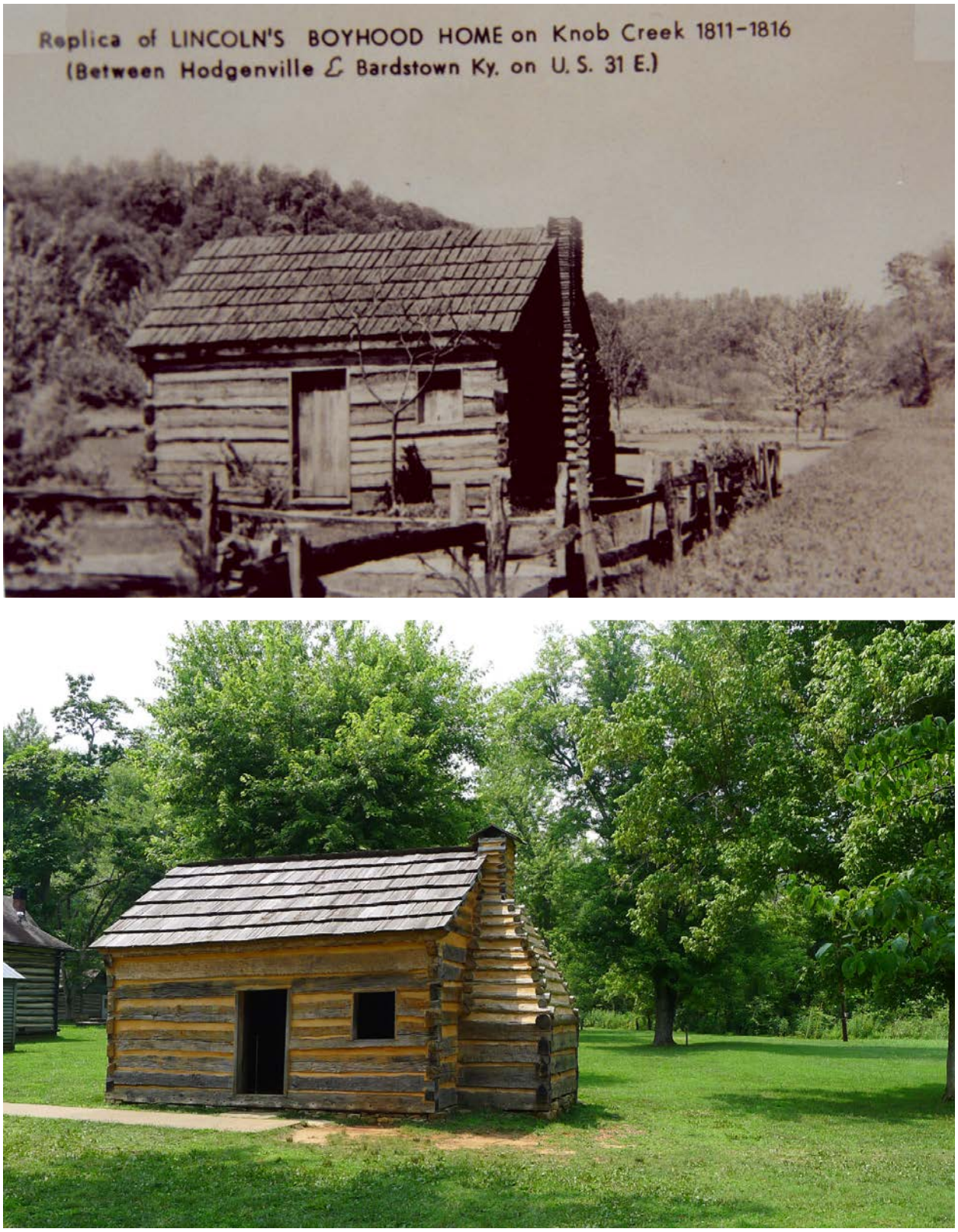


Figure 4.2: Reconstructed cabin, circa late 1930s to early 1940s photograph compared to 2011 photograph

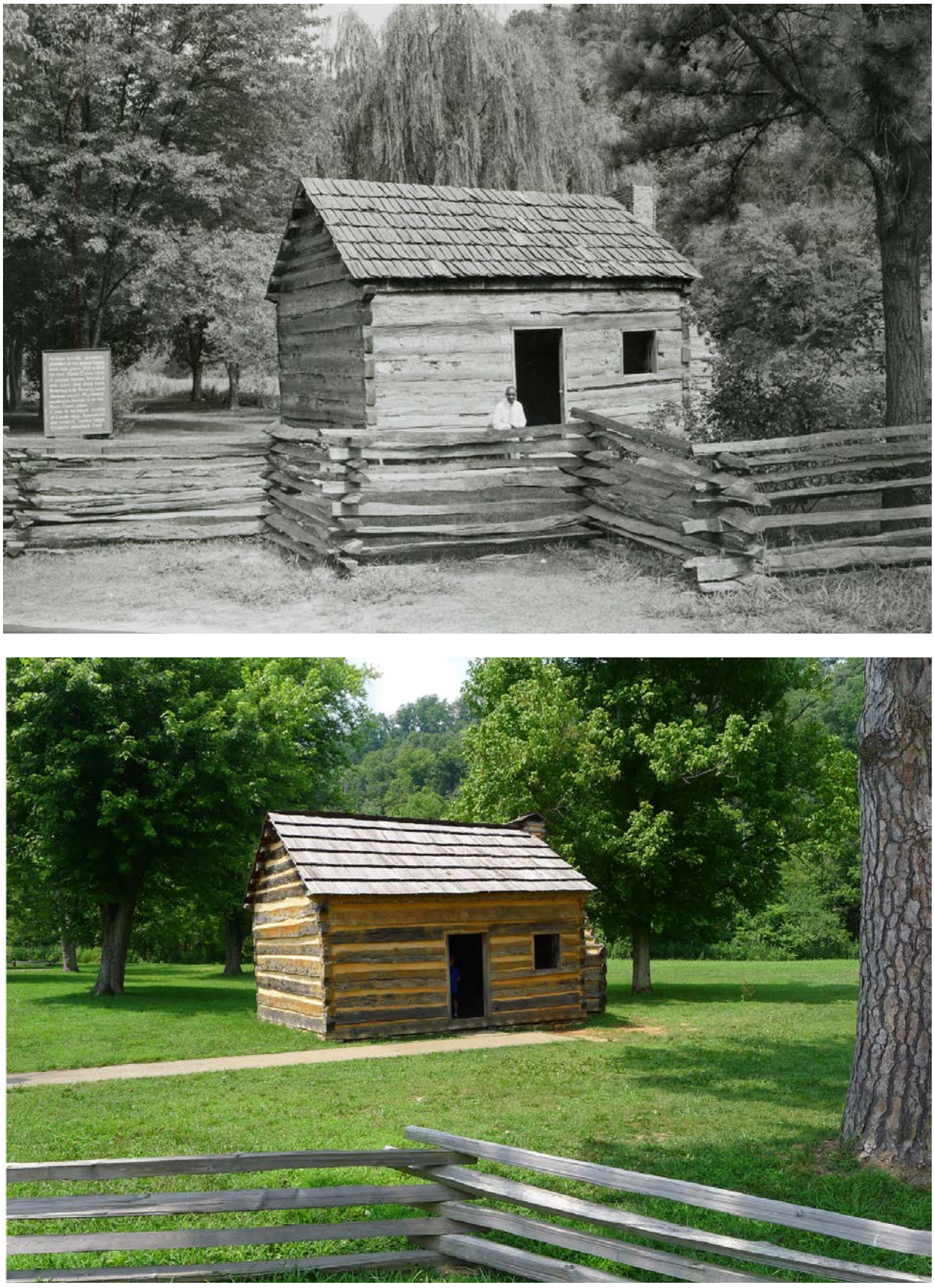


Figure 4.3: Reconstructed cabin, circa 1950s photograph compared to 2011 photograph



Figure 4.4: Lincoln Tavern, circa late 1930s to early 1940s photograph compared to 2011 photograph





Figure 4.5: Lincoln Tavern parking area, circa 1930s to early 1940s photograph compared to 2011 photograph

since the Lincoln period. The existing road alignment of US Highway 31E is also considered to be a historic feature. While materials and width may have changed, the alignment is unchanged from the original roadbed that existed during the Lincoln period, due to the surrounding physical constraints. It should be noted that though these features do not meet specific National Register criteria, they are significant to the Lincoln period and integral to current setting and the overall commemorative mission.

Period of Significance

The 1988 National Register nomination form identified the period of significance as 1933 to circa 1938. The reconstructed cabin and Lincoln Tavern opened to the public in 1933. The 1938 end-date represents 50 years before the nomination was written. This Cultural Landscape Report recommends that this period of significance be modified from the National Register nomination with the updated period of significance described here.

The Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek merits a broader period of significance that recognizes the site's association with the commemorative period of significance, a mission of the site that has arguably been carried through to the present. The period of significance should therefore be extended to the 50 year mark, based on National Register criteria, which is currently 1962. The period of significance should also be extended to begin in 1931 when the Howard family designed and constructed a monument to Abraham Lincoln. While the 1959 sesquicentennial events were nationally recognized as the culmination of the Howard family's efforts to create a reputable historic site, it is also recognized that the commemorative period extends beyond that year. The existing designed landscape features from this commemorative period retain a high level of integrity. The commemorative period is significant because it reflects the historic context theme of creating social institutions and movements. Specifically, the commemorative period illustrates how heritage tourism developed as an important recreational industry in LaRue County, Kentucky. The property has continued to be managed under the commemorative mission through the present.

The period of significance used for analysis in this CLR and the associated periods of development are as follows:

- Historic commemorative period (1931-1962)
  - Chester and Hattie Howard Develop Knob Creek (1931-1933)
  - Lincoln Tavern Period (1934-1942)
  - Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Under Multiple Site Managers (1934-1949)
  - Early Fred and Brooks Howard Period, the Sesquicentennial Celebration of 1959 and beyond to the National Register 50 year criteria (1950-1962)

Natural Systems and Features

Topography and Hydrology

The topography of the Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek is largely unchanged from the time of Lincoln. Steep knobs continue to rise up from, and surround a narrow, flat agricultural valley, exactly as they did during Lincoln's years living at the farm at Knob Creek. When the Howard family developed the property as a tourist attraction in the early 1930s, some grading associated with the construction of the entrance drive, tavern and reconstructed cabin occurred. This alteration in the topography was likely minimal, as all site development occurred within the flat valley adjacent to Knob Creek. The topography of the entire property is a contributing feature to both the Lincoln period (1811-1816) and the period of significance (1931-1962).

The hydrology associated with Knob Creek has changed little since the time of Lincoln. Presumably, the creek and its tributaries that occur within the site have not altered their courses significantly in the past 200 years. Knob Creek is still prone to the same flood events remembered by Lincoln. Even today, it is not difficult to imagine a young Abraham Lincoln falling into the creek and a childhood friend rescuing him from drowning during a flash flood. Knob Creek is a character-defining feature of the original Lincoln childhood landscape and lends its name to the historic farm. The creek is important to the commemorative period as well, as the Howard Family made mention of Lincoln's documented memories of Knob Creek in their interpretive elements at the site.

Natural Vegetation

The area surrounding the Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek likely consisted of open cultivated fields in the low valleys with pockets of woodland covering the steep hillsides that were more difficult to farm. This general configuration persists in the landscape today and contributes to the site's significance during the Lincoln Period.

Historic photographs and aerials show that during the commemorative period, very little vegetation grew along the banks of Knob Creek. Figure 4.2 shows an open condition on both banks of the creek. Other historic photographs and the 1951 aerial photograph also show the banks of the creek as open and devoid of large vegetation (Figure 2.3, 2.4 and 2.13). Aerial photographs also show multiple open areas located on the tops of the knobs from at least 1951 to the early 2000s. These flatter ridge tops were probably cultivated, kept clear for grazing, or used for some other unknown purpose. Once the NPS took over ownership of the property, these clearings were allowed to return to a forested condition through the natural process of succession. The increase in woody vegetation along the banks of Knob Creek and at the ridge tops detracts from the integrity during the commemorative period; however, the natural vegetation patterns at Knob Creek still contribute to the significance of the site.

Cultural Features

This CLR uses historic photographs, postcards, and aerials to identify cultural features from the period of significance.

Land Use

The land use for the majority of the property has not changed dramatically since the Lincolns lived here and farmed the land in the early 19th century. The flat, agricultural valley has been in cultivation or kept in an open condition from the time of the Lincolns to the present day. Similarly, the surrounding knobs have remained wooded

and undeveloped over the past 200 years due to their exaggerated topography. The 1930s roadside tourist complex continues to attract tourists while commemorating and interpreting Abraham Lincoln's time spent here during childhood.

Buildings and Structures

The Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin are the premier historic resources at the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home. The exterior of the Lincoln Tavern has not changed considerably from the commemorative period of significance. Alterations include the removal of two gasoline pumps and the removal of two advertising signs affixed to the front façade during the early portion of the commemorative period. In addition, Lincoln Boyhood Home, Inc., replaced the original cedar shake roof with asphalt shingles in 1998 (Figure 4.4 and Figure 4.5). The most significant alteration to the exterior of the reconstructed cabin was the replacement of the original chimney prior to 1950. This may have coincided with the construction of a new limestone hearth during this period. Additionally, the NPS stabilized the reconstructed cabin after acquiring the property (Figure 4.2). The goal of these improvements was to stabilize the structure in order to allow visitor access to the building. Both the Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin are character-defining features and contribute to the commemorative period of significance. None of the other buildings at the park contributes to the significance of the commemorative period; and no buildings or structures remain from the Lincoln period.

Cultural Vegetation

Vegetation includes historic specimen trees planted throughout the developed portion of the site by the Howards during the commemorative period of significance. Three newly planted maple trees are visible at the rear of the reconstructed cabin in an undated historic photograph that appears to be from the late 1930s or early 1940s (Figure 4.2). Two of the trees visible in the historic image exist in the landscape today. Additional specimen trees of the same apparent age and species surround the picnic area, dating them to the commemorative period. The Howards planted these trees at regular intervals, probably to provide shade. The spacing of the trees also appears intentional, perhaps to allow for some recreational use. The majority of the trees are silver maples; however, northern catalpa and sugar maple are located in the lawn area around the Lincoln Tavern. These trees are visible in aerial photography dated 1951 and appear large enough in the photograph to have been planted much earlier, likely in the late 1930s or early 1940s.

The Howards planted two pine trees in front of the reconstructed cabin during the period of significance. These trees are visible in a historic photograph from the late 1940s (Figure 4.3). The trees appear to be approximately 10 years old at the time of the photograph, dating their planting to the late 1930s. In addition, a box elder tree is visible in historic photographs in the same location where one exists today, at the entrance to the fenced area that surrounds the reconstructed cabin. The tree likely dates from the late 1930s and is in severe decline (Figure 4.1).

Additional specimen trees within the developed area that possess a caliper size greater than 24" are also considered historic and contributing. This size cutoff was determined after comparing the caliper size of the documented historic trees with the caliper size of other trees that do not appear in historic photographs.

Small-scale Features

Rustic wooden fences are visible in the majority of historic photographs from the commemorative period. The fences help to define the spaces around the Lincoln Tavern and the reconstructed cabin and reinforce the semi-circular design of the entrance drive. There were actually two styles of fencing present during the commemorative period of significance. During the early part of the period, a simple post and rail fence defined the space surrounding the reconstructed cabin and was used to convey a facsimile of an early pioneer farmstead intended to represent how the Lincolns' would have lived on the site (Figure 4.2). Later, the post and rail fencing was replaced with a snake rail fence in a similar location (Figure 4.3). Since the fence material is organic, it has required replacement throughout the years, most recently in 2001 by the NPS. The fence type and location is a character-defining feature and contributes to the historic significance of the site.

The state historical marker was ordered and installed in the late 1950s, dating it to the commemorative period. The Kentucky Historical

Society restored the marker in 2007. The marker is a contributing feature. The routed wooden KLT sign placed by the Boy Scouts during their use of the site in the commemorative period is considered a contributing feature. None of the remaining small-scale features including signage, trash receptacles, and benches contribute to the historic significance of the site.

Spatial Organization

The commemorative period of significance retains excellent integrity of layout, spatial organization and design. The semi-circular entrance drive has been resurfaced, but remains in its original location and continues to direct visitors to the site. The orientation of the two historic buildings toward US Highway 31E has not changed since the site was developed as a tourist attraction in the early 1930s (Figure 4.1). The agricultural fields have decreased in size over time as the natural stream bank vegetation along Knob Creek has been allowed to return (Illustration 4.1). In the past, the fields were cultivated up to the creek's edge. The lack of fences and the current maintenance regime reduces the legibility of the field northeast of the reconstructed cabin. The separation of spaces during the commemorative period is clearly visible in Figure 4.2. The space around the reconstructed cabin is mown and the edge of the field is distinctly visible extending beyond the fence line. Woody vegetation around Knob Creek has encroached, and forest canopy has been allowed to replace open areas along the edges of the agricultural fields. Despite their diminished integrity, the agricultural fields continue to contribute to the historic significance of the site.

Circulation

Walkways, Paths and Trails. Pedestrian circulation in the developed area of the park consists of unpaved walking paths and a concrete walkway that leads to the reconstructed cabin. The Howards constructed the existing concrete walkway to the reconstructed cabin prior to 1975, paving over a compacted dirt and gravel path that served the same purpose since the development of the site in the early 1930s. Even though the concrete walkway is not historic, it is in a historic alignment and retains integrity of location and setting. The pedestrian link between the Lincoln Tavern and the reconstructed cabin is a character-defining feature. Therefore, despite its diminished historic integrity, the walkway is a contributing feature to the site. Two narrow dirt paths provide access to park resources including the picnic area, restroom, and Knob Creek. While it is likely that dirt paths of this type would have been appropriate during both periods of significance, no documentation of paths in these locations exists today, so the current dirt paths in existing locations are noncontributing resources.

The 1.5-mile long Overlook Trail provides visitor and service access to the interior of the park. Portions of this dirt trail may follow historic farm roads dating to the period of significance; however, there is not adequate documentation to support this theory. It is also likely that the Boy Scouts Lincoln Heritage Trail followed portions of the current park trail system. A historic photograph taken in 1959 shows a group of Boy Scouts camping near the end of the first agricultural field in a location compatible with a portion of the Overlook Trail (Figure 2.10). The Boy Scouts use of the site during the later period of significance illustrates the Howard family's ongoing efforts in the commemoration of Abraham Lincoln. Because of this, the portions of the trail system used by the Boy Scouts are considered contributing resources.

Vehicular Circulation. The present vehicular circulation system within the park was developed during the Howard period of significance. The basic configuration of the semi-circular entrance drive is unchanged from that time; however, over the years the drive has been resurfaced multiple times. The last resurfacing occurred in 2005, when the NPS repaved the entrance drive and paved a former gravel parking area south of the Lincoln Tavern. Historic comparison photos clearly show the entrance drive following nearly the same route that it does today as well as automobiles parking in the same location in front of the Lincoln Tavern (Figure 4.4 and Figure 4.5). The semi-circular entrance drive is a historic and character-defining feature.

The route of US Highway 31E predates both the Lincoln and Howard period of significance. Known as the Bardstown-Green River Turnpike during the 19th century, this passageway through the surrounding hills has been an important trade route in this region of Kentucky since before 1765. A young Abraham Lincoln likely saw enslaved people in coffles being taken south on the road. There is evidence that Lincoln's father, Thomas,

collected tolls from passing travelers[71]. The NPS does not own or maintain US Highway 31E but it is a character-defining feature that contributes to the significance of the site.

A contemporary dirt lane affords vehicular service access from the developed area to the interior of the park. This lane first appears in photographs of the site in the late 1990s and now serves as the beginning point for the Overlook Trail. This dirt lane is non-contributing.

Utilities

None of the existing utilities within the park remain from either period of significance.

Views and Vistas

Views and vistas within the park remain virtually unchanged from the 1930s. The view from the rear of the Lincoln Tavern looking over the agricultural fields, framed by the surrounding knobs, is particularly impressive. This particular view contains no traces of development except for an occasional glimpse of an overhead power line in the distance and is probably very similar to the views that a young Abraham Lincoln would have experienced while living here. This view contributes to both periods of significance. In addition, the views from the front of the Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin looking east and west along US Highway 31E still convey the same bucolic landscape character a tourist would have experienced while visiting the site during the commemorative period.

Evaluation of Landscape Integrity

Landscape integrity refers to a cultural landscape's ability to convey its historic significance. *National Register Bulletin 16A* defines historic integrity as "the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's prehistoric or historic period." In *National Register Bulletin 15*, the National Register defines seven aspects of integrity to use when evaluating a historic property:

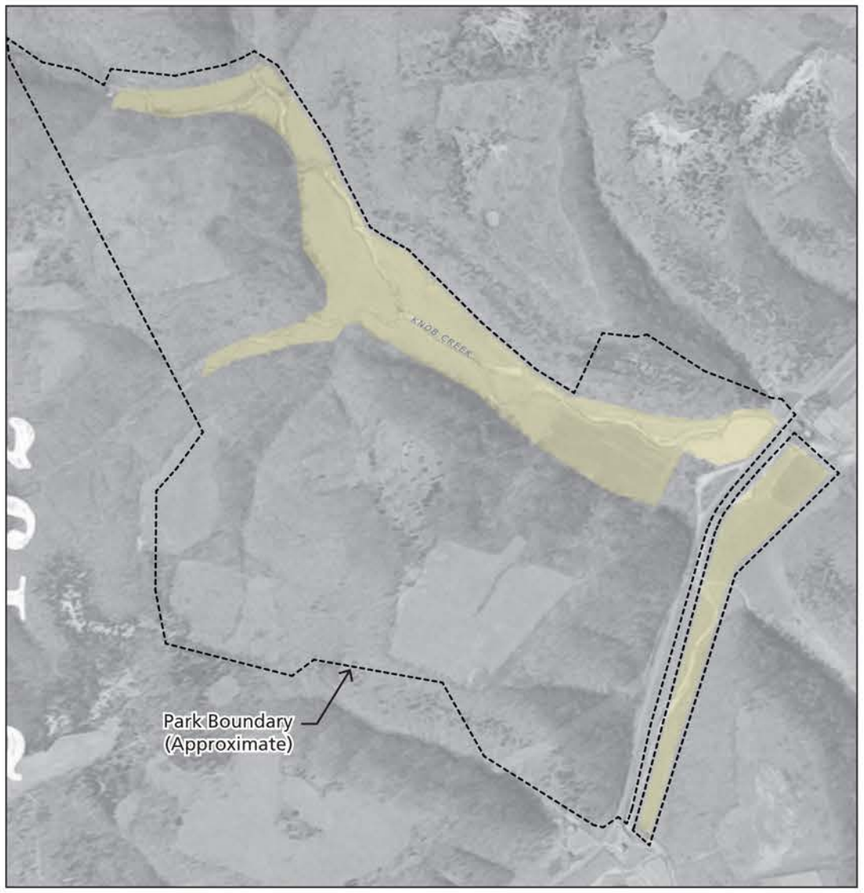
Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred;
Setting is the physical environment within and surrounding a property;
Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property;
Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property;
Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory;
Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time; and
Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

In order to retain historic integrity, a property must possess several, and usually most, of these seven aspects. Evaluating historic integrity involves first determining the historic significance of a property and then identifying the existing features that contribute to our ability to recognize and understand this significance. Character-defining features are those distinctive features or qualities that make a property unique. They are the individual parts that make the whole place special and worthy of our recognition as a historic property.

Location

The location of the site, complemented by its rural setting, reflects the character of the landscape during the Lincoln period (1811-1816) as well as the period of significance (1931-1962). The locations of the natural systems, including the creeks, hills, and valleys, are unchanged. These features, along with the fertility of the soil alongside Knob Creek, partially explain why Thomas Lincoln moved his family there in 1811. Lincoln likely believed that the farm had sufficient resources to support his family. The location of the roadside attraction that the Howard family constructed beginning in 1931 is also unchanged. The

[71] On site interpretive panel.



Site in 1951



Site in 2010

Legend

Open Field

North

Not To Scale

Comparison of Agricultural Fields in the Commemorative Period to Existing Conditions

Analysis

Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek
Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park
Cultural Landscape Report
July 2012

Illustration 4.1

buildings are in their original location. The historic circulation features are essentially in their historic alignments. The historic specimen trees are in their original locations. In sum, the site retains a high degree of integrity for location.

Design

The existing designed features that contribute to the historic significance of the site date from the period of significance (1931-1962). The original design reflects Hattie and Chester Howard's conscious desire to create a roadside attraction for automobile tourism. Numerous character-defining features exist from the original layout, including the arrangement of buildings, the alignment of roads, and the location of specimen trees. Additionally, Chester Howard reportedly designed the Lincoln Tavern. It is mostly unchanged. Robert Thompson oversaw the construction of the reconstructed cabin, which, while recently restored, accurately reflects its original 1931 form. The Howards also established a park-like environment around the Lincoln Tavern and an agrarian landscape around the reconstructed cabin that partially survives today. Overall, because the rustic architecture and pastoral aesthetic in the landscape is legible today, the site retains a high level of integrity for design.

Setting

The physical environment surrounding the site includes both natural systems and cultural land use patterns. The setting today continues to be pastoral, with open fields filling the valleys between the forested knobs. These features are consistent with the setting during Lincoln's boyhood period on site (1811-1816).

The only manmade features contributing to the setting from the Lincoln period are US Highway 31E and the agricultural fields on the property. US Highway 31E approximately follows the same route as the turnpike that ran in front of the farm during Lincoln's boyhood. The current fields that extend up the valley from the reconstructed cabin existed in a very similar form during the Lincoln occupancy.

All the other manmade features that influence the historic setting date to the period of significance (1931-1962). The Howards constructed a setting to appeal to motorists travelling along the highway. The Lincoln Tavern and entrance drive offered easy access off the main road. Travelers viewed the Lincoln Tavern across an open lawn framed by large specimen trees. The Howards surrounded the reconstructed cabin with rustic fences and traditional plants, attempting to recreate their vision of a pioneer Kentucky farm scene. The Howards maintained fields adjacent to the reconstructed cabin and the Lincoln Tavern. While they are not being actively cultivated today, the NPS continues to maintain the fields in an open condition.

In total, there have been only minor changes to the historic setting. As a result, the historic setting has a high level of integrity.

Materials

All existing material dates from either the commemorative period or the National Park Service period. The character-defining material includes the logs that the Howards used to construct the reconstructed cabin and the Lincoln Tavern. The logs for the reconstructed cabin came from an historic log cabin that existed on the property when the Howards purchased the farm. The building material for the Lincoln Tavern reportedly came from the property. The NPS recently restored the reconstructed cabin retaining the original material of the structure. The chimney and roof have been replaced since the periods of significance. The Lincoln Tavern exterior siding is in fair condition, but is largely original. Overall, the use of local round logs is a character-defining feature as it is essential to the rustic architecture the Howards used on the site.

The materials for the circulation systems, both pedestrian and vehicular, are different from when first constructed. The entrance road was originally dirt and gravel. It is now asphalt. The walkway to the reconstructed cabin was originally dirt. It is now concrete. Much of the existing vegetation dates from the commemorative period of significance, even though many trees that appear in historic photographs have been lost. Fences are another character-defining feature of the site that date to the commemorative period of significance. The NPS installed the current fences in approximately the same location as the earlier fences.

The alterations to the buildings, change in fence material, and natural loss of historic trees has resulted in a diminished level of integrity of materials.

Workmanship

The existing workmanship is reflective of the Lincoln period (1811-1816) as well as the Howards' methods of construction in the period of significance (1931-1962). The reconstructed cabin appropriately reflects 19th century construction techniques that are the primary intent of this interpretive feature. In particular, the hewn logs with half-dovetail joinery, the log purlin roof structure, the partial loft, board door and window, wood and mud chimney, and the mud chinking, are representative of an early 19th century log cabin. A local resident claims first-hand knowledge of the original Lincoln Cabin and oversight of its construction. The Lincoln Tavern, in addition to the overall plan and design that is so typical of the early 20th century, very much reflects 1930s construction techniques, particularly the logs left in the round, V-notch joinery, Portland cement and sand chinking, sawn rafters and floor joists, stone chimney, and fenestration. The Tavern reflects a similar knowledge of historic log construction techniques. The condition of these features is considered good enough to convey their original workmanship. Therefore, the site retains a high level of integrity for workmanship.

Feeling

Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek retains a high level of integrity for feeling for both the Lincoln period (1811-1816) as well as the period of significance (1931-1962). The overall setting of the site continues to convey the feeling of a pastoral scene. There are modern intrusions, but these do not undermine the ability of the place to express the feeling of a frontier landscape. The physical features that exist continue to convey the original function of the site as a highway tourist attraction. The rustic architecture reflects a 1930s romantic view of Lincoln's youth that glorified his association with the log cabin. The mature trees are consistent with the site's appearance since the 1930s and 1940s when the trees that the Howards planted began to affect the appearance of the place.

Association

The site exists today because of its association with Lincoln. Hattie and Chester Howard constructed the reconstructed cabin and the Lincoln Tavern at this location because of its reputed association with Lincoln. Two local residents who claimed to know the location of the original cabin assured the Howards that the existing site was accurate. Kent Masterson Brown later confirmed the Lincoln connection through deed research. Since 1933, when the Howards opened it to the public, the site has operated as a tourist attraction based on interpreting Lincoln's boyhood home, the place of his earliest memory. This association was the central theme of the Howards' interpretation of the site. This theme continues in NPS interpretation of the site. The spatial organization and consistent use as a roadside attraction allows the site to convey its historic significance as a commemorative site. Overall, the site retains a high level of integrity of association.

Integrity of the Site as a Whole

Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek retains integrity of location, setting, and association for the period of significance (1931-1962). Integrity exists within the unique natural features such as the surrounding knobs, Knob Creek, and the continuation of the pastoral landscape. The essential features that give it historic significance as an example of early 20th century roadside tourism remain on site. These include the two character-defining buildings, the entrance road, the walkway to the reconstructed cabin, the fences, and landscape areas of lawn, and specimen trees. These are visible and continue to convey the original design and historic function of the site as a tourist attraction. The aspects of integrity that are vital to the property include location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The site retains integrity in all of these aspects.

Resource	Date Constructed	General Condition	Contri-buting	Period
Natural Features				
Surrounding Knobs	N/A	Good	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Knob Creek	N/A	Good	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Ridge top Pond	N/A	Good	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Buildings and Structures				
Lincoln Tavern	1932-1933	Fair	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Reconstructed Cabin	1932	Good	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Ranger Station	2002	Good	No	National Park Service (2002-Present)
Restroom	c. 1989	Good	No	Lincoln Boyhood Home Inc., Period (1985-2001)
Maintenance Shed	2010	Good	No	National Park Service (2002-Present)
Picnic Pavilion	c.1986	Removed	No	Lincoln Boyhood Home Inc., Period (1985-2001)
Shed	1950	Removed	No	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Unfinished Cabin	1990s	Removed	No	Lincoln Boyhood Home Inc., Period (1985-2001)
Vegetation				
(2) Historic Pine Trees in Front of Reconstructed Cabin	c. Late 1930s	Fair	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Historic Box Elder Tree at Near Reconstructed Cabin	c. Late 1930s	Poor	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Historic Maple Trees at Rear of Reconstructed Cabin	c. Late1930s	Fair	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Historic Specimen Trees at Picnic Area	c. Late 1930s	Poor to Good	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Additional Specimen Trees With Caliper Sizes Above 24" in Developed Area	1930s-1950s	Poor to Good	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Other Cultural Vegetation	Varies	Good	No	Varies
Small Scale Features				
Interpretive Garden	2000s	Good	No	National Park Service (2002-Present)
Picnic Area	1980s	Good	No	Lincoln Boyhood Home Inc., Period (1985-2001)
Trash Receptacles	2000s	Good	No	National Park Service (2002-Present)
Picnic Tables	2000s	Good	No	National Park Service (2002-Present)
Benches	2000s	Good to Fair	No	National Park Service (2002-Present)
Flagpole	c.1980	Good	No	National Park Service (2002-Present)
Fence – Post and Rail	c. early 1930s	Removed	No	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Fence –Snake Rail	2001	Good	Yes	National Park Service (2002-Present)
Bollards	2005	Good	No	National Park Service (2002-Present)
Interpretive Panels	2000s	Good	No	National Park Service (2002-Present)
State Historical Marker	1957	Good	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Trail Signs and Markers	Unknown	Good	No	Unknown
Boy Scout 'KLT' Trail Sign	c.1950s	Good	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
NPS Metal Entrance Signs	2000s	Good	No	National Park Service (2002-Present)
Regulatory and Road Signs	2000s	Good	No	National Park Service (2002-Present)
Tree Identification Markers	2005	Fair to Poor	No	National Park Service (2002-Present)
Remnant Sign Base	c. Late 1980s	Fair to Poor	No	Lincoln Boyhood Home Inc., Period (1985-2001)
Commemorative Stone Marker	c.1988	Good	No	Lincoln Boyhood Home Inc., Period (1985-2001)
Remnant Concrete Pad – Picnic Pavilion	c.1986	Fair	No	Lincoln Boyhood Home Inc., Period (1985-2001)
Remnant Concrete Pad – Shed	c.1950	Poor	No	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
NPS Metal Gate	2000s	Good	No	National Park Service (2002-Present)
Secondary Gate	1980s	Good	No	Lincoln Boyhood Home Inc., Period (1985-2001)
Well	1930s	Fair	No	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Remnant Bell Pole	1980s	Poor	No	Lincoln Boyhood Home Inc., Period (1985-2001)
Nesting Box at Pond	Unknown	Good	No	Unknown
Drainage Structure	Unknown	Fair	No	Unknown
Water Spigot	1980s	Unknown	No	Lincoln Boyhood Home Inc., Period (1985-2001)
Fire Hydrant	Unknown	Good	No	Unknown

Continued on next page.

Figure 4.6: Cultural Resources Table

Resource	Date Constructed	General Condition	Contri-buting	Period
Spatial Organization				
Agricultural Fields	Unknown	Fair	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Circulation				
Semi-Circular Entrance Drive	1930s	Good	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Dirt Lane	1990s	Good	No	Lincoln Boyhood Home Inc., Period (1985-2001)
Dirt Path to Restroom	Unknown	Fair	No	Unknown
Dirt Path to Knob Creek	Unknown	Fair	No	Unknown
Concrete Sidewalk to reconstructed cabin	Pre-1975	Good	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Overlook Trail	Unknown	Poor	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
US Highway 31E	c.1800s	Good	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
Views and Vistas				
View across Agricultural Fields	c.1800s	Good	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
View from End of the Overlook Trail	c.1800s	Good	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)
View of Maintenance Shed from Trail	2010	Good	No	National Park Service (2002-Present)
Views along US Highway 31E	1930s	Good	Yes	Historic Commemorative Period (1931-1962)

Figure 4.6: Cultural Resources Table - Continued

Treatment Recommendations

Introduction

The treatment recommendations for this Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) articulate a preservation strategy for long-term management of the cultural landscape based on research, inventory and analysis. The evolution of the landscape is considered alongside significance, existing conditions, and current use in recommending an appropriate preservation approach. The CLR combines the site history and analysis and evaluation with input from the current landscape managers, to outline appropriate treatment and a management philosophy.

Recommendations follow National Park Service policy, including the Director's Orders No. 28: *Cultural Resource Management Guidelines*, and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. These documents identify four types of treatment: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. Each treatment ranges by level of physical intervention and includes specific guidelines and standards.

Preservation is the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of a historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the on-going maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.

Rehabilitation is the act or process of making possible a compatible use of a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features, which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

Restoration is the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other historic periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make the property functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

Reconstruction is the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, or objects for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time in its historic location.[72]

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment

Standards for Preservation:

A property will be used as it was historically, or be given a new use that maximizes the retention of distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships. Where a treatment and use have not been identified, a property will be protected and, if necessary, stabilized until additional work may be undertaken.

The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The replacement of intact or repairable historic materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.

Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate, and conserve existing

[72] Charles A. Birnbaum, ed. *The Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1996, 9.18, 48, 90, 128.)

historic materials and features will be physically and visually compatible, identifiable upon close inspection, and properly documented for future research.

Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.

Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.

The existing condition of historic features will be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of intervention needed. Where the severity of deterioration requires repair or limited replacement of a distinctive feature, the new material will match the old in composition, design, color, and texture.

Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

Standards for Rehabilitation:

A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.

The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.

Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.

Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.

Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.

Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.

Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Standards for Restoration:

A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use which reflects the property's restoration period.

Materials and features from the restoration period will be retained and preserved. The removal of materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize the period will not be undertaken.

Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate and conserve materials

and features from the restoration period will be physically and visually compatible, identifiable upon close inspection, and properly documented for future research.

Materials, features, spaces, and finishes that characterize other historical periods will be documented prior to their alteration or removal.

Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize the restoration period will be preserved.

Deteriorated features from the restoration period will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials.

Replacement of missing features from the restoration period will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence. A false sense of history will not be created by adding conjectural features, features from other properties, or by combining features that never existed together historically.

Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

Archeological resources affected by a project will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

Designs that were never executed historically will not be constructed.

Standards for Reconstruction:

Reconstruction will be used to depict vanished or non-surviving portions of a property when documentary and physical evidence is available to permit accurate reconstruction with minimal conjecture, and such reconstruction is essential to the public understanding of the property.

Reconstruction of a landscape, building, structure, or object in its historic location will be preceded by a thorough archeological investigation to identify and evaluate those features and artifacts which are essential to an accurate reconstruction. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

Reconstruction will include measures to preserve any remaining historic materials, features, and spatial relationships.

Reconstruction will be based on the accurate duplication of historic features and elements substantiated by documentary or physical evidence rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different features from other historic properties. A reconstructed property will re-create the appearance of the non-surviving historic property in materials, design, color, and texture.

A reconstruction is clearly identified as a contemporary re-creation. Designs that were never executed historically will not be constructed.

Management Philosophy

First authorized as a national park in 1916 under the Secretary of War, Abraham Lincoln National Park was redesignated Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Site in 1956. In 2009, Barack Obama redesignated the park Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park. A comprehensive management plan for the park was completed in 1964. The Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit was added to the park on November 6, 2001 and a General Management Plan (GMP) was completed in 2006 to address improvements to facilities at both units. Prior to the GMP the national historical park management direction was guided by the 1964 Master Plan and subsequent detailed implementation plans.

In 1998 Congress authorized the acquisition and addition of the land and the cultural and natural resources of the historic Knob Creek Farm to the national historical park. Other smaller land additions have been made to the national historical park over the years. Also, visitor use patterns have changed, and people want to bring new recreational activities to the national historical park. Each of these changes has major implications for how visitors access and use the national

historical park and what facilities are needed to support those uses, how resources are managed, and how the National Park Service (NPS) manages its operations. The need for this CLR was identified during the GMP planning effort in order to:

- Clearly define resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park consistent with the park's purpose and significance statements.
- Provide a framework for NPS managers to use when making decisions about how to best protect national historical park resources, how to provide a diverse range of visitor experience opportunities, how to manage visitor use, and what kinds of facilities, if any, to develop at the national historical park.
- Ensure that this foundation for decision making has been developed in consultation with interested stakeholders and adopted by the NPS leadership after an adequate analysis of the benefits, impacts, and economic costs of alternative courses of action.

This Final GMP and Environmental Impact Statement presents four alternatives for future management of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park. The alternatives present different ways to manage the resources and visitor use and improve facilities and infrastructure at the national historical park. The purposes of the GMP are as follows:

- Confirm the purpose, significance, and special mandates of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park.
- Clearly define resource conditions and visitor uses and experiences to be achieved at the national historical park consistent with the park's purpose and significance statements.
- Provide a framework for NPS managers to use when making decisions about how to best protect national historical park resources, how to provide quality visitor uses and experiences, how to manage visitor use, and what kinds of facilities, if any, to develop in/near the national historical park.
- Ensure that this foundation for decision making has been developed in consultation with interested stakeholders and adopted by the NPS leadership after an adequate analysis of the benefits, impacts, and economic costs of alternative courses of action.

Treatment Period/Date

The period of significance recognizes the park's association with the commemorative period because it reflects the historic context theme of creating social institutions and movements. Specifically, the commemorative period illustrates how heritage tourism developed as an important recreational industry in LaRue County, Kentucky. The property has continued to be managed under the commemorative mission through the present. The period of significance and the associated periods of development are as follows:

- Historic commemorative period (1931-1962)
- Chester and Hattie Howard Develop Knob Creek (1931-1933)
- Lincoln Tavern Period (1934-1942)
- Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Under Multiple Site Managers (1934-1949)
- Early Fred and Brooks Howard Period, the Sesquicentennial Celebration of 1959 and beyond to the National Register 50 year criteria (1950-1962)

Treatment Recommendations

Primary Treatment:

This CLR recommends rehabilitation as the primary for the treatment for the Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek and will serve as the means to manage the significant historic resources of that contribute to the integrity of the property. Rehabilitation protects existing historic landscape features while allowing for improvements that convey the landscape's historic significance. Like Preservation, Rehabilitation involves identifying, retaining, and preserving

character-defining features. Additionally, when the landscape's historic character is diminished because an important landscape feature is missing, Rehabilitation provides strategies to accurately and faithfully return the missing feature to the landscape. Rehabilitation provides for the continued use of the property through alterations and additions that do not irreparably damage the character-defining features. Additions are sometimes necessary to facilitate a new use of a historic landscape, but the Rehabilitation guidelines emphasize that new additions should only be done when there is no viable alternative and should be designed to be clearly differentiated from historic features. Illustrations 5.1 and 5.2 define the treatment for individual resources and are included at the end of this chapter.

Overall Goals:

- Retain remaining premier historic features and character-defining features.
- Maintain the overall aesthetic of rustic themed architecture and pastoral landscape dotted by specimen canopy trees and strategic evergreen and flowering species.
- Facilitate the use of the park as a destination for heritage tourism.
- Strengthen the commemorative story behind the period of significance so that it is fully understood by the visitor.
- Remove features that compromise the historic character of the park.

Natural Features

The surrounding fields, knobs, and creek behind the tavern are significant to the setting of the development of the park in the commemorative period, as well Lincoln's first memories during his early formative years. These natural features should be protected so that they are not adversely impacted or compromise opportunities for visitors to achieve understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the park.

Surrounding Knobs. The knobs surrounding the property should be protected as they are critical to retaining the setting. Development or clear cutting of vegetation on the knobs would be devastating to the park. Park management should consider pursuing acquisition of additional acreage to preserve the entirety of the surrounding knobs, including the entire northern knob for both view shed protection reasons and natural resource protection. This knob also contains a rare limestone glade plant community, which should be protected.

Knob Creek. This creek is critical to the Lincoln story and the subsequent commemorative period. It is the geographical reference to Lincoln's early boyhood home and included in lore that is interpreted in the park today. This natural resource should be protected. While the historic condition of the banks of Knob Creek was non-vegetated slopes, the existing growth along the stream should be retained as vegetated areas along the creek to protect water resources from non-point source pollution and provide bank stabilization and aquatic and wildlife habitat.

- Maintain a fifty-foot wide vegetated buffer from the center line to each side of the creek.
- Retain native riparian species, in particular woody plants such as trees and shrubs, as these aid in retaining the overall alignment of the stream.
- Remove invasive plant species as they will eventually force out the native species that are of benefit.

Ridge Top Pond. The small ridge top pond is located near the top of the larger knob and accessible from the park trail system provides a habitat for water fowl, amphibians and macro invertebrates. The pond is an unexpected find atop the ridge near the end of the Overlook Trail and adds interest to the visitor experience. Further study may reveal additional information about this unique wildlife habitat. The pond should be protected as a natural resource.

Buildings and Structures

Lincoln Tavern. Recommendations for the treatment of the Lincoln Tavern as a premier resource from the commemorative period are handled in the 2005 Historic Structure Report (HSR). A notable alteration is that the original cedar shake roof was replaced with asphalt shingles in 1998. The building has been well-documented through photographs, existing intact conditions, and architectural drawings. Other alterations include the removal of two gasoline pumps and

the removal of two advertising signs affixed to the front façade during the early portion of the commemorative period. The exterior of the building will require some alterations for handicap accessibility.

- Rehabilitate building for use as the Visitor Contact Station.
- Follow the HSR for guidance on the rehabilitation of this structure.

Reconstructed Cabin. This structure should be preserved as a premier resource from the commemorative period that is in good condition. The cabin should be well-documented with photographs and measured drawings in its current state so that future management and preservation treatment may be accomplished as conditions change.

Restroom. While this building was constructed by the Howard family descendants during their ownership and operation of the site for tourism, it is not historic and does not contribute to the significance of the commemorative period. It is not adequate as a restroom for the anticipated 120,000 visits the unit will likely see a year. It should be removed when no longer needed.

Ranger Station. The Ranger Station currently functions as the Visitor Contact Station. This structure does not contribute to the significance of the commemorative period and should be removed as it will no longer be needed when Tavern is restored for this use.

Maintenance Shed. This building does not contribute to the significance of the commemorative period, however it is recognized that the shed serves the purpose of housing equipment to maintain the park. The style and construction of the shed is not in keeping with NPS architecture or the character-defining buildings and structures from the commemorative period. The current location of the shed is at the rear of the seven-acre field at the foot of the Overlook Trail. The non-standard aesthetic of this building is intrusive to the view across the field as well as the immersive visitor experience. This, coupled with its remote location, may lead the visitor to feel that they have strayed from the NPS site and intended visitor experience. Alterations may be made to the existing shed—such as a darker stain applied to the exterior, and a buffer of native plant material inspired by the surrounding vegetation—to help it blend with the landscape. The building should also be identified with a small non-intrusive sign indicating NPS property.

Vegetation

Historic Specimen Trees. In general, all historic trees within the park are character-defining features. The historic trees within the immediate vicinity of the interpretive area should be considered in planning of new utilities so that the roots are not damaged, resulting in loss of the tree. Trees should be protected to the extent of the crown or drip-line during any park improvement projects. Installation of non-permeable surfaces should avoid the area within the drip-line, such as sidewalks and concrete pads.

- Protect specimen trees during construction activities.
- The health of the existing trees should be evaluated by a Certified Arborist.
- A landscape maintenance plan should be created to address ongoing tree maintenance needs as well as other vegetation management at the Park.

Silver Maple Grove. The grid configuration of the silver maple grove surrounding the picnic area indicates that the layout was planned. Aerial photography dates the location of the trees planted in the grid layout to the commemorative period. It is speculated that the original grove likely consisted of three rows, crossing the entire lawn to the rear of the tavern. Additional aerial photography from the 1930s, if available, may confirm the full extent of the silver maple grove. If more trees existed historically within this configuration, new silver maples should be planted to fill-in the grid. If any silver maples are determined to be in decline, they should be removed and replaced with the same species, silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), in the same location to maintain a consistent aesthetic. Because these trees provide much needed shade for the park, they should be replaced only if in decline as opposed to replacing them all at once to provide an even-age stand of trees.

Two Pines and Box Elder. The two pine trees planted by the Howard family in front of the Tavern and the box elder near reconstructed cabin appear in historic photographs from the commemorative period should be preserved. Trees should be replaced when they die or are in severe decline and/or become hazards. The box elder (*Acer negundo*) is nearing decline and should be assessed immediately. If replaced, the new tree should be the same species. The pitch pines (*Pinus rigida*) should be monitored over time. If replaced, the pines should be replanted at the same time so that they mature at the same rate to maintain the same aesthetic.

Additional Specimen Trees. Trees with caliper sizes above twenty-four inches in the core interpretive area should be retained as part of the overall setting and to provide much-needed shade. These trees should be replaced as needed. Replacement of other specimen trees should be in-kind or with native species of similar size/growth pattern; with balance of evergreen/deciduous to be maintained within the park. Appropriate species include:

- Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*)
- Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
- Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)
- Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
- Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*)

Ornamental Plantings. Evergreen shrubs and plantings that appear in historic photographs of the Tavern from the commemorative period should guide the planning and aesthetic of future plantings in this area, which is primarily along the foundation under windows on front façade. The existing flowering perennials and annuals currently planted in this area are not in keeping with this aesthetic and should be removed. Appropriate replacement shrub species include:

- Mountain Winterberry (*Ilex montana*)
- Box Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia brachycera*)
- Dwarf Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria 'nana'*)

Open Lawn Areas. The open lawn areas around the Lincoln Tavern and along the Highway 31 road frontage retain a similar configuration and appearance to the period of significance and contribute to the rural roadside character of the Lincoln Tavern and site. The lawn ties the Lincoln Tavern to the landscape and creates a park-like setting in the immediate vicinity of the building. Similarly, the front open lawn dotted with canopy and flowering trees provides a green buffer between the developed area and the road. These open lawn areas contribute to the setting and spacial organization of the core development and should be retained to the greatest extent possible.

The Park has undergone a planning effort to rehabilitate the Boyhood Home Unit, Tavern and Site. This plan includes the addition of thirty vehicular parking spaces to the front lawn area and parking for two buses along the west side of the entry drive. This plan is in response to the growing needs of the Park to facilitate visitation to the Lincoln Tavern/Visitor Contact Station. If this development occurs, it will significantly impact the front of the site, primarily the front lawn. In effort to reduce the visual impact, it will be important to retain the existing pavement edge and layout of the original vehicular circulation around the lawn so that the historic alignment remains legible. The parking area expansion should be configured so that it is visually absorbed into the surrounding lawn area. This may be achieved by the following approaches (also see treatment recommendations for Circulation):

- Retain the original layout for the entry drive/edge of front lawn.
- Use a different paving material for any new/additional parking beyond the period of significance so that the original entrance drive/edge of lawn layout is legible in the landscape.
- Maintain a significant portion of the lawn around any new paving to visually absorb the additional paving and prevent a contiguous expanse of paving in the front lawn area.
- Align new parking along the toe of the slope of Highway 31E within the front lawn to help visually absorb the addition of vehicles to this area. Locating parking at the base of the slope takes advantage of the existing berm to therefore minimize the visual effect of the parking from the highway.

- The layout of the new/additional parking should not be over-engineered, as this creates an aesthetic that is unsympathetic to the historic integrity of the park. The entry road geometry should only be altered to improve safe ingress/egress from Highway 31E and to accommodate the turning requirements of buses.
- Retain the existing character of the remaining open lawn with a few informally placed canopy and flowing trees. Species such as Green Ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica) and Dogwood (Cornus florida) would be good native choices in keeping with the form, habit, structure and character of the trees planted here during the period of significance.

Forested Knobs. Reforestation that is occuring along the ridge tops by way of succession should be allowed to continue. The ridges were historically clear cut for grazing animals. The forested knobs should be kept free of invasive species.

Agricultural Fields. Agricultural fields appear in many historic photographs of the property from the commemorative period and much of the folklore associated with the Lincoln period memorializes the history of agriculture at the site. Of particular importance is the seven-acre field that lies to the north of the core interpretive area. A series of smaller fields extend north along Knob Creek. Another cultivated field appears in several historic photos between the reconstructed cabin and the creek to the east. These fields contribute to the setting and the spacial organization of the site during the commemorative period. The fields were more than likely kept open (void of trees) and farmed during the Lincoln period due to the topographic limitations of the surrounding knobs and the high fertility of the soil in the valley surrounding Knob Creek. The fields have been kept open and used for agriculture at least since the Howards developed the property in the early 1930s, and in all likelihood they have been farmed continuously since Lincoln occupied the site in the early 18th century.

While the continued farming of these fields would be ideal in maintaining the appropriate aesthetic, seasonal changes, and smells associated with an agricultural site—all of which contribute to the setting—it may be impractical for the NPS to maintain these fields in crops. One recommendation for preserving the open quality and approximate character of the former agricultural fields is to plant the fields with tall native grass species and mown seasonally. As an interpretive approach, the tall grass species might provide a similar aesthetic as a crop, but require far less maintenance. An alternate recommendation is to consider an agricultural lease agreement as an option for maintaining the agricultural fields in crops. The following is a list of recommended approaches to the agricultural fields:

- Consider planting the seven-acre field with a tall native grass mix which might include the following species: Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*).
- Develop a seasonal mowing regime that allows for taller growth of the native warm season grasses in the interpretive field, adjacent to grass that is mown shorter on a regular basis to better define the historic configuration.
- Consider a function of the fields as wildlife habitat. Wildlife should be monitored and considered when developing a mowing regime for maintaining the fields.
- Consider an agricultural lease agreement as an option for maintaining the agricultural fields in crops.
- Maintain the tree line along the west and south of the seven-acre field at the toe of the slope. Maintain the tree line to the north and east at a minimum of width of twenty-five feet from the center line of Knob Creek (see Illustration 5.1: Treatment).

Adjacent Lands. Develop a preservation/mitigation strategy with landowners and local governments to preserve the general appearance of an agricultural and/or undeveloped landscape as viewed from the park.

Small-Scale Features

Interpretive Garden. This park feature was implemented within the past decade and is non-contributing to the commemorative period of significance. The garden is valued by the Park as part of the interpretive program, telling the story of the Lincoln period within the broader setting of pioneer life. Because this interpretive element fits within the mission of the park and does not compromise integrity, it should be retained as part of the interpretive program. However, the current location is a visual intrusion to the view from the rear of the tavern. The siting within the septic field is not ideal as the crops must be treated as bio-waste. There is no documentation of the crops Lincoln planted except for a quote that references planting corn and pumpkins.

- Consider relocating the garden to an area where context can be better provided, such as in the reestablished field adjacent to the reconstructed cabin. See Illustration 5.2: Treatment for proposed location.
- Conduct additional research into seed catalog sources to find out specific varieties of plants being sold in Hardin County during the time of the Lincolns to supplement the corn and pumpkins. This would allow them to interpret general frontier life in Kentucky during that time a little more broadly and accurately.

Picnic Area. The picnic area is non-contributing to the commemorative period of significance, however it serves an important function to the continuation of tourism to the site. The shade provided by the silver maple grove provides a refuge area for visitors to have rest and refreshment. Views of the agricultural fields from this location insure continuity in the visitor experience of the setting. The existing concrete slab should be monitored for wear and repair. Eventually the slab should be replaced with a more historically compatible material (see treatment recommendations for *Dirt Paths*) while still facilitating universal accessibility. At least one picnic table should be ADA accessible and facilitated by extending the path system and material to the location.

As much of the grove area that is feasible to maintain as lawn or mulched surface is most desirable. The replacement surface should allow for proper aeration of the surrounding tree root system. Once the extent of the original silver maple grove is confirmed, the missing trees should be replaced. The distribution of the picnic tables may be broadened to use the full extent of the existing grove to create the needed space for the in-fill silver maples and more room for visitors to maneuver around the picnic tables. Picnic tables should remain for visitor use. The current total of eight picnic tables will accommodate two school groups (approximately 48-64 students). This number should be assessed as needed to meet the on-going needs of the Park. One trash receptacle should remain for visitor use in the picnic area.

Site Furnishings. These site features were implemented within the past decade and are non-contributing to the commemorative period of significance. Benches, picnic tables and trash receptacles are needed to facilitate visitation to the park. Picnic tables should be reinstalled within the silver maple grove after the slab is removed. Trash receptacles should be distributed throughout the park in a more informal configuration. Trash receptacles will be most needed near the bus parking/drop-off area, the vehicular parking area and the picnic area (one in each location). Benches should be located within shade areas for visitor comfort, but should not compromise views of resources. The bollards within the entrance drive should be removed. All benches and trash receptacles used on site should be of a single style that is compatible with the historic character and non-intrusive.

Flag Pole. The flagpole should be relocated to its former location documented in the later Howard period. This flagpole placement was documented in a c. 1970s-1980s post card (Figures 2.12 and 2.13) adjacent to the reconstructed cabin. As impending development of additional parking may disturb its current and more contemporary location within the front lawn, the Howard era location serves as an appropriate place to relocate the pole.

Fences. Two types of wood fence existed during the considered commemorative period of significance and are considered character-defining features as they contribute to the historic significance of the site. The post and rail style fence originally defined the space around the reconstructed cabin. This was replaced during the period of significance by snake rail in the same location. The snake rail was added more extensively in the ensuing periods and is the same style used at the Birthplace Unit. Both fence types should be interpreted on site.

- Install the post and rail style fence around the reconstructed cabin, as it is well-documented in historic photographs (Figures 2.3, 2.6 and 2.7).
- Retain snake rail fence along the two outer edges of the semi-circular drive to reinforce the configuration.
- Remove the snake rail fence along the south end of the seven-acre field as it is a visual intrusion to the view of the agricultural fields beyond.

Signage. A signage program should be developed for metal signs, regulatory signs, identifications signs throughout the park that is unified in style, color scheme, material, and within the NPS signage standards. Signage should be properly sized and placed so that the information can be intuitively seen and followed, however the signs should not detract from the resources and minimize visual intrusion to the visitor experience.

- Add a park identification sign that is in keeping with the materials and aesthetic of the park and contributes to the site character. The stone base, routed wood style, wood material and dark stain color to the 2001 entry sign set an appropriate precedent for the entry sign. The new sign should follow current NPS standards, but it should be unique to this site and contribute as a character-defining feature. The NPS arrowhead logo should be added to the sign in a manner that is imbedded or routed to prevent vandalism/theft that has been known to occur in the past.
- Add interpretive signage to enhance the story of the Howard family and the commemorative period.
- Remove the KLT trail sign that dates from the Boy Scouts 1940s use of the site in their commemoration of Lincoln and development of the Lincoln Trail. Place sign in park archive for storage and possible display within the newly rehabilitated Lincoln Tavern as part of an interpretive exhibit related to the Kentucky Lincoln trail.
- State Historical Markers-Stone and traditional marker are significant monuments marking the significance of the site and should be preserved in their current locations.
- Feature historic interpretive signage from the commemorative period inside the Tavern after it is restored for use as the Visitor Contact Station.

Remnant Concrete. All remnant concrete should be removed.

Circulation

Semi-Circular Entrance Drive. This is an important feature due to the continued use of the entrance drive offering easy access off the main road for roadside tourism from the beginning of the commemorative period to today. Minor alterations have been made over time to accommodate visitation needs, but the use is unchanged. The simplicity of the original layout of the entrance drive is a character defining feature that is still evident in the landscape. The Park has determined the need for bus parking and additional vehicle parking to accommodate current visitation. It is appropriate to continue use of the front of the site for vehicular circulation and parking as originally intended and to protect impact to resources elsewhere on the site (see *Open Lawn Areas* section for additional recommendations).

- Rehabilitate entrance drive, maintaining vehicular use of the entry drive retaining the same access points and configuration.
- Restore the original edge of pavement by removing rigid geometry that has been added over the years—particularly on the west side where vehicular parking currently exists—by saw-cutting and removal of additional paving and the removal of striping.

- Maintain similar paving on the entrance drive to the last resurfacing done in 2005 by NPS and currently exists. This paving has a similar aesthetic to the original paving in that there is a high content of exposed granite given a light gray appearance to the paving, which is appropriate here.
- Rehabilitate the west side vehicular parking to accommodate bus parking and drop-off without obscuring views of the premier resources.
- Utilize the open lawn at the front of the park to develop additional vehicular parking.
- Thought should be given to paving material that is permeable, such as porous asphalt or stabilized aggregate, in the bus drop-off and new vehicular parking.
- The original entry road alignment and new parking/entry alignement should read differently in the landscape so that each is apparent. The original layout could be further defined if a different paving material is used for new paving additions, which includes the rehabilitation of the existing parking area for bus drop-off/parking. Most important is the legibility of the layout and pavement edge of the original entry drive.
- Accessible parking spaces should utilize the paved area in front of the Tavern, allowing space between parking and the building for pedestrian circulation and accessibility to the building. Pavement striping should be limited to this area within the historic alignment.

US Highway 31E. The alignment and location of this road are significant historic features associated with the development of this site for roadside tourism as well as the Lincoln period. The width and alignment of Highway 31E have also contribute to a significant number of traffic accidents. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet plans to realign and modify Highway 31E and the accesses from the park onto the road to reduce accidents. The safety and welfare of the public comes first in considering the treatment of this resource, which may need to be altered accordingly. Ideally, expansion and/or realignment of Highway 31E would take place on the east side, away from the site. This would protect the historic embankment and alignment on the west side along the NPS property line. The historic alignment, width and character of Highway 31E may be an appropriate interpretive consideration in future programming.

Dirt service road. This is a non-contributing feature that is necessary for the maintenance of the property but is also a visual intrusion to the visitor experience. Consideration should be made for materials to minimize visual impact on the agricultural fields and setting. The existing dirt tracks are relatively low-impact and could be topped with aggregate if erosion becomes a problem. If the surrounding open spaces are maintained as tall grass meadow to achieve the agricultural aesthetic, then some of the visual impact of the road will be absorbed.

Dirt Paths. The existing worn paths to the restroom and Knob Creek interpretive sign should be maintained as informally aligned routes to access these destinations. However, the current path surfaces are not universally accessible and therefore need to be upgraded. Paths should be graded to drain properly and not exceed a 2% maximum cross slope or a 5% maximum running slope. A suitable material should be selected for these paths that will accommodate universal access, while not adding a visual intrusion to the site. Existing soil conditions should also be a consideration in selecting a suitable material for path surfacing. Path surfacing material options include:

- Stabilized Soil: A stabilizer product is combined with native soil to provide a hard surface that is ADA compliant while providing a natural aesthetic. PolyPavement® is an example of a liquid soil solidifier.
- Stabilized Aggregate: A stabilizer product is combined with crushed native stone to provide a hard surface that is ADA compliant while providing a natural aesthetic. Stabilizer® is a patented, organic, and non-toxic product manufactured from the seed hulls of the plantego plant. The product is a light

brown color and is ground to a very fine texture. This product will not stabilize materials over 3/8-inch in diameter, and the material needs to consist mostly of fines.

- Chip Seal: This is a pavement surface treatment that combines layers of asphalt with layers of fine aggregate. Chip seals are typically used on rural roads carrying lower traffic volumes, and the process is often referred to as "asphaltic surface treatment."
- Slatescape®: Chipped slate that is a by-product of slate shingle production. This product self-compacts and does not require a stabilizing agent or a base (can be applied directly to subgrade).

It is most important for the path leading to Knob Creek to maintain a natural aesthetic. New paths will be added, per current site development plan, leading visitors from the parking area and Lincoln Tavern to the restroom building and picnic area. These paths should be in keeping with the historic character of the site in terms of material and alignment. The paths should follow an intuitive approach such as the "cow paths" already created by visitors on site, without being too formal in terms of rigid geometry. This may be best achieved with a natural surface trail such as the Stabilized Soil or Chip Seal products. The circulation layout should be mindful of the root zones of existing trees and should not compete visually with the surrounding resources. Additionally, research should be conducted for the Lincoln Trail Route to reestablish this route through the park as an interpretive tool.

Concrete Sidewalk to Reconstructed Cabin. The concrete walkway to Lincoln Cabin was built prior to 1975 and retains historic alignment and is considered a character-defining element. This concrete path should remain and be maintained as needed.

Overlook Trail. The overlook trail is in poor condition, but is contributing due to historic use by Boy Scout troops. The trail should be maintained so that it is free of vegetation and forest snags within the trail alignment. Steep, rocky areas occur within the first ¼ mile of the trail. The Park should develop guidance for trail maintenance that addresses trail sustainability, including erosion control, and potential reroutes. The Park should consider adding a trail segment in the north bottomland section that connects in two places with the Overlook Trail to create a loop alternative for those not wanting to climb the knob.

- Consideration should be given to adding a trail segment in the north bottomland section that connects in two places with the Overlook Trail to create a loop alternative for those not wanting to climb the knob.
- The rock and slope within the trail should be notched to provide a safe footing to prevent injury to visitors or the trail should be realigned to avoid this rocky patch.

Additional Paths. There is no immediate need for additional paths within the core interpretive area. Additional pedestrian circulation should be minimized as they may compromise the integrity of the site. Pedestrian circulation may need to be added to the front of the Tavern along the ADA parking. The addition of an exposed aggregate concrete sidewalk would be acceptable in this area.

Views and Vistas

Views and vistas within the park remain virtually unchanged from the 1930s. Significant views should be preserved within the park.

View of Agricultural Fields. View of agricultural fields framed by the knobs it important to the setting of the site. The preservation of natural features will aid in preserving these views as they frame the site. Overhead power is a visual intrusion. Consideration should be given to the burial of overhead power in the future.

View from Overlook Trail. The view from end of Overlook Trail should be kept free of invasive vegetation so that views to US Highway 31E and the site are legible. View of maintenance shed from trail should be improved by blending the structure in with the landscape.

Views along US Highway 31E. The views from the front of the Lincoln Tavern and reconstructed cabin looking east and west along US Highway 31E still convey the same bucolic landscape character a tourist would have experienced while visiting

the site during the commemorative period. These should be preserved.

Further Study

Additional topics have been identified that require further study or action beyond the specific treatment recommendations. These are as follows:

National Register Nomination. Amend the National Register listing to provide a revised Statement of Significance and Period of Significance that recognizes the full commemorative period 1931-1962. Augment the narrative of the nomination to support the commemorative period of significance. Amend the National Register listing to include the entire NPS site boundary.

Cultural Landscape Inventory. Revise the Cultural Landscape Inventory to reflect the Cultural Landscape Report and the National Register Nomination.

Preservation Maintenance Plan. Develop a preservation maintenance plan that addresses the entire park. The plan should serve as a companion to the CLR to ensure ongoing stewardship and preservation of the landscape. The plan should include guidance for monitoring and controlling change in the dynamic landscape, such as procedures for daily and long-term management of the Park.

Implementation

This section assigns priorities to the Treatment Recommendations to aid in planning and implementation decisions to ultimately become Project Management Information System (PMIS) statements to help plan for implementation of the recommendations. As planning is undertaken, many factors will drive the level of priority placed on implementation, including: budget, timing, available resources, staffing, and unexpected repair. The Draft PMIS Statements listed below primarily consider the preservation of resources; however they are intended to be flexible and are ultimately at the discretion of the NPS.

Draft PMIS Statements

Proposed Project: Removal of Non-contributing Items

Project Total Cost: $18,000

Description: Remove remnant concrete and gravel pads, remove picnic area concrete pad (TBD by the Park), remove Ranger Station pad, and remove ornamental plants at foundation of the Lincoln Tavern and by the entry sign along Highway 31E. Replace foundation plantings with appropriate shrubs as recommended in the CLR Treatment section. Re-establish lawn where concrete pads are removed.

Proposed Project: Design and Construction of Post and Rail Fence around Lincoln Cabin

Project Total Cost: $7,000

Description: Use historic images (Figures 2.3, 2.6 and 2.7) and exsiting measurements of the Lincoln Cabin to determine proper dimensions, details and materials for fence construction. Construct 200 linear feet of post and rail fence around the Lincoln Cabin in layout shown in plan on Illustration 5.2: Treatment.

Proposed Project: Relocate Interpretive Garden

Project Total Cost: $10,000

Description: Conduct additional research into seed catalog sources to determine specific varieties of plants being sold in Hardin County during the time of the Lincolns to more accurately interpret general frontier life in Kentucky during that time. Implement a garden approximately 40 wide (north-south) feet by 80 feet long (east-west) in the area shown on Illustration 5.2: Treatment, just north of the Lincoln Cabin. Re-establish the agricultural field in the former garden location.

Proposed Project: Rehabilitate Seven-Acre Field

Project Total Cost: $30,000

Description: Establish a tall-grass prairie to interpret the seven-acre agricultural field. Determine native tall-grass seed mix based on guidance provided in the CLR Treatment section as well as consideration for desired wildlife habitat.

Prepare a good seedbed by removing all invasive species, loosening the soil, and removing thatch to allow sunlight to penetrate into the soil. Plant seed mix shallow in prepared soil, no deeper than the thickness of the seed. Soil should be loosened prior to planting to allow for good air and moisture penetration, but then firmed to achieve good seed-to-soil contact after planting. Follow detailed instructions of seed supplier.

Proposed Project: Upgrade Interpretive Signage

Project Total Cost: $20,000

Description: Revisit existing interpretive story and incorporate the significance of the commemorative period. Add interpretive panels for the Lincoln Tavern, the Howard Family, US Highway 31E, and Roadside Tourism. Prepare graphics and narrative for 4-5 additional/replacement signs and fabricate according to NPS standards.

Proposed Project: Screen Utility Shed

Project Cost: $5,000

Description: Alterations to the existing shed include application of a darker stain to the exterior cladding as well as a buffer of native plant material inspired by the surrounding vegetation. A small NPS identification sign should be placed on the shed indicating NPS property.

Proposed Project: Overlook Trail Repair and Loop

Project Cost: $10,000

Description: Develop trail maintenance guidelines that addresses trail sustainability, including erosion control, and potential reroutes. Repair portions of the trail that have eroded and prune trees that have overtaken the trail. Plan and implement a trail segment in the north bottomland section that connects in two places with the Overlook Trail.

Proposed Boundary Adjustment

Rehabilitate Agricultural Fields to More Accurately Reflect Size and Configuration during Commemorative Period

Overhead Power Line

Overhead Power Line

Screen Maintenance Shed from View

Preserve Knob Creek

Maintain 50' Stream Buffer

KNOB CREEK

Highway 31-East/Bardstown Road

Restore First Field to 7 Acre Size

Developed Area (See Illustration 5.2 for Developed Area Treatment Recommendations)

Rehabilitate Park Trail System

POND

Protect Pond

Overlook

Overhead Power Line

Legend

- Removal
- Preservation
- Restoration
- Rehabilitation
- Overlook Trail
- Property Line

0 250 500

North

Overall



Regional Location Map

Treatment

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Illustration 5.1

Re-establish Seven-Acre Agricultural Field

Remove Snake Rail Fence (c.1976)

Remove Remnant Concrete Pad (1986)

Remove Gravel Pad

Preserve Historic Silver Maple Grove in Picnic Area (c. 1930s) and Restore Missing Trees

Maintain Character of Specimen Shade Trees and Lawn

Retain Snake Rail Fence at Edge of Pavement

Remove Parking Area Paving

Replace Current NPS Entrance Signs with one that Re☒ects Site Character

Remove ☒rnamental Plantings and Remnant Sign Base

Relocate Interpretive Garden to Front Field

Remove Restroom (1989)

Establish Informal, Soil Stabilized ADA Path to Restroom

Remove Remnant Bell Pole

Restore Exterior of Lincoln Tavern to 1930s Appearance Rehabilitate Interior for use as a Visitor Contact Station (1932-1933)

Relocated Flagpole

Rehabilitate Commemorative Period Entr☒ Drive Circulation, Maintain Edge of Pavement at Median

Relocate Vehicular Parking in Median, Maintaining Historic Vegetation Character of ☒pen Lawn with ☒ccasional Specimen Trees

Remove Remnant Concrete Pad (1950)

Replant Silver Maple in Historic Location (c.1930s)

Preserve (3) Historic Specimen Trees at Rear of Reconstructed Cabin (c.1930s)

Preserve Knob Creek

Remove Ranger Station (2002)

Remove Historic Box Elder and Replant with the Same Species (c.1930s)

Preserve Concrete Walk (pre-1975)

Preserve Reconstructed Cabin (1932)

Preserve (2) Historic Pine Trees

Establish Informal, Soil Stabilized ADA Path to Knob Creek

Relocated Interpretive Garden

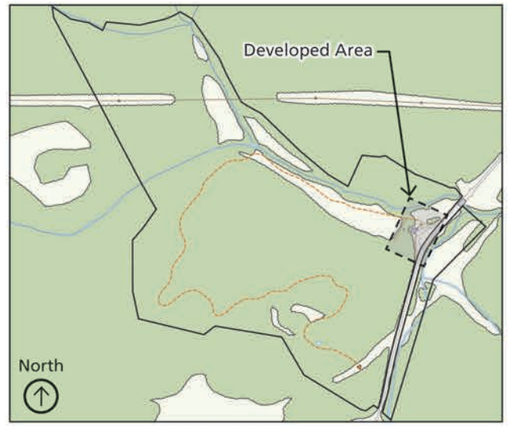
Establish Agricultural Aesthetic in Fields with Tall Grass Meadow

Establish1930s Post and Rail Fence Configuration Surrounding Reconstructed Cabin

Retain Snake Rail Fence along Entrance Drive

Relocate Flagpole to Commemorative Period Location in Front of the Reconstructed Cabin

Preserve State Historical Marker



Location Map

Legend

- Removal
- Preservation
- Restoration
- Rehabilitation

0 30 60 North

Developed Area

Treatment

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Illustration 5.2

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