

*Already listed*UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 5 1982

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME** *Ford's Theatre National Historic Site*

HISTORIC

Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House where Lincoln Died

AND/OR COMMON

*Ford's Theatre National Historic Site***2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

511 & 516 Tenth Street, N.W.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Washington, D.C.

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

*11**001***3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☒ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☒ MUSEUM
☒ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Capital Region/National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.*District of Columbia Courthouse*

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

*May 1, 1962**DC-82*☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS*Library of Congress*

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ford's Theatre is a three story brick structure covered by a gable slate roof. The west facade of the theatre has five arched doorways at street level, painted gray. A cast iron beltcourse runs along the top of this level. Six brick pilasters with cast iron caps and bases extend the height of the second and third levels, dividing the facade into five bays. Between the six pilasters are two rows of five casement windows, providing light and air for the lobbies of the dress and family circles. Their cast iron lintels have foliated console ends. The sills are also cast iron with small consoles as brackets. The heavy cornice applied across the facade has a brick architrave and frieze with modillions, fascia and moldings in wood. The peak of the gable roof acts as the pediment and is also decorated with modillions. The cornice and pediment remained unfinished until 1865, and in the historic Mathew Brady photograph the cornice and pediment lookouts jut out like sawteeth. Of the five arched doorways, four of them open into the lobby of the theatre and give access to the north ticket window, the orchestra and the dress circle. The fifth door known as the gallery door at the south end of the facade provides access to the gallery ticket window and stairwell leading into the family circle. The exterior walls are the only portions remaining of the nineteenth century theatre. The entire interior was reconstructed in the 1960's to recreate the theatre as it appeared on the night Lincoln was assassinated, April 14, 1865.

The rear of the building has a large barn type door in the center and a stage door entrance at the north end. Three wooden ventilators with slate hipped roofs rise above the main roof along the ridge line. A small four-story, L-shaped addition on the north side at the rear serves as dressing rooms. This area, not shown to the public, was renovated in the 1967 restoration for use by current productions. It has a copper shed roof.

In the same restoration the brick south addition (demolished 1930) was rebuilt to complete the external appearance of Ford's Theatre facade. Historically the building functioned as a lounge for the theatre and had connecting entrances on all floors, forming essentially one building. The first level was a bar (Star Saloon, 1863-65) and restaurant. Today the Star Saloon functions as the box office while the other two floors provide assembly space and restrooms. Until the late 1970's the third floor housed the Lincoln Museum which is now being stored in Union Station. The first level has three sets of glass double doors and one paneled door, all with transoms, separated by cast iron pilasters. A frieze of sheet iron and a wooden cornice runs across the facade above the pilasters. The upper two floors are unadorned, with jack arched windows, three to a floor. The "Star Saloon" has a slate ridged roof which slopes north and south. The interior of this building is not a restoration but was fitted to suit the needs of modern usage and tourist activity.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The interior of Ford's Theatre has been rebuilt to approximate its appearance on the night of April 14, 1865. Historic photographs, drawings, woodcuts, and contemporary accounts were used to arrive at a careful reconstruction of interior furnishings and decorations.

The building had been converted to offices in 1865, then collapsed in 1892, and the rear wall was rebuilt at the time. The south wall was stucco plastered in 1930, when the original "Star Saloon" building was demolished. Also on the west or front facade all but the two casement windows in the south bay had been replaced by larger sash windows. The ventilators had also been removed and a large skylight installed. In the 1960's restoration all these later features were removed and the building was returned to its original appearance. The one major exception was the facade cornice, which was unfinished in 1865 and completed later while the building was under government ownership. The cornice was left in its completed form.

The Petersen House

The Petersen house, directly across the street from Ford's Theatre, was built in 1849. The house is a three story, flat-roofed, brick row house built over a raised basement. There are three double hung sash windows across each of the upper two floors. The first floor has two windows and an end door with a wooden frontispiece of doric pilasters supporting a frieze with a dentiled molding and a small projecting cornice. The door is reached by steps which curve out from the side of the platform in front of the door, with an iron banister which follows the curve and continues as a railing around the front stoop. The stairs and stoop are of Seneca sandstone. Under the stoop, which is supported at the far corner by a short Seneca sandstone doric column, stairs lead down to the basement entrance. There are also two windows at the basement level. At a date prior to 1865, a wing was added to the rear, about one-half the width of the house, which included a basement and a first floor. The original section has a long hall down one side with two rooms opening off it, on the first floor and basement levels. The second and third floors have an additional small room in the front hall area. The rear addition had two small bedrooms, and another small room on the first floor and two rooms in the basement, one of which contains a modern bathroom. A small boxed stairway in the center of the rear ell gives access from the basement to the first floor. The front and rear parlors on the first floor, the first floor hallway, and Willie Clark's bedroom in the rear ell where Lincoln died, all have been restored to approximate their 1865 appearance. The remainder of the house is used for storage. A later rear addition of 1871-2 was removed in the restoration of 1959. At that time the building was cleaned by sandblasting. New steps, platform, column, and support under the column were duplicated and the iron railing repaired.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

The Lincoln bedroom suffered from water damage, and in 1979-80 the house was closed again for repairs and complete restoration. At that time the parlors were recreated in a carefully researched high Victorian style, and the Lincoln deathroom was reconstructed more accurately from original drawings and an original photograph.

The Lincoln Museum and Library

The basis of the Lincoln Museum and Library is the Osborn H. Oldroyd Lincoln collection, which Mr. Oldroyd set up in the Petersen house in 1892. The collection contained over 3000 items, and was augmented by those artifacts related to the assassination used as state's evidence in the trial of the conspirators. Oldroyd maintained his collection in the Petersen house after the purchase of the house by the Federal government in 1896. The government purchased the collection itself from Oldroyd in 1926 for the sum of \$50,000. The collection continued to be exhibited in the Petersen house until 1932 when the Lincoln Museum was opened to the public in the Ford's Theatre building. When the theatre was restored to its 1865 appearance in the mid 1960's, a small portion of the collection was utilized in the assassination alcove in the new basement museum, and the remainder of the collection was stored in Ford's Theatre with the Lincoln Library, situated on the third floor of the "Star Saloon" portion of the building. In the late 1970's the collection and Lincoln Library were moved to the NCR Curatorial Vault at Union Station then in operation by the National Park Service as the National Visitors Center. Only those artifacts and books within the collection original to or historically associated with the Ford's Theatre and Petersen house site are to be included in this nomination.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☐ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☒ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☒ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES April 14-15, 1865

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ford's Theatre is significant because it was the location of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln on the night of April 14, 1865, while the President and Mrs. Lincoln were attending a performance of the play, "Our American Cousin." Actor John Wilkes Booth, in this first assassination of an American president, removed Lincoln's effective leadership at a very crucial moment at the end of the American Civil War. Lincoln's successor attempted to carry out his predecessor's magnanimous policies toward the defeated south only to be overwhelmed by the Radical Republicans in Congress who demanded severe treatment for the former Confederate States. This policy of Military Reconstruction in turn augmented generations of bitterness between the two sections of the country. Lincoln's assassination in a theatre by an actor accentuated the disreputable image the American stage enjoyed in the late 19th century rural and small town areas.

The old Ford's Theatre building was first constructed as the First Baptist Church in 1833. In 1859 the structure was abandoned as a place of worship, and in 1861 John T. Ford, a theatre entrepreneur from Baltimore, leased the building for five years with an option to buy after that time. Despite a prediction by a member of the church board of a dire fate for anyone who turned the former house of worship into a theatre, Ford commenced theatrical performances. In 1862 Ford renovated the theatre and called it Ford's Atheneum. On December 30, 1862, the theatre burned to the ground leaving only blackened walls. In 1863 a more elaborate edifice was constructed to replace the burned out church building, and on August 27, 1863, Ford reopened Ford's New Theatre. A three story brick addition to the south was constructed in 1863, which became the Star Saloon and restaurant. Lincoln had attended Ford's Theatre eight times up to 1865. After the assassination the fate of the theatre remained dubious, and Ford attempted to stage another performance on July 10, 1865, after the hanging of the conspirators. However, that night theatre goers were confronted by a sign: "Closed by Order of the Secretary of War." Shortly thereafter the theatre was taken over by the government to be converted into a three story office building, and Ford was given a cash payment. In August 1865 the interior was stripped out, and the building was converted to the Army Medical Museum, which occupied the third floor. The Office of Records and Pensions, and the Adjutant General's Office used the second floor. When the Surgeon General vacated the building in 1887, the Adjutant General took over the entire structure. In 1893 a forty-foot section of the front of the building collapsed from the third floor killing 22 government employees and injuring 65 others. From 1893 to 1931 the building served as publications depot for the Adjutant General. In 1933, the Ford's Theatre building was turned over to the Department of the Interior and in 1932 the Lincoln Museum was opened on the third floor with the Oldroyd Collection being brought over from the Petersen House. Offices occupied the upper floors.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Olszewski, George J., Historic Structures Report, Restoration of Ford's Theatre,
USDI, NCR/NPS, 1963.
Olszewski, George J., House Where Lincoln Died, Furnishing Study, NPS, USDI,
1967
List of Classified Structures, Division of Historic Architecture, WASO, NPS

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one
UTM REFERENCES

A 18 324280 4307020 B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Ford's Theatre is located at 511 10th Street, N.W., in downtown Washington, D.C.,
Federal Reservation 699. The Petersen House is directly across the street
at 516 10th Street, N.W., Federal Reservation 698.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gary Scott, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Capital Region, National Park Service

DATE

December 4, 1981

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20242

TELEPHONE

426-6660

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ☐

NO ☐

NONE ☐

N/A - Site already listed
Register

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State
Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to
evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ☒ National ☐ State ☐ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Asst. Dir., Cultural Resources Mgmt.

DATE

12-23-81

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William H. Braverman

DATE

1.21.82

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

In 1930 the south addition (Star Saloon) was demolished and replaced by a parking lot.

Senator Milton R. Young of North Dakota introduced in 1946 the first piece of legislation bearing on the restoration of Ford's Theatre. An amount of \$200,000 was provided in 1954 for a preliminary engineering report on the building. In June 1964, Congress voted funds for the full restoration of Ford's Theatre and the building to the south known as "Star Saloon." The interior was restored to its 1865 appearance and plans were made to reopen Ford's as a living theatre with live productions. The Lincoln Museum was redesigned and placed in the basement of the theatre. A restored Ford's Theatre opened on January 21, 1968. Since that time it has been the scene of many successful productions for the Washington theatre-going public.

Petersen House

The Petersen house is significant in that it is the house where President Lincoln died. At the time of Lincoln's death the house at 453 10th Street, N.W. (now 516) was owned by William A. Petersen, a German tailor. Petersen purchased the site for the house on February 9, 1849. Soon afterward he constructed the plain three story and basement red brick townhouse. The rear ell of the house was added sometime before 1865, and was extended in 1871-72. In 1871 William Petersen died followed four months later by his wife. In 1878 the Petersen heirs sold the house to Louis Schade and family who printed a German-American newspaper on the premises. So many tourists came to the house asking to see the room where Lincoln died that the Schades became annoyed and moved out in 1893. Under the provisions of the Sundry Civil Appropriations Act, approved June 11, 1896, Congress provided \$30,000 for the purchase of the house. Mrs. Louis Schade agreed to sell, and maintenance of the house was placed under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of Public Buildings and Grounds. Also in 1896, Osborn H. Oldroyd was placed in charge of the premises. He moved into the Petersen House and placed his large collection of Lincolniana on display for public viewing. Oldroyd and his collection had actually been occupying the house after 1893, when the District of Columbia Memorial Association rented the house from Schade. As previously stated the government purchased the Oldroyd collection from Oldroyd in 1926. The collection continued to be exhibited at the Petersen house until 1932, when it was moved into the Lincoln Museum in Ford's Theatre. Both sites came under the auspices of the National Park Service in 1933. The Park Service has maintained the house as an historic house museum, re-creating the scene at the time of Lincoln's death.

for information

Due Ref 66000034 *liston*
dnr-3

Name Ford's Theatre National Historic Site
State, County DC - Washington Fed Nom or Request-Agency NPS
Working Number 1-5-82 Federal Register Date _____

☒ Nomination
☐ Determination of Eligibility
☐ On Nomination Form

☒ Bldg(s)
☐ Site
☐ Object
☐ Structure
☐ District

Within:
☐ Multiple Resource Area
☐ Thematic Group

Maps /
Photos 2

Nomination prepared by:

☒ State Staff
☐ Local
☐ Other

Action:

approved 1/21/82
☐ ACCEPT
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Check if Appropriate:

☐ State Request for Review
☐ Keeper's Decision to Review
☐ 2nd Return

I. Evaluation of Resource (cont. on back if necessary)

*Nomination for Ford's Theatre and
the Peterson House provides a detailed
history of the Lincoln assassination associated site.
- Properties are already listed*

II. Evaluation of Nomination

	Good	Adequate	Poor	Comments
1. Descriptive Statement Short Format ☐ Yes ☒ No	☒			
2. Significance Statement Short Format ☐ Yes ☒ No				
3. Concepts/Integrity				<i>Reconstruction</i>
4. Concepts/Criteria				<i>NA - established by congress WP</i>
5. Concepts/Boundaries				
6. Contextual Evaluation				

General Comments (cont. on back if necessary):

Reviewer/Date Braunman 1.21.82

See Attached _____



Fori's Theatre, MCP-Central

IPS 1980

JAN

5 1982



ERIA
GURT

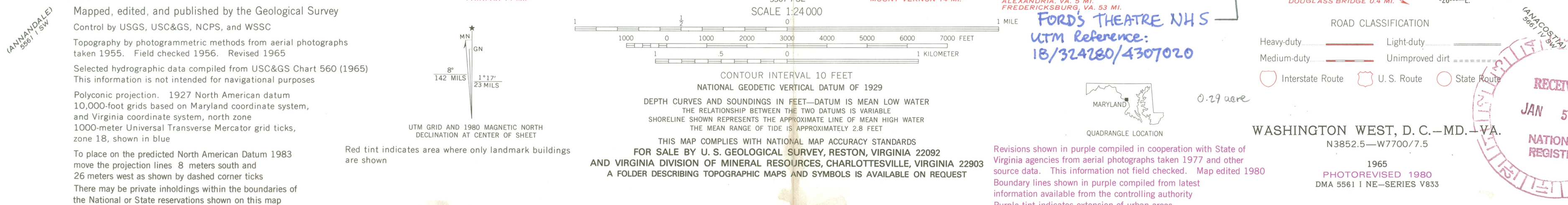
Petersen House, NCP-Central

NPS 1930

JAN

5 1989

WASHINGTON WEST QUADRANGLE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA-MARYLAND-VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)





United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
1100 OHIO DRIVE, S. W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

In Reply Refer To:
H32(NCR-PHR)

DEC 8 1981

Mr. Robert L. Moore
State Historic Preservation Officer
1133 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Moore:

Enclosed are copies of the form, map, and photographs that we are submitting to the National Register on Ford's Theatre National Historic Site.

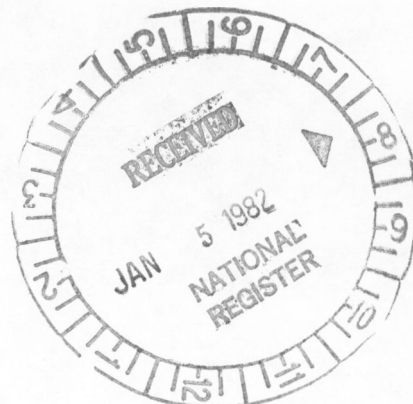
This submission constitutes documentation of a property already listed in the Register rather than a nomination and thus does not require your certification. The enclosures are provided for your information and files.

Sincerely,

Lowell V. Thurgill

Acting Regional Director, National Capital Region

Enclosures





United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
1100 OHIO DRIVE, S. W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

H34(NCR-PHR)

OKD
12/15
SLG
PB/2/1

DEC 8 1981

Memorandum

To: Assistant Director, Cultural Resources, National Park Service

From: ~~Acting~~ Regional Director, National Capital Region

Subject: National Register documentation, Ford's Theatre NHS

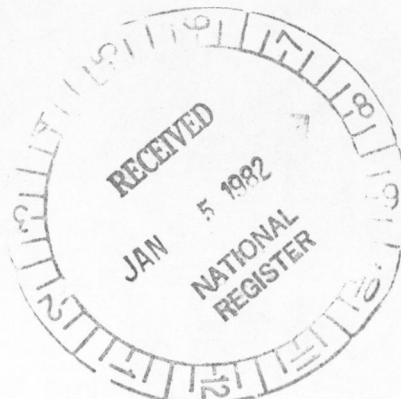
Enclosed are the form, map, and photographs documenting the listing of the subject property in the National Register of Historic Places.

Since this property is already listed in the Register, we have sent an informational copy of this documentation to the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Officer but have not requested his signed concurrence. The enclosed copy of our letter to him should be forwarded to the Register office with the documentation.

Please call Barry Mackintosh or Gary Scott of this office (426-6660) if you have any questions regarding this submission.

Lowell V. Thurgill

Enclosures





United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30(565)

DEC 23 1981

Memorandum

To: Acting Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places,
National Park Service

From: Federal Preservation Officer, National Park Service

Subject: Documentation Approval

Enclosed is the documentation for "Ford's Theatre National Historic Site,"
National Capital Region of the National Park Service, submitted in con-
firmation of its inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

F. R. Holland Jr.

Enclosure



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

TELEPHONE REPORT

DATE

3/5/82

TIME OF CALL

AM
PM

1. CALL ☐ TO: ☒ FROM (Name)

TANYA BEAUCHAMP

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

DE SAPO

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

FORD'S THEATER

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

PARK SERVICE IS ~~IS~~ INSTALLING A SPRINKLER SYSTEM IN FORD'S
THEATER. THEY SAY THAT IT IS NO ADVERSE EFFECT. TANYA QUESTIONS
THIS AND WANTS TO KNOW 1) HOW IS THE THEATER LISTED? IS IT CONSIDERED
TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT INTERIOR (ITS RECONSTRUCTED). ~~AND~~ ~~IT~~ ~~IS~~
SHE WOULD LIKE OUR THOUGHTS ON THIS. I SAID THAT I WOULD
GIVE YOU THE MESSAGE.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE



was his first Washington

Ford's Theatre and the House Where Lincoln Died

Washington DC

Ford's Theatre

On the evening of April 14, 1865, Tom Taylor's celebrated comedy "Our American Cousin" was playing to a full house at Ford's Theatre. In the audience, a young woman named Julia Shephard penned a hasty note to her father back home: "The President is in yonder upper right hand private box so handsomely decked with silken flags festooned over a picture of George Washington. The young and lovely daughter of Senator Harris is the only one of the party we can see, as the flags hide the rest. But we know 'Father Abraham' is there, like a father watching what interests his children How sociable it seems, like one family sitting around their parlor fire. . . . The American Cousin has just been making love to a young lady who says she will never marry but for love, yet when her mother and herself find he has lost his property they retreat in disgust at the left of the stage, while the American cousin goes out at the right. We are waiting for the next scene."

The next scene was one of shock, confusion, and terror: the sharp crack of a pistol, a woman's piercing screams, the dark figure of a man leaping onto the stage, and someone shouting "Stop that man! He has shot the President!" Within moments, pandemonium broke out, the audience stumbling around in bewilderment, no one wanting to believe what had just occurred. Doctors scrambled quickly into the President's box, examined his wound, pronounced it mortal, and helped to carry the unconscious leader across the street to the home of William Petersen. There, at 7:22 the following morning, Abraham Lincoln died.

Ford's Theatre, one of Washington's most popular playhouses, was closed after the assassination. Its owner, John T. Ford, planned to open it again 2 months later, but an indignant public forced him to abandon the idea. The Federal Government soon purchased the theatre and remodeled it for use as an office building. For years it was used as a center for processing the records of Union soldiers and to house the Army Medical Museum.

A second tragedy occurred here on June 9, 1893, when the third floor collapsed, killing or injuring many Government workers. From that time the structure was used for the storage of Government publications. In 1932, the famous Oldroyd Collection of Lincolniana, containing more than 3,000 items, was moved into the building and Ford's Theatre became the Lincoln Museum. On August 10, 1933, it was transferred to the National Park Service.

The Restoration of Ford's Theatre

Beginning in 1946, a number of bills were introduced in Congress to restore Ford's Theatre to its original appearance as of the night of April 14, 1865. No action was taken until 1960, however, when funds were appropriated for research and architectural study of the building. Final approval for full restoration did not come until July 7, 1964, when the 88th Congress voted \$2,073,600 for that purpose.

On February 13, 1968, after 3 years during which the interior of the building was painstakingly rebuilt section by section, Ford's Theatre was reopened to the public. Although some concessions were made to satisfy modern building and fire codes, the theatre is as accurate historically as it was possible to make it. The furnishings throughout are either original items or true reproductions based on contemporary photographs, sketches, or drawings, newspaper articles, official reports, and samples of wallpaper and curtain material from various museum collections.

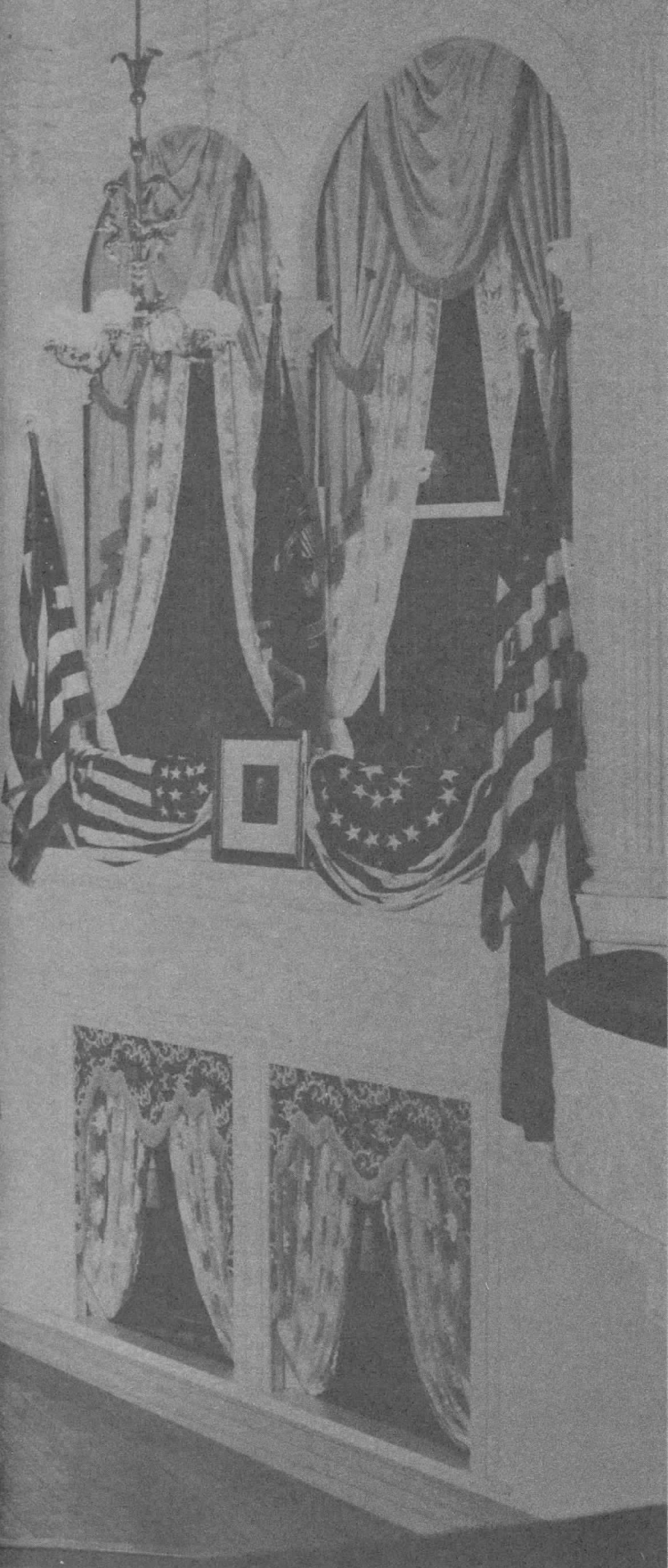
The Presidential box is decorated and furnished as it was the night of April 14, 1865. President Lincoln occupied a rocker; Mrs. Lincoln sat in a straight cane-bottom chair at the President's right; Maj. Henry Rathbone was on the sofa; and Clara Harris, Rathbone's fiancée, was seated in an upholstered chair slightly in front of him. Except for the original crimson damask sofa, the furniture in the box was duplicated especially for the restoration. The flags displayed across the front of the box are also reproductions, but the framed engraving of George Washington is the original used on the night of the assassination.

The stage setting is for the second scene of the third act of "Our American Cousin," the point the play had reached when the President was shot. John Wilkes Booth, the assassin, who knew practically every line in the play, planned his move for a time when only one actor was on-stage and the audience laughing. When Harry Hawk, in the role of Asa Trenchard, uttered the words "sockdologizing old mantrap," the laughter came, the bullet was fired, and Lincoln lapsed into unconsciousness. The stage setting helps to recreate that tragic moment in history.

Booth reached the Presidential box from the Dress Circle, or first balcony, which is connected with the theatre lobby by a winding staircase. Entering the narrow passageway behind the box, he barred the door so that no one else could enter, and waited for the moment to strike. When that time came, he entered the box, shot the President, grappled with Major Rathbone, leaped to the stage, and escaped out the back of the theatre. You can retrace Booth's movements through the Dress Circle and view the Presidential box.

The second balcony, or Family Circle, is closed to visitors. In 1865, this area consisted of unreserved bench seats costing 25 cents. When more tickets were sold than there were seats available, latecomers stood behind the "standing bars" to watch the performance.

As a part of the interpretive program of the National Park Service, live theatre was reintroduced in Ford's Theatre when it was reopened. In cooperation with the Ford's Theatre Society, performances are scheduled throughout the year. For box office information, call 347-6260; for group rates call 638-2941. Also scheduled in the theatre is a sound-and-light program which recreates the atmosphere



of Civil War-time Washington and recounts the tragic story of the assassination.

The Museum

As part of the restoration, the National Park Service has prepared a modern exhibit of contemporary design in the theatre basement. The Oldroyd Collection forms the nucleus of the museum's holdings.

In the center, three crescent-shaped areas deal with Lincoln as lawyer and politician, as President, and as family man, philosopher, and humanitarian.

The first contains objects associated with Lincoln's early years and his family life—a plow and an ox yoke similar to those he would have used in his youth; some of the books he owned; his surveyor's equipment; a model for a new wagon-making principle Lincoln worked out to make the steering easier; a cradle and a chair from his Springfield, Ill., home; the long wooden bench on which he often fell asleep; and candlesticks used by Mrs. Lincoln for both light and decoration are some of the items shown.

The second area depicts the beginnings of Lincoln's public career. Among the objects displayed here are the desk and chair from his Springfield home, a few of his lawbooks, a listing of the public offices he held, and samples of his campaign materials.

The third area deals with the Presidential years. Lincoln's shaving mug helps to tell the story of his growing a beard. Pieces of the Lincolns' White House china service are on display, as are a sword of the Civil War period, reproductions of letters President Lincoln wrote, and the shawl he often wore on walks between the Executive Mansion and the War Department. Lincoln might have worked at the table here, sat in the chair, and used the ink and sand pots—all of which were White House furnishings.

Taped messages at each of the crescent-shaped areas explain the exhibits in greater detail.

Specially designed glass cases contain still other items of interest. One case contains a continuously changing display of Lincoln memorabilia. In another are the clothes the President was wearing the night of the assassination: overcoat, frock coat, vest, trousers, black silk stock or cravat, and boots. Yet another case holds the 36-star U.S. flag that draped Lincoln's coffin, a drum that beat out the sad tattoo of the funeral march, tassels from the catafalque, and several photographs taken along the funeral route from Washington to Springfield.

Items relating directly to the assassination are displayed in a special alcove and include the long black boot worn by Booth showing the slit made by Dr. Samuel Mudd to treat the assassin's leg, broken in the leap from the President's box. Other objects are the two Colt revolvers and two



knives found on Booth at the time of his capture, and the assassin's confidential diary from which several pages mysteriously disappeared after his death. The Treasury Guards' flag ripped by Booth when he jumped to the stage is also here, as are the door to the Presidential box and the bar used to block entry to the passageway from the Dress Circle. The single-shot Deringer pistol, from which the fatal bullet was fired, is spotlighted inside a special security case.

Plaster casts of the hands and life mask of Lincoln, the originals of which were made in 1860 by Leonard Volk, are prominently displayed in the center of the museum.

At the east end is a speech lounge where you can hear passages from some of Lincoln's most famous speeches.

The House Where Lincoln Died

The house at 516 Tenth Street, to which the dying President was carried from Ford's Theatre, is a sturdy 3-story red-brick dwelling constructed by William Petersen in 1849 and typical of many houses built by families of moderate income in the mid-19th century.

Entrance to the first floor, which is the only part of the house open to visitors, is gained by a semicircular stairway with decorative wrought-iron railing. The first room to the left of the entrance hallway is the front parlor, where an anguished Mary Todd Lincoln spent most of the long night of April 14-15 with her son, Robert.

From the front parlor you pass through the double doorway into the back parlor. Here, at the marble-top center table, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton took notes and questioned witnesses as he launched the investigation into the shooting of the President.

The room where Lincoln died is at the rear of the house at the end of the hallway. It is furnished much as it was on the night of the assassination. A lithograph of Rosa Bonheur's "Horse Fair" hangs above the bed and an engraved copy of Herring's "Village Blacksmith" hangs on the wall above the marble-top commode. Both are replicas of pictures that were in the room while Lincoln lay dying. A high-back rocking chair is placed near the foot of the bed where Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles sat in a similar rocker throughout the night. The bed is of the same period and design as the one in the room when death came to Abraham Lincoln at 7:22 a.m., April 15, 1865.

Administration

Ford's Theatre National Historic Site, including the House Where Lincoln Died, is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Address all inquiries to the Superintendent, National Capital Parks-West, 1100 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, DC 20242.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

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