



LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



DRAFT
GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



0 100 YARDS 250 YARDS 500 YARDS

NORTH



VICINTY

LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

U.S. Department of the Interior • National Park Service
DSC • December 2009 • 449/101895

DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lincoln Home National Historic Site was established by an act of Congress, Public Law 92-128, on August 18, 1971, (85 Stat. 347) to preserve the site associated with the home of President Abraham Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois, the only home Mr. Lincoln ever owned. The Lincoln family lived in this home from 1844 to 1861, when Mr. Lincoln left for Washington, D.C., to take office as the nation's 16th president.

The national historic site's current *Master Plan* was approved in 1970 (one year prior to establishment of the national historic site in 1971) and has reached the limit of its effective life span. The ongoing evolution of the national historic site, along with its surrounding area and other outside factors, has resulted in new issues and challenges that are beyond the scope of the 1970 *Master Plan*. A new plan is needed to

- clearly define resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved at Lincoln Home National Historic Site;
- provide a framework for National Park Service (NPS) managers to use when making decisions about how to best protect national historic site resources; how to provide a diverse range of visitor experience opportunities; how to manage visitor use; and what kinds of facilities, if any, to develop at the national historic site; and
- ensure that the foundation for decision making has been developed in consultation with interested stakeholders and adopted by NPS leadership after an adequate analysis of the benefits, impacts, and economic costs of alternative courses of action.

This *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* presents four alternatives, including the NPS preferred alternative, for future management of Lincoln Home National Historic Site. The alternatives, which are based on the national historic site's purpose, significance, and special mandates, present different ways to manage resources and visitor use and improve facilities and infrastructure.



Lincoln Home



A. Lincoln



The exhibit "What A Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has" located inside the Dean House.

ALTERNATIVE 1 THE NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE (CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT)

This alternative describes a continuation of current management direction and trends at Lincoln Home National Historic Site, which follows the concepts outlined in the 1970 *Master Plan*. It provides a baseline for comparison in evaluating the changes and impacts of the other alternatives.

HOW VISITORS WOULD EXPERIENCE THE SITE

The visitor experience focus would continue to be on ranger-led tours of the Lincoln Home, the movie and exhibits in the visitor center, the exhibits in the Arnold and Dean houses, and the exhibits in the neighborhood. The sense of removal from the outside world would be limited. Limited curriculum-based educational programs would continue to be offered on- and off-site. Other nonpersonal services, including web information and printed media, would remain. Temporary wayside exhibits would remain on the Jenkins lot.

HOW THE SITE WOULD BE MANAGED

NPS management would focus on maintaining the existing Lincoln-era neighborhood as it is today. Existing structures would be maintained as necessary to preserve their historic character and integrity. No restoration or rehabilitation would occur. Vacant lots would remain vacant. The historic landscape would be preserved to maintain recognizable separate lots. Archeological resources would remain in situ.

Administrative offices, including, administration, maintenance, interpretation, museum curatorial, and law enforcement, would remain where they are, dispersed in seven separate locations, with support space for living history in the conference center and for maintenance and curatorial functions in 14 separate buildings. The Cook House, Robinson House, and Shutt House would continue being leased under the leasing program. Lessee parking would remain in existing spaces.

The visitor center (with foyer, information desk, two theaters, restrooms, Eastern National sales area, and small ranger office) would remain as it is. The conference center would continue to serve as the location for staff training, meetings, and the living history support center. Employee parking would remain in existing locations along the Ninth Street alley, on the Stuve House grounds, and in the visitor parking lot when space is available.

Buses would continue to drop off, pick up, and park in the current visitor center bus parking lot.

There would be no boundary adjustment recommended under this alternative.

The key impacts of implementing this alternative would be minor, long-term beneficial impacts on visitor experience, and long-term, minor to moderate, adverse impacts on NPS operations.

ALTERNATIVE 2

THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Under alternative 2, national historic site management would focus on rehabilitating the historic landscape to offer visitors a strong sense of the neighborhood as Lincoln knew it. This goal would be accomplished by extensive rehabilitation at the core of the site, but less extensive away from the core. The Lincoln lot would be restored if there is sufficient documentation.

HOW VISITORS WOULD EXPERIENCE THE SITE

As visitors enter the site, they would enter the visitor center for orientation and to see exhibits and watch the film on Lincoln's life. After that they would move to a new building on the Burch lot for a short orientation to prepare for the tour of the Lincoln Home. After the tour they would have opportunities to see exhibits in the Lincoln back yard and Arnold and Corneau houses, as well as in a new structure on the Brown lot, illustrating both Lincoln's life and life in Springfield in the mid-19th century. Visitors could wander inside the fenced lots where houses are missing.

Extensive living history programs and ranger-led tours would be emphasized, but visitors could also experience the site on their own. Self-guided tours using neighborhood interpretive wayside exhibits, cell phones, iPods, etc., would be available. Curriculum-based educational programs would include day-long history programs.

Visitors arriving by bus would be dropped off and picked up in the parking lot north of the visitor center. Visitors would have access to new restrooms and drinking water on the east side of the historic site in a new building on the Carrigan lot.



Looking south on Eighth Street

HOW THE SITE WOULD BE MANAGED

The National Park Service would rehabilitate the neighborhood's historic landscape to provide visitors with an understanding of and appreciation for the size, density, and diversity of this mid-19th century Springfield neighborhood. Rehabilitation would be most extensive at the intersection of Eighth Street and Jackson Street. Contemporary buildings would be constructed on the empty lots of three of the historic houses. Such contemporary buildings would reflect the historic character of the neighborhood with an overall design that visitors would recognize as nonhistoric. The Lincoln lot would be restored to the greatest degree possible.

One of the contemporary buildings would be built on the Burch lot to be a staging area for visitors to the Lincoln Home. A second contemporary building on the Brown lot would provide space for exhibits. The third contemporary building would be built on the Carrigan lot for visitor services. The Dean House would be rehabilitated to support the living history program.

In the remaining areas of the historic district, the historic landscape would be rehabilitated to illustrate 19th century outdoor life in the neighborhood. New features, such as foundation outlines and fences, residential streetscapes, sidewalks, and stairs, could be built to reflect the mass, density, and spatial organization of the neighborhood in Lincoln's time. Species of trees and shrubs that were present when Lincoln lived at Eighth and Jackson streets could be planted to reflect historic vegetation patterns as part of an overall effort to rehabilitate the historic landscape.

Most NPS administrative offices, including most interpretive staff offices, would be consolidated and moved to the new headquarters in the rehabilitated Stuve House and Stuve Carriage House. Five additional historic houses no longer needed for NPS offices would be offered for lease. The visitor center would be expanded to provide space for two small NPS ranger offices when Eastern National's operations expand into the existing ranger offices. A new curatorial facility would be built in the southeast corner of the site. A total of eight houses would be available for the historic leasing program. The conference center would be remodeled to accommodate the day-long, curriculum-based educational history programs and would be renamed the Educational Center.

The bus dropoff and pickup and RV parking would be at the existing location in the lot north of the visitor center. Parking for lessees would be accommodated in the expanded administrative zone in the east alley.

A boundary adjustment would be sought to include the half block between Edwards and Cook streets and between South Ninth Street



Dean House on Eighth Street

and the alley between South Eighth Street and South Ninth Street. This boundary adjustment would protect significant resources and values and enhance visitor appreciation and enjoyment of the site.

The boundary adjustment, in addition, would address important operational and management issues by removing maintenance functions from several historic structures in the historic core and consolidating them into a new facility in the boundary expansion area, as well as moving all employee and volunteer parking from the historic site into this new area.

The key impacts of implementing alternative 2, the preferred alternative, would be long-term, minor, adverse impacts on archeological resources from new construction; minor to moderate, long-term, beneficial impacts on the museum collections because of the development of a new consolidated curatorial facility; moderate, long-term, beneficial impacts on the visitor experience because of expanded interpretive and educational programs; and moderate, long-term, beneficial impacts on NPS operations because of development of a new consolidated maintenance and administrative facilities and increased efficiencies.

ALTERNATIVE 3

Under this alternative, national historic site management would focus on interpretation and rehabilitation of the neighborhood as Lincoln knew it along the entire length of Eighth Street. The historic landscape would be extensively rehabilitated to the diverse and active quality of the neighborhood in the heart of Springfield.

HOW VISITORS WOULD EXPERIENCE THE SITE

Visitors would begin their time at the site by entering the visitor center where they could watch the orientation film on Lincoln's life and see the exhibits. Leaving the visitor center, they would walk east towards a new structure on the Burch lot for a short orientation while they prepare for the tour of the Lincoln Home (as in alternative 2). Following the tour, they could see exhibits in the Lincoln back yard and in structures of contemporary design built on the locations of structures that were present during the Lincoln era. Additional exhibits would be located in the Arnold and Corneau houses, as well as in a contemporary structure built on the Brown lot.

Other new buildings reflecting the historic character of the neighborhood but with an overall design that visitors would recognize as non-historic would be located on currently empty lots. These new, contemporary buildings would be used for curatorial storage functions, living history support, maintenance and operations functions, and adminis-



The Allen Barn dates to the 1850s, and was owned by Solomon Allen. Allen lived on this property with his wife and daughter and listed his occupation as a "gunsmith." The Allen house no longer exists, but the surviving barn is one of the oldest outbuildings in Springfield.



Lincoln Home viewed from the north

trative and visitor needs. A second maintenance building would be built in the boundary expansion area.

Because there would be buildings throughout most of the historic landscape, visitors would experience a strong sense of removal from the modern world as they moved up and down Eighth Street. Interpretive information would be developed to explain the history of each neighborhood property to enhance visitor understanding of the Lincolns' social neighborhood setting.

Visitors would also have the opportunity to enjoy curriculum-based educational programs, including multiday programs, to gain a better understanding of the day-to-day lives of the Lincoln family and their neighbors. An innovative, large-scale, living history program would enhance visitors' impressions that they had traveled in time to the historic period of the Lincoln-era neighborhood.

Visitors arriving by bus would be dropped off on the west side of the national historic site in the parking lot north of the visitor center and picked up on the east side of the site on Ninth Street just north of Edwards Street. Visitors would have access to new restrooms on the east side of the national historic site in a new contemporary structure on the Carrigan lot.

HOW THE SITE WOULD BE MANAGED

Existing houses and outbuildings would be rehabilitated as needed to serve either national historic site administrative needs or to be leased out. Historic houses no longer needed for NPS operations would be added to the existing leasing program. Six additional houses would be available for the leasing program for a total of nine under this alternative. Parking for lessees would be accommodated in the expanded administrative zone in the east alley.

Yards would be rehabilitated with new vegetation that reflects the species of trees and shrubs that would have been present during the Lincoln era, as well as with walkways and fences. This rehabilitation would enhance visitor understanding of the scale and density of the Lincoln neighborhood in the 1860s.

The Stuve House and carriage house would be rehabilitated for use as NPS headquarters where offices of most staff, including interpretive staff, would be consolidated. The Sprigg House could also be used for NPS administrative purposes, and there would be two small offices in the visitor center, with support space in the Irvin House for living history and maintenance and curatorial in three new buildings.

The current bus dropoff, parking, and pickup area would become

only a bus dropoff area, making it easier for visitors arriving by bus. A new area for buses to pull in and pick up visitors would be built on the southeastern side of the national historic site on Ninth Street just north of Edwards Street. Parking in the existing north lot would be limited to RV and trailer parking.

As in alternative 2, a boundary adjustment would be sought to include the half block between Edwards and Cook streets and between South Ninth Street and the alley between South Eighth Street and South Ninth Street. This area would provide space for some maintenance functions that are not compatible with desired conditions within the historic district. It would also provide space for employee and volunteer parking.

The key impacts of implementing alternative 3 would be long-term, moderate to major, adverse impacts on archeological resources from new construction; long-term, minor to moderate, beneficial impacts on the museum collections because of the development of new curatorial facilities; long-term, moderate, beneficial impacts on visitor experience because of expanded interpretive and educational programs; long-term, minor to moderate, beneficial impacts on the socioeconomic environment because of added site development; and long-term, moderate, beneficial impacts on NPS operations because of the consolidation of NPS administrative and maintenance facilities.

ALTERNATIVE 4

Under this alternative, the national historic site management would focus on rehabilitating the landscape to provide visual cues of what was present during Lincoln's time, offering visitors a sense of self-discovery. The Lincoln lot would be restored to the greatest degree possible.

HOW VISITORS WOULD EXPERIENCE THE SITE

Visitors would begin their time at the site by entering the visitor center where they could watch the orientation film on Lincoln's life and see the exhibits. Leaving the visitor center, they would walk east for their tour of the Lincoln Home. There would be some opportunities for ranger-led tours of the historic neighborhood. Self-guided tours using neighborhood interpretive wayside exhibits, cell phones, iPods, etc., would be available. The Arnold, Dean, and Corneau houses would contain additional exhibits. Visitors could wander inside the fences of lots where structures are missing to get a better idea of the character of the historic neighborhood.

Visitors arriving by bus would be dropped off and picked up on the west side of the national historic site in the parking lot north of the visitor center.



Beedle House - In 1860, William H. Beedle and his servant, Kate Tierney, were living at this address. Beedle was a railroad fireman, and he told the enumerator that he owned no real estate. He undoubtedly rented the house.

HOW THE SITE WOULD BE MANAGED

The existing historic houses and outbuildings would remain as the only large-scale buildings in the historic district. The remaining areas of the historic district, including residential streetscapes, would be rehabilitated to illustrate 19th century outdoor life in the neighborhood. New features, such as foundation outlines and fences, could be built to reflect the mass, density, and spatial organization of the neighborhood in Lincoln's time. Features such as sidewalks, paths, stairs, and walkways evoking former houses could be built to rehabilitate the circulation patterns of the historic landscape. Species of trees and shrubs that were present when Lincoln lived at Eighth and Jackson streets could be planted to represent historic vegetation patterns. This would also enhance the visitor's sense of the neighborhood's historic spatial organization and emphasize the views and vistas of the historic neighborhood landscape. The Lincoln lot would be restored to the greatest degree possible.

The National Park Service would rehabilitate the exterior and interior of the Stuve House and Stuve Carriage House for NPS headquarters. A new curatorial facility would be built in the northeast corner of the site, and a new maintenance facility would be built in the southeast corner of the site. Five historic houses no longer needed for NPS operations would be added to the existing leasing program for a total of eight houses.

The visitor center would be expanded to provide space for two small ranger offices when Eastern National's operations expand into the existing ranger offices. The conference center would continue to be used for staff meetings, training, and as the living history support center.

The bus dropoff, pickup, and RV/trailer parking would be on the west side of the site at the existing location in the lot north of the visitor center. Lessee parking would be permitted in the expanded administrative zone in the east alley. Restrooms and drinking water would be developed in the Arnold Barn.

There would be no boundary adjustment recommended under this alternative.

The key impacts of implementing alternative 4 would be long-term, minor to moderate, beneficial impacts on the museum collections because of the development of a new curatorial facility; minor to moderate, long-term, beneficial impacts on the socioeconomic environment because of new site development; and moderate, long-term, beneficial impacts on NPS operations because of the consolidation of NPS administrative and maintenance facilities.



THE NEXT STEPS

After distribution of the *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* there will be a 60-day public review period. When this period ends, the NPS planning team will evaluate comments from federal and state agencies, organizations, and individuals regarding the draft plan. Subsequently, the team will incorporate appropriate changes into a *Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement*. The final plan will include substantive comments on the draft document, and NPS responses to those comments. Following distribution of the *Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* and a 30-day no-action period, a "Record of Decision" approving a final plan will be signed by the NPS regional director. The "Record of Decision" documents the NPS selection of an alternative for implementation. With the signed "Record of Decision," the approved plan can then be implemented. The implementation of the approved plan, no matter which alternative, will depend on future NPS funding levels and priorities, and on partnership funds, time, and effort. The approval of a general management plan does not guarantee that funding and staffing needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. Full implementation of the plan could be many years in the future.



Autumn on Eighth Street

LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE • SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

