



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR MISSION 66-ERA RESOURCES

ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, LARUE COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Prepared for
National Park Service,
Southeast Regional Office



Prepared by
North Wind Resource Consulting, LLC
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NORTHWIND
RESOURCE CONSULTING

National Register of Historic Places
Determination of Eligibility for
Mission 66-Era Resources, Abraham Lincoln
Birthplace National Historical Park,
LaRue County, Kentucky

Prepared for

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REPORT ABSTRACT

Report Title:	National Register of Historic Places Determination of Eligibility for Mission 66-Era Resources, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park
Project Location:	LaRue County, Kentucky
Project Locator UTM:	611823 mE, 4154484 mN, (Zone 16, NAD 27)
Project Sponsor:	National Park Service (NPS)
Lead Agency:	NPS
Applicable Regulations:	National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
Funding Source:	NPS
Description of the Project/Undertaking:	The NPS contracted with North Wind Resource Consulting, LLC (North Wind) to prepare a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for Mission 66-era resources located within the Birthplace Unit of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park. This documentation is part of a larger effort by the Southeastern Regional Office to record and provide NRHP DOEs for Mission 66-era properties and cultural landscapes located within the 88 Park Service units currently under its management.
Project Area:	The project area consists of an irregularly shaped parcel measuring roughly 2,618 feet (797 m) north-south by 3,275 feet (998 m) east-west.
Land Jurisdiction:	NPS
Total Acres:	116
North Wind Project No.:	030131.056

Summary:

The on-site inspection of the Birthplace Unit of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park resulted in the identification of 20 Mission 66-era resources. These resources were first evaluated for individual eligibility for listing in the NRHP and were then evaluated as contributing or non-contributing resources to two potential historic districts following the guidance established in the *NPS Mission 66 Era Resources Multiple Property Documentation Form* (MPDF), prepared by Ethan Carr, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Len Warner, Rodd Wheaton, John Feinberg, and Carly Piccarello in 2015.¹

Of the 20 resources documented by North Wind as part of the current study, only the Visitor Center is recommended individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. The Visitor Center is recommended as individually eligible for listing in the NRHP at the local level under Criterion A, under the themes of Community Planning and Development and

¹ Ethan Carr, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Len Warner, Rodd Wheaton, John Feinberg, and Carly Piccarello (2015). *National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources. Multiple Property Documentation Form*.

Entertainment/Recreation for its association with the Mission 66 program as part of the development of the National Park System. The period of significance for the Visitor Center is defined as beginning with its completion in 1959 and ending in 1973 with the completion of the final improvements planned as part of the park's Mission 66 Master Plan. Additionally, the Visitor Center retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, as defined by the NRHP.

Per the guidance found in the MPDF, the entirety of the Birthplace Unit was evaluated for eligibility as a park-wide Mission 66-era historic district and is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP as the majority of the park was not conceptualized and constructed under the Mission 66 or Parkscape USA program; the Mission 66-related development is not the most important phase of the park's development history; and the park in its entirety does not figure prominently in the history of the Mission 66 program.

North Wind identified one additional district, the Visitor Center Component, which was found to retain its significance as representing the Mission 66 program design and planning ideals, and to retain its integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling, and association. For these reasons, the Visitor Center Component is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP at the local level as a historic district under Criterion A for its association with the Mission 66 program as part of the development of the National Park System.

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INTRODUCTION

North Wind Resource Consulting, LLC (North Wind), on behalf of the National Park Service (NPS), conducted archival and background research and an on-site inspection of Mission 66-era resources located within the Birthplace Unit of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park in LaRue County, Kentucky (Figure 1). This documentation is part of a larger effort by the Southeastern Regional Office to record and provide National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Determinations of Eligibility (DOEs) for Mission 66-era properties and cultural landscapes located within the 88 NPS units currently under its management.

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park contains two units: the Birthplace Unit, located approximately two miles south of the town of Hodgenville on U.S. Highway 31E South, and the Boyhood Home Unit, located approximately 10 miles northeast of the Birthplace Unit. The Birthplace Unit includes 116 acres of gently rolling farmland approximately three miles south of Hodgenville, a home-rule class city in LaRue County, Kentucky (see Figure 1; Figure 2). The Birthplace Unit was initially developed as a commemorative site in the early twentieth century, with early improvements conducted by the Lincoln Farm Association (LFA)—a membership-based organization—and aimed at converting the Lincoln birthplace farm into a national historic site. The focal point of the landscape at this time was a temple-form, pink granite and marble Memorial Building and its associated stairway and plaza, all of which were designed by American architect John Russell Pope and completed in 1911.

On July 17, 1916, the property was conveyed to the United States (U.S.) by an act of Congress (39 Stat. 385) and was subsequently turned over to the War Department for management. Between 1928 and 1933, the War Department made substantial improvements to facilitate visitation and maintenance within the park, nearly all of which were extraneous to Pope's design. In August 1933, jurisdiction over the property was transferred to the NPS; however, little was accomplished at the park during the 1930s and 1940s due to the country's involvement in World War II (WWII). This changed, however, in 1956, when the NPS initiated its Mission 66 program which sought to provide much needed infrastructure improvements to national parks and monuments to address increased recreational demands following the war. This initiative, which lasted until 1972, resulted in numerous improvements at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park (then Abraham Lincoln National Historic Site), including the construction of new buildings, consisting of a visitor center, maintenance building, and two single-family residences for park staff; the installation of new signage; and improvements to the park's circulation network. Additionally, many of the park's existing circulation features, including the entrance road and parking ellipse, service road, and pathways, were modified and/or improved as part of the Mission 66 program.

Pursuant to Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this DOE includes a description of the physical setting of the property; a historic context that includes a discussion of the developmental history of the property, as well as a summary of the Mission 66 program within Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park; research and survey methodologies; detailed descriptions of all documented resources; and a summary of findings and recommendations for eligibility to the NRHP.

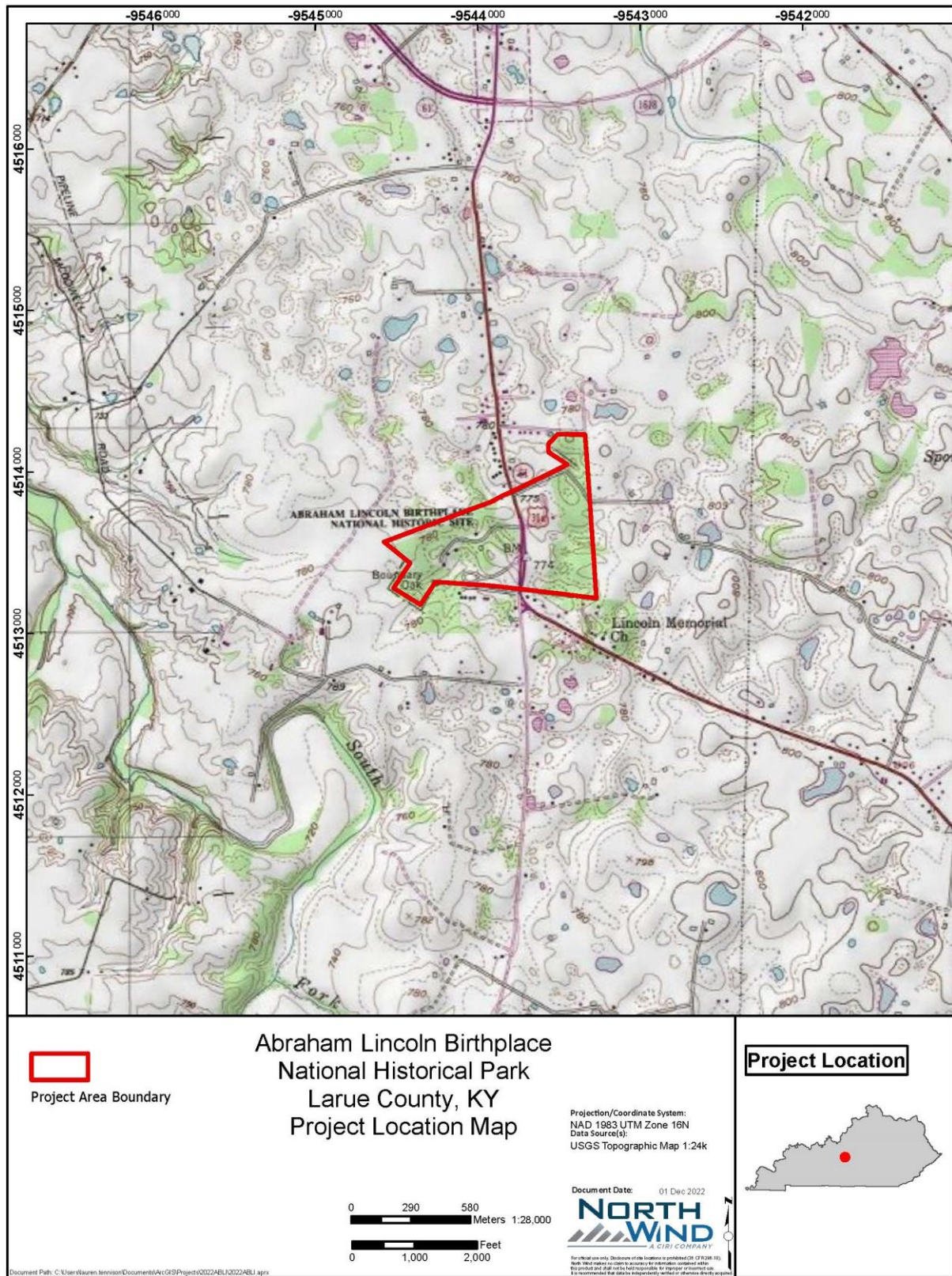


Figure 1. Project location map.



Figure 2. Project area map.

PHYSICAL SETTING

ABLI lies in the extreme eastern portion of the Highland Rim section of the Interior Low Plateau physiographic province (Lawliss and Hitchcock 2004). In Kentucky, the Highland Rim section is also known as the Pennyroyal District due to the presence of the American Pennyroyal (*Hedeoma pulegioides*)—a wild member of the mint family that grows abundantly in the region (Smalley 1980). The region consists of a Mississippian limestone plateau characterized by broad rolling uplands and gently sloping interstream areas dotted with karst developments such as sinkholes, caves, and depressions (Lawliss and Hitchcock 2004). The landscape surrounding the park maintains its historic rural character, with small farms of fewer than 200 acres producing a variety of crops, including wheat, tobacco, corn, and soybeans.

ABLI is situated along the South Fork of Nolin Creek, a tributary of the Green River in central Kentucky. Typical vegetation in the region is comprised of oak (*genus Quercus*), hickory (*genus Carya*), beech (*Fagus granifolia*), and eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) trees, while principal understory species consist of sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), dogwood (*Cornus florida*), and huckleberry (*Vaccinium membranaceum*) (Lawliss and Hitchcock 2004).

METHODS

Documentation of the Birthplace Unit was conducted by North Wind personnel Greta Rayle, M.A., RPA, Courtney Mooney, M.S., AICP, and Kasey Fulwood, M.A. on November 1, 2022. Historic Architect Robert Vint of Vint and Associates Architects also visited the site independently on November 2, 2022, to document the Visitors Center, maintenance shop, residences, and the comfort station at the picnic area. The property was not surveyed for archaeological resources, and only resources dating to the Mission 66 period were recorded at the request of the NPS. As the Birthplace Unit is comprised of a “significant concentration, linkage, or continuity” of buildings and structures “united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development” it was evaluated in its entirety as a historic district (NPS 1997:5).

Archival research included a review of historic maps and photographs on file at the Park Headquarters in Hodgenville, Kentucky. These documents provided information on the history of recreation and the development of visitor facilities at the park, as well as the implementation of the Mission 66 program. Historic as-built plans for buildings, structures, and circulation systems throughout the park were also provided to North Wind electronically by NPS staff from the Technical Information Center (ETIC) at the NPS Denver Service Center (DSC). Secondary research included, but was not limited to, online resources such as historicaerials.com and newspapers.com, as well as Gloria Peterson’s *Administrative History of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site*, prepared in 1968, which provided a comprehensive history of the park from its initial development through the end of the Mission 66 program.

The Birthplace Unit was evaluated for listing in the NRHP based on its significance under the four criteria outlined in 36 CFR 60 and per guidelines presented in *National Register*

Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (NPS 1997).

Further, the property was also evaluated for NRHP eligibility using the guidelines established in the NPS Mission 66 Era Resources MPDF, prepared by Ethan Carr, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Len Warner, Rodd Wheaton, John Feinberg, and Carly Piccarello in 2015, which provides additional guidance for evaluating resources constructed for America's national parks as part of the Mission 66 program.² The Birthplace Unit was assessed within its important historic context and evaluated on whether it retains integrity of those features necessary to convey its significance. As defined by the NRHP, aspects of integrity that must be considered are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. For the detailed analysis of eligibility, please see the Evaluation of Eligibility section of this document.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

INITIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK (1808–1944)

The Birthplace Unit of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park consists of a historic farm site located in LaRue County, Kentucky, near the south fork of Nolin Creek. The 300-acre farm was purchased by Thomas and Nancy Lincoln in 1808. The farm is generally referred to as Sinking Spring Farm for its proximity to Sinking Spring—a perennial water source that supplied water for travelers and farmers in the area. The Lincoln family moved to the property in December 1808 and Thomas Lincoln constructed a small log cabin on a hill overlooking the spring.³ Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States, was born at the Sinking Spring Farm the following February. In 1811, when President Lincoln was two years old, the family was forced to leave the property due to an ongoing dispute over its ownership. The family relocated to another farm approximately nine miles away on Knob Creek.⁴

Although President Lincoln's association with the Sinking Spring property was well known, the site received little public interest until several decades after his assassination. In 1886, Representative Thomas A. Robertson (Democrat-Kentucky) requested a \$10,000 appropriation for the construction of a granite monument to commemorate the property as Lincoln's birthplace.⁵ Robertson's requests were eventually dismissed, however, and further appeals to commemorate the site languished for over a decade. Finally in November 1894, the property was purchased by Alfred Dennett, a New York City restaurateur and philanthropist.⁶ Dennett bought the farm for a total cost of \$3,000 with the goal of

² Ethan Carr, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Len Warner, Rodd Wheaton, John Feinburg, and Carly Piccarello (2015). *National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources. Multiple Property Documentation Form*.

³ Andrew M. Loveless. (1976) National Register of Historic Places Nomination: Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Hodgenville, Kentucky. NRIS ID: 66000066.

⁴ Gloria Peterson. (1968) *An Administrative History of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site*. Division of History, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/abli/adhi/adhi.htm, accessed September 26, 2022.

⁵ Peterson, *An Administrative History of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site*, p. 9-11.

⁶ Lucy Lawliss and Susan Hitchcock. (2004), *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Cultural Landscape Report*, p. 8.

constructing a public park on the grounds. In an attempt to capitalize on the site's tourism potential, he hired Reverend James W. Bigham to construct a replica of the Lincoln birthplace cabin in 1895 (Figure 3).⁷



Figure 3. Photograph of the birthplace cabin replica at its site by Sinking Spring, ca. 1895 (Image courtesy of Peterson 1968).

Unfortunately, the farm struggled to attract visitors due to its remote location and Dennett soon plunged deeply into debt. In 1897, he had the replica birthplace cabin dismantled for display at the Tennessee Exposition in Nashville, and eventually shipped it to New York for storage. Throughout the late 1890s, Dennett made several attempts to sell the farm to the U.S. government, before he eventually transferred ownership of the property to his associate, David Crear, in 1899.⁸ Dennett was forced into bankruptcy in November 1901. Four years later, in 1905, the Larue County Circuit Court ruled that the conveyance to Crear was fraudulent, and the Lincoln farm was listed for sale with the proceeds to be distributed among Dennett's creditors.⁹

By this time, public interest in the property had grown and the upcoming sale received considerable attention in the press. At the auction, held in August 1905, the property was purchased for a total of \$3,600 by Richard Lloyd Jones, managing editor of *Collier's Weekly*. Jones purchased the property on behalf of the publication's editor, Robert J. Collier.¹⁰ Beginning in February 1906, Jones published a series of articles in *Collier's Weekly* outlining his vision to develop the Lincoln farm into a national park. The publication also announced

⁷ Ibid., p. 8.

⁸ Peterson, *An Administrative History of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site*, p. 17.

⁹ Lawliss and Hitchcock, *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Cultural Landscape Report*, p. 9.

¹⁰ Peterson, *An Administrative History of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site*, p. 20-21.

the formation of the Lincoln Farm Association (LFA), a membership-based organization that aimed to raise money for the restoration of the cabin, protection of the spring, and the erection of a monument or museum to commemorate the site. The LFA was officially incorporated in April 1906.¹¹

One of the first tasks undertaken by the LFA was the recovery of the logs from the replica cabin, which were purchased from David Crear and returned to Kentucky in June 1906.¹² On June 19, Robert Collier conveyed the cabin and farm to the LFA for further development. A massive fundraising campaign was undertaken in 1906–1907, which included soliciting business leaders, patriotic organizations, and even schoolchildren for donations. The success of these fundraising efforts allowed the LFA to hire Jules Guerin and Guy Lowell, renowned landscape architects, to perform a survey of the site. Additionally, John Russell Pope, a preeminent Beaux-Arts architect from New York, was hired to design a monumental Memorial Building that would enshrine the reconstructed cabin. Pope's firm was well-known for its design of major public buildings, and later achieved prominence for its work on the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Construction on the Memorial Building began in November 1907 by Norcross Brothers.¹³ Although the LFA hoped that construction of the building would be completed by the centennial of Lincoln's birth in February 1909, only the cornerstone was laid by that time. Still, nearly 8,000 people attended the cornerstone ceremonies including President Theodore Roosevelt and Governor Augustus E. Willson of Kentucky.¹⁴ The Memorial Building was finally dedicated in November 1911 (Figure 4). Additional site improvements associated with the initial construction of the Memorial Building included a dramatic granite stairway leading up the hill to the building's entrance and a large gravel entry plaza with a central flagpole located at the foot of the staircase. The landscaping plan for the site consisted of an arrangement of ornamental hedges, trees, and open space situated on an inclined plane. A row of hedges and Lombardy poplars flanked the stairs.¹⁵ The Sinking Spring, located west of the stairway, remained in its natural state. Upon completion of the site, Joseph M. Folk, former Governor of Missouri and President of the LFA, turned the property over to the State of Kentucky. Governor Willson accepted the property, pending the necessary legislation, and pledged that the state would augment the \$50,000 trust fund established by the LFA to maintain the site.

Between 1912 and 1916, several legislative attempts to transfer ownership of the property to the State of Kentucky proved unsuccessful. Meanwhile, the LFA continued to pursue legislation to establish the birthplace as a national park. Finally, in July 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed H.R. 8351, granting the Lincoln birthplace national park status.

¹¹ Lawliss and Hitchcock, *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Cultural Landscape Report*, p. 10.

¹² Roy Hays, "Is the Lincoln Birthplace Cabin Authentic," *The Abraham Lincoln Quarterly*, Vol.5, No. 3 (September 1948), p. 153.

¹³ Peterson, *An Administrative History of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site*.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Robert W. Blythe, Maureen Carroll, and Steven Moffson. (2001). *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Historic Resource Study*.



Figure 4. Photograph of the crowd at the dedication ceremony, with the Memorial Building in the background, ca. 1911 (Image courtesy of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park Headquarters, Hodgenville, Kentucky).

Following its establishment as a national park, the site was administered by the War Department with John A. Cissell appointed as the resident “custodian” and tasked with day-to-day management and operation of the property.¹⁶ Richard Lloyd Jones was appointed as the park’s commissioner and was charged with making periodic inspections of the property and submitting reports to the War Department. The \$50,000 LFA endowment continued to fund the maintenance and upkeep of the property, as well as the salaries of Cissell and his assistant, W. C. Ragsdale.

Within a decade of its establishment, the park was already in dire need of improvements. The approach road remained unpaved and heavy seasonal rains led to widespread flooding around the primary visitor facilities. Additionally, facilities for visitor use remained extremely limited, and primarily consisted of the Memorial Building and enshrined cabin, as well as a plaza and flagpole.

To remedy these issues, in 1929, Congress passed H.R. 15657, authorizing a \$100,000 appropriation for necessary site improvements.¹⁷ The improvements were carried out by the War Department between 1929 and 1933 (Figure 5 and Figure 6). They included repairs to existing buildings and fences, landscaping, construction of a proper drainage system, rebuilding and extending the approach road from Jackson Highway (now known as U.S.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Lawliss and Hitchcock, *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Cultural Landscape Report*, p. 24.

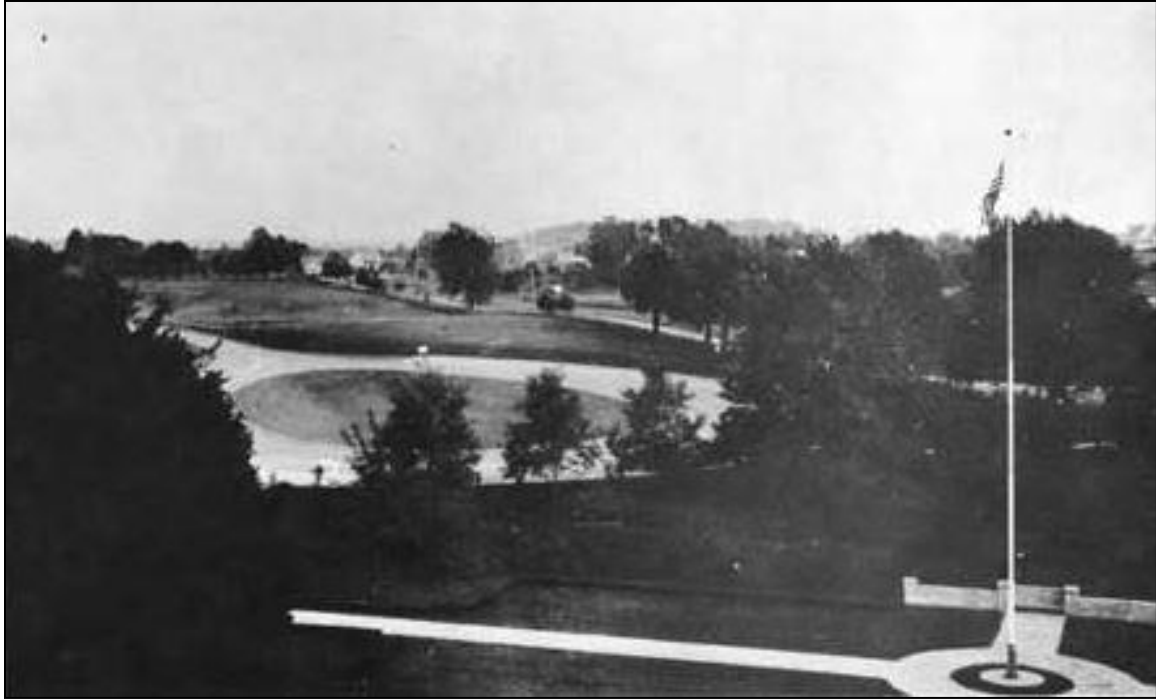


Figure 5. View of parking ellipse, ca. 1934, looking southeast from the plaza (Image courtesy of Peterson 1968).



Figure 6. View of restroom and picnic pavilion constructed to the rear (northeast) of the Memorial Building, ca. 1939 (Image courtesy of Peterson 1968).

Highway 31E) to the Memorial Building, and the construction of a parking ellipse, log picnic pavilion, comfort station, and restrooms for park visitors.¹⁸ Additionally, in 1929, a service road was built to the north of the main visitor facilities. In 1930, a maintenance area was constructed on the south side of the service road that included a stone garage, pump house, and oil and paint storage building.¹⁹

In 1933, just as the War Department was concluding its site improvements at the Lincoln Birthplace, President Franklin Roosevelt oversaw the transfer of all federally managed historic sites to the NPS. Shortly after acquiring the property, NPS officials expressed concerns that the encroachment of nearby commercial establishments—such as the Nancy Lincoln Inn, which was located on the Park’s southern boundary—would disrupt the natural setting and simplicity of the park. Despite these concerns, the only significant site improvement funded by the NPS during this period was the implementation of a tree planting plan in 1935.²⁰ The planting plan, which was carried out by workers of the Public Works Administration (PWA), successfully screened unwanted views of the Nancy Lincoln Inn and parking ellipse from the Memorial Building. Further development plans came to an abrupt halt following the U.S. entry into World War II (WWII), which led to significant reductions in NPS staff and a steep decline in visitation.

MISSION 66 AT ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK (1945–1973)

Like other national parks, the number of annual visitors to Lincoln’s birthplace rose sharply after WWII. Between 1945 and 1946, visitation at the park rose more than 270 percent and continued to climb steadily throughout the early 1950s.²¹ The postwar surge in visitation to America’s national parks has been attributed to a variety of factors including increased rates of automobile ownership, improvements to roads and highway systems, and a postwar economic boom that contributed to the growth of American leisure culture. At Lincoln’s birthplace, increased visitation was largely a response to local transportation improvements, including the completion of the Kentucky Turnpike and improvements to the Jackson Highway (now U.S. Highway 31E). Despite the jump in visitation in the postwar period, infrastructure improvements at the park remained limited in the immediate aftermath of the war. Instead, NPS officials increasingly focused their efforts on augmenting the park’s boundary to preserve the principal historic features of the Sinking Spring Farm. To this end, in 1945, the Department of the Interior purchased approximately six acres on the park’s southwestern boundary which contained the historic Boundary Oak—a white oak tree that demarcated the farm’s original western boundary. Although deeded to the federal government in 1945, the land did not officially become part of the park until it was designated by an Act of Congress in 1949.²²

As park visitation continued to expand in the postwar period, the inadequate condition of existing infrastructure became a primary concern for NPS officials around the country. By

¹⁸ Ibid., p.24-30.

¹⁹ Ibid, p.30.

²⁰ Ibid. p. 31.

²¹ Peterson, *An Administrative History of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site*.

²² Ibid.

the early 1950s, many park facilities were considered severely outdated, increasingly overcrowded, and “no longer suited [to] the ‘modern’ lifestyle to which Americans were accustomed.”²³ Inadequate sewage and utility systems, park and employee housing deficiencies, a lack of proper visitor use facilities, and encroachment on park landscapes were among the most urgent problems facing the NPS in the postwar era.²⁴ Numerous deficiencies with the existing infrastructure at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace were documented during a survey of the facilities conducted in 1949. Most notably, the survey revealed that the park lacked sufficient office space for NPS personnel, with the stone pump house in the maintenance area being utilized both as a Superintendent’s office and a record repository.²⁵ Despite the distressing nature of the survey’s findings, the only significant infrastructure improvement that occurred at Lincoln’s birthplace during the early postwar period was the construction of a superintendent’s residence on the north side of the service road in 1951. While the residence had been planned as early as 1929, construction was initially delayed due to funding restrictions brought on by the Great Depression.

By late 1953, the degraded conditions in many of the country’s national parks had reached a crisis point. That October, *Harper’s Magazine* published an exposé entitled “Let’s Close the National Parks,” which highlighted the substandard conditions that characterized the national park system during the postwar period.²⁶ Two years later, in 1955, a solution to the problems confronting the national park system was finally brought before Congress. That year, NPS Director Conrad Wirth introduced the Mission 66 program, a 10-year parks improvement program that aimed to develop an efficient, streamlined agency to facilitate the demands of the modern era. The Mission 66 program intended to dramatically expand park infrastructure and visitor facilities in order to accommodate the massive growth in tourism that had been overwhelming America’s national parks for more than a decade. As proposed, the program would allow the NPS to repair and build roads, hire additional employees, and construct new park facilities for visitor use.²⁷ In addition to new construction, the program also included a sweeping overhaul to the planning, interpretative, and educational goals of the agency.

The Mission 66 program was guided by the NPS’ objective to promote visitor enjoyment while simultaneously channeling visitation to avoid overuse and protect the parks’ natural resources from exploitation.²⁸ The implementation of the Mission 66 program required the NPS to change how national parks functioned as public spaces. In order to promote day-use within the parks, NPS planners devised wider roads, larger parking lots, and expanded “visitor use centers,” which included ample interpretative displays, restrooms, and

²³ Ashley E. Baker (2011). “Interpretation of Mission 66 Resources in the National Park Service.” Master’s Thesis. University of Georgia. Electronic document on file at https://getd.libs.uga.edu/pdfs/baker_ashley_e_201105_mhp.pdf, accessed October 10, 2022.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Peterson, *An Administrative History of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site*.

²⁶ Lary M. Dilsaver. (1994). *America’s National Park System: The Critical Documents*. Lanham, Maryland. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers. Electronic document at https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/anps/index.htm, accessed December 5, 2022.

²⁷ Sarah Allaback (2000). *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type*. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, Washington, D.C.

²⁸ Ethan Carr, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Len Warner, Rodd Wheaton, John Feinburg, and Carly Piccarello (2015). *National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources. Multiple Property Documentation Form*.

administrative areas for employees.²⁹ A key component to this redevelopment was the removal of concession facilities and administration and maintenance buildings from sensitive areas that would detract from the parks' natural environment. Additionally, a new building type—the visitor center—was developed to serve as the focal point of visitor experience and interpretation. Visitor centers constructed under the Mission 66 program adopted the Park Service Modern style as the premier design idiom. This style incorporated elements of modernism and utilized contemporary building materials such as concrete, steel, and glass. Visitor centers constructed during Mission 66 were intended to be inconspicuous and low maintenance and were designed to blend in with the park's natural setting.³⁰

In addition to visitor center construction, Mission 66 also included other types of projects that were intended to improve and direct visitor use within the parks. For example, the program included extensive infrastructure developments, including numerous road and trail improvements. Roadway projects typically supported greater traffic volumes and faster automobile speeds, and trails were shortened to accommodate short-term visitation and promote more direct access to principal interpretive areas within the parks.³¹ New utility and maintenance buildings were also constructed as part of the program in order to maintain the new buildings and structures and road and trail systems. Utility buildings typically used standardized plans and were usually situated near employee housing areas. Under Mission 66, staff housing was also expanded to accommodate the influx of new NPS employees.

An existing conditions map prepared in 1957 for Abraham Lincoln's Birthplace shows the buildings and other infrastructure that were present at the park prior to its Mission 66 redevelopment. In addition to the superintendent's residence, other major infrastructure at that time consisted of the Memorial Building, a log picnic pavilion, a comfort station, and three buildings within the maintenance area (Figure 7). The drawing indicates that by this time the log picnic pavilion had been modified to include a small office for the park superintendent. Additionally, a trash dump and access road were located on the east side of U.S. Highway 31E, in the eastern portion of the park.

Improvements made at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace under the Mission 66 initiative significantly altered the site's design and transformed the way in which visitors experienced the park. The questionable authenticity of the birthplace cabin prompted Mission 66 planners to shift the park's interpretative focus away from the Memorial Building and towards a new visitor use facility that offered a more accurate interpretation of the site.³² A plan drawing of the park headquarters, produced in 1958, illustrates the scope of the Mission 66-era improvements.

²⁹ Ibid, p.8.

³⁰ Allaback (2000). *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type*. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, Washington, D.C.

³¹ Ethan Carr, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Len Warner, Rodd Wheaton, John Feinburg, and Carly Piccarello (2015). *National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources. Multiple Property Documentation Form*.

³² Peterson, *An Administrative History of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site*.

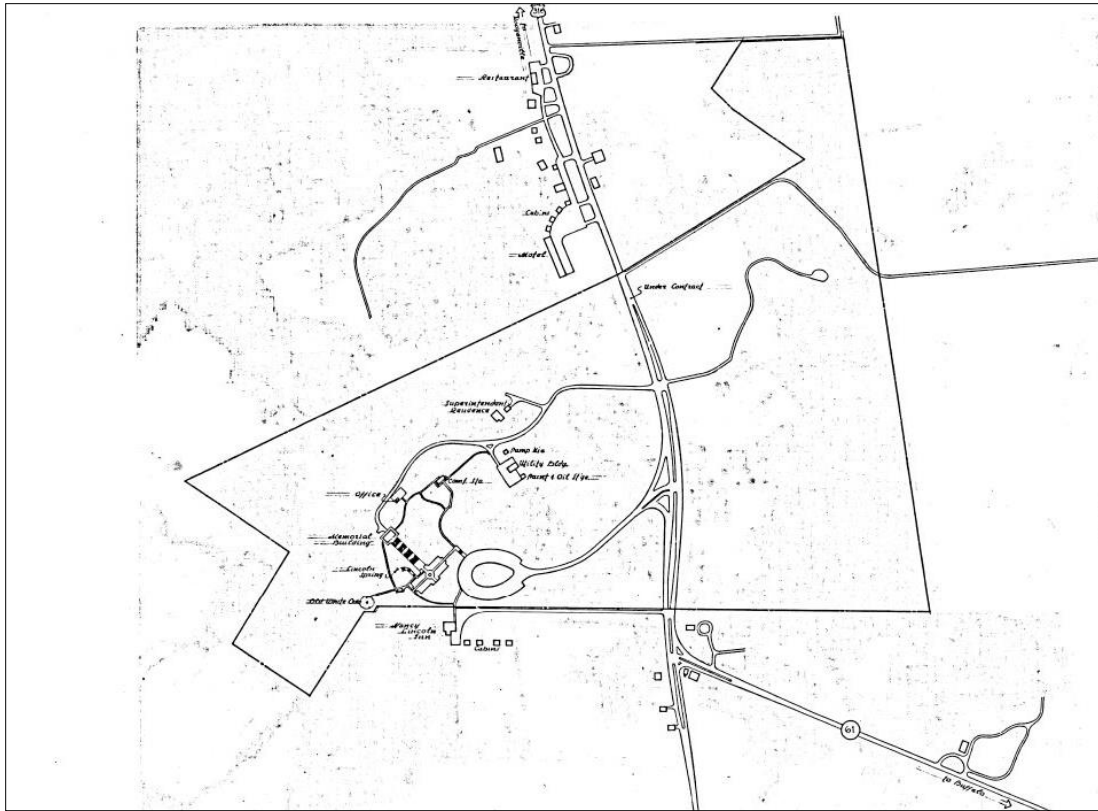


Figure 7. Excerpt from the 1957 Existing Conditions map, showing the park's layout and design before its Mission 66 redevelopment (Image courtesy of the NPS, Denver Service Center [ETIC no. 1084408-ABLI_338_3005_0001_of_0001]).

According to the plan, proposed improvements included the construction of a new visitor center and two new residences for additional park employees, as well as a variety of parking and circulation improvements. It also led to the eventual demolition of the existing superintendent's office, log picnic pavilion, and comfort station, all of which were located in close proximity to the Memorial Building (Figure 8).

Construction of the new Visitor Center was the first Mission 66-era improvement completed at the park. Located on the north side of the parking ellipse, the building replaced the Memorial Building as the primary visitor interface for the park. Plans for the Visitor Center were approved in January 1956 and construction was completed in May 1959. The structural steel and wood building was built by Clark, Stewart, and Wood Inc. of Lexington, Kentucky for a cost of \$129,129. The building incorporated elements of the Park Service Modern style and contained a main lobby, administrative offices, restrooms, and an alcove for audio-visual presentations.³³ Construction of the Visitor Center also required the elimination of approximately 12 parking spaces which were recovered by cutting into the south side of the parking island within the ellipse.³⁴ A lot for overflow parking, consisting of stabilized turf, was also constructed along the south side of the entrance road.

³³ Peterson, *An Administrative History of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site*.

³⁴ Lawliss and Hitchcock, *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Cultural Landscape Report*, p. 36

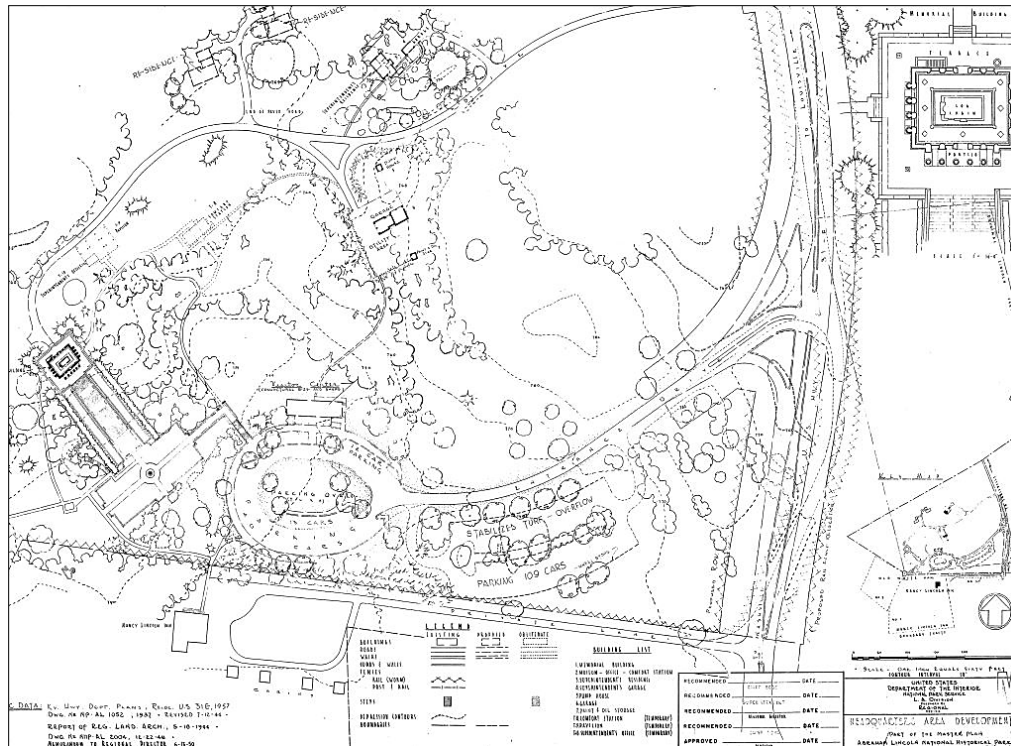


Figure 8. Excerpt from the 1958 Headquarters Area Development map for the park, showing proposed improvements under the Mission 66 program (Image courtesy of the NPS, Denver Service Center [ETIC no. 296922-ABLI_338_2007_D_0001_of_0001]).

Additional improvements included the construction of two single-story employee residences to accommodate the expansion in NPS personnel financed under the Mission 66 program (Figure 9). The three-bedroom residences were completed in 1959 and were situated northwest of the existing superintendent's residence. They were also built by Clark, Stewart, and Wood Inc. for an additional cost of \$22,564 each.³⁵ Further improvements included the installation of a new water distribution and wastewater system for the visitor center and residential area, as well as the construction of a new entrance sign and gate in 1958 (Figure 10). In September 1959, President Dwight Eisenhower signed H.R. S764, redesignating the park as "Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site."³⁶

The Mission 66 Master Plan for Abraham Lincoln Birthplace was laid out in a series of volumes devised between 1961 and 1963. The plan outlined the park's interpretation objectives, described its organization and daily operations, and detailed its future facilities and staffing needs. Although the facilities constructed up to that point were considered to "have been very good," there were still several projects that were being contemplated as part of the Mission 66-era redevelopment of the park.³⁷ For example, it was recognized that the

³⁵ Peterson, *An Administrative History of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site*.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site* (1963). Master Plan for the Preservation and Use of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. Mission 66 Edition. National Park Service. Electronic document on file at <http://npshistory.com/publications/abli/mp-1961.pdf>, accessed November 29, 2022.

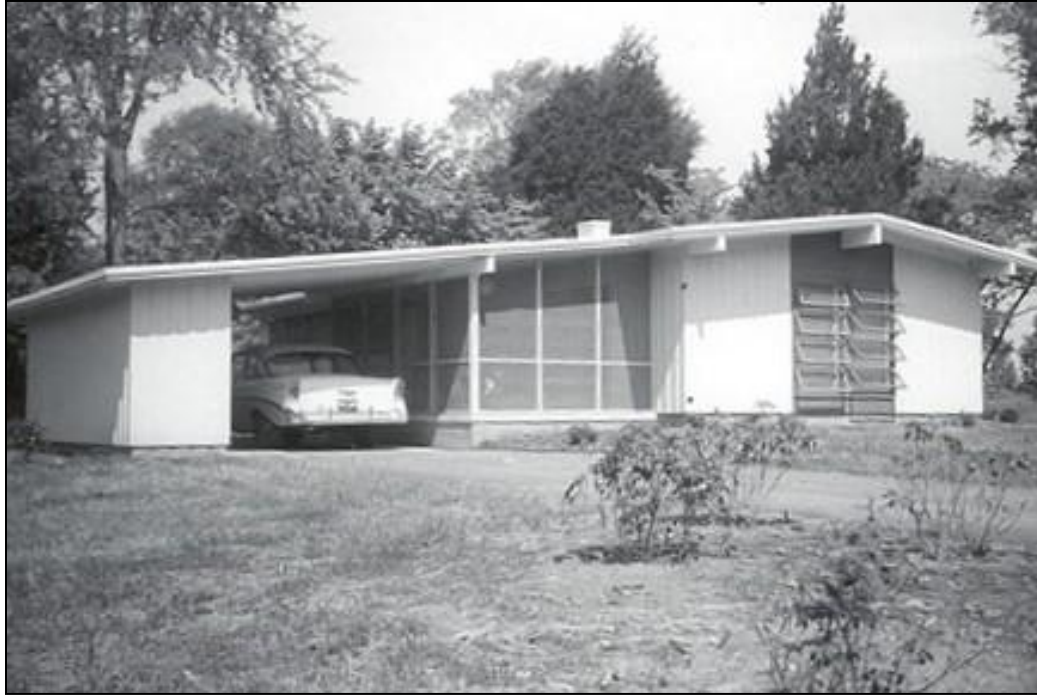


Figure 9. View of three-bedroom employee residence following construction, ca. 1960 (Image courtesy of the NPS).



Figure 10. Postcard showing the Mission 66-era entrance gate and sign at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, ca. 1960s (Image courtesy of W. M. Cline Company, Gatlinburg, Tennessee).

audio-visual room in the new visitor center would likely need to be enlarged to accommodate spikes in visitation during the park's peak seasons and a new utility building was planned to replace the existing utility/garage building in the park's maintenance area. Both of these improvements were ultimately completed in 1971 and 1973, respectively, or several years after the Mission 66 program had officially ended.

Although day use visitation of the park was encouraged, no picnicking facilities were planned as part of the Mission 66 redevelopment of the park. This was due, in part, to the proximity of the Nancy Lincoln Inn which already maintained a small picnicking area that was "available to visitors free of charge."³⁸ While Mission 66 planners felt that the existing offsite picnic facilities were adequate for the park's immediate needs, they acknowledged that additional picnic areas might be needed in the future. According to the Mission 66 Master Plan, the states of Kentucky, Illinois, and Indiana were in the process of establishing a tri-state heritage trail associated with events in Abraham Lincoln's early life. It was anticipated that completion of the Lincoln Heritage Trail would increase visitation to the park and ultimately require the construction of additional picnicking facilities for tourists in the years to come.³⁹ The Lincoln Heritage Trail was dedicated in the summer of 1964, shortly after the Park's Mission 66 Master Plan was completed. The 993-mile-long route originated at Lincoln's birthplace and charted his path through Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois.⁴⁰ As predicted, the dedication of the Lincoln Heritage Trail led to a spike in visitation that highlighted the inadequacy of the park's existing picnic facilities.

Beginning in 1964, the community appealed to NPS officials for the development of a public picnic area on NPS-administered land located on the east side of U.S. Highway 31E. At that time, the location of the proposed picnic area was comprised of a 50-acre tract, consisting of a trash dump and dump access road. Community organizations, such as the Hodgenville Women's Club, lobbied for the construction of a picnic area at this location, arguing that there was "...not a public picnic ground, roadside park with rest area, nor overnight camping facilities within 40 or 50 miles of [the] area."⁴¹ As a result, plans for the construction of a picnic area on the east side of U.S. Highway 31E were first developed in August 1965. The plans called for the relocation of the dump access road, construction of a looped road and parking lot for 25 vehicles, and the installation of 25 picnic tables on the southeast side of the parking area. An interpretative trail, which would originate at the parking lot, was also proposed as part of the picnic area's initial development. Construction of the Birthplace Picnic Area was delayed for several years, and it was ultimately not constructed until 1968 through a special funding provision with the State of Kentucky.⁴² Despite the delay, the layout and design of the Birthplace Picnic Area deviated only slightly from the original 1965 plan. While the 25-car parking lot and looped road were constructed as proposed, the number of picnic sites were reduced to 12. Each picnic site consisted of a concrete pad containing a

³⁸ Ibid, p.41.

³⁹ Ibid, p.32.

⁴⁰ *Evansville Courier and Press*, "The Historic Lincoln Trail." *Evansville Courier and Press*, August 16, 1964, pg.212.

⁴¹ Peterson, *An Administrative History of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site*.

⁴² Nicholas J. Eason. (1978) *Historic Resource Management Plan for Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site*. Division of History, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

picnic table, park bench, trash can, and picnic grill. In addition, instead of relocating the dump access road, the portion of the road from U.S. Highway 31E to the tree line was removed and a new gravel access road was constructed extending southwest from Keith Road. In 1970, an Environmental Study Area was established on the east side of the Birthplace Picnic Area, containing a network of self-guided loop trails, and the Kentucky Highway Department added a comfort station to the site in 1974.⁴³

POST-PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE CHANGES TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK (1974–PRESENT)

In addition to routine maintenance activities, many changes have been required at the park in recent years to replace aging infrastructure and/or landscape features. In 1984, the flagstone walkways and steps at the Memorial Building, including the walkway to the Boundary Oak and Memorial Building terrace, were replaced with exposed concrete aggregate sidewalks.⁴⁴ At the same time, a poured concrete aggregate landing was constructed at the top of the steps leading down to Sinking Spring. An interpretative trail—known as the Boundary Oak Trail—was constructed sometime between 1983 and 1997. Several additional site modifications were performed in 1991 following passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act the previous year. A concrete ramp and handrails were installed on the rear of the Memorial Building and an elevated wooden boardwalk known as Pathway of a President originating at the southeast corner of the Visitor Center was constructed to provide a wheelchair accessible route from the parking ellipse to the Memorial Building.⁴⁵ Also in 1991, the entry courtyard on the Visitor Center was enclosed with a glass storefront and a steeply pitched glass atrium with a gable roof was constructed. The atrium was removed in 2003 and replaced with a flat roof, thereby restoring the building's original roof profile.⁴⁶ The Visitor Center underwent additional modifications in 1994, which involved the enclosure of the original outside planting area with an aluminum storefront to create additional office space for NPS personnel. These alterations also required the restroom entrance to be relocated to the south (front) façade. Finally, in 2001, U.S. Highway 31E was widened to four lanes, requiring the removal of the grass traffic islands on the entrance road.⁴⁷ The park was redesignated as a National Historical Park in 2009.

SURVEY RESULTS

North Wind identified 20 resources within the Birthplace Unit that represent the historic designed landscape and administrative, maintenance, and visitor use facilities constructed by the NPS during the park's Mission 66-era program implementation (Table 1; Figure 11). Following the guidance established in the NPS MPDF, each resource was evaluated for individual eligibility for listing in the NRHP, after which the resources were evaluated as

⁴³ Ibid, p. I-3.

⁴⁴ Lawliss and Hitchcock, *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Cultural Landscape Report*, p. 39-40.

⁴⁵ Ibid., p.39-40.

⁴⁶ Ibid., p.39-40.

⁴⁷ Ibid., p.39-40.

Table 1. Summary of Documented Resources located within the Birthplace Unit of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park.

FMSS No.	Resource Name	Build Date	Resource Type	Status
67236	Visitor Center	1959	Building	Contributing; Individually Eligible
—	Entrance Road & Parking Ellipse	1929; modified 1958	Structure	Contributing
102542	Park Service Road & Parking	1929; modified 1959	Structure	Contributing
N/A	Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park Mission 66- Era Cultural Landscape	1956–Present	Site	Non-Contributing
66918	Picnic Area	1968	Site	Non-Contributing
67250	Maintenance Shop	ca. 1973	Building	Non-Contributing
67260	Three-bedroom House	1959	Building	Non-Contributing
67263	Three-bedroom House	1959	Building	Non-Contributing
—	Pump House	ca. 1930	Building	Non-Contributing
—	Paint & Oil House	ca. 1930	Building	Non-Contributing
66945	Picnic Area Comfort Station	ca. 1974	Building	Non-Contributing
—	Picnic Area Pavilion	1993	Structure	Non-Contributing
67002	Boundary Oak Trail	Post 1983	Structure	Non-Contributing
—	Boundary Oak Retaining Wall & Culvert	Unknown	Structure	Non-Contributing
—	Split Rail Boundary Fence	ca. 1920-1930; modified 1991	Structure	Non-Contributing
—	Memorial Plaza	1929	Structure	Non-Contributing
—	Entrance Gate & Sign	1958	Structure	Non-Contributing
66952	Big Sink Trail (Loops A, B, & C)	ca. 1970s; modified 1980s	Structure	Non-Contributing
—	Pathway of a President	1991	Structure	Non-Contributing
66953/ 74794	Picnic Area Loop Road & Parking	ca. 1951; modified 1968	Structure	Non-Contributing
—	Flagpole	1911	Object	Non-Contributing



Figure 11. Documented resources within the Birthplace Unit of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, Birthplace Unit.

contributing or non-contributing resources to a potential park-wide Mission 66-era historic district and a smaller historic district encompassing Mission 66-era resources only.⁴⁸ As the Birthplace Unit includes several buildings, structures, and objects that were not conceptualized and constructed under the Mission 66 or Parkscape USA program, a park-wide district did not meet the criteria established by the MPDF. However, the MPDF provides a way to evaluate functional components within a larger park landscape. Using this guidance, North Wind identified three components presently within the park, including the visitor center, employee housing, and maintenance and utility, directly related to the Mission 66 program. Of these, only the Visitor Center Component was found to retain its significance as representing the Mission 66 program design and planning ideals. It was also found to retain its integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling, and association. Below is a discussion of the development of and subsequent alterations to the components, followed by a summary of evaluation results for contributing and non-contributing resources.

Although attempts to commemorate the site as Lincoln's birthplace began with the construction of a replica birthplace cabin in 1895, it wasn't until the LFA's purchase of the property in 1906 that significant efforts to develop facilities for visitor use were undertaken. Initial infrastructure at the park consisted of a Memorial Building with an associated granite staircase, as well as an entry plaza and flagpole. To facilitate visitation and maintenance of the property, between 1916 and 1928 the War Department drafted a series of plans for buildings and roads within the park that focused on separating the facilities by land use, a popular concept of early national park design. As such, the design resulted in two separate components—a visitor use area and a maintenance and utility area.

In 1956, the NPS initiated its Mission 66 program, which resulted in additional improvements to the park, including the construction of a new Visitor Center, modifications to the existing entrance road and parking ellipse, and the installation of new signage within the visitor use area. Modifications were also made to the existing service road (now known as Park Service Road), including the addition of a new spur road to access two single-family residences, also constructed as part of the initiative, thereby creating a separate employee housing area. The existing 1930s-era garage within the maintenance and utility area was razed and rebuilt and a new parking area was constructed. Also, during this period, a third road was built to the east of U.S. Highway 31E and opposite Park Service Road to access a dump that was located in the eastern half of the park. This portion of the park was used as a disposal area until 1968, when it was redeveloped into a picnic area, or fourth component area, for park visitors and those traveling on the adjacent Lincoln Heritage Trail. The layout of these four component areas remains present at the park today.

U.S. Highway 31E serves as the primary access for all four of the component areas within the park. The highway, which leads from Nashville, Tennessee to Louisville, Kentucky, runs north-south through the center of the park, essentially dividing it into two halves. The visitor use, maintenance and utility, and employee housing components are located in the west half of the park and maintain a particular orientation to the Memorial Building, the park's oldest

⁴⁸ Ethan Carr, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Len Warner, Rodd Wheaton, John Feinburg, and Carly Piccarello (2015). *National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources. Multiple Property Documentation Form.*

and most significant building. In comparison, the picnic area is located in the east half of the park and serves as day-use area for tourists, with access to the Big Sink Trailhead.

The visitor use component is accessed via a 1,080-foot-long (0.02-mile-long) paved entrance road that was originally constructed in 1929 and was widened and resurfaced during the Mission 66 era. From its intersection with U.S. Highway 31E, the road passes by an entrance sign and gate and a gravel parking area, both of which were added in 1959, before terminating at a one-way parking ellipse to the south of the Visitor Center. Although the Visitor Center, entrance road, and parking ellipse have all been subject to alterations, they continue to reflect their Mission 66-era designs. A series of pathways lead from the Visitor Center and north side of the parking ellipse to the park's principal attractions—the Memorial Building and plaza, Sinking Spring, and the historical location of the Boundary Oak. The majority of these pathways were constructed by the War Department between 1928 and 1933, with resurfacing completed by the NPS in 1958. Other resources in this area include Pathway of a President, an accessible boardwalk, and the Boundary Oak Trail, a short nature trail, both of which were built by the NPS after 1983, and a limestone retaining wall and culvert of unknown age that was added at the base of the Boundary Oak for drainage purposes.

The maintenance and utility component is located to the north of the visitor use component, near the northern park boundary. This component is separated from the visitor use component by a small, forested area which serves to shield the utility and maintenance elements of the park's operation from public view. Park Service Road, a mostly paved 1,536-foot-long (0.3-mile-long) service road extending from U.S. Highway 31E on the east and terminating at the Memorial Building on the west, provides access to this area that includes a maintenance shop constructed during the Mission 66 era and two 1930s-era stone utility buildings—a pump house and oil and paint house. The maintenance shop has been altered and no longer retains the Park Service Modern appearance adopted for the Mission 66 program. A dirt path extends south from the parking area to the Visitor Center, allowing for close connection between these two areas as park staff actively move between them during the course of their day.

The employee housing component is located off a short spur road which branches northwest off of Park Service Road in the northwest corner of the park. Two single-family employee residences, both constructed as part of the Mission 66 program in 1959, are located in this area. Similar to the maintenance and utility area, the residences are set back from the road and surrounded by forest to provide privacy from visitors. The arrangement of the residential component in relation to the visitor use and maintenance and utility components remains as it did during the Mission 66 period; however, the residences themselves have been significantly altered since their original construction.

The picnic area component is located in the east half of the park and is accessed via a curved one-way looped road, measuring approximately 965 feet long (0.18 mile long), that extends northeast from U.S. Highway 31E. A parking area with space for 28 cars is located on the east side of the access road. The picnic area includes 12 picnic sites, a comfort station, a picnic pavilion, and a network of three interconnected walking trails collectively referred to

as the Big Sink Trail. The picnic sites are spaced evenly on the southeast side of the parking lot, and each contain a bench, picnic table, trash can, and pedestal grill. The comfort station and pavilion are situated on the east side of the parking lot, just north of the picnic sites. Although built within the Mission 66 period, the picnic area lacks a clear association with the park's Mission 66 program, and its current layout differs from what was proposed in the 1968 plans.

Because the Birthplace Unit's landscape encompasses designed Mission 66-era features as key elements, reference is made to *National Register Bulletin 18: How to Evaluate and Document Designed Historic Landscapes*, which identifies parks at the local, state, and national levels as a distinct type of designed landscape.⁴⁹ The bulletin provides guidance on classification of designed landscapes stating: "an individual designed landscape should be classified in the nomination as a 'site,'" and continues, "some designed historic landscapes that qualify individually as sites may be nominated as part of a district."⁵⁰ The bulletin references a number of characteristic features and states, "the specific features that a designed historic landscape must retain will differ for various landscape types."⁵¹ Examples of features include spatial relationships and cluster arrangements, boundary demarcations, landscape dividers, vegetation, site-furnishings and small-scale features, drainage and engineering structures, and circulation systems. Per the guidance provided by *National Register Bulletin 18*, the Birthplace Unit's Mission 66-Era Cultural Landscape is classified as a site in this DOE.

In total, 20 resources were documented by North Wind during the survey of the Birthplace Unit (see Table 1; see Figure 11). Of these resources, three are contributing and 17 are non-contributing. One building and two structures are considered to be contributing. Non-contributing resources consist of six buildings, eight structures, one object, and two sites—one of which represents the Birthplace Unit's broader landscape and its associated features. All of the non-contributing resources were constructed either before or after the Mission 66 period (1956–1973), have undergone significant alterations which have compromised their historic integrity, and/or lack a clear association with the park's Mission 66 program. The Memorial Building, birthplace cabin, and resources at Sinking Spring will not be described in this report as these resources were listed in the NRHP on December 13, 1977 and are discussed in a separate National Register nomination for the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site.⁵²

⁴⁹ Keller, Timothy J. and Genevieve P. Keller (1994). *National Register Bulletin 18: How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes*. Land and Community Associates, Charlottesville, Virginia.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Loveless, National Register of Historic Places Nomination: Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Hodgenville, Kentucky.

CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Sites

Non-Contributing Sites

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park Mission 66-Era Cultural Landscape

The Birthplace Unit's Mission 66-era landscape is treated in this NRHP DOE as a site, per the National Register guidance for documenting designed historic landscapes.⁵³ The site is defined as an area which includes key landscape elements such as: spatial relationships and boundaries, views and vistas, landscape dividers, vegetation, site furnishings and small-scale features, drainage and engineering structures, and circulation systems. The following discussion of these elements was adapted from the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit Cultural Landscape Report, which was completed by Lucy Lawliss and Susan Hitchcock in 2004.⁵⁴ A Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Landscape, prepared by David Hasty and Beth Wheeler in 2005, was also consulted.⁵⁵ Because the majority of key landscape elements are characteristic of earlier development periods and do not demonstrate a direct association with the Mission 66-era program, the cultural landscape as a whole is considering to be non-contributing.

Spatial Relationships and Cluster Arrangements

The basic tenets of Mission 66-era planning and design relied on improving the visitor experience at the nation's national parks and monuments by "taking full advantage of the actual scene, object, or structure as the interpretive exhibit." In order to achieve this, NPS program planners promoted the relocation of existing administrative and maintenance buildings from sensitive areas of parks whenever practical. This principle was also reflected in the design of new maintenance and employee housing areas, which often called for the siting of these resources away from the primary visitor use facilities and in other areas as to not be visually obtrusive to guests.

These design principles are evident in the current layout of Mission 66-era buildings and structures at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park. With the exception of the current picnic area—which is not a Mission 66-era construction—the primary visitor facilities, maintenance and utility, and employee housing components are all located to the east of U.S. Highway 31E and maintain a particular orientation to the park's most significant building—the Memorial Building. The Visitor Center, which is described by Carr et al. (2015) as the pinnacle building type of Mission 66-era design, and its associated parking ellipse are centrally located to provide access to the Memorial Building and plaza, as well as the park's pathways and trails, interpretive displays, Sinking Spring, and the site of the Boundary Oak. In comparison, both the residential and maintenance components are situated

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Lucy Lawliss and Susan Hitchcock. (2004), *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Cultural Landscape Report*.

⁵⁵ David Hasty and Beth Wheeler. (2005). *Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Memorial Landscape, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site*. Atlanta: National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office.

in wooded areas to the north and northwest of the Memorial Building and Visitor Center, respectively, in a conscious attempt to obscure them from visitor view. A separate service road, Park Service Road, located to the north of the main park entrance, provides access to both of these components. This layout continues to define how the property is used today.

Boundary Demarcations

The split rail fence, which currently bounds the park, was originally constructed by the War Department in 1920s or 1930s using “2,500 old rails” from Fort Knox, a U.S. Army installation located to the north of Elizabethtown, Kentucky.⁵⁶ A photograph from the 1930s shows an eight-rail snake fence with a two-rail vertical cross support. The fence was relocated by the NPS during the expansion of U.S. Highway 31E, and its wood rails were most recently replaced in 1991. Although the fence was installed prior to the Mission 66 era and no longer retains its integrity of materials, workmanship, and location, its use as a boundary demarcation was retained as part of the park’s Mission 66 Master Plan as it was considered to be similar to one used by the Lincolns and was therefore in keeping with the rugged frontier country setting of 1809.

Views and Vistas

The views and vistas of the preceding Park Service era (1933–1954) were changed during the Mission 66 era, primarily by the construction of new buildings, such as the Visitor Center and two employee residences, and the demolition of others, including the log picnic pavilion and restrooms. Particularly significant was the construction of the Visitor Center, which Lawliss and Hitchcock (2004) argue altered the view both to and from the Memorial Building, which was originally intended by Pope to be the focal point of the landscape.⁵⁷ As interpretation was foremost in the minds of Mission 66-era designers, this change was intentional and reflected the park’s shift in focus from the Memorial Building and birthplace cabin to the Visitor Center where a more complete and accurate depiction of the Lincoln family’s early life at the site could be told. Additional Mission 66-era modifications, including the planting of trees in the center island of the parking ellipse, and changes in grade associated with work at the entrance also altered views and vistas along the entrance road and from U.S. Highway 31E.

Landscape Dividers

There is no evidence that additional landscape dividers, such as walls, fences, or hedges, were added to the park during the Mission 66 period. Archival research and period plans suggest that the majority of the landscape dividers currently present within the park were either built, installed, or planted by the War Department or NPS prior to 1950.

Vegetation

With the exception of the areas immediately surrounding the Visitor Center and parking ellipse, the current vegetation within the western half of the park was added during the spring

⁵⁶ Lawliss and Hitchcock, *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Cultural Landscape Report*, p. 28.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 36.

and summer of 1935. During this time, a total of \$7,867 was expended for the planting of large native Cedars which were intended to screen unwanted views to and from the Memorial Building and plaza. A single row of eastern red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) was planted along each side of the Memorial stairway from the plaza at the bottom to the terrace at the top, and additional trees were collected and replanted behind the Memorial Building to provide an evergreen background and skyline effect. Large deciduous trees were also planted to improve the wooded areas along the periphery of the property and along the walk from the parking ellipse to the plaza.

Planting during the Mission 66 period was predominantly limited to the parking ellipse and area immediately surrounding the Visitor Center. It was noted in the 1963 Master Plan that of the 116.5 acres in the park, 60 acres were lawn, and 30 acres were forested with cedars, oaks, maples, and elms. Bluegrass, clover, and fescue were listed as the dominant grass species. Redbud, poplar, and white and pink Dogwood trees were also identified as being within the park and were described as adding greatly to the enjoyment of the visitors during the spring. Other than the Boundary Oak, which was described as receiving “special care throughout the year,” the other trees and plants received only normal care and feeding.

Changes in vegetation were also made in the years immediately following Mission 66. In the late 1970s, more than 450 native trees, ornamental shrubs, and flowering plants, including scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*), white flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), Washington hawthorn (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*), Oregon holly grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*), periwinkle (*vinca minor*) and dwarf winger euonymus (*Euonymus alatus compactus*) were planted in the grassy areas to the east, west, and south of the Visitor Center as part a larger improvement project for the site. The project resulted in the removal of the existing groundcover, as well as at least one rose bush located immediately east of the restrooms. The terrace around the Memorial Building was also replanted with white flowering dogwood, spreading euonymus (*Euronymus kiautschovicus*), three types of azalea, and regel privet (*Ligustrum obtusifolium regelianum*) at this time. These plants remain the dominant vegetation at the site today. Lawn areas around the Visitor Center and picnic area are mowed often during the growing season to give the park a manicured appearance, and sodding, seeding, and fertilization are performed annually.

Site Furnishings and Small-Scale Features

Recurring site furnishings and small-scale features documented within the Birthplace Unit include numerous trash cans and recycling receptacles; pet waste stations; fire hydrants; wooden gate posts; utility poles and boxes; speed limit signs along the roads and in the parking ellipse and picnic area parking lot; numerous wayfinding and interpretive signs (both wood and fiberglass panels); tables and grills at the picnic area; medium density fiberboard (MDF) benches (mainly along trails and at the Visitor Center); and bottle refilling stations and drinking fountains. As Mission 66-era photographs and plans do not illustrate any of these furnishings or features, all are presumed to be of modern construction.

Drainage and Engineering Structures

Although period documents suggest that flooding of the Memorial Plaza was of continual concern in 1930s and 1940s, there is no definitive evidence that drainage or engineering

structures were installed as part of the Mission 66 initiative at the park. It is possible that at least one structure—a limestone retaining wall and culvert at the Boundary Oak site—may date to the Mission 66 period; however, no documents confirming its exact date of construction have been found as of this writing. This is also true of the drainage features (e.g., pipe culvert and concrete drainage channel) currently present along the shoulders of the Park Service Road.

Circulation System

The current circulation system at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park centers around three primary routes—the entrance road, Park Service Road, and the loop road in the picnic area. All of these roads connect to U.S. Highway 31E, a north-south trending route that runs through the center of the park. The entrance road and Park Service Road extend to the west, while the picnic loop road branches to the east.

The entrance road serves as the primary visitor access route into the park. Originally the route consisted of a gravel curvilinear route that led from Jackson Highway (now U.S. Highway 31E) to an informal parking area at Memorial Plaza. To improve what they considered to be crowding of the Pope-designed landscape as well as serious drainage issues, the War Department completed a series of infrastructure and circulation improvements at the park in 1928 that included widening and realigning the existing road and creating a new parking ellipse with an island in the center to east of the plaza. This configuration remained largely unchanged until January 1956, when the current Visitor Center was built. To accommodate its construction, the ellipse was modified, and a second overflow parking area was built. Additionally, a series of sidewalks were developed along the outer edge of the ellipse and along the southern edge of the island and through its center to provide pedestrian access to the Visitor Center. Between 1997 and 2004, some of these sidewalks were removed and others were constructed. Despite these minor alterations, the overall design of the road and parking areas remains intact, and they retain their integrity of location, setting, association, workmanship, feeling, and design. For these reasons, these structures are collectively considered to contribute to the cultural landscape.

Park Service Road was initially developed by the War Department in 1929 to provide an alternative maintenance route to a comfort station, pavilion, garage, and two pump houses, all of which were built to the northeast of the Memorial Building the following year. Sometime prior to 1951 a short spur was built to provide access to a newly constructed superintendent's residence, and the western terminus of the route was extended to connect with the rear (north) façade of the Memorial Building. Additionally, the segment of road leading to the maintenance and utility area was reconfigured and a parking area was added at its end of the road. The road was modified again in 1959 as part of the park's Mission 66 program to include an additional spur to the newly built employee housing area. Although subject to routine maintenance, the width of the road has not changed, and it continues to follow its 1959 alignment. As Park Service Road continues to reflect its Mission 66-era design and retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a road built as part of the program, it is a contributing element to the cultural landscape.

The picnic area loop was originally constructed by the NPS sometime prior to 1951 to access a dump located at its east end. This area of the park continued to be used as a disposal area until 1968, after designation of the Lincoln Heritage Trail necessitated the need for a wayside and picnic facilities. The road was modified to its current alignment at this time. Although ultimately built within the district's period of the significance, the road is no longer used as intended, and as a result, is a non-contributing element due to its lack of integrity.

In addition to these roads, many walkways create a path of circulation through the district. Nearly all of these walkways are located within the visitor use area of the park and originate at either the Visitor Center or parking ellipse at the western terminus of the entrance road. Except for the Pathway of the Presidents, which originates at the east end of the visitor and was built by the NPS in 1991 to provide a wheelchair accessible route to the Memorial Building, the network of walkways currently centered on the plaza was installed by the War Department between 1928 and 1933. The stone steps at the northwest corner of the ellipse that connect to the east-west trending walkway, as well as the granite landing at the base of the Memorial Building stairway, were also built by the War Department during this time. In 1958, as part of the park's Mission 66 program, the original gravel and flagstone surfaces of the walkways and landing were replaced with exposed aggregate concrete; otherwise, the location and function of these features has not changed. Because of this, the network of pathways in the visitor use area do not embody Mission 66 era design characteristics and are instead tangible reminders of the War Department period of development.

An additional trail, the Boundary Oak Trail, is located at the far west end of the visitor use area, in the southwest corner of the park. The exact date this 0.3-mile-long nature trail was constructed is not known; however, aerial imagery indicates that trail was built sometime after 1983, or ten years after the last Mission era building was constructed at the park.

A network of concrete sidewalks is also present in picnic area and provides access to the pavilion and comfort station, as well as several individual picnicking sites. It also leads to the trailhead for the Big Sink Trail, a 1.36-mile-long nature trail comprised of three self-guided loops (Loops A, B, and C). Of the circulation features within the picnic area, only sidewalk along the east edge of the parking area was installed in 1968. While it is likely that other pathways were present in the picnic area in the 1970s and 1980s, these circulation features were not surfaced with concrete until sometime after 1983 and 1997, making it difficult to determine their exact locations. Similarly, the Big Sink Trail, which was originally known by three different names—the Big Sink Trail (now Loop A), the Middle Tract Trail (now Loop B), and the Big Maples Trail (now Loop C)—was not conceived as part of the picnic area's development. Instead, it was built by the NPS in 1970 and subsequently modified to follow its current alignment in the early 1990s, likely in association with the conversion of Loop B to a wheelchair accessible route. As the majority of circulation features in this area of the park were built after the Mission 66 period, the overall circulation pattern within the picnic area is non-contributing.

Picnic Area (1968)

The picnic area is located to the east of U.S. Highway 31E, opposite the service road. The area is accessed by a loop road and is part of the comfort station/day-use component that

includes a pavilion, comfort station, and a trail network known as the Big Sink Trail (Loops A, B, and C), all of which are counted and described in this nomination as separate resources. The picnic area currently consists of 12 kidney bean-shaped concrete pads, each with a metal frame picnic bench with perforated metal seats and tabletop; a metal frame and wood slat bench affixed to the concrete pad; a garbage can with bear-proof lids; and a bar-b-que grill on a single post. The concrete pads are approximately 30 feet long by 14 feet wide at the widest section. Each pad is placed at a slightly different angle and orientation than its neighbor. Distances between the pads in each row vary, ranging from approximately 30 feet to 42 feet. The concrete pads are arranged in roughly three rows running east-west with two pads in the northernmost row, five in the middle row, and four on the southernmost row. The two northernmost pads are connected to a concrete sidewalk leading from the parking area to the picnic pavilion and comfort station. The two easternmost pads in the middle row are connected to a concrete sidewalk connecting the pavilion/comfort station sidewalk to the Big Sink Trail located to the east of the picnic area.

The picnic area was not initially planned as part of the Mission 66 improvements, although it was noted in the 1963 Master Plan that if a proposed Lincoln Highway [also known as the Lincoln Heritage Trail], stretching from the park to Indiana and Illinois, were completed, “increased visitation might necessitate some major changes in the present Master Plan, such as picnicking facilities.”⁵⁸ A proposed location for the facilities was not provided, however. Beginning in 1964, the dedication of the Lincoln Heritage Trail led to widespread calls from the community for the construction of a public picnic area on park-owned land located on the east side of U.S. Highway 31E. While preliminary plans for the picnic area’s development were initially drafted in August 1965, construction on the site did not officially begin until 1968. The initial delay in development may have been due to funding limitations, as the picnic area was later developed through a special funding provision with the State of Kentucky. Final plans for the picnic area were drafted by the NPS in 1968. At that time, the plans called for a total of seven randomly spaced sites, each with a picnic grill, park bench, trash can, and eye-bolt picnic table (Figure 12). As the construction of the picnic area lacks a clear association with the park’s Mission 66 program, and its current layout and number of sites differ from what was proposed in the 1968 plans, the site is a non-contributing element.

⁵⁸ *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. Master Plan for the Preservation and Use of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. Mission 66 Edition p. 32.*

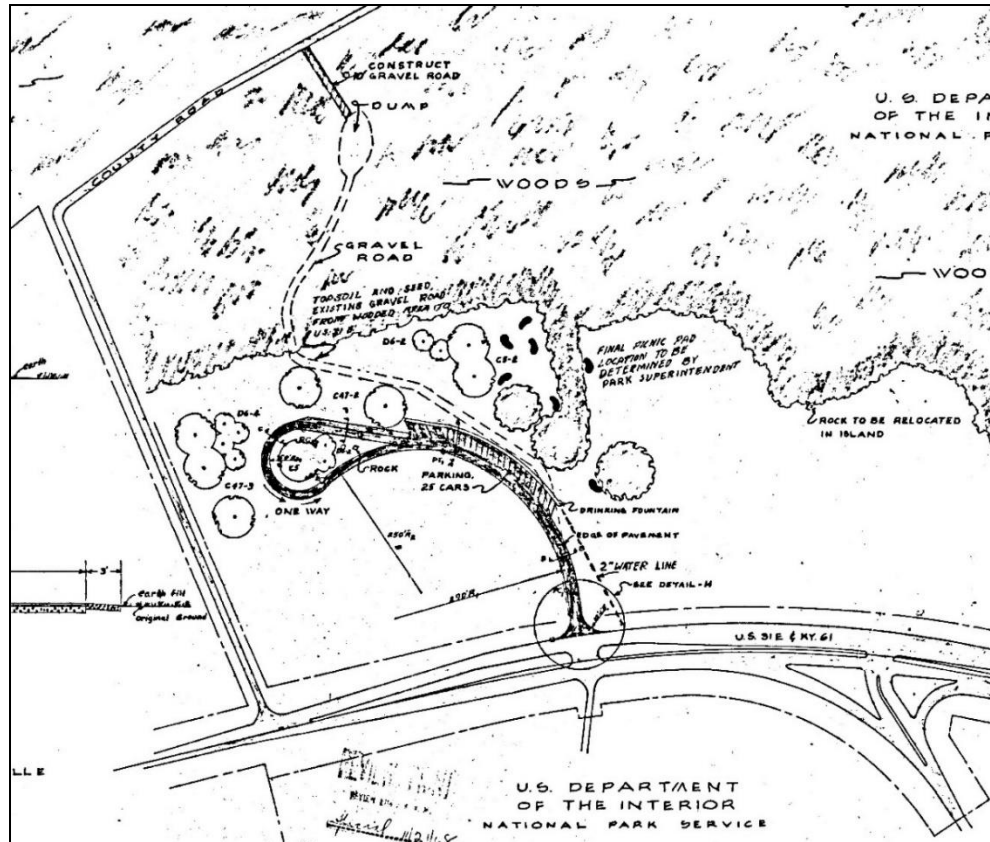


Figure 12. Excerpt from a working drawing showing the proposed picnic area and parking at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace, dated November 13, 1968 (Image courtesy of the NPS, Denver Service Center [ETIC no. 75281-ABLI_338_41900A]).

Buildings

Contributing Building

Visitor Center (1959)

Designed and built in the heart of the Mission 66 era, the Visitor Center exemplifies mid-twentieth century modern architecture in the United States. The building was designed in-house by NPS architects (names not provided) of the Eastern Office of Design and Construction (EODC) in Philadelphia, PA. The drawings are dated February 3, 1958, and construction was completed in 1959 (Figure 13). While the building has been remodeled and added onto several times over its lifespan, the essential character of the original design as a mid-century modern building is intact; therefore, the building is recommended to be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Sited at the edge of a bluff, the building presents itself to the approaching visitor as a long, low, single-story pavilion, although, on its north (rear) side, it has a partial lower level, akin to a walk-out basement. The thin, overlapping horizontal roof planes of the principal (south) elevation, combined with solid wall panels of beige Roman brick alternating with full-glass window walls, show the influence of European modernism from the period between the

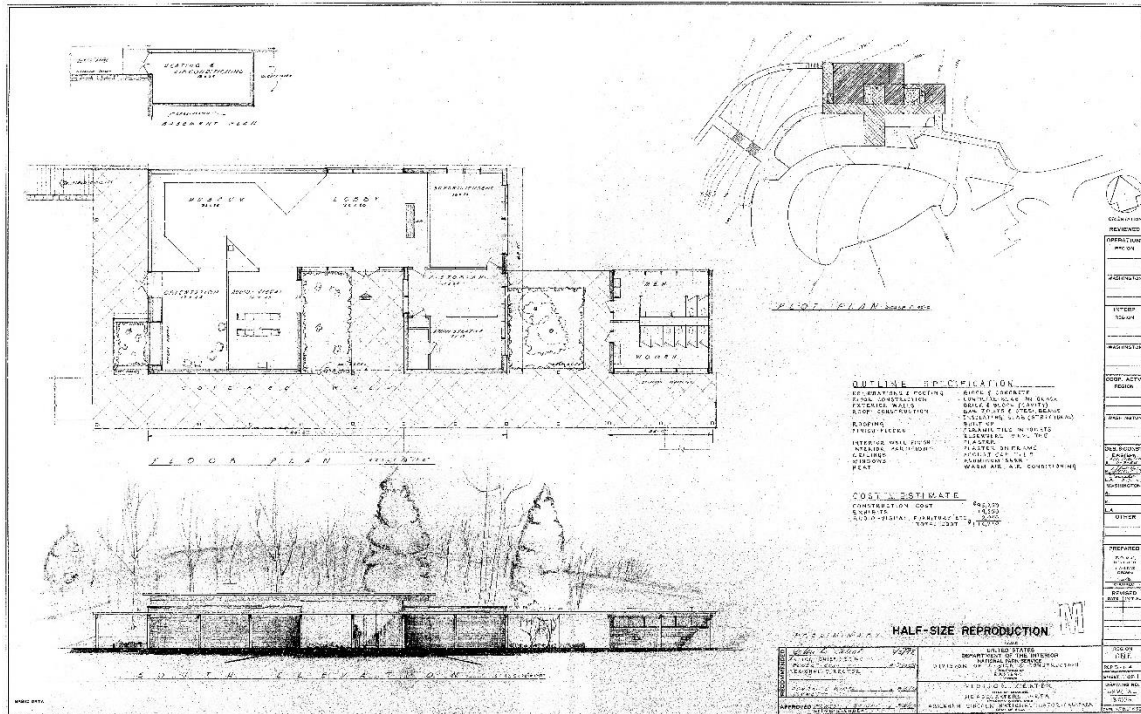


Figure 13. Excerpt from the original rendering of the Visitor Center, showing original floor plan and south (front) elevation, dated February 3, 1958 (Image courtesy of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park Headquarters, Hodgenville, Kentucky).

World Wars, particularly that espoused by the Bauhaus school of art.⁵⁹ The composition of unbroken horizontal and vertical planes recalls the Barcelona Pavilion designed in 1929 by the German modernist Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, who at that time was the director of the Bauhaus in Dessau. Thus, it took not quite 30 years for the Bauhaus influence, described by the architectural historian Henry-Russell Hitchcock as “the International Style,” to travel all the way from industrialized central Europe to rural Kentucky and the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln.

The original design featured two separate horizontal brick boxes—a larger box containing the Visitor Center and offices, and a smaller box containing restrooms—connected by a continuous steel framed canopy running along the south side, tying the Visitor Center on the west to the restrooms on the east (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The canopy remains unaltered; it is 12 feet deep by just 8 feet high, and 144 feet long, composed of twelve bays of 4-inch by 4-inch steel tube columns placed at 12 feet on center. The canopy roof is framed with 4-inch by 4-inch steel tube beams, also at 12 feet on center and spanning 12 feet from the steel posts to bear on the building’s masonry walls. The roof of the canopy is 3-inch by 6-inch, double tongue-in-groove, wood decking spanning the 12 feet between the steel beams. The wood deck and steel columns and beams alike are painted a deep bronze color, matching the aluminum frames of the adjacent window wall panels.

⁵⁹ Roman brick is extra-long and thin, further emphasizing the horizontality of the building.



Figure 14. Primary (south) façade of the Visitor Center, ca. 1950s (Image courtesy of the NPS, Denver Service Center [ETIC no. 885373-ABLI_338_P19_0001_of_0001]).

The roof structure of the interior is steel open-web bar joists with metal decking, rigid insulation, and built-up roofing. The floor structure spanning over the basement and crawl space is precast concrete ‘double-tees’ supported on concrete stem walls with concrete spread footings. Exterior walls are beige Roman brick veneer over reinforced concrete block. This is very high-quality commercial construction of the era, with innovative techniques including precast floor planks. Original interior partitions were wood studs with either plywood (at the exhibit cases) or plaster finish. While the interior has twice been fully gutted and renovated with new exhibits and partitions throughout, the exterior remains largely intact, due both to the excellent maintenance of the facility, and to the high quality of materials and workmanship.

True to Bauhaus planning principles of modularity for efficient design and economy in the use of materials, the arrangement of the floor plan is based entirely on a 12-foot by 12-foot grid. The overall rectangle of the Visitor Center measures 84 feet long (seven bays each at 12 feet) by 48 feet wide (four bays measuring 12 feet each). An enclosed entry courtyard (formerly open) measuring 24 feet square (two bays at 12 feet by two bays at 12 feet) is carved out of the south side of the basic rectangle, connecting to the continuous front canopy. The restrooms also measure 24 feet long by 24 feet wide in plan and are located 24 feet east of the Visitor Center. The footprint of the restrooms equals the open space of the entry court, so the original overall gross square footage of the enclosed air-conditioned space including wall thicknesses is 4,000 square feet at the main ground floor entry level. The Visitor Center was initially organized with public exhibit spaces arranged in an “L” wrapping the north and west sides of the entry court, and an “I” shaped bar of space containing offices for the Park

Superintendent, Historian, and Administrative Assistant along the east side of the court (see Figure 13).

There was originally 800 square feet of storage and mechanical space in the basement, which has since been expanded into the crawl space as outlined below, plus 2,300 square feet of covered exterior canopy at ground level, for a total area under roof of 7,100 square feet. A cost estimate provided on the cover sheet of the drawings reads, “Construction Cost: \$95,250; Exhibits: \$19,500; Audio-Visual, Furniture, etc.: \$2,040; Total Cost: \$116,790,” which at today’s dollars adjusted for inflation is approximately \$1.2 million.⁶⁰ The average estimated construction cost was then approximately \$169 per square foot, a tight budget to achieve the level of material quality and workmanship found in the building. The contractor for the construction of the Visitor Center was Clark, Stewart, and Wood Inc. of Lexington, Kentucky. The total cost of construction ultimately exceeded the initial estimate at \$129,129.

In the 64 years since the Visitor Center was built there have been several interior renovations of the exhibits and administrative space, as well as upgrades to its essential systems (e.g., plumbing, electrical, and mechanical/heating, ventilating and air conditioning). There have also been three distinct expansion projects to create more functional space for NPS staff. The technical upgrades and renovations had no aesthetic effect upon the facility, and the expansions have, with one exception that was subsequently and successfully reversed, been sympathetic with the original design and in keeping with the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (Treatment: Rehabilitation)* (Photograph 1). Table 2 provides a summary of the physical changes made to the Visitor Center through time.

Despite the many changes that have made to the Visitor Center over the decades, the original composition and essential massing of solid and voids of the original 1958 design have been maintained, such that it has sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a mid-century modern building. Additionally, alterations were evaluated for compatibility with *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation*, specifically Standards 9 & 10, that state that new additions and alterations will be differentiated from the historic “and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing,” and that new additions and alterations will be reversible (NPS 2022). The alterations were found to be in conformance with the standards, thereby retaining the Visitor Center’s overall form and integrity. Because of this, the Visitor Center is recommended as individually eligible for listing in the NRHP at the local level under Criterion A, under the themes of Community Planning and Development and Entertainment/Recreation for its association with the Mission 66 program as part of the development of the National Park System.

⁶⁰ Visitor Center Headquarters Area Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park. February 3. 1958. National Park Service, Division of Design and Construction, Eastern Office. Document on file at Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park, Hodgenville, Kentucky.



Photograph 1. Current photograph of the Visitor Center, showing sympathetic modern alterations, facing north.

Table 2. Visitor Center Chronological Outline of Design & Construction.

Year(s)	Description
1958–1959	Visitor Center designed and constructed.
1970–1971	Interior renovation of exhibits; creation of larger AV room with cylindrical projection booth, fixed-in-place theater seating, and associated HVAC and lighting alterations.
1978–1979	“Modification of Basement Void” – installing new office, training room, staff restrooms and shower, additional storage, and stair access to previously unimproved crawl space beneath first floor, with associated HVAC, plumbing, and lighting alterations.
1981	Visitor Center and Restroom HVAC renovation.
1991–1992	Enclosure of original 24-foot-square entry courtyard with gabled skylight and aluminum “storefront” window wall and entry doors; repaving of floor at canopy with exposed aggregate concrete slab; removal of original central 24-foot-wide entry slab and steps leading from the roadway to the original entry court, and redirection of visitors to enter the Visitor Center at east end of canopy to address accessibility for the differently abled.
1993–1994	Infill open space between original Visitor Center and restrooms with expanded administrative offices. Continuous window wall installed between original brick volumes to maintain mid-century/International style aesthetic.
2004	Removal of gabled skylight installed in 1992; re-roofing with flat roof and clerestory windows to control light and heat.

Non-Contributing Buildings

Maintenance Shop (ca. 1973)

The Maintenance Shop was constructed ca. 1973 as part of the Mission 66 improvements to the park. It is located in the maintenance and utility cluster to the west of U.S. Highway 31E (also known as State Route 61), and south of the Park Service Road. The shop has a rectangular plan oriented north-south and is approximately 93 feet long by 36 feet wide. The one-story building is constructed of concrete block and has a side-gabled roof sheathed in rolled asphalt. Horizontal fiber board siding covers the exterior. The main façade faces west and consists of four garage bays with modern metal roll up doors on the north half of the façade. The south half of the facade contains two single-leaf doors and two modern vinyl-frame sash windows with faux muntins. The south and north façades are similar, consisting of one vinyl-frame sash window on the west half of the facades, and metal louvered attic vents just under the gable peak. Six vinyl-frame sash windows face east. As the building no longer conveys the principles of the Modern Movement, or “Park Service Modern” style, as defined in the Park Service Mission 66-Era Resources MPDF, due to the replacement of the original windows and garage bay doors, and the installation of fiber board siding, it is non-contributing.

Three-bedroom House #250 (1959)

This building is one of two nearly identical staff residences at the end of a roughly 235-foot-long spur road running northwest off of Park Service Road at the north end of the park. The road is paved and splits at the northwest terminus forming driveways to each residence. Both houses are located in a gently sloping grassy clearing providing some yard space surrounded by forest. House No. 250 is located on the east side of the clearing, and House 251 is located on the west. They are slightly offset from one another to provide privacy and open views to the surrounding forest. The floor plans are “L” shaped with living spaces (e.g., bedrooms, bathrooms, and kitchen/dining/living areas) located in the long east-west leg of the ell, and an enclosed screen porch, carport, and storage module in the short north-south leg. Construction is wood frame with vertical board-and-batten siding to the exterior and plaster interiors, built over a concrete slab-on-grade with low brick stem walls to accommodate the sloping site (Figure 15). A section of horizontal fiber board siding is located between two one-over-one sash windows on the west façade. The roof form is a shallow asymmetrical gable sheathed with standing seam metal and exposed beam ends. Two entry doors are located underneath the carport—one on the west façade of the infilled screen porch and one facing south to the west of the infilled porch (Photograph 2). Both are accessed via the same set of three concrete steps. A single-leaf entry door and screen are located on the rear (north) façade. All original windows have been replaced with modern one-over-one sash windows with projecting metal frames and wood sills. Doors are flush wood panel.

Due to the alterations made to House 250, including the infill of the original screen porch with board-and-batten siding and modern one-over-one sash windows; removal and replacement of all original windows, including two jalousie style windows on the east facade, with modern one-over-one sash windows; and removal of original built-up roofing with

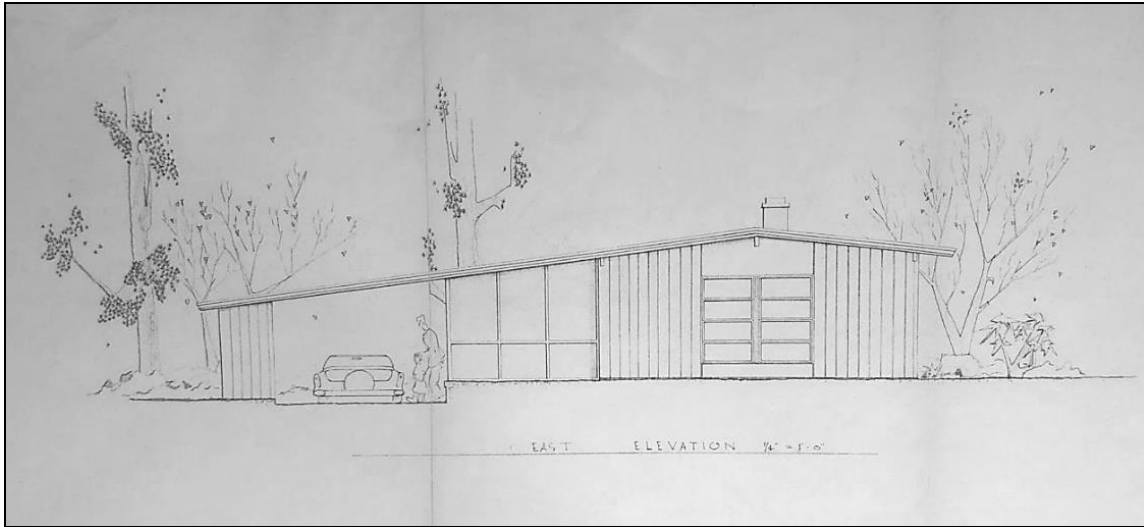


Figure 15. Excerpt from the original rendering for the three-bedroom residences, showing east (front) elevation, dated January 24, 1958 (Image courtesy of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park Headquarters, Hodgenville, Kentucky).



Photograph 2. Current photograph of the three-room residence, showing infilled screen porch and modern window replacements, facing west.

standing seam metal, this building no longer reflects the Park Service Modern design ideals embraced by the Mission 66 program. For this reason, the house is a non-contributing resource.⁶¹

Three-bedroom House #251 (1959)

House 251 is identical to House 250 but is located on the west side of the grassy clearing. As the same alterations have occurred to this house as have occurred to 250, this house is also non-contributing.

Pump House (ca. 1930)

The Pump House was constructed ca. 1930 as part of the improvements funded by the War Department. The single-story building is located north of the maintenance shed and south of the Park Service Road in the maintenance and utility area component. The building is constructed of stone with extruded mortar and is roughly eight feet square with a gabled roof sheathed in rolled asphalt. An exterior stone chimney is located on the north end. A wood panel door is located on the south façade and two windows with stone lintels and concrete sills and wood infill are located on the east and west facades. A rectangular concrete pad, measuring approximately 6 feet long by 2 feet wide, extends westward from the northwest corner. A metal box with the words, “FIRE ONLY” painted on a door on the south façade is mounted to the pad via a round metal post and square metal base. As the building pre-dates the Mission 66 program, it is a non-contributing resource.

Oil & Paint House (ca. 1930)

The Oil & Paint House is a one-story building located south of the maintenance shed. The building was constructed ca. 1930, along with the Pump House, as part of improvements to the park by the War Department. The building is constructed of stone with extruded mortar. The roof is side gabled with a steep pitch and is covered with rolled asphalt. The entrance is right of center on the west façade and consists of a single-leaf metal door with a louvered vent in the lower half, and a caution sign warning of flammable vapors in the center. Two windows with concrete sills, stone lintels, and metal grills face east and south. A small hole with metal grill, possible for a pipe connection, is located near the upper right corner of the south-facing window. Below the hole is a square concrete pad approximately one-foot-square. There is remaining pieces of concrete on the pad and wall between the pad and hole suggesting something was installed here and has since been removed. As the building pre-dates the Mission 66 program, it is not contributing.

Picnic Area Comfort Station (ca. 1974)

According to undated drawings viewed in the archive of the Visitor Center at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, the comfort station located in the picnic area in the northeast section of the park was originally designed by the Kentucky Department of

⁶¹ A previous evaluation of one of the two Mission 66-era residences at the park, identified as “Quarters 8,” concluded that the building had been heavily altered and was not eligible for NRHP listing under any criteria. The KY SHPO concurred with these findings in January 2020.⁶¹ No information was found to determine which of the two residences is Quarters 8.

Highway. Thus, as it was not a NPS project, it is not truly a Mission 66 project, although it was likely built in the same era. Although the drawings are undated, the Historic Resource Management Plan for Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, completed in 1978, indicates that the building was constructed by the Kentucky Highway Department in 1974. As the building was not included in the original 1968 plans for the picnic area and was not constructed by the NPS it cannot be classified as a Mission 66 era improvement.

The drawings show a single-story building with an asymmetrical plan, containing men's and women's toilet rooms (Figure 16). An 'L'-shaped service corridor is located between the two rooms to provide maintenance access to plumbing pipes. The corridor also includes a deep mop sink for routine janitorial maintenance. The floor plan and cross section illustrate a structure built of 6-inch-thick concrete block, measuring 19 feet 6 inches in length, plus a 4-foot-deep alcove privacy screen outside each entrance, and 15 feet 13 inches in width. The original plans also show a 4-inch brick veneer on the south wall of the building.

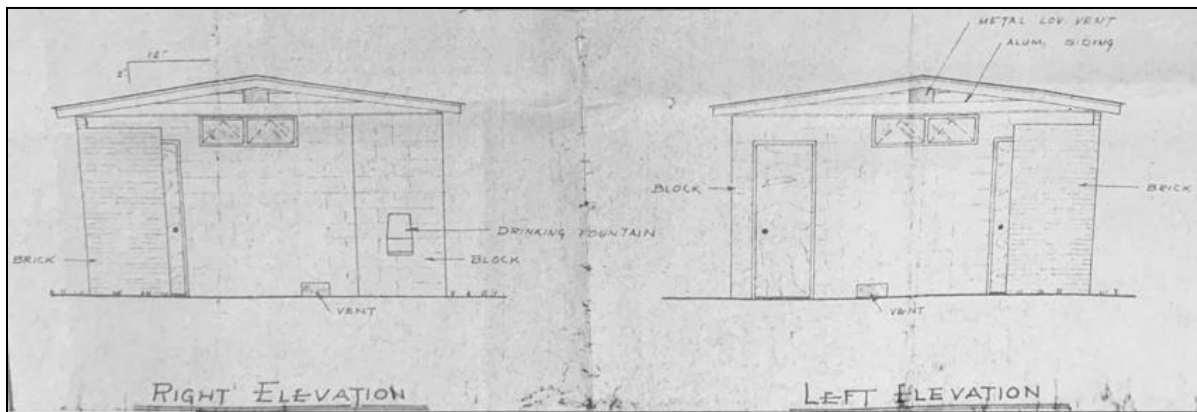


Figure 16. Excerpt from the original rendering for the picnic area comfort station, n.d. (Image courtesy of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park Headquarters, Hodgenville, Kentucky).

The structure now in place at the picnic area is a symmetrical, rectangular building built of 8-inch-thick concrete block, measuring 25 feet 4 inches in length, plus a similar 4-foot-deep entrance alcove at each end, and 16 feet in width, without a service corridor in between (Photograph 3). The concrete block walls are painted inside and out, and there is no brick veneer. As the comfort station was not constructed by the NPS and lacks a clear association with the park's Mission 66 program, it is a non-contributing resource.



Photograph 3. Current photograph of the picnic area comfort station, facing north.

Structures

Contributing Structures

Entrance Road & Parking (1929; modified 1958, 2001, and 1997–2004)

The entrance road is situated in the southern portion of the park and is accessed from the east by U.S. Highway 31E. The road serves as the primary visitor access route into the park and was initially constructed in 1929 by the War Department. Prior to this, the formal entry to the site consisted of a gravel curvilinear route that led from Jackson Highway (now U.S. Highway 31E) to an informal parking area at Memorial Plaza (Figure 17). From there, visitors made their ascent up the stairway to the Memorial Building. The road's junction with Jackson Highway was originally marked by "two granite posts, 3¾ ft. square by 5¼ ft. high, with a clear opening of only 16 ft. between."⁶²

To improve what they considered to be crowding of the Pope-designed landscape as well as serious drainage issues, in 1928 the War Department undertook a series of infrastructure and circulation improvements at the park. Initially, their plan called for rerouting the entrance

⁶² Lawliss and Hitchcock, *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Cultural Landscape Report*, p. 26.



Figure 17. Overview of the parking area at Memorial Plaza, 1928 (Image reprinted from Hotchkiss and Lawless 2004:22).

road onto the adjacent property to the south to facilitate the construction of a new parking area; however, they ultimately chose to widen and improve the existing road and create a new 80-foot-wide parking ellipse at its terminus, which was sited five feet to the north and just east of the plaza (Figure 18). The center travel lane of the ellipse was 20 feet wide, with 18-foot-wide unstriped parking lanes on either side. A 220-foot-long by 120-foot-wide grass island formed its center. The road leading to the parking ellipse was widened from 16 to 21 feet and reconstructed to eliminate a “dangerous curve.”⁶³ Additionally, the surface, which at the time was described as “cheaply, constructed, thin, water-bound macadam,” was resurfaced with 1.5-inch-thick rock asphalt.⁶⁴ George M. Eady of Louisville was commissioned for the road work, which was ultimately completed between May and November of 1930.⁶⁵

With the exception of modifications resulting from routine maintenance, the road and parking ellipse remained unchanged until January 1956, when the rise in visitation and the Park Service’s Mission 66 initiative prompted park officials to advocate for the construction of a Visitor Center to the north of the parking ellipse. To accommodate its construction, 12 parking spaces were eliminated in the northern portion of the ellipse for landscaping purposes. To regain these spaces, the size of the island was reduced, and 12 diagonal parking

⁶³ Ibid., p.26.

⁶⁴ Gloria Peterson. (1968) *An Administrative History of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site*. Division of History, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/abli/adhi/adhi.htm, accessed September 26, 2022.

⁶⁵ Ibid.



Figure 18. Aerial photograph showing the parking ellipse as designed and constructed by the War Department, 1938 (Image reprinted from Hotchkiss and Lawless 2004:27).

spaces were added in its place, bringing the total number of parking spaces within the ellipse to 65. To control the flow of traffic within the ellipse, a triangular island was installed at the east end, creating a one-way loop. A series of sidewalks were also developed along the outer edge of the ellipse and along the southern edge of the island where the new parking spaces were created. To connect these diagonal spaces to the Visitor Center, a concrete sidewalk was installed through the center of the island which crossed the parking area and led to a wide concrete walkway on the north side of the ellipse. A second parking lot was also built on the south side of the entrance road in order to fulfill the need for overflow parking. This lot was surfaced with stabilized turf and could accommodate an additional 109 vehicles.

Additionally, in 1959, a major reworking of the park entrance occurred, resulting in changes to the road at its intersection with U.S. Highway 31E. During this time, the road was widened significantly, and two triangular-shaped grass islands were added to direct traffic flow. Other than these improvements, no additional changes were made to the road's alignment as part of the Mission 66 program.

A review of aerial imagery suggests that changes were made to the entrance road and ellipse between 1997 and 2004. During this time, the sidewalk in the center of the island was removed, along with the wide walkway on the north side of the ellipse that led to the Visitor Center. Additionally, curbing along the outer edge of the island was removed and a sidewalk was added around the interior edge on its east and west sides. An additional sidewalk, extending north from the easternmost diagonal parking space to a crosswalk at the east end of the Visitor Center, was also installed at this time. Changes were also made to the park

entrance in 2001, which included paving the two grass islands that were added in 1959.⁶⁶ Although the entrance road and parking areas have experienced several alterations since the Mission 66 era, their overall design remains intact. In addition, the alignment and width of the entrance road is generally unchanged, and it continues to retain its historic function as the primary approach road for the park. For these reasons, the entrance road and associated parking areas are considered a contributing resource.

Park Service Road & Parking (1929; modified 1959)

Park Service Road is located in the northern portion of the park, opposite the picnic loop road, to the east of U.S. Highway 31E. The main entrance to the park is approximately 465 feet to the south. This road was initially developed by the War Department in 1929 to provide an alternative maintenance route to a comfort station, pavilion, garage, and two pump houses, all of which were built to the northeast of the Memorial Building the following year. The alignment first appears on a 1932 Reservation map as originating at Jackson Highway (now U.S. Highway 31E) to the north of the park's main entrance road. The road continues to the southwest, roughly parallel to the entrance road, for approximately 680 feet before branching to the south and forming a loop around the pump houses and garage. It then rejoins the route to the north and continues to the southwest, past the comfort station, before terminating to the north of the pavilion. Period documents describe the road as being 12 feet wide and uncurbed.

Aerial imagery indicates that sometime prior to 1951 a short spur was built to the northeast of the pump houses and garage to provide access to a newly constructed superintendent's residence. The western terminus of the route was also extended at this time to connect with the rear (north) façade of the Memorial Building. This change was likely made to accommodate the addition of an office at the southwest corner of the pavilion. Additionally, the loop around the pump houses and garage was obliterated and reconfigured so that the area was now accessed by a single road that extended southeast from a triangular intersection. A rectangular parking area was located at the end of the road, to the south and west of the buildings.

The road was modified again in 1959 as part of the park's Mission 66 program. At this time, an additional spur was added at its west end to access two single-family residences that were also built as part of the program, bringing the total length of the road to 0.3 mile. A 1958 map of the park's road and trail system showing the proposed realignment indicates that the road was to be surface treated. A later map dating to 1962 shows the road as following the same alignment, although the spur leading to the employee residences and a small parking area to the northeast of the superintendent's office are identified as being paved, and the portion of the route leading to the Memorial Building is depicted as being base surfaced.

Although subject to routine maintenance, the width of the road has not changed, and it continues to follow its 1959 alignment. The road surface is currently surfaced with asphalt and the edges remain uncurbed. A concrete gutter runs along a portion of the southern

⁶⁶ Lawliss and Hitchcock, *Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Unit, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Cultural Landscape Report*, p. 40.

shoulder of the road near its intersection with U.S. Highway 31E. The gutter eventually curves away from the road and continues downslope and to the southeast where it empties into a small rock basin. An additional drainage feature—a double pipe culvert—is present along the route in the vicinity of the maintenance area. The upslope side of the structure consists of concrete headwall and apron, while the culvert on the downslope side is much more substantial and has thick concrete wingwalls. The age of the features is not known; however, these types of structures are typical along 1950s- and 1960s-era roads and are necessary for their overall functionality. Because Park Service Road remains unchanged and continues to reflect its Mission 66-era design, it is considered to be a contributing resource of the district.

Non-Contributing Structures

Memorial Plaza (1929)

The Memorial Plaza is located southeast of the Memorial Building and southwest of the Visitor Center on a site originally designed in 1911 by Architect John Russell Pope as a landscaped court. The site was reconfigured to its current formal layout in 1929 by the War Department. These changes largely consisted of enlarging the plaza area to a grassy rectangle measuring 200 feet long by 80 feet wide and oriented on a northeast-southwest axis; replacing the flagpole; constructing a limestone wall and inset bench at the southwest plaza boundary; and constructing flagstone paths (now concrete) which connected the plaza to the Memorial Building and Visitor Center. As the current Memorial Plaza was constructed prior to the established Mission 66 period for the Birthplace Unit, it is a non-contributing resource.

Boundary Oak Retaining Wall & Culvert (unknown)

An L-shaped retaining wall and culvert are located at the former site of the Boundary Oak, just south of the Boundary Oak Trail's southern trailhead. The wall consists of cut limestone that is stacked between five and six courses high and has a narrow cap. It measures 55 feet long by 14 inches wide and stands approximately 3 feet high. The west end of the wall is angled toward the southwest. A second wall with a pipe culvert covered by a metal grate abuts the retaining wall to the south. This wall is also built of limestone, but the stones are much longer and flatter, which suggests that it was constructed at a different date. The south end of the wall is angled toward the southeast. A short stub wall extends to the west just south the culvert.

The ages of the retaining wall and culvert are not known. The appearance of the retaining wall suggests that it was likely built by the War Department sometime between 1928 and 1933 when improvements were made to the Memorial Plaza and Sinking Spring for flood control purposes; however, this cannot be verified as there are no maps depicting the structure and the Boundary Oak site was not mentioned in the 1928 War Department report. Additionally, this conflicts with information provided in the park's Cultural Landscape Report, which states that period photographs show the work performed by the War Department “did not visually impair the oak.”⁶⁷ It is possible that both the retaining wall and culvert were built as part of the Mission 66 program, as Hotchkiss and Lawliss (2004) note

⁶⁷ Ibid., p.30.

that “manipulation of the area for flood control” continued into the period; however, a description of the work performed is not provided.⁶⁸ A 1959 photograph of the Boundary Oak, which shows what might be a stone wall around the base of the tree, was cited as evidence for these improvements (Figure 19). Recent changes to the site include the addition of a limestone cap to the retaining wall, replacement of the rail fence, and the placement of sod. All of these modifications were completed in 1991 by the NPS as part of a broader rehabilitation project.

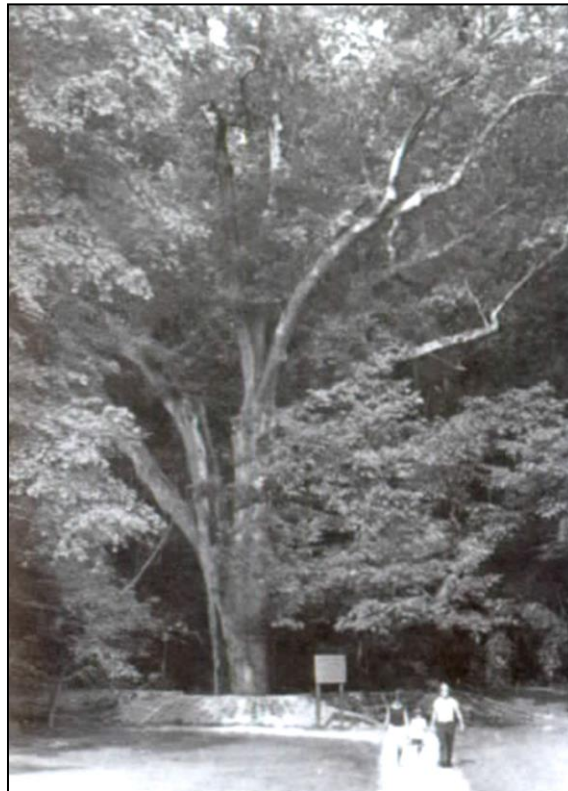


Figure 19. The Boundary Oak site as it appeared in 1959. Note the presence of what appears to be a stone retaining wall around the base of the tree (Image reprinted from Hotchkiss and Lawless 2004:38).

As the age of the structure cannot be verified, it is a non-contributing resource. If additional research confirms that the wall was built or reconstructed in its current configuration as part of the Mission 66 initiative at the park, its status should be revisited.

Split Rail Boundary Fence (ca. 1920–1939; modified 1991)

The split rail boundary fence was originally constructed by the War Department in 1920s or 1930s using rails recovered from U.S. Army installation Fort Knox in Kentucky. As originally constructed, the fence was an eight-rail snake fence with a two-rail vertical cross support (Figure 20). The fence has been relocated by the NPS during the expansion of U.S. Highway 31E, and its wood rails were most recently replaced in 1991 (Photograph 4).

⁶⁸ Ibid., p.38.

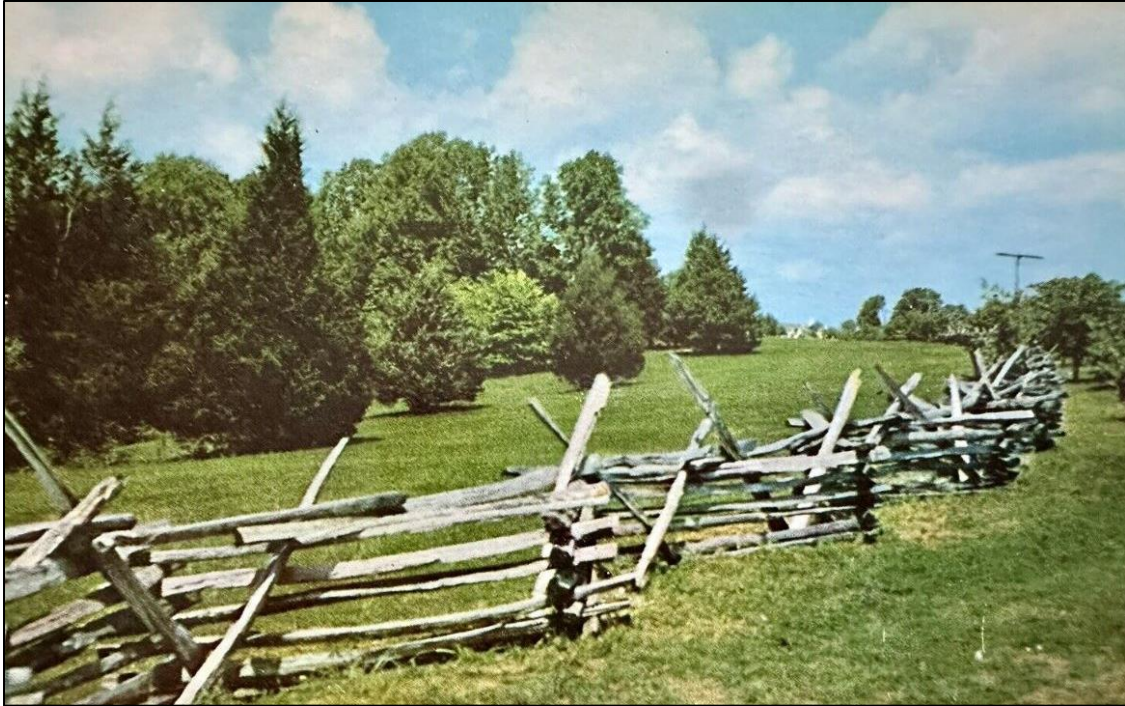


Figure 20. Postcard showing the split rail boundary fence as it appeared during the Mission 66 era, ca. 1958 (Image courtesy of Curt Teich Company, Chicago, Illinois).



Photograph 4. Current photograph of the split-rail boundary fence, facing northeast.

Although the fence was installed prior to the Mission 66 era and no longer retains its integrity of materials, workmanship, and location, its use as a boundary demarcation was retained as part of the park's Mission 66 Master Plan as it was considered to be similar to one used by the Lincolns and was therefore in keeping with the rugged frontier country setting of 1809.

Picnic Area Loop Road & Parking (ca. 1951; modified 1968)

As its name implies, this road provides access to the comfort station/day-use component, which is located opposite Park Service Road and to the east of U.S. Highway 31E. The picnic loop road was originally constructed by the NPS sometime prior to 1951 to access a dump located at the end of the loop. This area of the park, and the road leading to it, continued to be used as a disposal area until 1968, after designation of the Lincoln Heritage Trail in 1964, which included the segment of U.S. Highway 31E that bisected the park, necessitated the need for a wayside and picnic facilities. Later maps showing the route suggest that it was originally surfaced with gravel; the width of the road is not known.

To accommodate the new picnic area, the existing road was realigned in 1968 to include a parking area for 25 cars along its west edge (see Figure 12). A sidewalk was added along the length of the parking area, and sugar maple, pin oak, and eastern redbud trees were planted within and around the loop. The segment of the original alignment that continued north of the parking area to the dump was abandoned, and a new 10-foot-wide gravel access road was built off of Keith Road (then a County Road) to the north. The abandoned portion of the road was covered with topsoil and reseeded. Since this date, the looped road and parking has remained unchanged.

Although the road and parking area were ultimately built within the Birthplace Unit's Mission 66 period, the road is no longer used as intended, which during the Mission 66 era, was to provide access to the park's disposal area. Historic maps and aerial imagery suggest that no modifications were made to the road after its construction and before 1968, when the area was redeveloped for use as a picnic area. Because of this, the picnic loop road and parking are considered to be non-contributing resources. For the purposes of the count, they are considered to be a single structure.

Entrance Gate & Sign (1958; modified ca. 2008)

The entrance gate and sign were constructed in 1959 at the main entrance road at the west end of the park. The sign is located on a grassy slope on the north side of the entrance road approximately 270 feet southwest of U.S. Highway 31E. The sign consists of a stone base with battered pillars on each side, and an 11-foot-wide by 30-inch-tall metal sign board nestled between the pillars (Photograph 5). The right (north) pillar is approximately 20 inches higher than the left (south) pillar. The foundation is reinforced concrete stepped to meet the slope of the hill that ascends to the north of the road. The stone is laid in a random ashlar pattern. Painted on the sign are the words, "Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior." A NPS arrowhead logo sign is affixed to the east face of the northern stone column. There is no text or logo on the west face of the sign board. The wood split-rail boundary fence is attached to the north face of the right (north) pillar.



Photograph 5. Current photograph of the entrance gate and sign, facing southwest.

The entrance gate consists of three battered stone pillars with one on the north side of the entrance drive and two on the south side of the drive. All are set in a random ashlar pattern and have reinforced concrete foundations. The pillars flanking the road and swing gate are approximately 3 feet tall by 2 feet square at the base. The support posts for the metal swing gate are attached to the flanking pillars. The southernmost pillar is approximately 4 feet long by 2 feet wide by 3 feet high. This pillar and its neighbor to the north are connected via three 4-foot-long horizontal wood boards with ends set into the stone faces of the pillars. This configuration was originally mimicked on the north side of the road; however, all that remains are three support posts. The split rail boundary fence is connected to the south face of the southernmost pillar, and the northern face of the sign. A parking pullout is located to the east to allow visitors to pose for photographs with the sign.

The entrance gate and sign have been altered since originally constructed. The sign board itself has been replaced at least twice with the most recent having been installed after 2008. Additionally, the NPS logo was affixed to the east face of the sign, and the boards connecting the sign to the flanking pillars were removed. It is not known when these changes were made. The most significant change is the replacement of the original sign board which was much larger and wider than the current sign board, was constructed of wood with routed lettering and the NPS logo (Figure 21). Due to these alterations, the entrance gate and sign can no longer convey the principles of the Modern Movement, or “Park Service Modern” style, as defined in the *NPS Mission 66-Era Resources Multiple Property Documentation Form* and are therefore considered to be non-contributing.



Figure 21. Postcard showing a detailed view of the Mission 66-era entrance gate and sign at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, ca. 1961 (Image courtesy of Curt Teich Company, Chicago, Illinois).

Big Sink Trail (Loops A, B, & C) (ca. 1970; modified 1980s)

The Big Sink Trail is located in the picnic area of the park on the east side of U.S. Highway 31E. It consists of three loops (Loops A, B, and C), which collectively traverse 1.36 miles of wooded area to the east of the picnic facilities. The loops are accessed by a single trailhead which is located along a sidewalk that extends east from the parking area. Wayfinding and interpretive signage, a trail map mounted on a wood-frame panel with two support posts, a brochure holder, and wooden posts with directional signs, are present on both sides of the trail in this location.

Loop A is the northernmost of the three loops and measures 0.42 mile in length. The trail is composed of crushed dense grade gravel with a typical width of 5 feet and a maximum grade of 7 percent. The trail begins from the north end of Loop B, just south of Keith Road. The trail crosses the road in two locations before continuing to the north, where it borders the east, north, and west park boundaries.

Loop B measures 0.36 mile long by approximately 5 feet wide, is located between Loops A and C. This section of the trail is composed of compacted limestone chips and has a maximum grade of 5 percent.

Loop C is the southernmost of the three trails. Similar to Loop A, this section of the trail is also approximately 5 feet wide and composed of crushed dense grade gravel. In addition to

being the longest of the three trails, at 0.58 mile, it is also the steepest, with the maximum grade reaching up to 13 percent in some places along the route.

All three of the loop trails are self-guided and allow visitors to experience the area's rolling terrain and flora, which is illustrative of plant succession from grassland to mature forest. Benches, bridges, and both temporary and permanent wayfinding and interpretive signage, including small plaques denoting significant vegetation, are located along all of the trails. Erosion control devices are also common and include wood water bars and stone and wood plank edging.

Use of the eastern portion of the park for recreation is not mentioned in the 1963 Master Plan, nor is a trail shown on the 1968 working drawing for the picnic area and parking (see Figure 12). Rather, it appears that the trail was initially constructed by the NPS in 1970, presumably to provide another recreational opportunity for park visitors and those utilizing the picnic area. A map, included in a 1978 Historic Resource Management Plan for the park, indicates that the trail consisted of three separate loops at this time (Figure 22).⁶⁹ Of these loops, only the northernmost loop was identified as the Big Sink Trail. The central loop and the southernmost loop were referred to on the map as the Middle Tract Trail and Big Maples Trail, respectively. The report that accompanies the map further describes the trails as “self-guiding” and refers to the area in which they are located as a “National Environmental Study Area.”⁷⁰ Although the accuracy of the map is debatable, none of the loops follow their current alignments as depicted. This is especially true of Big Maples Trail (now Loop C), which was accessible only by a spur trail extending south from the Middle Tract Trail (now Loop B). It is likely that the trail was modified to follow its current route in the early 1990s when the NPS began an initiative to create wheelchair accessible facilities within the park. As part of this initiative, the central loop of the trail was regraded and resurfaced to be handicapped accessible. It is also likely that the trail's name was changed to the Big Sink Trail at this time.

Although built within the Birthplace Unit's Mission 66 period, the trail was not conceptualized as part of the Mission 66 program; instead, its development appears to coincide with designation of the Lincoln Heritage Trail and the desire for increased recreational opportunities for visitors. Additionally, period maps indicate that the alignment of the trail has been extensively modified since its original construction—most recently in the 1990s, when Loop B was made wheelchair accessible. For these reasons, the Big Sink Trail is non-contributing.

⁶⁹ Nicholas J. Eason. (1978) *Historic Resource Management Plan for Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site*. Division of History, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, p I-3.

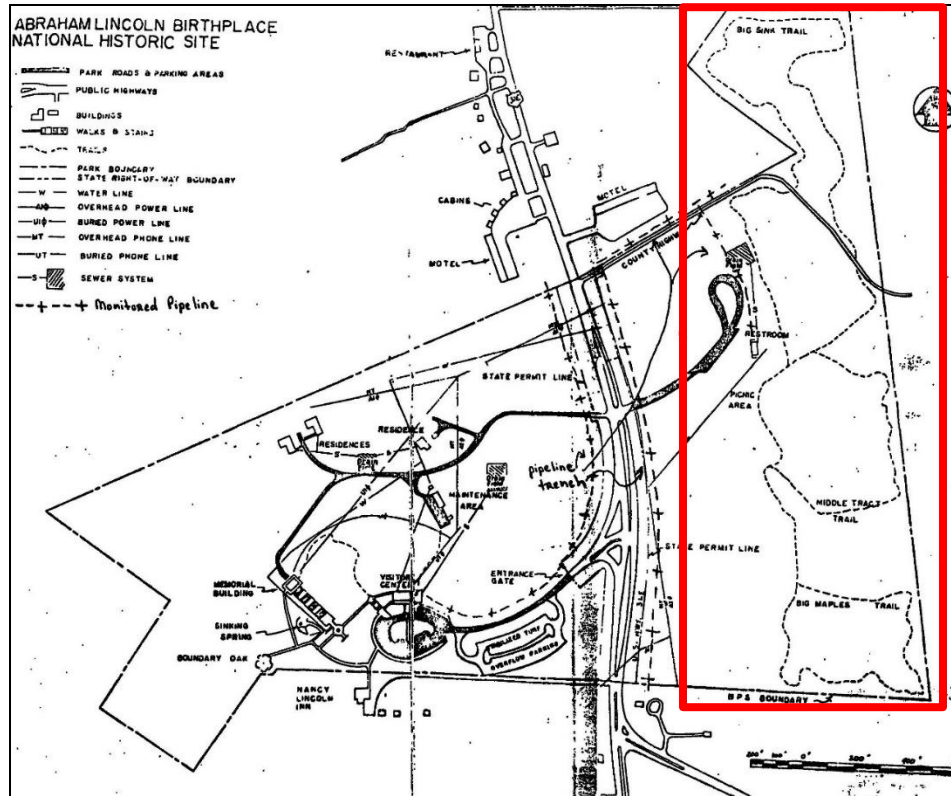


Figure 22. Map showing buildings and structures present within the park in July 1978. The alignment of the Big Sink Trail (then identified as the Big Sink Trail, Middle Tract Trail, and Big Maples Trail) are outlined in red (Image courtesy of the NPS, Denver Service Center [ETIC no. 758141-ABLI_338_D4_0126]).

Boundary Oak Trail (post 1983)

The Boundary Oak Trail is a short, 0.3-mile-long looped hiking trail located at the west end of the park. The trail traverses a wooded area that was added to the park boundaries by Presidential proclamation in June 1949. Prior to this date, this area, which encompasses 5.25 acres, was under private ownership. The southern trailhead is just west of where the boundary oak originally stood, and the northern trailhead is to the northwest of the Memorial Building. Both trailheads have wooden gate posts to restrict access to the trail as needed. A low stacked stone retaining wall, an interpretive sign detailing the history of the tree and its significance as a boundary marker, and a wayfinding sign denoting the trail's mileage are present at the southern trailhead.

The width of the Boundary Oak Trail varies from 6 feet to 8 feet depending on adjacent constraints, and the tread consists of compacted crushed gravel. Erosion control devices are present along the length of the trail and include wooden boards that are staked in place perpendicular to the route of travel to hold soil in place or to direct surface flows access the tread to the out slope areas. Rocks are also placed along the downslope edge of the trail in some locations to discourage erosion. Other features include two footbridges, both of which are constructed of dimensional lumber and rest on informal rock abutments, and several small plaques describing trees and other vegetation present along the route. Additionally, at

least one medium-density fiberboard (MDF) bench is provided for resting where the slope descends steeply.

The exact date for the trail's construction is unknown. According to aerial imagery, the trail was built sometime between 1983 and 1997, which suggests that it may have been constructed as an interpretation alternative for the Boundary Oak site following the tree's death in 1976 and its eventual removal in 1986. Although the purpose, length, and construction characteristics of the trail are similar to others built by the NPS during the Mission 66 program, the Boundary Oak Trail is a non-contributing resource as its construction was not conceptualized as part of the park's 1963 Master Plan. Additionally, the trail was not constructed until after 1983, or ten years after the end of the Mission 66-era program.

Pathway of a President (1991)

This raised wooden boardwalk, which begins to the east of the Visitor Center, is a recent addition to the park. It was built by the NPS in 1991 to provide a wheelchair accessible route to the Memorial Building. The pathway is 900 feet long by 5 feet wide and has a maximum grade of 5 percent. It traverses a wooded area to the rear of the Visitor Center for approximately 650 feet, then joins with a 250-foot-long sidewalk that continues west to the Memorial Building. As the pathway is of recent construction, is it considered to be a non-contributing resource.

Picnic Area Pavilion (1993)

The picnic area pavilion was constructed in 2014, replacing an earlier pavilion constructed in 1993. The pavilion is located to the east of U.S. Highway 31E, north of the picnic area and west of the comfort station; it is accessed via a concrete sidewalk leading from the picnic area parking to the west. The pavilion is approximately 45 feet long by 32 feet wide, with its long axis oriented northeast to southwest. The structure consists of an open steel frame with a gabled standing seam metal roof. Six steel posts are set into a large square concrete pad. Metal downspouts with concrete splash blocks are located at the four corner posts. Two bar-b-que grills on metal posts are set into the northwest and northeast corners of the concrete pad. Four trash receptacles with bear-proof lids and several metal picnic tables are located under the pavilion roof. As the structure was constructed outside of the Mission 66 period for the Birthplace Unit it is a non-contributing resource.

Objects

Non-Contributing Object

Flagpole (1911)

The flagpole is located in the center of Memorial Plaza, southeast of the Memorial Building and southwest of the Visitor Center. It is roughly 65 feet tall and has a circular pink granite base set into a grassy circle with three landscape lights pointing upward to light the pole. The grassy circle is bordered by a circular sidewalk the delineates the intersection of two 10-foot-wide concrete sidewalks; one is oriented northwest-southeast and connects the Monument to a limestone wall with built-in bench and modern bench placed in front, and the other

sidewalk is oriented northeast-southwest, connecting the visitor center to a curving concrete sidewalk along the west and south park boundary. The current flagpole replaced the original flagpole added in 1911 as improvements were made to the Park by the War Department between 1928 and 1933. Therefore, the flagpole is recommended as non-contributing as it was installed prior to the Birthplace Unit's Mission 66 period and is not associated with the Mission 66 program.

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Evaluation of Individual Eligibility for the Visitor Center

The Visitor Center is the only Mission 66-era resource within the Birthplace Unit that is recommended individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. Although the Visitor Center has been altered since its construction in 1959, including the enclosure of the original entry courtyard; reconfiguration of interior spaces; technical upgrades; a rear (north) addition for staff uses; and infill of the open space between the main block of Visitor Center and visitor restrooms, it retains the physical characteristics of the Visitor Center property type as described in the MPDF. These include a centralized location connected to automobile and pedestrian circulation and interpretive features; a cluster of multiple visitor and administrative functions under one roof; a low-profile, horizontal massing; expansive views of the exterior surroundings through the use of large window walls; a visually separate restroom; and the use of ramps as opposed to stairs.⁷¹

Key interior aspects of a Mission 66-era visitor center, as noted by Allaback, include a special procession beginning with a wide, visually interesting entrance, and an open lobby with direct access to exhibit and auditorium areas.⁷² Reconfiguration of the Visitor Center's interior spaces in 1971 did not significantly alter the primary uses and circulation through the space that originally contained exhibit and interpretive spaces to the west and north of the entrance lobby, and administrative uses to the east of the entrance. Additionally, enclosure of the recessed entrance atrium with full-height panes of glass has maintained both the wide, visually prominent entrance, as well as the transitional feel of the space as simultaneously connected to both the exterior and interior. All of these elements allow the Visitor Center to convey its significance as a mid-century modern visitor center originally planned and constructed as part of the NPS' Mission 66 program.

Exterior alterations affecting the primary (south) facade, including the above-mentioned enclosure of the entrance atrium, and the enclosure of the breezeway between the main exhibit/administrative space and the restrooms, were conducted with care and are sympathetic to the original design. The alterations maintained the composition and essential massing of solid and voids of the original 1958 design and did not impact key character-defining features of the exterior such as the thin, overlapping, horizontal roof planes, seemingly weightless structural elements, and Roman brick sheathing. Therefore, the Visitor

⁷¹ Ethan Carr, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Len Warner, Rodd Wheaton, John Feinburg, and Carly Piccarello (2015). *National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources. Multiple Property Documentation Form.*

⁷² Sarah Allaback (2000). *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type.* U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, Washington, D.C.

Center has sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a mid-century building influenced stylistically by European modernism.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, specifically Standards 9 & 10, state that new additions and alterations will be differentiated from the historic “and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing,” and that new additions and alterations will be reversible (NPS 2022). The alterations were evaluated using this criteria and found to be in conformance. Because of this, the Visitor Center is recommended as individually eligible for listing in the NRHP at the local level under Criterion A, under the themes of Community Planning and Development and Entertainment/Recreation for its association with the Mission 66 program as part of the development of the National Park System. The period of significance for the Visitor Center is defined as beginning with its completion in 1959 and ending in 1973 with the completion of the final improvements planned as part of the park’s Mission 66 Master Plan. Additionally, the Visitor Center retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, as defined by the NRHP.

Evaluation of Integrity for the Visitor Center

Location: the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. The Visitor Center has not been moved from its original location.

Design: the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. The Visitor Center retains the key physical characteristics of the visitor center property type as described in the MPDF that include a centralized location connected to circulation and interpretive features; a cluster of functional uses; a low-profile, horizontal massing that exemplifies the Park Service Modern style; visual access to natural surroundings; and a visually separate restroom. Alterations to the Visitor Center, including the enclosure of the original entry courtyard; reconfiguration of interior spaces; a rear (north) addition for staff uses; and infill of the breezeway between the main block of the Visitor Center and visitor restrooms, did not significantly compromise the building’s historic materials and evidence of workmanship. The use of glass to enclose the original entry courtyard and breezeway spaces preserves the essential language of solid and voids of the original 1958 design, thereby continuing to convey the architect’s original intent of a welcoming, sheltered entry sequence, and an unobstructed view of the surrounding landscape. Therefore, the Visitor Center retains integrity of design.

Setting: the physical environment of a historic property. The Visitor Center retains the basic physical conditions under which it was constructed. The Visitor Center retains its importance as the key destination within the park, and maintains its spatial relationship to the entrance drive, parking ellipse, and pathways and trails that lead to adjacent landscapes and interpretative attractions. This network of paths, trails, and access drives remains largely unchanged since the building was constructed. Despite changes to the landscaping surrounding the Visitor Center in the late 1970s, including the introduction of trees, ornamental shrubs, and flowering plants, and the removal of groundcover, these changes were consistent with the historic landscape that was added during the spring and summer of

1935 that consisted largely of land forested with a variety of tree species; acres of grassy open space; and a multitude of shrubs and flowers as was noted in the 1963 Master Plan.

Materials: 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. The Visitor Center retains the key exterior materials dating from the period of significance (1959-1973), including the steel frame interior roof structure with metal decking and steel tube frame canopy roof structure with tongue-in-groove wood decking; precast concrete floor planks on the interior; and solid wall panels of beige Roman brick. The use of these materials reflects the Park Service Modern style that prescribed textured concrete, concrete block, and stone veneers for visitor center facades.

Workmanship: the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. The historic workmanship of the Visitor Center can be seen in the solid wall panels of Roman brick, steel framing, tongue-in-groove wood decking, and the innovative precast concrete floor planks. The high quality of materials and workmanship have allowed for changes to occur to the interior without irreversibly damaging the building's exterior. Therefore, the Visitor Center retains integrity of workmanship.

Feeling: a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. The Visitor Center retains the physical features that, taken together, convey the property's historic character and function as a visitor center designed in the Park Service Modern style as part of the Mission 66 program. These features include the elements that make up the setting, design, materials, and workmanship of the building.

Association: the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. The Visitor Center is able to convey its original function as a NPS visitor center constructed as part of the NPS' Mission 66 program due to its centralized location adjacent to the entrance drive, parking, paths, restrooms, and trails. In the case of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Park, the placement of the Visitor Center was intended to shift the park's interpretative focus away from the Memorial Building and towards the new visitor use facility. This, and the subsequent alterations to parking in relation to the Visitor Center, is an example of the NPS' changing desires to centralize and consolidate visitor and administrative functions within all parks. The Visitor Center is able to convey its association with the themes of Community Planning and Development (the park), and Entertainment/Recreation.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE PARK-WIDE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK MISSION 66-ERA DISTRICT

The period of significance of 1956 to 1973 established for the park-wide Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park Mission 66-Era District was selected to convey the most significant developments of the district and its associated designed landscape. The period of significance begins in 1956 when Mission 66 era planning was first initiated at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park. Although the NRHP MPDF for NPS Mission 66-Era Resources defines 1972 as the official end of the Mission 66 program, the period of significance for Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park culminates in 1973,

with the completion of the final improvements planned as part of the park's Mission 66 Master Plan.

According to the *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, a property may be considered eligible for listing in the NRHP if it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A); is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B); embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period of method of construction, represents the work of a master, possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction (Criterion C); or has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to an understanding of prehistory or history (Criterion D).⁷³

In order to establish this association, historic contexts appropriate for the property must be developed. Additionally, in order for a property to be NRHP eligible, it must also retain a sufficient level of integrity in order to convey its historical significance. *National Register Bulletin 15* defines seven aspects of integrity including: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.⁷⁴

In keeping with the NPS guidance on NRHP eligibility evaluation, the NRHP MPDF, NPS Mission 66-Era Resources, establishes guidelines for evaluating the significance and integrity of NPS facilities built during the Mission 66 period.⁷⁵ This era is defined in the MDPF as beginning in 1945 with the first phase of the Mission 66 period, also known as “pre-Mission 66” (1945–1955), during which increased funding was provided to the nation's national parks and monuments to the address the post-war swell in visitation. It ends in 1972 with the closing of the NPS' Eastern and Western Offices of Design and Construction, and the consolidation of personnel from these offices into the Denver Service Center.

Thirteen historic contexts are established in Section E of the MDPF through which to evaluate the significance of visitor and staff facilities built as part of the Mission 66 initiative.⁷⁶ These include: 1) Directors Newton Drury and Conrad Wirth; 2) Construction; 3) The Visitor Center; 4) Administration; 5) Park Employee Housing; 6) Other Building Types; 7) Concessioner and Other Partnership Buildings; 8) Landscape Development, Park Roads, and Trails; 9) Historic Preservation and Interpretation; 10) Mid-Course Corrections; 11) George B. Hartzog, Jr., and the “Road to the Future”; 12) Park System Expansion; and 13) Parkscape USA Program. In light of these historic contexts, the document further defines the evaluation of Mission 66-era resources based on Criteria A, B, and C, as well as Criterion Consideration G.

⁷³ National Park Service. (1997). *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. *National Register Bulletin No. 15*. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ethan Carr, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Len Warner, Rodd Wheaton, John Feinburg, and Carly Piccarello (2015). *National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources*. *Multiple Property Documentation Form*. p. 63-98.

⁷⁶ Ibid., p.1-56.

Description of associated property types and guidelines for determining their NRHP eligibility are summarized in Section F.⁷⁷ Among those property types considered relevant to the Mission 66-era district at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park are visitor centers; maintenance and utility buildings; park employee housing; other types, which include comfort stations and entrance signs; park roads, trails, and parkways; and Mission 66-era historic districts and park-wide historic districts. The evaluations of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park for NRHP eligibility as a park-wide or Mission 66-era historic district, and an evaluation of individually eligible resources, are below.

Evaluation of Eligibility for the Park-Wide Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park Mission 66-Era District

Based on the characteristics described by Carr et al. (2015), the Birthplace Unit of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park is considered to be not eligible for listing in the NRHP as a park-wide Mission 66-era historic district.⁷⁸ In order for the park to be considered as a park-wide district, the majority of the park would have had to have been conceptualized and constructed under the Mission 66 or Parkscape USA program; Mission 66-related development would need to be the most important phase of the park's development history and retain sufficient integrity to convey its association with the Mission 66 program characterized by the Park Service Modern architectural and park planning design tenets; and, most importantly, the park in its entirety must figure prominently in the history of Mission 66 and continue to embody a cohesive, holistic sense of Mission 66 planning and design.

As many of the park's buildings and structures and landscape and circulation elements were planned and constructed prior to the Mission 66 era, and the majority of the remaining Mission 66-era resources are recommended to be non-contributing due to the loss of integrity, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park does not represent a cohesive sense of Mission 66 planning and design fundamentals. Therefore, it does not meet the requirements for listing in the NRHP as a park-wide Mission 66-era historic district as defined by the MPDF.

EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE MISSION 66-ERA VISITOR CENTER COMPONENT HISTORIC DISTRICT

The MPDF provides guidance on evaluating the Mission 66-era development as a cohesive historic district within a larger park area by determining the significance and integrity of individual functional components such as the visitor center; administration buildings, maintenance and utility buildings; residential areas, and comfort stations/day-use areas.⁷⁹ The significance of individual component areas would be evaluated in conjunction with adjacent Mission 66-era development including cultural landscape characteristics such as circulation, spatial organization, topography, vegetation, and views. For example, the significance of a visitor center component would consider its relationship to the park's automotive circulation plan and parking lots, trailheads, interpretive features, picnic areas, connecting pathways, and entrance plazas, etc. An eligible Mission 66-era historic district would need to include a

⁷⁷ Ibid., p. 57-98.

⁷⁸ Ibid., 97-98.

⁷⁹ Ibid., p. 57-98.

representative range of contributing components, buildings, structures, and cultural landscape characteristics which are able to convey their significance as Mission 66-era resources.

Based on this guidance, the components directly associated with the Mission 66 initiative within the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, including the visitor use area, maintenance and utility area, and employee housing area, were first evaluated on their own to determine if they possess significance and retain sufficient historic integrity to be eligible for listing as discrete historic districts. Only the visitor center component, which contains the requisite range of contributing components, including the Visitor Center, associated parking ellipse and entrance road was found to retain its significance as representing the Mission 66 program design and planning ideals.⁸⁰ The remaining functional components no longer retain sufficient integrity to convey their significance as Mission 66-era developments, largely due to alterations that are incompatible with Park Service Modern design ideals. For these reasons, the maintenance and utility area and the employee housing area identified within the Birthplace Unit of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park collectively do not meet the requirements for a Mission 66-era historic district.

Evaluation of Eligibility for the Mission 66-Era Visitor Center Component Historic District

The Visitor Center Component includes the Visitor Center, the parking ellipse, entrance road, and associated paths (Figure 23). The boundary also includes associated landscaping to the north and south of the entrance road to the extent necessary to convey the historic setting as implemented during the Mission 66 period. North Wind has defined the period of significance for the Visitor Center Component as the same as that of the park-wide Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park Mission 66 district as beginning in 1959 with the commencement of the improvements to the entrance road and parking ellipse and the completion of the Visitor Center and ending in 1973 when all of the improvements in the area that were planned for the park as part of the Mission 66 program were completed.

Based on this evaluation, the Visitor Center Component is recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP at the local level as a historic district under Criterion A for its association with the Mission 66 program as part of the development of the National Park System. The Visitor Center Component embodies the distinctive characteristics of a Mission 66-era visitor center area as it is a centralized facility that is a major point of visitor arrival, orientation, and service; includes multiple visitor and administrative functions within a focused area; and conveniently funnels visitors to a network of paths and trails leading to interpretive elements, natural resources, and other attractions within the park in keeping with the Mission 66-era tenet of prioritizing and protecting natural areas and preventing “random, destructive patterns of use.”⁸¹

⁸⁰ The entrance gate and sign are recommended as a non-contributing resource due to later alterations.

⁸¹ Sarah Allaback (2000). *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type*. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, Washington, D.C.

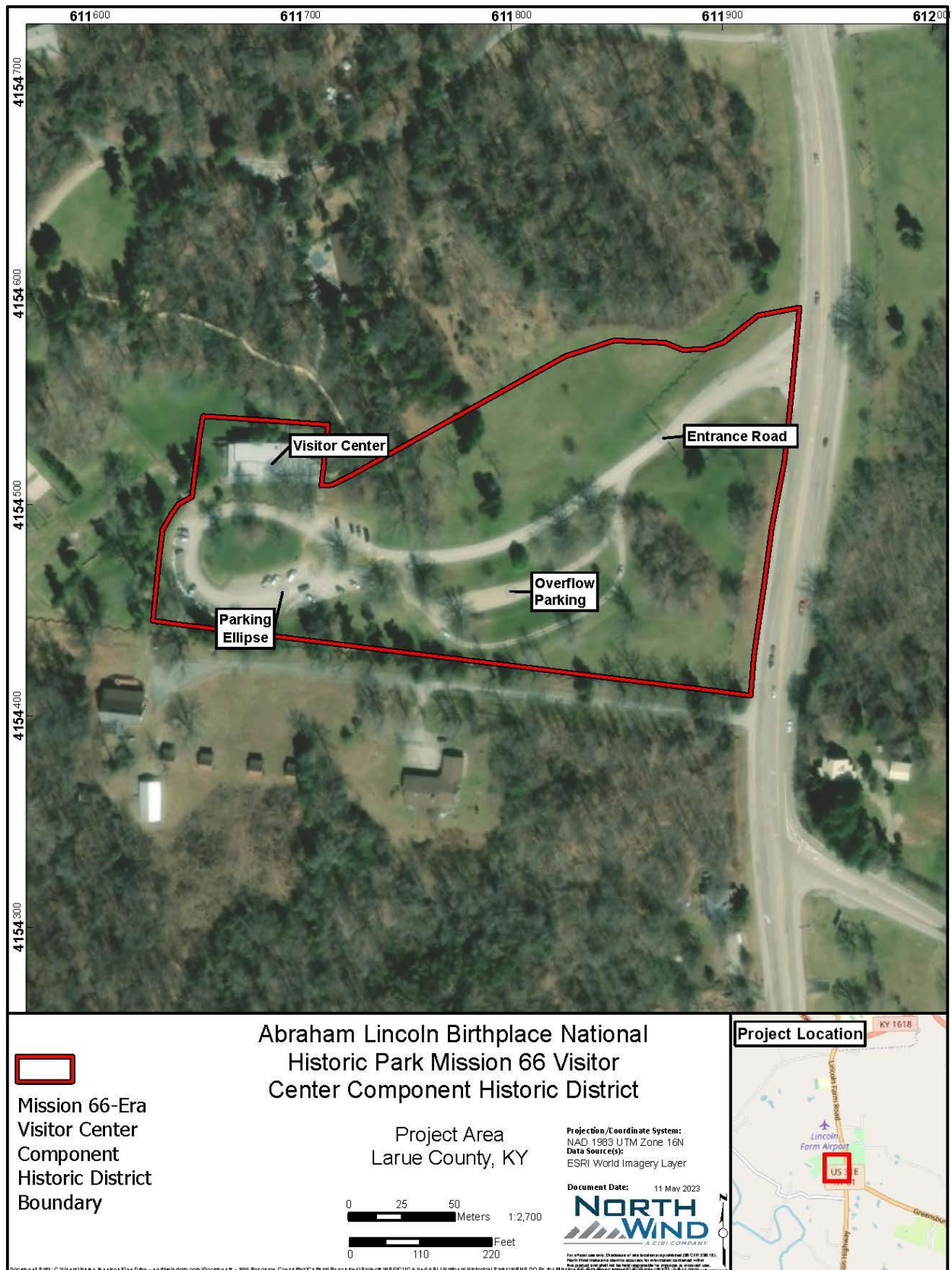


Figure 23. Visitor Center Component Historic District map.

Due to the alterations to the parking ellipse and entrance road that occurred after 1973, the district is not recommended as eligible under Criterion C. Per the guidance presented in Carr et al. (2015), the resources were not evaluated for listing in the NRHP under Criteria B or D. The Visitor Center Component as a whole retains its integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling, and association. Below is an evaluation of the seven aspects of integrity for the Visitor Center Component Historic District as defined by the NRHP:

Evaluation of Integrity for the Mission 66-Era Visitor Center Component Historic District

Location: the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. The elements that make up the Visitor Center Component, including the entrance road, parking ellipse, paths, and landscaping, have not been moved from their original locations.

Design: the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. The Visitor Center Component no longer retains integrity of design due to post-period of significance alterations to the entrance road and parking ellipse.

Setting: the physical environment of a historic property. The setting of the Visitor Center Component appears largely the same as it did during and immediately after the Mission 66 improvements were completed. The Visitor Center Component retains its centralized function, connecting to the largely unchanged network of pathways and trails that lead to adjacent interpretive areas and memorial features. Additionally, the landscape and natural areas themselves that surround the Visitor Center Component have changed little. Minor changes to the landscaping within the ellipse and around the Visitor Center in the late 1970s, including planting additional trees, ornamental shrubs, and flowering plants, and removing some groundcover, were consistent with the pre-Mission 66-era landscape that consisted largely of several acres of forested land, large expanses of grass; and a variety of shrubs and flowers, as was noted in the 1963 Master Plan. Additionally, the rural location of the Visitor Center Component, surrounded by small farms and natural vegetation, has not changed significantly. Therefore, the Visitor Center Component retains integrity of setting.

Materials: 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. Many of the Mission 66 era resources that make up the Visitor Center Component have undergone alterations, including landscape modifications and the construction of additions on the Visitor Center itself. However, these modifications have typically utilized materials, such as brick masonry, asphalt surfaces, and concrete pathways that are consistent with the facility's historic appearance during the period of significance (1959–1973). Therefore, the Visitor Center Component generally retains its integrity of materials.

Workmanship: the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. Although the Visitor Center itself retains integrity of workmanship, alterations and regular maintenance have compromised certain historic materials of the parking ellipse and entrance road. For these reasons, the Visitor Center Component no longer retains integrity of workmanship.

Feeling: a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. The Visitor Center Component retains the physical features that, when taken together, convey the property's historic character and function as a visitor center designed in the Park Service Modern style as part of the Mission 66 program. These features include the elements that make up the setting, design, materials, and workmanship, and, in this case, prominent and centralized location within the park.

Association: the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. The Visitor Center Component is able to convey its original function as a visitor center component constructed as part of the NPS' Mission 66 program. As was typical for Mission 66-era visitor center components, the entrance road and parking areas within the component were improved during the Mission 66 program to accommodate postwar changes in traffic volume and speed, and larger vehicles bringing ever more visitors to the park. Also common during this era were improvements to pathways in order to connect parking to visitor centers and adjacent sites within the park, all of which is retained within the Visitor Center Component. The Visitor Center Component is a tangible example of the NPS' changing desires to centralize and consolidate visitor and administrative functions within all parks. The Visitor Center Component is able to convey its association with the themes of Community Planning and Development (the park), and Entertainment/Recreation.

Based on this evaluation, the Visitor Center Component is recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A as a Mission 66-era historic district with the Visitor Center, parking ellipse, and entrance road as contributing resources.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The on-site inspection of the Birthplace Unit of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park resulted in the identification of 20 Mission 66-era resources. These resources were first evaluated for individual eligibility for listing in the NRHP and were then evaluated as contributing or non-contributing resources to two potential historic districts following the guidance established in the NPS Mission 66 Era Resources MPDF, prepared by Ethan Carr, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Len Warner, Rodd Wheaton, John Feinberg, and Carly Piccarello in 2015.⁸²

Of the 20 resources documented by North Wind as part of the current study, only the Visitor Center is recommended individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. The Visitor Center is recommended as individually eligible for listing in the NRHP at the local level under Criterion A, under the themes of Community Planning and Development and Entertainment/Recreation for its association with the Mission 66 program as part of the development of the National Park System. The period of significance for the Visitor Center is defined as beginning with its completion in 1959 and ending in 1973 with the completion of the final improvements planned as part of the park's Mission 66 Master Plan.

⁸² Ethan Carr, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Len Warner, Rodd Wheaton, John Feinburg, and Carly Piccarello (2015). *National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources. Multiple Property Documentation Form.*

Additionally, the Visitor Center retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, as defined by the NRHP.

Per the guidance found in the MPDF, the entirety of the Birthplace Unit was evaluated for eligibility as a park-wide Mission 66-era historic district and is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP as the majority of the park was not conceptualized and constructed under the Mission 66 or Parkscape USA program; the Mission 66-related development is not the most important phase of the park's development history; and the park in its entirety does not figure prominently in the history of the Mission 66 program.

North Wind identified one additional district, the Visitor Center Component, which was found to retain its significance as representing the Mission 66 program design and planning ideals, and to retain its integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling, and association. For these reasons, the Visitor Center Component is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP at the local level as a historic district under Criterion A for its association with the Mission 66 program as part of the development of the National Park System.

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APPENDIX A: PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION

Photo Log

Name of Property: Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park

City or Vicinity: Hodgenville

County: LaRue County

State: Kentucky

Photographer: Courtney Mooney and Greta Rayle (North Wind Resource Consulting, LLC)

Date Photographed: November 1, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photograph #1. Visitor Center at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, facing northeast.

Photograph #2. Visitor Center at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, facing northwest.

Photograph #3. Visitor Center at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, showing bathroom addition at the east end of the building, facing northwest.

Photograph #4. North (rear) and west facades of the Visitor Center, facing east.

Photograph #5. Maintenance building in the service area to the north of the Visitor Center, facing northeast.

Photograph #6. Paint and oil house in the service area to the north of the Visitor Center, facing northwest.

Photograph #7. Pump house located in the service area to the northwest of the Visitor Center, facing north.

Photograph #8. Overview of the service road, showing concrete culverts along the north and south shoulders, facing east.

Photograph #9. South (main) and west facades of three-bedroom residence, facing northeast.

Photograph #10. North (rear) and east facades of three-bedroom residence, facing southwest.

Photograph #11. South (main) and west facades of three-bedroom residence, facing northeast.

Photograph #12. North (rear) and east facades of three-bedroom residence, facing southwest.

Photograph #13. Overview of gravel service road leading to the rear (northwest) of the Memorial Building, facing southwest.

Photograph #14. Rear (northwest) façade of the Memorial Building, facing southeast.

Photograph #15. Overview of the grounds from the Memorial Building terrace, showing vegetation along both sides of the stairway, trails, stone benches, and the plaza and flagpole, facing southeast. Buildings associated with the former Nancy Lincoln Inn are visible to the right of the flagpole and the Visitor Center parking area is visible at left.

Photograph #16. Paved path and stairway leading downhill from the west side of the Memorial Building, facing north.

Photograph #17. Location of the Boundary Oak tree, showing paved path, split rail fence, drainage features, and interpretive sign, facing northwest. The Boundary Oak Trail begins just beyond the interpretive sign.

Photograph #18. Overview of the location of the Boundary Oak tree, showing stone retaining wall and culvert and earthen dam (all presumed to have been constructed during the Mission 66 era), facing west.

Photograph #19. Overview of the stairway leading to Sinking Spring, facing southeast. The former Nancy Lincoln Inn is visible at the upper right corner of the photograph.

Photograph #20. Area immediately south of the stairway to Sinking Spring, showing water fountain, stone wall, split rail fence, and interpretive signage, facing west.

Photograph #21. Stone retaining walls, stairway, and bench at Sinking Spring, facing southeast.

Photograph #22. Stone wall, bench, and interpretive sign at the south end of the plaza, facing southeast. The Visitor Center parking area is visible at the left edge of the photograph, and buildings associated with the former Nancy Lincoln Inn are visible at right.

Photograph #23. Overview of the Memorial Building, showing stairway, landscaping, and stone benches, facing northwest.

Photograph #24. Paved walkway and stairway leading from the Visitor Center parking area to the Memorial Building, facing northeast.

Photograph #25. Paved walkway leading from the Visitor Center parking area to the Memorial Building, facing northwest. Wooden railings for the Pathway of A President walkway are visible near the top center of the photograph.

Photograph #26. Overview showing the Memorial Building terrace, stairway, and plaza from the Visitor Center parking area, facing northwest.

Photograph #27. Modern tactile model of the Memorial Building with bench, facing northwest.

Photograph #28. Overview of the Visitor Center parking area, facing southeast.

Photograph #29. Overview of overflow parking area to the south of the main entrance road, facing northwest. The Visitor Center parking area is visible in the background.

Photograph #30. Overview of the entrance road, gate, and sign, facing west.

Photograph #31. North and west facades of the Picnic Area Comfort Station, facing southeast.

Photograph #32. Picnic area pavilion, facing south.

Photograph #33. Overview of picnic area, showing standard amenities (e.g., picnic table, grill, bench, and trash can), facing southeast.

Photograph #34. Overview of the picnic area parking lot, facing south.

Photograph #35. Overview of the Boundary Oak Trail, facing north.

Photograph #36. Overview of the Big Sink Trail (Loop A), facing north.

Photograph #37. Overview of the Big Sink Trail (Loop B), facing south.

Photograph #38. Overview of Big Sink Trail (Loop C), facing southwest.

Photograph #39. Overview of Pathway of a President facing north.



Figure A.1. Aerial view showing photo-locations in the west half of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, Birthplace Unit, map 1 of 2.

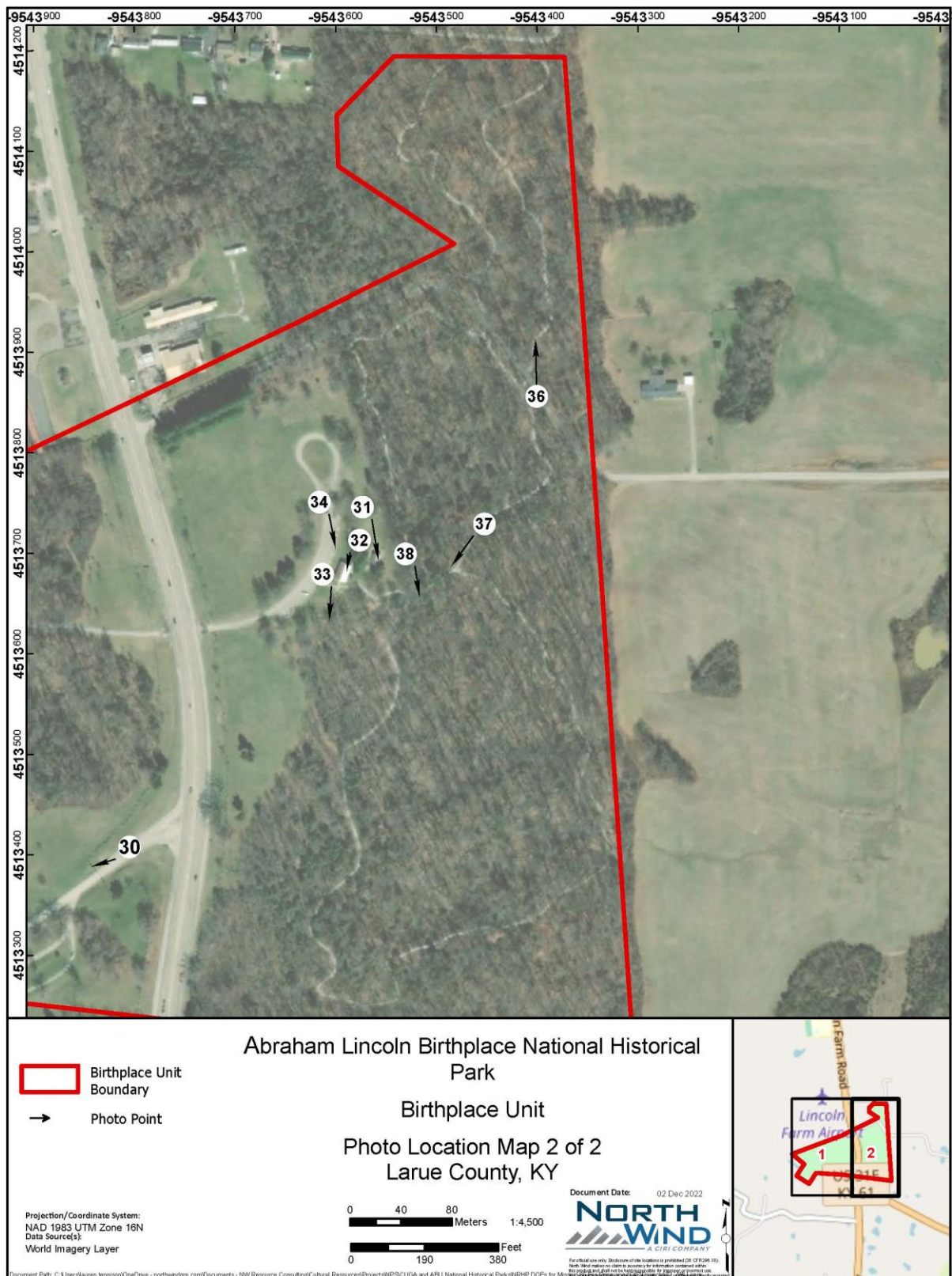
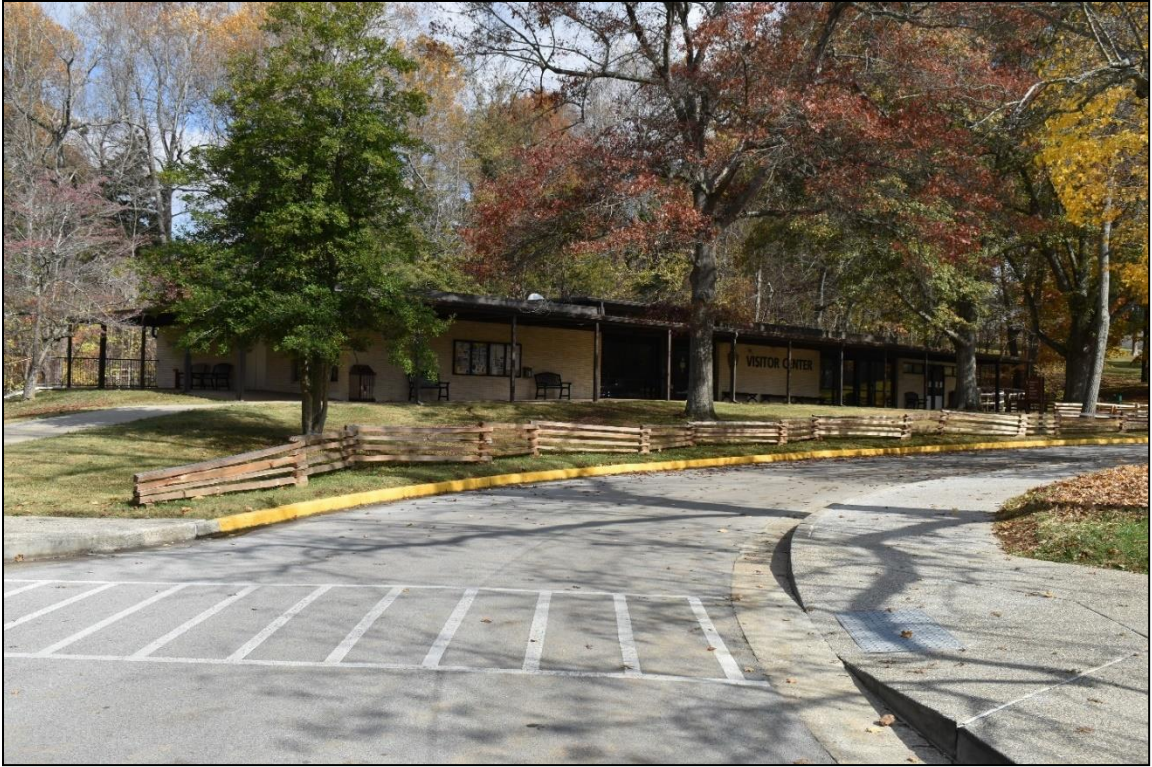
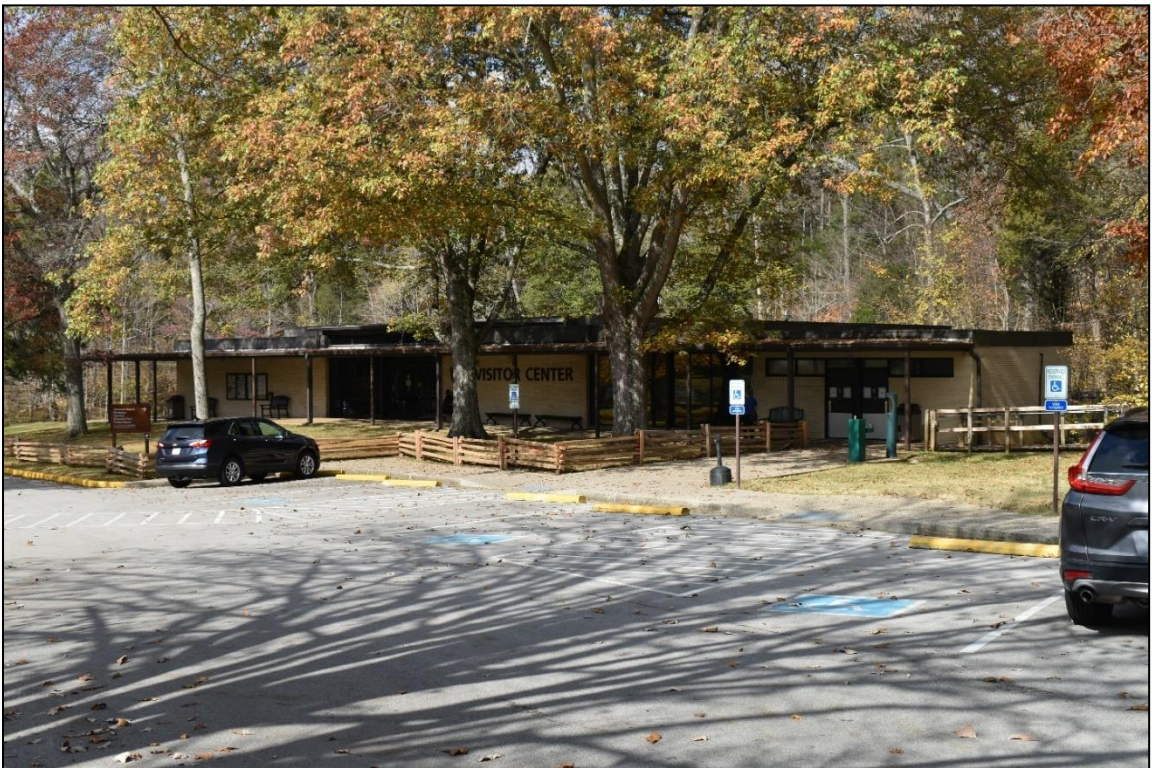


Figure A.2. Aerial view showing photo-locations in the west half of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, Birthplace Unit, map 2 of 2.



Photograph 1. Visitor Center at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, facing northeast.



Photograph 2. Visitor Center at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, facing northwest.



Photograph 3. Restroom at the east end of the Visitor Center, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, facing northwest.



Photograph 4. North (rear) and west facades of the Visitor Center, facing east.



Photograph 5. Maintenance building in the service area to the north of the Visitor Center, facing northeast.



Photograph 6. Paint and oil house in the service area to the north of the Visitor Center, facing northwest.



Photograph 7. Pump house located in the service area to the northwest of the Visitor Center, facing north.



Photograph 8. Overview of the service road, showing concrete culverts along the north and south shoulders, facing east.



Photograph 9. South (main) and west facades of Three bed-room residence, facing northeast.



Photograph 10. North (rear) and east facades of Three-bedroom residence, facing southwest.



Photograph 11. South (main) and west facades of Three-bedroom residence, facing northeast.



Photograph 12. North (rear) and east facades of Three bedroom residence, facing southwest.



Photograph 13. Overview of gravel service road leading to the rear (northwest) of the Memorial Building, facing southwest.



Photograph 14. Rear (northwest) façade of the Memorial Building, facing southeast.



Photograph 15. Overview of the grounds from the Memorial Building terrace, facing southeast. Buildings associated with the former Nancy Lincoln Inn are visible to the right of the flagpole and the Visitor Center parking area is visible at left.



Photograph 16. Paved path and stairway leading downhill from the west side of the Memorial Building, facing north.



Photograph 17. Location of the Boundary Oak tree, showing paved path, split rail fence, drainage features, and interpretive sign, facing northwest. The Boundary Oak Trail begins just beyond the interpretive sign.



Photograph 18. Overview of the location of the Boundary Oak tree, showing stone retaining wall and culvert and earthen dam, facing west.



Photograph 19. Overview of the stairway leading to Sinking Spring, facing southeast. The former Nancy Lincoln Inn is visible at the upper right corner of the photograph.



Photograph 20. Area immediately south of the stairway to Sinking Spring, showing water fountain, stone wall, split rail fence, and interpretive signage, facing west.



Photograph 21. Stone retaining walls, stairway, and bench at Sinking Spring, facing southeast.



Photograph 22. Stone wall, bench, and interpretive sign at the south end of the plaza, facing southeast.



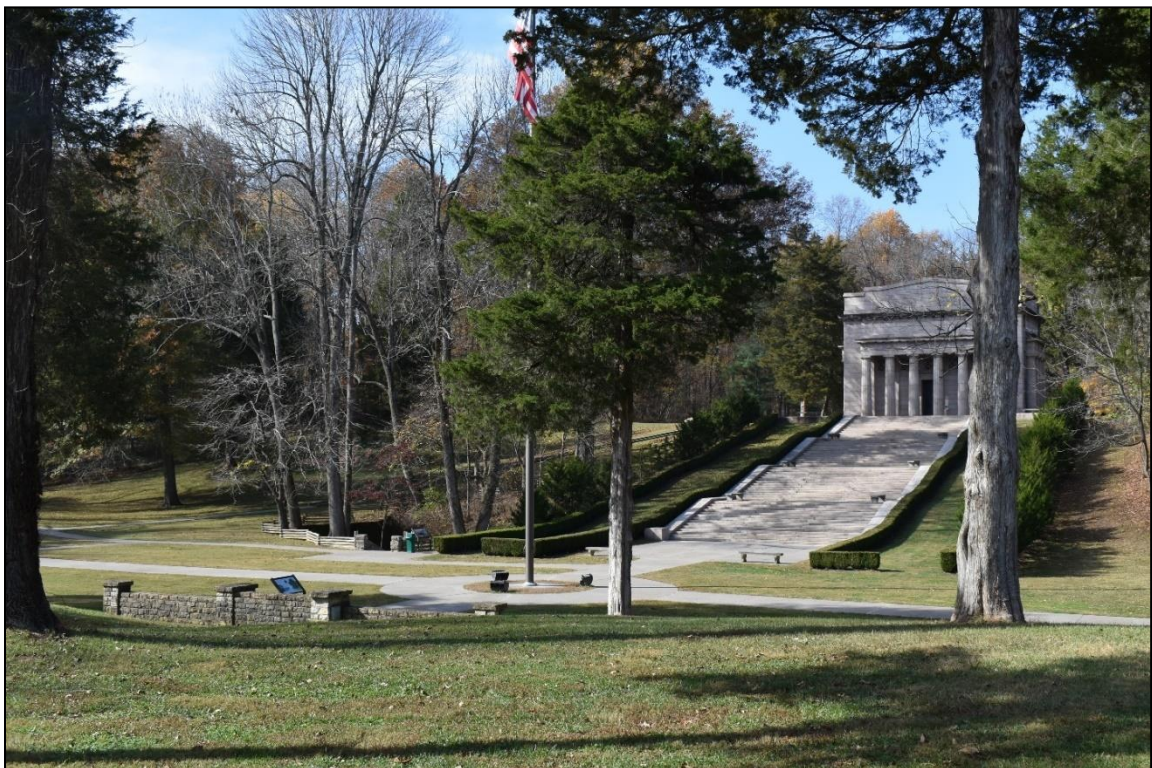
Photograph 23. Overview of the Memorial Building, showing stairway, landscaping, and stone benches, facing northwest.



Photograph 24. Paved walkway and stairway leading from the Visitor Center parking area to the Memorial Building, facing northeast.



Photograph 25. Paved walkway leading from the Visitor Center parking area to the Memorial Building, facing northwest.



Photograph 26. Overview showing the Memorial Building terrace, stairway, and plaza from the Visitor Center parking area, facing northwest.



Photograph 27. Modern tactile model of the Memorial Building with bench, facing northwest.



Photograph 28. Overview of the Visitor Center parking area, facing southeast.



Photograph 29. Overview of overflow parking area to the south of the main entrance road, facing northwest. The Visitor Center parking area is visible in the background.



Photograph 30. Overview of the entrance road, gate, and sign, facing west.



Photograph 31. North and west facades of the Picnic Area Comfort Station, facing southeast.



Photograph 32. Picnic area pavilion, facing south.



Photograph 33. Overview of picnic area, showing standard amenities (e.g., picnic table, grill, bench, and trash can), facing southeast.



Photograph 34. Overview of the picnic area parking lot, facing south.



Photograph 35. Overview of the Boundary Oak Trail, facing north.



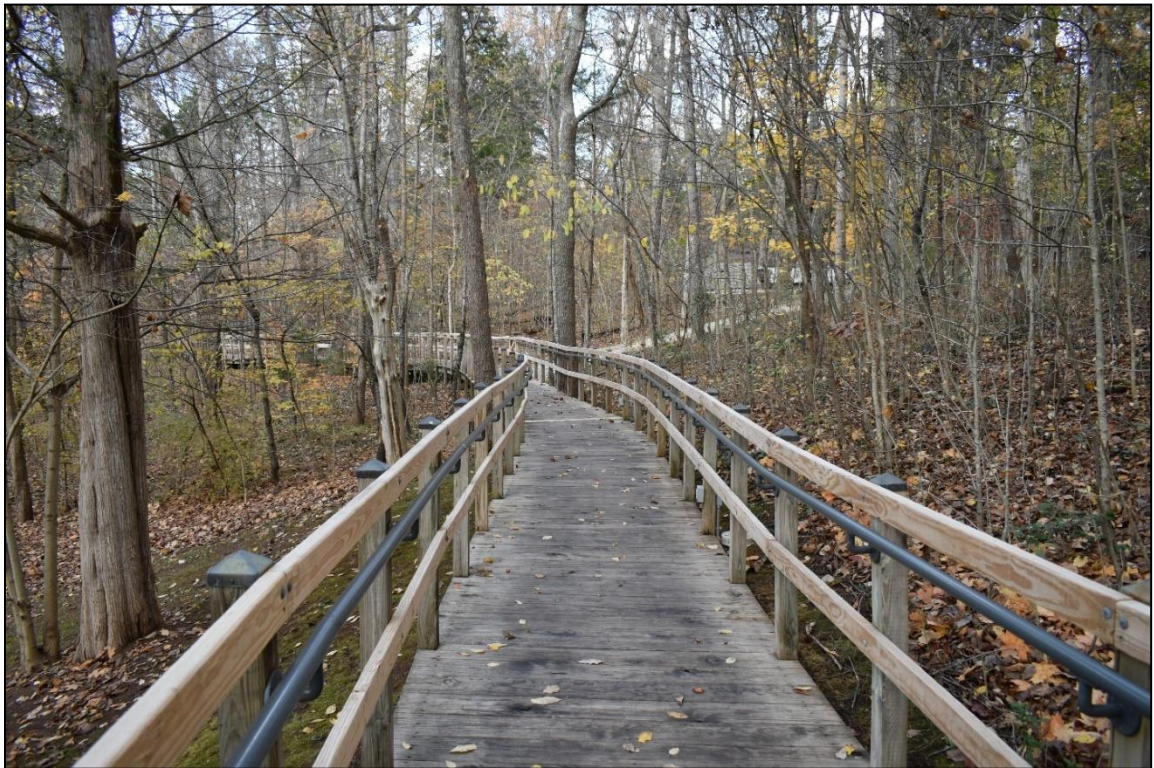
Photograph 36. Overview of the Big Sink Trail (Loop A), facing north.



Photograph 37. Overview of the Big Sink Trail (Loop B), facing south.



Photograph 38. Overview of Big Sink Trail (Loop C), facing southwest.



Photograph 39. Overview of Pathway of a President facing north.