

A Report On
The Abraham Lincoln Traditional Birthplace Cabin

By
Benjamin H. Davis
Historical Aide
Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park

May 16, 1948

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The Abraham Lincoln Traditional Birthplace Cabin

Prior to 1860, the history of the cabin inclosed within the Memorial Building is based purely on tradition. And, even then the informants vary greatly in their recollections of the cabin and the events pertaining thereto. Although the history of the cabin is obscure, the National Park Service has in the traditional cabin a prime historical exhibit, revered by the American people as an inspiring shrine. It is looked upon as a symbol of the American way of life in which the individual may achieve greatness, though he be of humble birth and meager means.

The visitor at once wants to know the authenticity of the cabin and the salient facts concerning it. As a result of the inconclusive evidence bearing on the cabin's originality and on its spotty and diverse history, the interpretive problem is enormous. If the visitor is very inquisitive, and the majority are, the end result of the interview is that no one is certain that the cabin has any connection whatever with the birth of Abraham Lincoln. It is then, I fear, very evident to the visitor that the National Park Service is guilty of negligence of duty in its research, and possibly, he might think, guilty of perpetrating a fraud upon the American people.

After sixteen months of interpretive duty in the Memorial Building, answering the numerous and varied questions propounded by visitors, the writer long since has realized the necessity of getting at the roots of the problem.

The following report is prepared as a beginning in the effort to establish as definite a history of the cabin as is possible.

The writer has relied heavily upon Mr. John M. Cissell and Mr. Ivy K. Davenport for first hand information concerning the various phases of the cabin's history.

1. Numbering Systems of the Logs

After the cabin had been purchased by Reverend J. W. Bigham from John A. Davenport in 1894, it was dismantled, the logs loaded onto five wagons, and transported back to the site by the "Sinking Spring." ¹/ Mr. Ivy Davenport, who was five years old at the time his father sold the cabin, stated that he had always heard that the logs from each side of the cabin were loaded on a separate wagon and that the various small pieces loaded on the fifth wagon. Evidently that was a deliberate attempt to keep the logs separate in order that the cabin could be rebuilt in the same manner.

A careful examination made of each piece of timber in the present cabin revealed three distinct systems of numbering the logs. One was by Roman numerals cut into the logs; the second system was by large Arabic numerals, painted on the logs with black paint and preceded by the directional letter "E," "W", etc.; and the third system consisted of small Arabic numerals, preceded by the directional letter "E", "W", etc., plus the word "side", or end."

The first known time that the logs of the cabin were numbered, was just prior to their removal to Nashville, Tennessee, sometime in 1897. Shortly before the date of shipment and before the cabin was dismantled, John M. Cissell, at the time a lad of some eleven years, and Reverend Bigham numbered the logs.²/ Mr. Cissell stated that he held the chisel while Reverend

Bigham tapped it with a hammer. They cut Roman numerals only. But that system of numbering the logs proved to be too slow, so they painted the large black Arabic numerals on the remainder of the unmarked logs, and then on the ones that had previously been numbered with the chisel.^{3/}

The first two systems, consisting of the Roman numerals and the large Arabic numerals are of the same age. The third set of numbers was painted on the logs just before the cabin was dismantled after the Memorial Building cornerstone was laid on February 12, 1909.^{4/} These numbers appear on almost every piece in the present cabin.

So, then the pieces showing the Roman numerals and/or the large Arabic numerals, are "original" as of 1897, and the remainder of the pieces added after that date.

2. Analysis of Markings

The logs showing the oldest markings are:

North Side: #2-marked E 1; was formerly #1, East End.
 East End: #'s 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.
 South Side: #'s 2A and 2C, 3A and 3C, 4A and 4C, 5C, 6C, 7A and 7C.
 West End: #'s 1A, 2A and 2B, 3A and 3B, 4A and 4B, 5A and 5B, 6, and 7,

The remainder of the logs have the latest marking only. Any logs in the cabin, excepting the above enumerated pieces, could be replaced or removed in connection with any future restoration of the cabin, without any fear of removing any original timber.

3. Logs Added Between 1897 and 1909

South Side: #'s 1, 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B, 7C.
 North Side: #'s 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.
 West End: #'s 1A and 1B.
 East End: #'s 1 and 2.

4. Logs added for Cornerstone Laying-1909

West End: #'s 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15,
 East End: #'s 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.
 South Side: #'s 7C, 8, 9, 10, 11.
 North Side: #'s 8, 9, 10, 11.

All the rafters were added at this time.

5. Logs Out of Position as of 1897

<u>Present Position</u>	<u>Oldest Markings</u>	<u>Correct Position</u>
North Side #2	E 1	East End #1
South Side #2C	X IIIII	South Side #5
4A	X IIIIIIIII	South Side #9
5C	N IIIIIII N.3	North Side #7
6C	X IIIIIII	South Side #8
7A	N IIIIIII	North Side #7

5. Logs Out of Position as of 1897 (cont'd)

<u>Present Position</u>	<u>Oldest Markings</u>	<u>Correct Position</u>
West End #2B	W IIIIII W. 6	West End #6
3A	W IIIII W. 5	West End #5
3B	W II W. 2	do #2
4B	W III W. 3	do #3
5A	W III W. 3	do #3
5B	W IIII W. 4	do #4
7	W 9 IIIIIIII	do #9
East End #3	E II 2	East End #2
4	E III E 3	East End #3
5	E IIII E4	do #4
6	E IIIII	do #5
7	E IIIIII	do #6
8	E 7 E IIIIIII	do #7

Note: East End No. 1 is buried in the cement.

*on site 18'x16'
in bldg 16'x13'*

6. Method of Rebuilding Cabin-1909

In 1909 the logs of the birthplace cabin were shipped from Louisville, Kentucky, where they had been in storage for some time, to the farm where they were to be reassembled for the Memorial building cornerstone laying. But when the logs arrived, it was discovered that there were not enough for the purpose of rebuilding the cabin to its previous specifications, so additional logs were added. The older logs, or the logs returned from Louisville, were used first in the construction. Then the additional logs needed were secured and added to the cabin to finish it to its present height.^{5/} It was at this time that the cabin was reduced in size in order that it might fit into the designed space, with an arbitrary interval between the cabin and the barrier. The logs were cropped with saws, and the ends of the logs now project such a short distance from the corners of the cabin that, even were it desired, it would be impossible to point the ends of the logs with an ax.

7. Logs of the Cabin

The earliest known photograph of the birthplace cabin, dated about 1895, and which is printed in the sales publication "Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park", shows the cabin as being eleven logs in height on each side and fifteen logs in height on each end. The above mentioned photograph was used as a guide in the reconstruction of the cabin for the cornerstone laying event on February 12, 1909.

But then it was discovered that several logs had been lost during the cabin's itinerary between 1897 and 1909. Eleven long logs, plus several short pieces had to be added to get the correct number of logs into the rebuilt cabin.^{6/} These replacement logs were obtained from a cabin in this neighborhood.^{7/}

The eleven long logs that were added to the cabin at that time are numbers 8, 9, and 10 on the North side; 8, 9, and 10 on the South side; 9 and 10 on the East end; 8, 9, and 10 on the West end. The short pieces added at the same time are those comprising the gables of the cabin. The plate logs

on the ends and on the sides (No. 11) were added at the same time.

The logs added to the cabin in 1909, at the time of the cornerstone laying ceremony, are the ones showing the greatest amount of axwork, sawed ends, shallowest notching, and the least degree of weathering-all in definite contrast to the remainder of the logs.

Very shortly after the cornerstone laying ceremony, the logs of the cabin were numbered while in place, the cabin dismantled and removed to Louisville for storage until the completion of the Memorial Building, after which it was returned and reerected inside the Memorial Building.

In the cabin today there are only (28) twenty eight pieces which date so recently as 1897-the remainder of the existing pieces having been added since that date. Presumably all the pieces of the cabin were shipped to Nashville in that year. From 1897 until 1906 the cabin lost at least one half of its total number of pieces, all in a period of less than ten years. But the cabin prior to 1897 had been torn down and rebuilt twice-1860 and 1894. The cabin was approximately fifty years old the first time it was removed, in 1860. At that early date in the existence of the cabin, according to one of the workmen, it was necessary to replace some of the logs.^{8/} When Reverend Big- ham rebuilt the cabin on the old farm in 1894, he probably added some logs as replacements, although this isn't at all certain. It is, in this writer's opinion, entirely possible, considering the great age of the cabin and the number of times it has been dismantled and rebuilt over nearly a century, that none of the original (1809) logs are present in the cabin today.

8. Height of Cabin

The present^{cabin} is eleven feet in height at the corners, and fourteen feet in height at the comb of the roof. The original height in feet of the cabin is unknown, but when John A. Davenport began living in the cabin he added some timbers-two by fours-in order to obtain sufficient height for a loft or half story upstairs.^{9/} But Rev. Bigham discarded these two by fours when he had the cabin returned to the farm, using only the logs for the reassembling of the cabin. The workmen who reerected the cabin inside the Memorial Building used the same number of logs that Rev. Bigham had used. But the logs added were very wide and were not notched very deeply.

When the Lincoln Farm Association rebuilt the cabin inside the Memorial Building, the workmen added enough logs to the cabin to correspond to the number in it in 1897. But while they were attempting to duplicate the original height in number of logs, they were at the same time reducing the cabin's original depth and length. By cropping the ends of the logs they were making it necessary to renotch each log. And in renotching them, they cut the notches very shallow. Logs notched shallow, when erected as a side to cabin, gain height very rapidly. This one factor, is the main reason for the unusual height of the cabin. It has sufficient height today for an ordinary loft.

9. Chimney

The fate of the original chimney is unknown. Evidently it had fallen into such a state of disrepair that it was left on the spot when the cabin was first moved from its original site. Also, the writer is unable to learn what type of chimney was built to the cabin at the time it was rebuilt on

the Rodman farm. But when Mr. John A. Davenport began living in the cabin he built a chimney of stone and brick-the fireplace proper of stone and the flue or chimney of brick.^{10/} And too, the writer is unable to discover the source of information by which the present height, or even the type, of chimney was determined at the time the cabin was rebuilt by Rev. Bigham in 1894. An old photograph made sometime between 1894 and 1897 shows the chimney to be very similar to the present chimney.^{11/}

The present chimney is composed of pieces, some of which appear very old and which show a marked degree of weathering, others which show almost no signs of weathering. There is a marked degree, of difference, also, in the amount of hewing that has been done on the pieces, some of them showing a great amount of hewing, other pieces practically none.

Reverend Bigham built a completely new chimney to the cabin after he had removed the cabin to the old farm.^{12/} This chimney was shipped to Nashville with the cabin in 1897, but when the cabin returned in 1909 the chimney was missing.^{13/}

The present chimney built to the cabin was moved in 1909 from a negro cabin which stood near the Davenport farm.^{14/}

In conversations with visitors to the park, the writer has had an opportunity to discuss with several elderly men the type of chimney in question, and with only one exception they have stated that the chimneys with which they were acquainted extended above the comb of the roof; that a chimney of the type here exhibited would have been a fire hazard and also a rather poor chimney for heating purposes.

The present chimney is a constructural polyglot, being composed of round pieces, hewed pieces, and split pieces. Some of the ends are sawed while others are chopped. One piece is an ex-railroad tie and another is a fence post showing very plainly the decayed end. The real type of the stick and clay chimney was usually built of round pieces of wood, such as are used in the chimneys to the cabins at Fort Harrod, Harrodsbury, Kentucky, the originals of which antedate the Lincoln cabin by thirty two years.

10. Window and Door Shutters

The present shutters to the window and door are made of sawed timber, In 1939 permission was granted to remove the sawed facing or framing of the window and the door and replace with hewed timbers. This was done, with excellent results, and the skill with which the work was done gave the pieces an appearance of originality. This same appearance of age and originality could and should be given the shutters by making them of hewed material, properly aged and fastened with wooden pegs.

11. Original Site of Cabin

There is a great diversity of opinion on this subject. According to the affidavit of Lafayette Wilson, one of the workmen who helped move the cabin in 1860 from near the "Sinking Spring" to the George Rodman farm, the cabin stood about fifty or seventy five yards north of the spring on a knoll.^{15/}

Another affiant, Zeralda J. Goff, stated that the Lincoln cabin stood on the hill to the right of the spring, where the flag pole was set-the same pole which was removed from the interior of the cabin only a few years ago.^{16/}

John A. Davenport, one time owner of the Lincoln cabin, in his affidavit stated that the logs he sold to A. W. Dennett were taken to the Lincoln farm and a cabin was rebuilt on the site of the original cabin.^{17/}

At variance with the above three affiants are others who made affidavits as to the location of the birthplace cabin prior to its first removal from the farm. In his affidavit, James L. Walters said that the cabin stood on the knoll and east of the spring.^{18/} This fix would locate the cabin within the general vicinity of the present parking area, since the Memorial Building is approximately north of the spring.

The affiant, John C. Creal, whose father, Richard Creal, purchased part of the Lincoln farm about 1830, stated that the old cabin stood south of the old trail, about seventy yards distant from the flagpole marking the supposed site of the cabin.^{19/} In this writer's opinion the latter group of affiants seem to have the advantage in the argument. Richard Creal did not obtain title to the present site of the cabin and of the Memorial Building until 1867, seven years after the removal of the cabin to the Rodman farm.^{20/} The Creal boundary line followed a division line established in 1822.^{21/} This line, which started at the old corner oak and ran North 35 degrees East, was Creal's west line until he purchased the eighteen and one third acre tract, on which is located now the Memorial Building.^{22/} This line when plotted on a map of the park, approximately bisects the steps approaching the Memorial Building. This line extended diagonally until it intersected the eastern boundary about midway of the original Lincoln farm.

In the light of the above evidence, any cabin purchased from the Creals would have been east of the above mentioned line, and more nearly on the same level as the spring, and possibly east of it, as the Creals always maintained it was.

12. Reverend James W. Bigham

The Reverend James W. Bigham was for many years a circuit riding Methodist preacher and was the presiding elder in the circuit. When A. W. Dennett purchased the cabin from the Davenports and the 110 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre farm from the Creals, Reverend Bigham acted as his agent.^{23/} The original purpose of Dennetts buying the farm and the cabin was for holding a rally or reunion of veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1894. The cabin was rebuilt on the top of the knoll and all was in readiness for the event, but few veterans showed up.^{24/} This small showing of G. A. R's might have been due to the fact that Larue County was Confederate during the Civil War. But the Bighams retained interest in the farm and in the cabin, for Harvey Bigham, son of Reverend Bigham, remained as caretaker of the area and boarded with John M. Cissell mother,, from 1894 through 1897.

During this interval the area in the vicinity of the cabin was cleared of shrubs and briars and sowed to bluegrass. According to Mr. Cissell, Rev. Bigham made the statement that "Harvey and I are going to make a barrel of money with the cabin."

In 1897 the Bighams had the cabin dismantled and shipped to Nashville, Tennessee, where it was to be exhibited at the Tennessee Centennial.

Mr. John M. Cissell also stated that when his mother told Reverend Bigham that the original site of the cabin was east of the spring and nearly on the same level, Reverend Bigham intimated that it made no difference to him where the original site was, that on the top of the knoll behind the spring was the most suitable location for the cabin.

13. Itinerary of the Cabin from 1860-1911

The cabin was removed from the Lincoln farm in March, 1860, to the old Rodman farm which is about one and one half miles north of the original site.^{25/} There it sat until 1894, and variously used as a tenant house, a school house, and last, as a dwelling house.

Sometime in 1894 the cabin was purchased by Alfred W. Dennett and removed back to the original farm where it remained until 1897. In that year it was dismantled and shipped to Nashville, Tennessee, to be exhibited at the Tennessee Centennial Celebration.^{26/} From Nashville, it was shipped to New York in 1900 where it was rebuilt and exhibited in Central Park.^{27/} From Central Park the cabin was removed to Buffalo and was placed on exhibition during the Pan American Exposition in 1901.^{28/} It was next taken, in 1904, to the World's Fair at St. Louis, Missouri.^{29/} Before its return and subsequent storage in New York it was exhibited at a fair in Columbus, Ohio.^{30/} From Columbus it was taken to New York and stored in the basement of the Poffenhausen Mansion on Long Island.

The logs of the cabin were purchased by the Lincoln Farm Association and shipped under military escort to Louisville, Kentucky, where the cabin was exhibited in connection with the Kentucky Home Coming in 1906. The cabin remained in Louisville from that date until 1909, at which time it was brought to the farm for the Memorial Building cornerstone laying ceremony. Shortly thereafter it was returned to Louisville, for safe storage until the completion of the Memorial Building. In 1911 the logs were returned and the cabin reerected within the granite Memorial.

14. "The Task Remaining"

This task is to attempt to fill in the gaps still open in the history of the cabin. The number one gap is the period from 1808 until 1860. But for this period there is little hope of ever obtaining any more reliable information than has been obtained heretofore.

The second gap covers the period during which the cabin was on tour-between 1897 and 1906. The only possibility for filling this void in the history of the cabin is in digging out of contemporary newspapers and periodic literature any item which might have been published during the itinerary of the cabin. As an example, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch should have carried stories, pictures, etc., of the cabin when it was exhibited at the World's Fair at St. Louis in 1904. This gap or void in the recorded history of the traditional birthplace cabin should be filled at the earliest possible date.

Undoubtedly, the Lincoln Farm Association collected more information concerning the cabin and the site than was turned over to the Government in 1916. The National Park Service should make every effort to persuade Mr. Richard Lloyd Jones, Formerly the Secretary of the Association, and now editor of the Tulsa Tribune, Tulsa, Oklahoma, to donate to the National Park Service his files on The Association.

NOTES

1. Statement of Mr. Ivy Davenport.
2. Statement of John M. Cissell:

"I was born August 19, 1883, on what is a part of the old original Lincoln Farm, in a two story log house, about 800 feet from Lincoln's birthplace cabin, and have spent my past life on this exact spot. My father was born in the year of 1839, about one mile from Lincoln's boyhood home, Knob Creek, Ky., which is about 9 miles from Lincoln's birthplace, now the Abraham Lincoln National Park. My grand father, Richard Creal, who was born in the year 1801, purchased the original Lincoln farm and cabin from Royal P. Hankley about 110 years ago. My grand father Creal never knew the Lincolns, but his neighbors knew, visited, and administered at the birth of Abraham Lincoln. My mother knew and visited with Aunt Peggie Walters, who assisted Mrs. Nancy Hanke's Lincoln at the time of Abraham Lincoln's birth, February 12, 1809. Three years later Thomas Lincoln removed his wife and two children, Sarah and Abraham about 9 miles north of Lincoln's birthplace, to the Knob Creek Home, where the third child, little Thomas Lincoln was born and died in infancy, was supposed to have been buried in the old Redmon burying grounds. The Lincolns left Kentucky in the year of 1818.

My grand father used the Lincoln birthplace cabin for a storage room for a few years, then sold this cabin to a Mr. Dyer. Mr. Dyer removed this cabin to his farm, which is two miles from the original spot where the cabin now stands. Mr. Dyer used the cabin for a dwelling for a few years, than later for a school room; my sister Bettie Cissell attended her first school in this cabin.

The Creal heirs sold the original Lincoln Farm in 1891, to Andrew Dennett, New York City, who was at that time a well known chain Restaurant operator. Mr. Dennett then purchased the original Lincoln birthplace cabin from John Davenport, then the owner of the old Dyer farm, for the sum of \$220. Mr. Dennett then removed the cabin back to the original site for a short period. When Mr. Dennett had this cabin taken apart in 1894 to be removed to various places for exhibit, Nashville, Centennial, Buffalo, N.Y., St. Louis, Columbus, Ohio, and Louisville, Ky., for the Kentucky Home Coming. I ~~was~~ then a lad of eleven years, assisted in the marking of each log as they were taken apart, and was called upon to identify these logs when they were returned to this area and the original site in 1909. I can and do certify that they were the identical logs.

Mr. Dennett deeded the Lincoln Farm to a Mr. Crear, New York City, and not tax was paid on the farm for a number of years, it was then advertised and sold at public auction to highest at the Larue County Court House door, for taxes in the year of 1905.

The present area was purchased by Mr. Richard Lloyd Jones, then of New York City, and later appointed Commissioner of the Lincoln Farm for the Robert J. Collier Publishing Company, New York City. Mr. Collier founded a company known as the Lincoln Farm Association. This Association made up a fund by popular subscription in the amount of \$300,000, and in 1909, began the erection of a granite building in which

to place the small cabin, in which Abraham Lincoln was born. This cabin is 12 feet wide and 17 feet long, 11 feet from the floor to the eaves, and 14 feet from the floor to the highest point of the roof. No attic, one shutter window, one door, stick and mud chimney. The Cornerstone of the Memorial Building, now housing the original cabin, was laid by President Theodore Roosevelt on February 12, 1909, the centennial of Lincoln's birth, and was dedicated in 1911 by President Taft. Later the Memorial, Farm and buildings, along with \$48,000 endowment funds were turned over to the United States Government by the Lincoln Farm Association. President Woodrow Wilson, in September, 1916, delivered the acceptance address. The area remained under the administration of the War Department, until its transfer to the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, in 1933.

I have been employed in the Lincoln National Park, continuously since 1909 and have not lived out of sight of the spot where Lincoln was born. I was first employed by the contractor who built the Memorial and the step approach, to assist the stone mason, was one of the two men chosen to assist President Theodore Roosevelt in the laying of the cornerstone, February 12, 1909. I was appointed March, 1910, by the Lincoln Farm Association as Superintendent of this area, and since that date have had the honor to open the doors of this Memorial which houses the small cabin in which Lincoln was born. Three Presidents, Queen Marie, Lloyd George, and many other prominent people. The history as has been handed down from my ancestors, direct, I am positively sure that the small cabin which is enclosed in the Memorial and that so many thousand people from all parts of the world visit each year, is the identical cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born."

(
 (The above statement was prepared by Mr. John M. Cissell at)
 (the request of Mr. Evison, Acting Regional Director, December)
 (29, 1938.)
)

3. ibid.
4. ibid.
5. ibid.
6. ibid.
7. ibid.
8. Affidavit of Lafayette Wilson:

"My name is Lafayette Wilson. My post office address is Buffalo, Larue Co., Ky. I was born in Hodgenville, Ky. in 1843, and I have been a resident of Larue County all my life. In the year 1860, in the month of March I moved the logs from the Lincoln Cabin to the farm now occupied by John A. Davenport, a distance of about one and one half miles. One James Dyer assisted me in moving these. A negro by the name of Phillips also helped me. This negro is now dead. The cabin which we moved from there showed evidences of considerable age. Some of these logs were rotted away at that time. We added some new logs to the cabin built on the Davenport place. Near the main cabin stood the ruins of a smaller cabin—a round log cabin. This cabin stood on a knoll north

north of the spring, 50 or 75 yards distant.

My father came to this country in 1822, moving here from Alabama, and located at Hodgenville. My brother who is now 84 years of age told me where the cabin stood in which Mr. Lincoln was born and he indicated the spot as being the knoll from which the cabin was removed by me in 1860. I have heard and read the affidavit of Mrs. Zeralda J. Goff and she refers in said affidavit to the logs which I removed from the Lincoln place to the Davenport place. I was employed by one Daniel Dyer to remove these logs."

Attest.

L. Wilson

L. B. Handly

Subscribed and sworn to before me by Lafayette Wilson, this the 5th day of June, 1906.

Charles Williams, Notary Public,
Larue County, Ky.

(Seal)

9. Statement of Ivy Davenport.
10. ibid.
11. Sales Publication "Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park."
12. Statement of John M. Cissell. (See Note 2)
13. ibid.
14. Statement of Ivy Davenport.
15. Affidavit of Lafayette Wilson. (See Note 8)
16. Affidavit of Zeralda J. Goff:

"My name is Zeralda Jane Goff. I was born in Washington County, Kentucky, on October 8, 1820. In March 1831, I moved with my parents to Larue County. It was then in Harbin. I have been living in the vicinity of the Lincoln Birthplace since that date. I have known the Lincoln farm and its buildings all this time. I have spent many days when a mere child playing about the spring and the Lincoln Cabin. The Lincoln family had left here before I moved into this neighborhood, but I know the cabin in which they lived by the history given by the residents of this community at that time. It was known by all the other older residents that the Lincoln Cabin stood on the hill to the right of of the spring and where I am informed the flagpole now stands. There was a right smart little orchard around this cabin-old fashioned apples and pears. There were two of these cabins, the main cabin and a smaller cabin which stood some few feet from it which was used as a meat house evidently. There was a family living in the Lincoln cabin by the name of Skaggs when we first came to this neighborhood. The little cabin which was made of little round poles, standing near the main cabin rotted away many years ago. I recollect the time these logs were taken away from the place-I mean the logs making up the original Lincoln cabin. As to the date this was, can't say, but recollect the occurrence very well. These logs were carried up the George Rodman place and were used by him in building a tenant house. This Rodman Property is now the property of Mr. John Davenport. There were only two cabins on the Lincoln place as it is now known and they were the two I have just mentioned-the main cabin and the little cabin near which rotted

down. There were no other cabins near the spring. I have been living on an adjoining farm to the Lincoln farm since 1833, played at the spring and the cabin when a child, and my memory is clear regarding this Lincoln cabin and its site. I recollect distinctly when but a child of the people who knew the Lincoln family, speak of this family and being in their home which was the cabin standing on the hill near the spring and which was afterward removed from the place to the Davenport place. I saw the cabin on the Rodman Place which was built out of these logs from the Lincoln cabin and recognized them from the manner in which they were hewn and from their general appearance, and I believe I would know the cabin today from general appearance and construction. I was in this cabin frequently which was built on the X Rodman place out of the logs from the Lincoln Cabin. And I remember them being sold by Mr. Davenport to Mr. Dennett some years ago, and by him taken away from here."

Zeralda Jane ^{her}X Goff
mark

Witnessed by
L. B. Handly

Subscribed and sworn to before me by Zeralda Jane Goff
this May 30th. 1906.

(Seal)

Charles Williams, Notary Public, Larue Co., Ky.

17. Affidavit of John A. Davenport:

"The affiant, John A. Davenport, says that hi is 56 years of age and that he lives in Larue County, Ky., that he came to Larue County in 1863 and resided near the Lincoln farm, that in 1875 he moved into the cabin built of the logs from the Lincoln cabin: that when he first came into this county in 1863, it was known by all the old residents that these logs were taken from the Lincoln cabin at the spring and were the logs composing the old Lincoln cabin. Affiant says that in 189-, he sold these logs to one A. W. Dennett of New York. The trade was made with the Rev. J. W. Bigham, who was acting for Mr. Dennett, and these logs were taken to the Lincoln farm and a cabin was rebuilt on the site of the original cabin. It remained there a year or More, and for reason or purpose it was removed."

Attest.

J. A. Davenport

L. B. Handly

Subscribed and sworn to by J. A. Davenport before me this May 30, 1906.

Charles Williams, Notary Public, Larue County, Ky.

(Seal)

18. Affidavit of James L. Walters:

"My name is James L. Walters and I was eighty five (85) years old on the 14th day of June, 1890, I was born in Hardin County in that ~~part~~ part that is now Larue. I knew Abe Lincoln when he was a very small boy. I suppose he was five or six years old. He lived with his parents on the place that is now called the Lincoln farm and the same upon which Mrs. Mary Creal now lives. I remember on one occasion I was riding behind my mother on horseback. We were going to my grand

father Enlows who lived above Hodgenville, and I saw old man Thomas Lincoln and Abe was with him but had no clothes except his shirt on. It was always at that time understood that Abe was born on the place where they then lived as above stated, just on the knoll above and east of the spring. I remember seeing the old house often.

Given under my hand this Oct. 18, 1890."

James L. Walters

I, W. H. Hamilton, Clerk of the Larue County Court in the State of Kentucky, certify that I have known James L. Walters for forty six years and know him to be a gentleman of truth in every sense of the word and I believe the statement above made by him is true from what I have heard for many years back. This Oct. 18, 1890.

W. H. Hamilton, Clk., Larue County Court.

Sworn to before me by James L. Walters this Oct. 18, 1890.

W. H. Hamilton, Clk.

19. Affidavit of John C. Creal:

"My name is John C. Creal. I was born on a part of the Lincoln farm in Larue County, Kentucky in the year 1836, and I have lived in Larue County near this place all my life. For the last sixteen years of my life I have been the County Judge of Larue County. I sold the farm now owned by Robert J. Collier to one A. W. Dennette of New York City. My recollection of the house made of logs which was removed by the Rev. J. W. Bigham from the farm, is that it was a comparatively new house when I first remember any thing about it. The stairway in this house and the upper floor were placed in there by my Uncle, J. B. Cates when I was about ten years of age. Some time in April, 1893, the question was raised about these logs since removed by Mr. Bigham being the logs in the original Lincoln cabin. My mother, at that time about seventy years old told me that these logs afterward removed from the place had no connection whatever with the logs in the original cabin: that a man by the name of Jackson had built this cabin from the logs that were removed. My mother further told me that the site of the original Lincoln cabin had been pointed out to her by the old citizens as being at a point different from where the Jackson cabin stood. She said that these old people told her the Lincoln cabin stood South of the old trail, about seventy yards distant from the point where the flag pole now stands which is supposed to indicate the site of the original cabin.

My mother moved into this neighborhood about 1830. One of my earliest recollections is that an old cabin stood about ten or fifteen feet from the Jackson cabin. This old cabin at that time was in a very bad state of repair and showed age and was evidently a very old house. My recollection is that this was a round log cabin. I do not recollect what became of this old cabin.

Sometime in the seventies, a party of ex-soldiers came out to the farm and wanted to be shown the site of the Lincoln cabin. I had Uncle Jimmy Walters a very old man, who recollected seeing Mr. Lincoln when he and Lincoln were boys, to point out to this party the site of the original cabin as he recollected it. He came on to the place and after some time spent in rambling over the place, fixed the site at a different point to that designated by my mother. He fixed on the first

knoll East of the spring about one hundred yards there from and probably a distance of a hundred yards from the site indicated by my mother. I believe that Mr. Walters was mistaken in his location of the site of the Lincoln cabin."

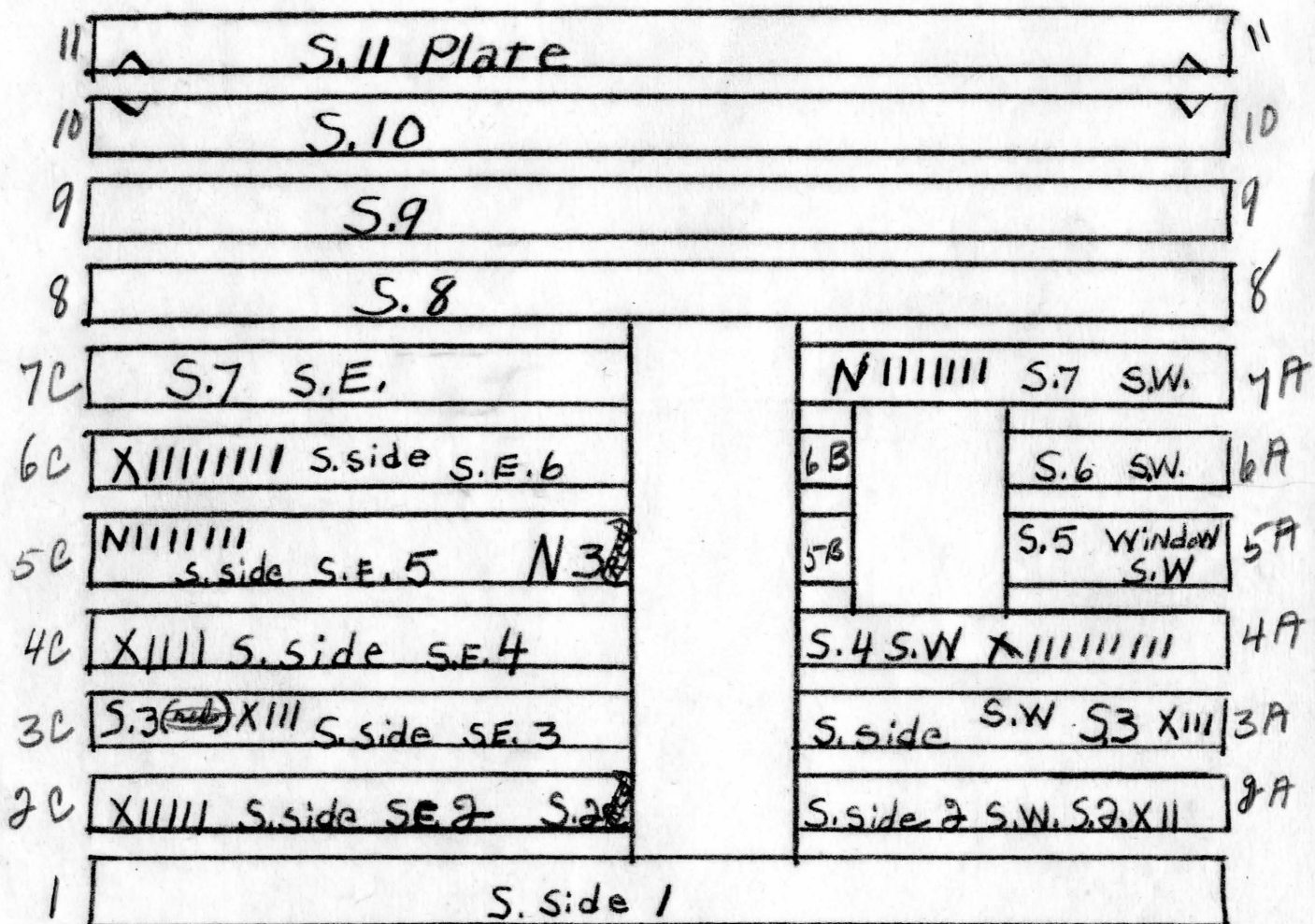
J. C. Creal

Attest. L.B. Handly

Subscribed and sworn to before me by J. C. Creal this May 28, 1906.
Charles Williams, Notary Public, Larue Co.

20. Deed Book 7, pages 264 and 265, Larue County Court.
21. Charles F. Huss vs. McKelvey Fogle, Equity Bundle No. 19, Larue Circuit Court.
22. Deed Book 7, Pages 264 and 265, Larue County Court.
23. Statement of Mr. John M. Cissell. (See Note 2)
24. *ibid.*
25. Affidavit of Lafayette Wilson. (See Note 8)
26. Statement of John M. Cissell. (See Note 2)
27. Statement of Ivy Davenport.
28. Statement of John M. Cissell, (See Note 2)
29. *ibid.*
30. *ibid.*

SOUTH Side (Inside)
Scale: 1" = 36"

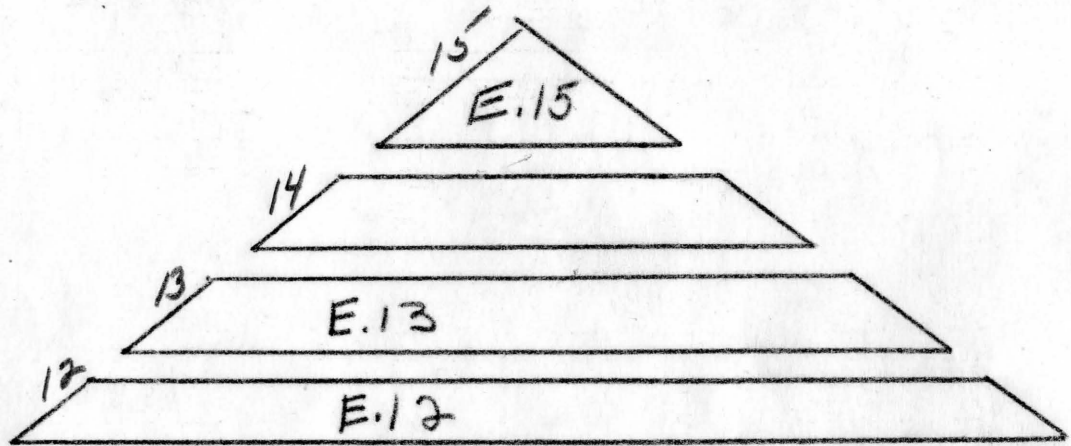


NORTH Side (Inside)

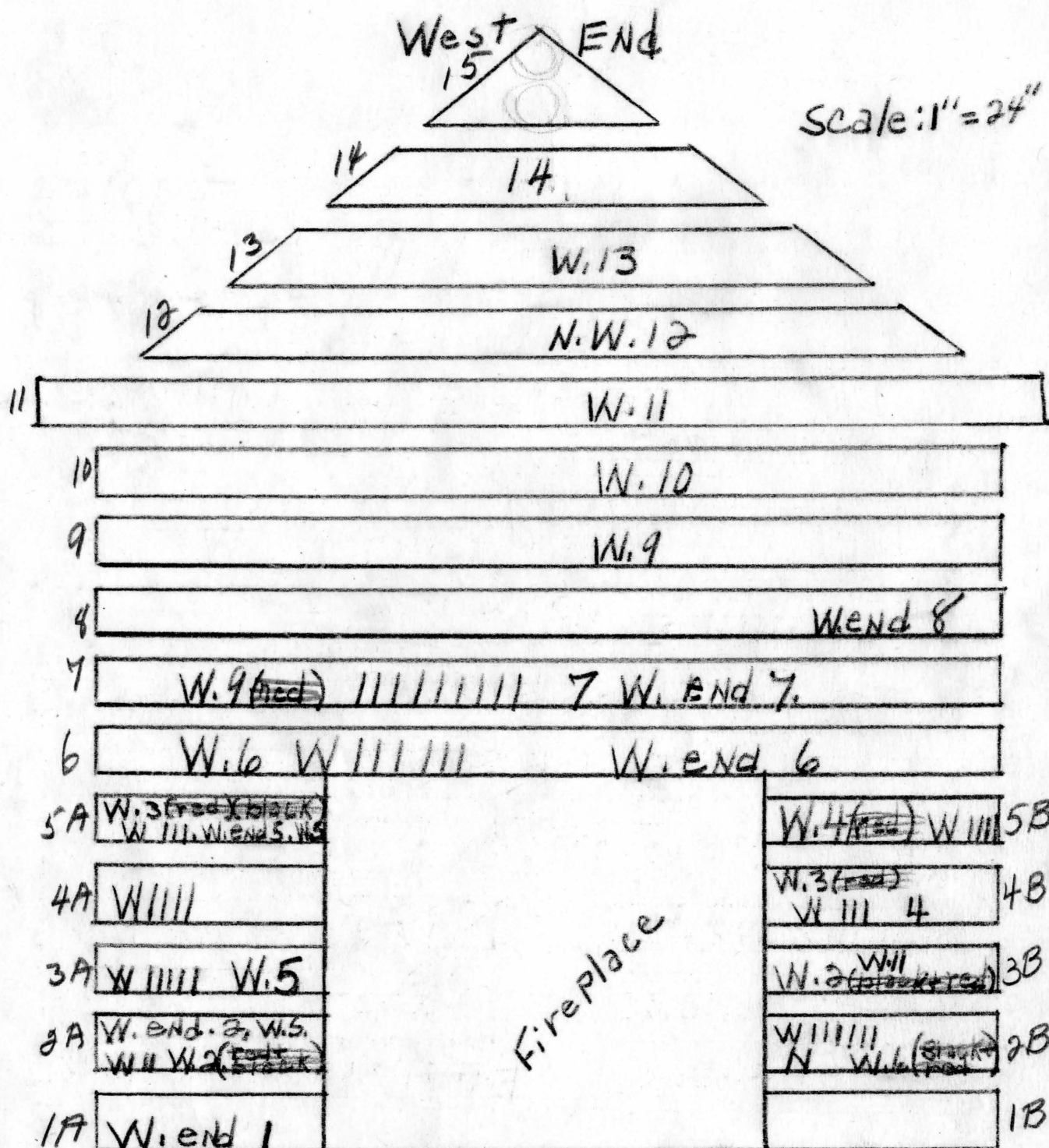
Scale 1" = 36"

11	N. 11
10	N. 10
9	N. 9
8	N. Side 8
7	N. 7
6	N. 6
5	N. side 5
4	N. side 4
3	N. Side 3
2	E. 1 N. side 2
1	N. side 1

EAST END
Scale: 1" = 24"



11	E. end 11
10	E. end 10
9	E. end 9
8	E. end E. 7 8 E IIIIIII
7	E. 6 E. 7 E IIIIIII
6	E. 6 E IIIII
5	E. 4 E. end 5 E IIII
4	E. 3 E. end 4 E III
3	E. end 3 2 E II
2	E. end 2
1	



Rafters
(South)

S. 12 Rafter

S. side 13

Ridge Pole

(North)

N. 13 side

N. 12



7-5-38

ALP-23-11

original Ph. Lincoln Farm Area