

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lincoln Home National Historic Site  
Springfield, Illinois



## Historic Structure Report

May 19, 2023

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In Consultation with: RATIO Architects, WLA Studio, H.F. Lenz Company, Lawson & Elser Inc.

Under the direction of:

National Park Service, Regions 3, 4 & 5



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**About the cover:** View of Lincoln Home taken from the NW corner of E. Jackson Street and S. 8th Street (Source: Seven Generations AE, 2021).

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# Lincoln Home National Historic Site

# Historic Structure Report

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# Acknowledgments

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# Management Summary

## Introduction

At the request of the National Park Service (NPS), the team led by Seven Generations Architecture + Engineering has developed this Historic Structure Report (HSR) for the Lincoln Home at Lincoln Home National Historic Site. Seven Generations consulted with RATIO Architects LLC, WLA Studio, H. F. Lenz Company, and Lawson Elser Engineering Consultants in preparing this document. This HSR refers to the building as the Lincoln Home but uses established names to designate particular time periods in its history and development: Dresser Cottage 1839-1844, Lincoln Cottage 1844-1854, Lincoln Home 1855-1865, Lincoln Family Home 1865-1887, Lincoln Homestead 1887-1972, and Lincoln Home National Historic Site 1972-present.<sup>1</sup>

2022. A current physical description based on building investigations and assessment using non-destructive methods provides a systemic accounting of the structure's features and materials. A summary assessment of their current condition is also included.

Part II provides recommendations for the treatment and use of the Lincoln Home. The Treatment and Use chapter presents a proposed treatment for the historic building. It emphasizes preservation and restoration of existing historic material while conforming to applicable laws, regulations, planning, and functional requirements.

A bibliography provides all sources of information this report references.

## Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this HSR is to document the history, context, and current condition of the Lincoln Home at Lincoln Home National Historic Site (LIHO) and to provide recommendations for the treatment of this resource.

The report includes *Part I: Developmental History* and *Part II: Treatment and Use*. Part I provides a brief review of the historical development of Lincoln Home National Historic Site and known historical information about the construction, evolution, and use of the building. A chronology of the building's physical development and use provides information on the known evolution of the resource over time. This information derives from available historical documentation and physical investigations. The HSR provides information about why the building was constructed, who constructed it, and how it was constructed. The HSR also provides a chronology of changes that have been made to the building, from its original construction to

## Historical Overview

The Lincoln Home was owned by Abraham Lincoln from 1844 until his death in 1865. The house was originally built in 1839 for Rev. Charles Dresser, an Episcopal minister. Abraham and Mary Lincoln and their children occupied the house from 1844 to 1861. The Lincolns completed two major remodelings of the house. In 1846, they relocated the east wing and built an addition along its north side. In 1855-1856, they hired Hannon & Ragsdale, architects and builders, to add a full second floor and remodel key interior spaces. The house saw national attention during Lincoln's 1860 presidential campaign and again at the time of Lincoln's funeral in 1865.

The Lincoln family leased the house to tenants from 1861 to 1887, when Robert Todd Lincoln donated it to the State of Illinois for preservation as a museum. The last Lincoln family tenant, Osborn Oldroyd, had opened his private Lincoln Museum in the house in 1884. The State of Illinois initially maintained the house as a "shrine"-type museum. Between 1952 and 1955, the State completed a restoration of the house under the direction of archaeologist Richard S. Hagen. This converted the

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1. Francis Orlando Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, December 1988 draft (Denver: National Park Service Denver Service Center, 1988), n.p.

Lincoln Home into a historic house museum, with rooms intended to interpret the appearance of the house in 1860. The State of Illinois transferred the property to the National Park Service in 1972 and it became the centerpiece of Lincoln Home National Historic Site (LIHO). After extensive research and investigation, NPS undertook a comprehensive restoration of the house between 1987 and 1988. Since that time, NPS has continued to refine the interpretation of the house and its context.

## Statement of Significance

The Lincoln Home is significant for its association with Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president of the United States, and for its association with the Lincoln family between 1844 and 1861. The Lincoln Home is the only home ever owned by Abraham Lincoln and the surviving building most closely associated with his life between 1844 and 1861. This was the period in which Lincoln emerged as a national public figure, culminating in his election as the sixteenth president of the United States in 1860. Lincoln's seventeen-year ownership and occupancy of the house makes it the property with the longest direct association with his life.

As with the homes of most presidential candidates, the house saw national attention during Lincoln's 1860 presidential campaign. Similarly, it was regarded as a notable landmark during Lincoln's tenure in office. The Lincoln Home has been regarded as a nationally significant landmark since Lincoln's assassination in 1865. It was first opened as a museum in 1884. The State of Illinois followed accepted best practices for the treatment of historic buildings during its ownership, including a 1952-1955 restoration that attempted to provide visitors with a more accurate experience of the house as it appeared in 1860. The National Park Service completed a comprehensive restoration of the house during 1987-1988 following the highest standards of restoration for the period.

The Lincoln Home was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) on December 19, 1960. All existing NHLs were theoretically listed in the National Register of Historic Places upon the program's creation when the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 was signed into law on October 15, 1966. However, NPS records indicate

that the Lincoln Home was listed in the National Register on August 18, 1971 (National Register Information System ID: 71000076).

## Scope of Work and Project Methodology

The scope of work for this HSR defined an abbreviated Part 1 - Developmental History, and Part 2 - Treatment Recommendations. The latter will include reaching a preferred treatment approach for accessibility, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) systems upgrades, and redevelopment of the east end of the property.

The team began by reviewing existing documentation. The site's national significance and long history as a museum resulted in an enormous quantity of data for review and analysis. Relatively concise documentation included architectural drawings from 1887 to 1986, one completed HSR (1973) and incomplete drafts of two others (1984 and 1988, the latter spanning 1,190 pages), a recent Cultural Landscape Report (2014), and a variety of documents prepared in the 1970s and 1980s to support the restoration of the house. Documentation from past physical investigations, particularly those in the 1980s, were informative. LIHO files pertaining to the maintenance of the house and the 1987-1988 restoration were reviewed on site. Documentation from the State of Illinois' ownership (1887-1972) was reviewed at the Illinois State Archives. The project team conducted additional research using published and electronic resources including historic newspaper databases, census and vital records, trade journals and catalogs, maps, and other archival collections. In many cases, available documentation included contradictory information and required careful analysis and comparison between multiple sources to evaluate the credibility and accuracy of assertions.

Physical assessment of the property's historic fabric (architectural archaeology) began with a thorough visual examination of the building, including overall configuration and the details of materials and finishes, to identify evidence of the building's historic configurations and treatments and subsequent alterations. The team conducted fieldwork in November 2021 with a

follow-up visit in September 2022. Documentation included field drawings of existing conditions, notes about materials and architectural features, structural conditions, and digital photographs. Seven Generations completed an exterior and interior laser scan of the building and prepared the existing condition drawings from the scan's point cloud data using Autodesk Revit. Chronology of development drawings were prepared by Seven Generations based on direction from RATIO.

## Summary of Findings

The findings of this report are included in Part I of this document. The Lincoln Home at 413 S 8th St, Springfield, Illinois, was a 1 story cottage built in 1839 by the Reverend Charles Dresser. The Lincoln family purchased the cottage in 1844. The Lincoln's four sons were all born in Springfield – the eldest, Robert, was born the year prior to their move. The Lincoln family and their home grew and changed in the years before President Lincoln was elected. Three more sons were born to the Lincolns while residing in Springfield, in 1846, 1850 and 1853.

The most significant changes to the structure took place in 1856, with the addition of a full height second story over the entire first floor and (circa 1867-1869 through 1954) in the addition of a “custodian's kitchen” structure extended east from the rear of the house. When the State of Illinois undertook a restoration (1952 to 1955), that addition was removed to interpret conditions representing the time in which the Lincolns resided there just prior to President Lincoln's inauguration in 1861.

In 1972, the State of Illinois transferred the property to the National Park Service. Following historic research and findings, the house underwent a comprehensive restoration, including structural, mechanical, electrical and security improvements to allow the thousands of visitors' tours each year without undue deterioration of the facility. Careful consideration was taken to protect historical artifacts, reinforce the floor structures and provide environmental controls to support the health and safety of Park Service personnel and visitors.

Recent considerations of potential visitor experience improvements have centered around accessibility. The tours currently facilitate visitors with mobility limitations by accessing the first-floor level via a hydraulic wheelchair lift from the backyard ground level up to the east porch. The second floor is currently not available for visitors in wheelchairs. Appendix D includes conceptual ideas for addressing the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements for equal accessibility.

The National Park Service continues to provide sensitive custodial care to the Lincoln Home and the surrounding neighborhood.

## Recommendations for Further Study

Continued consideration of accessibility equity is recommended for the Lincoln Home (LIHO) National Park regarding the visitor experience at the historic Lincoln Home.

The plethora of documents regarding Abraham Lincoln's history in Illinois are housed in the Illinois State Archives and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Mis-filed and inappropriately stored historic drawings were discovered in the process of research for this HSR, and those are now appropriately catalogued and stored.

While this HSR represents significant additional data and references beyond the previous HSR's, the potential for documents containing thus far undiscovered historically significant information being similarly mis-filed remains. It is recommended that the LIHO staff and NPS personnel encourage researchers that may delve into those records to be cognizant of this possibility and ask that they bring discoveries of such items to the attention of LIHO for further assessment.

## Administrative Data

### Location Data

Building Name: Lincoln Home

Location: Lincoln Home National Historic Site

State/Territory: Springfield, Illinois

### Related NPS Studies

National Park Service. Foundation Document, Lincoln Home National Historic Site. (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service), November 2017.

### Real Property Information

Acquisition Date: 1972

CRIS ID: 000866

### Size Information

Lincoln Home: 2,900 square feet ±

### Cultural Resource Data

The Lincoln Home was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) on December 19, 1960. All existing NHLs were theoretically listed in the National Register of Historic Places upon the program's creation when the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 was signed into law on October 15, 1966. However, NPS records indicate that the Lincoln Home was listed in the National Register on August 18, 1971 (National Register Information System ID: 71000076).

## Proposed Treatment

Treatment notes from scope of work:

- The HSR will develop a prioritized condition assessment list of corrective maintenance and repair treatments to address deficiencies that threaten long-term preservation of the structure;
- The arrangement and configuration of the structures at the rear of the lot do not adequately serve park and visitor needs. The HSR will include recommendations for redevelopment in this area of the property;
- Assessment of MEP, security, and fire suppression systems, and recommendations for upgrades will involve sustainable solutions for park operations and energy efficiency;
- Code analysis is required to define corrective actions related to current and future use and occupancy;
- Analysis of the structures and site for compliance with ABAAS is key to operation of the facility. Recommendations will include concepts to achieve a universally accessible experience for visitors and park staff;



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# Part 1.A Historical Background & Context

## Introduction

The Lincoln Home is a significant building associated with the life of Abraham Lincoln between 1844 and 1861. This was the only home ever owned by Lincoln and is the surviving building with the longest association with his life, family, and the period in which he emerged as a national political figure, culminating in his election as the sixteenth President of the United States in 1860.

The Lincoln Home first opened as a museum devoted to Lincoln's life and legacy in 1884. It was maintained as a museum by the State of Illinois from 1887-1972, when it was transferred to the National Park Service. It is the centerpiece of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

## Abraham Lincoln & Mary Lincoln Family

The lives of Abraham Lincoln, Mary Lincoln, and their children are well documented in other sources and the following summary is provided for quick reference.<sup>2</sup> Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) served as the sixteenth President of the United States from 1861 until his assassination in 1865, leading the country through the Civil War, preserving the United States, and abolishing slavery. Mary (Todd) Lincoln (1818-1882), wife of Abraham Lincoln, served as the sixteenth First Lady of the United States.

Abraham Lincoln was born into an impoverished farming family in Kentucky, spent most of his youth in Indiana (1816-1830), and came to Illinois with his family before striking out on his own in 1831. Lincoln was self-educated, received his law license in 1836, and moved to Springfield in 1837 to begin the practice of law. Mary Todd was born in Lexington, Kentucky, and was raised in comfort in a family whose wealth included ownership of enslaved people. She visited Springfield for three

months in 1837, staying with her sister, Elizabeth Porter Todd Edwards, who had married Ninian Wirt Edwards, son of former Illinois governor Ninian Edwards, in 1832. Mary Todd was well educated and was popular in the upper social circles of Springfield. She and Abraham Lincoln met during this visit. Mary Todd returned to Lexington in late 1837 but moved to Springfield to live with the Edwards family in late 1839. She and Lincoln became engaged in 1840. Their engagement was broken in 1841, but the couple reconciled and were married in 1842. Their wedding was held in the parlor of Elizabeth Todd Edwards' house and was officiated by Rev. Charles Dresser, first rector (1838-1854) of Springfield's St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The Lincolns would have four children: Robert Todd Lincoln (1843-1926), Edward Baker "Eddie" Lincoln (1846-1850), William Wallace "Willie" Lincoln (1850-1862), and Thomas "Tad" Lincoln (1853-1871).

The family initially boarded at the Globe Tavern. In 1844, Lincoln purchased Rev. Charles Dresser's wood-frame cottage (1839) at the northeast corner of Eighth and Jackson Streets. This would be the only home Lincoln ever owned and would house the family until their departure for the White House in 1861. The Lincolns remodeled and expanded the rear wing in 1846 before completing a major remodeling in 1855-1856 that added a full second floor. During the Lincoln family's occupancy, the house was the scene of the births of Eddie, Willie, and Tad Lincoln and the death of three-year-old Eddie. In 1859, Robert Todd Lincoln left for college. He enrolled in Phillips Exeter Academy, graduating in 1860 and then entered Harvard College.

From 1837-1860 Lincoln worked as a lawyer based in Springfield but also travelled a circuit of county seats twice per year, taking him away from home for weeks at a time. He served as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives from Sangamon County (1834-1842) and as a member U.S. House of Representatives from Illinois's seventh district (1847-1849). Lincoln was active in politics, first as a

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2. This document follows the Park's convention of referring to Mary (Todd) Lincoln as Mary Lincoln.

Whig and then as a member of the new Republican Party, which was established in 1854 by a coalition including those opposed to the expansion of slavery and former members of the Whig and Free Soil parties. In 1858, Lincoln accepted the Illinois Republican Party's nomination as the state's United States senator and gave his "House Divided" speech, which would become one of his most famous orations. His campaign included a series of well-publicized debates with his rival, the incumbent Stephen Douglas; Lincoln won the popular vote, but Douglas won the electoral vote.<sup>3</sup>

In 1860, Lincoln was nominated as the second presidential candidate of the Republican Party and the first to win an election. The last months of Lincoln's occupancy of the Lincoln Home, the period between his election in November 1860 and his departure from Springfield in February 1861, saw a deepening national crisis. The United States consisted of thirty-four states in 1860, nineteen of which were free states and fifteen of which were slave states. Pro-slavery forces in the South regarded Lincoln's election as a threat to the institution of slavery and Southern states began to secede from the United States, beginning with South Carolina in December 1860 and followed by Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas. In February 1861, these states declared themselves to be the Confederate States of America. They were soon joined by Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Lincoln's presidency was defined by the Civil War, which began a month after his inauguration with the Confederate attack on the United States Army's Fort Sumter and ended with the surrender of the Confederacy in 1865, following his second inauguration.

On the evening of April 14, 1865, less than a week after the high-profile surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia and a month after his second inauguration, Lincoln was shot in the back of the head by John Wilkes Booth, a prominent actor and Confederate sympathizer, while attending a play at Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC. Lincoln was carried to the Petersen House, a boarding house across the street from Ford's Theatre, and remained in a coma for the next eight hours before he died on the morning of April 15. Lincoln's

3. Senators were not directly elected by the people until the ratification of the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution in 1913

funeral and burial included a series of events over three weeks allowing the nation to mourn his death and memorialize his life and works. After lying in state in Washington, Lincoln's remains travelled 1,654 miles on a special train to Springfield, with stops at several major cities for lying in state. Lincoln has remained an enduring national hero and martyr, celebrated for his work to preserve the United States, his leadership during wartime, and his leadership in abolishing slavery.

Following her husband's assassination, Mary Lincoln moved to Chicago with her sons Robert and Tad. The Lincolns would never return to the Lincoln Home. Mary Lincoln later returned to Springfield, living with her sister, Elizabeth Todd Edwards.

## Development of Springfield, Illinois

Euro-American settlement of the Springfield area began in the 1810s and the first house on the site of the town was erected by John Kelly in 1819. A federal land office was established in the Kelly settlement in 1823 and the town of Calhoun was platted over the site by Pascal Enos, Thomas Cox, Elijah Iles, and John Taylor. This town, named after Senator John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, forms the original plat of Springfield, the name formally adopted for the town in 1833. Springfield was selected as the seat of Sangamon County in 1825 and the town's population grew rapidly during the 1820s and 1830s, reaching about 500 by 1827, 850 in 1831, 1,419 by 1835, and 2,579 by 1840.<sup>4</sup>

The original plat consisted of a grid of streets oriented to the cardinal directions, defining a public square and twenty-three blocks, and was bounded by what are now Madison, Monroe, First, and Seventh Streets. The grid plan and the reservation of a central block as a public square reflects a typical format for towns laid out in Illinois and Indiana during the 1820s and 1830s.<sup>5</sup> Floyd Mansberger and Christopher Stratton report

4. Floyd Mansberger and Christopher Stratton, *The Architectural Resources of the Aristocracy Hill Neighborhood, Springfield, Illinois* (Springfield, IL: Fever River Research, 2003), 17, <http://illinoisarchaeology.com/architecture/aristocracy%20hill.pdf>.
5. Mansberger and Stratton, 12–14.

the following of Springfield's growth in the years leading up to the construction of the Dresser Cottage (now the Lincoln Home) in 1839:

The middle-to-late 1830s was a period of considerable growth in Springfield (a trend fueled in no small measure to the transfer of the state capital from Vandalia), and several new newly surveyed subdivisions were platted, pushing the limits of the community. In 1836, Elijah Iles subdivided a large portion of his property on the east side of the Original Town into an addition comprised of twenty-seven blocks, each having sixteen lots (432 lots total). This subdivision encompassed the present-day Lincoln Home neighborhood...<sup>6</sup>

Abraham Lincoln moved to Springfield in 1837 and it became Illinois' new capital city in 1839 due to the efforts of Lincoln and others. Springfield saw significant growth during the period of Lincoln's residence there, with the population increasing from 2,579 in 1840 to 4,533 in 1850, and to 9,320 by 1860. Like cities of similar size throughout the region, Springfield grew as Americans from eastern states and immigrants moved west seeking new opportunities. Although it was eclipsed by the meteoric rise of Chicago—which grew from a similar population of 4,470 in 1840 to 29,963 in 1850, and to 112,172 in 1860, when it was the ninth largest city in the United States—Springfield remained one of the larger cities in Illinois during this period. Railroads were built through Springfield in the 1850s, connecting it to other Illinois cities like the Mississippi River ports of Quincy, Alton, and East St. Louis, and to Chicago on Lake Michigan, as well as to the ever-expanding railroad network stretching to the east coast and gradually moving westward. During the time Lincoln owned and occupied the Lincoln Home (1844-1861), Springfield emerged as a prosperous, thriving Western city, a place where fortunes were made and lost in the tumultuous economy of the mid-nineteenth century. Springfield's railroad connections meant that its stores offered access to a wide range of goods produced elsewhere.

The Lincoln family departed for the White House in 1861 and would never again live in Springfield. The city would continue to grow steadily through the 1920s. From the completion of the Lincoln

Tomb in 1874 and the opening of the Lincoln Home to visitors in 1884, Springfield became a site of pilgrimage and tourism for those seeking to learn about Lincoln's life and legacy. It evolved as a mature midland city in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. This period saw an influx of African Americans and European immigrants seeking work in Springfield's growing industries. In 1908, the city was the scene of a race riot—part of a wave of similar riots across the United States during the Jim Crow period—in which mobs of white Americans and European immigrants committed acts of mass racial violence against African Americans.

Between the 1890s and the 1910s, many of Springfield's central neighborhoods like that around the Lincoln Home experienced a transition that was paralleled in cities across the country. The business district grew outward into formerly residential areas. The city continued to spread outward and wealthier families began to move to newly fashionable areas, often leading to a downward economic filtering of their previous neighborhood. Some houses in older neighborhoods were subdivided or replaced by double houses or flat (apartment) buildings. These forces were accelerated by the advent of mass automobile ownership in the 1920s. Although Springfield's population growth slowed after the 1910s, it would continue to grow steadily for the next century.

Springfield, like its peer cities, experienced the difficulties of the Great Depression followed by the mobilization for World War II before plunging into an era of still greater change. The city's population grew from 75,503 in 1940 to 91,753 by 1970. The housing crisis in the years immediately following World War II led to the subdivision of many older houses into apartments. This was immediately followed by immense federal subsidies and exclusionary lending policies that pushed investment and development into sprawling suburbs. Core neighborhoods of established cities like Springfield saw significant disinvestment and demolition from a variety of forces, including an insatiable demand for automobile parking as well as blight clearance and urban renewal projects. The rapid spread of pests and diseases during this period ravaged urban trees across the United States, stripping mature tree canopies from historic neighborhoods. Springfield lost more than half

6. Mansberger and Stratton, 19–20.

of its manufacturing jobs between the 1950s and the early-2000s, leading the city to experience aspects of decline associated with the Rust Belt and a transition to an economy dominated by jobs in government, healthcare, and medicine.

Like other cities, Springfield began to see a resurgence in the 1970s, here centered around sites associated with Abraham Lincoln's life. The reconstruction of the Old Illinois State Capitol was completed in 1970, presenting the building's exterior and key interior spaces as they had appeared in 1860. In 1972, the State of Illinois transferred the Lincoln Home to the National Park Service so that it could become the center of Lincoln Home National Historic Site. These projects laid the groundwork for Springfield to be a prime destination during the surge of interest in American history around the Bicentennial celebrations of 1976. The National Park Service continued improvements to the context of the Lincoln Home beginning in the 1970s and accelerating into the 1990s. In 1985, the State of Illinois acquired the Tinsley Block and restored the exterior and the Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices as a state historic site. In 2005, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum opened to the public. This period also saw renewed interest and investment in historic buildings and urban neighborhoods, although this was often spotty, and demolition and decay continued in many areas.

As of the 2020 census, Springfield's population was 114,394. The city remains the state capital as well as a regional economic hub. Tourism focused on sites associated with Abraham Lincoln's life remains a key component of the local economy.

## Architectural Context

The Lincoln Home was initially designed and built in 1839 for Rev. Charles Dresser. It was remodeled by the Lincolns, first by alterations and additions to the rear wing in 1846 and then by an extensive remodeling in 1855-1856 that added a full second floor. The house's initial construction for Dresser and its remodelings for the Lincolns occurred in a specific context amid the growth of Springfield, Illinois, which fell within larger regional and national trends. This context is addressed in detail in Appendix C: Architectural Context.

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# Part 1.B Chronology of Development & Use

## Introduction

The Lincoln Home is a significant building associated with the life of Abraham Lincoln between 1844 and 1861. This was the only home ever owned by Lincoln and is the surviving building with the longest association with his life, family, and the period in which he emerged as a national political figure, culminating in his election as the sixteenth President of the United States in 1860.

The Lincoln Home first opened as a private museum devoted to Lincoln's life and legacy in 1884. It was maintained as a museum by the State of Illinois from 1887 to 1972, when it was transferred to the National Park Service. It is the centerpiece of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

## Time Periods & Property Name

This Historic Structure Report (HSR) primarily refers to the building as the Lincoln Home. The following names have been used in past planning documents to designate discrete time periods in its history and development.<sup>7</sup> These names may appear in quotes and other references throughout the document.

- Pre-Historic Period. Prior to the Lincolns' purchase of the house on January 16, 1844. During this period, the property is referred to as the Dresser Cottage.
- Historic Period. January 16, 1844, through April 14, 1865
- Early Historic Period. January 16, 1844, through 1854. During this period, the property is referred to as the Lincoln Cottage.
- Historic Period. 1855 through February 11, 1861. Includes the second remodeling through the departure for Washington. During this period, the property is referred to as the Lincoln Home.

- Designated Historic Period. 1860 through February 1861. Target date for the 1987-1988 restoration.
- Late Historic Period. February 11, 1861, through April 14, 1865. Lincoln retained ownership but the house was not occupied by the family. During this period, the property is also referred to as the Lincoln Home.
- Post-Historic Period. April 15, 1865 to July 8, 1887. During which the house was owned by the Lincoln heirs. During this period, the property is referred to as the Lincoln Family Home.
- Modern Period. After July 9, 1887.
- State of Illinois Period. July 9, 1887, to October 8, 1972. During this period the property is referred to as the Lincoln Homestead.
- National Park Service Period. After October 8, 1972. During this period the property is referred to as the Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

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7. Francis Orlando Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, December 1988 draft, vol. 1 (Denver: National Park Service Denver Service Center, 1988), n.p.

## Lincoln Home Abbreviated Timeline

The following timelines outline key dates and events of significance to the Lincoln family members and their home at the northeast corner of Eighth and Jackson Streets in Springfield, Illinois. A more detailed timeline is provided in Appendix B. Please refer to Appendix A for chronology drawings.

1837	Abraham Lincoln moves to Springfield
1839	Rev. Charles Dresser purchases Lot 8 in Block 10 of Elijah Iles Addition to Springfield and builds a one-and-one-half-story frame cottage (Dresser Cottage) on the lot.
1842	Rev. Charles Dresser marries Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln in the Parlor of the home of Elizabeth Todd Edwards' house.
1843	The Lincolns' first son, Robert Todd Lincoln, is born in the couple's rented quarters at Springfield's Globe Tavern.
1844	Abraham Lincoln purchases Dresser Cottage for \$1500.
1846	The Lincolns' second son, Edward Baker "Eddie" Lincoln, is born at the Home. The Lincolns' first remodeling including relocation of east wing, construction of north addition, and application of the first "Quaker brown" exterior color scheme.
1849-1850	Second Lincoln remodeling: Lincoln installs heating stoves in place of fireplaces; front brick retaining wall built and lower front walkway paved.
1850	Eddie Lincoln, dies at the Home at age three. The Lincolns' third son, William Wallace "Willie" Lincoln, is born in the Home.
1853	The Lincolns' fourth son, Thomas "Tad" Lincoln, is born in the Home.
1855-1856	Lincolns hire Hannon & Ragsdale to design and build a major remodeling of the house. A second floor is added to the west wing in 1855 and to the east wing in 1856. First floor interior is partially reconfigured and redecorated.
1859-1860	Backyard laundry shed demolished. Lincoln woodshed constructed as addition to existing barn. Lincoln privy relocated.
1860	Lincoln nominated as the Republican Party candidate for President and wins election.
1861	Lincoln family moves to Washington, DC.
1861-1887	Lincoln Home is leased to various tenants.
1865	Abraham Lincoln is assassinated.
ca.1867-1869	East Kitchen addition built.
1887	Robert Todd Lincoln presents Lincoln Home to State of Illinois.

1952-1955	State of Illinois completes first restoration of Lincoln Home to interpret the period of 1860 under direction of Richard S. Hagen. East Kitchen addition demolished.
1972	State of Illinois transfers property to the National Park Service as a part of the new Lincoln Home National Historic Site.
1987-1988	NPS completes comprehensive restoration of the house to interpret the period 1860-1861.

# Chronology of Ownership & Use

## Timeline of Ownership

### 1839-1844 Rev. Charles Dresser

April 23, 1839

Rev. Charles Dresser purchases unimproved Lot 8 in Block 10 of Elijah Iles Addition to Springfield from Dr. Gershom Jayne and his wife Sybil for \$300.

August 27, 1839

Dresser purchases a strip ten feet wide along the south edge of adjacent Lot 7, forming the 50 by 152 foot lot on which he built his house.<sup>8</sup>

### 1844-1865 Abraham Lincoln

January 16, 1844

Abraham Lincoln contracts to purchase the property from Rev. Charles Dresser for \$1500. Lincoln pays \$1,200 in cash and conveys a lot in downtown Springfield valued at \$300 to Dresser for the remainder of the payment. This lot was on Adams Street and contained a building occupied by Hamilton A. Hough as a carpentry shop. This property was the east half of the west half of Lot 6 in Block 14 of the City of Springfield. Lincoln and his law partner Stephen Logan had purchased this property from Ninian and Elizabeth Edwards on March 17, 1842, for \$400. On April 23, 1844, Lincoln, Logan, and their wives conveyed the Adams Street property to Dresser with a stated value of \$300. Krupka notes that under Illinois law establishing the “Right of Dower,” a woman automatically acquired an interest in her husband’s property and her written consent, formally relinquishing her “dower’s interest,” was required for any conveyance of title to another party.<sup>9</sup>

### 1865-1887 Lincoln Heirs

April 15, 1865 Abraham Lincoln dies at the Petersen House in Washington, having been shot the evening before by John Wilkes Booth while attending a performance at Ford’s Theatre. Lincoln had never written a will and died intestate.

Following Robert Todd Lincoln’s petition, the court appointed Supreme Court Justice David Davis executor of the estate. The estate was not fully probated until 1868, at which time the remaining assets, both money and real property, were distributed to Mary Lincoln, Robert Todd Lincoln, and Thomas “Tad” Lincoln.<sup>10</sup> Each inherits an undivided third of the property.

July 15, 1871

Thomas “Tad” Lincoln dies before reaching age of majority. His one-third ownership in the property reverts to Mary Lincoln and Robert Todd Lincoln in equal halves.

April 18, 1874

Mary Lincoln executes a Quit-Claim Dead relinquishing her half ownership to her son Robert for the consideration of \$500. Under Illinois law, Robert’s wife, Mary Harlan Lincoln, acquired half interest in the property at the time of this transfer.

### 1887-1972 State of Illinois

June 16, 1887

Robert Todd Lincoln transfers Lincoln Home to State of Illinois with the stipulations that it be “forever, kept in good repair and free of access to the public.”

### 1972-Present National Park Service

July 11-October 2, 1972

Illinois Governor Richard B. Ogilvie approves Senate Bill No. 1420 transferring the Lincoln Home and its contents to the federal government. Illinois Director of Conservation signs a quitclaim deed for the property to the federal government. Property transferred to the National Park Service as the Lincoln Home National Historic Site (LIHO).

8. Edwin C. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site* (Denver: National Park Service Denver Service Center, 1973), 8.

9. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:4.

10. Krupka, 1:5–7.



The following superintendents have overseen LIHO since 1972:

- 1972-1982      Albert W. Banton
- 1982-1987      James T. O'Toole
- 1987-1990      Gentry Davis
- 1990-2003      Norman D. Hellmers
- 2003-2005      Richard "Dick" Lusardi
- 2005-2010      James Sanders
- 2010-2018      Dale Phillips
- 2018-present   Timothy Good

### Timeline of Occupants

1839-1844      Rev. Charles Dresser Family

1844-1847      Abraham & Mary Lincoln Family

1847-1848      Lincoln's Tenants (Lincoln family in Washington, DC)

- Cornelius Ludlum (rented November 1, 1847 – February 1, 1848)
- Mason Brayman (rented February 1, 1848 – November 1, 1848)

1848-1861      Abraham & Mary Lincoln Family

1861-1887      Lincoln Family's Tenants (Lincoln family in White House 1861-1865)

- Lucian Tilton Family (February 1, 1861 – May 1, 1869)
- George Harlow (1869-1877)
- Jacob D. Akard (1877-1879)
- Dr. Gustov Adolph Hermann Wendlandt (1879-1883)
- Osborn Oldroyd (1883-1887)

1887-1953      State of Illinois Live-In Custodians

- Osborn Oldroyd (1887-1893)
- Herman Hofferkamp (1893-1897)
- Edwards-Brown Family (1897-1924): Albert Stevenson Edwards (1897-1915), Josephine E. Reman Edwards (1915-1918), and Mary Edwards "Mamie" Brown (1918-1924)
- Virginia Stuart Brown (1924-1953)

1953-present   Historic house museum, no occupants

## Chronology of Occupants (Selected)

### 1839-1844 Rev. Charles Dresser Family

Charles Dresser (1800-1865) was born February 24, 1800, to Nathan Dresser (1769-1834) and Rebecca Leffingwell Dresser (1775-1851) of Pomfret, Connecticut. He graduated from Brown University in 1823 and joined the household of Rev. William Meade of Virginia, tutoring Meade's sons and studying theology. "During those years Dresser adopted Meade's outspoken disdain of slavery."<sup>11</sup> He was ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1829. He married Louisa Walker Withers (1810-1891) in November 1832 in Dinwiddie County, Virginia.

Nathan Dresser died in 1834 and Charles' youngest brother, also named Nathan Dresser, moved west to Petersburg, Illinois, in 1836. Charles accepted the call to become the first rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Springfield, Illinois, in early 1838. Charles, Louisa, and their sons, five-year-old David Walker Dresser (1833-1900) and one-year-old Thomas Withers Dresser (1837-1907) arrived in Springfield that April.

On May 26, 1838, a month after Charles Dresser's arrival in Springfield, this son of New England and graduate of Brown University entered into an indenture for the domestic labor of a 15 year-old African American girl, Rhoda Jane. Rhoda had no parent or guardian in Illinois and was to be taught the "art and mystery of domestic labour" and to read. She was to be released from her indenture on her 18th birthday, August 25, 1840, at which time she was to be given a new bible and two new suits of clothes suitable and proper for summer and winter wear.<sup>12</sup>

A daughter Elizabeth Dresser (1838-1903) was born in Springfield in August 1838. Several other members of the Dresser family, including Charles' mother, his brother Henry, and his sisters Lucretia and Mary, also came to Springfield in 1838. In

October 1839, Rev. Charles Dresser was elected president of the Sangamon County Colonization Society for the ensuing year.<sup>13</sup>

It is not known where the Dresser family resided between their arrival in Springfield in April 1838 and the completion of the cottage on Eighth Street around December 1839. On May 5, 1840, a daughter, Mary, was born. At the time of the 1840 census, Charles Dresser's household contained ten people classified as white by the enumerator. These included one male under age five (Thomas was then about age three), one male between five and ten (David was then about age six), one male between 40 and 50 (Charles was then about age 40), two females under five (Elizabeth was then about one year old and Mary was an infant), one female between 15 and 20 (possibly Rhoda Jane, then about age 17), one female between 20 and 30, one female between 30 and 40 (Louisa was then about age 30), one female between 40 and 50, and one female between 60 and 70 (Rebecca Dresser was then about 64). Dresser's young daughter Mary died of scarlet fever about a year later while on a trip East with her mother.<sup>14</sup>

On July 22, 1840, Dresser borrowed \$900 from Ebenezer H. Sawyer of Windham County, Connecticut, with a promissory note carrying a twelve percent interest over the term of one year, higher than the typical rate of ten percent. By July 7, 1841, Dresser had decided to liquidate his debt, offering his house for sale "on accommodating terms" and noting that if it failed to sell prior to September 1, it would be available for rent. No buyers or renters appeared, and Dresser remained in the house.

Another son, Charles, was born in the house in 1842. On February 15, 1843, Dresser executed a mortgage to Sawyer. As security, Dresser put up the Eighth Street property as well as 200 acres of real estate southeast of Springfield in Rochester Township.<sup>15</sup> Eleven-month-old Charles died in March 1843. Another son, Edmund Dresser (1843-1917) was born in September 1843.<sup>16</sup> Shortly after

11. James T. Hickey, "A Family Album: The Dressers of Springfield," *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* 75, no. 4 (1982): 312.

12. Richard E. Hart, "Lincoln's Springfield: The Early African American Population of Springfield, Illinois (1818-1861)" (Abraham Lincoln Association, 2008), 84, <https://abrahamlincolnassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/THE-EARLY-BLACK-POPULATION-April-23-2008-am.pdf>.

13. Hart, 95.

14. Hickey, "A Family Album: The Dressers of Springfield," 312.

15. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:20-22.

16. Hickey, "A Family Album: The Dressers of Springfield," 314.

vacating the property, Dresser became president of the Illinois State Colonization Society (organized 1845).<sup>17</sup>

#### 1844-1847/1848-1861 Abraham & Mary Lincoln Family

At the time of the Lincolns' purchase of the Dresser Cottage in 1844, their household consisted of Abraham, Mary, and their five-month-old son Robert. The house would see the births of Eddie (1846), Willie (1850), and Tad Lincoln (1853). Three-year-old Eddie died in the house in 1849. The Lincolns employed a live-in "hired girl"—a female servant, generally a teenager—during much of the period that they occupied the house. The household also included non-resident servants like Mariah Vance, who worked in the house but lived elsewhere, and guests like Mary's sister Emilie Todd, who stayed for several months in 1854-1855.

The records of two census enumerations provide snapshots of the Lincoln household in 1850 and 1860. On November 7, 1850, the household included Abraham Lincoln (listed as 40, actually 41), attorney at law, Mary Lincoln (listed as 28, actually 31), seven-year-old Robert Lincoln, and 18-year-old Catharine Gordon (born in Ireland). On July 14, 1860, the household included 51-year-old Abraham Lincoln, a lawyer with real estate valued at \$5,000 and a personal estate valued at \$12,000, Mary Lincoln (listed as 35, actually 41), 16-year-old Robert T. Lincoln, Willie W. Lincoln (listed as nine, actually eight), seven-year-old Thomas (Tad) Lincoln, an 18-year-old female servant named M. Johnson, and a 14-year-old boy named Phillip Dinkell.

#### 1861-1869 Lucian & Lucretia Tilton

Abraham Lincoln leased the house to Lucian Tilton, superintendent of the Great Western Railroad and later president of the Toledo, Wabash & Western Railroad, beginning February 1, 1861. Tilton agreed to pay \$350 per year in rent and moved in sometime after the Lincolns moved to the Chenery House on February 7.<sup>18</sup> They appear to have purchased a few pieces of furniture at the Lincolns' sale in early February. At the time of Lincoln's funeral in May 1865, the *Chicago Tribune* reported that the house as furnished by the Tilttons contained the following Lincoln items: "a whatnot and a small marble-topped table" in the front

Parlor, a secretary (desk-bookcase) in the Back Parlor, a "heavy oaken bedstead," and a chamber set.<sup>19</sup>

Lucian Tilton served as a leader of a pro-Union meeting in Springfield in 1864 and was appointed by the Springfield City Council to the committee for selection of grounds for a tomb for Lincoln in 1865. Lucretia Tilton was active in a variety of charitable and patriotic efforts, including serving as the corresponding secretary of the Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society of Springfield and a delegate to the Great Northwestern Fair at Chicago in 1863, as delegate to State Sanitary Fair in 1864, as a board member and fundraiser for the Home for the Friendless, and as an officer of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the American Freedmen's Union Commission, a group formed for "the furtherance of the work of educating the freedmen of the States lately in rebellion," in 1867.<sup>20</sup>

The Tilttons leased the house for eight years, their final lease expiring May 1, 1869. At this time, Lucian retired from active business and the Tilttons moved to Chicago.<sup>21</sup> They appear to have been in residence at 362 Ontario Street by July 1869, when Lucretia's reticule was stolen by a teenage boy as she walked up the street.<sup>22</sup> Chicago directories for 1869 and 1870 list the Tilttons at this address, which was on the south side of Ontario between Rush Street and Pine Street (now Michigan Avenue). The house was one of the thousands of buildings destroyed during the Great Chicago Fire in October 1871. Pieces of furniture that the Tilttons purchased from the Lincolns' February 1861 sale are believed to have been destroyed in the fire.

The Tilttons do not appear in the 1872 Chicago city directory. From 1873 to 1875 they are listed at 145 Oak Street, between Clark and Dearborn Streets. This was also within the burnt district, so the Tilttons would have been living in a new house built about 1872. At the time of Lucian Tilton's death in 1877, the Tilttons were living on the same block, but the address had been changed to 297 Oak Street.

17. Hickey, 312.

18. Bearss, 21.

19. Katherine B. Menz, *Historic Furnishings Report, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Illinois* (Harpers Ferry, WV: Harpers Ferry Center, 1983), 38, 45, 47, 66-67, 120-21.

20. "From Springfield," *Chicago Evening Post*, December 16, 1865.

21. "Obituary. Col. Lucien Tilton," March 22, 1877, 8.

22. "Local Brevities," *Chicago Evening Post*, July 10, 1869, 4.

The *Illinois State Journal* published the following obituary:

Citizens of Springfield will receive with regret intelligence of the death of Lucian Tilton, Esq., formerly of this city, which took place, after a protracted illness, at his residence in Chicago, on Monday last. Mr. Tilton will be remembered as the president of the Toledo, Wabash & Western Railroad during the war and for some time afterward, occupying during his stay here the Lincoln residence, at the corner of Eighth and Jackson streets, now occupied by Secretary Harlow. He was an efficient and able business man, reticent in speech but of great decision of character. The funeral took place yesterday. / The sympathies of many friends in Springfield will go out to his excellent and bereaved family.<sup>23</sup>

Lucretia Jane Tilton remained active in civic works for the rest of her life. She was a charter member of Chicago Woman's Club, the Illinois Training School for Nurses was organized in her home, and she was an active member of the Chicago Historical Society. She died at her residence, 24 Junior Terrace, on November 4, 1906. An obituary published by the Chicago Historical Society noted, "During the Civil War she lived in the Abraham Lincoln house in Springfield, Ill., and often visited the military camps and attended the sick soldiers." It continued, "Mrs. Tilton was well known in Chicago in church and charitable work for many years."<sup>24</sup>

#### 1883-1887 Osborn Oldroyd

Osborn Hamline Ingham Oldroyd (1842-1930) was born in Mount Vernon, Ohio, and began collecting items related to Lincoln around the time of the 1860 presidential campaign. He served in Company E, 20<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry, from 1861 to 1865, as assistant steward for the National Soldiers' Home in Dayton, Ohio from 1865 to 1867, and as steward of the Ohio State Insane Asylum from 1867 to 1873. Oldroyd moved to Springfield in 1873 and married Lida A. Stoneberger (1845-1934) in Sangamon County that year. The couple had one child, Daisy Stella Oldroyd Gordon (1874-1942).

In 1875 and 1876, Springfield city directories list O. H. Oldroyd as a manufacturer of woodenware. By 1880 he was a bookkeeper for John Bressmer. Bearss provides the following summary of how Oldroyd leased the Lincoln home:

Osborn Oldroyd in 1883 was living in the Arnold House, on the southeast corner of eighth and Jackson streets. There for the past several years he had been exhibiting his famous Lincoln Collection. . . Learning from Dr. Wendlandt that his father was getting ready to move out of the Lincoln Home, Oldroyd contacted Clinton Conkling, the agent retained by Robert Todd Lincoln to handle his Springfield property. He rented the Home for \$25 a month, and moved in as soon as the Wendlandts vacated.<sup>25</sup>

The Lincoln Home and grounds were in poor condition when Oldroyd moved in. The yard was overgrown, the fence was falling down in several places, and the house was apparently in need of significant repairs. Oldroyd used his own funds to repair the house and grounds to make them presentable. On April 14, 1884, Oldroyd's Lincoln Museum, containing more than 2,000 objects, opened in the house. Robert Todd Lincoln reportedly did not approve of Oldroyd's museum, particularly his sale of souvenirs and relics.

Oldroyd's actions while occupying the house were not viewed kindly by later generations. Some of this stems from the lack of a developed historic preservation practice during the 1880s and 1890s, and some derives from Oldroyd's personal Lincoln museum. In most respects, his treatment of the house and his operation of the museum as a mix of a "relic cabinet" and a tourist attraction are largely consistent with practices of his era. His sale of bits of the house as "relics" was also consistent with the wider culture of the period, in which pieces might be chipped off of monuments as "relics" or "souvenirs." Many of Oldroyd's repairs to the house seem misguided at best or malicious at worst by the standards of modern historic preservation practice. Krupka's 1988 HSR draft includes many references along the lines of the following quote: "Oldroyd was personally responsible for more destruction, pillaging and looting of the Lincoln

23. "Death of Col. L. Tilton," *Illinois State Journal*, March 28, 1877, 1.

24. *Chicago Historical Society: Charter, Constitution, By-Laws, Membership List, Annual Report* (Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 1906), 95.

25. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 42.

Home for personal gain and aggrandizement than any other single individual associated with the property in its entire history.”<sup>26</sup> Similarly, Krupka later refers to “Osborn Oldroyd, infamous early accumulator of—often questionable—Lincolniana, and, Robert Lincoln’s last ‘dead beat’ tenant in the Springfield Home.”<sup>27</sup>

Bearss reports that the “irrepressible Osborn H. Oldroyd was the gadfly who sparked the movement to transfer the historic property” from Robert Todd Lincoln to the State of Illinois.<sup>28</sup> In 1887, Oldroyd contacted Robert Todd Lincoln’s agent, Clinton Conkling, and suggested that Lincoln give the property to the State of Illinois. If Lincoln did so, Oldroyd would will his Lincoln collection to the people of Illinois.<sup>29</sup> In June 1887, Robert Todd Lincoln deeded the Lincoln Home to the State of Illinois with the stipulation that it be “forever, kept in good repair and free of access to the public.”

Oldroyd was allowed to remain in residence until the State of Illinois could select a new live-in custodian. On October 3, 1887, after reviewing sixteen applications for the position, the State’s Board Trustees of the Lincoln Homestead hired Osborn Oldroyd “as custodian of the Lincoln Homestead under such rules and regulations as the Board may adopt and to keep on exhibition, open and free of access to the public during all reasonable hours upon week days,” his Lincoln Museum.<sup>30</sup> Oldroyd would receive an annual salary of \$1,000, payable in monthly increments, beginning August 29, 1887. Bearss offers the following summary of the circumstances leading to Oldroyd’s departure in 1893:

Robert Todd Lincoln became disenchanted with Oldroyd’s museum, which he believed gave the Home the appearance of “an antique shop.” When John P. Altgeld was inaugurated governor of Illinois on January 10, 1893, it gave Lincoln an opportunity to correct this situation. On April 12, the new Board of Trustees met, and Governor Altgeld was elected president. As

the next order of business, the Board requested Oldroyd’s resignation as custodian and in his place elected Civil War veteran Herman Hofferkamp of Springfield. . . . Oldroyd had been given 15 days to vacate the shrine by the Board of Trustees. He did as directed, moving his furniture and collection of artifacts into Dr. Walter Ryan’s house on 402 South 6th Street.<sup>31</sup>

In 1896, the Memorial Association of Washington, DC, caretakers of the Petersen House—the house where Lincoln died—at 516 10<sup>th</sup> Street NW, across from Ford’s Theatre, allowed Oldroyd to occupy the house and to operate it as a private museum, which he did until his death in 1930. In 1926, Illinois congressman Henry Riggs Rathbone, the son of Major Henry Rathbone and Clara Harris, the Lincolns’ guests in their box at Ford’s Theatre the night of the assassination, arranged for the federal government to purchase the Oldroyd collection, much of which was relocated to a new Lincoln Museum inside Ford’s Theatre. This collection later passed to the National Park Service and relevant items were returned to the Lincoln Home.

#### 1893-1897 Herman Hofferkamp

Bearss provides the following biography and summary of Herman Hofferkamp:

Hofferkamp, born in Hannover, Germany, in 1841, had emigrated to the United States, settling in Springfield in 1856. A clerk in a drug store, Hofferkamp had enlisted in the 10th Illinois Cavalry on February 28, 1862. He was promoted to hospital steward and had been mustered out at the expiration of his three years’ term of service at Brownsville, Arkansas, on February 26, 1865. Returning to Springfield, Hofferkamp on October 26, 1865, had married Rachael Burns. To the couple were born four children—three sons and one daughter. From 1870 until 1888 Hofferkamp had run a livery stable, but suffering from rheumatism he had retired in the latter year, filing a claim for disabilities incurred during the Civil War. As a disabled veteran, Hofferkamp was a popular choice as custodian, and he relieved Oldroyd of his duties on April 15 [1893].<sup>32</sup>

26. Francis Orlando Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, December 1988 draft, vol. XI: Furnishings (Denver: National Park Service Denver Service Center, 1988), Wallpaper 31.

27. Krupka, XI: Furnishings:Plunder 17.

28. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 45.

29. Bearss, 45.

30. Bearss, 47.

31. Bearss, 51–52.

32. Bearss, 51–52.

Hofferkamp's first year as custodian saw extensive repairs and interior redecoration of the Lincoln Home as well as a campaign to secure donation of "authentic relics, valuable for their association with Mr. Lincoln's past life," to replace Oldroyd's collection. The rest of his tenure was marked by typical maintenance work on the house.<sup>33</sup>

#### 1897-1924 Edwards-Brown Family

In June 1897, bookkeeper Albert Stevenson Edwards (1839-1915), a nephew of Mary Lincoln, was appointed as custodian. Albert was the son of Elizabeth Porter Todd Edwards and Ninian Wirt Edwards. The Lincolns had been married in the Parlor of his parents' house when he was a small child and Mary Lincoln had come to live with his mother later in her life. In 1863, Albert married Josephine E. "Josie" Remann (1842-1918). Josie had lived at the other end of the block from the Lincolns. Lincoln would often carry her around on his shoulders and treated her like the daughter he never had.<sup>34</sup> Edwards moved into the Lincoln Homestead accompanied by their adult daughters Georgia Hortense Edwards (1865-1922) and Mary Edwards "Mamie" Brown (1866-1958), and Mamie's son, Remann A. Brown (1888-1971).<sup>35</sup>

Charles F. Wills' account of his February 1890 visit to the Lincoln Home—then occupied by Osborn Oldroyd—lists a "Miss Edwards" as his tour guide; Krupka believed that this was Mamie Edwards Brown, but she was married by 1888, meaning that this may have been Georgia H. Edwards.<sup>36</sup> This suggests that the family had a connection with interpreting the Lincoln Home several years before Albert S. Edwards was appointed custodian. By the time of the 1900 census, Georgia was working as a "Teacher of Whist"—a popular card game—and the household also included Florence Tilley, a servant. In 1903, Remann A. Brown was appointed a cadet at the United States Military Academy.

William Howard Taft became the first president to visit the Lincoln Home while in office, coming to the house on February 12, 1911, what would have been Lincoln's 102nd birthday. Taft's last official act before the trip to Springfield was to sign a bill appointing a Lincoln Memorial Commission "to determine a proper memorial in Washington to the memory of Lincoln." This Commission would oversee the construction of the Lincoln Memorial (1914-1922, Henry Bacon, architect, Daniel Chester French, sculptor) on the National Mall. The following account of Taft's visit to Springfield appeared in syndicated newspapers:

The President came to Springfield... to place a wreath on the tomb of Abraham Lincoln and to pay a tribute to the memory of "the great emancipator."

"He was the greatest citizen of your state," said the President, "and, with Washington, the greatest citizen of the United States."

From the [Illinois State] capitol the president was driven in an automobile to the old Lincoln home, where he spent nearly an hour going over the historical collection maintained by the government. Next the President proceeded to the Lincoln tomb where with head bared he reverently placed a wreath on the sarcophagus. From 4 to 6 p. m. the President held a reception at the Governor's mansion.<sup>37</sup>

Albert S. Edwards died in the house in 1915. He was succeeded as custodian by his wife, Josephine E. Reman Edwards, who served until her death in 1918. The Edwards' daughter, Mamie Edwards Brown, was appointed custodian following Josephine's death. Georgia H. Edwards lived in the house until her death in 1922. Mamie Edwards Brown resigned in 1924, stating that the flood of visitors had become too much for her to keep up with.

33. Bearss, 52.

34. Phillip B. Kunhardt Jr., Phillip B. Kunhardt III, and Peter W. Kunhardt, *Lincoln: An Illustrated Biography* (New York: Knopf Doubleday, 1994), 92.

35. "Albert S. Edwards. December 15, 1839. December 20, 1915," *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* 8, no. 4 (January 1916), <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40194471?seq=1>.

36. Francis Orlando Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, December 1988 draft, vol. 2 (Denver: National Park Service Denver Service Center, 1988), Lighting Systems 4-5.

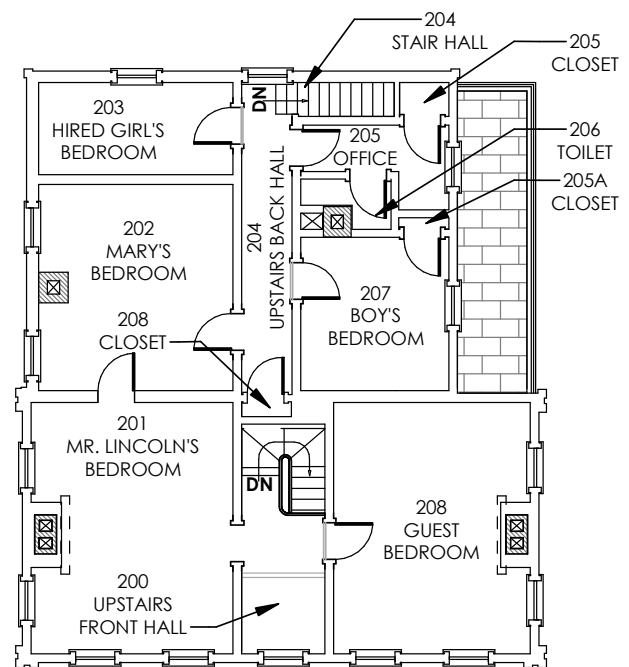
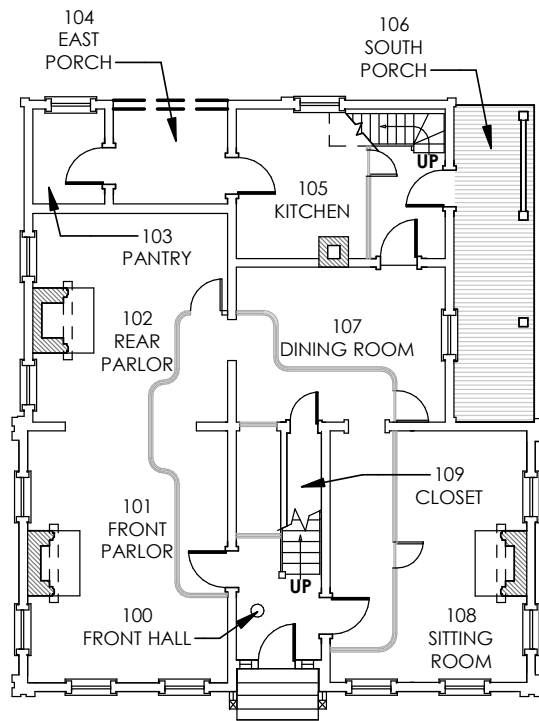
37. "Taft Sees Tariff Walls Disappear," *Indianapolis News*, February 13, 1911.

**1924-1953 Virginia Stuart Brown**

At Mamie Edwards Brown's retirement, more than 300 people applied for the position of custodian.<sup>38</sup> Virginia Stuart Brown (1893-1970), no relation to Mamie Edwards Brown, was selected and was appointed custodian in 1924.<sup>39</sup> Born in Springfield, Brown was the great-granddaughter of Lincoln's first law partner, John Stuart, and was working as a commercial artist in Chicago at the time of her appointment in 1924. "One of the major factors in Virginia Brown's selection was that, like the Edwards family, she owned a significant collection of Lincoln-related items for display in the home."<sup>40</sup>

<sup>40</sup> Brown used her skills as an artist to illustrate guidebooks for tourists, including *Lincoln in Springfield* (1925) and *Through Lincoln's Door* (1952).

At the time of the 1930 census, Virginia Brown was living in the house with her mother, Mrs. Edward Brown. By 1940, she was living in the house with one lodger, Margaret Stiles, a 23-year-old stenographer. Brown moved out of the house in 1952 and served as custodian through May 1953. Brown and Richard S. Hagen appear to have differed on many items in planning for and implementing the 1952-1955 restoration. Brown later moved to Scottsdale, Arizona, where she remained until her death in 1970.<sup>41</sup> Subsequent custodians did not live in the house.



38. "The Lincoln Home after the Lincolns (1861-1953) | SangamonLink," accessed December 30, 2021, <https://sangamoncountyhistory.org/wp/?p=10759>.

39. Virginia Stuart Brown, *Through Lincoln's Door* (Springfield, IL: Li-Co Art & Letter Service, 1952), 76.

40. "The Lincoln Home after the Lincolns (1861-1953) | SangamonLink."

41. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 94.

# Chronology of Construction & Alterations

## Abbreviated Timeline of Construction & Alterations

1839	Rev. Charles Dresser purchases Lot 8 in Block 10 of Elijah Iles Addition to Springfield and builds a one-and-one-half-story frame cottage (Dresser Cottage) on the lot.
1846	The Lincolns' first remodeling including relocation of east wing, construction of north addition, and application of the first brown exterior color scheme.
1849-1850	Second Lincoln remodeling: Lincoln installs heating stoves in place of fireplaces in rooms 101, 102, and 108 (floor plans with room numbers can be found on p.49); front brick retaining wall built and lower front walkway paved.
1855-1856	Lincolns hire Hannon & Ragsdale to design and build a major remodeling of the house. A second floor is added to the west wing in 1855 and to the east wing in 1856. First floor interior is partially reconfigured and redecorated.
ca.1867-1869	East Kitchen addition built.
1952-1955	State of Illinois completes first restoration of Lincoln Home to interpret the period of 1860 under direction of Richard S. Hagen. East Kitchen addition demolished.
1987-1988	NPS completes comprehensive restoration of the house to interpret the period 1860-1861.

### Construction of Dresser Cottage (1839-1840)

The Dresser Cottage was built between May and December 1839. The house may have been designed by Rev. Charles Dresser's brother, architect and builder Henry Dresser (1813-1898). John Eaton and his son Page Eaton are reported to have worked as carpenters on the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839. Further discussion of Henry Dresser and Page Eaton can be found in section 1A: Historical Background and Context. Asher Benjamin's *Practice of Architecture* (1833), a carpenter's guide used throughout the country from the 1830s into the 1850s, was the source for the door surround, mantels, and other details of the Dresser Cottage.

No depictions of the house dating from before 1860 are known to exist, although earlier views are rumored to have once existed. The appearance of the house as built in 1839 is understood primarily through assessment of its physical fabric, through documentary evidence of alterations made after

1844, and through similar houses of the period. The following sources of evidence are known for the house's original configuration.

#### 1850-1855 Photographs

A. L. Bowen, writing in 1925, suggests that photographs and "pictures" dating from after the construction of the brick retaining wall in 1850 but before the extension of the second floor of the west wing in 1855 had once existed.

Evidence seems conclusive that the original house was a story and a half, though photographs said to have been taken in an early day show no windows above the first floor. . . Still further evidence is authentic. Some of the pictures of the story and a half cottage show the yard banked by a brick wall. . . The photographs referred to, showing a story and a half house and brick retaining wall, must have been taken after 1850.<sup>42</sup>

42. Krupka, Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1), 1988, 2:Artwork in the Home 11.



Writing in 1988, Krupka reports, “No such early photographs. . . have ever been discovered, although it seems obvious that Bowen had either seen these prior to the publication of this (1925) article, or, he had spoken with individuals who remembered having seen them.”<sup>43</sup> To date, these photographs have not been discovered.<sup>44</sup>

#### Renderings & Models

Several renderings and models of the house’s pre-1855 appearance and/or chronology of development were prepared after 1860, primarily during the twentieth century. The accuracy of these representations was limited by information available at the time they were prepared.

#### *ca. 1865-1872 Rosenthal/Hughes Lithograph*

A photographic copy of a lithograph in the collection of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum (ALPLM Call Number AV-LP288) is purported to show the Dresser Cottage as it appeared at the time of Lincoln’s purchase in 1844. The image is captioned “Hon. Abraham Lincoln’s Residence, Springfield, Illinois.” The right-hand corner includes “L. N. Rosenthal. Phila.” The left-hand corner includes “Photographed by Hughes.”

Louis N. Rosenthal was a lithographer active in Philadelphia from at least 1855 until 1872, when his printing house was damaged by fire; he does not appear in directories for 1874 or following years.<sup>45</sup> Rosenthal produced many lithographs of Civil War battles as well a memorial portrait of Lincoln that was probably created shortly after his assassination.<sup>46</sup> This lithograph purported to show an earlier phase of the Lincoln Home may have been created in the 1860s or early-1870s. The “Photographed by Hughes” label may indicate that the lithograph was based on a photograph, a common approach in the 1860s.<sup>47</sup> A copy of this

lithograph is listed in the 1914 auction catalogue of the Lincoln collection of William H. Lambert of Philadelphia, with the following description: “583.—Hon. Abraham Lincoln’s Residence, Springfield, Ill. Photographed by Hughes. Lithographed and published by L. N. Rosenthal, Phila. Obl. 4to. \*Very rare, showing a one-story building entirely different from other views.”<sup>48</sup> This description confirms that the view of a one-story house was created by 1914.<sup>49</sup>

Regardless of the age of this image, the house depicted has little resemblance to the Dresser Cottage or the Lincoln Home at any point in its history. Floyd Mansberger provides the following assessment of the image:

This image has little credibility in regards to its potential depiction of the earlier cottage. It appears to represent a non-local artist’s attempt to simply remove the upper story of one of the contemporary images of the two-story Lincoln Home, and may have been created shortly after Lincoln’s assassination, during a period of increased interest in memorabilia related to the martyred President’s life. Many aspects of the drawing are simply incorrect, including its single story interpretation, the presence of exterior chimneys, the two-panel entrance door, and an overly large and rambling rear Kitchen wing. About the only aspect of the image that has some credence is its positioning on the lot, and the five-bay façade. The foreground detail is reminiscent of other lithographic and photographic imagery produced during the

43. Krupka, 2:Artwork in the Home 13.

44. Floyd Mansberger has suggested that Bowen and Krupka may be referring to the Rosenthal/Hughes lithograph, which some sources have called a “photograph.”

45. “Fires,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 16, 1872.

46. “[Rosenthal Portrait of Lincoln.] | Library of Congress,” accessed October 10, 2022, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/lprbscm.scm0664/>.

47. A review of Springfield city directories for 1859, 1860, 1863, 1864, 1866, and 1869 did not reveal any photographers named Hughes. This may have been a travelling photographer who visited Springfield to photograph sites of interest.

48. Library of the Late Major William H. Lambert of Philadelphia: Part V: Lincolniana: Third Section: The Portrait Collection, to Be Sold April 30, 1914 (New York: Metropolitan Art Association, 1914), <https://archive.org/details/libraryoflatemaj00ande/page/477/mode/1up>.

49. The image’s quality and character suggest that it might have been retouched in the early twentieth century using the same photographic retouching and clip-art techniques used to add entourage to postcards during this period. The human figures and coach in the foreground are shown at roughly half the scale that they should be when compared with other elements; these distortions are often seen in retouched postcards of the early twentieth century.

1860s. This may represent the image discussed by Krupka (1987), but not located by him during his research on the Lincoln Home.<sup>50</sup>

Other inaccuracies in the image are two-over-two windows (never present on the Lincoln Home but common in the region from the 1860s-1890s) and the door surround (both its appearance and its placement flush with the façade).

This image is unlikely to reflect the appearance of the Dresser Cottage or the Lincoln Home at any point during its history.

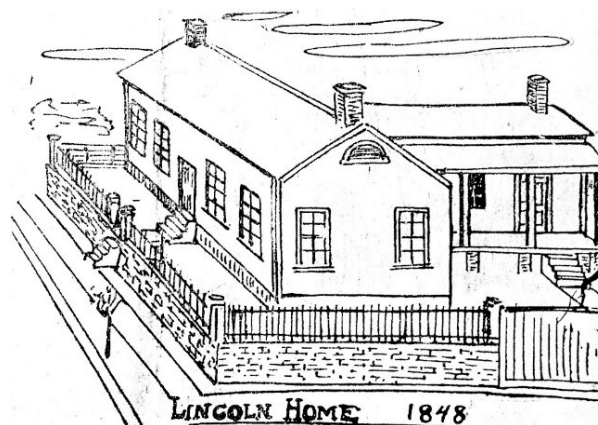


**Figure B.1.** “Hon. Abraham Lincoln’s Residence, Springfield, Ill. Photographed by Hughes. Lithographed and published by L. N. Rosenthal, Phila.” published, ca. 1865-1872. This image appears to be entirely speculative. The house depicted has little resemblance to the Dresser Cottage or the Lincoln Home at any point in its history. Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.

#### 1906 Alfred V. Arnold Sketch

On February 12, 1906—Lincoln’s birthday—the *Springfield Evening News* published a sketch of the Lincoln Home “as it appeared in 1848 before it was remodeled by being raised a story.”<sup>51</sup> [Figure B.2] The article’s subtitle called it a “Picture of the Historic House as It Appeared Over Fifty Years Ago and Before Mrs. Lincoln Had the Second Story Added.” The caption reports that the sketch was contributed by “A. V. Arnold.” Alfred Van Dyke Arnold (1842-1919) was the son of Charles E. Arnold and Louisa Van Dyke Arnold. Charles E. Arnold owned the house at the southeast corner of

Eighth and Jackson Streets from 1849 to 1878 and may have rented the house as early as 1847.<sup>52</sup>



**Figure B.2.** Alfred Van Dyke Arnold’s 1906 sketch of Lincoln Home as he remembered it in 1848. This does not appear to be an accurate depiction of the house’s appearance. Source: “How Lincoln’s Home Looked Before It Was Remodeled,” *Springfield Evening News*, February 12, 1906, sec. 2. Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.

According to the caption, “the picture by Mr. Arnold, whose home was just across the street is a very faithful reproduction of it [the Lincoln Home] in the earlier years when in Mr. Lincoln’s moderate circumstances it was considered a very comfortable and commodious cottage.”<sup>53</sup> This may be an overstatement of the sketch’s accuracy. Alfred V. Arnold would have been five or six years old in 1848. He was certainly familiar with the appearance of the Lincoln Home. Arnold was one year older than Robert Todd Lincoln and was a playmate of the Lincolns’ sons.<sup>54</sup> Most of the Arnold House’s windows faced the south side of the Lincoln Home across Jackson Street.

The house is shown in simplified perspective from an elevated position in the southeast part of the intersection of Eighth and Jackson Streets. Arnold depicts it as a one-story cottage rather than a one-and-one-half story cottage. He shows a five-bay façade with a door in the center bay and windows in the outer bays. The south gable end is divided

50. Floyd Mansberger, *The House That Abe Bought”: The Lincoln Family’s Early Residence. The Reconstruction of Charles Dresser’s 1839 Cottage, Springfield, Illinois. (Draft)* (Springfield, IL: Fever River Research, 2021).  
51. “How Lincoln’s Home Looked Before It Was Remodeled,” *Springfield Evening News*, February 12, 1906, sec. 2.

52. *Historic Structure Report: Charles E. Arnold House (HS-20), Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield, Illinois* (Springfield, IL: Fischer-Winosky Architects Inc., 1994), 2.7-2.9, <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/DownloadFile/474639>.  
53. *Lincoln Home National Historic Site Historic Structure Report, Draft*, vol. 1 (Springfield, IL: Ferry & Henderson Architects Inc., 1984), 86-87.  
54. “Swimming Pupil of Lincoln Passes,” *The Los Angeles Times*, June 1, 1919.

into three bays, with windows in the outer bays and a semicircular arched louvered vent in the south gable directly in front of the chimney. The south elevation of the east wing is shown with a full-length porch sheltering a door to the east and a window to the west. These features are consistent with the known configuration of the south elevation of the east wing prior to 1856, when the window was lengthened down to floor level. The porch is depicted with three bays and a low-sloped roof. Arnold shows a chimney centered on the east gable of the east wing; this appears to be consistent with current understanding of the east wing's early configuration.

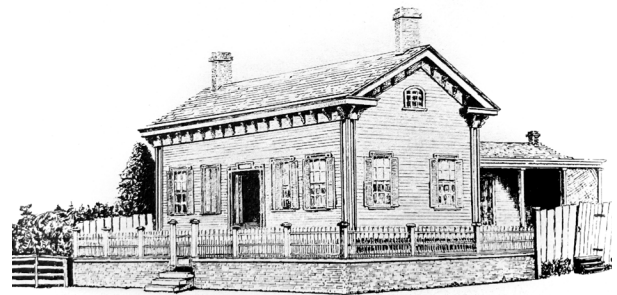
The character of the sketch suggests that Arnold may have had limited experience drawing buildings. Some inaccuracies or simplifications may reflect the fading memory of the house 50 years after the 1855-1856 remodeling, while others may reflect Arnold's limitations as an artist. The windows are depicted as four-over-four rather than the six-over-six sash that have always been present. The size, shape, and spacing of the window and door openings are somewhat distorted. The louvered attic vents shown by Arnold are inconsistent with the garret bedrooms known to have been present from 1839 to 1855, suggesting that this may not be an accurate depiction of this part of the building. Corner boards and cornices are heavily simplified in the sketch.

In addition to distortions or simplifications due to the artist's skills and experience, the sketch includes several elements that call into question its accuracy. The east wing is shown set back near its position prior to 1846, when it was shifted six feet to the south. The sketch also clearly depicts the brick retaining wall and the wood picket fence atop it along both Eighth and Jackson Streets and the board fence extending east from the end of the retaining wall along Jackson Street. The wall and fence were built along Eighth Street in 1850 and were extended along Jackson Street in June 1855, at which time the board fence was also built to the east.<sup>55</sup> The inclusion of these later features suggests that the sketch was a composite of various features as recalled by Arnold from his childhood rather than an accurate depiction of the house in 1848.

For these reasons, the Arnold sketch cannot be taken as definitive evidence of the house's appearance.

#### 1952 Lorant Rendering

Stefan Lorant's 1952 book *Lincoln: A Picture Story of His Life* includes a perspective rendering intended to depict the house as it appeared in 1844.<sup>56</sup> This rendering appears to have been based on the 1860 Whipple photograph of the house, possibly being traced from it. Distortions to the south end of the rail fence at the front of the Carrigan lot and at the west end of the Lincolns' board fence along Jackson Street are visible in this photograph and are reproduced in the rendering. The artist appears to have copied or traced portions of the house, making adjustments based on written descriptions of its earlier configuration.



**Figure B.3.** Perspective (1952) rendering showing “what the house looked like when Lincoln bought it in 1844.” This rendering includes several inaccuracies. It appears to be based on the 1860 Whipple photograph [Figure B.10.]. Note the distortions of the Carrigan fence at left and Lincoln board fence at center right. LIHO Photo ID: B1F69P5

The rendering is a fairly accurate depiction of the west wing in many respects, but inaccuracies include an exaggerated distance between the top of the first-floor windows and the base of the cornice, depiction of the 1855 bracketed Italianate cornice, and the inclusion of a small arched window in front of the chimney in the south gable. This window might have been inspired by the arched vent in the 1906 Arnold sketch. The depiction of the south elevation of the east wing appears to be fairly accurate, but it shows the roof of this wing as much lower than it appears to have been. A chimney is shown centered on the east gable of the east wing. Further inaccuracies are depictions of the brick retaining wall and the wood picket fence atop it along both Eighth and Jackson Streets and

55. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 16, 19.

56. Stefan Lorant, *Lincoln: A Picture Story of His Life* (New York: Harper, 1952), 50.

the board fence extending east from the end of the retaining wall along Jackson Street. The wall and fence were built along Eighth Street in 1850 and were extended along Jackson Street in June 1855, at which time the board fence was also built to the east.<sup>57</sup>

#### *1955 Xavier C. Meyer Rendering*

In 1955, Richard S. Hagen published an article on the history, evolution, and recent restoration of the Lincoln Home. This included a rendering by Xavier C. Meyer, a landscape architect with the Illinois Division of Parks and Memorials, showing then-current beliefs about the appearance of the house as built in 1839.<sup>58</sup> This rendering was based in part on Hagen's notes from investigations between 1950-1952 and during the 1952-1955 restoration.

During the structural work careful notes were made of all evidence bearing upon physical changes in the house, with the particular aim of deriving information for as accurate a sketch as possible of the house as it appeared when Lincoln purchased it in 1844, five years after its erection.<sup>59</sup>



**Figure B.4.** Xavier C. Meyer, "An Artist's Conception of the Lincoln Home in 1844," 1955. This rendering includes some more accurate features, but repeats many of the distortions of prior renderings. Source: Courtesy of the Illinois State Historical Society.

Hagen provides the following description of the rendering in his 1955 article:

57. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 16, 19.
58. Xavier Charles Meyer (1907-1977) was born in Nashville, Illinois. In 1940, Meyer worked as a landscape architect for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the development of what is now Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site in Menard County, Illinois.
59. Richard S. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* 48, no. 1 (Spring 1955): 9.

The drawing of the 1839 house shows the back part a simple flat-roofed wing, including the south porch, since the basement entrance through this porch is of the original construction. The decorative brackets on the cornice and the pilasters at the corners do not appear, and the broken cornice of 1856 has been simplified, although the latter is a typical expression of the Greek Revival tradition in the West during the 1840's. The brackets and pilasters are features which did not appear until later, and which mark the 1856 house as a transitional from its earlier and purer Greek Revival to the later style, sometimes called the Parvenue.<sup>60</sup>

Many of these beliefs are contradicted by evidence found in subsequent investigations and during the 1987-1988 restoration. The following issues have been noted:

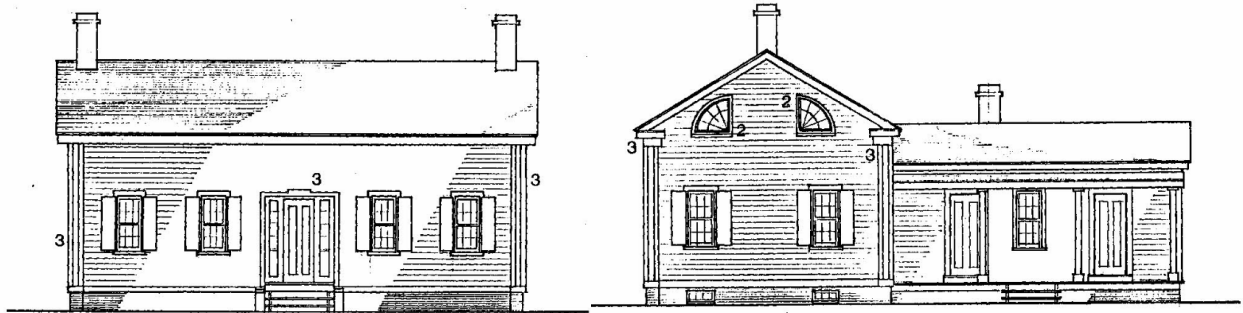
- The east wing was moved south and expanded by an addition to the north during the Lincolns' 1846 remodeling. Hagen believed that the 1846 configuration dated from 1839.
- The 1839 east wing was not "flat-roofed" as stated by Hagen and shown by Meyer, it had a gabled roof with a garret, similar to the west wing, that survived until 1856.
- The corner pilasters predate the raising of the second floor in 1855. If they were not part of the house's construction in 1839, they may have been added during the 1846 or 1849-1850 remodelings.
- The height of the second-floor knee walls is exaggerated in the rendering.

Hagen's description of the house's stylistic transition reflects contemporary popular attitudes about American architectural history. The Greek Revival was regarded as an extension of "Colonial architecture"—an amorphous category that could embrace Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, and any other style vaguely Classical in derivation. Styles that were popular from the 1840s through the 1890s, particularly the Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, and Queen Anne style, were labeled as "Victorian," another catch-all term. Hagen's use of "Parvenue"—a term for a woman

60. Hagen, 12-13.

who is a parvenu, someone who has recently or suddenly risen to an unaccustomed position of wealth or power and lacks the appropriate prestige, dignity, or manners—reflects a common 1950s ieu of American architecture of 1840-1900 period.

Hagen's description and Meyer's drawing remained standard pieces of the interpretation of the house's history for more than 30 years and the drawing has appeared in books about the Lincolns printed as recently as 2015.



**Figure B.5.** Ferry & Henderson, west and south elevations of Dresser Cottage in 1839. The quarter-circle windows shown in the south gable were inspired by other buildings in the Springfield area. Drawings in the 1984 HSR misrepresent the scale of many elements and include inaccuracies based on evidence now available. Source: Ferry & Henderson Architects Inc., Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Historic Structure Report, Architecture Data Section, Vol II (incomplete draft February 20, 1984), 134-135.

#### *1984 Ferry & Henderson HSR Physical Configuration Drawings*

The 1984 draft HSR prepared by Ferry & Henderson includes a series of plan and elevation drawings depicting the chronology of development of the Lincoln Home. These present “the configurations at four time periods – 1839, the original structure; by 1844, the house when the Lincoln Family moved in; 1855, the second floor addition to the western portion of the house; and 1856, the second floor addition to the eastern portion of the house – based on the available information and analyses.”<sup>61</sup>

A confusion about the evolution of the east wing resulted in drawings for the 1839 and 1844 periods that include major inaccuracies based on evidence now available. In 1984, it was assumed that the 1846 northeast addition dated from 1839 and that the east wing as built in 1839 and relocated in 1846 was an addition built sometime before 1844. This creates significant inaccuracies in the drawings. For the 1839 period, the 1846 northeast addition is depicted with room 102 as a Kitchen, room 103 as a store-room, and room 104 (the east porch) as a wood storage room. The configuration of these

rooms was based on their existing layout. A very wide porch is shown across the south side of this wing. The second-floor gable-end windows in the west wing are shown as half-fan or half-semi-circular windows. Windows of this type were used in gable end walls of houses in the region during this period; however, the scale of the windows shown on the elevations is atypical.

For the 1844 period, the east wing is shown as relocated and expanded in 1846, but also with room 102 as a Back Parlor, which did not occur until 1855-1856. The east porch as built in 1846 is shown as an enclosed wood storage room.

For the 1855 and 1856 periods, the drawings are largely consistent with current evidence.

#### *1986 Brad McCormick HABS Chronology Drawings*

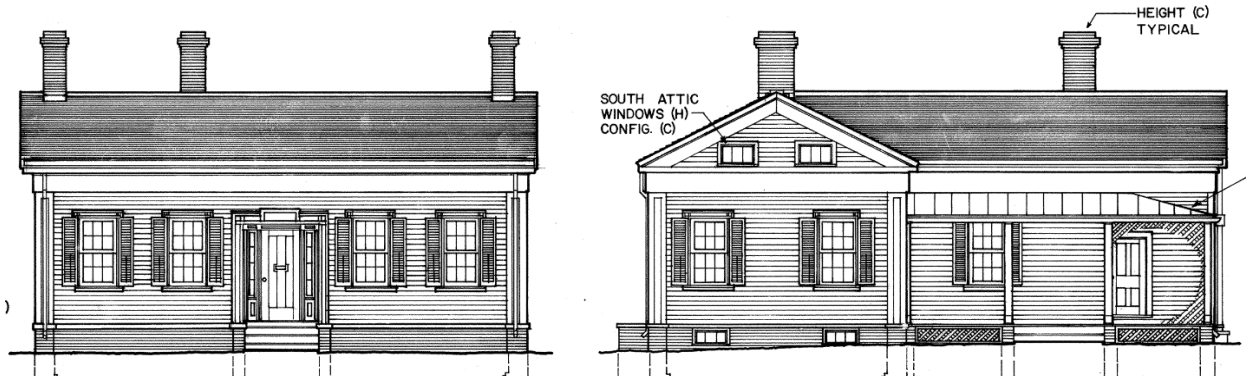
In 1986, Brad McCormick prepared a set of drawings titled “Lincoln Home Chronology Drawings: 1839-1986” for the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS Survey No. IL-1123-K). McCormick identifies some elements as “conjectural,” “known historic,” or “not historic.” These drawings reflect knowledge and beliefs about the evolution of the house after the completion of the 1984 HSR draft but before the extensive investigation that took place during

61. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:121.

the 1987-1988 restoration. The periods shown are 1839-1847, 1848-1854, 1855-1867, 1868-1890, 1890-1953, and 1954-1986. There are some discrepancies between these periods and current understanding of the house's evolution.

The 1839-1847 period drawings document the Dresser Cottage as built in 1839 and purchased by Lincoln in 1844. These drawings are largely consistent with the present understanding of the house's appearance between 1839 and the Lincolns' 1846 remodeling except for the following items:

- The back staircase is now understood to date from the 1846 remodeling; the east wing garret was originally accessed by a "stairlet" connecting from the north winder of the main staircase.
- The windows on the north elevation are believed to have been actual windows and were not infilled to form blind windows until 1855-1856.
- The north porch may not have been present.



**Figure B.6.** Brad McCormick, west and south elevations of Dresser Cottage in 1839, Historic American Buildings Survey, 1986. McCormick's chronology drawings were the most accurate depictions created up to that time. They reflect knowledge and beliefs about the evolution of the house after the completion of the 1984 HSR draft but before the extensive investigation that took place during the 1987-1988 restoration.

The 1848-1854 period drawings document the Lincoln Cottage as it existed from the 1846 remodeling until the 1855-1856 remodeling. These drawings are largely consistent with the present understanding of the house's appearance during this period except for the following items:

- The relocation of the east wing and northeast addition date from 1846 and not 1848-1850.
- The windows on the north elevation are believed to have been actual windows and were not infilled to form blind windows until 1855-1856.

The 1855-1867 period drawings document the Lincoln Home as it existed from the completion of the 1855-1856 remodeling until the addition of the east Kitchen in the late-1860s. These drawings are largely consistent with the present understanding

of the house's appearance during this period except for the following items:

- The door between rooms 207 and 208 (labeled as 206 and 207 on the drawing) is believed to have been added between 1865 and 1887.

The 1868-1890 period drawings document the Lincoln Family Home as it existed from the completion of the 1855-1856 remodeling until the addition of the east Kitchen in the late-1860s. These drawings are largely consistent with the present understanding of the house's appearance during this period except for the following items:

- The window in the north wall of room 203 appears to have been added sometime between 1889 and 1925.

The 1890-1953 period drawings document the Lincoln Homestead as it existed from the addition of the north porch in 1890 until the 1952-1955 restoration. These drawings are largely consistent with the present understanding of the house's appearance during this period except for the following items:

- Sometime between 1922 and 1927, louvered attic vents were added to the north and south gables of the west wing.

The 1954-1986 period drawings document the Lincoln Home as it existed from the completion of the 1952-1955 restoration until the 1987-1988 restoration. These drawings are consistent with the present understanding of the house's appearance during this period.

#### *1996 NPS Models Displayed in Dean House*

An exhibit installed in the Dean House in 1996 includes three models depicting the Lincoln Home at three stages of development: as purchased by the Lincolns in 1844, as remodeled by the Lincolns in 1846, and as remodeled by the Lincolns in 1856-1857. These models are accompanied by interpretive panels including isometric cutaway plan views of the first and second floor. These models and drawings were created based on information available in 1996 but include some conjectural features. They appear to have been based on the 1986 McCormick HABS drawings, with updates informed by discoveries made during the 1987-1988 restoration.

#### **Original Configuration**

As built in 1839, the Dresser Cottage was one-and-one-half stories in height and T-shaped in plan. The side-gabled west (front) wing comprised the top bar of the "T" and the east (rear) wing comprised the vertical bar. The cottage contained three rooms on each floor plus a central stair hall. At the first-floor level, the west wing contained a central Front Hall (room 100) flanked by a Parlor (room 101) to the north and a Sitting Room or Dining Room (room 108) to the south. A recessed exterior vestibule opened onto the Front Hall, which was lit by the sidelights of the front door. A stair rose eastward along the south wall before winding along the east and north walls. The Parlor and Sitting Room each had four windows, two each in the west façade and another two flanking the fireplaces centered on the end walls. The east wing

consisted of a single large Kitchen (room 105/107) at the first-floor level. The north and south walls of the Kitchen each contained a window and a door. A large cooking fireplace is believed to have been centered on the east gable end wall. The west wall contained three doors, one leading to the Sitting Room, one to the Front Hall, and one leading to a stair down to an unfinished cellar (room 001) below the west wing. The cellar may have also been accessed by an exterior stair beneath the floor of the south porch.<sup>62</sup>

The upper half-story or garret was nestled beneath the roof. While this has been sometimes described as an open loft, it appears to have contained three separate sleeping rooms opening off the center stair hall. The east wing garret had a lower floor level than that of the west wing and was accessed by a small "stairlet" rising from the winder steps of the main staircase. This space is believed to have been lighted by a window in the east gable. It was likely occupied by a servant and/or used for storage. The second floor of the west wing contained the Upstairs Front Hall (room 200) and north and south bedrooms (rooms 201 and 208). The bedrooms appear to have been illuminated by small windows flanking the chimneys centered on the end walls. These chimneys contained thimbles for venting cast iron stoves used for heating the bedchambers. The rooms of this wing had knee walls 2'-1" high along the east and west and a low, sloped ceiling following the underside of the original roof. A narrow strip of flat ceiling 3'-0" wide was centered below the ridge. Unlike some other houses of the period, the low areas at the east and west sides of these rooms do not appear to have been partitioned into small side attics.

62. Evidence of this stair may survive within the crawlspace.



## Historic Period Alterations (1844-1865)

The Lincoln Home underwent several alterations during the Lincolns' ownership. These alterations resulted in the house as it appeared in 1860 during Lincoln's presidential campaign.

### 1846 Remodeling (Rear Wing)

The Lincolns remodeled and enlarged the house's rear wing in 1846. Earlier researchers dated this project to around 1848 or associated it with the work done in 1849-1850. The identities of the craftspeople who carried out this remodeling are not known at this time.

At this time, carpenters detached the east wing and moved it south 5'-6" feet to make space for an addition along its north side. The piers that had defined the south face of the south porch became part of the new south foundation wall of the east wing. Writing in 1987, Mansberger provides the following description:



**Figure B.7.** West and south elevations of model (1996) depicting the Dresser Cottage as purchased by the Lincolns in 1844. To date, these are the most accurate depictions of the house's original configuration, although they include some conjectural features that may be inaccurate. Source: RATIO Architects, 2021.

Apparently, the entire original 1 ½-story section of the house was separated from the main block of the house by sawing the tenons from the four mortise-and-tenon joints holding it together. Once this was accomplished, the entire Kitchen frame was skidded 5-1/2 feet to the south. After this had been accomplished, new foundations were laid and the old Kitchen frame was incorporated into the much larger back addition. . . The original (north and south) brick foundation walls, remnants of which survive in the crawlspace, were removed to grade and the salvaged brick probably reused in the construction work.<sup>63</sup>

The east wing appears to have been maintained largely as it had been built in 1839. The first floor remained a large Kitchen (room 105/107) and the garret (room 204/205/206/207) appears to have remained a sleeping room and storage space. Relocation of the east wing rendered the original "stairlet" from the front stair unusable and it was walled over. A new stair rising from the Kitchen to the garret was built in the southeast corner of the east wing. The east wing's south porch was relocated or rebuilt at this time. The original interior cellar stair was removed, and the space was floored over to form a closet (room 109). If an exterior stair was present beneath the original south porch, it was covered over by the relocation of the east wing. A new cellar access was created by building a stair beneath the relocated south porch, accessed via a trapdoor in the porch floor. The south porch was rebuilt at the east wing's new location and was expanded slightly in its width to match the line of the south wall of the west wing.

The new addition was a one-story lean-to along the north side of the relocated east wing. Most of this addition was occupied by a bedroom (room 102) used by Abraham and Mary Lincoln. This room, with its own fireplace and opening onto the Parlor and Kitchen, also appears to have been used as a nursery. One impetus for the construction of this bedroom may have been the low height of the sloped ceilings in the upstairs bedrooms; Lincoln could only stand upright in the center portions of the upstairs rooms. The addition of the new

63. Floyd Mansberger, *Archaeological Investigations at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield, Illinois* (DeKalb, IL: Northern Illinois University, 1987), 112, 114, <http://illinoisarchaeology.com/NPS/Lincoln%20Home.pdf>.



first-floor bedroom left three upstairs bedrooms. The east end of the addition included an incised East Porch (room 104) and a Pantry (room 103) accessed from the porch. Windows along the north elevation featured paneled casings matching those of the west wing. The first well was capped and was covered over by the construction of the Pantry. A drainage tile of hand-coiled stoneware was laid along the north foundation wall. When this remodeling was nearing completion, painters applied the first coats of the house's "Quaker brown" exterior paint scheme. The assessed value of improvements to the property increased \$200 (an increase of 13.4%) as a result of this remodeling.

#### **1849-1850 Remodeling (Stoves, Retaining Wall and Fence, possibly Pilasters)**

The Lincoln family lived in Washington, DC, from November 1847 to October 1848, while Lincoln served in the thirtieth Congress. The family returned to Springfield on October 10, 1848, and Cornelius Ludlum's one-year lease of the house expired on November 1. The Lincolns appear to have remodeled the house in 1849 and 1850. On April 23, 1849, John E. Roll submitted a bill for \$26.60 for whitewashing four ceilings and the Kitchen, laying a hearth, and filling up and plastering fireplaces. Lincoln paid part of Roll's bill by giving him six walnut doors. It is not known whether these doors came from the house or from another source. Roll whitewashed two rooms on March 30, 1850, at a cost of \$2.00.<sup>64</sup> In June 1850, Lincoln hired Springfield brick contractor Nathaniel Hay to build a brick retaining wall and fence along the front of the lot.<sup>65</sup>

Other alterations may have been made around this time. If the paneled pilasters on the corners of the house were not in place from the time of construction in 1839, they may have been added at this time, possibly in conjunction with the improvements to the front of the lot in the summer of 1850. These pilasters are consistent with a mid-to-late 1840s date in the local architectural context. Photographs of the house taken between 1860 and ca.1902 show a clear and consistent horizontal joint running across these pilasters at the second-

floor line; the character of this joint suggests that the pilasters were in place before the second floor was raised in 1855.<sup>66</sup>

#### **Fire (1854-1855)**

Emelie Todd, Mary Lincoln's eighteen-year-old sister, came to Springfield in December 1854 to visit her four older sisters, remaining until the late spring of 1855. The following account of the long visit was related by her daughter, Katherine Helm:

It was in December when I arrived, and Springfield was in the midst of a whirl of gaiety; parties and balls followed each other in quick succession; and Sister Mary was very gay that winter. . . Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln went to a large party at the Ridgleys leaving everything apparently secure at home with a maid to watch the children. The party was very delightful, but Mary grew restless and anxious, and finally said, "Mr. Lincoln, we must go home." (Mary never called her husband by his first name, Abraham or Abr'am, but always formally "Mr. Lincoln". I never heard her speak to him in any other way except in talking to her children, when she would say, "Father said" thus and so.) "We must go home, Mr. Lincoln," she repeated, but he was reluctant and suggested that they stay a while longer. She insisted, however, that she must go and told him she would get someone to take her home that he might stay and enjoy himself. With his unfailing kindness, he said, "I will take you home. We will find everything all right and then we can come back and enjoy the rest of the evening." They did not come back, however, as they found the house on fire, the maid fast asleep, and the children's lives in danger. Mr. Lincoln said he was glad he had a wife who could 'sniff fire a quarter of a mile away.<sup>67</sup>

64. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 19; Bearss, Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site, 14–16.

65. Bearss, Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site, 16.

66. The pilaster frame boards were replaced with boards with staggered joints between c.1902 and c.1920. The pilaster boards were removed and reinstalled during the 1987-1988 restoration, maintaining the staggered joints in the frame boards. Some of the panel boards might predate the early-20th century replacement (they retain the joints at the second-floor line) and could be evaluated in the future to compare wood species at the first- and second-floor sections; if the first-floor panels of the pilasters date to 1839, they are likely to be made of walnut rather than the white pine used in 1855-1856.

67. Krupka, Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1), 1988, 2:Fire in the Home 2-3.

This “whirl of gaiety” where “parties and balls followed each other in quick succession” probably refers to festivities around the newly popular holiday of Christmas and traditional New Year’s celebrations. New Year’s open houses and celebrations were long-established in the Midwest and would remain common through the end of the nineteenth century. Christmas was becoming a more festive and popular holiday among the Anglo-American Protestant majority in the 1850s and would grow to a national holiday over subsequent decades.

Krupka suggests that this fire, “having occurred at night in the middle of the winter heating season was most probably a chimney fire resulting from an over-fueled or improperly banked fire in one of the Home’s fireplaces or stoves.”<sup>68</sup> He provides the following account of the possible situation and effect:

Having occurred at night, it probably originated in a second floor bedroom. The parents being out of the House, the fireplace in their Bedroom (No. 102) would have been banked pending their return from the evening’s festivities. The maid and the children only remained at home, and, she-according to Emilie’s account of the event—was asleep, presumably in her own Room (No. 203). Both of the remaining upstairs rooms (i.e. the North and South Attic Bedrooms (Nos. 201 and 208) were heated by free-standing stoves.

Well documented as rambunctious, rowdy and not well disciplined, the Lincoln children—left in the care of a maid not much older than themselves and in the absence of their parents—were probably still awake and gathered in one of the Attic Bedrooms [rooms 201 and 208] in the Main House, each connected to the Upper Stair Hall (No. 200) by a communicating door, keeping the fire roaring to stay warm: too roaring and too warm, apparently. The chimney overheated and a roof fire—a common hazard in 19th century homes—was the result.

Such is the probable source of the situation the parents found on their return home at Mary’s documented prescient insistence. The

immediate emergency having been dealt with without loss of life or great damage to property. The three Lincoln sons survived. History fails to record the fate of the maid. It is known that Mary’s household help had an inordinately high turn-over rate, even for Springfield where maids were hard to come by and more difficult to keep. Presumably, this episode generated part of that turnover, as well as Mary Lincoln’s reputation as a “tigress” when dealing with servants.

It may be inferred that this first fire, recorded in 1854/55, occurred in either the north or the south chimney of the Main House. No visible evidence of this event survives. Presumably all was repaired temporarily that winter, then removed as part of the remodeling begun the next spring.<sup>69</sup>

This fire may have been one factor leading to the Lincolns’ extensive remodeling of the house in 1855-1856.

#### **1855-1856 Remodeling (Second Floor)**

The Lincolns’ 1855-1856 remodeling included the most extensive alterations in the house’s history. Completed in two phases, this project added a full second floor to the house. This remodeling reflected the Lincolns’ increasing prosperity and rising social position and adapted the house to better align with the family’s needs. The remodeling may have been precipitated in part by a chimney fire in the winter of 1854-1855 that may have damaged the roof.

The Lincolns hired Hannon & Ragsdale, a firm of local architects and builders, to remodel the house. This connection is documented in a January 1857 *Illinois State Journal* article describing building improvements to Springfield in 1856. That article includes the following entry: “Addition to house on Eighth street, for A. Lincoln. Cost \$1,300; Hannon & Ragsdale, architects and builders.”<sup>70</sup>

The note that Hannon & Ragsdale served as “architects and builders” indicates that they

69. Krupka, 2:Fire in the Home 3-4.

70. This \$1,300 cost likely reflects only the second phase of work completed in 1856. To date, no documentation has been found for the cost of the first phase completed in 1855. “Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856,” *Illinois State Journal*, January 6, 1857.

68. Krupka, 2:Fire in the Home 3.

designed the remodeling; for some other projects are listed only as “builders.” The firm is known to have designed and built high-style Gothic Revival and Italianate houses in Springfield in the mid-1850s. Their remodeling of the Lincoln Home in 1855-1856 retained and copied most of the Greek Revival stylistic elements dating from the Dresser Cottage’s construction in 1839. This included extension of the corner pilasters of the west wing and replication of the paneled window frames for the new second floor windows. The new bracketed cornice with gable-end returns and the cast iron balustrade on the roof of the south porch were the only exterior features that did not follow the design of existing elements. These were fashionable features consistent with other middle-class houses of the mid-1850s in Springfield. At the interior, woodwork designs appear to have largely followed those present in the house. The door casings in the Parlors (rooms 101 and 102) may have been updated with narrow shouldered architraves at this time, or those of the Back Parlor may have been installed to match existing casings in the Front Parlor. The new interior doors at the second floor were all two-panel doors with flat panels, following the design of the earlier doors; curiously, the folding doors between the Parlors were four-panel doors with raised panels. Transoms were provided over doors along the Upstairs Back Hall (room 204). Overall, Hannon & Ragsdale’s design for the 1855-1856 remodeling of the Lincoln Home was comfortable but modest and unassuming compared with the more lavish and expensive projects they designed and built for other clients at the same time.

During the first phase in 1855, the roof of the west (front) wing was demolished, as were the gable end walls above the horizontal plate aligned with the top plates of the east and west walls. New walls were framed on top of the existing top plates, giving the former garret rooms of 200, 201, and 208 new ceilings at a height of approximately 11’-3”. The 1839 top plates defined the level of the second-floor windowsills for the 1855 construction. A new side-gabled roof trimmed by a bracketed Italianate cornice was built on top of the wing at this time. This cornice wrapped around all four sides of the west wing. Lightning rods are believed to have been installed at this time.

Prior researchers believed that Hannon & Ragsdale’s carpenters had detached the 1839

roof of the west wing and raised it up to a higher level. James T. Hickey, an architectural historian and Lincoln scholar who examined the house in June 1954, during the second-floor phase of the 1952-1955 restoration, reported that the original headers that had rested on the studs of the east and west walls bore marks where they had been attached prior to 1855. Along the bottom edge of the cornice of the east elevation of the west wing, covered by the addition of a second floor on the east wing in 1856, Hickey found “a small split piece of weatherboarding” that he believed had been “broken loose from [the] lower part of the house” when the roof was raised in 1855. Hickey concluded that carpenters took the entire roof loose in one piece and raised it nine feet.<sup>71</sup> Physical investigations of the north and south gable end walls in 1985-1986 revealed a difference in the species of framing members associated with the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839 and the construction of the second floor of the west wing in 1855. The top plates of the 1839 wall framing and all structural members below are of white oak, the material used in the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839. The wall studs, roof rafters, and roof sheathing above the 1839 top plates are all of white pine, the material used in the construction of the 1855-1856 second-floor addition. This evidence suggests that Hannon & Ragsdale’s carpenters demolished the 1839 roof and built an entirely new roof in 1855, using only new material.

Room 102 was converted from its use as a bedroom to a Back Parlor at this time, with the addition of a large opening with folding doors allowing it to be thrown together with room 101 as a large double Parlor. The north windows of room 101 are believed to have been removed and plastered over at this time, with the shutters being left in place over the blind windows at the exterior.

During the second phase in 1856, the east (rear) wing was raised to two full stories. This work is believed to have begun in March or early April 1856. Mariah Vance later remembered this work taking place around the time of Emilie Todd Helm’s wedding (March 28, 1856).<sup>72</sup> On April 3, 1856, Mrs. John Todd Stuart wrote to her

71. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 101.

72. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: *Furnishings:Wallpaper* 37.

daughter Bettie, “Mr. Lincoln has commenced raising his back building two stories high. I think they will have room enough before they are done, particularly as Mary seldom uses what she has.”<sup>73</sup> Many decades later, a popular account of the 1855-1856 remodeling stated that Mary Lincoln secretly planned the project alone and began construction while her husband was away for several weeks on the judicial circuit. This account may have grown out of Mary Lincoln’s reputation for overspending on redecoration of the White House in the 1860s combined with misinterpretation of a widely recounted bit of Lincoln’s humor. The following version is provided by Thomas J. Dyba and George L. Painter in their 1985 book *Seventeen Years at Eighth and Jackson*:

Mr. Lincoln returned home from the circuit near the end of May. As he turned into his street, he was surprised to see that his house had suddenly grown taller by one story. In keeping with his usual sense of humor, and somewhat to the chagrin of his wife, he proceeded to inquire of his neighbors if they knew where that man Lincoln used to live. Without acknowledging the humor of her husband’s escapade, Mary welcomed him into their new apartments.<sup>74</sup>

This story is consistent with Lincoln’s famous sense of humor; the house may have grown in his absence, but he was likely fully aware of the work and enjoyed a laugh with his neighbors over this humorous inquiry. This joke would have been most effective during the first phase of work in 1855, when the west wing was raised to two full stories. Writing in 1955, Hagen references this story while citing the April 1856 letter where Mrs. John Todd Stuart reported, “Mr. Lincoln has commenced raising his back building. . .”; “Mrs. Stuart’s remarks tend to discredit the old story about Mary Lincoln having ordered the work done while Abraham was away, surprising him with it on his

return. More likely it was discussed for some time between them as a necessity for their three sons and their own expanding social life.”<sup>75</sup>

During 1856, the ceiling of the original east wing was raised twelve inches to align with the ceilings of the west wing. While it has traditionally been assumed that the east wing was partitioned to form the present Kitchen (room 105) and Dining Room (room 107) in 1856, the partition’s construction suggests that it predated 1856; it was probably installed in 1855 and then extended upward when the east wing was raised in 1856.<sup>76</sup> The low garret that originally extended over rooms 105 and 107 was demolished and four new rooms and the Upstairs Back Hall (room 204) were built. This space included a bedroom for Mary Lincoln and young Willie and Tad Lincoln (room 202), a bedroom for Robert Todd Lincoln (room 207), a bedroom for the hired girl (room 203), and a room believed to have been used as a trunk or storage room (room 205). The stair between the Kitchen and garret was rebuilt to connect to the new Upstairs Back Hall. The south porch was rebuilt with a new roof deck surrounded by a cast iron balustrade. Removal of the ceiling of room 204 in 1954 revealed the east face of the cornice of the west wing, installed in 1855 and concealed by the raising of the east wing in 1856. When the east wing was raised to cover this cornice, the brackets were removed and may have been reused on the matching cornice of the east wing. A photograph taken in June 1954 clearly shows the “ghost” of one of these brackets on the frieze board of the east cornice of the west wing, a portion of the board not covered with the 1855 “Quaker Brown” paint.

After completing his investigations of the house between 1950 and 1955, Richard S. Hagen reported “that the methods used in joining the 1856 work to the 1839 structure would dismay a good carpenter. For example, odd pieces of wood were indiscriminately nailed together for studding, showing the carpenter to have felt that work which

73. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” 9; Thomas J. Dyba and George L. Painter, *Seventeen Years at Eighth and Jackson: The Lincoln Family in Their Springfield Home* (Lisle, IL: IBC Publications, 1985), 26.

74. Dyba and Painter, *Seventeen Years at Eighth and Jackson: The Lincoln Family in Their Springfield Home*, 26.

75. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” 9.

76. This evidence is discussed in detail in the room 105 portion of section 1C.

would be covered with lath and plaster could be done in any fashion.”<sup>77</sup> Debris collected from the stud cavities of the east half of the north wall of the Kitchen (room 105) on September 22, 1987, included a fragment of the September 6, 1855, issue of the *Illinois Journal*, likely deposited there during construction in 1856.<sup>78</sup> On February 16, 1857, following the completion of the remodeling, Mary Lincoln wrote to her sister, Emilie Todd Helm: “You will think, we have enlarged *our borders*, since you were here.”<sup>79</sup>

#### *A Larger and More Comfortable House*

The 1855-1856 remodeling brought the Lincoln Home more in line with the expectations for a successful family of the 1850s. It was the kind of house that might be owned by the family of a prosperous farmer or by a professional or merchant with good business. The remodeling made use of the Greek Revival elements of the Dresser Cottage’s design, adapting them with the addition of cornice brackets reflecting the now-popular Italianate style, commonly known as the “bracketed style” in the 1850s. The expanded Lincoln Home was neither very plain nor ostentatious. It was a solidly middle-class house, comfortable and respectable but relatively unremarkable. Twentieth century assessments of the Lincoln Home’s stylistic expression that resulted from the 1855-1856 remodeling often evaluated the house in light of modern attitudes inconsistent with those of the Lincolns and their contemporaries. Representative among these is Richard S. Hagen’s 1955 article on the recent restoration of the Lincoln Home. Hagen asserts that the pilasters (which appear to predate 1855 but which Hagen believed were 1855-1856 additions based on evidence available in the 1950s) and the bracketed cornice were features “which mark the 1856 house as a transitional from its earlier and purer Greek Revival to the later style, sometimes called the Parvenue.”<sup>80</sup> Hagen’s opinions about the house’s stylistic transition reflect then-contemporary popular attitudes about American

architectural history.<sup>81</sup> While many visitors in the 1950s may have held similar opinions, these attitudes would have been unfamiliar to the Lincolns and their contemporaries in the 1850s. As numerous newspaper descriptions from the 1860 campaign note, the Lincoln Home was seen as a plain but comfortable house suited to a family of the Lincolns’ station.

#### *Separate Rooms for Discrete Functions*

The 1855-1856 remodeling created new interior spaces conforming to contemporary expectations for a family of the Lincoln’s status. The creation of a double Parlor (rooms 101 and 102) provided larger space for entertaining. The division of the original east wing to create a separate Dining Room (room 107) and Kitchen (room 105) helped to move cooking farther away from the house’s public rooms, as recommended in period publications.

The increasing specialization of spaces reflects contemporary trends in American house design. Lincoln’s early childhood living in a cabin where a single, multipurpose room—perhaps with an attic loft—served an entire family’s needs for cooking, eating, sitting, sleeping, and all other indoor activities, reflects a common experience among many Americans of his generation. The 1840s and 1850s saw an increasing specialization of

77. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” 11.

78. Krupka, Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1), 1988, 2:Lightning Protection Systems 11.

79. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” 9.

80. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” 12–13.

81. In the 1950s, the Greek Revival was popularly regarded as an extension of “Colonial architecture”—an amorphous category that could embrace Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, and any other style vaguely Classical in derivation. It was often described with terms like “pure,” “true,” “honest,” “good,” and “authentic.” Styles that were popular from the 1840s through the 1870s, particularly the Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, and also the later Queen Anne style, were labeled as “Victorian,” another catch-all term with implied value judgments. “Victorian” architecture was generally described with derogatory and dismissive terms suggesting absurdity, artificiality, pretension, excess, stuffiness, ignorance, shoddiness, and corruption. Hagen’s use of “Parvenue”—a term for a woman who is a parvenu, someone who has recently or suddenly risen to an unaccustomed position of wealth or power and lacks the appropriate prestige, dignity, or manners—is characteristic of the opinions of many of his contemporaries. Within this worldview, the 1839 Greek Revival cottage was a pure, honest, true, and good reflection of a romanticized vision of Early America, while the enlarged Greek Revival/Italianate house of the 1850s was a misguided corruption reflecting the absurdities of an ignorant and pretentious era. While Hagen’s opinions are representative of the 1950s, these attitudes would have been unfamiliar to the Lincolns and their contemporaries in the 1850s.

space within American houses. During this period, Illinois had transitioned from a frontier region to a land of settled cities and established farms where a middle-class family likely had several rooms with specialized uses demarcating public and private zones.

The architectural and ideological movement toward rooms with discrete functions (e.g. a bedroom for sleeping, a Sitting Room for family socialization, a Parlor for entertaining guests, a library for reading, a Dining Room for eating, and a Kitchen for cooking) led to a proliferation of separate rooms as markers of modernity, morality, and affluence. While a cabin on the Illinois frontier in 1820 offered minimal separation of uses and levels of privacy, a middle-class house like the Lincoln Home in 1856 offered multiple thresholds of privacy. A visitor would likely experience the Front Hall, Parlors, and possibly the Dining Room, reflecting three degrees of the house's semi-public spaces. The family's sleeping rooms and service spaces like the Kitchen were clearly separated from this visitor experience.

This spatial segregation and provision of privacy had strong moral connotations in American culture during this period. Separate rooms with discrete functions created behavioral settings that prescribed some activities while proscribing others. This created a division between semipublic rooms and private rooms. A Parlor provided the semipublic environment to show off the household and its occupants in the most favorable light and within the limits of propriety and decency. While a bedroom might be shared with other members of the household, it was a private space where one engaged in intimate and personal activities like dressing, washing, and sleeping, all of which had connotations of private and intimate contact that rendered it inappropriate for entertaining a visitor. While the comparatively crowded nature of American houses in this period meant that many rooms did, in fact, serve multiple functions, the proliferation of separate spaces reduced the prevalence of multipurpose rooms and allowed for increasing segregation of use.

The importance of these thresholds of privacy can be seen in architectural publications of the period. In describing a relatively modest cottage design in his 1850 pattern book *The Architecture of Country Houses*, influential American architect

A. J. Downing notes, "The American cottager is no peasant, but thinks, and thinks correctly, that as soon as he can afford it, he deserves a Parlor, where he can receive his guests with propriety, as well as his wealthiest neighbor."<sup>82</sup> As architectural historian Sally McMurray notes, the formal Parlor was "associated with urban customs and with conspicuous consumption," showcasing the best furnishings and decoration that the family could afford.<sup>83</sup>

In contrast to the formal Parlor, the Sitting Room was typically the center of family life in American houses of the period. This was often the most comfortable room in the house, where the members of the family would gather in the evening to enjoy time together, often seated near the fire or a center table bearing one of the best lamps in the house and providing illumination for reading, writing, needlework, and other activities. Historian Elisabeth Donaghy Garrett notes that by the mid-1840s the Sitting Room center table had "become synonymous with domesticity and the values learned at home." She continues, "scarcity of light was a bond that held the American family together, for members had to gather in a group to benefit from the single light source at eventide."<sup>84</sup>

The contrasting roles and character of Parlor and Sitting Room would remain through the turn of the twentieth century. Writing in 1918, novelist Booth Tarkington described "the house of a prominent resident" in a midwestern city in the years around the Civil War: "callers, when they came formally, were kept to the 'parlour,' a place of formidable polish and discomfort." The upholstery of the Sitting Room furniture "was a little shabby" from frequent use, "but the hostile chairs and sofa of the 'parlour' always looked new. For all the wear and tear they got they should have lasted a thousand years."<sup>85</sup>

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82. A. J. Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses* (New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1851), 97, <https://archive.org/details/architectureofco00down/page/n6/mode/1up?view=theater>.

83. Sally McMurray, *Families and Farmhouses in Nineteenth Century America: Vernacular Design and Social Change* (Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1997), 135.

84. Elisabeth Donaghy Garrett, *At Home: The American Family 1750-1870* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1990), 151.

85. Booth Tarkington, *The Magnificent Ambersons* (New York: Doubleday, Page & Company, 1919), 7.

*Separate Bedrooms for Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln*

The expansion of room 201 in 1855 and the creation of room 202 in 1856 provided separate, adjoining bedrooms for Abraham Lincoln and Mary Lincoln. In the 1850s, it was common for married couples to have separate bedrooms if the household had the means to provide them. The greater privacy offered by a room of one's own was a luxury in American homes of the period. The comparative privacy of a private bedroom is moderated by the layout of the Lincoln Home and many American houses of the period, where it is necessary to pass through some family bedrooms to reach others.

In 1856, the Lincoln household included Abraham, Mary, Robert, Willie, and Tad, as well as a hired girl. Room 201 was Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom, room 208 was reserved for guests. It is believed that room 207 was designated for use by thirteen-year-old Robert and that five-year-old Willie and three-year-old Tad were sleeping on a trundle bed in Mary's Bedroom (202). In her study of American family life between 1750 and 1870, Elisabeth Donaghy Garrett reports on the frequently crowded nature of parental bedrooms:

Early household inventories suggest that there was usually only one bed in the best bedchamber (although secondary chambers might well be crowded with more). But the image of privacy and seclusion that this evokes can be erroneous, particularly if there were young children in the family. Chambers that by day looked relatively unencumbered might by night be littered with supplemental pallets, mattresses, trundle beds, cradles, and cribs. . .

Little children frequently slept in their parents' room, particularly if they were infants, if there was no other responsible person for them to sleep with, or if they were ill. . . when children were ill they were regularly promoted to the master chamber, where it would be easier to nurse and keep a close watch on them, and where there might be a light by which to administer medicines and a fire to keep them warm [light and fire being dangers in a child's bedroom].<sup>86</sup>

This suggests that Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom offered greater privacy and space compared with Mary's bedroom that was shared with two young children, although the door between the rooms may have been in frequent use.

For the vast majority of Americans, daily bathing—often called “morning ablutions”—via a pitcher, washbasin, cloth, and towel took place in bedrooms. The Lincolns appear to have also used their bedrooms as workspaces. Mr. Lincoln appears to have worked until late hours at his desk in room 201 and Mary may have used room 202 for sewing and other work.

Since the 1980s, rooms 201 and 202 have often been described as a “master bedroom suite.” The term “master bedroom” came into general use in the 1920s to describe the best bedroom in a house intended for use by the homeowner. In the 1940s, “master bedroom suite” began to be used for the largest bedroom with an ensuite bathroom. By the time of the 1987-1988 restoration of the Lincoln Home, members of the general public would have been familiar with the contemporary concept of a master bedroom suite consisting of a large bedroom with closets and an attached bathroom. The use of the term “master bedroom suite” in interpreting the Lincolns' bedrooms evoked a contemporary cultural concept of the 1980s but this concept was unknown in the 1850s.

## Post-Historic Period Alterations (1865-1887)

### ca.1867-1873 East Kitchen Addition

A new Kitchen was added to the rear of the house between 1865 and 1873. This addition has been called the “Tilton Kitchen” or the “Harlow Kitchen,” reflecting the belief that it was built during the period when the house was rented by the Tilton family (1861-1869) or the Harlow family (1869-1877).

A stereograph showing the east elevation in May 1865 documents that the addition was not in place at that time. The 1887 Bullard drawings label this room “Present Kitchen / Built since 1865.” Krupka reports that the addition was depicted in an 1866 engraving based on William Waud's May 1865

86. Garrett, *At Home: The American Family 1750-1870*, 120-22.

sketches.<sup>87</sup> This engraving, “Drawn by Paul Dixon from a sketch by W. Waud,” was copyrighted in 1866.<sup>88</sup> It shows a chimney and an indistinct horizontal band east of the house. The chimney appears to be that of a house visible across the alley to the east; it is shown in roughly the same position in an engraving published in *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper* in November 1864.<sup>89</sup>

A description of the house by Rev. Edwin S. Walker, published in February 1867, lists the locations of the Front Hall, Parlors, Sitting Room, and Dining Room before reporting, “and still further east are the Kitchen and other rooms occupying the east wing.”<sup>90</sup> The only other room in the east wing as it existed in May 1865 was the Pantry (room 103), along with the open east porch (room 103) and the back stair. This description might possibly suggest that the Kitchen addition was in place by early 1867, or it may mean that Walker simply used “the Kitchen and other rooms” to describe the typical service spaces that his readers would expect to find in a middle-class house of the period.

This addition is not shown on the 1867 or 1870 bird’s eye lithographs of Springfield. The 1867 Ruger lithograph appears to be more accurate in its details and may be considered partial evidence. The 1870 Beck & Pauli lithograph takes significant liberties—including depiction of the east wing as one story rather than two—meaning that it cannot be taken as an accurate depiction of the house. The Kitchen addition is clearly shown on the 1873 bird’s eye lithograph of Springfield. This evidence suggests that the addition was built sometime between 1867 and 1873.

Mary Edwards Brown, whose parents were custodians of the house from 1897 to 1918 and who served as custodian herself from 1918 to 1924, believed that the Kitchen was built by the Harlow family, suggesting a date between 1869 and 1873.<sup>91</sup> The 1986 HABS chronology drawings state that

87. Krupka, Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1), 1988, 2:Artwork in the Home 16.

88. “The Home of Abraham Lincoln, [in Springfield, Illinois]. | Library of Congress,” accessed October 11, 2022, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/lprbscsm.scm0658/>.

89. “President Lincoln’s Home, Springfield, Illinois,” *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*, November 26, 1864.

90. Bearss, Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site, 32–33.

91. Bearss, Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site, 39.

the addition was built in 1868; however, other alterations to the house are misdated on these drawings. Writing in 1988, Krupka notes that the Kitchen addition’s date of construction was “as yet unknown,” but assigns it a date of ca.1869.<sup>92</sup>

The addition had exterior dimensions of 18’-0” by 14’-0”. The former east porch formed an alcove at the west end of the room. The north and south walls had identical configurations, with doors at the west end and windows centered between the doors and the east wall. An interior chimney was centered on the east wall. This kitchen was much larger than the cramped Kitchen (room 105) created during the 1855-1856 remodeling and was provided with better daylight and ventilation.

Beneath the kitchen was a full cellar of matching dimensions, accessed by an exterior stair below bulkhead doors at the east end of the north elevation. Mary Edwards Brown reported that basement of this wing was converted into a laundry room for her mother and that a well in the room was “filled and cemented” at that time. This work would have occurred sometime between 1897 and 1918 and may have coincided with the installation of a concrete floor in the west wing basement (room 001).

Writing in 1951, Richard Hagen believed that the Kitchen addition dated from the 1890s, but this is clearly disproven by the 1873 lithograph, 1884 Sanborn Map, and 1887 Bullard drawings.<sup>93</sup> However, Hagen correctly understood that this addition postdated the Lincolns’ occupancy. The addition was demolished during the 1952 restoration of the exterior.

## Modern Alterations & Restorations (1887-present)

### 1890 Addition of North Porch

A porch was added along the north side of the east Kitchen addition for use by the custodian’s family. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps document that this porch was not present as of July 1890 but that it was in place by 1896. Krupka reports that the porch was built in 1890. The porch covered the formerly

92. Krupka, Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1), 1988, 1:Floors and Flooring 8.

93. Richard S. Hagen, “Back-Yard Archaeology at Lincoln’s Home,” *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* 44, no. 4 (Winter 1951): 341.



exterior cellar stairs for the addition and a trapdoor similar to that on the south porch was installed to maintain access to this space. Drawings from 1925, 1927, and 1933 document that the porch was enclosed with lattice panels and included a door on its east elevation. Lattice-enclosed porches of this type and location often provided a semi-private exterior workspace for Kitchen, laundry, and cleaning functions, as well as a semi-private outdoor sitting space. The porch was demolished in 1952 along with the east Kitchen addition.

#### 1952-1955 Restoration (State of Illinois)

Between 1952 and 1955, the State of Illinois completed a comprehensive restoration of the exterior and interior of the Lincoln Homestead. Research, physical investigations, and construction were undertaken under the leadership of Richard S. Hagen, an archaeologist and historical consultant to the Division of Parks and Memorials of the Illinois Department of Conservation. Hagen studied at the University of Chicago and University of Puerto Rico, and had previously done archaeological investigations at Bishop Hill, Galena, New Salem, and Starved Rock.<sup>94</sup> Hagen documented portions of the Lincoln Home process in a 1955 article titled “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has” in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*.

From 1887 to 1955, visitors to the Lincoln Homestead were allowed to see four rooms, the Front and Back Parlors, Dining Room, and Sitting Room.<sup>95</sup> According to Hagen, preliminary plans were developed in the late-1930s for opening the second floor to visitors. World War II delayed this project. C. Herrick Hammond of the State of Illinois Department of Public Works & Buildings – Division of Architecture & Engineering had prepared plans for restoration and opening the second floor to visitors in 1948, but that work was never undertaken. In 1950, the Illinois Division of Parks and Memorials initiated, under Hagen’s direction, “in co-operation with Virginia Stuart Brown, custodian (1925-1953) and the Lincoln Home Committee appointed by the Governor, a comprehensive program of research in connection with the Lincoln Home.”<sup>96</sup>

“A complete physical survey of the Home was next

undertaken to ascertain what the structure itself could tell of its own story.”<sup>97</sup> Hagen’s investigations disproved oft-repeated claims about the house’s construction. In the popular imagination, old buildings were imbued with “primitive,” “pioneer,” “hand-made,” or “Colonial” attributes, creating a romanticized and often entirely ahistorical picture. These included claims that a building was built entirely from the trees of the primeval forest cut down on the site, that all the wood was hand-hewn or hand-split, that wooden pegs were the universal fastener and that nails were rarely used. In the popular imagination, the rare and valuable nails and any other ironwork must have been hand-wrought by a blacksmith using centuries-old techniques. Hagen found that the physical fabric of the house told a story consistent with its context and quite different from these widely-held misconceptions.

Writers spoke of Lincoln has having lived in a white house with green shutters, and described the house as being all of walnut and oak, put together with pegs and a sparing use of nails. . . . Such misstatements, once printed, were accepted without question; until recently, no one had investigated the house itself for the truth so obviously there. The original floors were of random width oak, but oak was found nowhere else in the building. [This was incorrect, investigations in the 1980s revealed that the wall framing of the 1839 house is of white oak.] Walnut was used in the 1839 house for sills, joists and interior woodwork; the lath were of split hickory and other wooden parts pine. In 1856 Hannan [sic] & Ragsdale used northern pine for everything, including the upstairs millwork which was given artificial walnut graining. Casual observance of the old pine can easily mistake it for walnut; the old discolored wood must be cut into for certain identification, but diligent scraping has yet to disclose any of the famous walnut siding. Lastly, searchers have been unable to find any use of pegs in the house except in the sills, but hundreds of square nails of many sizes have been preserved from just a few areas of recent wood replacement.<sup>98</sup>

Investigation of exterior paint finishes similarly

94. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” 5.

95. Hagen, 5.

96. Hagen, 5–6.

97. Hagen, 6–7.

98. Hagen, 11.

dispelled long-held conceptions of the house's historic appearance.

As the various layers of paint put on the house in more than one hundred years were scraped off one by one, beneath some ten coats of white paint were revealed four (and in some places perhaps more) coats of a light brown paint, indicating that the pleasant white to which several generations of visitors were accustomed was not the color familiar to the Lincoln family. This physical survey was augmented by evidence from documentary and pictorial sources, all providing further support for a light shade of brown as the original color. . . . Photographs dating from 1860 to 1870 all show the house of a darker color than the whitewashed board fence along Jackson Street, the white carriage house at the rear, and the small white frame cottage [Carrigan House] directly north of the Lincoln Home. In view of the overwhelming evidence brought to bear on the color problem, in late 1952 the Home was given its first coat of "a Quaker tint of light brown" in more than seventy years, an action which proved to be the most dramatic step in the restoration up to that time.<sup>99</sup>

This change was not without controversy. Custodian Virginia Stuart Brown and other members of the State's Advisory Committee for the restoration were accustomed to the existing scheme of white with green shutters, which had been in place since 1918, and were opposed to matching the "Quaker brown" color that the Lincolns had used. Brown pushed for as light a color as possible and the committee eventually agreed to a light tan that was "close to, but a little lighter than" the sample that matched the physical evidence.<sup>100</sup>

The restoration of the exterior was largely completed in 1952. An [east Kitchen] addition and porch which had been built in the late nineteenth century at the back of the house for the convenience of its residential custodians was removed. The rear or eastern façade was reconstructed [restored] according to a photograph made by an itinerant cameraman, Ridgway Glover of Philadelphia, who came

to Springfield in 1865, shortly after Lincoln's death, to make stereoscopic views of the President's "home and haunts." One other major change was the removal of the north window in the "maid's room," since that window does not appear in any photographs until some time after 1880.<sup>101</sup>

Hagen provides an account of the rationale for the 1952-1955 restoration. Because the historic preservation movement in the United States was in its early stages of development and instructive resources and appropriate materials were limited, restorations of this period often contained great errors by contemporary standards of accuracy and integrity. Resources from the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg reflected some of the best practices of the period, but well-meaning restorers of later buildings often applied specific lessons about Colonial period buildings to those built many decades later. Well-meaning restorers also often sought to restore a building to its original state, even if its significance was associated with a later period.<sup>102</sup> Careful research and thorough reasoning provided an unusually high standard of accuracy for this restoration of the Lincoln Home.

An important question was: to just what period or to what original appearance should the Lincoln Home be restored? We know that there were great physical changes in the house during the Lincolns' occupancy, and so can assume that its furnishings would certainly vary over a seventeen-year period. Since it would be manifestly impossible to restore the house to all the many facets of its appearance while Lincoln lived there, it was necessary to select an arbitrary period toward which to work. As Lincoln was responsible for its enlargement to two stories, this gives an initial date of 1856. And since the Lincolns left the house in February, 1861 we can utilize the intervening five-year period as a temporal framework. It was during these years, too, that Lincoln became so prominent a national figure.<sup>103</sup>

In this way, Hagen established a period of significance of 1856 to 1861 for the property and made this the target period for restoration and interpretation.

99. Hagen, 6-7.

100. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 88.

101. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 7.

103. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 13.

The project would remove exhibits and other artifacts to convert the house into a pure historic house museum. “All materials extraneous to the home life of the Lincolns have been removed and stored until they can be displayed in a future backyard museum.”<sup>104</sup> Hagen describes the interpretive goal and the process for developing the period rooms within the house.

The aim was to make the house appear as if the Lincolns, after thoroughly cleaning the home, had just left to visit friends. In order to achieve this, nearly two thousand different items of household equipment and furnishings have been gathered and each has been authenticated as to date and appropriateness for mid-nineteenth century Springfield. There will be a continued effort to improve the collection.<sup>105</sup>

“For the interior restoration, historical sources of all kinds were meager except for sketches of the double Parlors and the Sitting Room published in *Leslie’s Illustrated Weekly* [Frank Leslie’s *Illustrated Newspaper*] on March 9, 1861...”<sup>106</sup> Hagen supplemented these three engravings with research into period and regional practices as documented in available publications and other resources but was limited by the dearth of accurate information on mid-nineteenth century American building practices, decoration, furnishings, and daily life that were available in the 1950s. Hagen also worked with project partners on the restoration of Abraham and Mary Lincoln’s Bedrooms (rooms 201 and 202).

In 1950 the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Illinois requested that they be permitted to undertake the restoration of Abraham and Mary Lincoln’s bedrooms. Since that time the Historical Activities Committee of that society has worked in close co-operation with the historical staff of the Division of Parks and Memorials not only in the furnishing of the bedrooms, which were their primary concern, but also in obtaining materials for the remainder of the upstairs.<sup>107</sup>

Planning for the interior restoration progressed and most of the first-floor rooms were restored in

1952. Planning for restoration of the second floor continued into 1953. At this time, Hagen found “immediate need for extensive structural work.”

The brick foundation wall was crumbling; sills and joists had suffered from dry rot and termites, which though checked had left their damage; the brick hearth in the Sitting Room was sinking into the basement, and everywhere were cracked plaster walls and ceilings. These were repaired, since a sound structure is the only base upon which to create a lasting restoration. At the same time all parts of the original building were preserved and utilized wherever possible, enabling us to present the Lincoln home as “restored” and not “reconstructed.” In structural work in the Home original materials were left intact when possible and strengthened to a point of safety.<sup>108</sup>

Most of the structural and building systems work occurred in spaces not open to the public. In 1954, the Central Illinois Light Company discontinued hot water service in Springfield. As a result, the State created a new basement mechanical room (room 002) to house a new gas furnace; this was accomplished by partitioning and excavating out part of the 1846 crawlspace. The room was designed to be fireproof and pipes, ducts, grilles, and other features of the system were carefully concealed to minimize their visual impact. A new exterior basement stair was built in the north side yard to provide access to this mechanical room.<sup>109</sup> At the same time, the interior of the brick masonry foundation within the rest of the basement and crawlspaces was repointed and covered with shotcrete (often known by the tradename “Gunit”), a sprayed concrete coating. This coating concealed the surface of the brick masonry, leaving no historic fabric visible.

The 1952-1955 restoration established the basic visitor traffic flow pattern that remains in place today. Visitors would enter the house at the front door and circulate through the Parlors (rooms 101 and 102), Dining Room (room 107) and Sitting Room (room 108) before ascending the front stairs. They would then pass through the second floor before descending the back stairs to the Kitchen (room 105), where they would exit through the door to the south porch.

104. Hagen, 13.

105. Hagen, 13.

106. Hagen, 13.

107. Hagen, 23.

108. Hagen, 8.

109. Hagen, 8.

A major structural challenge to opening the second floor was the beam over the wide doorway between the Parlors. This beam as built in 1855-1856 was inadequate to support the load of the wall and the second floor above. Significant deflection was evident, and no clear structural solution was anticipated. The unrealized 1948 plans for opening the second floor to visitors had anticipated that this structural issue would preclude visitors passing through rooms 201 and 202. To accommodate visitor flow, that plan had shown a new visitor path along the north wall of room 208 to a new doorway into room 207, where the path would turn north and pass through a new door in the north wall of that room to the Upstairs Back Hall (room 204). Plans for the opening of the second floor prepared in 1952 and 1953 maintained the new visitor path as proposed in 1948. While this approach required significant alterations to several rooms, it was regarded as the only possible means of providing access with good visitor traffic flow. This approach was implemented and would remain in use from 1955 until 1987.

Another challenge to the new visitor path was the back staircase. The Lincolns' back staircase was narrow and steep, with winder steps at the bottom. This was typical of back staircases in houses of the period but was unsuitable as a path for visitor travel. To make this stair part of the visitor path, it was demolished and rebuilt with a lower slope and a new landing. This required extending the stair out into the Upstairs Back Hall and altering the interior of the Kitchen.

Hagen described these compromises as follows:

It was impossible to operate in a purist manner, since the house, built for a moderate-sized family, must now bear the traffic of nearly half a million visitors every year. Thus in the interior there are three major blights necessitated by public traffic: the guide railings (copied after the Front Hall stair rail) between public areas and the restored room areas; a new door between the guest bedroom [208] and Robert's bedroom [207]; and the widening of the rear stairway to the Kitchen so that visitors can leave the second floor at the rear and thus permit a one-way flow of traffic through the house. Adjustment has

been necessary in every room between space allotted for restoration and space for public traffic...<sup>110</sup>

The restored house opened to the public on February 12, 1955, Lincoln's birthday.

#### **1987-1988 Restoration (National Park Service)**

After taking possession of the Lincoln Home in 1972, the National Park Service (NPS) began the process of planning for the house's long-term treatment and interpretation. The house as received from the State of Illinois remained largely as it had been restored in the 1950s, with limited changes in interior finishes and furnishings since 1955. NPS appreciated the significance of the property and the need for proper treatment, care, and interpretation of the Lincoln Home.

A central planning document in this process was the first Historic Structure Report (HSR) for the house, prepared by Edwin C. Bearss and completed in 1973. This was the most comprehensive document covering the house's history, evolution, and existing conditions prepared to date. Over the next fourteen years, a variety of other reports and studies assessed the house's structure, systems, paint finishes, wallpapers, furnishings, and other items. These various documents provided information to guide the care and long-term treatment of the house. It became clear that a comprehensive restoration was needed to address structural, building systems, and life safety issues while also providing a more accurate presentation of the house's appearance during the period of interpretation. The field of historic preservation had evolved significantly since the 1950s. By the early-1980s, far more information and expertise was available to support accurate restoration of the house to its appearance in 1860-1861.

During the mid-1980s, planning for a comprehensive restoration moved forward. The draft of a second HSR, prepared by the Springfield firm of Ferry & Henderson, architects, was issued in 1984 but the contract was terminated, and the report was never finished. This draft HSR includes valuable documentation of investigations over the prior decade. A few months after the second HSR project was terminated, NPS historical architect

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110. Hagen, 8-9.

Francis Orlando “Fran” Krupka began historical research and physical investigation of the Lincoln Home for a third HSR in support of restoration project planning. Krupka moved to Springfield and continued investigating and documenting the house through the 1987-1988 restoration. This HSR was incomplete when Krupka left on a leave of absence in 1995 and was never completed. A draft dated December 1988 is the most recent copy that has been found in LIHO’s archives. Although incomplete, this document, spanning 1,190 pages, includes invaluable documentation of research and physical investigations conducted before and during the 1987-1988 restoration.

Construction documents for the project, titled “Restore Lincoln Home” and consisting of 100 sheets, were prepared by the Springfield firm of Ralph Hahn & Associates, engineers and architects, and were issued in June 1986. Two NPS architects were closely involved with the project, architect and project supervisor Vance Kaminski and historical architect Fran Krupka. Gentry Davis became superintendent of LIHO in August 1987, shortly after restoration work had begun. LIHO staff report that Davis was meticulous and wanted the restoration to be of the highest quality possible.

The Lincoln Home was closed to visitors from May 1987 to June 1988. River City Restorations Inc. of Hannibal, Missouri, was the general contractor for the restoration. During the winter of 1987-1988, the house was wrapped in scaffolding that was covered with plastic sheeting, creating a tent that allowed work to continue while protecting the house and construction workers from the winter weather. The siding and much of the exterior woodwork was numbered, removed, repaired, and reinstalled after completion of structural and other repairs and the addition of a vapor barrier and insulation within the walls. Windows, doors, and shutters were restored and reinstalled, and porches were rebuilt. Chimneys were dismantled to below the roofline and rebuilt. Foundations were repaired and new site drainage was installed. The brick retaining wall was restored and the property’s fences were reconstructed to match surviving documentation.

At the interior, the house saw the most extensive work since the Lincolns’ 1855-1856 remodeling. Extensive structural repairs were completed, including reinforcement of the floors and staircases

and installation of a steel beam over the wide doorway between the Parlors. Most of the interior was stripped of post-1861 fabric, revealing the extent of surviving historic materials and features. Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems were replaced in their entirety and a new fire suppression system was installed. Most rooms saw interior plaster repair, painting or graining of woodwork based on historic finish analysis, and installation of reproduction wallpaper and carpets. The house was re-furnished in May and early June 1988. A story passed down by LIHO staff hints at the final stages of work in June 1988. According to this story, Superintendent Davis was among those working in the house at midnight before opening day. Davis was reportedly cutting out patches of wallpaper to camouflage electrical outlets and HVAC and security sensor grilles.

When the Lincoln Home reopened on June 16, 1988, it was a showcase of the highest standards of restoration and interpretation in the United States. The restored house gave visitors the sense of walking through the house in 1860 or early 1861, as if the Lincolns had just stepped out. The house saw approximately 500,000 visitors annually in the years following the restoration.

## Historic Views 1860-1865

### Exterior Views 1860-1865

#### Exterior Views 1860-1861



**Figure B.8.** View of Lincoln Home from the southwest by J. A. Whipple, summer 1860. Mr. Lincoln and Willie are standing inside the fence and Tad is behind the fencepost. The man and boy on the sidewalk have not been identified. Source: Library of Congress, Call Number: PH - Whipple (J.), no. 1 (A size) [P&P]; Digital ID: ppmsca 23724 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca/23724



**Figure B.9.** View of Lincoln Home from the southwest by J. A. Whipple, summer 1860 (1865 print by Charles DeSilver). This appears to have been taken a few minutes before or after Figure B.10. Mr. Lincoln and Willie are standing inside the fence and Tad is sitting on the fence. The blurred figure on the sidewalk is Isaac R. Diller, a playmate of the Lincoln boys. Source: Library of Congress, PH - Whipple (J.), no. 1 (A size) [P&P]; Digital ID: ppmsca 23724 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.23724.



**Figure B.10.** View of Lincoln Home from the second floor of the Dean House by William A. Shaw, August 8, 1860. This view was taken during a political rally and parade. Mr. Lincoln is wearing a light-colored suit and standing to the right of the front entrance. Mary Lincoln is visible in the left-hand first-floor window. Willie Lincoln is visible in the second window from the left on the second floor. Source: PhotOV 10655, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.



**Figure B.11.** Carte de visite view of Lincoln Home from the southwest by A. C. Townsend, 1861. Source: Library of Congress, Call LOT 14043-2, no. 1263 [P&P]; Digital ID: ppmsca 67774 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.67774

#### Selected Exterior Views 1865



**Figure B.12.** View of Lincoln Home from the southwest, showing mourning crepe installed by the Tilton family, late April 1865. Source: LIHO 9455



## Interior Views 1860-1865

### Views with Known Locations 1861-1865



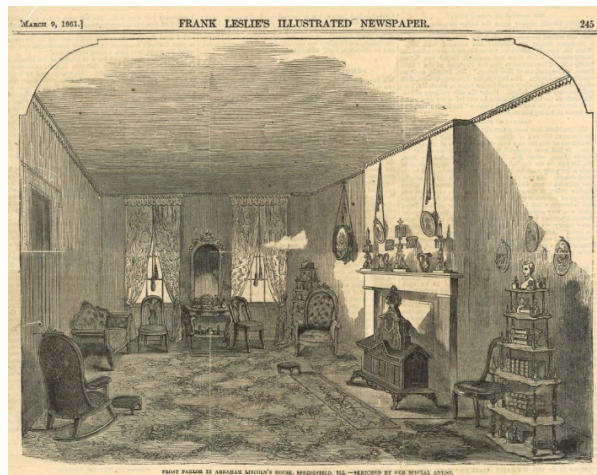
**Figure B.13.** Elevated view of Lincoln Home from the southwest after installation of more elaborate mourning drapery, May 1865. Source: LIHO 9456.



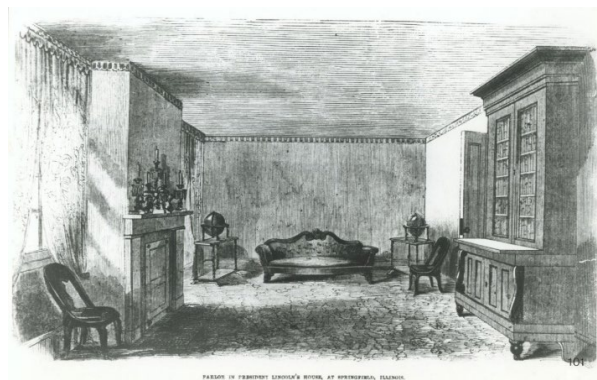
**Figure B.14.** Carte de visite view of Lincoln Home from the northwest, May 1865. LIHO 5411.



**Figure B.15.** One half of stereograph of east elevation, 1865. LIHO 10358.



**Figure B.16.** View west in Front Parlor (room 101), 1861. Source: *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, March 9, 1861. LIHO 6629.



**Figure B.17.** View east in Back Parlor (room 102), 1861. Source: *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, March 9, 1861. LIHO 6616.



**Figure B.18.** View south in Sitting Room (room 108), 1861. Source: *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, March 9, 1861. LIHO 6629.





**Figure B.19.** Stereograph looking east from Front Parlor (room 101) into Back Parlor (room 102), May 1865. Source: LIHO 12885.



**Figure B.20.** William Waud sketch of Parlor, May 1865. Source: Library of Congress: Call number: DRWG/US - Waud, no. 567 recto (AA size) [P&P]; Digital Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ppmsca-20057



**Figure B.21.** View east in Parlors (rooms 101 and 102), May 1865, possibly based on Figure B.22. Source: *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, June 10, 1865. Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/details/franklesliesilluv1920les/page/n595/mode/1up>

#### Views with Likely Locations 1865

Several stereographs and photographs taken in the house around the time of Lincoln's funeral on May 4, 1865, show rooms within the house. This section includes each photograph along with an analysis including its likely location.

#### *William Waud Sketches, May 1865*



**Figure B.22.** William Waud sketch likely showing northwest corner of room 108 (Sitting Room), May 1865. Source: Library of Congress: Call number: DRWG/US - Waud, no. 572 verso (AA size) [P&P]; Digital Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ppmsca-20064



**Figure B.23.** William Waud sketch possibly showing room 201 (Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom), May 1865. Source: Library of Congress: Call number: DRWG/US - Waud, no. 572 recto (AA size) [P&P]; Digital Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ppmsca-20063





**Figure B.24.** Stereograph looking east from Sitting Room (room 108) into Dining Room (room 107), showing east wall of Dining Room, May 1865. Source: LIHO 10359.

#### Photograph of Dining Room (room 107)

A ca.1865 stereograph (LIHO 10359) by Schreiber & Glover from their “Scenes relating to the Funeral of Lincoln” includes the printed label “Dining Room and Table of Lincoln.” Bearss identified this as a view of the Dining Room and notes that the furniture belonged to the Tilttons.<sup>111</sup> A framed print of the Emancipation Proclamation, matching a version copyright 1863, hangs on the wall.<sup>112</sup> The wide section of wall and the bright light coming from a window off-camera to the right are consistent with a view facing east toward the east wall of either the Dining Room (room 107) or the Sitting Room (room 108).<sup>113</sup>

The white line at the left edge of the left image has sometimes been interpreted as a door casing on the wall with the wallpaper. Based on this reading, it has been suggested that this could be

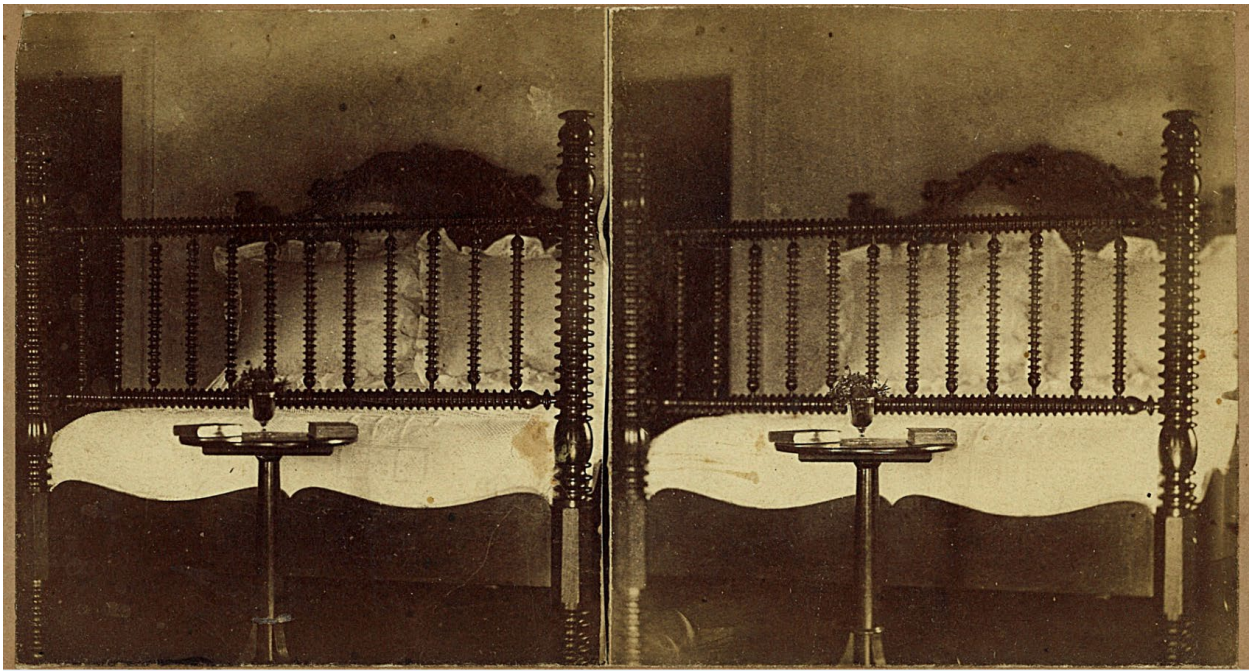
the east wall of the Sitting Room with the door to the Dining Room at the left edge. As noted below, another stereograph taken about the same time by Schreiber & Glover (LIHO 10360) appears to show Lincoln’s bed against the east wall of the Sitting Room and adjacent to the Dining Room door. [Figure B.27.] A high-resolution scan provided by the park indicates that this white line is likely a door jamb out of focus in the foreground (note how it continues unbroken across the wall and floor to the bottom of the print). This suggests that this photograph is looking east into the Dining Room from the Sitting Room, with the north door jamb intruding into the left-hand image. Highlights on the edges of the door jamb appear to be the beaded corners of the jamb and casing. The small size of the Dining Room made it difficult to photograph—in the 1860s and today—and the view through the Sitting Room door provided the best vantagepoint for an overall image of the room.<sup>114</sup>

111. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, Plate III.

112. “[Bryan & Mendel.] Facsimile of the Emancipation Proclamation. Executive Mansion, [Copy 2]. | Library of Congress,” accessed November 12, 2021, <https://www.loc.gov/item/scsm000901/>.

113. The table in the photograph is somewhat similar to a table shown against the east wall of the Sitting Room in the 1861 *Frank Leslie’s* engraving, but the table in the photograph is not believed to have been a Lincoln piece.

114. The photographer likely ruled out the view from the Back Parlor door because the camera would have been facing the direct light of the south window (evinced by the shadows of the table in this photograph), precluding a good exposure.



**Figure B.25.** Stereograph showing Lincoln's bed, ca.1865. This appears to show the east wall of room 108 (Sitting Room). Source: LIHO 10360.

#### Photographs of Lincoln's Bed (likely room 108)

Lincoln's spool-turned oak bed, in the "Elizabethan" or "Cottage" style, was purchased by the Tiltons at the 1861 sale and was in the house in May 1865.<sup>115</sup> The bed appears in two photographs (LIHO 10360 and LIHO 12893) believed to have been taken in the house around the time of Lincoln's funeral in May 1865. [Figures B.27., B.28.] Both photographs show the bed with a pair of large, ruffle-edged pillows propped against the headboard and may show the same monochromatic (likely white-on-white) quilt with a grid pattern at center. These photographs appear to show room 108, which had been used as a Sitting Room by the Lincolns.

A ca. 1865 stereograph (LIHO 10360) by Schreiber & Glover bears the printed caption "Bed of Lincoln in His Chamber, Bouquet of Flowers in the Glass that lay on his breast in the Coffin." [Figure B.27.] This view clearly shows a door to the left of the bed. The area to the right of the bed is out of the frame. This may depict the same room shown in the ca.1865 carte de visite (LIHO 12893) depicting Lincoln's bed. This stereograph has previously been thought to show room 201 (Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom) but analysis of high-resolution

scans indicate that it cannot be room 201 and likely shows room 108 (Sitting Room).

#### Windows

- Although no windows are visible, the photograph appears to be illuminated by a window off camera to the right, consistent with the window seen in LIHO 12893. This would be consistent with placement of the bed on the east wall of room 108 or room 208 with the east window of the south wall providing this illumination.
  - This illumination indicates that the bed was not in room 201.
- Light reflecting off the footboard suggests that the room was also lit by windows behind the camera. This is consistent with the west windows in rooms 108 and 208.

#### Door

- The door casing has a backband molding that does not match those in the second-floor bedrooms.
- The backband molding appears to match that used on the casings in rooms 107 and 108. The length of wall and placement of the door indicate that this was not taken in room 107.

115. Menz, Historic Furnishings Report, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Illinois, 120–21, 244.

- The door casing appears as a light color. This is consistent with available finish evidence for both rooms 108 and 208.
  - Historic finish analysis indicates that the door casings in room 108 (labeled as 106 in the finishes study) had been stripped. Window casings were painted a yellowish white during this period.
  - Historic finish analysis indicates that door and window trim in room 208 was painted a yellowish white or light gray during this period.
- The photograph appears to show part of the head jamb surface, suggesting that the door was either open or that the door swung away from the camera. A lack of definition within the door opening, comparable to the shadowed area below the bed, is also consistent with a door either closed and in shadow at the far side of the jamb or open to a darkened room.
  - A door swinging away from the camera would be consistent with the east wall of room 108 and the east wall of room 201, but not the north wall of room 108.
  - The door casing is consistent with room 108 but not room 201.
  - As noted above, the presence of a window off-camera to the right indicates that this is not room 201.
- The doors appear to have had a grained finish from at least 1856 to 1887 and would likely have appeared in the photograph with a dark color comparable to the varnished furniture.
- If LIHO 10360 and LIHO 12893 show the same room, the placement of the door suggests that this photograph must have been taken in room 108, looking east.
  - The only other comparable door opening with a wall of this length is in the north wall of room 108. If the bed were placed against the north wall of room 108, daylight visible from off camera to the right could be coming from the east window of the south wall. This would not, however, be consistent with the in-swing door on this wall or with the window location shown in LIHO 12893.
- A door was cut into the east wall of room 208, connecting to room 207, sometime before 1887. The 1887 Bullard drawings document that this was a four-panel door with ogee moldings; it was that was narrower and shorter than the two-panel doors present elsewhere on the second floor. The casing of this opening appears to have matched the square backband casings used elsewhere on the second floor. This door was near the center of the wall would not have provided a length of wall comparable to that shown in this photograph.<sup>116</sup> For these reasons, LIHO 10360 does not appear to show room 208.

#### *Wallpaper*

- The camera is focused on the footboard of the bed, leaving the headboard and the wall behind it out of focus. The wall behind the bed may have a wallpaper but its pattern is indistinct in the photograph.

#### *Floor*

- The floor is in shadow, and its treatment is not discernable.

#### *Conclusions*

- This photograph appears to show room 108 (Sitting Room).
- This could mean that the Tiltens were using room 108 as a bedroom or that they moved Lincoln's furniture down to the first floor so that visitors to the house could see it without entering the family's more private second floor rooms.

116. That door was infilled in 1954 and a new door was cut through the wall at the northeast corner, immediately above the door between rooms 107 and 108 below. While the 1954 door opening did create a wall of comparable length to that shown in the photograph, there is no evidence of a door in this location prior to 1954. Cutting this new opening required cutting through the top plate of the original east wall of the room. The cut end of this plate visible in a 1954 photograph appears to be light in color, unlike the oxidized surface of the rest of the wall framing. This suggests that a door was not present at this location before 1954.





**Figure B.26.** Carte de visite photograph of Lincoln's bed, 1865. This appears to show the southeast corner of either room 108 (Sitting Room) or room 208 (Guest Bedroom). Source: LIHO 12893.

A ca.1865 carte de visite (CdV) photograph (LIHO 12893) of the same bed appears to have been taken about the same time and may show the same room pictured in the stereograph (LIHO 10360). [Figure B.28.] The CdV shows an American Empire dresser with a mirror to the right of the bed and a washstand and towel rack placed in front of a window at right. A table in the foreground holds Mary Lincoln's sewing basket and other items known to belong to the Lincolns.

#### *Window*

- The corner and window shown are consistent with the southwest corner of either room 108 or room 208.
- The relationship between the height of the mantel shelf and the window is consistent with that in both 108 and 208.
- The window is fitted with sheer curtains. A shadow in the window might have been caused by the mourning drapery present on the windows during Lincoln's funeral in May 1865. This drapery was present on all windows of rooms 108 and 208.

- Room 208 was fitted with Venetian blinds in 1860 and other photographs suggest that these remained in place as of May 1865. Venetian blinds are not visible on the window in this view, although they could have been pulled up.

#### *Wallpaper*

- The wall behind the bed appears to bear a wallpaper with a medium scale all-over stylized foliate or scroll pattern.
- This paper appears to have a repeat with some symmetrical or nearly symmetrical elements and some asymmetrical elements.
- The paper appears to have had a low contrast, possibly being a monochromatic or tone-on-tone paper.
- Visible portions of the pattern appear to match the wallpaper visible in LIHO 10361.

#### *Baseboard*

- The baseboard shows as a dark color similar to the wood furniture. This is consistent with the varnished baseboards

of room 108 but not with the light painted finish that was likely present on room 208's baseboards.

#### *Mantel and Stove*

- The CdV shows the edge of the mantel shelf. This is consistent with the mantels in rooms 108 and 208.
- The CdV appears to show a cast iron Parlor stove in front of the mantel. The stove appears to have a radiused corner and to be roughly as tall as the top of the simulated firebox opening of the mantel.

#### *Floor*

- The floor is in shadow. A small area may be visible below the table at lower right. Evidence in this area is indistinct but could suggest a patterned carpet.

#### *Conclusion*

- The CdV likely may show room 108 or room 208.
- The wallpaper appears to match that in LIHO 10361, which was not taken in room 108 and appears to show room 208.
- If the CdV was taken in the same room as LIHO 10360, it appears to show the southeast corner of room 108.



**Figure B.27.** Stereograph showing Tilton washstand, ca.1865. This appears to show the northwest corner of room 208 (Guest Bedroom). Source: LIHO 10361.

#### *Photographs of Other Bedrooms*

A ca.1865 stereograph (LIHO 10361) shows a washstand in a location that appears to correspond with the northwest corner of room 208. [Figure B.29.]

#### *Location*

- The width and apparent height of the wall behind the washstand appear to match the west part of the north wall of room 208.
- This could also possibly show the northwest corner of room 200, but a stair hall would be an unlikely place for

a washstand because such a space would offer no privacy for washing.

- The width of the wall indicates that this is not the northeast corner of room 201.
- This view could show the southwest corner of room 201 (Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom) if it were printed backwards. However, the framed print hanging above the washstand appears to be an engraving of Thomas Cole's *The Voyage of Life: Childhood* and matches the correct orientation of the painting and the prints

made from it.<sup>117</sup>

- While Krupka believed that this view—which he seems to have known only from a poor-quality copy with no wallpaper pattern visible—showed room 202 (Mary’s bedroom), the placement of the window at left and door casing at right indicate that it could not be room 202.<sup>118</sup>

#### *Door*

- The door casing visible at right is consistent with the second-floor casings featuring a plain backband molding.

#### *Window*

- The window at left is fitted with sheer curtains.

#### *Wallpaper*

- The wall behind the washstand bears a wallpaper with a medium scale all-over stylized foliate or scroll pattern including “C” curves.
- This paper appears to have a repeat with some symmetrical or nearly symmetrical elements and some asymmetrical elements.
  - This wallpaper appears to be slightly smaller in scale than the 1855 wallpaper in room 201 but was of similar character.
  - It appears to be similar to the wallpaper in room 108 as interpreted by the artist from Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper in 1861.
- The paper appears to have had a low contrast, possibly being a monochromatic or tone-on-tone paper.
- Visible portions of the pattern appear to match the wallpaper visible in LIHO 12893, which shows either room 108 or room 208.
- One of the larger fragments of wallpaper attached to the inside the wardrobe (LIHO

58) with strong Lincoln provenance and now displayed in room 201 may match this wallpaper.<sup>119</sup> The fragments were preserved in place when the wardrobe was conserved in 1988. The fragments are now slightly discolored and appear as a light brown pattern on a tan ground.

#### *Baseboard*

- The top edge of the baseboard visible at the right side of the washstand shows as a light color like that of the door casing. This is consistent with the light painted finish that was likely present on room 208’s baseboards but not the varnished baseboards of room 108.

#### *Floor*

- The floor is covered with a patterned carpet. Although the pattern is not clearly documented, the photograph suggests a medium to dark foliate or floral pattern over a pale ground.
- This may be the same carpet shown in in LIHO 10363.

#### *Conclusion*

- This stereograph appears to show the northwest corner of room 208.

117. “The Voyage of Life--Childhood | Smithsonian American Art Museum,” accessed January 13, 2022, <https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/voyage-life-childhood-22528>.

118. Krupka, Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1), 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 57-58.

119. Krupka, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 30, 54.





**Figure B.28.** Stereograph showing Tilton dresser, ca.1865. The shadow in the window at right appears to be from the mourning drapery present on the windows during Lincoln's funeral in May 1865. This stereograph appears to show the west wall of room 208 (Guest Bedroom). Source: LIHO 10363.

A ca.1865 stereograph (LIHO 10363) shows a Rococo Revival dresser with a mirror standing between two windows and flanked by two American Empire chairs. [Figure B.30.] This has traditionally been identified as room 208 (guest bedroom).

#### *Windows*

- This location between a pair of windows may correspond to the west wall of rooms 108, 201, or 208.
- The only woodwork clearly visible is the sill and stool of the left-hand window. These are consistent with those in rooms 201 and 208 but are different from those in room 108.
- This window trim appears as a light color. This is consistent with the finishes in rooms 201 and 208 but not room 108.
- The windows appear to be fitted with interior Venetian blinds. The only room known to have been fitted with Venetian blinds is room 208; the blinds in these windows are documented in photographs taken in 1860.
- The shadow of a tied-back curtain is visible in the right-hand window. This

appears to be outside the sheer curtains and may be outside of the interior Venetian blinds. The profile strongly resembles the tieback-held mourning drapery present on the windows during Lincoln's funeral in May 1865. These draperies were hung from the window frames.

- The mirror reflects a window that appears to be off camera to the left rear. The reflection appears to show the projection of a mantel shelf in front of the window and may show a vase or other object on the mantel. This is most consistent with room 208.

#### *Wallpaper*

- The photograph appears to show traces of a wallpaper pattern on the wall above the dresser. Although indistinct, these appear to include stylized scrolls.
- This could be the same wallpaper shown in LIHO 12893 and/or LIHO 10361.
- This may depict the 1855 wallpaper in room 201 or may show a similar wallpaper in room 208.

#### *Baseboard*

- The baseboard visible to the left of the dresser appears as a light color like that of the window trim. This is consistent with the finishes in rooms 201 and 208 but not room 108.

#### *Floor*

- The floor is covered with a patterned fitted carpet. The pattern appears to have included stylized scrolls and other

elements in a medium or dark color over a pale ground. The pattern is consistent with a carpet from the 1850s.

- The carpet may match that shown in LIHO 10361.

#### *Conclusion*

- This stereograph appears to show the west wall of room 208.

## **Selected Views 1866-1887**

### **Interior Views 1866-1887**



**Figure B.29.** View east in Parlors (room 101 and 102) when occupied by Osborn Oldroyd's museum, 1884-1885. Source: LIHO 9457.



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# Part 1.C Physical Description & Condition Assessment

## Introduction

This physical description includes information on the history and chronology of individual rooms, features and finishes. This has been included to allow the reader to understand the known history of rooms and specific elements, something not clearly laid out in prior documentation. The chronology of development of the property can be found in Part 1.B Chronology of Development & Use.

## Site

### Site Historical Summary Post-2014

#### Cultural Landscape Report (2014)

A June 2014 cultural landscape report (CLR) for Lincoln Home National Historic Site is the current guiding treatment document for the Lincoln Home site. Other guiding documents include the 2012 General Management Plan (GMP) and a draft CLR for the national historic site dated 1997. The 2012 GMP identifies the Lincoln Home site as a zone entitled “Lincoln Home Restoration.”<sup>125</sup>

The site history included in the 2014 CLR builds upon and includes extensive historical research conducted for the 1997 Part I CLR draft. The 2014 CLR team also include summaries of new research in the updated document.

Since the 2014, there have been several changes to the cultural landscape at the Lincoln Home site. NPS staff have performed routine maintenance, such as the replacement of degraded boardwalk planks and painting of the retaining wall and fences.

In 2015, the NPS installed a new disappearing lift in the rear yard to replace the one installed in 1989. The lift has two removable safety rails, currently stored on the north side of the house, that are set in place by a staff member when the lift is in use.

A park staff member must operate the controls for the lift, which are in a locked storage room on the north side of the porch. According to a 2022 accessibility report,

The lift is approximately six years old, covered with a tarp in the winter, and the pit is typically cleaned out about two times per year. A local company services the lift when it needs electrical repairs and is very responsive in providing replacement parts. It was also noted that the lift likely needs to be replaced every 8-10 years. The lift can be released if it were to get stuck in the ‘up’ position and may be operable with the use of a hydraulic jack if necessary.<sup>126</sup>

In the fall of 2018, the NPS replaced a storm-damaged apple tree located between the Home and a 25-year-old apple tree with a hybrid apple tree. In the fall of 2019, the older tree was also damaged in a storm and removed. The NPS replaced the older apple tree with another hybrid apple in the spring of 2020. The NPS relocated the American elm that was in the tree well in the sidewalk in 2021 to another location in the park. Staff plan to replace this tree with a more appropriately sized specimen in 2022.

### Site Analysis Summary

The Lincoln House site has undergone several restoration campaigns, and the NPS maintains the site to reflect its 1861 appearance. This treatment has resulted in a high level of integrity for the front and southwest portions of the lot. The integrity evaluation below is based on assessment included in the 2014 CLR, with updates as appropriate.<sup>127</sup>

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125. Midwest Regional Office, “Lincoln Home National Historic Site General Management Plan (Final)” (Omaha, NE: Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service, 2012), i.

126. National Center on Accessibility, “Lincoln Home National Historic Site Accessibility Assessment, Final Report” (Springfield, IL: Lincoln Home National Historic Site, January 2022), 45.

127. Quinn Evans Architects, “Lincoln Home National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Report” (Omaha, NE: Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service, June 2014), 4-8-4-10.

Feature	Contribution Status	Notes
Brick Retaining Wall	Contributing	Restored; however, photos from 1860-1865 photos show the wall with a markedly different appearance. Mortar between joints is less prominent, and the paint finish is less uniform.
Fence Above Retaining Wall	Contributing	Restored
Limestone Front Steps	Contributing	Restored
Removable Handrail	Noncontributing	Nonhistoric
<i>Brick Gutter Behind Retaining Wall</i>	<i>Contributing to façade of building</i>	<i>Not included in 2014 Lincoln Lot analysis, See Note 1 below</i>
<i>Brick Gutter Extension (along north elevation of the house)</i>	<i>Noncontributing</i>	<i>Not included in 2014 Lincoln Lot analysis, See Note 2 below</i>
Brick Sidewalk	Contributing	Wider than the historic condition (8-10' wide historically, now 19'-5" wide)
Wood Curbing along Streets	Contributing	Shorter than historic condition (20" tall historically, now 6-9" exposed height)
Boardwalk along Jackson Street (south side of lot)	Contributing	Wider than historic condition (3-4' wide historically, now 6' wide)
Wood Fence on South Side of Rear Yard	Contributing	Restored
<i>Wood Fence on North Side of Rear Yard</i>	<i>Contributing</i>	<i>Restored, See Note 3 below</i>
Wood Steps and Gate to Side Yard / Near South Porch	Contributing	Restored
Wood Steps and Gate to Rear Yard Near Barn	Noncontributing	
Wood Curb Ramps to Access Sidewalks from Jackson and Eighth Streets	Missing	Removed by the NPS due to safety concerns in 2018
American Elm ( <i>Ulmus americana</i> ) in Walk West of House	Temporarily Missing	Replaced occasionally by NPS to maintain 1860s size
Y-Shaped Boardwalks in Rear Yard	Contributing	Location is slightly different from historic location
<i>Disappearing Lift</i>	<i>Noncontributing</i>	<i>Not included in 2014 Lincoln Lot analysis, see Note 3 below</i>
Apple Trees in Rear Yard	Contributing	Location is slightly different from historic location
London Plane Tree	Undetermined	<i>Not included in 2014 Lincoln Lot analysis, See Note 4 below</i>
Crabapple	Undetermined	<i>Not included in 2014 Lincoln Lot analysis, See Note 4 below</i>
Cisterns in Rear Yard (located near southern end of east house wall and in northwest quadrant of the rear yard)	Missing	Identified by archeology

Feature	Contribution Status	Notes
Outbuildings in Rear Yard	Noncontributing	<p>Based on analysis of archeological data and existing conditions, the current buildings “only loosely reflect the forms and locations of the historic structures.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wood shed was present on the property prior to construction of the carriage house.</li> <li>• Portion of the wood shed was removed when the carriage house was constructed, and the carriage house was attached to the woodshed creating one oddly-shaped building.</li> <li>• Carriage doors opened to the alley and the building was located further to the west than the structures that are currently present at the site.</li> <li>• Privy present during Lincoln’s tenure was smaller than the one currently in the yard, and it was located west of the existing building.</li> </ul>

**Note 1: Brick Gutter (Drain).** The brick gutter lining the interior of the retaining wall was not included in the CLR analysis for the Lincoln Home site. A 1986 existing conditions drawing indicates that the gutter was composed of concrete at that time, and the drawings propose replacing that feature with a brick gutter.<sup>128</sup> The configuration of the existing brick gutters match the drawings, indicating that installation occurred during the 1987-1988 restoration. The site history notes that historical records show “brick surface drains along the inner face of the brick retaining wall.”<sup>129</sup> These drawings indicate that the brick drain is present but does not extend past the entire north elevation of the house. Therefore, the restored sections adjacent to the retaining wall are considered contributing features. The portion of the brick drain or gutter extending beyond the west wall of the house are considered noncontributing.

**Note 2: North Fence.** The fence on the north side of the site was not included in the CLR analysis for the Lincoln Home site. Photographs dating from 1860 to 1865 document two different conditions at the north fence. In 1860, the fence was composed

of wide, vertically oriented boards installed with gaps between them and attached to posts and horizontal rails along its north face. The top of the fence sloped up in height from the north post of the west fence to a level roughly matching the first floor window sills at a point north of the northwest corner of the house. An unframed panel of diagonal wood lattice, with any supports placed on its east (rear) face, spanned between the north wall of the house and the fence at a point near the east side of the northwest corner pilaster of the house. A photograph by A. C. Townsend dated 1861 and multiple photographs from 1865 show a different north fence. This fence was composed of narrower, vertically oriented boards installed without gaps, attached to posts and horizontal rails along its north face, and capped by a wood top plate or rail. This fence sloped up in height more sharply than the previous, rising from the north post of the west fence to a level roughly midway up the height of the lower panes of the first-floor windows. As with the fence visible in 1860, a panel of diagonal wood lattice spanned between the north wall of the house and the fence; this panel appears to have been slightly farther west than its predecessor, held just east of the west face of the northwest corner pilaster of the house. Like its predecessor, this lattice panel’s supports were on its east face, with

128. Ralph Hahn and Associates and Robert Harvey & Associates, ASLA, “Restore Lincoln Home RFP-LIHO-196-R,” June 26, 1986, L-1, L-2, L-3, L-4, National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office.

129. Quinn Evans Architects, “Lincoln Home National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Report,” 2–99.

it is composed of new materials, it is a close match to the fence from the period of significance and is therefore a contributing feature.

**Note 3: Disappearing Lift.** The first disappearing lift (nearly identical to the present one) was installed in 1989 and appears to have been replaced in-kind ever since.

**Note 4: London Plane Tree and Crabapple.** The CLR does not specifically mention the London plane tree or crabapple located between the boardwalk and Jackson Street, south of the Lincoln Home site. These two trees are not identified as possible extant historic trees in the CLR. However, the integrity analysis for vegetation in the CLR states,

If the streets of the neighborhood were all lined with street trees, as indicated in written accounts and shown in the Seventh and Eighth Street views . . . many more street trees have been lost than remain. While only sixteen historic and possible historic trees remain, additional trees have been planted, helping to maintain the tree-lined streets however, gaps are apparent where trees are missing. This number of trees is considerably fewer than those likely present in the nineteenth century.<sup>130</sup>

## Cultural Landscape Report Treatment Summary (2014)

### Landscape Treatment Zone A

*Lincoln Lot (Pages 5-16 through 5-18 and Drawing RT-3)*

Landscape analysis in the 2014 CLR indicates that “restoration has been achieved for the front and southwest portions of the lot, resulting in a high level of integrity.”<sup>131</sup> Recommendations in the CLR aim to achieve a higher level of integrity for the remainder of the Lincoln Home site. Though the overall GMP recommendation for the Lincoln Home site is restoration, the CLR recommends rehabilitation “to enhance the presentation of evidence related to historic conditions and to improve the visitor experience for those individuals compelled to enter the property using a barrier-free access route.”<sup>132</sup>

The following tasks are included in the CLR. Those that have been completed are noted with a date.

Following each treatment task description, abbreviations are provided to indicate the category of each project as follows: CI = capital improvements, DM = deferred maintenance, R/C

Task Number	Task	Category	Notes
<b>A1</b>	Continue to maintain and interpret the landscape features adjacent to the Lincoln home including the brick retaining wall, brick paving, steps, fence, gates, and boardwalks adjacent to the building.	R/C M	
<b>A2-a</b>	Prepare an HSR addressing changes to the outbuildings in the lot to guide the removal of the existing carriage house and wood shed and construction of a new building that reflects archeological and historical evidence, incorporates a barrier-free entry route to the property for visitors with mobility impairments, provides interpretive information regarding the outbuildings, and includes a universally accessible departure route for all visitors.	CI	
<b>A2-b</b>	Relocate the existing privy to a property in the Historic Yard Rehabilitation zone and construct a new interpretive structure that represents archeological and historical evidence at the site of the historic Lincoln privy.	CI	
<b>A2-c</b>	Remove the gate in the fence on the south side of the lot near the carriage house and replace with fence.	CI	
<b>A2-d</b>	Maintain a gate in the fence near the privy that NPS can open/close as appropriate for maintenance or visitor use.	CI	
<b>A3-a</b>	Connect the existing boardwalk to the new boardwalk constructed in association with the new outbuilding exhibit structures.	CI	

130. Quinn Evans Architects, 4–5.

131. Quinn Evans Architects, 5–16.

132. Quinn Evans Architects, 5–16.

Task Number	Task	Category	Notes
<b>A3-b</b>	Add an apple tree in the location indicated on drawing RT-3.	CI	Completed Fall 2019
<b>A-3c</b>	Maintain the existing non-historic apple tree on the property. Engage a certified arborist to evaluate the tree and provide recommendations for maintenance. Each year, inspect, prune, and treat the tree as needed. Water trees during drought conditions. Follow recommendations of arborist.	DM R/C M	Removed and replaced 2020
<b>A3-d</b>	Maintain the lawn as rough turf.	R/C M	
<b>A3-e</b>	If it ever becomes a priority to interpret the day-to-day life in the backyard, consider adding additional interpretive features to indicate the locations of the cisterns and non-extant laundry building.	CI	
<b>B6-a</b>	In the short-term, continue to maintain the brick pavement, boardwalks, lawn terrace, most trees (see B6-b and B6-c for exceptions), and board curbs between the Lincoln lot and Eighth and Jackson Streets.	R/C M	
<b>B6-b</b>	Remove the tree cage from the American elm tree in the brick sidewalk in front of the Lincoln lot. There ample evidence indicates that there was not a tree cage around the tree in this location during the Lincoln period.		Tree cage and tree temporarily removed
<b>B6-c</b>	Consider a new approach to management of the American elm tree at the front of the Lincoln lot. The street tree planted in this location during Lincoln's tenure was surely intended to grow and mature. Although period photographs illustrate a small tree, the current practice of replacing the tree every few years reinforces the simulated feeling in the landscape and stifles the emergence of a sense of authenticity within the neighborhood. It is recommended that a Dutch-elm disease resistant variety of American elm be selected and permanently planted in this location. Prior to planting, consult with a certified arborist and follow recommendations for plant bed preparation. With this treatment the photographic view of the Lincoln lot from the southwest corner of Eighth and Jackson Streets toward the Lincoln home will be temporarily affected during a period of the tree's growth when branches will partially screen the view. As the tree matures, and limbs are higher, the view will be revealed. Elm trees are slow growing and strong branched, minimizing threats of damage to the Lincoln home from the tree. By working with a certified arborist throughout the life of the tree, selective pruning can be employed to ensure that the mature tree does not pose an unacceptable threat to the property.		If the NPS were to maintain this tree and not replace it every few years, the tree would fulfill the design intent of being a "shade tree." The treatment recommendation of leaving the tree to grow to its full height is the preferred treatment included in the 2014 CLR; however, a case might be made that the Restoration treatment to the Lincoln Home site supports cyclical tree replacement.
<b>B6-d</b>	If the opportunity arises, consider rehabilitating the area between the Lincoln lot and Eighth and Jackson Streets. The intent is to better reflect conditions at this primary location during the Lincoln period as illustrated in Figure C.s 4-1 through 4-3. Drawing LA-5 provides an analysis of this area, clearly demonstrating that the brick sidewalk in front of the Lincoln home is approximately ten feet wider today than it was during the Lincoln period. Also, the grass terrace along the Jackson Street side of the lot was 2-3' wide during the Lincoln period, while today it is approximately 16' wide. Adjusting the brick walk and terrace adjacent to the Lincoln lot would result in a different street width at the Lincoln lot compared to the other properties within the project area, however careful design of the transition between the Lincoln and Carrigan lots can provide an appropriate solution. The alteration of the landscape at the west and south sides of the Lincoln lot can provide an opportunity for interpretation of the changes that have occurred in the street width and present a more authentic condition immediately surrounding the Lincoln house. This guidance is conceptual and would need to be more fully developed through schematic design development and preparation of construction documents prior to implementation of this task.		

M = routine/cyclic maintenance. The abbreviation DM|R/CM is provided for projects that will become routine/cyclic once they are no longer deferred. Capital improvement = the addition of a permanent structural improvement or the restoration of some aspect of a property that will either enhance the property's overall value or increases its useful life.<sup>133</sup>

## Site Description

The Lincoln Home site is located within Lincoln Home National Historic Site, a four-block area centered on the intersection of Eighth and Jackson Streets in Springfield, Illinois. This residential area includes cultural resources related to the neighborhood surrounding the Lincoln Home. According to a 2014 cultural landscape report for the historic site, “the arrangement of buildings and landscape features” in this area “is closely related to the Springfield Street grid.”<sup>134</sup>

The spatial organization of the rectangular-shaped lot comprising the Lincoln Home site within the park is three-part. The front yard is framed by a brick sidewalk and retaining wall to the west and the house to the east. [Figure C.1] The house occupies the central portion of the site. The rear yard of the Lincoln Home site is framed by the house, a one-story wood frame privy building (1868, relocated to the site from a rural property in the 1950s), and a wood and concrete outbuilding (1967) that very loosely approximates the barn and wood shed present during the period of interpretation. The east, north, and south sides of the site are separated from adjacent uses by fences.

The elevation of the street in front of the Lincoln Home is 594 feet above sea level. There is a difference in elevation between the street level and the front entry door of approximately five feet. To accommodate the raised level of the front yard, there is a brick retaining wall located along the north, west, and south sides of the site. The high point of the site is near the northwest corner of the house.

There is limited vegetation at the Lincoln Home site. There is a tree well in the brick sidewalk on the southwest side of the house. At the time of the site investigation in 2021, the American elm (*Ulmus americana*) that is usually planted in this spot had been removed. [Figure C.2] According to NPS staff, they removed it because it had grown larger than the desired size determined by the period of interpretation for the house. Turf grass covers the front yard area. There is a mature London plane tree (*Platanus x acerfolia*) and a small flowering crabapple (*Malus* sp.) in the turf grass panel located between the boardwalk and street on the south side of the house. In the rear yard, the NPS has recently planted two apple trees (*Malus pumila*). [Figure C.3] Other vegetation in the rear yard includes turf grass, which covers the entire area not occupied by walkways.

Vehicular circulation around the Lincoln Home site is limited to service vehicles. Eighth Street and Jackson Street have an asphalt surface with a brown gravel top layer (also referred to as “Merrimac gravel chip seal”). According to the 2014 cultural landscape report, there are several layers of material composing the street within the national historic site indicating a history of different pavement materials added on top of each other. “The brick base along Eighth Street is now covered with a layer of concrete and an asphalt aggregate layer with a surface chip seal of finely textured golden-brown gravel embedded in the asphalt,” resulting in the street being higher than it was in the historic period.<sup>135</sup> The streets are lined by 2 × 12 treated oak plank curbs. [Figure C.4] A gravel chip seal surfaced alley with no curbing forms the eastern boundary of the Lincoln Home site. This alley varies in slope from one to four percent. The alley provides circulation to the area north of the Lincoln Home site. Visitors who require alternative mobility access (such as a wheelchair or scooter) currently use the alley and pathway north of the site to access a gate near the northwest corner of the rear yard, close to the privy.

The sidewalk on the south side of the Lincoln Home is a 6'-0" wide wooden boardwalk. [Figure C.5] There are four access points leading north from this boardwalk into the Lincoln Home site. The westernmost entry leads to the south porch of the Lincoln Home. Wood steps lead up to the

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133. Quinn Evans Architects, 5–7.

134. Quinn Evans Architects, “Lincoln Home National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Report,” 3–3.

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135. Quinn Evans Architects, 3–5.

level of the front yard at this location. Another gate provides access to the rear yard where a set of wood steps with a wood handrail connects to a wood boardwalk. An 8'-0" wide boardwalk provides access to the south elevation of the barn. The westernmost access point on the south boardwalk is a 4'-0" wide boardwalk connection leading to the door on the southern elevation of the wood shed.

The sidewalk on the west side of the Lincoln Home is a 19'-5" wide brick walk with a herringbone pattern. Access to the front door from the brick walk is provided by limestone steps set on a brick and poured concrete base with a removable metal pipe handrail. [Figure C.6] A wood gate with square pickets is located at the top of the steps. The steps lead to a basketweave brick pad at the base of the stair to the front entry door.

In the rear yard, all walking surfaces are boardwalk. [Figure C.7] There is a 310 square foot irregularly shaped area between the privy building, barn, and wood shed that connects the entry doors of these buildings to the Y-shaped boardwalk in the rear yard. A 4'-6" wide boardwalk connects a gated entrance from the rear yard to the carriage house area. Two wood steps with no handrail lead to the rear porch on the west elevation of the house. There is a wood-surfaced disappearing lift located in the rear yard, providing access to the rear porch level. The lift requires NPS staff to operate it from controls located inside the Lincoln Home. Removable railings and wood planks matching the boardwalks in the rear yard mean that this lift is well-camouflaged at the site when it is not in use.

There is a brown painted retaining wall surrounding the north, west, and south edges of the front yard. [Figure C.8] The west elevation of this brick wall ranges in height from approximately 3'-9" at the southern end of to 2'-9" on the northern end. The wall is topped by a wood coping and a brown painted fence with square pickets of alternating height, square rails, and posts with post caps. According to 1986 site restoration drawings, these wood members are all pine.<sup>136</sup> Site managers note that the wood coping is cypress. The remainder of the site is surrounded by vertical board fencing with 1 × 12 painted pine boards.

136. Ralph Hahn and Associates and Robert Harvey & Associates, ASLA, "Restore Lincoln Home RFP-LIHO-196-R," L-5.

The south and west fences are 7'-0" tall. The fence on the north side of the site is 4'-0". At the time of the site visit there was a 1'-4" wide brick lined gutter on the inside of the brick retaining wall in the front yard. [Figure C.9.] This gutter turned west to extend across a portion of the north elevation, where it widened to 3'-6". The NPS removed the gutter between the time of the site visit and the completion of the final report as part of a wall repair project. Small scale features at the site include ground mounted metal spot light fixtures in the front yard and a wayside, two nonfunctioning hand pumps, and a trash receptacle in the rear yard. All downspouts from the house are routed underground. There has been extensive archeology performed at the Lincoln Home site. Most of the area under the barn, privy, and wood shed buildings has been previously excavated. The area under the south porch has also been documented by archeology. Archeology has identified the locations of a former cistern and well in the rear yard. A 1987 archeological study also reveals a location of a possible outbuilding east of the house.<sup>137</sup> This report identifies the yard midsection as an area of high archeological potential.<sup>138</sup>



**Figure C.1.** Oblique view of the Lincoln Home site, facing northeast. Source: WLA Studio, 2021.

137. Floyd Mansberger, "Archeological Investigations at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield, Illinois" (Lincoln, NE: National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, 1987).

138. Mansberger.





**Figure C.2.** Herringbone brick sidewalk on the west side of the Lincoln Home site, view facing northwest. Note tree well was filled with boards until the NPS planted a new American elm. Source: WLA Studio, 2021.



**Figure C.4.** Chip seal road surface and oak plank curbing with a drain inlet near the Lincoln Home site. Source: WLA Studio, 2021



**Figure C.3.** Newly planted apple tree in the rear yard, view facing southwest. Source: WLA Studio.



**Figure C.5.** Boardwalk on south side of site, view facing east. There are entry points along the boardwalk leading to the barn (foreground) and wood shed (background). Source: WLA Studio, 2021.





**Figure C.6.** Limestone steps leading to front yard, view facing east. The handrail is removable so that the gate can be closed. Source: WLA Studio, 2021.



**Figure C.7.** View facing east in the rear yard. The privy (left), wood shed (center), and barn right) frame the east side of the yard. Boardwalks provide pedestrian access through the space. Source: WLA Studio, 2021.



**Figure C.8.** View facing southeast of the retaining wall with wood coping and picket fence. Source: WLA Studio, 2021.



**Figure C.9.** View facing north of the brick gutter that lines the inside of the brick retaining wall in the front yard. The gutter widens and extends across the most of the north elevation of the building. Ground mounted metal spot light fixtures are in the grass along the façade of the building. Source: WLA Studio, 2021.

## Summary Table and Condition

Feature	Condition
Brick Retaining Wall	Good
Fence Above Retaining Wall	Good
Limestone Front Steps	Good
Removable Handrail (front Steps)	Good
Brick Gutter Behind Retaining Wall	Good
Brick Gutter Extension (along north elevation of the house)	Good
Brick Sidewalk	Good
Wood Curbing along Streets	Good
Boardwalk along Jackson Street (south side of lot)	Good – some boards need replacement
Wood Fence on South Side of Rear Yard	Good
Wood Fence on North Side of Rear Yard	Good
Wood Steps and Gate to Side Yard / Near South Porch	Good
Wood Steps and Gate to Rear Yard Near Barn	Good
Y-Shaped Boardwalks in Rear Yard	Good – some boards need replacement
Disappearing Lift	Good – sometimes malfunctions
Apple Trees in Rear Yard	Good
London Plane Tree	Good

## Outbuildings

### Outbuildings Summary Table and Condition

The Lincoln Home lot contains two outbuildings that stand in for the lost historic outbuildings.

Feature	Contribution Status	Condition	Notes
Privy	Contributing	Good	Historic, but not associated with this property. This privy was donated by Charles H. Crawford in 1953-1954 and was moved to the site to stand in for the lost Lincoln era privy. It is similar in size and appearance to the Lincoln privy documented in an August 1860 photograph. <sup>139</sup>
Carriage House & Woodshed	Contributing	Good	Nonhistoric. The existing Carriage House & Woodshed was built by the State of Illinois in 1964-1965. It resembles the Lincoln era outbuildings in overall mass and is in a similar location, but it is not an accurate reconstruction. The Carriage House was designed to house visitor restrooms. The Woodshed was planned for use as a museum. The entire building is now used for collections and file storage.

139. *Lincoln Home National Historic Site Historic Structure Report, Draft*, vol. 2 (Springfield, IL: Ferry & Henderson Architects Inc., 1984), 119.





**Figure C.10.** View of privy, woodshed, and carriage house as seen from the roof of the east wing, facing east. Source: RATIO Architects, November 2021.



**Figure C.13.** View of privy, facing northeast, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.11.** Privy donated by Charles H. Crawford during relocation, February 1954. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B9F4P26.



**Figure C.14.** View east inside privy showing unusual staved stools, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.12.** Privy being repaired for use in Lincoln Home back yard, February 1954. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B9F4P25.



**Figure C.15.** Inaccurate reconstruction of barn and woodshed (1964), facing east, ca.1965. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B7F1P170



**Figure C.16.** View of barn and woodshed (1964), facing northwest from intersection of Jackson Street and alley, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

## Exterior Description with Chronology

Illustrations located in Appendix A include scaled drawings the exterior elevations of the building.

The Lincoln Home's exterior was restored in 1952 and again in 1987-1988 and now reflects its appearance during the period of interpretation, 1860-1861. The house is a wood-frame building standing on a brick foundation and consists of two wings.

The west (front) wing is a side-gabled, two-story block measuring approximately 20'-4" along its north and south ends by 38'-4" along its west façade. This wing follows the I-house form, with a center hall flanked by one room to either side at the first and second floor levels. The west façade facing Eighth Street is divided into five bays, with one window per bay per floor except the center first-floor bay, which contains a recessed exterior vestibule sheltering a two-panel door flanked by four-lite sidelights above wood panels. The design of the door surround and the vestibule opening's paneled casing are derived from Plate 26 of Asher Benjamin's *Practice of Architecture* (1833).<sup>140</sup> The north and south gable end elevations of the west wing are divided into three bays. The outer bays each contain one window per floor at the basement, first, and second floors. The first-floor windows of the north elevation are now blind

windows, with shutters closed. Interior brick chimneys rise through the center bays.

The east (rear) wing measures approximately 24'-0" along its north and south elevations and approximately 31'-3" along its east elevation. It is capped by a very low hipped roof that gives the appearance of a flat roof when viewed from the ground. The east wing is set back from the sides of the west wing, with a porch (room 106) 6'-8" wide along its entire south elevation spanning the offset between the wings. The south face of the porch is divided into three bays by three square wood posts. The south bay is screened by a panel of diagonal wood lattice. The porch's roof deck is surrounded by a cast iron balustrade featuring a pattern of interlocking scrolls. The south elevation, facing Jackson Street, is divided into two bays. At the first floor, the west bay contains a floor-length six-over-nine window; this window would have originally provided walk-out access to the south porch from the Dining Room (room 107). The east bay contains a four-panel door opening to the Kitchen (room 105). At the second floor, each bay contains one window. The east (rear) elevation features irregular division resulting from the evolution of the rear wing between 1839 and 1856. At the first floor, the elevation is divided into three unequal bays. The south bay, consisting of roughly half the width of the elevation, contains a single window offset to the north of the center of the bay. The center bay consists of an incised Porch (room 104). The south wall of this porch contains a two-panel door opening into the Kitchen (room 105) and the north wall contains a two-panel door opening into the Pantry (room 103). The narrow north bay contains a single window. At the second floor level, this elevation contains two windows, one roughly centered on the wall and another above the north part of the incised porch. The north elevation of the east wing is divided into three bays, with one window per bay at the first and second floors in the center and west bays. Two brick chimneys rise from the roof, one at the north wall and one near the south wall.

Exterior walls are clad in wood weatherboard siding. The corners of the west wing are marked by paneled corner pilasters. Cornices with Italianate scroll brackets top both wings, with cornice returns in the gables of the west wing.

140. Asher Benjamin, *Practice of Architecture* (Boston: Carter, Hendee & Co., 1833), Plate 26, <https://archive.org/details/practiceofarchi00benj/page/n6/mode/1up?view=theater>.



## Exterior Summary Table and Condition

The exterior of the Lincoln Home remains in good condition overall, having seen regular maintenance since the comprehensive 1987-1988 restoration.

Feature	Contribution Status	Condition	Notes
Brick Foundation	Contributing	Good	Limited paint failure
Siding	Contributing	Good	-
Wood Trim	Contributing	Good	Limited deterioration and paint failure
Windows	Contributing	Good	Some failure of glazing putty and paint
Shutters	Contributing	Good	Some are replacements
Vents	Noncontributing	Good	Not visible; added in 1987-1988
Exterior Doors	Contributing	Good	Modern replacements matching design of historic feature
West Wing Roof	Contributing	Good	Modern replacements matching design of historic feature
East Wing Roof	Contributing	Good	Modern replacements matching design of historic feature
Gutters	Contributing	Good	-
Downspouts	Contributing	Good	Modern replacements matching design of historic feature
Lightning Protection	Contributing	Good	Modern replacements matching design of historic feature
Chimneys	Contributing	Good	Rebuilt 1987-1988
South Porch	Contributing	Good	-
East Porch	Contributing	Good	-



**Figure C.17.** West façade, facing east, November 16, 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.18.** West façade and south elevation, facing northeast, November 16, 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.





**Figure C.19.** South elevation, facing north, November 16, 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.22.** East and north elevations, facing west-southwest, November 16, 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.20.** South and east elevations, facing west-northwest, November 16, 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.23.** North elevation, facing south, November 16, 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.21.** East elevation, facing west, November 16, 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.24.** North elevation and west façade, facing south-southeast, November 16, 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



## Foundation

The Lincoln Home rests on a brick foundation that is exposed above grade. Most of this foundation dates from the construction of the house between 1839 and 1856, with partial reconstruction of part of the foundation along the north elevation in 1954 and 1987-1988. The brick is currently painted following evidence from past historic finish analysis.



**Figure C.25.** Detail of typical section of painted brick foundation. Source: RATIO Architects.

## Siding & Wood Trim

The exterior of the Lincoln Home is clad in wood weatherboard siding. Exterior wood trim, including corner pilasters of the west wing, wood water table, and bracketed cornice, has survived without major alterations since the completion of the Lincolns' last major remodeling in 1856. Exterior wood elements appear to have been repaired or replaced in kind during repair campaigns between 1861 and 1986. During the 1987-1988 restoration, the siding and much of the exterior woodwork was numbered, removed, repaired, and reinstalled after completion of structural and other repairs and the addition of a vapor barrier and insulation within the walls.

The siding and exterior woodwork appear to be in good condition overall. The following issues were evident at the time of the site visit in November 2021:

- Deterioration and failure along top of wood water table, particularly on the south elevation



**Figure C.26.** Detail of wood trim and siding at southwest corner of south elevation. Note the horizontal breaks in the boards forming the pilaster at center; these mark the top of the pilaster from 1839 until the second floor was raised in 1855. Source: RATIO Architects.

- Siding at the second floor on the south part of the east elevation appears to show drip lines below each cornice bracket, suggesting that the gutter has overflowed in the past.



**Figure C.27.** Detail of deterioration at wood water table. Source: RATIO Architects.

## Windows, Shutters, & Vents

### Windows

The Lincoln Home's windows date from the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839 and from the Lincolns' remodelings of 1846 and 1855-1856. The windows have undergone repairs and restoration over the course of the house's life. The windows are a character-defining feature of the house.

The windows remained operable and provided ventilation through 1987. The 1984 HSR recommended replacement of all existing windows with new wood windows, stating, “Repair of



**Figure C.28.** Typical six-over-six window with paneled casing and louvered shutters. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.29.** Paint deterioration at sill; typical deterioration of paint and glazing putty at sash. Source: RATIO Architects.

the existing wood windows was considered but, due to their extensive deterioration, repair is not feasible.”<sup>125</sup> This assessment appears to have been inaccurate; the windows were restored and fixed closed during the 1987-1988 restoration.

125. Lincoln Home National Historic Structure Report, 1984, 2:186.

### *Six-Over-Six Windows*

The standard window unit for the 1839, 1846, and 1855-1856 periods was a six-over-six wood-sash window. The six-over-six configuration and the use of narrow muntins with faceted sides is



**Figure C.30.** Blind window at north elevation with shutters open, August 6, 2001. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B1F74P1.

characteristic of the 1830-1860 period.<sup>126</sup> Most of these windows feature projecting sills and paneled casings. The paneled casings are six-and-one-half inches wide with flat moldings one-and-one-eighth inch-thick applied to the outer sides of the face of the casings at the sides and heads of the windows. These applied moldings create recessed panels at the sides and head of the window and cross at the upper corners of the opening, creating small square recessed panels. These paneled casings are used at almost all window openings. First-floor window and door openings at the south and east elevations of the east wing feature simpler casings lacking the applied moldings.

126. James L. Garvin, *A Building History of Northern New England* (Hanover: University Press of New England, 2001), 147.



The sash were not counterweighted during the Lincolns' occupancy. This was a typical configuration for a middle-class house of the period, with sticks or notched boards used to hold the lower sash up to the desired height. Mary Lincoln's biographer, Ruth Painter Randall, provides the following note: "Windows, having no weights, were propped up on sticks, an arrangement which was a source of terror to mothers who had to tie up smashed fingers."<sup>127</sup> While sash counterweights were common in the homes of the wealthy by this period, they were not widely used until after 1865.<sup>128</sup>

In July 1899, O. F. Stebbins was paid \$12.71 for "shutter sash balances, etc."<sup>129</sup> Krupka provides the following note:

The cost recorded... seems insufficient to cover both the labor and material expenses of equipping the lower sash of twenty-three double-hung windows, but no further reference to such work appears in the historic record. It is therefore concluded that the service provided by O. F. Stebbins in 1899 was either for the installation of a small number of sash weights, or, for the repair of existing sash weights.<sup>130</sup>

Krupka concludes that Stebbins' work may have included repairs to existing sash weights, likely repairs to broken cords and reconnecting fallen weights, rather than installation of new weights. This suggests that counterweights were installed at an earlier date, possibly during Oldroyd's repairs in the 1880s. Physical investigations in 1986 found sash weights had previously been fitted to twenty-three of the house's twenty-six double-hung

windows. The two windows of the Back Parlor (room 102) and the window of the Pantry (room 103) were never fitted with counterweights.<sup>131</sup>

Krupka, who examined the windows during the 1987-1988 restoration, reports, "There is no historical or physical evidence to indicate that movable windows in the Lincoln Home were weather-stripped during the historic period. This was not a traditional practice at the time."<sup>132</sup> In 1951, the R. B. Evans Construction Company was awarded a contract for weatherstripping the first-floor windows and doors. They installed "Master Interlocking Equipment A" on the windows.<sup>133</sup> Krupka reports that 1951-era folded sheet brass weatherstripping remained in place as of 1987.

The windows are in good condition overall. The following issues were evident at the time of the site visit in November 2021:

- Limited failure of glazing putty and paint
- Limited paint failure below flashing at top of casing of window of room 105
- Paint failure on some exterior windowsills

#### *Blind Windows*

The two north windows of the Front Parlor (room 101) were originally fitted with six-over-six wood sash at the time of the Dresser Cottage's construction in 1839. The Lincolns are believed to have removed these windows and plastered over the openings during the 1855-1856 remodeling, apparently to create additional wall space in the parlor after the removal of the east wall. The window frames and shutters were left in place at the exterior, forming blind windows. The window sash were likely salvaged and reused elsewhere on the house. Horizontal boards with circular saw marks were installed to seal the exterior face of the openings behind the shutters.

#### *Basement Windows*

The basement windows are three-lite casements taking the form of the lowest row of lites of the typical six-lite sash. These windows are not clearly visible in historic photographs, being obscured by the fence and later by plantings. The 1887 Bullard drawings show these as two-lite sash with panes measuring 12 inches by 15 inches. This does not

127. Ruth Painter Randall, *Mary Lincoln, Biography of a Marriage* (New York: Little, Brown & Company, 1953), 87.

128. Garvin, *A Building History of Northern New England*, 151.

129. Edwin C. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site* (Denver: National Park Service Denver Service Center, 1973), 54.

130. Francis Orlando Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, December 1988 draft, vol. 1 (Denver: National Park Service Denver Service Center, 1988), Sash Weights 1.

131. Krupka, 1:Sash Weights 2.

132. Krupka, 1:Windows 11.

133. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 80-81.

appear to be a mistake, as it is carefully noted on three of the four lites visible in the south elevation. These two-lite sash were probably replacements installed sometime between 1861 and 1887. The 1927 measured drawings show them as three-lite sash and a photograph of the basement taken in the early-1950s documents a three-lite sash in place at that time.

### Glass

The standard six-over-six windows associated with the 1839 construction of the Dresser Cottage and the Lincolns' 1846 and 1855-1856 remodelings were fitted with 10-inch by 16-inch lites. The six-over-nine walk-out window of the Dining Room (room 105), added in 1856, was fitted with 10-inch by 15-inch lites. The basement windows, present only in the 1839 portion of the foundation, appear to have originally been fitted with 8-inch by 15-inch lites. Krupka reports the following of glass used in the house:

[T]he typical window glass available to both Charles Dresser in 1839, and, to Lincoln during his [1846] and 1855-56 remodelings... would have been far from optically perfect, as window glass now is. Manufactured elsewhere, this glass would have been produced by either the crown or cylinder processes, either of which resulted in a visually unflawed product.<sup>134</sup>

A pre-restoration survey of window glass in 1987 differentiated between pre-1900 and post-1900 glass "strictly on the visual distinctiveness of modern glass' optical superiority (i.e., That absence of entrained air bubbles, waviness, color, and obvious clarity..."<sup>135</sup> Of the 350 individual panes surveyed, 177 (50.57%) were post-1900 and 173 (49.43%) were believed to be pre-1900. According to Krupka, during the 1987-1988 restoration, broken or damaged panes were replaced but no attempt was made to replace modern glass with reproduction glass or glass salvaged from other buildings.<sup>136</sup> LIHO staff report that old glass was used for replacement panes in 1987-1988.

### Window Screens & Storm Windows

Fabric or woven metal wire mesh screens were uncommon on the windows of American houses

134. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Windows 6.

135. Krupka, 1:Windows 6.

136. Krupka, 1:Windows 6-7.



**Figure C.31.** Detail of window of room 204 showing low-profile aluminum interior storm sash. Note deterioration of glazing putty and sill paint at exterior of wood sash. Source: RATIO Architects.

until around 1900. While closed shutters provided ventilation while deterring some insects, many, including houseflies and mosquitoes, could find their way between the louvers. Protection from insects was generally provided in the form of mosquito netting over beds and "safes" (screened covers or cabinets) to protect exposed food. Sticky flypaper, glass traps, and solutions of fly poison were common treatments to address insects.<sup>137</sup>

Mary Lincoln's biographer, Ruth Painter Randall, provides the following note: "The house the Lincolns bought, of course, had no fly screens. At meals a fastidious housekeeper could try to keep the flies away by waving back and forth a stick to which was fastened paper cut in strips. If she wished to be very stylish, she used fancy papers."<sup>138</sup>

In 1897-1898, the State of Illinois paid the Springfield Wire Screen Company \$18.00 for window and door screens for the house, purchasing several more screen doors from the same company in 1901.<sup>139</sup> These screens, possibly the first used on the house, appear to have been installed and stored seasonally and are not clearly documented in historic photographs. About 1920, the State of Illinois installed large screen panels to enclose the south porch as a private living space

137. Elisabeth Donaghy Garrett, *At Home: The American Family 1750-1870* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1990), 201-4; Garvin, *A Building History of Northern New England*, 155.

138. Randall, *Mary Lincoln, Biography of a Marriage*, 86-87.

139. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Windows 12-13.

for the live-in custodian. Window screens visible in photographs taken between 1920 and 1952 covered only the lower sash openings. The screen frames were painted a dark color, making them highly visible.

In 1951, the R. B. Evans Construction Company was awarded a contract for weatherstripping the first-floor windows and doors. Bearss indicates that they also provided storm sash with ponderosa pine frames.<sup>140</sup> Krupka reports that the number and location of these storm windows is not documented.<sup>141</sup> These were likely installed only during the winter months and do not appear in any photographs that have been located to date.

The 1952 exterior restoration included removal of all window and porch screens and all storm windows. Interior storm windows were installed during the 1987-1988 restoration and were replaced in kind in 2015. These storm windows are effectively invisible and are fitted with a clear film to protect the house's interior finishes and furnishings from ultraviolet (UV) damage. A 2019 condition assessment noted evidence of moisture between the storm window and the wood sash in some locations, including the presence of mold or mildew on some window components within this space. Cleaning of these surfaces during routine maintenance was recommended at that time along with the potential to introduce small vent openings at the top and bottom of the storm sash to allow moisture to dissipate from the cavity without compromising the thermal benefits of the storm windows.<sup>142</sup>

### Shutters

The house is fitted with exterior louvered shutters. Exterior shutters were commonly called "outside blinds" in the nineteenth century and they were used to control light levels and to provide privacy. The placement of shutters outside the windows made them more effective than interior shutters or blinds in reducing solar heat gain because they shaded the windows. All windows at the first and second floors are fitted with shutters except for the sidelights of the front door, set within the

recessed vestibule, and the east window of the Kitchen (room 105), where the placement of the downspout precluded the installation of shutters. The existing design, configuration, and location of shutters on the house match those documented in photographs taken between 1860 and 1865.

Two different types of shutters are present on the house and are documented in photographs taken between 1860 and 1865. Most of those on the first-floor windows consist of a single louvered panel with fixed louvers in the upper half and operable louvers in the lower half. Identified as "Type A Shutter" on the 1986 construction documents for the 1987-1988 restoration, this type of shutter was common in the region into the 1840s and likely reflects the type installed on the Dresser Cottage when it was built in 1839. Shutters on the north windows of the Back Parlor (room 102), both located within the 1846 addition, match those on the rest of the first floor. These might have been salvaged from windows on the original east wing at the time of the 1846 remodeling or might have been made new at that time.

All existing second-floor windows were installed during the 1855-1856 remodeling, and all are fitted with two-panel shutters with fixed louvers in the upper panel and operable louvers in the lower panel. Identified as "Type B Shutter" on the 1986 construction documents for the 1987-1988 restoration, this type of shutter was common in the region from the 1840s on. The window of the pantry (room 103), within the 1846 addition, is fitted with two-panel shutters; these are documented in an 1865 stereograph of the east elevation. The Pantry shutters might have dated from 1846 or 1856. The window of the Dining Room (room 107) was extended down to floor level in 1856; it is also fitted with two-panel shutters.

All of the shutters are mounted with H-shaped butt hinges and are fitted with iron shutter catches at their lower corners. This hardware is consistent with that documented in historic photographs.

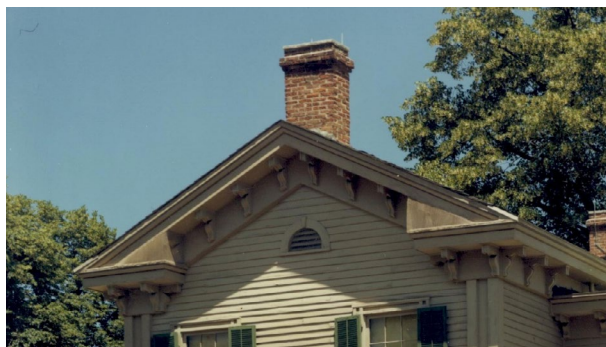
As exterior elements exposed to weather and frequent operation, shutters were subject to wear-and-tear and deterioration. Photographs taken in April and May 1865 show damage to the north shutter of the north window of room 108 on the west façade; the vertical bar operating

140. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 80–81.

141. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Windows 13.

142. *Lincoln Home, National Park Service, Building Condition Review & Report* (Springfield, IL: Melotte Morse Leonatti Parker Ltd., 2019), 5–6.

the adjustable louvers appears to have become detached and the louvers are in disarray. The 1984 HSR reported that most of the shutters were deteriorated and that it was “doubtful” that most were “original.” For this reason, it was recommended that all existing shutters be replaced with new shutters matching the historic shutters.<sup>143</sup> During the 1987-1988 restoration, all shutters were removed, restored, and reinstalled. The existing shutter hardware was stripped and reinstalled in the same location.



**Figure C.32.** Detail of ca.1977-1987 photograph of south elevation showing louvered attic vent added in the 1920s. No such vents were present during the period of significance. Note also the bird screens concealing the cornice returns. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B2F4P3.



**Figure C.33.** Detail of south gable as restored in 1987-1988 with inconspicuous attic vents, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

#### Attic Vents

Sometime between 1922 and 1927, louvered attic vents with horizontal sills, semicircular arched tops, and simulated keystones were added to the north and south gables of the west wing. The 1987-1988 restoration removed these vents, replacing them with inconspicuous ventilation openings created by routing the back of the weatherboard siding.



**Figure C.34.** Exterior detail of east concealed attic vent in south elevation, typical of the four vents installed during the 1987-1988 restoration, November 2021. These vents are effectively invisible to visitors. Source: RATIO Architects.



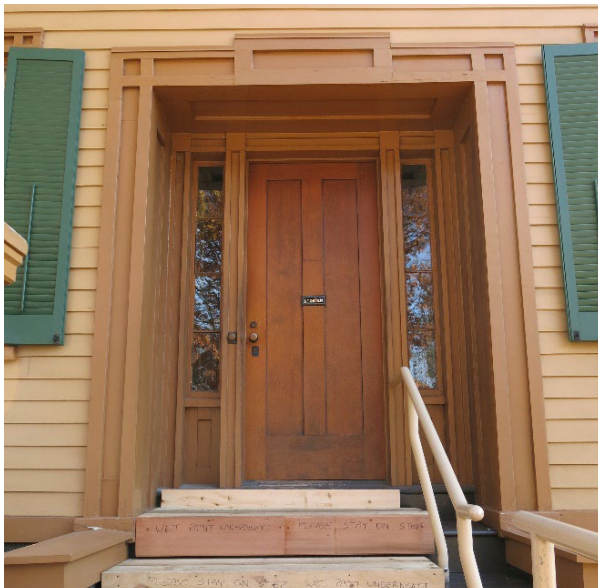
**Figure C.35.** Detail of interior of same vent showing insect screen, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

143. *Lincoln Home National Historic Site Historic Structure Report*, 1984, 2:207.



## Exterior Doors

The Lincoln Home includes four exterior doors. The front door is a two-panel door with flat panels and no moldings, matching the design of the house's interior doors. This door is a modern replacement. It is fitted with brass door knobs and modern brass escutcheons (roses). The south door of the Kitchen (room 105) is a four-panel door with flat panels and no moldings. Like the front door, this is a modern replacement. It is fitted with brass door knobs and modern brass escutcheons (roses). The north door of the Kitchen (room 105) is a four-panel door with flat panels on the exterior, shallow raised panels on the interior, and no moldings. The door is fitted with a ceramic knob. During the 1950s restoration of the Kitchen, a new, in-swing half door was installed in the opening, allowing the outer door to be propped open and for visitors to view the Kitchen interior from the East Porch. This inner door was removed during the 1987-1988 restoration. The door of the Pantry (room 103) four-panel door with flat panels on the exterior and no moldings. It is a modern replacement. The exterior face of this door is fitted with black ceramic knob and a ca.1890 escutcheon that is inappropriate for the period of interpretation. A door present at this opening from at least 1952 to 1987 included five horizontal raised panels and appears to date from alterations made between 1890 and 1920.



**Figure C.36.** Front door, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

Although all of the exterior doors are modern replacements, they are accurate replicas and serve as character-defining features.



**Figure C.37.** South door of Kitchen (room 105) within south porch, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.38.** View of east porch (room 104) showing doors to Kitchen (room 105) at left and Pantry (room 103) at right, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

### Front Door Nameplate

Lincoln, like many people of his generation, installed a nameplate on the front door sometime between 1844 and 1860. This nameplate identified the house as the residence of “A. LINCOLN”. This nameplate consisted of a rectangular piece of glass, reverse-painted with silvered slab-serif lettering on a black background and set within a brass frame featuring a radiused profile. The frame is slightly wider than the central stile of the door and small pieces of wood were mounted over the recessed panels to support the edges of the frame.<sup>144</sup>

Address numbers do not appear to have been used in Springfield until the late-1850s. The 1857 city directory reflects the earlier treatment of describing locations. For example, “Lincon Abraham, lawyer, h ne cor Jackson and 8th,” tells us that Abraham Lincoln was employed as lawyer, that his house was at the northeast corner of Jackson and Eighth Streets. Corner lots were easier to describe. The address of the Lincolns’ neighbor to the north (in the Carrigan House), Thomas Alsop, was listed as “es 8th, bt Market and Jackson,” meaning that Alsop’s house was on the east side of Eighth Street between Market and Jackson Streets. This description was less precise but could direct someone to the block.

Address numbers appear to have first been adopted on a limited basis in Springfield by 1859, when some address numbers appear in the city directory. Easily identifiable sites like corner lots were still described by location. By 1860, the Carrigan House’s address was listed as “43 S. 8th b Market and Jackson,” giving a house number and an indication of the block. In 1864, Lucien Tilton, tenant of the Lincoln Home, was listed as residing at “cor Eighth and Jackson,” listing the intersection but not specifying which of the four corners. Address numbers were formally adopted for all Springfield properties when free postal delivery began in 1873, but corner lots continued to be identified by location, as in the 1874 directory listing for Lincoln Home tenant George Harlow, which lists him residing at the “ne cor. 8th and Jackson.” By 1875, Harlow’s address was listed as



**Figure C.39.** Front door nameplate, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

430 S. Eighth Street, which remains the Lincoln Home’s address as of 2022.

The nameplate was mentioned in two 1860 accounts. A reporter for the Utica, New York, *Morning Herald* visited the house on June 21, 1860, and described the Lincoln Home as “a modest-looking two story brown frame house, with the name ‘A. Lincoln’ on the door plate...”<sup>145</sup> A description of the house published in *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper* on November 17, 1860, notes, “On the front door is a black door plate, on which, in silvered Roman characters, is inscribed the magical name ‘A. Lincoln.’”<sup>146</sup>

The nameplate was removed sometime between November 1860 and Lincoln’s funeral in May 1865, when a photograph of the house shows the door without the nameplate. The nameplate was likely removed in early 1861, around the time of the Lincolns’ departure for Washington. The Lincolns may have removed the nameplate and placed it in storage, the Tilttons may have removed it and stored it for the Lincolns, or it may have been stolen by souvenir hunters.

The nameplate’s whereabouts between the 1860s and 1937 are unknown. Lincoln historian Wayne Temple wrote a story in the Fall 1990 *Lincoln Herald* that he (Dr. Temple) thought someone had found it shortly after Lincoln died and it “circulated among private collectors as a most desirable item.” Dr. Temple found paperwork stating that Jesse Jay Ricks, a Lincoln collector then living in New York, purchased the nameplate in 1937. Shortly after this purchase, Ricks donated the

144. Francis Orlando Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, December 1988 draft, vol. 2 (Denver: National Park Service Denver Service Center, 1988), Front Door Name Plate 1.

145. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 25.

146. Bearss, 28.

nameplate and many Lincoln manuscripts to the Illinois State Historical Library (now the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library). Dr. Temple did not have a reason why there was such secrecy around the original donation.<sup>147</sup> On February 12, 1938, Illinois Governor Henry Horner reinstalled the nameplate in its original location on the door. Two days later, former Illinois State Historical Librarian Paul M. Angle wrote a letter of provenance for the newly rediscovered nameplate:

This doorplate is the original doorplate of the Lincoln Home. This original as placed on the Lincoln Home on February 12, 1938, by Governor [Henry] Horner but immediately after the ceremony it was replaced by an exact replica. The possession of the original is not to be revealed unless the replica now on the home should be stolen or defaced.<sup>148</sup>

Writing in 1988, Krupka provides the following notes:

Since no evidence has emerged disputing its authenticity, and, since the appearance of the object closely corresponds to period descriptions of the original, there is reason to accept the claims to originality made for it as valid.

NOTE: Paul M. Angle's reputation as a serious, principled devotee of Lincoln's memory and disciplined historical researcher was-and remains both meticulously impeccable and unimpeachable.

Recovered by means yet undisclosed, it is now included in the Lincoln Collection of the Illinois State Historical Library, on public display in the Lincoln Room in the Old (Illinois) State Capitol, designated Lincoln Relic No. LR103-M317.<sup>149</sup>

Krupka reports that the 1938 replica nameplate was then "in deteriorated condition." The replica was reinstalled on the front door at the completion of the 1987-1988 restoration. The following

description of the replica nameplate and its condition was provided for a 2014 conservation project:

In 1938, a glass and brass nameplate was placed on the front door of the Lincoln Home to replicate the original installed by Abraham Lincoln in the 1850s. The original was placed in storage at what is now the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, the replica stayed on the front door since 1938. The door, which was not the original, has been replaced several times with the nameplate always attached in the center of the door. At some point, the nameplate, which is reverse silver leaf and paint on glass, was losing the paint so three straps of packing tape were applied directly on the paint to keep it attached. Some thin cardboard strips were also installed between the glass and the door, presumably to help keep the glass in the frame better. The nameplate is now badly in need of conservation. Some of the paint has irreversibly attached itself to the packing tape and the silver leaf is tarnished almost to the point that the silver and black paint all look the same. There is adhesive failure between the leaf and the black paint and some paint loss throughout. The glass has scattered scratches and the surface has a layer of grime.<sup>150</sup>

During the conservation project, conservators were unable to save the paint because it was stuck to the packing tape. They stabilized the 1938 nameplate, and it was placed in museum storage. A new nameplate replicating the appearance of the original (and the 1938 replica) was installed on the door in 2014.

Although the nameplate is not the original, it is an accurate replica and serves as a character-defining feature.

#### Screen & Storm Doors

In 1897-1898, the State of Illinois paid the Springfield Wire Screen Company \$18.00 for window and door screens for the house, purchasing several more screen doors from the

147. This information was provided by LIHO curator Susan Haake.

148. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:Front Door Name Plate 3.

149. Krupka, 2:Front Door Name Plate 4.

150. "Parkplanning - Conserve 1938 'A. Lincoln' Nameplate from Front Door of Lincoln Home (HS-01)," accessed March 29, 2022, <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=52931>.

same company in 1901.<sup>151</sup> Screen doors appear to have been used seasonally until the 1952 exterior restoration.

### **Storm Shed (1918)**

In November 1918, Edgar Martin, Supervising Architect of the Department of Public Works & Buildings, designed a new “storm shed” for installation over the front entrance of the house during the cold weather months. This enclosure had wood-framed glazed walls and a copper-clad shed roof. It created a 3’-8” by 5’-8” vestibule over the front steps, matching the width and height of the recessed entry vestibule at the top of the steps. Martin designed the storm shed so that it could be taken apart into seven sections for storage during the warm weather months. Bearss reports that “With the coming of spring, it was removed and placed in storage until the next winter.”<sup>152</sup> The storm shed appears to have been part of a larger campaign of improvements to the house to accommodate visitors anticipated amid renewed interest in history in 1918, the year of Illinois’ centennial of statehood. The storm shed appears in photographs through 1931 and is shown on the February 1933 drawings for mechanical systems improvements, indicating that it was still in use. Use of the storm shed appears to have been suspended at or before the time of the 1952 exterior restoration.

## **Roofs, Gutters, Downspouts & Lightning Protection**

The original roof of the Dresser Cottage (1839) appears to have included a side-gabled roof over the west wing and a perpendicular gabled roof over the east wing. The west wing’s roof is believed to have been raised to form the present roof during the 1855-1856 remodeling. The various roofs of the east wing as expanded prior to 1855 were removed during the addition of the second floor in 1856 and replaced by a low hipped roof.

### **Sheathing**

In 1988, Krupka reported that the house’s existing roofs, including those of the west wing, east wing, and the south porch, were sheathed with three-quarter-inch pine boards of varying

widths. This sheathing is believed to be a post-1865 replacement, possibly dating from repair work in 1907.<sup>153</sup> The sheathing retains a range of old nails, including square machine-cut nails and round wire nails. Square cut nails were used in the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839 and in the Lincolns’ remodelings; they remained the dominant type of nail used in the United States through the 1890s and were probably used in most work in the house through that decade. Production of wire nails surpassed that of cut nails in the early-1890s and, by 1913, they accounted for 90 percent of US nail production.

### **West (Front) Wing Roof**

The roofs of the Dresser Cottage as built in 1839 are believed to have been covered in wood shingles, the most common roofing material in the United States until after 1900. Regional practices suggest that the original shingles were of native hardwood. “Based on the testimony of Page Eaton... it was believed the wood shingles covering the roofs of the Dresser Cottage were fabricated of white or red oak, or, of black walnut: all hardwood species native to the Springfield area.”<sup>154</sup> Virginia Stuart Brown, resident custodian of the house from 1924 to 1953, wrote in 1952, “Lincoln’s one and one-half story house was built by an Episcopal minister, Dr. Charles Dresser, in 1839. It was built of the plentiful oak and walnut in Sangamon County, hewed out by hand. The clapboarding was walnut, and the shingles were hand split walnut.”<sup>155</sup> Krupka notes, “This statement is presented without reference and no known document from the historic period corroborates her assertion.”<sup>156</sup>

The 1839 shingles of the west wing roof may have survived in place until 1855. The roof may have been damaged by a chimney fire in the winter of 1854-1855. The roof was demolished and rebuilt in 1855, when a second floor was added to the west wing. While prior researchers speculated that the 1839 roof was detached and raised, investigations in 1985-1986 revealed that the roof framing is entirely of white pine, the material used

151. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Windows 12-13.

152. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 64.

153. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Roofs 2.

154. Krupka, 1:Roofs 2.

155. Virginia Stuart Brown, *Through Lincoln’s Door* (Springfield, IL: Li-Co Art & Letter Service, 1952), 12.

156. Krupka, Roofs 3.



in the 1855-1856 remodeling, and not white oak, the material used for the structure of the Dresser Cottage as built in 1839.

A portion of the roof near the north chimney is believed to have been damaged by fire during 1856 or 1857. Krupka reports, “Unlike the earlier (i.e., winter, 1854/55) chimney fire, this fire appears to have been caused by lightning striking the Home. A flaw in the design of the grounding cable at the north gable of the structure caused a roof fire. No mention of this fire is documented in the historic record, but the physical evidence remains in the Home’s attic.” It is unclear whether the shingles were patched or entirely replaced after this damage.

The 1860 Whipple photograph shows the west face of the roof with shingles looking regular and relatively smooth; by contrast, the roof of the neighboring Carrigan House, also built about 1839, shows extensive variation and irregular texture consistent with an older wood shingle roof. This suggests that the Lincoln Home’s shingles were much more recent than those of the Carrigan House, suggesting that they likely dated from 1855.

Krupka cites two post-1865 sources indicating that the house’s “original” shingles—that is, those removed from the west wing roof in the late-1870s—were of walnut: Osborn Oldroyd and J. E. Hemmick. James Eugene Hemmick (1860-1959) was born in LaHarpe, Illinois, and moved to Springfield with his family in 1869. “Within several years, they were living on Eighth Street in the block south of the Lincoln Home.” In 1949, Bruce E. Wheeler published reminiscences of then 89-year-old Hemmick in a pamphlet titled *J. E. Hemmick: The Story of the Lincoln Shingle*. “The wooden shingles from the roof of the Lincoln Home in Springfield, Illinois were rapidly disappearing. In the spring of 1877, the contractors, Dallman and Graham, had torn the shingles from the building and they lay scattered about the surrounding the home.”<sup>157</sup> Krupka notes, “the firm of Dallman and Graham has not previously been associated with repairs or remodelings at the Lincoln Home. No reference to this firm appears in the historic record following Hemmick’s mention.”<sup>158</sup> Work in the spring of 1877 may have coincided with the

departure of the Harlow family, who had rented the house since 1869, and the arrival of the Jacob D. Akard family in May/June 1877. Hemmick, then age sixteen, saw these shingles as important relics associated with Lincoln’s life.

From time to time, the lady of the house stepped into the yard, gathered an arm load of the shingles and deposited them in the wood box. The shingles that had sheltered Lincoln and his family were now being used to kindle fires in the kitchen stove. More than once, Eugene Hemmick stopped at the Lincoln Home and looked at the shingles with longing eyes. More than once, he saw the lady of the house carry some of the shingles away. Eugene became greatly disturbed because he knew that the shingles were being burned and that they were too valuable to be used in that way. Displaying some of the business acumen that has characterized all of his subsequent business ventures, he approached the contractors with a proposition to clean up the yard in exchange for the remainder of the shingles. This agreement was quite satisfactory to the contractors and soon Eugene was busy carrying home the shingles.

Removing the shingles from the yard at Lincoln’s home was not an easy task but Mr. Lloyd offered Eugene the use of the horse and wagon from the store. Working at such spare moments, the task was completed in about two weeks and the shingles were safely stored in a small building at the Remmick home. In the meantime, many of the shingles were carried into the Lincoln home for firewood or were appropriated for others for the same use.<sup>159</sup>

Hemmick began making the shingles into matchboxes and other small, commemorative objects. Soon, someone suggested that he cut the shingles into profiles of Lincoln’s head. After working in a store until nine o’clock, Hemmick would return home and would produce these cutouts until midnight. After being reported by T. W. S. Kidd, editor of the *Sangamo Daily Monitor*, the story of Hemmick’s project appeared in several national periodicals including Frank Leslie’s *Popular Monthly*, the *New York Sun*, and *The Youth’s Companion*. Hemmick sold the cutouts for \$1.00 each. He soon saved \$100 from this work and

157. Krupka, Roofs 4.

158. Krupka, 1:Roofs 2.

159. Krupka, 1:Roofs 2.

used the money to start a grocery store with Hugh Montgomery in 1879. Hemmick made about 400 cutouts, selling the last in 1884.<sup>160</sup>

The printed cardboard sheet for the “box of relics” that Oldroyd sold during his occupancy of the house during 1883-1893 included space for a “Piece of shingle taken from the roof in 1879.”<sup>161</sup> To date, no complete relic boxes with intact contents have been located. If one is found in the future, analysis of the shingle fragment may confirm the wood species. It is unlikely that the house would have been reroofed in both 1877 and 1879, suggesting that both the Hemmick and Oldroyd references refer to the same event. The 1877 date appears to be more plausible.

The 1877 shingles may have remained in place for several decades. The 1887 Bullard & Bullard drawings label the west wing as having a “Shingle Roof” and photographs through the 1900s appear to show wood shingles. The roof may have been replaced during work in 1907 that may have included replacement of the sheathing.<sup>162</sup>

In September 1987, removal of post-historic plaster and historic lath at the ceiling of the Back Parlor (room 102) revealed debris including fragments of two black walnut shingles. These shingles appear to have been encapsulated in this space during the 1856 remodeling that removed the roof of this room and added room 202 above. The shingles are believed to date from the 1846 addition of room 102. The shingles measured five by fifteen inches and were three-eighths of an inch thick at the butt. Weathering indicated an exposure varying between four-and-one-half and five inches, meaning that the roof would have been covered with three shingles at any given spot. A square pattern of four holes indicating the use of square cut nails were located one inch in from either side and approximately three inches and eight-and-one-half inches from the feather end. Two of these holes were likely from the nails holding this shingle and two from the nails holding the next course of shingles above. Krupka notes, “the physical characteristics of the recovered historic shingles indicate that these



**Figure C.40.** Detail of sheathing at east face of west wing room from within attic, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

were machine-made and finished, not hand-split as asserted in local folklore. . . The shingles lack any indication of the roughness produced by hand ‘rivening’.”<sup>163</sup> This is an important distinction because nostalgic misconceptions about the past as an era of “primitive” and “hand-made” construction often cloud understanding of the role of increasingly mechanized production in the Midwest in the decades before the Civil War. The mythologized image of the young Lincoln as “the rail-splitter” may also cause visitors to assume that the house was roofed with hand-riven shingles split by Lincoln himself.

Plans dated May 16, 1925, label both faces of the west wing roof as “new roof.” The 1927 measured drawings indicate that the west face of the roof was clad in asphalt-covered asbestos shingles; the east face of the roof is noted as “new composition shingles placed June 1925.” Asphalt shingles, likely the 1925 shingles, remained in place as of 1950. When the west wing was re-shingled in 1952, “care was taken that the new shingles were a type cut to conform with building practices of the mid-nineteenth century.”<sup>164</sup> Two photographs dated November 1952 appear to document this re-shingling.

A small dormer was added to the east (rear) face of the roof at an unknown date. It is not shown on the 1952 construction documents for the 1952-1955 restoration project but was in place in a photograph dated December 1967. It may be

160. Krupka, 1:Roofs 2.

161. *Lincoln Home National Historic Site Historic Structure Report*, Draft, vol. 1 (Springfield, IL: Ferry & Henderson Architects Inc., 1984), 75.

162. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Roofs 2.

163. Krupka, 1:Roofs 2.

164. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 92.



**Figure C.41.** View of roofs of west wing and east wing, facing northwest, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

associated with the October 1964 contract with J. W. Brennan to furnish and install two ILG exhaust fans for \$1,500.00.<sup>165</sup> Writing in 1988, Krupka reported that LIHO staff believed that the dormer was installed by NPS around 1971-1975 but noted that no documentation to substantiate this could be located. The 1967 photograph indicates that it was installed by the State of Illinois prior to NPS acquisition of the property. Krupka describes the function of this dormer prior to its removal during the 1987-1988 restoration:

Housing an automatic, thermostat-controlled, exhaust fan connected by sheet metal ductwork to the return air registers in [rooms 200, 204, and 207] ...it vents over-heated air from the second floor during the summer months, until now a necessity because of extremely high (i.e., often +/- 90° Fahrenheit) temperatures upstairs during the summer.<sup>166</sup>

The west wing was re-shingled by the Peter Vrendenburg Lumber Company of Springfield in June-July 1974 (NPS Contract No. CX6530-4-0002). The following comes from the July 1, 1974, Completion Report prepared by Robert LaFrance:

The roof was stripped from front to rear of the old shingles and nails. The exposed sheathing which was full width and thickness 1" x 12" pine was originally laid approximately 1-1/2" apart. The space had been filled with appropriate lumber to make the sheathing solid.

165. Bearss, 114.

166. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Roofs 20.



**Figure C.42.** View of roofs of west wing and east wing, facing north, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

The contractor installed 57 lb. smooth rolled roofing paper over the sheathing and installed the SX #1 Red Cedar 16" shingles with a 5-1/2" exposure. The ridge line was covered with 20" anidized [sic] aluminum sheeting and covered with ridge shingles. All flashing around chimneys were caulked with caulking compound and nailed into place.

Upon inspection of the roof sheetings, some areas of deterioration were found but not severe enough deterioration to warrant replacing at this time. Programming in the future for replacement of some portions of the sheeting when the roof is reshingled may be necessary.

When the workmen were stripping the old shingles, a label from a previous used bundle of shingles was found. Upon comparing the label with the new shingle label, it was found to be of the same type and brand.

"The contractor disposed of the old shingles in a land fill and a National Park Service employee witnessed the covering.

Samples of nails, shingles and flashing have been photographed and the material stored for future reference.<sup>167</sup>

Writing in 1988, Krupka noted, "To date, the repository of neither the materials samples nor the record photographs of the work have been located." He also noted, "The documented

167. Krupka, Roofs 18-19.



presence and removal of Red Cedar shingles of the same grade as those being used in the 1974 reroofing indicates a recent, previous reroofing had occurred within the preceding 15-to-30 years.”<sup>168</sup> The wood shingle roof was replaced in 2011.

#### East (Rear) Wing Roof

The roofs of the pre-1856 east wings of the Dresser Cottage and Lincoln Cottage are not documented but are believed to have been sloped roofs likely covered with wood shingles like that of the west wing. Investigations in August 1985 revealed that the north ends of the ceiling joists of room 102 contain beveled cuts consistent with the techniques for joining downward-sloping rafters to underlying joists, indicating that the roof of the 1848-1850 addition of room 102 was a shed roof sloping down to the north.<sup>169</sup>

When the second floor was added to the east wing in 1856, the existing roofs were demolished and a new, nearly flat hipped roof was built to cover this wing. Krupka notes that material from these earlier roofs may have been used to expand the woodshed or to construct a new privy.<sup>170</sup> The 1856 roof's low slope allowed it to stay below the eaves of the west wing roof. The roof includes built-in boxed gutters. Roofs with such a low slope were covered in metal because wood shingles could not effectively provide a watertight surface at such a low slope.

The metal roofs of the east wing and south porch would have been installed new during the remodeling of the east wing in 1856. This metal roofing may have been maintained for many decades with regular maintenance and painting. Documentary evidence indicates that it was repaired until August 1899, when it was replaced by roofer John C. Neumann. Joseph E. Woods' report on the condition of the house in August 1887 noted the need to repaint the exterior, including the roof, likely meaning the metal roof.<sup>171</sup> During 1887-1888, Neuman & Melcher were paid \$11.00 for repairs to pipes, gutters, and the roof.<sup>172</sup> During 1888-1890, L. W. Coe was paid \$15.00 for painting the tin roof and J. H. Barkley & Company were paid \$2.35 for gutter repairs.<sup>173</sup> The Henson Robinson Company



**Figure C.43.** View of roofs of east wing and west wing, facing southwest, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

was paid for roof repairs in May 1894 and in 1896. During 1897-1898, G. L. Barrick was paid \$50.50 for repair of the roof and sidewalks and roofer J. C. Neuman was paid \$27.35 for labor and materials.<sup>174</sup>

In August 1899, J. C. Neuman was paid \$125.00 for labor and tin work on the roof. Neumann later told A. L. Bowen that he had removed tin roofing that was “at least 40 years old” and that he considered the old tin better than the new that had replaced it; “it had not even rusted on the underside.” Neuman saved the old tin and fashioned it into souvenirs, including “scores of pin trays which have gone to the prominent men of this country and to many of the monarchs of Europe.”<sup>175</sup> A pin tray in the park collection (LIHO 1387) includes a note reading, “This Tin was put on Lincoln’s Home in Springfield Ill. In 1858 taken off in 1921 / J. C. Neuman.” The 1921 date on this note does not appear to conform with Neuman’s documented replacement of the roof in 1899. Krupka examined three surviving Neuman pin trays, that in the LIHO collection and two in the collection of the Illinois State Historical Society, reporting the following in 1988:

All three known surviving Neuman ‘pin trays’ bear a dark iron oxide red paint film applied over a black primer on their outer surfaces. The effects of the cutting and stamping processes—

168. Krupka, Roofs 19.

169. Krupka, Roofs 14.

170. Krupka, Roofs 14.

171. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 46.

172. Bearss, 47.

173. Bearss, 54.

174. John Charles Neuman (1853-1935) was born in Springfield to German immigrant parents. He was working as a tinner by 1875 and owned businesses dealing in sheet metal roofing, stoves, and furnaces from the 1880s until his death.

175. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 54.

which fashioned the trays—is clearly apparent on these finishes, indicating their presence prior to fabrication. Thus, it appears that the sheet metal roofs of the Lincoln Home were painted this deep iron oxide red by the end of the Nineteenth Century and probably during the historic period, as well.<sup>176</sup>

Neumann repaired the roof in the autumn of 1901 and Neumann and H. H. Biggs & Son were paid \$146.3 for roof repairs in the winter of 1902-1903. Paullin & Patterson were paid \$17.34 for repainting the roof in the autumn of 1903. Neumann was also called in to repair one of the chimneys during 1904-1905 and another in August 1906. Neumann completed minor repairs to the tin roof and chimneys at least once during 1908-1909.<sup>177</sup>

Krupka notes, “No further mention of specific roof repairs is mentioned in the historic literature and records until the 1955-56 restoration/remodeling by the State of Illinois, at which time the entire surface coverings of all roofs were replaced.”<sup>178</sup>

The tin roof remained in place until at least 1927, when it is noted on measured drawings of the house. In 1952, a plan for the restoration of the house included a “new tin roof to replace the tar and gravel roof” at the east wing, estimated to cost \$704.00.<sup>179</sup> No other references to a tar and gravel roof have been found to date. The 1952 construction documents for the proposed restoration of the house note “New Tin (Terne Plate) Roof” and gutters and new copper flashing at the east wing.

Leaks in the east roof during heavy precipitation in the winter of 1964-1965 led to an investigation revealing heavy deterioration. The low bid for replacement of the metal roof came in at \$3,864.

Director W. T. Lodge had to obtain permission from the Finance Bureau for an expenditure above the \$1,500 limit for repairs of this type, writing, “We feel this is a serious matter and if repairs are not made immediately, damages could occur to the interior of the building.” J. W. Brennan received the



**Figure C.44.** Detail of west wing gutter, facing southwest, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

contract to replace the existing tin roof and gutters with a new flat-lock roof and gutters of 16-ounce copper.<sup>180</sup> Since 1900, copper had become the favored material for long-lasting roofs, gutters, and flashing, often replacing ferrous sheet metal on earlier buildings.

#### Gutters

The west wing roof features built-in gutters deeply recessed into the eaves at the west façade and east elevation. These gutters were framed with wood and lined with painted sheet metal. They retain the configuration documented in photographs taken between 1860 and 1865. The only difference from the conditions shown in those period photographs is that wood shingles do not continue down the slopes of the roof at the north and south ends of the gutter; this area is now clad in sheet metal, a modification that is largely invisible and is more resistant to leaks.

The east wing roof features built-in gutters recessed into the eaves along the north, east, and south elevations. These gutters are shallow, V-shaped recesses and were originally lined with painted sheet metal. During the 1987-1988 restoration, the gutters were clad in new lead-coated copper roofing contiguous with the roof of the east wing. Siding at the second floor on the south part of the east elevation appears to show drip lines below each cornice bracket, suggesting that the gutter has overflowed in the past, with water running over the cornice and down the face of the wall. This condition was evident as of a 2019

176. Krupka, Roofs 12.

177. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 55.

178. Krupka, Roofs 17.

179. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 54.

180. Bearss, 114–15.





**Figure C.45.** Detail of east wing gutter, facing northeast, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

condition assessment.<sup>181</sup>

### Downspouts

The downspouts documented in photographs taken between 1860 and 1865 appear to have dated from the 1855-1855 remodeling. All were round sheet metal downspouts. Those of the west façade were set into the recessed panels of the corner pilasters. The east face of the west wing roof drained down onto the lower east wing roof, which drained to downspouts at the northeast and southeast corners. As documented in an 1865 stereograph of the east elevation, these two downspouts continued down to near the second-floor line before turning sharply to drain into a conductor centered on the east wall of the Kitchen (room 105) and thence down into a cistern. Rainwater collection was a typical source of water for household use in the 1850s and would continue to be used for bathing, washing, and cleaning for many decades after the introduction of municipal drinking water systems.

The configuration of the downspouts appears to have remained largely unchanged except for modifications to the east elevation downspouts after the construction of the east kitchen addition after 1865. During the 1952-1955 restoration, the east kitchen addition was demolished, and the east downspouts were restored to reflect the appearance shown in the 1865 stereograph. The downspouts were replaced during the 1987-1988 restoration.



**Figure C.46.** Detail of downspout at southwest corner, facing northeast, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.47.** Detail of base of downspout at southwest corner, facing northeast, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.48.** View of downspout at east elevation, facing northwest, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

181. *Lincoln Home, National Park Service, Building Condition Review & Report*, 3.

### Lightning Protection

Krupka establishes that lightning protection systems were in use in Springfield during the 1830s, but it is not known whether lightning protection was used on the Dresser Cottage between 1839 and 1844 or by the Lincolns prior to 1855.<sup>182</sup> Lightning protection was probably installed in the house during the 1855-1856 remodeling and is documented in the earliest photograph of the house, taken in 1860.

Mariah Vance,<sup>183</sup> who began working for the Lincolns in April 1850, recalled that, during her first week there, seven-year old Robert told her that his mother was “afraid of this thunder and lightning.”<sup>184</sup> Likewise, Katherine Helm, niece of Mary’s sister Emilie Todd Helm, later recalled, “While Mary was courageous and daring about most things, a thunderstorm was terrifying to her.”<sup>185</sup> Krupka notes that fear of electrical storms was common in this period; lightning remains an unpredictable threat and newspapers of the period often carried stories about houses being struck by lightning. Between 1840 and 1865 lightning rods became “standard equipment for commercial, public, and residential construction. . .” and appear to have “become all-but-universal on residential structures in Sangamon County” by the early-1870s.<sup>186</sup>

Photographs from 1860 and 1861 show lightning rods mounted to the inner sides of the chimneys of the west wing. These were connected by a wire supported by six cast iron standards mounted along the ridge of the roof.<sup>187</sup> The grounding wires for both chimneys turned east above the ridge line in all photographs. The north chimney’s grounding wire ran around the cornice of the north gable and down the face of the siding to the ground; this is visible in photographs taken between 1861 and 1889. Three standards are believed to have



**Figure C.49.** Detail of lightning protection at north chimney of west wing, facing west-northwest, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

secured the grounding wire along this elevation. Archaeological investigations in 1987 uncovered the iron grounding rod along the foundation of the north elevation.<sup>188</sup> The grounding wires from the south chimney lightning rod are not visible in historic photographs and appear to have run down the east elevation of this wing.

Krupka provides the following assessment of the grounding wire that wrapped around the north cornice to run down the face of the wall:

Harry Nuce, NPS consulting professional electrical engineer, indicates such a configuration is inherently dangerous. Lightning, surging through a conductor to ground, will jump such a semicircular gap destroying anything—particularly a good conductor such as a rain-drenched, wood shingle roof—in its path.

NOTE: The (1985) discovery of fire-charred roof framing members in the immediate vicinity, originally believed to be the result of an undocumented chimney fire—the Home’s second—is now believed to have been the result of a late nineteenth/early twentieth century lightning strike.

I t now seems obvious that this fire resulted from the jumping of lightning-generated electrical current across the ‘C shaped’ , over-the-eave bend in the down conductor, igniting the wooden members of the storm-drenched

182. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:Lightning Protection Systems 3-5.

183. Vance’s account comes from an interview conducted more than 30 years after she had worked for the Lincolns. Lincoln scholars question the accuracy of some of her statements.

184. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:Lightning Protection Systems 6.

185. Krupka, 2:Lightning Protection Systems 6.

186. Krupka, 2:Lightning Protection Systems 8, 9.

187. Krupka reports that standards believed to be of the same period were discovered in June 1985 archaeological excavations of the Shutt House (HS-17) site.

188. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:Lightning Protection Systems 11.



roof. . .

Thus, it now appears that the reason for the eventual removal of the Lincoln-installed lightning protection system was that the system—as originally installed or as later altered—harbored a dangerous flaw, one that ultimately caused a fire in the Home.<sup>189</sup>

The lightning protection system appears to have been removed between 1890 and 1905. A watch fob in the park collection (LIHO 7405) was made in 1905 from a lightning rod from the house's roof. "When part of the original lightning rod was replaced on the Lincoln Home, one of the workers made a watch fob out of a piece of it. It was stamped with a "G" and a Masonic-type symbol on one side."<sup>190</sup>

Available documentation does not indicate whether the east wing roof was fitted with lightning protection. Krupka notes that metal roofs could be effectively grounded if fitted with metal downspouts continuing to grade, suggesting that the east wing may not have been provided with lightning rods and grounding wires.<sup>191</sup>

The State of Illinois appears to have installed a new lightning protection system in 1941. A single sheet of drawings dated January 17, 1941, was prepared by C. Herrick Hammond of the State of Illinois Department of Public Works and Buildings. This system included twin lightning rods on the inner face of each of the west wing chimneys and single lightning rods on the east wing chimneys. This system appears to have been repaired or modified at an undocumented time between 1954 and 1972.<sup>192</sup>

The lightning protection system was replaced during the 1987-1988 restoration. At the west wing, this installation is similar in appearance to that present in 1860-1861. The concern noted by Krupka was addressed by passing the grounding wires through holes in the roof rather than wrapping them around the cornice. A 2019 condition assessment notes that five-gallon

buckets were in place within the attic, below each grounding wire penetration, but no water was present in either bucket at the time of inspection.<sup>193</sup> These conditions were also observed during the site visit in November 2021. The grounding wire on the north elevation runs down the face of the siding as shown in the 1860 photograph. At the east wing, lightning rods are provided at both chimneys and at the northeast and southeast corners of the roof. Grounding wires for this wing are connected to those of the west wing via penetrations through the east wall of the west wing and the east face of the west wing roof.

## Chimneys

The Lincoln Home has four brick chimneys. Two chimneys are centered on the gable ends of the west wing and two others rise from the roof of the east wing. These chimneys are all of brick laid in a running bond and all feature a projecting corbelled necking. These chimneys are no longer in use and are fitted with metal caps. The west wing chimneys include ventilation openings within the attic, installed during the 1987-1988 restoration. The chimneys remained painted, with various periods of weathering, between 1861 and 1952. The 1952 exterior restoration included removal of paint from the chimneys to expose the bare brick and mortar. The 1987-1988 restoration included demolition of the chimneys down below the roofline and reconstruction to match their historic configuration. The chimneys have been painted since 1988, following evidence of their appearance during the period of interpretation.

The chimneys appear to be in good condition overall. Sloppy repointing on the north chimney of the east wing was never painted and many of these joints have experienced failure. Active mortar loss and paint failure were observed on the necking at the southeast corner of this chimney and at areas near the past sloppy repointing. The south chimney of the east wing exhibits limited paint failure and brick spalling above and below the necking.

Although the chimneys are modern reconstructions dating from the 1987-1988 restoration, they are accurate replicas and serve as character-defining features.

189. Krupka, 2:Lightning Protection Systems 25-26.

190. "Lincoln Home National Historic Site," accessed March 21, 2022, [https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/liho/exb/Memorabilia/LIHO\\_7405\\_ironNecklace.html](https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/liho/exb/Memorabilia/LIHO_7405_ironNecklace.html).

191. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:Lightning Protection Systems 23-24.

192. Krupka, 2:Lightning Protection Systems 26-28.

193. *Lincoln Home, National Park Service, Building Condition Review & Report*, 4.



**Figure C.50.** North chimneys of east (foreground) and west wing, facing northwest, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

## Porches

The Lincoln Home includes two projecting porches, the incised east porch (room 104) and the projecting south porch (room 106). Past treatment documents assigned these porches room numbers and treated them as rooms. For this reason, they are described along with the interior rooms.

## Exterior Paint Finishes

The exterior of the Lincoln Home has seen several different paint schemes. In 1976, Richard Wolfe conducted exterior finish analysis, taking approximately sixty samples of exterior paint finishes prior to a large-scale paint removal and repainting project. Wolfe matched paint colors to standards from the Munsell Color Company.

When the Dresser Cottage was built in 1839, it was painted gray (Munsell 5BG 7/1) with yellow-green (Munsell 7.5 GY 3/4) shutters. The Lincolns appear to have retained this scheme until their 1846 remodeling, when they implemented the following

color scheme:

- Siding and chimneys: light brown (“Quaker brown”) (Munsell 7.5 YR 6/2 – 7.5 YR 6/4)
- Trim: moderate brown
- Shutters: dark green (Munsell 10 GY 3/4)
- Brick foundation: dark gray (Munsell 5 GY 5/1)

The Lincolns retained this scheme during the 1855-1856 remodeling. In 1883, Joseph E. Woods, a longtime neighbor, reported, after checking with Thomas A. Ragsdale and John Rhodes, one of Ragsdale’s carpenters, that the house had been “‘painted in gray or drab colored paint,’ with green shutters” prior to the 1855-1856 remodeling.<sup>194</sup> Drab could refer to a range of light brown colors. Wolfe found no early finish evidence on the cast iron balustrade added in 1856 but recommended matching the color of the shutters.<sup>195</sup> This is consistent with the popularity of shades of green for ironwork in the 1840s and 1850s. News reports from 1860 refer to the house’s color as “plain brown,” “brown,” a “Quaker tint of light brown,” “stone color” with “green blinds,” and a “pale chocolate color” with “window blinds a deep green.” Reports between 1862 and 1866 describe it as “brown colored,” a “dirty clay color,” and as a “brown house.”<sup>196</sup>

The house is known to have been repainted in 1884, during Osborn Oldroyd’s improvements. It was repainted many times under the State of Illinois’ ownership. Known painting campaigns included those in 1887, 1888-1890, 1893-1895, July 1899 (when “workmen burned off old paint”), autumn 1903, 1907, and autumn 1914. Schemes during this period included brown (darker than the Lincolns’ “Quaker brown”) on the siding and trim up until about 1890, when the trim was painted a darker brown. The 1899-1907 scheme appears to have included the siding color on the panels of the corner pilasters; this treatment was followed on the 1905 replica of the Lincoln Home built by the State of Illinois in Portland, Oregon. The house remained brown until 1918, when it was painted

194. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 46.

195. Richard Wolfe, “Paint Study for the Lincoln Home” (National Park Service Denver Service Center, June 1976), 12.

196. Wolfe, 3.

gray with green shutters (described “a restful tan with green shutters”).<sup>197</sup> In 1919, the State of Illinois painted the house white with dark green shutters, a scheme repeated nine more times before 1952.

During the 1952 exterior restoration, the house was painted a light brown with very dark green shutters. This was based on physical evidence of early paint finishes found during the project. This change was not without controversy. Custodian Virginia Stuart Brown and other members of the State’s Advisory Committee for the restoration were accustomed to the existing scheme of white with green shutters, which had been in place since 1919, and were opposed to matching the “Quaker brown” color that the Lincolns had used. Brown



**Figure C.51.** Exterior painted white with dark green shutters (in place 1919-1952), 1948. LIHO Photo ID: B7F1P9.



**Figure C.52.** Adaptation of “Quaker brown” with dark green shutters applied during 1952 exterior restoration, 1955. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B7F1P88.

pushed for as light a color as possible and the committee eventually agreed to a light tan that was “close to, but a little lighter than” the sample that matched the physical evidence.<sup>198</sup>

The 1952 scheme, with slight variations or fading, remained in place until 1976. Doors on the west façade and south elevation were given a stained and varnished finish and doors on the east porch were painted to match the siding. A major repainting project commenced on March 28, 1957. “At 3:48 p.m. there was a near disaster, when a spark from a painter’s torch used to burn off paint started a fire. Firemen rushed to the scene and extinguished the fire in five minutes.



**Figure C.53.** Detail of exterior paint conditions prior to 1976 paint removal and repainting campaign. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B2F10P24.



**Figure C.54.** Color scheme implemented in 1976 based on new historic finish analysis, ca.1977-1987. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B2F4P3.

197. Wolfe, 4.

198. Bearss, Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site, 1973, 88.





**Figure C.55.** 1856 color scheme as restored in 1988 based on new historic finish analysis, June 6, 1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B5F33P145.



**Figure C.56.** Existing color scheme, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects

Damage to weatherstripping on a ground floor window and a charred frame at the southwest corner of the house was estimated at \$500.”<sup>199</sup> Work during the 1987-1988 restoration uncovered damage from this fire and indicated that it “was potentially more serious than has been reported”; structural members in the west wall of the Sitting Room (room 108) appear to have continued to burn unseen within the wall, apparently extinguishing themselves when oxygen within the wall cavity was exhausted.<sup>200</sup> Repairs were made and the house was given a new coat of “Quaker brown” in June 1957. H. F. Fritsch & Sons repainted the house’s exterior, carriage house, and fences in July 1968 using the same colors.<sup>201</sup> H. F. Fritsch & Sons repainted the exterior of the house in April 1971, four months before President

Richard Nixon traveled to Springfield to sign into law the act establishing the Lincoln Home National Historic Site.<sup>202</sup>

An extensive paint removal and repainting project in 1976 used colors based on Wolfe’s historic finish analysis. Doors on the west façade and south elevation were given a stained and varnished finish during most of this period but were painted to match the shutters by 1987. Additional paint analysis in preparation for and during the 1987-1988 restoration found that the trim had been painted a moderate brown and this scheme was implemented in 1988. Exterior doors were stained and varnished. The house retains the 1988 color scheme, reflecting its appearance during the period of interpretation (1860-1861). Exterior paint finishes remain in good condition overall, with areas in fair condition at some portions of projecting trim, shutters, and windows.

199. Bearss, 113.

200. Krupka, Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1), 1988, 2:Fire in the Home 7-8.

201. Bearss, Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site, 1973, 118.

202. Bearss, 118.

# Structural Systems

## Introduction

This section of the Historic Structure Report (HSR) for the Lincoln Home focuses on the current and past characteristics of the home's structural components. It is based on data provided by the NPS, both past and recent, and on direct examination and documentation of readily visible members within the home. There was no attempt made to expose hidden structural members by selective demolition during the field investigation.

This report relies on certain documents made available at the time of the writing. It is clear from various chronologies, bibliographies, and past reports that there is a significant volume of information and data related to the Lincoln Home. Only a limited collection of this data was utilized for this structural section.

This section aims to establish a brief history of the structure of the Lincoln Home and determine the present structural condition for future reference and make recommendations for future repair and restoration in the ongoing effort to preserve the home for generations to come.

### Scope of Structural

The structural section of this HSR is based on the following scope of work:

- On-site visual field investigation, including measurements, photographs, and assessment of the various structural members and components for the Lincoln Home.
- Research of the available historical documents relevant to the structure, provided by the NPS. This includes past reports, memos, chronology lists, past historic structure reports, design drawings for past repair and restoration efforts, documentation drawings of existing conditions at various times over the life of the structure, and structural analysis performed by engineers during past repair and renovation projects.
- Historic photos illustrating existing conditions for the home at various times over the life of the structure.

- Archeological reports that have been prepared at various times over the life of the structure.
- The chronology prepared by Francis O. Krupka, dated 1990 was relied on as a general guideline to the history of events associated with the Lincoln Home. This chronology spans the period of April 15, 1837, to April 30, 1990. It is acknowledged that this chronology has not been completely sourced and as far as is known, has not been independently verified. However, it has helped keep events in order and where data entries have been researched, the chronology has proven to be generally dependable.

### Brief History

A brief history of the Lincoln Home is necessary as a reference to the findings within this report. This is not intended to be an exhaustive history, which can be found in other sections of this HSR. It is only for broad reference to specific events for this structural section. The references below are based on a set of Historic American Buildings Survey drawings, dated 1986, prepared by Brad McCormick. These are not to be taken as entirely accurate, especially the early cottage stages of the home, but they serve to define specific stages for structural discussion. The dates given herein are more accurate than the dates on the HABS drawings.

*Dresser Cottage, 1839-1846:* The Lincoln Home began as a cottage built by the Reverend Charles Dresser, and was later purchased by Lincoln.

Originally, it was a one-and-a-half-story structure with a partial cellar, crawlspace, and attic sleeping rooms.

*Lincoln Cottage, 1846-1855:* After purchasing the cottage, Lincoln expanded the crawlspace and added a rear bedroom and porch to the northeast side of the cottage. At the same time, the east wing and south porch of the home were shifted to the south by approximately six feet to make room for the northeast addition.

*Lincoln Home, 1855-1865:* Lincoln raised the home from one-and-a-half stories to two stories, allowing for a parents' bedroom over the Front Parlor. The Dresser kitchen was split into a Kitchen and



Dining Room. The home achieved its current configuration with the completion of work in 1856. The Lincolns left for Washington in 1861 and the home was subsequently occupied by tenants.

*Lincoln Family Home, 1865-1887:* After Lincoln was assassinated in 1865, the Lincoln family never returned to the home and it continued to be occupied by tenants. A new kitchen wing, known as the Tilton kitchen, was added to the east side of the home in the late 1860s.

*Lincoln Homestead, 1887-1972:* In 1887, Robert Todd Lincoln transferred the property to the State of Illinois. The house underwent maintenance but the only major alteration was the addition of a porch to the north side of the Tilton kitchen in the 1890s. Between 1952 and 1955, the State of Illinois carried out restoration and rehabilitation of the Lincoln home based on the investigation, research, and direction of Richard Hagen and drawings by C. Herrick Hammond and Louis H Gerding. The Tilton kitchen was demolished in 1952 and a window on the north elevation was removed in 1954, returning the exterior to its 1860-1861 appearance.

*Lincoln Home National Historic Site, 1972-2022:* The State of Illinois transferred the Lincoln Home to the National Park Service (NPS) in 1972. NPS then undertook an extensive investigation of the house, leading to a comprehensive restoration between 1987 and 1988. Drawings for this project were prepared by Ralph Hahn and Associates Inc. in 1986. The house is largely unchanged since the completion of this work in 1988.

#### Site Visits

This structural section includes data obtained by direct visual examination of the Lincoln Home, made between November 15, 2021, and November 17, 2021. The structural components of the home were largely covered by wall and ceiling finishes and their nature and condition could not be examined without the removal of these finishes which would have resulted in damage to the home. Portions of the first-floor framing were visible from the cellar and mechanical room. Roof framing in front wing of the home was accessible from the attic.

Numerous photographs were taken including 3D photos taken with a Ricoh Theta V 360 camera.

The home was digitally scanned inside and out (7Gen Architects) to produce a point cloud which was used to create an Autodesk Revit 3D scaled model of the home.

#### Reference Material

Reference material such as historic documents, general reports, rehabilitation drawings, photos, past historic structure reports, chronologies, archeology reports, structural analysis, and NPS data has been collected and compiled for use in preparing this structural section. Historic documents are by nature subject to interpretation and may not be reliable or completely accurate, but represent the best means of establishing the structural history of the Lincoln Home.

The following is a brief description of the primary reference material used to prepare this structural section. These documents exist and copies were made available by the NPS. The descriptions given below are based on information contained within each of the documents available and on references made by Krupka in his 1990 chronology. Other material may be referenced later in this report. The references cited are a small collection of the vast amount of information and data available on the Lincoln Home.

#### *Bullard & Bullard Drawings, 1887.*

The Bullard drawings were prepared by Springfield architect George W. Bullard in 1887. The sheets are not dated or titled, but all bear the following notes: "A. Lincoln Home / Springfield Ills. / Drawn from actual measurements / by Geo. W. Bullard Arch't." Copies obtained by NPS bear stamps reading "88-1" through "88-4", but these do not appear on the original sheets. The following sheets are known:

- First and second floorplans (88-1)
- West and south elevations (88-2, copied together with the sheet listed below)
- Details of interior mantels, staircase, doors, casings and baseboards (88-2, copied together with the sheet listed above)
- Site plan, and details of the fence, doors, and windows (88-3)
- Details of the front entrance, windows, shutters, cornices, porch, parlor casings, and door jambs of Dining Room and Sitting Room (88-4).

These are believed to be the earliest measured drawings of the home.

*Lindstrom Measured Drawings of Lincoln Homestead, 1927.*

The Lindstrom drawings were prepared by engineer William J. Lindstrom and dated 1927. The State of Illinois commissioned these measured drawings as a detailed record of the home's existing condition. Sheet numbers assigned by the State are labeled 27-1 to 27-9 inclusive. The title blocks are not all legible on the copies available, but they appear to be labeled 1 to 9, inclusive. The drawing set includes a basement plan, first floor, second-floor plans, exterior elevations on four sides, a building section, and architectural details. These drawings appear to be a fairly complete set of dimensioned drawings for the home as of 1927. The east kitchen addition and a lattice porch on the north, both demolished in 1952, appear on this set.

*C. Herrick Hammond, Restoration & Rehabilitation of the Lincoln Home, 1952.*

The 1952 Hammond drawings were prepared by architect C. Herrick Hammond and dated 1952. The State of Illinois commissioned these drawings. The title block sheet numbers are labeled A-1 through A-5, ME-1, and ME-2. The labels assigned by the State are 52-1 through 52-8. These drawings were prepared to restore and rehabilitate the Lincoln Home, including floor plans, exterior elevations, a roof plan, and details for repairs. They represent measured drawings of the home but include various repairs and replacement components. The east (Tilton) kitchen and the lattice porch attached on the north were shown to be demolished on this set. New handrails were designed to limit public access to the rooms on the first floor. The handrails shown in these drawings were later reconfigured to allow better control of public access to the first-floor rooms. Electrical, heating, and plumbing upgrades were also included in this set.

It must be noted here that Krupka indicates in his 1990 chronology that the work represented in this 1952 set of drawings was never carried out, or perhaps delayed. The 1973 Bearss HSR (described below) suggests that the contractor for this work moved onto the site in August 1952 and the work commenced but was postponed when a structural inspection, referred to as the "Stearns Inspection" uncovered numerous structural defects. These

defects are outlined in the Bearss report and were serious enough that it was deemed "impractical" to continue the work already underway until these structural issues were addressed.

Bearss indicates some work was completed in 1952 but most of the structural work was postponed. Nonetheless, Bearss indicates that in January 1953, the newly elected Governor of Illinois, William G. Stratton, visited the Lincoln Home and presided over the reopening of the first floor to the public. It remained open until the second phase of the rehabilitation work began in 1954. It is not clear how, or if, the structural issues noted in the Stearns Inspection were addressed in order to open the first floor of the home to the public in early 1953. Bearss indicates that structural repairs to the first-floor framing did not commence until 1954.

*Louis H. Gerding, Further Restoration & Rehabilitation of the Lincoln Home, 1953.*

The 1953 Gerding drawings were prepared by architect Louis H. Gerding, dated 1953. The State of Illinois commissioned these drawings. Only one sheet has been found with Gerding's name in the title block. The title block sheet is labeled A-1 and the state-assigned label is 53-1. The sheet is titled "Basement Floor Plan & Details, Structural Improvements, Lincoln Home". The work shown on this sheet is structural in nature. It indicates the installation of beams and columns in the basement to provide improved support to the first-floor framing.

Krupka indicates that the 1953 set was used to carry out the restoration of the home in 1954 and 1955 by the State of Illinois. He calls it a "major" restoration and this work may have overlapped with the work shown on the 1952 restoration drawings by Hammond.

The 1953 Gerding drawing, Sheet A1, is very grainy and difficult to read. It is evident that several new beams supported by posts and footings were specified, apparently to improve the load capacity of the first floor. This work could be carried out from the cellar with minimal disruption to the home. Later measured drawings show posts and beams in the basement that roughly correspond to that shown on the 1953 set making it clear that the Gerding design for improving the first floor was implemented. Excavation and construction of the new mechanical basement were indicated

on the Gerding drawing set, but Sheet A1 does not provide specific details for its construction. The rest of the second floor and Kitchen were restored in 1954-1955, completed in February 1955.

*Bearss, Historic Structure Report, 1973. (Bearss 1973)*

A Historic Structure Report (HSR) prepared by Edwin C. Bearss appears to be the first systematic study done on the Lincoln Home after it was deeded over to the National Park Service - Department of the Interior on October 1, 1972. This HSR is approximately 183 pages including photographic illustrations. According to the author, this report provides documentation, of the history of the Lincoln Home, outbuildings, and grounds from 1824 until it was declared the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in 1972.

*David McLaren Hart & Associates, X-ray Inspection & Analysis-Lincoln Home, 1979,1980. (Hart 1979,1980)*

In 1979 and 1980, David M. Hart conducted an x-ray examination of the Lincoln Home to non-destructively determine hidden conditions within the home including the documentation of structural members hidden by wall and floor finishes. This study revealed considerable information about the general framing of the house without damage to the historic fabric.

*Ferry & Henderson, Measured Drawings, Lincoln Home, 1983.*

In 1983, the architectural firm Ferry & Henderson was retained to produce a set of measured drawings for the Lincoln Home. Some of the structural modifications made during the 1952-1955 restoration are noted on these plans, confirming that the restoration work designed by Hammond and Gerding was implemented.

*Ralph Hahn & Associates, Report Agreement, 1983.*

In late 1983, the engineering firm Ralph Hahn & Associates prepared a report on an agreement for addressing structural, mechanical, and electrical work needed on the Lincoln Home. This report appears to have been the precursor to a more comprehensive report issued by Hahn in 1986 which became the basis for a major renovation project documented in a drawing set dated 1986 and constructed from 1987 to 1988.

*Ferry & Henderson, Historic Structure Report Vol 1 & Vol 2, 1984 (draft).*

In 1984, a Historic Structure Report was issued by the architectural firm Ferry & Henderson. This report was issued divided into two volumes and contained around 440 pages, including figures and photographs. According to the document, Volume One contains historical and investigative information and Volume Two contains information regarding previous and proposed restorations. The document included many photographs and several simple drawings illustrating the floor plans and elevations for the Lincoln Home. The photographs are copies and are often difficult to interpret. The 1990 Krupka chronology indicates that this HSR was deemed unacceptable and rejected by the National Park Service. This report proposed several new public circulation patterns options to allow visitors more access to the first and second floors. Some of these proposals appear to have been incorporated within the 1987-1988 restoration documents later prepared by Ralph Hahn & Associates.

*Ralph Hahn & Associates, Structural Report-Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom, 1985.*

In 1985, Ralph Hahn & Associates issued a report on the floor framing for Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom. The purpose was to determine if the floor was adequate to support visitor traffic circulation, as previous reports had suggested it was not. In short, the report concluded that the floor was not adequate for the proposed visitor circulation based on allowable live load calculations.

*Ralph Hahn & Associates, Structural Report on the Lincoln Home, 1986.*

Subsequent to the 1985 report on the floor framing in Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom, a more comprehensive report was prepared by Ralph Hahn & Associates to determine the structural needs of the Lincoln Home to restore, rehabilitate, and preserve the home for the public access. It was clear to the National Park Service that the home was in need of repair and upgrades in order to improve visitor access and enjoyment. This report was prepared to identify the structural needs of the home and provide the framework for what would become a set of restoration drawings for the home.

*Ralph Hahn & Associates, Restore Lincoln Home-Phase I- Construction Documents, dated 1986.*

In 1986, Ralph Hahn & Associates issued a 100 sheet set of restoration drawings for the Lincoln Home. The construction work was carried out between May 1987 and June 1988 when the restored home was reopened to the public. This drawing set encompassed structural, mechanical, electrical, and exterior restoration and upgrades. Windows were repaired and the south porch foundation and floor framing were removed and rebuilt.

*Floyd Mansberger, Archeological Investigation, Lincoln Home, 1987.*

In the summer and fall of 1985, archeologist Floyd Mansberger conducted an archaeological investigation in and around the Lincoln Home, as well as some other structures on the property. According to the report dated 1987, one of the goals of the investigation was to assist in the restoration project that was ongoing at the time of his work. The 1986 restoration drawings called for pauses in the selective demo in areas of the home that were believed to have archeological value. These pauses allowed for an archeological investigation to occur before any new construction covered the area.

*Francis O. Krupka, Historic Structure Report, 1988 (draft)*

In December 1988, a Historic Structure Report was issued, written by Francis O. Krupka, a Historical Architect. The most recent copy of this HSR that has been found is a review draft with a title page dated December 1988. The December 1988 date may be an error; pages within the draft bear date stamps between January and December 1987, with the title page bearing a stamp of December 16, 1987. The text describes investigations through November 1987.

*Melotte Morse Leonatti Parker, Building Condition Review and Report, 2019.*

In late 2019, the firm of Melotte Morse Leonatti Parker issued a building condition review and report, which was essentially a capital needs assessment. The report concluded that the home was in relatively good condition requiring only routine maintenance, replacement of some finishes, and upgrading of operational systems. The review did not include plumbing, HVAC, or electrical systems.

**Brief Structural Event Chronology**

The following list is a brief chronology based largely on the Krupka 1990 Chronology, the 1973 Bearss HSR, and the 1988 Krupka HSR.

This chronology is for general reference to events that may have had structural ramifications or are milestones in the evolution of the Lincoln home from 1844 to the present.

1839	Dresser Cottage is built.
1844	Lincolns occupy recently purchased Dresser Cottage.
1846	East wing of cottage and south porch disengaged and moved south approximately six feet. Bedroom (room 102), Pantry (room 103), and East Porch (room 104) built to the north-east.
1849-1850	Front brick retaining wall was built.
1855	Front of home raised from one and a half to two stories.
1856	East wing of home raised from one and a half to two stories.
1865	Lincoln is assassinated.
1866-1869	New kitchen wing with cellar added to the east side of the home. This wing has been commonly referred to as the "Tilton Kitchen".
1887	Home was transferred to the State of Illinois by the Lincoln family.
1887	State of Illinois commissions architects Bullard & Bullard to prepare drawings of the home.
1927	State of Illinois commissions William J. Lindstrom to prepare measured drawings of the home.
1952	C. Herrick Hammond prepared restoration and rehabilitation drawings for the State of Illinois. Removal of the east kitchen addition was included in this set.
1952	In September, a thorough investigation into structural members in the home is made and the investigation identifies a number of serious structural problems. This effort is referred to as the "Stearns Inspection" in the 1973 Bearss HSR report. Work on the home, which started in 1952, was postponed as a result of this inspection report.
1953	In January, according to the Bearss 1973 report, newly elected Governor William G. Stratton visited the Lincoln Home to officially reopen the first floor to the public.
1953	Louis H. Gerding prepares further restoration and rehabilitation drawings for the Lincoln Home for the State of Illinois.
1954	Work on the home resumes in April, based on the 1953 Gerding drawings and continues through 1955.
1955	The Lincoln Home is reopened to the public upon completion of restoration work. This included the first floor, and for the first time, the second floor.
1972	State of Illinois transfers the Lincoln Home to the National Park Service.
1973	Historic Structure Report is prepared by Edwin C. Bearss.
1977	Major painting and restoration project on the home's exterior is completed.



- 1980 McLaren Hart & Associates issues a report containing the results of an x-ray examination of the home.
- 1981 Structural repair of the second-floor joists in the doorway between Room 208 (Guest Room) and Room 207 ( Boys' Room ), based on drawings prepared by architects Ferry & Henderson.
- 1983 Architects Ferry & Henderson prepare measured drawings of the home.
- 1983 Engineers Ralph Hahn & Associates issues a structural engineering evaluation report and makes recommendations for restoration of the home, including an allowable floor load analysis.
- 1984 Historic Structure Report, Vol. I & Vol. II., prepared by Architects Ferry & Henderson.
- 1985 Ralph Hahn & Associates issued a report containing an analysis of the second-floor framing in Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom, and the lintel over the main level doorway between the Front and Back Parlors. A destructive investigation was undertaken in the summer of 1985.
- 1986 A set of six Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) drawings were prepared by Brad McCormick setting out a graphical chronology of the Lincoln Home from 1839 to 1986. These drawings reflect the information available in 1986.
- 1986 Ralph Hahn & Associates prepares a comprehensive investigation and analysis of the structure of the home. This becomes the basis for the Phase I restoration drawings issued in 1986 by Hahn.
- 1986 Ralph Hahn & Associates issue Phase I of a comprehensive, 100 sheet set of restoration drawings for the home. This included a major restoration and rehabilitation of the home's structure. The construction took place between 1986 and 1988.
- 1987 Archeological Investigation Report at the Lincoln Home was prepared by Floyd Mansberger et.al.
- 1988 Restored Lincoln Home reopens to the public.
- 1988 Historic Structure Report prepared by Francis O. Krupka.
- 1990 Lincoln Home Chronology prepared by Francis O. Krupka.
- 2019 Melotte Morse Leonatti Parker Design Group issues a Building Condition Review and Capital Needs Assessment report for the home.
- 2021 Work on a Historic Structure Report for the National Park Service begins.

## Investigation

### Basement/Crawlspace

#### *Description*

The present configuration of the basement and crawlspace of the Lincoln Home has undergone several historical alterations. The original partially below-grade basement (cellar) under the west wing of the home and the crawlspace under the rear wing have existed since the original Dresser Cottage was built. When the east wing was shifted to the south in 1846, the original crawlspace walls and foundation were abandoned and new foundations were built under the relocated structure. Remnants of the original foundation of the east wing still exist below the east crawlspace. The south porch foundation was removed and rebuilt at the same time. By moving the east wing south, the Lincolns could add to the home in the northeast corner and gain a bedroom (which later became the Back Parlor in 1855-1856), a Pantry, and a covered porch. This addition was built over a crawlspace in a similar fashion to the rest of the east wing of the home. This basement and crawlspace configuration remained until the 1952-1955 restoration when a portion of the northeast crawlspace was excavated and remodeled to add a basement mechanical room. This configuration of basement and crawlspace exists to the present, with only structural footings and post additions made during the 1987-1988 restoration.

The eight inch thick basement walls under the west wing are constructed of brick masonry. The wall footings are also brick masonry, stepped out to create a wider base for wall bearing on the subgrade. The basement walls support the wood-framed walls above along with the first and second floors and the roof. The inside face of the brick walls has been parged with cement-based material (Gunitite) applied during the 1954-1955 restoration. Parging is a thin coating of a cement-based mixture, usually spray applied, to bind the brick courses together, and fill voids and imperfections in the brick and mortar. Before the walls were parged, the brick mortar joints were repointed.

The original crawlspace walls under the east wing of the home are constructed of brick masonry. The wall footings are also brick masonry, stepped out to create a wider base for wall bearing on the subgrade. The crawlspace walls support the wood-framed walls above, the first and second floors,

and the roof. The inside face of the crawlspace brick walls has had cement-based parging (Gunitite) added similar to that found in the west basement. Bearss notes in the 1973 HSR that during the course of the 1954-1955 work, the footings within the crawlspaces were found to be insufficient to carry their loads. Subsequently, a concrete shelf was built around the foundation to brace the footings.<sup>125</sup> This ledge can be seen in Figure C.57.

The basement floor is presently concrete, most of which was removed and replaced in the 1987-1988 restoration. According to Krupka, the basement cellar floor of the Dresser Cottage was likely compacted dirt. The dirt floor was first paved over with a concrete floor sometime between 1889 and 1903. A basement plan was not included in the 1887 Bullard drawings so it is not known what the nature of the basement floor was in 1887. The 1927 Lindstrom basement plan labels the floor as "New Concrete Floor". The crawlspace floors remain compacted dirt from the historic period, however, in the 1987-1988 restoration, a plastic vapor barrier and pea gravel were added on top of the existing crawlspace dirt floors. The 1986 construction documents for the 1987-1988 restoration indicate that the existing concrete slab was to be removed except for an eighteen-inch-wide strip adjacent to the brick foundation walls and that a new four-inch-thick concrete slab floor was poured. Writing in 1988, Krupka noted that these plans were prepared before it was known that the existing concrete sat atop post-historic fill. Krupka recommended that the concrete floor and post-historic fill be removed, that a new plastic vapor barrier be laid down over the historic dirt floor, and that it be paved with a layer of loose-laid brick on a shallow sand leveling bed. This recommendation does not appear to have been carried out.<sup>126</sup> The existing concrete floor appears to have been poured at the level of the existing concrete slab in the 1987-1988 restoration.

During the 1987-1988 restoration, the exterior brick foundation walls were excavated, and repointed and new waterproofing was applied to the outside surfaces of both the basement and crawlspace walls. Also in the 1987-1988 restoration, the crawlspace brick wall footings were underpinned with new concrete footings.

125. Edwin C. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, pg. 99.

126. Krupka, 1: Floors and Flooring 5-6.

During the historic period, the northeast portion of the home had a crawlspace under the Back Parlor, Pantry, and East Porch. The 1954-1955 restoration project included excavating a portion of this crawlspace and building a mechanical room basement. Access to the mechanical room was from an exterior stair and door outside the north basement wall. As part of the 1987-1988 restoration, this exterior access was removed, and a new door and steps were installed in the west basement through the east wall. The walls of the mechanical room are concrete masonry and bear on a concrete footing. The floor of the mechanical room is concrete.

#### *Condition & Recommendations*

The primary cause of deterioration and degradation of brick basement walls is below-grade water infiltration from outside. The basement walls of the Lincoln Home are partially below grade and exposed to groundwater infiltration. The waterproofing applied in the 1987-1988 restoration has helped protect the basement walls and prevent water infiltration. Very little evidence was seen of water leaking into the basement. Because the walls have been parged, evidence of water infiltration would be noticeable because trapped water between the back of the parging and the surface of the brick can cause delamination of the parging layer. The basement walls along the outside perimeter do not exhibit excessive signs of water infiltration or delamination of the parging. However, an area of dampness was noted in at least one instance in the northwest corner of the basement. See Figure C.58.

The outside of the crawlspace walls was waterproofed in the 1987-1988 restoration which has protected them from the damage caused by water infiltration. The parging appears to be intact and the walls do not appear to be exhibiting leaking or delamination of the parging layer. Although the basement appeared to be relatively dry, the waterproofing is currently over 30 years old. Water infiltration into the basement may develop in the future if areas of the waterproofing start to deteriorate. Regular inspection of the exterior basement walls for signs of excessive water leakage is recommended. If left unchecked, water infiltration into the brick walls can delaminate the parging and cause deterioration of the brick and mortar behind the parging.

Most of the concrete floor of the basement is new concrete poured in the 1987-1988 restoration project and appears to be in good condition. The concrete that existed prior to 1986 was removed and replaced in order to allow for the addition of new post footings and new steps leading into the northeast mechanical room. As noted earlier, the new slab was poured over post-historic fill to align with the portion of the slab that was not removed. The new and previous slab extents are indicated on the basement plan of the 1986 Hahn restoration drawings.

Approximately eight courses of the brick basement and crawlspace foundation walls extend above grade and are exposed to the elements. This outside surface was pointed and painted during the in 1987-1988 restoration and is regularly repainted along with the Lincoln Home, most recently in 2016. The paint is currently in fair to good condition with a few exceptions. See Figure C.59 and Figure C.60. Still, regular inspection and maintenance repairs to the paint coating and mortar joints are recommended to keep the brick protected and in good condition.

The concrete masonry walls and the concrete floor of the 1953-1954 mechanical room addition appear to be in good condition.

#### **First Floor Level**

##### *Description*

The first-floor structural framing consists of wood joists supported by the perimeter basement walls and internal beams and posts. The beams and posts have changed over the life of the structure with modifications and improvements made to the original floor system of the Dresser Cottage. Evidence of substantial modifications to the floor framing does not appear until the 1950s. Specifically, the 1952 restoration drawings do not include any substantial structural repair or modifications. However, the 1973 Bearss HSR reports that an inspection (Stearns Inspection) was conducted in September 1952 and it was reported that serious structural problems had been identified. These included foundation problems, insect damage to the first-floor wood sill plates, a “hump” in the floor at the doorway between the Front and Back Parlor caused by arching in the sill plate below, and other structural issues. This inspection was done after the restoration work specified in the 1952 drawing set was underway.

Bearss notes that after this inspection, work in progress was delayed until the structural issues could be addressed. Bearss further indicates that in February of 1953, a proposal for repairing the hump in the floor was accepted, but the other structural repairs were postponed.

By 1954, the second phase of further restoration and rehabilitation work was authorized, based on a set of drawings prepared by Louis Gerding. The work took place from 1954 through early 1955. This phase of work included structural reinforcement of the first-floor joists by the installation of steel posts and wood timber beams in the basement to shore up the floor framing. The Gerding drawings dated 1953 show new footings, steel posts, and timber beams in several locations, apparently to address structural deficiencies and/or deterioration. These were installed in the west basement and the crawlspace under the east wing of the home. Interestingly, there is no mention of the first-floor load capacity in relation to the post and beams installed in the 1954-1955 restoration in the 1973 Bearss HSR, or on the 1953 drawings. It is assumed that the floor was reinforced to improve the load capacity as well as address specific structural problems.

It was during the 1954-1955 restoration that a new basement was excavated below the Back Parlor. A steel beam was installed over this basement to support the existing floor joists at mid-span. This steel beam is still in place today and extends from the west basement wall of the mechanical room to the east foundation wall. A remnant of the north brick foundation wall of the original east kitchen wing before it was moved south was largely removed to create this basement. Only a short length of the wall still exists on the east side of the current crawlspace, according to archeologist Floyd Mansberger<sup>127</sup>.

Sill plates mentioned above are 8x8 wood timbers that rest on the top of the foundation walls in the basement and crawlspace. Typically, the first-floor joists are supported by the timber sill by means of mortise and tenon joints between the ends of the joists and the side of the wood sill. A general note on the 1953 Gerding drawings directs the contractor to replace decayed sill plates. This

was apparently to address structural problems identified in the Stearns Inspection mentioned in the 1973 Bearss HSR. These repairs were largely postponed in 1952-1953, but appear to have been addressed in the 1954-1955 restoration project.

According to Bearss in his 1973 HSR, the floor of Room 207 (Boy's Room) was reinforced with additional joists after removing the plaster ceiling below the joists during the 1954-1955 restoration. Additionally, the door between Room 207 and Room 208 (Guest Room) was moved to the north, and the rear stair was entirely rebuilt to accommodate visitor flow through the second floor and down the rear stair to the outside. Bearss mentions that the back stair was to be widened in 1954-1955, but it appears it was rebuilt but not widened.

The work done to restore and repair the Lincoln home between 1952 and 1955 represents the most significant effort to address structural issues in the modern era up to that point. A significant restoration of the exterior of the home took place in 1976/1977 including repair and replacement of damaged wood lap siding where needed, repair, and replacement of the trim and cornice work where needed, and painting of the entire exterior. Subsequently, the next major structural restoration of the home took place between 1987 and 1988. In the early 1980s, studies and structural reports were prepared, which lead to the 1986 set of restoration drawings prepared by Ralph Hahn. The construction work contained in this drawing set took place between 1987 and 1988.

The 1987-1988 restoration project included significant upgrades to the first-floor framing. It was determined, based on a comprehensive structural analysis of the first-floor framing by Hahn in 1986, that the floor structure did not meet the requirements for a live load of 100psf, which is generally required for structures open to the public assembly. Hahn also found that the first-floor structure had numerous instances of deficiency and deterioration. To address these issues, a system of new steel beams, steel posts, and concrete footings were designed for installation in the basement and crawlspace to add support to the existing joists and bring the floor up to a live load of 100 psf. Hahn also specified structural repairs where needed including replacing deteriorated 8x8 sill plates, adding steel fabricated joist hangers to

127. Floyd Mansberger, *Archaeological Investigations at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1987, 113, Fig. 67.

reinforce the mortise and tenon joist connections to the sill plates, and replacing deteriorated floor joists.

As noted earlier, posts and beams were added to support the first-floor framing during the 1954-1955 restoration. Most of these prior support beams were removed as part of the 1987-1988 restoration. A few of the existing supports were kept along with the steel beam under the Back Parlor floor over the mechanical room. These can be seen in the basement and are recognized by the type of members and their age difference relative to the more recent style support members. See Figure C.61. The new beams are galvanized with a 2x wood top plate and Simpson metal fasteners between the joists and the wood top plate. See Figure C.62 and Figure C.63. The “hump” in the floor at the doorway between the Front and Back Parlors is not mentioned on the 1986 drawing, so it is assumed that this issue, mentioned by Bearss in his 1973 HSR, was repaired satisfactorily in 1954-1955.

The 1987-1988 restoration work included the removal and replacement of the south porch floor structure including the joists, deck, footings, and roof support posts. The ceiling and roof framing for the porch were repaired in place with new members and new connections and the roof framing members were then reattached to the south wall of the home. See Figure C.64.

#### *Condition & Recommendations*

The first-floor framing of the Lincoln home is in fair to good condition. The 1987-1988 restoration project corrected the major floor framing deficiencies and deterioration identified in 1986. The new steel support beams in the basement brought the floor live load up to 100 psf which is sufficient for public assembly in the home. The visitor paths for the first floor do not present any structural issues as currently configured. The first floor now meets a live load of 100 psf throughout, which means consideration of future changes to the visitor paths on the first floor should not be restricted by loading concerns.

It is recommended, however, that any proposed changes to the occupancy, occupant load, or visitor path on the first floor be reviewed by a structural engineer to be sure there are no structural concerns or restrictions.

One of the ways the first-floor framing may be subject to deterioration in the future is exposure to water leakage around the perimeter of the basement and crawlspace walls. Exposed brick basement and crawlspace walls can be porous and need to be treated to provide a waterproof barrier. The foundation walls were excavated and waterproofed below grade around the outside during the 1987-1988 restoration. The upper portion of the brick foundation walls is exposed above grade. This exposed portion is currently coated with paint which provides protection against water infiltration. The first-floor wood framing is primarily exposed to water infiltration through the above-grade portion of the brick walls. It is therefore important to keep the exterior surfaces painted and well maintained to prevent water infiltration that could cause deterioration to the first-floor wood framing, especially the wood sills bearing on the basement walls. Also crucial is effective water management to channel rainwater away from the basement and crawlspace walls to help prevent damaging leakage into the basement and crawlspace. This includes maintaining the roof, gutters, downspouts, and surface drains to keep them clean and in good working order. Regular cleaning of roof gutters and downspouts is an often overlooked maintenance requirement. It is very important that this not be overlooked for the Lincoln Home.

Insect damage is another potential source of future deterioration to the first-floor wood framing, especially the wood sills. Records indicate that termite damage has occurred in the past and was repaired during the 1954-1955 restoration and the 1987-1988 restoration. Regular treatment and inspection for insect damage are highly recommended. If damage is discovered, repair should be implemented immediately.

## **Second Floor Level**

#### *Description*

The second-floor structural framing consists of wood joists supported by interior and exterior wood stud bearing walls. The second-floor framing consists of wood joist members dating back to the Dresser Cottage period. New joists were added during the 1954-1955 restoration, primarily under Room 207 (Boys' Room). The joists in the west wing span east to west, and the joists in the east wing span north to south. The



west joists bear on the west exterior wall and the central wall dividing the west wing from the east wing. The east joists bear on the north and south exterior walls and on the central wall along the north side of the upper corridor.

The development of the second-floor framing, beginning with the Dresser Cottage, does not appear to be well documented in the historical record. When the Lincolns first took occupancy of the cottage in 1844, there were sleeping rooms on the second floor suggesting the second-level joists, at that time, were more than just ceiling joists as they needed to be able to support furniture and people. The raising of the home from one and a half stories to two stories did not occur until 1855 and 1856. This means the Lincolns lived in the Dresser Cottage with a second-level bedroom for nearly eleven years. In 1846 the east wing was moved south and the northeast addition was built which included a bedroom (room 102), Pantry (room 103), and East Porch (room 104). However, the northeast addition did not include enough attic space for bedrooms.

When the east wing was moved to the south in 1846, it is likely that a new foundation was built, but the wood framing, including the second-floor level framing, was retained as the entire east wing was probably moved intact. As such, the current second-floor framing in the southeast includes joists that likely date back to the Dresser Cottage era.

When the west wing of the house was raised to two stories in 1855, the historic record suggests that the then-existing walls were retained to an approximate height of two feet above the second level, and new walls were built above that. This suggests that the original second-floor joists from the Dresser Cottage were retained and became the second-floor level of the two-story home. Hahn noted that the joists under Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom, Room 201 and Room 208 (Guest Bedroom) are typically alternating pairs of joists with the older, original joists, acting largely as ceiling joists and the newer joists supporting the floorboards. Hahn measured these joists as 1.75 inches by 9 to 9.5" at various spacings. The joists under the Upstairs Front Hall are single floor and ceiling joists measured as approximately 1.75 inches by 8.75" at 1'-9" inches on center.

When the east wing was raised to two stories in 1856, the original second-floor joists in the south portion that housed bedrooms appear to have been salvaged and moved up twelve inches to match the height of the west wing's second floor. Existing walls were retained approximately two feet above the second level, and new walls were built above that. Hahn noted in 1986 that these joists occur in pairs with newer joists, probably from 1954, fastened to older original joists. These joists occur under Room 207, referred to by Hahn as Robert Lincoln's Bedroom, and Room 205, the Trunk Room.

The second-floor joists in the northeast over the Back Parlor were new in 1856. There were no bedrooms or second-level attic joists in that portion of the home until the second story was built. Hahn noted in 1986 that these joists were typically 2 inches by 10 inches spaced at approximately 12 inches on center. These joists occur under Mary's Bedroom and the Hired Girl's Room.

To summarize, most of the second-floor joists at the time the home was raised to two stories appear to date back to the Dresser Cottage era, except at the northeast. Newer supplemental joists have been added to these original joists, possibly during the 1954-1955 restoration, except for those at the northeast addition.

The 1984 Historic Structure Report by Ferry & Henderson includes a detailed record of a repair done in September 1981 to the ends of the floor joists at the door opening between Room 207 (Boys' Room) and Room 208 (Guest Bedroom). The finishes were removed in May 1981 for an investigation, and it was found that the ends of the floor joists under the Guest Bedroom were not adequately fastened to the wall and header below the doorway. The repair was carried out and completed in September by Harold O'Shea Builders, based on a repair design prepared by Ferry & Henderson Architects. This repair is not mentioned in the Hahn 1986 structural investigation, although they were aware of it since they had done some calculations related to this repair for Ferry & Henderson in 1981.

Hahn determined in 1986 by structural analysis that many of the second-level joists as described above were not capable of supporting a live load

of 100 psf required for public access traffic. As a result, Hahn designed repairs and reinforcement details to bring portions of the second floor framing up to a live load of 100 psf. It was determined that the traffic flow would be limited in a way that would not require the entire floor to be reinforced. The entire west wing including Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom, the Upstairs Front Hall, and Room 208 (Guest Bedroom) were reinforced with new steel channels to meet a 100 psf live load condition. The west portion of Mary's Bedroom was reinforced with new steel channels for 100 psf live load, the west half of Room 207 (Boys' Room) was reinforced with double 2x10 wood joists, but the remainder of the second floor was not modified or reinforced. This was deemed to be adequate for the anticipated second-floor public traffic flow in 1986. See the 1986 Hahn drawings for specific details of the joists reinforcing.

The 1987-1988 restoration project included removing the ceiling below the second floor where modifications were needed and reinforcing the joists from below. In addition to new joists reinforcement, the connections of the ends of the joists to the support wall were upgraded to meet the 100 psf live load requirement. See the 1986 Hahn drawings for specific details of the connection reinforcement.

The 1986 Hahn report also included an analysis and repair recommendations for the lintel over the door opening between the Front and Back Parlors. It was determined that the existing lintel was not adequate for a 100 psf live load on the second floor. The ceiling and wall plaster around the lintel was removed and new steel channels and plates were installed along with reinforced end supports at the jambs of the opening. See Figure C.65. Reference the 1986 Hahn drawings for specific details of the lintel reinforcing.

The Hahn report does not indicate an allowable live load for the front and back stairs. The report suggests this would be impossible given the unknowns at the time of the report. However, it appears the front stair was stripped of finishes and examined sometime before or during the restoration work and reinforcement was deemed necessary. As a result, the 1986 restoration drawings include details for structural reinforcement of the front stair with steel plates, angles, and wood headers. This suggests that the

stairs now have a live load capacity higher than the original construction, and probably as high as 100 psf. The back stair does not appear to have been modified during the 1987-1988 restoration, although it's currently on the traffic flow path for visitors.

#### *Condition & Recommendations*

The overall structural condition of the second-floor framing is fair to good. The restoration work done in 1987-1988 based on the 1986 Ralph Hahn drawings generally brought the second-floor structural framing up to 100 psf live load in those areas where the public has access. The current visitor flow path on the second floor directs the public up the front stair, then into Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom, Mary's Bedroom, out into the Upstairs Back Hall, and down the back stair. The public is blocked off from the Guest Bedroom, Boys' Room, Hired Girl's Room, and the Trunk Room. Currently, wheelchairs are not permitted on the second floor as there is no access from the first to the second floor.

There is a slight lip on the floor between Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom and Mary's Bedroom. This is likely the result of the repairs made to the lintel over the door between the Front and Back Parlors directly below this location. Other than a slight tripping hazard, it is doubtful this is a serious structural problem. The most direct repair is to peel back the carpet and form a gradual taper up to the lip with a cement-based floor topping material. It may be possible to fabricate a wood or heavy Styrofoam tapered ramp and place it under the blue wear carpet, on top of the room carpet to avoid having to peel back the room carpet. The goal would be to make the lip a little less of a tripping hazard. The other alternative is to peel back the carpet, take a portion of the floorboards, determine the cause of the lip and make appropriate repairs. This would require an investigation phase and a repair phase which may limit access to the two bedrooms for a short period. Alternatively, the work could be done after visiting hours to limit the disruption to the visitation schedule.

The reinforcement of the back stair was not included in the 1987-1988 restoration, as was the front stair. As such, it is unknown whether the back stair is adequate to meet the code-required live load of 100 psf. Unless reinforcement work

was done on this stair structure that did not appear on the Hahn 1986 drawings, the structure of the stair is unchanged since it was rebuilt during the 1952-1955 restoration. Further study or additional information on the current structural configuration of the stair is needed to confirm the load capacity of the back stair. Although this condition does not appear to pose an immediate structural concern, it is recommended that an investigation and analysis be considered to determine the load capacity of the stair and the possible need for reinforcement.

#### **Roof/Attic**

##### *Description*

The Lincoln Home has two distinct roof configurations. The front wing has a simple gable roof with a pitch of 7:12 and an attic floor. The rear wing has a low-slope hip roof. The front wing attic is accessible through a ceiling hatch over the Upstairs Front Hall at the top of the front stairs. The rear wing has a very shallow attic space which is not accessible. The roofs are framed with wood rafters and floor/ceiling joists. A louvered dormer for mechanical ventilation was built by the National Park Service sometime between 1971 and 1975, on the east side of the front roof. It was removed during the 1987-1988 restoration.

Both the currently existing front and rear roofs were built in 1855 and 1856 at the time the Lincolns converted the one and a half story home to two stories. It is not known if the wood framing of the original cottage roof was reused for the new roofs in 1855 and 1856. The existing wood rafters that were visible in the front attic look older, but it is likely that the roof framing is from the 1855-1856 remodel. Krupka suggests that the original Dresser Cottage roof framing materials were completely removed during the 1955-1956 remodel, and the wood used to build several of the Lincoln outbuildings.<sup>128</sup>

The roof and attic floor framing in the front wing is visible from within the attic which is tall enough for a person to stand along the center, below the ridge beam. This allowed for a visual examination of the existing framing and the 1987-1988 renovation repairs. The wood framing for the rear roof is not accessible and cannot be examined without removing the ceiling over the second floor. As

such, the condition of this wood framing and the 1987-1988 repairs has not been assessed.

The front roof framing consists of 2 ¼" x 6" rafters spaced at 24 inches on a 7 to 12 pitch. The attic floor joists, which also act as ceiling joists, consist of 2 ¼" x 6" joists spaced at 24 inches. According to the Hahn 1986 report, the rear roof consists of 2" x 6" rafters and ceiling joists of varying widths. The rear ceiling joists vary from 1 ¾" x 7 ½" to 2" x 8" in size, but the spacing is not provided.

The 1986 Hahn structural report provides a thorough description of structural problems with the front roof as they found it in 1986. The roof framing of the roof has likely not changed or been repaired since it was built in 1855. Hahn found the joists and rafters themselves to be in fair condition with only a few instances of deterioration. However, the main structural issue involved the connection of the rafters to the floor joists at the eaves of the east and west bearing walls. Hahn describes a "Rube Goldberg" arrangement of poorly connected rafters to cantilevered attic floor joists toenailed together. The connection of the roof framing to the wall for uplift was equally deficient. Hahn also describes vertical posts between the attic floor joists and the rafters along the ridgeline as a "motley collection" of posts. These conditions appeared to have existed since 1855 after the front was raised to two stories. Hahn established the deficiencies and included significant repair directives for the front roof framing in the 1986 restoration drawings. The repair work shown on the drawings was carried out during the 1987-1988 restoration. See Figure C.66 for an example photo of one of the repairs made to the front wing roof framing.

The 1986 Hahn structural report did not include any significant structural deficiencies with the rafter and ceiling framing within the rear low slope roof. Their investigation was limited since they were only given a small area for examination where a portion of the ceiling was removed. As a result, it was decided that repair to these framing members would be determined once the restoration work was underway and the roofing was removed so that more of the rafters and joists could be seen from on top. The 1986 restoration drawings did include repair due to the past notching of many of the ceiling joists for mechanical ductwork. Beyond that, if there were repairs to the rear roof framing

128. Francis Orlando Krupka, Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1), December 1988 draft, vol. 1, 1988, Roofs, 14.

and ceiling joists in 1987-1988, they were not recorded on the 1986 drawings.

The historic documentation for the Lincoln Home suggests that the roofing material on the front wing has been replaced several times over the life of the home. The roofing currently consists of wood shingles, replaced during the 1987-1988 restoration. The rear wing has also been reroofed several times over the life of the home and currently is roofed with lead-coated copper flat seamed sheet metal with soldered joints, installed during the 1987-1988 restoration. If the current roofing has not been replaced since 1988, it is well over 30 years old, and new roofing should be scheduled for the near future. Note that Krupka provides a detailed history of the roofing materials on the Lincoln Home from the Dresser Cottage period up to 1974.<sup>129</sup>

#### *Condition & Recommendations*

Based on a visual review from within the attic, the overall structural condition of the front roof framing appears to be good. Repair of the poorly constructed rafter-to-joist connections made in the 1987-1988 restoration included adding metal plates, plywood gussets, and wood blocking, all connected with glue and screws. The result was that the structural integrity of the connection between the rafters and joists was greatly improved. Additionally, the joists were connected to the top plate of the wall with steel angle connectors and screws, and the top plate was fastened to each wall stud with a tee-shaped metal plate screwed to the connecting members. These repairs combined to anchor the rafter and joists to the supporting stud bearing walls in a much-improved configuration compared to that before the 1987-1988 restoration. In addition to improving the roof framing at the bearing walls, the 1986 restoration drawings included the removal of the existing “motley collection” of posts between the joists and rafters. In their place, four new diagonal wood members were added between each rafter and joist, two on each side, and connected at the joints with metal plates and screws. These new diagonal members have made the roof and attic floor framing into a more coherent structural

system. Based on a visual review, these repairs appear to generally conform with the 1986 restoration drawings.

The repairs to the rear roof framing during the 1987-1988 restoration could not be evaluated as they are hidden behind the ceiling finish over the second floor. It is assumed the specific repairs shown on the 1986 drawings were implemented, but repairs made during construction are not documented.

#### **South Porch**

##### *Description*

The south porch of the Lincoln Home is believed to have existed since the original cottage was built by Reverend Dresser in 1839. There are no drawings before 1888 so the evidence for the existence of the porch is based on sketches and written documentation. The current configuration of the wood-framed porch has changed very little since it was originally built. It is open on two sides and comprises a wood-framed floor covered by a wood-framed single slope roof. The inner edge of the floor and roof are supported by the south wall of the home, while the outer edge is supported by a brick foundation and a line of wood columns and beams. The entire porch structure was moved six feet south in 1849 with the outer edge aligned with the south face of the cottage. The porch column footings were likely rebuilt at the new location, but the floor and roof framing was probably moved intact.

The historic wood structure of the south porch was significantly reconstructed during the 1987-1988 restoration of the home. See Figure C.64. This included new concrete footings and brick foundation piers under new wood posts, all new floor framing, and a wood deck. The historic wood roof and ceiling framing of the porch was retained, but the members were reinforced and reattached to the south wall of the home. New lead-coated copper flat seamed sheet metal roofing with soldered joints was installed during the 1987-1988 restoration. This is the same roofing material as that installed on the low slope roof of the east wing of the home.

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129. Francis Orlando Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, December 1988 draft, 1988, Roofs, 14.

Access to the home's basement is through a hinged door hatch through the floor of the south porch. The steps were rebuilt, and the brick wall on the south side of the opening was restored during the 1987-1988 restoration.

#### *Condition & Recommendations*

The overall structural condition of the south porch, as a result of the 1987-1988 restoration, appears to be good. All of the structural members from the roof down to the foundation were replaced in the 1987-1988 restoration and the roof and ceiling framing was reinforced and reattached to the south wall of the home. Only the roof and ceiling framing have wood structural members dating back to the Dresser Cottage.

The steps leading down into the basement from the south porch floor are in good structural condition, although somewhat steep. Since only National Park Service and maintenance personnel are allowed in the basement, this condition does not present a problem.

#### **Walls**

##### *Description*

The wall framing of the Lincoln Home is hidden behind the interior and exterior finishes and therefore not accessible for direct review under this scope of work. What is known about the walls is documented in the 1986 Structural Report and the 1986 restoration drawings prepared by Ralph Hahn. The exterior cladding was removed and the wall framing exposed and Hahn prepared written documentation and detailed drawings describing the condition of the wall framing as it existed in 1986. The 1986 restoration drawings prepared by Hahn included repair procedures to address deterioration and deficiencies found when the framing was uncovered. The Hahn structural report and restoration drawings are excellent references for understanding the nature and condition of the wall framing of the Lincoln Home.

The walls of the Lincoln Home fall into two categories. Structural load-bearing walls and non-load bearing partitions. The exterior walls on the four sides of the home are loadbearing. The north-south wall that divides the front and rear wings of the home is a load-bearing wall. The north corridor wall that extends east-west is also a load-bearing wall. The remaining walls are non-load bearing.

The 1986 structural report by Hahn includes load-bearing wall elevations showing the exposed structural members in the condition found after the exterior cladding was removed. These elevation drawings denote termite damage, wood rot, and deficiencies found upon inspection of the exposed members. The 1986 restoration drawings prepared by Hahn included repairs to the damage found in the 1986 structural report. The restoration of 1987-1988 implemented the repairs, restoring structural integrity to these walls.

The size and general configuration of the load-bearing wall framing are described in detail in the 1986 Hahn structural report. The studs vary in size and wood species throughout the home. In particular, the first-floor framing is older and is of differing size and material than that of the second floor. This is expected as the second level of the home was added in 1855-1856, built on top of the first level framing of the original Dresser Cottage.

When the front wing was converted into two levels in 1855, the roof was demolished, and rebuilt at a raised elevation. New stud walls were built to support the raised roof framing. It is well established that the top plate of the first-level wall studs in the front wing of the home extends approximately 24 inches above the second level on four sides. This was confirmed when the studs were uncovered during the 1986 Hahn investigation. The added second-level wall framing rests on this top plate and extends up 9 feet to the raised roof framing. The 9-foot stud walls built on the 2-foot extension of the lower level walls produced an 11-foot ceiling height in the front wing.

The rear wing was converted into two levels in 1856 by removing the existing pitched roof, building stud walls on top of the existing stud walls, adding second-floor joists, and constructing an entirely new roof. The newly created second-floor level in the rear needed to match the floor in the front wing. This was accomplished by placing the rear joists directly on the top plate of the lower walls which matched the level of the front floor joists. The second-level studs supporting the roof were placed directly on the lower wall top plate, alongside the second-floor joists. This created an approximate ceiling height of 9 feet.

The 1986 Hahn structural report notes the presence of diagonal let-in knee bracing in several locations in the stud bearing walls. These knee braces were intended to provide lateral bracing for the home. They vary in size and configuration and are not consistent in their placement within each wall.

The load-bearing walls of the Lincoln Home bear on wood sill plates at the top of the foundation walls. These sill plates vary in size from 6 inches by 6 inches to 8 inches by 8 inches. Some of the sill plates are original to the home, some were replaced during the 1955-1956 restoration and some were replaced during the 1987-1988 restoration. In instances where original sill plates were replaced, it was deemed necessary due to termite damage or wood rot caused by moisture infiltration.

#### *Condition & Recommendations*

One of the goals of the 1987-1988 restoration was to upgrade the structural framing of the Lincoln Home to a live load capacity of 100 psf in areas accessible to the public. This included the framing of loadbearing walls, much of which was not adequate to meet this live load requirement, as documented in the 1986 structural report by Hahn. The following sections provide a brief summary of the findings and recommended repair for the load-bearing walls of the Lincoln Home.

## **Summary**

In general, the structural systems within the Lincoln Home are in fair to good condition. The structure of the home was thoroughly investigated and documented in 1986 which led to the Ralph Hahn & Associates restoration drawings. The 1987-1988 restoration, based on these drawings, corrected the deficiencies and deterioration that existed at the time. The first and second floors were brought up to a live load capacity of 100 psf in those areas where the public is allowed.

With regular maintenance and inspection, the structure of the Lincoln Home will serve its intended purpose for years to come.



**Figure C.57.** View looking southeast showing the underpinning shelf along the inside of the south exterior foundation. This underpinning was installed to address foundation issues discovered during the 1954-1955. The 1986 Hahn restoration drawings show this shelf as existing. It was retained in combination with additional underpinning. Source: Lawson Elser



**Figure C.58.** View of the inside of the basement wall at the NW corner showing some dampness in the cement parking. Source: Lawson Elser.



**Figure C.59.** View of the exterior brick wall at the west entry with some peeling paint, spalling, and repointing. Source: Lawson Elser.





**Figure C.60.** Peeling paint on the exterior brick retaining wall along the on the south side. Source: Lawson Elser.



**Figure C.61.** View of an existing post and beam left from the 1954-1955 restoration. This post and beam can be seen from the basement, near the west entry. Source: Lawson Elser.



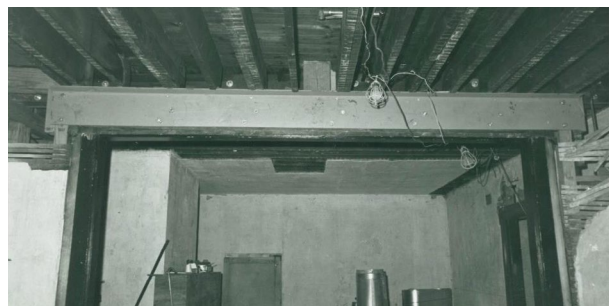
**Figure C.62.** View of the galvanized steel beams and posts supporting floor joists under the first floor. This view is looking west, under the north side of the basement. Source: Lawson Elser



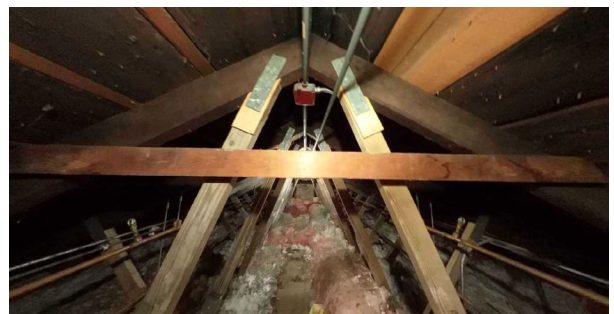
**Figure C.63.** View of the galvanized steel beams and posts supporting floor joists under the first floor. This view is looking east, under the south crawlspace. Source: Lawson Elser.



**Figure C.64.** View of the south porch during the 1987-1988 restoration. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F4P171.



**Figure C.65.** New steel lintel over the opening between the Front and Back Parlors during the 1987-1988 restoration. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F27P13.



**Figure C.66.** View in the attic of the front wing of the home looking west. Note the newer diagonal wood members fastened with steel plates to the existing rafters. This modification and several others were made during the 1987-1988 restoration. Source: Lawson Elser.

## Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing Systems

### Building Environmental Systems History

#### Mechanical

Three fireplaces were installed for heating and cooking purposes as part of the original construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839 and another was added during the Lincolns' 1846 remodeling. At least two of the second-floor bedrooms (rooms 201 and 208) appear to have originally been provided with thimbles for venting chamber stoves. The Lincolns bricked-up the wood-burning fireplaces in rooms 101, 102, and 108 in order to install stoves for heating between 1849 and 1850 (HSR, 1973). When the original kitchen was partitioned to form the present Kitchen and Dining Room in 1856, the cooking fireplace was demolished and a chimney for a cast iron cook stove was provided along the west wall of the new Kitchen.

The State of Illinois installed a coal-fired "Palace King Furnace" in 1889-1890 as the first central heating in the house. The work included the installation of fresh air intakes, supply ducts and registers, and exhaust flue adjustments. During 1895-1896 a "No. 50 Gilt Edge Furnace" replaced the earlier "Palace King Furnace." In 1903, the Haas Electric & Manufacturing Company installed a new heating system consisting of cast iron radiators fed by the central steam lines of the Springfield Light, Heat & Power Company. Steam was drawn from a main in Eighth Street. The State installed a new coal-fired furnace in 1920. In 1952, J. Lee Carey removed the non-historic radiators and pipes on the first floor and installed a new hot air heating system, which included a suspended ceiling in the Upstairs Front Hall and stairwell (room 200) to accommodate a new heating system's ductwork.

In 1954, the Central Illinois Light Company discontinued hot water service in Springfield. As a result, the State of Illinois partitioned and excavated portions of the crawlspace (room 004) to construct a new mechanical room (room 002) to hold a forced air system that was fueled by natural gas (LIHO HSR, 1973, 1988).

In 1964, J. W. Brennan was contracted to install two ILG exhaust fans and two general 990 humidifiers with new wiring. In February of 1965, J. W. Brennan installed two gas-fired Borg-Warner furnaces (HSR LIHO, 1973). In October, Brennan remodeled the duct system in the basement and first floor in order to add three new heat runs, volume, and splitter dampers where needed (LIHO HSR 1973, p. 115).

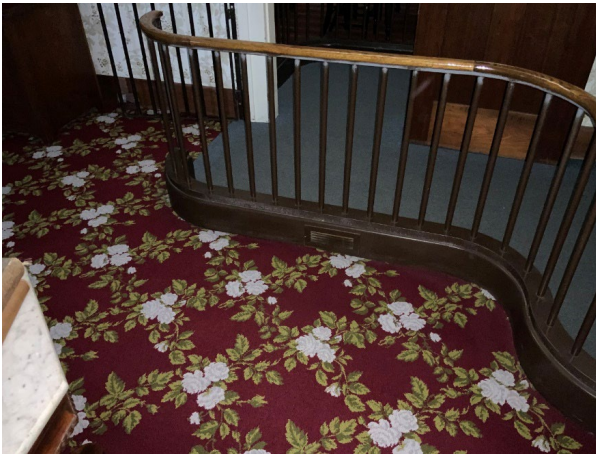
From May of 1987 through mid-June of 1988, a major restoration of the Lincoln Home was undertaken by the National Park Service. The existing natural gas-fired furnace, ductwork, grilles and registers, and natural gas piping were removed. A complete, new HVAC system consisting of a constant volume air-handling unit complete with an electric heating coil, chilled water-cooling coil and electronic steam humidifier; new outdoor, supply, and return air ductwork; grilles and registers; chilled water piping, circulating pump, and a reciprocating, air-cooled chiller. The air-cooled chiller was installed in a fenced in area directly adjacent to the Lincoln Barn. The main HVAC system distribution ductwork is located in the basement level, routed under the Parlors and Pantry crawlspace and rises through the two floors to the attic. The existing ductwork is from 1988 complete with the main air return under the back staircase. Curbs below the railings following the tour circulation pattern serve as supply ducts in most rooms (Figure C.58.), with inconspicuous wall registers in some second-floor rooms. In Mr. Lincoln's room (room 201), there are no railing, thus the HVAC system is located on both sides of the chimney (Figure C.59.)

In 2014, Henson Robinson, a Springfield-based contractor installed a new air handling unit (Figure C.60.) and air-cooled chiller (Figure C.61.) to replace the over 25-year-old equipment. In addition to replacing the equipment, new underground chilled water/glycol lines were installed between the Lincoln Barn and the Lincoln Home.

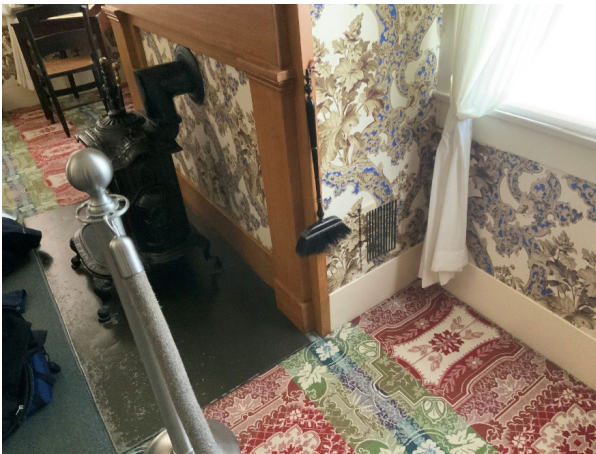
LIHO staff is concerned with the noise that is produced by the existing HVAC system; the chiller unit is loud and could disturb the visitor's experience. These intrusive noise conditions were noted by the design team during the site visit in November 2021. The Existing Conditions Report prepared by Melotte Morse Leonatti Parker Ltd. in



2019 notes that NPS's long-term goal for the LIHO campus includes a central geothermal loop under the sidewalks. Connecting the Lincoln Home to the campus geothermal loop would eliminate the need for any outdoor equipment (and the resultant noise). The indoor air handling unit would either be replaced with a modular water source heat pump unit or a water-to-water heat pump installed in the basement level to provide chilled/hot water to the air handling unit.



**Figure C.67.** Supply air registers integrated into handrail base in first floor spaces. Source: H. F. Lenz



**Figure C.68.** Supply registers installed on both sides of fireplace in Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom. Source: H. F. Lenz



**Figure C.69.** Modular air handling unit installed in 2014. Source: H. F. Lenz



**Figure C.70.** Air-cooled chiller located in fenced in area adjacent to the barn. Source: H. F. Lenz



**Figure C.71.** Inverter and battery system for emergency lighting. Source: H. F. Lenz

## Humidity Control

As early as January of 1990, the Park indicated that there were issues with the HVAC system specifically that it was difficult to control humidity during a very cold spell the previous December; and that energy costs were very high. The Park contracted with an independent engineering consultant to investigate the problems and provide a report which was reviewed by the Park's Chief Historical Architect and a mechanical engineer from the Denver Service Center.

A summary of the findings and recommendations included the following:

1. Referred the Park to the "Tentative Climate Control Standards" as a guideline to follow referring to a "floating" indoor relative humidity schedule based on the seasonal outdoor relative humidity.
2. Recommended seasonally adjusting the indoor temperature set points such as 78°F summer and 60°F winter.
3. To reduce energy costs, reverse the humidity low limit (55%) and high limit (50%) set points so humidity was only added when below 50% and dehumidification happens when greater than 55%.
4. Reduced the outdoor air ventilation quantity to a maximum of 10% of the total airflow during the main tourist season and closed the outdoor air damper during the winter and at night.
5. Replaced the "not top level quality" temperature and humidity sensors with better instruments.

Additional documentation throughout 1991 revealed that the Park had lowered the indoor temperature and relative humidity set points to the levels recommended by the Denver Service Center and had closed the outdoor air intake but issues remained. Additionally, the documents included the following:

1. A discussion as to whether a vapor barrier had been installed around the building enclosure. There was a belief the vapor barrier paint had been used, but this was in question at the time and

the documentation did not include confirmation.

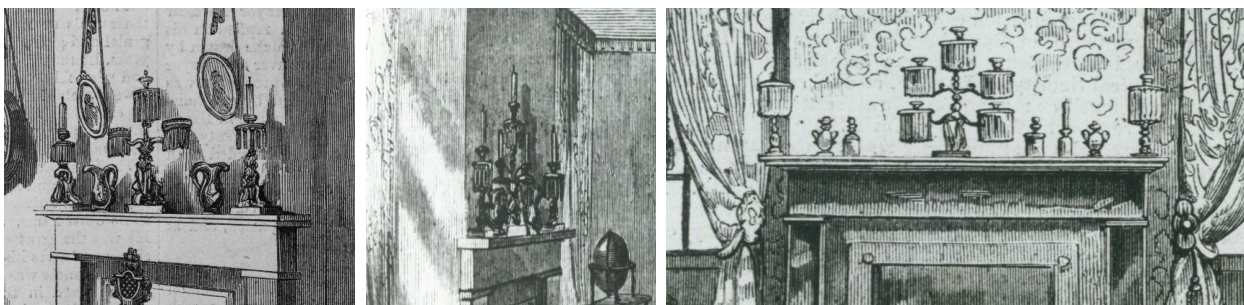
2. Problems with the indoor humidity "spiking" every two hours were discussed, which had been attributed on on/off controls for the humidifier. There was discussion about replacing the humidistat with a proportional control type in lieu of the on/off control.
3. The Park received a recommendation to install two temperature/humidity data loggers; one to be located adjacent to the existing hygrothermograph and the other in the return air duct. Both were for monitoring purposes. Later in 1991 the monitoring program was expanded to include five (5) locations:
  - a. Ambient levels in the room. The room was not defined.
  - b. At the inside surface of the exterior walls.
  - c. Within exterior walls on the interior side of the vapor barrier.
  - d. Within exterior walls on the exterior side of the vapor barrier.
  - e. Exterior to the wall (ambient air).

During of building investigation effort, we observed an Aprilaire Dehumidifier, Model 1770A which is no longer produced by the manufacturer, and based on our discussion with Park staff, is not operational. As a follow up to our site investigation, the Park provided us with HOBO data files for temperature and humidity from 2019 through May 2021. After reviewing the data, it is very apparent that neither temperature nor humidity is being controlled in a stable manner. For example, in Mr. Lincoln's Room we are seeing daily temperature ranges of 6°F relative humidity swings of 7%.

## Lighting & Electrical

### Daylight

The Dresser Cottage as built in 1839 and the Lincoln Home as remodeled through the 1850s were designed to rely on daylight as the primary light source between sunrise and sunset. Writing in 1988, Krupka notes, "the primary light source for the Lincoln Home was natural sunlight, and the



**Figure C.72.** Details of 1861 *Frank Leslie's* engravings of Front Parlor, Back Parlor, and Sitting Room showing girandoles and candlesticks on mantels. Source: *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, March 9, 1861.

primary lighting device was the glazed window.”<sup>125</sup> Daylight was controlled with a variety of features and devices. Exterior shutters—often known as “outside blinds” in this period—could be closed to block harsh sunlight while providing ventilation; adjustable louvers allowed regulation of the amount of light passing through the lower halves of the shutters. The windows, shutters, and interior treatments including roller shades, Venetian blinds, sheer curtains, and heavier curtains or draperies formed “a complex system designed to control interior light and ventilation, as well as to exclude intruding insects and the ability of curious outsiders to view private family activities within the Home.”<sup>126</sup>

#### Artificial Lighting

The house would have been illuminated by candles and oil lamps during the Lincolns’ occupancy. While some heavier or more elaborate lighting devices might have been left in place during daylight hours, smaller lamps and candlesticks may have been kept in a central location, allowing cleaning and maintenance between uses.<sup>127</sup>

#### Candles

The Lincolns’ primary source of artificial light appears to have been candles. Hagen reports that the Lincolns “bought more than four pounds of Star candles from C. M. & S. Smith every month during 1859.”<sup>128</sup> Although they provided an inferior quality of light compared with more advanced oil and fluid lamps of the 1840s and 1850s, and

to newly available gas in mid-1850s Springfield, candles were a common and economical choice.

The 1861 *Frank Leslie's* engravings of the Parlors and Sitting Room show the most fashionable type of candle-powered lighting of the period: girandoles. Girandoles are “marble-based candleholders having gilded bronze or brass shafts and branches and multi-faceted prisms suspended from ornate prism rings.”<sup>129</sup> Girandoles were often purchased as sets and placed in groupings of three, with a three- or five-branch girandole placed at the center flanked by a pair of single-light girandoles of the same design. The Lincolns followed a typical practice in arranging girandole sets on the mantels of these three rooms. The 1861 views of the Front and Back Parlors show three-branch girandoles at the center of each mantel flanked by a pair of single-light girandoles at either end. The corresponding view of the Sitting Room shows a five-branch girandole at the center of the mantel flanked by a pair of single-light girandoles or candlesticks that did not match the five-branch girandole; these appear to have featured shafts with spool-like elements and slightly longer prisms. Because of their weight and profusion of glass prisms, girandoles were stationary lighting devices and were not intended to be moved on a regular basis. Smaller and more transient candlesticks of various materials—commonly including glass, metal, and, occasionally, ceramic—were likely used throughout the house and may have been stored in a central location during daylight hours.

Mariah Vance recalled the 1855-1856 remodeling, when Mary Lincoln had the house “made over.” Vance reported that improvements to the house included a “crystal light from de ceilin’ of de

125. Krupka, Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1), 1988, 2:Lighting Systems 1.

126. Krupka, 2:Lighting Systems 1.

127. William Seale, *Recreating the Historic House Interior* (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1979), 145.

128. Richard S. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* 48, no. 1 (Spring 1955): 23.

129. H. Parrott Bacot, *Nineteenth Century Lighting: Candle-Powered Devices: 1783-1883* (West Chester, PA: Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 1987), 153.



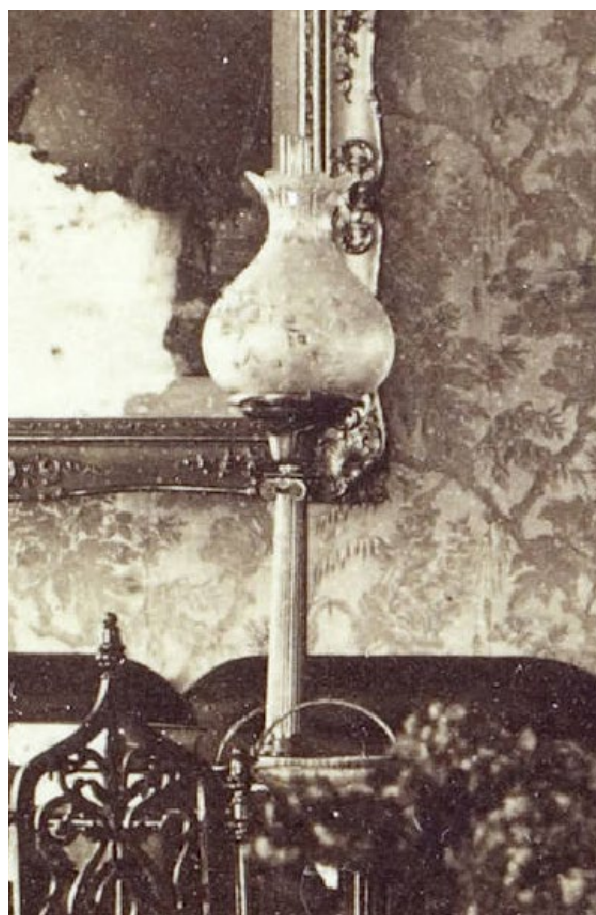
fron[t] parlah [parlor] with lots of bangles of glass an' candles, an' candles on her'n mantel.”<sup>130</sup> The candles on the mantel likely refer to the girandoles depicted in the 1861 engravings. A ceiling-hung, prism-adorned candle-light chandelier in the Front Parlor is not documented in other sources; perhaps this was removed by 1860-1861 or perhaps it was omitted from the engraving.

### *Oil Lamps*

In the absence of gas lighting, the highest quality of light available between the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839 and the Lincolns' departure for Washington in 1861 would have been lamps fueled by whale oil, sperm oil, burning fluid (a purified spirit of turpentine, also known as camphine, introduced 1837), or, by the 1850s, coal oil or kerosene. Catharine Beecher's influential *Treatise on Domestic Economy* (1841) includes discussion of lighting based on Beecher's own experiences in Cincinnati; she advises, “Lamps are better than candles, as they give a steadier light, and do not scatter grease, like tallow candles.”<sup>131</sup>

A variety of lamp types were commonly used in the region during the period that the Lincolns occupied the house. The Argand lamp was a type of oil lamp that had been widely used in the United States by the 1830s. The astral lamp, the related solar lamp (patented 1843), and the sinumbra lamp offered bright and even light and were commonly placed on a center table where the entire household could gather around for various evening activities.

On April 16, 1844, Mary Lincoln purchased two lamps from Irwin & Company for a combined \$1.50. On November 29, 1849, Lincoln purchased a “Wall Lamp” from J. Bunn & Company.<sup>132</sup> This latter likely consisted of a metal bracket holding an oil lamp, then known as a bracket lamp and conforming to what is now called a sconce. Hagen found examples of glass lamp chimneys during 1951 excavations of a Lincoln-era rubbish pit on



**Figure C.73.** Detail of stereograph of Parlors showing solar lamp (a type of oil lamp) used by the Tilton family, May 1865. Source: LIHO 12885.

the site.<sup>133</sup> Hagen also speculated that “the kitchen may have rendered enough animal fat for several Betty lamps for use in the rear of the house.”<sup>134</sup> Although kerosene became available in the 1850s, there is no evidence that the Lincolns used it.

Documentation of the Lincoln Home at the time of Lincoln's funeral in 1865 indicate the types of lighting used by their tenants, the Tilttons. While not associated with the Lincolns, these devices are representative of the type of lamps used by contemporaries of similar economic position in Springfield. The 1865 stereograph of the Parlors shows a solar lamp, a type of oil lamp, on the center table in the Back Parlor (room 102).

130. Francis Orlando Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, December 1988 draft, vol. XI: Furnishings (Denver: National Park Service Denver Service Center, 1988), Wallpaper 4.

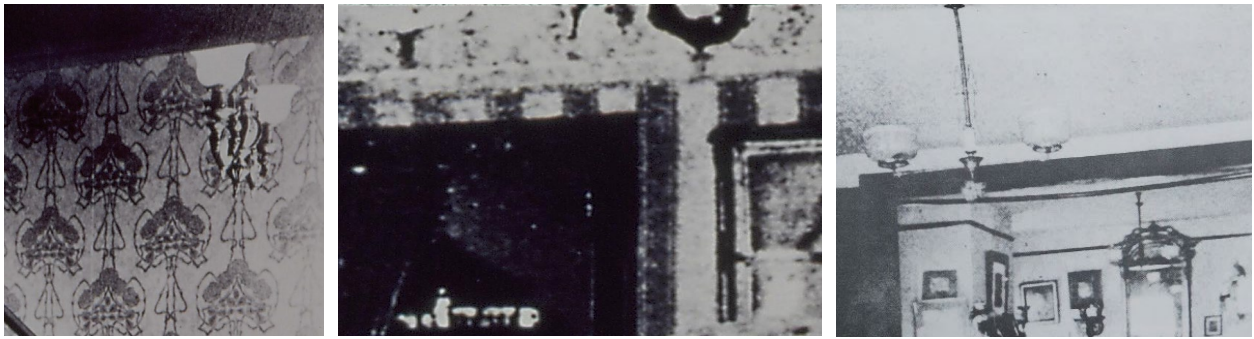
131. Catharine E. Beecher, *A Treatise on Domestic Economy* (Boston: Thomas H. Webb & Company, 1843), 281.

132. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 15.

133. Floyd Mansberger, *Archaeological Investigations at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield, Illinois* (DeKalb, IL: Northern Illinois University, 1987), 145, <http://illinoisarchaeology.com/NPS/Lincoln%20Home.pdf>.

134. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” 23.





**Figure C.74.** Details of gas fixtures in the Front Hall (room 100), Sitting Room (room 108, only lower edge of fixture visible), and Parlors (rooms 101 and 102) during the occupancy of the Edwards-Brown family (1897-1918). The fixture at left has been electrified. Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.

This lamp, with a brass stem in the form of an Ionic column, appears to match a lamp produced by Cornelius & Company of Philadelphia (active under this name 1839-1851) and patented in 1843 and 1849. A similar lamp was also being produced by Starr, Fellows & Company of Brooklyn in 1856.<sup>135</sup> Unlike the more transient small lamps, this type of large, heavy, and expensive lamp would likely have been left in place on the center table. The 1865 Waud sketch of the Parlors shows this lamp in the Back Parlor as well as a pair of three-arm candelabra on the Front Parlor mantel. The May 1865 *Frank Leslie's* engraving of the Parlors shows a simplified version of the lamp and transforms the candelabra into much larger and more elaborate versions. Another 1865 Waud sketch appears to show the northwest corner of the Sitting Room (room 108); the pier between the two windows appears to be fitted with a wall-bracket (sconce) lamp covered with a paper shade.

#### *Gaslight*

Illuminating gas, also known as artificial, manufactured, or coal gas, was manufactured from coal. Unlike natural gas, coal gas burns at a lower temperature and has an easily detectable smell that can warn of leaks. Gas works were chartered in Illinois' larger cities beginning with Chicago in 1849, followed soon after by Quincy in 1853, Springfield and Rock Island in 1854, and Bloomington, Galena, Ottawa, and Peoria in 1855.<sup>136</sup> In many cities, gas was the first city-

wide utility, predating the advent of municipal waterworks.

Gas lighting was rapidly adopted and would have been present in most middle-class houses in a city like Springfield by the 1870s. Gas would remain the dominant form of artificial lighting in the United States into the first decades of the twentieth century, when it was supplemented and then surpassed by electric lighting.

The Springfield Gas Light Company was chartered by the Illinois General Assembly in February 1854 and began operation in 1855.<sup>137</sup> Gas lighting was not present in the house during the Lincolns' occupancy. Krupka reports that "Mary Lincoln had a fear of gas... that effectively prevented it from being brought into the Home both while she resided there, and, while she retained an ownership interest..."<sup>138</sup> While there had been some earlier critics of gaslight, including an 1840 article where Edgar Allan Poe called it "harsh" and "positively offensive," by 1860, this aversion to a standard modern technology would have been eccentric.<sup>139</sup> One of Mary Lincoln's biographers, Samuel A. Schreiner Jr., reports that she "hated" gas lighting and says the following of the 1882 wake held at the Springfield home of her sister, Elizabeth Todd Edwards: "In deference to her dislike of gas lighting, the illumination came from the same oil lamps on the mantel that had shone down on her

135. Starr, Fellows & Co.'s Illustrated Catalogue of Lamps, Gas Fixtures, &c. (Brooklyn: Starr, Fellows & Company, 1856), <https://archive.org/details/Illustratedcata00Star/page/n4/mode/thumb?view=theater>.

136. Denys Peter Myers, *Gaslighting in America: A Pictorial Survey, 1815-1910* (New York: Dover Publications, 1978), 249-50.

137. J. C. Power, *History of Springfield, Illinois, Its Attractions as a Home and Advantage for Business, Manufacturing, Etc.* (Springfield, IL: Illinois State Journal Print, 1871), 52.

138. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home* (HS-1), 1988, 2:Fuels 9.

139. Edgar Allan Poe, "The Philosophy of Furniture," *Burton's Gentleman's Magazine*, May 1840.

wedding [in the Edwards house in 1842].”<sup>140</sup> After quoting Schreiner, Krupka notes, “This phobia must have been a powerful one to have been maintained in the face of fashion and convenience for the 27 years since gas lighting first became available (i.e. 1855) in Springfield.”<sup>141</sup>

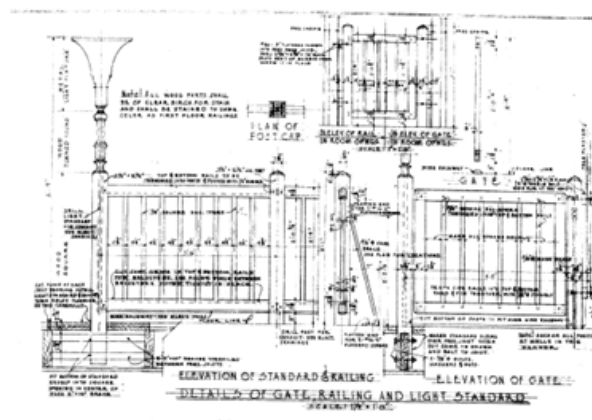
Mary Lincoln’s dislike of gaslight may account for the late introduction of gas into the house; Mary sold her interest in the property to Robert Todd Lincoln in April 1874 and gas lighting was added to the house in 1876-1877.

Krupka quotes a letter from Robert Todd Lincoln to his Springfield agent Clinton S. Conkling regarding arrangements of the lease of the departure of the Harlow family and lease of the house to Jacob D. Akard; Krupka dates this letter May 14, 1874, but Harlow’s departure and Akard’s lease both date from May 1877. Robert writes, “I understand that the gas fixtures as put-in are to be mine and that I am to pay nothing for them. . .”<sup>142</sup> Krupka notes that this gas lighting system included ceiling fixtures in rooms 100, 101, 102, 105, 107, and 108. Wall brackets (sconces) were provided on the west wall of room 101 and the west and south walls of room 108.<sup>143</sup>

This system appears to have remained in use until the electrification of the house between 1899 and 1902. Some fixtures may have continued to burn gas until 1904. All visible features associated with the gas lighting system appear to have been removed during subsequent restorations.

### *Electricity*

Electricity was introduced to the house in 1899 during the State of Illinois’ ownership. On August 19, 1899, R. Haas billed the State of Illinois \$2.00 for the installation of an electric bell and \$17.60 for electric lights.<sup>144</sup> This doorbell’s push-button was installed above the pull-knob for the Lincoln-era manual doorbell and is visible in photographs taken after 1899. The electrical system installed by Haas in 1899 appears to have been partial; in 1903,



**Figure C.75.** Detail of indirect torchiere up-light typical of those installed in 1935. C. Herrick Hammond, who also prepared drawings for the 1935 lighting improvements, provided this detail as part of a 1948 proposal for restoring the second floor. The intent was to replicate the light fixtures and railings installed in the first floor in 1935. Source: C. Herrick Hammond, Alterations-Lincoln Home, State of Illinois Department of Public Works & Buildings-Division of Architecture & Engineering (File No. 33), Springfield, Illinois (November 1, 1948), Sheet A-2.

the Haas Electric & Manufacturing Company billed \$963.65 for wiring the entire house for electricity as well as installing radiators for heating. The switch from gas lighting to electric lighting meant that many of the gas light fixtures were left in place and wired for electric light between 1900 and 1903.

Electric light fixtures were replaced in several campaigns and in piecemeal replacements. In 1935, new indirect torchiere up-lights were installed in most first-floor rooms and were integrated with new wooden visitor railings.

During the 1952-1955 restoration, the Durham Electric Company installed new electric light fixtures and outlets. They removed the 1935 torchiere lights and installed new indirect trough lights over door openings. During the 1987-1988 restoration, a new electrical service (underground raceway, feeders, and meter sockets) was installed and split two serve a new 100A-120/240v-1ph and 200A - 120/240v-3ph panel in the Lincoln Home and a 120/240-3ph panel in the Lincoln Barn. New receptacles, raceways, and conductors were installed in addition to fluorescent and incandescent lighting. The 1950s trough lights were replaced by smaller versions that were papered to match the wall. Emergency power for lighting is provided by through an inverter system [Figure C.62.] which provides 90 minutes of emergency power to the first and second floors and exterior perimeter lighting. A fire alarm and intrusion detection system were both installed under the 1987/88 restoration

140. Samuel A. Schreiner Jr., *The Trials of Mrs. Lincoln* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2008), 293-94.

141. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home* (HS-1), 1988, 2:Lighting Systems 8.

142. Krupka, 2:Fuels 10.

143. Krupka, 2:Fuels 12-13.

144. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 54.

LED lights were suggested to replace the fluorescent lighting, motion detectors, and sensors in the spring of 2021. During the site visit in November 2021, the design team noted that the new replacement lamps in the first-floor fixtures were too dim to provide sufficient illumination for late-afternoon tours, impairing the visitor experience. The replacement lamps in the second-floor fixtures [Figure C.68.] appeared to be of sufficient brightness, unlike those at the first floor.



**Figure C.76.** View of Back Parlor (room 102) showing typical indirect trough light installed during 1952-1955 restoration (left, ca. 1980) and smaller trough light papered to match wall installed during 1987-1988 restoration. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B2F19P37, RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.77.** Typical lighting installation for second floor bedrooms. Source: HF Lenz



**Figure C.78.** Views of Parlors and Sitting Room during tour, 4:42-4:47 PM, November 17, 2021. The new replacement lamps in the first-floor fixtures are too dim to provide sufficient illumination for late-afternoon tours, impairing the visitor experience. Source: RATIO Architects.





**Figure C.79.** Views of Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom and Guest Bedroom during tour, 4:51 PM, November 17, 2021. The new replacement lamps in the second-floor fixtures appeared to be of sufficient brightness, unlike those at the first floor. Source: RATIO Architects.

## Plumbing

During the 1830s, drinkable water came from the wells while utility water supplies came from cisterns. This distinction between the two was maintained until the end of the century, and sometimes well into the twentieth century, when the city supplied potable water. Pumps were used to draw the water out of the ground from both the wells and the cistern.

The property had two distinct freshwater wells. The 1985 archeological excavation under the Pantry (room 103) and East Porch (room 104) uncovered remnants of a brick-lined well originally dug by Dresser and used by the Lincolns until 1846, when it was covered by the Lincolns' addition to the east wing and replaced by a new well to the east that remained in use until 1865. This remodeling included installation of a hand-coiled stoneware drainage tile along the north

foundation wall (Krupka/Popolis 9/13/17). A photograph of the east elevation taken in May 1865 shows two pumps, one over the 1846 well and another over the cistern east of the Pantry (room 103).<sup>145</sup> In 1865, the Tiltons, Lincoln's tenants, began construction on a larger well. The 1985 Northern Illinois University archeological excavation uncovered a cistern used by Lincoln. The cistern was a 6' diameter circular brick structure holding roughly 1,270 gallons of water.

The house began receiving municipal drinking water from the Springfield Water Works sometime between 1866 and 1868. (Krupka/Popolis 3/19/17). In 1888 the home received city-supplied water from pipes in the west foundation wall. This pipe changed to the north wall during the 1987-88 restoration because of the rerouting of incoming water supply pipes. The 1887 Bullard drawings document that no indoor toilet or bathing facilities were in place at that time. Bills for plumbing work by O. Hanratty in 1887-1888 and by J. M. Rippey in 1888-1890 probably included work for plumbing a sink, toilet, and tub in room 205, which became the live-in custodian's bathroom.

The east kitchen addition, built after 1865, was demolished during the 1952 exterior restoration and the Lincoln era well and cistern pumps documented in the 1865 photograph were reconstructed (HSR, Krupka, 1988). During 1954-1955, the bathroom in room 205 was remodeled as a staff office with a small toilet room (room 206).



**Figure C.80.** Electric water heater serving second floor staff restroom. Source: H. F. Lenz

145. One appears to be a wooden hand pump and the other appears to be a chain pump.

During the 1987-1988 restoration, the existing domestic water heater and hot and cold-water piping were removed and a new 3/4" domestic water service and a 3" fire service were installed from Eighth Street and run along the north side of the Lincoln home, entering the basement level into the mechanical room. The water line serves an existing water closet and lavatory located on the second floor (room 206) and a shelf mounted electric water heater (Figure C.71).

## Fire Suppression

The fire service installed during the 1987-88 restoration feeds a dry sprinkler system (Figure C.72) which is filled with nitrogen until activated. The original system appeared to have two nitrogen bottles; however, currently a nitrogen generator system (Figure C.73) exists.



**Figure C.81.** Dry pipe sprinkler installation in attic. Source: H. F. Lenz



**Figure C.82.** Nitrogen generator system serving dry sprinkler system. Source: H. F. Lenz



## Interior Description with Chronology

The Lincoln Home contains approximately 2,900 square feet (gross) of interior space on two floors above an unoccupied basement and crawlspace.

The first floor contains the Front Hall, Front and Back Parlors, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, and Pantry. All but the Pantry are currently interpreted as period rooms. The second floor contains five bedrooms and two hallways as well as

a staff space and emergency toilet room. The five bedrooms and upstairs Front Hall are currently interpreted as period rooms. An unfinished attic extends above the west wing.

### Interior Summary Table and Condition

The interior of the Lincoln Home remains in good condition overall, having seen regular maintenance since the comprehensive 1987-1988 restoration.

Feature/Room	Contribution Status	Condition	Notes
Plaster	Contributing	Good	Some plaster has been replaced in-kind in past restorations.
Flooring	Contributing	Good	All carpets in period rooms are modern reproductions, but these are appropriate to the period of interpretation
Interior Woodwork	Contributing	Good	Includes all baseboards, casings, doors, and front staircase. Back staircase (rebuilt in a new configuration in 1954) is noncontributing.
Wallpaper	Contributing	Good	All wallpapers are modern reproductions, but these are appropriate to the period of interpretation
Visitor Control Railings	Noncontributing	Good	Nonhistoric; Installed 1952-1955, with modifications through 1987-1988.
001 West Wing Basement	Noncontributing	Good	Work in 1954 concealed almost all historic fabric
002 Mechanical Room	Noncontributing	Good	Nonhistoric; built 1954 within room 004
003 East Wing South Crawlspace	Noncontributing	Good	Work in 1954 concealed almost all historic fabric
004 East Wing North Crawlspace	Noncontributing	Good	Work in 1954 concealed almost all historic fabric
100 Front Hall	Contributing	Good	
101 Front Parlor	Contributing	Good	
102 Back Parlor	Contributing	Good	
103 Pantry	Contributing	Good	
104 East Porch	Contributing	Good	
105 Kitchen	Contributing	Good	
106 South Porch	Contributing	Good	
107 Dining Room	Contributing	Good	
108 Sitting Room	Contributing	Good	
200 Upstairs Front Hall	Contributing	Good	
201 Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom	Contributing	Good	Limited plaster cracks at west wall
202 Mary's Bedroom	Contributing	Good	
203 Hired Girl's Room	Contributing	Good	
204 Upstairs Back Hall	Contributing	Good	
205 Trunk Room	Noncontributing	Good	Altered multiple times since 1861

Feature/Room	Contribution Status	Condition	Notes
206 Restroom	Noncontributing	Fair/ Good	Nonhistoric; built 1954 within room 205
207 Boys' Room	Contributing	Good	
208 Guest Bedroom	Contributing	Good	Limited plaster and wallpaper displacement below stool of north window in west wall
300 West Wing Attic	Noncontributing	Good	
301 East Wing Attic	Noncontributing	N/A (inaccessible)	

## Interior Materials & Finishes

### Lath and Plaster

The interior walls and ceilings of the house were finished with smooth plaster over wood lath. At the time of the Dresser Cottage's construction in 1839, the plaster was installed over riven (split) hickory lath attached to framing with cut nails. Structural investigation of the ceiling of room 100 in 1986 revealed that the 1839 lath was installed with very narrow—often less than one eighth of an inch—spaces for plaster keyways. As a result, all plaster keys had cracked through and remained attached only by the cow hair reinforcing fibers.<sup>125</sup> Writing in 1955, Hagen described the discovery of the two distinct types of laths during the 1952-1955 restoration: "As walls were removed in the rear wing and on the second floor, two kinds of lath were exposed. Split hickory was used throughout the original house built for the Rev. Charles Dresser in 1839. Lath sawed to uniform size was used in the 1856 construction."<sup>126</sup>

Sawn lath became common in the region about 1840, but riven lath continued to be used in some developed areas until about 1850.<sup>127</sup> Lath used in the 1846 remodeling is of sawn white pine attached with cut nails.<sup>128</sup> The 1855-1856 remodeling made use of sawn lath (sawn on four sides and sometimes called "4S") attached to framing with cut nails.<sup>129</sup> Evidence at the west face of the partition between the Kitchen (room 105) and Dining Room (room

107) and at the north wall of the Kitchen suggests that riven lath may have been reused at some areas in these rooms in 1855-1856. This is described in more detail in each room.

Smooth plaster was used in the house during all phases of work in 1839, 1846, and 1855-1856, but the composition of this plaster varied. Krupka reports that the plaster used in the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839 and in the Lincolns' 1846 remodeling was a "soft, high lime plaster sample with yellowish orange sand and red cow hair inclusions."<sup>130</sup> This is distinct from the plaster used in the 1855-1856 remodeling.

### Interior Flooring

#### Wood Flooring

The interior floors of the house are of wood boards. During the Dresser and Lincoln periods, these floors were likely covered by wall-to-wall flooring treatments in most spaces. Wall-to-wall fitted carpets, oilcloths, and seasonal installations of woven grass matting were standard in middle-class American houses between 1839 and 1861 and remained common into the 1890s. Writing in 1850, A. J. Downing reported that "the floors of the better cottages in this country—at least, in the Northern States—are universally covered with carpet or matting."<sup>131</sup>

Exposed wood floors were atypical in middle-class residential interiors outside of closets and service spaces. The importance of colorful, patterned carpets in the decoration of rooms during this

125. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 5.

126. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 9.

127. Floyd Mansberger reports that sawn lath was used almost universally in the Springfield area after about 1850-1852.

128. Krupka, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 9.

129. *Lincoln Home National Historic Site Historic Structure Report*, 1984, 2:C8.

130. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 12.

131. A. J. Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses* (New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1851), 371, <https://archive.org/details/architectureofco00down/page/n6/mode/1up?view=theater>.

period also made the blankness of an exposed wood floor undesirable. The novelty of an exposed wood floor is highlighted in a treatment described by Downing in 1850; he suggested that oiled wood floors—with every other plank stained a dark walnut color to provide contrasting stripes—could be used to good effect in an entry or living room as a means to “save the cost of oil-cloths or carpets.”<sup>132</sup>

The 1984 HSR recommended “removal of all carpeting, mats, hardwood flooring and other non-historic material” from the first-floor floors. It also recommended removal of the historic wood subfloors for reinstallation over a new subfloor. A recommendation to “refinish the original wood floor as required” appears to be based on an incorrect assumption that the wood floors would have been exposed during the Lincoln period.<sup>133</sup>

### *Carpets*

Colorful, patterned carpets were typical treatments for many rooms in American houses of the 1840s and 1850s. Brussels (level looped-pile) carpets were characteristic of middle- and upper-middle-class house interiors, being more expensive and durable than Venetian (flat-woven striped) or ingrain (Jacquard-woven) carpets and more affordable than patterned Wilton (cut-pile carpet, roughly twice the cost of Brussels). All of these carpets were typically of wool and were produced in strips that were sewn together to form a wall-to-wall fitted carpet.<sup>134</sup> While Venetian carpets were striped, Brussels, Wilton, and ingrain carpets typically featured bold patterns.

Carpets of the period often included bold colors and contrasts. Contrasting schemes of red and green or realistically colored floral and foliate patterns were common. Some carpets featured a pattern or background woven in stripes of alternating colors, a popular effect used for carpets, coverlets and other materials woven on Jacquard looms. The same shimmering effect was also used in the *irisé* (French for “iridescent”) or “rainbow” wallpapers (printed with stripes of alternating colors running across the pattern) that were

popular in the United States from about 1820 to 1850., A. J. Downing advised, “The best effect. . . is produced by having the ceiling lightest, the side walls a little darker, the woodwork a shade darker still, and the carpet darkest of all.”<sup>135</sup> Downing provided further notes on the role of carpet. “The principal masses of color in a room are in the carpet and the walls, and these, therefore, should always harmonize with each other—that is to say, if they do not agree in color, they should be selected to contrast harmoniously.”<sup>136</sup> Downing also quotes the following guidance from Scottish house painter D. R. Hay’s *Laws of Harmonious Coloring Adapted to House Painting* (1828):

A . . . common fault is, the predominance of some bright and intense color, either upon the walls or floor. It is evident that such a predominance of an overpowering color upon so large a space as the floor or wall of a room, must injure the effect of the finest furniture. This great error often arises from the difficulty of choosing a paper-hanging or carpet, and our liability to be bewildered amongst the multitude of patterns which are produced, the most attractive of which, on a small scale, are often, from this very circumstance, the most objectionable, in regard to their forming a large mass in an apartment; particularly as the artists who design them are often regulated by no fixed principle, but in many cases seem to give themselves up to the pursuit of novelty alone.<sup>137</sup>

Mariah Vance, who worked for the Lincolns from 1850 to 1860, recalled the 1855-1856 remodeling, when Mary Lincoln had the house “made over.” Vance’s account (recorded in dialect more than 30 years later) indicates that this was a comprehensive redecoration, with “new carpets an’ curtains an’ drap’ries and drap’ry tie-backs” as well as new wallpaper “from Paris.”<sup>138</sup> This suggests that the Parlors and other rooms likely received new carpet during the 1855-1856 remodeling.

Richard Hagen provided the following rationale for the selection of carpets during the 1952-1955 restoration:

132. Downing, 371.

133. *Lincoln Home National Historic Site Historic Structure Report*, 1984, 2:186.

134. “A Brief History of English Carpets and the Stourvale Mill,” J. R. Burrows & Company, accessed August 6, 2017, <http://www.burrows.com/hist.html>.

135. Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses*, 372.

136. Downing, 402.

137. Downing, 402.

138. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 4.

In Springfield of the 1850s carpeting was generally purchased in twenty-seven-inch-wide strips and then sewn together for wall-to-wall coverage over a paper or straw matting. The more expensive Brussels was usually reserved for the parlor, while the cheaper ingrain or Scotch carpeting covered the Dining Room and bedrooms. This idea has been carried out at the Lincoln Home. The pattern for the Brussels carpet in the parlor was taken from the Leslie's sketch and an interior stereopticon view by Glover, and antique ingrain of many patterns has been installed in the Sitting Room, Dining Room, and five bedrooms upstairs... Because of the stove heating of the period, carpeting was important; it helped, along with small footstools, to mollify the cold floors.<sup>139</sup>

### Matting

Woven matting made of straw or grass was often used as a wall-to-wall summer floorcovering in carpeted rooms and was sometimes used year-round in bedrooms. Matting was cooler and less susceptible to damage and infestation by summer insects in a period before window screens. Writing in 1841, Catharine Beecher recommended the use of straw matting in chambers and summer Parlors.<sup>140</sup> Matting gradually fell out of favor along with fitted carpets, with this seasonal change being replaced by varnished wood floors after the 1870s.

The Lincolns appear to have used woven matting seasonally or as padding for fitted carpets. Fragments of woven straw matting have been found in at least three locations around the Front Parlor (room 101). Structural investigations in 1985 revealed several fragments of woven straw matting in the west wall.<sup>141</sup> A mouse nest discovered in the south wall in 1986 and dating from sometime between 1839 and 1855 contains fragments of woven straw matting.<sup>142</sup> Fragments of woven straw matting (LIHO 6676) believed to date from about 1860 were also found beneath the floorboards, during the 1987-1988 restoration.

### Oilcloths

Another common flooring treatment of the period was a painted oilcloth, also known as a floorcloth or oil floor cloth. Oilcloths were produced by stretching burlap or canvas and then painting it with multiple coats of paint and varnish. The cloth could then be rolled, transported, cut to size, and installed in a room, typically being tacked down at the edges to provide a wall-to-wall floorcovering. Oilcloths were sold by carpet dealers and advertisements for them appear in many Illinois newspapers of the mid-1850s. Oilcloths were a common treatment for high-traffic spaces in the 1840s and 1850s, providing a stenciled decoration comparable to a carpet while offering greater durability and the ability to be easily swept or washed with soap and water. Oilcloths could last for many years, even decades, depending on wear and maintenance. Advertisements for the Lincolns' 1861 sale of most of their furnishings listed carpets but not oilcloths. It is likely that oilcloths installed during the Lincolns' 1855-1856 remodeling could still have been in place in 1865 or even later.<sup>143</sup>

Krupka cited the opinion of British architect Joseph Gwilt as evidence that "the use of painted floorcloths, although prevalent during the historic period and earlier, was a practice already in disrepute two years before the Lincolns bought" this house.<sup>144</sup> Gwilt's *Encyclopædia of Architecture* (1842) cautions, "Nothing is more injurious to the floors of a building than covering them with painted floorcloth, which entirely prevents the access of atmospheric air, whence the dampness of the boards never evaporates..."<sup>145</sup> However, Gwilt's advice on this matter may have been influenced by the pervasive dampness of British buildings of the period and runs counter to popular American sources of the period. Catharine Beecher's influential advice books of the 1840s, based on her own practical experience

139. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 15.

140. Beecher, *A Treatise on Domestic Economy*, 304, 311-12.

141. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Floors and Flooring 18.

142. Francis Orlando Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, December 1988 draft, vol. X (Denver: National Park Service Denver Service Center, 1988), Vermin 7.

143. For example, two 1848 oilcloths survived at Melrose (1848) in Natchez, Mississippi; a ca.1849 oilcloth in the Charles L. Shrewsbury House (1846-1849) in Madison, Indiana, survived in place into the 1910s; part of a ca.1860 oilcloth shipped from a Louisville, Kentucky, dealer (possibly Hite & Small) survives at Lakeport Plantation (1859) in Chicot County, Arkansas; and an oilcloth survives in place at Locust Lawn Farm (1814) near Walkill, New York.

144. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Floors and Flooring 17.

145. Joseph Gwilt, *An Encyclopædia of Architecture* (London: Longman, Brown, Green & Longmans, 1842), 490-91.

with housekeeping in Cincinnati, recommended oilcloths for kitchen floors. These were to be made of “cheap tow cloth” covered with three coats of yellow paint; “Nothing is cleansed so easily as an oil cloth, and it is much better than a painted floor, because it can be removed to be painted.”<sup>146</sup>

#### *Later Flooring Treatments*

The 1870s saw a gradual increase in the popularity of exposed wood floors with area rugs, influenced in part by emerging Colonial Revival tastes, but uncarpeted and stained wood floors seemed jarring and unfinished to many observers. Parquet and hardwood flooring slowly increased in popularity between the 1870s and the 1890s. During the 1880s, carpet manufacturers began producing more area rugs and carpeting sewn to rug sizes. Tastemakers and advice writers began to note both the decorative potential of smaller rugs and the potential cost savings over fitted carpets. By the 1890s, the spread of germ theory led to the popularity of “sanitary”—easily cleanable—interior finishes, including bare wood floors.<sup>147</sup>

During the 1920s and 1930s, many of the rooms in the house had their wood floors exposed and varnished. Other rooms received new hardwood flooring intended to be left exposed. These reflected contemporary trends and anachronistic Colonial Revival ideas about residential interiors that were not true to the Lincoln period.

Since the 1940s, most rooms have been provided with wall-to-wall fitted floorcoverings. The 1952-1955 restoration made use of carpets intended to reflect available evidence of the Lincolns’ carpets as shown in the 1861 Frank Leslie’s engravings. Most of these were replaced in the 1960s and 1970s. The carpets used during these periods were generally stock products. Available evidence of period floorcoverings was relatively limited during this period and the patterns and colorways of available carpet products were often entirely unsuitable for the period of interpretation. The 1987-1988 restoration made use of accurate reproductions of period carpets.

#### **Interior Woodwork**

The house’s interior woodwork varies in species

by date of construction. Woodwork dating from the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839 is of walnut, while that dating from the Lincolns’ 1846 and 1855-1856 remodelings is of pine. First-floor doors, mantels, and the baseboards of the Parlors were varnished while other woodwork was painted. Second-floor doors and mantels were faux grained to imitate more expensive hardwoods. This was a typical practice of the period, with faux graining of inexpensive woods being more affordable than the use of expensive woods and providing a more durable finish than a standard paint finish. Writing in 1955, Hagen reported that, in “1856 Hannan & Ragsdale used northern pine for everything, including the upstairs millwork which was given artificial walnut graining.”<sup>148</sup> The 1887 Bullard drawings indicate that the doors, mantels, and baseboards of the Parlors retained a “natural wood finish,” while all second floor doors were “grained plain oak.” Other interior woodwork as painted white except for that in the Dining Room (room 107), which was then cream, and in the Trunk Room (room 205), which was drab.

Interior woodwork finishes appear to have seen many changes during the State of Illinois’ ownership. For example, in August 1899, Zimmerman, Prouty & Day billed \$95 for painting and graining the house’s interior.<sup>149</sup> Only a few years later, during 1904-1905, Zimmerman & Day were paid \$124.80 for materials and labor in repairing and re-graining the interior of the house.<sup>150</sup> In subsequent decades, woodwork that had been painted during the Lincolns’ occupancy was stripped down to bare wood and given a stained and varnished finish. Woodwork finishes were restored to their 1860-1861 appearance during the 1987-1988 restoration.

LIHO staff report that second floor doors are reproductions made in 1987-1988. The 1986 construction documents for the restoration indicate that the door between rooms 207 and 207A was to be a new door matching that between rooms 204 and 209 but indicate that other second floor doors were to be existing doors retained in place or relocated.

146. Beecher, *A Treatise on Domestic Economy*, 317; Catharine E. Beecher, *Miss Beecher’s Domestic Receipt Book* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1846), 253.

147. Seale, *Recreating the Historic House Interior*, 38, 81.

148. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” 11.

149. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 54.

150. Bearss, 57.



The interior woodwork remains in good condition overall. Limited wear to finishes is evident in areas of visitor traffic. The transom over the door between rooms 202 and 204 is warped and will not close.

### Wallpaper

Wallpaper was widely used in the United States and the region by the time of the Dresser Cottage's construction in 1839 and remained a popular treatment for the next century. Nothing is known of the wallpaper treatments that may have been installed in the house by the Dresser family between 1839 and 1844 and by the Lincolns between 1844 and 1851. Krupka speculates that cost overruns in the construction of the cottage may have led the Dressers to whitewash the bare plaster rather than install wallpaper. Wallpaper installed by the Lincolns prior to 1851 is also not documented.<sup>151</sup> "One of the most succinct summaries of mid-nineteenth century attitudes toward the appropriate use of wallpapers is provided by Andrew Jackson Downing in his (1850) classic, *The Architecture of Country Houses*."<sup>152</sup>

We confess a strong partiality for the use of paper-hangings for covering the walls of all cottages. In some countries—England, for example—papered walls are objectionable, on account of their retaining dampness in a moist climate. But in the United States, there is no complaint of this kind.

The great advantage of papering the walls, lies chiefly in the beauty of effect, and cheerful, cottage-like expression, which may be produced at very little cost; in its lasting from half a dozen to a dozen years (depending on the treatment it receives) when it is easily renewed—not requiring annual attention, like whitewashed walls; and lastly, but mainly, in the enhanced architectural effect which may be given to a plain room, by covering the walls with paper of a suitable style.

And this leads us to remark, that within a couple of years, cheap patterns of paper have been introduced, exactly suited to the walls of cottages, in various styles of architecture—such as Gothic, Italian, Grecian, etc. Some of these are

plain, with only panels and cornices printed on them—giving the room in which they are placed a simple and elegant effect; others present the appearance of the graining of oak wainscot, and are particularly well suited to the entry or living-room of a cottage, or to whole interiors of cottages in the Gothic style; and others, again, are tastefully enriched by paneling and chaste artistic decoration.\*

[Downing's footnote] \*In selecting papers for cottages and small dwellings, good taste will lead us to reject all showy and striking patterns, however beautiful in themselves—because they are out of keeping with the modest character of the cottage. Simple patterns—and those, if possible, which have some architectural expression accordant with that of the cottage—are most satisfactory. [End of Downing's footnote]

If these papers are varnished after they are thoroughly dry, they may be washed like a painted wall, without injury, so that they will last twenty years or more without renewal. And some papers are now made with a surface ready varnished, to answer this purpose.

The mode of treating cottage walls now most in favor, is that of papering the principal rooms and best bedrooms, and whitewashing the kitchen, inferior passages, and bedrooms.<sup>153</sup>

Downing makes a distinction between the "best bed-rooms" used by the family and guests and servants' "bed-rooms" that were grouped with the kitchen and "inferior passages" more commonly whitewashed.

### *Lincoln Home Wallpaper 1844-1855*

Surviving documentation shows that the Lincolns purchased pieces of wallpaper and border from the Springfield dry goods store of John Williams & Company between 1851 and 1856. Purchases in April 1851 may reflect redecoration of most of the first-floor rooms after the 1849-1850 remodeling. Purchases of individual pieces of border and wallpaper in March 1853 probably reflect patching or repairs.<sup>154</sup>

151. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpapers 5.

152. Krupka, XI: Furnishings:Wallpapers 2.

153. Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses*, 369–70.

154. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 18.

April 24, 1851		
34 pieces wallpaper	@ .45	15.30

April 24, 1851		
6 pieces of border	@ .50	3.00

March 7, 1853		
1 piece velvet paper border (return)		1.50

March 15, 1853		
1 piece wallpaper		.45

NOTE: The documented “return” of 1 piece of velvet border paper which is not recorded as having been purchased indicates that cash purchases were not recorded in the Williams Company ledgers, only charges to personal accounts. Thus, the above ledger entries seem to indicate only a partial record of Mary Lincoln’s wallpaper and border purchases from John Williams & Company in 1851.<sup>155</sup>

Krupka cites the British architect Joseph Gwilt’s report that a typical “piece” of sidewall paper measured 12 yards (36’) in length by 1’-8” in width and that a typical “piece” of border measured 12 yards (36’) in length.

The 34 pieces purchased by the Lincolns on April 24, 1851, therefore totaled 2,044 square feet of wallpaper, while the single piece purchased May 15, 1853 totaled only 60 square feet. The addition of this last piece brings the total purchased to 2,100 square feet of wallpaper.

NOTE: Since only a single piece-including only 60 square feet-of wallpaper was purchased in 1853, it may be presumed this was of the same pattern as one of the originals, previously purchased on April 24, 1851. If true, it was most likely intended for patching or repair of previously installed papers.

The 6 pieces of border paper purchased by the Lincolns on April 24, 1851 totaled (6 pieces x 36 feet =) 216 linear feet.<sup>156</sup>

Krupka notes that this quantity of sidewall paper would have been sufficient to paper rooms 100, 101, 108, and room 102 (added in 1846), while there would have been enough border for all rooms but 102.

#### *Lincoln Home Wallpaper 1855-1865*

The 1855-1856 remodeling included extensive changes to the house and appears to have been accompanied by a comprehensive redecoration of the interior. The Lincolns purchase of large quantities of wallpaper from John Williams & Company on July 6, 1855 and May 10, 1856, dates that correspond with the completion of the two phases of the remodeling.<sup>157</sup>

July 6, 1855		
12 pieces wallpaper @ .40		4.80

July 6, 1855		
14 pieces wallpaper @ .40		5.60

July 6, 1855		
4 pieces wallpaper @ .37-1/2		1.50

July 6, 1855		
6 pieces border @ .75		4.50

July 6, 1855		
2 pieces border @ .25		.50

July 6, 1855		
4 pieces wallpaper @ .37-1/2		1.50

May 10, 1856		
5 pieces wallpaper @ .37-1/2		1.88

May 10, 1856		
6 pieces wallpaper @ .37-1/2		2.25

May 10, 1856		
2 pieces border @ .50		1.00

May 10, 1856		
2 pieces wallpaper @ .37-1/2		.75
		\$ 44.53

Mariah Vance recalled the effects of this remodeling, noting that Mary even had “wallpaper from Paris.”<sup>158</sup> Portions of the wallpaper in Mr.

155. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 6.

156. Krupka, XI: Furnishings:Wallpapers 6-7.

157. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 18.

158. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 4.



**Figure C.83.** South wall of room 201 showing surviving 1850s wallpaper under glass with modern reproductions above and below, ca. 1983. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B1F82P32

Lincoln's Bedroom (room 201) survived in situ until 1987. Wallpapers in the Parlors (rooms 101-102) and Dining Room (room 107) are clearly documented in stereographs taken in 1865. Wallpaper in the Sitting Room (room 108) is suggested by the 1861 *Frank Leslie's* engraving of the room. Wallpapers in other rooms are documented in stereographs and a carte-de-visite taken in 1865. As discussed in the "wall" section for each of these rooms, these papers likely date from the 1855-1856 remodeling.

The wallpapers documented in these spaces show that the Lincolns decorated the house to reflect contemporary fashions in the mid-1850s. The papers in Parlors, Sitting Room, and Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom reflect fashionable taste in their sumptuous patterns of scrolls, undulating lines, and range of stylized and realistic foliate elements. The paper in the Dining Room reflects the popularity of bold, stylized floral stripe papers. The other rooms shown in the 1865 photographs appear to have been hung with damask or brocade pattern papers with low contrast. Some of these papers appear to have been grisaille wallpapers (having a pattern printed in multiple shades of gray or another neutral color) on a pale ground. The paper in Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom combines a grisaille paper with accents in fashionable "French" blue, a color made with synthetic ultramarine pigment and widely used in French and American wallpapers in the 1850s.<sup>159</sup>

Available visual evidence from the historic and early post-historic periods indicate many—most

159. Sara B. Chase, "A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois" (Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, December 1983), 6-7.



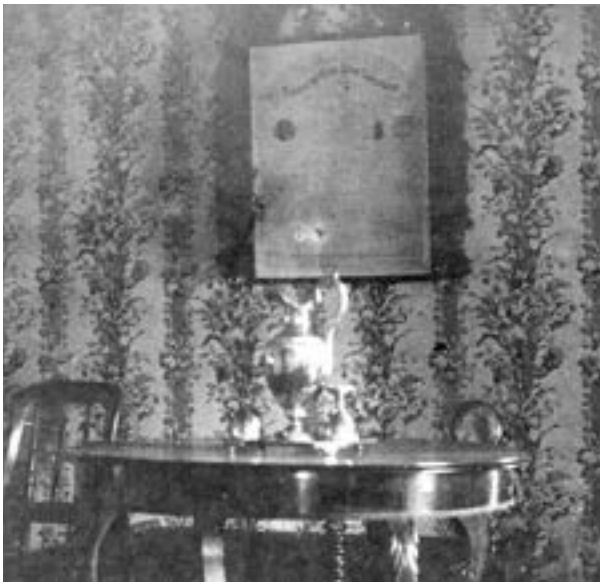
**Figure C.84.** Detail of reproduction wallpaper in Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom (room 201). The border is a period border selected in 1987. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.85.** Detail of view south in Sitting Room (room 108) with suggestion of wallpaper pattern and border profile, 1861. Source: *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, March 9, 1861.



**Figure C.86.** Enhanced detail of May 1865 stereograph of Parlors showing wallpaper and border at east wall of Back Parlor (room 102). Source: LIHO 12885.



**Figure C.87.** Enhanced detail of May 1865 stereograph showing wallpaper and at east wall of Dining Room (room 107). Source: LIHO 10359.

probably all—wallpapers terminated at their junction with the ceiling with a decorative border paper. Typically, these were straight-edged along their tops and decoratively-cut following the printed pattern along their lower edges. Unlike more elegantly-embellished Springfield homes of the period and later, the Lincoln Home had no wooden or plaster moldings at the junction of ceilings with upper walls. Thus, less expensive paper borders were used as architectural articulation in their stead.<sup>160</sup>

#### *Lincoln Home Wallpaper 1865-1887*

Krupka reports that Lucien Tilton purchased and installed wallpapers during his occupancy of the house (1861-1869) and that he was later reimbursed \$41.00. Krupka does not provide a citation but indicates that this was documented in correspondence between Robert Todd Lincoln and his agent Clinton Conkling, suggesting that it may have dated from after Abraham Lincoln's death in 1865. Subsequent tenants appear to have re-wallpapered some rooms in the house. This work is not documented, but the extensive repairs completed by Osborn Oldroyd in 1883-1884 included plaster repair and almost certainly included installation of new wallpaper in some rooms. Oldroyd appears to have preserved sections of Lincoln era wallpapers in the Front Parlor (room 101) and Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom (room 201).

160. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 65.

#### *Lincoln Home Wallpaper 1887-1952*

The State of Illinois funded multiple wallpaper replacement projects between 1887 and 1952. During this period, there seems to have been little attempt to match any Lincoln era wallpapers.

During 1889-1890, Paullin & Patterson were paid \$63.25 for papering four rooms and two halls in the Lincoln Homestead and gilding the staff and ball on the new flagstaff in the back yard and were also paid \$3.50 for supplying 10 rolls of ceiling paper.<sup>161</sup>

During 1891-1892, Brown & Harnett were paid \$16.20 for "wallpaper, painting, &c, furnished."<sup>162</sup> In 1892, the "Souvenir Supplement" of the Illinois State Journal reported, "Some repapering and repairing have been done as an absolute necessity in different parts of the house, but no material alterations have been made, and two of the rooms are papered just as the Lincoln family left them over thirty-one years ago."<sup>163</sup> This appears to refer to surviving wallpaper in rooms 101 and 201.

The house appears to have been extensively redecorated following Oldroyd's departure at the end of April 1893.<sup>164</sup> On August 26, 1893, R. F. Kinsella was paid \$105.25 for papering and painting two bedrooms, the Memorial Room (Parlors), Dining, and Sitting Rooms, the kitchen, closet, and pantry.<sup>165</sup> On May 11, Kinsella had supplied the following:

- Bedroom A
  - 7 rolls of ceiling
  - 14 rolls of wallpaper
  - 20 yards of border
- Bedroom B
  - 5 rolls ceiling
  - 10 rolls wallpaper
  - 15 yards border
- Dining and Sitting Rooms
  - 22 rolls wallpaper

161. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 49–50.

162. Bearss, 51.

163. Bearss, 51.

164. Krupka suggests that this work, completed during the period between January 10, 1893, and January 10, 1895, occurred in 1894, but work between May and August 1893 would be consistent with redecoration of the house immediately following Oldroyd's departure.

165. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 52–53.

- 12 rolls ceiling
  - 38 yards of border
- Memorial Room
  - 18 rolls of ceiling
  - 28 rolls of wallpaper
  - 46 yards of border
- Kitchen
  - 10 rolls wallpaper
  - 18 yards border
- Closet and Pantry
  - 18 rolls wallpaper
  - 18 yards border
- Parlor
  - 9 rolls ceiling
- Other
  - 100 feet of molding
  - 3 gallons oil for floors
  - Red paint 90c

During the summer of 1900 Zimmerman, Prouty & Day wallpapered a number of rooms at a cost of \$90.<sup>166</sup> In 1904-1905, Johnson & Hatcher supplied wallpaper, border, and labor to repaper a number of rooms in the house.<sup>167</sup> Undocumented wallpaper projects likely occurred between 1905 and 1918.

In July 1918, a reporter noted work underway in preparation for the centennial of Illinois statehood (December 1918); a number of rooms were being repapered, floors shellacked, woodwork varnished.<sup>168</sup> On April 4, 1922, the State of Illinois received proposals for painting and papering the interior of the Lincoln Home. In 1929, the State began correspondence with the Thomas Strahan Company of Chelsea, Massachusetts, regarding reproduction of the surviving Lincoln era wallpaper in room 201; this reproduction was obtained in 1930 and installed in this room and room 108. Bids for that project, including removing existing wallpaper in all rooms except for the surviving Lincoln era wallpaper in room 201, were received on June 5, 1930.

#### *Lincoln Home Wallpaper 1952-1987*

Writing in 1955, Hagen provides the following information on his selection of wallpapers during the 1952-1955 restoration:

Selection of the wallpaper was given careful attention. Research led to the conclusion that



**Figure C.88.** View of Sitting Room (room 108) in 1955 showing wallpaper reproduced from the Lincoln Bedroom wallpaper installed here in the 1930s and again during the 1952-1955 restoration. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B7F1P101.

the wallpapers available in Springfield during the 1850s would have been of either English or eastern United State origin. Search was then made for reproductions of paper from the period 1850-1860, with consideration being given to what Mary Lincoln's taste in decoration might have been. The choice was complicated by the scarcity of these reproductions, since papers popular in that period are not greatly desired today. It is simple to find reproductions of early papers in the delightful (at least to modern taste) patterns of eighteenth-century New England, but it is no more proper to install a Colonial Williamsburg paper in the Lincoln Home than one of extreme modern design. The present wallpaper in the Home represents a fairly happy compromise between what was desired and what was available without undergoing prohibitive expensive reproduction. Some of the wallpaper in Lincoln's bedroom is reputed to have survived intact since 1861. This paper was reproduced in 1930 and placed on the walls of the Sitting Room. Because it so closely resembles the wallpaper shown in the *Leslie's* sketch it has been retained there as well as in Lincoln's bedroom, where a portion of the original is now framed under glass. But beyond this one pattern there was nothing to use as a guide in the dangerous process of trying to project the tastes of a personality of the past.<sup>169</sup>

Hagen decided to continue the use of the Strahan reproduction of the 1855 Lincoln bedroom (room 201) wallpaper that had been installed in that room

166. Bearss, 55.

167. Bearss, 57.

168. Bearss, 63.

169. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 18-19.





**Figure C.89.** During the 1952 restoration, the Dining Room (room 107) was papered with what appears to have been unused old stock Arts and Crafts style wallpaper dating from ca.1905-1915. This paper was inappropriate for the period of interpretation. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B2F15P2.

and the Sitting Room (room 108) in 1930, possibly patching or replacing it with some of the surplus rolls that had been stored for more than twenty years. The Front Hall (room 100) and Upstairs Front Hall (room 200) were papered with a pattern that was plausible for the 1850s.

The other wallpapers used during this project ranged widely in style. The Dining Room (room 107) appears to have been papered with unused old stock wallpaper dating from ca.1905-1915. Many visitors who saw this paper in the 1950s would have remembered similar wallpapers from decades past. Some of these designs were based on wallpapers dating from the 1840s to the 1860s but were often marketed under misleading terms such as “authentic Colonial reproductions.” Others were taken from the Colonial Williamsburg Collection. Hagen indicates that some of the wallpapers used at this time were Colonial Williamsburg reproductions.<sup>170</sup>

170. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpapers 19.

Most of the second-floor rooms, including Mary’s Bedroom (room 202), the Hired Girl’s Room (room 203), the Boys’ Room (room 205), and the Guest Bedroom (room 208) were hung with wallpapers that were purchased by the Colonial Dames and appear to have been stock products. These wallpapers reflect styles that wallpaper manufacturers described using a wide range of terms, from “Colonial” and “18<sup>th</sup> Century” to “Victorian” and “Traditional.” Most of these included stylized floral or foliate elements of varying scales.

On October 25, 1956, Hagen wrote to Mrs. W. T. Bacon of the Illinois Chapter of the Colonial Dames:

Having just returned from the annual meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, I thought you might like to know of several things that happened there.

The restoration of the Lincoln Home was commended in general but in specific terms, the use of Williamsburg reproduced wallpapers in the Lincoln Home was cited as a good example of well intentioned but not very exact restoration. It seems that the Williamsburg papers in the Lincoln Home were also mentioned at the Cooperstown, New York historic housekeeping course as an example of what not to do...

I have returned with a strong determination that as soon as possible we shall replace the paper in the Guest Bedroom [room 208] and in the maid’s room [room 203], both of which simply do not fit in with the rest of our excellent restoration.<sup>171</sup>

Wallpapers installed during the 1960s and 1970s tended to be unsuitable for the period of interpretation. Many of these were contemporary papers intended for “Early American” interiors and bore no resemblance to papers the Lincolns would have had. Bearss reported that, during his 1972 site visit, he found that “Boxes of wallpaper ordered from Katzenback & Warren, Thomas Strahan Co., and Valentyn Bing were stored in the southwest corner [of the basement]. As these

171. Krupka, XI: Furnishings:Wallpapers 19.



**Figure C.90.** Wallpapers installed in the 1960s and 1970s, including this contemporary “Early American” style wallpaper in room 208, bore no resemblance to papers the Lincolns would have had. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B7F17P2.

reproductions are very expensive, Mr. [Henry] Judd [Chief Restoration Architect] suggested that Superintendent Banton arrange for better storage facilities.”<sup>172</sup>

#### *Lincoln Home Wallpapers 1988-2022*

Wallpapers used during the 1987-1988 restoration were based on physical evidence, scholarly research, and analysis with a goal of providing an accurate presentation of the house’s appearance during the period of interpretation. Only Mr. Lincoln’s Bedroom (room 201) retained a sample of its wallpaper from the period of interpretation. Preliminary recommendations were made by Sara B. Chase and Richard Nylander. Chase corresponded with Dick Lusardi, chief of maintenance at LIHO, in February 1984, discussing the potential costs for stock and custom reproduction papers recommended in her study of December 1983.<sup>173</sup> NPS’ Harpers Ferry Center

(HFC) provided guidance on the finishes and furnishings for the house.

As planning for the restoration progressed, proposed wallpapers and samples were reviewed by John P. Brucksch (project supervisor, Division of Historic Furnishings at HFC) and Fran Krupka (historical architect at DSC) in coordination with Vance L. Kaminsky (architect at DSC). This process generated considerable controversy, particularly on wallpapers for the Parlors (rooms 101 and 102) and Dining Room (room 107); LIHO staff desired to reproduce papers based on the 1865 stereographs of those rooms, as recommended by Chase, while HFC advised against reproducing these papers unless samples of matching papers could be located. Final selection of wallpapers was made during meetings held at Harpers Ferry Design Center on November 23-24, 1987.<sup>174</sup> Many of the wallpapers selected were existing reproductions of period papers, many commissioned for other NPS properties. A new reproduction of a paper from the collection of SPNEA (now Historic New England)—extremely similar to that in the 1865 stereograph—was selected for the Parlors based on Chase and Nylander’s recommendation.

With the exceptions of the custom reproduction papers for the Parlors (from the SPNEA document) and for rooms 201 and 202 (using the surviving Lincoln period paper in room 201), and a stock border for rooms 201 and 202 printed in a custom colorway, all reproduction wallpapers and borders were stock reproduction papers. Bradbury & Bradbury and Mt. Diablo Handprints, both of Benicia, California, produced wallpapers for rooms 101, 102, 201, 202, and 207. Scalamandré of New York produced papers for rooms 100, 200, 108, and 208. Waterhouse Wallhangings of Boston produced the paper for room 107. Schumacher of New York produced the border for 207. Wallpaper was installed between March and June 1988.

172. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 2.

173. Chase, “A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois,” Sara B. Chase to Dick Lusardi, letter, February 16, 1984, inserted into report booklet.

174. Participants were Francis O. Krupka, represented DSC, MWRO, and LIHO; Sarah Olson, Chief of Division of Historic Furnishings, HFC; and HFC Staff Curators Katherine B. Menz and John Brucksch.



**Figure C.91.** Detail of May 1865 stereograph and 2021 photograph of east wall of Back Parlor (room 102) showing documented sidewall paper and reproduction of a very similar sidewall paper from the collection of Historic New England. Note the very different borders. Source: LIHO 12885, RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.92.** Detail of May 1865 stereograph of Dining Room (room 107) showing documented sidewall paper and 2021 photograph and a dissimilar stock period paper selected for use in 1987-1988. Source: LIHO 10359, RATIO Architects.





**Figure C.93.** Details of wallpapers selected for Sitting Room (room 108) and Guest Bedroom (room 208) in 1987-1988. Both of these were new runs of prior reproductions commissioned by NPS for the restoration of the Russian Bishop's House (1841-1843) in Sitka, Alaska. At the time of the 1987-1988 restoration of the Lincoln Home, these papers were believed to date from the 1850s. Subsequent scholarship indicates that these papers date from ca.1843-1844 and were covered over in 1850s redecorations of the Russian Bishop's House.

### **Interior Accessibility**

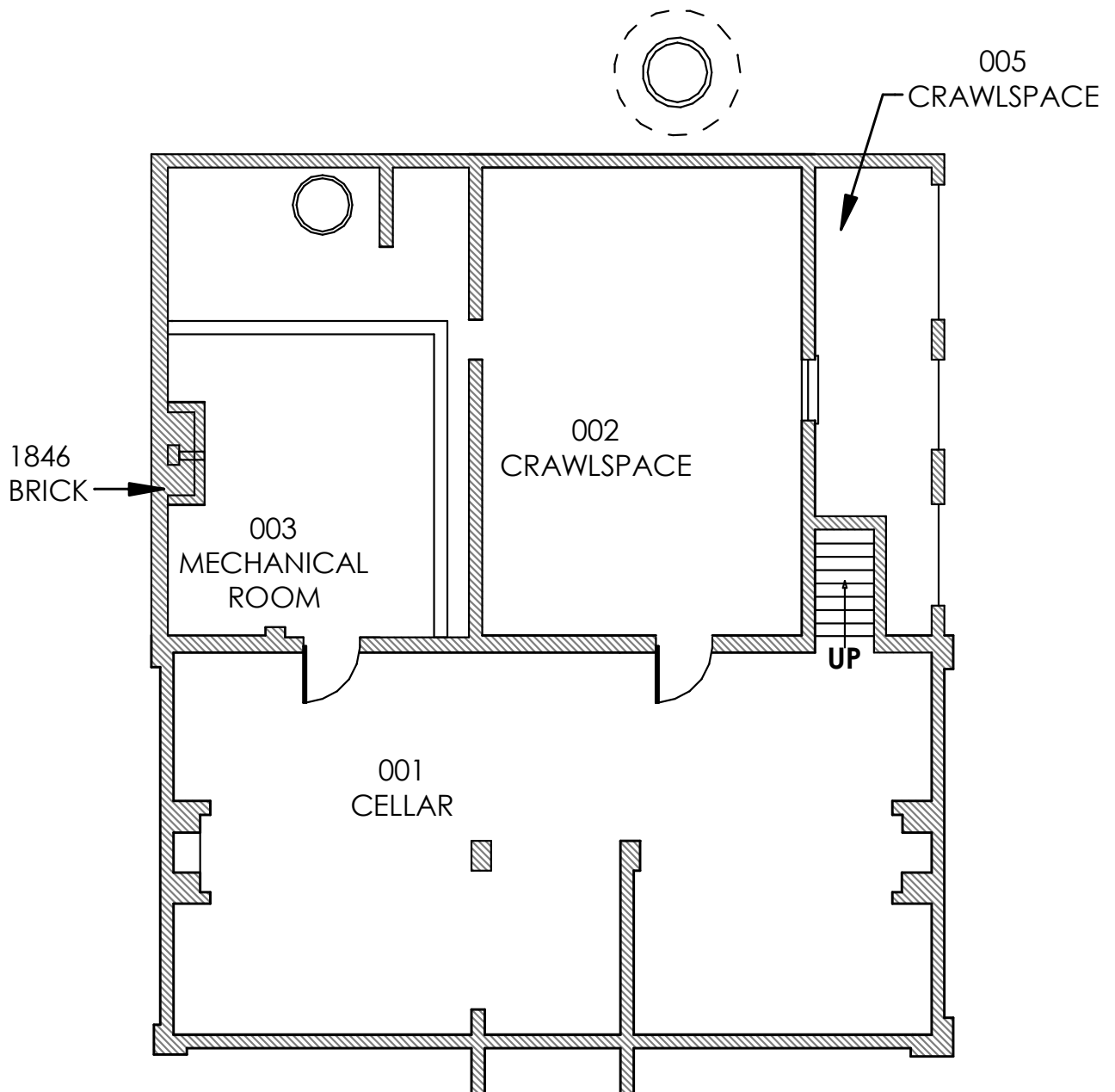
Information on the accessibility of the Lincoln Home has been consolidated in Appendix D: Accessibility.

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**Basement**

Level does not appear to have ever contained finished or occupied space.



### 001 West Wing Basement

This space comprises the entire basement level of the west wing. Piers are in place below the wall between rooms 100 and 101 and a brick partition and pier extend under a matching portion of the space below the wall between rooms 100 and 108. Two casement windows flank the chimney breasts on the north and south walls, matching the placement of the windows on the floors above.

A cellar has occupied this space since the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839. This space was originally accessed by a cellar stair that descended from a door in the original east wing Kitchen (room 105/107) within the space under the front stair (room 109). The opening for this stair survives in the floor framing. An exterior stair may have been present beneath the floor of the original south porch. The east wing crawlspace was accessed by a hatch in the east wall below the stair.

Archaeologist Richard S. Hagen, who oversaw the 1952-1955 restoration, noted, “The Lincolns had a basement only under the front part of the house, with access only through a trapdoor on the south porch.”<sup>175</sup> During the 1846 remodeling, the original cellar stair was demolished, and the space above (room 109) was converted into a china closet. The east wing was moved south, covering the location of the original south porch; if an exterior cellar stair had been present in this area, it would have been infilled at this time. A new exterior cellar stair was built within the relocated south porch and was covered by a trapdoor in the porch floor. Krupka notes that there had been questions as to whether this was an exterior cellar stair dating from 1839 that was simply covered by the south porch in the 1846 remodeling; investigations in the 1980s revealed that the bricks of the 1839 foundation wall showed “definite evidence of having been cut or broken out” to create this stair opening, indicating that it was not part of the original construction of the Dresser Cottage.<sup>176</sup> The original hatch to the east wing crawlspace was infilled and a new opening was created farther south in the east wall.

This space is believed to have been used as a root cellar, a space for the storage of foods. The cellar would have had the most consistent temperature of any space in the house, allowing foods to stay fresh

longer during the hot Illinois summers. Catharine Beecher’s *A Treatise on Domestic Economy* (1841), a popular reference book of the period, gives an indication of the character of cellars during this period; “A cellar should often be whitewashed, to keep it sweet. It should have a drain, to keep it perfectly dry, as standing water, in a cellar, is a sure cause of disease in a family.”<sup>177</sup> Krupka reports that Lincoln allowed a photographer to use the cellar “as a field darkroom in which to develop his glass plate negatives of the Home.”<sup>178</sup>

The 1887 Bullard drawings do not document the basement, crawlspaces, or foundation. The earliest detailed documentation of this space is from measured drawings of the house prepared in September 1927. A furnace appears to have been installed in this room in 1889-1890, venting through a penetration into the north chimney.

During the 1987-1988 restoration, a new door was cut in the east wall to provide access to the 1950s mechanical room (room 002). An areaway and steps were created to connect the floor of this room to the lower floor level of the mechanical room.

### Floor

From the time of the Dresser Cottage’s construction in 1839 until sometime between 1889 and 1903, the cellar floor was of compacted soil. This floor was approximately 7’-4” below the underside of the first-floor joists, making this a relatively tall cellar.

In July 1987, a modern concrete cellar floor was removed, and archaeological investigations were conducted. Krupka provides the following description of the findings from this investigation:

Prior to its removal, the clearance between the top of the post historic concrete floor slab and the underside of the overhead joists was 6’-1”.

Upon removal, it was discovered that 1’-3” of backfilled soil and rubble overburden—including the approximately 4-inch thickness of the slab itself—had overlain the compacted, but otherwise largely undisturbed—sand-

175. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” 8.

176. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Stairs and Stairways 3-5.

177. Beecher, *A Treatise on Domestic Economy*, 322.

178. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Floors and Flooring 1.

covered clay lens that is the natural subsoil which formed the historic surface of the Dresser/Lincoln Cellar floor...

Thus, the clearance between the top of the historic dirt Cellar Floor and the underside of the overhead joists was a full foot higher than Lincoln's own 6'-4" height during the historic period...

The archaeological excavations of the Cellar floor provided no indications that the original (i.e. 1839) Dresser dirt Cellar floor was ever paved over in loose-laid brick or any other material, as originally suspected, although a certain amount of brick and brick debris used as infill was discovered.

NOTE: Aside from brick rubble infill in various locations, the only brick work discovered in the Cellar floor beneath the post-historic concrete slab included a brick barrel-vaulted air intake tunnel and a brick-paved foundation and ash-dump apron associated with the first central warm air furnace, installed by the State during the 1889-90 biennium...<sup>179</sup>

Krupka notes that the apparent care taken to install the concrete floor above the 1889-1890 air intake tunnel indicates that this air intake was still functioning. This intake became obsolete when the furnace was replaced by a connection to the central city steam system in 1902-1903, indicating that the concrete floor was installed sometime between 1889 and 1903. The "Palace King Furnace" installed in 1889-1890 was replaced in 1895-1896 by a "No. 50 Gilt Edge Furnace." The concrete slab covered the 1889-1890 brick furnace foundation, suggesting that it may have been installed at the time of the furnace replacement in 1895-1896.<sup>180</sup> It may also have coincided with the installation of a concrete floor in the basement of the kitchen addition sometime between 1897 and 1918. Overlay of all of these bits of evidence may suggest that concrete floor was installed between 1897 and 1903 or that it was replaced between 1903 and 1918. Krupka believed that the concrete floor slab may have been replaced at an unknown date between 1903 and 1925, when A. L. Bowen reported that "The basement floor was concreted



**Figure C.94.** View north-northwest in room 001 taken by James T. Hickey, June 1954. The brick foundation was covered with shotcrete shortly after this was taken. Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.



**Figure C.95.** View north in room 001 showing similar view to Figure C.85, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

some years ago.”<sup>181</sup> The 1927 measured drawings include the note “new concrete floor / excavated” in this room. The existing concrete floor was retained in 1954, with the exception of patches where footings were installed for new auxiliary support columns.<sup>182</sup>

The 1986 construction documents for the 1987-1988 restoration indicate that the existing concrete slab was to be removed except for an eighteen-inch-wide strip adjacent to the brick foundation walls and that a new four-inch-thick concrete slab floor was poured. Writing in 1988, Krupka noted that these plans were prepared before it was known that the existing concrete sat atop post-historic fill. Krupka recommended that the concrete floor and post-historic fill be removed, that a new plastic

179. Krupka, 1:Floors and Flooring 1-3.

180. Krupka, 1:Floors and Flooring 4.

181. Krupka, 1:Floors and Flooring 3.

182. Krupka, 1:Floors and Flooring 5.

vapor barrier be laid down over the historic dirt floor, and that it be paved with a layer of loose-laid brick on a shallow sand levelling bed.<sup>183</sup> This recommendation does not appear to have been carried out. The existing concrete floor appears to have been poured at the level of the existing concrete slab.

### *Walls*

A photograph of this room taken by James T. Hickey in June 1954 documents that it had exposed brick masonry at the foundation walls and the column below the wall between room 100 and 101. The west and north foundation walls showed signs of significant water infiltration.

In 1954 the brick masonry was repointed and covered with shotcrete (often known by the tradename “Gunite”), a sprayed concrete coating first developed in 1907. This treatment appears to have been intended to reinforce and/or waterproof the brick masonry. This coating conceals the surface of the brick masonry, leaving no historic fabric visible.

### *Ceiling*

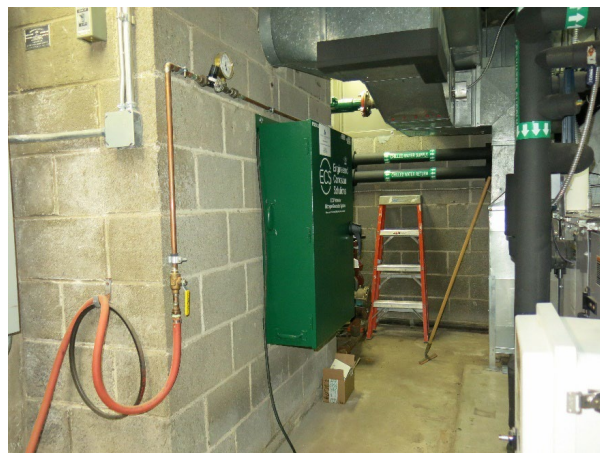
The room’s ceiling is formed by the exposed first-floor joists and the underside of the first-floor subfloor. These wood components do not appear to have been painted or whitewashed and have acquired a brown oxidized finish.

### *Fixtures*

The cellar was not likely provided with building-mounted light fixtures prior to the introduction of electric lighting in the house between 1899 and 1903. Seven electric ceiling lights were installed in a grid pattern by 1927. Modern electric downlights were installed during the 1987-1988 restoration.

## **002 Mechanical Room**

This space was partitioned and excavated out of room 004 in 1954. Its chronology is described in that room.



**Figure C.96.** View northeast in 1954 mechanical room (room 002), November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

## **003 East Wing South Crawlspace**

This crawlspace was created during the 1846 remodeling, when the Lincolns relocated the original east wing several feet to the south of its original location. This encompasses part of the crawlspaces below the original location of the east wing and south porch as built in 1839. While part of the east wall survived from 1839, the north and south foundation walls were rebuilt in 1846. This space appears to have had a height of about two feet between the top of the uncompacted soil and the underside of the floor joists.

## **004 East Wing North Crawlspace**

This crawlspace was created during the 1846 remodeling, when the original 1839 east wing was shifted south and a new addition was built to its north. Part of the east wall and all of the north wall of the 1839 east wing foundations are believed to have been retained. New north and east foundations were built to support the new addition above. An old well was encapsulated in this space. This space appears to have had a height of about two feet between the top of the uncompacted soil and the underside of the floor joists.

In 1954, much of this room was excavated to create a new mechanical room (room 002). Writing in 1955, Richard S. Hagen provided the following summary of this work:

183. Krupka, 1:Floors and Flooring 5-6.

To provide space for a new automatic gas furnace and ventilating system to make the Home comfortable for visitors the year round, a ten-square-foot area was dug under the northeast corner of the back portion of the house and bricked solid with fireproof ceiling and outside entrance. Pipes and outlets for the new system have been well concealed.<sup>184</sup>

Most of the surviving 1839 north foundation wall of the east wing was demolished at this time. New concrete block walls were built inside the north foundation wall and to define new east and south walls of the room, a new concrete slab floor was poured, and a new plaster ceiling was installed. The remnant crawlspace is now accessed by a panel in the east partition of room 002. An exterior concrete stair was built in the north side yard and a new door was cut through the north foundation wall, providing the only access to this room. Most of the north foundation wall east of the chimney of room 102 was rebuilt at this time. Krupka notes that this exterior stair was “visually intrusive to anyone touring the Lincoln Home Backyard.”<sup>185</sup> During the 1987-1988 restoration, the 1954 exterior stair was removed, the areaway infilled, and the north foundation wall was rebuilt to reflect its 1860 appearance.

184. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” 8.

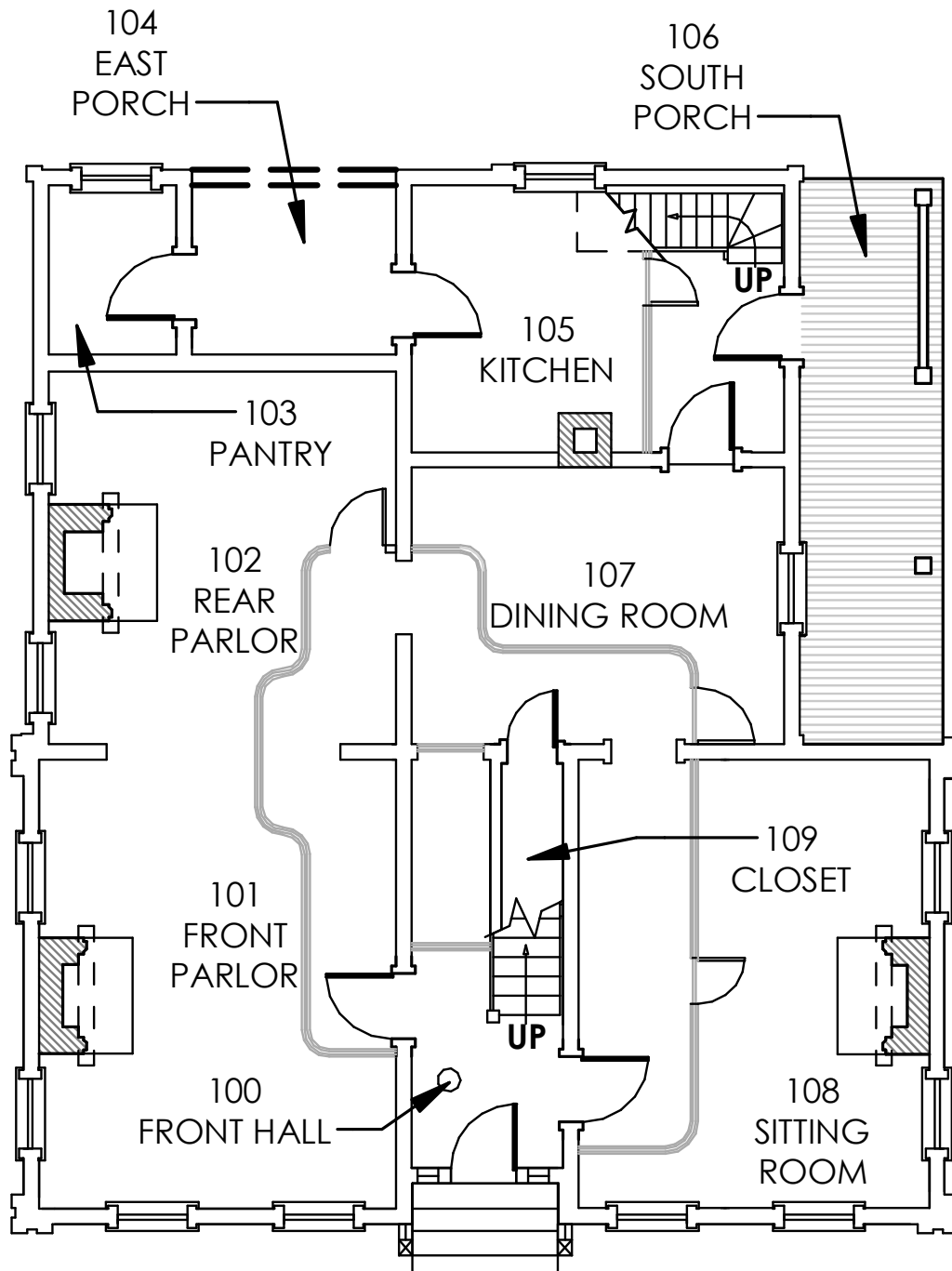
185. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Stairs and Stairways 6.



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## First Floor

The first floor contains the Front Hall, Front and Back Parlors, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, and Pantry. All but the Pantry are currently interpreted as period rooms.



### 100 Front Hall

The Front Hall, measuring approximately 17'-3" by 6'-6", was part of the original construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839. The west wall contains the front door and flanking sidelights. Doors in the north, east, and south walls connect to rooms 101, 107, and 108, respectively. A staircase rises west-to-east along the south wall and curves around along the east and north walls to reach the Upstairs Front Hall (room 200), which is contiguous with this room.

Also known as the entrance hall, entry hall, stair hall, center hall, or downstairs Front Hall, this room served as the primary point of entry to the house and its staircase formed the primary vertical circulation path. When the Dresser Cottage was completed in 1839, all first- and second-floor rooms opened off of room 100/200. The Lincolns' additions created spaces that did not open directly to these halls, but the halls remained primary circulation spaces. Although floorcoverings, wallcoverings, ceiling treatments, and woodwork finishes have changed many times, the room is otherwise largely unchanged since the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839.

### Floor

This room retains white oak flooring believed to have been installed at the time of the Dresser Cottage's construction in 1839. The 1927 measured drawings list the floor of this room as "original oak flooring." Writing in 1988, Krupka reported that the floor was of three-quarter inch thick, eight-inch-wide oak boards running east-west and butt-jointed at their sides and ends. The stair was constructed on top of these floorboards, indicating that they have not been replaced since the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839.

A hall floor of this type was likely covered by an oilcloth or a fitted Venetian striped carpet at the time of the Dresser Cottage's construction in 1839.<sup>186</sup> A comparable treatment was likely in place during the Lincolns' occupancy. While influential tastemakers like A. J. Downing advised marble or pottery—specifically encaustic—tiles for hall floors, being "far more durable" than carpet or oilcloth, but only the very wealthy could afford

tile.<sup>187</sup> The Lincolns most likely had patterned carpet or oilcloth.

Mariah Vance recalled that, around 1853, Robert and Tad (more likely Willie, as Tad would have been an infant) sent Lincoln's metal foot tub tumbling down the stair while pretending it was a boat going over a waterfall. Vance reported that the stairs were a mess to clean and dry and that Lincoln said, "Well, that's one way of cleaning the stairs and carpet in short order."<sup>188</sup> This may indicate a stair runner, a carpet in the Front Hall, or both. The Lincolns may have installed a new carpet and stair runner at the time of the 1855-1856 remodeling; if so, the same runner likely remained in place until the Lincolns left the house in February 1861. At the Lincolns' sale of most of their furnishings on February 9, Springfield druggist Samuel H. Melvin purchased several items, including nine and a half yards of stair carpet at 50 cents per yard.<sup>189</sup> This was almost certainly from the front stair.

The heavy number of visitors to the house during 1860 and 1861 likely took a toll on the hall's floorcovering. The number of visitors to the house after 1865 likely wore down the floorcoverings in this room and the Parlors faster than the flooring in other rooms. The floorcovering was likely replaced multiple times between 1861 and the earliest known photographs of the room, dating from ca.1912. This view shows the floor and stair runner composed of matching carpet. This carpet featured a pattern of relatively small hexagons with high contrast and probably dated from sometime after 1887.

By the 1930s, the room appears to have been fitted with a low-pile carpet. During the 1952-1955 restoration, the room was fitted with new carpet. The visitor path and stair were covered with low-pile carpet of a light brown color. The small area between the doors to rooms 101 and 107 was enclosed by new railings and was fitted with a carpet featuring a pattern of stylized scrolls. This appears to have been a section of the carpet removed from rooms 101 and 102 at this

187. Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses*, 403.

188. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Stairs and Stairways 9.

189. Katherine B. Menz, *Historic Furnishings Report, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Illinois* (Harpers Ferry, WV: Harpers Ferry Center, 1983), 45; Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 23.

186. Beecher, *A Treatise on Domestic Economy*, 302.

time, likely the old carpet that had been re-sewn and installed in those rooms in 1934. Sometime between 1957 and 1964, the State of Illinois replaced this section of carpet with a new fitted Turkey carpet (a generic term for a carpet with motifs inspired by traditional carpets from Turkey and other Middle Eastern countries) featuring a pattern of stylized geometric elements. This carpet was in shades of brown and tan on a cream ground and appears to have been a different colorway of the same pattern installed in room 107 around the same time. The carpet was retained or replaced in kind until 1987, when it was removed to expose the underlying oak floor.

In 1988, the room was fitted with “Maple Leaf” pattern ingrain carpet produced by Family Heirloom Weavers of Red Lion, Pennsylvania. This carpet was also used in room 108. The carpet strips run east-west. This ca.1840 pattern features two alternating rectangular medallions in a checkerboard pattern. It features a cream ground with the pattern woven in stripes alternating red, green, blue, green, red, and so on; this was a popular effect used for carpets, coverlets and other materials woven on Jacquard looms and was similar to the *irisé* (“iridescent”) or “rainbow” wallpapers popular in the United States from about 1820 to 1850. The visitor path and stair are now covered with low-pile blue-gray carpet.

### *Walls*

No documentation of the wallpaper in the Front Hall installed by the Dressers between 1839 and 1844 or by the Lincolns between 1844 and 1861 has been found.<sup>190</sup> The Lincolns appear to have redecorated the room in 1855 or 1856 with new wallpaper purchased from John Williams & Company.<sup>191</sup> The Lincolns’ wallpaper appears to have been replaced or covered by the 1880s.

During 1889-1890, Paullin & Patterson were paid for papering two halls in the Lincoln Homestead.<sup>192</sup> A picture molding may have been installed in the room by R. F. Kinsella in the summer of 1893.<sup>193</sup> A ca.1912 photograph, the earliest known view of the room, shows a wallpaper reflecting the influence of

the Arts and Crafts and Art Nouveau movements. This paper appears to date from the period 1900-1915 and featured a pattern of highly stylized stems, leaves, and groupings of five roses in vertical stripes forming a half-drop repeat.

The room appears to have been re-papered in April 1922 and June 1930. Photographs of the room believed to date from 1930 to 1946 show a wallpaper featuring a diaper pattern (a term for any design with intersecting lines forming a repeating diamond pattern) of scrolls separating oval cartouches containing Grecian ornament. It was printed in red orange with black and white accents on a grayish-cream ground. This appears to be the same paper hung in the Dining Room (room 107) sometime between 1957 and 1964, suggesting that additional rolls may have been stored in the house for some time. No border was used but a picture molding was present below the ceiling.

In October 1950, Harry F. Fristch & Sons were contracted to paper the hall and stairway. To date, the only documentation of this wallpaper are June 1954 photographs, one showing rooms 107 and 109 and a portion of the north wall of room 100 through a doorway and one showing room 200. The wallpaper featured a grid with circular elements—possibly rosettes—at the intersections of dotted lines defining the typical square unit; the center of each square included an octagonal frame containing a darker central pattern, possibly a floral group. The paper appears to have been printed in light and dark colors on a moderate-colored ground.

During 1954-1955, the room was hung with wallpaper featuring an octagonal coffered pattern in brown and blue on a cream ground. An egg-and-dart border in matching shades of brown and cream was installed at this time. Photographs taken during the 1987-1988 restoration document the pencil signature “C H Rose / 1954” on the bare plaster at one wall of the room. In January 1966 Valentyn Bing Wallpaper of Chicago was paid for “fabricating and furnishing hand silk-screened wallpaper for the front entrance hall.”

<sup>194</sup> Photographs indicate that this wallpaper was identical to that installed in the 1950s. The wallpaper was removed in September 1987.

190. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpapers 24.

191. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 18.

192. Bearss, 49–50.

193. Bearss, 52–53.

194. Bearss, 116.

During investigations in 1983, Sara B. Chase reported very limited evidence of early wallpapers. “Upstairs we found only a tiny fragment (about 1 cm. sq.) of paper earlier than the two [1950s and 1966] brown/blue diamond pattern ones. This was of a deep ochre over a red ground on very white paper.”<sup>195</sup>

In 1983, Chase recommended that the room be hung with “Widow Clarke Stripe,” an 1850s paper reproduced by Mt. Diablo Handprints for the Clarke House in Chicago.<sup>196</sup> She also noted that “Widow Clarke Stripe” might be more suitable for the Dining Room and that “Quatrafoil” in document blue by Schumacher might be considered for this room.

With no documentation of the wallpaper installed in the room by the Lincolns in the mid-1850s, the NPS decided to install a documented paper of the period in the room. Following a recommendation from the Harpers Ferry Center, a sidewall paper and border found in the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House in Seneca Falls, New York, and dated to the period 1850-1860 was installed in April 1988. Produced by Scalmandré of New York, this paper had previously been reproduced for the Stanton House at Women’s Rights National Historical Park. The sidewall paper is “Stanton House Back Bedroom” (No. 81331) and the border is “Stanton House Back Bedroom” (No. 81332) in the green colorway.<sup>197</sup>

The room was re-wallpapered in 2008 in anticipation of the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth in 2009. This consisted of in-kind replacement of the wallpaper installed in 1988.

### *Ceiling*

The 1839 flat plaster ceiling in this room remained intact until the summer of 1986, when approximately forty percent of the plaster was removed to allow structural investigation of

the stair. The original lath was reinstalled and replastered during the 1987-1988 restoration. During the two years that the lath and framing were left exposed, they were incorporated into the interpretation of the house.<sup>198</sup>

Like other ceilings in the house, the ceiling of this room was whitewashed until after the Lincolns’ departure in 1861. Ceiling paper seems to have been installed in the room during a redecoration of the house by R. F. Kinsella in the summer of 1893.

The earliest known photograph showing the ceiling of this room dates from the 1930s and appears to show a light-colored painted ceiling trimmed by narrow crown molding. The ceiling was papered and painted off-white during the 1952-1955 restoration. Ceiling papers were removed during the 1987-1988 restoration. The ceiling was painted white in 1988.

### *Mouse Nest*

During the 1987-1988 restoration, a mouse nest (LIHO 6680) was found in the ceiling above the front door. This nest contained newspapers dated 1874, ribbons, wallpaper, and three mummified mice. Wallpaper fragments include portions of patterns with stylized foliage, scrolls, and borders with gold lines of varying widths. Some of these fragments appear to be consistent with wallpapers popular in the 1860s and early-1870s. Some of these may contain fragments of wallpapers installed in the house by the Lincolns in 1855-1856. One (LIHO 6680l) appears to include a grisaille pattern of scrolls and leaves on a pale ground, while another (LIHO 6680p) includes green linework that may be part of a stylized acanthus or floral pattern.

### *Mouse Nest No. 2*

See floor of room 200.

### *Light Fixtures*

The ceiling of this room was piped for a gas pendant or gasolier when gas lighting was introduced to the house in 1876-1877. This fixture may have been electrified between 1899 and 1902. A ca.1912 photograph shows a two-arm gasolier that appears to date from the period 1855-1875. This gasolier featured a center with a prominent

195. Chase, “A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois,” 2-3.

196. Chase, 10; Richard C. Nylander, *Wallpapers for Historic Buildings*, Second Edition (Washington, DC: The Preservation Press, 1992), 113.

197. “Lincoln Home Wallpaper - Lincoln Home National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service),” accessed November 11, 2021, <https://www.nps.gov/liho/learn/historyculture/wallpaper.htm>; Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpapers 26-27.

198. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 5.



sphere and two curving arms oriented north south. Petcocks for regulating the gas in burner were centered on the lowest point of each arm. This gasolier had been crudely electrified, with electric sockets installed on top of the original shade holders and socket-mounted holders bearing glass bell shades.

Photographs taken between about 1930 and 1950 show a Colonial Revival style electric pendant in the form of an oil lamp with a metal font suspended from a matching metal smoke bell by four metal rods, an etched and cut-glass shade, a hanging chain, and a ceiling bell canopy. This fixture probably dated from the 1920s or 1930s. Plans for new lighting in 1933 show removal of the fixture in this room; however, the lighting scheme shown on this drawing may not have been implemented in this room.

During the 1952-1955 restoration, the ceiling light was removed, and a new indirect trough light was installed over the front door. During the 1987-1988 restoration, the 1950s trough light was replaced by a wider and smaller version that was papered to match the wall.

#### *Staircase*

The staircase follows the design as built during the 1839 construction of the Dresser Cottage. It rises east along the south wall and then winds 180-degrees along the east and north walls to reach the second floor in room 200. The exposed components of the stair are of black walnut, consistent with other woodwork dating from 1839. It features a turned newel post and a continuous handrail and balustrade with narrow dowel balusters.

Krupka, who examined the stair in detail in the summer of 1986 and during the 1987-1988 restoration, reported that its components were of black walnut and its rabbit joints, pinned mortise-and-tenon joinery, square cut nails, riven hickory lath, plaster with bright orange sand and hair reinforcing, and the use of adjacent wood trim as plaster stops were all consistent with the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839 and are not consistent with the Lincolns' remodelings or later work.<sup>199</sup>

The well stringer of the staircase is exposed to view in the center of the hall. Krupka reports the following of its construction: "It is of double curvature (i.e., curved in both plan and elevation) construction, assembled by overlaying a saw-kerfed (1/2" x 8") walnut face board atop a structural backing wreath of vertically staved (1-1/2") pine planks covered on the outside with black walnut veneering."<sup>200</sup>

In 1947, custodian Virginia Stuart Brown suggested that the whole second floor should be opened to visitors, providing a more complete experience of the house and relieving congestion at the first floor. In April 1948, W. A. Rosenfield, director of the State's Department of Public Works and Buildings, identified the need to reinforce the house's staircases to allow visitor access to the second floor.<sup>201</sup>

Stair balusters, particularly those with narrow profiles like the balusters in the Lincoln Home stair, are susceptible to breakage and loss, particularly in high-traffic environments. Some of the original black walnut balusters were likely replaced in undocumented repairs between 1861 and 1954. Drawings for a proposed restoration prepared in 1948 note to remove the existing wood balusters of the front staircase, to store them where directed, and to replace them with new steel balusters matching the size and spacing of the wood balusters and to be grained to match their finish. A new steel channel was to be let into the underside of the existing handrail to anchor the tops of these new balusters and steel plates were to be mounted on the treads to anchor the bottoms of the balusters. This work was not carried out. During the 1954-1955 second-floor restoration, the wood balusters were replaced with new steel dowels secured by a steel channel and steel plates as described on the 1948 drawings. Krupka reports that the only known surviving baluster was in the private collection of James T. Hickey.<sup>202</sup> Hickey provided the baluster for comparison with the steel balusters in the 1980s; Krupka found that the walnut and steel balusters were identical in length, shape, and diameter.<sup>203</sup>

200. Krupka, 1:Stairs and Stairways 13.

201. Krupka, 1:Stairs and Stairways 12.

202. This may be the baluster now in the collection of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.

203. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Stairs and Stairways 14.

199. Krupka, 1:Stairs and Stairways 10-11, 15.

Drawings for the 1952-1955 restoration note to reinforce the stair by doubling the stringers. Krupka observed stringers of relatively recent date were in place in 1987.<sup>204</sup> While Krupka believed that this indicated replacement of the original stringers, comparisons of a photograph taken of the closet ca.1952-1955 and those taken in 1987 indicate that the 1950s stringers were installed against the faces of the closet (room 109) side walls while the 1839 stringers are concealed within the walls.

During the 1987-1988 restoration, the stair was reinforced by installing a bent steel plate to the inner face of the structural backing wreath and by securing all nailed tread and riser connections with wood screws and bolts.

### *Mouse Nest No. 3*

Physical investigations in April and December 1986 uncovered three historic mouse nests in the house. The third was inside the winder steps of the front staircase and above the plaster soffit along the east wall. Krupka reports, "It is believed much of the debris, including several significant period artifacts, fell into the wall cavity and migrated downward over the years from the closet [room 209] above. Other debris was assembled by the mouse in constructing its nest."<sup>205</sup>

### *Doorbell*

A historic doorbell assembly is in place at the Lincoln Home's front door. A brass pull-knob is mounted to the mullion at the north side of the front door adjacent to the doorknob. This consists of a round brass knob and a rectangular back-plate with chamfered edges mounted with two slotted screws. The pull-knob's shank connects to a mortise bell crank (a mortise mechanism including a metal plate with a projecting lever) at the interior face of the mullion in the Front Hall (room 100). Pulling the knob moves this lever. The lever once connected a wire that ran up the mullion to a crank (also called a swivel, rocker, or pivot) mounted on the casing. This vertical section of wire has been removed so that the bell does not operate. The crank transferred the movement to a wire running north along the casing to another crank, which transferred the movement to a wire running east along the north wall to a bell mounted

on the upper east corner of the casing of the door to room 101. A carriage of coiled wire supports the brass bell and allows it to swing when pulled by the wire. This carriage is steadied by a small coil check spring that connects to an eye-hook attached to the side of the casing.

The doorbell system appears to have been installed prior to 1860.<sup>206</sup> It might date from the original construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839 or from one of the Lincolns' remodelings between 1846 and 1856. Krupka quotes William H. Herndon, Lincoln's last law partner in Springfield, as documentation of a doorbell in the house during the Lincolns' occupancy. Herndon wrote, "...but when the quaint little bell on the wall of the Dining Room tinkled..."<sup>207</sup> Writing in 1988, Krupka reported, "From its present location, the existing bell can be heard clearly throughout most of the two-story Home," but noted that a bell in the Dining Room (room 107) might not have been as audible, particularly from rooms 201 and 202. Krupka concludes that "the location indicated by Herndon seems functionally unlikely. Known to have been an infrequent visitor to the Lincoln Home because of the antipathy between Mary and himself, perhaps Herndon was mistaken in his recollection of the bell's location."<sup>208</sup>

An undated typewritten script for tour docents prepared by custodian Virginia Stuart Brown sometime between 1935 and 1953 includes the following in the paragraph about the Dining Room (room 107): "The bell over the clock is the original doorbell; it hung on this wall and was attached by a wire string to the front door. The brass knob at the side of the front door pulled out to make the bell ring in here."<sup>209</sup> Krupka's investigations found no sign of bell wire penetrations in the woodwork of the door between rooms 100 and 107 or in the surrounding plaster wall, the only likely routes based on the existing runs of wires.<sup>210</sup>

204. Krupka, 1:Stairs and Stairways 11.

205. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, X:Vermin 8.

206. A feature consistent in size and location with the doorbell's exterior pull-knob is visible in the 1860 Whipple photograph and photographs taken in May 1865.

207. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Lincoln Door Bell Assembly 1.

208. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, Lincoln Door Bell Assembly 3.

209. Virginia Stuart Brown, "The Lincoln Home [Docent Guide]" (n.d.), 3-4, Illinois State Archives.

210. If the bell wire ran from the existing cranks on the front door casing to room 107, it would have had to descend to pass below the stair.



**Figure C.97.** View southeast from Front Parlor (room 101) into Front Hall (room 100), ca.1912. Source: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

The earliest known interior photograph showing the part of the hall now containing the doorbell system dates from the 1930s; at that time, no bell or wire was present on the east part of the casing of the door to room 101. Some of the doorbell system components were in place as of 1950, when John E. Becker of Waterloo, New York, wrote to caretaker Virginia Stuart Brown remarking on the similarity of the Lincoln Home doorbell to that in his own home and offering the bell assembly from his home to the State of Illinois. Brown responded on April 10, 1950, “It is very kind of you to write about your doorbell which certainly looks as if it were the same kind the Lincolns had. Your diagram and description helps to understand the hook up. The Lincolns had a similar bell in the upstairs hall of which just part of the spring is left. I gratefully accept your offer of your old bell in hopes of eventually installing it upstairs.”<sup>211</sup> This letter indicates that an extension of the doorbell system once existed in the Upstairs Front Hall (room 200)

211. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, Lincoln Door Bell Assembly 2.



**Figure C.98.** View east in room 100, ca.1935-1946. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B7F1P3.

and that the spring remained in 1950. A wire might have extended up along the west or north walls of the room to a bell mounted on wall of room 200. Krupka, however, notes that no trace of a bell was evident in room 200 as of 1988 and that “there is no physical evidence surviving in the historic Dresser-era flooring” of the room to indicate “that bell wires had even penetrated the boards.”<sup>212</sup> He also notes that it is unclear whether Becker’s bell was delivered.

Richard Hagen’s 1954 note of “Fix Door Bell (\$38.00)” seems to indicate the repair of the historic doorbell system during the 1952-1955 restoration. Photographs taken between 1955 and 1987 show the bell and carriage mounted to the plaster wall approximately one foot east of its present location and connected to a wire running from the crank on the front door casing. Photographs taken in 1957 show the lever and plate and the two cranks mounted to the casing of

212. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, Lincoln Door Bell Assembly 4.





**Figure C.99.** View east in room 100 after 1952-1955 restoration, ca.1955. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B2F22P25.



**Figure C.101.** View west, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.100.** View east, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.102.** View northeast, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.103.** Detail of doorbell as installed during 1987-1988 restoration, ca.1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B2F22P99.

the front door. During the 1987-1988 restoration, all components of the bell system were removed. The 1986 construction documents for the project include the note “Re-install historic doorbell pull furnished by contracting officer” at the front door mullion but do not show interior portions of the system. The components were reinstalled in May 1988, at which time the bell was installed in its present location on the casing of the door to room 101.

Bell systems using similar components were available in England by the 1810s.<sup>213</sup> Krupka quotes English architect J. C. Loudon’s description of bell-hanging from 1833:

Bell-hanging may be described as the art of conducting lines of wire, intended to ring a bell at one end, when pulled with a little force at the other, in all directions round the apartments and through the walls of a building, in such a manner

as not to obtrude on the view. This is effected with ease in straight lines; and angles are got over by what are called cranks, of which there is a variety of sorts for external and internal angles.

British-born New York architect Gervase Wheeler included sample specifications in his 1851 pattern book *Rural Homes*, including, “the front door post to be furnished with an escutcheon plate, and bell-handle (plated or bronze, as directed)...”<sup>214</sup> In his influential 1852 pattern book *The Model Architect*, Philadelphia architect Samuel Sloan wrote that “The best cranks, springs and other apparatus, are the same as those that have been in use for many years” for residential bell systems, “but the styles of levers, pulls, &c., have been much changed,” with lacquered brass and bronze supplanted by expensive silver-plated pulls or more affordable ceramic pulls.<sup>215</sup> This seems to be reflected in the components advertised by Illinois merchants in the early-1850s.<sup>216</sup> Some doorbells could accommodate a doorknob as its pull-knob.<sup>217</sup>

Krupka concluded that the doorbell system was appropriate in style and apparent age but that its authenticity remains unsubstantiated; none of

214. Gervase Wheeler, *Rural Homes* (New York: Charles Scribner, 1851), 252, <https://archive.org/details/ruralhomesorske03wheegoog/page/n7/mode/1up?view=theater>.
215. Samuel Sloan, *The Model Architect*, vol. 2 (Philadelphia: E. S. Jones & Co., 1852), 59, <https://archive.org/details/modelarchitectse02sloa/page/2/mode/2up>.
216. An 1852 advertisement by Topping & Brothers, hardware merchants, of Alton, offers “Door-Bell Hangings” complete with either ceramic knobs in common doorknob glazes of brown, white, or mineral (commonly known today as “brown marbled,” “swirl,” or “Bennington”) or with silver-plated knobs. “Door-Bell Hangings,” *Alton Daily Courier*, October 8, 1852, 3.
217. An 1860 catalogue from Philadelphia hardware merchants William M. McClure & Brother illustrates a “Porcelain Front Door Bell Pull” that appears to be identical to a ceramic doorknob shown on the same page. The 1865 catalog of the Russell & Erwin Manufacturing Company includes illustrations of doorbell pull-knobs in porcelain (apparently white or mineral) and silvered glass and also lists “heavy cast brass bell pulls,” including those with a “square seat” (escutcheon). *Illustrated Catalogue of W. M. McClure & Bro. Building Hardware and Tool Warehouse*, Fifth Edition (Philadelphia: John C. Robb, 1860), 6, <https://archive.org/details/catalogueofbuild00wmmm/mode/1up?view=theater>; *Illustrated Catalogue of American Hardware of the Russell and Erwin Manufacturing Company; An Unabridged Reprint of the 1865 Edition*, First facsimile edition (Association for Preservation Technology, 1980).

213. *Cast Brass Ware* (Birmingham, 1816), [https://archive.org/details/gri\\_33125008260289/mode/1up](https://archive.org/details/gri_33125008260289/mode/1up).



the components bear a “manufacturer’s mark or patent reference on any of the component parts that might identify the maker or the approximate date of fabrication.”<sup>218</sup> It seems likely that the exterior pull-knob and the cranks mounted to the interior of the front door casing may date from the Lincolns’ occupancy. Bell carriages with coil springs, cranks, and mortise cranks similar to those in the Lincoln Home are illustrated in the 1865 catalogue of Russell & Erwin Manufacturing Company of New Britain, Connecticut, and the 1869 catalogue of Sargent & Co. of New York.<sup>219</sup> Nearly identical components appear in catalogs as late as 1887, suggesting that the existing bell and carriage may date from well after 1861.<sup>220</sup>

Straight-pull doorbell systems like that present in the Lincoln Home appear to have been supplanted by mechanical crank, twist, and lever doorbells and electric push-button bells during the 1890s. On August 19, 1899, R. Haas billed the State of Illinois \$2.00 for the installation of an electric bell.<sup>221</sup> This bell’s push-button was installed above the earlier pull-knob and is visible in photographs taken after 1899.<sup>222</sup> The electric bell may have been replaced in-kind during later years. It was removed in the 1952-1955 restoration.

Krupka reported on the status of the doorbell in 1988:

The repeated ringing of the Front Door Bell by visitors as each group of new visitors entered the Home became a source of irritation to the interpretive staff stationed in the Front Entry. At some unknown date, the connecting cable between the pull and the carriage assembly was removed. The bell is now rung once—manually by the interpreter—as each group enters as a part of their introduction to the Home.<sup>223</sup>

The doorbell was restored in 1988 and remains in place. The cable is not connected to the back of the pull for the reasons that Krupka noted in 1988.

218. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Lincoln Door Bell Assembly 1.

219. Krupka, 1:Lincoln Door Bell Assembly 1; *Illustrated Catalogue of American Hardware of the Russell and Erwin Manufacturing Company; An Unabridged Reprint of the 1865 Edition*, 73–75; *Illustrated Catalogue and Price List of Hardware and Mechanics’ Tools Manufactured by Sargent & Co.* (New York, 1869), 20, <https://archive.org/details/illustratedcatal00sarg/page/n6/mode/1up?view=theater>.

220. *Price List and Illustrated Catalogue of Hardware Manufactured by the Reading Hardware Company, Reading, PA.* (Reading, PA: B. F. Owen, 1885), 228–30, <https://archive.org/details/ReadingHardwareCompanyCCA39090/page/n5/mode/2up?view=theater>; *Catalogue of Builders’ Hardware, Orr & Lockett Hardware Co.* (Chicago: Orr & Lockett Hardware Co., 1887), 289–90, <https://archive.org/details/cataloguebuilde00orrl/page/1/mode/1up?view=theater>.

221. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 54.

222. Krupka reported that “remnants of the wiring for this bell survive in the wall cavities” and notes that surviving physical evidence “consists of two screw holes and a drilled wire hole in the north jamb of the Front Entry, both filled and painted over. The location of the interior chime remains undiscovered, however.” Krupka, Lincoln Door Bell Assembly 5.

223. Krupka, Lincoln Door Bell Assembly 5.

**101 Front Parlor**

This room, measuring approximately 19'-0" by 14'-10", was part of the original construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839. The west wall contains two windows, the north wall contains a central projecting chimney breast, the east wall contains a large opening to room 102, and the south wall contains a door to room 100.

When the Dresser Cottage was built in 1839, the chimney breast on the north wall was flanked by windows like those in room 108. The Lincolns are believed to have removed these windows and plastered over the openings during the 1855-1856 remodeling, apparently to create additional wall space in the parlor after the removal of the east wall. The window frames and shutters were left in place at the exterior, forming blind windows. The window sashes were likely salvaged and reused elsewhere on the house. Horizontal boards with circular saw marks were installed to seal the exterior face of the openings behind the shutters.

The configuration of the east wall prior to the 1855-1856 remodeling is not documented. The presence of four windows on two other walls of the room suggests that there may have been no windows on the east wall. Chronology drawings now displayed in the Dean House show a door at the south part of the east wall, connecting to the original east wing Kitchen (room 105/107) similar the door in the east wall of the Sitting Room (room 108). The location of this door would have been constrained by the space between the south wall of the Parlor and the north wall of the Kitchen. Analysis of the east wall's framing in the 1980s suggests that there was not a door in this location, as the first stud north of the south wall appears to date from 1839 and sits within the center of this assumed opening. This stud is continuous from the sill to the top plate of the original east wall and includes a rabbet on its north side carrying the floor joist above. These details are all consistent with the framing of the cottage as built in 1839. Documentation provides no evidence of later patching of this stud to infill a door at this location. The provision of a door between the Parlor and the Kitchen in a house of this period also seems less plausible.

During the 1846 remodeling, the east wing was moved six feet south and a new bedroom (room 102) was built. A door between the parlor and

this bedroom was in place in this wall after the remodeling. Mariah Vance recalled an incident in March 1852 that references this door. Vance's account was written in dialect. "Mistah Abe go in an' pick little Willie out of de crib in de room off de parlah dat de Missy have make de nursery."<sup>224</sup> Willie Lincoln was then about fifteen months old. As Krupka writes, "Vance's reference to the 'room off the Parlor' is significant"—it suggests that the room was accessed from the parlor, meaning that a door existed between the rooms. This door appears to have been located somewhere in the middle part of the wall, possibly centered or aligned with one of the windows in the west wall.

During the 1855-1856 remodeling, a large door opening was cut through the east wall. The creation of this opening and the later replacement of the room's wood subfloor destroyed any evidence of the location of the earlier opening in this wall. The jambs of this opening align with the outer edges of the two windows in the west wall. This opening was fitted with a set of four four-panel doors hinged together in pairs. Each pair of doors swings together and then folds against the east wall, allowing the two Parlors to be thrown together into one large room. Because the second-floor joists above this room run east-west, the addition of this doorway, spanned by an inadequate wood beam supporting the floor joists, led to increasing structural problems and displacement until its replacement with a steel beam in 1987.

**Floor**

The room was likely provided with wall-to-wall fitted carpet at the time of the Dresser Cottage's construction in 1839. Woven straw matting appears to have been used in the room seasonally between 1839 and 1855; a mouse nest discovered in the south wall in 1986 and dating from sometime between those years contains fragments of woven straw matting.<sup>225</sup> Structural investigations in 1985 revealed several fragments of woven straw matting in the west wall.<sup>226</sup> Fragments of woven straw matting (LIHO 6676) believed to date from about 1860 were found beneath the floorboards in the Front Parlor.

224. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:6.

225. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, X:Vermin 7.

226. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Floors and Flooring 18.

Both the Front Parlor (room 101) and the new Back Parlor (room 102) were likely provided with matching carpet during the 1855-1856 remodeling. Mariah Vance recalled this remodeling as a comprehensive redecoration, with “new carpets an’ curtains an’ drap’ries and drap’ry tie-backs” as well as new wallpaper “from Paris.”<sup>227</sup>

The 1861 *Frank Leslie’s* engraving of the room 101 shows a carpet with a diaper pattern of flowers or foliage with bouquets or clusters of flowers and foliage at the intersection of the lines. This reflects a type of Rococo Revival pattern popular from the late-1840s to the early-1860s and is likely the carpet installed in 1855-1856. The 1861 engraving of room 102 does not show the carpet pattern in as much detail; it provides more of a moiré or watered effect that could suggest a scrolled foliate pattern. However, photographic evidence from 1865 suggests that this engraving may not be an accurate depiction of the room’s carpet.

The 1865 stereograph shows a continuous fitted carpet in both rooms, with no break in the carpet at the large opening between the rooms. This carpet is consistent in pattern with the 1861 engraving of room 101, suggesting that the same carpet remained in place. The stereograph shows a repeating pattern of roughly diamond-shaped groupings of roses and other flowers that register as a light color. These appear to be set within a diaper pattern of leaves or vines that register as a medium color, with a cluster of three light-colored roses between each of the larger diamond-shaped groupings. The carpet’s ground registers as a medium color, lighter than the furniture (all likely mahogany, rosewood, or walnut) visible in the photograph. This image shows a fashionable Rococo Revival carpet consistent with the mid-1850s decoration of the Parlors. The 1865 Waud sketch and the 1865 *Frank Leslie’s* engraving of the two Parlors do not show any detail of the room’s carpet. The carpet may have remained in place as of 1876, when Sir John Leng, editor of the *Dundee Advertiser*, visited the house and reported that “the principal room. . . has the same carpet, wallpaper, and mirror as on the night [May 19, 1860] when the deputation waited upon him [Lincoln] to announce his nomination. . .”<sup>228</sup>

227. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 4.

228. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 41.

The 1884-1885 Oldroyd stereograph appears to show the floors of both Parlors covered with woven grass matting or flatwoven carpet with an indistinct pattern. A large area rug covered most of the floor of both rooms, leaving the matting or carpet visible only at the edges. This reflected a fashionable treatment of the 1880s.

On January 25, 1951, custodian Virginia S. Brown reported that “In 1890 new floors were laid in all rooms but the Sitting Room down stairs, and probably the hearths were taken out.” Photographs taken ca.1900-1908 show the room with a fitted carpet having a dense, small-scale pattern. This carpet appears to have been installed to cover the hearth. Two ca.1912 photographs appear to show the Parlors with grass matting or carpet similar to that in the 1884-1885 Oldroyd stereograph, with area rugs at the center of each room.

The room’s wood subfloor was replaced sometime before 1927. The 1927 measured drawings list the floor of this room as “new oak flooring.” This flooring was installed to cover the former hearth locations. Photographs taken around 1929 show the Parlors with floors of narrow boards oriented east-west and covered with a mix of large and small rugs. In December 1929, A. E. Bach provided a list of recommended repairs for the public rooms in the house including the following: “The Parlors should have the present worn out wood floor removed and should be carpeted as originally.”

On April 2, 1934, director Robert Kingery wrote to the carpet department of the Johnston-Hatcher Company of Springfield regarding the Parlors. Kingery reported that the State “has purchased a carpet of the Lincoln period” for use in the house and that it “will be necessary to resew, refit and lay [this] carpet in the two rooms known as the double parlor.” An undated typewritten script for tour docents prepared by custodian Virginia Stuart Brown sometime between 1935 and 1953 includes the following in the section about the Parlors: “The carpet is like the one the Lincolns used. There is a small piece of the original carpet in existence and privately owned in the East.”<sup>229</sup> The whereabouts of this alleged sample of Lincoln period carpet are unknown. Photographs taken between 1944 and 1953 show a fitted carpet with a pattern of stylized scrolls and the strips oriented east-west.

229. Brown, “The Lincoln Home [Docent Guide],” 4.

During the 1952-1955 restoration, the Parlors were provided with a new fitted carpet. Writing in 1955, Hagen reports that the “pattern for the Brussels carpet in the parlor was taken from the Leslie’s sketch and an interior stereopticon view [1865] by Glover. . .”<sup>230</sup> This indicates that the carpet was a custom reproduction based on the available evidence in the *Frank Leslie’s* engravings of the Parlors and the 1865 stereograph. This carpet featured a diaper pattern of vines with bouquets of roses at the intersections. The vines and bouquets were in shades of pink and green and the carpet had a plain ground of yellowish tan. The carpet remained in place until 1987.

### Walls

The room was provided with flat plaster walls over riven wood lath when the Dresser Cottage was built in 1839. Plaster patching appears to have occurred in the Lincolns’ remodelings of the house and later repair campaigns. The last major plaster repair in the room was during the 1987-1988 restoration.

The room’s walls were likely wallpapered from the time of the Dresser Cottage’s construction in 1839; despite Dresser’s financial setbacks that may have limited interior finishes within the house, the parlor likely received the most complete treatment.<sup>231</sup> The room may have been re-papered after the Lincolns purchased the property in 1844. The east wall appears to have been altered during the 1846 remodeling, creating a door to the newly added bedroom (room 102); as a result, this room was likely fitted with new sidewall paper and border purchased from John Williams & Company in April 1851.<sup>232</sup>

The 1855-1856 remodeling turned a former bedroom into the Back Parlor (room 102) and connected the two rooms with a large doorway. The new double Parlors appear to have been redecorated at this time. Mariah Vance recalled this remodeling included new wallpaper “from Paris.”<sup>233</sup>

The earliest known view of the room is an engraving published in *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper* in March 1861 and believed to have been based on sketches done in 1860.<sup>234</sup> This view does not show a pattern on the sidewalls but does illustrate a narrow border with a scalloped or serrated lower edge. An engraving of the Back Parlor was published in the same issue and again in December 1864.<sup>235</sup> Like the view of the Front Parlor, this engraving does not show a pattern on the sidewalls but does show a narrow border. This border is shown with a repeating pattern of segments with curved lower edges, possibly a drapery-fold pattern. The lack of a pattern on the walls of the Parlors may have been a choice by the artist or may suggest that the wallpaper had a subtle pattern rather than bold contrasts.

Linework used to shade the walls and the ceilings in the 1861 engravings of the Parlors and Sitting Room were later interpreted as evidence that the room was hung with vertical-striped wallpaper. As Sara B. Chase notes in her 1983 study of the Lincoln Home’s wallpapers, “plain vertical stripe papers were typical of an earlier period, from 1820 to 1840 or even a bit earlier in the East... The artist’s lines run across the ceilings as well as down the walls, yet we do know that ceilings did not have striped papers applied at any period.”<sup>236</sup> Vertical stripe wallpapers popular in the 1850s generally included very wide stripes filled with repeating patterns or vignettes—often half-drop patterns that stagger the repeats in adjacent rolls—separated by narrow divider stripes. The wallpaper documented in room 107 in 1865 is an example of this type. Some wallpapers with narrow stripes were available in this period, but the stripes were typically ornamented by alternating repeats of stylized scrolls, floral bouquets, intricate linework, and other ornaments. The artist’s shading lines in the 1861 engravings do not resemble striped wallpapers of the 1850s. Striped wallpapers

230. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” 15.

231. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 28.

232. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 18; Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpapers 7-8.

233. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 4.

234. “Front Parlor in Abraham Lincoln’s House, Springfield, Ill. - Sketched by Our Special Artist,” *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*, March 9, 1861, 245.

235. “Parlor in President Lincoln’s House, at Springfield, Illinois,” *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*, December 10, 1864, 180.

236. Chase, “A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois,” 5.

became popular in the late-1860s and 1870s; memory of these later trends may have shaped interpretation of the shading lines from the 1861 engravings.

A stereograph facing east from the Front Parlor into the Back Parlor was taken in 1865 and shows the room draped for Lincoln's funeral in May. An artist's sketch of the room also made in May and an engraving published in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* that same month document the same furniture and temporary decorations. As in 1860, the 1865 engraving uses vertical lines to shade the walls. However, the stereograph clearly documents that the walls were not hung with vertical stripe wallpaper.

The 1865 stereograph documents patterned wallpaper on the east wall of the Back Parlor. This paper featured a dense pattern of forked vines with angular lobed leaves and racemes with small, pendulous flowers. The wallpaper registers as having a pale ground with a pale to moderate pattern. The colors in the wallpaper register as lighter than gilt picture frames on the wall. This suggests that the wallpaper may have been in grisaille or in multiple pale colors, lacking the greater contrast of the paper photographed in the Dining Room (room 107) in 1865. Grisaille wallpapers of this period were printed in multiple shades of gray or brown on a pale ground and often featured accents of metallic gold. This wallpaper is consistent in style with sidewall papers popular between 1840 and 1860, including samples dated to ca.1855.<sup>237</sup> One of the larger fragments of wallpaper attached to the inside the wardrobe (LIHO 58) with strong Lincoln provenance and now displayed

in room 201 may match this wallpaper.<sup>238</sup> The fragments were preserved in place when the wardrobe was conserved in 1988. The fragments are now slightly discolored and appear as a light brown pattern on a tan ground.

The 1865 stereograph shows a border with a cutout lower edge consisting of wide pendant shapes alternating with small, possibly semicircular pendants. This border is consistent with that shown in the 1861 engravings. The border registers as having at least two tones, both much darker than the sidewall paper. The lower two-thirds of the border, including all of the pendants, registers as a moderate dark color. This color is much darker than any tone in the sidewall paper and was also much darker than gilt frames on the wall below; it appears to be slightly lighter than the stained wood furniture on pieces that likely had a mahogany or rosewood finish. The upper third of the border registers as a dark color comparable to the haircloth upholstery on a sofa against the east wall. The 1865 Waud sketch and an 1865 *Frank Leslie's* engraving of the two Parlors both show a border with a cutout lower edge similar to that shown in the 1865 stereograph. This border reflects a type popular in the 1850s and may match a sample in the collection of the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum.<sup>239</sup>

In her 1983 study of the Lincoln Home's wallpapers, Sara B. Chase notes, "It is highly unlikely that the wallpaper applied in 1855-1856 would have been covered or removed in the 5-6 years before 1861. No bill exist that suggest new paper purchases then, and surely the 1860[s] renters would not have put up new paper."<sup>240</sup> Chase's point is supported by one other known installation of the same sidewall paper photographed in a fashionable parlor

237. "Wallpaper | Historic New England," accessed March 24, 2022, <https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/gusn/178293/>; "Wallpaper | Historic New England," accessed March 24, 2022, <https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/gusn/284146/>; "Wallpaper | Historic New England," accessed March 24, 2022, <https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/gusn/177730/>; "Wallpaper | Historic New England," accessed March 31, 2022, <https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/gusn/178214/>; "Wallpaper | Historic New England," accessed March 31, 2022, <https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/gusn/179086/>; Barbara A. Yocum, *Wallpapers and Wallcoverings: The Russian Bishop's House, Sitka National Historical Park, Sitka, Alaska* (National Park Service, 2003), 283, 315, [https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\\_books/sitk/rbh\\_wallpaper.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/sitk/rbh_wallpaper.pdf).

238. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 30.

239. "Border (France) | Objects | Collection of Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum," accessed March 24, 2022, <https://collection.cooperhewitt.org/objects/18676533/>.

240. Chase, "A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois," 5.



in Washington, DC, in 1862.<sup>241</sup> Writing in 1850, A. J. Downing describes wallpaper as “lasting from half a dozen to a dozen years (depending on the treatment it receives).”<sup>242</sup> Finishes and furnishings in a parlor might survive longer than those in other rooms because Parlors saw more limited and constrained uses; this is hinted at in novelist Booth Tarkington’s comment that, in contrast to the worn upholstery of Sitting Room furniture, “the hostile chairs and sofa of the ‘parlour’ always looked new. For all the wear and tear they got they should have lasted a thousand years.”<sup>243</sup>

Further evidence for the 1855-1856 date of the wallpaper shown in the 1865 stereograph comes from reports from 1876, 1884, and 1892 stating that the wallpaper present in the room in 1860-1861 remained in place. In 1876, Sir John Leng, editor of the Dundee *Advertiser*, visited the house and reported that “the principal room” retained the same wallpaper that had been in place on May 19, 1860.<sup>244</sup> An April 15, 1884, article in the *Illinois State Journal* reports the following of the Parlors: “Paper on the inner wall was put there by Lincoln before he left for Washington, D.C.”<sup>245</sup> This appears to reference either the south wall of both Parlors or the east wall of room 102.

The 1884-1885 Oldroyd stereograph shows wallpaper along the north wall east of the chimney

breast and possibly along the east wall north of the opening to room 102. Enough of the pattern on the north wall is visible—including a distinct downward-pointing leaf—to confirm that this is the same wallpaper seen on the east wall of room 102 in the 1865 stereograph. It is unclear whether the wallpaper survived below a later shelf installed at the height of the mantel shelf. The north wall also appears to retain a border with a cutout lower edge matching that shown in the 1865 stereograph. This indicates that Lincoln period finishes survived in part of room 101 into the 1880s. The same wallpaper might have still been in place on the east wall of room 102, then mostly covered with framed pictures, along with a later border wider than the border then present in other parts of room 101. The other wall surfaces of room 101 visible in the 1884-1885 Oldroyd stereograph—the south wall and the east wall south of the doorway to room 102—register as a light color similar to that of the white door casing. A narrow wallpaper border with a flat lower edge registers as a dark color. The photograph is not clear enough to show the pattern of this border beyond the suggestion of a repeating element.

According to a 1988 memorandum, LIHO staff believed that the Lincoln period wallpaper survived until the 1880s, when it was removed and replaced.<sup>246</sup> This replacement would date from sometime after the 1884-1885 Oldroyd stereograph. An 1892 account reports that “two of the rooms are papered just as the Lincoln family left them over thirty-one years ago.”<sup>247</sup> One of these rooms was Mr. Lincoln’s Bedroom (room 201), where a portion of the wallpaper survived in situ until 1987; the second is probably the Front Parlor.

The next known redecoration of the Parlors—then known as the “Memorial Room”—was in 1893, immediately after the dismissal of Osborn Oldroyd, who had used the Parlors as his Lincoln Museum since 1884. In May 1893, R. F. Kinsella furnished 28 rolls of wallpaper, 46 yards of border, and 18 rolls of ceiling paper for the Memorial Room (rooms 101 and 102), as well as 100 feet of molding. That

241. An identical wallpaper is shown in multiple 1862 photographs of the Washington, DC, double parlor of Titian Ramsay Peale II (1799-1885). Peale appears to have moved into this house, at 256 G Street North—now the north side of the 1400 block of G Street NW—between 1850 and 1853, suggesting that this installation may have been roughly contemporary with that in the Lincolns’ Parlors. It was also a narrow border featuring a cutout lower edge and with colors that register as darker than the sidewall paper. William Seale, *The Tasteful Interlude: American Interiors Through the Camera’s Eye, 1860-1917* (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1975), 37–39; Julie Link Haifley, “Capital Images: The Photography of Titian Ramsay Peale, 1855-1885,” *Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Washington, D.C.* 50 (1980): 238; “GC 02.15 - Drawing Room of the Residence of Titian Peale, on North Side of 1400 Block of G Street NW. | Historical Society of Washington DC,” accessed March 25, 2022, <https://dchistory.pastperfectonline.com/photo/6C2388C6-374F-444C-84BC-629285304544>.

242. Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses*, 369.

243. Booth Tarkington, *The Magnificent Ambersons* (New York: Doubleday, Page & Company, 1919), 7.

244. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 41.

245. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:5.

246. “Wallpaper Issues,” Memorandum, 1987, Lincoln Home (HS01) Restoration – Wallpaper 1988, Lincoln Home History Series: Restoration, Box 27, LIHO Archive.

247. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 51.

August, Kinsella was paid \$105.25 for papering and painting two bedrooms, the Memorial Room (Front and Back Parlors), Dining, and Sitting Rooms, the kitchen, closet, and Pantry.<sup>248</sup> This treatment is probably documented in a ca.1900 photograph of the room that shows a picture molding in both Parlors roughly aligned with top of folding doors. Available copies of this photograph are of poor quality, leaving the wallpaper pattern unclear, but indicate that the surviving wallpaper seen in the 1884-1885 Oldroyd stereograph was no longer present. This suggests that the Lincoln period wallpaper, likely dating from 1855-1856, survived until the 1893 redecoration.

A ca.1907-1908 tinted postcard view showing the north wall of the room suggests a monochromatic foliate wallpaper. The top of the wall is not visible. Two photographs believed to date from ca.1912 show a vertical striped wallpaper. The pattern appears to be plain, with alternating narrow stripes that register as light and dark—but lighter than the woodwork—colors. The upper edge of the wall is not visible, but enough is shown to document that the picture molding apparently installed in 1893 was no longer in the position shown in the ca.1900 photograph; later photographs show this molding mounted just below the ceiling.

The Parlors appear to have been re-papered in April 1922. Photographs taken in 1929 appear to show a stylized foliate paper with a damask or brocade pattern. This paper appears to have been monochromatic, with the ground registering as white and the pattern registering as slightly lighter than gilt frames on the same wall. Selection of this paper might possibly have been inspired by the 1865 stereograph.

The Parlors appear to have been re-papered again in June 1930. Wallpaper exposures in the 1980s revealed a Colonial Revival paper of Neoclassical or Adam character, with oval cartouches containing amphorae and rosettes surrounded by interlocking oval bead and wreath garlands, all printed in two shades of gray on cream. This paper's style is consistent with a date between 1890 and 1930. It was found in two places, beneath the railing attachment east of the door in the south wall of room 102 and behind the indirect light fixture mounted over the door in the south wall of room

101. The paper had survived behind the railing and light fixture, with clear evidence that it had been removed around them. Because this paper was clearly not in place in photographs taken between 1944 and the 1952-1955 restoration, it would appear to have been installed before or concurrent with the wooden visitor railings added in 1933; the 1950s replacement railings were attached to the wall at the same location.

Correspondence in June 1934 indicates that the Parlors were to be papered again. Photographs taken between 1944 and the 1952-1955 restoration show the Parlors fitted with a wallpaper featuring alternating stripes of a lacy pattern printed in monochromatic pinkish gray. This paper was identical in pattern with that installed in the replica of room 101 built for the Century of Progress exposition in Chicago in 1933; it is unclear whether the replica room was papered to match the room in Springfield or whether the room in Springfield was repapered in 1934 to match the replica in Chicago. No border was used with this paper, but the picture molding remained in place along the ceiling. In October 1950, Harry F. Fristch & Sons were contracted to repaper the south wall of the Parlors; this portion of the room was subjected to visitor traffic and would have sustained the most wear and tear.

During the first phase of the 1952-1955 restoration, Richard Hagen selected a vertical striped wallpaper for the room. Writing in 1955, Hagen presents the following explanation of his analysis of the 1861 *Frank Leslie's* engravings of the Parlors that led to his choice of a striped wallpaper. Hagen had access to the 1865 stereograph of the Back Parlor and mentions it on the same page; apparently, he regarded this photograph as evidence for the carpet but not the wallpaper.

However, the sketches themselves, having been done with a good deal of artistic license as to detail and perspective, are subject to various interpretations. For example, do the vertical lines on the walls in the sketches of the Parlors represent a vertically striped wallpaper, or simply the artist's shading? The decision to use a wallpaper with a vertical stripe was made because the same artist put in his sketch of the Sitting Room what is obviously a large floral-patterned wallpaper. Had the parlor paper also been patterned it seemed that the artist would

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248. Bearss, 52-53.

have shown it so—particularly in the Back Parlor which is a severely furnished room.<sup>249</sup>

The wallpaper selected by Hagen featured alternating stripes of light and medium purplish-gray, each with a central pinstripe of the other color. A narrow border with a rope pattern in gray punctuated by pink accents was installed at this time. In her 1983 study of the Lincoln Home's wallpapers, Sara B. Chase notes that the 1950s wallpaper reflected "the belief that the 1861 *Leslie's* views... depict a wall covering with a vertical stripe."<sup>250</sup> Custodian Virginia Stuart Brown believed that the paper missed "the atmosphere of the Lincoln time because of the modern color distribution."<sup>251</sup>

January 1966 Fritsch & Sons repapered Parlors with a custom-printed "Lincoln Stripe" paper by Katzenbach & Warren Inc. of New York.<sup>252</sup> This paper was identical in appearance to that installed in the 1950s, but a different border was used. This wider border was printed in a medium gray on a very light gray ground and suggested a plaster frieze with vertical fluting and a band of dentil molding below the ceiling.

The debate over the wallpaper treatments for the Parlors and Dining Room—rooms where wallpaper was clearly documented in 1865 stereographs but for which no exact matches could be found in museum collections—would be one of the most contentious components of the 1987-1988 restoration. In 1983, Chase wrote that she and Richard Nylander agreed "that in absence of concrete evidence of the 1856 paper," that shown in the 1865 stereograph should be taken as the model for restoration of the room to its 1860 appearance. Nylander recommended that "Longfellow Parlor" by the Reed Collection—not then in production, but available for special order—could be an alternate treatment.<sup>253</sup> Chase's 1987 supplement to her 1983 historic wallpaper study includes the following:

Richard Nylander and I concur in our judgement that the wallpaper from the SPNEA collection, SPNEA 1985.24b, is the best match to the Parlor paper. We have a sample [of] sufficient size to permit reproduction of the paper, and with its rather simple ground and limited colors, reproducing it can be done at a relatively low cost... As shown in the [1865] photograph... the Parlor wallpaper had a much darker border, with its edges cut to follow a pattern. The border paper shown in the slide labeled "SPNEA uncatalogued" (rather strangely mounted on the paper under it) is also cut along the edge of its pattern, has the right shape and scape, and could be reproduced. Nylander recommends that it be run with the flocked areas of the pattern done in maroon...

In conclusion, the Lincoln Parlor wallpaper shown in the historic view from 1865 could be matched quite adequately by reproducing a paper and a border from the SPNEA collection: SPNEA 1985.24b for the paper, and the 'uncatalogued' sample for the border.<sup>254</sup>

LIHO staff and the project historical architect documented their preference for reproducing the wallpaper documented in the 1865 stereograph.<sup>255</sup> The ultimate decision was to reproduce wallpaper from a sample of an 1850s French paper in the SPNEA collection, as recommended by Chase and Nylander in 1987.<sup>256</sup> The wallpaper is grisaille in character, with the pattern printed in three shades of pale gray green on an off-white background and featuring gilt accents. In 1988, the Parlors were fitted with a reproduction of this pattern; produced by Mt. Diablo Prints of Benicia, California, it was named "Lincoln's Parlor." While this pattern is not an exact match for that documented in the 1865 stereograph, it is similar in scale and character and provides a comparable overall effect. The reproduction paper's pattern is slightly smaller in scale and has more white space and less overlap between individual rolls. This paper was subsequently produced by Bradbury & Bradbury.<sup>257</sup>

249. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 15.

250. Chase, "A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois," 4.

251. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 94.

252. Bearss, 116.

253. Chase, "A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois," 10.

254. "Wallpaper Issues," 1987.

255. "Wallpaper Issues."

256. "Wallpaper | Historic New England," accessed March 28, 2022, <https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/gusn/178504/>.

257. "Reproduction Wallpaper | Historic New England," accessed March 29, 2022, <https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/gusn/179162/>.

In 1988, the Parlors were hung with “Locust Grove Border” (No. 81228), an English paper dated to ca.1850-1860 and reproduced by Scalamandré of New York from that hung in the drawing room of Samuel F. B. Morse’s “Locust Grove” (1851, Alexander Jackson Davis) in Poughkeepsie, New York.<sup>258</sup> This border, suggesting the appearance of a plaster cornice, is compatible in color with the sidewall paper but bears no resemblance to the border documented in the 1865 stereograph and in engravings from 1861 and 1865.

Writing in 1988, Krupka reports that the wallpapers installed in 1987-1988 was “to serve only as interim period replacement papers while research continues attempting to identify and locate samples of the documented historic Parlor wallpaper and border installed by the Lincolns.”<sup>259</sup>

It is the intent of the National Park Service to reproduce this documented Lincoln paper for reintroduction to the Parlors of the Home, but not at this time.

Discussions with historic furnishings curators from Harpers Ferry Center led to the conclusion that—while an important and useful reference document—the level of detail available in the [1865] photograph of the Rear Parlor wallpaper is insufficient to inform a serious attempt to reproduce the paper.

Further research and scrutiny of historic wallpapers may yet lead to the identification of a period wallpaper sufficiently similar to the Lincoln Parlor paper to permit a more accurate reproduction.

When future research identifies an historic wallpaper of the period sufficiently similar—if not actually identical—to that depicted in the early post-historic photograph, the paper will be reproduced and hung in the Lincoln Home Parlors, replacing the paper being hung as part of the (1987 /88) restoration and refurnishing of the structure.<sup>260</sup>

The Parlors were re-wallpapered in late 2008 in anticipation of the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth in 2009. This consisted of in-kind replacement of the wallpaper installed in 1988, using a new run by Scalamandre.

#### *Mouse Nest No. 1*

Physical investigations in April and December 1986 uncovered three historic mouse nests in the house. The first was in the east half of the south wall of the Front Parlor (room 101) at the base of the cavity between two studs. The base of the nest was the timber bottom plate of the wall, topped by large wood shavings and chips of oak, walnut, and riven hickory, as well as bonded clumps of wall plaster debris of a yellowish-orange color with reddish cow hair used as a binder. This wood and plaster debris consists of material used in the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839 and deposited during that construction. “Dried straw and grasses, brought into the nest from outside the Home, and strands of woven straw matting—obviously taken from the Front Parlor—made up the bulk of the nest, while many small, chewed pieces of newspaper fragments mixed with pieces of cloth, wallpaper and ribbon lined its interior cavity.”<sup>261</sup> The top of the nest was covered with unbonded broken plaster keys; these keys were composed of 1839 era plaster and had fallen after they had dried. These plaster keys atop the nest appear to have been deposited during the replastering of the partition between rooms 200 and 201 during the 1855 phase of the 1855-1856 remodeling. Krupka notes that the “morphology and chronology of an ordinary mouse nest would not usually elicit such detailed discussion were it not for the fragments of woven straw floor matting, wallpapers and cloth fragments incorporated into its construction” and appearing to date from sometime between 1839 and 1855, likely being fragments of Lincoln era finishes.<sup>262</sup> The contents of this mouse nest do not appear to have been analyzed to date.

#### *Ceiling*

The 1839 flat plaster ceiling in this room is believed to have remained in place unaltered through the Lincoln’s occupancy of the house. The lath and plaster ceiling is believed to have been replaced sometime between 1865 and 1900. This later lath and plaster ceiling was removed in September 1987

258. “Lincoln Home Wallpaper - Lincoln Home National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service).”

259. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 33.

260. Krupka, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 21-22.

261. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, X:Vermin 7.

262. Krupka, X:Vermin 8.

to accommodate structural repairs to the floor above and installation of new sprinkler piping. Photographs taken in October and November 1987 appear to show joists of varying ages, suggesting that the prior replacement of the ceiling was associated with earlier structural repairs. The ceiling was replastered in December 1987.<sup>263</sup>

Like other ceilings in the house, the ceiling of this room was whitewashed until after the Lincolns' departure in 1861. Ceiling paper seems to have been installed in the room during a redecoration of the house by R. F. Kinsella in the summer of 1893.

The 1884-1885 Oldroyd stereograph registers the ceiling as a light color. The ceiling of the recess east of the chimney breast appears as a darker color, with a slightly uneven line suggesting a change in finish along the plaster surface that had begun to sag near the east wall. This treatment is not present along the east or south walls. As noted above, the wallpaper finishes on this section of the north wall appear to match documented in the 1865 stereograph of the parlor. This suggests that a section of presumed Lincoln era finishes was retained at this edge of the room into the 1880s. This is consistent with the 1876 report by Sir John Leng that "the principal room. . . has the same carpet, wallpaper, and mirror as on the night [May 19, 1860] when the deputation waited upon him [Lincoln] to announce his nomination. . . ."<sup>264</sup>

A ca.1900 photograph of the room appears to show a patterned ceiling paper in place. In October 1950, Harry F. Fristch & Sons were contracted to repaper the ceilings of the Parlors. The ceiling was papered and painted off-white during the 1952-1955 restoration. Ceiling papers were removed during the 1987-1988 restoration. The ceiling was painted white in 1988.

### Fireplace

When the Dresser Cottage was built in 1839, this room was provided with a wood-burning fireplace. The mantel appears to be a simplified adaptation of a design on Plate 47 of Asher Benjamin's *Practice of Architecture* (1833), the same pattern book that provided the source for some of the house's

exterior details.<sup>265</sup> The house's builder simplified the frieze but retained the pilasters with three recessed flutes and the pedimented trim above the mantel shelf.

The Lincolns are believed to have sealed this fireplace and replaced it with a wood-burning cast iron parlor stove in early 1849, when John E. Roll filled and plastered fireplaces in the house.<sup>266</sup> The 1861 *Frank Leslie's* engraving shows the fireplace opening covered by a fireboard with narrow edge trim. A Gothic Revival parlor stove stands on the hearth with a stovepipe extending out the back side, through the fireboard, and into the chimney. The stove as depicted in the 1861 engraving appears to have been a "Temple Parlor" stove produced by Vose & Company of Albany, New York, between 1854 and 1861, updating an earlier "Sylvan Temple" model that was in production through 1853. Samuel D. Vose was a prolific stove designer and received a patent for this design in 1855, although known examples bear a stated patent date of 1854. Variations on the "Temple Parlor" model included different treatments of the front panels and doors.<sup>267</sup> The stove used by the Lincolns in this room appears to have been sold at their February 1861 sale. A 1924 article in *Wisconsin Magazine* include photographs of an elaborate stove patented in 1849 that was reportedly used in the Lincoln Home. This stove was reportedly purchased in Springfield in 1873 by a Mr. Jones, who sold it to the Fuller-Werner Company of Milwaukee.<sup>268</sup> The original stove is now in the collection of the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.<sup>269</sup>

A series of sketches of the room in May 1865 and an engraving that appeared in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* that month show the fireplace fitted with a different parlor stove, likely

263. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 6.

264. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 41.

265. Benjamin, *Practice of Architecture*, Plate 47.

266. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 19.

267. Temple Parlor Stove, 1854-1861 - The Henry Ford," accessed March 11, 2022, <https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/artifact/174773>; "A Stove Less Ordinary: October 2013," accessed March 11, 2022, <http://stovehistory.blogspot.com/2013/10/Illustrated-Book-of-Stove-Manufactured-by-Vose-&Co.-Albany-NY-J-Munsell-for-E-H-Pease-&Co.-1853>, <https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=xKM4AQAAAMAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=g>

268. Menz, *Historic Furnishings Report, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Illinois*, 108-9.

269. Object No. 30.1611.2



installed by the Tilttons between 1861 and 1865. This stove featured four cabriole legs, a cylindrical body with a domed cap, and a stovepipe that exited the rear of the dome vertically before going through a series of 90-degree turns—horizontally, then down, then horizontally again—to enter a thimble in the fireboard.

The 1884-1885 Oldroyd stereograph shows the fireplace with no stove in place and a shadowbox display case standing in front of the mantel. When the house's first central furnace was installed in 1889-1890, a rectangular clay tile flue liner was installed through the former firebox of this fireplace to vent the basement furnace through the existing flue. A ca.1907-1908 postcard view shows a fireboard with a projecting center panel; the lower three-quarters of this projecting panel projected still further, creating a low shelf. During the early-1930s, a ca.1830s neoclassical stove was displayed in front of the mantel. The room's modern wood floor covered the former hearth location. This stove was fitted with a curving stovepipe existing through its top and terminating in a thimble trim ring that hung in front of the mantel's frieze board.

By the late-1940s, the room was fitted with a Vose & Company stove (LIHO 174) that appears to be a match for the artist's representation in the 1861 engraving. The stovepipe's penetration through the fireboard was trimmed with a gadrooned gold trim ring that appears to be a twentieth century element.

During the 1952-1955 restoration, the projecting fireboard was removed and replaced by a plain board that and featured beveled edges and a dark finish similar to the finish of the mantel. The fireboard was removed, and the infilled firebox and chimney were investigated during the 1980s. During the 1987-1988 restoration, the mantel was refinished, the underlying firebox and stovepipe thimble penetrations were infilled during, and the fireboard, stove, stovepipe, and gold trim ring were reinstalled. The underlying masonry shows evidence of the infill of the original firebox in 1849 and of past thimble penetrations. The brick hearth was reconstructed in 1988.

The hearth is not clearly shown in the 1861 engraving, but it was likely of paver bricks similar to the surviving hearth in room 108. The hearth was removed in 1890 when the room's floor was

replaced. The hearth was reconstructed during the 1987-1988 restoration.

### *Light Fixtures*

During the Lincoln period, this room does not appear to have contained any building-mounted light fixtures. The room was piped for a central gasolier and a wall bracket (sconce) on the west wall when gas lighting was introduced to the house in 1876-1877.<sup>270</sup> Removal of the ceiling during the 1987-1988 restoration revealed the gas pipe running east-west near the center of the ceiling and continuing into room 102; this was removed November-December 1987. The earliest photograph of the room after the installation of gas, the 1884-1885 Oldroyd stereograph, does not show a light fixture but appears to show the end of a gas pipe projecting from near the center of the ceiling. Because of the room's low ceiling height, Oldroyd may have removed the gasolier to provide safer clearance for visitors to his Lincoln Museum in the Parlors, or he may have had it removed in order to make the photograph.

A ca.1900 photograph shows the Front Parlor fitted with a two-arm gasolier with arms pointed north-south. The gasolier had a typical inverted "T" shape and stylized ornament indicating a date of ca.1875-1885. This could be the gasolier installed in the room in the 1876-1877 or it may be a later replacement. It is fitted with straight-sided cylindrical shades popular in the 1880s and shows no outward signs of electrification.

Photographs taken ca.1929-1930 show the Parlors fitted with a matching pair of Neo-Grec style gasoliers dating from ca.1865-1875. These gasoliers were too small for the rooms and were installed with modern bell canopies, electric sockets installed on top of the original shade holders, and socket-mounted holders bearing glass bell shades. These gasoliers were removed in 1935, when new wooden railings with integrated, indirect torchiere up-lights were installed. This work was designed in 1933 but was not carried out until the summer of 1935. Instructions from the supervising architect to G. H. Schanbacher & Son on June 25, 1935, included the following: "In the two north rooms

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270. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:Fuels 12-13.

[Parlors], repair the places where the light fixtures are removed and hang a new strip of paper over these places.”<sup>271</sup>

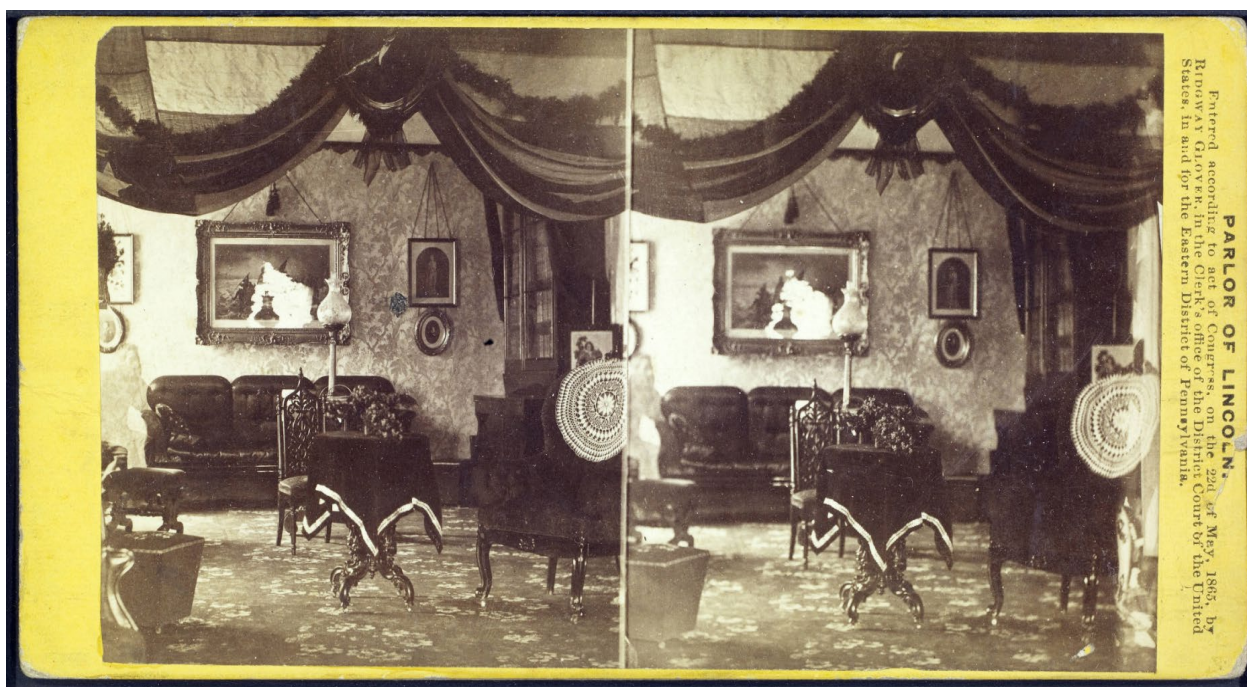
During the 1952-1955 restoration, a new indirect trough light was installed over the door to room 100. During the 1987-1988 restoration, the 1950s trough light was replaced by a smaller version that was papered to match the wall.



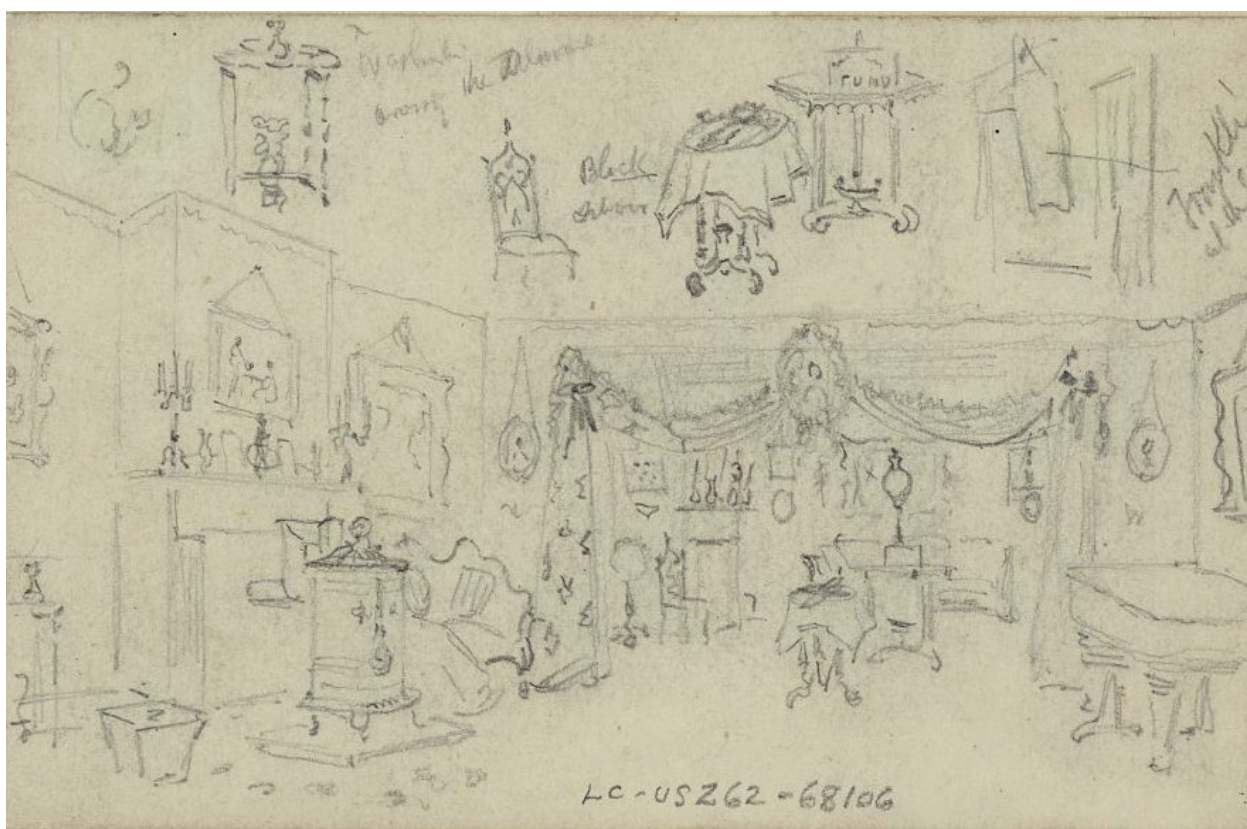
**Figure C.104.** View west in Front Parlor (room 101), 1861. Source: *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, March 9, 1861.

271. "Supervising Architect to G. H. Schanbacher & Son, June 25, 1935. Illinois State Archives, Lincoln Home files, folder: Lincoln's Home 34-36."



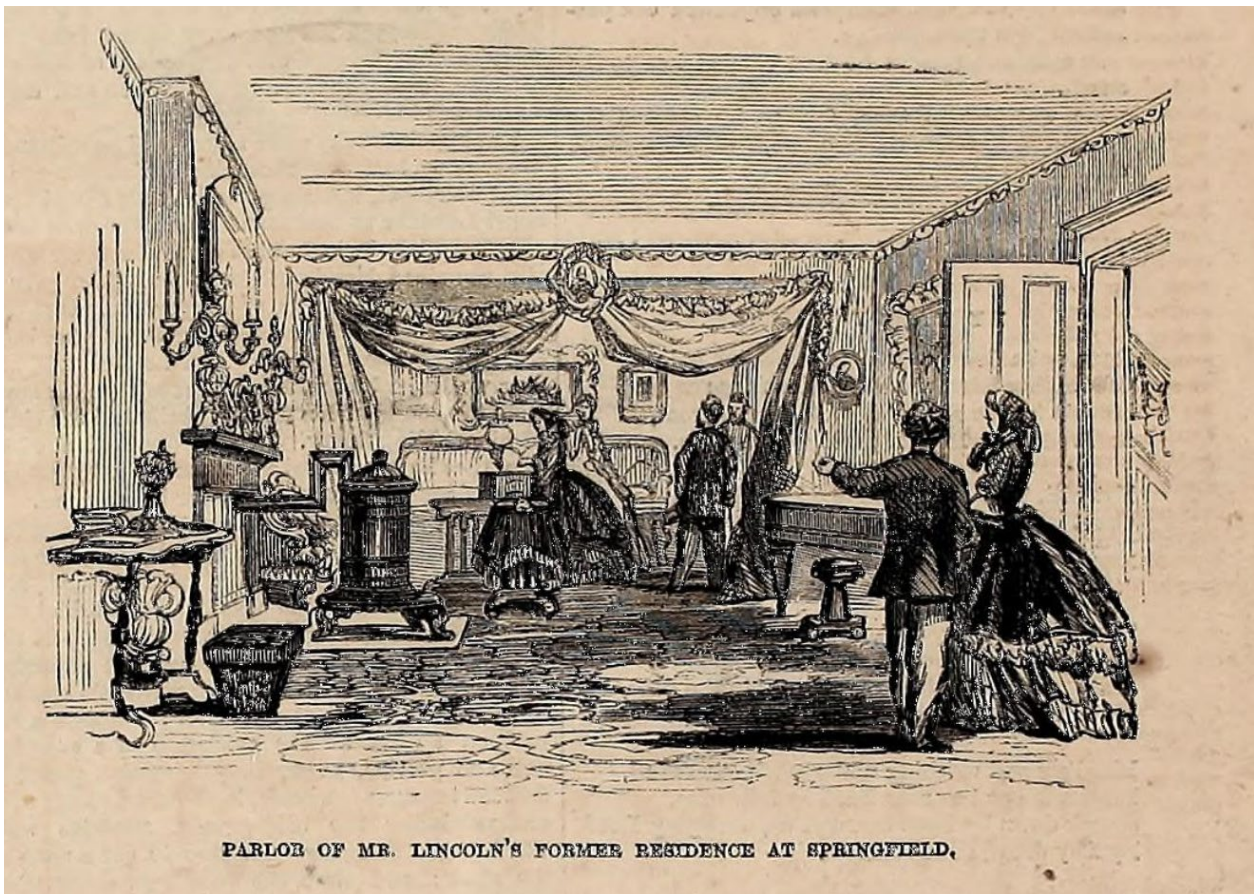


**Figure C.105.** Stereograph looking east from Front Parlor (room 101) into Back Parlor (room 102), May 1865. Source: LIHO 12885.



**Figure C.106.** William Waud sketch of Parlors, May 1865. Source: Library of Congress, call number: DRWG/US - Waud, no. 567 recto (AA size) [P&P]; Digital Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ppmsca-20057



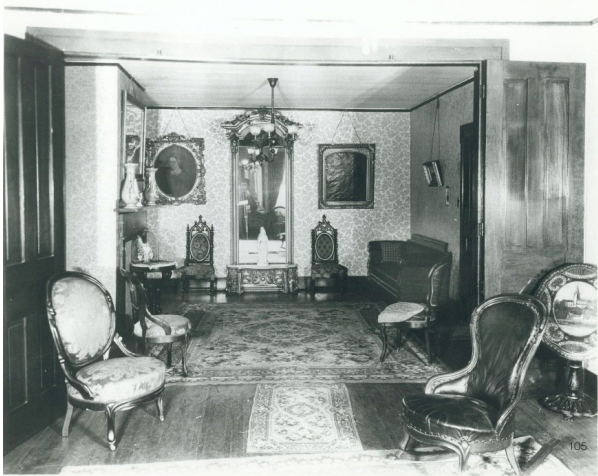


**Figure C.107.** View east in Parlors (rooms 101 and 102), May 1865, possibly based on Figure C.106. Source: Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper. Source: *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, June 10, 1865. Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/details/franklesliesilluv1920lesl/page/n595/mode/1up>



**Figure C.108.** View east in Parlors, ca.1884-1885. Source: LIHO 10253.





**Figure C.109.** View east in Parlors, ca.1929. Source: LIHO Photo ID: b1f82p54.



**Figure C.112.** View northwest in Front Parlor, ca.1970. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B2F17P23.



**Figure C.110.** View northwest in Front Parlor, ca.1929. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B7F1P5.



**Figure C.113.** View southeast in room 101 before removal of wallpaper and ceiling plaster, September 15, 1987. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F40P167.



**Figure C.111.** View northwest in Front Parlor, 1955. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B7F1P96.



**Figure C.114.** View southeast in room 101 after removal of wallpaper and ceiling plaster, September-October 1987. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F40P166.





**Figure C.115.** View west in room 101 after removal of ceiling lath, October 27, 1987. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F39P17.



**Figure C.116.** View northeast in rooms 101 and 102 after installation of new plaster ceiling, December 1987. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F15P40.



**Figure C.117.** View west in rooms 101 and 102 during installation of furnishings, May 1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F28P107.



**Figure C.118.** View northwest in Front Parlor, ca.1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B5F34P11.



**Figure C.119.** View northeast in Front Parlor, ca.1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B5F34P13.



**Figure C.120.** View west in Front Parlor, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

## 102 Back Parlor

This room, measuring approximately 15'-1" by 14'-6", was created during the 1846 remodeling and was originally a bedroom used by Abraham and Mary Lincoln. The north wall contains a central projecting chimney breast flanked by two windows, the south wall contains a door to room 107, and the west wall contains a large opening with folding doors opening to room 101. The opening in the west wall appears to have originally been a single door. During the 1855-1856 remodeling, a large opening with four folding doors was added to the west wall and the room became the Back Parlor.

When this room was first built as a bedroom, it was undoubtedly more comfortable for Abraham Lincoln, who could only stand upright in the narrow center part of the second-floor bedrooms of the house as they existed until the raising of the west wing second floor in 1855. Following common practice of the period, the parents' bedroom also served as a nursery for the Lincolns' young children. Four-year-old Eddie Lincoln died in the bedroom on February 1, 1850. As noted in room 101, Mariah Vance recalled an incident in March 1852 when Willie Lincoln, then about fifteen months old, was in the "crib in de room off de parlah dat de Missy have make de nursery."<sup>272</sup> As Krupka writes, "Vance's reference to the 'room off the Parlor' is significant"—it suggests that the room was accessed from the parlor, meaning that a door existed between the rooms.

### Floor

From 1856 onward, the double parlor featured identical floor treatments; these are discussed in room 101.

### Walls

This room was provided with flat plaster walls when it was added in 1846. The interior face of the east wall plaster was examined during the 1987-1988 restoration and was found to be consistent with other plaster keys dating from the 1846 remodeling.<sup>273</sup> The last major plaster repair in the room was during the 1987-1988 restoration. Some plaster repairs were conducted during the 2008 wallpaper replacement.

Fragments of plaster found inside the south wall on August 25, 1987, indicate that the room's initial finish when constructed in 1846 was a pale, sky blue kalsomine (calcimine) paint.<sup>274</sup> This may have been a temporary coating allowing the plaster to cure for some time before wallpaper was installed. The Lincolns purchased a large quantity of wallpaper and border from John Williams & Company in April 1851.<sup>275</sup> This appears to mark redecoration of the first floor rooms following the 1849-1850 remodeling. Krupka notes that this quantity of sidewall paper would have been sufficient to paper rooms 100, 101, 108, and room 102 (added in 1846), while there would have been enough border for all rooms but 102.<sup>276</sup>

During 1855-1856, this room was remodeled as a Back Parlor and connected to room 101 by a large door opening. From 1856 onward, the double parlor featured identical wall treatments; these are discussed in room 101.

### Ceiling

The room appears to have been provided with a flat plaster ceiling when constructed in 1846 or during the 1856 remodeling. The 1884-1885 Oldroyd stereograph suggests that the ceiling was painted a light color or fitted with light-colored ceiling paper. The lath and plaster were removed from the ceiling in September 1987 during installation of reinforcing joists. Krupka reports that the lath was attached with cut nails and that debris found above it, including fragments of two black walnut shingles, appeared to date from the 1856 remodeling. Krupka reports that the plaster was of a later date than the lath, having been installed by the State of Illinois sometime between 1887 and 1899.<sup>277</sup> The ceiling was replastered in December 1987 and was painted white in 1988.

### Fireplace

The fireplace, built during the addition of this room in 1846, is fitted with a wood mantel matching the 1839 mantels in rooms 101 and 108. The firebox opening may have been closed during the 1849-1850 remodeling or during the 1855-1856

272. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:6.

273. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 9-10.

274. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 29.

275. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 18.

276. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpapers 6-7.

277. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Roofs 2.

remodeling. The 1861 *Frank Leslie's* engraving, based on sketches prepared in the winter of 1860-1861, shows the fireplace opening covered by a fireboard.<sup>278</sup> This fireboard is shown with a frame with rosettes at the four corners. The space between the fireboard frame and the mantel is shaded but no surface pattern or texture is shown. The fireboard in this view is similar to that shown in the engraving of the Sitting Room.

During the 1952-1955 restoration, a new fireboard was installed to cover the firebox opening. This board, nearly identical to that installed in the Sitting Room at the same time, was fitted with narrow edge trim and four corner rosettes. The fireboard was stained and varnished to match the finish of the mantel; it was painted black during the 1987-1988 restoration.

The hearth is not clearly shown in the 1861 engraving, but it was likely of paver bricks similar to the surviving hearth in room 108. The hearth was removed in 1890 when the room's floor was replaced. The hearth was reconstructed during the 1987-1988 restoration.

#### *Light Fixtures*

During the Lincoln period, this room does not appear to have contained any building-mounted light fixtures. The room was piped for a central gasolier when gas lighting was introduced to the house in 1876-1877. Removal of the ceiling during the 1987-1988 restoration revealed the gas pipe running east-west near the center of the ceiling and continuing into room 101; this was removed November-December 1987. The earliest photograph of the room after the installation of gas, the 1884-1885 Oldroyd stereograph, appears to show the stem of a gasolier descending at the center of the room. This stem does not appear to connect to a complete gasolier; it appears to have been used to hang a sphere supporting a taxidermied eagle and to have a small wreath hanging from it. Oldroyd may have removed the gasolier to provide additional clearance and display space for his Lincoln Museum in the Parlors.

A ca.1900 photograph shows the Front Parlor fitted with a two-arm gasolier oriented north-south. The gasolier had a typical inverted "T" shape and

appears to have dated from ca.1875-1885. This could be the gasolier installed in the room in 1876-1877 or it could have been acquired during the redecoration of the house in 1893. It is fitted with straight-sided cylindrical shades popular in the 1880s.

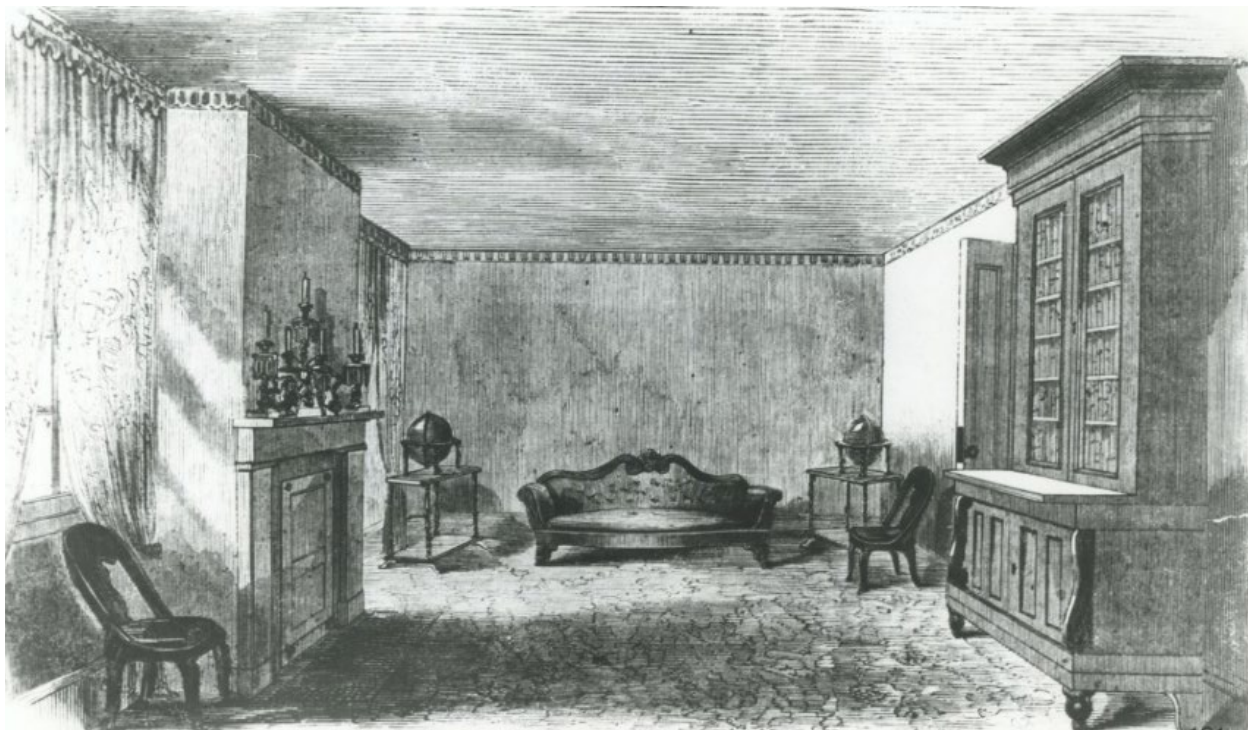
Photographs taken ca.1929-1930 show the Parlors fitted with a matching pair of Neo-Grec style gasoliers dating from ca.1865-1875. These gasoliers were too small for the rooms and were installed with modern bell canopies, electric sockets installed on top of the original shade holders, and socket-mounted holders bearing glass bell shades. These gasoliers were removed in 1935, when new wooden railings with integrated, indirect torchiere up-lights were installed. This work was designed in 1933 but was not carried out until the summer of 1935. Instructions from the supervising architect to G. H. Schanbacher & Son on June 25, 1935, included the following: "In the two north rooms [Parlors], repair the places where the light fixtures are removed and hang a new strip of paper over these places."<sup>279</sup>

During the 1952-1955 restoration, a new indirect trough light was installed over the door to room 107. front door. During the 1987-1988 restoration, the 1950s trough light was replaced by a smaller version that was papered to match the wall.

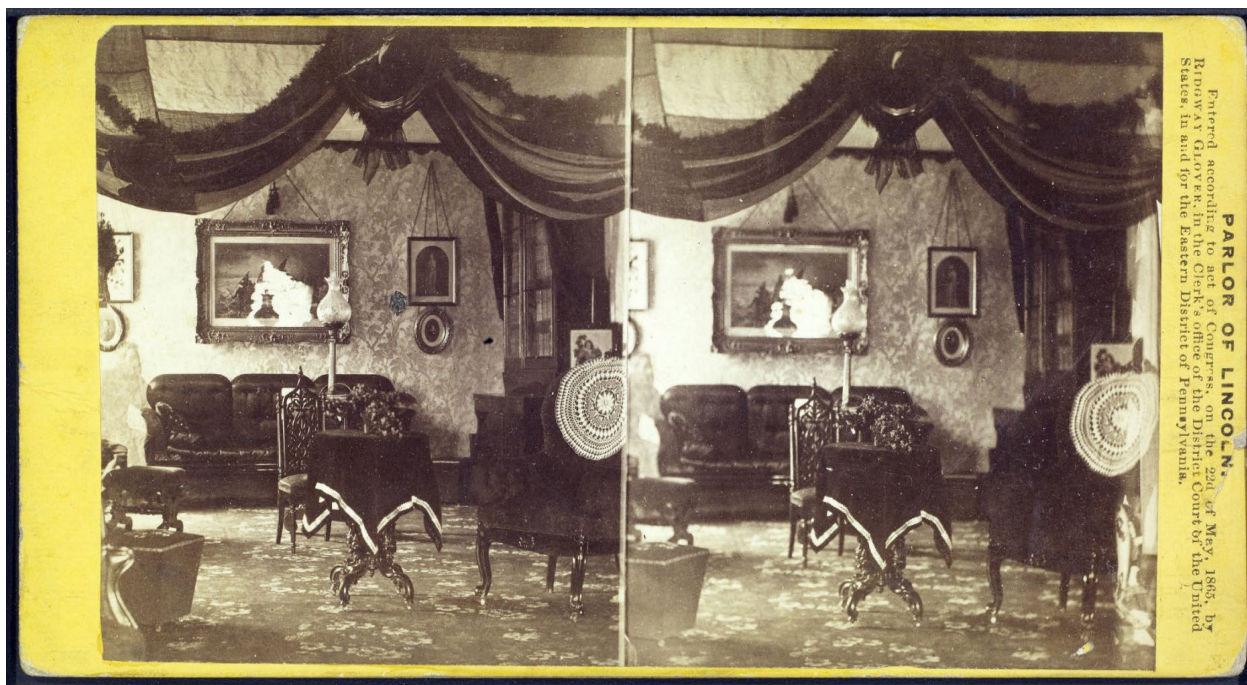
278. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 28.

279. Supervising Architect to G. H. Schanbacher & Son, June 25, 1935. Illinois State Archives, Lincoln Home files, folder: Lincoln's Home 34-36





**Figure C.121.** View east in Back Parlor (room 102), 1861. Source: *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, March 9, 1861.



**Figure C.122.** Stereograph looking east from Front Parlor (room 101) into Back Parlor (room 102), May 1865. Source: LIHO 12885.





**Figure C.123.** View east in Back Parlor, 1955. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B7F1P98.



**Figure C.126.** View east in Back Parlor, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.124.** View northwest in Parlors, 1987. Source: LIHO Photo No. B4F26P12.



**Figure C.127.** View west in Parlors, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.125.** View west in Parlors, 1987. Source: LIHO Photo No. B4F26P35.





**Figure C.128.** View southeast in Pantry, ca.1981. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B1F81P33.

### 103 Pantry

This room, measuring approximately 7'-10" by 6'-0", was created during the 1846 remodeling and was originally a pantry. Since the 1987-1988 restoration, this room has been used for building systems and storage of cleaning and maintenance supplies. The controls for the platform lift at the east porch are in this room.

#### *Walls*

Krupka reports that "Physical investigation of the Pantry (No. 103) reveals a bottom-most layer of blue-tinted whitewash below the overpainted layers of multi-colored enamels..."<sup>280</sup> Whitewash or kalsomine (calcimine) finish appears to have been the first period finish in both the new bedroom (room 102, remodeled as the Back Parlor in 1855-1856) and the Pantry following their construction

280. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 3.



**Figure C.129.** View west in Pantry, ca.1981. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B1F81P34.

during the 1846 remodeling.<sup>281</sup> Vertical board wainscoting was present on the east and south walls prior to the 1987-1988 restoration. Built-in shelving was largely retained at that time.

#### *Ceiling*

Writing in 1988, Krupka reports that the lath and plaster ceiling of this room was believed to date from 1846.<sup>282</sup>

281. Krupka, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 33-34.

282. Francis O. Krupka, "Old Stairway Discovered in Lincoln Home Renovation," *The Lincoln Legacy* 2, no. 1 (January 1988): Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 13.

#### 104 East Porch

This incised porch was part of the one-story, shed-roofed addition built by the Lincolns in 1846. This porch appears to have been built as a service space, providing a covered outdoor workspace connecting the Kitchen to the Pantry and the backyard pumps for the cistern and well. It was enclosed by the late-1860s east kitchen addition and was re-exposed during the 1952 exterior restoration.

#### *Ceiling*

Krupka reports that the original ceiling of the porch was of wood. This ceiling was likely removed and replaced with lath and plaster when the east kitchen addition was built in the late-1860s. The plaster ceiling survived until 1954, when it was replaced with a new ceiling of plaster on expanded metal lath. The 1954 ceiling was replaced with a new tongue-and-groove bead-board wood ceiling during the 1987-1988 restoration.



**Figure C.130.** East porch, facing west, 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

### 105 Kitchen

This room, measuring approximately 11'-6" by 15'-4", was created when the Lincolns partitioned an earlier kitchen into two rooms. When the Dresser Cottage was built in 1839, the first floor of the east wing was a single large kitchen. This wing was relocated several feet to the south during the 1846 remodeling. Until the 1850s, some cooking may have occurred in the summer kitchen or laundry shed that stood in the back yard. During the remodeling of the east wing in 1856, the ceiling of this wing was raised twelve inches.

It has traditionally been assumed that the east wing was partitioned to form the Present kitchen (room 105) and Dining Room (room 107) in 1856 based on the recollections of Mariah Vance. In an interview more than 30 years later, Vance, who worked as the Lincolns' servant from 1850 to 1860, recalled the "nice big kitchen" Mary Lincoln had before she "ruin[ed] it by cuttin' it up into little cubbyholes."<sup>283</sup> Vance's account, recorded in dialect, include multiple references to these alterations to the kitchen.

When de Missy war buildin' a biggah upstairs an' a lit tah kitchen downstairs while Mistah Abe war on de circuit in 1856, her'n hear from Emilie an' her'n marrit. [Emilie was married on March 28, 1856] On pahties Ah could hardly turn 'round in dat kitchen, de Missy have it cut up so . Dat nice big kitchen have to go for bathroom an' dinin' room. "Ah war straighten' up de kitchen fust. It war such a teeny cubbyhole aftah Missey change de whole house 'round. Things jest get in a fierce pile with de leftovah dishes to do."<sup>284</sup>

If Vance's recollection that this room was partitioned as a part of the remodeling that added the second floor is correct, physical evidence of the partition's construction suggests that it was built in 1855, during the first phase of the remodeling, and that it was altered in 1856, when the east wing was raised during the second phase. X-ray analysis in 1979 and 1980 found that the west face is clad in riven lath to the height of the original eight-foot ceiling, where there was a clear horizontal line

in the plaster.<sup>285</sup> This evidence indicates that the partition was built and was clad in riven lath and plastered up to the eight-foot ceiling. When the east wing was raised by one foot in 1856, the upper extension of the partition was clad in sawn lath—like that used for other work done in 1855-1856—and plastered.<sup>286</sup> The studs may have originally continued above the eight-foot ceiling within the space between the second-floor joists.<sup>287</sup>

During the late-1860s, a new kitchen addition was built off the east porch. The new kitchen was much larger than room 105 and was provided with better daylight and ventilation. It is unclear whether room 105 was retained as an inner kitchen, workroom, scullery, pantry, or other space. The 1887 Bullard drawings label it as "kitchen" and the addition as "Present Kitchen / Built since 1865." From at least 1920 to 1938, this room served as the private Dining Room for the live-in custodian.<sup>288</sup>

The 1925 measured drawings indicate that a closet or cupboard had been installed along the west wall between the chimney and the north wall, projecting roughly twice the depth of the chimney. This feature, likely a china closet used by the caretakers, is not shown on the 1887 Bullard drawings. A new cupboard made of tongue-and-groove bead-board was installed along this space to match the depth of the chimney in June 1925; the 1927 measured drawings describe this as "remodeled old material," suggesting that it may have been built from material salvaged from the

285. Riven lath is associated with the original construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839, while construction dated to the Lincolns' 1846 and 1855-1856 remodelings all uses sawn lath. Floyd Mansberger reports that sawn lath was used almost universally in the Springfield area after about 1850-1852. It is possible that riven lath was salvaged and reused when this partition was built. A row of cut finishing nails along the line eight feet above the floor may have been associated with a plaster stop or screed or with a small molding now concealed within the plaster.

286. *Lincoln Home National Historic Site Historic Structure Report*, 1984, 2:C6.

287. Without Vance's account placing this partitioning in the 1855-1856 remodeling, available physical evidence would suggest that the room was partitioned earlier, possibly during work in 1846, 1849-1850, or during otherwise undocumented work in the 1840s.

288. *Lincoln Home National Historic Site Historic Structure Report*, 1984, 2:158; John A. Menaugh, "At Home with the Lincolns, 1844-1861: Their House Was Better Than Average Then," *Chicago Sunday Tribune*, February 6, 1938.

283. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:10.

284. Krupka, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 37.

prior cupboard. This room was being used as an office from at least 1943 to 1950.

During the 1954-1955 restoration, the Kitchen was restored as a period room so that it could be opened to visitors. The back staircase was rebuilt at this time to accommodate the new visitor circulation path, where visitors would descend to the Kitchen after visiting the second floor and would exit through the south door. Writing in 1955, Hagen reports, “Source material on the Lincoln kitchen is very meager, so it has been restored as a typical kitchen of the 1850s.”<sup>289</sup> The restored Kitchen opened to visitors for the first time on February 12, 1955.<sup>290</sup> Writing in 1988, Krupka states, “A period kitchen is perhaps the most difficult of rooms to restore authentically and convincingly.”<sup>291</sup>

### *Floor*

The room’s flooring was replaced during the State of Illinois’ ownership. The 1927 measured drawings list the floor of this room as “wide oak flooring.” In October 1950, Harry F. Fristch & Sons were contracted to replace flooring in the east kitchen addition and the office (room 105). The old tile was to be removed, plywood laid in the kitchen, and new asphalt tile laid over the plywood. Writing in 1955, Richard Hagen reported, “In the kitchen the wide oak flooring is exposed, except for a large hand-braided rug and several small ‘throws’ which have been used as floor covering.”<sup>292</sup>

Krupka reports that a “reproduction period painted floorcloth was commissioned and installed” in the room in 1985 following recommendations from the 1983 Historic Furnishings Plan.<sup>293</sup> Krupka believed that the introduction of a floorcloth into the Kitchen was “a mistake” based on advice published by the British architect Joseph Gwilt in the early-1840s.<sup>294</sup> This is discussed in more detail in the section on Interior Flooring.

### *Walls*

The room was provided with flat plaster walls over riven wood lath when the Dresser Cottage was built in 1839. During investigations in 1972, architectural historian Henry Judd found evidence that the 1839 Dresser kitchen was fitted with a chair rail that was removed when the room was partitioned by the Lincolns in 1855-1856.<sup>295</sup> Chair rails protected the plaster wall from damage from chairs and other furniture. Like the other original woodwork, this chair rail was presumably mounted to the studs before the room was plastered and its removal would have required a new lath and plaster patch.

A photograph taken by James Hickey in June 1954 during demolition of the back staircase shows that the east wall retained riven lath in the area above and south of the staircase. Work before and during the 1987-1988 restoration revealed that most of the north wall retained 1839 era riven lath up to the height of the original eight-foot ceiling, with sawn lath in the 1856 extension above. A photograph taken during this work clearly shows riven lath exposed west of the door up to the original eight-foot ceiling; lath between this level and the 1856 ceiling had been removed. Lath in place above the original eight-foot ceiling over the north door shows considerable variation and may include riven lath. This, along with evidence at the west face of the partition between rooms 105 and 107, suggests that riven lath may have been used in some areas of these two rooms in 1855-1856. Limited portions of the north wall were fitted with expanded metal lath likely dating from 1954. Wall plaster keys observed after the removal of siding from the north side of the wall within the east porch “conform to documented visual characteristics of plasters applied after the historic period.” Krupka reported that many remnants were found in the wall cavity. “A considerable volume of depositional material was recovered from the stud cavities of this wall. Much of this was broken—Dresser (1839) and Lincoln (1849/50 and 1855/56)—plaster keys, but included with this was a considerable volume of other artifactual materials.”<sup>296</sup> The east face of the west partition was found to contain expanded metal lath likely dating from 1954, while the west face of the partition in

289. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” 19.

290. Hagen, 27.

291. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 35.

292. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” 15.

293. No floorcloth appears in photographs taken in 1985 and 1987.

294. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Floors and Flooring 10.

295. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 2.

296. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 17-18.

the Dining Room was faced with riven lath up to the original eight-foot ceiling and sawn lath above.

Analysis in the 1980s determined that the room was not wallpapered until well after the Lincolns' departure in 1861. Physical investigations in November 1987 revealed two different wallpapers within a plumbing chase that had been built along the north side of the Kitchen chimney. Krupka reported that both papers were printed in shades of brown and tan. One was "a palm leaf pattern" and the other "a spatter pattern." Sara Olson and John Brucksch, wallpaper conservators from the Harpers Ferry Center, identified both as early twentieth century papers.<sup>297</sup> During the 1954-1955 restoration, the Kitchen was "completely whitewashed."<sup>298</sup> A white painted finish was maintained during the 1987-1988 restoration.

### *Ceiling*

The east wing was likely provided with a flat plaster ceiling when the Dresser Cottage was built in 1839. This ceiling was probably retained and repaired when the east wing was relocated during the 1846 remodeling. In 1856, the ceiling joists of the original east wing were detached and relocated twelve inches higher to raise the ceilings of the space that was then partitioned into a separate Kitchen (room 105) and Dining Room (room 107). This work would have necessitated replastering the ceiling. The plaster ceiling was replaced in 1954. The 1954 ceiling appears to have been largely retained during the 1987-1988 restoration.<sup>299</sup>

### *Light Fixtures*

During the Lincoln period, this room does not appear to have contained any building-mounted light fixtures. The room was piped for a central gas pendant or gasolier when gas lighting was introduced to the house in 1876-1877.<sup>300</sup>

### *Fireplace/Chimney/Stove*

When the Dresser Cottage was built in 1839, the east wing kitchen, consisting of the present rooms 105 and 107, contained a cooking fireplace. During the 1846 remodeling, the east wing was

shifted south and a new staircase to the garret was built in the southeast corner. The 1839 chimney was likely rebuilt after the wing was relocated. Mariah Vance indicated that "a big fireplace" for cooking was present in the Kitchen on her first day of work for the Lincolns in April 1850.<sup>301</sup> This fireplace may have remained in use until the 1855-1856 remodeling.<sup>302</sup> Krupka believed that undocumented improvements in 1853 might have included installation of the house's first cooking stove. The most common and most economical treatment would have been to install the stove in front of the old cooking fireplace, venting it through the existing chimney. It is also possible that the fireplace and chimney breast were demolished, and a new and smaller stovepipe chimney was built at this time.

Past depictions, including the 1986 HABS chronology drawings and the 1996 NPS models displayed in the Dean House, show the fireplace centered on the north wall. Placing the cooking fireplace or chimney on the side wall of a rear wing or ell was atypical in the region during this period. The chimney breast was typically centered on the rear gable end wall in a similar configuration to the chimneys in the north and south gable ends of the west wing. This placement made for easiest management of flashing and rainwater and helped to keep the heat of cooking farther from other rooms in the house. Alfred V. Arnold's 1906 sketch of the Lincoln Home as he remembered it in 1848 shows a chimney centered on the east gable of this wing, but other inaccuracies in the drawing suggest that it is not a reliable depiction.<sup>303</sup>

No clear physical evidence of the fireplace's location survives. Evidence at the crawlspace (rooms 003 and 004) was destroyed or covered with shotcrete during work in 1954. Architectural drawings predating this work include little to no information on this crawlspace. The 1986 HABS chronology drawings indicate that a fireplace footing centered on the north wall was a "known historic" feature but label the fireplace's location as "conjectural." The existing framing at the first floor does not include clear evidence of framing for

297. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpapers 36.

298. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 19.

299. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 16-17.

300. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:Fuels 12-13.

301. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:10.

302. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:Heating Systems 13.

303. *Lincoln Home National Historic Site Historic Structure Report*, 1984, 1:86-87.



a chimney breast or hearth along either the north wall or the east wall. A chimney in either location would have impacted one or more joists at the first floor. This indicates that some of the room's floor framing was replaced after the fireplace's removal. Physical evidence at the north wall, including rabbets for half-lapped floor joists at the original eight-foot ceiling height (1839-1856) and surviving riven lath at the north wall west of the door within room 105, suggests that the fireplace was not on the north wall. It is most likely that the fireplace was centered on the east gable end wall, with no window or door openings on this wall. The spaces to either side of the fireplace may have been open to the room or may have been enclosed as chimney cupboards or closets. The space to the south of the chimney was filled by the construction of a garret stair in 1846. The area north of the fireplace may have been an alcove open to the rest of the room or it may have contained a built-in chimney cupboard or closet. Much of the east wall and portions of the floor framing near it appear to have been rebuilt in 1855-1856, removing much of the evidence of the original fireplace location.

When the original kitchen was partitioned to form the present Kitchen and Dining Room in 1855-1856, a chimney for a cast iron cook stove was provided along the west wall. Menz notes that small payments by Lincoln to P. A. Dorwin & Company, tinware and stove merchants, in February 1859 and to D. J. Boynton, furnace and stove dealer, in September 1859 may document repairs to a stove purchased in 1856. On June 9, 1860, Lincoln purchased a new "Royal Oak No. 9" stove manufactured by Jewett & Root of Buffalo, New York, from Springfield stove dealer E. Kreigh.

It is unclear whether this stove remained in use in the house until the 1880s or whether it survived in storage until it was acquired by Osborn Oldroyd. The 1884-1885 Oldroyd stereograph of the Parlors shows this stove, identified as "No. 13. The family kitchen stove, 'Royal Oak' pattern," displayed in the northeast corner of the Back Parlor. Another stove must have been in use in the kitchen addition by 1884-1885. Oldroyd took the Royal Oak stove with him to Washington, DC, in 1893 and it was part of his collection purchased by the federal government in 1926.<sup>304</sup>

304. Menz, *Historic Furnishings Report, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Illinois*, 109-10, 119.

At the time the restored Kitchen opened to visitors for the first time in February 1955, a stove similar in size and shape to the Royal Oak No. 9 stove was displayed in the room. Bearss provides the following summary of the return of the Lincolns' kitchen stove (LIHO 559) in February 1959:

Following the 1952-54 restoration of the Home, it had been a dream of officials of Parks and Memorials to secure for the kitchen the Lincoln stove on display at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C... Governor Stratton accordingly wrote the National Park Service, the Federal agency having custody of the Oldroyd Collection, asking that the stove be returned so it "may once more occupy its proper position in the kitchen of Lincoln's home." The Service was agreeable, and arrangements were made to return the stove to Springfield. The stove soon arrived and replaced a similar unit that had been on display since the restoration. Visitors to the Home on February 12, 1959, saw the historic stove back where it had stood when the Lincolns left for Washington 98 years before.<sup>305</sup>

While Krupka stated in 1988 that the stove visible in 1884-1885 Oldroyd stereograph the was "not the same appliance" as that then displayed in the Kitchen, close examination of the stereograph indicates that it shows the left-hand side of a stove identical to the Royal Oak No. 9 stove displayed in the Kitchen since 1959.<sup>306</sup>

#### *Back Staircase*

The 1846 remodeling cut off the stairlet that had provided access to the east wing garret. If a back staircase was not present before 1846, it appears to have been added at this time. The stair appears to have been in the southeast corner of the room, in the space between the fireplace and the south wall. It was likely a compact winder stair with pie-shaped steps in the corner and tall risers, a type common in such locations. The back staircase appears to have been rebuilt during the 1855-1856 remodeling, when the second floor of the east wing was raised twelve inches and a full story was added in place of the garret. The Kitchen fireplace was also demolished at this time, creating space for a straighter stair and a new window in the east wall.

305. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 113-14.

306. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:Heating Systems 14.

The stair as built in 1856 appears to have survived until 1954; its demolition revealed evidence that it had been installed after the wall was plastered. This contrasts with standard practice of the period as followed at the 1839 front stair, where the wall stringers are mounted directly to the studs and serve as plaster stops. The construction of the stair over top of the 1839 lath and plaster is further evidence of its later construction.<sup>307</sup>

The stair appears to have been enclosed by a board partition along the west and at the bottom by a door, a standard practice of the period for kitchen stairs. Bullard described the stair as “Ceiled in with flooring,” meaning that its west side and soffit were enclosed with matched boards like those used for flooring. Measured drawings from 1927 describe this enclosure as “Beaded ceiling,” that is, tongue-and-groove bead-board. This may indicate that the stair enclosure was rebuilt or re-clad sometime between 1887 and 1927. The lowest step projected from the stair enclosure and the tread of the lowest winder step formed the threshold of the stair door that was in line with the board partition enclosing the west side of the stair. This door does not appear to have been in place by 1887. Doors of stair enclosures of this type were often batten doors made of the same types of boards as the walls, secured together by horizontal battens on the interior side. The walls within the stair are believed to have been whitewashed during the Lincoln’s occupancy of the house.<sup>308</sup>

The 1887 Bullard drawings provide the earliest documentation of the stair’s configuration and appearance. The stair had fourteen risers and was 2’-11” wide. It rose east along the south wall, with one projecting rectangular step followed by three winders turning it 90 degrees to rise up a straight run north along the east wall for a total of fourteen steps. As Krupka notes, “It was typical in nineteenth century construction to build secondary stairs—such as those to cellars, attics, and back stairs to bedroom areas of upper floors—much steeper than the more formal main stairs of the home.”<sup>309</sup>

As built in 1856, the stair landed at a new door opening into the Upstairs Back Hall (room 204). This doorway may have originally been topped by a transom to provide light to the enclosed stair. This is the only door on Bullard’s second-floor plan that is not labeled with its dimensions; it also lacks the corresponding note of a transom; both the dimensions and transom notes were provided in contrasting ink. The 1927 measured drawings show this opening with a transom and two-panel door matching the other openings in the south wall of the hall. This is the only opening where the sash and transom bar are placed on the hall side of the opening, with the sash swinging into the hall; this is, however, consistent with the documented swing of the door, which swung into the hall rather than into the stair. In 1887, the door is shown hinged on the east, swinging open against the east wall in front of the window. Drawings from 1927, 1933, and 1948 show the door hinged on the west.

The only known photographic documentation of the stair is a June 1954 photograph by James Hickey documenting its demolition. At the time of this photograph, the west board wall had mostly been torn away and the plaster and most lath had been removed from the east wall within the stair. The stair itself featured bullnose treads and the visible steps (three through ten) appear to have been of consistent rise. The wall-mounted stringers appear to be attached to the face of the plaster walls at the south and east. Remaining sections of 1839-era riven lath are visible on the east wall. The south wall retained its plaster. A dark horizontal line is visible on the south wall, roughly aligned with the head of the casing of the adjacent south door, also visible in the photograph. This line may mark the location of a board with nails or hooks for hanging items like brooms or brushes within the stair.

When the State of Illinois first developed plans for opening the second floor to visitors in 1948, the back stair was planned to be retained. This initial design was not carried out. The tall risers, short treads, and winder steps of the stair made it unsuitable as a path for visitor travel and revised designs for the 1952-1955 restoration called for its demolition and replacement. The new stair would be similar in design but would include several modifications to make it a safer path for visitors to travel. In 1954, contractor Charles P. Fowler demolished the stair and replaced it with a new 15-riser stair. While drawings call for the new

307. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:20–24; Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 101.

308. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpapers 24.

309. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Stairs and Stairways 22.

stair to be 3'-2" wide, with the added width being taken out of the Kitchen (room 105) and the Trunk Room (room 205), the stair is today 2'-11" wide, suggesting that it was rebuilt to the same width as the prior stair. The winder steps were replaced by a square landing, the projecting lowest step included a wide, radiused return, and the straight run was extended through the doorway into the

Upstairs Back Hall (room 204), allowing for shorter risers and longer treads. The stair narrows as it passes through the upper doors. Wood handrails were fitted on both sides of the stair, with curving balustrades featuring square metal balusters supporting the handrail returns at the top and bottom.



**Figure C.131.** View south in Kitchen, summer 1954. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B7F1P82.



**Figure C.133.** View north in Kitchen, photoshoot for *McCall's* magazine, 1957. This view was intended to evoke the Lincolns' family life, with one of the boys bathing on the east porch and breakfast being cooked on the stove. Source: LIHO Photo No. B7F1P137.



**Figure C.134.** View northeast in Kitchen, 1964. Source: LIHO Photo No. B3F1P58.



**Figure C.132.** View north in Kitchen, ca.1955. Source: LIHO Photo No. B3F1P130.



**Figure C.135.** View north in Kitchen, ca.1981. Source: LIHO Photo No. B1F82P67.





**Figure C.136.** View south in Kitchen, ca.1981. Source: LIHO Photo No. B1F82P65.



**Figure C.137.** View north in Kitchen, 1987-1988. Note riven lath exposed at wall to left of door. The second stud from left shows a rabbet for a half-lapped floor joist at the original ceiling height prior to the raising of the ceiling in 1856. Source: LIHO Photo No. B4F26P10.



**Figure C.138.** View southwest in Kitchen during reopening, June 16, 1988. LIHO Historian George L. Painter is at left speaking to Illinois Governor James Thompson (tallest man) and National Park Service Director William Pen Mott in black suit. LIHO Superintendent Gentry Davis is at center (holding his hat). Source: LIHO Photo ID: B5F23P20.



**Figure C.139.** View northwest in kitchen, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

### 106 South Porch

The south porch, extending along the south side of the east wing, was built in its current location during the Lincolns' 1846 remodeling. It may have reused elements from an original south porch built in 1839. The porch's roof was enclosed by a cast iron balustrade in 1856.

#### *Skirting*

The brick piers supporting the porch are interspersed with three voids on the south elevation and one on the east. The center south void and the east void are covered by wood steps. Diagonal wood lattice skirting is present in the east and west voids of the south elevation.

The 1860 Whipple photograph appears to show a solid surface below the east bay rather than a void or lattice. Photographs taken in May 1865 suggest that the face of the foundation below the porch floor was fitted with a much wider skirt board than is now present, covering at least half of the height between the floor and grade.

Lattice skirting panels had been installed under both the east and west bays by 1974. The present configuration reflects the porch foundation and skirting as rebuilt in the 1987-1988 restoration.

#### *Floor*

The south porch floor joists were sistered and the floor was replaced in November 1974. This floor was removed in July 1985. The porch foundation, piers, and floor were rebuilt during the 1987-1988 restoration after waterproofing was installed along the perimeter of the house foundation.

Prior to the 1987-1988 restoration, the trapdoor for the cellar stair within the porch floor was fitted with a counterweight system to hold it open. Krupka reports that the system was composed of iron window sash weights identical to those installed in the house ca.1899 and that they were "suspended from a rope passed through a small pulley mounted in the northwest corner of the porch ceiling." This assembly clearly post-dated 1861. A similar porch-floor trapdoor at the Henson Robinson House (ca.1859-1860/1863) at 520 S. Eighth Street (LIHO HS-10) was believed to be in place ca.1867-1880 after a later porch covered a former exterior cellar stair.<sup>310</sup>

#### *Lattice*

The diagonal wood lattice panel in the easternmost bay of the south elevation of the porch is documented in the 1860 Whipple photograph and in several photographs taken in May 1865. This panel would have provided some visual privacy to the Kitchen door, allowing the door to be left open in warm weather. The lattice panel or a similar replacement appears in photographs through about 1906.

#### *Screens*

About 1920, the State of Illinois installed large screen panels to enclose the south porch as a private living space for the live-in custodian. The 1952 exterior restoration included removal of all window and porch screens and all storm windows.

#### *Ceiling*

Writing in 1988, Krupka reported that the south porch was fitted with a "wooden, board-on-board ceiling" dating from its construction in 1839 and that the wood ceiling survived the porch's relocation in 1846 and the 1855-1856 remodeling.<sup>311</sup>

The porch ceiling is not clearly shown in early photographs. One ca.1900 photograph shows a board ceiling with grooves or beads. Krupka reports that the porch ceiling was replaced with tongue-and-groove bead-board attached with wire nails in 1954. Removal of the ceiling boards in 1986 revealed the marks of lath and plaster and associated square cut nails on the underside of all ceiling joists. A new tongue-and-groove bead-board wood ceiling was installed during the 1987-1988 restoration.

#### *Cast Iron Roof Balustrade*

The 1856 remodeling included the addition of a cast iron balustrade around the roof of the south porch, allowing its potential use as an occupied roof deck. While some have alleged that the cast iron balustrade installed on the roof of the south porch in 1856 is a "French-influenced feature" or a mark of "Southern" taste, cast iron balustrades, verandahs, balconies, and galleries were common in Northern cities during the 1840s and 1850s, as cast iron allowed for affordable production of durable, ornamental features.<sup>312</sup> Cast iron

311. Krupka, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 19.

312. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 4.

310. Krupka, 1:Stairs and Stairways 4-5.

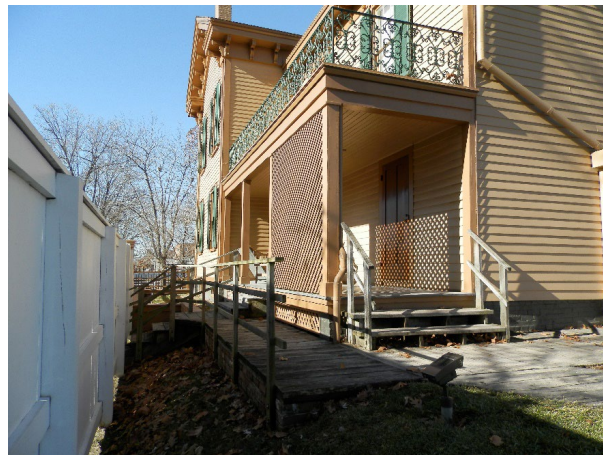


galleries were particularly popular in southern cities like New Orleans and Mobile; since the mid-twentieth century, cast ironwork and the Greek Revival style, both nationally popular during this period, have often been seen as distinctively Southern in the public imagination, but this does not reflect perceptions during the Lincolns' lifetimes. Foundries across the country produced cast ironwork based on designs in architectural pattern books, and some of the same patterns were common over a wide area. This particular cast iron balustrade pattern appears in ca.1860 and ca.1865 catalogues of Luther Homes, a dealer in cast ironwork active in New Orleans from ca.1842 to 1881.<sup>313</sup> Homes' catalogues include ironwork designs common in much of the Midwest.

While it is possible that a foundry or ironwork dealer shipped these cast iron components by steamboat to Illinois and by railroad to Springfield, it is more likely that they were produced by a foundry within the region. They may have been produced in Springfield by the Ætna Foundry or the Excelsior Brass & Iron Foundry, both active as of 1857. They may also have been produced by a foundry in another city and imported to Springfield. In 1856, Springfield had direct railroad connections to larger cities including Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis, all of which had many foundries. Goods shipped down the Ohio River from other large cities like Cincinnati or Louisville could have come to the port of Cairo and been shipped by rail to Springfield as easily as any products from New Orleans. Unless identifying marks or as-yet unknown documentation are found, the manufacturer of the cast iron balustrade may never be known.

The upper part of one panel—fourth from the west on the south face—of the balustrade is broken. This damage occurred before the Whipple photograph was taken in the summer of 1860 and has been maintained in subsequent restorations. Since at least the 1970s, the balustrade has been painted to match the green of the shutters. The

balustrade remains in good condition overall. This is consistent with both its appearance in the 1860 photographs and with period practice, with shades of “bronze green” being popular for exterior ironwork in the 1840s and 1850s.



**Figure C.140.** South porch, facing northwest, 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.141.** Detail of 1856 cast iron balustrade, November 2021. The damage to the panel at center left occurred before the Whipple photograph was taken in the summer of 1860. Source: RATIO Architects.

313. "[Architectural Drawings: Including Designs for Grill Work, Spindles, and Newel Posts] Volume 2. : Homes, Luther : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive," accessed April 27, 2022,

### 107 Dining Room

This room, measuring approximately 11'-9" by 15'-4", was created during the Lincolns' 1856 remodeling by partitioning an earlier kitchen into two rooms. When the Dresser Cottage was built in 1839, the first floor of the east wing was a single large kitchen. This wing was relocated several feet to the south during the 1846 remodeling. During the 1855-1856 remodeling, the ceiling of this room was partitioned to form the present Kitchen (room 105) and Dining Room (room 107) and its ceiling was raised twelve inches. Analysis by Henry Judd in 1972 indicates that the window in the south wall originally had a sill 30 inches above the floor.<sup>314</sup> It was lengthened to floor level during the 1855-1856 remodeling, providing a walk-out opening onto the south porch.<sup>315</sup>

The earliest known image of the Dining Room is an 1865 stereograph by Schreiber & Glover. This view appears to be looking northeast from the Sitting Room door, with the north jamb of that door visible at the left edge of the left image. The photograph shows the east wall along with an extension table, chair, and other items owned by the Tiltons. A framed "Facsimile of the Emancipation Proclamation" print copyright 1863 by Thomas B. Bryan hangs on the wall.<sup>316</sup>

The Dining Room appears to have undergone repairs or alterations during the occupancy of Osborn Oldroyd (1883-1893). An undated photograph of a blank cardboard sheet for a "box of relics" that Oldroyd offered for sale includes an engraving of the house surrounded by eight boxes with captions. These boxes were to hold small pieces of material, six taken from the house and two from trees on the property. The central caption includes Oldroyd's report that, "Having leased the former residence of Abraham Lincoln, and in repairing several of the rooms, I carefully saved the flooring, joist, lath, plaster and brick that were

taken out and replaced by new." These included "Piece of shingle taken from the roof in 1879," "Piece of brick taken out of the wall in front of the house, when repaired November, 1883," "Plaster from the Dining Room ceiling," "Piece of Lath from the Dining Room," "Piece of joist taken from the Dining Room," and "Flooring from the Dining Room."<sup>317</sup> If these relics were authentic, portions of the plaster, lath, joist, and flooring of the Dining Room were removed sometime between 1883 and 1893, likely during Oldroyd's repairs between 1883 and 1887.

During the 1952-1955 restoration, Richard Hagen, lacking any documentation of the Dining Room's Lincoln period appearance, restored it to reflect a "typical" Dining Room of the 1850s.<sup>318</sup> The room was restored again during the 1987-1988 restoration.

### Floor

The 1865 stereograph shows a patterned floorcovering. This could be a pile carpet, a flatwoven carpet, or a painted oilcloth. The floorcovering appears to have a repeating pattern of consisting of stylized leaves or flowers perhaps six to eight inches across. These elements register as a dark color and are surrounded by a highlight that registers as a lighter color, setting them off from the ground that appears as a moderate color. They are consistent in style with both flatwoven and pile carpets of the 1850s. The effect of the visible portion of the pattern recalls the brilliant highlights achieved in Jacquard-woven ingrain carpets, coverlets, and other textiles of the period. The spacing of the visible elements is much closer in the east-west direction than the north-south direction, suggesting that they may have been part of a stripe running east-west and alternating with another stripe not clearly shown in the photograph. The density of the pattern repeat was similar to that of the carpet installed in room 208 in the 1950s.

Some of the flooring of the room was removed at a later date, possibly during Oldroyd's 1883 repairs. The printed cardboard sheet for the "box of relics" that Oldroyd sold during his occupancy of the house during 1883-1893 included space for

314. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 2.

315. The siding was removed and reinstalled during the 1987-1988 restoration, obscuring some of the physical evidence that Judd was able to review in 1972. More evidence of this opening's evolution may have been visible when the wall framing was exposed in 1987-1988, but no documentation of this evidence has been located to date.

316. "[Bryan & Mendel.] Facsimile of the Emancipation Proclamation. Executive Mansion, [Copy 2]. | Library of Congress," accessed November 12, 2021, <https://www.loc.gov/item/scsm000901/>.

317. *Lincoln Home National Historic Site Historic Structure Report*, 1984, 1:75.

318. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 106.

a piece of “Flooring from the Dining Room.”<sup>319</sup> On January 25, 1951, custodian Virginia S. Brown reported that “In 1890 new floors were laid in all rooms but the Sitting Room down stairs...” This may indicate that Oldroyd replaced the room’s floor.

A 1907 photograph shows the room with an exposed wood floor with an Oriental carpet at the center of the room, a fashionable treatment of the period. The 1927 measured drawings list the floor of this room as “wide oak flooring.” Photographs from the 1930s and 1940s show the room with a fitted carpet featuring a small-scale pattern. The carpet was woven in strips that ran north-south.

During the 1952-1953 restoration of the first floor, a new fitted carpet was installed. Writing in 1955, Richard Hagen reported that “antique ingrain [carpet] of many patterns has been installed in the Sitting Room, Dining Room, and five bedrooms upstairs. . .”<sup>320</sup> This carpet also ran north-south and featured a pattern of stylized leaves or flowers on a ground of stylized acanthus leaves. This carpet appears to have been in shades of cream, pink, and brown. The visitor walkway appears to have been fitted with gray sheet linoleum.

Sometime between 1957 and 1964 the carpet was replaced with a new fitted Turkey carpet featuring a pattern of stylized geometric elements. This carpet was in shades of brown and tan on a cream ground. It was replaced sometime between 1974 and 1980, although this new carpet appears in photographs taken before the replacement of the wallpaper sometime between 1974 and 1980, indicating that these were separate projects. The next carpet featured a diaper pattern with oval cartouches containing bouquets of roses and other flowers and accented by small medallions and sprays of flowers. This carpet featured linework in shades of golden brown with flowers and foliage in several shades of pink, red, and green. The visitor path was carpeted with low-pile commercial carpet featuring a variegated pattern. These carpets were removed in 1987.

In 1988, the room was fitted with “Geometric & Floral” pattern ingrain carpet produced by Family Heirloom Weavers of Red Lion, Pennsylvania.

319. *Lincoln Home National Historic Site Historic Structure Report*, 1984, 1:75.

320. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” 15.

The carpet strips run north-south. This ca.1840 pattern features large neoclassical medallions of stylized foliage and flowers set within panels formed by a geometric grid. The carpet features a red pattern on a ground of stripes in three shades of green. This red and green scheme reflects a color combination that was particularly popular in the 1840s and similar carpets are believed to have been produced into the 1870s.

The room’s carpet was replaced in the winter of 2008-2009 in anticipation of the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth in 2009. This was an in-kind replacement matching the carpet installed in 1988.

### *Walls*

During investigations in 1972, architectural historian Henry Judd found evidence that the 1839 Dresser kitchen was fitted with a chair rail that was removed when the room was partitioned by the Lincolns in 1855-1856.<sup>321</sup> Chair rails protected the plaster wall from damage from chairs and other furniture. Like the other original woodwork, this chair rail was presumably mounted to the studs before the room was plastered and its removal would have required a new lath and plaster patch. The chair rail’s width and height on the wall are not documented.<sup>322</sup>

X-ray analysis in 1979 and 1980 found that the north wall was fitted with 4S sawn lath, a material associated with the 1855-1856 remodeling.<sup>323</sup> The lath and plaster on this wall would have been replaced after the demolition of the old kitchen fireplace and chimney breast in 1856. Krupka reported that investigations before and during the 1987-1988 restoration found that disengaged 1839-era wall plaster keys had accumulated within the cavities of this wall to a depth of approximately four inches along its entire length. These deposits are believed to be remnants of the 1839 wall plaster in the knee wall of the east wing attic. They are believed to have been deposited during the 1846

321. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 2.

322. Evidence was presumably exposed during the 1987-1988 restoration, when the walls were stripped down to bare plaster and at least the north wall was stripped down to its studs, but no clear documentation of this evidence has been found to date.

323. *Lincoln Home National Historic Site Historic Structure Report*, 1984, 2:C6.

and 1856 remodelings.<sup>324</sup> On August 25, 1987, two pieces of plaster were found behind the west trim of the door between rooms 102 and 107. Krupka reports the following:

The soft, high lime plaster sample with yellowish orange sand and red cow hair inclusions matches plasters known to have been used by both Dresser and Lincoln [in 1846 but not in 1855-1856]... These surviving samples each contain the remnants of a pale, sky blue (Munsell No. \_\_\_\_ ) kalsomine paint film [identical to samples taken from surviving plaster in room 103]... This indicates original wall finishes in both the Dresser and Lincoln Cottage (i.e. pre-1855/56) rooms may have been tinted whitewash, rather than wallpaper.<sup>325</sup>

Lath and plaster were removed from the entirety of the north wall in September-October 1987. The wall was re-plastered in 1988.

Wallpaper for the new Dining Room was likely part of the Lincolns' May 10, 1856, wallpaper purchase from the Springfield dry goods store of John Williams & Company.<sup>326</sup> The earliest known image of the Dining Room, the 1865 stereograph by Schreiber & Glover, documents a wallpaper that could have dated from the Lincolns' 1856 decoration of the room. This paper could also have dated from a redecoration by the Lincolns between 1856 and 1861 or from a subsequent redecoration by the Tiltons between 1861 and 1865.

The 1865 stereograph clearly shows a wallpaper featuring a bold floral stripe pattern. The larger central stripes consisted of poles (sometimes described as stalks, rods, or ropes) surrounded by a range of flowers and leaves in repeating, bouquet-like groupings. The smaller stripes had a ground consisting of a ribbon with horizontal stripes suggesting grosgrain wrapped by two delicate vines; the regular intersections of the vines were marked by alternating bouquets of two flowers. The ground may have had a pale grisaille pattern that is not well documented in the photograph. The photograph registers the wallpaper as having a pale ground with a crisp and relatively dark print.

This may suggest a color scheme seen in many 1850s floral wallpapers, with leaves in shades of dark and saturated green and flowers in shades of pastel pink and blue, often with other accents.

In her 1983 study of the Lincoln Home's wallpapers, Sara B. Chase notes that the wallpaper in this stereograph "could well have been Mary Lincoln's choice in 1856."<sup>327</sup> This type of alternating stripe pattern was popular from the 1840s into the 1860s and often contained Renaissance Revival, Rococo Revival, or Gothic Revival elements.

This wallpaper may have been replaced when the Tiltons left in 1869 or may have survived for some years. During 1887-1888, L. W. Coe was paid for painting the interiors of the Dining Room and Kitchen.<sup>328</sup> The room appears to have been redecorated in the summer of 1893 by R. F. Kinsella. On May 11, just after the departure of Osborn Oldroyd, Kinsella supplied 22 rolls wallpaper, 12 rolls ceiling, and 38 yards of border for the "Dining and Sitting Rooms." On August 26, Kinsella was paid for papering and painting these and other rooms.<sup>329</sup>

The wallpaper installed by Kinsella in 1893 may be that documented in a photograph in the Robert Ide Collection of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. This photograph has been assigned dates of ca.1890 to ca.1912. It shows a wallpaper scheme consistent with an early-1890s date, having a sidewall with an indistinct pattern and a wide frieze with triangular groupings of stylized leaves and/or flowers. The sidewall paper in this photograph might be the same paper that survives in the china closet (room 109). A photograph of the room dated 1907 shows a vertical striped Arts and Crafts style wallpaper with stylized foliate stalks. Both of these photographs show the room with furniture associated with the Edwards-Brown family that occupied the house from 1897 to 1924.

The room appears to have been re-papered in April 1922 and June 1930. Photographs dating from the 1930s and 1940s show the room fitted with a toile

324. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 10.

325. Krupka, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 12.

326. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 18.

327. Chase, "A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois," 4.

328. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 47.

329. Bearss, 52-53.

wallpaper featuring vignettes of a summer house with a bell-shaped roof and clusters of foliage.

If Richard Hagen had had access to a copy of the 1865 stereograph of the Dining Room when planning the 1952-1955 restoration, he might have been able to select a pattern somewhat similar in overall effect, if not in detail, from contemporary stock catalogs. During the 1940s and early-1950s, many manufacturers offered papers with vertical floral stripes similar in scale and boldness to that shown in the 1865 stereograph; a contemporary pattern of similar scale had been installed in room 208 before 1954. Thomas Strahan and Katzenbach & Warren, two companies that supplied wallpaper for the 1950s restoration, offered patterns similar in effect, including No. 6585 “The Creamer,” a reproduction of a ca.1845-1855 paper from Strahan’s *Album of Colonial Reproductions*.<sup>330</sup>

Lacking any documentation of the room’s appearance during the period 1855-1861, Hagen made a curious choice by selecting an Arts and Crafts style wallpaper with a matching border. It featured a red ground with dark red patterns of fine lines forming a series of stylized stripes that included abstract Grecian ornament and golden-tan flowers. This wallpaper appears to date from ca.1905-1915 and might have been inspired by the wallpaper seen in the 1907 photograph. In January 1953, shortly after its installation, it was described as “60-year-old red wallpaper,” but its style is inconsistent with an 1890s date.<sup>331</sup> Wallpaper investigations in the 1980s revealed traces of this paper along the west wall beneath the light fixture and railings installed in 1952-1953.

In 1956, Hagen attended the annual meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, where “the restoration of the Lincoln Home was commended in general but in specific terms, the use of Williamsburg reproduced wallpapers in the Lincoln Home was cited as a good example of well-intentioned but not very exact restoration.”<sup>332</sup> While this Arts and Crafts paper was not a Colonial Williamsburg paper, it appears to have been

replaced shortly after, concurrent with Hagen’s corrections to wallpaper in rooms 203 and 208. This replacement occurred sometime between 1957 and 1964. The new paper featured a diaper pattern of scrolls separating oval cartouches with Grecian ornament. It was printed in red orange with black and white accents on a grayish-cream ground. This was the same wallpaper present in room 100 in the 1940s, suggesting that surplus rolls stored in the house may have been used for this redecoration.<sup>333</sup> A very narrow stripe and rope border lined the top of the walls. During the winter of 1967-1968, C. W. Fritsch hung new wallpaper on west wall of Dining Room.<sup>334</sup> This appears to have been in-kind replacement of the paper, as the same pattern was in place in photographs through 1975.

The room was re-wallpapered sometime between 1975 and 1980. This wallpaper featured a diaper pattern of vines dividing two alternating diamond-shaped clusters, one of fruit and the other of flowers and a bird. The wallpaper featured a reddish-orange ground with yellow, orange, and two shades of dull green. This wallpaper was a contemporary pattern reflecting the popular decorating style known as “Early American” and bore no resemblance to wallpapers of the 1850s. A very narrow striped border lined the top of the walls.

Investigations in 1983 revealed “no useful physical evidence” of early wallpapers in this room.<sup>335</sup> No fragments of the room’s Lincoln period wallpapers were found during the 1987-1988 restoration.<sup>336</sup> In 1983, Sara B. Chase recommended that “Widow Clarke Stripe,” an 1850s paper reproduced by Mt. Diablo Handprints for the Clarke House in Chicago, might be considered for this room. Richard Nylander recommended that the 1865 stereograph could be used to create a new reproduction paper. Chase and Nylander suggested that an appropriate paper could be reproduced

330. “Wallpaper | Historic New England,” accessed March 21, 2022, <https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/gusn/178047/>.

331. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 93.

332. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpapers 19.

333. Krupka mistakenly believed that this wallpaper had been installed in the room in 1952.

334. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 117.

335. Chase, “A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois,” 4.

336. “Lincoln Home Wallpaper - Lincoln Home National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service).”



from samples of mid-nineteenth century wallpapers taken from the Samuel Fowler House (1810) in Danvers, Massachusetts.<sup>337</sup>

The debate over the wallpaper treatments for the Parlors and Dining Room—rooms where wallpaper was clearly documented in 1865 stereographs but for which no exact matches could be found in museum collections—would be one of the most contentious components of the 1987-1988 restoration. Chase's 1987 supplement to her 1983 historic wallpaper study noted that no close matches for the paper shown in the 1865 stereograph were found in museum collections and recommended that NPS consider commissioning a custom reproduction wallpaper based on the 1865 stereograph.

Much of the detail shows up clearly enough in the black and white photographic enlargement of the view. The framed Emancipation Proclamation shown on the wall can be used for scale. The ground paper will have to be conjectural, but the colorways can be derived from floral papers of the right period. With assistance from historic wallpaper experts such as Ann Dorfsman and Richard Nylander, a very good reproduction paper for the Dining Room can be reproduced.

Since no border is shown in the historic view, the choice of a border will have to be conjectural as well. Given the view of the paper, Nylander felt that a border from the Cooper-Hewitt collection, 1942-84-18 (England, c.1830) would be a good choice. Elizabeth Redmond of the SPNEA curatorial staff recently found a small uncatalogued historic wallpaper sample which has floral elements of the right style and scale, done in blues and buffs, which could guide the choice of colorways in reproduction paper, and which make the English border seem a reasonable choice.

One bit of evidence which supports the use of the historic blues is that the paper selected by Mrs. Lincoln for Mr. Lincoln's bedchamber

also has the mid-[nineteenth] century blues and buffs. (Cooper Hewitt sample 1941-107-6 was included for your interest, as a twentieth century version of a c.1850 paper which is not too different from the paper in Mr. Lincoln's bedchamber).

In summary, we recommend reproducing a slightly earlier English border for the Dining Room, with a wallpaper to be designed based as closely as possible on the design shown in the stereopticon view and based on colors in a period sample.<sup>338</sup>

In a memorandum dated October 20, 1987, the manager of the Harpers Ferry Center (HFC) advised against reproducing the Dining Room wallpaper from the 1865 photograph and stated, "we and SPNEA have been unable to locate a better pattern match to the historic photograph than is available in a stock paper."<sup>339</sup> HFC recommended purchasing "Eastman," a stock reproduction of a Rococo Revival wallpaper likely dating from ca.1845-1865 then produced by Scalmandré. Park staff disagreed with this recommendation, citing the "recommendations of Sara Chase and Richard Nylander, both acknowledged experts in the field of wallpaper conservation and reproduction, [which] obviously do not concur with the opinions of HFC staff." Park staff preferred that the wallpaper for the Dining Room be reproduced from evidence of known wallpapers present during the Lincoln family's occupancy and noted that the 1865 stereograph provided such evidence for this room. "As imprecise as reproduction from photographs may be, it is historically more accurate by far and more faithful to the Lincolns' treatment of their only Home than recourse to catalogue shelf papers having no relationship whatsoever to the Home or its occupants. Such reproduction is, however, much more work and more expensive."<sup>340</sup> Proposed wallpapers and samples were reviewed by John P. Brucksch (project supervisor, Division of Historic Furnishings at HFC) and Fran Krupka (historical architect at DSC) in coordination with Vance L. Kaminsky (architect at DSC). A

338. "Wallpaper Issues," 1987.

339. Manager, Harpers Ferry Center, "Wallpaper Treatments for Double Parlor and Dining Room, Lincoln Home National Historic Site," Memorandum, October 20, 1987, Lincoln Home (HS01) Restoration – Wallpaper 1988, Lincoln Home History Series: Restoration, Box 27, LIHO Archive.

340. "Wallpaper Issues," 1987.

337. Chase, "A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois," 4, 10; Nylander, *Wallpapers for Historic Buildings*, 113; "Wallpaper | Historic New England," accessed April 26, 2022, <https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/gusn/283732>.

memorandum dated November 10, 1987, notes the following of the Dining Room wallpaper: “We will procure a custom paper using the 1865 photograph. Fran [Krupka] will review color selection and the final strikeoff, as well as the final border selection.”

In a memorandum dated November 25, 1987, and documenting the selection of wallpapers, Ellsworth R. Swift noted, “much debate has surrounded this issue.” In meetings at HFC on November 23-24, 1987, it was agreed that stock period reproduction papers would be used in the room. The sidewall paper was “Gallier House Parlor” by Waterhouse Wallhangings of Boston, a reproduction of a French paper dated to ca.1840-1850. This wallpaper was originally reproduced for a second-floor room in the James Gallier Jr. House (1857-1860) in New Orleans.<sup>341</sup> Notes indicate that this paper had been considered for the Sitting Room (room 108) earlier in the planning process. This paper includes a color scheme popular in the 1840s and 1850s, with bouquets of flowers in shades of mainly pink, blue, yellow, and green set within warm gray linework cartouches on ground of pale, cool gray strapwork. The same border used for the Parlors was used in this room. This was “Locust Grove Border” (No. 81228), an English paper dated to ca.1850-1860 and reproduced by Scalamandré of New York from that hung in the drawing room of Samuel F. B. Morse’s “Locust Grove” (1851, Alexander Jackson Davis) in Poughkeepsie, New York.<sup>342</sup>

The new wallpaper was installed in April 1988. Writing in 1988, Krupka reports that the paper just installed in the Dining Room was intended to be an interim treatment, to be replaced in the future:

It is the intent of the National Park Service to reproduce this documented Lincoln paper for reintroduction to the Dining Room of the Home, but not at this time. . .

When future research identifies an historic wallpaper of the period sufficiently similar—if not actually identical—to that depicted in the early post-historic photograph, the paper

will be reproduced and hung in the Lincoln Home Dining Room, replacing the paper being hung as part of the (1987 /88) restoration and refurbishing of the structure.<sup>343</sup>

The 1988 wallpaper remains in place.

### *Ceiling*

The east wing was likely provided with a flat plaster ceiling when the Dresser Cottage was built in 1839. This ceiling was probably retained and repaired when the east wing was relocated during the 1846 remodeling. In 1856, the ceiling joists of the original east wing were detached and relocated twelve inches higher to raise the ceilings of the space that was then partitioned into a separate Kitchen (room 105) and Dining Room (room 107). This work would have necessitated replastering the ceiling.

The printed cardboard sheet for the “box of relics” that Oldroyd sold during his occupancy of the house during 1883-1893 included spaces for “Plaster from the Dining Room ceiling,” “Piece of Lath from the Dining Room,” “Piece of joist taken from the Dining Room,” and “Flooring from the Dining Room.”<sup>344</sup> The extent of the work that produced these fragments of removed material is unclear. It may have been part of the repair campaign conducted by Oldroyd in 1883 or might have used material salvaged during the installation of gas lighting in 1876-1877.

Like other ceilings in the house, the ceiling of this room was whitewashed until after the Lincolns’ departure in 1861. Ceiling paper seems to have been installed in the room during a redecoration of the house by R. F. Kinsella in the summer of 1893. Ceiling papers appear to have been replaced during subsequent redecorations of the room. Ceiling paper installed in 1952 was painted white. In 1954, the room’s ceiling plaster was removed to allow reinforcement of floor above.<sup>345</sup> This work must have been done carefully to maintain the wallpaper and carpet installed in 1952.

341. This room, 201 on the Historic American Building Survey plans of the Gallier House, is believed to have been Josephine Gallier’s Sitting Room.

342. “Lincoln Home Wallpaper - Lincoln Home National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service).”

343. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 22.

344. *Lincoln Home National Historic Site Historic Structure Report*, 1984, 1:75.

345. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 22; Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 100.

The lath and plaster were removed from the ceiling in September 1987 during installation of reinforcing joists. Krupka reports that the lath was attached with cut nails and that debris found above it, including fragments of two black walnut shingles, appeared to have been deposited during the 1856 remodeling. Krupka reports that the plaster was of a later date than the lath, having been installed by the State of Illinois sometime between 1887 and 1899.<sup>346</sup>

Krupka reports elsewhere that the plaster ceiling was replaced in 1954; this assertion may be incorrect given the evidence found in 1987 and the fact that the room was restored by Hagen in 1952. The ceiling was replastered in December 1987 and was painted white in 1988.

#### *Light Fixtures*

During the Lincoln period, this room does not appear to have contained any building-mounted light fixtures. The room was piped for a central gasolier when gas lighting was introduced to the house in 1876-1877.<sup>347</sup> The earliest known photograph of the room after the installation of gas has been assigned dates of ca.1890 to ca.1912. This shows the lower edge of a two-arm gasolier dating to ca.1890-1910. A remaining ceiling fixture was removed in 1933, when new wooden railings with integrated, indirect torchiere up-lights were installed.

During the 1952-1955 restoration, a new indirect trough light was installed over the door to room 108. During the 1987-1988 restoration, the 1950s trough light was removed and was replaced by a smaller version mounted over the door to room 102 and papered to match the wall.

#### *Stove*

When this room was created in 1856, the east partition contained the Kitchen chimney. The presence of this chimney meant that a stove could have been installed in the Dining Room. However, no false mantel or hearth was provided in this room. Because false mantels were provided in rooms 201 and 208 during the 1855 remodeling, it seems likely that a more public room like the Dining Room would have been provided with one

in 1856 if the room was planned to have a stove. The room's proximity to the Kitchen also meant that it was likely to be relatively warm. The earliest documentation of the room, an 1865 stereograph, does not show a stove along this wall.

By the early-1940s, a ca.1830s neoclassical stove that had formerly been displayed in room 101 was placed along the east wall with a stovepipe configured to vent into the Kitchen chimney. This stove was retained during the 1952 restoration of the room and removed sometime between 1957 and 1964.



**Figure C.142.** Stereograph looking east from Sitting Room (room 108) into Dining Room (room 107), showing east wall of Dining Room, May 1865. Source: LIHO 10359.



**Figure C.143.** Similar view, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

346. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Roofs 2.

347. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:Fuels 12-13.





**Figure C.144.** View northwest in Dining Room, ca.1890 to ca.1912. Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.



**Figure C.147.** View southeast in Dining Room, 1985. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B2F16P18.



**Figure C.145.** View south in Dining Room, ca.1955. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B2F15P42.



**Figure C.148.** View northwest in Dining Room, October 1987. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B19F51P1.



**Figure C.146.** View south in Dining Room, ca.1955. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B7F1P103.



**Figure C.149.** LIHO historian George L. Painter leads a tour of the Dining Room, view looking northwest, June 1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B5F18P27.



**Figure C.150.** View northeast in Dining Room, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



### 108 Sitting Room

This room, measuring approximately 19'-0" by 14'-10", was part of the original construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839. Aside from the addition of a door to the Dining Room (room 107) during the 1856 remodeling, this room appears to have seen few physical alterations since the house's construction. Krupka reports that this room was used as both a sitting and Dining Room from 1839 until the creation of the Lincoln Dining Room in 1856.<sup>348</sup> It was used as a Sitting Room by the Lincolns from 1856 to 1861.

Photographs of the room taken during the occupancy of the Edwards-Brown family, custodians from 1897 to 1924, indicate that it was open to the public, with Lincoln images, artifacts, and memorabilia displayed there. The family displayed pieces of furniture that Albert S. Edwards (custodian 1897-1915) had inherited from his parents, Elizabeth Todd Edwards (sister of Mary Lincoln) and Ninian Wirt Edwards. These included a late-1830s American Empire sofa (now owned by the Springfield Art Association and displayed at Edwards Place) from the Edwards' parlor that the Lincolns had used while courting and a secretary-desk (LIHO 6)<sup>349</sup> that Lincoln had used in his Springfield law office.<sup>350</sup>

#### Floor

This room retains white oak flooring believed to have been installed at the time of the Dresser

Cottage's construction in 1839. Krupka, who examined the flooring during the 1987-1988 restoration, reported that it was of three-quarter inch thick white oak boards running east-west and butt-jointed at their sides and ends. These boards vary in width from five to eight inches. Vertical saw marks on the edges and undersides of these floorboards suggest that they were cut on a vertical or sash saw rather than a circular saw.<sup>351</sup>

Writing in 1925, Bowen states that "The first floor south [room] retains the original flooring which was hand made," and the 1927 measured drawings list the floor of this room as "original oak flooring." Krupka, who examined the floorboards during the 1987-1988 restoration, qualified Bowen's statement with the following assessment: "Considering the physical characteristics of the finish floor boards, the claim that these were handmade seems unsubstantiated and highly romanticized."<sup>352</sup> As noted above, the boards show signs of being cut in a sawmill, as lumber available in a city like Springfield would have been by 1839.

The room was likely provided with a wall-to-wall fitted carpet throughout the Dresser and Lincoln periods. These may have included flatwoven or pile carpets. During the summer months, carpets were often removed, placed in storage, and the floors covered with woven straw or grass matting. The Lincolns may have replaced the room's carpets during the 1840s or during the 1855-1856 remodeling. The 1861 *Frank Leslie's* engraving shows the room with a fitted carpet. The image shown suggests a Rococo Revival pattern of irregular scrolls, possibly stylized foliate or floral motifs. Patterns of this type were popular during the 1840s and 1850s.

The floor was likely covered with fitted carpets until the 1870s or later. A photograph that appears to have been taken around the same time as a view of room 107 dated to ca.1890 to ca.1912 and photographs dated 1907 and ca.1908 appear to show the room with grass matting oriented east-west and topped by a large oriental rug. This rug appears to have extended to within about eighteen

348. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 24.

349. This secretary-desk came from Lincoln's law office. The affidavit from Mary Lincoln's grandniece, Mary Edwards Brown, states that this is the bookcase Ninian Edwards (her grandfather) purchased for Lincoln which Lincoln later returned to Ninian's son, Albert S. Edwards (her father). The secretary-desk once had a paneled middle section that appears in a 1907 photograph but not in a ca.1908 photograph; it was present in 1957 photographs but has been gone since at least 1964. Since 1957, this secretary-desk has been displayed in the Back Parlor as a stand-in for the larger and higher-quality American Empire secretary-desk that Lincoln used in the room; the original was purchased by the Tiltons and remained in place until at least 1865. Its fate is unknown.

350. "Lincoln's Loveseat: Restoring a Historical 'Courting Couch' — The Conservation Center," accessed April 8, 2022, <http://www.theconservationcenter.com/articles/2079630-lincoln-s-loveseat-restoring-a-historical-courting>; "Formal Parlor I | Edwards-Place," accessed April 8, 2022, <https://www.edwardsplace.org/copy-of-dining-room>; Menz, *Historic Furnishings Report, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Illinois*, 90-91.

351. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Floors and Flooring 12.

352. Krupka, 1:Floors and Flooring 12.

inches of the walls. This treatment reflects the Colonial Revival fashion for bare wood floors with area rugs that gained popularity from the 1870s and would dominate by the 1910s.

A 1929 photograph of the room shows a bare wood floor with a central area rug. In December 1929, A. E. Bach provided a list of recommended repairs for the public rooms in the house including the following: “The original floor in the southwest room should be cleaned and varnished and if the wood is left exposed, with the present traffic, should be varnished every 60 days, as the varnish wears off and the wood becomes stained very quickly due to the excessive usage.” A 1938 photograph suggests that the wood floors were exposed behind the wooden railings.

During the 1952-1955 restoration, the room was fitted with a carpet featuring a pattern of stylized spirals, flowers, and leaves in shades of brown and tan, with the strips running east-west. Writing in 1955, Richard Hagen reported that “antique ingrain [carpet] of many patterns has been installed in the Sitting Room, Dining Room, and five bedrooms upstairs. . . .”<sup>353</sup> This carpet was replaced sometime between December 1964 and November 1967. The next carpet featured a pattern of floral bouquets and vines in shades of red, pink, blue, and green on a variegated tan ground. This carpet was removed in June 1987.

In 1988, the room was fitted with “Maple Leaf” pattern ingrain carpet produced by Family Heirloom Weavers of Red Lion, Pennsylvania. The carpet strips run north-south. This ca.1840 pattern features two alternating rectangular medallions in a checkerboard pattern. It features a cream ground with the pattern woven in stripes alternating red, green, blue, green, red, and so on; this was a popular effect used for carpets, coverlets and other materials woven on Jacquard looms and was similar to the *irisé* (“iridescent”) or “rainbow” wallpapers popular in the United States from about 1820 to 1850. While this is an excellent quality reproduction of a ca.1840 ingrain carpet, it does not conform to the visual evidence in the 1861 engraving and does not reflect the style of carpet likely chosen for the room in the mid-1850s. The carpet was replaced in-kind in January 2009.

353. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” 15.

## Walls

Krupka reported that investigations before and during the 1987-1988 restoration found that disengaged 1839-era wall plaster keys had accumulated within the cavities of the room’s east wall to a depth of approximately sixteen inches. These deposits are believed to be remnants of the 1839 wall plaster from the east knee wall of room 208. They are believed to have been deposited during the 1855 remodeling when the second floor of the west wing was raised to a full story. A section of early electrical wire with three ceramic tubes attached was found in this wall and was believed to date from the installation of electric wiring between 1899 and 1903.<sup>354</sup>

The room’s walls may have been wallpapered from the time of the Dresser Cottage’s construction in 1839, or Dresser’s financial setbacks may have limited initial finish treatments.<sup>355</sup> The room may have been re-papered after the Lincolns purchased the property in 1844. The room was likely fitted with new sidewall paper and border purchased from John Williams & Company in April 1851.<sup>356</sup> The Lincolns appear to have re-wallpapered the room in 1855 or 1856 with new wallpaper and border purchased from John Williams & Company.<sup>357</sup> Mariah Vance recalled this remodeling as a comprehensive redecoration, with “new carpets an’ curtains an’ drap’ries and drap’ry tie-backs” as well as new wallpaper “from Paris.”<sup>358</sup>

The earliest known view of the room is an engraving published in *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper* in March 1861 and believed to have been based on sketches done in 1860.<sup>359</sup> While the engravings of the Parlors published in the same issue do not clearly show a wallpaper pattern, the view of this room suggests that its wallpaper featured a large, stylized, allover foliate scroll pattern. Wallpapers of this style were popular

354. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 25.

355. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 28.

356. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 18; Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpapers 7-8.

357. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 18.

358. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 4.

359. “Front Parlor in Abraham Lincoln’s House, Springfield, Ill. - Sketched by Our Special Artist,” 245.

in the 1840s and 1850s and are consistent with a redecoration in the mid-1850s. This similar scale, pattern, and repeat suggested by the artist are similar to the 1850s wallpaper in room 201 and to the ca.1856 wallpaper photographed in room 102 in 1865. A narrow border with a cutout scalloped lower edge is shown in the *Frank Leslie's* engraving. This border as illustrated is very similar to the border shown in the 1865 stereograph of the Back Parlor (room 102), suggesting that this room may have had the same border or a border of similar character.

On August 26, 1893, R. F. Kinsella was paid \$105.25 for papering and painting two bedrooms, the Memorial Room (Front and Back Parlors), Dining, and Sitting Rooms, the Kitchen, closet, and Pantry.<sup>360</sup> On May 11, Kinsella had supplied the following for the Dining and Sitting Rooms: 22 rolls wallpaper, 12 rolls ceiling paper, 38 yards of border. He also supplied 100 feet of molding, probably the picture molding that was installed in several rooms around this time.

Mary Edwards “Mamie” Brown (1866-1958), whose parents served as custodians from 1897 to 1918 and who served as custodian herself from 1918 to 1924 reported that in 1897 the “wallpaper in the Sitting Room featured plumes.”<sup>361</sup> A 1907 photograph shows the north wall covered with wallpaper featuring a dense pattern of plume-like foliage and flowers, largely obscured by framed prints and documents. Another photograph dated 1907 shows the southwest corner of the room (including the secretary-desk, LIHO 6, but with a middle section that is no longer present); the wallpaper is difficult to see, but it appears to be a foliate pattern, possibly the same one seen in the photograph of the north wall. A picture molding appears to be in place along the ceiling.

The room was probably re-wallpapered in 1907 during repairs to the house for which no detailed documentation survives.<sup>362</sup> Rooms 201 and 207 both retain penciled notes left by paperhanger Edward Buchler in 1907.<sup>363</sup> Photographs taken ca.1908 and a postcard with a 1908 postmark show

the room with a wallpaper featuring medium-width vertical stripes. The stripes appear to have been of equal width, but those that appear dark in the photograph were subdivided by four pinstripes. The top of the wall featured a wide frieze or border paper that appears to have had a repeating pattern of wreaths resting on a ribbon rope with bows beneath each wreath. This frieze is consistent with a date of ca.1900-1910.

The room appears to have been repapered in April 1922. This is probably the paper shown in a 1929 photograph of the room. In 1930, the Strahan reproduction of the 1855 wallpaper from room 201 was used to redecorate this room in an attempt to follow the 1861 engraving.<sup>364</sup> This wallpaper provided a similar scale, pattern, and repeat to that suggested by the artist in the 1861 engraving. However, a border was not installed as shown in the 1861 engraving; a wood picture molding, possibly dating from 1893, remained in place below the ceiling.

During the 1952-1955 restoration, Richard Hagen decided to continue the use of the Strahan paper in Sitting Room; “Because it so closely resembles the wallpaper shown in the *Leslie's* sketch it has been retained there.”<sup>365</sup> In June 1952, chief architect Booton wrote to the Thomas Strahan Company to order additional roles of the paper produced in 1930 for use in repapering this room.<sup>366</sup> A border consisting of a very light upper stripe with a rope below was in place in photographs taken between 1955 and 1957. Photographs taken in December 1964 show the lower rope border in place with an upside-down egg-and-dart border above, possibly pasted over the light stripe seen in earlier photographs.

On August 30, 1966, Charles Fritsch was contracted to remove the Sitting Room’s wall and ceiling papers and to apply new papers. The State was to supply the wallpaper and Fritsch was to supply the ceiling paper.<sup>367</sup> Fritsch re-applied the Strahan wallpaper, apparently using more of the surplus rolls ordered in 1930. He also installed a larger

360. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 52–53.

361. Bearss, 61.

362. Bearss, 57.

363. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 49.

364. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 68.

365. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” 18–19.

366. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 92–93.

367. Bearss, 116.

egg-and-dart border (this time placed right-side-up). This appears to have been the same border installed in the Front Hall (room 100) in the 1950s and again in 1966.

In her 1983 study of the Lincoln Home's wallpapers, Sara B. Chase comments on the use of the Lincoln Bedroom wallpaper in this room; "It seems unlikely that Mary Todd Lincoln would have used a bedroom paper downstairs, or vice versa."<sup>368</sup> Chase recommended that a "rather large Rococo paper which is similar to the one in Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom would be good here," suggesting a reproduction from a period document in SPNEA's collection.<sup>369</sup> Chase's investigations revealed no surviving evidence of early wallpapers in this room.<sup>370</sup>

The wallpaper was removed down to bare plaster in September 1987. Krupka reports that removal at the west wall consisted of two layers of the Strahan reproduction of the Lincoln Bedroom wallpaper, the lower layer varnished and sized.<sup>371</sup> The upper layer was likely installed in 1966 and the lower in the 1950s.

In April-May 1988, the room was hung with "Russian Bishop's House – Guest Room" (No. 81369) with "Russian Bishop's House – Guest Room Border" (No. 81370), both produced by Scalmandré of New York.<sup>372</sup> The sidewall paper is a stylized foliate pattern printed in tan and white on a red ground. The narrow border features a pattern of ropes, stylized foliage, and flowers printed in orange, yellow, several shades of brown, and green on a black ground. These papers were new runs of prior reproductions commissioned by NPS for the restoration of the Russian Bishop's House (1841-1843) in Sitka, Alaska. The sidewall paper was selected because it somewhat resembled the overall effect to the wallpaper as depicted in the 1861 engraving, although it may be denser and smaller in scale than the pattern suggested by the engraving. The border, selected for its association with the sidewall paper in the Russian Bishop's House in Alaska, does not resemble the cutout border shown

in the 1861 engraving. The original samples of both of these papers from the Russian Bishop's House are believed to date from ca.1843-1844 and were covered over in a ca.1851-1852 redecoration.<sup>373</sup> The north wall, which receives the most wear, was re-wallpapered in 2008 in anticipation of the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth in 2009.

### *Ceiling*

The room appears to have been provided with a flat plaster ceiling when constructed in 1839. Krupka reports that the lath and plaster of the ceiling were apparently replaced at an unknown date between 1861 and 1899.<sup>374</sup> Like other ceilings in the house, the ceiling of this room was whitewashed until after the Lincolns' departure in 1861. Ceiling paper seems to have been installed in the room during a redecoration of the house by R. F. Kinsella in the summer of 1893. Ceiling papers appear to have been replaced during subsequent redecorations of the room. From 1938 to 1987, the ceiling was covered with paper that was painted white. In October 1950, Harry F. Fristch & Sons were contracted to repaper the ceiling of the Sitting Room. The lath and plaster were removed from the ceiling in October 1987 during installation of reinforcing joists. A new plaster ceiling was installed in early 1988 and was painted white.<sup>375</sup>

### *Light Fixtures*

During the Lincoln period, this room does not appear to have contained any building-mounted light fixtures. The room was piped for a central gasolier and wall brackets (sconces) on the west and south walls when gas lighting was introduced to the house in 1876-1877.<sup>376</sup> X-ray analysis conducted in 1979 and 1980 revealed the piping and shut-off valve for the gasolier at the center of the Sitting Room ceiling.<sup>377</sup>

A ca.1908 photograph of the room shows the lower edge of a three-arm gasolier. This gasolier had curved arms with petcocks in the shape of a three-lobed, triangular leaf. A 1929 photograph of

368. Chase, "A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois," 3.

369. Chase, 10.

370. Chase, 3.

371. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 26.

372. "Lincoln Home Wallpaper - Lincoln Home National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service)."

373. Yocum, *Wallpapers and Wallcoverings: The Russian Bishop's House, Sitka National Historical Park, Sitka, Alaska*, 359-61.

374. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 24.

375. Krupka, 1:Roofs 2.

376. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:Fuels 12-13.

377. *Lincoln Home National Historic Site Historic Structure Report*, 1984, 2:C5.

the room provides a clearer view of a three-arm gasolier, likely the same fixture. This gasolier had a body consisting of multiple turned components and three curved arms that anchored to the body both at the main central sphere and curved upward to mount to a higher part of the fixture. Stylistically, this fixture is consistent with the addition of gas to the house in 1876-1877. This gasolier, like those documented in rooms 100, 101, and 102, had been crudely electrified, with electric sockets installed on top of the original shade holders and socket-mounted holders bearing glass bell shades.

A remaining ceiling fixture was removed in 1935, when new wooden railings with integrated, indirect torchiere up-lights were installed. This work was designed in 1933 but was not carried out until the summer of 1935. Instructions from the supervising architect to G. H. Schanbacher & Son on June 25, 1935, included the following: "In the Dining Room and southwest front room, after the old light fixtures are removed, repair the places in the plaster, then paper the ceilings with paper to harmonize with the paper now on the walls (this paper not to exceed 35¢ per roll retail)." <sup>378</sup>

A 1907 photograph shows an electric wall sconce, likely dating from electrification of the house between 1899 and 1902, mounted immediately east of the east window in the south wall. This may have been installed in the same location as the earlier south wall gas bracket. A sconce at this location was likely removed in 1935.

During the 1952-1955 restoration, a new indirect trough light was installed over the door to room 108. During the 1987-1988 restoration, the 1950s trough light was removed and was replaced by a smaller version mounted over the door to room 102 and papered to match the wall.

### Fireplace

When the Dresser Cottage was built in 1839, this room was provided with a wood-burning fireplace. The mantel appears to be a simplified adaptation of a design on Plate 47 of Asher Benjamin's *Practice of Architecture* (1833), the same pattern book that provided the source for some of the house's exterior details. <sup>379</sup> The house's builder simplified

the frieze but retained the pilasters with three recessed flutes and the pedimented trim above the mantel shelf.

The Lincolns appear to have retained use of the Sitting Room fireplace after replacing the other fireplaces with more efficient stoves in 1849. This reflects a sentiment expressed by A. J. Downing in *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850).

We have a great love of the cheerful, open fireplace, with the genial expression of *soul* in its ruddy blaze, and the wealth of home associations that surround its time-honored hearth. All the perfection of the best system of heating and ventilating does not, therefore, banish from our minds the desire for an open fire in the living-room. However perfect the active *mutes*, hot water or hot air, may be in other apartments, we must have a little of the living soul—the glow of the hearth—there. The perfection of modern comfort, therefore, we consider this: that the whole house be warmed and ventilated by the apparatus we have described, with the exception of a wood fire in the sitting-room. The genial temperature of the rest of the house will make it necessary only to burn an October fire there; but that will give a look of life to a house that would seem cheerless without it. <sup>380</sup>

Krupka quotes an account of Harriet Beecher Stowe's visit to Lincoln at the White House in November 1862, where Lincoln was seated before an open fire, warming his hands on a damp, chilly evening. Lincoln told Stowe, "I do love an open fire. I always had one at home." Krupka notes, "In saying this, Lincoln could only have been referring to the Sitting Room Fireplace in his Springfield Home. All other fireplaces in the Home had—by the time of the . . . [1855-1856] remodeling—been closed and converted to wood-burning stoves, or abandoned altogether." <sup>381</sup>

The 1861 *Frank Leslie's* engraving of the Sitting Room, based on sketches prepared in the winter of 1860-1861, shows the fireplace opening covered by a fireboard. <sup>382</sup> This fireboard is shown with a wide

378. Supervising Architect to G. H. Schanbacher & Son, June 25, 1935. Illinois State Archives, Lincoln Home files, folder: Lincoln's Home 34-36.

379. Benjamin, *Practice of Architecture*, Plate 47.

380. Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses*, 480-81.

381. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:Heating Systems 7.

382. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 28.



frame with rosettes at the four corners, mounted closer to the inner panel than the center of the frame. The center panel may be shown as a slight raised panel. The space between the fireboard frame and the mantel is shaded but no surface pattern or texture is shown. The fireboard in this view is similar to that shown in the engraving of the Back Parlor. Krupka notes that this fireboard may have been both a winter and summer treatment.

The (1839) Dresser Cottage chimneys were constructed without either internal or external dampers with which to close off the flues when not in use... The traditional solution to the problem of drafts—as well as insects, bats, birds and other undesirables... as well as wind-blown dirt and soot—entering the Home through the undampened chimney flue was to insert and obstructing plate over the firebox opening, particularly—but not necessarily only—in the winter. The plate would be removed when the fireplace was to be used and reinserted as soon as the embers of the fire had sufficiently cooled.

383

Wallpaper removal in 1987 revealed a patch at the upper center of the chimney breast, suggesting the location of a later stovepipe opening added sometime after 1861. In 1987, an abandoned, three-quarter-inch gas supply pipe was found protruding through the hearth into the firebox of this fireplace. Krupka reports that the Sitting Room fireplace was converted to burn coal gas (illuminating gas) ca.1874 by the Harlow family but later states that Osborn Oldroyd appears to have installed gas service to this fireplace in 1883-1884. Because gas lighting was not introduced to the house until 1876-1877, it would seem that the earliest gas installation in this fireplace would date from that time. Gas fireplace burners were common in the region by the mid-1890s, particularly in buildings with central heating. Gas fireplaces offered the warmth and psychological comfort of an open fire without the work and mess of hauling and changing fuel.<sup>384</sup>

Photographs from 1929 and 1938 show the firebox open and interpreted with wood logs standing on andirons. A 1929 photograph shows the face of the fireplace within the mantel opening with a smooth

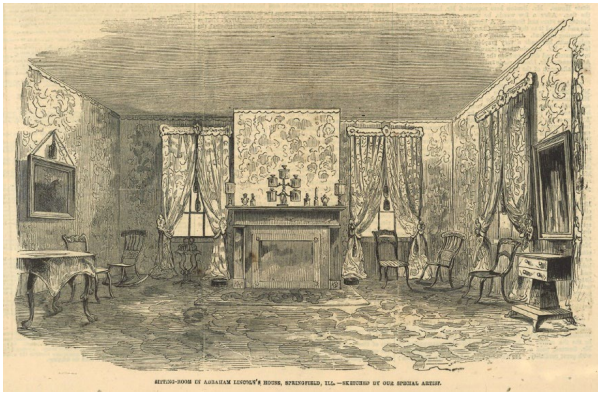
finish, possibly plaster, while a 1938 photograph shows this area as exposed brick. During the 1952-1955 restoration, a new fireboard was installed to cover the firebox opening. This board, nearly identical to that installed in the Back Parlor at the same time, was fitted with narrow edge trim and four corner rosettes. The bare brick was left exposed between this panel and the mantel. This treatment was maintained during the 1987-1988 restoration.

The brick hearth is believed to date from the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839. It is composed of typical paver bricks measuring 4" by 8-1/2" and laid in a typical hearth paving pattern. A 1929 photograph suggests that the hearth bricks had been varnished. Color photographs from 1955 and later documentation indicate that the hearth bricks had been stained brown and varnished. This treatment may have coincided with earlier varnishing of the wood floor. Krupka notes that this finish was likely applied after the installation of central heating in 1889-1890 as it would not have been likely to withstand the heat of a fire in the grate or a stove standing on the hearth. Krupka notes that the porous nature of the brick meant that total removal of this post-historic finish was likely impossible. The 1987-1988 restoration appears to have included attempts to clean the brick hearth to the extent possible without damaging the bricks. This has removed some of the brown stain and gloss from the prior treatment.<sup>385</sup>

383. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:Heating Systems 7.

384. Krupka, 2:Heating Systems 7, 28-29.

385. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Floors and Flooring 13-14.



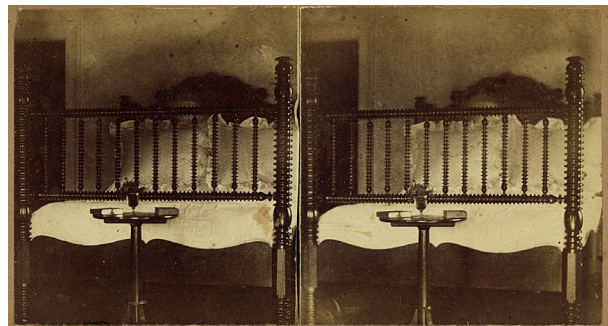
**Figure C.151.** View south in Sitting Room (room 108), 1861. Source: *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, March 9, 1861.



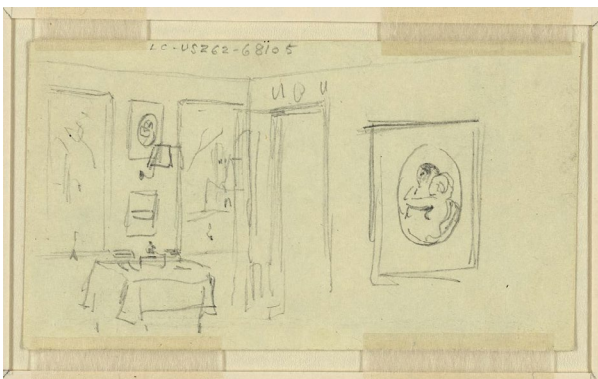
**Figure C.154.** Similar view, August 22, 1987. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F25P5.



**Figure C.152.** View southwest in Sitting Room, 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.155.** Stereograph showing Lincoln's bed, ca. 1865. This photograph appears to have been taken in the Sitting Room. See Section 1.B for detailed analysis. Source: LIHO 10360.



**Figure C.153.** William Waud sketch likely showing northwest corner of room 108, May 1865. Source: Library of Congress, Call Number: DRWG/US - Waud, no. 572 verso (AA size) [P&P]; Digital ID: ppmsca 20064 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.20064



**Figure C.156.** View east in Sitting Room, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.





**Figure C.157.** Carte de visite photograph of Lincoln's bed, 1865. This photograph may have been taken in the Sitting Room. See Section 1.B for detailed analysis. Source: LIHO 12893.



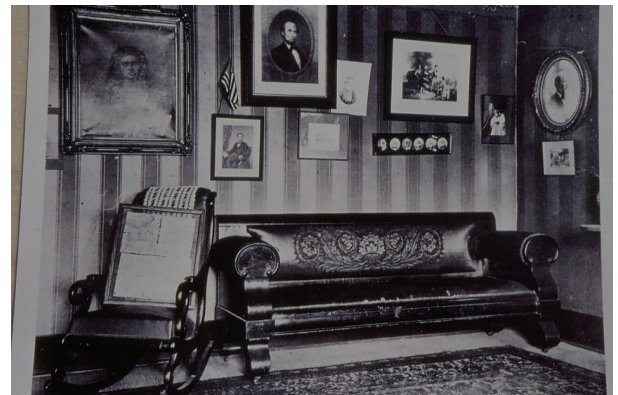
**Figure C.158.** View southeast in Sitting Room, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



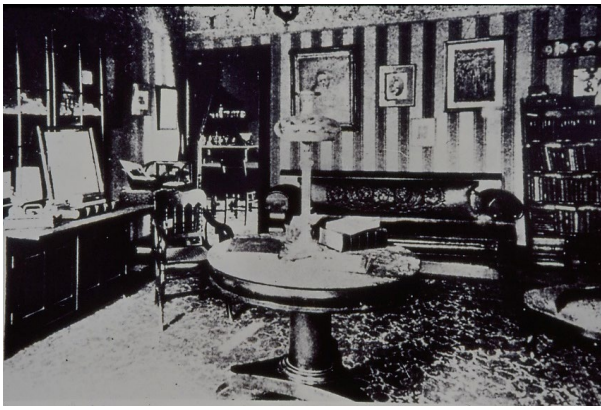
**Figure C.159.** View northeast in Sitting Room, 1907. Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.



**Figure C.160.** View southeast in Sitting Room, 1907. Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.



**Figure C.161.** View southeast in Sitting Room, ca.1908. Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.



**Figure C.162.** View northeast in Sitting Room, ca.1908.  
Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.



**Figure C.163.** View southwest in Sitting Room, 1955.  
Source: LIHO Photo ID: B7F1P101.



**Figure C.164.** View southeast in Sitting Room with models portraying Lincoln family for a McCall's magazine photoshoot, 1957. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B7F1P128.



### 109 Closet

This closet, opening from the Dining Room (room 107) and occupying the space below the lower flight of the front stair, contained a cellar stair at the time of the Dresser Cottage's construction in 1839. The closet originally opened into the large east wing kitchen (rooms 105 and 107). During the 1846 remodeling, this stair was replaced by a new cellar stair below the south porch and this space was converted into a closet. In 1855-1856, the original east wing kitchen was remodeled and partitioned, with the west part forming a new Dining Room (room 107).

Past documents, including the 1986 HABS plans, have suggested that this was used by the Lincolns as a china closet, a specialized space for the storage of tableware including ceramics, glassware, and flatware commonly found in houses during this period. Pattern books of the 1840s and 1850s typically depict and describe a china closet opening from the Dining Room or from a serving pantry, keeping tableware near its point of use and out of the kitchen, which was primarily a workspace. Catharine Beecher advised that the "eating-room should have in it a large closet, with drawers and shelves, in which should be kept all the articles used at meals."<sup>386</sup> A. J. Downing stressed the importance of a closet opening from the Dining Room, where "the china and plate, or the little delicacies of the larder, may be under the eye, or, what is better, under the lock and key of" the lady of the house.<sup>387</sup> China closets were sometimes finished with board walls and often included built-in shelving. While the location of this closet is consistent with that of a china closet of the period, it retains no clear evidence of built-in shelving, and its shape would have been less than ideal for this purpose.

A large duct serving the second floor was installed in the closet during the 1952-1955 restoration. This duct was removed in 1987 and was replaced by another duct in 1988.

#### *Walls & Ceiling*

The north and south side walls of the closet are composed of horizontal boards. The lower boards

vary in width while the upper boards are tongue-and-groove. The west side of the closet is formed by the undersides of the treads and risers of the front staircase.

A photograph of the closet taken in June 1954, during the 1952-1955 restoration, shows the north and west sides of the closet. A knee wall was then in place aligned with the fifth riser and enclosing the space below the lowest steps. This knee wall may have been installed during the Lincolns' 1846 remodeling, when this space was converted from a cellar stair into a china closet. As a closet, the deep, low space below the lowest steps would have been less useful and difficult to clean. Board closet walls were often papered instead of painted; the unpainted surfaces of the wall boards show heavy oxidation.

The knee wall appears to have been removed to accommodate reinforcement of the stair in the 1950s. In the 1950s photograph, the north side wall, west knee wall, and underside of the treads and risers of the straight lower flight are covered with wallpaper that appears to have been painted over. The 1950s photograph and existing physical evidence indicate that the top of the wallpaper is marked by a diagonal line, suggesting that a sloped ceiling was once in place in the closet. The paint covering the wallpaper extended up over the boards. Much of the wallpaper had been removed from the north wall by the early-1980s. In 1987, the large duct was removed, allowing access to wallpaper fragments.

The lowest layer appears to be a paper with a pattern of interlocking curved and angular strapwork, stylized acanthus leaves, and rosettes printed in two shades of greenish yellow and brown on a white ground. This wallpaper appears to date from 1880-1895. It may date from Oldroyd's work around 1883 or may be one of the papers installed by R. F. Kinsella in 1893. This paper is present on both side walls and the underside of the steps, indicating that the whole closet was once wallpapered. It covers the underside of the steps above the height of the apparent ceiling, indicating that the ceiling was removed before this paper was installed. The paper on the steps is installed sideways; this simplified installation reflects the concealed nature of the closet interior and may have made use of scraps leftover from papering another room.

386. Beecher, *A Treatise on Domestic Economy*, 306.

387. A. J. Downing, *Cottage Residences* (New York: Wiley & Putnam, 1842), 63, <https://archive.org/details/cottageresidence00downrich/page/n8/details/cottageresidence00downrich/page/n8/mode/1up?view=theater>.



The second layer varies depending on location within the closet. At the underside of the stair, it is a paper with stylized vines, sprigs, and flowers or pineapples printed in two shades of darker green on a cream ground. This appears to be a Colonial Revival paper intended to imitate hand-stenciled wall decoration. It would appear to date from 1900-1940. At the side walls, the second layer is a paper with a stylized pattern in yellowish tan and white on a cream ground. This pattern features a heavy stylization of right-angled lines, suggesting a needlework or carpet pattern; wallpaper patterns of this type were sometimes described as “tapestry” or “needlepoint” designs. It would appear to date from 1880-1940. These may have been scraps of wallpaper from other rooms in the house and may have been installed at the same time.

The top layer appears to be a rust-colored paper, possibly a lining paper. It appears to have been worn, stained, crinkled, torn, and partially overpainted by the 1950s, suggesting that it had been in place for some time.



**Figure C.165.** View into room 109 from room 107, facing west-northwest, taken by James T. Hickey, June 1954. Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.



**Figure C.166.** View west from room 107 into room 109, December 9, 1987. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F35P18.



**Figure C.167.** View west from room 107 into room 109, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.168.** Detail of wallpaper on underside of front staircase, facing west, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.169.** Detail of wallpaper on north wall, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

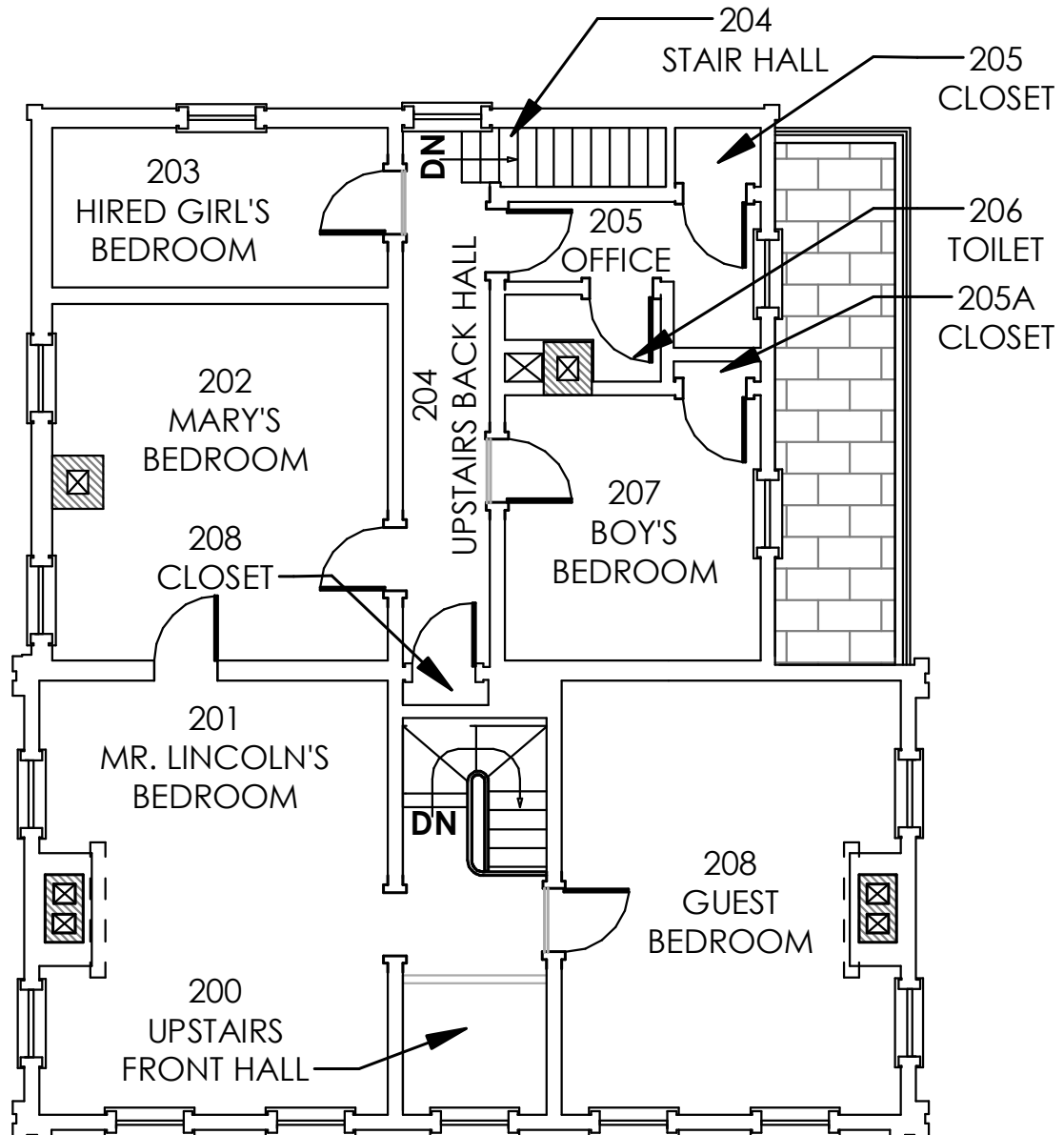


**Figure C.170.** Detail of wallpaper on south wall, facing southwest, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

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## Second Floor

The second floor contains five bedrooms and two hallways as well as a staff space and emergency toilet room. The five bedrooms and Upstairs Front Hall are currently interpreted as period rooms. An unfinished attic extends above the west wing.



## 200 Upstairs Front Hall

This room, measuring approximately 17'-9" by 6'-6", was part of the original construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839. Until 1855, this room had a knee wall 2'-1" high along the west and a low, sloped ceiling following the underside of the original roof. A narrow strip of flat ceiling 3'-0" wide was centered below the ridge.<sup>125</sup> While the ceiling height would have been higher at the east stair landing, the west part of the hall was very low. In central-passage cottages, the space at the front of the upper stair hall was sometimes partitioned into a closet or cabinet to make use of the low space.

Writing in 1988, Krupka reported, "It is believed that this knee wall originally supported a west-facing dormer with a central Window. . . This interpretation relies entirely on available head-room at the top of the Front Stair."<sup>126</sup> To date, no evidence of a front dormer has been found. One-and-one-half-story central-passage cottages of this period often lacked direct access to daylight or ventilation in their attic stair hall.

In 1903, William Harris Gibson, Lincoln's law clerk from 1845 to 1847, recalled a story related to this space, apparently dating between Robert Todd Lincoln's third birthday in August 1846 and his fourth birthday in August 1847.

Mr. Lincoln sometimes told at the office the sayings or doings of his children. One such account I remember as well as if I had heard it last week. He came in, an hour or so after dinner, smiling beyond even his wont, and said he was lying down at home, having left his boots in the second-storey hallway, when all at once he heard a tremendous clatter on the stairs. He jumped up, hurried to the head of the stairs, and looking down, saw Bob (Robert Todd Lincoln, aged three) getting up on all fours from the floor of the hallway below, unhurt but sadly bewildered. "The youngster had got into my boots," he said, "and in trying to walk around in them had fallen down-stairs. You ought to have seen him, Gibson—he looked so comical with the bootlegs reaching clear up to his little body." He laughed heartily, and more than once during

that afternoon he broke out into laughter again, as the incident kept coming to his mind afresh.<sup>127</sup>

Mariah Vance recalled that, around 1853, Mary Lincoln told her that she had caught Mr. Lincoln "trying to teach Wilie how to slide down the stair banister."<sup>128</sup> Vance also recalled that Robert and Tad once sent Lincoln's metal foot tub tumbling down the stair; when asked why they did it, they responded "Well, Pa, besides helping Aunt Mariah by getting the tub out of her way, we remembered you told us about Niagara Falls [which he and Mary had visited in September 1848] and the cataracts. That what we were making, the cataracts. That tub was just the boat bouncing on the rocks going over the falls." Lincoln replied, "Well, boys, you got the right idea, but in the wrong place," and laughed heartily. Vance reported that the stairs were a mess to clean and dry and that Lincoln said, "Well, that's one way of cleaning the stairs and carpet in short order."<sup>129</sup>

During the 1855 remodeling, the roof was raised, and new walls were built, giving rooms 200, 201, and 208 new ceilings at a height of approximately 11'-3". The west end of the hall became a bright area out of the direct path of traffic between the stair and the bedroom doors of the two bedrooms. During the 1987-1988 restoration, "numerous pins, needles and threads were found under the floorboards. . . so it is assumed it was a small sewing/sitting area for Mary Lincoln and a friend or two. Facing directly west, the lighting is very good in the afternoon making it a good place to sew."<sup>130</sup>

## Floor

Physical investigations in April and December 1986 uncovered three historic mouse nests in the house. The second (Mouse Nest No. 2) was in the void below the floorboards of the Upstairs Front Hall and above the ceiling of the Front Hall (room 100) west of the wood header that supports the front staircase.<sup>131</sup>

125. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 29-30.

126. Krupka, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 29.

127. William Harris Gibson, "My Recollections of Abraham Lincoln," *The Leisure Hour*, 1904, 451.

128. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Stairs and Stairways 9.

129. Krupka, 1:Stairs and Stairways 9.

130. "Lincoln Home National Historic Site Cultural Resources Training and FAQ Guide" (Lincoln Home National Historic Site, November 2021), 8.

131. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, X:Vermin 8.



### Walls

The room's 1839 lath and plaster appear to have survived until the 1855 remodeling. At that time, the roof was raised, and new walls were built on top of the existing knee walls at the east and west. James T. Hickey, an architectural historian and Lincoln scholar who examined the house in June 1954, during the second-floor phase of the 1952-1955 restoration, reported that plaster removal from the east wall of the Upstairs Front Hall revealed "split hickory lath up to the old [1839] ceiling line and sawed lath from there on up." Hickey reported split (riven) lath "all around the old stairway."<sup>132</sup> Hickey reports that the studs in the side partitions of the hall had been "sawed off at the angle of [the] old [1839] roof," and that new studs had been spliced on when the walls were extended in 1855.<sup>133</sup> All walls appear to have received new plaster at this time.

Wallpaper for this room may have been part of the Lincolns' July 6, 1855, wallpaper purchase from the Springfield dry goods store of John Williams & Company.<sup>134</sup> Because this room is contiguous with room 100 below, the two rooms have likely always had matching wall treatments. Photographic evidence confirms that the rooms' wallpapers have matched since at least 1950. A full description of those treatments can be found in room 100. A photograph taken by James T. Hickey in July 1954 indicates that the room was fitted with a picture molding and that the portion of the wall above it was covered with ceiling paper. In August 1966, Charles Fritsch was contracted to remove and replace the wallpaper, border, and ceiling paper in the upstairs hall using paper provided by the State, likely from surplus stock stored in the house.<sup>135</sup>

### Ceiling

From 1839 to 1855, this room had a low, sloped ceiling following the underside of the original roof. During the 1855 remodeling, the roof was raised, and new walls were built, giving rooms 200, 201, and 208 new ceilings at a height of approximately 11'-0". Like other ceilings in the house, the ceiling of this room was whitewashed until after the Lincolns' departure in 1861.

Ceiling paper seems to have been installed in the room during a redecoration of the house by R. F. Kinsella in the summer of 1893. Ceiling papers appear to have been replaced during subsequent redecorations of the room.

Writing in 1988, Krupka reports that the ceiling plaster was replaced on the 1855 lath at an unknown date before 1954. Krupka examined the surviving 1855 ceiling joists during the 1987-1988 restoration and found evidence of the rough-framed opening of an attic hatch centered in the ceiling between the doors to rooms 201 and 208.<sup>136</sup> Drawings for a proposed restoration prepared in 1948 note that the room's existing lath and plaster ceiling was to be removed to allow installation of heating ducts and that new expanded metal lath and plaster were to be installed at a height of 9'-10". The ceiling was to be whitewashed. This work was not carried out.

During the 1954-1955 restoration of the second floor, the ceiling was demolished, and a new ceiling was installed approximately 2'-0" lower to accommodate new ductwork. A photograph taken by James T. Hickey in June 1954 shows the room after the removal of the lath and plaster but before the installation of the ductwork and lowered ceiling. The new plaster ceiling was covered with paper and painted white.

During the 1987-1988 restoration, the 1954 ceiling was demolished and a new ceiling was installed at the original level, with a new attic access hatch provided.<sup>137</sup> The new attic hatch was fitted with a casing matching the second-floor door and window casings. This is a conjectural treatment and may be more elaborate than the trim installed on the opening in 1855.

132. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 101.

133. Bearss, 101.

134. Bearss, 18.

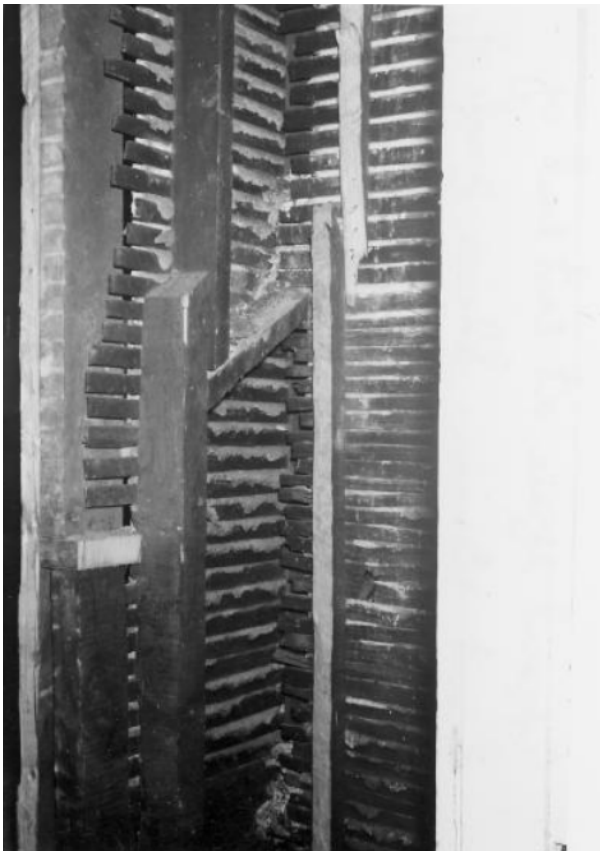
135. Bearss, 116.

136. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Stairs and Stairways 26.

137. Krupka, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 28.



**Figure C.171.** View east in room 200 after removal of ceiling during 1952-1955 restoration, photograph by James T. Hickey, June 1954. Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.



**Figure C.172.** View of back side of lath of north wall of room 208 (left) and east wall of room 200 (right), looking through cavity from northwest corner of room 207, photograph by James T. Hickey, June 1954. The angled board at left marks the slope of the ceiling from 1839 to 1855. Surviving riven (split) lath from 1839 is visible on the lower part of the wall at right, with sawn lath from 1855 elsewhere. Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum..



**Figure C.173.** View of back side of lath of east wall of room 200, looking through cavity from northwest corner of room 207, photograph by James T. Hickey, June 1954. Surviving riven (split) lath from 1839 is visible on the lower part of the wall, with sawn lath from 1855 above. Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.



**Figure C.174.** View west in upstairs Front Hall (room 200) after completion of 1952-1955 restoration, 1955. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B7F1P104.



**Figure C.175.** View east in room 200 after removal of lowered ceiling (1954) during 1987-1988 restoration, September 1987. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B3F16P42.



**Figure C.176.** View east in room 200, September 1987.  
Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F41P189.



**Figure C.177.** View west-southwest in room 200 showing attic hatch and casing installed in 1987-1988 restoration, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**201 Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom**

This room, measuring approximately 19'-0" by 14'-10", was part of the original construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839 and was extensively remodeled in 1855. The west wall contains two windows, the north wall contains a central projecting chimney breast flanked by two windows, the east wall contains a door to room 202, and the south wall contains a door to room 200. This room is believed to have been used by Abraham Lincoln as a bedroom and workspace.

Until 1855, this room had knee walls 2'-1" high along the east and west and a low, sloped ceiling following the underside of the original roof. A narrow strip of flat ceiling 3'-0" wide was centered below the ridge.<sup>138</sup> The north gable end wall is believed to have included a pair of small windows flanking the chimney, a common treatment for side-gabled attics with central chimneys. Krupka reports that these were four-lite, outward-swinging casements. Evidence for this treatment is not provided in the surviving draft of Krupka's text.<sup>139</sup> Four-lite casements were a common window type for attic windows flanking chimneys, although they generally swung inward rather than outward. During the 1855 remodeling, the roof was raised, and new walls were built atop the existing knee walls, giving rooms 200, 201, and 208 new ceilings at a height of approximately 11'-3".

It was once believed that there may have been a window in the east wall of this room as built in 1855 and that this window was extended to form a door in 1856. X-ray analysis revealed no evidence of a window frame let into or nailed to one of the adjacent studs.<sup>140</sup> An April 15, 1884, article in the *Illinois State Journal* reports the following of the two north rooms on the second floor: "The one facing 8<sup>th</sup> Street [room 201] was used by Lincoln as his office. The next one back [room 202] was smaller and was his bedroom."<sup>141</sup> This article also states that "these rooms were like the ones below connected by sliding doors." There is no evidence of sliding doors or a larger door opening of any kind between these rooms.

Between 1884 and 1893, Osborn Oldroyd appears to have used rooms 201 and 202 for display of "a very large collection of war relics."<sup>142</sup> The 1887 Bullard drawings list this as "Front Bed Room No. 2." Krupka reports that this room was known as "Bedroom A" in the late nineteenth century.<sup>143</sup> Drawings from 1925 to the 1950s list it as "Mr. Lincoln's Bed Room."

**Floor**

This room's wood floor was likely covered by a fitted carpet during the Lincolns' occupancy. An undated "List of things actually belonging to [the] Lincoln family and things of the period of Lincoln that fit in with them," typed on the letterhead of Lucy Rhea, interior decorator, 1025 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, Illinois, is filed in with state maintenance papers for the property dating from the 1920s and 1930s. It includes the following: "1 large carpet eno[gh] to cover floor of Lincoln B.R. owned by one of Lincoln's Civil war officers and on [the] floor when Lincoln himself was in [the] house, large red roses, tan ground body Brussels. . . Price of carpet 45.00."<sup>144</sup>

A photograph of the room believed to date from ca.1894 to ca.1912 appears to show the room with matting or a bare floor at the perimeter. The floor appears to be covered with a least to sections of a carpet featuring large quatrefoil medallions containing floral elements. This appears to be a large-scale carpet of the 1855 to 1875 period, likely demoted to use in a bedroom when a newer carpet was installed in another room.

During the 1954-1955 restoration, the room was fitted with a new-wall-to-wall carpet intended to recall ingrain carpets of the period.<sup>145</sup> This carpet, with its strips oriented east-west, featured scrolling acanthus leaves and two alternating clusters of three flowers, one of three marigolds or chrysanthemums and the other with three different flowers. The pattern was in a pale tan on a light brown ground. This carpet survived until 1987.

138. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 29-30.

139. Krupka, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 30.

140. *Lincoln Home National Historic Site Historic Structure Report*, 1984, 2:149.

141. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:5.

142. Krupka, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 46.

143. Krupka, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 47.

144. List of things actually belonging to Lincoln family and things of the period of Lincoln that fit in with them." Illinois State Archives, Lincoln Home files, folder: Lincoln's Home 34-36.

145. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 15.



In 1988, the room was fitted with “Maple Leaf” pattern ingrain carpet produced by Family Heirloom Weavers of Red Lion, Pennsylvania. The carpet strips run east-west. This ca.1840 pattern features two alternating rectangular medallions in a checkerboard pattern. It features a cream ground with the pattern woven in stripes alternating red, green, blue, green, red, and so on; this was a popular effect used for carpets, coverlets and other materials woven on Jacquard looms and was similar to the irisé (“iridescent”) or “rainbow” wallpapers popular in the United States from about 1820 to 1850.

### Walls

The room’s 1839 lath and plaster appear to have survived until the 1855 remodeling. At that time, the roof was raised, and new walls were built on top of the existing knee walls at the east, north, and west. The partition the south wall of the room may have been pieced on with new lumber or reframed entirely. All walls appear to have received new plaster at this time. Krupka reports that the door in this wall is believed to date from 1839 and to have been retained in place during the 1855 remodeling.<sup>145</sup>

Physical investigations of the exterior walls in 1985 revealed surviving 1839 plaster at the chimney of this room. During the 1855 remodeling, the earlier chimney was enclosed with wood-frame walls to create a larger chimney breast. The 1839 plaster on the chimney retained traces of whitewash but showed no evidence of having been wallpapered. This suggests that the room was whitewashed until 1855.<sup>146</sup> During the 1987-1988 restoration, the surviving 1855 plaster at the north wall was stabilized by back-plastering the deteriorated plaster keys from the exterior while the siding was removed.<sup>147</sup>

Wallpaper for this room may have been part of the Lincolns’ July 6, 1855, wallpaper purchase from the Springfield dry goods store of John Williams & Company.<sup>148</sup> This wallpaper would survive, in diminishing quantities, in situ until 1987. On April 15, 1884, the *Illinois State Journal* reported the

following of rooms 201 and 202: “Both rooms have on the walls the old style paper, in a very good state of preservation, placed there during Mr. Lincoln’s lifetime.”<sup>149</sup> Krupka took this as evidence that the bedrooms featured matching paper; the text does not explicitly state that the rooms featured matching paper, and the wording could describe either different or matching papers that would have been regarded as “old style” by the 1880s. The discovery of a penciled date of 1862 on the bare plaster of room 202 suggests that that room’s wallpaper had been replaced after the Lincolns’ departure. This was likely one of the rooms described in an 1892 report that “two of the rooms are papered just as the Lincoln family left them over thirty-one years ago.”<sup>150</sup>

The room was partially re-wallpapered and fitted with picture molding as part of a larger redecoration by R. F. Kinsella in the summer of 1893.<sup>151</sup> On May 11, Kinsella furnished 14 rolls of wallpaper, 20 yards of border, and 7 rolls of ceiling paper for “Bedroom A,” as this room as known at that time. A photograph of the room dated ca.1894 to ca.1912 shows the 1850s wallpaper in place at the center of east and south walls. A high dado and a wide frieze were divided from the 1850s wallpaper by narrow moldings or borders and were covered with an Aesthetic Movement influenced damask paper. This paper is consistent with a date of 1893 and reflects the horizontal division of wall decoration fashionable from the 1870s to the 1890s. Wallpaper removal in 1987 revealed the apparent picture molding line between the 1850s wallpaper and the later dado, corresponding with the location of the picture molding in room 208.

The room was repapered in 1907. Two penciled notations were discovered on the north wall between the chimney breast and the northwest window, both reading “Papered by E. Buchler, 1907.” Edward Buchler left a similar notation of the same date on the wall of room 207.<sup>152</sup>

In July 1918, a reporter noted work underway in preparation for the centennial of Illinois statehood

146. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 45.

147. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 31.

148. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 18.

149. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 46.

150. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 51.

151. Bearss, 52–53.

152. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 49.

in 1919; a number of rooms were being repapered, floors shellacked, woodwork varnished. Lincoln's Bedroom was being repapered except for a portion on the south wall where Lincoln wallpaper remained between two moldings. Mrs. Edwards, as her husband had before her, had selected a paper that would blend with it. This was described as a "dreamy brown, its warm tender color matching the gold, bronze, and brown" of the Lincoln wallpaper.<sup>153</sup> This description hints at the extent of discoloration evident in the paper by 1918.

In 1929, the State began correspondence with the Thomas Strahan Company of Chelsea, Massachusetts, a wallpaper manufacturer noted for its reproductions of historic wallpapers, regarding the potential to reproduce the surviving wallpaper in Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom. The State initially sent photographs but was informed that a sample of the paper with a full repeat of the pattern would be required. "With assistance of a skilled interior decorator, a sample of the original wallpaper from the upper half of the south wall was obtained. A safety razor blade was employed to remove a two-foot square section."<sup>154</sup> This was reviewed at Strahan in September 1929 and the reproduction was produced in April 1930. The paper was issued as pattern 6890 "The Lincoln." Fifty rolls were shipped via American Express on April 25, 1930 and were received by the State three days later. On May 23, the State decided to use the Strahan paper in room 201 and in rooms on first floor, with the remainder to be stored away for future use. "The walls of Mr. Lincoln's bedroom, except those areas still covered with the historic paper, were repapered with the material supplied by Thomas Strahan Co. To preserve the original paper, it was given a covering of clear shellac."<sup>155</sup>

While this paper did reproduce the pattern, it also copied the colors, which had grayed significantly over the preceding seven decades.<sup>156</sup> Pencil graffiti on the plaster was left by the paperhanger: "Papered / by / J. H. Condon / July 11, 1930 /

With H. Schanbacher & Son."<sup>157</sup> Bearss reports the following of a June 12, 1952, meeting of the Advisory Commission for the Lincoln Home:

The subject of wallpaper and carpeting was raised. Mrs. William F. Bacon, a recent appointee to the Committee, declared that when new wallpaper was ordered for the downstairs that sufficient be secured to repaper Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln's bedrooms. It was reported that considerable time would be required to obtain copies of the wallpaper found on the south wall of Mr. Lincoln's bedroom.<sup>158</sup>

Bearss reports the following:

To secure reproductions of the historic wallpaper, Chief Architect Booton wrote Thomas Strahan Wallpaper Co. about ordering additional rolls of the pattern purchased in 1931, and used to repaper the Sitting Room and Mr. Lincoln's bedroom. Thomas Strahan was agreeable to filling the order at a cost of one dollar a roll, but it would have to be ordered in lots of 200. The State and the Chicago Historical Society accordingly determined to share an order.<sup>159</sup>

A very narrow border in bright blue and tan was used at this time. Three large sheets of glass in wooden frames were installed at this time to protect the surviving segments of the 1855 paper on the south wall. The wallpaper treatments were completed prior to Governor William G. Scrutton's visit on January 29, 1953. This wallpaper appears to have remained in place until 1987. The border appears to have been replaced during the winter of 1967-1968, when C. W. Fritsch repapered the room's ceiling. This later border was similarly narrow but was of a light color.<sup>160</sup>

In her 1983 study of the Lincoln Home's wallpaper, Sara B. Chase includes the following:

This room has a large area of old wallpaper on its south wall... which has long been thought to be original. The area covered by glass, es-

153. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 63.

154. Bearss, 67-68.

155. Bearss, 67-68.

156. Susan Nash Munro, "Interim Report: Condition of Lincoln Home Wallpaper," 1987, Lincoln Home (HS01) Restoration - Wallpaper 1988, Lincoln Home History Series: Restoration, Box 27, LIHO Archive.

157. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 50.

158. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 85.

159. Bearss, 92-93.

160. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 51.

pecially over the door and behind the clothes press, has been carefully pieced and patched over the years... Is it original? The evidence for answering yes is strong. Chemical tests put it in the right period of wood pulp manufacture. The inks are block printed on the paper. It has colors which are pinpointed at the 1850-1860 date by Catherine Lynn in her authoritative book *Wallpaper in America, From the Seventeenth Century to World War I* (W. W. Norton & Co., N.Y., 1981, p.318):

“A piercing and distinctive bright blue was introduced to a great many wallpapers of the 1850s and 1860s, produced from artificial—‘French’—ultramarine. The color was not commercially produced before 1828, but when it was adopted by the wallpaper trade, its brilliance was exploited, especially in contrast with shades of brown.”

That certainly describes this paper.

More evidence exists in a small bit of graffiti on the old paper behind the clothes press: “Bessie, June 13, 1875.” Bessie was one of the daughters of George Harlow, who rented the house from [1869-1877]. She was eight years old when the Harlows moved in in 1870, so that may have been her thirteenth birthday memento. We believe that the paper pre-dates 1875 because there are no records of the Harlows, or the prior renters, the Tiltons, or in fact the Lincolns having repapered after 1856-1859.

Richard Nylander observed further that this original wallpaper was expensive, being embossed as well as block printed, and was very likely of French manufacture. Since this is our only sample of what Mary Todd Lincoln actually chose for a paper in 1855-1856, it does give weight to the types of selections made from similarly French, good papers for the downstairs rooms.<sup>161</sup>

A sample of wallpaper in the same pattern—but printed in a grisaille scheme of white and two shades of reddish beige on a cream ground—was found in the first Harrison Gray Otis House (1795-1796) in Boston and is dated to ca.1850-1860. An associated border with a cutout lower edge is

preserved with this sample. This border features a ground of reddish brown and a stylized, undulating vine printed in yellowish beige and gold on a cream ground, with black flocked shadows. The top of the border is lined with three narrow stripes, two of gold separated by one of yellowish beige.<sup>162</sup>

In 1983, Chase provided the following recommendations for the room’s wallpaper:

The most important step to be taken in this room is the scrupulously careful conservation of the remaining original paper. A National Park Service paper conservator experienced with wallpaper treatment, or a specialist from Winterthur would be good. Further study of the usefulness of the glass cover should be done. It may cause some damage and there may be better means of protection. It might in fact be best to remove the original paper and preserve it for future study under controlled conditions. In its present location it faces two windows and is subject to the climate conditions of the house as well.

Because the reproduction paper in this room is inaccurate in color (having replicated faced tints and soiled ground colors rather than the bright “French” glues and browns, magentas, and creams), and lacks the rich surface texture of the embossing, we recommend a better reproduction paper.<sup>163</sup>

The surviving Lincoln wallpaper was removed from the wall in September 1987 and was taken to Harpers Ferry for conservation and analysis. The paper was adhered to the plaster with starch paste, probably wheat starch paste. Repairs and patches were adhered with a hide glue. The paper was washed, air-dried, reassembled, given a backing of mulberry paper.<sup>164</sup> The paper was cleaned and conserved with the initial intent to mount it on acrylic panels to be placed against the walls in the paper’s historic position, where it would then be covered by glass or plexiglass.

161. Chase, “A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois,” 6–7.

162. “Wallpaper | Historic New England,” accessed June 1, 2022, <https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/gusn/177647/>; “Wallpaper | Historic New England,” accessed June 1, 2022, <https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/gusn/177652/>.

163. Chase, “A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois,” 11.

164. Munro, “Interim Report: Condition of Lincoln Home Wallpaper,” 1987.

By November, NPS had decided that the surviving fragments of the Lincoln wallpaper should be placed in curatorial storage with suitable environmental controls rather than reinstalled in the room.

The room's surviving Lincoln wallpaper was reproduced as "Lincoln's Bedroom" by Bradbury & Bradbury of Benicia, California. Colors were based on samples from a portion covered by the paper's overlap during its original installation in the 1850s, where they remained unfaded and lacked the accumulated surface discoloration that had skewed the 1931 reproduction. The "Stanton House Back Bedroom" border in a custom blue colorway was selected for use in this room; this border (in the document green colorway) was also used in rooms 100 and 200.<sup>165</sup>

A horizontal crack in the plaster of the west wall runs between the sills of the two windows in the west wall. This crack marks the location of the joint between the top of the 1839 wall framing and the bottom of the 1855 wall framing; a matching crack was evident in the center part of the east wall until 1987-1988. This crack was evident in 2019, when a condition assessment noted that it did not appear to be active and recommended patching and monitoring for future movement.<sup>166</sup> This crack is currently concealed by the placement of a chest of drawers that fully covers this portion of the wall.

### *Ceiling*

Like other ceilings in the house, the ceiling of this room was whitewashed until after the Lincolns' departure in 1861. Ceiling paper seems to have been installed in the room during a redecoration of the house by R. F. Kinsella in the summer of 1893. Drawings for a proposed restoration prepared in 1948 note to remove the present wallpaper from the walls and ceiling and to patch plaster as required. The ceiling was to receive one coat of whitewash. This work was not carried out. In October 1950, Harry F. Fristch & Sons were contracted to paper the ceiling of this room. During the winter of 1967-1968, C. W. Fritsch repapered the room's ceiling.<sup>167</sup> Ceiling papers

were removed during the 1987-1988 restoration. The ceiling was painted white in 1988.

### *False Fireplace*

At the time of the Dresser Cottage's construction in 1839, this room was provided with a chimney that appears to have included a thimble and a second flue for venting a heating stove. Cast iron heating stoves were available in Illinois, both from eastern manufacturers and local foundries, by the late-1830s.<sup>168</sup> During the 1855 remodeling, the earlier chimney was enclosed with wood-frame walls to create a larger chimney breast bearing a Greek Revival wood mantel as the backdrop for a chamber stove. There was never a functional fireplace in this room. One of the four stoves known to be in the house in 1861 was in this room. The stove used by the Lincolns in this room appears to have been sold at their February 1861 sale.<sup>169</sup>

Structural investigations in 1985 and work during the 1987-1988 restoration revealed more details of the chimney. The wood-frame walls creating the larger chimney breast created a space prone to pest infestation; the remains of recent squabs were found within this void. Removal of plaster from the panel within the mantel opening revealed sawed wood lath consistent with that used in 1855. This panel featured vertical studs at either side of the opening and two near the center, roughly dividing it into thirds. Lath remained intact at the outer thirds of the panel but was mostly missing from the center third, likely from past modifications to the thimble location.

Later tenants of the house appear to have installed heating stoves. Krupka reports that a later thimble location was in the face of the chimney breast approximately 5'-6" above the floor. A photograph of the room dated ca.1894 to ca.1912 shows a cylindrical parlor stove topped by an urn finial. The stovepipe for this stove exited vertically from the top of the stove and connected to a thimble in the face of the chimney somewhat higher than the thimble location noted by Krupka. Removal of wallpaper from the chimney breast in 1987

165. "Lincoln Home Wallpaper - Lincoln Home National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service)."

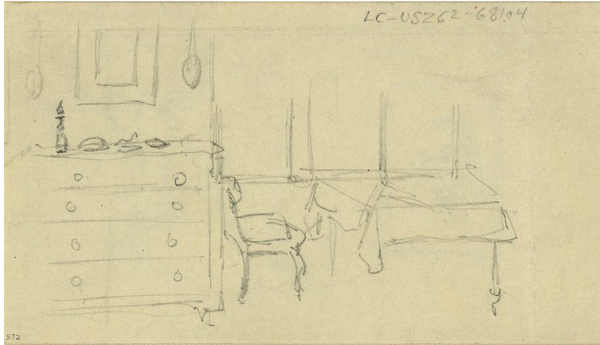
166. *Lincoln Home, National Park Service, Building Condition Review & Report*, 4.

167. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 51.

168. Menz, *Historic Furnishings Report, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Illinois*, 209.

169. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 31; Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:Heating Systems 9-11.

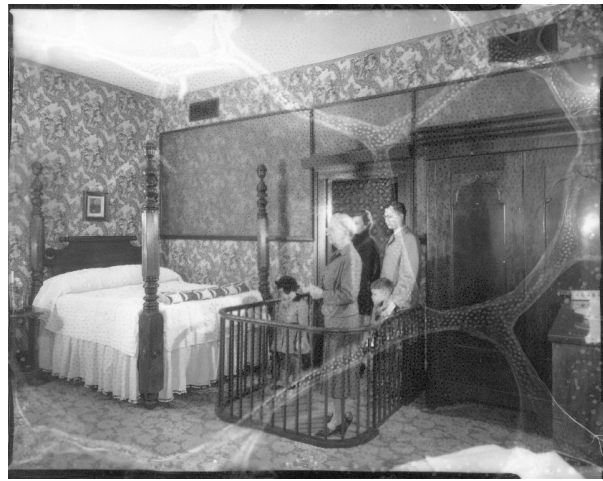
revealed two large plaster patches spanning from the top of the mantel to the level of the later picture molding, with a third possible patch above that line. These patches were likely associated with the creation and removal of various later thimbles.



**Figure C.178.** William Waud sketch possibly showing room 201, May 1865. Source: Library of Congress, Call Number: DRWG/US - Waud, no. 572 recto (AA size) [P&P]; Digital ID: ppsca 20063 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppsca.20063



**Figure C.179.** View southeast in room 201, ca.1894-1912. The 1850s wallpaper remains in place at the center of east and south walls, with a high dado and a wide frieze covered with an Aesthetic Movement influenced damask paper that may date from 1893. This treatment preserved a portion of the 1850s wallpaper while adding the horizontal division of wall decoration fashionable from the 1870s to the 1890s. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B3F2P96.



**Figure C.180.** Visitors viewing room 201 from behind railings of the type installed during 1952-1955 restoration, looking southeast, ca.1955. Note glass installed over 1850s wallpaper and new HVAC grilles cut through south wall. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B6F52P3



**Figure C.181.** View northeast in room 201 after 1952-1955 restoration, ca.1955. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B3F2P52.



**Figure C.182.** Models portraying Mary Lincoln and Abraham Lincoln for a *McCall's* magazine photoshoot, looking east from room 201 to 202, 1957. The photograph's color is distorted. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B10F32P17.





**Figure C.183.** View southeast in room 201 prior to removal of reproduction wallpaper and removal and conservation of surviving 1850s wallpaper, August 22, 1987. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B3F16P43.



**Figure C.184.** View southeast in room 201 after removal of reproduction wallpaper and removal and conservation of surviving 1850s wallpaper, 1987-1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F41P94.



**Figure C.185.** View northeast in room 201, 1987-1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F40P165.



**Figure C.186.** Plaster repair at south wall of room 201, facing southeast, 1987-1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B3F13P24.



**Figure C.187.** View southeast in room 201 after completion of plaster repair, taken during tent removal ceremony, March 1988. The man at right is LIHO historian George L. Painter. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F37P3.





**Figure C.188.** View northwest in room 201 during installation of reproduction wallpaper, April 1988. Note: base coat for graining on mantel is in place. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F26P36.



**Figure C.189.** View southeast in room 201, April-May 1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F41P307.



**Figure C.190.** View northwest in room 201 during installation of furnishings, May 1988. Note completed graining at mantel. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F28P104.



**Figure C.191.** View east in room 201, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.192.** View north in room 201, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

## 202 Mary's Bedroom

This room, measuring approximately 16'-0" by 14'-6", was created during the Lincolns' 1856 remodeling when a second floor was added to the east wing. The north wall contains two windows and a central projecting chimney breast. A door in the west wall leads to Mr. Lincoln's bedroom (room 201) and a door with transom in the south wall leads to the Upstairs Back Hall (room 204). From 1856 to 1861, this was Mary Lincoln's Bedroom. It is believed that the room was shared at times by some of the Lincolns' young sons, Willie and Tad.

An April 15, 1884, article in the *Illinois State Journal* reports the following of the two north rooms on the second floor: "The one facing 8<sup>th</sup> Street [room 201] was used by Lincoln as his office. The next one back [room 202] was smaller and was his bedroom."<sup>170</sup> This article also states that "these rooms were like the ones below connected by sliding doors." There is no evidence of sliding doors or a larger door opening of any kind between these rooms. Oldroyd appears to have used rooms 201 and 202 for display of "a very large collection of war relics."<sup>171</sup>

The 1887 Bullard drawings designate this room as "Rear Bed Room – No. 4." Drawings from 1925 to the 1950s list it as "Mrs. Lincoln's Bed Room." Since 1955, the room has been interpreted under the names "Mrs. Lincoln's Bedroom" and "Mary's Bedroom."

### Floor

This room's wood floor was likely covered by a fitted carpet during the Lincolns' occupancy.

During the 1954-1955 restoration, the room was fitted with a new-wall-to-wall carpet intended to recall ingrain carpets of the period.<sup>172</sup> This carpet, with its strips oriented east-west, featured a diaper pattern of stylized scrolls framing diamond-shaped panels containing stylized foliate rosettes, with geometric rosettes marking the intersection of the frame lines. The pattern was in tan on a striped ground in shades of brown. This carpet survived until 1987.

In 1988, the room was fitted with "Maple Leaf" pattern ingrain carpet produced by Family Heirloom Weavers of Red Lion, Pennsylvania. The carpet strips run east-west. This ca.1840 pattern features two alternating rectangular medallions in a checkerboard pattern. It features a cream ground with the pattern woven in stripes alternating red, green, blue, green, red, and so on; this was a popular effect used for carpets, coverlets and other materials woven on Jacquard looms and was similar to the irisé ("iridescent") or "rainbow" wallpapers popular in the United States from about 1820 to 1850.

### Walls

When this room was built in 1856, it was provided with flat plaster walls over sawed wood lath. The walls were wallpapered from the time of the room's construction. When wallpapers were removed in September 1987, a pencilled note was found on the east wall reading "K. 1862."<sup>173</sup> Krupka notes that no member of the Tilton household known to have occupied the house from 1861 to 1869 had the initial "K," suggesting that this mark was placed by a paperhanger. On April 15, 1884, the *Illinois State Journal* reported the following of rooms 201 and 202: "Both rooms have on the walls the old style paper, in a very good state of preservation, placed there during Mr. Lincoln's lifetime."<sup>174</sup> Krupka took this as evidence that the bedrooms featured matching paper; the text does not explicitly state that the rooms featured matching paper, and the wording could describe either different or matching papers that would have been regarded as "old style" by the 1880s. The discovery of the penciled date of 1862 on the bare plaster of room 202 suggests that that room's wallpaper, while dating from Lincoln's lifetime, had been replaced after the Lincolns' departure. This might have been one of the rooms described in an 1892 report that "two of the rooms are papered just as the Lincoln family left them over thirty-one years ago."<sup>175</sup>

Sara B. Chase's investigations in 1983 found no clear surviving evidence of early wallpapers in this room.

170. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:5.

171. Krupka, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 46.

172. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 15.

173. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 56.

174. Krupka, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 46.

175. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 51.

Although we found a thick sample of paper and plaster under the westernmost window sill in this room, it offered no good evidence of nineteenth century papers. The three layers were covered with thin plaster skin [sic] coats and virtually devoid of all color or pattern. The pulp and fiber were of too late a manufacture to make further research useful.<sup>176</sup>

To date, no concrete evidence of the room's wallpaper is available prior to the 1940s. The room was likely re-wallpapered many times during the 98 years between its construction in 1856, its apparent re-papering in 1862, and the second-floor phase of the 1952-1955 restoration in 1954-1955. A photograph of room 201 alternately dated ca.1894 and ca.1912 includes a view into room 202, but available copies of this photograph do not provide clear evidence of the room's wall treatment at that time. Drawings for a proposed restoration prepared in 1948 note to remove the present wallpaper from the walls and ceiling and to patch plaster as required. New wallpaper was to be installed. In October 1950, Harry F. Fristch & Sons were contracted to paint and paper this room.

During the 1954-1955 restoration of the second floor, the room was hung with "Dresden Mills Maine" (A184) produced by Nancy McClelland Inc. of New York.<sup>177</sup> This wallpaper featured alternating floral bouquets in shades of pink and green set in an undulating grid of acanthus leaves printed in shades of white, tan, and pink, on a pale green ground. A narrow border of repeating leaves was installed along the ceiling. This paper was funded by the Colonial Dames of America.

In May 1966 Charles W. Fritsch "repaired walls and varnished the wood trim in Mrs. Lincoln's bedroom."<sup>178</sup> The room was probably re-wallpapered at this time. Krupka reports that this wallpaper was produced ca.1966 as "The Mary Todd Lincoln" by Valentyn Bing Wallpapers of Chicago.<sup>179</sup> This wallpaper treatment appears in photographs taken between 1973 and 1987. The

sidewall paper featured "S" scrolls in shades of yellowish tan ornamented with roses and leaves in shades of pink and green on a white ground. A narrow neoclassical border in shades of yellowish tan and suggesting a plaster cornice was installed along the ceiling. At the time of her study of the Lincoln Home's wallpapers in 1983, Sara B. Chase reported that this was "a mid-Victorian paper" reproduced by Valentyn Bing of Chicago, although she believed that it dated from the 1950s based on available documentation.<sup>180</sup> Valentyn Bing supplied wallpaper for other projects in the house in 1966.

Chase provided the following recommendations for the room's wallpaper during the upcoming restoration:

The present paper is acceptable, but Mrs. Lincoln would probably have had a somewhat more 'French' paper. We have located some excellent possibilities in Odile Nouvel's book *Wallpapers of France* (Rizzoli, New York, 1981), but they are not currently in production. When you are ready to re-paper this room, we should select a SPENA paper for reproduction purposes, or if possible, reproduce from one of the French papers in the Nouvel book.<sup>181</sup>

Krupka reports that initial plans for the 1987-1988 restoration called for retaining the 1960s paper but investigations in September 1987 revealed more serious structural flaws in the room's wall plaster and the paper was removed to allow stabilization of the plaster. Wallpaper removal revealed unpainted plaster with traces of past patching and stains from wallpaper paste. Writing in 1988, Krupka states, "It is now felt that this Valentyn Bing reproduction paper was superior in terms of style and color to alternatives being offered from the SPNEA [Historic New England] collection. It is strongly recommended that this paper be reproduced and reinstalled in Mary Lincoln's Bedroom, rather than replacing it with a less appropriate period paper from SPNEA."<sup>182</sup> This desire for a 1960s wallpaper is surprising considering the long debate over selecting accurate period wallpapers for other rooms in the house during the 1987-1988 restoration.

176. Chase, "A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois," 8.

177. "Wallpaper | Historic New England," accessed March 31, 2022, <https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/gusn/313731>.

178. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 116.

179. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 58.

180. Chase, "A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois," 7-8.

181. Chase, 11.

182. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 59.

It was ultimately decided to paper this room to match room 201, using the “Lincoln’s Bedroom” wallpaper reproduced by Bradbury & Bradbury of Benicia, California. The “Stanton House Back Bedroom” border in a custom blue colorway was selected for use in rooms 201 and 202; this border (in the document green colorway) was also used in rooms 100 and 200. The use of the same wallpaper in rooms 201 and 202 reflects the interpretation of the rooms as a “master bedroom suite”; see “Separate Bedrooms for Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln” for more discussion of this anachronistic interpretation.<sup>183</sup>

### *Ceiling*

When this room was built in 1856, the ceiling plaster was installed over sawed white pine wood lath. Krupka reports that samples taken from the ceiling on August 25, 1987, revealed modern plaster on sawed wood lath. The plaster sample “was light grey in color” and was unlike plaster used in the house’s construction in 1839 or that used during the Lincoln’ 1855-1856 remodeling.<sup>184</sup> This plaster is believed to date from undocumented repairs between 1887 and 1954. Drawings for a proposed restoration prepared in 1948 note to remove the present wallpaper from the walls and ceiling and to patch plaster as required. The ceiling was to receive one coat of whitewash. This work was not carried out.

Like other ceilings in the house, the ceiling of this room was whitewashed until after the Lincolns’ departure in 1861. Ceiling paper seems to have been installed in the room during a redecoration of the house by R. F. Kinsella in the summer of 1893. Photographs taken after the 1954-1955 restoration of the second floor indicate the presence of a ceiling paper that was oriented north-south and covered by paint. Ceiling papers were removed during the 1987-1988 restoration. The ceiling was painted white in 1988.

183. “Lincoln Home Wallpaper - Lincoln Home National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service).”

184. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 34.





**Figure C.193.** View northeast in room 202 after 1952-1955 restoration, ca.1955. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B3F4P40.



**Figure C.195.** Visitors viewing Mary's bedroom (room 202) from behind railings of the type installed during 1952-1955 restoration, ca.1955. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B3F4P35.



**Figure C.194.** View east in room 202 after 1952-1955 restoration, ca.1955. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B3F4P14.



**Figure C.196.** View northwest in room 202, photoshoot for *McCall's* magazine, 1957. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B7F1P133.





**Figure C.197.** View east-northeast in room 202, ca. 1966-1987. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B3F4P56.



**Figure C.198.** View northeast in room 202, August 22, 1987. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F3P8.



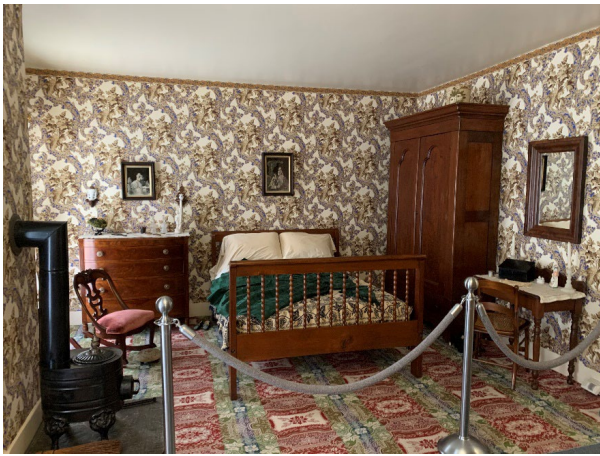
**Figure C.199.** View northeast in room 202 after removal of wallpaper, 1987-1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B3F15P19.



**Figure C.200.** View northwest in room 202 after installation of new wallpaper, April-May 1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F41P40.



**Figure C.201.** View northeast in room 202 after installation of carpet and during installation of furnishings, May 1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F28P97.



**Figure C.202.** View east-southeast in room 202, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.203.** View southwest in room 202, November 2021. Transom will not close because the sash has warped. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.204.** View west in room 202 showing visitor path from room 201, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



### 203 Hired Girl's Room

This room, measuring approximately 7'-11" by 14'-6", was created during the Lincolns' 1856 remodeling when a second floor was added to the east wing. The east wall contains a single window, and the south wall contains a door with transom leading to the Upstairs Back Hall (room 204). The room is believed to have served as the bedroom for a "hired girl," a young woman hired to assist with housework and cooking. Writing in 1918, novelist Booth Tarkington described "the house of a prominent resident" in a midwestern city in the years around the Civil War, noting, "At the rear of the house, upstairs, was a bleak little chamber, called 'the girl's room'..."<sup>185</sup> The 1887 Bullard drawings designate this room as "Rear Bed Room – No. 6." This room has been interpreted as the bedroom of the hired girl or maid and as a sewing room since 1955.

A second window was cut into the north wall sometime between 1889 and 1925, likely to provide additional daylight and ventilation for the room, then in use by the family of the live-in custodian. This new six-over-six window matched the head height of the adjacent window of room 202, but it had a much higher sill.

Drawings for a proposed restoration prepared in 1948 indicate that a closet had been built into the southwest corner of this room. This closet does not appear on drawings from 1888, 1925, 1927, or 1933. The 1948 drawing indicates that it was made of "beaded ceiling" or tongue-and-groove bead-board, a material commonly used to construct closets. The door was on the north face of the closet.

During the 1954-1955 restoration of the second floor, the north window and the closet were removed. Hagen suggests that this window was removed during exterior restoration in 1952.<sup>186</sup> However, a photograph taken in the summer of 1954 appears to document the window's removal. This photograph shows a patch of unpainted siding spanning from the east corner board to the east frame of the east window of room 202 and from the sill height of the removed opening to the cornice. The "Quaker brown" paint, implemented in 1952, is present on the rest of the north elevation and the area behind the east shutter of the east

room of room 202, removed to accommodate this work, shows dirt and discoloration that had likely accumulated over the previous two years. This suggests that the window was removed in 1954, when most of the second-floor work took place.

### Floor

Investigations during the 1987-1988 restoration suggested that the room's subfloor, composed of boards oriented east-west, was probably original to the room's 1856 construction. Traces of red-orange paint were found on the upper face of the floorboards under the baseboards.<sup>187</sup> This floor was later covered by narrow, stained hardwood flooring oriented north-south.

During the 1954-1955 restoration, the room was fitted with a new-wall-to-wall carpet intended to recall ingrain carpets of the period.<sup>188</sup> This carpet featured stylized acanthus leaves and daisies in shades of brown. It remained in place as of a photograph taken in December 1964. By August 1974, the carpet had been replaced with a fitted carpet composed of strips of woven rag rugs sewed together and oriented north-south.

During the 1987-1988 restoration, the rag rug carpet was removed. Photographs taken at that time appear to show narrow stained hardwood flooring oriented north-south. This flooring was removed to expose the underlying subfloor, which was painted red-orange based on evidence found under the baseboards.<sup>189</sup> A Venetian striped rug was placed in the room in 1988 and remains in place today.

### Walls

When this room was built in 1856, it was provided with flat plaster walls over sawed wood lath. Nothing is known of the room's wall treatments prior to the 1940s. Writing in 1850, A. J. Downing reported that wallpaper was typically used in the "best bed-rooms" used by the family and guests, while and servants' "bed-rooms" were grouped in with the kitchen and "inferior passages" that were more commonly whitewashed.<sup>190</sup>

185. Tarkington, *The Magnificent Ambersons*, 8.

186. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 7.

187. "Lincoln Home National Historic Site Cultural Resources Training and FAQ Guide," 11.

188. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 15.

189. "Lincoln Home National Historic Site Cultural Resources Training and FAQ Guide," 11.

190. Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses*, 370.

Drawings for a proposed restoration prepared in 1948 note to remove the present wallpaper from the walls and ceiling and to patch plaster as required. New wallpaper was to be installed. This work was not carried out. In August 1949, Harry F. Fritsch & Sons was contracted for work including patching the paper in the northeast bedroom. In October 1950, Harry F. Fritsch & Sons were contracted to paint and paper this room.

During the 1954-1955 restoration, the walls were hung with wallpaper featuring a delicate floral vine print in shades of white and brown on a tan ground and a narrow border simulating a plaster cornice. This wallpaper is shown in several photographs taken in the 1950s. Writing in 1955, Hagen reported that “the maid’s room, the trunk room (now converted into the custodian’s office) and the back hall were probably whitewashed originally, but for practical maintenance reasons they have been redone with an unobtrusive dark, small-patterned wallpaper.”<sup>191</sup> Hagen’s 1956 correspondence suggests that this was a Colonial Williamsburg reproduction wallpaper.

In 1956, Richard Hagen attended the annual meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, where “the restoration of the Lincoln Home was commended in general but in specific terms, the use of Williamsburg reproduced wallpapers in the Lincoln Home was cited as a good example of well-intentioned but not very exact restoration.” Shortly after, Hagen wrote Mrs. W. T. Bacon of the Illinois Chapter of the Colonial Dames: “I have returned with a strong determination that as soon as possible we shall replace the paper in the Guest Bedroom [room 208] and in the maid’s room [room 203], both of which simply do not fit in with the rest of our excellent restoration.”<sup>192</sup> Hagen’s desire to provide a more appropriate treatment was realized sometime between 1956 and December 1964, when a photograph shows the room with painted walls. On August 30, 1966, Charles Fritsch was contracted to fill cracks and repaint the “maid’s room.” He applied one coat of white latex paint to the walls and ceiling.<sup>193</sup>

At the time of his historic finish analysis in 1978, Frank S. Welsh reported that the plaster between the window and the baseboard on the east wall was “the only original plaster in the room.”<sup>194</sup> During the 1987-1988 restoration the walls, trim, and ceiling were painted white. A 2019 condition assessment documented a crack along most of the northeast corner, noting, “the damage appears to not be recent nor the crack active.”<sup>195</sup> This crack was repaired in 2020.

### *Ceiling*

When this room was built in 1856, the ceiling plaster was installed over sawed white pine wood lath. Krupka reports that samples taken from the ceiling on August 25, 1987, revealed modern plaster on expanded metal lath. The plaster sample “was light grey in color” and was unlike plaster used in the house’s construction in 1839 or that used during the Lincoln’ 1855-1856 remodeling.<sup>196</sup> This plaster is believed to date from undocumented repairs between 1887 and 1954.

Drawings for a proposed restoration prepared in 1948 note to remove the present wallpaper from the walls and ceiling and to patch plaster as required. The ceiling was to receive one coat of whitewash. This work was not carried out, but the 1952-1955 restoration appears to have included painting the ceiling. During the 1987-1988 restoration the walls, trim, and ceiling were painted white.

191. Hagen, “What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has,” 19.

192. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpapers 19.

193. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 116.

194. Frank S. Welsh, “Abraham Lincoln Home, ca.1856, Springfield, Illinois, Microscopic Comparative Analysis of the Interior to Determine the Original Architectural Finishes,” October 1978.

195. *Lincoln Home, National Park Service, Building Condition Review & Report*, 5.

196. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 35.





**Figure C.205.** View northwest in room 203, ca.1955.  
Source: LIHO Photo ID: B2F23P9.



**Figure C.206.** View northwest in room 203, ca.1955.  
Source: LIHO Photo ID: B2F23P12.



**Figure C.207.** View north in room 203, December 22, 2964. Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.



**Figure C.208.** View north in room 203, August 1974.  
Source: LIHO Photo ID: B2F23P4.



**Figure C.209.** View north in room 203, 1987-1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F26P37.



**Figure C.210.** View north in room 203, 1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B5F34P3.



**Figure C.211.** View north in room 203, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.212.** View south in room 203, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

**204/205/206/207 East Wing Garret (1839-1856)**

The attic or garret of the original east wing of the Dresser Cottage as built in 1839 was a single room measuring approximately 23'-9" by 15'-4". Like the half-story of the original west wing, this room had knee walls at the two sides and a sloped ceiling following the underside of the original roof, with a narrow strip of flat ceiling centered below the ridge. The walls and ceiling are believed to have been of smooth plaster like that in other rooms of the house. The room is believed to have been illuminated and ventilated by one or more small windows in the east gable. This room is believed to have been used as sleeping space for a hired girl and for storage.

This room was originally accessed by a "stairlet" extending from the north part of the winders of the front staircase. This feature existed from the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839 until the Lincolns' 1846 remodeling. At that time, the original east wing was detached and moved several feet to the south. A new stair was built at the east end of the kitchen and the stairlet was walled over. The kitchen stair was long interpreted as a feature dating to 1839, but the 1987-1988 restoration revealed the surviving stairlet.<sup>197</sup> Fran Krupka described the findings of his November 1987 investigations in a 1988 article.

As constructed, white oak structural members support treads and risers of black walnut connected by rabbeted joints and cut nails. All—both building materials and assembly techniques—are characteristic of original Dresser (1839) Cottage construction.

Described as an "in-flight stair" in the terminology of traditional stairbuilding, its diminutive—three-riser, two tread—size has led to use of the term "stairlet."

Having only three (9-in.) risers and two (7-1/2-in.) treads 23-1/2 inches wide, this stairlet was both short and narrow. Of these, only the two treads and the intermediate riser survive intact. Its 50° slope was steep, qualifying it as a "chicken ladder" (i.e. a stair whose slope exceeds 45°). These were considered hazardous, even by less rigorous nineteenth century standards of conventional practice...

Conventional side-flight stairs typically spring from intermediate—between flight—landings. The Dresser Cottage stairlet, however, sprang from the broad (i.e. outer) end of the third midflight winding step, rising to the level of the original east wing garret floor through a narrow passageway... Access to the stairlet would have been controlled by a door, long since removed. Whether this door was located in the front stairwell or on the east garret side of the passage—or, perhaps, in both—may never be known. All physical evidence was removed during the second (1855-1857 [sic]) Lincoln home remodeling.

The stairlet's unusual configuration marks it as an inventive solution to a unique construction problem... Its steep slope, diminished width, and restricted accessibility identifies it as a utility stair, reinforcing interpretation of the east wing garret as a space used for storage and to quarter live-in servants...

[The 1856] remodeling forced the abandonment of the stairlet. Originally centered on the angled garret ceiling with its 6-ft, 6-in. headroom, after the relocation of the east wing it stood at the northwest garret kneewalls. In this new location, with less than three feet of vertical clearance, the door was no longer functional. Replacement was necessary.

The existence of this "stairlet" implies the historic kitchen stair was (as maintained by James T. Hickey) a later Lincoln addition to his Cottage Home. The need for such a rear staircase to the east wing garret arose only as the connecting stairlet was being removed.

This new kitchen staircase solved the Lincolns' immediate problem, albeit awkwardly. Its original (57°) slope was even steeper than that of the stairlet... Rebuilt by the State of Illinois in 1954, the finished soffit of this less steep replacement staircase now passes in front of the upper corner of the existing east kitchen window, a situation that did not exist during Lincoln's lifetime.<sup>198</sup>

The closure of the stairlet during the 1846 remodeling may have created the present Closet

197. Krupka, 1:Stairs and Stairways 17-19.

198. Krupka, "Old Stairway Discovered in Lincoln Home Renovation," 1-2.



(room 209) at the west end of the Upstairs Back Hall (room 204). The 1846 remodeling included the addition of a new stair at the east end of the east wing, providing access to the east wing garret from the Kitchen. This stair's chronology is described in room 105 Kitchen.

The 1855-1856 remodeling created a full second floor. The first phase in 1855 raised the roof and the height of rooms 200, 201, and 208. In 1856, the second phase included demolition of the original east wing roof and the roof of the 1846 addition. The second floor of the original east wing was raised twelve inches. A new second floor was built over the east wing. This included rooms 204, 205, and 207 over the space formerly occupied by the east wing garret and rooms 202 and 203 in place of the roof of the 1846 addition.

### 204 Upstairs Back Hall

This room, measuring approximately 19'-3" by 4'-0", was created during the Lincolns' 1856 remodeling when a second floor was added to the east wing. This room occupies part of the floorspace of the original east wing attic, but its floor was raised twelve inches and its walls appear to have been entirely new in 1856. The east wall contains a single window, the south wall contains openings to the back stair and doors with transoms to rooms 205 and 207; the west wall contains a door to a closet (Room 204A), and the north wall contains doors with transoms to rooms 202 and 203.

#### Walls

When this room was built in 1856, it was provided with flat plaster walls over sawed wood lath. Nothing is known of the room's wall treatments prior to the 1940s. Writing in 1850, A. J. Downing reported that wallpaper was typically used in the "best bed-rooms" used by the family and guests, while and servants' "bed-rooms" were grouped in with the kitchen and "inferior passages" that were more commonly whitewashed.<sup>199</sup>

Drawings for a proposed restoration prepared in 1948 note to remove the present wallpaper from the walls and ceiling and to patch plaster as required. New wallpaper was to be installed. This work was not carried out. A photograph taken by James T. Hickey in June 1954 shows the walls covered with wallpaper in a pattern that appears to have dated from the 1940s or early-1950s.

During the 1954-1955 restoration, the walls appear to have been papered to match the treatment used in room 203. Writing in 1955, Hagen reported that "the maid's room, the trunk room (now converted into the custodian's office) and the back hall were probably whitewashed originally, but for practical maintenance reasons they have been redone with an unobtrusive dark, small-patterned wallpaper."<sup>200</sup>

On August 30, 1966, Charles Fritsch was contracted to redecorate the second-floor rear hall. He filled cracks in the plaster and washed the surface before applying two coats of latex paint.<sup>201</sup> February 9, 1967. H. F. Fritsch & Sons contracted to paint

second floor hallway and rear stair with one coat of paint.<sup>202</sup> In October 1970 Lyle Fritsch was paid for painting the second-floor hall, back stairway, and Kitchen.<sup>203</sup>

The walls and woodwork are painted off-white. Staff report that this was initially painted white in 1988 but that visitor fingerprints were highly visible, and the color was changed to off-white to hide these. While the historic finish is believed to have been a whitewash, which would have had a flat sheen, the room's heavy visitor traffic requires a more durable finish with a different sheen. The walls require periodic repainting due to wear and tear from visitor traffic; it was last repainted in May 2021. The wall surface exhibits an orange-peel texture from the frequent application of paint with rollers.

#### Ceiling

When this room was built in 1856, the ceiling plaster was installed over sawed white pine wood lath. Drawings for a proposed restoration prepared in 1948 note that the room's existing lath and plaster ceiling was to be removed to allow installation of heating ducts and that new expanded metal lath and plaster were to be installed after. The ceiling was to be whitewashed. This work was not carried out. The lath and plaster were removed in 1954 and replaced with new plaster on expanded metal lath. Photographs taken by James T. Hickey in June 1954 show the room after the removal of the lath and plaster but before the installation of the new plaster ceiling. A strip of the ceiling along the north wall was removed during the 1987-1988 restoration to accommodate the installation of ductwork and sprinkler piping.

The ceiling may have originally contained a scuttle providing access to the roof of the east wing. Krupka provides the following context:

Springfield City Fire Ordinances, beginning with the *Revised Ordinances of 1851*, required town residences to be equipped either with ladders capable of reaching the roof from the ground, or with roof scuttles; preferably, with both. NOTE: This requirement derived from the Fire

199. Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses*, 370.

200. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 19.

201. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 116.

202. Bearss, 117.

203. Bearss, 117.



Ordinances. It was passed to ensure that, in the event of a fire, firefighters could reach the roof and the chimneys, the most common source of residential fires.<sup>204</sup>

No historic photographs or drawings document this feature. During the 1987-1988 restoration, evidence of a framed opening for a possible roof scuttle was found in the ceiling framing approximately 4'-0" west of the east wall. Krupka reports that this evidence was "confused and inconclusive."

Physical investigations during the (November 1987) reroofing of the East Wing—which included removal of the Rear Hall (No. 204) plaster ceiling—revealed a (2'-0" square) framed opening approximately the size required for such a roof scuttle.

The framing boards were all newer, however, obviously installed by the State of Illinois in 1954.

NOTE: It has not been possible to determine whether these newly-installed framing members replaced members previously existing—perhaps historic—in this location, or whether this was simply an addition to the structure by the State for other—unrelated purposes.

Similarly, the roof sheathing boards above this area were not the historic boards, but had been replaced at an undetermined posthistoric date.<sup>205</sup>

While Krupka dates the framing of this opening to 1954, drawings for the 1952-1955 restoration do not indicate work or features at this part of the ceiling. A June 1930 letter from C. M. Service, departmental inspector, to C. Herrick Hammons, supervising architect, regarding repairs to the Lincoln Homestead includes "I also doubt the necessity of the scuttle included in the item under 'carpentry'."

While Krupka believed that a scuttle had been in place at the time the east wing roof was built in

1856, he recommended that such a feature not be restored at that time, noting that it could be reintroduced later if more conclusive evidence was found.

### *Fixtures*

Three square, recessed downlights with metal frames and lenses appear to have been installed during the 1954-1955 restoration. These fixtures were removed during the 1987-1988 restoration and were replaced by indirect trough lights along the east and west walls.



**Figure C.213.** View west in room 204 after removal of ceiling during 1952-1955 restoration, photograph by James T. Hickey, June 1954. Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.

204. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Stairs and Stairways 26.

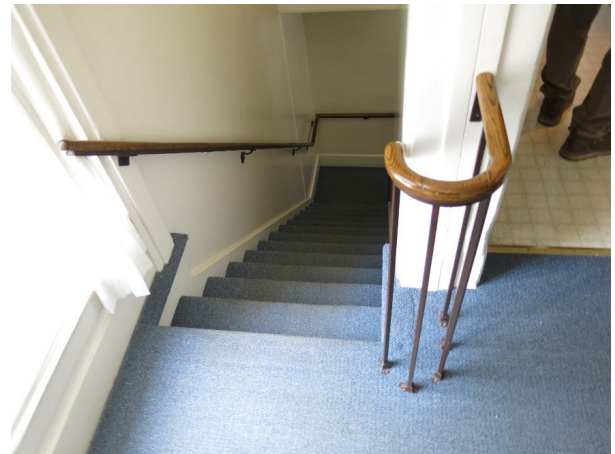
205. Krupka, 1:Stairs and Stairways 27.



**Figure C.214.** View west in room 204 during 1987-1988 restoration, August 22, 1987. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F3P11.



**Figure C.215.** View west in room 204, ca.1988-2010. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B2F22P93.



**Figure C.216.** Back staircase as modified in 1954, encroaching into room 204, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.217.** View west from room 204 to room 209, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

### 205 Trunk Room / 206 Restroom

This room, measuring approximately 6'-10" by 10'-11", was created during the Lincolns' 1856 remodeling when a second floor was added to the east wing. This room occupies part of the floorspace of the original east wing attic, but its floor was raised twelve inches and its walls appear to have been entirely new in 1856. The north wall contains a door to room 204, the south part of the east wall now contains an alcove in the place of a former closet (room 205A), the south wall contains a window overlooking the roof deck atop the south porch, and the east wall once contained a closet (room 205B). The northwest corner of the room now contains a toilet room (room 206) built in the 1950s.

According to Bearss, "Down the back hall from Robert's bedroom [207] was the trunk room, filled in the Lincoln years with odds and ends."<sup>206</sup> "Trunk room" was a general term for a storage room, often one located on an upper floor in proximity to bedrooms. The 1887 Bullard drawings designate this room as "Rear Bed Room – No. 5." The southeast corner included a "Closet above Back Stairs" (room 205A) with a door 2'-6" wide by 6'-6" high and hinged on the north. This door matched the two-panel design of other doors in the house but had slightly narrower rails and stiles; Bullard included it among the second-floor door elevations. The west wall included a shallow closet (room 205B) with a door 2'-9" wide by 6'-9" high and hinged on the south side. This closet and the closet (room 207A) of room 207 to the south follow the depth of the adjacent Kitchen chimney built during the 1856 remodeling. The closet door was also the same size as the doors of the closets in rooms 205 and 208, with all three likely installed in 1856.

This room was converted into a bathroom for use by the live-in caretaker's family sometime between 1887 and 1925, probably between 1887 and 1890; bills for plumbing work by O. Hanratty in 1887-1888 and by J. M. Rippey in 1888-1890 probably included installation of this bathroom. Krupka reports that "the exact date when interior plumbing was first installed in the Home remains unidentified in the historic literature," but notes that the Trustees paid the Springfield Water

Company for water supplied from the municipal water works during 1889-1890.<sup>207</sup> While the bathroom may have made use of non-potable water collected from the house's roofs and stored in a cistern, the presence of municipal water in this period suggests that the bathroom may have been installed during improvements made by the State of Illinois shortly after its acquisition of the property in 1887. Repairs in 1899 included "renewing of plumbing," probably relating to piping for this bathroom.<sup>208</sup>

Measured drawings from 1925 show that a toilet was then placed at the north end of the east wall with a free-standing bathtub immediately to its south and that a sink was placed along the north end of the east wall. The plumbing end of the tub was to the south. Drawings from 1927 show the same plumbing layout but with the orientation of the tub reversed. Sometime between 1887 and 1927 the southeast closet's hinged door was replaced with a pair of sliding doors over a wainscot patch of horizontal planks, suggesting that this modification took place after the installation of the bead-board wainscot. A 5"-wide casing surrounded the sliding doors.

Drawings for a proposed restoration prepared in 1948 show fixtures in the same locations as in 1927. That proposed project would have removed the plumbing fixtures and partitioned the room in half, leaving the north half as a trunk room exhibit and turning the south half into a "machine room." This work was not carried out, but it was proposed again in 1952. Drawings dated February 1953 document the work done during the 1954-1955 second-floor restoration. Existing plumbing fixtures were removed. Most of the west wall was demolished and the west closet (room 205B) and the closet (room 207A) of room 207 were incorporated into this room. The northwest part of the room was partitioned to form a toilet room (room 206) and the rest of the space was used as an office for the custodian.<sup>209</sup> Writing in 1955, Hagen reported, "There was little hesitation in giving over the trunk room to necessary administrative affairs, since it would rarely have been open even when the

206. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 109.

207. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:Water Supply Systems 4-5.

208. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 54-55.

209. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 19.

Lincolns lived there.”<sup>210</sup> The wall and door frame enclosing the southeast closet (room 205A) were demolished and the resulting alcove was fitted with new wood cabinets.

During the 1987-1988 restoration, the 1950s toilet room and the 1950s cabinets in the alcove at the former southeast closet (room 205A) location were retained. The closet of room 207 (room 207A) was reconstructed, with the space being reclaimed from this room. This room has been used as staff space or storage space since 1988. It is only open to the public in emergency situations when a visitor must access the toilet room.

#### *Floor*

The room’s wood floor may have been left exposed in its original capacity as a trunk room. Later floor treatments are not documented, but it is likely that sheet linoleum was installed after the room was converted into a bathroom in the late-1880s. As of 2021, the floor is covered with sheet vinyl in a pattern imitating square tiles with printed decoration; it is printed in light brown on a mottled cream ground and likely dates from the 1987-1988 restoration. This appears to be stock residential sheet vinyl flooring of the 1980s.

#### *Walls*

When this room was built in 1856, it was provided with flat plaster walls over sawed wood lath. Measured drawings from 1927 document the presence of a wainscot of “beaded ceiling,” that is, tongue-and-groove bead-board topped by a molded wood cap. This wainscot was 4’-1” high. The wainscot was extended to the ceiling at the northern 32” of the east wall behind the toilet, a typical treatment behind high-tank toilets. The wainscot was probably installed when this room was converted into a bathroom around 1887-1890. In August 1949, Harry F. Fritsch & Sons was contracted for work including cleaning the wallpaper and washing the woodwork of the bathroom. In October 1950, Harry F. Fritsch & Sons were contracted to paint and paper the bathroom.

During the 1954-1955 restoration, the walls appear to have been papered to match the treatment used in room 203. Writing in 1955, Hagen reported that “the maid’s room, the trunk room (now converted

into the custodian’s office) and the back hall were probably whitewashed originally, but for practical maintenance reasons they have been redone with an unobtrusive dark, small-patterned wallpaper.”<sup>211</sup> February 9, 1967. H. F. Fritsch & Sons contracted to paint the toilet and second floor office with one coat each of sealer and enamel.<sup>212</sup> The room is currently painted white.

#### *Ceiling*

When this room was built in 1856, the ceiling plaster was installed over sawed white pine wood lath. Drawings for a proposed restoration prepared in 1948 note to remove the present “beaded ceiling [and] wainscot,” indicating that the ceiling was of tongue-and-groove bead-board, probably installed when this room was converted into a bathroom around 1887-1890. The plaster ceiling is currently painted white.

210. Hagen, 25.

211. Hagen, 19.

212. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 117.





**Figure C.218.** View south-southwest in room 205, ca.1981.  
Source: LIHO Photo ID: B1F80P6.



**Figure C.219.** View east-northeast in room 205, ca.1981.  
Source: LIHO Photo ID: B1F80P8.



**Figure C.220.** View northwest in room 205, looking into room 206, ca.1981. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B1F80P7.



**Figure C.221.** View south in room 205, November 2021.  
Source: RATIO Architects.





**Figure C.222.** View east in room 205 showing 1950s cabinets, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.223.** View northwest in room 206, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

### 207 Boys' Room

This room, measuring approximately 12'-0" by 10'-11", was created during the Lincolns' 1856 remodeling when a second floor was added to the east wing. This room occupies part of the floorspace of the original east wing attic. The room's west wall was largely rebuilt in 1855 and its floor was raised twelve inches and its north, east, and south walls were entirely new in 1856. The north wall contains a door and transom to room 204, the east wall contains a door to the closet (room 207A), and the south wall contains a window overlooking the roof deck atop the south porch.

This room is believed to have originally been used as Robert Todd Lincoln's bedroom until his departure for college in 1859, after which it was used by Willie and Tad until the family's departure in 1861. The 1887 Bullard drawings designate this room as "Rear Bed Room – No. 3." The 1925 measured drawings of the house list this as a "private bed rm.", indicating that it was part of the quarters of the live-in custodian. Drawings from 1927 to the 1950s list this room as Robert Lincoln's bedroom.

Sometime before 1887, a door was cut through the west wall near the southwest corner, connecting this room with room 208. The Bullard drawings indicate that this door differed in design and dimensions from the two-panel doors used in the 1855-1856 remodeling; it was a four-panel door with ogee moldings measuring 2'-6" wide by 6'-8" tall.

Drawings of proposed restoration work prepared in 1953 proposed demolishing the east wall of the room and incorporating the room's closet (room 207A), the west closet of room 205 (room 205B), and the void north of the Kitchen chimney into this room. The rationale behind this proposed demolition is unclear. It may have been based on the misconception that houses of this period did not have closets or may have been intended to provide more space to make up for some of that lost by the new visitor path in the northwest part of the room. This work was not carried out. A 1953 drawing for the 1954-1955 second-floor restoration documents the work that was completed at the east wall. The closet door was infilled and both closets were incorporated into room 205.

During the 1954-1955 second-floor restoration, the door in the west wall was infilled and a new door was cut through the wall at the northeast corner, immediately above the door between rooms 107 and 108 below. Another new door opening was cut through the north wall at the northwest corner. These two new openings accommodated a new visitor circulation path that eliminated visitor traffic over the sagging beam spanning the opening between the Parlors. The historic door frame and transom from the historic opening to the Upstairs Back Hall (room 204) were relocated to the new opening at the west end of this wall and the historic opening was infilled. The door frame and transom were flipped in orientation during this move, placing the hall face into the bedroom and the bedroom face into the hall.

This room was interpreted as Robert's bedroom from 1955 through the early-1980s and as Willie and Tad's bedroom during the mid-1980s. It has been interpreted as Willie and Tad's bedroom since the completion of the 1987-1988 restoration.

During the 1987-1988 restoration, the 1950s door openings in the north and west wall were infilled. The original door frame and transom, relocated in the 1950s, were returned to their historic location and reinstalled in the correct orientation. The door is currently fitted with knobs and escutcheons that date from ca.1880-1905 and are inappropriate for the period of interpretation. However, this hardware is not clearly visible to visitors because the door is left in an open position. The closet (room 207A) demolished in the 1950s was reconstructed. According to the park's training document, a "period door frame" was found in the east wall at the closet door's location during this restoration.<sup>213</sup> This door frame is slightly offset from the outline in the room's hardwood floor (see below).

#### *Floor*

The flooring in this room is a modern oak hardwood floor with boards oriented north-south. This type of flooring was most common between about 1900 and 1965, suggesting that it dates from repairs by the State of Illinois. Filled nail and tack holes and a poor fit around the jambs and casing of the door to the closet (room 207A) suggest that this

213. "Lincoln Home National Historic Site Cultural Resources Training and FAQ Guide," 10.

flooring may predate the 1954-1955 restoration, when this door was infilled. The door opening as reconstructed in 1987-1988 is offset approximately one-half inch to the north of the corresponding cutout of the casing and jamb in the floorboards below. This may indicate that the flooring was installed around the historic opening sometime before 1954 and that the opening as reconstructed in 1987-1988 is slightly offset from the historic location.

During the 1954-1955 restoration, the room was fitted with a new-wall-to-wall carpet intended to recall ingrain carpets of the period.<sup>214</sup> This carpet was in shades of brown and tan and featured repeating stylized flower medallions and angular scrolls. The strips were oriented east-west. Around 1970, this carpet was replaced by another carpet with the same orientation and a similar colorway but featuring curving scrolls and pairs of stylized roses. This carpet remained in place until the 1987-1988 restoration.

The room is currently fitted with a large area rug of Venetian striped carpet in shades of blue, pink, off-white, and dull green. This rug gives the overall impression of a wall-to-wall fitted carpet, but a few inches of the modern oak flooring is visible at all four sides of the room.

### *Walls*

The lower 2'-1" of the west wall framing dates from the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839. Lath and plaster on this wall were probably replaced or significantly patched during the Lincolns' 1846 remodeling, when the east wing was moved several feet to the south. The upper part of the west wall was framed during the raising of the second floor of the west wing in 1855. The floor of this room was raised twelve inches and the north, east, and south walls were built entirely new in 1856. Most of the west wall's lath and plaster would have been new at this time, possibly reusing some older lath at the lower part of the wall.

Investigations in 1983 revealed no evidence of early wallpapers in this room. Fragments predating the existing wallpaper "were found at two locations... The sample from behind a heating register cover had four layers of paper. Sad to say, none of these

papers was mid-nineteenth century."<sup>215</sup> Mary Edwards "Mamie" Brown (1866-1958), whose parents served as custodians from 1897 to 1918 and who served as custodian herself from 1918 to 1924 reported that in 1897 the wallpaper "in the Robert Todd Lincoln bedroom [featured] morning glories."<sup>216</sup> Drawings for a proposed restoration prepared in 1948 note to remove the present wallpaper from the walls and ceiling and to patch plaster as required. New wallpaper was to be installed. This work was not carried out.

In October 1950, Harry F. Fristch & Sons were contracted to paint and paper this room. Investigations in June 1987 revealed that all earlier layers of wallpaper were stripped from all but the west wall before this paper was installed. Photographs taken in the summer of 1954, during the 1954-1955 restoration of the second floor, show that this room's wallpaper featured a small-scale diaper pattern of stylized five-petaled flowers in gray-green on a cream ground with darker vines on the curving diaper lines. Investigations in June 1987 documented surviving portions of this paper on most walls. A narrow border with colors similar to the darker tones of the sidewall paper was in place along the ceiling.

During the 1954-1955 restoration, lath and plaster were removed from the north part of the west wall, exposing the void between rooms 200, 207, 208, and 209. New plaster was then installed at this location. The walls were hung with "Calico Stripe" (pattern #23141), a paper designed by Binnie B. Wilson for the Waterhouse Collection by Dorothy Waterhouse and manufactured by the Warner Company of Chicago.<sup>217</sup> Warner produced this pattern in different colorways. The paper featured a delicate pattern of stylized vines in brown, blue, and red on a cream ground. A border composed of one and one-half of the two stripes of the sidewall paper was created by cutting the paper along the scalloped centerline of the brown

214. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 15.

215. Chase, "A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois," 8-9.

216. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 61.

217. "Reproduction Wallpaper | Historic New England," accessed December 14, 2021, <https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/gusn/292916/>.

and white stripe and along the opposite edge of the blue, red, and brown stripe and installing the paper perpendicular to the sidewall paper with the scallop-cut edge down.

In 1974, a new wallpaper was installed over the top of the 1950s paper on all walls except the west wall, which was stripped of seven layers of paper down to bare plaster. Krupka reports that examination of the plaster on the west wall in June 1987 revealed the following notation in pencil: “Bill Dougherty / Copey Anderson / July 31, 1974 9:55 p.m. / This wall was stripped of 7 layers of paper / to hang this paper.”<sup>218</sup> This note is curious for two reasons. First, the other walls retained this paper and two earlier layers (the 1954-1955 and 1950 papers) as of 1987. Second, this note and evidence at the other walls indicate that five additional layers of wallpaper on the west wall survived when the other walls were stripped down to bare plaster in 1950. Examination of other walls in June 1987 revealed three distinct surviving layers of paper, the 1974, 1954-1955, and 1950 papers.

The paper installed in 1974 featured alternating vertical stripes in shades of blue, gray, brown, cream, and gold. Like the wallpapers installed in rooms 107 and 208 around the same time, this was a contemporary pattern reflecting the popular decorating style known as “Early American.” In her 1983 study of the Lincoln Home’s wallpapers, Sara B. Chase notes that this paper was “neither Victorian nor even a close approximation of Victorian.”<sup>219</sup> Krupka described this paper as “a common, commercial paper with absolutely no—even remote—resemblance to a historic wall paper, the sort of thing that would be slapped on the walls of a cheap apartment house closet.”<sup>220</sup> The walls were fitted with a narrow border simulating a plaster cornice.

In 1983, Chase recommended that the room could be hung with “Melinda” in document blue or “Ribbonette” in document blue, both produced by Schumacher.<sup>221</sup> During the 1987-1988 restoration, the walls were hung with “Grevenberg [sic]

Lattice,” a reproduction of a ca.1860 American sidewall paper found in the Grevenberg House (1851) in Franklin, Louisiana, reproduced by Mt. Diablo Handprints of Benicia, California in a custom colorway of blue and tan on a cream ground. The top half of the same border used for the Parlors was used in this room. This was “Locust Grove Border” (No. 81228), an English paper dated to ca.1850-1860 and reproduced by Scalamanré of New York from that hung in the drawing room of Samuel F. B. Morse’s “Locust Grove” (1851, Alexander Jackson Davis) in Poughkeepsie, New York.<sup>222</sup> The sidewall paper exhibits some bubbling and discoloration.

### *Ceiling*

When this room was built in 1856, the ceiling plaster was installed over sawed white pine wood lath. Krupka reports that samples taken from the ceiling on August 25, 1987, revealed modern plaster sawed wood lath. The plaster sample “was light grey in color” and was unlike plaster used in the house’s construction in 1839 or that used during the Lincoln’ 1855-1856 remodeling.<sup>223</sup> This plaster is believed to date from undocumented repairs between 1887 and 1954. The ceiling was removed on September 11, 1987, to facilitate installation of a vapor barrier and new HVAC, electrical, and fire protection systems. Krupka reports the following:

It was discovered—belatedly, after Contractor operations had removed three-quarters of the ceiling plaster and lath of the room—that the sawed pine wood lath—attached to the underside of the... ceiling joists by cut nails—was original to the Late (1855/1856) Lincoln Remodeling.

This was determined when it was noticed that the only nail holes in the ceiling joists were those that had held the lath. No other holes indicative of previous installations of lath were in evidence...

...it was determined to continue removing the remaining replacement plaster while preserving

218. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 62-63.

219. Chase, “A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois,” 8.

220. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpaper 63.

221. Chase, “A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois,” 12.

222. “Lincoln Home Wallpaper - Lincoln Home National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service).”

223. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 42.

the surviving unremoved quarter of original lath, and, to salvage and reinstall the removed lath for reuse with new replacement ceiling plasters.<sup>224</sup>

Like other ceilings in the house, the ceiling of this room was whitewashed until after the Lincolns' departure in 1861. Ceiling paper seems to have been installed in the room during a redecoration of the house by R. F. Kinsella in the summer of 1893. Drawings for a proposed restoration prepared in 1948 note to remove the present wallpaper from the walls and ceiling and to patch plaster as required. The ceiling was to receive one coat of whitewash. This work was not carried out.

A photograph taken in the summer of 1954 appears to show a painted ceiling in this room; it is unclear whether this was paint on plaster or over ceiling paper. The ceiling was given a painted finish, apparently over ceiling paper, during the 1954-1955 restoration. Photographs from the early-1980s show the room's ceiling covered with painted ceiling paper oriented east-west; this paper showed signs of delamination, water damage, and other unsightly deterioration. During the 1987-1988 restoration, the ceiling paper was removed, and the plaster was patched and painted white.



**Figure C.224.** View of back side of lath of east wall of room 200, looking through cavity from northwest corner of room 207, photograph by James T. Hickey, June 1954. Surviving riven (split) lath from 1839 is visible on the lower part of the wall, with sawn lath from 1855 above. The doorway at right was created in 1954 to accommodate a new visitor path. The door to room 209 is visible through the doorway. Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.



**Figure C.225.** View east in room 207, photoshoot for *McCall's* magazine, 1957. Note: the color of this image is distorted. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B10F32P14.

224. Krupka, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 43.





**Figure C.226.** View east in room 207, ca.1981. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B1F80P12.



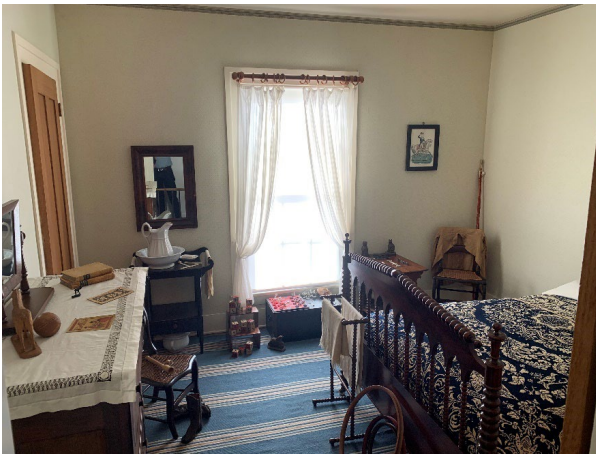
**Figure C.228.** View east in room 207, ca.1985. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B2F21P86.



**Figure C.227.** View west in room 207, ca.1981, showing door openings created in 1954 to accommodate new visitor path. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B1F80P10.



**Figure C.229.** View northwest in room 207, August 22, 1987, showing 1954 door openings. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F26P4.



**Figure C.230.** View south in room 207, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.231.** Misalignment between closet door as reconstructed in 1987-1988 restoration and pre-1954 oak flooring with outline of opening infilled in 1954, facing east, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.232.** Detail of knob and escutcheon of between rooms 204 and 207, November 2021. This hardware dates from ca.1880-1905 and is inappropriate for the period of interpretation. However, it is not clearly visible. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.233.** Detail of wallpaper at south wall, facing southwest, showing bubbling and discoloration, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



## 208 Guest Bedroom

This room, measuring approximately 19'-0" by 14'-10", was part of the original construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839 and was extensively remodeled in 1855. The west wall contains two windows, the north wall contains a door to room 200, and the south wall contains a central projecting chimney breast flanked by two windows.

Until 1855, this room had knee walls 2'-1" high along the east and west and a low, sloped ceiling following the underside of the original roof. A narrow strip of flat ceiling 3'-0" wide was centered below the ridge.<sup>225</sup> The south gable end wall is believed to have included a pair of small windows flanking the chimney, a common treatment for side-gabled attics with central chimneys. Krupka reports that these were four-lite, outward-swinging casements. Evidence for this treatment is not provided in the surviving draft of Krupka's text.<sup>226</sup> During the 1855 remodeling, the roof was raised, and new walls were built atop the existing knee walls, giving rooms 200, 201, and 208 new ceilings at a height of approximately 11'-3". The Lincolns used this room as a Guest Bedroom from 1855 to 1861. The room is known to have been used by Mary's sister Emilie Todd and by Robert Todd Lincoln when visiting home from college between 1859 and 1861.<sup>227</sup>

The plaster on the north face of the 1839 chimney, encapsulated within the false chimney breast built in 1855, suggest that a partition intersected the north face of the chimney just south of the center of this room (see "False Fireplace" for further discussion of this feature). This feature appears to have been in place from the time of the Dresser Cottage's construction in 1839 until the 1855 remodeling. It suggests that a smaller space was partitioned out of the southwest part of the room until 1855. One of the room's two original windows would have been within this space.

The room appears to have undergone one major alteration between the Lincolns' departure in 1861 and the transfer of the house to the State of Illinois in 1887. A door was cut through the east wall, connecting to room 207, sometime during this

period. The 1887 Bullard drawings document that this door differed in dimensions and details from those installed during the Lincolns' construction of the second floor in 1855-1856. Doors associated with the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839 and alterations made by the Lincolns between 1844 and 1856 are all two-panel doors without moldings. The 1887 Bullard drawings document this as a four-panel door with ogee moldings. Doors of this pattern and with ogee moldings were common in the region between about 1870 and 1900. It was also narrower and shorter than the two-panel doors present elsewhere on the second floor. The casing of this opening appears to have matched the square backband casings used elsewhere on the second floor. This door was infilled in 1954 and a new door was cut through the wall at the northeast corner, immediately above the door between rooms 107 and 108 below, to accommodate a new visitor circulation path. A photograph taken in June 1954, before the pre-1887 opening had been plastered over, shows that a stud placed in the center of this opening was a salvaged board with lath and plaster marks along its longer sides; its prior location is undocumented.

The 1887 Bullard drawings list this as "Front Bed Room No. 1." The 1925 measured drawings of the house list this as a "Private Bed Rm.", indicating that it was part of the quarters of the live-in custodian. Drawings from 1927 to the 1950s list this by its historic name as "Guest's Bed Room." This room was interpreted as Willie and Tad's bedroom from 1955 through the early-1980s and as a Guest Bedroom during the mid-1980s. It has been interpreted as a Guest Bedroom since the completion of the 1987-1988 restoration.

## Floor

This room's wood floor was likely covered by a fitted carpet during the Lincolns' occupancy. A floor of narrow stained hardwood boards oriented east-west was installed at an unknown date. The installation of this floor predated the removal of the hearth in front of the false fireplace; removal of carpet in 1987 revealed a rectangular patch of unfinished wood at the former hearth location.

During the 1954-1955 restoration, the room was fitted with a new-wall-to-wall carpet intended to recall ingrain carpets of the period.<sup>228</sup> This carpet,

225. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 29-30.

226. Krupka, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 30.

227. "Lincoln Home National Historic Site Cultural Resources Training and FAQ Guide," 8.

228. Hagen, "What a Pleasant Home Abe Lincoln Has," 15.

with its strips oriented north-south, featured stylized leaves and flowers in shades of white, yellow, red, and blue on a brown ground. This carpet was replaced sometime between 1964 and 1974 with another fitted carpet featuring a pattern of similar scale and pattern. This new carpet was oriented east-west and included stylized leaves and flowers in shades of yellow and brown on a pale ground with stripes of shaded red. This carpet survived until 1987.

In 1988, the room was fitted with “Geometric & Floral” pattern ingrain carpet produced by Family Heirloom Weavers of Red Lion, Pennsylvania. The carpet strips run north-south. This ca.1840 pattern features large neoclassical medallions of stylized foliage and flowers set within panels formed by a geometric grid. The carpet features a red pattern on a ground of stripes in three shades of green. This red and green scheme reflects a color combination that was particularly popular in the 1840s and similar carpets are believed to have been produced into the 1870s.

### Walls

The room’s 1839 lath and plaster appear to have survived until the 1855 remodeling. At that time, the roof was raised, and new walls were built on top of the existing knee walls at the east, north, and west. During the 1855 remodeling, the lath and plaster of the north wall appears to have been entirely replaced; a 1954 photograph of the rear side of the lath within the void between rooms 200, 207, 208, and 209 indicates that the wall was fitted with sawn lath down to the level of the baseboard, contrasting with the riven lath that remained intact at the lower part of the east wall of room 200.

During the 1987-1988 restoration, the surviving 1855 plaster at the south wall was stabilized by back-plastering the deteriorated plaster keys from the exterior while the siding was removed.<sup>229</sup>

Wallpaper for this room may have been part of the Lincolns’ July 6, 1855, wallpaper purchase from the Springfield dry goods store of John Williams & Company.<sup>230</sup> No evidence of the room’s Lincoln era wallpaper has been found. Sara B. Chase reports

that investigations in 1983 revealed no evidence of early wallpapers in this room, “no fragments or tantalizing bits.”<sup>231</sup>

The room was probably re-wallpapered and fitted with picture molding as part of a larger redecoration by R. F. Kinsella in the summer of 1893.<sup>232</sup> Removal of wallpaper in 1987 revealed a picture molding line corresponding to that found in room 201 and documented in a ca.1894-1912 photograph of that room. This molding likely marked a division between a sidewall paper and a wide border of frieze. Drawings for a proposed restoration prepared in 1948 note to remove the present wallpaper from the walls and ceiling and to patch plaster as required. The walls were to receive new paper. This work was not carried out.

In October 1950, Harry F. Fristch & Sons were contracted to paint and paper this room. Photographs taken in June and July 1954, while work on the 1954-1955 second floor restoration was underway, appear to document these papers. The east and south walls were hung with a paper featuring a very small diaper pattern with a dark element in the lower point of the small diamonds. This wallpaper appears to have been printed in shades of dark blue or green on a lighter ground. The north wall was hung with a different paper featuring wide vertical stripes of white and pink flowers and green leaves on a gray ground. This striped paper probably dated from the 1940s or from the 1950 redecoration. In scale and overall effect, if not in style, it recalled the wallpaper shown in the 1865 stereograph of the Dining Room.

During the 1954-1955 restoration of the second floor, this room was hung with “Leopard” (A161) produced by Nancy McClelland Inc. of New York.<sup>233</sup> This paper featured a network of stylized vines and flowers in two shades of brown with lacy white outlines defining panels with a small diaper pattern printed in two shades of brown and white on a tan ground. “Leopard” was very similar to “Cooperstown” (1953) by Katzenbach & Warren

229. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 49.

230. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 18.

231. Chase, “A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois,” 8.

232. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 52–53.

233. “Wallpaper | Historic New England,” accessed March 31, 2022, <https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/collections-access/gusn/313721>.

Inc., a firm that supplied other wallpapers used in the house in the 1950s.<sup>234</sup> A narrow egg-and-dart border was installed along the ceiling.

In 1956, Richard Hagen attended the annual meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, where “the restoration of the Lincoln Home was commended in general but in specific terms, the use of Williamsburg reproduced wallpapers in the Lincoln Home was cited as a good example of well-intentioned but not very exact restoration.” Shortly after, Hagen wrote Mrs. W. T. Bacon of the Illinois Chapter of the Colonial Dames: “I have returned with a strong determination that as soon as possible we shall replace the paper in the Guest Bedroom [room 208] and in the maid’s room [room 203], both of which simply do not fit in with the rest of our excellent restoration.”<sup>235</sup>

Hagen’s goal was accomplished sometime between 1957 and December 1964, when the room was re-papered with “English Gothic” produced by M. H. Birge & Sons Company of Buffalo, New York, and dating from the period c.1915 to c.1960.<sup>236</sup> This pattern, a grisaille diaper lattice pattern with yellow panels, was reminiscent of mid-nineteenth century wallpapers. It had been used—less suitably—at other presidential house museums; it was installed in the stair hall of William Henry Harrison’s “Grouseland” by 1934 and in the library of Benjamin Harrison’s house in Indianapolis during a 1937-1938 rehabilitation. The same egg-and-dart border as used with the previous treatment was installed at this time.

On October 26, 1966, H. F. Fritsch & Sons were paid for removing wallpaper in the Guest Bedroom, preparing plaster surfaces for new wallpaper, and installing new sidewall and ceiling papers. This work also included washing and touching up wood trim and applying one coat of

satin varnish to the woodwork.<sup>237</sup> Comparison of photographs taken in 1964 and 1974 indicate that the same paper was installed but show slight differences in the placement of the pattern at the southwest corner of the room. The reason for this replacement of the paper within such a short period of time is not known.

The installation of the next paper occurred sometime between August 1974 and February 1977. At this time, the walls were stripped down to bare plaster. The new wallpaper featured a diaper pattern with stylized yellow and brown flowers. Like the wallpapers installed in rooms 107 and 207 around the same time, was a contemporary pattern reflecting the popular decorating style known as “Early American” and bore no resemblance to wallpapers of the 1850s. A very narrow striped border lined the top of the walls. In her 1983 study of the Lincoln Home’s wallpapers, Sara B. Chase notes that this wallpaper was “merely speculative and most inappropriate.”<sup>238</sup>

In 1983, Richard Nylander suggested that this room be hung with “Eastman,” a reproduction of a Rococo Revival wallpaper likely dating from ca.1845-1865 then produced by Scalmandré. It featured scrolls and stylized flowers and foliage arranged in groupings separated by narrow stripes, a type of composition seen in Rococo Revival, Renaissance Revival, and Gothic Revival wallpapers of the 1840s and 1850s.<sup>239</sup>

In March-April 1988, the room was hung with “Russian Bishop’s House – Study” (No. 81371), a reproduction wallpaper produced by Scalmandré of New York. The border is “Russian Bishop’s House – Study Border” (No. 81372).<sup>240</sup> The sidewall paper features half-drop stripes featuring medallions with scrolls and stylized foliage, separated by undulating vertical vines and stippled patterns; it is printed in green and red on a white ground. The border suggests gimp braid trim and

234. “Sidewall, Cooperstown | Objects | Collection of Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum,” accessed March 21, 2022, <https://collection.cooperhewitt.org/objects/18397313/>.

235. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, XI: Furnishings:Wallpapers 19.

236. “Sidewall, English Gothic | Objects | Collection of Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum,” accessed March 30, 2022, <https://collection.cooperhewitt.org/objects/18572599/with-image-332849/>.

237. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 117.

238. Chase, “A Study of Historic Wallpapers, The Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois,” 8.

239. Chase, 12.

240. Plans were made to use the border “Rope” (No. 5707-A), a reproduction of a ca.1850-1860 English or American border from the collection of the Victorian Society in America and reproduced by Schumacher of New York; this border was purchased and rolls of it are in storage on site, but it was not used in this room.



is printed in red and green on a white ground. These were new runs of 1986 reproductions commissioned by NPS for the restoration of the Russian Bishop's House (1841-1843) in Sitka, Alaska.<sup>241</sup> At the time of the 1987-1988 restoration of the Lincoln Home, this paper was believed to date from the 1850s. A 2003 assessment of wallpapers from the Russian Bishop's house reports that one of the original samples of the sidewall paper is marked "BARRINGT[ON]" on the selvedge, suggesting that it was of American or British manufacture. This report dates the paper and border to 1843-1844 and notes that it was covered over in a ca.1855 redecoration of the room.<sup>242</sup> While the sidewall paper resembles the striped medallion papers of the 1840s and 1850s, its date more than a decade before the Lincolns' 1855-1856 remodeling and its being covered over in the mid-1850s—in the remote conditions of Alaska—suggest that it is unlikely to represent the fashionable wallpapers selected by Mary Lincoln in 1855-1856.

Limited plaster and wallpaper displacement are evident below the sill and stool molding of the north window on the west wall. This condition was not noted in a 2019 condition assessment but is evident in photographs from November 2016.<sup>243</sup> Like the crack in the west wall of room 201, this condition is occurring near the joint between the top of the 1839 wall framing and the bottom of the 1855 wall framing.

### *Ceiling*

Like other ceilings in the house, the ceiling of this room was whitewashed until after the Lincolns' departure in 1861. Ceiling paper seems to have been installed in the room during a redecoration of the house by R. F. Kinsella in the summer of 1893. Drawings for a proposed restoration prepared in 1948 note to remove the present wallpaper from the walls and ceiling and to patch plaster as required. The ceiling was to receive one coat of whitewash. This work was not carried out. Ceiling papers were removed during the 1987-1988 restoration. The ceiling was painted white in 1988.

241. "Lincoln Home Wallpaper - Lincoln Home National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service)."

242. Yocum, *Wallpapers and Wallcoverings: The Russian Bishop's House, Sitka National Historical Park, Sitka, Alaska*, 397-99.

243. *Lincoln Home, National Park Service, Building Condition Review & Report*, 4.

### *False Fireplace*

At the time of the Dresser Cottage's construction in 1839, this room was provided with a chimney that appears to have included a thimble and a second flue for venting a heating stove. Cast iron heating stoves were available in Illinois, both from eastern manufacturers and local foundries, by the late-1830s.<sup>244</sup> During the 1855 remodeling, the earlier chimney was enclosed with wood-frame walls to create a larger chimney breast bearing a Greek Revival wood mantel as the backdrop for a chamber stove. There was never a functional fireplace in this room. One of the four stoves known to be in the house in 1861 was in this room. The stove used by the Lincolns in this room appears to have been sold at their February 1861 sale.<sup>245</sup>

Structural investigations in 1985 and work during the 1987-1988 restoration revealed more details of the chimney. The wood-frame walls creating the larger chimney breast created a space prone to pest infestation; the remains of recent squabs were found within this void. Removal of plaster from the panel within the mantel opening revealed the plastered face of the chimney exposed in the room from 1839 to 1855. A hole in the face of this chimney marked the past location of the thimble. Later tenants of the house appear to have installed heating stoves. Krupka reports that a later thimble location was in the face of the chimney breast approximately 5'-6" above the floor.<sup>246</sup>

The lath and plaster panel and supporting framing within the opening of the mantel were removed during the 1954-1955 restoration of the room. Two photographs taken by James T. Hickey in July 1954 show the opening and the plastered north face of the 1839 chimney. A rectangular opening in the face of the chimney appears to mark a past stovepipe thimble location. Two vertical lines of the face of the 1839 plaster document the two studs used to support the 1855 lath and plaster panel; matching studs survived in corresponding

244. Menz, *Historic Furnishings Report, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Illinois*, 209.

245. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 31; Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:Heating Systems 9-11.

246. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Plaster and Lath Walls and Ceilings 48; Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 2:Heating Systems 17-19.

positions in room 201 as of 1987. The line behind the location of the western stud was bare brick for the full height of the visible portion of the chimney. The width of this strip of bare brick, the apparent cleanness of the face of the brick (like that behind the location of the 1839 baseboard), and the neat, vertical edges of the plaster to either side suggest that a partition may have terminated against the face of the chimney from the time of the Dresser Cottage's construction in 1839 until the 1855 remodeling. A photograph taken in November 1987 documents that the opening into the chimney

had been enlarged and that more plaster had been removed from the face of the 1839 chimney. The outline of the strip of bare brick remained visible.

LIHO staff report that the mantel is a reproduction made in 1987-1988. The mantel is identical to that appearing in photographs taken between 1954 and 1987 and matches the surviving mantel in room 201. The 1986 construction documents for the restoration do not indicate replacement of the mantel.

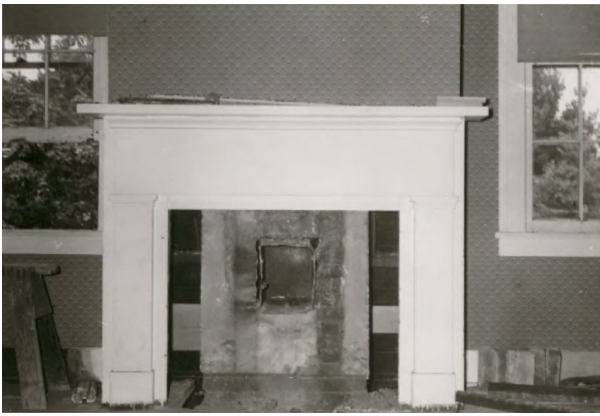


**Figure C.234.** Stereograph showing Tilton washstand, ca.1865. This appears to show the northwest corner of room 208 (Guest Bedroom). Similar view (right), 2021. Source: LIHO 10361, RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.235.** Stereograph showing Tilton dresser, ca.1865. The shadow in the window at right appears to be from the mourning drapery present on the windows during Lincoln's funeral in May 1865. This stereograph appears to show the west wall of room 208 (Guest Bedroom). Similar view (right), 2021. Source: LIHO 10363, RATIO Architects.





**Figure C.236.** View south in room 208 showing false fireplace with plaster panel removed, photograph by James T. Hickey, June 1954. The lath and plaster panel has been removed, exposing the 1839 chimney that was enclosed by the false chimney breast in 1855. Note the vertical line of bare brick along face of 1839 chimney; this may mark the location of a partition in place from 1839 to 1855. Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.



**Figure C.237.** View east-northeast in room 208 showing ca. 1861-1887 door opening being infilled (center) and new door opening (left), photograph by James T. Hickey, June 1954. Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.



**Figure C.238.** View northeast at northeast corner of room 208, looking through new doorway to room 207, summer 1954. Note the freshly-cut end of the 1839 top plate of east wall (above man's hand) and 1855 stud above. Two openings between rooms 207 and 204 are visible through this opening; that at left was a new opening created in 1954 and that at right was the historic opening infilled in 1954. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F42P331.



**Figure C.239.** View southwest in room 208, 1955. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B7F1P112.





**Figure C.240.** View southwest in room 208, 1955. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B7F1P111.



**Figure C.243.** View northeast in room 208 showing 1950s visitor path, ca.1981. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B1F80P20.



**Figure C.241.** View southwest in room 208, December 22, 1964. Source: Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.



**Figure C.244.** View southeast in room 208, August 1987. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F41P291.



**Figure C.242.** View southwest in room 208, ca.1981. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B1F80P19.



**Figure C.245.** View northeast in room 208 after removal of wallpaper, August 1987. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F41P306.





**Figure C.246.** View southeast in room 208, fall 1987. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F42P33.



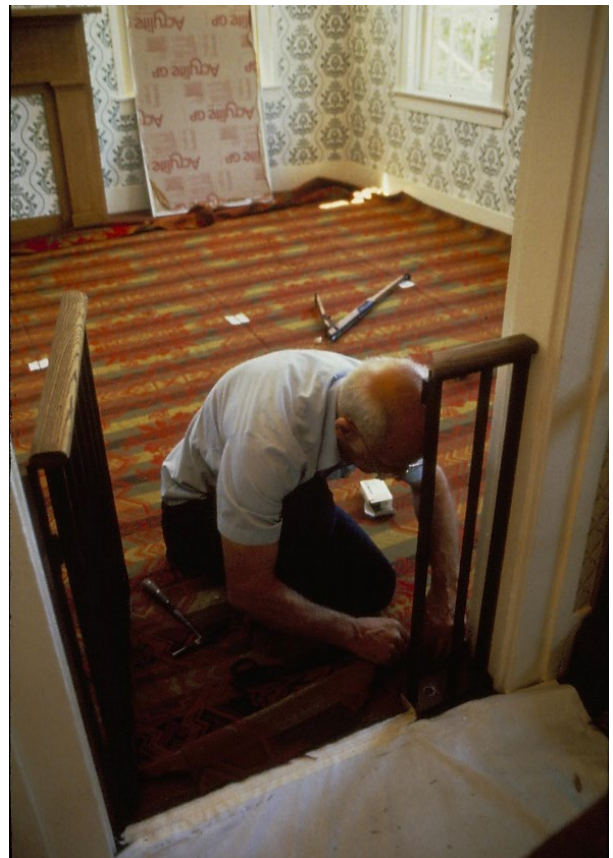
**Figure C.249.** Graining mantel in room 208, facing south-southeast, April 1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F33P19



**Figure C.247.** View southeast in room 208, October 27, 1987. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F39P26.



**Figure C.248.** Installation of wallpaper in room 208, March-April 1988. The man at left is Vance Kaminski, NPS architect and project supervisor. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F33P11.



**Figure C.250.** View southwest from room 200 to room 208 during installation of carpet, spring 1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4G40P235.





**Figure C.251.** View south from room 200 to room 208 during construction tour, April-May 1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B6F38P10.



**Figure C.252.** View southwest in room 208 during installation of furnishings, May 1988. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B4F28P74.



**Figure C.253.** View south in room 208, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.254.** View west-northwest in room 208, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure C.255.** Detail of plaster and wallpaper displacement below stool of north window of west wall of room 208, November 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.

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# Part 1.D Evaluation of Significance

## Introduction

The Lincoln Home is a significant building associated with the life of Abraham Lincoln between 1844 and 1861. This was the only home ever owned by Lincoln and is the surviving building with the longest association with his life, family, and the period in which he emerged as a national political figure, culminating in his election as the sixteenth President of the United States in 1860.

The Lincoln Home first opened as a museum devoted to Lincoln's life and legacy in 1884. It was maintained as a museum by the State of Illinois from 1887 to 1972, when it was transferred to the National Park Service. It is the centerpiece of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

## Evaluation of Significance

The Lincoln Home is significant for its association with Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president of the United States, and for its association with the Lincoln family between 1844 and 1861. As with the homes of most presidential candidates, the house saw national attention during Lincoln's 1860 presidential campaign. Similarly, it was regarded as a notable landmark during Lincoln's tenure in office. The Lincoln Home has been regarded as a nationally significant landmark since Lincoln's assassination in 1865. It was first opened as a museum in 1884 by Osborn H. Oldroyd—then renting the house from Robert Todd Lincoln—who used a few rooms to display his ever-growing collection of objects related to Lincoln. Robert Todd Lincoln donated the house to the State of Illinois in 1887, stipulating that it be open to the public free of charge, and it continued to be a site of historical pilgrimage after the departure of Oldroyd and his collection in 1893. The State of Illinois followed accepted best practices for the treatment of historic buildings during its ownership, including a 1952-1955 restoration that attempted to provide visitors with a more accurate experience of the house as it appeared in 1860. Throughout this period, the house was regarded

as a nationally significant site in the model of a “shrine”-type museum devoted to the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln.

The Lincoln Home was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) on December 19, 1960. Administered by the National Park Service, NHLs are nationally significant historic places that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. The property meets National Historic Landmark criterion 2, being associated importantly with the life of a person nationally significant in the history of the United States. The Lincoln Home's NHL listing was documented by a 1959 National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings form (Form 10-317, Sept. 1957). This form, containing a page and a half of typewritten text, includes a brief history of the house interwoven with statements of its significance which are excerpted below.

This simple frame house, the only one Lincoln ever owned, was home to the Lincolns for sixteen years, from 1844 to 1861, except for the period Lincoln served in Congress from November 1847 to March 1849. The house saw the emergence of Lincoln from a small town lawyer to a figure of national importance, and witnessed some of the most important episodes in the man's life prior to his inauguration as president. From the house Lincoln walked to the law office he shared with “Billy” Herndon, and in his home on May [19], 1860, Lincoln received a committee from the Republican Nominating Convention bearing the formal notification of his nomination as the party's candidate. During the campaign Lincoln received well-wishers at the home and on February 6, 1861, gave a “grand levee” to bid farewell to his friends and fellow citizens on the eve of the departure for Washington... The Lincolns spent the major part of their married life in the house and in it were born three more sons, the first of whom, Edward Baker, died there...

The years which Lincoln spent in Springfield were crucial ones in the development of the

man and the growth of his reputation. The simple, comfortable house at the corner of 8th and Jackson Streets is intimately associated with those years of trial and growth. More eloquently than monuments of stone and bronze the house preserves the memory of the man who called it home.<sup>247</sup>

All existing NHLs were theoretically listed in the National Register of Historic Places upon the program's creation when the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 was signed into law on October 15, 1966. However, NPS records indicate that the Lincoln Home was listed in the National Register on August 18, 1971 (National Register Information System ID: 71000076). The National Register of Historic Places serves as the federal government's list of the United States' historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects worthy of preservation. Although National Register nomination forms were in use by 1971, the paperwork on file is simply a duplicate of the 1959 National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings form used for the 1960 NHL designation.

The lack of National Register or NHL documentation beyond the 1959 National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings form has led to a lack of formal documentation of aspects of the site's significance within the records of these two programs. For example, the available documentation does not define a clear period of significance and the National Register database records the listing as a district.<sup>248</sup>

The Lincoln Home is the only home ever owned by Abraham Lincoln and the surviving building most closely associated with his life between 1844 and 1861. This was the period in which Lincoln emerged as a national public figure, culminating in his election as the sixteenth president of the United States in 1860. Lincoln's seventeen-year ownership and occupancy of the house makes it the property with the longest direct association with his life.

While the Lincoln Home possesses special significance for its long association with Lincoln's

life, family, and its connection to the formative years leading to his presidency, many other sites are significant for their association with aspects or periods of his life. Sites associated with Lincoln's early life, including the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park in Kentucky, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in Indiana, and Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site in Illinois, lack surviving buildings and structures. The Lincoln-Herndon Law Office State Historic Site, home of Lincoln's law office from 1843 to ca.1852, is the property most closely associated with his law career. Vandalia State House State Historic Site in Vandalia, the Old State Capitol State Historic Site in Springfield, and the United States Capitol in Washington, DC, are associated with Lincoln's political career. In Washington, DC, the White House and the cottage at President Lincoln and Soldiers' Home National Monument are properties closely associated with Lincoln's presidency. Also in Washington are the two sites closely associated with Lincoln's assassination and death, Ford's Theatre, where Lincoln was shot, and the Petersen House, where he died the next morning.

## Period of Significance

The Lincoln Home is a property with a clearly defined period of significance that remains undocumented in its National Register and NHL listings. Richard S. Hagen understood the property's period of significance to span from Lincoln's purchase in 1844 until the family's departure for the White House in 1861, with a defined period of interpretation spanning from the 1860 presidential campaign to the family's departure in 1861 used for the 1852-1955 restoration. The 1959 National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings form, likely prepared with reference to Hagen's research, does not list a period of significance but describes the house's association with the Lincoln family between 1844 and 1861. The form identifies the property's "theme" as "The Civil War, 1861-1865," but the Lincolns were not in Springfield and did not occupy the house during the war.<sup>249</sup>

The National Register database record for the Lincoln Home lists its period of significance as

247. Charles E. Shedd Jr., "National Survey of Historic Site and Buildings: The Lincoln Home State Memorial" (National Park Service, June 16, 1959), <https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/0ef8541f-4d70-4678-8277-f4ab30a9e24a>.

248. "NPGallery Asset Detail," accessed April 26, 2022, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/71000076>.

249. Shedd Jr., "National Survey of Historic Site and Buildings: The Lincoln Home State Memorial."

1825-1849.<sup>250</sup> This appears to be an arbitrary quarter-century period intended to encompass the house's initial construction, a practice common on some early National Register nominations, but unconnected with the specific history of the Lincoln Home. Although no National Register form for the property is on file, the form in use in 1971 (Form 10-300, Dec. 1968) included check boxes for the century and a line for specific dates where applicable or known.

Francis Orlando "Fran" Krupka (1944-1999) served as LIHO's historical architect and began development of a Historic Structure Report (HSR) during the 1987-1988 restoration. Although this document was never completed, Krupka's surviving 1988 draft includes the following definition of time periods and associated terms.<sup>251</sup>

- Pre-historic period. Prior to the Lincolns' purchase of the house on January 16, 1844.
- Historic Period. January 16, 1844, through April 14, 1865.
  - Early Historic Period. January 16, 1844 through 1854. During this period, the property is referred to as the Lincoln Cottage
  - Historic Period. 1855 through February 11, 1861. Includes the second remodeling through the departure for Washington. During this period, the property is referred to as the Lincoln Home.
  - Designated Historic Period. 1860 through February 1861. Target date for the restoration.
  - Late Historic Period. February 11, 1861, through April 14, 1865. Lincoln retained ownership but the house was not occupied by the family. During this period, the property is also referred to as the Lincoln Home.
- Post-Historic Period. April 15, 1865 to July 8, 1887. During which the house was owned by the Lincoln heirs. During this period, the property is referred to as the Lincoln Family Home.
- Modern Period. After July 9, 1887.
  - State of Illinois Period. July 9, 1887, to October 8, 1972. During this period the property is referred to as the Lincoln Homestead.
  - National Park Service Period. After October 8, 1972. During this period the property is referred to as the Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

Krupka identifies a period of significance ("Historic Period") spanning from Lincoln's purchase of the property on January 16, 1844, until his death on April 14, 1865, and a period of interpretation ("Designated Historic Period") of 1860 until the Lincolns' departure from the house on February 11, 1861. This period of interpretation was used for the 1987-1988 restoration and all subsequent interpretation of the house. For the purposes of this HSR, 1844 to 1861 will be treated as the period of significance, with 1860-1861 as the period of interpretation.<sup>252</sup>

It is recommended that the National Register record for the property be updated to reflect a period of significance of 1844 to 1865.

## Evaluation of Integrity

Evaluation of the building's historic fabric dating from the period of significance—1844-1865—considers the seven aspects of integrity identified in the National Register Criteria for Evaluation: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The retention of essential physical features from the period of significance is necessary for the property to have sufficient integrity to convey its significance. Character defining features of the Lincoln Home during its period of significance include its shape and form, fenestration, brick foundation, painted weatherboard siding and trim, doors, windows, shutters, porches, cast iron balustrade, bracketed cornice, brick chimneys, lightning protection system, interior plan, woodwork, doors, staircases, fireplaces, plaster walls covered with paint or wallpaper, plaster ceilings covered with paint, and wood floors covered by wall-to-wall floorcoverings in most rooms.

250. "NPGallery Asset Detail."

251. Krupka, 1:n.p.

252. The park sometimes interprets up to Lincoln's funeral and return to Springfield in 1865.

**Location**

The Lincoln Home retains integrity of location. The building remains in its original location and has never been moved.

**Design**

The Lincoln Home retains integrity of design. Its overall appearance, fenestration, spatial configuration, and most of its finish materials retain a high degree of integrity to its appearance as remodeled by the Lincolns in 1855-1856 and as documented in 1860-1861. Alterations postdating the period of significance were largely removed during the 1950s and 1980s restorations. Modifications made during these restorations were carefully designed and are largely invisible at the exterior and all portions of the interior that are open to the public. The most significant alterations that remain visible are the modified back staircase and the visitor railings, both dating from the 1950s.

**Setting**

The Lincoln Home retains integrity of setting. While the surrounding neighborhood and the wider context of Springfield has changed greatly since the period of significance, the National Park Service has worked to restore the immediate setting of the Lincoln Home to its appearance during the period of interpretation (1860-1861). The existing outbuildings at the east end of the lot, built in the 1950s, approximate the appearance of the Lincolns' outbuildings. A great deal of work to restore the setting has occurred since the 1970s. The Arnold House to the south has been returned to its 1860 location and restored to the period of interpretation. The Carrigan House to the north and the Burch House to the west have both been demolished; both lots are currently surrounded by fences reflecting the period of interpretation and NPS has developed plans for the future reconstruction of the shells of both houses. Most of the other surviving historic buildings within the four-block area of the park and fronting Eighth Street have been restored or sympathetically rehabilitated.

**Materials**

The Lincoln Home retains integrity of materials. The 1980s restoration prioritized the preservation and maintenance of surviving historic fabric; components that were removed during this project were numbered, catalogued, and reinstalled in their historic locations. While some of the house's

exterior siding and woodwork and interior plasterwork have been replaced in-kind, the house retains a high degree of integrity of materials to the period of significance.

**Workmanship**

The Lincoln Home retains integrity of workmanship. The brick foundation, exterior wooden components including weatherboard siding, wood windows, and trim, cast iron balustrade, and its interior woodwork, including the front staircase, window and door casings, doors, mantels, baseboards, and brick hearths are all representative of the workmanship of both workshop-based craftspeople and craftspeople working in the field to construct or remodel the house between 1839 and 1856.

**Feeling**

The Lincoln Home retains integrity of feeling in its present condition. Feeling is an intangible quality of a historic property that evokes the sense and experience of the period of significance. The building's integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, combined with its high-quality restoration and interpretation, contribute to its integrity of feeling.

**Association**

The Lincoln Home retains a high degree of integrity of association. The building itself is a direct link to the life of Abraham Lincoln and his family. It is the only home ever owned by Lincoln and the surviving building most closely associated with his life between 1844 and 1861.



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# Part 2. Treatment

## Introduction

The Scope of Work for this Historic Structure Report (HSR) included the following notes regarding the treatment of the Lincoln Home:

Part 2 - Treatment Recommendations reaching a preferred treatment approach for access, MEP systems upgrades, and redevelopment of the east end of the property through stakeholder participation.

3. The HSR will develop a prioritized condition assessment list of corrective maintenance and repair treatments to address deficiencies that threaten long-term preservation of the structure;

4. The arrangement and configuration of the structures at the rear of the lot do not adequately serve park and visitor needs. The HSR will include recommendations for redevelopment in this area of the property;

5. Assessment of MEP, security, and fire suppression systems, and recommendations for upgrades will involve sustainable solutions for park operations and energy efficiency;

7. Analysis of the structures and site for compliance with ABAAS is key to operation of the facility. Recommendations will include concepts to achieve a universally accessible experience for visitors and park staff;

Analysis will result in a treatment recommendations and conceptual design for universal access and redevelopment of the structures located at the rear of the property.<sup>253</sup>

During the treatment workshop in September 2022, LIHO's superintendent and staff notified the project team that the National Park Service is currently seeking funding for a comprehensive universal access project for the entire park. The

pros and cons of various options for improved access have been included in Appendix D: Accessibility.

## Laws, Regulations, and Functional Requirements

Applicable laws, regulations, and requirements that apply to the treatment recommendations include the following:

- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). This act mandates that federal agencies, including the NPS, take into account the effects of their actions on properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and give the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment.
- National Park Service Cultural Resources Management Guideline (Director's Order 28). This order requires planning for the protection of cultural resources on park property.
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
- Architectural Barriers Act (ABA), 1968.
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 1990.
- Building Code 2021 of Illinois. This code references the 2021 International Building Code (IBC 2021). Section 101.4.7 Existing Buildings states that the International Existing Building Code (IEBC 2021) shall apply to existing buildings. The Lincoln Home is a historic building and is subject to the provisions of IEBC Chapter 12 – Historic Buildings.
- International Building Code (IBC), 2021.
- International Existing Building Code (IEBC), 2015, 2021.
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 914.

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253. Provision: Architect/Engineer Contract Design Services, Pre-design: Produce Historic Structure Report for Lincoln Home, PMIS 191056, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, 413 S. 8th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, June 2021.

- International Energy Conservation Code, 2015.
- The NPS Denver Service Center references the 2015 IEBC as a standard. The 2015 IEBC includes the following statement in paragraph 408.1, Historic Buildings: “[t]he provisions of this code that require improvements relative to the building’s existing condition or, in the case of repairs, that require improvements relative to a building’s predamage condition, shall not be mandatory for historic buildings unless specifically required by this section.”<sup>254</sup> Paragraph 408.2, Life Safety Hazards states: “[t]he provisions of this code shall apply to historic buildings judged by the building official to constitute a distinct life safety hazard.”<sup>255</sup>
- Executive Order 13514 issued in 2009 directs all federal agencies to implement sustainable design and construction practices. The relevant guidelines in this executive order require “. . .managing existing building systems to reduce the consumption of energy, water, and materials, and identifying alternatives to renovation that reduce existing assets’ deferred maintenance costs. . .[and] ensuring that rehabilitation of federally-owned historic buildings utilizes best practices and technologies in retrofitting to promote long term viability of the buildings.”<sup>256</sup>

## Recommended Ultimate Treatment

The Lincoln Home’s Management Category is Restoration. The NPS completed a restoration of the house in 1988. This project, allowing interpretation of the house to the period 1860-1861, followed the highest standards of the period and is consistent with the following definition of

### Restoration from the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*:

Restoration is defined as the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project.<sup>257</sup>

The recommended ultimate treatment for the Lincoln Home is a Restoration treatment. As noted above, a comprehensive restoration was completed in 1988 and work to date has consisted of maintaining the building’s 1860-1861 appearance. Assessment of existing conditions indicates that the Park has done a good job of stewardship since 1988. While a comprehensive restoration is not required, regular maintenance and significant repair campaigns should be anticipated every 10 to 20 years.

### General Recommendations

- Monitor the building’s conditions and document them on a quarterly basis using a maintenance checklist. Copies of the checklist should be kept on file at the park so that changes in condition are documented.
- Continue regular maintenance of the building.
- Continue implementation of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan to address insects, rodents, etc. This should include regular inspection for termite infestation and for other wood-destroying insects. It would also include preventing access to birds, squirrels, mice, bats and other rodents by ensuring window and door openings are tightly sealed and that appropriate mesh is maintained behind all louvers.
- Where possible, existing fabric should be

254. International Building Code Council, 2015 International Existing Building Code, Fifth Printing, (Country Club Hills, IL: Publications, 2014).

255. Ibid.

256. “Executive Order 13514 of October 5, 2009: Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance,” (Washington, D.C.: Federal Register 74, no. 194, October 8, 2009).

257. Anne E. Grimmer, *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Restoration & Guidelines for Restoring Historic Buildings* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Technical Preservation Services, 2017), <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/upload/treatment-guidelines-2017-part2-reconstruction-restoration.pdf>.

maintained for the duration of its service life. Replacement should be based on evaluated condition and not simply on age. Replacement of fabric that remains in good and serviceable condition should be avoided. The following examples are included for reference:

- An exterior paint finish may have an expected service life of 5 to 10 years. This does not mean that repainting must occur every 5 to 10 years. Quarterly monitoring may document paint failure on specific elements (like porch floors and windowsills) while the rest of the finish remains in good condition. In these cases, consider selective preparation and painting of only the elements experiencing paint failure. Selective replacement of this type may extend the life of the overall paint treatment well beyond its anticipated service life. In this example, the porch floors may require repainting every 5 years and the windowsills every 7 years, but the overall paint finish may remain serviceable for 25 years before its condition warrants comprehensive replacement. Comprehensive repainting every 25 years with touch ups every 5 to 7 years requires less labor, resources, and disruption than comprehensive painting every 5 to 10 years.
- A building's HVAC system may have an expected service life of 20 years. If the system remains in good condition at 20 years and a comprehensive rehabilitation is planned two years in the future, replacement should be delayed to coordinate with the comprehensive project. This avoids duplication of work, reduces disruption, and reduces the risk that the HVAC system will be incompatible with the overall rehabilitation project.
- Where possible, materials should be maintained or replaced in-kind. The use of alternative materials and technologies should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The following examples are included for reference:
  - Historic exterior wood siding on a building is experiencing selective deterioration. The deteriorated areas should be consolidated with epoxy where possible or replaced in-kind where consolidation is not possible. In-kind replacement should seek wood of comparable species and quality. Old-growth wood typically has superior performance characteristics to new-growth wood of the same species. For example, old-growth yellow poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) is rot-resistant and holds paint well, while new-growth wood of the same species is prone to rot and paint failure. In-kind replacements with new-growth yellow poplar may require replacement after only a few years while adjacent boards of old-growth yellow poplar may survive indefinitely with proper maintenance.
  - A historic site includes a modern reconstruction of a context building built using modern materials. The new-growth wood siding has deteriorated quickly, despite regular maintenance, and has required replacement every 10 to 15 years. An alternative material like fiber-cement board siding could be evaluated to determine whether it could meet all visual and performance criteria. The material being replaced is not historic. If the alternative material meets all visual and performance criteria, it could be used in this application.
  - Period wallpaper may have originally been produced by block printing or roller printing. Prior reproductions of the paper may have been produced by screen printing, a different technique giving a similar effect. If a new run of the paper is needed, digital reproduction could be evaluated to determine whether it will produce a print meeting the visual and

performance criteria. If a digital reproduction meets all visual and performance criteria, it could be used.

#### Site

- Follow recommendations in the 2014 *Lincoln Home National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Report* (CLR) with changes as needed for accessibility.

#### Exterior

- Continue regular maintenance.
- Touch up exterior paint finishes as required. Anticipate comprehensive repainting every 10 to 20 years.
- Selectively repair deteriorated glazing putty and cracked or damaged panes at windows as required. For wood windows without exterior storm windows, anticipate comprehensive window restoration every 25 to 50 years depending on exposure.
- Selectively repair deteriorated wood shutters as required.
- Anticipate annual repair of exterior doors (all modern replacements). Anticipate replacement of exterior doors based on lifespan of prior generations of replacement wood doors (approximately 15 to 25 years).
- Anticipate replacement of wood shingle roofing every 10 to 20 years.
- Anticipate replacement of metal roofing, gutter lining, and downspouts every 40 to 70 years.
- Anticipate repairs to lightning protection system during each replacement of roofing and inspection every five years. A UL Master Label Certificate can be obtained for compliant systems and requires inspection and re-certification every five years. During each replacement, evaluate the potential to eliminate roof penetrations.<sup>258</sup>
- Anticipate selective repointing of brick masonry every 10 to 20 years.

#### Interior

- Anticipate replacement of porch decks and wood steps based on lifespan of prior generations (approximately five to 20 years, depending on exposure).
- Continue regular maintenance.
- Anticipate annual touch-up of painted surfaces within visitor path.
- Anticipate selective plaster repairs every 25 to 50 years. Coordinate with wallpaper replacement or repainting.
- Anticipate replacement of interior reproduction wallpapers every 25 to 50 years, depending on exposure. Wallpapers within the visitor path will likely require replacement sooner than those within other portions of period rooms.
  - Most of these wallpapers should be replaced in-kind unless new evidence is found suggesting that a different paper is a more accurate treatment.
  - When the dining room (room 107) wallpaper is to be replaced, evaluate the potential to reproduce the wallpaper shown in the 1865 stereograph as intended in 1987-1988.
  - When the parlors (rooms 101 and 102) are re-wallpapered, evaluate the potential to reproduce the border shown in the 1865 stereograph.
- Anticipate replacement of interior visitor path carpet based on lifespan of prior generations (approximately five to 10 years).
  - The Park currently replaces the runner and padding on the front stair every six or seven years. Whenever possible, the existing tack strips should be left in place and reused to reduce damage to the historic fabric of the stair. The carpet and padding act as a sacrificial treatment, protecting the historic treads and risers of the stair from the brunt of wear and tear and reducing the impact of visitor footfalls on the stair. Exposing the wood steps would likely lead to more wear and tear and greater risk of visitor injury. Other treat-

258. <https://code-authorities.ul.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/LightningProtectionAG.pdf>

ments like rubber tread protectors would be a challenge, both with attachment (gluing or fastening to the wood), maintenance, and acoustics (creating much more noise that may interfere with other tour groups). Carpet is a good solution for visitor safety, acoustics, and protection of the historic treads and risers. Because of the stair's narrow width and the heavy visitor load, the existing treatment attaching the carpet with tack strips is preferable to the use of a narrow runner with stair rods (which would expose the edges of the treads and risers to wear and would increase the risk of visitor injury).

- Anticipate replacement of reproduction carpets in period rooms based on lifespan of prior generations (approximately 25 to 50 years, depending on exposure).
- If modifications to the visitor control railings are contemplated, evaluate the potential for modified design and layout to address accessibility challenges (see Appendix D: Accessibility, for more information).
- Evaluate the potential for providing universal access to the first floor and to both the first and second floors (see Appendix D: Accessibility, for more information).

### Building Systems

All new building systems should be carefully designed to minimize damage to the historic fabric of the building during installation and operation. All hardware and other visible features should be designed to minimize their visual impact on the interior.

### Structural Recommendations

- Continue pest maintenance. Perform an annual inspection for structural damage to the first-floor wood members, especially around the exterior perimeter of the house. The wood sill plates on the top of the basement walls are especially vulnerable to pest damage. Immediately make repairs of damage is discovered.
- Selectively re-point the exposed exterior brick mortar joints along the perimeter

walls of the house near ground level. This should be an ongoing preventative maintenance inspection but should not be allowed to extend beyond a five-year cycle.

- The exposed exterior brick should be painted on the same schedule as the house. If re-pointing is needed, re-paint the repaired area as needed.
- Monitor water infiltration into the basement through the exterior brick and block walls. Inspect regularly but no less than annually. Note damp or wet walls and standing water on the basement floor. Inspect for the presence of delaminated parging on the brick walls. If water infiltration and/or structural damage is discovered, review the exterior water management systems, and make repairs as needed. Immediately implement structural repairs as needed.
- Included in the 1987-1988 restoration project was an improvement of portions of the first and second-floor framing to meet a live load of 100psf in the areas of public access. If significant changes are made to the current visitor path, a structural review should be made to ensure the live load continues to be 100 psf within areas of public access.
- Inspect the attic framing for water damage and pest damage on an annual basis. Make immediate repairs if structural damage is discovered.
- The exposed exterior brick along the street-side brick retaining walls should be inspected regularly and repaired on an annual basis. The exposed wall surfaces should be painted on the same schedule as the house. If repointing is needed, paint the repaired area as needed.

### MEP &FP Recommendations

The Lincoln Home has had a history of humidity and temperature control issues since the 1987-1988 restoration project was completed. Based on discussion with the Park Staff and our review of the temperature and humidity data acquired from the Park's HOBO data loggers the issues continue today. Although we will require additional investigation to address the issues, we recommend the following:



- Verify that a proper vapor barrier has been provided around the exterior walls and between the second floor ceiling and the attic. At a minimum, this can be a vapor retarder latex primer, 0.0031" thick having a perm rating of 0.45
- Add a silicon controlled rectifier (SCR) to provide variable proportional control to the existing electric heater in the air handling unit to provide stable temperature control during heating and dehumidification operation.
- Upgrade or provide new automatic temperature controls which include temperature and humidity sensor in each space; provide new sequences of operation to operate the air handling unit's cooling coil to control dew point and use the SCR control heater for temperature.
- Provide a commercial grade humidifier that will interface with the new automatic temperature controls system rather than relying on stand-alone unit controls.
- In the event that Park implements a central geothermal loop, replace the remote water chiller with either a water-cooled heat recovery chiller or a water-to-water heat pump, both located in the basement of the Lincoln Home to provide both chilled and hot water. Replace the electric heating coil with a hot water heating coil and a modulating control valve to provide heating and reheat when dehumidifying.

## National Register and National Historic Landmark Nominations

The Lincoln Home was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1960. The National Register of Historic Places District called "Lincoln Home National Historic Site," contained within the Lincoln Home NHS, was designated in 1976 and updated in 1980. All existing NHLs were theoretically listed in the National Register of Historic Places upon the program's creation in 1966. However, NPS records indicate that the Lincoln Home was listed in the National Register in 1971. Both the NHL designation and the National Register nomination consist of a 1959 National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings. NHL documentation following current NPS

standards should be prepared to replace the 1959 survey form. The content of this form is described in more detail in section 1D: Evaluation of Significance.

Documents following current NPS standards for documenting NHLs and nominating properties to the National Register should be prepared for the Lincoln Home. As an interim measure, it is recommended that the National Register record for the property be updated to reflect a period of significance of 1844 to 1865.

## Resilience to Natural Hazards

The Lincoln Home is susceptible to threats associated with climate change. The effects of climate change include both changes in average conditions, trending toward higher temperatures and increased precipitation, and in intensity of particular events (e.g., more intense storms, floods, or droughts).

The region has seen an increase in mean annual temperature over the last 20 years. Temperature increases are likely to be most extreme in the summer and fall. These temperature increases are associated with more intense storms and droughts. A greater frequency of severe storms may also increase the number of tornadoes. In addition to warmer average temperatures and changes in precipitation, climate change is likely to cause more frequent droughts, heat waves, and floods. During the winter, increased temperatures can cause a greater number of freeze-thaw cycles.

Threats to the Lincoln Home posed by rising temperatures include increased crystallization of efflorescent salts due to increased evaporation rates, shrinking and cracking of wooden components, the potential for damage or destruction in severe storms and tornadoes, and added stress from sudden thermal change and an increase in annual freeze-thaw cycles.

Precipitation is likely to increase in the winter and spring and decrease in the summer. Precipitation variability is likely to remain large over the coming decades, but small changes in total annual precipitation may mask other changes. For example, annual precipitation rates could remain the same, but this precipitation may be condensed into heavier rain events spaced farther apart.

This can lead to an increase in both droughts and floods, as parched ground is less able to absorb rainfall.

The trend toward increased precipitation and heavier rain events presents threats to the Lincoln Home's historic fabric. An increase in extreme rain events would stress the building's ability to shed water and will result in accelerated decay of wooden components and masonry due to increased extremes of wetting and drying. The extreme cycle of wetting and drying will also increase the deposition and the eventual infiltration of salts into porous materials like wood and brick masonry. While the building does not appear to be vulnerable to flooding, extreme rain events may impact the park's operations and may strain the neighborhood's rainwater management systems. Higher relative humidity would increase the moisture absorption rates for wood, brick, and porous stone. This increased moisture absorption would result in the decrease of crystallization and dissolution of salts within masonry. The increased moisture would also increase the rates of growth of vegetation on masonry surfaces, increase the rate of corrosion of ferrous metal features, and accelerate the deterioration of wooden components.

Increasing temperatures are associated with an increased frequency and intensity of severe weather. Tornadoes and high winds present a particular threat to the building. Severe weather threats include destruction of or damage to the building itself, including displacement from the foundation, loss of the roof or windows, as well as the potential for wind-borne debris to damage the building. Aside from the potential damage from high winds, increasing storm events will increase weathering of exterior building components, accelerating deterioration of historic fabric and increasing maintenance needs.

In addition to the threats posed by climate change, environmental pollution is a concern. Carbon dioxide, sulfur oxide, and nitrogen oxide from fossil-fuel-based power generation, automobile exhaust, and industrial pollution cause acid rain, which has been widely documented as a cause of deterioration of historic buildings, particularly masonry materials and metals. Particulate pollution

from fossil-fuel combustion can accumulate on building materials and surfaces over time and may cause permanent staining.

**Adaptation** is the process of adjustment to actual natural hazards and the environment and its effects; human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate. **Mitigation** is the lessening of the potential adverse impacts of natural hazards through actions that reduce hazard, exposure, and vulnerability. **Resilience** is the ability of a system and its component parts to anticipate, absorb, accommodate, or recover from the effects of a hazardous event in a timely and efficient manner, including through ensuring the preservation, restoration, or improvement of its essential basic features, structures, and functions.

Cultural resources including historic buildings “are fixed in place or derive much of their significance from the place within which they were created. Many are non-living, and all are unique. As a result, the capacity of cultural resources to adapt to changing environments is limited.”<sup>259</sup> As stated in the Director's Policy Memorandum 14- 02, “NPS cultural resource management must keep in mind that (1) cultural resources are primary sources of data regarding human interactions with climate change; and (2) changing climates affect the preservation and maintenance of cultural resources.”<sup>260</sup>

The treatment recommendations focus on mitigation, lessening the potential adverse impacts of natural hazards on the building and increasing its resilience, the ability to survive and recover from the effects of a hazardous event.

#### **Implications – Adapting to Natural Hazards and Increased Climate Variability**

According to NPS documents, impacts to buildings and structures related to temperature and drought extremes include: deterioration, conflagration,

259. National Park Service, “Cultural Resources and Climate Change,” (n.p., 2016), accessed December 9, 2016, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/upload/06-CCRP-Cultural-Resource-Brief-FEB-2016.pdf>.

260. John B. Jarvis, February 10, 2014, 2.

and desiccation.<sup>261</sup> A loss of resource integrity may occur over time from conditions related to increased climate variability and its impacts. Typically, documentation is one of the first mitigation techniques undertaken in response to deterioration. This HSR, which includes narrative, photographs, measured drawings, and recommendations, fulfills this first step in the mitigation process.

The Lincoln Home exhibits signs of previous deterioration and recommendations for treatment are included in this document. The treatment recommendations also address many of the threats inherent from the increase in climate variability. The treatments would be designed to provide a more stable exterior for the Lincoln Home, with the goal of allowing this resource to better withstand the pressures presented by climate variability.

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261. Marcy Rockman, "An NPS Framework for Addressing Climate Change with Cultural Resources," *The George Wright Forum* 32, no. 1 (2015), accessed December 9, 2016, <http://www.georgewright.org/321rockman.pdf>.

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# Appendix A. Chronology Drawings

The following pages contain 11x17 formatted drawings illustrating the known chronological progression of changes to the Lincoln Home structure from 1839 to present.

The chronology drawings are works in progress for this HSR. The team recognizes that there are inconsistencies with representation and details and will be further addressing and editing for the final documentation.

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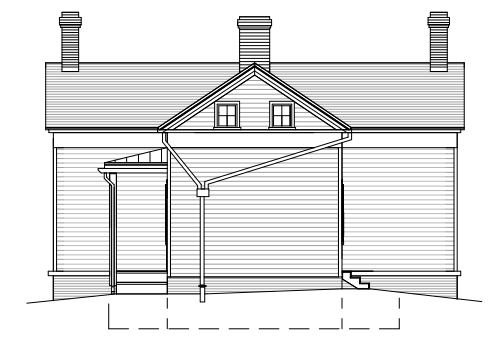
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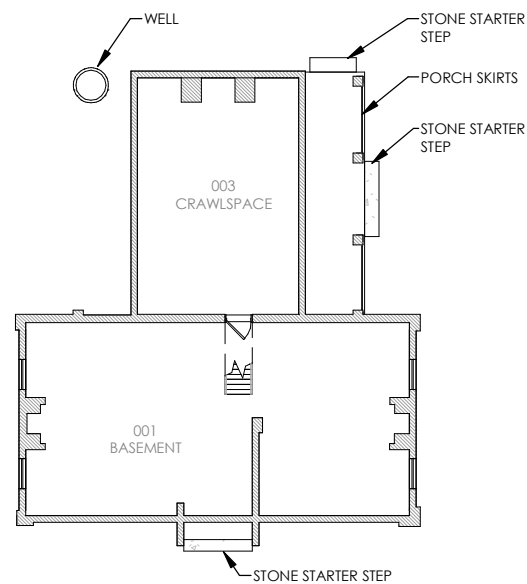
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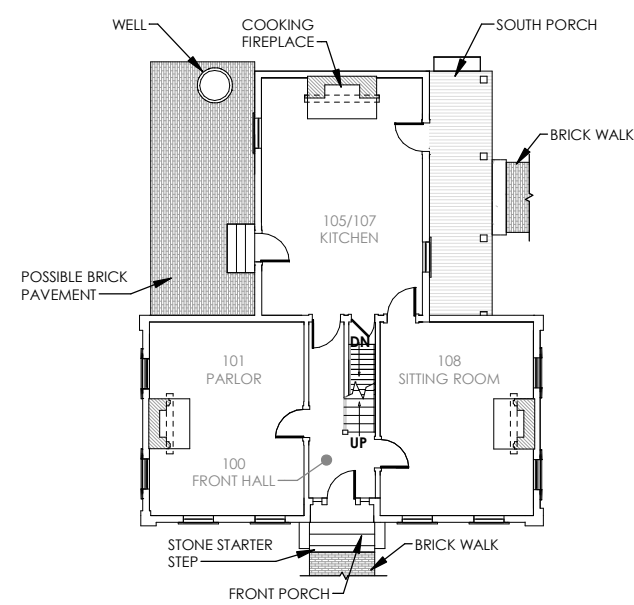
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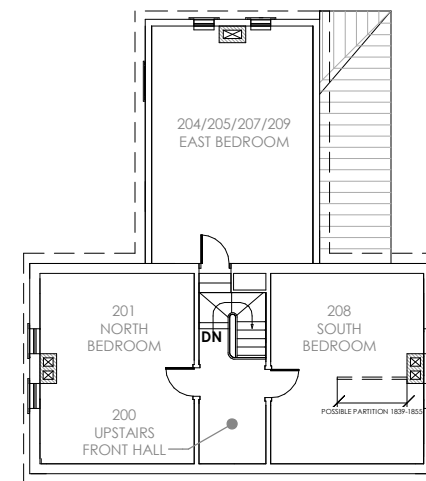
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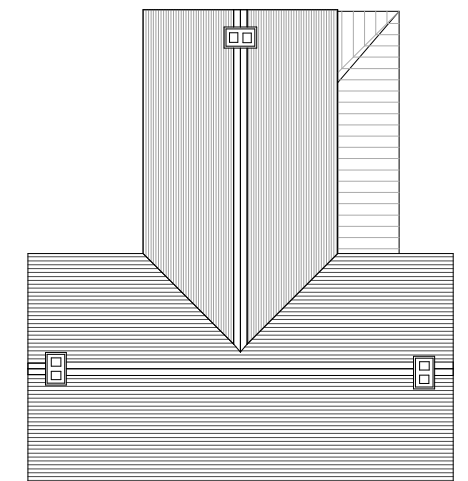
BASEMENT PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



ROOF PLAN



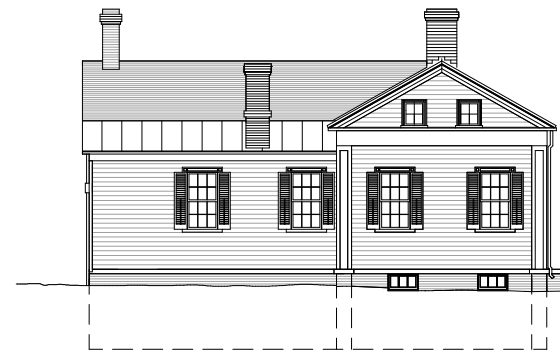
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LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

REV. CHARLES DRESSER COTTAGE  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN COTTAGE

1839-1844  
1844-1846

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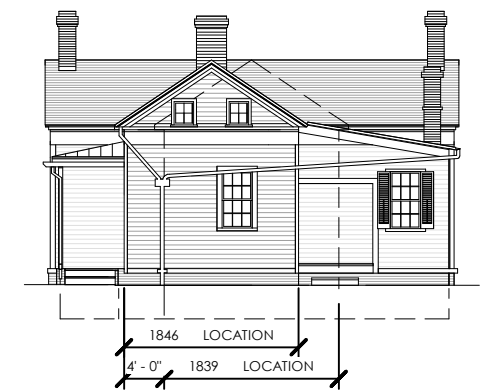
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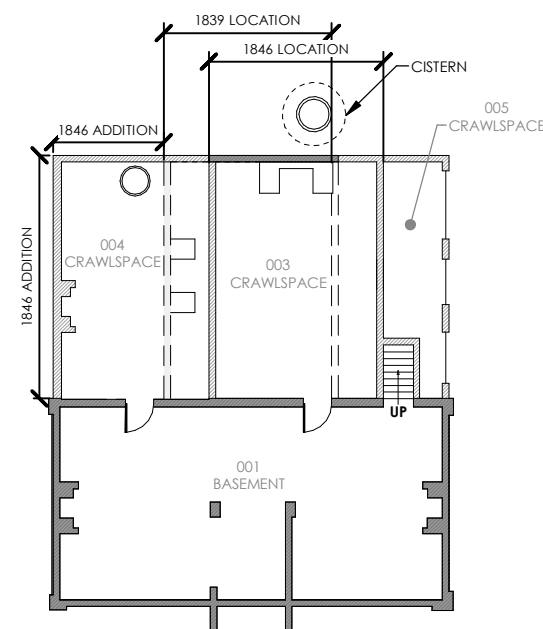
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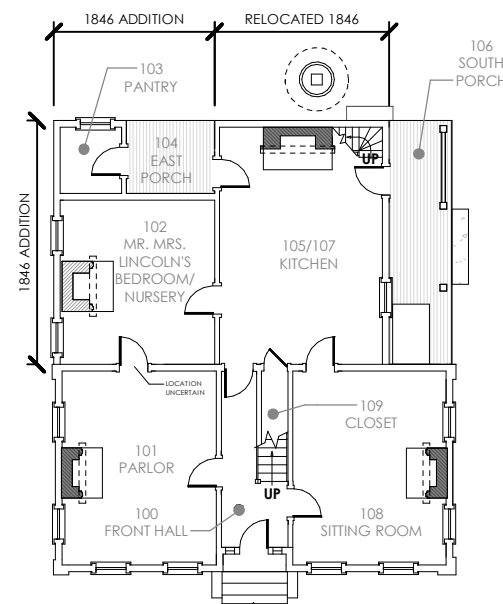
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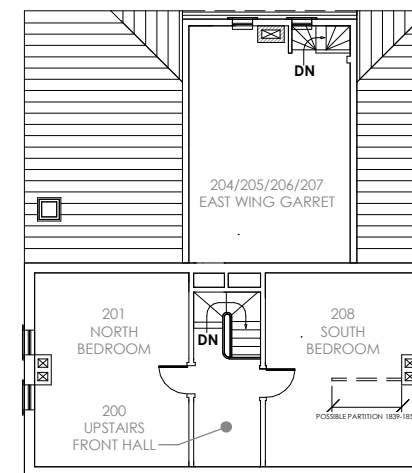
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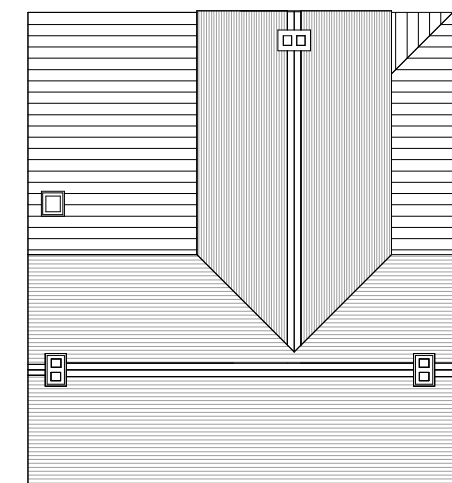
BASEMENT PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



ROOF PLAN



FLOOR PLAN WALL LEGEND	
	BUILT IN 1839
	BUILT IN 1846

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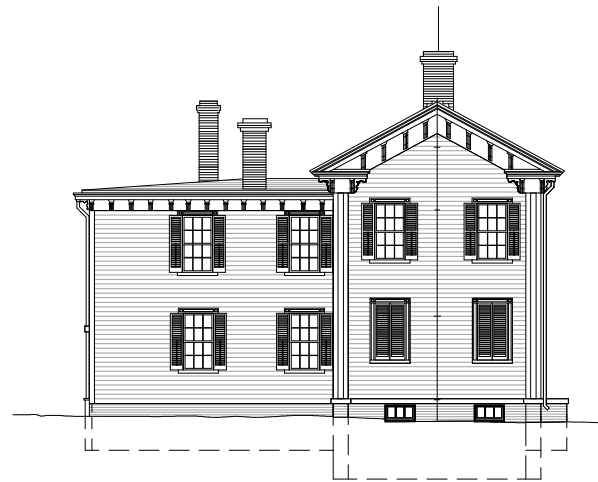
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LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

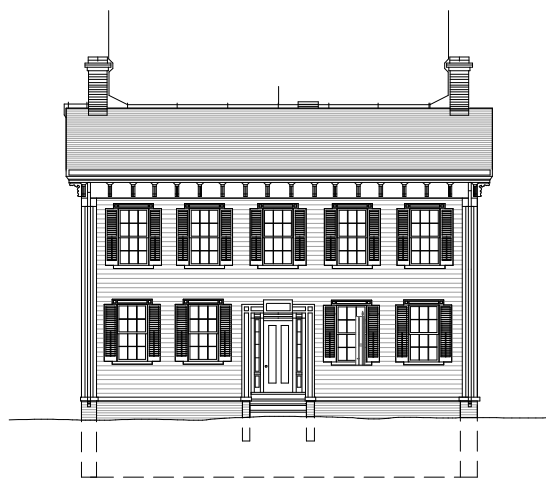
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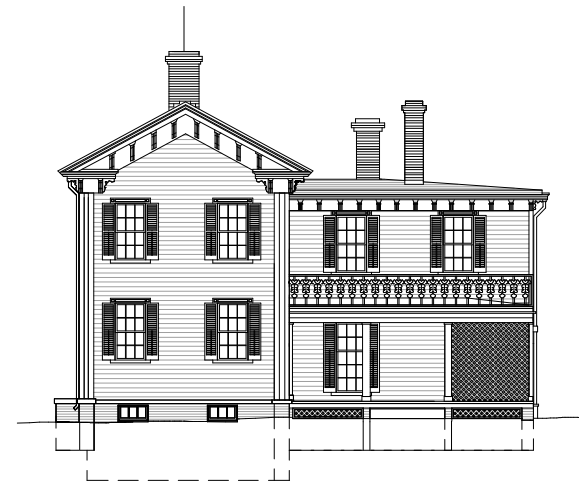
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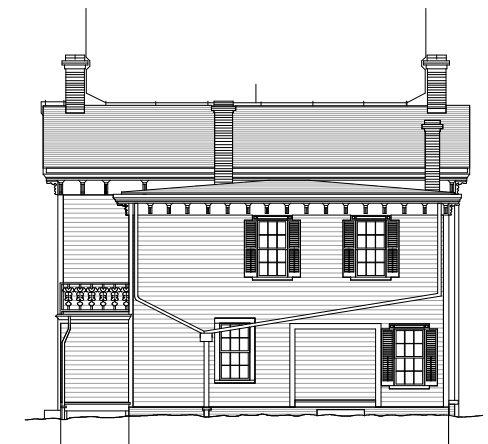
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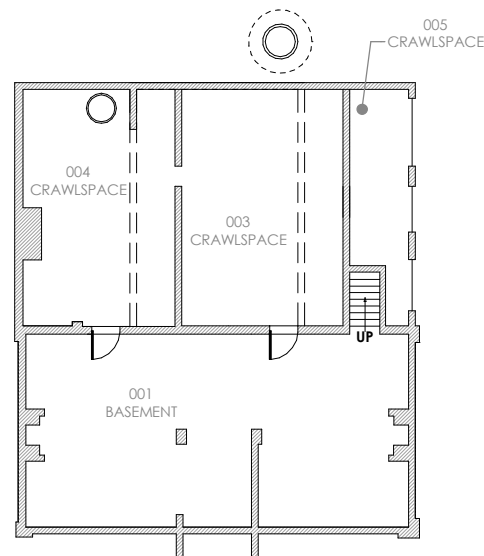
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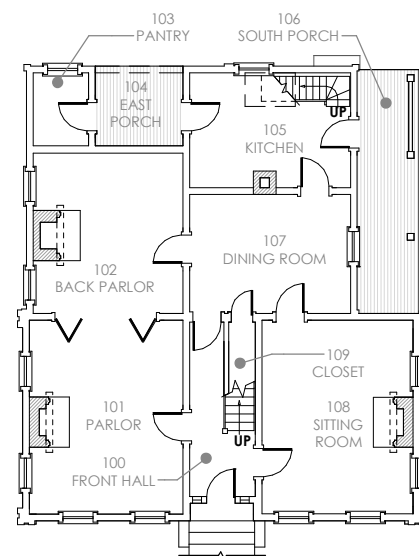
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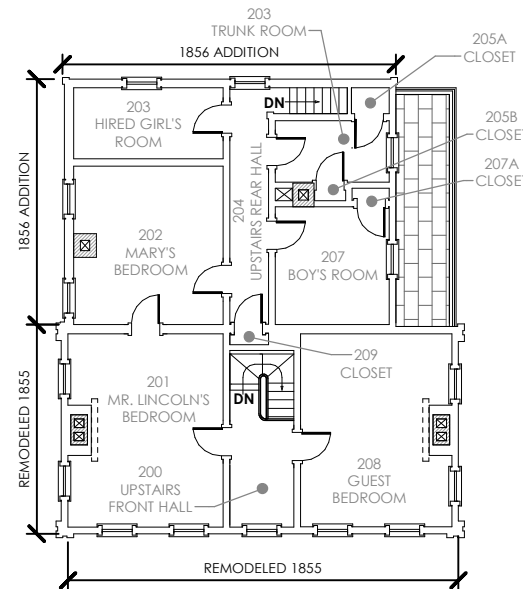
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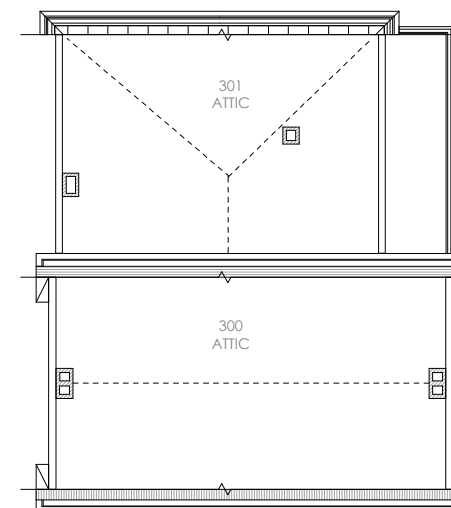
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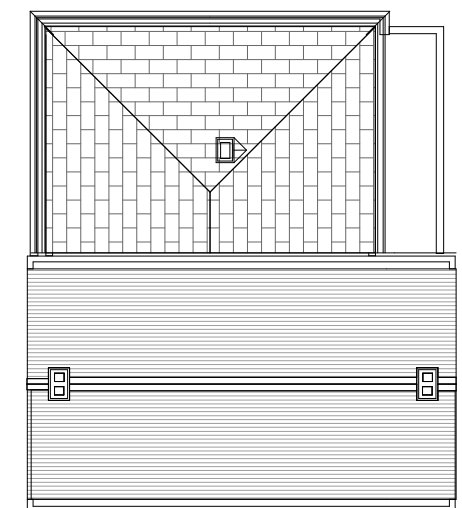
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ROOF PLAN



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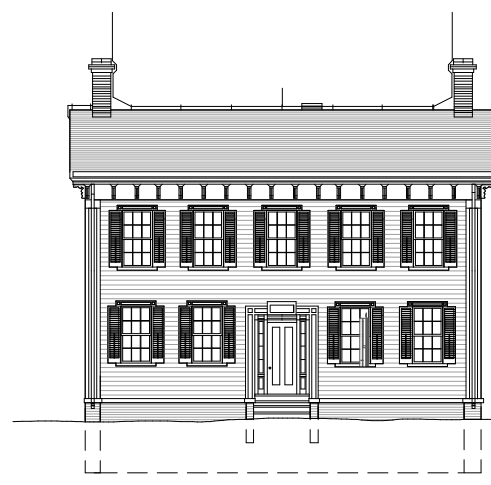
LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

LINCOLN HOME 1856-1861

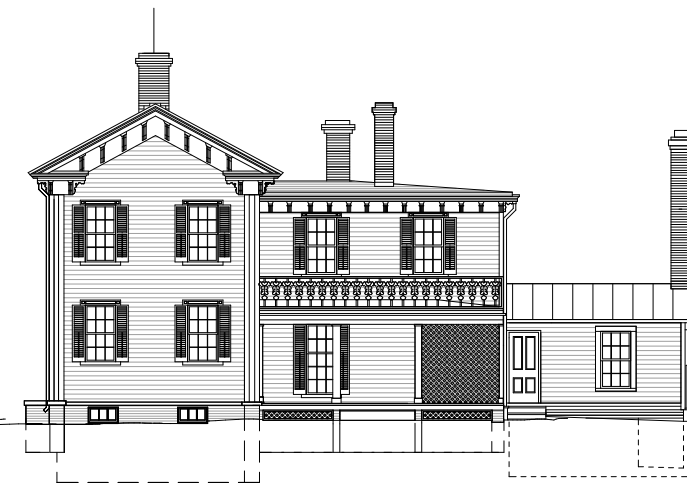
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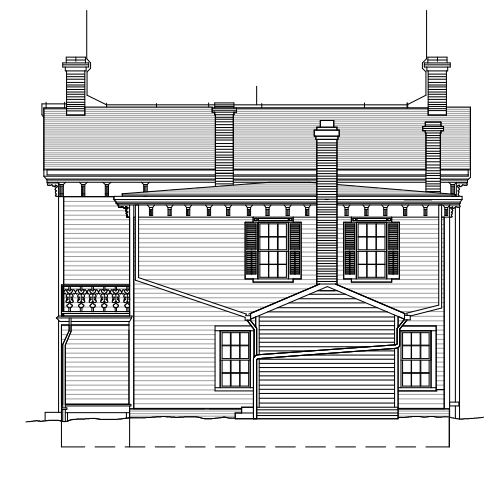
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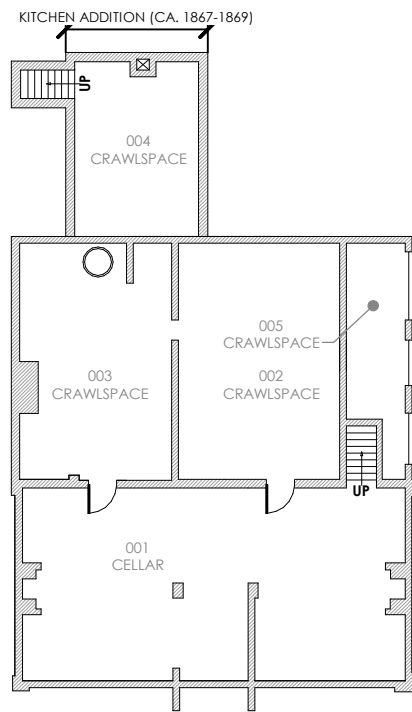
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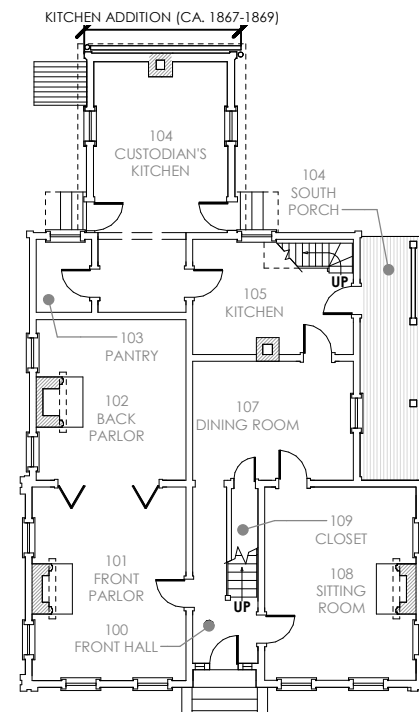
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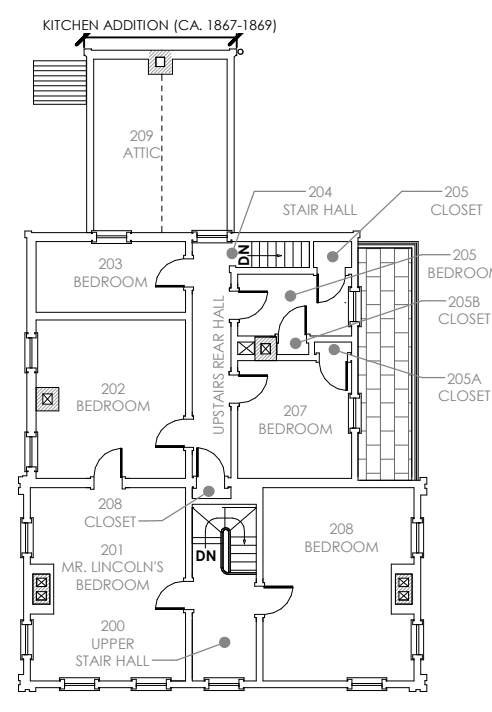
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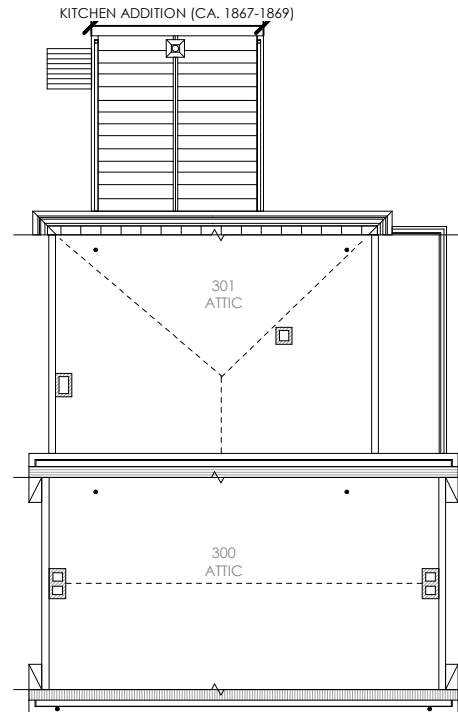
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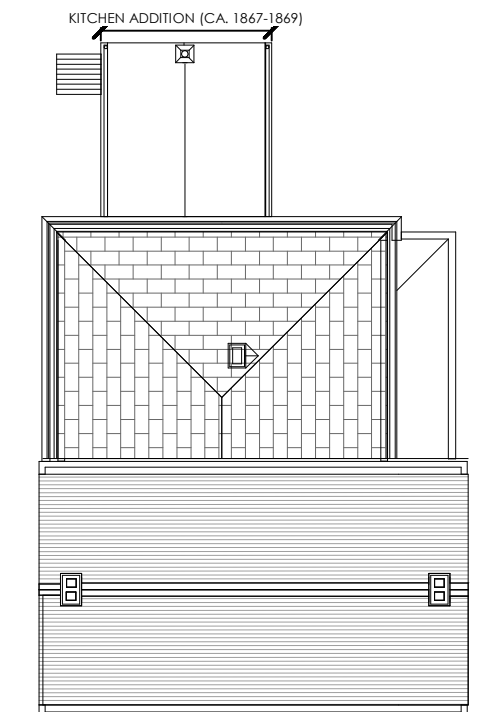
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SECOND FLOOR PLAN



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LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

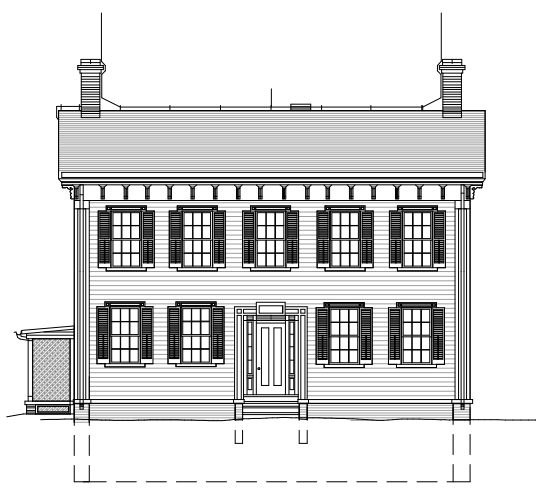
LINCOLN FAMILY HOME 1861-1887

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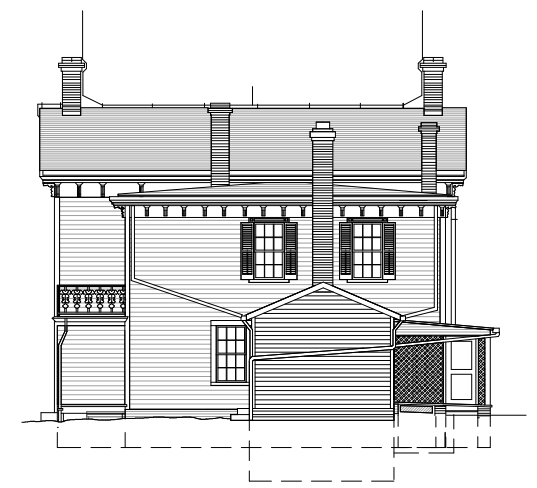
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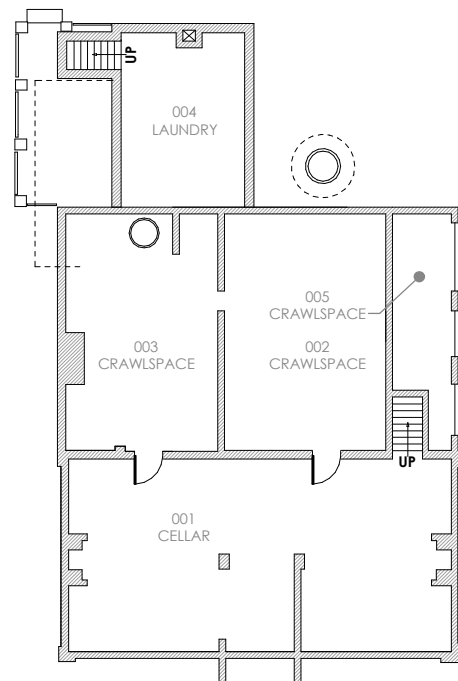
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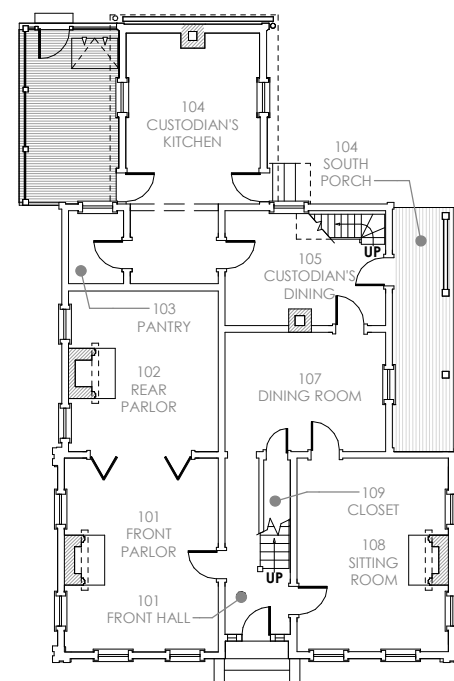
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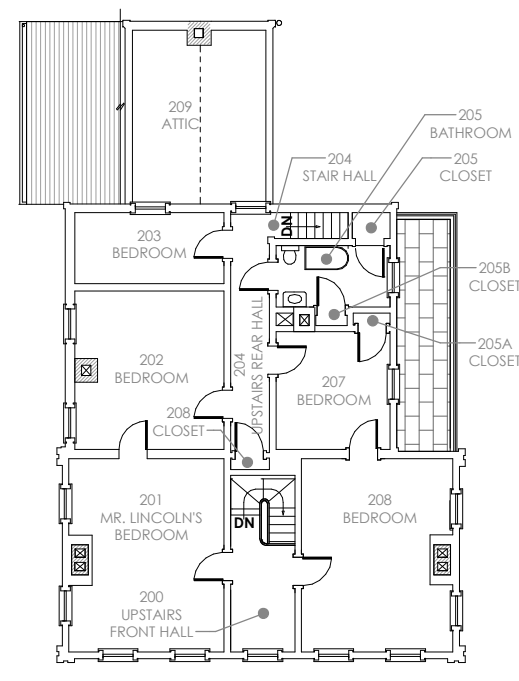
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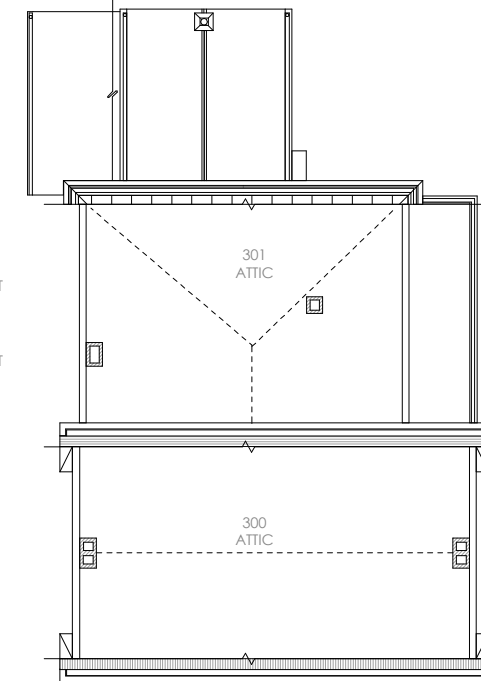
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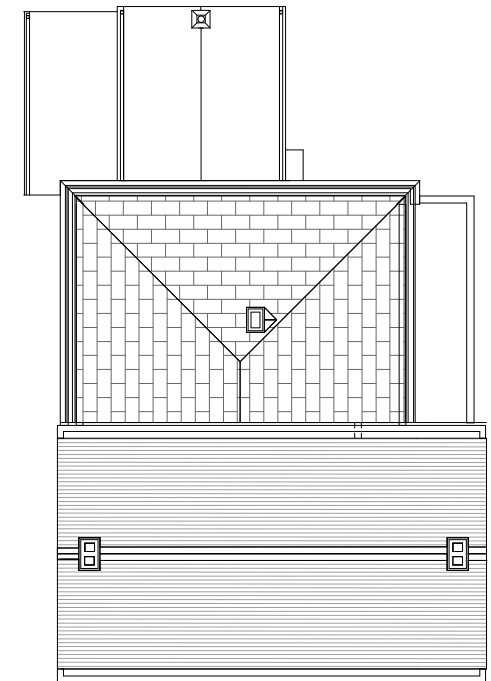
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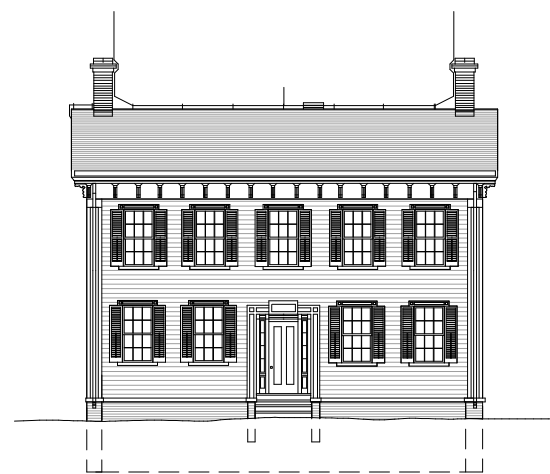
LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

LINCOLN HOMESTEAD 1887-1952

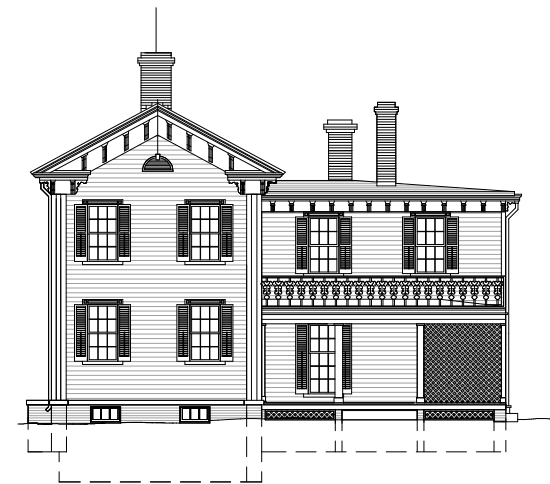
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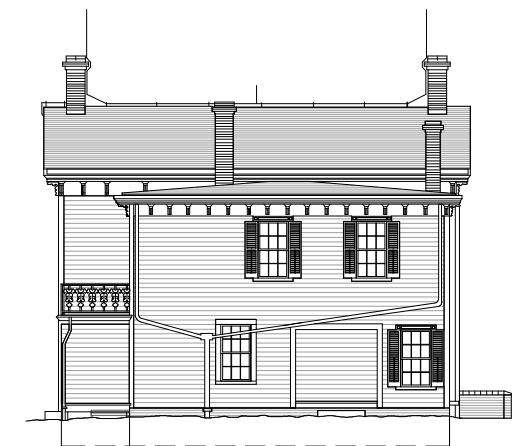
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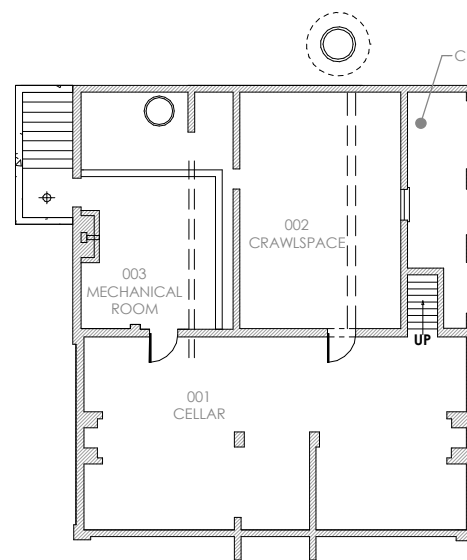
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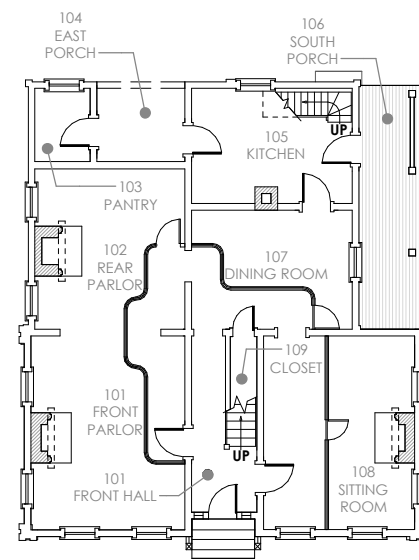
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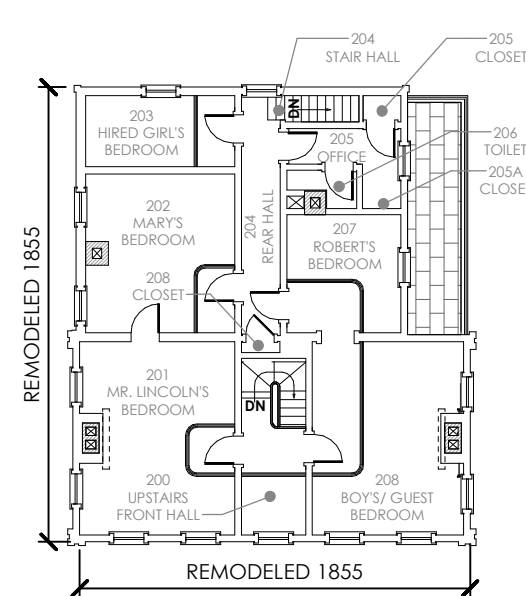
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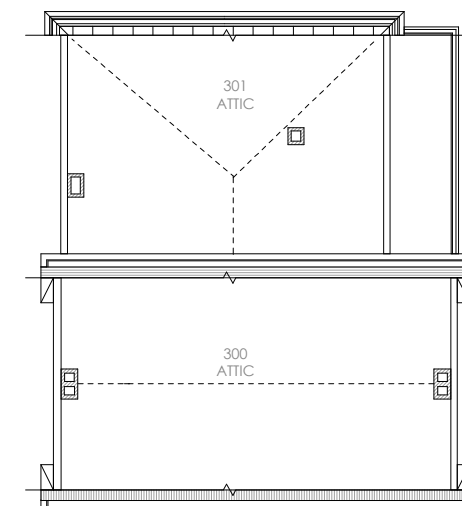
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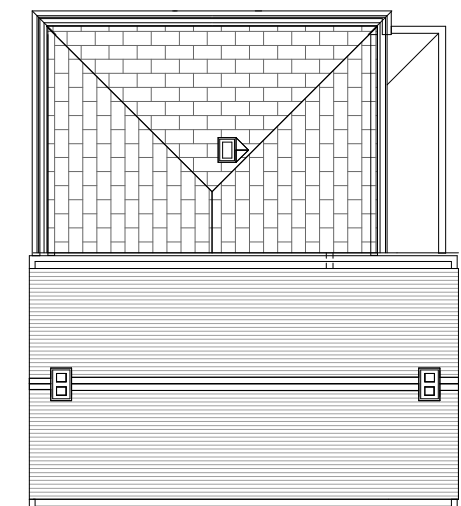
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



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ROOF PLAN

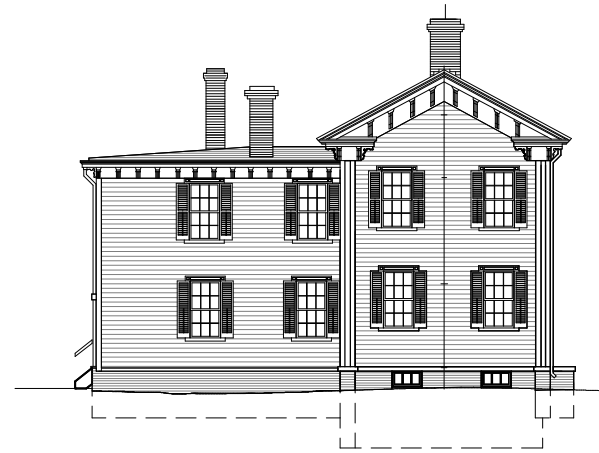


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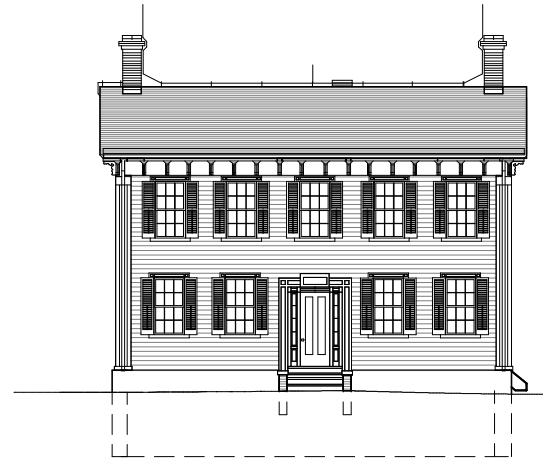
LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE 1955 -1987

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NORTH



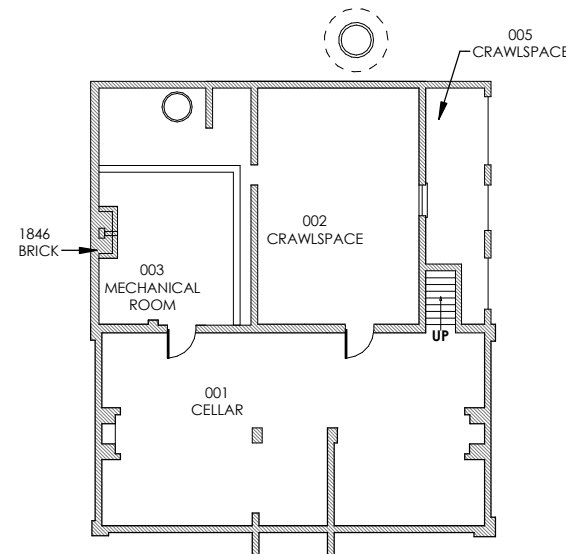
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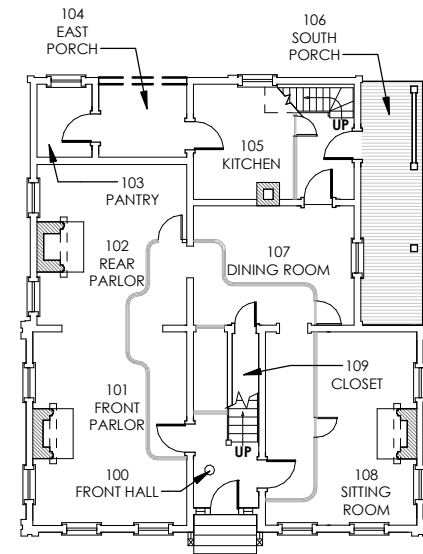
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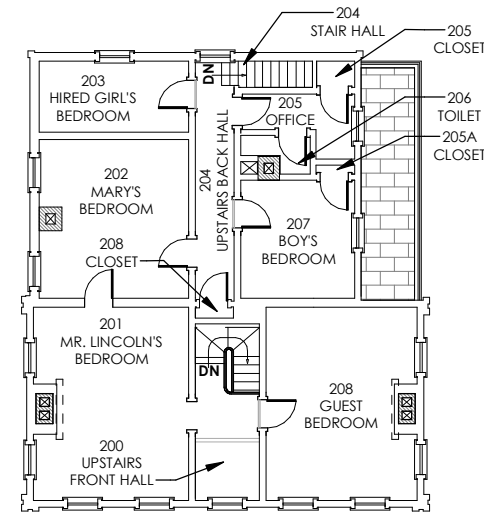
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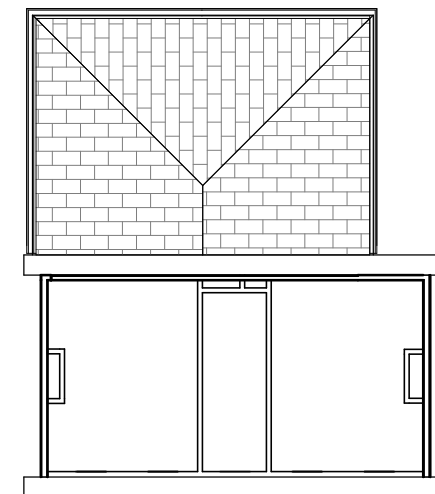
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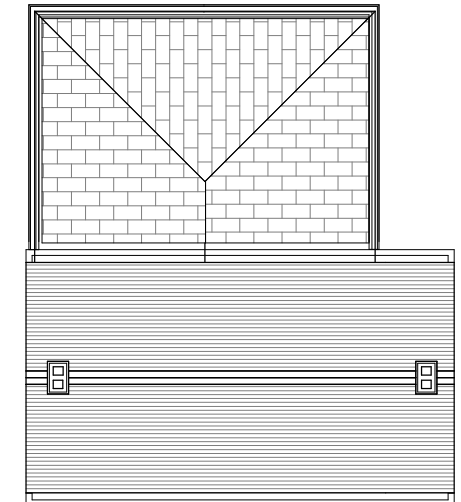
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



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LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE 1988-2022



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# Appendix B. Detailed Timeline

## Introduction

The following detailed timeline is updated from a version originally prepared in 1990 by Francis O. Krupka, historical architect at LIHO, edited in 2002 by Norman D. Hellmers, LIHO Superintendent, and updated in 2017 by John L. Popolis Jr., museum technician at LIHO.<sup>262</sup> Information on additional work completed since 1990 was provided by Susan Haake, curator at LIHO.

## Detailed Timeline

April 15, 1837	Abraham Lincoln moves to Springfield from New Salem, arriving astride a borrowed horse with all his personal possessions in his saddlebags. Upon his arrival, Lincoln arranges to share a room with Joshua Speed, above Speed's store at the southwest corner of Washington and South Fifth Streets.
May 1837	Mary Ann Todd travels to Springfield for a three-month visit with her sister Elizabeth and her husband, Ninian Wirt Edwards, son of former Illinois governor Ninian Edwards. While in Springfield, she meets Abraham Lincoln.
Fall 1837	Following her summer visit, Mary Todd returns to her family home in Lexington, Kentucky.
April 23, 1839	The Reverend Charles Dresser purchases unimproved Lot 8 in Block 10 of Elijah Iles Addition to Springfield from Dr. Gershom Jayne for \$300.
May 1839	Construction begins on Dresser cottage. Builder unidentified, but father John Eaton Jr. and son Page Eaton hired as carpenters.
August 21, 1839	Charles Dresser purchases south one-quarter (10 feet) of adjacent Lot 7-Block 10 from Francis Webster, his neighbor to the north, because of a contractor's error in siting foundations of his new cottage, still under construction.
Fall 1839	Mary Todd returns to Springfield, taking up permanent residence in the South Second Street home of her sister, Mrs. Ninian Wirt Edwards. This was to be Mary Todd's home until her November 1842 marriage to Abraham Lincoln.
ca. December 1839	Construction of Dresser cottage completed.
January 1, 1841	Following his "Fatal First of January" (a reference to the breaking off of the engagement between Lincoln and Mary Todd) in 1841, Lincoln joins Speed at his new quarters in the Springfield home of mutual friend, William Butler. Lincoln continues to board at Butler's house until his November 4, 1842, marriage to Mary Todd.

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262. "This chronology was prepared in 1990 by Francis O. Krupka, former Historical Architect at Lincoln Home NHS, who is now deceased. In addition to the personal loss to his family, friends, and co-workers, his death was a loss to the history of the Lincoln Home, as he was without a doubt the leading authority on the architectural history of the house. This chronology has only been lightly edited for formatting, spelling, and clarity. All information should be verified, as no sources are given here. It does, however, provide a starting point in examining the history of the changes made to the Lincoln Home in its over 150-year history." Norman D. Hellmers, LIHO Superintendent, March 21, 2002.

July 7, 1841	Dresser advertises his cottage for sale. If not sold before September 1, cottage to be offered for rent. Neither buyer nor renter found, so Dresser family continues in residence.
November 4, 1842	The Reverend Charles Dresser, an Episcopalian minister, marries Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln in the parlor of the home of the bride's sister, Elizabeth (Mrs. Ninian Wirt Edwards).
August 1, 1843	The Lincolns' first son, Robert Todd Lincoln, is born in the couple's rented quarters at Springfield's Globe Tavern.
January 16, 1844	Abraham Lincoln contracts to purchase Dresser cottage. Purchase price is \$1500. Lincoln pays \$1,200 in cash and conveys a lot in downtown Springfield valued at \$300 to Dresser.
May 1, 1844	Lincoln family occupies South Eight Street Home.
March 10, 1846	The Lincolns' second son, Edward Baker Lincoln, is born at the Home.
1846	First Lincoln remodeling: East wing disengaged from main house and relocated six feet southward. New parents' bedroom (post-1856 the Back Parlor) and Pantry added, partially enclosing east porch. Connecting stairlet leading from front stair to east wing garret closed and replaced by new stair at southeast corner of Kitchen (see "Back Staircase" in Room 105 section of part 1C). Dresser brick walkway to Kitchen covered by relocated south porch. Exterior stair to cellar constructed; internal cellar stair closed and converted to closet. Hand-coiled stoneware drainage tile laid along north foundation wall. Home and new additions given first coats of brown exterior paint. Improvements increase property value \$200 (13.4% increase).
1849-1850	Second Lincoln Home remodeling: Lincoln bricks-in fireplaces in rooms 101, 102, and 108 and installs chamber stoves for heating these rooms. Front brick retaining wall built and lower front walkway paved. Clay foundation tile cut off at retaining wall and abandoned in situ. Improvements increase value of property \$300 (20% increase).
February 1, 1850	The Lincolns' second son, Edward Baker Lincoln, dies at the Home after an illness of fifty-two days.
December 21, 1850	The Lincolns' third son, William Wallace Lincoln, is born in the Home.
1853	Undocumented improvements appear to have included installation of first cooking stove in Kitchen; cooking fireplace may have been infilled or removed at this time (see "Fireplace/Chimney/Stove" in room 105 section of part 1C). Improvements may also have included construction of Lincoln barn. Improvements increase property value \$100 (7% increase).
April 4, 1853	The Lincolns' fourth son, Thomas (Tad) Lincoln, is born in the Home.
Fall 1854	Mary Lincoln's "Little Sister" Emilie Todd arrives in Springfield for an extended visit from her home in Lexington, Kentucky.
Winter 1854/55	Fire almost destroys Lincoln Home during Christmas/New Year's holidays.

	Reported by Mary Lincoln's sister, Emilie Todd, the fire seems to have originated in one of the chimneys of the main house while Lincoln and Mary attended a holiday party at the Ridgelys. The damage from this fire may have been the impetus for the extensive remodelings of the Home undertaken by the Lincolns in 1855 and 1856.
Spring 1855	Mary's "Little Sister" Emilie Todd leaves Springfield, returning to Lexington, Kentucky, following her visit of approximately six months.
1855-1856	Lincolns hire Hannon & Ragsdale to design and build a major remodeling of the house. A second floor is added to the west wing in 1855 and to the east wing in 1856. New bedrooms are created at the second floor. First floor parents' bedroom becomes Back Parlor (room 102) opening to Front Parlor with new doorway with folding doors. North windows of Front Parlor (room 101) permanently closed to form blind windows. Original kitchen divided into a smaller Kitchen (room 105) and Dining Room (room 107). Cast iron railing added to south porch roof. Improvements increase property value \$1,000 (50.0% increase) in 1855 and \$600 (20.0% increase) in 1856.
1856-1857	Fire again strikes Lincoln Home, burning a portion of the main house roof near north chimney. Unlike the earlier (i.e., winter, 1854-1855) chimney fire, this fire appears to have been caused by a lightning strike. A flaw in the design of the grounding cable at the north gable of the structure caused a roof fire. No mention of this fire is documented in the historic record, but the physical evidence remains in the attic.
1857	Undocumented improvements costing \$200. May have been bills unpaid from 1856 remodeling or redecorating expenses following previous remodeling.
1859-1860	Backyard laundry shed removed. Lincoln woodshed constructed as addition to existing barn. Lincoln privy relocated. Improvements result in no documented change in value (0% recorded change).
May 18, 1860	Lincoln nominated as the Republican Party candidate for President by the National Convention, held in Chicago.
Summer 1860	J. A. Whipple photographs Lincoln in front of his Springfield Home. Photographed with Lincoln are his sons, Willie and Tad, and a neighbor's son, Isaac Diller.
August 8, 1860	"Great Republican Rally" held in Springfield. Crowds parading past presidential-nominee Lincoln's Home photographed by Chicagoan William Shaw, who developed his glass plate negatives in the cellar of the Lincoln Home. Lincoln himself appears in the photograph standing on the south side of his front steps.
November 6, 1860	Lincoln becomes the first Republican elected President of the United States.
January 29, 1861	Lincoln advertises his household goods for private sale, "without reserve." What had not already been given away was to be sold.
February 8, 1861	Lincoln insures his Home for \$3,200 with James L. Hill, Springfield agent of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company (Policy No. 253).

February 11, 1861	Lincoln departs Springfield for Washington, DC. Lucian Tilton, president of Great Western Railway Company, leases and occupies Lincoln Home.
March 4, 1861	Abraham Lincoln inaugurated the sixteenth President of the United States.
April 14-15, 1865	Lincoln assassinated at Ford's Theatre and dies at Petersen House.
May 4, 1865	Lincoln buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield. Lincoln Home draped in mourning for funeral. Several photographs and stereographs of the house's exterior and interior are made. Ownership of family property passes to surviving family members (Mary, Robert, and Tad Lincoln), each of whom inherits one-third ownership in the Springfield Home.
ca.1867-1869	East kitchen addition built.
May 1, 1869	Tiltons vacate, to Robert Lincoln's written regret. Illinois Secretary of State George Harlow leases Home.
July 15, 1871	Thomas "Tad" Lincoln dies before reaching age of majority. His one-third ownership in the family's Springfield Home reverts to Mary and Robert Lincoln in equal halves.
October 14, 1873	Harlow drapes Home in honor of President Grant's Springfield visit to dedicate Lincoln Tomb.
April 18, 1874	Mary Lincoln sells her half interest in the Home to her sole surviving son, Robert Todd Lincoln. Robert has his friend, Springfield lawyer Clinton Conkling, manage the property and oversee the tenants in his absence.
1876-1877	Robert's tenant, George Harlow, installs gas lighting in Home. Harlow offers to purchase property for \$2,000. Robert Lincoln declines. Harlow family relocates to South Fifth Street in spring 1877.
June 20, 1877	Jacob D. Akard rents and occupies Home with his family. Sometime after renting property, Akard turned Home into a boardinghouse. By late 1878, city directory lists Akard as living at another address in Springfield, indicating he had abandoned the property to his boarders even though his lease did not expire until June 1879. It is believed to be during Akard's tenancy that the Lincoln Home stood "empty and vacant and became headquarters for tramps and thieves."
1878/1879	First telephone installed in the Lincoln Home.
July 31, 1879	Robert Lincoln offers Home to Lincoln Monument Association, administrators of Lincoln Tomb at Oak Ridge Cemetery. Association declines offer and Robert leases Home to Dr. Gustav Adolph Hermann Wendlandt on Conkling's recommendation. Wendlandt both lived in the Home and had his office there, likely on the first floor.
July 16, 1882	Mary Lincoln dies at Springfield home of her sister, Elizabeth Edwards, wife of Ninian Wirt Edwards. Available information strongly suggests that she never set foot in Lincoln Home after her husband's death, despite living in Springfield during her last years.



Spring 1883	Dr. Wendlandt and his family vacate Home. Osborn Oldroyd, a fanatic collector of Lincolniana, moves in. Oldroyd rehabilitated the Home inside and out, and repaired the fencing and grounds in preparation for the grand opening of his Lincoln museum in the Home.
April 14, 1884	Oldroyd opens his Lincoln/Civil War museum in the Home. Oldroyd charges admission to visitors and peddles his trinkets, including boxes of relics (including small pieces of the house and site features). In the meantime, he stops paying his rent to Robert Lincoln, thereby living in the Home free of charge himself. Lincoln, writing to Conkling, refers to Oldroyd as a “dead beat.”
June 16, 1887	Lincoln Home presented to State of Illinois by Robert Todd Lincoln, with the stipulations that it be “forever, kept in good repair and free of access to the public.” Robert does request the back rent owed him by Oldroyd, but apparently never receives it. First floor, containing Oldroyd’s collection, remains open to public.
October 13, 1887	State of Illinois hires Oldroyd as the Home’s first caretaker. Oldroyd continues to reside in home with his family and display his collection on the first floor.
Fall 1887-Spring 1888	State of Illinois commissions Springfield architects Bullard & Bullard, to produce architectural drawings of Home and its site. These drawings by George W. Bullard are the earliest known surviving drawings of the property’s historic structures. Shortly thereafter, Oldroyd and the State of Illinois hire George Smith to raze the historic Lincoln woodshed and barn. George W. Bullard, <i>The A. Lincoln Home-Springfield, Illinois</i> , Bullard & Bullard-Architects, Springfield, Illinois (1888), Sheet Nos. 1-4. [NPS Reference Nos. 88-1 through 88-4.]
Spring 1889	Oldroyd barn built to replace demolished Lincoln barn.
1889	A military cannon, dubbed the “Mary Todd Cannon,” was installed in Home’s backyard. Custodian Oldroyd had obtained the cannon from the War Department for display at the Home.
October 16, 1889	A donated 72-foot flagstaff is installed in backyard.
1889-1890	State of Illinois installs Home’s first central heating system.
January 10, 1893	Newly elected Illinois Governor John P. Atgeld fires Oldroyd as caretaker, giving him two weeks to vacate the premises.
April 12, 1893	Lincoln Homestead Board of Trustees officially fires Oldroyd and hires Herman Hofferkamp to replace him as caretaker as of April 15, 1893. Trustees, as a further slap at the departing Oldroyd, decreed the caretaker could not charge a fee for showing the building, nor could he sell any picture, relic, or any other article or for any purpose. Homestead Trustees replace Oldroyd’s collection with Lincoln family artifacts purchased by the State.
June 30, 1897	Hofferkamp, referred to in the local press as “a petty Democratic political and persistent placeseeker,” is fired by the Board of Trustees. He sells the Lincoln Home artifacts purchased by the State at public auction. The day after the auction, Hofferkamp and his family vacate the Home.

July 1, 1897	Albert S. Edwards, first cousin of Robert Todd Lincoln, succeeds Hofferkamp as custodian of the Lincoln Home. Living in the Home with him were his wife Josephine, who would succeed him as caretaker, and three children—one of whom (the widowed Mary E. “Mamie” Edwards Brown) would in turn succeed her mother as caretaker.
1899	Electric front doorbell installed and Home partially wired for electric lights inside. This is the earliest documented use of electricity for lighting in the Home. No drawings documenting this work are known to survive.
1902-1903	Radiators installed and Lincoln Home connected to city steam lines for heating. Central furnace and ductwork removed. No known architectural or engineering drawings document this conversion. Electrical system of the Home expanded. As with the initial installation of electrical wiring, no known drawings documented this work.
May 21, 1903	Main limb of Lincoln Elm in front yard blown down during a heavy storm.
August 17, 1906	Remaining portions of Lincoln Elm destroyed by thunderstorm damage.
August 15, 1908	An unidentified Springfield newspaper falsely reports that an arsonist had attempted to “torch” the Lincoln Home during the Springfield race riot. The <i>Springfield News</i> and the <i>Illinois State Journal</i> both reported that this was false, based on an interview with Mrs. A. S. Edwards, wife of the custodian.
February 12, 1909	Robert Todd Lincoln arrives in Springfield aboard his private railroad car to observe centennial of Lincoln’s birth. Visits Home and his relatives, the Edwards family.
December 20, 1915	Albert Edwards dies and is succeeded as Lincoln Home custodian by his wife, Josephine E. Remann Edwards.
October 4, 1918	Josephine Edwards dies and is succeeded as custodian by her daughter, Mary Edwards “Mamie” Brown, who served until her retirement in 1924.
November 29, 1918	Edgar Martin, <i>New Storm Entrance for Lincoln Homestead</i> , State of Illinois Department of Public Works & Buildings, Springfield, Illinois (November 29, 1918), Sheet No. 1 of 1. [NPS Reference No. 18-1.] Single sheet design for glazed front entry storm enclosure to be attached to Home.
1920	Bloom, <i>Proposed Plan-Lincoln Homestead Park</i> , State of Illinois Department of Public Works & Buildings-Division of Parks, Springfield, Illinois (1920), Sheet No. 1 of 1. [NPS Reference No. 20-1.] This is the earliest of the State of Illinois preliminary designs for a Lincoln Homestead neighborhood park. This plan, which would have included approximately the same area as the present National Historic Site—but with different boundaries, was never implemented.
May 16, 1920	William J. Lindstrom, <i>Lincoln Homestead-Springfield, Illinois</i> (Job No. 53), State of Illinois Department of Purchases & Construction-Division of Architecture & Engineering, Springfield, Illinois (May 16, 1920), Sheet No. 1. [NPS Reference No. 20-2.] These rather poorly executed plans are primarily concerned with construction of new poured concrete sidewalks around the Home.

1922	Mrs. Israel A. Irwin sells her property immediately north of the Lincoln Home, known as the Carrigan lot after its owner in 1860, for \$15,000 to the State, which removes all existing structures from the parcel. Ostensibly, the purpose is to protect the Lincoln Home from fire.
July 1, 1924	Virginia Stuart Brown (no relation to Mamie Edwards Brown), great-granddaughter of John Todd Stuart (Lincoln's first law partner), becomes custodian.
July 26, 1926	Robert Todd Lincoln dies at his estate, "Hildene," near Manchester, Vermont.
September 20, 1927	William J. Lindstrom, <i>Measured Drawing of Lincoln Homestead-Springfield, Illinois</i> , State of Illinois Department of Purchases & Construction, Division of Architecture & Engineering (File No. 33), Springfield, Illinois (September 20, 1927), Sheet Nos. 1-9. [NPS Reference Nos. 27-1 through 27-9.] These measured plans, sections and details do not indicate any restoration or remodeling work contemplated. These merely document the structure as it then existed, in much greater detail than that provided earlier (1888) by Bullard.
1928	Illinois Dept. of Public Works & Buildings Director Miller removes the "Mary Todd Cannon" from the backyard, giving it to the Illinois State Historical Society.
1931	C. Herrick Hammond, <i>New Toilet Building-Lincoln Homestead</i> , State of Illinois Department of Purchases & Construction-Division of Architecture & Engineering (File No. 33), Springfield, Illinois (1931), Sheet Nos. 1-6. [NPS Reference Nos. 31-1 through 31-3.] The proposed new restroom building, to be located at the rear of the adjacent Carrigan property to the north of the Home, was never constructed.
February 9, 1933	C. Herrick Hammond, <i>Proposed Alterations-Lincoln Homestead</i> , State of Illinois Department of Purchases & Construction-Division of Architecture & Engineering (File No. 33), Springfield, Illinois (February 9, 1933), Sheet Nos. 1-14. [NPS Reference Nos. 33-1 through 33-14.] These drawings document proposed improvements in the steam heating system installed thirty years earlier. The ductwork associated with an internal, forced-air ventilating system was apparently never installed.
February 2, 1934	C. Herrick Hammond, <i>Electrical Wiring-Lincoln Homestead</i> , State of Illinois Department of Public Works & Buildings-Division of Architecture & Engineering (File No. 33), Springfield, Illinois (February 2, 1934), Sheet No. 1. [NPS Reference No. 34-1.] This drawing documents an expansion of the electric lighting system in the Front Parlor (101), Back Parlor (102), Dining Room (107) and Sitting Room (108). The project included removal of ceiling fixtures and installation of indirect torchiere up-lights integrated with new wooden visitor control railings. This treatment was implemented in 1935.
April 9, 1940	C. Herrick Hammond, <i>Alterations to Lincoln Home</i> , State of Illinois Department of Public Works & Buildings-Division of Architecture & Engineering (File No. 33), Springfield, Illinois (April 9, 1940), Sheet No. 1. [NPS Reference No. 40-1.] The work indicated by the shutter details and brick sidewalk paving plans was apparently never carried out.

January 17, 1941	C. Herrick Hammond, <i>Lightning Protection-Lincoln Homestead</i> , State of Illinois Department of Public Works & Buildings-Division of Architecture & Engineering (File No. 33), Springfield, Illinois (January 17, 1941), Sheet No. 1. [NPS Reference No. 41-1.] This appears to be the first time the Home enjoyed lightning protection since the historic system was removed around 1900.
September 9, 1941	C. Herrick Hammond, "Plans & Details of Alterations," <i>Lincoln Home</i> , State of Illinois Department of Public Works & Buildings-Division of Parks & Memorials (File No. 21), Springfield, Illinois (September 9, 1941), Sheet No. 1 of 1. [NPS Reference No. 41-2.] Much of the site work proposed in this drawing appears to have gone unexecuted. Interior improvements to the east kitchen addition (built after 1865 and then used by the custodian) may have actually been done, but was demolished in 1952.
April 2, 1945	George Williams, <i>Border Planting-Lincoln's Home</i> , State of Illinois Department of Public Works & Buildings-Division of Parks & Memorials (File No. 706), Springfield, Illinois (April 2, 1945), Sheet 1 of 1. [NPS Reference No. 45-1.] The decorative landscape treatment of the Lincoln property proposed in this drawing was never accomplished.
October 14, 1947	George Williams, <i>Landscape Revisions-Flower &amp; Herb Garden, Lincoln Home</i> , State of Illinois Department of Public Works & Buildings-Division of Parks & Memorials (File No. 706), Springfield, Illinois (October 14, 1947), Sheet 1 of 1. [NPS Reference No. 47-1.] As with the previous decorative landscape proposal, this one does not seem to have been implemented.
November 1, 1948	C. Herrick Hammond, <i>Alterations-Lincoln Home</i> , State of Illinois Department of Public Works & Buildings-Division of Architecture & Engineering (File No. 33), Springfield, Illinois (November 1, 1948), Sheet Nos. 1-8 of 8. [NPS Reference Nos. 48-1 through 48-8.] The wide variety of interior alterations proposed in these drawings, including opening the second floor to visitors, would not be accomplished until the 1952-1955 restoration.
1950	Richard S. Hagen begins physical investigations of Lincoln Home in preparation for restoration of the house.
August-Sept. 1951	<i>Archeological Survey-Lincoln Home</i> , Richard S. Hagen for Illinois Department of Conservation. Initial archeological excavation of rear half of Lincoln Home property in preparation for reconstruction of Lincoln Home outbuildings.
November 19, 1951	C. Herrick Hammond, <i>New Weatherstrips, Etc. for Lincoln Homestead</i> , State of Illinois Department of Public Works & Buildings-Division of Architecture & Engineering (File No. 33), Springfield, Illinois (November 19, 1951), Sheet No. 1 of 1. This work of installing window and door weatherstripping as well as storms and screens throughout the Home, was apparently carried out.
May 12, 1952	C. Herrick Hammond, <i>Restoration &amp; Rehabilitation of the Abraham Lincoln Home</i> , State of Illinois Department of Public Works & Buildings-Division of Architecture & Engineering (File No. 33), Springfield, Illinois (May 12, 1952), Sheet Nos. 1-15 of 15. [NPS Reference Nos. 52-1 through 52-15.] These drawings appear to have been the basis for the first phases of restoration in 1952, including the exterior restoration and restoration of first-floor rooms except for the Kitchen (room 105).

1952	State of Illinois begins first restoration of Lincoln Home to interpret the period of 1860 under direction of Richard S. Hagen. East kitchen addition demolished.
January 27, 1953	Gerding, Louis H., <i>Further Restoration &amp; Rehabilitation of the Lincoln Home-Springfield, Illinois</i> , State of Illinois Department of Public Works & Buildings-Division of Architecture & Engineering (File No. 33), Springfield, Illinois, January 27, 1953), Sheet Nos. A-1 through A-4, E-1, M-1 and M-2. [NPS Reference Nos. 54-1 through 54-8.] This set is the final architectural and engineering plans for the major State of Illinois restoration of the Home that took place in 1954-1955, including the second floor and Kitchen (room 105).
May 1, 1953	Virginia Stuart Brown retires as custodian of the Lincoln Home. Kathleen S. Bradish succeeds as custodian, but does not live in the Home. Brown was the last person to actually live in the Home. The 1954-1955 restoration of the second floor converted the former custodian's living quarters into part of the museum.
February 12, 1955	State of Illinois completes first restoration of Lincoln Home to interpret the period of 1860. Both floors of the house open to visitors.
December 1, 1958	Kathleen S. Bradish, the last of the State of Illinois custodians for the Lincoln Home, retires. No successor is named. Hereafter, the Home is kept open by hired interpreters, but no full-time custodian.
August 14, 1964	Lorentz A. Johanson, <i>Public Toilet &amp; Museum Building at the Lincoln Home</i> , State of Illinois Department of Public Works & Buildings-Division of Architecture & Engineering (File No. 33), Springfield, Illinois (August 14, 1964), Sheet Nos. 1-7 of 7. [NPS Reference Nos. 64-1 through 64-7.] These drawings detail construction plans and specifications for the reconstruction of the shell of the Lincoln Wood Shed and Barn as a public restroom and site museum facility. The work was completed that year. The structure still stands, but is not an accurate depiction of the Lincoln family outbuildings.
October 28, 1966	J.A.C. Schulte, <i>Landscaping Plan-Abraham Lincoln's Home</i> , State of Illinois, Springfield, Illinois (October 28, 1966), Sheet 1 of 1. [NPS Reference No. 66-1.] As with other site landscape improvement plans drawn up by the State, this one does not seem to have been executed.
March 5, 1970	Albert G. Paja, <i>Information Center for the Abraham Lincoln Home</i> , State of Illinois Department of General Service-Office of Supervising Architect, Springfield, Illinois (March 5, 1970), Sheet Nos. 1-3 of 3. [NPS Reference Nos. 70-1 through 70-3.] This new building was constructed at the rear of the Carrigan property, adjacent to the Lincoln Home to its north.
October 20, 1971	Albert G. Paja, <i>New Fence for Lincoln Home</i> , State of Illinois Department of General Services-Office of Supervising Architect, Springfield, Illinois (October 20, 1971), Sheet Nos. 1 of 1. [NPS Reference No. 71-1.] The reconstructed fences called for in these drawings were never built by the State.
November 30, 1969	<i>Historical Base Map-Proposed Lincoln Home National Historical Park, Springfield, Illinois</i> (Edwin C. Bearss for NPS Division of History-Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation). Initial NPS historical research report intended to identify historic resources within boundaries of proposed National Historical Park and aid master planners.



February 1970	<i>Master Plan-Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield, Illinois</i> (Department of Interior-National Park Service). Original Master Plan for the proposed National Historic Site.
August 18, 1971	President Richard Nixon arrives in Springfield to sign Public Law 92-127, authorizing the establishment of Lincoln Home National Historic Site. Nixon signed the legislation in the Hall of Representatives of the Old Illinois State Capitol, on a desk used by Lincoln to write part of his First Inaugural Address.
August 1971	<i>Historic Resource Study and Historic Structure Report (Historical Data Section)-Lincoln Home National Historic Site (Blocks 6 and 11)</i> , Edwin C. Bearss (NPS-DSC).
July 11, 1972	Illinois Governor Richard B. Ogilvie approves Senate Bill No. 1420 transferring the Lincoln Home and its contents to the federal government.
October 2, 1972	Illinois Director of Conservation signs a quitclaim deed for the property to the federal government.
October 9, 1972	Albert W. Banton named first National Park Service (NPS) superintendent of Lincoln Home National Historic Site.
July 1973	<i>Historic Structure Report (Administrative &amp; Historical Data Sections)</i> , Edwin C. Bearss (NPS-DSC). Initial NPS research specifically documenting history of Lincoln Home. This would remain the most thorough completed document on the history of the Lincoln Home for nearly 50 years.
June 1976	<i>(Exterior) Paint Study for Lincoln Home</i> (Richard Wolfe, NPS-DSC). Initial NPS investigation of exterior paint color chronology of Lincoln Home.
October 1976	<i>Final Interpretive Prospectus-Lincoln Home National Historic Site</i> (NPS-DSC). Initial planning detailing appropriate treatment, interpretation, and management of the National Historic Site and the Lincoln Home.
October 1978	<i>Microscopic Comparative Analysis of the Interior to Determine the Original Architectural Finishes-Abraham Lincoln Home</i> (Frank S. Welsh for Ferry & Henderson, Architects). Initial NPS-sponsored investigations of interior finishes to determine appropriate materials, colors, etc. for restoration of the Home's interior.
July 1979–April 1980	<i>X-Ray Inspection and Analysis-Lincoln Home</i> (David McLaren Hart & Associates for Ferry & Henderson, Architects). NPS-sponsored attempt to nondestructively examine concealed wall and floor structural elements in Lincoln Home.
1982	<i>Seventeen Years at Eighth and Jackson: The Story of Life in the Lincoln Home</i> (Thomas Dyba, privately-published booklet). Brief overview of the Lincolns' seventeen years in their Springfield Home.
June 23, 1982	James T. O'Toole replaces Al Banton as Superintendent.

April 1982	<i>Historic Grounds Report and Landscape Plan-Lincoln Home N.H.S.</i> (Robert Harvey & Associates). Historical research and preliminary design for restoration of historic landscaping throughout the National Historic Site, Lincoln Home parcel included.
1983	<i>Furnishings Plan-The Lincoln Home</i> , Katherine B. Menz (NPS-HFC). Initial historical research of Lincoln-era furnishings of Home.
December 1983	<i>A Study of Historic Wallpapers-Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois</i> (Sara B. Chase, Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities for NPS-DSC). Initial NPS-sponsored historical research and physical investigations of wallpapers in the Lincoln Home. Chase's June 1987 supplement to this report is referenced and quoted in other documentation for the 1987-1988 restoration, but no copies of it have been located to date.
January 3, 1984	<i>Final Structural Report</i> (Ralph Hahn & Associates for Ferry & Henderson, Architects). Structural evaluation and engineering recommendations for structural restoration of Lincoln Home. <i>Final Mechanical Report</i> (Ralph Hahn & Associates for Ferry & Henderson, Architects). Mechanical evaluation and engineering recommendations for new mechanical systems to be installed as part of Lincoln Home restoration. <i>Final Electrical Report</i> (Ralph Hahn & Associates for Ferry & Henderson, Architects). Electrical evaluation and engineering recommendations for new electrical systems to be installed as part of Lincoln Home restoration.
February 13, 1984	<i>Final Mechanical Report (Revised)</i> (Ralph Hahn & Associates for Ferry & Henderson, Architects). <i>Final Electrical Report (Revised)</i> (Ralph Hahn & Associates for Ferry & Henderson, Architects).
February 20, 1984	<i>Historic Structure Report-Lincoln Home, Vols. I-II</i> (Ferry & Henderson, Architects). Final draft of HSR-Lincoln Home from A/E & DSC to MWRO. Determined unacceptable, and rejected. Contract terminated for convenience of Government. This draft HSR includes valuable documentation but its chronology drawings and other features are not consistent with current evidence.
1984	<i>By Square and Compasses: The Building of Lincoln's Home and Its Saga</i> (Wayne C. Temple, private publication). Privately published historical research reporting details of Dresser/Lincoln property's history, as well as detailed accounts of its post-Lincoln era occupancies.
June 30, 1984	Historical research and physical investigation of the Lincoln Home resumed in support of restoration project planning. Francis Orlando "Fran" Krupka, historical architect, begins development of a Historic Structure Report for Lincoln Home. The HSR was incomplete when Krupka left on a leave of absence in 1995 and was never completed. A draft dated December 1988 is the most recent copy that has been found in LIHO's archives. Although incomplete, this document, spanning 1,190 pages, includes invaluable documentation of research and physical investigations conducted before and during the 1987-1988 restoration.  Production of architectural drawings, engineering drawings and construction specifications begins again, and continues until completed in June 1986.

- 1985 *Seventeen Years at Eighth and Jackson: The Lincoln Family in their Springfield Home* (Thomas J. Dyba & George L. Painter). Expanded revision of Dyba's 1982 book with input from George L. Painter, LIHO historian.
- Mansberger archaeological investigations are conducted within areas of potential impact of the proposed restoration, including areas of the lot not explored in 1951, as a result of the Section 106 process for the proposed restoration.
- September 23, 1985 *Structural Report-Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom* (Ralph Hahn & Associates). Structural engineering analysis of floor joists and lower (Front Parlor) walls supporting Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom in anticipation of rerouted visitor flow through room.
- November 1985 *Alternate Mechanical Analysis-Lincoln Home* (Ralph Hahn & Associates). Cost/benefit comparisons of four alternate heating system configurations for possible use in Lincoln Home.
- 1986 Brad McCormick, *Lincoln Home Chronology Drawings: 1839-1986* (Historic American Buildings Survey, Survey No. IL-1123-K). Plans and elevations documenting the evolution of the Lincoln Home based on knowledge and beliefs about the evolution of the house after the completion of the 1984 HSR draft but before the extensive investigation that took place during the 1987-1988 restoration. These drawings are largely consistent with the present understanding of the house's evolution after 1855.
- March 1986 *Site and Landscape Restoration Specifications* (Robert R. Harvey & Associates). Construction specifications for landscape restoration of entire National Historic Site, Lincoln Home parcel included.
- June 26, 1986 *(Phase I) Construction Documents-Package 196: Restore Lincoln Home* (NPS/Ralph Hahn & Associates). Final construction drawings and specifications for Phase I restoration of Lincoln Home.
- 1987 *Archeological Investigations at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield, Illinois* (Floyd Mansberger, Northern Illinois University for MWAC). Archeological investigations of four historic Site structures, Lincoln Home included.
- May 1987 – June 1988 Restoration of Lincoln Home completed by River City Restorations of Hannibal, Missouri, under the direction of Vance Kaminski, architect and project supervisor, and Francis Orlando "Fran" Krupka, historical architect. This comprehensive project addressed long-term structural, systems, and building envelope issues while restoring the exterior and interior of the house to its appearance in 1860-1861. It was completed to the highest standards of museum restoration of the period.
- September 4, 1987 *(Phase II) Construction Documents-Package 196: Restore Lincoln Home* (Krupka, NPS-DSC). Final detailed drawings and specifications for specific aspects of Lincoln Home restoration.
- August 27, 1987 Gentry Davis replaces James O'Toole as Superintendent.
- September 1987 *Historic Resource Study and Historic Structures Report-Blocks 7 and 10, Lincoln Home National Historic Site* (Banton, Balm & O'Bright for NPS-MWRO). Further

	historic research of properties, structures, and persons associated with Blocks 7 and 10-Lincoln Home NHS, Lincoln property included.
June 3, 1988	<i>Wood Siding and Window Glazing-Repair, Replacement and Relocation, Lincoln Home</i> , River City Restorations, Hannibal, Missouri (June 3, 1988), Sheet Nos. 1-5 of 5. Architectural record of the wood siding and trim removal, repair and reinstallation/replacement of individual exterior boards on Lincoln Home during the NPS 1987/88 restoration. Also, pane-by-pane record of reinstallation/replacement of exterior glazing.
June 16, 1988	Restored and refurnished Lincoln Home reopens.
1988	<i>Further Archeological Investigations at Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield, Illinois</i> (Vergil E. Noble, NPS-MWAC). Further archeological investigations and construction monitoring at Lincoln Home.
September 1988	(Draft) <i>Historic Structure Preservation Guide-Lincoln Home</i> (NPS-Denver Service Center). Draft HSPG for restored and refurnished Lincoln Home.
May 30, 1989	Vance Kaminski, <i>NPS Drawing No. 449/25,003: "As-Built" Construction Drawings, Package 196-Restore Lincoln Home</i> , National Park Service-Denver Service Center, Denver, Colorado (May 30, 1989), Sheets 1-100 of 100. [NPS Reference Nos. 89-001 through 89-100.] Package 196-Restore Lincoln Home construction drawings revised to reflect work actually completed during construction phase of the restoration project, based on construction supervisor's redlined copies of original design documents.
February 6, 1990	Francis Krupka, <i>Report on Foundation Drainage Tile Discovered at Lincoln Home (HS-01:LIHO)</i> , National Park Service-Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield, Illinois (February 6, 1990).
April 22, 1990	Norman D. Hellmers replaces Gentry Davis as Superintendent.
1991	Gutter, downspout, siding, eave repair on East elevation due to long-standing blocked and leaking gutter
1993	Wallpaper repairs in Front Hall/Stairwell (rooms 100-200)
1994	Exterior of Lincoln Home painted
2001	Exterior of Lincoln Home, including porches, painted
2001	Pantry floor (room 103) repaired, and some boards replaced
2007	Chimneys repaired, tuckpointed (with incorrect mortar that is causing spalling in the 2020s). Shutters repaired and painted. Plaster repairs made on back stair East Wall (room 105). Front and back exterior steps repaired/replaced. Exterior lighting replaced, and additional lights installed.
2008	All exterior doors replaced. Wallpaper in Parlors (rooms 101-102) stripped and replaced with new wallpaper matching 1988 wallpaper. Wallpaper in Sitting Room (room 108) stripped on north wall and replaced with spare wallpaper from 1988. Carpet replaced in Dining Room (room 107) and Sitting Room (room 108) with

	new woven carpet based on historic patterns installed in 1988. Visitor carpet path replaced.
2009	Wheelchair lift replaced
2010	East porch floor repaired and repainted. Wallpaper in Front Hall and staircase (rooms 100-200) stripped and replaced with new wallpaper matching 1988 wallpaper.
2011	Wood shingle roof replaced
2012	HVAC system & furnace (minus ductwork) replaced. Water spigots on north side of Lincoln Home removed. Downspouts repairs on Lincoln Home to connect to storm drain. Front fence replaced.
2013	Lincoln Home sump pump replaced
2014	Basement windows on north side replaced after break-in. West, south, and east porches repaired, and floors repainted. "A. Lincoln" nameplate replaced on front door.
2015	Draperies in Lincoln Home, based on original drapery fabric in Parlors and historic fabric patterns and colors elsewhere, installed on all windows. Visitor carpet path replaced. Front fence replaced. Interior storm windows replaced.
2016	Exterior of Lincoln Home painted
2017	Emergency repairs to Guest Bedroom (room 208) windows
2018	Emergency replacement of front stair visitor carpet
2019	Conduit leading from foundation of Lincoln Home replaced
November 24, 2019	Melotte Morse Leonatti Parker Ltd., Kuhn-Trello Consulting Engineers, <i>Lincoln Home, National Park Service: Building Condition Review &amp; Report</i> . Building site review and capital needs assessment providing an overview of overall conditions.
March 2020 – June 2021 Lincoln Home closed to visitors due to COVID-19 pandemic.	
2020	Security camera installed in Kitchen (room 105)
2021	Dining Room (room 107) window pane replaced and full window covered in plywood after break-in. Basement windows blocked with plywood. Cracks repaired in wall and wall/ceiling joints in Hired Girl's Room (room 203) and room repainted. Florescent lights replaced with new ballasts and LED lights along tour route. Crack in foundation repaired.
November 16-18, 2021	HSR team site visit
2022	Brick retaining wall repaired, drains added behind wall, and exterior of wall repainted. 2022 Fire suppression system replacement in contracting
September 6-7, 2022	HSR team on site for Treatment Workshop



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# Appendix C. Architectural Context

## Introduction

The Lincoln Home was initially designed and built in 1839 for Rev. Charles Dresser. It was remodeled by the Lincolns, first by alterations and additions to the rear wing in 1846 and then by an extensive remodeling in 1855-1856 that added a full second floor. The house's initial construction for Dresser and its remodelings for the Lincolns occurred in a specific context amid the growth of Springfield, Illinois, which fell within larger regional and national trends.

## Early Architecture in Springfield, 1823-1839

Early buildings in Springfield were of log construction, with the first frame houses in the town built in the mid-1820s. Springfield archaeologists Floyd Mansberger and Christopher Stratton of Fever River Research report that, "one decade after its founding Springfield still had the rough edges of a frontier settlement."

When famed poet and journalist William Cullen Bryant passed through town on his way to Jacksonville in 1832, he noted that "Springfield is... situated just on the edge of a large prairie, on ground somewhat more uneven than Jacksonville, but the houses are not so good, a considerable portion of them being log cabins, and the whole town having an appearance of dirt and discomfort."<sup>263</sup>

Springfield saw advancement from a frontier settlement to a flourishing Western town during the 1830s. The influx of population included carpenters, builders, masons, and other tradespeople, allowing a transition away from the log buildings of the settlement period toward buildings more consistent with those seen in established towns to the east. Mansberger and Stratton report, "Brick began to be more widely used as a construction material in early 1830s, becoming the favored material for new public and institutional buildings, besides seeing use in

commercial construction."<sup>264</sup> By the time that Rev. Charles Dresser built his new central-passage frame cottage in 1839, the early log buildings of Springfield's days as a frontier village were giving way to refined wood-frame houses and substantial Greek Revival buildings of brick and stone.<sup>265</sup>

## Pattern Books in the Midwest

The spread and popularity of the Greek Revival style in the United States between the 1820s and the 1850s was influenced in part by the availability of architectural pattern books. Early pattern books were of a type known as carpenter's guides and featured select details along with lessons in practical geometry and the design and construction of staircases and roof trusses. In a period before formal architectural education existed in America, these books gave carpenters and builders key design tools and information to apply refined details to their projects. The study of one or more of these books could help a carpenter or builder move up into a more expert role as a master builder or architect.

Asher Benjamin's Greek Revival pattern books, *The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter* (first published in 1830), *The Practice of Architecture* (first published in 1833), and *The Builder's Guide, or Complete System of Architecture*, also published as *The Architect, or Complete Builder's Guide* (first published in 1838) were widely used by architects, master builders, and carpenters throughout Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois by 1840. These books, along with Minard Lafever's *The Beauties of Modern Architecture* (first published in 1835) and *The Modern Builder's Guide* (first published in 1846), went through numerous editions and remained popular references for builders into the 1850s.

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264. Mansberger and Stratton, 18.

265. vRichard E. Hart, "Lincoln's Springfield: Greek Revival Architecture on the Prairie" (Abraham Lincoln Association, 2011), 3-9, <https://abrahamlincolnassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Greek-Revival-Architecture-1-14-2011.pdf>.

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263. Mansberger and Stratton, 14-15.

Widespread availability and use of these pattern books led to a proliferation of details adapted from their plates. While Doric or Ionic columns and common molding profiles appeared in most of these books and are difficult to trace to a particular source, some of the original designs by architects like Benjamin and Lafever are easily recognizable. For example, the “frontispiece” shown on Plate 26 of Benjamin’s *Practice of Architecture* (1833) was a source for the door surround at the main entrance of the Dresser Cottage. The popularity of this plate as a source over a wide geographic range and a period of two decades is shown by a small selection of known examples including the Gen. Pardon T. Kimball House (1832) in Newfane Village, Vermont; Guild House (ca.1835-1840) in Eagleville, Ohio; the Bailey Hobson House (ca.1834-1837) in Naperville, Illinois; the Benjamin Conklin House (1836-1840) in Cambridge City, Indiana; the J. Smith House (ca.1845, H. K. Pickering, builder) in La Moille, Illinois; and the John A. Kennedy House (1853) near Woodstock, Illinois.

During the 1840s, architectural pattern books began to evolve from technical carpenter’s guides with select details to lavish volumes illustrating dozens of complete building designs in a variety of styles. Taking advantage of new printing techniques, these books appealed to prospective clients as well as builders and offered advice on a range of topics. Leading the creation of this new type of pattern book was Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852), a self-taught architect from New York’s Hudson River Valley and also a pioneer of the profession of landscape architecture. Pattern books following Downing’s model would proliferate during the 1850s, spreading the Italianate and Gothic Revival styles. Pattern books would continue to evolve and would remain a major source of design inspiration for the next century.<sup>266</sup>

## Greek Revival Central-Passage Cottages

The Dresser Cottage as built in 1839 and as purchased by Lincoln in 1844 was a central-passage cottage. This was a common form for houses built in Indiana, Illinois, and other Western states between about 1830 and 1850. The following

266. Benjamin L. Ross, “Canal Boat Gothic: Pattern Book Architecture in the Wabash Valley” (Conference of the Vernacular Architecture Forum, Chicago, 2015).

houses provide context for the design and original construction of the Dresser Cottage / Lincoln Home.

### **Logan-Butler House (ca.1832), Springfield, Illinois**

About 1832, Stephen Trigg Logan (1800-1880) settled in Springfield and built a cottage at the southwest corner of Third and Madison Streets, facing Third Street. Known as “the First Logan House,” it was a one-and-one-half-story central-passage cottage standing on a raised basement. The house reflected the transition of Springfield’s architecture in the early-1830s, from the simple log buildings of the settlement period to more permanent and refined buildings like those seen in established towns to the east. The Logan House featured a five-bay façade, with a central entrance and windows in the outer bays. Chimneys appear to have been centered on the gable ends, with windows flanking the chimney breasts. A later sketch of the house shows it with three gabled dormers on the front face of the roof.

A few years after its completion, Logan sold the house to William M. Butler and his wife Elizabeth. Abraham Lincoln boarded with the Butlers at the time of his arrival in Springfield in 1837 and Lincoln and Joshua Speed later boarded in the house until Speed’s return to his native Kentucky in 1840 and Lincoln’s marriage to Mary Todd in 1842.<sup>267</sup> Lincoln and Logan practiced law together from 1841 to 1843. The Logan-Butler House was demolished or relocated sometime between 1867 and 1874 to make way for a railroad line.

### **Dr. Ambrose G. Ruddell House (1834), Allisonville, Indiana**

The house built in 1834 for Dr. Ambrose G. Ruddell is a good example of a central-passage frame cottage of the 1830s, a form common in Indiana, Illinois, and other Western states during this period. Many houses of this type and period, like the Logan-Butler House, were later demolished as their respective communities grew around them. The Ruddell House is a surviving example that has been restored to its 1830s appearance.

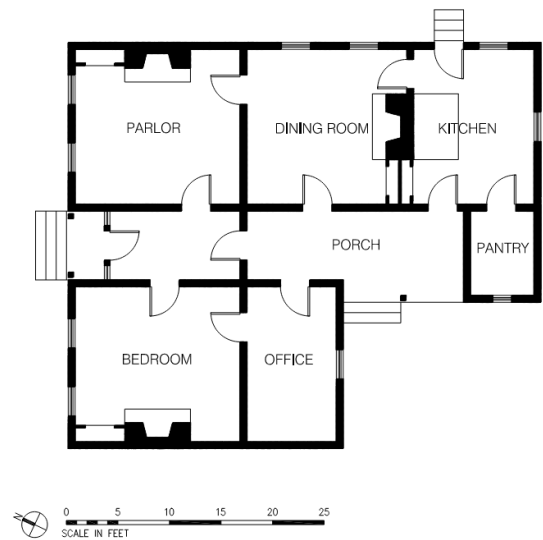
The Ruddell House stood in the village of Allisonville, in Washington Township, Marion County, Indiana, then ten miles northeast of

267. Hart, “Lincoln’s Springfield: Greek Revival Architecture on the Prairie,” 2.

Indianapolis on the state highway (now Allisonville Road) leading to Fort Wayne. The Allisonville post office was established in 1832 and postmaster John Allison laid out the village in 1833. Ambrose Gore Ruddell (1809-1875), a native of Kentucky, settled in Allisonville in the early-1830s. He married Nancy T. Nesbit (1810-1885) on February 25, 1834. The Ruddell House was built by Allisonville carpenter Bill Swords that year. This may be the William Swords (born ca.1815 in Indiana) who was listed as a carpenter in nearby Lawrence Township at the time of the 1850 census.

Allisonville grew to a population of about 200 by 1849. In 1853, the post office relocated a mile and a half east to the new village of Castleton. Allisonville's population declined to about 50 by 1884, and it remained a sleepy rural hamlet into the 1940s. The area saw suburban roadside commercial development during the 1950s and 1960s, accelerating after the completion of the Interstate 465 beltway around Indianapolis in 1970. By the 1990s, all traces of the village of Allisonville had been subsumed into suburban sprawl commercial development.

The house remained in the Ruddell family until descendants donated it to Conner Prairie, a living history museum about six miles to the north. The house was moved from its original site northwest of the present intersection of Allisonville Road and Eighty-Second Street, near the interchange with Interstate 465, and was restored between 1973 and 1975 as part of a living history museum village known as the Conner Prairie Pioneer Settlement, now the fictional village of Prairietown. In 1985, the house was redecorated to reflect more recent scholarship on 1830s interior finishes. The house is interpreted as the home of the fictional Dr. George Washington Campbell, founder of Prairietown, a village interpreted to the year 1836. Although the Ruddell House lacks a second floor, it is a good example of a central-passage cottage of the 1830s.



**Figure A.C.1.** Sketch plan of Dr. Ambrose G. Ruddell House (1834), Allisonville, Indiana, as restored 1973-1975 and as presently interpreted at Conner Prairie, Fishers, Indiana. This shows a common configuration for one-story central-passage houses of the 1830-1850 period in the Midwest. Source: Drawn February 2022 by Benjamin L. Ross based on photographs and on data from Hamilton County, Indiana, GIS.



**Figure A.C.2.** Side elevation and front façade of Dr. Ambrose G. Ruddell House (1834), Allisonville, Indiana, as restored 1973-1975 and as presently interpreted at Conner Prairie, Fishers, Indiana. Photograph by Benjamin L. Ross, September 2006.

**Elijah Iles House (ca.1841, William Vigal), Springfield, Illinois**

Elijah Iles, one of the founders of Springfield, built a house at the southeast corner of Sixth and Cook Streets about 1837. The house was built by William Vigal of Cotton Hill Township, southeast of Springfield. Richard E. Hart has suggested that the house might have been designed by John Francis Rague (1799-1877). Rague worked in the New York office of influential architect Minard Lafever from 1828 until about 1831, when he came west to Springfield; he designed the (now Old) Illinois State Capitol (1837-1853) and the Iowa Territorial Capitol (1840-1842) before moving from Springfield to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, by 1850. In 1841, Iles sold the house to Robert Irwin. Evidence presented by Floyd Mansberger and Christopher Stratton indicates that Irwin added a new front wing to the house shortly after his purchase, remodeling the ca.1837 portion built by Iles into a service wing.<sup>268</sup>

The E. A. Hall family occupied the house from 1891 to 1909. The property was then purchased by First Christian Church as the site for a new church building. In 1910, Latham and Lyna Southern purchased the Iles House for relocation. House movers cut the house into two parts, moved it two miles south to 1825 S. Fifth Street, and placed it on a new brick foundation. In 1998, the Elijah Iles House Foundation moved the house to its present location at 628 S. Seventh Street, one block northeast of its original location, placed it on a raised brick foundation, and restored it over the next seven years.<sup>269</sup> Mansberger and Stratton note that the surviving portion of the house appears to be the wing built by Irwin about 1841.

Although the Iles House differs from the Dresser Cottage in the presence of its incised porch and its two-room-deep (double-pile) plan, its first-floor façade presents a similar overall composition of a central entrance flanked by pairs of six-over-six windows and including wide corner pilasters. The house's existing raised basement appears to be taller than the original. The 1896 Sanborn Map, the

only one showing the house prior to its 1910 move, lists its height as "1½" stories; a building with a raised basement similar to that built in 1998 would typically have been listed as "1½B" or "1½ BAS'T," suggesting that the original basement was primarily below grade.



**Figure A.C.3.** North elevation and west façade of Elijah Iles House (ca.1841), 628 S. Seventh Street, Springfield, Illinois. Source: Photograph by Benjamin L. Ross, November 2021.

**Zeigler House (ca.1834-1847), 206 E. Main Street, Attica, Indiana**

The Zeigler House in the river and canal port of Attica, Indiana, was built ca.1834-1847 as a one-and-one-half-story central-passage cottage. It appears to have been similar in architectural character to the Dresser Cottage as built in 1839. The Zeigler House parallels the Dresser Cottage / Lincoln Home in both its design and in the later addition of a second floor. Longtime owners reported that people often stopped to photograph the house, citing its resemblance to the Lincoln Home.

The Zeigler House appears to have featured a double-pile plan, being two rooms deep on either side of the central hall. The sloped site allowed for occupied rooms in the south part of the basement. The Zeigler House's door surround appears to be adapted from two plates in Asher Benjamin's *The Architect or Practical House Carpenter*, first published in 1830 and in print into the 1850s. The interior door and window casings appear to be derived from this same source. Other buildings in the Wabash Valley bearing details from this book were built between 1834 and 1849.<sup>270</sup> The house was purchased by Pennsylvania-born merchant William Zeigler (1815-1880) in 1847. Zeigler

268. Floyd Mansberger and Christopher Stratton, *Historic Structure Report: The Elijah Iles House, Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois*, 1999.

269. Jean Walton, "Elijah Iles House, National Register Nomination," 1977, <https://web.archive.org/web/20141216075959/http://gis.hpa.state.il.us/pdfs/200243.pdf>; Hart, "Lincoln's Springfield: Greek Revival Architecture on the Prairie," 6.

270. Ross, "Canal Boat Gothic: Pattern Book Architecture in the Wabash Valley."



moved from Attica to Indianapolis in the late-1850s and to Brooklyn, New York, about 1864, later retiring to Poughkeepsie. The house appears to have passed to William's brother, Andrew Zeigler (1817-1895), whose family occupied it until at least 1890.

As with the Lincolns' 1855-1856 remodeling of the 1839 Dresser Cottage, a later remodeling expanded the half-story into a full second floor. Zeigler descendants stated that this work occurred before the Civil War, possibly in 1854 or 1857. An 1869 bird's-eye lithograph of Attica appears to show the house as a one-and-one-half-story cottage, while it was shown as a two-story and raised basement building on the June 1886 Sanborn Map. This information, coupled with the shape of the Italianate brackets added to the cornice, suggests that the second floor may date from around 1869-1880. As with the Lincoln Home, the Zeigler House's paneled corner pilasters retain visible joints marking their original one-story height.<sup>271</sup>



**Figure A.C.4.** Restored sketch elevation of south façade of Zeigler House (ca.1834-1847), 206 E. Main Street, Attica, Indiana, prior to the raising of the second floor. Note the similarity to the Dresser Cottage in overall effect. Source: Drawn February 2022 by Benjamin L. Ross based on photographs, documentary evidence, and data from Fountain County, Indiana, GIS. Note: another chimney may have been present over the east half of the house.

271. Linda Weintraut and Jane Nolan, "Attica Main Street Historic District, National Register Nomination," 1994, 7:3, 8:3, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/b1e74b46-d3e0-401b-8a92-29aba329fa5b/>; Bill Shaw, 99 Historic Homes of Indiana: A Look Inside (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2002), 140-41; Kevin Cullen, "Honest, Abe's House Is Replicated in Attica," *Journal and Courier*, September 30, 2001, B1.



**Figure A.C.5.** West elevation and south façade of the Zeigler House (ca.1834-1847, with later alterations), 206 E. Main Street, Attica, Indiana. Note the resemblance to the Lincoln Home. Source: Photograph by Benjamin L. Ross, July 2007.

#### **John Gardner House (1845), 7369 W Illinois State Route 125, Pleasant Plains, Illinois**

Writing in 1988, Krupka noted that what is known of the Dresser Cottage from documentary evidence and physical investigation of the Lincoln Home "can now be expanded upon by comparison to another structure—virtually a fraternal, rather than an identical, twin of the Dresser Cottage."<sup>272</sup> This twin is the John Gardner House, also known as the Gardner-McMillan House, which stands along the old highway between Springfield and Pleasant Plains (now State Route 125) just west of the intersection with the road leading to New Salem (now State Route 98). As Krupka notes, "the similarities between the two buildings are striking," and it seems likely that the buildings may have been the work of the same designer or builder.<sup>273</sup> The Gardner House provides the closest local example for comparison with evidence of the Dresser Cottage's design configuration. In *Art, Crafts, and Architecture in Early Illinois* (1974), Betty I. Madden described the house as "an unpretentious Greek Revival home (1845-50)."<sup>274</sup> Richard E. Hart, writing in 2011, states that the house was built in 1845 and notes that it is "remarkably similar" to the Dresser Cottage.<sup>275</sup>

272. Francis Orlando Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, December 1988 draft, vol. 1 (Denver: National Park Service Denver Service Center, 1988), Vol. III, 1.

273. Krupka, 1:Vol. III, 1.

274. Betty I. Madden, *Art, Crafts, and Architecture in Early Illinois* (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1974), 134.

275. Hart, "Lincoln's Springfield: Greek Revival Architecture on the Prairie," 37.



John Gardner (1805-1868) was born in Kentucky, in the portion of Gallatin County that became Trimble County in 1837. In 1830, Gardner married Mary C. Duncan (1810-1882), a native of the same county. The couple arrived in Sangamon County in April 1833 in company with John's brother, Hiram K. Gardner (1804-1891). John and Mary Gardner settled in what is now Gardner Township, two miles north of the village of Farmingdale, in early 1834.<sup>276</sup> This property appears to be one of three tracts Gardner purchased from the General Land Office at Springfield in September 1835. At the time of the 1850 census, Gardner's real estate was valued at \$9,600. Gardner was among the commissioners who divided Sangamon County into townships in 1860-1861 and the township around where his family settled bears the name Gardner Township.<sup>277</sup>

The property remained into the Gardner family until at least 1914. Charles Elmer McMillan (1901-1978) and Camilla M. (Catlin) McMillan (1903-1985) later owned the house before it passed to their daughter. For this reason, references from the 1970s and 1980s, including those by Madden and Krupka, call it the McMillan House. As of 2022, the Gardner House is owned by Richard L. and Alberta A. Gisi.

The Gardner House stands north of the highway and is oriented to the cardinal directions, with its façade facing west. The exterior of the front wing appears to be largely intact except for the addition, prior to 1974, of aluminum siding covering the siding and frieze. To date, the earliest known image of the house is a 1915 photograph taken from the road and showing the south elevation of the front and rear wings and part of the east elevation of the front wing. [Figure A.C. 7] The rear wing appears to show signs of alterations dating from ca.1850-1910 in the 1915 photograph and has been substantially altered since that time. However, it appears to have been similar in width and placement to that of the Dresser Cottage. While the Dresser rear wing was centered on the front wing, that of the Gardner House appears to have been centered on the wall between the front hall and the

north room of the front wing. A porch or lean-to has been present on the north side of this wing since at least 1956.

The Gardner House and the Dresser Cottage featured similar plan, massing, size, and stylistic expression, as well as orientation. The front wing of the Gardner House appears to be slightly wider and shallower than that of the Dresser Cottage, resulting in slightly different proportions. [Figure A.C. 6] The exterior trim, particularly the paneled window surrounds and paneled corner pilasters, are very similar. The door surround of the main entrance differs from the Dresser Cottage in design and in its placement flush with the facade. It appears to have been based on another common Greek Revival door surround of the period, including a transom and pilasters. The entry portico, with square Doric columns, may be an original feature or a later addition; a portico would have eliminated the need for a recessed exterior vestibule like that on the Dresser Cottage. The wood water table molding at the base of the siding differs slightly; the Gardner House includes a top plate similar to a windowsill in profile, while the Dresser Cottage lacked this plate. The use of different foundation materials—stone at the Gardner House and brick at the Dresser Cottage—is a minor variation and both materials are typical of the period and region.

Krupka, who appears to have visited the Gardner House in the 1980s, reports that it retained newel post identical in design with that in the Lincoln Home.<sup>278</sup>

He also reported that rediscovery of the stairlet connecting the winder steps of the front staircase to the east wing garret—part of the Dresser Cottage as built in 1839 and walled over during the Lincolns' 1846 remodeling—during the 1987-1988 restoration “brings the Dresser Cottage into even closer conformity with the [Gardner] McMillan House...” suggesting that the Gardner house retained a similar stairlet.<sup>279</sup> Future examination and analysis of the Gardner House, including dendrochronology, could reveal more information

276. John Carroll Power, *History of the Early Settles of Sangamon County, Illinois* (Springfield, IL: Edwin A. Wilson & Co., 1876), 321–22.

277. Joseph Wallace, *Past and Present of the City of Springfield and Sangamon County, Illinois* (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1904), 26, 33.

278. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home* (HS-1), 1988, 1:Stairs and Stairways 10-15.

279. Francis O. Krupka, “Old Stairway Discovered in Lincoln Home Renovation,” *The Lincoln Legacy* 2, no. 1 (January 1988): 2.



**Figure A.C.6.** Restored sketch west (front) and partial south (side) elevation of John Gardner House (1845), 7369 W Illinois State Route 125, Pleasant Plains, Illinois. Shutters have been left off for clarity. Source: Drawn February 2022 by Benjamin L. Ross based on available photographs and data from Sangamon County, Illinois, GIS.



**Figure A.C.7.** South side elevation of John Gardner House (1845), 7369 W Illinois State Route 125, Pleasant Plains, Illinois, ca.1915. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B13F19P26

on its history and evolution, providing additional context for understanding the Dresser Cottage's original appearance.

**Vachel Lindsay House (1846), 603 S. Fifth Street, Springfield, Illinois**

The Vachel Lindsay House is believed to have been built in 1846 by Henry Dresser at what is now 603 S. Fifth Street. Dresser was likely the designer of his brother's 1839 cottage that was purchased by Abraham Lincoln in 1844. The Lindsay House began as a one-and-a-half-story, single-pile, central-passage cottage very similar to the Rev. Charles Dresser Cottage as built in 1839.

Ann Maria Todd, sister of Mary Lincoln, moved to Springfield in 1841 and married Clark Moulton Smith in 1846. The couple purchased the Lindsay House in 1853, owning it until 1865. The Smiths enlarged the house to two full stories, probably by 1854.<sup>280</sup> The Lincolns would likely have been familiar with the Smiths' expansion of the house before they undertook their remodeling of the Lincoln Home in 1855-1856.

280. Floyd Mansberger provided information on the chronology of development of the Vachel Lindsay House based on his 1997 fieldwork.

The house was purchased by the Lindsay family in 1878 and the poet Vachel Lindsay (1879-1931), for whom it is now named, was born and died in the house. The house underwent a significant remodeling and addition in 1893. It has been a museum dedicated to Lindsay since 1960 and has

been a State Historic Site since 1990. The house underwent a significant rehabilitation between 1994 and 2001.<sup>281</sup>

The house retains a Greek Revival door surround consistent with the 1846 date, but much of the present exterior appearance may date from remodelings between 1853 and 1893. The front wing as altered in the 1850s is a typical I-house, with five openings per floor and a side-gabled roof. An Italianate porch, cornice brackets, and a gable rising over the center three bays may be later additions. Unlike the Lincoln Home, the Lindsay House has a wide space between the outer windows of the façade and the corners of the house; this results from centering the placement of the windows on the portion of the room between the hall partitions and the inner face of the chimney breasts rather than the side walls.



**Figure A.C.8.** Vachel Lindsay House (1846), 603 S. Fifth Street, Springfield, Illinois, 2012. Source: Wikimedia Commons, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Vachel\\_Lindsay\\_House\\_\(7359114498\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Vachel_Lindsay_House_(7359114498).jpg)

While differing from the Lincoln Home in its proportions, door surround, frieze with dentil moldings, lack of paneled corner pilasters, and the

presence of a front gable, the Lindsay House shares many of these attributes with the John S. Condell House at 605 S. Fourth Street.

#### **John S. Condell House (1842/1852), 605 S. Fourth Street, Springfield, Illinois**

In 1842, the First Methodist Episcopal Church built a new wing or annex to its 1830 wood-frame building. The church stood on the southeast corner of Monroe and Fifth Streets, facing Monroe. In 1852, the church built a new brick building at the northeast corner of Capitol and Fifth Streets, which it occupied until 1885. Following the completion of the 1852 building, the church sold its old property at Fifth and Monroe; John S. Condell bought the 1842 wing and moved it to what is now 605 S. Fourth Street, where it remains. Condell remodeled the wing as a house and it was occupied by his family until about 1908, when it was sold to George R. Berriman who added the present front porch and made other alterations.<sup>282</sup>

Although its pre-1852 configuration and appearance are not known, the building was likely altered after the 1852 move to accommodate its new use as a residence. The house as it now exists reflects the central-passage form with a double-pile plan (two rooms deep). The cornice could be an 1842 or 1852 Greek Revival cornice with later additions, including large Italianate brackets and shaped details. The 1867 Ruger panoramic map of Springfield suggests that the house may have had a small gable on the façade by that time, although the present gable may be a later addition. A front porch had been added by the time of the 1896 Sanborn Map, the first to show the house. The existing front porch, with its Corinthian columns, and the heavy wood pediments over the front windows are probably Colonial Revival or Classical Revival additions dating from the period 1890 to 1920, consistent with their attribution to the Berriman family's alterations.

Writing in 1988, Krupka stated that the Condell House "is believed to be essentially identical to the original (1839) Dresser Cottage, perhaps even designed and built by the same person." Krupka continues, "This structure—without its recently-

281. Mansberger and Stratton, *The Architectural Resources of the Aristocracy Hill Neighborhood, Springfield, Illinois*, 62; Barringer, *Historic Homes of Springfield*, 70; "The History of the Vachel Lindsay Home," accessed March 14, 2022, <http://www.vachellindsay.org/history.html>.

282. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Architectural Style 2; Floyd S. Barringer, *Historic Homes of Springfield* (Springfield, IL, 1966), 24; Hart, "Lincoln's Springfield: Greek Revival Architecture on the Prairie," 13.

added front porch—is also believed to be a Dresser Cottage twin in all essential respects; perhaps also the work of Springfield architect, Henry Dresser. . . brother of Reverend Charles Dresser.”<sup>283</sup> Krupka appears to overstate the similarity between the Condell House and the Dresser Cottage. While both were central-passage Greek Revival cottages, the Condell House features dissimilar details and proportions, particularly the wide spacing between the windows and the central entrance. It lacks the type of detailed window surrounds and corner pilasters seen on the Dresser Cottage and the John Gardner House and the conventional proportions shared by those houses and the Elijah Iles House. While differing from the Dresser Cottage in its proportions, door surround, frieze with dentil moldings, and front gable, the Condell House shares many of these attributes with the Vachel Lindsay House at 603 S. Fifth Street.<sup>284</sup>

**Corneau House (ca.1849), southwest corner Eighth and Jackson Streets, Springfield, Illinois**

This house was built at the southwest corner of Eighth and Jackson Streets, facing Eighth Street, diagonally across the intersection from the Lincoln Home. The house is believed to have been built for John G. C. Wessels between his purchase of the lot for \$100 in 1849 and his sale of the same lot to Charles Gove for \$800 in 1852. Druggist Charles S. Corneau moved to Springfield from Philadelphia in 1854 and purchased the house for \$1,400 in 1855. Corneau died in 1861 and his widow returned to Philadelphia soon after.

Sometime between 1884 and 1890, the Corneau House was moved to the back of the lot and rotated ninety degrees to face Jackson Street, making way for a new and larger house facing Eighth. In 1962, the Junior League rescued the Corneau House from demolition by moving it to the Carrigan lot north of the Lincoln Home and donating it to the State of Illinois. The State of Illinois transferred the house to the National Park Service in 1972. In 1998, the Corneau House was moved back to its original site. Between 1998 and 2002, NPS restored the exterior to its 1860 appearance and rehabilitated the interior to house staff offices. Past remodelings had removed all

interior partitions, leaving a wood mantel as the only surviving historic interior feature.

The Corneau House is representative of modest, vernacular, one-story Greek Revival central-passage cottages. Its exterior expression is determined entirely by its massing, proportions, and typical features like six-over-six double-hung windows and wood weatherboard siding. A visitor to the intersection soon after the Corneau House’s completion could have noted the general resemblance of this house and the larger and more elaborate Dresser/Lincoln Cottage, two grades of the same central-passage form. The Lincoln Cottage would have stood out as showing greater prosperity and pretension through its larger size, extra half-story, and through architectural features



**Figure A.C.9.** Corneau House (ca.1849) shown after its 1880s relocation to face Jackson Street. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B8F18P1.

including corner pilasters, paneled window casings, door surround and recessed entrance, and frieze.

**Central-Passage Cottages, Menard County, Illinois**

Several central-passage Greek Revival cottages are documented in Menard County, which borders Sangamon County on the northwest. These houses give an idea of the popularity of this form, particularly with vernacular Greek Revival detail, for frame cottages of the 1830-1850 period in the Springfield area. Most of these houses were more like the vernacular Corneau House than the comparatively high-style Dresser Cottage.

Lucinda and Squire Davis Masters—“Squire” was his given name and not a title—were the paternal grandparents of the poet and biographer Edgar Lee Masters (1868-1950), best known today for his *Spoon River Anthology* (1915), a collection of

283. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home* (HS-1), 1988, 1:Architectural Style 2.

284. Floyd Mansberger and Christopher Stratton, *Historical and Architectural Assessment of the Condell House*, 605 South Fourth Street, Springfield, Illinois, 2016.

epitaph poems for the residents of the fictional town of Spoon River, based on portions of Menard, Mason, and Fulton Counties northwest of Springfield. Lucinda Young (1814-1910) and Squire Davis Masters (1812-1904) were married in 1834 in Manchester, Illinois. In 1847, Squire Davis Masters purchased a farm about six miles north of Petersburg in Sand Ridge Township, Menard County, about eleven miles north of New Salem. The Masters House was built soon after, replacing a cabin that came with the property.<sup>285</sup>

A photograph probably taken in the 1890s shows the house as a five-bay-wide cottage similar to the Dresser Cottage. It had a central entry door flanked by sidelights and possibly topped with a transom. The rooms to either side of the center hall were faced with pairs of six-over-six double-hung windows with exterior shutters. Brick chimneys rose from the side-gabled roof, their placement indicating that the front wing was two rooms deep on each side. The house showed signs of later alterations, including a pair of gabled dormers with two-over-two windows and a hipped-roof entry porch.

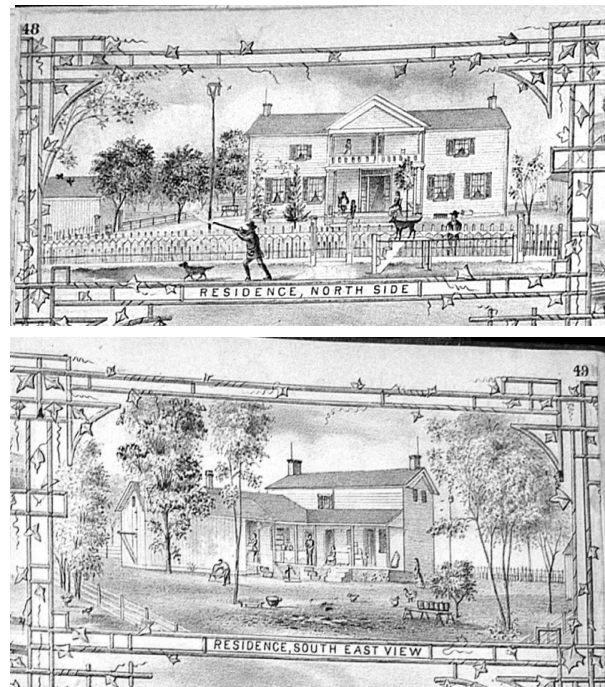


**Figure A.C.10.** Sketch elevation of Lucinda & Squire Davis Masters House (ca.1847-1850), Menard County, Illinois. The Masters House has a vernacular Greek Revival expression. The dormers appear to be a later addition. Source: Drawn February 2022 by Benjamin L. Ross based on ca.1890s photograph in Edgar Lee Masters, *Spoon River Anthology: An Annotated Edition*, ed. John E. Hallwas (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1992), 79ff.

Simpler and more vernacular in character than the Dresser Cottage, the Masters House had narrow corner boards and a narrow, simple frieze.

285. Charles E. Burgess, "Sandridge: A Masters Landscape Revisited," *Western Illinois Regional Studies* XIV, no. 2 (Fall 1991): 21, [https://archive.org/details/westernillinoisr\\_fall1991west/mode/2up?view=theater](https://archive.org/details/westernillinoisr_fall1991west/mode/2up?view=theater); Edgar Lee Masters, *Spoon River Anthology: An Annotated Edition*, ed. John E. Hallwas (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1992), 5, 79ff, 422-23, 431.

The Masters House burned in the early-1920s. The 1874 atlas of Menard County depicts several similar central-passage cottages with five-bay facades similar to the Masters House in their vernacular Greek Revival expression. The most detailed documentation is for George Kirby's "Oakwood Place," depicted in three lithograph views. The Kirby House had a central entrance with sidelights and a transom and outer bays each containing two six-over-six double-hung windows. It differed from the Masters House in the presence of a low second floor, possibly a later addition, with a single window centered in each of the outer bays and in the presence of a two-story entrance porch topped by a pediment. A view of the side and rear of the Kirby House shows that the front wing was one room deep. An ell projected from the rear of the room to the right of the front door. A door at the rear of the central hall opened to an L-shaped porch that ran along the side of the ell and the back of the room to the left of the front door. A small window above the porch roof likely lighted the stair landing, while two small windows in the side gable were arranged on either side of the central chimney.<sup>286</sup>



**Figure A.C.11.** Front and rear views of George Kirby's "Oakwood Place," Menard County, Illinois, 1874. Source: P. B. Greene, *Illustrated Atlas Map of Menard County, Illinois* (Edwardsville, IL: W. Brink & Co., 1874), 48-49, [https://collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/nby\\_chicago/id/2086](https://collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/nby_chicago/id/2086).

286. P. B. Greene, *Illustrated Atlas Map of Menard County, Illinois* (Edwardsville, IL: W. Brink & Co., 1874), 48-49, [https://collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/nby\\_chicago/id/2086](https://collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/nby_chicago/id/2086).

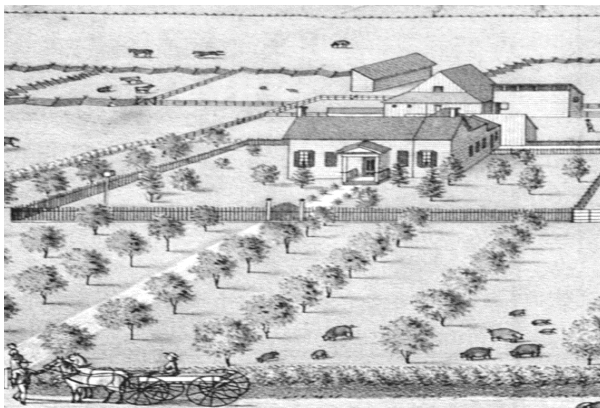


Another was Malkom Hubley's "old homestead" in Greenview Township was depicted in a vignette at the edge of a larger view of his Italianate house. Born in Switzerland, Hubley (1825-1901) appears to have settled in Ohio before coming to Illinois in the mid-1850s. The Hubley Homestead appears to have been a central-passage house similar to the Masters House but with a wider frieze, an additional bay off the right-hand end, and a pedimented entry portico.<sup>287</sup>



**Figure A.C.12.** Malkom Hubley's "old homestead" in Greenview Township, Mercer County, Illinois, 1874. Source: P. B. Greene, *Illustrated Atlas Map of Menard County, Illinois* (Edwardsville, IL: W. Brink & Co., 1874), 52, [https://collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/nby\\_chicago/id/2086](https://collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/nby_chicago/id/2086).

A third example was C. J. Nybroe's house in Athens Township. This was also a central-passage cottage with an ell extending from the rear of the room to the right of the front hall. The placement of the gable-end chimneys at the ridge of the roof indicates that the front wing was one room deep. A small gabled entry portico sheltered a door without sidelights.<sup>288</sup>



**Figure A.C.13.** C. J. Nybroe's house in Athens Township, Mercer County, Illinois, 1874. Source: P. B. Greene, *Illustrated Atlas Map of Menard County, Illinois* (Edwardsville, IL: W. Brink & Co., 1874), 99, [https://collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/nby\\_chicago/id/2086](https://collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/nby_chicago/id/2086).

## 1855-1856 Remodeling

By the time of the Lincolns' 1855-1856 remodeling of the house, the architectural context in the nation, region, and Springfield had changed significantly from the time of the Dresser Cottage's construction in 1839. The Lincolns' remodeling of the house reflects these larger changes.

### Springfield Architecture in the 1850s

In the early-to-mid-1850s, wealthy Springfield residents, like their peers across the country, showcased their status and means by building elaborate Greek Revival houses, Gothic Revival cottages, or Italianate villas reflecting the latest styles in architectural pattern books and magazines published in New York and Philadelphia and shipped west via canal, river, and railroad. While wealthy clients might commission a local builder to realize a full design from one of these publications, as is well documented in the region, these books also provided the sources for details and elements applied to more modest buildings, from workers' cottages to middle-class houses like the Lincoln Home.

The most fashionable Springfield houses of the early-to-mid 1850s were far larger and more ostentatious than the Lincoln Home and reflected the eclecticism of the period, combining elements from various styles and sources. Among these was the Crowder-Dubois House (1856, Warwick & Ball, architects and builders) for Washington Crowder on a suburban estate at what is now 1225 W. Monroe Street.<sup>289</sup> This large, two-story brick house featured a five-bay façade and a low hipped roof topped by a cupola. Its proportions, six-over-six windows, and a small entrance portico with Ionic columns all reflected the Greek Revival style, but it also featured a bracketed Italianate cornice and a side verandah with Gothic Revival fretwork—described by the *Illinois State Journal* as "a heavy bracket cornice all round" and "90 feet of porches," respectively.<sup>290</sup> The house was later owned by Jesse K. Dubois, who had lived in

287. Greene, 53; Burgess, "Sandridge: A Masters Landscape Revisited," 6.

288. Greene, *Illustrated Atlas Map of Menard County, Illinois*, 99.

289. "Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856," *Illinois State Journal*, January 6, 1857.

290. "Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856."

the block south of the Lincolns, before becoming home to the Sacred Heart Academy.<sup>291</sup>

In January 1856, the Lincolns attended Governor Joel Matteson's opening ball at the new Illinois Executive Mansion (1855, John Mills Van Osdel of Chicago, architect), also known as the Governor's Mansion.<sup>292</sup> This was an imposing Italianate villa on a raised basement, featuring paired arched windows, a bracketed cornice, an octagonal cupola, an entrance porch featuring Grecian columns with Tower of the Winds capitals, and a rear verandah with Gothic Revival fretwork.<sup>293</sup> Like his peers across the country, Van Osdel (1811-1891)—regarded as Chicago's first professional architect—created high-style buildings by adapting design and details in contemporary architectural publications and often reused similar elements on multiple projects.<sup>294</sup> These same sources were used by architects, master builders, and carpenters with varying levels of fidelity and adaptation suited to the ability and tastes of the practitioner, the budget of the client, and the skills of local tradespeople.

Houses more modest in scale and materials could equal the pretensions of these mansions in their sophisticated design and details. One example, likely designed by a local architect or master builder using the fashionable architectural publications, gives a sense of the sophistication of Springfield builders in the mid-1850s. Built for jeweler George W. Chatterton, "Castle Cottage" (1854, demolished 1920) at what is now 509 S. Sixth Street was among the finest Gothic Revival houses in the state. At the time of its construction in 1854, the *Illinois State Journal* called the Chatterton House "the most unique specimen

of architecture in the city."<sup>295</sup> While the house's plan has not been matched to a single published source, its bargeboards, finials, and pendants were close adaptations from a detail by A. J. Downing, published with Design II in *Cottage Residences* (1842) and Design XXVI in *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850), suggesting that its builder had at least one of these pattern books on hand.<sup>296</sup> The projecting front-gabled wing with an arched entrance to an incised porch recalls a feature in multiple designs in *The Architecture of Country Houses*. The house's builder may have synthesized elements from several publications; the verandah resembles details from Design VII in Samuel Sloan's *The Model Architect* (1852), another popular source in the region.<sup>297</sup> The house's cladding in vertical board-and-batten wood siding, its picturesque massing and roofline, and its harmony of style reflect Downing's guidance on the design of houses suited to the American landscape. Chatterton's "Castle Cottage" shows that Springfield builders of the 1850s could produce sophisticated, high style designs reflecting the latest architectural fashions published in eastern cities.

#### I-Houses

The west (front) wing of the Lincoln Home as remodeled in 1855-1856 is an example of a form known as an I-house. This name was first applied by cultural geographer Fred Kniffen in the 1930s after he had observed the prevalence of houses of this form in Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa. The I-house form is defined by being two rooms wide (often with a center hall), one room deep, and two stories high. It is a two-story version of the central-passage house form. As with the central-passage house, the I-house often features a rear ell or wing. The I-house form was in use in the Springfield area

291. The Crowder-Dubois House was demolished between 1965 and 1971.

292. Virginia Stuart Brown, *Through Lincoln's Door* (Springfield, IL: Li-Co Art & Letter Service, 1952), 31.

293. The Governor's Mansion was extensively remodeled in 1889, 1897-1898, and 1917, altering many aspects of its design.

294. The Governor's Mansion shares stylistic elements with Van Osdel's other designs of the period, including the Cook County Courthouse (1853, burned 1871) and the John Wood Octagon House (1858-1864, demolished 1951) in Quincy. The latter was an Italianate adaptation of Design 49, "An Oriental Villa," from Samuel Sloan's *The Model Architect* (1852), the same design that Sloan would later adapt for "Longwood" (1859-1864) in Natchez, Mississippi, and expands many of the details Van Osdel had used on the Governor's Mansion.

295. "Aristocracy Hill," *Illinois State Journal*, May 18, 1854.

296. A. J. Downing, *Cottage Residences* (New York: Wiley & Putnam, 1842), 55, <https://archive.org/details/cottageresidence00downrich/page/n8/mode/1up?view=theater>; A. J. Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses* (New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1851), 328, <https://archive.org/details/architectureofco00down/page/n6/mode/1up?view=theater>.

297. Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses*, 338-39; William H. Ranlett, *The Architect*, vol. 1 (New York: Dewitt & Davenport, 1851), plates 20, 24, [https://archive.org/details/gri\\_33125008675395/page/n6/mode/1up?view=theater](https://archive.org/details/gri_33125008675395/page/n6/mode/1up?view=theater); Samuel Sloan, *The Model Architect*, vol. 2 (Philadelphia: E. S. Jones & Co., 1852), plate XXVIII, <https://archive.org/details/modelarchitectse02sloa/page/2/mode/2up>.

by the early-1830s and, adapted with Italianate details, it would remain common through the 1870s. The following houses are examples of I-houses possessing some similarities to the Lincoln Home as remodeled in 1855-1856.

*Tiger-Anderson House (ca.1832), 2851 Green Valley Road, Springfield, Illinois*

Located in Springfield Township just northwest of Springfield, this brick house is believed to have been built by Charles Broadwell, who sold the property to John Kendall in 1835. It was owned by miller Jacob Tiger from 1853 to 1868 and by Moses K. Anderson from 1868 to 1881. The front wing follows a typical I-house plan, having a center hall with one room on either side on each floor. A rear ell contains one room per floor. The Tiger-Anderson House is an early example of a Greek Revival I-house in Sangamon County. The house's vernacular Greek Revival character, defined by the front door surround, six-over-six windows, and simple frieze and cornice returns, reflects a type that would continue to be built in the area and the wider region through the 1850s.<sup>298</sup>

*Fell-Davis House (ca.1838/ca.1850-1855), 1000 E. Monroe Drive, Bloomington, Illinois*

This house was built about 1838 by Jesse Fell and was occupied by David Davis and his family from about 1844 to 1870. The original one-and-one-half-story house of five or six rooms was supplemented by a two-story wing believed to have been added by Davis in the early 1850s. This wing took the form of an I-house, having a center hall with one room on either side on each floor. It featured paneled pilasters at the corners, a narrow frieze, and nine-over-six windows, which would have been markedly old-fashioned by 1850. The second-floor windows appear to have been fitted with narrow trim approximating Gothic Revival drip molds. By 1866, the front of the house featured a verandah of unusual design, with groups of square Tuscan posts and elliptical arches; this verandah seems to anticipate neo-Federal designs by Colonial Revival architects in the coming decades. In 1870, the Fell-Davis House was relocated to the corner of Jefferson Street and Colton Avenue, where it stood until it was demolished about 1886. Between 1870

and 1872, Davis built a much larger house, "Clover Lawn," now the David Davis Mansion State Historic Site, on the original site.<sup>299</sup>

Writing in 1988, Krupka suggested that the Fell-Davis House bore "a striking resemblance in many of its exterior features to the appearance of the Lincoln Home" following the 1855-1856 remodeling.<sup>300</sup> While the houses both reflected the I-house form, were both clad in weatherboard siding, and both featured paneled corner pilasters, they were by no means twins. The Fell-Davis House's proportions, nine-over-six windows, the low gable centered on the façade, and its verandah all combined to give more of the appearance of an older New England house with haphazard modernizations than a new house of the early-1850s.

*Strawbridge-Shepherd House (ca.1845), 5255 Shepherd Road, Springfield, Illinois*

Irish-born Thomas Strawbridge Jr. (1798-1880) came to Sangamon County with his father in 1823. He acquired a parcel of open prairie west of Sugar Creek in 1841 and built this house on the land about 1845. The house was framed with oak and included interior floors of oak while the mantels and newel post were of black walnut. The original two-story I-house was expanded by the addition of a rear ell around 1865 and by the addition of porches and remodeling of the ell by the Shepherd family about 1885. The property was purchased by Sangamon State University in 1970 and is now the southern edge of the University of Illinois at Springfield campus. After many years of abandonment, the house was rehabilitated by the Elijah Iles House Foundation between 2006 and 2010.

The front wing follows a typical I-house plan, having a center hall with one room on either side on each floor. A wide frieze extended across the façade, which featured six-over-six windows. As with the Dresser Cottage, the front door and surround were recessed slightly into the façade, creating a shallow exterior vestibule. This was

298. Charles Kirchner, "Tiger-Anderson House, National Register Nomination," 1986, <https://web.archive.org/web/20160304081736/http://gis.hpa.state.il.us/pdfs/201457.pdf>; Hart, "Lincoln's Springfield: Greek Revival Architecture on the Prairie," 34.

299. Floyd Mansberger, *Archaeological Investigations at the David Davis Mansion State Historic Site, Bloomington, Illinois (1991-1992)* (Springfield, IL: Fever River Research, 2014), 6, 10-15, <http://illinoisarchaeology.com/Urban/David%20Davis%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>.

300. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, 1:Architectural Style 4.

sheltered by a small entry portico documented in two 1874 lithographs views. Like the Dresser Cottage and Gardner House, the gable end walls featured windows flanking the chimney breasts.<sup>301</sup>



**Figure A.C.14.** Strawbridge-Shepherd House (ca.1845), 5255 Shepherd Road, Springfield, Illinois, a good example of a wood-frame Greek Revival I-house in Sangamon County. Source: National Register of Historic Places, photographed by James Welt, 2014, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/66ea862c-beeb-4541-8127-ba6b46b3f5d5>

## Architects & Builders

### Henry Dresser (1813-1898), possible architect and builder of Dresser Cottage

The Lincoln Home was built in the autumn of 1839 for Rev. Charles Dresser. The house may have been designed and built by Dresser's brother, Henry Dresser, an architect and builder who came to Springfield just before its construction. Writing in 1982, James T. Hickey reported, "There is no documentary evidence that Henry Dresser was the builder of the eventual one and one-half story house, but it is likely that he was."<sup>302</sup> Rev. Charles Dresser's position as rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church meant that many people would be aware of his new house. Work on a visible, if modest, project shortly after his arrival would have given Henry Dresser wider public exposure and better chances for additional commissions in Springfield.

Asher Benjamin's *Practice of Architecture* (1833), a popular carpenter's guide, was the source for the door surround, mantels, and other details of the Dresser Cottage. This book also appears to have been the source for key details of First Presbyterian Church (1842-1843), designed by Henry Dresser.

This does not prove Henry Dresser's authorship of the cottage, as this book was a very popular source used by architects and builders throughout the country from the 1830s into the 1850s. The cupolas of the First Presbyterian Church and the Menard County Courthouse (1843-1844), both designed and built by Dresser, featured paneled pilasters and friezes very similar in effect to the paneled window casings used on the Dresser Cottage. Again, this similarity is not conclusive evidence of Henry Dresser's authorship. However, connection to the same carpenter's guide and the use of similar details lend further credence to Hickey's assertion that Henry Dresser was the likely builder of his brother's cottage.

### Biography

Henry Dresser (1813-1898) born December 27, 1813, in Pomfret, Connecticut. At age eighteen, in 1831-1832, Henry "entered upon an apprenticeship as architect and builder, serving three years and becoming a master of the profession. About the time of reaching his majority [1834-1835] he repaired to Massachusetts, where he engaged as a contractor and builder."<sup>303</sup> Henry married Phebe Ann Stone (1816-1853) in Brooklyn, Connecticut, in December 1836. The couple appears to have lived in Massachusetts until 1838, when they moved west to Springfield, Illinois. They travelled by steamboat up the Hudson River, by canal boat through the Erie Canal to Buffalo, by lake steamer from Buffalo to Chicago, and then overland from Chicago to Springfield.<sup>304</sup> The couple may have initially stayed with Henry's brother, Rev. Charles Dresser, who had settled in the city in April. Henry may have designed and built Charles' house—now the Lincoln Home—in 1839. Henry and Phebe had established their own household by the time of the 1840 census, which lists Henry Dresser as head of a household containing one male between ages 20 and 30 (he was then age 26) and one female between ages 20 and 30 (Phebe was then age 23). Henry is listed on the same sheet as his brother Charles, although many other households are listed between them.

Shortly after his arrival in Springfield, Henry Dresser entered into a partnership with Thomas Rogers. In June 1841, Dresser and Rogers

301. James Welt, "Strawbridge-Shepherd House, National Register Nomination," 2015, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/66ea862c-beeb-4541-8127-ba6b46b3f5d5>.

302. James T. Hickey, "A Family Album: The Dressers of Springfield," *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* 75, no. 4 (1982): 312.

303. *Portrait and Biographical Album of Morgan and Scott Counties, Ills.* (Chicago: Chapman Brothers, 1889), 535.

304. *Portrait and Biographical Album of Morgan and Scott Counties, Ills.*, 535.

announced the dissolution by mutual consent of their partnership, “Henry Dresser having purchased the entire interest of the firm.”<sup>305</sup> Sons Henry C. “Hank” Dresser (1842-1882) and Nathan Dresser (1844-1844) were born while the family lived in Springfield.

In 1848, Henry Dresser purchased farmland near Naples, 60 miles west of Springfield on the Illinois River in Scott County. Henry Dresser & Company were operating a steam lumber mill in Naples by August 1849, when they advertised that orders could be placed at the railroad office in Springfield.<sup>306</sup> A daughter, Mary E. Dresser (1849-1864) was born after the family’s relocation to Scott County. James T. Hickey reports the following of Dresser’s activities during the early-1850s:

Also, he became a director of the Sangamon and Morgan County Railroad, which had previously been part of the Northern Cross line. With his neighbors he promoted several land improvement projects, including in 1852 the Naples Protective Association, of which he was a founder and trustee. By draining Dickerson Lake he reclaimed one thousand acres of land, and through his efforts the Scott and Morgan counties levee and drainage district was formed.<sup>307</sup>

Phebe Stone Dresser died of consumption in Springfield in 1853; her funeral was held at the Springfield home of Henry’s sister, Lucretia Dresser Stone.<sup>308</sup> Hickey reports that “Dresser spent one year as a steamboat captain on the Illinois River from 1854 to 1855. He then resumed his contracting and architecture work, while also managing the farm and becoming involved in politics.”<sup>309</sup> He married Martha Heseman (1816-1857) in Barry, Illinois, in 1854 and married Elizabeth P. Work (1824-1880) in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1860. He later served as superintendent for construction at the Illinois

Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb in Jacksonville.<sup>310</sup> The main building (1842-1851) was designed by J. P. Langford of Springfield.<sup>311</sup> Henry Dresser may have been responsible for the north wing or for the 1871 remodeling of the building.

Dresser changed his party affiliation from Whig to Democrat in 1858, and in 1861 he was elected a county judge. He won a seat in the Illinois House in 1868 and 1875, both times as a Democrat. His business interests also expanded. He was a member of the Naples Hotel Company in 1867 and the Naples, Exeter, and Vandalia Railroad in 1869. In 1893, at the age of eighty, he was among the founders of the Bank of Bluffs.<sup>312</sup>

By the 1870s, Henry Dresser owned at least two parcels east and south of the town of Naples. He appears to have resided on a parcel east of town, northeast of the curve of Main Street/Chambers Road between what is now Gravel Road and the railroad corridor to the north.<sup>313</sup> In 1890, he married Polly McCaleb (1842-1898). Henry Dresser died July 15, 1898, at his home in Bluffs, Illinois. He was survived by his fourth wife Polly, who died on the 29<sup>th</sup> of the same month.<sup>314</sup> His children had all preceded him in death.

#### *Known Projects*

James T. Hickey reports that the “designs for numerous other homes and public buildings in Springfield have been attributed to” Henry Dresser.<sup>315</sup> The following projects are known to have been designed by Dresser:

305. “Dissolution,” *Illinois State Journal*, June 21, 1841, 3.
306. “Lumber,” *Illinois State Journal*, August 18, 1849, 3.
307. Hickey, “A Family Album: The Dressers of Springfield,” 314.
308. “Phebe Ann Stone Dresser (1816-1853) - Find A Grave Memorial,” accessed December 16, 2021, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24134686/phebe-ann-dresser>.
309. Hickey, “A Family Album: The Dressers of Springfield,” 315.

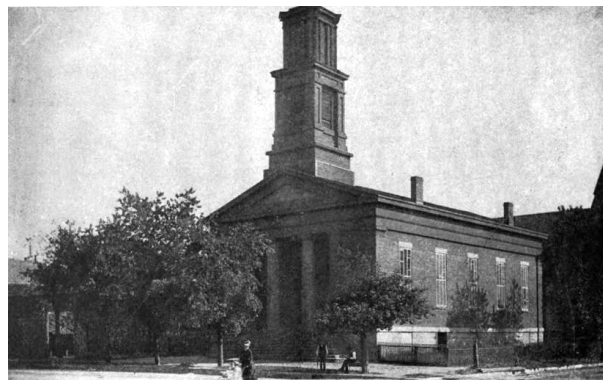
310. *Portrait and Biographical Album of Morgan and Scott Counties, Ills.*, 535.
311. “Illinois School for the Deaf | SAH ARCHIPEDIA,” accessed December 16, 2021, <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/IL-01-137-0100>.
312. Hickey, “A Family Album: The Dressers of Springfield,” 315.
313. A 1956 aerial photograph appears to show a farmstead in roughly the location indicated for a house on the parcel on an 1873 map. This farmstead was within what is now a square section of forested land in the north part of this parcel. Current aerial photographs appear to show traces of ruined buildings within the forested square. These buildings may include some designed, built, or occupied by Henry Dresser during his ownership of the property.
314. *Portrait and Biographical Album of Morgan and Scott Counties, Ills.*, 534–35.
315. Hickey, “A Family Album: The Dressers of Springfield,” 314.



First Presbyterian Church (1842-1843), southeast corner of Third and Washington Streets, Springfield, Illinois.<sup>316</sup> This notable Greek Revival church featured an inset, two-column Doric portico framed by blank bays with pairs of Doric pilasters, suggesting a six-column portico across the entire facade. A simple Doric frieze supported a pediment with a recessed triangular panel. An unusually fine cupola rose in two graduated tiers and culminated in a spire. The overall composition of the façade and the design of the second tier of the cupola appear to have been adapted from Plate 53 of Asher Benjamin's *Practice of Architecture* (1833).<sup>317</sup>

The cornerstone was laid in 1842 and the congregation occupied the basement during the winter of 1842-1843 and the following summer. The main audience room was completed in the fall of 1843 and the church was dedicated that November. The total cost was about \$12,000. The Lincolns asked the minister of First Presbyterian Church to conduct their son Eddie's funeral in December 1848. Mary Lincoln joined the church in 1852 and Tad was baptized here in 1855. The church was "enlarged and otherwise improved" in 1858.<sup>318</sup>

The congregation moved to its present building at the northeast corner of Seventh Street and Capitol Avenue in 1876. The earlier building was occupied by the German Lutheran Church during the 1880s and 1890s. The spire was removed sometime between 1884 and 1888 and was rebuilt in a different style sometime between 1889 and 1896. The church was demolished in 1912.<sup>319</sup>



**Figure A.C.15.** First Presbyterian Church (1842-1843, Henry Dresser, architect), southeast corner of Third and Washington Streets, Springfield, Illinois, 1888. Source: William H. Herndon & Jesse W. Weik, *Abraham Lincoln: The True Story of a Great Life*, Vol. I (1888),

Menard County Courthouse (1843-1844), Petersburg, Illinois. The building stood in the public square, faced west, and featured a gable-front façade three bays wide and side elevations four bays long, with pilasters between each bay. The center bay on the façade contained the entrance, the gable was treated as a pediment, and the building was topped by a cupola. The cupola was similar to the lower tier of the First Presbyterian Church cupola, with louvered panels surrounded by panels similar in configuration to the window surrounds of the Dresser Cottage. An 1879 county history described it as an "old and time-worn building, with the moss of more than a third of a century growing upon its walls. . . . It is the old Kentucky tobacco-barn style of architecture, and on a par with the courthouses built in this section of the State forty or fifty years ago."<sup>320</sup> According to an article on the building's demolition in 1896, "The plans were drawn and the work done by Henry Dresser for the sum total of \$6,640. This was a big price for those days and the building was correspondingly fine."<sup>321</sup> A 1905 county history stated, "while the old courthouse was an old fashioned, weather-beaten affair, it was with sad hearts that the old citizens saw it razed to the ground, on account of the associations connected with it. Its walls had echoed to the voice

316. Hickey, 314.

317. Asher Benjamin, *Practice of Architecture* (Boston: Carter, Hendee & Co., 1833), pl. 53, <https://archive.org/details/practiceofarchi00benj/page/n6/mode/1up?view=theater>.

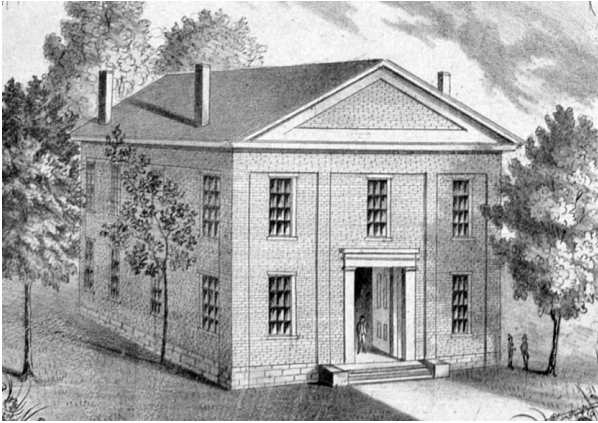
318. History of Sangamon County, Illinois (Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Co., 1881), 604.

319. Hart, "Lincoln's Springfield: Greek Revival Architecture on the Prairie," 14.

320. The History of Menard and Mason Counties, Illinois (Chicago: O. L. Baskin & Company, 1879), 298.

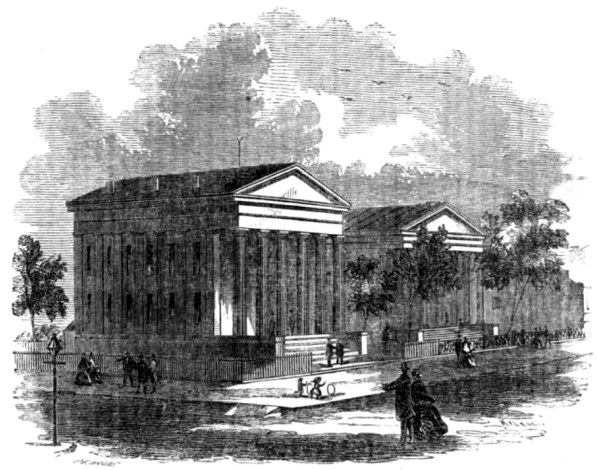
321. "Old Landmark Going," *Weekly Pantagraph*, February 28, 1896.

of such men as Stephen A. Douglas, Abraham Lincoln and many other of the celebrities of those old times. . .”<sup>322</sup>



**Figure A.C.16.** Menard County Courthouse (1843-1844, Henry Dresser, architect), Petersburg, Illinois, 1874. The building had lost its cupola by the time this lithograph was made. Source: *Illustrated Atlas Map of Menard County, Illinois* (P. B. Greene, 1874).

Sangamon County Courthouse (1845), Southeast corner of Sixth and Washington Streets, Springfield, Illinois.<sup>323</sup> Henry Dresser was awarded the contract for construction on April 11, 1845.<sup>324</sup> The building featured a six-column Doric portico on its front façade, facing toward the (now Old) Illinois State Capitol. Immediately to the south was the State Bank of Illinois (1839, George I. Barnett of St. Louis, architect, demolished 1886), which featured a hexastyle Corinthian portico. In 1876, the State of Illinois moved into the new State House and Sangamon County purchased the Old State Capitol for use as a courthouse. The old courthouse was demolished, and the land was sold in 1877.



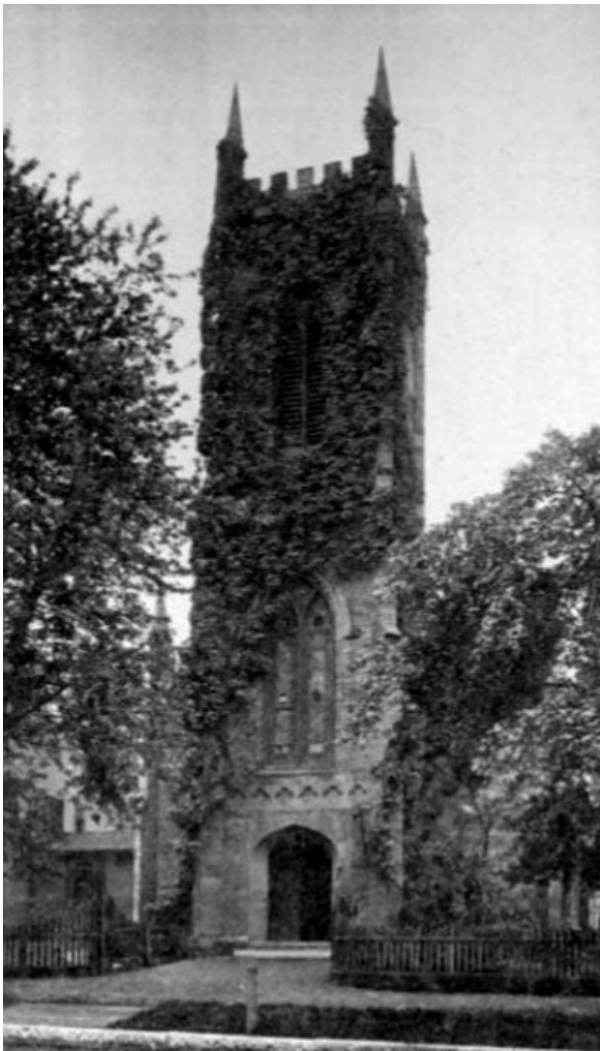
**Figure A.C.17.** Sangamon County Courthouse (1845, Henry Dresser, architect), Southeast corner of Sixth and Washington Streets, Springfield, Illinois, 1859. This lithograph shows the Sangamon County Courthouse at left and the State Bank of Illinois (1839, George I. Barnett of St. Louis, architect) at right. Source: “Views of American Cities,” *Ballou’s Dollar Monthly Magazine*, Vol. X, No. 6 (December 1859), 519. This image previously appeared in *Ballou’s Pictorial Drawing-Room Companion* in November 1856.

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church (1846-1848), southwest corner Adams and Third Streets, Springfield, Illinois. Rev. Charles Dresser came to Springfield in 1838 to serve as the first resident rector of this congregation, which had built a frame church on Washington Street between Fourth and Fifth. Rev. Charles Dresser would remain at St. Paul’s until 1854. In 1846, his brother, Henry Dresser, secured the commission for the design and construction of a new church for the congregation at Adams and Third Streets. The new church was consecrated June 24, 1848. Henry Dresser’s design reflected the newly fashionable Gothic Revival style and was an early high-style Gothic church in the region. The façade was dominated by a massive square tower featuring a Tudor-arched entrance, a tall, pointed-arch window, and a belfry with louvered pointed arch openings. The corners of the tower and the main building featured buttresses, and the top of the tower featured corner pinnacles and a crenelated parapet. The walls were of rough stone. The building was demolished after the congregation relocated to the Cathedral Church of St. Paul the Apostle (1908-1913) at 815 E. Second Street.

322. R. D. Miller, *Past and Present of Menard County, Illinois* (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1905), 96, [http://livinghistoryofillinois.com/pdf\\_files/Past%20and%20present%20of%20Menard%20County,%20Illinois,%201905.pdf](http://livinghistoryofillinois.com/pdf_files/Past%20and%20present%20of%20Menard%20County,%20Illinois,%201905.pdf).

323. Hart, “Lincoln’s Springfield: Greek Revival Architecture on the Prairie,” 15–18.

324. *History of Sangamon County, Illinois*, 555.



**Figure A.C.18.** St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1846-1848, Henry Dresser, architect), southwest corner Adams and Third Streets, Springfield, 1889. This church, designed by Henry Dresser for the congregation led by his brother, Rev. Charles Dresser, was an early high-style Gothic Revival church in the region. Source: *Springfield, Illustrated* (H. R. Page & Company, 1889), Illinois State Library - General Collection, courtesy of Illinois Digital Archives, Illinois State Library, Illinois Secretary of State.

During 1847-1848, Henry Dresser was an inspector for the (now Old) Illinois State House (1837-1853, John F. Rague, architect) in Springfield. "Under his supervision, the interior decorations were made and the dome and porticos were added."<sup>325</sup>

Sangamon River Bridge at Petersburg, Illinois. This bridge was complete by June 1853 when it was described by the *Illinois State Journal*. "It is, without doubt, an additional credit to Mr. Dresser's reputation as an architect, and will add another laurel to his worthily won fame, in this region of country, as a master mechanic. The

325. Hickey, "A Family Album: The Dressers of Springfield," 314.

bridge is a single span across the Sangamon; and for cheapness, durability and beauty excels, in the opinion of many, any structure of the kind in the valley of the Sangamon."<sup>326</sup>

#### **Page Eaton (1821-1899), Carpenter**

John Eaton and his son Page Eaton are reported to have worked as carpenters on the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839. Both Eatons might have been involved in the Lincolns' 1846 remodeling of the house. Page Eaton may have worked on the 1855-1856 remodeling as an employee of Hannon & Ragsdale.

In 1868, a correspondent to the *Utica Herald* in Utica, New York, was making a "pedestrian tour from the Atlantic to the Pacific." The correspondent, who used the pseudonym "A Poor Student," arrived in Springfield on January 10, and, seeing "an old gray-headed man. . . Asked him if he knew Abraham Lincoln." This man was Page Eaton, although at age forty-six he was hardly an old man. The correspondent related their conversation, including the following quote from Eaton:

Knew him [Lincoln] well for thirty years. . . I am a carpenter, and built his house for him. He was often in my house and I in his. . . I knew him when he first came to Springfield. I had been here about a year.—There were only a few scattered houses when I came. . . He came to my shop one day, after he had been here five or six months, and said he had a notion to quit studying law and learn the carpenter's trade. He thought there was more need of carpenters out here than lawyers.<sup>327</sup>

This story was reprinted in other newspapers over subsequent months, including the *Standard of Belvidere*, Illinois, which printed it on April 14, the third anniversary of Lincoln's assassination.<sup>328</sup>

In his 1962 booklet *Builder of Lincoln's Home: Page Eaton*, Wayne C. Temple judged Eaton's claim to be credible because Mary Lincoln and many of Lincoln's contemporaries in Springfield were

326. Citizen, "Editors State Register," *Illinois State Journal*, June 23, 1853, 2.

327. "The Home Life of Mr. Lincoln," *Chicago Tribune*, February 4, 1868.

328. Wayne Calhoun Temple, ed., *Builder of Lincoln's Home: Page Eaton* (Harrogate, TN: Lincoln Memorial University Press, 1962), 3.

still alive and no evidence of a refutation of this claim was found between its publication in 1868 and Eaton's death in 1899.<sup>329</sup> Temple offers the following assessment: "Perhaps Page Eaton was not the actual contractor in 1839, but he most certainly worked on the structure as a carpenter. He would have been only 17 or 18 years of age at that time. . . . Until contradicting evidence appears, it would seem safe to state that Eaton helped to construct Lincoln's home."<sup>330</sup>

Eaton may have been one of the carpenters employed in the construction of the Dresser Cottage in 1839. Eaton is quoted as saying that he built Lincoln's house "for him." If accurate, this suggests that Eaton did the work for Lincoln rather than for Dresser. This could be an inaccurate quote, or it may suggest that Eaton meant that he built at least part of the house for Lincoln. This might mean that he was responsible for the Lincolns' 1846 remodeling of the house. Eaton would have then been twenty-four or twenty-five years of age and may have been in a position to take on a project of this scale. He might have worked on the project independently, or with his father.<sup>331</sup> He could also have been employed by Hannn & Ragsdale as a carpenter during the 1855-1856 remodeling of the house.

John Eaton (1789-1846) as born in Bradford, New Hampshire, served in the War of 1812, and married Mary Cook (1793-1854) in 1813. Page Eaton, one of the couples' nine children, was born October 25, 1821. An 1876 biography states that Page Eaton was born in Bradford, New Hampshire, but census forms and Eaton's obituary state that he was born in Canada.<sup>332</sup>

Page Eaton's arrival in Springfield has been assigned various dates between 1836 and May 1839. Temple reports, "according to his own statement, Eaton arrived in Springfield in 1836"; this is based on Eaton's statement in the 1868 article that he knew Lincoln "when he first came to Springfield. I had been here about a year"; Lincoln came to Springfield from New Salem in April 1837.<sup>333</sup> John Eaton is reported to have come

to Springfield in June 1838. According to Krupka, "Page Eaton came to Springfield in May, 1839 at age seventeen with his father, John Eaton, Jr. where, upon their arrival, they were quickly hired to work on the Reverend Dresser's new Cottage home, already under construction."<sup>334</sup> This suggests that the Eatons were hired to work on a project already underway, possibly working for a master builder like Henry Dresser.

In 1840, the rest of the Eaton family moved from New Hampshire to Springfield. The following year, the family moved twenty-five miles northwest to Petersburg, seat of Menard County, where John Eaton established a carpentry shop.<sup>335</sup> John Eaton declared bankruptcy in Menard County in January 1843 and the family moved back to Springfield that year.<sup>336</sup> John Eaton owned land in Menard County for which the taxes for 1843 were unpaid as of March 1844.<sup>337</sup> An 1876 biography states that "Later in life he [John Eaton] was a carpenter and builder" and reports that he was "erecting a mill at Naples, Ill., and died there in 1846."<sup>338</sup> This might possibly have been the lumber mill acquired by architect/builder Henry Dresser in 1848. The 1850 census lists Mary Eaton as the head of a Sangamon County household including her son John B. Eaton, a twenty-year-old farmer, and her seventeen-year-old daughter Sarah.

Page Eaton does not appear in Petersburg or Springfield in the 1850 census. He married Margaret Ann Lee (1825-1901) in Sangamon County on May 25, 1852. Krupka reports that Page Eaton continued to operate a carpentry shop in Petersburg until it burned in 1853.<sup>339</sup> In May 1857, Page Eaton owed taxes on one parcel of property, the north half of lot six in P. P. Enos' Addition to Springfield.<sup>340</sup> In August 1858, Eaton's property,

329. Temple, 1

330. Temple, 2.

331. The date of John Eaton's death in 1846 is not known.

332. Power, *History of the Early Settles of Sangamon County, Illinois*, 280.

333. Temple, *Builder of Lincoln's Home : Page Eaton*, 2,4.

334. Francis Orlando Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, December 1988 draft, vol. X (Denver: National Park Service Denver Service Center, 1988), Lincoln Milk Cow 4.

335. Power, *History of the Early Settles of Sangamon County, Illinois*, 280.

336. "District Court of the United States within and for the District of Illinois," *Sangamo Journal*, February 9, 1843

337. "List of Lands and Other Real Estate Situated in the County of Menard, and State of Illinois, on Which Taxes Remain Due and Unpaid for the Year 1843.," *Sangamo Journal*, March 7, 1844.

338. Power, *History of the Early Settles of Sangamon County, Illinois*, 281.

339. Krupka, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home (HS-1)*, 1988, X:Lincoln Milk Cow 5.

340. "Tax List," *Daily Illinois State Journal*, May 2, 1857.

lots 21 and 22 Allen's Addition to the City of Springfield, were put up for sheriff's sale.<sup>341</sup> Eaton appears to have retained ownership of the lots in Enos' Addition and Allen's Addition; taxes for 1860 on all three were overdue in February 1861.<sup>342</sup>

In 1856, Page Eaton designed and built a one-story brick building for the German Methodist Episcopal Church at the southeast corner of Seventh and Mason Streets. "A brick church, designed for the use of the German Methodist Society, corner of Seventh and Mason streets. Size, 34 by 46 feet; square front with scrolls. Cost \$3,000; P. Eaton, architect and builder; Hosford, plasterer; Wood & Hendricks, painters."<sup>343</sup> This building was occupied by the congregation into the 1880s and was later the Union Mission.

As of June 1856, Eaton was operating a carpenter and joiner shop on Monroe Street.<sup>344</sup> He does not appear in Springfield city directories for 1857, 1859, or 1860. The 1860 census lists Eaton as a carpenter living in Springfield and directories from 1863 through 1896 list him as a carpenter, carpenter and builder, contractor and builder, or builder. Page Eaton died December 19, 1899, at age 72.

#### **Hannon & Ragsdale, architects and builders for 1855-1856 remodeling**

The Lincolns hired Hannon & Ragsdale, architects and builders, to design and build the 1855-1856 remodeling of the Lincoln Home. This firm was owned by Daniel Hannon and Thomas A. Ragsdale. It had been established in the early-1840s by Hannon and Daniel Ragsdale, brother of Thomas A. Ragsdale. Floyd Mansberger provides the following summary of the firm's history:

By the early 1840s, Daniel Ragsdale was a partner in a construction firm with Daniel Hannon, operating as Ragsdale and Hannon—house joiners and carpenters. Daniel Ragsdale had a run of bad luck resulting in the sale of several building lots for back taxes in 1838, and he finally declared bankruptcy in 1842. About that time, Daniel and his wife began operation

of a boarding house, and soon construction company was reorganized with Thomas Ragsdale as partner. As Temple (1984:47) notes, "Daniel Hannon reorganized the firm taking in Thomas A. Ragsdale and switching the firm's name to Hannon & Ragsdale."

The firm of Hannon and Ragsdale was fairly successful during the growth years of the early to middle 1850s. Besides constructing several large commercial buildings around the public square, they also had the commission to construct the "palatial mansion for Governor Joel Aldrich Matteson," which was constructed across the street from the formal governor's mansion in what has become known as Springfield's "Aristocracy Hill." One of the more famous of the Ragsdale projects was the remodeling of Abraham Lincoln's Springfield residence located at the corner of Eighth and [Jackson] Streets. In the middle 1850s, the firm also became invested in construction of the "Springfield Block" and the "Cairo City Hotel Company" in downstate Cairo—a community that was developing at an unprecedented rate due to the newly arrived Illinois Central Railroad (Temple 1984:47-51).<sup>345</sup>

Hannon & Ragsdale did a large and active business in 1856, building houses and commercial buildings in and around Springfield and in Cairo, Illinois. Located more than 200 miles to the south of Springfield at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and the terminus of the Illinois Central Railroad, Cairo was experiencing a boom; its population would increase from 242 in 1850 to 2,188 in 1860. Daniel Hannon had moved to Cairo by 1857, probably to oversee the firm's many projects there.

Of the fourteen projects by Hannon & Ragsdale documented in a January 1857 article in the *Illinois State Journal*, ten list the firm as "architects and builders" while four list them only as "builders." This suggests that Hannon & Ragsdale designed some buildings themselves but built others from designs by other architects. Hannon & Ragsdale were one of eleven listings in the category

341. "Sheriff's Sale," *Illinois State Journal*, August 18, 1858.

342. "City Tax Sale," *Daily Illinois State Journal*, February 9, 1861.

343. "Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856."

344. Temple, *Builder of Lincoln's Home* : Page Eaton, 2.

345. Floyd Mansberger, Block Technical Report III: Archaeological Investigations of the East Half Parking Lot Project Area, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield, Illinois (Springfield, IL: Fever River Research, 2009), 47–48, <http://illinoisarchaeology.com/urban/ALPLM%20Parking%20East%20Report.pdf>.



of “Architects & Builders” in the 1857-1858 Springfield city directory. Hannon & Ragsdale’s advertisement in that directory lists Hannon living in Cairo and Ragsdale in Springfield, with the company’s office on Third Street between Adams and Monroe. J. W. Weiss, a carpenter, bridge-builder, and house-mover, listed “Hanna[sic] & Ragsdale” as a reference in his advertisement in the same directory.

Hannon & Ragsdale’s volume of work in 1856 indicates that they had many employees, probably multiple crews working on different projects at the same time. A few of these employees are documented. S. B. Opdycke and John L. Strickland were both carpenters employed by the firm in the 1850s. David G. Council (1817-1875) was born in Montgomery County, Tennessee, and came to Sangamon County in the autumn of 1830, settling in Springfield in 1838. According to an 1876 biography, “D. G. Council was the pioneer of stair building in Springfield, and foreman for Hannon & Ragsdale in their extensive contracts.”<sup>346</sup> According to an 1881 biography, William H. Rhodes (1828-1899) came to Springfield in January 1854 and “then worked for Hannon & Ragsdale.” Rhodes married Anna V. Green in February 1856 and seems to have left the company when the couple relocated to a farm in Rochester Township later that year; Rhodes was listed as a farmer in the 1860 census.<sup>347</sup> John Rhodes, interviewed by Joseph E. Woods in 1887, was also reported to have been a carpenter working with Hannon & Ragsdale at the time of the Lincolns’ 1855-1856 remodeling.<sup>348</sup>

The partnership of Hannon and Ragsdale was dissolved in March 1858.<sup>349</sup> The following notice appeared in the *Illinois State Journal*:

#### DISSOLUTION.

The copartnership heretofore existing between Daniel Hannon and Thomas A. Ragsdale, under

the name and style of Hannon & Ragsdale, Builders, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. All persons indebted to the firm will please settle their accounts with Thomas A. Ragsdale.<sup>350</sup>

The dissolution of the firm may have been precipitated by setbacks on the St. Charles Hotel at Cairo (prior to its destruction in a flood that June) and the Illinois State Hospital for the Insane at Jacksonville. Ragsdale took over the firm’s remaining projects and the stress and financial strain led to a health crisis in 1859.<sup>351</sup> In its nearly two decades of operation, the firm of Hannon & Ragsdale designed and built many buildings in Springfield, Cairo, and surrounding areas.

#### Known Projects

The bulk of Hannon & Ragsdale’s known projects are documented in a January 1857 *Illinois State Journal* article reporting building improvements to Springfield in 1856. Hannon & Ragsdale appears to have been one of the most prolific architecture and construction firms in Springfield. Other architects and builders active in Springfield that year were H. G. Fitzhugh & Company, Armstrong & Connelly, and Warwick & Ball. The following are other known projects by Hannon & Ragsdale:

- Remodeling of Lincoln Home (1855-1856), Eighth and Jackson Streets, Springfield. “Addition to house on Eighth street, for A. Lincoln. Cost \$1,300; Hannon & Ragsdale, architects and builders.”<sup>352</sup> This likely documents only the second phase of work completed in 1856.
- Judge S. H. Treat House (1856), Second Street, Springfield. “A two story frame residence, 44 by 62 feet, on second street, for Judge S. H. Treat. Cost \$7,000; Hannon & Ragsdale, architects and builders.”<sup>353</sup>
- J. J. Taylor House (1856), Second Street, Springfield. “A two story frame residence, 26 by 44 feet, on Second street, for J. J.

346. Power, *History of the Early Settles of Sangamon County, Illinois*, 231.

347. “William H. Rhodes of Sangamon IL: The Back Rhodes of Our Genealogy,” accessed April 20, 2022, [http://rhodesfamily.org/bio\\_wm\\_rhodes\\_sangamon\\_il.php](http://rhodesfamily.org/bio_wm_rhodes_sangamon_il.php).

348. Edwin C. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site* (Denver: National Park Service Denver Service Center, 1973), 46.

349. Mansberger, *Block Technical Report III: Archaeological Investigations of the East Half Parking Lot Project Area, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield, Illinois*, 48.

350. “Dissolution,” *Illinois State Journal*, March 17, 1858.

351. “A Pioneer Called Home – Thomas Allen Ragsdale Joins the Silent Majority,” *Illinois State Journal*, March 28, 1892.

352. “Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856.”

353. “Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856.”

Taylor. Cost \$5,500; Hannon & Ragsdale, architects and builders.”<sup>354</sup> The 1857-1858 Springfield city directory lists John Taylor as a farmer residing on the east side of Second between Edwards and Jackson. A two-story frame house that appears to have matched these dimensions was present on the site through 1890 at what became 520 S. Second Street. This house was either extensively remodeled or demolished and replaced between 1890 and 1896. The site is now occupied by Lincoln Tower Plaza.

- R. P. Johnston Cottage (1856), Fourth Street, Springfield. “A one story cottage, 24 by 32 feet, on Fourth street, for R. P. Johnston. Cost \$900; Hannon & Ragsdale, architects and builders.”<sup>355</sup> The 1857-1858 Springfield city directory lists Robert Johnston, a druggist in the firm of Canedy & Johnston, living on the west side of Fourth between Canedy and Scarritt Streets.
- Reconstruction of Thomas Mather House (1856), Second Street, Springfield. “Re-building family mansion for Mrs. Mathe[r] on Second street, two story brick, in the Itali[an] style, mastic front. Cost \$10,500; Hannon & Ragsdale, architects and builders; M. Millington, mason; T. D. Wickersham, plasterer; Willard & Zimmerman, painters.”<sup>356</sup> The 1857-1858 Springfield city directory lists Mrs. H. G. Mather as a widow living on the west side of Second between Market and Monroe. She was the widow of Thomas Mather (1795-1853), who came to Springfield in 1835. The 1860 directory lists Mrs. H. G. Mather’s house on the west side of Second opposite Market Street.<sup>357</sup> This Italianate remodeling of an earlier house for one of Springfield’s prominent families was in the center of the area known as “society hill.” The Mather House was demolished in the late-1860s to make way for the present Illinois State Capitol.

- D. Wickersham Cottage (1856), Seventh Street, Springfield. “A one story cottage, 26 by 32, for D. Wickersham, on Seventh street. Cost \$900; Hannon & Ragsdale, architects and builders.”<sup>358</sup> The 1857-1858 Springfield city directory lists D. Wickersham of the firm of Smith, Edwards & Company living on the west side of Seventh between Edwards and Jackson.
- Gov. Joel A. Matteson House (1856), southwest corner Jackson and Fourth Streets, Springfield. Joel Aldrich Matteson (1808-1873) was Governor of Illinois from 1853 to 1857. In the latter part of his term, immediately following completion of the Illinois Governor’s Mansion, Matteson built a large Italianate villa directly across the street. Mansberger and Stratton report the following: “Finding the governor’s mansion ‘dull and unfashionable,’ Matteson sought to overshadow the executive residence by constructing a comparably sized Italianate Villa, complete with tower, at a cost of approximately \$100,000. The interior of the Matteson House was gutted by fire in January 1872. The once elegant dwelling was never rebuilt, though its charred walls would remain standing for more than a decade after the fire.”<sup>359</sup> It is unclear whether Hannon & Ragsdale designed the Matteson House or whether they implemented a design by another architect.
- Gardener’s Cottage, Greenhouse, and other buildings (1856), Joel A. Matteson’s estate, southwest corner Jackson and Fourth Street, Springfield. “A gardener’s cottage, green house and other improvements on Gov. Matteson’s grounds on Fourth street. Cost \$7,000; Hannon & Ragsdale, architects and builders.”<sup>360</sup> These buildings were part of Matteson’s elaborate grounds surrounding his large Italianate villa. The Gardener’s Cottage was a side-gabled brick Gothic Revival cottage set near

354. “Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856.”

355. “Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856.”

356. “Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856.”

357. Mansberger and Stratton, *The Architectural Resources of the Aristocracy Hill Neighborhood*, Springfield, Illinois, 26.

358. “Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856.”

359. Mansberger and Stratton, *The Architectural Resources of the Aristocracy Hill Neighborhood*, Springfield, Illinois, 32.

360. “Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856.”

Third Street at the rear of the property. Its high-style Gothic Revival details, including verandahs along its longer sides, windows with drip-molds, semi-dormers, and cusped bargeboards, suggest that Hannon & Ragsdale were working with contemporary pattern books. The bargeboards and verandah were probably adapted from details for Design V in William H. Ranlett's *The Architect* (1847), a source widely used in the region during the 1850s.<sup>361</sup> The Gardener's Cottage was incorrectly identified as Governor Matteson's country house in some prior sources. It was demolished sometime between 1917 and 1952. The greenhouse documented on the property in later years featured a circular, domed center pavilion flanked by shed-roofed wings, all backing up to a brick wall. It was demolished between 1889 and July 1890.

- Cottage (1856) on T. H. Campbell's farm. "A cottage on the farm of T. H. Campbell. Cost \$550; Hannon & Ragsdale, builders."<sup>362</sup> The 1857-1858 Springfield city directory lists Thomas H. Campbell as the former State Auditor living on the east side of Second between Edwards and Jackson Streets.
- Cottage (1856) on Ninian Wirt Edwards' farm. "A cottage on the farm of N. W. Edwards. Cost \$300; Hannon & Ragsdale, builders."<sup>363</sup> Ninian Wirt Edwards was the husband of Mary Lincoln's sister, Elizabeth Porter Todd Edwards.
- Concert Hall / Pasfield Building (1856), Washington Street, north side of State House Square, Springfield, Illinois. The *Illinois State Journal* provided the following description of the building in its review of improvements to Springfield in 1856: "Two three-story brick stores, with iron fronts, on Washington Street, north side of the Square. Size. 20 by 70 feet; George Pasfield owner; Hannon & Ragsdale, architects and builders; Ford & Kidd, masons, Willard & Zimmerman, painters; cost \$10,000. The upper story of these two stores is finished for a hall, to be used for balls, concerts, &c."<sup>364</sup>
- Dorwin & Dickey Building (1856), Washington Street, north side of Square, Springfield. "One three story brick store, with iron front, adjoining the above. Size, 20 by 100 feet; Dorwin & Dickey, owners; Hannon & Ragsdale, architects and builders; Ford & Kidd, masons; Willard & Zimmerman, painters; cost \$7,000."<sup>365</sup>
- Pasfield Warehouse, Adams Street, Springfield. "One two story warehouse, addition to Pease & Brother's iron store, on Adams Street. Size, 20 by 50 feet; George Pasfield, owner; Hannon & Ragsdale, builders; cost \$1,800."<sup>366</sup>
- Commercial building (1856), Cairo, Illinois. "One two story frame store in Cairo, owned by Hannon & Ragsdale. Cost \$1,500; Hannon & Ragsdale, builders."<sup>367</sup>
- Double house (1856), Cairo, Illinois. "One double frame dwelling in Cairo, owned by Hannon & Ragsdale. Cost \$1,600; Hannon & Ragsdale, builders."<sup>368</sup>
- Springfield Block (1856), Cairo, Illinois. In January 1857, the *Illinois State Journal* reported "A block of nine stores in the city of Cairo, known as the 'Springfield Block,' owned by a company in Springfield. Cost \$50,000; Hannon & Ragsdale, architects and builders."<sup>369</sup> This building was located on Ohio Street between Sixth and Eighth (only even-numbered streets extended to Ohio Street), facing the Ohio River wharf across Ohio Street. The building's early tenants included the Cairo Post office, gro-

361. Ranlett, *The Architect*, 1:Plate 22; Ross, "Canal Boat Gothic: Pattern Book Architecture in the Wabash Valley."

362. "Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856."

363. "Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856."

364. "Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856."

365. "Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856."

366. "Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856."

367. "Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856."

368. "Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856."

369. "Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856."

cers, a saloon, newspaper office, and the Sons of Malta lodge hall. A visitor in June 1857 mentioned the “splendid ‘Springfield Block’ of stores” as one of many recent improvements to Cairo.<sup>370</sup> A report on the flood at Cairo in June 1858 described the building as follows: “The ‘Springfield Block,’ composed of nine buildings, seven of which were occupied, were three stories above the Levee, and presented a uniform and handsome appearance. They cost a large amount of money. Two superior buildings adjoin this block built by Gov. Matteson.”<sup>371</sup> The Springfield Block appears to have survived the flood but was badly damaged by a fire on December 8, 1858.<sup>372</sup> The building was repaired or rebuilt by 1859 and remained standing until at least 1870, with portions surviving as of 1910.

- Hannon & Ragsdale were investors, along with several prominent Springfield residents, in the Cairo City Hotel Company. This company built the St. Charles Hotel (1857-1859) in Cairo, Illinois. Cairo, a port at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, was seeing spectacular growth during the 1850s, following the completion of the Illinois Central Railroad in 1855. The hotel was built at the southwest corner of Second and Ohio Streets, facing the Ohio River wharf across Ohio Street. The incomplete hotel was largely destroyed in a flood in June 1858 and was rebuilt. The project had been planned to cost \$32,000, but the company had expended over \$54,000 by the time of the flood and its contractors lost about \$12,000—likely in materials and tools swept away or damaged—in the disaster.<sup>373</sup> It is unclear whether Hannon & Ragsdale were the contractors who built the hotel or

whether they were simply investors in the company. If they were the contractors, the losses sustained on that project may have contributed Ragsdale’s health crisis in 1859 and his subsequent exit from the business of construction. The hotel was rebuilt and opened in late 1859. It was a four-story brick building containing 130 rooms. An October 1859 article reports that the new St. Charles Hotel was “under the control and management of Ragsdale, Kimber & Co., who well know how to keep such an establishment to the satisfaction of the travelling community.”<sup>374</sup> The St. Charles Hotel was extensively remodeled in 1881 as the Halliday Hotel, including the addition of a mansard roof. It was destroyed by fire in 1943.

- Addition to the Illinois State Hospital for the Insane (1857-1859) at Jacksonville, Illinois. Hannon & Ragsdale were awarded the construction contract in 1857 for \$140,500. In 1858, following the dissolution of the firm, the contract was “modified by substituting Mr. Ragsdale for Hannon & Ragsdale.”<sup>375</sup> Ragsdale completed the west wing by early 1859, but the State Legislature failed to appropriate money for completion of the east wing, although Ragsdale already had materials on site. The hospital’s trustees offered to settle with Ragsdale for the work completed to date. “They required the architect who had been employed by the State, to superintend the erection of the buildings, to make an estimate of the work done and yet to be done, and submit to them as a basis on which to settle with the contractor. The architect reported that \$53,271 was due Mr. Ragsdale. The Trustees were unwilling to pay this amount, but offered him \$44,368—or nothing. . . Mr. Ragsdale states that he had mortgaged all his property to carry on the work; that he was paying 15 per cent for the use of money, and that the bank demanded its money. He was, therefore, compelled to accept what was tendered

370. “Brief Notes on Egypt,” *The Weekly Pantagraph*, June 10, 1857.

371. “The Calamity at Cairo,” *Daily Missouri Republican*, June 15, 1858.

372. Daniel Hannon, “The Fire at Cairo—Full Particulars,” *Illinois State Journal*, December 15, 1858, sec. 2.

373. *The Past, Present and Future of the City of Cairo in North America* (Portland: Brown Thurston, 1858), 43, [https://www.google.com/books/edition/The\\_Past\\_Present\\_and\\_Future\\_of\\_the\\_City/OJYUAAAAYAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Past_Present_and_Future_of_the_City/OJYUAAAAYAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1).

374. “St. Charles Hotel, Cairo,” *Jonesboro Gazette*, October 15, 1859.

375. *Reports of the Illinois State Hospital for the Insane, 1847-1862* (Chicago: F. Fulton & Company, 1863), 242, 251, 287, 295.

him.”<sup>376</sup> Ragsdale appealed to the State Legislature in 1861 and again in 1863; this second appeal failed in the senate by one vote. Ragsdale appealed to the Legislature again in 1883 and the appeal again failed.

*Daniel Hannon (ca.1811-1860s)*

Daniel Hannon was born in Massachusetts. Hannon and Wealtha (also spelled Wilthea and Wealthy) D. Ewell documented their attention to marry in November 1835 at Charlestown, Massachusetts, but were not married until July 1836. Hannon is listed as a carpenter in Charlestown city directories between 1836 and 1840. The Hannons came to Illinois in the early-1840s.

The 1850 census lists Daniel Hannon as a carpenter living in Springfield. His household included his wife “Wealthy D.” and children Daniel, Mary E., H. A., and Lucy, ranging in age from 12 to five, along with an 18-year-old carpenter named Thomas Harry. Hannon moved from Springfield to the booming port of Cairo, Illinois, sometime between 1850 and 1857. In December 1857, Hannon sold lot four in block fifteen of the old town plat of Springfield to C. C. Brown.<sup>377</sup> He appears in the 1857-1858 Springfield directory only in Hannon & Ragsdale’s advertisement, which lists his residence as Cairo. Hannon appears to have withdrawn from construction after the dissolution of Hannon & Ragsdale in 1858.

The 1858-1859 *Illinois State Gazetteer*—in its “list of names, received too late for regular insertion”—lists Hannon as a justice of the peace in Cairo.<sup>378</sup> The 1860 census lists Hannon as a resident of Cairo, with his occupation as “magistrate” and with real estate valued at \$3,000. The household included his wife Wealthy and children Horace, Lucy, and Eva, ranging in age from 17 to seven. Hannon died sometime during the 1860s; the 1870

census lists his widow and daughter, Eva, living in Cairo. Most of Hannon’s children remained in Cairo.<sup>379</sup>

In 1870 “Wilthea D. Hannon” owned lot 15 in block 26 Cairo. This was one half of a two-story frame double house on the south side of Ninth Street between Commercial Avenue and Poplar Street. This may have been the “double frame dwelling in Cairo” owned and built by Hannon & Ragsdale in 1856.<sup>380</sup> The house was demolished sometime between 1907 and 1914.

*Thomas Allen Ragsdale (1812-1892)*

Thomas A. Ragsdale owned lot 19 in block 2 of Ninian Edwards’ Addition to Springfield from March 1847 to January 1853 and appears to have built a house on the lot during that period.<sup>381</sup> This property was located at the southwest corner of Sixth Street and Mason Alley (now Mason Street). Floyd Mansberger provides the following biographical information for Ragsdale in his 2009 report on archaeological investigations on that site:

Thomas Ragsdale was a carpenter/builder who was born in Logan County, Kentucky, the son of a Baptist minister. In January 1834, at the age of 21 years old, Thomas Ragsdale moved to Springfield with his brother (Daniel) and sister (Mary). Shortly after moving to Springfield, the two Ragsdale brothers apparently married sisters (Dorcas Ann and Eliza E. Bell) from Montgomery County, Maryland...<sup>382</sup>

The 1850 Federal Census lists Thomas Ragsdale as a 38-year-old carpenter from Kentucky with a real estate value of \$1,000. He was living at that time with his wife (Dorcas nee Bell) with two daughters (Mary E., aged 11 and Ann E., aged 9). Additionally, non-family members

376. “The Ragsdale Claim,” *Illinois State Journal*, February 22, 1883.

377. “Trustee’s Sale,” *Illinois State Journal*, July 13, 1858.

378. George W. Hawes, *Illinois State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1858 and 1859* (Chicago: George W. Hawes, 1858), 313, <https://archive.org/details/illinoisstategaz00hawes/page/n4/mode/2up?view=theater>.

379. Mary E. Hannon married Benjamin F. Parker in the late-1850s and Lucy Hannon married George T. Cushing in 1862; both couples remained in Cairo. Horace Allen Hannon (1843-1932) operated a book and stationery store and news depot and later a sewing machine store in Cairo. During the early-1880s, Horace A. Hannon engaged in some construction work, contracting for filling and regrading portions of downtown Cairo.

380. “Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield, for 1856.”

381. Mansberger, Block Technical Report III: Archaeological Investigations of the East Half Parking Lot Project Area, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield, Illinois, 49.

382. Mansberger, 47–48.



enumerated within the same household include Robert V. Bell (a 19-year-old carpenter from Maryland—and likely a relative of Thomas' wife), Arlita Preston (a 21-year old female from Massachusetts), and Simon Simondson (a 34-year-old carpenter from Norway).<sup>383</sup>

Ragsdale may have had political differences with Lincoln; John W. Bunn (1831-1920), who ran for city treasurer of Springfield in 1857, recalled the following incident in which Lincoln instructed him on asking Democrats to vote for him:

Just then a well-known Democrat by the name of Ragsdale was coming up the sidewalk. Lincoln said, "Now, you drop back there and ask Mr. Ragsdale to vote for you." I turned and fell in with Mr. Ragsdale, told him of my candidacy, and said I hoped he would support me. To my astonishment, he promised me that he would. Mr. Lincoln walked slowly along and fell in with me again, and said: "Well, what did Ragsdale say? Will he vote for you?" I said, "Yes, he told me he would." "Well, then," said Lincoln, "you are sure of two votes at the election, mine and Ragsdale's."<sup>384</sup>

Thomas Ragsdale is the only Ragsdale listed in the 1857-1858 Springfield city directory, suggesting that he was the Mr. Ragsdale referred to in this story. The incident would have taken place about a year after the completion of the 1855-1856 remodeling of the Lincoln Home.

In January 1858, Ragsdale's daughter, Mary E. Ragsdale (1839-1899), married Wesley F. Kimber (1836-1911). The firm of Ragsdale, Kimber & Company was operating the new St. Charles Hotel in Cairo, Illinois—for which Hannon & Ragsdale had been investors and possibly builders—by October 1859; this firm appears to have consisted of Ragsdale, his son-in-law W. F. Kimber, and other investors.<sup>385</sup> According to an 1892 obituary, "In 1859, owing to severe application to his business and mental strain, he failed in health, and for a year he remained quiet and received the attention of his physician."<sup>386</sup>

In July 1860, the census enumerator recorded Ragsdale's household immediately before that of his daughter Mary and son-in-law W. F. Kimber. Ragsdale's occupation is listed as "builder" and his household included his wife Dorcas—listed as "insane"—and their daughter Anna E. Ragsdale. His real estate was valued at \$30,000, which Mansberger notes was "quite an increase from ten years earlier."<sup>387</sup> Eighteen-year-old Anna E. Ragsdale is listed with real estate valued at \$20,000; this may have been a clerical error and this value may have been meant for her brother-in-law, W. F. Kimber, who is listed as the head of the next household on the line below.

According to the 1892 obituary, Ragsdale "partly regained his health, and in 1860 entered into partnership with his son-in-law, W. F. Kimber, and was added to the [dry goods] firm, the firm name being Kimber, Ragsdale & Co."<sup>388</sup> It is unclear whether this was the same firm as Ragsdale, Kimber & Company or whether Ragsdale and Kimber were partners in two separate firms. Ragsdale appears to have abandoned construction and devoted himself full-time to his new career as a dry goods merchant, his occupation listed in city directories from 1863 onward. According to the 1892 obituary, "The dry goods house of Kimber, Ragsdale & Co., was known throughout the State until 1883, when the firm dissolved. At this time Mr. Ragsdale's health was greatly impaired and since then he has not been actively engaged in any business."<sup>389</sup> Dorcas Ann Bell Ragsdale had died in 1876. Thomas A. Ragsdale died in March 1892 at the age of 79 and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

383. Mansberger, 48.

384. Carl Sandburg, *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years* (New York: Blue Ribbon Books, 1926), 373.

385. "St. Charles Hotel, Cairo."

386. "A Pioneer Called Home - Thomas Allen Ragsdale Joins the Silent Majority."

387. Mansberger, Block Technical Report III: Archaeological Investigations of the East Half Parking Lot Project Area, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield, Illinois, 48.

388. "A Pioneer Called Home - Thomas Allen Ragsdale Joins the Silent Majority."

389. "A Pioneer Called Home - Thomas Allen Ragsdale Joins the Silent Majority."

## Replicas of the Lincoln Home

The Lincoln Home became familiar to a wide swath of the public during the 1860 presidential campaign, when descriptions of it appeared in many newspapers and engravings were printed in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*. The house saw even greater public attention at the time of Lincoln's funeral in 1865. It quickly became the key landmark associated with Lincoln's life. As a result of this association and following the precedent of earlier facsimiles of historic buildings like George Washington's "Mount Vernon," replicas of the Lincoln Home or of individual rooms were built or proposed at several times and locations.

### Full-Scale Replicas of the Lincoln Home

*State of Illinois Building / Lincoln Home Replica* (1905), Portland, Oregon

In 1905, Portland, Oregon hosted the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition, an event in the model of a world's fair. States and foreign nations were invited to build buildings on the exposition grounds to exhibit their history, culture, and products during the fair's run from June through October. The State of Illinois appropriated \$25,000 for this purpose and appointed a commission to plan the state's building and exhibit. In April 1905, the Illinois commission decided that the Illinois Building should be a replica of the Lincoln Home in Springfield. The commission planned to fill the Lincoln Home replica with a mixture of exhibits and period rooms and considered transporting artifacts and furniture from the Lincoln Home in Springfield to furnish the replica during the fair. Plans for the Lincoln Home replica were prepared by James McLaren White (1867-1933), an architect and professor at the University of Illinois, in late April. White may have based his design on the 1887 Bullard drawings or may have made his own measurements of the Lincoln Home.

The decision to build a replica of the Lincoln Home followed a precedent set at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Daniel Burnham, lead architect of that fair, had suggested that the states build copies of significant historic buildings. While Pennsylvania's building included a replica of the tower of Independence Hall and Massachusetts adapted the design of the lost John Hancock House on a larger scale and with dissimilar details, the Virginia Building was an accurate, full-scale replica of George Washington's

"Mount Vernon." The Virginia Building replicated most of the house's interior and featured artifacts, exhibits, and furniture to provide a similar experience to a visit to the original house in Virginia. Nine years later, Virginia built a replica of Thomas Jefferson's "Monticello" as its building at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis.<sup>390</sup> Illinois' decision to replicate the Lincoln Home followed these successful precedents of presidential home reconstructions. The Illinois Building would not be the only replica at the fair; Maine's state building was a replica of the house in Portland, Maine, where poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was born in 1807.<sup>391</sup> These replicas showcased the stories of significant historical Figures claimed by each state. The Illinois Building offered visitors to the fair the opportunity to experience something like a visit to the original Lincoln Home that stood more than two thousand miles to the east in Illinois.

The Illinois commission visited Portland to select a site for the Illinois Building within the exposition grounds. They chose a site on the southeast corner of Gray Boulevard (now Nicolai Street) and a cross street leading to Benton Plaza. This site is today along the south side of Nicolai Street at the bend between NW 26<sup>th</sup> and NW 27<sup>th</sup> Avenues. The site was on a hill with a view down to Guild's Lake, one of the attractions of the exposition grounds. The New York Building, a large and elaborate Beaux-Arts neoclassical pavilion, stood across the cross-street to the west and the Idaho Building, which looked something like an Arts and Crafts-style church, stood across Gray Boulevard to the north. The Portland Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Building, which combined Tudor Revival, neo-Swiss, and Rustic Style elements, stood to the south.

While one aerial drawing of the exposition grounds shows the Illinois Building facing north, multiple photographs indicate that it actually faced west toward the side of the New York Building. This meant that its orientation was similar to the original Lincoln Home in Springfield, although the site differed in that the house stood on the southwest

390. Lydia Mattice Brandt, *First in the Homes of His Countrymen: George Washington's Mount Vernon in the American Imagination* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2016), 93–100.

391. "Longfellow's Home in Replica at Fair," *The Sunday Oregonian*, September 3, 1905.

corner rather than the northwest corner, placing the side street along its north elevation rather than the south elevation. The State of Illinois also built a smaller neoclassical “Rest Pavilion” immediately south of the replica of the Lincoln Home; it featured a wide porch and provided space for visitors to the fair to meet, rest, and enjoy lunch.<sup>392</sup> A low brick retaining wall and wooden fence, matching the current appearance of those features in Springfield, enclosed the front yard of the house and Rest Pavilion. At the front of the yard between the buildings was a tall flagpole with an elaborate base and flying a large flag reading “ILLINOIS.”

The Illinois commission let the contract for construction of the Lincoln Home replica around May 1. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 10 and a large photograph of the event appeared in *The Morning Oregonian* newspaper the next day.<sup>393</sup> The building cost about \$7,000 to build and was supposed to be completed in time for the opening of the exposition on June 1, but it appears to have been delayed by three weeks.<sup>394</sup> The building was complete and the furnishings “nearly adjusted” by mid-June, as the Illinois commissioners made arrangements to dedicate the building.<sup>395</sup> The exhibits were finally completed on June 24<sup>th</sup> and the Illinois Building was hailed in local newspapers as “an exact reproduction of the Home of Lincoln.”<sup>396</sup>

The Illinois Building appears to have been a convincing replica of the exterior of the Lincoln Home, with subtle differences in the profiles of the cornice brackets, treatment of the door surround, and lacking gutters, downspouts, and the cast iron balustrade of the south porch. Newspaper accounts reported that “every room is reproduced in its exact size.”<sup>397</sup> It followed the general layout of the Lincoln Home, with Front and Back Parlors connected by “a wide archway” standing to the left of the front hall, the “living room” (Sitting Room) to the right, and the Dining Room behind.

The “living room” appears to have been used as a sitting room for guests visiting the exhibit. The first floor contained “many relics and exhibits related to the life of Lincoln” and an exhibit by the University of Illinois. The back parlor contained an exhibit interpreting Lincoln’s life through artifacts, documents, facsimiles, and photographs in fifteen display cases.<sup>398</sup> An exhibit on the early history of Illinois, including a collection of portraits of Illinois governors and earlier officials who had control of Illinois in some capacity (including George III of England and Louis XIV of France), was installed under the supervision of Jessie Palmer Weber, secretary of the Illinois Historical Society.

Lincoln’s Bedroom (room 201) was reproduced on the second floor in the same location. Two photographs of this room, showing the front and rear walls, suggest that it reproduced much of the appearance of the original. “The bedroom at the head of the stairs is exact in every detail. . . The floor is covered by an old-fashioned carpet, and the walls of the room are hung with a few pictures, all of which are reproductions of the Lincoln home at Springfield, Ill.”<sup>399</sup> Newspaper accounts may have overstated the accuracy of the interpretation—with statements such as “The Lincoln bedrooms have been reproduced on the second floor and the furnishings are precisely the same as Lincoln used”—but the house seems to have been regarded as a faithful interpretation by the standards of the day.<sup>400</sup>

A July 1905 newspaper article gives some sense of the interest generated by this replica of the Lincoln Home and the emotional power it presented for surviving Civil War veterans.

The Illinois building is visited by hundreds of people daily, many of whom spend several hours in the different rooms examining the exhibits. The bedroom of Lincoln attracts by far the greater attention. Old soldiers, veterans of the Civil War, make it a point to visit the Illinois building first of all. It is a common sight to see an old soldier lose control of himself as

392. “Lincoln’s Home at the Fair,” Polk County Observer, July 7, 1905.

393. “Illinois Men Break Ground,” The Morning Oregonian, May 11, 1905.

394. “The Commissioners Are on the Grounds,” Belleville Daily Advocate, May 1, 1905.

395. “Dedication for Illinois,” The Morning Oregonian, June 14, 1905.

396. “Illinois State Building,” The Sunday Oregonian, June 25, 1905.

397. “Lincoln’s Home at the Fair.”

398. “Illinois Reproduces Home of Lincoln: Quaint Structure Houses Relics and Exhibits from Great State,” The Sunday Oregonian, July 16, 1905.

399. “Illinois Reproduces Home of Lincoln: Quaint Structure Houses Relics and Exhibits from Great State.”

400. “Dedication for Illinois.”

he enters the building and to break into tears. There is hardly a minute of the day that there is not one or more old veterans of the building. For them it is the ideal exhibit, and feature of the Lewis and Clark Exposition, even the beautiful Forestry and Government buildings being forgotten.<sup>401</sup>

August 17<sup>th</sup> was Illinois Day at the exposition and the Lincoln Home replica was the centerpiece of the ceremonies. Newspaper features highlighted the building's African American staff members and their experiences and connections to current President Theodore Roosevelt. These included Robert W. Roberts, a veteran of the Spanish-American War, and Ella Jones, who had served as Alice Roosevelt's maid.<sup>402</sup> The Lincoln Home replica was also used for entertaining by members of the Illinois commission, including frequent musicales. In September 1905, Commissioner Stipe and his family held an "at home" reception "in the Lincoln house at the fair." Many families of other state commissioners to the exposition and prominent Illinois people called. "The Hungarian orchestra played during the evening and punch was served in the drawing-room."<sup>403</sup>

The Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition closed on October 14, 1905. On October 2, the *Oregon Daily Journal* reported that the Illinois Building had been "sold for \$450 to E. Versteeg, who owns the ground on which it stands."<sup>404</sup> Portland city directories of the period list an Emerinus Versteeg and an Elizabeth Versteeg. Following the close of the exposition, the Illinois exhibits were to be shipped back to Springfield for placement in the Illinois State Historical Library. On October 17, an auction was held to sell the building's furnishings.<sup>405</sup> By early November, the Illinois commissioners for the exposition concluded their work, returning \$4,500 of the \$25,000 appropriation to the state treasury.

The sale of the Illinois Building reported in October may not have gone through; newspaper reports from November indicate that the Lincoln Home replica was sold to Paul Wessinger, "a wealthy brewer of Portland," for \$700.<sup>406</sup> Wessinger (1859-1926) came to the United States from Germany in 1885 and was superintendent of the Henry Weinhard Brewery. As of June 1905, Wessinger owned the land occupied by the large and elaborate New York building—directly across the cross-street west of the Lincoln Home replica—and had agreed to purchase that building from the New York state commission after the close of the fair. Wessinger began plans to develop a summer garden, a place of outdoor entertainment generally featuring beer and live music, on the site after the fair.<sup>407</sup> In addition to the Illinois and New York Buildings, Wessinger also purchased the Idaho, Massachusetts, and Maine buildings, this last being a replica of the Longfellow birthplace in Portland, Maine. He planned to use the New York Building as the centerpiece of the garden and the Idaho Building as a clubhouse, "while some of the other buildings will be put to baser uses, such as saloons and vaudeville theatres."<sup>408</sup> Wessinger's plans for the summer garden appear to have gone unrealized.

The Illinois Building appears to have been turned roughly ninety degrees and slid east to face Nicolai Street sometime between 1905 and 1907. The house, with an address of 886 Nicolai Street, was used as a rental property from 1907 to 1952. City directories for 1907 and 1908 indicate that it was occupied by the Laura M. Gilbreath Dancing Academy, with music teacher Harold G. Fields and painter James D. Barlow boarding.

The 1908 Portland Sanborn Map shows that the street grid had been cut through the exposition grounds and the State of Illinois site lay at the southeast corner of NW Nicolai Street and NW 26½ Avenue (midway between present-day NW 26<sup>th</sup> and NW 27<sup>th</sup> Avenues). The Illinois Building was vacant, as was the former Idaho Building to the north across Nicolai Avenue. The YWCA Building to the south had become a boarding house and

401. "Illinois Reproduces Home of Lincoln: Quaint Structure Houses Relics and Exhibits from Great State."

402. "Stormed San Juan with Roosevelt," *The Sunday Oregonian*, August 20, 1905.

403. "Society at the Exposition," *The Oregon Daily Journal*, September 10, 1905.

404. "For Disposal of Buildings," *The Oregon Daily Journal*, October 2, 1905.

405. "The Great Auction Sale of the Magnificent Furnishings of the Illinois State Building and the Lincoln Home," *The Sunday Oregonian*, October 15, 1905.

406. "State Sells Lincoln Home," *Freeport Journal-Standard*, November 6, 1905.

407. "New York Building May Become Tavern," *The Oregon Daily Journal*, June 5, 1905.

408. "Standing Ad for the Gem State," *The Idaho Statesman*, October 30, 1905.

the former New York Building to the west was being used as tenements, a term used to designate apartments providing minimal levels of comfort, safety, and sanitation.

During the 1910s, Guild's Lake was filled in and the area was developed for industrial uses. Most of the other exposition buildings were demolished or relocated. The Illinois Building continued to serve as a rental property. Tenants in 1913 and 1914 included Frank E. Smith, manager of the Portland Printing Company, and Henry L. Spady, foreman of the Spady Manufacturing Company, which had a factory across Nicolai Street. In 1915 it housed the North Portland Baptist Mission. From the late-1910s through the 1930s, the house appears to have been a boarding house or apartment building occupied mainly by immigrants from Eastern Europe working in low-wage jobs. The industrial transition of the former exposition grounds continued in 1920 with the construction of a factory for the American Can Company and a nine-story Montgomery Ward & Company warehouse, both south of the Lincoln Home replica.

While the Illinois Building may have been largely forgotten by much of Portland, some of the tenants during this period may have recognized its resemblance to the Lincoln Home even if they did not know its history. This raises interesting questions about the experiences of its occupants during the anti-immigrant sentiment of the late-1910s and 1920s. Did they identify their home with the life of Abraham Lincoln? Did occupancy of the house give them a sense of connection to American history and identity? Without surviving documentation, answers to these questions may never be known.

The property's address was renumbered from 886 to 2626 NW Nicolai Street in the mid-1930s. The 1938 Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) map of Portland, with color coding identifying the mortgage security risk, gives some idea of the neighborhood's condition. These maps gave rise to the term "redlining" because mortgages were generally unavailable for properties in neighborhoods coded as high-risk. The Illinois Building stood in an area that was not coded—meaning that it was primarily a non-residential area. The area to the southeast was coded red, meaning "hazardous," and noted as containing encroachment of business and industrial uses and

the presence of people of color and foreign-born families, all of which were considered justifications to refuse mortgage loans in the area. The area to the southwest was coded yellow, meaning "definitely declining"; it included formerly desirable houses that had been divided into apartments and was populated primarily by lower-income, native-born white renters.<sup>409</sup>

The Portland Sanborn Map revised through April 1950 designates the Illinois Building as "flats" or apartments. A 1952 photograph of the house on the Nicolai Street site shows an appearance consistent with what were called "blighted" or "slum" properties in this period; the siding and other exterior woodwork seem to have lost most of their paint and to show signs of heavy weathering, some windows are broken or patched, the house is surrounded by overgrown shrubs and trees, and the front door is reached by a tall, rickety-looking wooden stair. Shutters had been removed from all the windows. Downspouts appear to have been added to the house since 1905 but had mostly fallen off by 1952.

The Illinois Building appears to have been threatened with demolition in the early 1950s; a large warehouse was built over the site between 1952 and 1955. The house was acquired by early Portland preservationist Eric Ladd (1921-2000). In 1952, Ladd moved the house about two miles south to 1411 SW 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Goose Hollow. It joined a collection of historic buildings that he rescued from demolition and relocated to form a development billed as the "Old Portland Colony" or simply "The Colony."<sup>410</sup> Development began in 1950 when Ladd purchased the Second Empire-style Jacob Kamm House (1871, Justus F. Krumbein), slated for demolition to make way for the new Lincoln High School. Ladd moved the Kamm House to 1425 SW 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and opened it as a restaurant in 1955. Other buildings in the development were adaptively reused as restaurants, shops, and offices.

409. "Mapping Inequality," accessed March 11, 2022, <https://dslrichmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=14/45.607/-122.604&city=portland-or&area=C33>.

410. "Eric Ladd | Grant Keltner," accessed March 9, 2022, <https://www.grantkeltner.com/eric-ladd-by-grant-keltner/>.



Ladd placed the Illinois Building immediately north of the Kamm House, facing east at what is now the southwest corner of SW 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and SW Howards Way. It stood on a terraced lot atop a tall brick retaining wall topped by ironwork salvaged from the courtyard of the Portland Hotel (1882-1890, demolished 1951). Although the topography and orientation of the site were different, a driveway built along the north side of the house gave it the appearance of a corner site similar to that of the original in Springfield. Ladd appears to have installed a cast iron balustrade—likely salvaged from a demolished building in Portland—around the roof of the south porch in imitation of that on the original Lincoln Home, although the design was different. The house was painted white with dark green shutters, the color scheme in place on the original Lincoln Home in Springfield from about 1920 until 1952.

In March 1953, the Portland Garden Club held its annual spring flower show “in ‘The Colony’, the new center being developed by Eric Ladd,” and “the Lincoln house” was to “accommodate conservation and horticultural exhibits.”<sup>411</sup> The 1956 and 1957 Portland city directories list the Lincoln House Restaurant, Eric Ladd, proprietor, at this address. The back yard featured a large courtyard with a tiled patio. The building was damaged by fire on January 29, 1957, and the restaurant does not appear to have reopened.

Two photographs in the collection of the Oregon Historical Society show the Illinois Building on this site. One shows fire damage to the north gable (the south gable on the original house) and appears to have been taken during the summer. Although this print is labeled “ca.1964,” the fire damage had been repaired by the time of a photograph taken on March 10, 1961, suggesting that this photograph was taken some time between 1957 and the summer of 1960. The March 1961 photograph shows the house without visible damage to the gable and also includes a Volkswagen Beetle of a model produced from 1956 and 1961.

The remaining businesses in the Old Portland Colony closed by the mid-1960s and the properties were for sale by 1974. The Illinois Building appears to have stood empty, with its first-floor shutters

closed, throughout the 1960s and 1970s. The site was overgrown by 1976, when Ladd hired a group of teenagers to clear the brush with the intent of preparing the property for sale.<sup>412</sup> The Illinois Building was demolished on February 6, 1981.<sup>413</sup> This was an unusually long and varied life for a temporary exposition building, perhaps the longest survival of a replica historic building built for one of these fairs. Many people who visited or passed this replica over its 76 years of existence may never have had the opportunity to visit the original Lincoln Home, but experience of this copy gave them a sense of authentic connection to Lincoln and his life. The Arbor Vista condominiums at 2024 SW Howards Way were built on the site in 1999.

*Henry Ford’s Lincoln Home Replica (proposed 1927, unbuilt)*

In February 1927, Henry Ford purchased a suite of high-style Rococo Revival parlor furniture at an auction held by Ward Price Limited, auctioneers, of Toronto, Canada.<sup>414</sup> The suite was billed as having been “formerly in Mrs. Abraham Lincoln’s parlor at Springfield, Ill.”<sup>415</sup> This report was, however, incorrect; the suite was purchased by Mary Lincoln in 1866 to furnish her house at what is now 1242 W. Washington Boulevard in Chicago, where she moved after Lincoln’s assassination.<sup>416</sup> The Henry Ford, which retains ownership of the suite, provides the following description of one piece:

In 1866, Mary Todd Lincoln purchased a Rococo Revival style parlor set for her Chicago, Illinois home. This exuberantly carved table, part of the set, contrasted with the simpler, middle-class furniture the Lincolns had used

412. “Eric Ladd | Grant Keltner.”

413. “Positive Spin - 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition,” accessed March 9, 2022, <http://www.positivespin.us/NL4.htm>.

414. “Ford Purchases the Lincoln Parlor Suite for \$5,000,” *Yonkers Herald*, March 2, 1927.

415. “Canadian Sells Lincoln Suite,” *Edmonton Journal*, March 12, 1927.

416. “Side Chairs, Owned by Mary Todd Lincoln, circa 1866 - The Henry Ford,” accessed March 24, 2022, <https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/artifact/20292>; “Armchair, Owned by Mary Todd Lincoln, 1845-1865 - The Henry Ford,” accessed March 24, 2022, <https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/artifact/63337>; “Center Table, Owned by Mary Todd Lincoln, 1860-1866 - The Henry Ford,” accessed March 24, 2022, <https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/artifact/283581#slide=gs-327601>.

411. “Spring Show Arrangements Now Complete,” *The Oregon Statesman*, March 1, 1953.

in their pre-Civil War Springfield home. Mrs. Lincoln, suffering from the tragic loss of her husband and in economic distress, would sell this set a few years later.<sup>417</sup>

This parlor suite, in a pattern now known as “Henry Ford,”<sup>418</sup> is attributed to the fashionable New York manufacturer J. & J. W. Meeks.<sup>419</sup> It is part of a group of Rococo Revival patterns made of pierce-carved laminated rosewood that are associated with the Meeks factory.<sup>420</sup> Meeks’ Rococo Revival furniture is often misattributed to John Henry Belter.<sup>421</sup> The suite consisted of a sofa, a recamier/méridienne/couch, an armchair, two side chairs, and a marble-topped center table.

Mary Lincoln sold the suite, among other items, to Chicago paint and oil manufacturer John Alston (1820-1899) in 1867. She had lived in Alston’s Hyde Park Hotel during the summer of 1865

before buying her house in 1866.<sup>422</sup> A surviving receipt from the sale, a photograph of which was published in the *Chicago Sunday Tribune* along with a report of Ford’s purchase, documents that Alston paid \$1,100.00 for the “Front Parlor Set” and that payment was received on November 1, 1867 by “Mrs. A. Lincoln.”<sup>423</sup> In 1896, Alston, a widower, married Delia Dickerson Beattie, a widow. Delia Alston later took the suite to Toronto and passed it on to Charles L. Benedict (1856-1932) of Perth, Ontario. Benedict was the son of her first husband’s sister, Margaret Beattie. Benedict had offered the suite for exhibit and sale at Ryan’s Art Galleries in Toronto before selling it through Ward Price Limited. Ford’s agent purchased the suite for \$3,000.

Ford’s purchase of the Mary Lincoln parlor suite was widely reported in American and Canadian newspapers, with most articles incorrectly stating that the furniture had been used in the Lincoln Home in Springfield. Many articles, including a syndicated report, stated that Ford planned to use the furniture “in conjunction with his plan to reproduce a facsimile of the old Lincoln homestead, at Springfield, Ill.”<sup>424</sup>

While one article suggests that Ford planned to build the replica in Springfield, it seems more likely that it was contemplated as a component of Greenfield Village, the living history museum that Ford was then developing in Dearborn, Michigan.<sup>425</sup> Greenfield Village features historic buildings collected from many locations in the United States. These include buildings associated with Noah Webster, the Wright Brothers, Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone, William H. McGuffey, Luther Burbank, Stephen Foster, and other influential Americans that Ford admired. The adjacent Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation houses Ford’s personal collection of historic objects. The museum’s building, completed in 1929, includes replicas of three

417. “Center Table, Owned by Mary Todd Lincoln, 1860-1866 - The Henry Ford.”

418. As scholarship on American Rococo Revival furniture expanded during the late twentieth century, distinct patterns, whose original designations are often unknown, were often named for buildings or collections with which they are associated. Following this practice, the Mary Todd Lincoln parlor suite in the Henry Ford collection led to the adoption of “Henry Ford” as the name for this pattern.

419. Eileen Dubrow and Richard Dubrow, *American Furniture of the 19th Century: 1840-1880* (Exton: PA: Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 1983), 453-45, 82-83, 118, 129-31; Marvin D. Schwartz, Edward J. Stanek, and Douglas K. True, *The Furniture of John Henry Belter and the Rococo Revival* (New York: E.P. Dutton, 1981), 3-5, 10, 11, 14, 34, 35.

420. Joseph Meeks & Sons | Side Chair | American | The Metropolitan Museum of Art,” accessed April 1, 2022, <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/>; Marshall B. Davidson and Elizabeth Stillinger, *The American Wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art*, 1987th ed. (New York: Harrison House, 1985), 262.

421. During the mid-twentieth century, all high-style, pierce-carved Rococo Revival furniture was often attributed to the celebrated New York manufacturer John Henry Belter (1804-1863) and was popularly termed “Belter furniture.” However, by the 1980s, scholars had demonstrated that other manufacturers, including Meeks, produced patterns distinct in style and technical details from those produced by Belter. The “Henry Ford” pattern attributed to Meeks has strong similarities to the “Hawkins” pattern, named for a parlor suite given to Joseph W. Meeks’ daughter Sophia Teresa Meeks upon her marriage to Dexter A. Hawkins in 1859, and to the “Hartford” and “Stanton Hall” patterns also attributed to Meeks. These patterns form a clear family and are distinct from any known patterns produced by Belter’s workshop.

422. Philip D. Sang, “Mary Todd Lincoln: A Tragic Portrait,” *Journal of the Rutgers University Library*, no. April 1961 (n.d.): 49-50

423. “Abraham Lincoln’s Drawing Room Furniture,” *Chicago Sunday Tribune*, March 20, 1927, sec. Picture Section; “Lincoln Furniture in Canada Sold,” *The Expositor*, February 26, 1927.

424. “Ford Buys Mrs. Lincoln’s Drawing Room Furniture to Reproduce Homestead,” *Star Tribune*, March 1, 1927, sec. 2.

425. “Abraham Lincoln’s Drawing Room Furniture.”

historic buildings in Philadelphia: Independence Hall, Old City Hall, and Congress Hall, all now part of Independence National Historical Park. Ford's proposed facsimile of the Lincoln Home was never built.

*Lincoln's Springfield Cottage (proposed 2020)*

In 2020, the Abraham Lincoln Association (ALA) announced plans to build a replica of the Lincoln Home as it appeared from the time of the Lincolns' purchase in 1844—the six-room Dresser Cottage as built in 1839—until it was expanded in the 1846 remodeling. The ALA initially proposed building this replica, to be called “Lincoln's Springfield Cottage,” on the Carrigan lot to the north of the Lincoln Home to help visitors understand the house as it was initially known by the Lincolns. As plans developed, the replica was proposed for construction outside of the park on a vacant lot in the 600 block of Eighth Street, two blocks south of the Lincoln Home and on the opposite side of the street. The replica cottage might include interactive exhibits and/or receptions and events.<sup>426</sup> A \$400,000 fund drive to purchase the lot and build the replica is currently underway.

**Full-Scale Replicas of Rooms in the Lincoln Home**

*Lincoln Parlor (1932), Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Illinois*

At its opening in 1932, the Chicago Historical Society's new museum in Lincoln Park featured a series of “reproduction” period room exhibits, a common element of museums of the period. One of these rooms was the “Lincoln Parlor,” a room intended to interpret the Front Parlor (room 101) of the Lincoln Home as it appeared around 1860. The room's proportions, windows, and mantel appear to have reproduced those in the original, although the baseboards and other features were slightly different, and the room's modern picture molding was also copied.

The room appears to have been designed and furnished to follow the 1861 *Frank Leslie's* engraving of the Front Parlor. One piece displayed in the room was a sofa (Chicago Historical Society Accession No. 1920) purchased at the Lincolns' 1861 sale by J. M. Forden and believed to be that shown in the 1861 *Frank Leslie's* engraving of the

Back Parlor.<sup>427</sup> Many of the other furnishings were reported to have come from the Lincoln Home, although many lacked clear documentation.<sup>428</sup> Two chairs displayed in the room appear to have come from the State Dining Room in the White House; in 1845, James K. Polk ordered a set of 42 rosewood chairs from New York cabinet maker Charles A. Baudouine; these remained there until the room was redecorated in 1882 and would have been used by the Lincolns during their time in the White House.<sup>429</sup>

Although many of the furnishings were approximations using pieces available in the museum's collections, the overall presentation was somewhat more accurate than that of the original room in Springfield during the 1930s. The walls were wallpapered with the 1930 reproduction of the 1855 wallpaper from room 201 produced by Thomas Strahan & Company. The replica room appears to have been repapered in 1952; when the State ordered additional rolls of this paper for rooms 201 and 108, they agreed to share an order with the Chicago Historical Society so that they could purchase the paper at \$1.00 per roll for a lot of 200 rolls.<sup>430</sup> The floor was covered by a fitted carpet recalling the character—if not the pattern—of that shown in the 1861 engraving. The fireplace was fitted with a Gothic Revival Franklin stove that formed a sort of compromise between the ca.1830s neoclassical stove then displayed in Springfield and the 1850s Gothic Revival parlor stove in the 1861 engraving.

The Lincoln Parlor was located between the Lincoln Hall, displaying items associated with the Lincolns, and a replica of the bedroom in the Petersen House in Washington, DC, where Lincoln died. A 1935 illustrated handbook to the museum includes the following description of the Lincoln Parlor:

In this reproduction of the front parlor from the Lincoln House in Springfield, Illinois, we

426. “The 1 1/2-Story Lincoln Home to Be Rebuilt | News | Illinois Times,” accessed April 29, 2022, <https://www.illinoistimes.com/springfield/the-1-1-2-story-lincoln-home-to-be-rebuilt/Content?oid=12320262>.

427. Katherine B. Menz, *Historic Furnishings Report*, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Illinois (Harpers Ferry, WV: Harpers Ferry Center, 1983), 71.

428. Menz, 85–88, 98.

429. “White House Decorative Arts in the 1840s - White House Historical Association,” accessed April 29, 2022, <https://www.whitehousehistory.org/white-house-decorative-arts-in-the-1840s>.

430. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 92–93.

have a comfortable room of the 1850's which bears the stamp of the two vivid personalities who lived in it—Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln. It is furnished with original furniture from Springfield. Three straight, red-seated chairs brighten the room and contrast with the black horsehair sofa which stands in the corner. A great bookcase behind the door is filled with books Lincoln read. In the place of honor near the fireplace stands a large etagere, while a little black rocker is drawn up within leg-reach of the fireplace stove. Two crystal and gold candelabra on the mantel gleam in the sunlight which pours through the two windows facing the street. Through these windows we look upon Eighth Street in Springfield as it appeared in the days when Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln lived there. The Lincoln parlor leaves us with a feeling of having met the Lincolns face to face and partaken of their hospitality, and we take from this room a better understanding of the gaunt President from Illinois and his pretty, temperamental wife.<sup>431</sup>

*Lincoln Parlor (1933), Illinois Host Building, Chicago*  
During 1933-1934, Chicago hosted the Century of Progress exposition, a world's fair. The Illinois building at the fair included the Abraham Lincoln Exhibit Group, a collection of replicas of buildings associated with Lincoln's life. According to an official program, "The re-established buildings are as closely authentic, structurally and historically, as possible. They are exact replicas (with one or two exceptions) of original Lincoln buildings still standing." These included several relocated log cabins, an approximation of the Rutledge tavern that "departs somewhat from the original at New Salem," and a reduced-scale copy of the Wigwam, a temporary structure built to host the 1860 Republican National Convention in Chicago.<sup>432</sup>

In the southeastern corner of the Wigwam is a replica of the parlor from Abraham Lincoln's

home in Springfield, Ill., which has been carefully reestablished, with appointments typically Victorian. In connection with this room is much Lincoln matter in the form of lithographs, letters, pictures, documents, broadsides, photographs and other mementoes. This is the room in which Lincoln received news of his nomination.<sup>433</sup>

The Lincoln Parlor replica reproduced the overall layout of room 101. Visitors viewed the exhibit through the large doorway fitted with a museum rope, as if they were standing in room 102. Like the Chicago Historical Society's replica built the year before, this replica appears to have been designed and furnished to follow the 1861 *Frank Leslie's* engraving of the Front Parlor. A stereograph made of the exhibit includes two human figures, one a girl in modern clothing and the other a woman wearing a frilled dress and bonnet, reflecting a 1930s idea of antebellum clothing and strongly resembling the costumes of the Natchez Pilgrimage, first held in 1932.

The walls were wallpapered with a vertical stripe paper; this same paper was installed in the Parlors of the Lincoln Home in Springfield around the same time. The walls featured a cutout border recalling those documented in the room in 1860 and 1865. A picture molding was mounted along the ceiling, matching that then in the real room in Springfield. The floor was covered by a fitted carpet with a small-scale pattern of stylized scrolls and roses, recalling the character—if not the pattern—of that shown in the 1861 engraving. A Gothic Revival "Temple Parlor" stove produced by Vose & Company of Albany, New York, nearly identical to that shown in the 1861 engraving, was in place. The room lacked a hearth, the carpet being continued up to the face of the mantel. The mantel's frieze board appears to be slightly smaller than the original and the baseboards appear to have been a stock molding, but the room otherwise presented and effect much like that of the original room in Springfield.

431. Chicago Historical Society, *A Museum of American History, Illustrated Handbook* (Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 1935), 24–25, <https://libsysdigi.library.illinois.edu/OCA/Books2012-04/chicagohistorical00chic/chicagohistorical00chic.pdf>.

432. The Abraham Lincoln Exhibit Group, *Century of Progress, 1833 to 1933* (n.p., 1933), 5, [http://livinghistoryofillinois.com/pdf\\_files/The%20Abraham%20Lincoln%20Exhibit%20Group,%20Century%20of%20Progress%201833%20to%201933%20Chicago.pdf](http://livinghistoryofillinois.com/pdf_files/The%20Abraham%20Lincoln%20Exhibit%20Group,%20Century%20of%20Progress%201833%20to%201933%20Chicago.pdf).

433. The Abraham Lincoln Exhibit Group, *Century of Progress, 1833 to 1933*, 16.

### Miniature Scale Replicas of the Lincoln Home

To date scale replicas of the Lincoln Home are known to have been built for exhibits at Chicago Historical Society and at Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

#### *Chicago Historical Society Dioramas (1939-1941), Chicago, Illinois*

In 1939, the Work Projects Administration (WPA, formerly the Works Progress Administration) funded the construction of twenty dioramas at the Chicago Historical Society depicting scenes from Lincoln's life in miniature. Two of these dioramas depict the Lincoln Home. The following description is provided in a booklet published soon after the dioramas' completion in 1941:

The Lincoln Dioramas were made by the Museum Extension Program of Illinois under the sponsorship of the Chicago Board of Education. The subjects for the twenty dioramas were determined after careful study by the Chicago Historical Society in collaboration with a group of eminent Lincoln authorities.

Beginning in March of 1939, it was necessary to devote months of painstaking research to assure accuracy in every detail before the plan for each diorama could be drawn. From the time when actual construction work was begun in late 1939 until November of 1941, never less than fifty craftsmen have been busily engaged in modeling, carving and painting figures or designing the colorful backgrounds.<sup>434</sup>

The first is "Notification of Nomination, Springfield, May 19, 1860," which depicts the Front Parlor (room 101) as viewed from the east. The diorama replicated the room largely as depicted and furnished in the full-size 1932 reconstruction also in the Chicago Historical Society, down to the pictures on the wall and the Polk chair. A parlor stove following the 1861 *Frank Leslie's* engraving was included. The walls were covered with a painted approximation of the Lincoln Bedroom wallpaper then in place in the full-size replica and the floor was covered with a floral carpet. A picket fence was included outside the windows,

which may have originally been lit from behind. This diorama survives today in the collection of the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee. The floor has since been covered with red velvet and the two oval pictures over the mantel are missing, but the diorama appears to remain otherwise intact.<sup>435</sup> The second was "Springfield Campaign Rally, August 8, 1860." This diorama depicted the rally at the Lincoln Home as viewed from the Brown House yard across the street. This diorama depicted the west façade and north elevation of the Lincoln Home as well as the fence along Eighth Street and a neighborhood context with many trees. Although the vegetation is more extensive than the 1860 photograph on which the diorama was based and the human figures were less than accurately dressed for the period, the house appears to have been modeled accurately based on available documentation.<sup>436</sup> The exterior colors are not apparent in surviving black-and-white photographs, but it is likely that the model followed the color scheme present on the Lincoln Home at the time, all white with dark green shutters.

#### *Lincoln Home Chronology Models (1996), Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield, Illinois*

An exhibit installed in the Dean House at Lincoln Home National Historic Site in 1996 includes three models depicting the Lincoln Home at three stages of development: as purchased by the Lincolns in 1844, as remodeled by the Lincolns in 1846, and as remodeled by the Lincolns in 1855-1856. These models are accompanied by interpretive panels including isometric cutaway plan views of the first and second floor. These models and drawings appear to have been created based on information available in 1996 but include some conjectural features.

#### *Other Models of the Lincoln Home*

Other known miniatures scale replicas of the Lincoln Home in museums include a dollhouse of the front wing formerly sold by FAO Schwarz and a dollhouse adaptation used in an interactive children's exhibit at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum in Springfield.

434. Lincoln Dioramas (Chicago: Chicago Historical Society, 1941), <https://archive.org/details/lincolndioramas00chic/page/n5/mode/2up?view=theater>.

435. Lincoln Dioramas; "Nominating Lincoln...in Miniature | Past in the Present," accessed April 29, 2022, <https://pastinthepresent.wordpress.com/2018/07/08/nominating-lincoln-in-miniature/>.

436. Lincoln Dioramas.



The Lincoln Home has also been reproduced as a scale model. This includes HO-scale kits for model train enthusiasts, *Cut & Assemble Lincoln's Springfield Home: a Full-Color H-O Scale Model* by Edmund V. Gillon Jr. for Dover Publications (1990), and files for printing a cut-and-assemble cardstock model offered by the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office.<sup>437</sup>

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437. "Branchline Trains - Laser Art Structures HO Historic House Kits," accessed April 29, 2022, <http://www.laserartstructures.com/laserart-structures/historic/historic-main.html>; "Lincoln Home National Historic Site," accessed April 29, 2022, [https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/liho/exb/memorabilia/LIHO10368\\_model.html](https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/liho/exb/memorabilia/LIHO10368_model.html); "Lincoln Home - Preservation," accessed April 29, 2022, [https://www2.illinois.gov/dnrhistoric/Preserve/Pages/construct\\_lincoln\\_home.aspx](https://www2.illinois.gov/dnrhistoric/Preserve/Pages/construct_lincoln_home.aspx).

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# Appendix D. Accessibility

## Physical Accessibility

The National Park Service has a legacy of working to make the sites it stewards accessible to the public without compromising their historic integrity. The Lincoln Home's listing in the National Register of Historic Places and its designation as a National Historic Landmark do not exempt it from compliance with applicable accessibility standards. *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* includes the following overview of addressing barriers to accessibility in historic buildings:

It is often necessary to make modifications to a historic building to make it compliant with accessibility code requirements. Federal rules, regulations, and standards provide guidance on how to make historic buildings accessible. Work must be carefully planned and undertaken in a manner that results in minimal or no loss of historic exterior and interior character-defining spaces, features, or finishes. The goal should be to provide the highest level of access with the least impact to the historic building.<sup>438</sup>

Sensitive solutions to meeting code requirements in a **Restoration** project are an important part of protecting the historic character of the building. Work that must be done to meet accessibility and life-safety requirements must also be assessed for its potential impact on the historic building as it is restored.<sup>439</sup>

The *Secretary Standards* recommendations include the following items when addressing barriers to accessibility in historic buildings:

Identifying the restoration-period exterior features, interior spaces, features, and finishes,

and features of the site and setting which may be affected by accessibility code-required work.

Complying with barrier-free access requirements in such a manner that the restoration-period exterior features, interior spaces, features, and finishes, and features of the site and setting are preserved or impacted as little as possible.

Working with specialists in accessibility and historic preservation to determine the most sensitive solutions to comply with access requirements in a restoration project.

Providing barrier-free access that promotes independence for the user while preserving significant features from the restoration period.

Finding solutions to meet accessibility requirements that minimize the impact of any necessary alteration on the restoration period of the building, its site, and setting, such as compatible ramps, paths, and lifts.

Using relevant sections of existing codes regarding accessibility for historic buildings that provide alternative means of code compliance when code-required work would otherwise negatively impact the restoration-period character of the property.

Minimizing the visual impact of accessibility ramps by installing them on secondary elevations when it does not compromise accessibility or by screening them with plantings.

Adding a gradual slope or grade to the sidewalk, if appropriate, to access the entrance rather than installing a ramp that would be more intrusive to the historic character of the restoration period of the building and the district.

Devising non-permanent or temporary adaptive treatments that meet accessibility requirements to preserve the restoration-period character of the building, its site, and setting.

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438. Anne E. Grimmer, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing Historic Buildings* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Technical Preservation Services, 2017), 22, <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/treatment-guidelines-2017.pdf>.

439. Grimmer, 166.

Developing and providing virtual tours to help interpret the restored property when it is not feasible, or it is physically impossible to make the building or its site accessible without damaging or obscuring character-defining building and landscape features in the setting from the restoration period.<sup>440</sup>

## Accessibility at Lincoln Home

From the time of the Dresser Cottage's construction in 1839 until 1989, the interior of the house was accessible only to people who were able to climb steps up from the sidewalk to the yard and then up from the yard to one of the house's exterior doors. Installation of a platform lift outside the East Porch in 1989 made first floor of the Lincoln Home accessible to visitors who use wheelchairs.

Statistics from 2018, 2019, and 2021 show that roughly 90 to 150 tours per year include visitors who use a wheelchair.



**Figure AD.1.** Visitor using platform lift, accompanied by ranger, 1989. Source: LIHO Photo ID B6F18P6.

All visitors who use wheelchairs are told that the door is less than 30 inches wide. A plexiglass template is available at the Visitor Center desk to check the width of a wheelchair if the visitor is unsure of the width. Visitors whose wheelchairs are wider than 30 inches may transfer to one of the park's narrow wheelchairs sized to fit through the door openings and interior railing gates. Motorized wheelchairs are now allowed on a case-by-case basis when the wheelchair is medically necessary for body alignment, but step-on scooters are not permitted inside the house. LIHO staff report that the trial use of a Segway self-balancing scooter

caused severe damage to the carpet and window treatments of the Dining Room (room 107). Motorized wheelchairs have been tested but are not permitted due to the damage to the fabric of the house caused by their operation. Visitors who use a wheelchair are typically accompanied by a member of their party who pushes the chair to the house and through the first floor.

The standard tour route includes steps at the entrance to the front yard, entrance to the house, at two points at the interior, at the exit from the house, and at the exit from the back yard. When a tour group includes a visitor who uses a wheelchair, that visitor and one accompanying person separate from the group and enter the house accompanied by a separate ranger or park staff member. Rather than entering through the front gate and front door, visitors who use wheelchairs pass down



**Figure AD.2.** Route taken by visitors who use a wheelchair: entrance to alley from Jackson Street (top), entrance to rear of Carrigan lot from alley (left). Source: RATIO Architects.

Jackson Street to the alley and enter the site through a series of gates at the northeast. They then

440. Grimmer, 218–20.





**Figure AD.3.** Route taken by visitors who use a wheelchair: approach to disappearing platform lift (left), lift rising to East Porch, operated by park staff using controls in Pantry (room 103) (right). Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figures AD.4.** Route taken by visitors who use a wheelchair: entrance to non-public portion of Kitchen (room 105) from East Porch (left), passing through non-public portion of Dining Room (room 107) (right). Source: RATIO Architects.

pass through the back yard to the disappearing platform lift. This lift, replaced in-kind since the initial installation in 1989, disappears into the wood boardwalk and its side rails are removed and hung on the fence of the north side yard when not in use, making it effectively invisible. Controls for the lift are located within the Pantry (room 103) and are accessed and operated by LIHO staff. The lift's cover is not watertight, and its operation is sometimes prevented by accumulation of ice in cold weather.

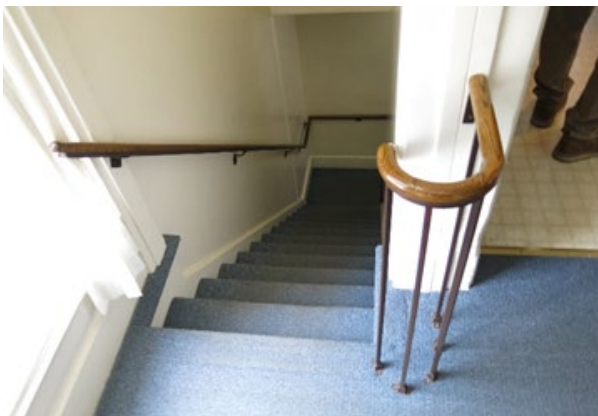
A visitor using a wheelchair enters the house via the platform lift to the East Porch, while the rest of the group enters via the front door with a separate ranger. A visitor who uses a wheelchair enters the house through the north door of the Kitchen and

must pass through the non-public portion of the period room, entering the public space at the south end through a gate in the visitor railing. This visitor must then pass through a gate in the door between the Kitchen and Dining Room and through another between the period room portion of the Dining Room and the visitor path to the northwest.

The existing first-floor visitor walkways, defined in the 1950s with limited alterations in the 1960s, include several tight corners that are difficult to navigate even with the park's narrow wheelchairs. These include the gate in the Dining Room and all door openings.



**Figure AD.5.** Access to the second floor is currently provided only by the historic front stair. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure AD.6.** The existing visitor path passes down the back staircase (rebuilt in 1954 in a non-historic configuration intended to better serve museum visitors). Note how the extended run of the stair projects through the plane of the corridor wall and into the Upstairs Back Hall. Source: RATIO Architects.

The second floor is currently accessible only to visitors who are able to use the front and back staircases. These members of the tour group climb the front stairs to tour the second floor and descend the back stairs to the Kitchen. Virtual experiences of the second floor are offered to visitors who use wheelchairs via electronic tablet, generally viewed while the rest of the tour group is upstairs.



**Figure AD.7.** The second floor is not currently accessible to wheelchair users. The HSR team carried one of the park's narrow wheelchairs to the second floor to evaluate the ability to maneuver a chair if a lift is provided in the future. The Upstairs Back Hall (room 204) is particularly difficult to navigate. Note the encroachment of the non-historic stair extension into the clear floor space of the hall. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure AD.8.** The turn from the Upstairs Back Hall (room 204) to Mary's bedroom (room 202) is challenging to navigate, even in the park's narrow wheelchair. Source: RATIO Architects.





**Figure AD.9.** The interiors of both Mary's and Mr. Lincoln's Bedrooms (rooms 203 and 202) are easier to navigate in a wheelchair due to the lack of visitor control railings. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure AD.11.** Many of the turns are constrained by the existing visitor control railings and woodwork shows evidence of repeated strikes from wheelchairs. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure AD.10.** If a lift is provided in the future, the Upstairs Front Hall (room 200) would likely be a dead-end requiring visitors who use wheelchairs to retrace their path. Source: RATIO Architects.

## 2022 Accessibility Assessment

In 2021, the National Center on Accessibility (NCA) at the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands conducted an accessibility assessment of high-use areas of Lincoln Home National Historic Site, with the final report issues in January 2022.

The 2022 *Lincoln Home National Historic Site Accessibility Assessment Final Report* makes the following recommendations for the Lincoln Home:<sup>441</sup>

Goal	Timeline	Implementation Detail
Offer a more equitable experience for wheelchair users visiting Lincoln Home.	Long-term*	Wheelchair users must enter Lincoln Home through the alleyway and backyard then utilize a wheelchair lift located in the backyard. Investigate the feasibility of creating a universally accessible front entrance to the home that would not require visitors to climb stairs. Alternatively, in order to provide a more equitable experience, the tour route could be changed so that the entire tour group enters through the same entrance at the back of the house. Construction of a ramp that begins in the adjoining lot and brings visitors up onto the back porch should be considered in place of the lift. The ramp should comply with ABA Accessibility Standards for clear width, running and cross slope, handrails, surface material, edge protection, landings, and rise. Consideration would be needed to reinstalling the kitchen stove closer to the wall to provide more appropriate clearance for wheelchairs passing through the space. There is currently only approximately 27.5" of clearance between the stove and table.
Provide all visitors with access to the second floor of Lincoln Home.	Long-term	Investigate the feasibility of constructing an addition to the exterior of the home to allow for installation of an exterior elevator.
Create an accessible program experience for visitors with a variety of disabilities.	Interim*	The current tour of Lincoln Home does not provide sufficient equitable experiences for visitors who cannot climb stairs, are blind, have cognitive/intellectual disabilities, or who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Asterisk (\*) indicates priority goals

Specific recommendations for improvements to accessibility of the Lincoln Home and site include the following:

**Recommendation #1:** Through maintenance inspection processes, park staff should continue to watch for locations where movement of the boardwalk planks has created openings between the boards greater than ½", which could be a safety concern for people using canes, crutches, or walkers. Inspect for abrupt transitions and/or any transition between the boards greater than a ¼" change in level that could result in a tripping hazard. Replace boards as needed.

**Recommendation #2:** The current latch mechanism for the railing gates inside the Lincoln Home should be replaced as needed for any staff members who have a disability that affects their ability to open and close it.

**Recommendation #3:** Revise the policy on motorized wheelchairs so that it is not discriminatory. The policy should indicate either a weight or size limit for motorized devices in lieu of banning them entirely.

**Recommendation #4:** When raised, the lift is not flush with the porch. The service company should adjust the height that the lift can achieve or the planks on the lift should be replaced to ensure the change in level between the lift platform and porch is not greater than ¼".

441. National Center on Accessibility, "Lincoln Home National Historic Site Accessibility Assessment, Final Report," 43.

**Recommendation #5:** Consider replacing the wooden planks on the lift with a different surface material that requires less maintenance and is more stable, firm, and slip resistant.

**Recommendation #6:** Investigate the feasibility of reconfiguring the operating mechanisms for the lift so that it can be independently operated as required by the standards.<sup>442</sup>

**Recommendation #7:** Consider removing the lift and installing a ramp that is constructed on the side of the house, in the adjoining lot. This would allow all visitors to enter through the same entrance at the back of the house, thus creating a more equitable experience.

**Recommendation #8:** Create a procedure for providing programmatic access to Lincoln Home for wheelchair users in the event that the lift is not operational.<sup>443</sup>

The report identifies the following action items for the Lincoln Home Site:<sup>444</sup>

**Location:** Lincoln Home exterior | **Corrective Action:** Replace handrails

Deficiency	Solution	Criticality
The front steps only have a hand-rail on one side. The handrail does not return and does not extend far enough.	Replace the handrail with one that extends horizontally above the landing for 12" and returns to a wall, guard, or landing surface. The bottom of the handrail should extend at the slope of the stair flight for a horizontal distance equal to at least one tread depth beyond the last riser nosing.	Serious <b>Timeframe</b> Short-term

*Reference Standards and Guidelines: ABAAS 505.2, 505.10*

442. The intent of this note is that users of the lift should be able to operate it independently; there should not be "independent" access into the Lincoln Home without a ranger present.

443. National Center on Accessibility, "Lincoln Home National Historic Site Accessibility Assessment, Final Report," 45.

444. National Center on Accessibility, 47–50.

Deficiency	Solution	Criticality
Two small sets of stairs both have open risers and inadequate or no handrails.	Investigate the possibility of replacing the stairs with historically accurate stairs that meet the minimum requirements of uniform riser height and tread depth, riser height 4" minimum to 7" maximum, tread depth of 11" minimum, no open risers, and handrails on both sides that extend horizontally above the landing for 12" and return to a wall, guard, or landing surface. The bottom of the handrails should extend at the slope of the stair flight for a horizontal distance equal to at least one tread depth beyond the last riser nosing.	Minor <b>Timeframe</b> Short-term

Reference Standards and Guidelines: ABAAS 505.1, 505.2, 505.10

## Visitor Control Railings

The interior of the house has been fitted since the 1930s with railings to separate visitor paths from the period rooms. The 1930s railings were of wood, with square newel posts and railings and square balusters. Some of the newel posts were connected to adjacent turned wood posts carrying funnel-shaped electric light fixtures providing indirect light to the rooms. These railings were heavy and visually intrusive. Proposed improvements designed in 1948 but not carried out would have installed similar railings at the second floor.

During planning for the restoration of the house in 1952, new railings were designed by architects at the State of Illinois' Department of Public Works and Buildings. These railings were designed as "facsimiles of the front hall stairway banisters and hand railings," which date from 1839, but used steel rails and balusters with wooden handrails.<sup>445</sup> Steel components were painted brown, and the wooden handrails were stained to match those of the front staircase. The use of steel allowed the new railings to be much thinner and far less visually intrusive than the 1930s wooden railings while providing greater strength. Designing new features to resemble historic features was a common approach at this time, intended to minimize intrusions within the period rooms.

The present railings date from the 1952-1955 restoration, with limited modifications in 1965 and during the 1987-1988 restoration. In 1988, the railings in most rooms were raised up on

new curbs. These curbs included diffusers for the HVAC system and electrical outlets on their faces toward the period rooms, concealing these contemporary systems from visitors' view.

First-floor visitor paths and railings remain as defined in the 1950s with the exception of a 1965 modification to the railing at the west end of the Sitting Room (room 108) restricting visitor access to the west wall.<sup>446</sup> The second-floor visitor paths as defined in the 1950s included a route through the Guest Bedroom (room 208) and boys' bedroom (room 207) that included two new door openings; this route was made to bypass a structurally deficient area between Mr. Lincoln's Bedroom (room 201) and Mary's Bedroom (room 202). Visitors viewed those two rooms from railed enclosures at the doors in their south walls.

The 1987-1988 restoration infilled the 1950s door openings and completed structural repairs, allowing the visitor route to pass through rooms 201 and 202. The 1950s railings were modified at this time, providing visitors with a view into rooms 207 and 208 from gates in their doors. The 1950s railings were not used in rooms 201 and 202. The 1986 construction documents for the restoration call for new railings matching the design of the 1950s railings. LIHO staff report that the railings were made but never installed because park staff thought that the path looked too much like a cattle run. Instead, the visitor paths were defined by gray carpet runners laid over the reproduction ingrain carpets. No barriers were used in these rooms during the years immediately following the restoration. Since at least 2016, the park has used

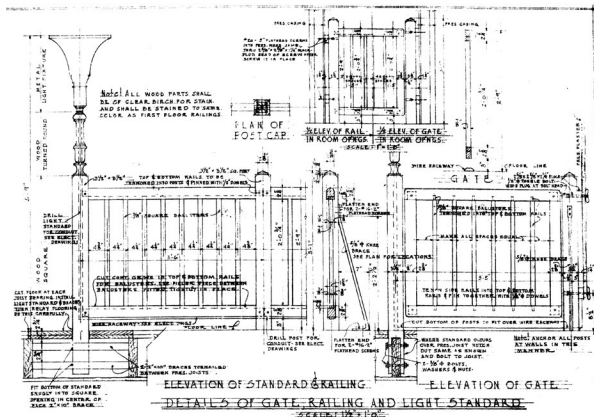
445. Bearss, *Historic Structure Report: Lincoln Home National Historic Site*, 1973, 100.

446. Bearss, 115.



movable metal stanchions with gray velvet ropes to help define the visitor path within these rooms.

LIHO staff report that the visitor control railings continue to function well overall. Some visitors lean on the railings or hold the handrails to provide additional stability while standing during tours. Staff report that a few times per year a visitor will get their knee caught between the balusters of the railings and will require assistance to get free. Soap is stored in room 205 for this purpose. Staff report no complaints about the visual intrusion of the railings.



**Figure AD.12.** Wooden railings with integrated indirect torchiere up-lights typical of those installed in the first floor during the 1930s. Source: C. Herrick Hammond, Alterations-Lincoln Home, State of Illinois Department of Public Works & Buildings-Division of Architecture & Engineering (File No. 33), Springfield, Illinois (November 1, 1948), Sheet A-2.



**Figure AD.13.** View south in Upstairs Front Hall (room 200) in 2021 showing 1950s visitor control railings (center and right) and 1839 stair balustrade (left). Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure AD.14.** Visitors viewing Mary's Bedroom (room 202) from behind railings of the type installed during 1952-1955 restoration, ca.1955. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B3F4P35.



**Figure AD.15.** Visitor and park ranger behind visitor control railings in front parlor (room 101), ca.1995. Source: LIHO Photo ID: B6F19P108.



**Figure AD.16.** View of room 201 showing use of runners and stanchions rather than railings, 2021. Source: RATIO Architects.



## Viewshed Analysis

Any exterior changes to the Lincoln Home and site could affect the view of the house from various angles. A viewshed analysis takes this into consideration.

### West

The view from the west is a primary view of the house showing its west façade, its principal elevation facing a public street and sidewalk.

### Southwest

The view from the southwest is a primary view of the house, perhaps the most photographed view, showing its west façade and south elevation, both principal fronts along public streets and sidewalks, and includes interpretation comparing this view with historic photographs.

### South

The view from the south is a secondary view but the south elevation faces a public street and sidewalk and the spaces within the backyard screened by the board fence are a part of the visitor path.

### Southeast

The view from the southeast is a secondary view showing portions of the south and east elevations and the non-historic outbuildings on the site of the historic outbuildings. The south elevation and faces a public street and sidewalk and the spaces within the backyard screened by the board fence are a part of the visitor path.

### East

The view from the east is a secondary view from within the fenced backyard, which is part of the visitor path and includes interpretation comparing this view with historic photographs.

### Northeast

The view from the northeast is a tertiary view from within the adjacent Carrigan Lot, which is currently vacant but was occupied by a one-and-one-half-story frame house during the period of interpretation. The existing path for visitors who use wheelchairs goes through the southeast corner of the Carrigan Lot and includes this view.

### North

The view from the north is a tertiary view from within the adjacent Carrigan Lot, which is currently vacant but was occupied by a one-and-one-half-

story frame house during the period of interpretation. While the Carrigan House featured a similar setback to that of the Lincoln Home, it stood on the north part of its lot with a wide south side yard, leaving the Lincoln Home's north elevation visible from Eighth Street.

### Northwest

The view from the northwest is a secondary view showing the north elevation and west façade.

The Lincoln Home's design, location, and context mean that all four of its elevations are visible to the public. The north side elevation is the least public side of the house but almost all of the length of this elevation remains clearly visible from public spaces.

## Examination of Potential Treatment Alternatives

During the treatment workshop in September 2022, LIHO's superintendent and staff notified the project team that National Park Service is currently seeking funding for a comprehensive universal access project for the entire park. The project team explored concepts for universal access to the Lincoln Home Lot from street level and into the Lincoln Home from the lot. The following alternatives explore both site access and building access. The pros and cons are presented for each potential treatment option.

## Points of Entry into Lincoln Home

### First Floor

#### *Front Door (room 100)*

#### PROS:

- Historic Point of entry
- Existing point of entry for visitors except those using wheelchairs

#### CONS:

- Not accessible; requires climbing of stairs
- Different entry sequence and experience for visitors who use wheelchairs or cannot climb stairs

*North door of Kitchen (room 105)*

## PROS:

- Existing entry for visitors using wheelchairs
- Under cover of East Porch
- Existing sloped threshold provides path from porch floor into house

## CONS:

- Requires visitors to pass through period room behind railings
- Different entry sequence and experience for visitors who can climb stairs versus those who use wheelchairs or cannot climb stairs
- Narrower than south door
- Continued use of this path will necessitate moving the kitchen stove closer to the west wall to provide appropriate clearance and to adequately protect this Lincoln artifact from wear and tear of visitor traffic; the heat shield



**Figure AD.17.** View of Lincoln Home from the southwest by J. A. Whipple, summer 1860. Mr. Lincoln and Willie are standing inside the fence and Tad is behind the fencepost. The man and boy on the sidewalk have not been identified. Source: Library of Congress: LC-DIG-ppmsca-23724 (digital file from original) LC-USZ62-11493 (b&w film copy neg.) LC-USZ62-1831 (b&w film copy neg.)



**Figure AD.18.** View of Lincoln Home from the second floor of the Dean House by William A. Shaw, August 8, 1860. This view was taken during a political rally and parade. Mr. Lincoln is wearing a light-colored suit and standing to the right of the front entrance. Mary Lincoln is visible in the left-hand first-floor window. Willie Lincoln is visible in the second window from the left on the second floor. Source: PhotoV 10655, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

on the floor below the stove will also require modification to create a clear path

- While locating the stove closer to the wall is not necessarily inappropriate for the presentation of the period room, any work that requires relocation of an artifact like the Lincoln stove presents a risk of damage to the artifact

*South door of Kitchen (room 105)*

## PROS:

- Wider than north door
- Under cover of south porch
- Opens onto visitor space
- Does not require visitors to pass through period room behind railings
- Eliminates wear and tear on Lincoln stove
- Eliminates need to relocate Lincoln stove

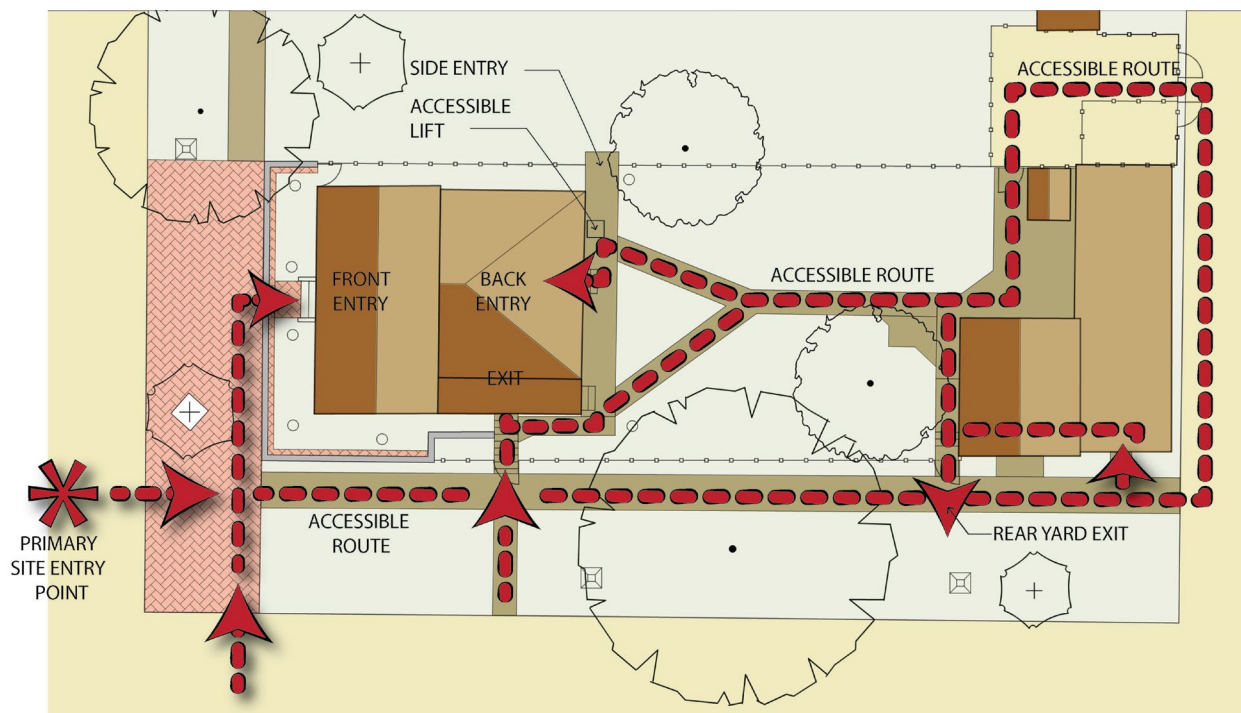


**Figure AD.19.** Views of the Lincoln Home, 2022. Source: RATIO Architects.

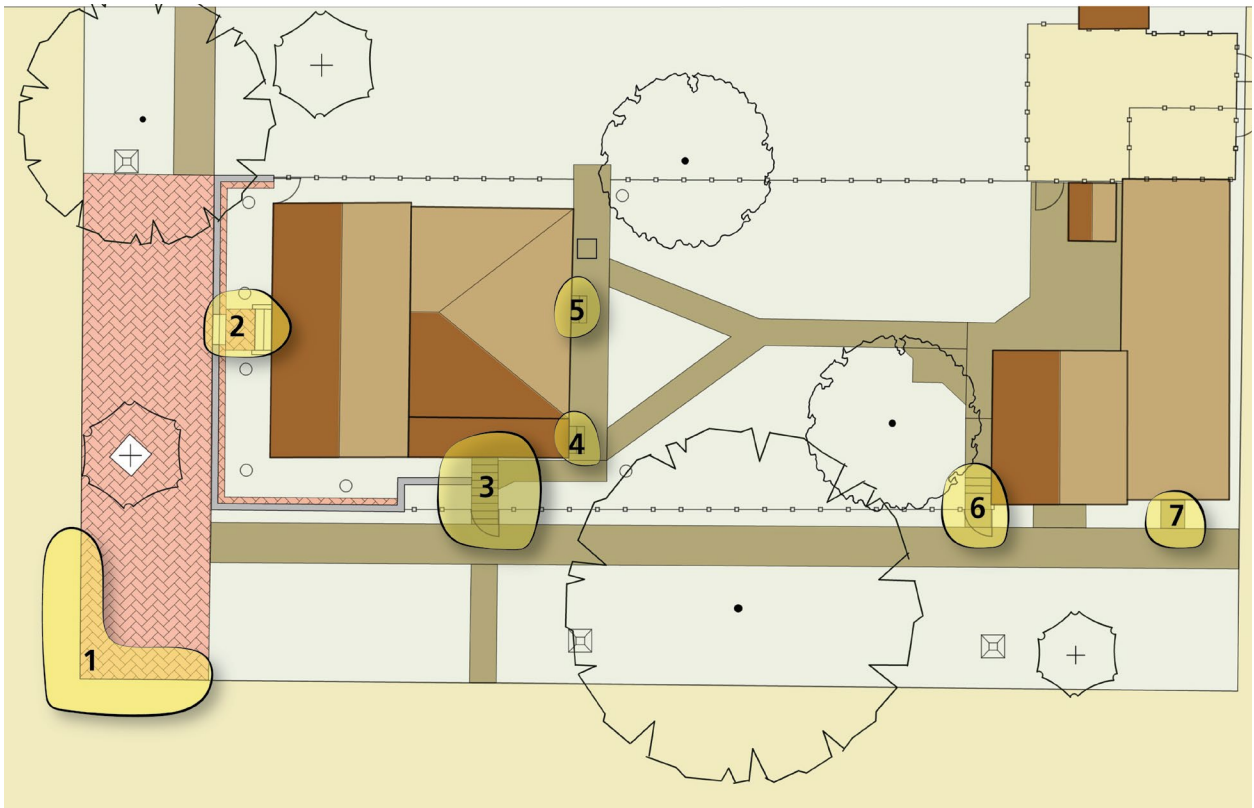




**Figure AD.20.** Views of the Lincoln Home, 2022. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure AD.21.** Points of access to the Lincoln Home. Source: WLA Studio.



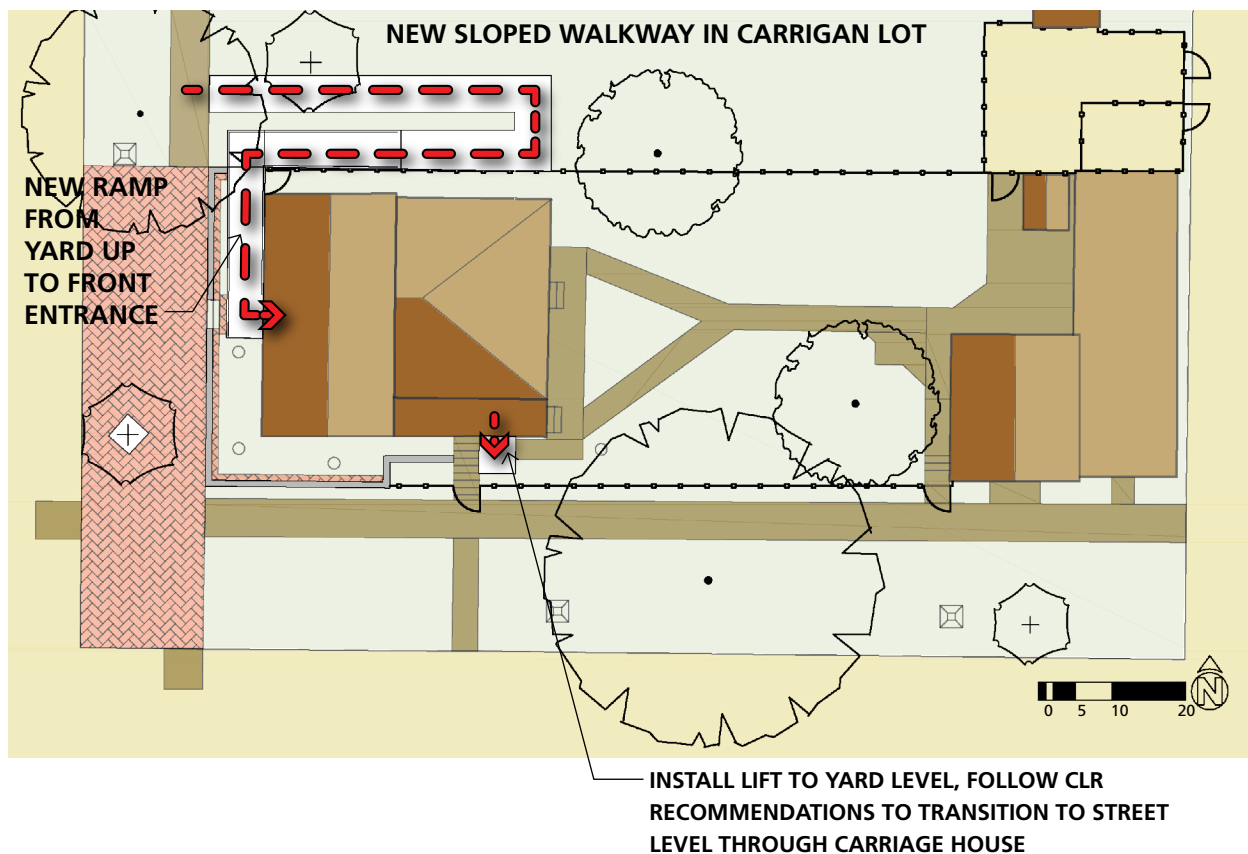
**Figure AD 22.** The location of site barriers to visitor access into the Lincoln Home. Source: WLA Studio.

### Approach and Existing Site Barriers

1. Raised Curb, SW corner of site to street
2. Front Steps to House (9 steps)
3. South Side Steps to Porch (8 steps)
4. Rear Steps to South Porch (2 Steps)
5. Rear Steps to East Porch (2 Steps)
6. Side Gate Steps to Rear Yard (3 Steps)
7. Raised Threshold into Woodshed



**Figure AD.23.** Barriers to universal access at the Lincoln Home including the front steps and steps to the porch and rear yard. Source: WLA Studio.



**Figure AD.24.** Concept alternative showing equal access with a ramp to the front door and a lift at Jackson Street. Source: WLA Studio.

### Concept 1: Equal Access Front Door from 8th Street and Equal Exit to Jackson Street

- Install sloped walkway in Carrigan Lot (entrance path for all visitors)
- Install ramp from end of sloped entrance path to front entrance (32' long)
- Install platform over steps to provide accessible entry to front door (gate would be closed and front steps would not be used)
- All visitors exit at south door of Kitchen
- Follow CLR recommendations to transition visitors to street level through carriage house

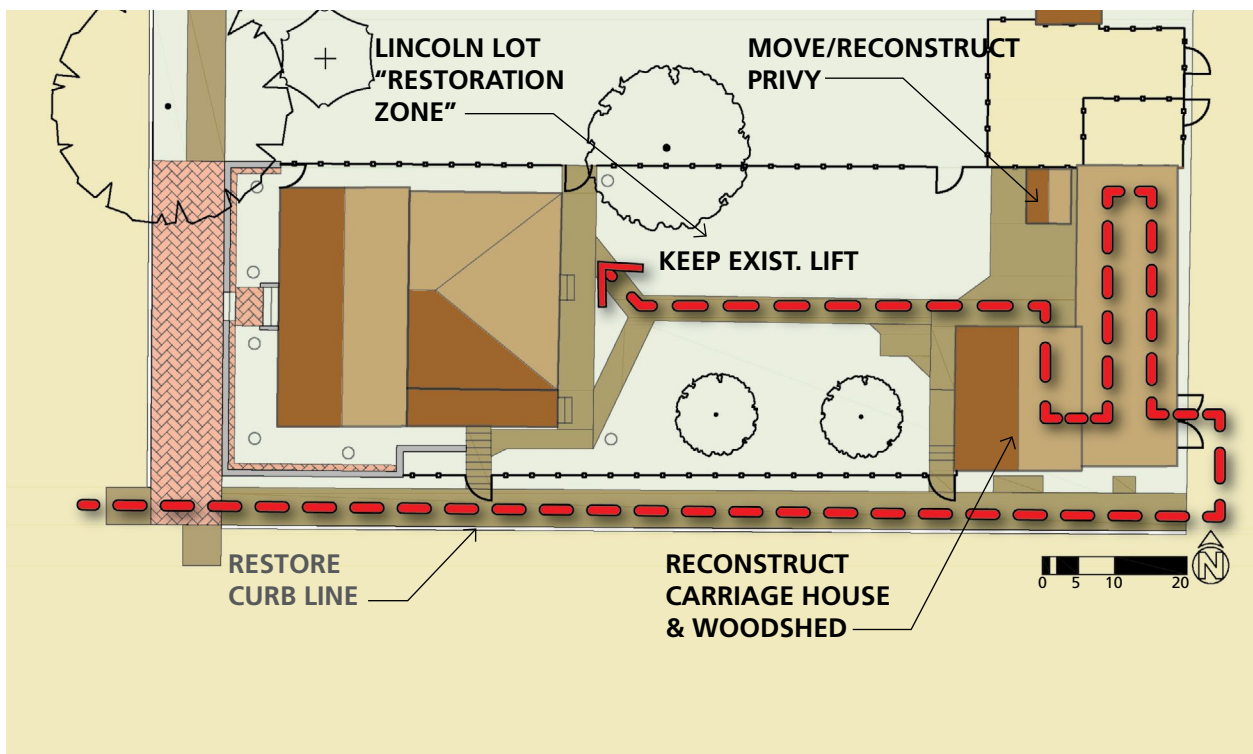
#### PROS:

- Interpretive route through the house remains “as is”
- All visitors follow same route through the house
- Ingress and egress to the house occurs through separate doors
- Much of the grade change happens in the Carrigan Lot, which is a rehabilitation area and not in the restoration zone

#### CONS:

- Lift is not protected by roof
- Visual impact to facade
- Visual impact from recorded historic views
- Leaves inaccurate configuration of carriage house/woodshed
- Visitors in wheelchair still need to route through adjacent rear yard





**Figure AD.25.** Concept alternative showing implementation recommendations shown in the General Management Plan and Cultural Landscape Report. Source: WLA Studio.

## Concept 2: Implement GMP and CLR

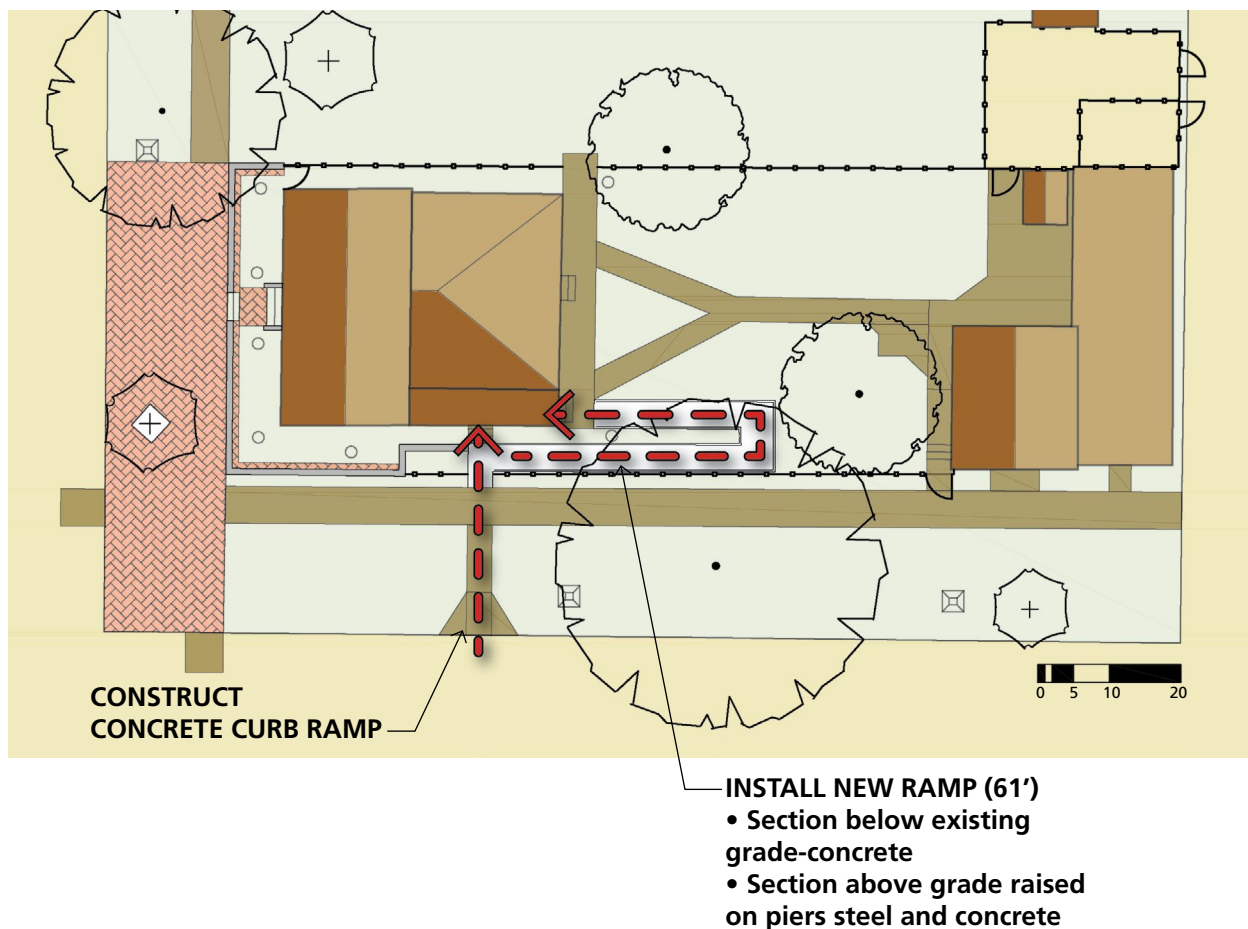
- Restore south curb line (to historic width)
- Reconstruct carriage house and woodshed to accommodate ramp up to rear yard level
- Realign walk along south side of the Y boardwalk
- Keep existing lift and use door on east side of the house to enter Kitchen
- Move/reconstruct privy

### PROS:

- Already vetted/approved by park in Cultural Landscape Report
- Allows for additional interpretive opportunities in carriage house/woodshed
- All visitors use the same route (enter through north Kitchen door)

### CONS:

- Cost of building upgrades additional interpretation in carriage house/woodshed
- Doesn't address mechanical issues with existing lift
- Doesn't address need for staffing of lift
- Changes interpretive route in house



**Figure AD.26.** Concept alternative showing equal access from the south porch with a switchback ramp. Source: WLA Studio.

### Concept 3: Equal Access South Porch

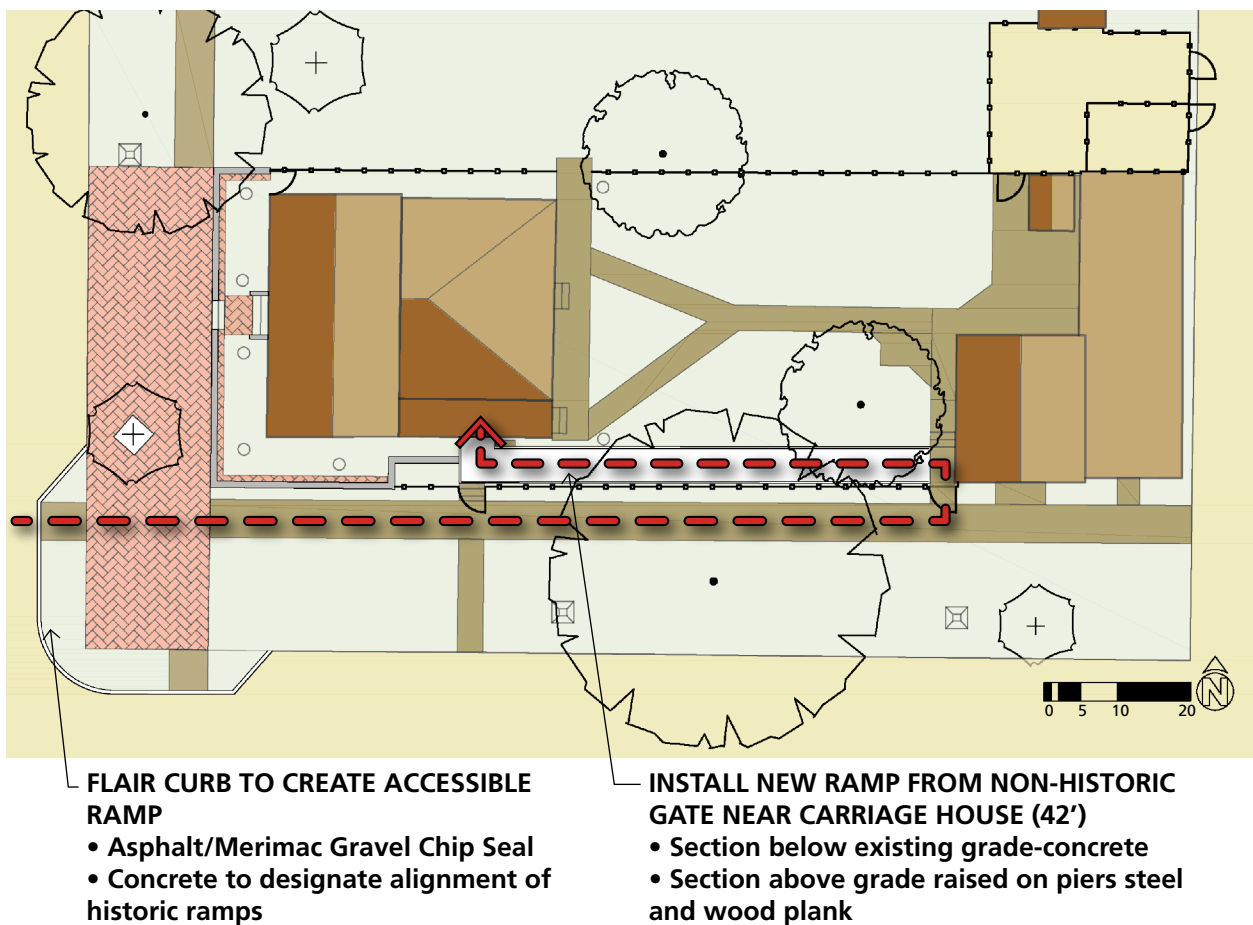
- Construct accessible ramp at curb along south side of lot
- Remove south side steps to porch
- Construct 61' ramp inside the fence to ramp up to south porch

#### PROS:

- Requires less work along street
- Portion of the ramp is hidden from outside view by the fence
- Provides equal access to all visitors
- Cost of additional work at carriage house/woodshed eliminated

#### CONS:

- Visibility of ramp in rear yard, effect on cultural landscape
- No precedent for curb ramps elsewhere in historic district
- South Y boardwalk is still in an inaccurate configuration
- Changes interpretation route through the house (ingress/egress through same door)
- Leaves inaccurate configuration of carriage house/woodshed



**Figure AD.27.** Concept alternative showing equal access from the south porch via a ramp along the south fenceline. Source: WLA Studio.

### Concept 4: Equal Access South Porch Alternative

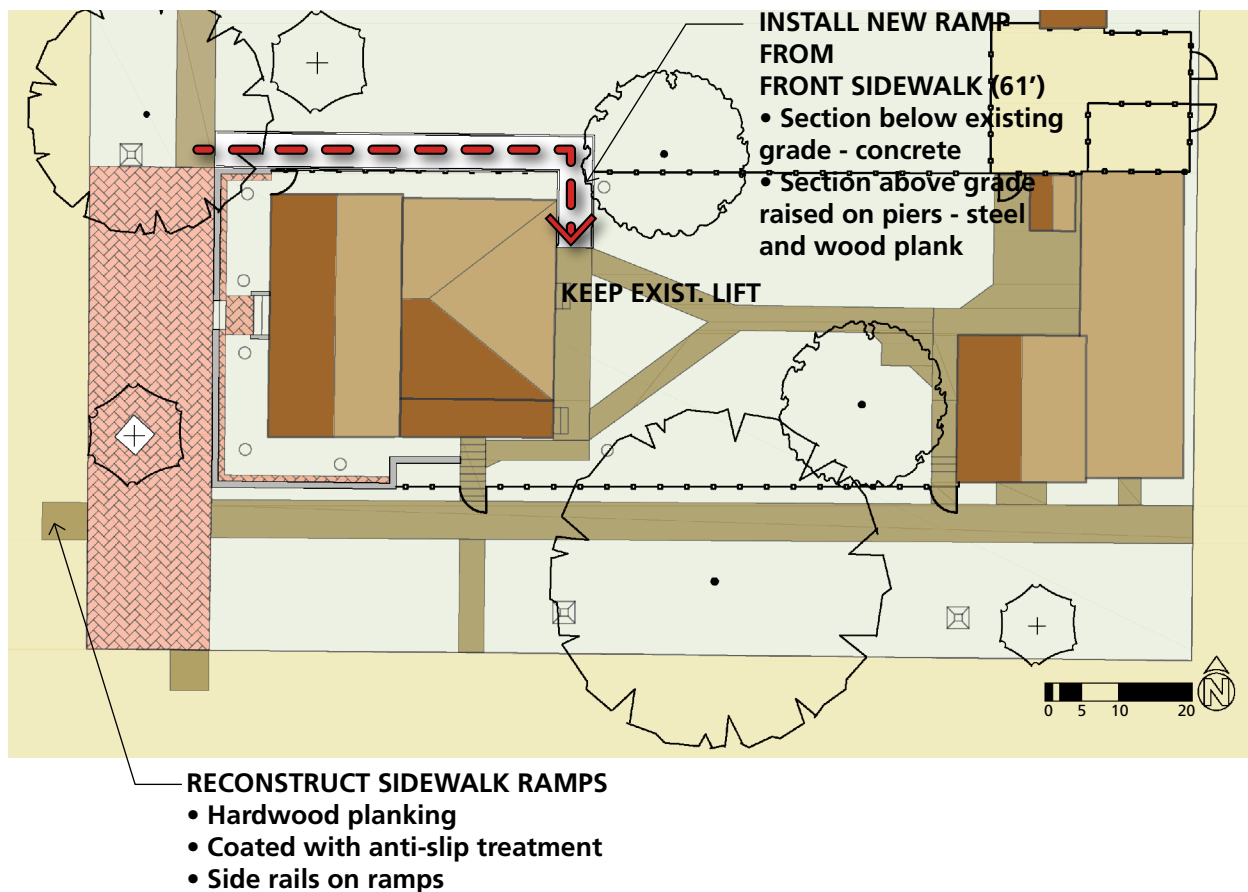
- Flair curb at street to create an accessible ramp
- Use Merimac gravel chip seal
- Colored or stamped concrete could designate alignment of historic ramps
- Install 41' ramp from gate near carriage house to south porch
- Move steps at gate toward the north
- Ramp up along inside fence

#### PROS:

- Ramp is mostly hidden from street view by fencing
- Non slip surface for “boardwalk ramps”
- Makes use of grade changes near east side of site

#### CONS:

- Visibility of ramp in rear yard, effect on cultural landscape
- No precedent for flair curb at street elsewhere in historic district
- South Y boardwalk is still in an inaccurate configuration
- Changes interpretation route through house, ingress/egress through one door
- Leaves inaccurate configuration of carriage house/woodshed



**Figure AD.28.** Concept alternative showing equal access from the reach porch through the adjacent lot, which is in the "neighborhood rehabilitation zone." Source: WLA Studio.

### Concept 5: Equal Access Rear Porch Through Neighborhood Rehabilitation Zone

- Reconstruct sidewalk ramps with hardwood planking coated with anti-slip treatment
- Install side rails on ramps
- Install 61' ramp from front sidewalk
- Keep existing lift

#### PROS:

- Approach is somewhat more oriented toward front of house
- Returns historic sidewalk ramps to site
- Makes most changes outside of the site and in the rehabilitation zone (rather than preservation zone)

#### CONS:

- Doesn't address mechanical issues with existing lift
- Doesn't address need for staffing of lift
- Changes interpretation route through house
- Visual impact in rear yard; effects cultural landscape
- Area near ramp has a lot of archeological data
- Leaves inaccurate configuration of carriage house/woodshed

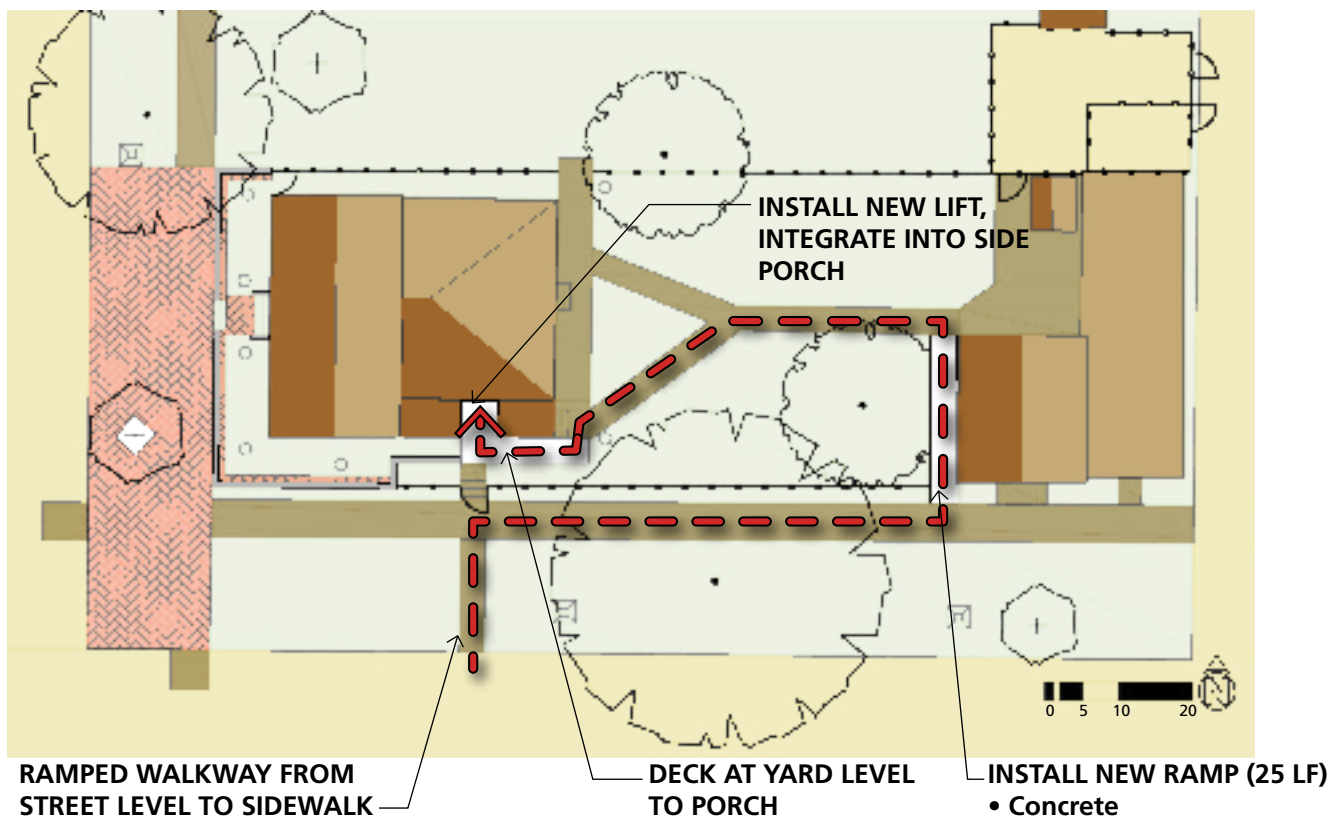


Figure AD.29. Concept alternative showing equal access from the side porch with a new lift. Source: WLA Studio.

### Concept 6: Equal Access / Same Entrance – Side Porch and New Lift

- Install 25' ramp along façade of carriage house to boardwalk in rear yard
- Realign south Y boardwalk
- Users who don't need lift can access the south porch via the side stair on east side of the house
- Install a new lift and integrate it into the side porch

#### PROS:

- New lift is protected by porch roof
- Visual impact of ramp from sidewalk into rear yard level is lessened b/c it is against (historically inaccurate building)

#### CONS:

- Still has visual impact in rear yard and house (at south porch)
- Leaves inaccurate configuration of carriage house/woodshed
- Changes interpretive route through house, ingress/egress through same door



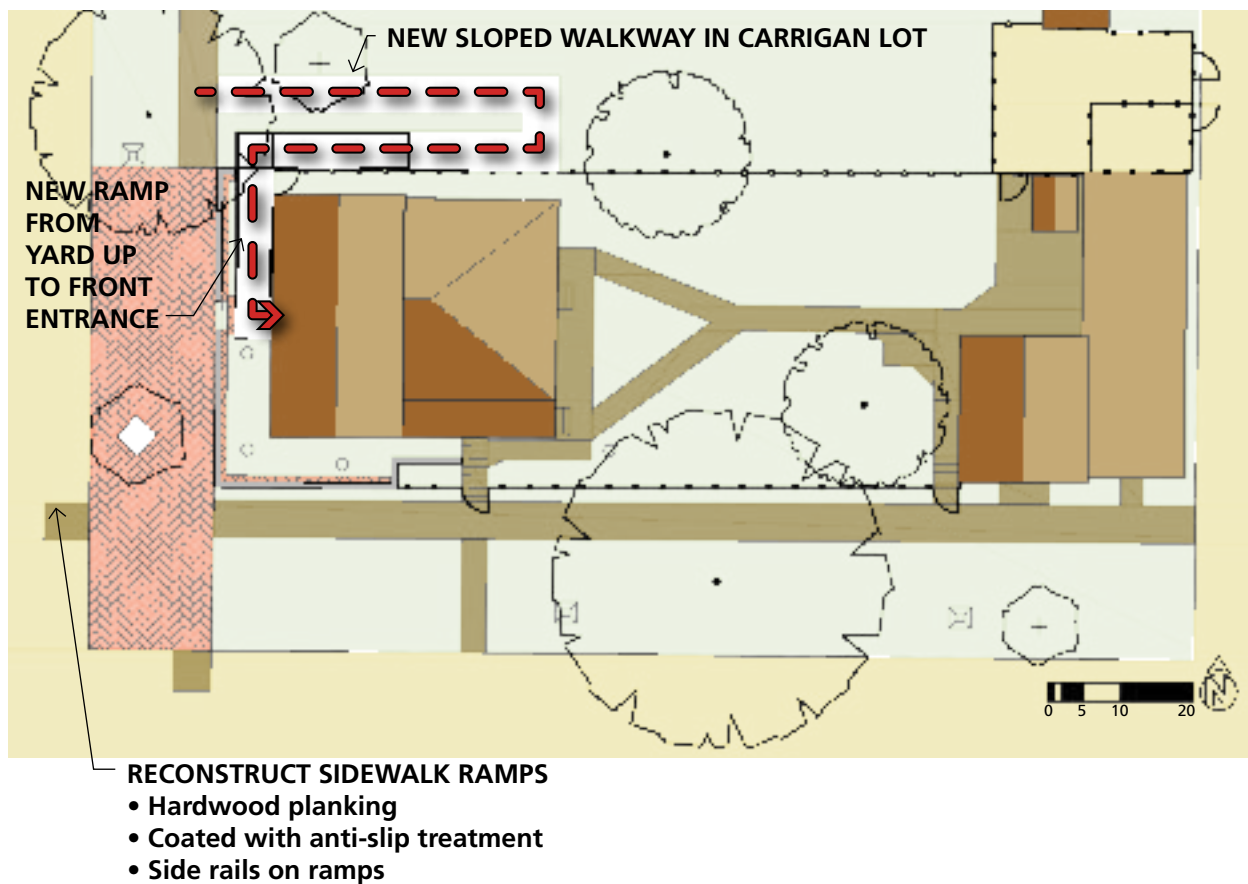


Figure AD.30. Concept alternative showing equal access from the front door from 8th Street. Source: WLA Studio.

## Concept 7: Equal Access Front Door from 8th Street

- Install new sloped walkway in Carrigan Lot
- New ramp from yard up to front entrance, 32' long
- Install platform over steps to provide accessible entry to front door (gate would be closed and front steps would not be used)

### PROS:

- Much of the grade change happens in the Carrigan Lot
- Interpretive route through the house can begin where it currently does

### CONS:

- Visual impact to facade
- Visual impact from recorded historic views
- Visitors must ingress and egress through same door (difficulties with tour scheduling)
- Leaves inaccurate configuration of carriage house/woodshed



Figure AD.31. Proposed location of a platform that would cover the steps and provide an accessible entrance to the Lincoln Home. Source: WLA Studio.

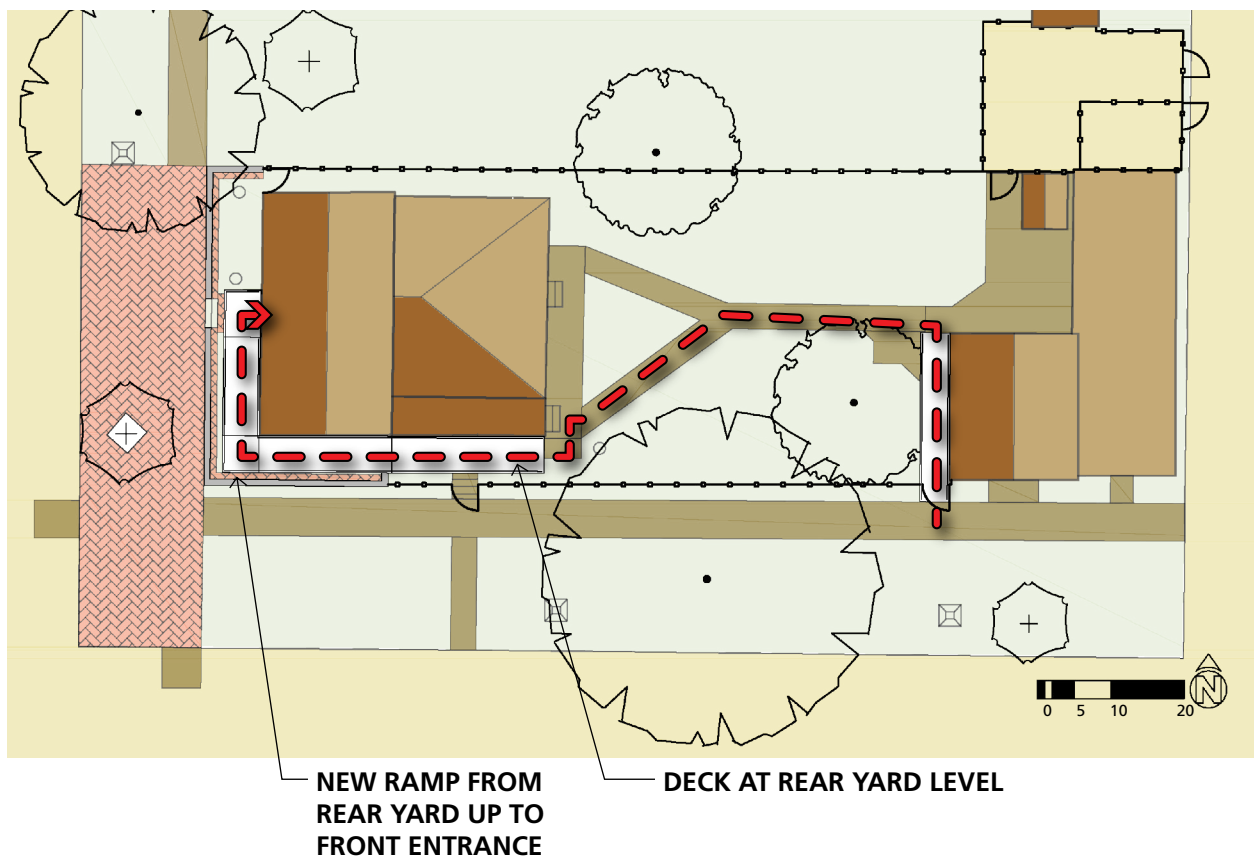


Figure AD.32. Concept alternative showing equal access from the south porch. Source: WLA Studio.

### Concept 8: Equal Access South Porch Alternative

- Install 25' ramp along façade of carriage house to boardwalk in rear yard
- Realign south Y boardwalk
- Install 32' ramp from rear yard to front entrance
- Install a new lift and integrate it into the side porch
- Install deck along south elevation to reach ramp

#### PROS:

- New lift is protected by porch roof
- Visual impact of ramp is lessened b/c it is against (historically inaccurate building)

#### CONS:

- Visual impact in rear yard
- Leaves inaccurate configuration of carriage house/woodshed
- Changes interpretive route through house, visitors ingress/egress through front door
- Visual impact to facade
- Visual impact from recorded historic views

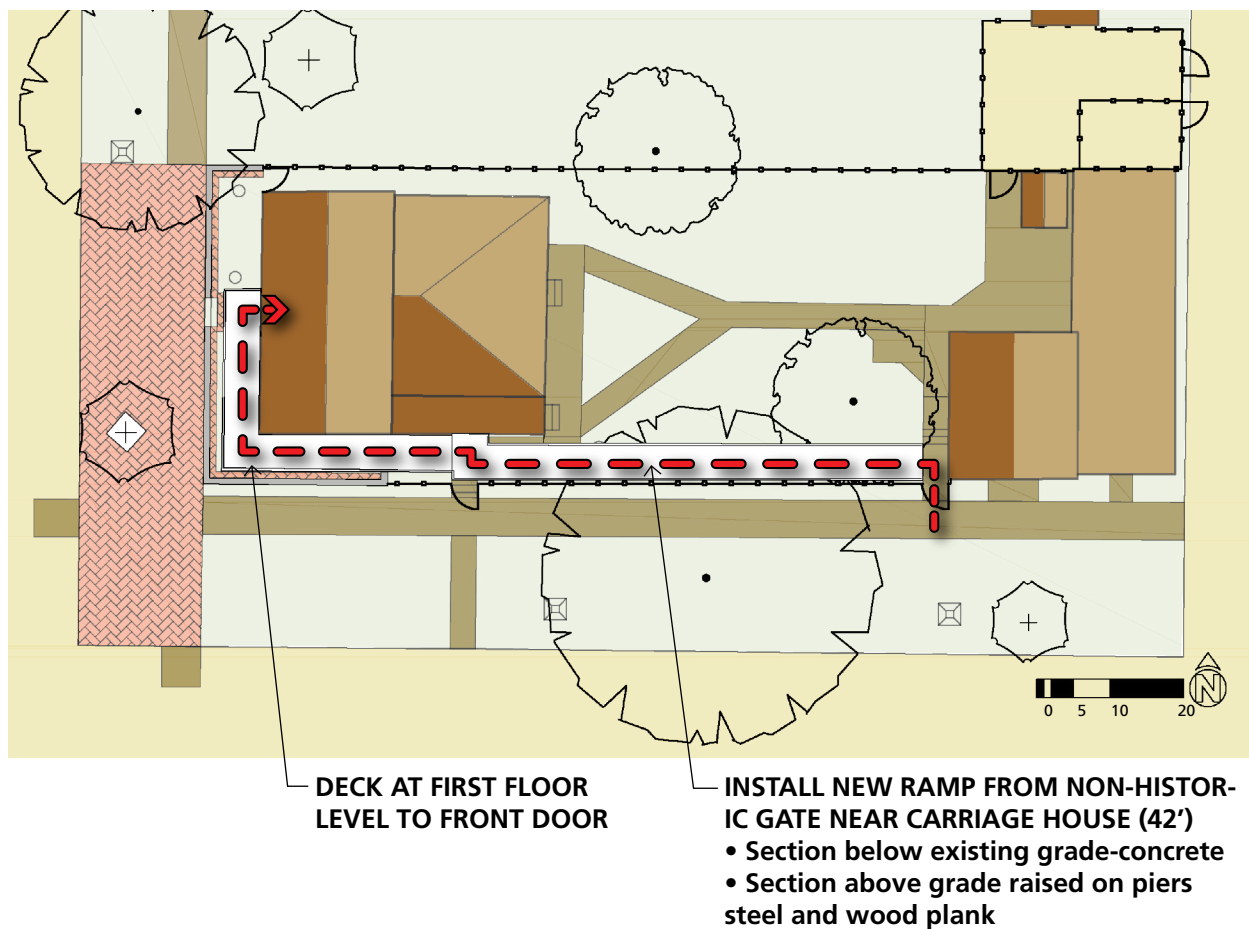


Figure AD.33. Concept alternative showing equal access from Jackson Street. Source: WLA Studio.

### Concept 9: Equal Access From Jackson Street Alternative

- Install 42' ramp from gate near carriage house to south porch
- Move steps at gate toward the north
- Ramp up along inside fence
- Install a deck at first floor level from rear yard to front door
- Install platform over steps to provide accessible entry to front door (gate would be closed and front steps would not be used)

#### PROS:

- Ramp is behind the rear yard fence
- All visitors enter through front door
- Possible to maintain rear door egress, if rear door threshold height is addressed

#### CONS:

- Visual impact to rear yard
- Leaves inaccurate configuration of carriage house/woodshed
- Visual impact to facade
- Visual impact from recorded historic views
- Changes interpretive route through house, visitors ingress/egress through front door



**Figure AD.34.** View of a removable ramp to a secondary entrance at a historic house. The ramp covers existing historic stairs and uses compatible materials. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure AD.35.** View the fence along the southern property line that could disguise a ramp installed in this area. Source: RATIO Architects.

#### CONS:

- Threshold is above porch floor level
- Exterior modifications would be required to create a suitable entrance
- The lattice panel at this bay of the porch and the presence of the board fence and picket fence would reduce the visibility of a platform added on top of the porch floor, minimizing its impact on the primary views of the house

### Circulation Path

#### Existing circulation path - first floor

The existing first-floor visitor paths and railings remain as defined in the 1950s with the exception of a 1965 modification to the railing at the west end of the Sitting Room (room 108) restricting visitor access to the west wall. Visitors enter at the front door and circulate through the first floor before ascending the front staircase to the second floor, descending the back staircase to the Kitchen before existing through the south door.

#### PROS:

- The paths are existing and can simply be maintained
- Existing one-way tour path is efficient for accommodating multiple tours at the same time

#### CONS:

- Includes several tight corners that are difficult to navigate even with the park's narrow wheelchairs
- Requires visitors who use wheelchairs to pass through the non-public portions of the Dining Room and Kitchen
- Existing railings and accessible path severely constrain furnishing and interpretation of Dining Room
- Existing accessible path limits furnishings at southwest corner of Dining Room
- Back staircase does not match its appearance during the period of interpretation

#### POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS:

- Connect Dining Room (room 107) to Kitchen (room 105) to create an accessible path through the first floor. This could be done in two ways:
  - *Extend existing visitor control railings*
    - PROS:
      - Creates an accessible visitor path to all first floor rooms included in tour
    - CONS:
      - Limits furnishing of Dining Room as a period room. This is already severely limited by the existing visitor path and railings.
      - Would likely require removal of the table, pictures, and other items along the south wall
      - Would limit the presence of curtains, shades, and passementerie at the window
      - Requires modification to existing visitor path
  - *Eliminate visitor control railings*
    - PROS:
      - Creates an accessible visitor path to all first floor rooms included in tour
      - Removes a visually intrusive element (1950s railings)
      - Could allow for a different type of interpretation in the Dining Room;

options include:

- Replacing artifacts with reproductions and using no barriers or minimal barriers similar to the movable stanchions and velvet ropes used in rooms 201 and 202
- Maintaining the shell of the room interpreted to 1860-1861 but furnishing the space with exhibits or other interpretation (see Dining Room Notes, below)
- CONS:
- Limits furnishing of Dining Room as a period room using original artifacts
- Requires modification to existing visitor path and railings
- *Create a more gradual curve to the railings in the Parlors (rooms 101 and 102), eliminating the right-angle corners with tight radii*
  - PROS:
  - Simplifies railing and reduces its visual impact
  - Creates better clearances for visitor path
  - Creates additional space within visitor path
  - Would not appear to require any rearrangement of furnishings
  - CONS:
  - Requires modification of existing visitor path and railings
  - Would take away a small amount of space within the period room section of the Parlors
  - This would not appear to be an issue based on the existing furniture arrangement

#### Existing circulation path - second floor

The existing second-floor visitor paths and railings remain as defined during the 1987-1988 restoration, using the same points of entry and exit as those defined in the 1950s. Visitors ascend the front staircase and proceed through rooms 200, 201, 202, and 204 before descending the back staircase to the Kitchen.

- Visitors who can climb stairs enter via the front staircase
- Visitors who cannot climb stairs cannot experience the second floor

- These visitors are provided with a virtual experience, either while waiting on the first floor or at the visitor's center.
- "If it is determined that a feature, element, or area cannot be made accessible, there is still an obligation to provide program access to the feature, element, or area. In many cases, this is achieved through a combination of approaches including increasing accessibility to the feature, element, or area as much as is feasible; providing the experience in an alternative accessible location; and providing accessible interpretive program alternatives."<sup>447</sup>

#### PROS:

- The paths are existing and can simply be maintained
- Existing one-way tour path is efficient for accommodating multiple tours at the same time

#### CONS:

- Second floor is not accessible
- Back staircase does not match its appearance during the period of interpretation

#### POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS:

- *Addition of a lift*
  - "At LIHO there are many unique and historic elements, such as Lincoln Home, where the implementation of the ideal solution of adding an elevator to provide access to the second floor may be limited due the historic nature of the building and significant site constraints. In these cases, proposed solutions may focus on the creation of new interpretive materials (e.g., displays or video experiences) or creating the experience in a different, more accessible location as ways of creating programmatic access where physical access is limited. However, as technology, construction methods, and management strategies evolve, the park should always be reevaluating whether the ultimate goal

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447. *Lincoln Home National Historic Site: Accessibility Assessment* (Bloomington, IN: National Center on Accessibility, Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands, 2022), 42.



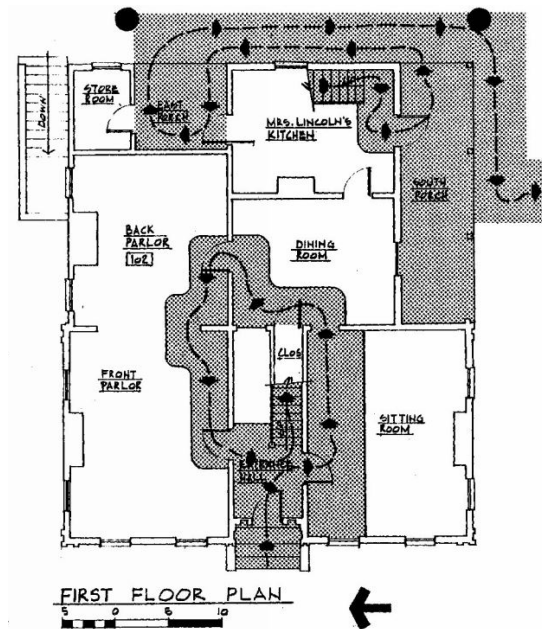
- of providing experiences in as integrated a setting as possible can be attained in these locations.”<sup>448</sup>
- Addition of a lift within the Pantry (room 103) and Hired Girl’s Room (room 203).

PROS:

- Could provide access to the second floor for visitors who cannot climb stairs

CONS:

- Would remove historic fabric at the basement, first, and second floors
- If fabric is to be removed anywhere, this is the best place
- Would eliminate the Hired Girl’s Room as a period room
- Could the Trunk Room (room 205/206) be restored and used to interpret the Hired Girl’s Room?
- Is it essential to have the emergency toilet in the house? Could it move to new outbuildings?
- Clearances within the second floor are insufficient for effective navigation of a wheelchair. This is particularly true of the Upstairs Back Hall (room 204), which is just under 4'-0" in width.
- Would not permit one-way circulation for visitors using the lift
- *Addition of an exterior lift*
  - Possible locations include:
  - North elevation opening into the Hired Girl’s Room (room 203)
  - Visitors would either enter the lift by passing through the Pantry (room 103) from the East Porch or at an exterior door from grade level
  - The lift could possibly be built in the Carrigan Lot, with an enclosed bridge connecting to the house at the second floor level
  - East elevation opening into the Upstairs Back Hall (room 204)
  - Visitors would enter the lift via an exterior door at ground level
  - The lift would likely cover portions of the Kitchen window and East Porch opening



**Figure AD.36.** Existing First Floor circulation. Source: Ferry & Henderson Architects Inc., Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Historic Structure Report, Architecture Data Section, Vol II (incomplete draft February 20, 1984), 190.

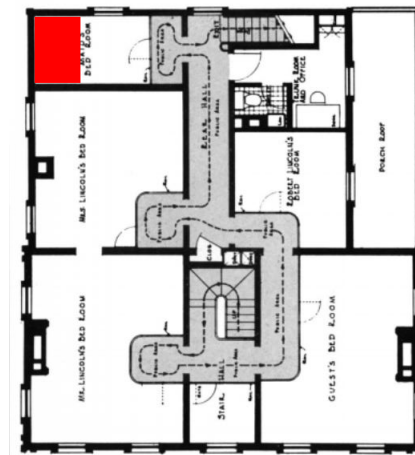
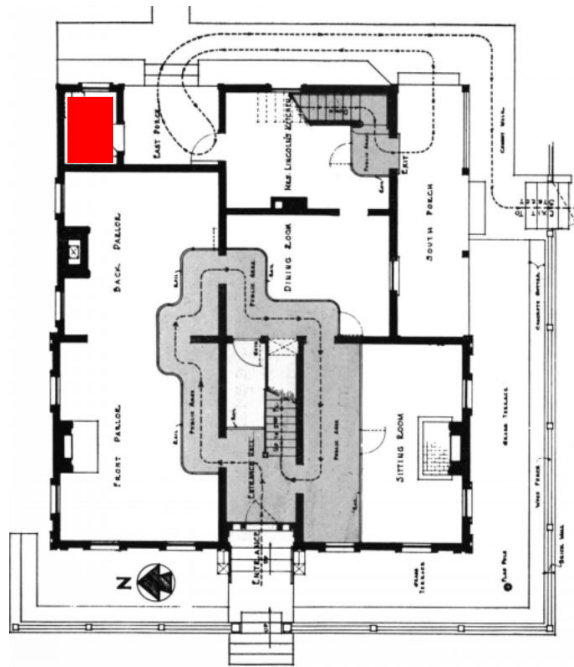
PROS:

- Would reduce impact on interior fabric (primarily floors and ceilings)

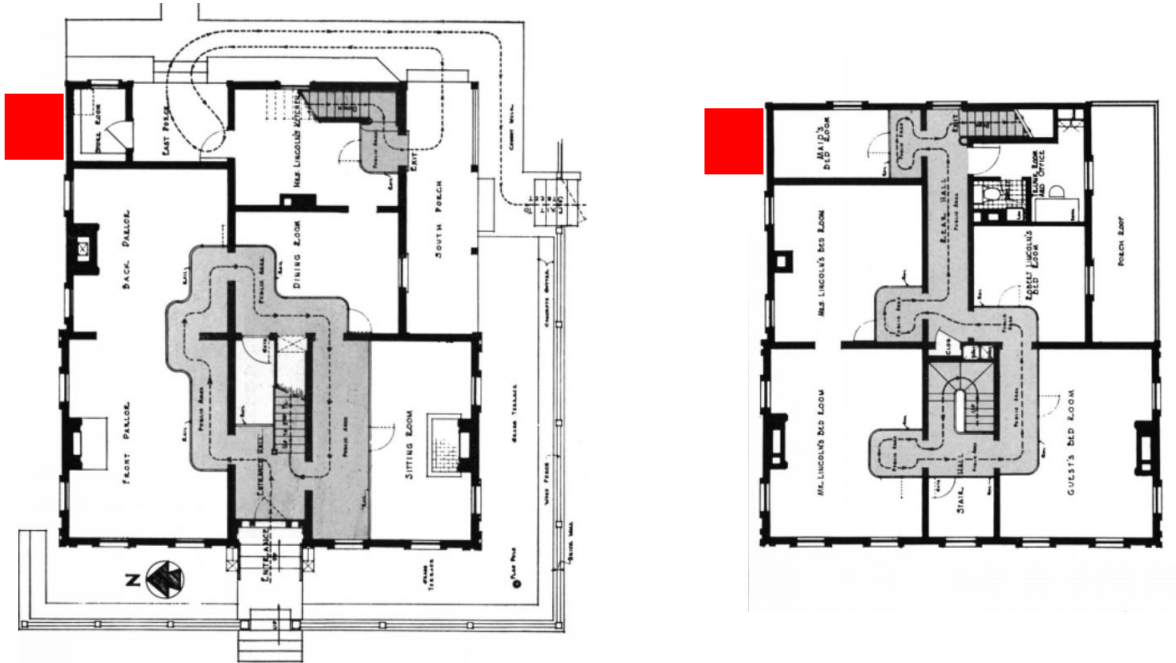
CONS:

- Would be visible from the public way and public portions of the site
- Would require a new opening or modifications to an existing opening to access the second floor
- Would require connections between the lift and the building
- Clearances within the second floor are insufficient for effective navigation of a wheelchair. This is particularly true of the Upstairs Back Hall (room 204), which is just under 4'-0" in width
- Would not permit one-way circulation for visitors using the lift

448. *Lincoln Home National Historic Site: Accessibility Assessment*, 15.



**Figure AD.37.** Potential location of a lift on the interior of the Lincoln Home (Pantry, first floor; Hired Girl's Room, second floor). Source: RATIO Architects.

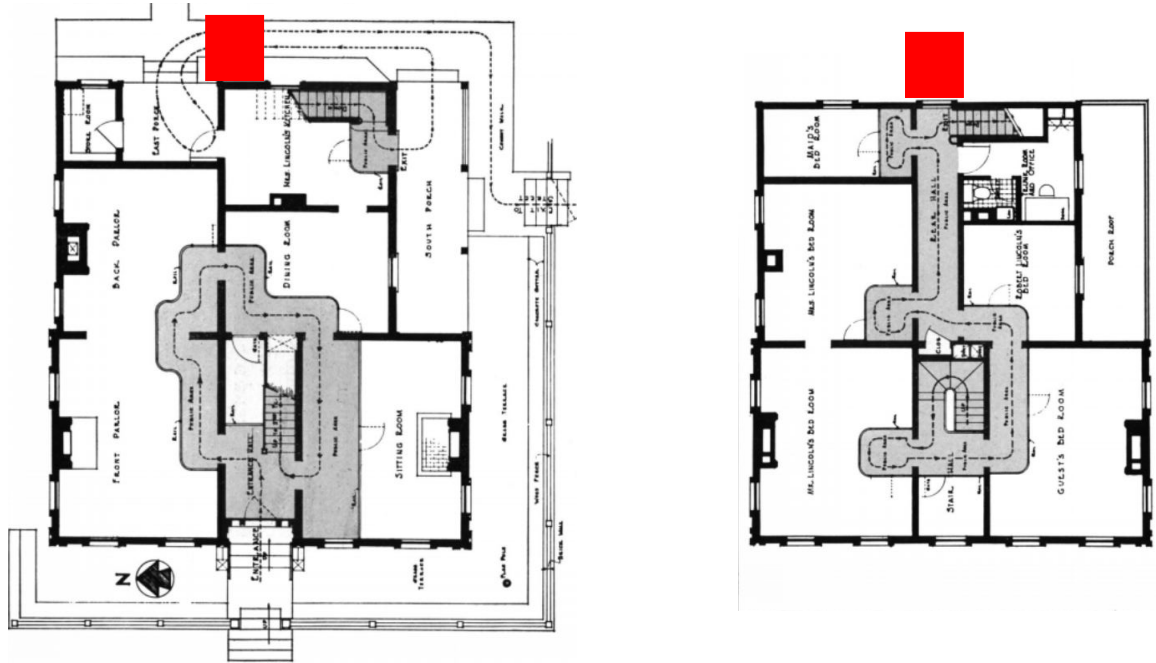


**Figure AD.38.** Potential location of a lift on the exterior of the Lincoln Home, on the north elevation. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure AD.39.** View of a potential location of a lift on the exterior of the Lincoln Home, on the north elevation. Source: RATIO Architects.





**Figure AD.40.** Potential location of a lift on the exterior of the Lincoln Home, on the east elevation. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure AD.41.** Potential location of a lift on the exterior of the Lincoln Home, on the east elevation. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure AD.42.** Lift addition (center, with lighter mortar) concealed on rear elevation of the President Benjamin Harrison House, Indianapolis, Indiana. Source: RATIO Architects.

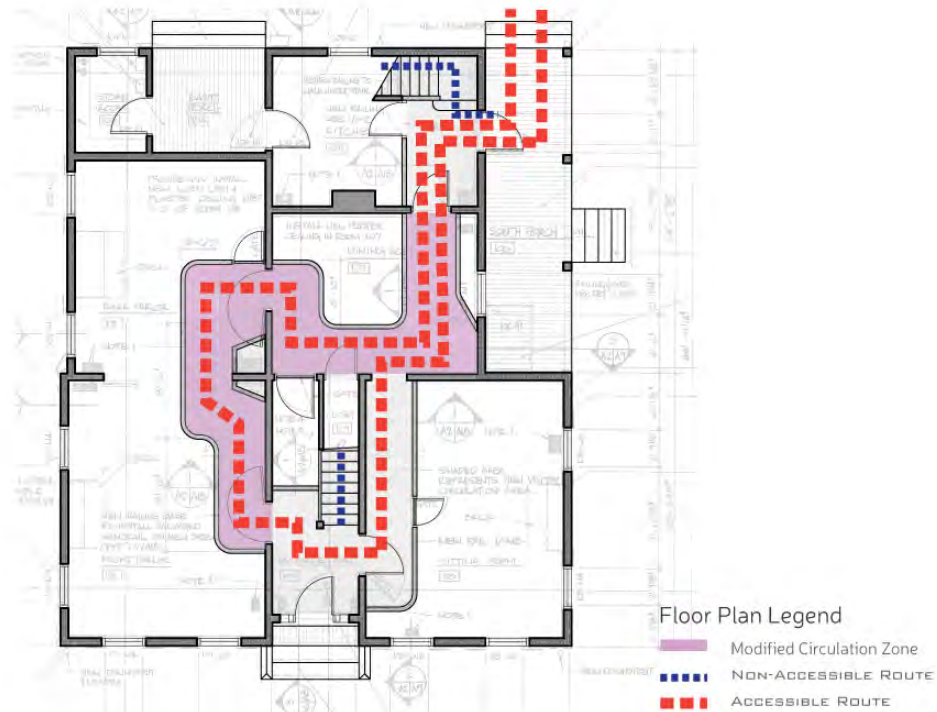


**Figure AD.43.** View of an exterior lift and stair at Martin Luther King, Jr. Birth Home, National Historical Park Atlanta, Georgia. Source: RATIO Architects.



## INTERIOR CIRCULATION DIAGRAMS - OPTION 1

First Floor Plan:



## INTERIOR CIRCULATION DIAGRAMS - OPTION 2

First Floor Plan:

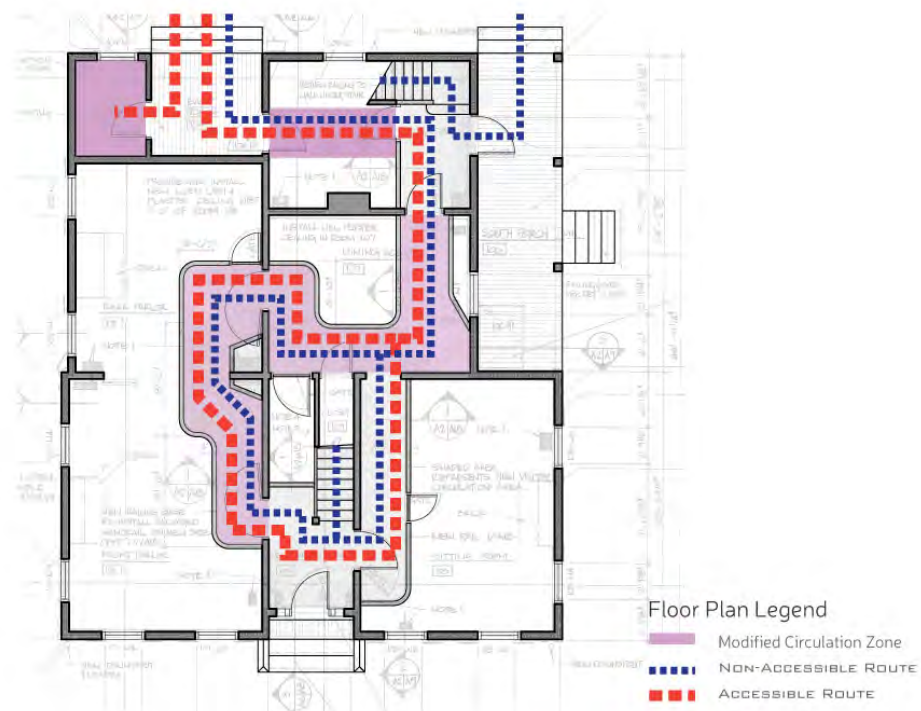
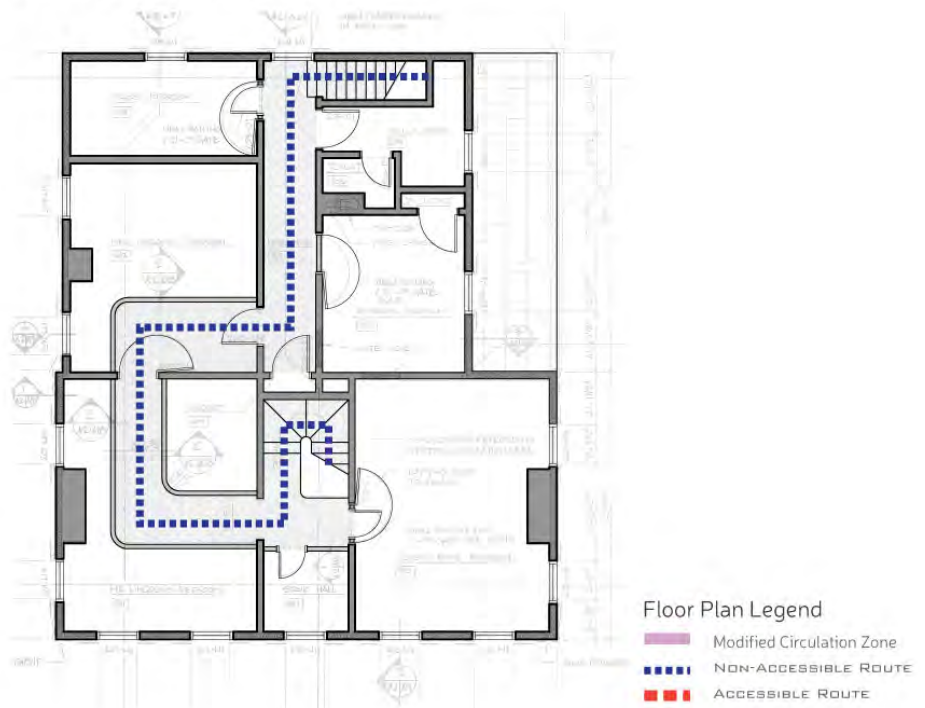


Figure AD.44. Interior circulation diagram options for the first floor. Source: RATIO Architects.

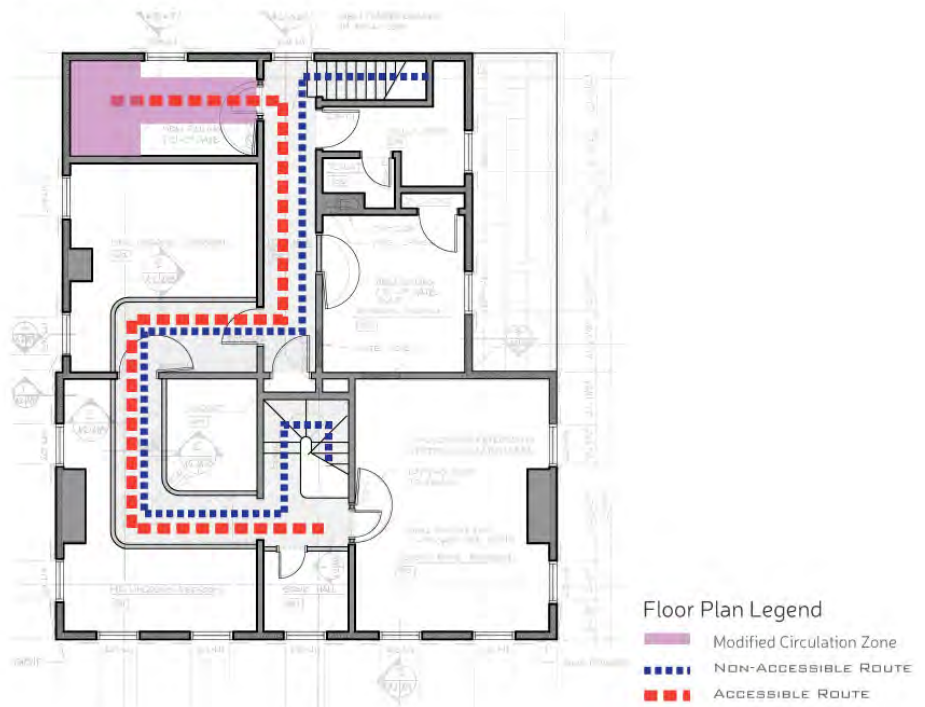
## INTERIOR CIRCULATION DIAGRAMS - OPTION 1

Second Floor Plan:



## INTERIOR CIRCULATION DIAGRAMS - OPTION 2

Second floor Plan:



**Figure AD.45.** Interior circulation diagram options for the second floor. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure AD.46.** View of the visitor control railings on the first floor to control visitor movement. Source: RATIO Architects.

## Visitor Control Railings

The interior of the house has been fitted with railings to separate visitor paths from the period rooms since the 1930s. The present railings were installed during the 1952-1955 restoration and were designed as a facsimile of the balustrade of the front staircase. These railings were modified during the 1987-1988 restoration, adding a curb containing HVAC ductwork and electrical wiring and receptacles. While these railings are now more than 50 years old, they fall well outside the property's clearly defined period of significance of 1844-1865 and a defined period of interpretation of 1860-1861; for these reasons, the 1950s railings are not themselves historic. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties provide clear guidance that "A false sense of history will not be created by adding conjectural features... or by combining features that never existed together historically."<sup>449</sup>

449. Anne E. Grimmer, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing Historic Buildings* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Technical Preservation Services, 2017), 164, <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/treatment-guidelines-2017.pdf>.

The overall height of the typical railing and curb is 2'-8".

### Treatment Options:

*Maintain existing 1950s railings as altered in the 1980s*

#### PROS:

- Minimal expense
- No disruption of visitor experience for installation

#### CONS:

- Railings may create a false sense of history and may confuse some visitors (e.g., some visitors have assumed that the railings were installed by Mary Todd Lincoln to keep her sons from playing in the parlor)
- The open space between the balusters allows visitors to reach through into the non-public space
- Staff report that a few times per year a visitor will get their knee caught between the balusters of the railings and will require assistance to get free.
- Existing furniture arrangement of the Back Parlor (room 102) is less accurate because the furniture is arranged to accommodate existing railings





**Figure AD.47.** View of transparent visitor control features at a historic site. (William Faulkner's Rowan Oak, Oxford, Mississippi) These plexiglass railings allow visitors further into a room so that they do not have to lean over a rail to view the interior. Source: RATIO Architects.

*Replace railings with a less intrusive design*

**PROS:**

- Less visual intrusion and providing a clearer view
- Avoiding visitor confusion

**CONS:**

- Expense to design, fabricate, and install new railings
- Any replacement would require removal of existing railings and installation of new railings--this may disrupt the visitor experience and would include construction within the house
- Glass or other transparent materials would require frequent cleaning
- Replace specific railings to provide better access and to reduce visual impact

*Create a more gradual curve to the railings in the Parlors (rooms 101 and 102), eliminating the right-angle corners with tight radii*

**PROS:**

- Simplifies railing and reduces its visual impact
- Creates better clearances for visitor path

- Creates additional space within visitor path
- Would not appear to require any rearrangement of furnishings

**CONS:**

- Requires modification of existing visitor path and railings
- Any replacement would require removal of existing railings and installation of new railings. This may disrupt the visitor experience and would include construction within the house
- Would take away a small amount of space within the period room section of the Parlors
- This would not appear to be an issue based on the existing furniture arrangement

*Replace door railings in Guest Bedroom (room 208), Boys' Room (room 207), and Hired Girl's Room (room 203) with less intrusive railings that also provide better visual access to the room. (This might include curved railings allowing visitors to step through the doorway and to have a better view of the room.)*



**Figure AD.48.** View of transparent visitor control features at a historic site. (Dayton Aviation National Historical Park, Dayton, Ohio) These glass rails feature a top rail. Source: RATIO Architects.

#### PROS:

- Would provide visitors with a better view of each room
- Less visually intrusive
- Would not appear to require any rearrangement of furnishings
- Consistent with earlier practices for providing visitors with visual access to rooms 201 and 202 between 1955 and 1987, when they were not part of the visitor path

#### CONS:

- Expense to design, fabricate, and install new railings
- Any replacement would require removal of existing railings and installation of new railings. This may disrupt the visitor experience and would include construction within the house
- Glass or other transparent materials would require frequent cleaning

#### POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS:

- Replace door railings in Guest Bedroom (room 208), Boys' Room (room 207), and Hired Girl's Room (room 203) with less intrusive railings that also provide better visual access to the room
- This might include curved railings allowing visitors to step through the doorway and to have a better view of the room

#### PROS:

- Would provide visitors with a better view of each room
- Less visually intrusive
- Would not appear to require any rearrangement of furnishings
- Consistent with earlier practices for providing



**Figure AD.49.** View of transparent visitor control features at a historic site. (Sherman House, Lancaster, Ohio) Source: RATIO Architects.

visitors with visual access to rooms 201 and 202 between 1955 and 1987, when they were not part of the visitor path

#### CONS:

- Expense to design, fabricate, and install new railings
- Any replacement would require removal of existing railings and installation of new railings--this may disrupt the visitor experience and would include construction within the house
- Glass or other transparent materials would require frequent cleaning

### Dining Room Notes:

Of the house's four public rooms, the Dining Room (room 107) is the only one for which there is no surviving visual documentation of its furnishings during the period of interpretation. If an alternative location can be identified for the furnishings in this space (i.e. a museum space to interpret the Dining Room), potentially this room could be used for visitor circulation or staging.

The Lincolns appear to have purchased new Dining Room furniture from Springfield furniture dealer Jack Hough during or shortly after the 1855-1856 remodeling that created the present Dining Room. The table (LIHO 25) and eight chairs (LIHO 59, 66, 77, 79, 92, 98, 1061, 1190) have strong Lincoln provenance but documentation suggests that they were replaced with newer furnishings in the mid-1850s, meaning that they were not likely present in the room during the period of interpretation of 1860-1861.



Table (LIHO 25). This table has strong Lincoln provenance, but it appears to have been discarded by the Lincolns sometime in the mid-to-late-1850s after the purchase of a newer table. According to a 1926 affidavit, the Lincolns purchased new furniture from Springfield furniture dealer Jack Hough for use in the house. At the time of these purchases, Mary Todd Lincoln sold or gave some of the old furniture being replaced to Hugh Gallagher, who was employed by Hough from 1855 to 1865. Gallagher's daughter, Annie Gallagher Kavanaugh, reported that the table came into her family "on the occasion of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln refurbishing her home. . . some years prior to 1861," (emphasis added) that this table had "been used for a number of years in the Lincoln home as her [Mary Todd Lincoln's] Dining Room table," and Mary Todd Lincoln "then bought new furniture for her Dining Room."<sup>450</sup> This account suggests that the table was likely replaced by the Lincolns around the time of the 1855-1856 remodeling, likely no later than 1857 or 1858 ("some years prior to 1861"). This may mean that it was never used in the existing Dining Room and suggests that it was not present in the house during the period of interpretation (1860-1861).

Chairs (8) (LIHO 59, 66, 77, 79, 92, 98, 1061, 1190). These chairs are a set of painted fancy chairs of a type (tablet-top, with turned legs) popular during the period 1820-1840. By the mid-1850s, these fancy chairs were not entirely unfashionable, but they were less fashionable than mahogany and rosewood American Empire (Late Classical), Rococo Revival, and transitional furniture that the Lincolns had used to furnish the Parlors and Sitting Room by 1860. A 1983 affidavit regarding LIHO 1190 states that, "In 1855 or 1856, Mrs. Lincoln refurbished the Lincoln home. At that time a number of dining chairs were taken from the home to the Lincoln-Herndon Law Office, where they remained until Mr. Lincoln went to Washington as President [1861]."<sup>451</sup> In 1861, William Herndon gave the chair to Caroline Kane and it descended in her family until her great-grandson, Dr. Kane Zell, donated it to NPS in 1983. Documentation for LIHO 1061 indicates that it was presented to the Oldroyd Collection by Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Coleman, who purchased it from the Lincolns in

1861. It appears in the ca.1884-1885 photograph of Oldroyd's museum in the Lincoln Home Parlors.<sup>452</sup> The documentation associated with these two chairs suggests that some of the old chairs were retained in the house—perhaps in bedrooms—after the purchase of new Dining Room furniture in ca.1855-1858, while others were taken to Lincoln's law office.

The Historic Furnishings Report identified placement of all eight chairs in the room, but only four appear to have ever been in place because of the existing visitor path and railings that would place them at risk of visitor contact and damage.<sup>453</sup>

Card/game/serving table (LIHO 29). This table has strong Lincoln provenance. Its location within the house is not documented; the Historic Furnishings Report notes that such tables were "often used in the hall or Sitting Room as a side table and occasionally for the same purpose in the Dining Room."<sup>454</sup>

Sideboard (LIHO 33). This sideboard has been displayed in the room since the 1940s but does not appear to have Lincoln provenance.<sup>455</sup> A 1934 affidavit states that Alexander Long (1802-1882) of Mason County, (now West) Virginia, purchased "from Abraham Lincoln, at Springfield, Illinois, one mahogany top sideboard for the sum of \$100.00" in 1858. According to Long's granddaughter, Fannie Sommerville, this sideboard had descended through the family to his great-grandson, Charles W. Brown (1891-1975), then a resident of the unincorporated town of Maggie, West Virginia, an unincorporated town in Mason County. Census records from 1850 to 1880 list Alexander Long as a farmer. In 1852, he was among the residents of Mason County petitioning for a branch bank in West Columbia, Mason County. No connection between Alexander Long and Springfield is currently documented.

450. Katherine B. Menz, *Historic Furnishings Report, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Illinois* (Harpers Ferry, WV: Harpers Ferry Center, 1983), 76.

451. Menz, 59

452. Menz, 58.

453. Menz, 341.

454. Menz, 75.

455. Menz, 199.



**Figure AD.50.** View of a room in a historic building (Dayton Aviation National Historical Park) with restored finishes but dedicated to displays and interpretation, that could also be used for group staging. Source: RATIO Architects.



**Figure AD.51.** View of a room in a historic house, (Shrewsbury-Windle House, Madison, Indiana) with finishes restored to period of interpretation but no furnishings to allow flexible use. Source: RATIO Architects.

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lincoln Home National Historic Site  
Springfield, Illinois

