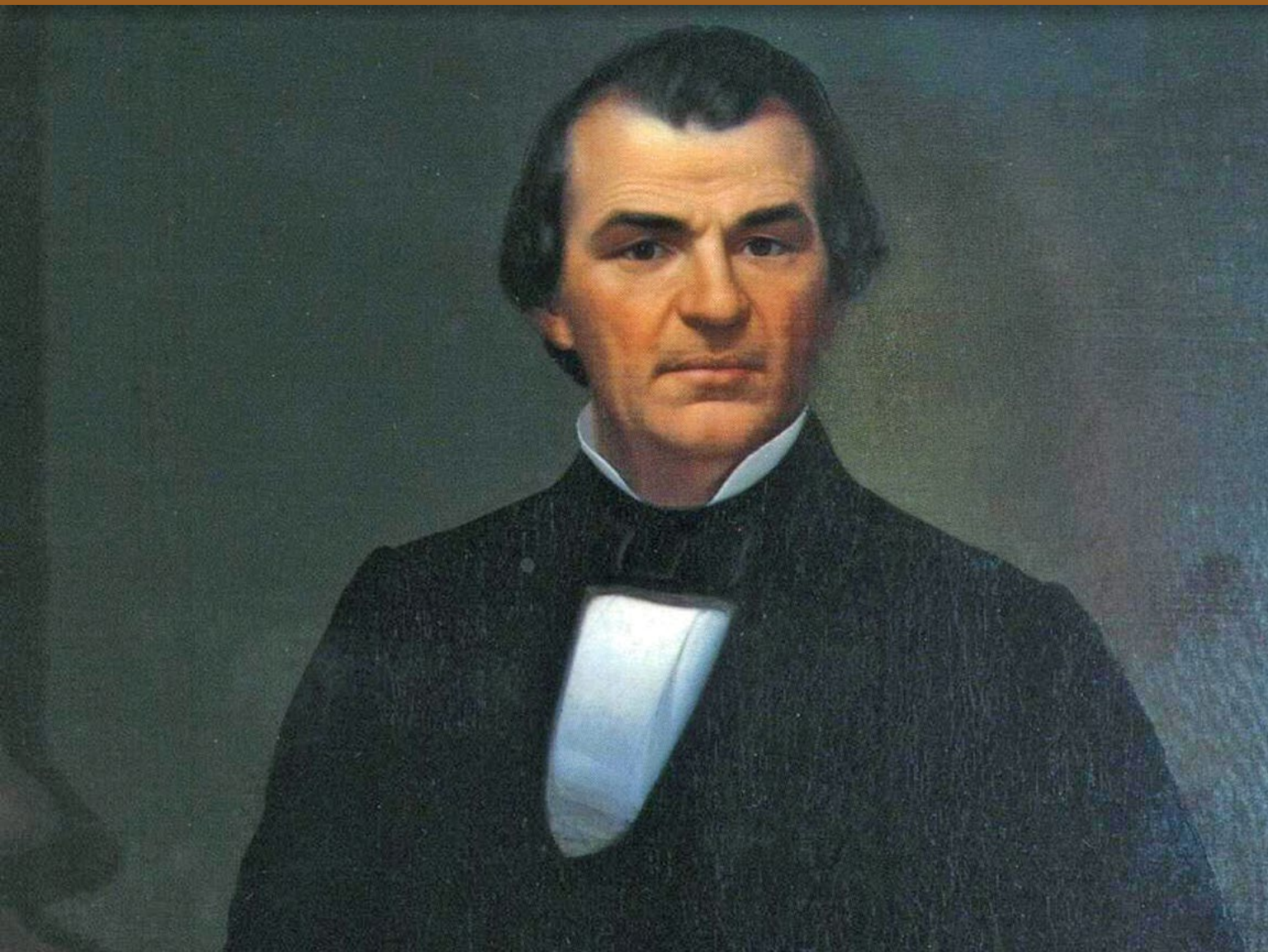




# Foundation Document Overview

## Andrew Johnson National Historic Site

Tennessee



### Contact Information

For more information about the *Andrew Johnson National Historic Site Foundation Document*, contact: [anjo\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:anjo_superintendent@nps.gov) or 423-639-3711 or write to:

Superintendent, Andrew Johnson National Historic Site, 121 Monument Ave, Greeneville, TN 37743

## Purpose



Wreaths Across America Ceremony

*The purpose of ANDREW JOHNSON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE is to further the study and understanding of the life, career, and legacy of the 17th president of the United States, during a challenging time in the nation's history, by preserving his homes, workplace, and burial site in Greeneville, Tennessee, for the public's benefit, inspiration, education, and enlightenment. The Andrew Johnson National Cemetery provides an honorable resting place for veterans and their dependents.*



## Significance

Significance statements express why Andrew Johnson National Historic Site resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- **Andrew Johnson, 17th President.** The national historic site is the place most closely associated with Andrew Johnson's life and the challenging legacy of the nation's transition from the Civil War to the Reconstruction era. Johnson rose from poverty as a tailor's apprentice to become president of the United States, the first to assume the office after a presidential assassination. He was the first president of the United States to be impeached and acquitted; proving that one vote in a democracy can make a difference. He was the first president to hold office in a slavery-free United States, illustrating the difficulties in transforming a formerly divided nation.
- **Forty-Five Years of Public Service.** Andrew Johnson honed his political abilities through debate while working in his tailor shop in Greeneville, Tennessee. He served in most of the legislative and executive offices for which he was eligible at the local, state, and national levels, including the vice presidency and the presidency. He remains the only president to return to the United States Senate. Hallmarks of his political philosophy included an uncompromising belief in the Constitution, commitment to the working class, support for gradual emancipation, and public education.
- **Home, Workplace, and Heirlooms.** The Andrew Johnson National Historic Site preserves Johnson's tailor shop, early home, homestead, burial site, and the largest collection of Johnson family treasures.
- **Slavery, Emancipation, and Citizenship.** Andrew Johnson National Historic Site calls attention to the significance of slavery and emancipation in American history and illustrates an example of the transition toward freedom for all enslaved people.
- **Andrew Johnson National Cemetery.** The Andrew Johnson National Cemetery is the final resting place of President Andrew Johnson and his family and serves as an active national cemetery for our nation's veterans and their dependents. It is one of only two active national cemeteries administered by the National Park Service.

## Fundamental Resources and Values



Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

- **Tailor Shop and Memorial Building**
- **Homestead and Grounds**
- **National Cemetery and Cemetery Landscape**
- **Johnson Family Plot at Signal Hill**
- **Museum Collections and Archives**

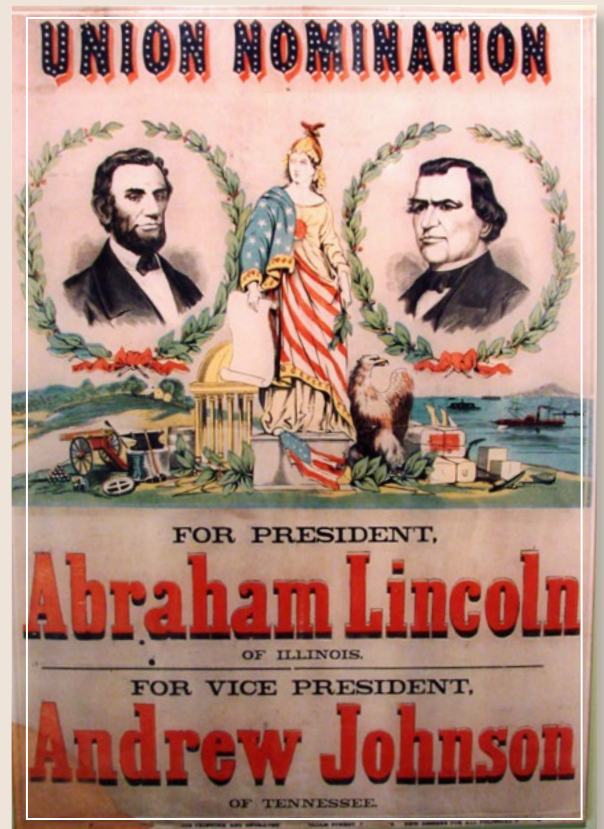
Andrew Johnson National Historic Site contains other resources and values that may not be fundamental to the purpose and significance of the park, but are important to consider in management and planning decisions. These are referred to as other important resources and values.

- **Early Home**
- **Cemetery Lodge**

## Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- **Humble Beginnings**
- **Education for All**
- **Political Career**
- **One Vote Makes a Difference**
- **The Power of Place**
- **Slavery, Emancipation, and Citizenship**
- **Reconstruction**
- **Honoring Those Who Served**



## Description

The Andrew Johnson National Historic Site honors the life and legacy of our nation's 17th president. Located in the center of Greeneville, Tennessee, just west of the Great Smoky Mountains in northeastern Tennessee, Andrew Johnson's early home, tailor shop, and homestead provide a window into Johnson's rise from tailor to statesman. Andrew Johnson and his family are buried at the crest of Monument Hill within Andrew Johnson National Cemetery.

Andrew Johnson became president upon Abraham Lincoln's assassination, and served in that capacity from 1865 to 1869. Reunification of the nation following the Civil War was one of the defining issues of Johnson's presidency. Andrew Johnson was the first president of the United States who had neither been a military hero nor studied law. Known in his time as the "courageous commoner," this former tailor's apprentice followed the ideals inherent in the American dream to rise from poverty-stricken circumstances. On his journey to the executive mansion, this self-taught man held nearly every political office available—without attending a single day of school.

The national historic site is made up of four units. The visitor center houses information, exhibits, the presidential museum, and Andrew Johnson's original tailor shop, enclosed within a memorial building. Across the street is an early home of the Johnsons, with exhibits that illustrate Andrew Johnson's early life, the purchase of his first slaves, and his entrance into the political world. The early home is open to visitors on the first level and basement. A block and half up Main Street is the homestead, where the Johnsons lived before and after his presidency. During the Civil War, soldiers occupied the house and left it in disrepair. The Johnson family renovated the home following their return from Washington. Today, the homestead is furnished with many original family possessions and 10 rooms are open to visitors. The Andrew Johnson National Cemetery is just southwest of Greeneville's town center and is one of two active National Park Service burial grounds for our nation's veterans.

