The Lincoln Home State Memorial

Corner 8th and Jackson Streets, Springfield, Sangamon County

This simple frame house, the only one Lincoln ever owned, was home to the Lincolns for sixteen years, from 1844 to 1861, except for the period Lincoln served in Congress from November 1847 to March 1849. The house saw the emergence of Lincoln from a small town lawyer to a figure of national importance, and witnessed some of the most important episodes in the man’s life prior to his inauguration as president. From the house Lincoln walked to the law office he shared with "Billy" Herndon, and in his home on May 17, 1860, Lincoln received a committee from the Republican Nominating Convention bearing the formal notification of his nomination as the party’s candidate. During the campaign Lincoln received well-wishers at the home and on February 6, 1861, gave a "grand levee" to bid farewell to his friends and fellow citizens on the eve of the departure for Washington. None of the family ever returned to live in the house.

The house was built in 1839 and was originally a one-story cottage with two attic rooms. Lincoln purchased the property from the Rev. Charles Dresser in January 1844, and brought to it his wife and infant son, Robert. Dresser was the clergyman who married Lincoln and Mary Todd in 1842. The Lincolns spent the major part of their married life in the house and in it were born three more sons, the first of whom, Edward Baker, died there.

The house is made entirely of native woods, with a frame of oak, split laths of hickory and oak, and door frames and weatherboarding of black walnut. During the Lincoln occupancy, the original structure was enlarged to a full two stories with twelve rooms. The brick retaining wall and fence along the front of the house were erected in 1850 and five years later was extended along the Jackson street side. Furnishings of the period include some original Lincoln pieces, and an effort has been made to reproduce the interior decoration, including wallpaper, to create a picture of the comfortable home the Lincolns knew. The exterior of the house was for many years painted white with green shutters. The present tinted beige more closely ap-
This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont’d), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont’d) ...
Abraham Lincoln spent the years from 1844 to 1860 in this house, the only home he ever owned. During the time he lived here, he rose from a small-town lawyer to the Presidency. The house is preserved as nearly as possible in its original form, many of the furnishings are original pieces or replicas of those used by Lincoln.