

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Speechwriting

Series/Staff Member: Jeff Shesol

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 21461

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Anderson Cottage 7/7/00 Anderson Cottage 7/7/00 [2]

Stack:

S

Row:

91

Section:

6

Shelf:

10

Position:

3

Save America's TreasuresFY 2000 Historic Preservation Fund Grants to Preserve
Nationally Significant Intellectual and Cultural Artifacts and Historic Structures and Sites**APPLICATION**

Applicants must submit one (1) signed original and seven (7) copies of a complete application plus one (1) additional photocopy of this page for each project. To receive an electronic version of this application, see Additional Information on page 7.

1. PROJECT INFORMATIONHistoric Property or Collection Name Anderson Cottage, U.S. Soldiers and Airmen's HomeHistoric Property Address or Location of Collection Rock Creek Church RoadCity Washington, D.C. County _____ Congressional District DC State _____ Zip 22903

Type of project (select only one)

Historic district _____ Site _____ Building x Structure _____ Object _____

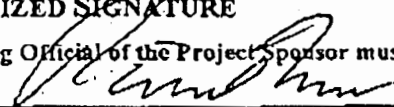
Artifact _____ Collection _____ Document _____ Monument _____ Work of art _____

Amount Requested (Federal share) \$ 1,000,000 TOTAL Project \$ 2,101,180**2. PROJECT SPONSOR AND PROJECT DIRECTOR**Project Sponsor is a FEDERAL AGENCYNONPROFIT ENTITY XAuthorizing Official Name Richard MoeTitle PresidentOrganization National Trust for Historic PreservationAddress 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NWCity Washington State DC Zip 20036Phone 202-588-6135 Fax 202-588-6082 e-mail Richard_Moe@nthp.org

PROJECT DIRECTOR (if different from Authorizing Official)

Name William Dupont Title Graham Gund ArchitectOrganization National Trust for Historic PreservationAddress 1785 Massachusetts Avenue NWCity Washington State DC Zip 20036Phone 202-588-6261 Fax 202-588-6232 e-mail William_Dupont@nthp.org**3. AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE**

The Authorizing Official of the Project Sponsor must sign and date this form. Signatures must be original and in ink.

Signature  Date _____Name Richard Moe Title PresidentAddress 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Date March 30, 2000City Washington State DC Zip 20036

4. OWNERSHIP AND PROOF OF NONPROFIT STATUS

Does the Project Sponsor own this property?

 Yes. X No.

If the Project Sponsor does not own this property, a letter explaining the relationship between the owner and the Project Sponsor and the authority under which the Project Sponsor will be the grantee of record to undertake preservation work on the property must be attached to this application. The letter must be on the owner's letterhead and must be signed by the owner's Authorizing Official.

If the Project Sponsor is not a Federal agency, proof of nonprofit status must be attached to this application. Guidance on acceptable proofs of nonprofit status is provided on page 2 of the Guidelines and Application Instructions.

5. DOCUMENTATION

A minimum of four (4), 5"x7" or larger black and white photographs must accompany the application. Two must be general views of the historic property or collection, and the other two must document the threat or damage. Photographs must be labeled. Photocopies and photographs submitted electronically will not be accepted.

6. PROJECT SUMMARY

In the space below, briefly summarize the proposed project. Discuss the national significance of the resource, its current condition, the nature of the threat, and the proposed preservation and/or conservation work. Do not attach continuation sheets.

The Anderson Cottage project involves the restoration of the 14-room Early Gothic Revival Structure in Washington, DC, that served as President Lincoln's summer residence from 1862-1864. The Cottage derives its exceptional significance from the fact that President Lincoln spent approximately one-quarter of his presidency in Anderson Cottage and wrote the initial draft of the Emancipation Proclamation there, before presenting it to his Cabinet in 1862. Today, Anderson Cottage stands in a state of obscurity and decline. This project is designed to restore the site and develop it into a premier learning center dedicated to enhancing understanding of Abraham Lincoln's presidency and his extraordinary intellectual legacy.

Anderson Cottage was built in 1842-43 as a country home for George W. Riggs, a prominent banker in Washington DC. In 1851, the Cottage and farm land surrounding it were purchased by the federal government to form the core of what is known today as the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home (USSAH), and the Cottage served as the first quarters for residents of the Home. In 1862, President Lincoln and his family were offered the use of Anderson Cottage as a retreat. The Lincolns lived there during the summer months from 1862-1864 to escape the heat of the city and the intense political pressures of being president during a period of great crisis in this country. Lincoln's need for the solitude the Cottage provided to read and think was so great that he continued to ride out there every evening, even at great risk to his personal safety. At least one assassination attempt has been documented as Lincoln rode home to the Cottage one night and arrived without his trademark stovepipe hat, which was found the next morning with a hole shot through it. A landmark Copper Beach tree Lincoln played in with his children still stands next to the Cottage. While there are other sites and monuments with ties to Lincoln in Washington DC and elsewhere, this is the only site in the country--other than the White House--with strong personal and intellectual ties to the Lincoln presidential years.

The USSAH, which still owns the Cottage, is committed to its restoration, but Congressionally mandated military downsizing has had a major impact on the USSAH budget and it is unable to undertake more than very basic maintenance on the building. The major mechanical systems are deteriorating, paint is peeling, and original woodwork continues to decay. Recognizing that without outside help this national treasure will continue to deteriorate, the USSAH signed a cooperative agreement with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to devise a program for the preservation and interpretation of Anderson Cottage. A number of partners have joined in the effort. Prominent Lincoln scholars and collectors have indicated a strong interest in assisting. Scholars from the Lincoln Forum and elsewhere have agreed to help conduct research needed to advance all aspects of the project. Congress has directed the National Park Service to conduct a Special Resource Study for the site, to examine alternatives for preserving and interpreting the aspects of American history related to Anderson Cottage. The National Trust intends to list Anderson Cottage as one of its 11 Most Endangered Sites this year to draw attention to this extremely important, but deteriorating, site.

The National Trust is applying for a Save America's Treasures grant to help fund the physical restoration of the Cottage, so it can serve as a setting for families, school children, scholars and international visitors to learn about one of our greatest presidents and this transformational period in American history. Resources are being raised simultaneously from other sources to advance the educational mission of the project. The overall objective is larger than the work described in this grant request, and is expected to cost \$4.8 million to implement. Subsequent project phases will include exhibit design and fabrication, artifact acquisition, historical research, development of educational materials, and enhancement of public amenities.

SHIP AND PROOF OF NONPROFIT STATUS

ject Sponsor own this property?

X No.

ject Sponsor does not own this property, a letter explaining the relationship between the owner and the Project Sponsor
riority under which the Project Sponsor will be the grantee of record to undertake preservation work on the property must
to this application. The letter must be on the owner's letterhead and must be signed by the owner's Authorizing Official.

ject Sponsor is not a Federal agency, proof of nonprofit status must be attached to this application. Guidance on
proofs of nonprofit status is provided on page 2 of the Guidelines and Application Instructions.

UMENTATION

n of four (4), 5"x7" or larger black and white photographs must accompany the application. Two must be general views of
: property or collection, and the other two must document the threat or damage. Photographs must be labeled. Photocopies
raphs submitted electronically will not be accepted.

JECT SUMMARY

ce below, briefly summarize the proposed project. Discuss the national significance of the resource, its current condition, the
he threat, and the proposed preservation and/or conservation work. Do not attach continuation sheets.

The Anderson Cottage project involves the restoration of the 14-room Early Gothic Revival Structure in Washington, DC,
d as President Lincoln's summer residence from 1862-1864. The Cottage derives its exceptional significance from the fact
dent Lincoln spent approximately one-quarter of his presidency in Anderson Cottage and wrote the initial draft of the
ation Proclamation there, before presenting it to his Cabinet in 1862. Today, Anderson Cottage stands in a state of obscurity
ne. This project is designed to restore the site and develop it into a premier learning center dedicated to enhancing
iding of Abraham Lincoln's presidency and his extraordinary intellectual legacy.

Anderson Cottage was built in 1842-43 as a country home for George W. Riggs, a prominent banker in Washington DC. In
: Cottage and farm land surrounding it were purchased by the federal government to form the core of what is known today as
Soldiers' and Airmen's Home (USSAH), and the Cottage served as the first quarters for residents of the Home. In 1862,
t Lincoln and his family were offered the use of Anderson Cottage as a retreat. The Lincolns lived there during the summer
from 1862-1864 to escape the heat of the city and the intense political pressures of being president during a period of great
this country. Lincoln's need for the solitude the Cottage provided to read and think was so great that he continued to ride out
ery evening, even at great risk to his personal safety. At least one assassination attempt has been documented as Lincoln rode
the Cottage one night and arrived without his trademark stovepipe hat, which was found the next morning with a hole shot
it. A landmark Copper Beach tree Lincoln played in with his children still stands next to the Cottage. While there are other
monuments with ties to Lincoln in Washington DC and elsewhere, this is the only site in the country--other than the White
with strong personal and intellectual ties to the Lincoln presidential years.

The USSAH, which still owns the Cottage, is committed to its restoration, but Congressionally mandated military
zing has had a major impact on the USSAH budget and it is unable to undertake more than very basic maintenance on the
g. The major mechanical systems are deteriorating, paint is peeling, and original woodwork continues to decay. Recognizing
hout outside help this national treasure will continue to deteriorate, the USSAH signed a cooperative agreement with the
al Trust for Historic Preservation to devise a program for the preservation and interpretation of Anderson Cottage. A number
ers have joined in the effort. Prominent Lincoln scholars and collectors have indicated a strong interest in assisting. Scholars
ie Lincoln Forum and elsewhere have agreed to help conduct research needed to advance all aspects of the project. Congress
ected the National Park Service to conduct a Special Resource Study for the site, to examine alternatives for preserving and
eting the aspects of American history related to Anderson Cottage. The National Trust intends to list Anderson Cottage as one
1 Most Endangered Sites this year to draw attention to this extremely important, but deteriorating, site.

The National Trust is applying for a Save America's Treasures grant to help fund the physical restoration of the Cottage, so it
rve as a setting for families, school children, scholars and international visitors to learn about one of our greatest presidents and
nsformational period in American history. Resources are being raised simultaneously from other sources to advance the
tional mission of the project. The overall objective is larger than the work described in this grant request, and is expected to cost
nillion to implement. Subsequent project phases will include exhibit design and fabrication, artifact acquisition, historical
ch, development of educational materials, and enhancement of public amenities.

important

belong

7. NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Eligible historic properties and collections must be nationally significant. Complete either section A or section B, as appropriate.

A. FOR HISTORIC PROPERTIES:

The district, site, building, structure, or object:

- ☒ is designated a National Historic Landmark.
- ☒ is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its national significance.
- ☐ has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its national significance by the Keeper of the National Register.

☐ The State Historic Preservation Office has determined this district, site building, structure or object eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its national significance. Documentation of this determination (such as letter from the State Historic Preservation Office) must be attached to this application.

B. FOR COLLECTIONS: In the space below, provide a brief justification of national significance. Guidance on national significance is provided in the Guidelines and Application Instructions.

8. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. WHAT IS THE THREAT TO THE HISTORIC PROPERTY OR COLLECTION? In the space below, briefly describe the source and effect(s) of the threat, danger or damage to the historic property or collection.

Since 1990, funding from the active duty pay and deductions that support USSAH have dropped by 39%. This has created a budget crisis requiring USSAH to discontinue most use and all but the most basic maintenance work on Anderson Cottage.

The USSAH uses a portion of the first floor of Anderson Cottage for offices, but the remainder is vacant. Water is seeping through the basement walls and damaging them. Electrical and plumbing systems are antiquated and deteriorating. There is lead paint throughout the basement and third floor of the Cottage, which is peeling badly and needs to be removed. The pipes for the hot water radiator heating system are over 100 years old, and many of the radiators are leaking and damaging floors and interior woodwork that date from Lincoln's time. A number of the windows leak, causing rotting of lower sash rails and window sills.

The USSAH does all it can to maintain the exterior of the building, but severe budget shortfalls mean the structure will receive minimal maintenance from this point forward. Without the infusion of outside money and effort, this extraordinary presidential just minutes from downtown Washington, will continue to deteriorate and will never be restored and interpreted for public benefit.

B. WHAT WORK WILL BE SUPPORTED BY THIS GRANT? In the space below, briefly describe the key project work element to be supported by this grant and the required non-Federal matching share. Describe how the work will significantly diminish or eliminate the threat, danger or damage described above. On a separate sheet, provide a timeline for project completion, including major activity with a schedule for its completion and its cost.

In 1985, the USSAH hired the firm of Geier Brown Renfroe Architects to conduct a comprehensive Historic Structure Report and Restoration Plan for the site. In February 2000, The National Trust convened a forum of nationally prominent individuals to read and revise the 1985 Study. Out of that forum came the plan to restore the Cottage to the Lincoln era and develop it into a premier Lincoln learning center. The Save America's Treasures Grant will be used to help fund the restoration of the Cottage to the way it looked in Lincoln's Day. Restoration activities will include 1.) restoring the roof, gutters and exterior of the Cottage to its early 1860's appearance 2.) reconstructing or repairing missing or altered windows, shutters, trim and verandah elements; 3.) removing an exterior elevator and wing added after the Lincoln period, and replacing rotted windowsill, latticework and other wood detailing inside and out; 4.) restoring interior finishes in the first and second floor rooms; 5.) providing handicapped accessibility; 6.) adding a fire suppression system and new interior fire rated stair; 7.) providing new HVAC and electrical systems; 8.) renovating the bathrooms; and 9.) restoring the walkways leading to the Cottage, plus road and parking improvements and signage. This work is designed to address all of the problems and deterioration described above. The restoration effort will be guided at every step by authenticity: restoring the spaces and architectural details still in place from Lincoln's time, to create a setting for interpretation and educational programming that expands understanding of the Lincoln presidency.

The project will be done in phases, as set forth in the attached timeline, but all the work will be done in a way that allows full restoration to occur as funds become available.

C. WHAT IS THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF THIS PROJECT? In the space below, briefly describe the educational, interpretive and/or training value of this project to the American people.

The primary mission of restoration and programming at Anderson Cottage will be education. The site will be open to the public, and in particular school children, largely through organized tours, and it will allow visitors to learn about Lincoln and his ideas in a place where he lived during arguably the most critical period in our nation's history. Educational programming will focus on Lincoln as President during his time at the Cottage; Lincoln family life; the evolution of Lincoln's thinking during the Civil War; the role of the Emancipation Proclamation in American history; the significance of Lincoln's presidency for African American history; and daily life in Washington, DC during the Civil War. Period rooms, educational exhibits, tours of nearby buildings and grounds, new interpretive technologies, and computer work stations will all be used to allow visitors to learn about Lincoln in places where Lincoln himself slept, walked, and wrote. Connections will be developed between Lincoln and Civil War sites in Washington and around the country and with universities with major Lincoln studies programs. A restored Anderson Cottage, located just fifteen minutes from the Mall in downtown Washington, DC will be attractive to a wide range of audiences including families, school children and teachers, Civil War enthusiasts, scholars of Lincoln, the Civil War and American history, and international visitors. Programming will be developed for people who visit the site in person and those who travel to it over the internet. It is envisioned this will become one of the premier Lincoln learning centers in the country, generating research, scholarship and programming related to Lincoln's Presidency of the sort generated about Thomas Jefferson at The Monticello International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello in Charlottesville, VA.

9. PROJECT BUDGET AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

A. PROJECT BUDGET

Using this budget format, outline the project budget on a separate sheet. Each cost item must clearly show how the total charge for that item was determined. All major costs should be listed in budget categories similar to those listed below, and all cost items should be explained in the narrative of the application. All non-Federal matching share must be contributed during the grant period, which begins when the grant agreement is signed by both the grantee and the National Park Service.

1. Personnel. Provide the names and titles of key project personnel. Please note that grant funds may not be used to pay Federal employee salaries, nor may Federal salaries be used as match/cost share.

Name/Title of Position	Wage or Salary	Federal Grant Funds	Match /Cost Share (if any)	Total
Project Manager, to be hired (75%)	\$105,000	\$30,000	\$75,000	\$105,000
Graham Gund Architect (7%)	\$12,320	\$0	\$12,320	\$12,320
Director of Interpretation/Education (4%)	\$4,800	\$0	\$4,800	\$4,800
Administrative Assistant (10%)	\$6,200	\$0	\$6,200	\$6,200
Subtotal		\$30,000.00	\$98,320.00	\$128,320.00

2. Fringe Benefits. If more than one rate is used, list each rate and the wage or salary base.

Rate	Salary or Wage Base	Federal Grant Funds	Match / Cost Share (if any)	Total
20% of	\$128,320.00	\$6,000	\$19,664	\$25,664.00
Subtotal		\$6,000	\$19,664	\$25,664.00

3. Consultant Fees. This should include payments for professional and technical consultants participating in the project.

Name and Type of Consultant	# of Days	Daily Rate of Compensation	Federal Grant Funds	Match/Cost Share (if any)	Total
Architect & Engineers		Lump sum fee	\$94,500	\$94,500	\$189,000
Museum: Climate Management Specialist/Engineer		Lump sum fee	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
Decorative Finish Specialist/Microscopist		Lump sum fee	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$24,000
Security System Specialist		Lump sum fee	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$12,000
Reimbursable expenses		Not applicable	\$ 12,350	\$ 12,350	\$24,700
Subtotal			\$132,350.00	\$132,350.00	\$264,700.00

4. Travel and Per Diem. Indicate the number of persons traveling, the total days they will be in travel status, and the total subsistence and transportation costs.

From/To	# of People	# of Travel Days	Subsistence Costs (Lodging and Per Diem)	Transportation Costs (Airfare and Mileage)	Federal Grant Funds	Match/Cost Share (if any)	Total
					\$	\$	\$
Subtotal					\$	\$	\$

5. Office Supplies and Materials. Include consumable supplies and materials to be used in the project and any items of expendable equipment, i.e., equipment costing less than \$500 or with an estimated useful life of less than two years. Equipment costing more than that should be listed in the Equipment category (Category 6, below).

Item	Cost	Federal Grant Funds	Match/Cost Share (if any)	Total
Office supplies and film		0	\$6,000	\$6,000
Subtotal		\$0	\$6,000	\$6,000.00

6. Equipment. List all equipment items in excess of \$500. Items worth less than \$500 or that have a useful life of less than two years must be listed in the Supplies and Materials category (Category 5, above).

Item	Cost	Federal Grant Funds	Match/Cost Share (if any)	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Subtotal		\$	\$	\$

7. Construction/Conservation Materials.

Item	Cost	Federal Grant Funds	Match/Cost Share (if any)	Total
Site work: walks, drives, parking, signage	\$ 93,000	\$ 46,500	\$ 46,500	\$ 93,000
Exterior restoration	\$ 375,000	\$ 187,500	\$ 187,500	\$ 375,000
Interior repairs and improvements	\$ 156,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 156,000
Interior paint & decorative finishes	\$ 281,000	\$ 140,500	\$ 140,500	\$ 281,000
Life Safety: fire stair & sprinklers	\$ 138,000	\$ 69,000	\$ 69,000	\$ 138,000
Elevator	\$ 125,000	\$ 62,500	\$ 62,500	\$ 125,000
Replace HVAC & Electric	\$ 456,000	\$ 228,000	\$ 228,000	\$ 456,000
Subtotal		\$812,000.00	\$812,000.00	\$1,624,000.00

8. Other				
Item	Cost	Federal Grant Funds	Match / Cost Share (if any)	Total
Indirect costs not exceeding 25% of base cost	Base = \$209,984	\$ 19,650	\$ 32,846	\$ 52,496
Subtotal		\$ 19,650	\$ 32,846	\$52,496.00

BUDGET SUMMARY			
Enter category totals here			
Category	Federal Grant Funds	Match/Cost Share	Total
1. Personnel	\$ 30,000	\$ 98,320.00	\$ 128,320.00
2. Fringe Benefits	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 19,664.00	\$ 25,664.00
3. Consultant Fees	\$ 132,350.00	\$ 132,350.00	\$ 264,700.00
4. Travel and Per Diem	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
5. Supplies and Materials	\$ 0	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
6. Equipment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
7. Construction/Conservation Materials	\$ 812,000.00	\$ 812,000.00	\$ 1,624,000.00
8. Other	\$ 19,650.00	\$ 32,846.00	\$ 52,496.00
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS.	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,101,180.00	\$2,101,180.00

B. WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF THE NON-FEDERAL MATCHING SHARE?

List the sources and amounts of the required dollar-for-dollar non-Federal matching share. Is the matching share secured and available? If not, explain.

Of the \$1.1 million in matching funds budgeted for this phase of the project, the National Trust already has secured \$350,000 from the Mark Taper Foundation (\$150,000 grant) and the Gilder Lehrman Foundation (\$200,000 pledge). In addition, the National Trust has pledged \$156,830 of its own funds for personnel, fringe benefits, office supplies and indirect costs. The balance of \$594,350 will come from individuals, foundations and corporations that have been identified by project advisors and supporters. The National Trust's resources development and historic sites staff will work with the president's office and Save America's Treasures to submit requests for additional private funding. Work is underway to secure the funds, and it is anticipated that all money for the restoration project will be raised by April 2001.

C. NON-FEDERAL APPLICANTS ONLY

Organization's non-Federal operating budget for the most recently completed fiscal year:

Year FY1999 Non-Federal budget \$38,275,826

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions and requests for an electronic version of the instructions and application may be addressed to:

Institute of Museum and Library Services
Telephone 202.606.8547
E-mail mekennelly@imls.gov
Website <http://imls.gov>

National Endowment for the Arts
Telephone 202.682.5489
E-mail mclaughm@arts.endow.gov

National Endowment for the Humanities
Telephone 202.606.8570
E-mail preservation@neh.gov

National Park Service
Telephone 202.343.9570
E-mail treasures@nps.gov
Website <http://grants.cr.nps.gov/Millennium>

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applications must be submitted in hard copy. Faxed applications and applications submitted electronically will not be accepted. Applications not postmarked by the deadline and incomplete applications will not be considered.

A complete application package is:

- One (1) original application and supporting documents, including:
 - Original Authorizing Official signature; for Federal Agencies, this is the agency head (see #3).
 - Proof of nonprofit status, if applicable (see #4).
 - Minimum of four (4) 5"x7" or larger black and white photographs (see #5).
 - Documentation of determination of eligibility for listing in the National Register, if applicable (see #7).
 - Timeline for project completion (see #8B).
 - Detailed budget (see #9).
- Seven (7) copies of the complete application package, including original photographs, not photocopies.
- One (1) additional photocopy of page one of the application.

Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2000.

SEND APPLICATIONS TO

For regular U.S. Postal Service Mail
including U.S. Priority 2-3 day mail

National Park Service
Heritage Preservation Services
1849 C Street, NW - NC330
Washington, D.C. 20240
Attention: Save America's Treasures

For overnight mail or courier service ONLY
Federal Express, DHL, UPS, etc.

Save America's Treasures
National Park Service
Heritage Preservation Services
Suite 330
800 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20002 (202) 343-9570



Forum on the Future of Anderson Cottage

Briefing Notebook

Prepared by

Elizabeth B. Waters, Charlottesville, VA

Ann Fligsten, Arnold, MD

Baird Smith, Quinn Evans Architects, Washington, D.C.

Contents

- **Executive Briefing Memo**
- **Section #1: History of the Site**
- **Section #2: Status and Condition of the Site**
- **Section #3: Restoration Cost Estimate**
- **Section #4: Interpretive/Use Possibilities and Estimated Operating Costs**
- **Section #5: Management and Partnership Opportunities**
- **Appendix**

Acknowledgement

The "Forum on the Future of Anderson Cottage" is made possible by a generous grant from the Mark Taper Foundation.

~~Forum on the Future of Anderson Cottage~~

~~February 24, 2000~~

U.S. Soldiers and Airmen's Home
Washington, D.C.

Executive Briefing Memo

The following is a summary of information related to the history and future of Anderson Cottage. More information on all of these topics is available in the enclosed briefing book.

1. History of the Site

Early History. The 14-room Early Gothic Revival structure now known as Anderson Cottage was built in 1842-43 as a country home for George W. Riggs, a prominent banker in Washington D.C., who went on to found Riggs National Bank. In 1851, the cottage and farm land surrounding it were purchased by the government to form the core of what is known today as the U. S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home (USSAH). The former Rigg's dwelling served as the first quarters for the residents of the Home. The Cottage was named for Major Robert Anderson, who commanded the Union's Fort Sumter where the Civil War's first volleys were fired.

Lincoln Period. Anderson Cottage derives its extraordinary significance from the fact that President Lincoln spent approximately one-quarter of his presidency in Anderson Cottage and wrote the final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation there, before riding to the Capital to present it to his Cabinet in 1862. Lincoln and his family used the Cottage, which they referred to simply as "the Soldiers' Home", during the summer months from 1862-64 as a respite from the heat of the city and the intense political pressures of being president during a period of great crisis in this country. Lincoln's need for the solitude the cottage provided to read and think was so great that he continued to ride out to the Home every evening, even at great risk to his personal safety.

Additional Significance. In addition to Lincoln's use of Anderson Cottage, it served as the Summer White House for Presidents Rutherford B. Hayes, Chester Arthur and Ulysees S. Grant. The Sherman Dormitory Tower adjacent to Anderson Cottage, built in 1852, was used throughout the Civil War as a signal platform to observe the maneuvers of confederate forces, and the information was sent to Army headquarters in downtown Washington. The historic landscape that evolved at the Soldiers' Home, designed and influenced by landscape architects Andrew Jackson Downing and Fredrick Law Olmsted, functioned as a large open-air park in the late 1800s and early 1900s, until traffic and security concerns caused it to be closed to the general public.

Historic Designations. In 1974, the Secretary of the Interior designated Anderson Cottage, three adjacent Civil War Structures--Sherman Building South, and Quarters 1 and 2, and six acres of land, a National Historic Landmark. This designation

*Why is monument
status req'd?*

automatically placed the Cottage on the National Register of Historic Places, meaning that any federal funds used to restore the building are subject to review under Section 106 of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act. The Cottage is also a Category II Landmark under the District of Columbia's Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act, and any changes would be subject to review by the District of Columbia's Historic Preservation Board and the National Capital Planning Commission.

2. Status and Condition of the Cottage Today

Current Ownership and Use. Anderson Cottage is owned by the USSAH, one of two homes that comprise the Armed Forces Retirement Home, an independent Federal Agency. The first floor is occupied by the Public Affairs Officer and staff of the USSAH. They conduct ad-hoc historical tours of the building and grounds for historical organizations, colleges and schools, and interested individuals. The basement, second and third floors are vacant.

Condition of the Site. In 1985, the USSAH commissioned a Historic Structures Report of the Cottage by Geier, Brown, Renfrow Architects, a firm specializing in historic preservation. It confirmed that the exterior of the building is in excellent condition, and remains virtually unchanged from Lincoln's day, except for a few minor features. The interior of the building appears to be structurally sound and retains the original fireplace mantles, stair banisters, and some of the windows and interior shutters. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd floor interior floor plans are basically intact from Lincoln's day. The basement appears to be significantly altered from its earlier use as a kitchen. Years of limited budgets at USSAH have left the interior of the Cottage with peeling paint and antiquated plumbing, heating and electrical systems.

Prospects for the Future. The USSAH is committed to the restoration of Anderson Cottage because of its unique place in our nation's history and the history of the Home, but Congressionally-mandated military downsizing has had a major impact on the USSAH budget. Since 1990, funding from the active duty pay and deductions that support the Home have dropped 39 percent, leaving the USSAH with serious budget deficits. While the USSAH is prepared to continue to provide day-to-day maintenance of the Cottage, it cannot provide any funding for capital improvements or staffing to restore, interpret and manage the Cottage as an historic site. Recognizing these limitations, in October 1999, the USSAH signed a cooperative agreement with the National Trust to devise a program for the preservation and interpretation of Anderson Cottage. This Forum represents a major first step in the implementation of that agreement.

3. Architectural Restoration Cost Estimates

1985 Cost Estimate. The February 1985 Anderson Cottage Historic Structures Report done by Geier, Brown, Renfrow Architects, included analysis of construction techniques, mechanical systems, and architectural detailing, paint and mortar. It provided a comprehensive cost estimate for architectural restoration of the building to the Lincoln period and first class museum space.

Current Estimate. The 1985 architectural restoration cost estimates have been revisited and updated by Baird Smith of Quinn/Evans Architects, one of the members of the original Geier, Brown, Renfrow team. The revised estimates indicate a range of restoration costs from \$850,000 to complete a simple adaptive use rehabilitation of Anderson Cottage for office use, to \$ 1,755,000 to complete a museum quality architectural restoration of the entire Cottage to the Lincoln period.

Funding Possibilities. The National Trust intends to submit an application in the next round of the federal Save America's Treasures grant program, administered by the National Park Service, for a portion of the funds needed to restore the Cottage. Private funding would have to be secured to match the federal funding.

4. Interpretive/Use Possibilities and Estimated Operating Costs

Interpretive/Use Possibilities. The major objective of restoring Anderson Cottage is to establish the site as one of the nation's premier historic sites, with links to other Civil War and Lincoln attractions within the D.C. region. This is expected to include establishing educational opportunities for school children and adults that will tell the stories of the Civil War in Washington, Lincoln, and his period of occupancy, including information on the writing of the Emancipation Proclamation. This may involve creating one or more furnished period rooms to show the Lincoln occupancy. It may involve professionally developed exhibits to help tell the most compelling stories, use of audio-guides, virtual reality, or other emerging interpretive technologies. In addition to educational displays and programming, other uses being considered include using some of the Cottage as a study center for Lincoln scholars and others, and rental of portions of the space to compatible non-profit organizations to generate revenue and help oversee the site.

Constraints. Given the central location of the Cottage on the USSAH campus, numbers of visitors, hours of visitation, parking and other considerations must be carefully designed in ways that will be compatible with the ongoing operation of USSAH, and ensure the safety of the residents.

Operating Costs. The USSAH has agreed to provide day-to-day maintenance of the building, i.e. changing light bulbs, fixing water and plumbing problems, etc. It has also agreed to pay for utilities, maintain the grounds, and provide security for the site. They are not able to provide funds for capital improvements or to staff and operate the Cottage. Operating costs will vary significantly, depending on the use of the site. The most costly option would be to operate the entire Cottage as a museum/interpretive site, with the associated costs of furnishing period rooms and developing exhibits. The estimated costs for this include approximately \$1,150,000 in initial museum development costs for project management, exhibit design and fabrication, and programming development, with an estimated \$470,000 in annual staffing and other operating costs thereafter. These costs could be reduced, if less of the Cottage were open to the public, and/or portions of the Cottage were rented or shared with other compatible organizations or institutions.

5. Management and Partnership Opportunities

Because of its central location and the fact that the Cottage is intimately tied to the history of the Home itself, the USSAH wishes to retain permanent ownership of Anderson Cottage. However, given its interest in the restoration of the Cottage and its lack of resources to accomplish this on its own, USSAH is interested in entering into partnerships with other agencies or non-profit organizations to restore, interpret and manage the property. The following is a brief overview of some of the management and partnership options identified to date. A fuller discussion of these alternatives can be found in that section of the briefing book.

Management Alternatives. A number of management alternatives have been identified, including setting up a new independent non-profit organization, either independently or in collaboration with the National Trust. Discussions may identify other management options or variations on this alternative. All of the options identified so far would involve setting up new management or advisory boards to govern the site. All would involve entering into a cooperative agreement with the USSAH that set out the terms and responsibilities of the various parties.

Potential Relationships with the National Park Service. It is not anticipated that Anderson Cottage would become a full-fledged NPS site. However, there appear to be a number of advantages to it becoming an NPS "Affiliated Area." This term refers to areas the Park Service is associated with, but does not own or manage. Affiliated Areas are eligible to receive technical assistance, NPS funding, and other benefits, depending on the nature of the cooperative agreement that is signed between the management entity and the NPS. The NPS has received Congressional funding to carry out a Special Resource Study on Anderson Cottage to explore the most appropriate means to preserve and interpret this aspect of American history, including possible relationships with the Park Service. The Park Service is finalizing a cooperative agreement with the National Trust to carry out this study.

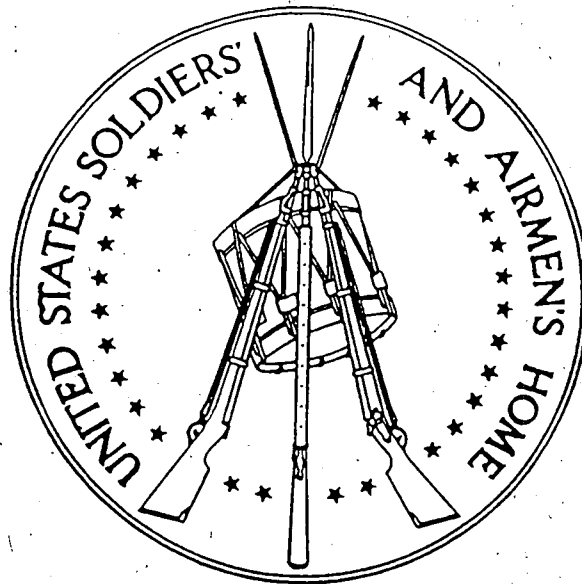
Other Potential Partnerships. The National Trust has begun to explore a wide range of additional partnerships that would be crucial to successful restoration, interpretation and use of Anderson Cottage. This includes working with the Lincoln Forum, a national consortium of Lincoln scholars willing to help with research on the site. It also includes working with Howard University and other institutions of higher education in the region with a particular interest in the site. It involves working with representatives of the D.C. government to explore the potential economic and heritage tourism benefits of the site, and conversations with the DC Heritage Tourism Coalition. This summer, the Tourism Coalition is launching a Civil War Trail in downtown D.C. that will highlight other Civil War sites in the vicinity, like Anderson Cottage. Finally, the Trust has been looking at the possibility of using USSAH residents as tour guides, and any other partnerships that might facilitate the operation of Anderson Cottage as a premier historic site.

Appendix

Anderson Cottage has been the focus of numerous studies over the past 15 years. A list of available studies is provided in the back of the briefing book, along with a selection of news clippings related to the site.

Section #1: History of the Site

- 1985 Historic Structure Report (excerpts)
- Site Map
- National Historic Landmark application



Anderson Cottage

Historic Structure Report

February 20, 1985

Geier Brown Renfrow Architects

1200 15th Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20005

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

**Anderson Cottage
United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home
Washington, DC**

**Final Submission (100%)
February 20, 1985**

**Geier Brown Renfrow Architects
1200 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 833-1426**

Table of Contents

Introduction

Part I	HISTORICAL ANALYSIS	1
A.	<u>Introduction</u>	4
B.	<u>Land History Prior to 1842</u>	6
1.	Ownership by John Agg, 1831-1842	
2.	Purchase of Property by George Riggs	
C.	<u>Construction of the Cottage</u>	12
D.	<u>Founding of the Military Asylum, 1851</u>	20
1.	Anderson Cottage in the 1850's	
2.	Earliest Views of Anderson Cottage	
E.	<u>Civil War Years and the Lincoln Occupancy</u>	28
1.	Physical Appearance of the Cottage during Lincoln Years	
F.	<u>Anderson Cottage After Lincoln</u>	42
1.	Late 19th Century	
2.	Use in the 20th Century	
G.	<u>Designation as a National Historic Landmark</u>	68
Part II	ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION	
A.	<u>Design Precedent and Style</u>	71
1.	Early Gothic Revival	
2.	Downings Rural Cottage Design	
B.	<u>Exterior Features</u>	76
1.	South Facade	
2.	East Facade	
3.	North Facade	
4.	West Facade	
5.	Roof and Chimneys	

C. <u>Interior Features</u>	92
1. Original Construction 1842-43	
2. Eastern Addition, 1842-43	
3. Western Addition, 1857 ca.	
D. <u>Existing Conditions - Needed Repairs</u>	117
1. Exterior	
2. Interior	

Part III RESTORATION PLAN

A. <u>New Use</u>	124
B. <u>Exterior Restoration</u>	125
C. <u>Interior Restoration</u>	128
1. First Floor	
2. Second Floor	
3. Third Floor	
4. Basement	
D. <u>Miscellaneous Systems</u>	135

Bibliography	136
--------------	-----

Appendices

A. Construction Specifications for the Cottage (dated July 23, 1842)	
1. Typewritten Version	
2. Handwritten original manuscript	
B. Important Original Documents	
1. Deed of Transfer (1851)	
2. Letter by I. Crane (1851)	
3. Minutes of the Board (1852)	
C. National Register Nomination Form (1974)	
D. Record of Mortar Analysis (1984)	
E. Report of Paint Color Research (1985)	

INTRODUCTION

Anderson Cottage, located at the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home is an authentic architectural and historical document. As a record of the evolution of Washington City, the Presidency of the United States, military history, architectural style and it survives virtually intact and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, along with Scott Hall and Quarters 1 and 2, as a National Historic Landmark (listed in 1974). It is an important historic resource that requires objective evaluation.

Realizing the significance of Anderson Cottage, the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home engaged the professional services of Geier Brown Renfrow Architects, an architectural firm specializing in historic preservation, to assemble documentary materials relating to the history and evolution of the building and to conduct a comprehensive survey of the existing building. Information has been gathered to formulate immediate strategies for repair, and long range goals for the preservation/restoration of the Cottage and its site. The results of this investigative research and documentation are contained in this Historic Structure Report. Concurrently, a Preservation Master Plan for the study of the other existing buildings (approximately 70) at the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home is also underway by Geier Brown Renfrow. This

plan complements the preservation strategies for Anderson Cottage.

The Historic Structure Report for Anderson Cottage:

1. In Part I, documents and analyzes the building's original construction and successive alterations through historical, physical and pictorial data.
2. Evaluates and documents the existing condition of the building's architectural materials and the structural condition in Part II, and
3. Proposes appropriate treatments for restoration and preservation, in Part III.

This Historic Structure Report will serve as the planning document and the basis for the development of construction drawings and specifications for the restoration.

The task of preservation of a historic building requires that a preservation architect follow a disciplined approach using investigative procedures, consultant specialists, scientific technology and a myriad of resources and documents to fit the pieces of the puzzle together.

Before determining the preservation scheme, the research team assembled the documentary materials relating to the site and the building. Plans and specifications, photographs, and a variety of historical documents were studied in depth. Paint and mortar analyses and on-site physical probing and recording provided a better understanding of the changes and modifications that the dwelling had undergone since its original construction. The historical data combined with the scientific findings of the paint and mortar analysis, along with the physical evidences of mouldings, door frames and construction techniques, provided tools to resolve questions and confirm suspicions. To further document

the building in its existing condition it was measured and recorded in a series of drawings and photographs, prepared to the standards of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS).

Mindful of the unique qualities of Anderson Cottage, the research team has been guided by a respect for the survival of the 19th and 20th century features and craftsmanship that distinguish this dwelling. The results of the investigations of the Cottage only serve to reinforce the importance of the dwelling as a continuum of the history of the United States from many perspectives - governmental, military, financial, social, political and architectural. Buildings with much less significant association to heroes or events of the past have received much more notoriety and extensive preservation. Anderson Cottage is a truly significant National Historic Landmark.

Of necessity, the research process is not concluded with the completion of this Historic Structure Report. The report is based upon documentary evidence and limited physical probing and architectural inspection. The Historic Structure Report is a record of information collected to date, to be supplemented in the future by additional information gathered through the investigations of the feasibility study and the preservation plan study, or later as additional documents are discovered.

PART I HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

A. Introduction

Historic Anderson Cottage was constructed in 1842-43 as the home of George W. Riggs, Jr. The Riggs estate was purchased in 1851 by the U.S. government to form the core of what is today the U.S. Soldier's and Airmen's Home. The house has held strong significance throughout its existence in the areas of social, business, military, political and architectural history:

1) Anderson Cottage was originally constructed in 1842-43 as the home of George W. Riggs, Jr. Together with W.W. Corcoran, Riggs formed the famous banking partnership that is today the Riggs National Bank. Riggs Bank has held a unique position among banking institutions in America. It served as personal accountant, lender, and adviser to Presidents, statesmen and military leaders; and its loans to the federal government had far-reaching international significance. These included loans to the federal government to finance the Mexican War, and campaigns to raise funds to reduce the mammoth Civil War debt and purchase Alaska from Imperial Russia. Riggs himself was an influential man who took an active part in many public movements and private business enterprises.

2) Anderson Cottage today forms the historic core of the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home. The Cottage is a National Historic Landmark and listing on the National Register of Historic Places recognizes the Home's military and political significance: "The U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home is the product of a quarter-century effort by prominent military and political figures to secure legislation which would relieve the situation of old and disabled soldiers. The military asylum

was the first attempt to provide for members of the regular army who had served during peacetime and had been disabled or retired from public service. The Washington, D.C. home is the only such Army institution in the Nation and the sole remaining of the original three asylums established in 1851. The history of the establishment of the home significantly indicates the needs of the military personnel felt during this period, and reflects the awareness of the responsibility felt by the Government and military leaders for the old and disabled soldiers."

3) Anderson Cottage is significant for its Presidential associations. Because its rural location and higher ground meant a more pleasant climate, it served as a Presidential retreat for Presidents Lincoln, Hayes, and Arthur. It is one of the most important Lincoln-associated sites, as approximately one-fourth of his total presidency was spent at the Cottage and it was here that he wrote the second draft of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. There were distinguished guests both before and after Lincoln. The cottage was offered to President Grant, but because Congress adjourned before the Summer, Grant vacationed at his own summer residence. President Hayes stayed there for the summer months for several years. President Garfield meant to move in, but was assassinated before he could do so. President Arthur occupied the cottage while the Executive Mansion was being repaired, and during the following summer.

4) Anderson Cottage has a strong architectural significance. It stands today as a well integrated example of the 19th century Early Gothic Revival style as applied to a residential building. ~~Anderson Cottage is significant because it is substantially intact to its mid-19th century form, and today is a rare example of an Early Gothic Revival structure of~~ 

its period in the Washington, D.C. area. It is an excellent example of those concepts which define the rural Gothic cottage in Andrew Jackson Downing's Cottage Residences. It is an early rendition of the style; in fact, the original core of the house (which has been dated to 1842-43 by construction specifications located at the Library of Congress) has Gothic elements which date from 1842, the year that Downing's book was first published.

have been made by Riggs, and the west by the newly formed Military Asylum.

Riggs could certainly have found additions to the house necessary to cottage his rapidly growing family. The additions were thoroughly compatible, and apparently satisfied the same design intent. However, no record of the additions has been found among the Riggs papers.

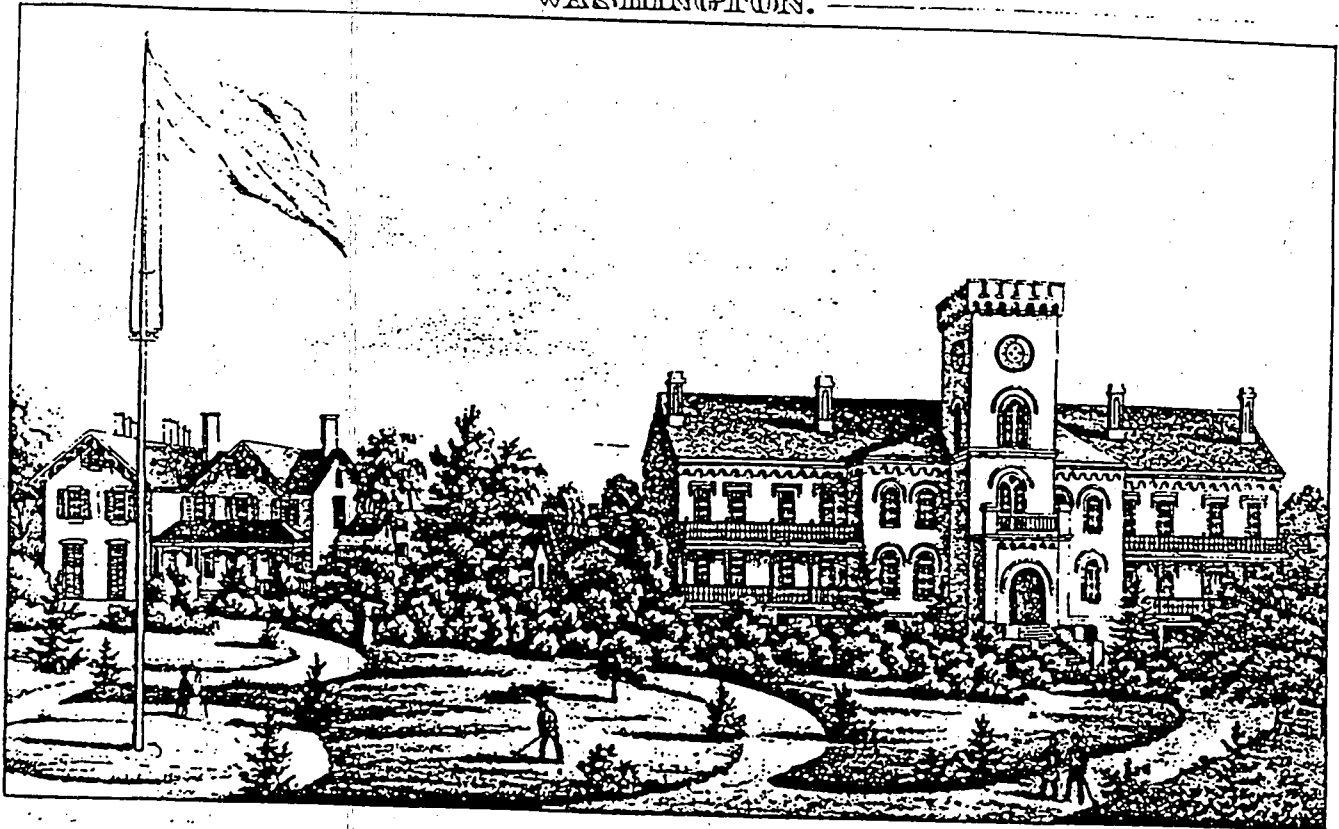
It is also possible that the new Military Asylum found an addition a necessary part of fitting out the cottage for its new functions. If so, there is no record in the Home's Minutes of the Board of Directors or its Annual Reports to this effect. In the 1850s, the Board had worked with architect 2nd Lt. Barton Alexander to construct the first three new structures at the home: the main building (the old Scott Hall), Quarters No. 1 and Quarters No. 2. Whether Alexander had a role in the addition of the new wing to the Riggs house cannot be documented; Alexander's known records do not suggest that he played such a role.

The earliest located view of Anderson Cottage is a lithograph by E. Sachse & Co. dated 1861. (See Figure 5.) In this print, the house consists of the original 1842-43 house block, the small eastern wing and connector, and a large wing to the west. A verandah spans the original house block on the south side. Another, probably later state of the same print more clearly shows the main east wing through the heavy foliage. (The bargeboards at its eaves are visible.)

E. The Civil War Years and Lincoln's Occupancy

It is Abraham Lincoln's occupancy of Anderson Cottage that gives it one of its greatest historic values. (See Figure 6.) He used the house as his summer White House for the years 1862 to 1864, from about late June or early July until early November of each year.

WASHINGTON.



MILITARY ASYLUM.

FIGURE 5. The earliest known view of Anderson Cottage is this lithograph by E. Sachse & Co. (1861)



FIGURE 6. Abraham Lincoln occupied Anderson Cottage as his summer White House for the years 1862 to 1864. At the cottage, Lincoln prepared the second draft of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation and conducted significant State business.

In March of 1861, three days after his inauguration, President Lincoln made a visit to the Home presumably to inspect the facility for future use. It was not until their second summer in Washington, however, that the Lincoln's accepted an invitation from the Home and moved into the Riggs house which had been occupied by the Military Governor. In addition to escaping the terrible Washington summer, Mary Lincoln was trying very hard to gain solitude for herself and her troubled husband. Only four months before, their son Willie had died in the White House and the loss still brought overwhelming grief to the couple.

The Lincolns stayed at the Soldiers' Home during the summers of 1862, 1863 and 1864 and would undoubtedly have stayed in 1865 if Lincoln had not been murdered by John Wilkes Booth.

Perhaps the most significant association of Lincoln with the Home has to do with the writing of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. It is almost certainly at the cottage that Lincoln prepared the second draft of it. One source states that Lincoln wrote this great document "in the upper corner room with the two windows under the big gray gable, at the left end of the building". (Lincoln Lore, July 1970)

The famous painter Francis B. Carpenter describes the way Lincoln related this historic event to him:

Finally came the week of the battle of Antietam. I determined to wait no longer. The news came, I think, on Wednesday, that the advantage was on our side. I was then staying at the Soldiers' Home (three miles out of Washington). Here I finished writing the second draft of the preliminary proclamation; came up on Sunday; called the Cabinet together to hear it and it was published on the following Monday.

Lincoln's stay at the Soldiers' Home was seen by some as dangerous: "In the summer of 1862, the Lincoln family moved to the isolated cottage at the Soldiers' Home, over the protests of friends who had been advised of Secret Service reports of assassination plots." (Leach) Indeed, Lincoln's life does seem to have been in danger several times:

In the early spring of 1864, Brigadier-General Bradley T. Johnson developed a plan to kidnap Lincoln while he was at the Soldiers' Home and take him south to Richmond. This plan, originally approved by Johnson's immediate superior Major-General Wade Hampton, was suspended by Jubal Early presumably because of his upcoming raid on Washington. In mid-August of 1864 an assassination attempt took place near the home which came perilously close to succeeding. While riding alone one evening along the 7th Street Pike not far from the main gate, Lincoln heard the unmistakable sound of a gunshot. Spurring his horse he rode on to the gate arriving at a full gallop, unharmed but minus his top hat. Several soldiers were sent out to investigate the incident, and in retrieving the President's hat discovered a bullet-hole through the "stovepipe".

Just one month before he had his hat shot off, Lincoln performed his role as Commander-in-Chief with realism. On July 10 of 1864, Jubal Early approached the outskirts of the city on his famous raid. The Confederates came within a short distance of the Soldiers' Home and Stanton, worried about Lincoln's safety, ordered the President to return to the White House immediately. (Steers)

Two companies of the 150th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, were on guard detail at the Soldiers' Home during Lincoln's stays there. A letter on September 5, 1862, from General McClellan to Lincoln reads:

Your Excellency

I have ordered a portion of the ... Guard of the Army of the Potomac to take ... at the Soldiers' Home for the purpose of guarding your Excellency's residence.

The officer in command is instructed to deliver this note and receive your orders.

(Letter from General McClellan to Abraham Lincoln, 9/5/1862, Letter and Manuscripts of Lincoln, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress)

Both President and Mrs. Lincoln are said to have established warm relations with these men, and later requested that the company also be detailed as the White House guard. On November 1, 1862, Lincoln wrote from the White House:

Whom it may concern

Capt. Derrickson, with his company, has been, for some time keeping guard at my residence, now at the Soldiers' Retreat. He, and his Company are very agreeable to me; and while it is deemed proper for any guard to remain, none would be more satisfactory to me than Capt. D. and his company. (Letter from Abraham Lincoln to whom it may concern, 11/1/1862, Letters and Manuscripts of Lincoln, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress)

The company came from the Bucktail Brigade and were distinguished by a bucktail insignia on their caps. Lincoln's daily rides from the Soldiers' Home to the White House created concern, and a cavalry escort was

furnished from "Scott's Nine Hundred", the 11th New York Cavalry. They escorted Lincoln down 7th Street to the White House in the morning and as he returned in the afternoon around 4:00.

In the summer of 1863, Walt Whitman wrote to the New York Times:

I see the President every day... He always has a company of twenty-five or thirty cavalry, with sabres drawn and held upright over their shoulders. The party makes no great show in uniforms or horses." (Sandburg, Abraham Lincoln: The War Years, vol. II, p. 165)

It was obviously a time of crisis when Lincoln was using the Anderson Cottage as a summer White House. Events of the Civil War swirled around him. The battle of Fort Stevens took place about two miles north of the house, and at one point--when General Jubal Early approached the outskirts of Washington on his famous raid in July 1864 -- the Confederates came within a short distance of the house and Lincoln was called back to the White House at the insistence of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton.

Lincoln appears to have conducted substantial business at the Soldiers' Home. Correspondence often gave the Home as the return address, such as a July 6, 1863 letter to Major-General Halleck admonishing "You know I did not like the phrase, In Orders, No. 68, I believe, 'Drive the invaders from our soil.' Since that, I see a dispatch from General French, saying the enemy is crossing his wounded over the river in flats, without saying why he does not stop it, or even intimating a thought that it ought to be stopped." (Basler, The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln)

A look at Lincoln's day-by-day affairs (Miers, Lincoln Day by Day. A Chronology 1809-1865) includes many entries such as the following:

6/18/1862 The President and Vice President (Hamlin) ride

DATE COMPLETED 6/2/67
FILED BY Franklin

horses to Soldiers' Home for the evening meal. After dinner, they retire to the library and behind locked doors Lincoln reads a draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

6/25/1862 Senator Browning (from Illinois) and friends visit Lincoln at Soldiers' Home in the evening.

7/4/1862 Lincoln meets a train of ambulances on the route to the Soldiers' Home. At Soldiers' Home, he reviews recent military action with Meigs and Sibley.

7/5/1862 Lincoln and Mrs. Lincoln are at the Soldiers' Home. Senator Browning visits. Lincoln too exhausted to keep appointments that evening.

7/24/1862 At the Soldiers' Home, Lincoln has a conversation with Browning on public affairs.

9/3/1862 At the Soldiers' Home, Lincoln confers from 9 to 12 p.m. with Secretary Seward.

9/17/1862 The Battle of Antietam was fought. At the Soldiers' Home, Lincoln completes the second draft of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

9/25/1862 In the evening, John Hay rides to the Soldiers' Home with Lincoln.

10/13/1862 Lincoln and Vice President Hamlin "talk all night" at the Soldiers' Home about the military situation and General McClellan.

Anderson Cottage is clearly an important Lincoln-related historic

site:

All of these events make the Soldiers' Home one of the more important Lincoln-associated sites and yet its historic role

seems to have slipped between the cracks of remembrance. Of Lincoln's 49 months as President, it is estimated that as many as twelve of them, or approximately one-fourth of his presidency, were spent at the Soldiers' Home; a substantial period by any measure. (Steers)

However, in spite of this importance, there is much still unknown about details of Lincoln's stay at Anderson Cottage, his household and everyday life. It is a rich site, which deserves further investigation and interpretation.

Several small descriptions give insight into the family's life at the house. On June 29, 1864, the President wrote to Mrs. Lincoln (who was in New York), "All well. Tom is moving things out." This reference to "Tom" (one of several individuals named Tom, either a furnace man at the White House, a doorkeeper or a watchman) describes the moving of the Lincolns' personal effects out to Soldiers' Home for the summer. (Roy P. Basler, ed., The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln) A telegraph sent on November 9, 1862, from Lincoln to Mrs. Lincoln (in Boston) reads: "Mrs. Cuthbert & Aunt Mary want to move to the White House, because it has grown so cold at Soldiers' Home. Shall they?" Mary Ann Cuthbert was a seamstress and "Aunt Mary" Dines was a colored nurse employed by the family. (Basler) There is a great Copper Beach at the Soldiers' Home, estimated to be nearly 300 years old, that Lincoln is said to have climbed in with his children and the children of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton.

On July 2, 1863, Mrs. Lincoln fell from her runaway carriage on the way from the Soldiers' Home to the White House. In spite of the President's telegram (July 3, 1863) to Robert T. Lincoln, Esq., "Don't be uneasy. Your mother very slightly hurt by her fall," Mrs. Lincoln, in

fact, received a rather serious head wound. She spent three weeks in bed at the Soldiers' Home, nursed by a Mrs. Pomroy, who had formerly cared for Willie Lincoln. But, "Despite these unpleasant events and associations with the Home, Mary Lincoln wrote on August 25, 1865 to Elizabeth Blair Lee: 'How dearly I loved the Soldier's Home.'" (Steers)

1. Physical Appearance of the Cottage During the Lincoln Years

Evidence points to the fact that the Anderson Cottage has remained largely unchanged since the Lincoln occupancy. Colonel Goode's history reports that, in 1921:

Anderson Cottage, reported in poor condition in 1921, was repaired. In 1923, the original interior of the building, unchanged since the time of President Lincoln, was altered by building small squadrooms to accommodate the members quartered in that building. (Goode, p. 185)

Several 1860s views of the cottage tend to support the fact that the structure has not changed substantially since President Lincoln stayed there—at least as far as the exterior of the structure is concerned. Two 1860s views are lithographs by E. Sachse & Co. (See Figure 8.) The first is dated 1861 (it is the earliest known view, discussed previously in this report), and the second is dated 1863. Both show the full length of the southern facade, and—although the structure appears in both very much as it does today—the major difference is that the verandah stretches from east to west only as far as the original house block. Details such as the exact form of windows and decorative trim may or may not be accurately drawn (as lithographs were drawn from sketches and notes prepared at some earlier date by traveling artists). It is difficult to determine what of

the eastern wings of the house were extant, as they are behind foliage in each lithograph. However, the assumption is that both the easternmost wing and the connector were in place at this time, and that small discrepancies in the wings as depicted are attributable to the artists. (The fact that these wings were in place before 1861 is supported by paint sampling on the eastern wing.)

The most easily interpreted view from this time, a 1863 lithograph by Charles H. Magnus (see Figure 7), clearly shows the cottage. Although the eastern wing is again partially obscured by trees, the easternmost addition and the connector between it and the original house block are depicted. This view is also interesting because it shows the original 1842 brick facade covered with a white material, probably stucco. (The dating of the stucco finish to an early time period is further corroborated by analysis of the stucco finish material.)

A stereopticon view (see Figure 8), with the penciled identification "Lincoln Summer home 1863," shows the westernmost wing of the house from the south. Although it is not clear how accurate the 1863 date is, it shows the wing just as it stands today--and with the verandah stretching the full length. The evidence of this photograph is further substantiated by the paint color research. Thus it is clear that the Verandah was extended to its present form by 1863.

Only one view from about this period illustrates the northern facade of the cottage. (See Figure 9.) This view, dated approximately 1877-80 and labeled "The President's Summer House," shows the house much as it appears today.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

NHL

STATE:
District of Columbia
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME
COMMON: U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home ² U.S. Soldiers' Home
AND/OR HISTORIC: U.S. Military Asylum; The Old Soldiers' Home

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: Rock Creek Church Road, N.W.
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: D.C.
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
CODE
COUNTY:
CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☒ District ☐ Site ☐ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☒ Other (Specify) residence home

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: Lieutenant General F. T. Unger, U.S. Army Retired, Governor
STREET AND NUMBER: U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, Rock Creek Church Road, N.W.
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: D.C.
CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: D.C. Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: District of Columbia
CODE

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY: none
DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

393

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian: ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☒ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Phi- | ☐ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Philosophy | |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Science | |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Sculpture | |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Architecture | ☐ Social/Human- | |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | ☐ Italian | |
| ☐ Communications | ☒ Military | ☐ Theater | |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | ☐ Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home is the product of a quarter-century of effort by prominent military and political figures to secure legislation which would relieve the situation of old and disabled soldiers. The military asylum was the first attempt to provide for members of the regular army who had served during peacetime and had been disabled or retired from public service. The Washington, D.C. home is the only such Army institution in the Nation and the sole remaining of the original three asylums established in 1851.

The history of the establishment of the home significantly indicates the needs of the military personnel felt during this period, and reflects the awareness of the responsibility felt by Government and military leaders for the old and disabled soldiers.

History

Secretary of War James Barbour first officially recommended to Congress the propriety of founding an asylum for old and disabled soldiers November 27, 1827, in his Annual Message to the President. Such a plan was already in use by the Navy and other nations. He illustrated the need for Government action by the cases that the War Department even then was called upon to relieve. His suggestion was the first in a 25-year struggle to establish a military asylum during which proposals were constantly being made and shelved.

Between 1790 and 1861 the size and organization of the Regular Army changed almost yearly. During this time the Army engaged in two major and 23 lesser wars. Injury and disease took a terrible toll so that a great proportion of the veterans were discharged diseased or disabled, with no means of support. Totally disabled veterans of the Revolutionary War received \$5 per month and those of the War of 1812 received half-pay. However, soldiers of the Regular Army, injured or retired during peacetime, were left to shift for themselves.

(continued)

39

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
District of Columbia	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (page 1)

U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home

In 1833 Lewis Cass, Secretary of War, presented the case for the superannuated soldiers in a letter to President Jackson:

"In our service as is presently organized, a soldier can be retained only as long as his physical powers are sufficient to enable him to perform the duties required of him. When his constitution fails, unless it is the result of disabilities incurred in the line of his duty, he is discharged without any provision for his support, and generally, from the habits of his life, without the disposition and too often the power to labor and without the means of support. He is then thrown on charity of the community after devoting the best of his life to the service of his country."

Winfield Scott sparked the actual establishment of the home by earmarking Mexican tribute money for the fund of the still non-existent asylum. Upon the capture of Mexico City, Scott levied a tribute of \$150,000 on that city in lieu of pillage. Of this sum Scott deposited a check for \$100,000 and endorsed it "The Bank of America, New York City, will place the within amount to the credit of the Army Asylum, subject to order of Congress." Scott has always been considered the Father of the home, since he was personally interested in the project and was instrumental in its establishment and growth by virtue of his position as Chief of the Army, and, consequently, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Asylum.

Spurred by Senator Jefferson Davis, Congress, on March 3, 1851, finally passed the bill founding "a military asylum for the relief and support of invalid and disabled soldiers of the Army of the U.S." President Fillmore signed it into law the same day. The legislation of 1851 authorized three asylum sites, one in D.C., and branch sites in New Orleans, Louisiana, and East Pascagoula, Mississippi, and later one at Harrodsburg, Kentucky. All these branches closed prior to 1860.

The present Washington home opened December 24, 1851, in a building on 17th Street, N.W., while the committee considered local sites for the permanent asylum. They purchased the George Riggs estate of 256 acres

¹ Paul R. Goode, The United States Soldiers Home, (Richmond, Virginia, 1957), p. 23

(continued)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE District of Columbia	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (page 2)

U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home

in 1851 and in June moved the first members to the Riggs House, the Anderson Cottage. The members moved to the Main Building, now Sherman South, in 1857 when that structure was finished. By 1857 the Governor and Deputy Governor occupied their new residences also.

General Scott, in 1857, invited President Buchanan and Secretary of War Floyd to take up summer residence at the asylum, which was then a country estate outside of swampy downtown Washington. Buchanan resided there for the summers of 1857-60. President Lincoln and his family occupied the Riggs House from mid-summer to November 1862-64. President Hayes stayed at the home during the summers of 1877-80 and President Arthur 1882-84.

President Lincoln stayed in the cottage during the battle of Fort Stepens, only 2 miles to the north. He recorded that while staying at the home he wrote the second draft of the Emancipation Proclamation:

"I put the draft of the Proclamation aside, waiting for a victory. Well the next news we had was of Pope's disaster at Bull Run. Things looked darker than ever. Finally came the week of the Battle of Antietam. I determined to wait no longer. The news came, I think, on Wednesday that the advantage was on our side. I was then staying at the Soldiers' Home. Here I finished writing the second draft of the Proclamation; came up on Saturday, called the cabinet together to hear it, and it was published the following Monday. I made a solemn vow before God that if General Lee was driven back from Maryland I would crown the result by the declaration for freedom to the slaves."

Since 1851 the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home has been in continuous operation, providing room, board, clothing, medical care, laundry and extensive recreation facilities freely to any 20-year veteran or disabled soldier who had contributed from his monthly pay. By December 27, 1859, there were 127 members living at the asylum and today it is the home of 2,700 men and women.

²Paul R. Goode, The United States Soldiers Home, (Richmond, Virginia, 1957), p. 68.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Four pre-Civil War structures formed the core of the early Soldiers' Home, housing all the important administrative and dormitory facilities. Situated in a row along the top of a hill overlooking Washington, the Anderson Cottage, Sherman South Building, Quarters 1, and Quarters 2 remain and function today in much the same manner as in the first decade after 1851.

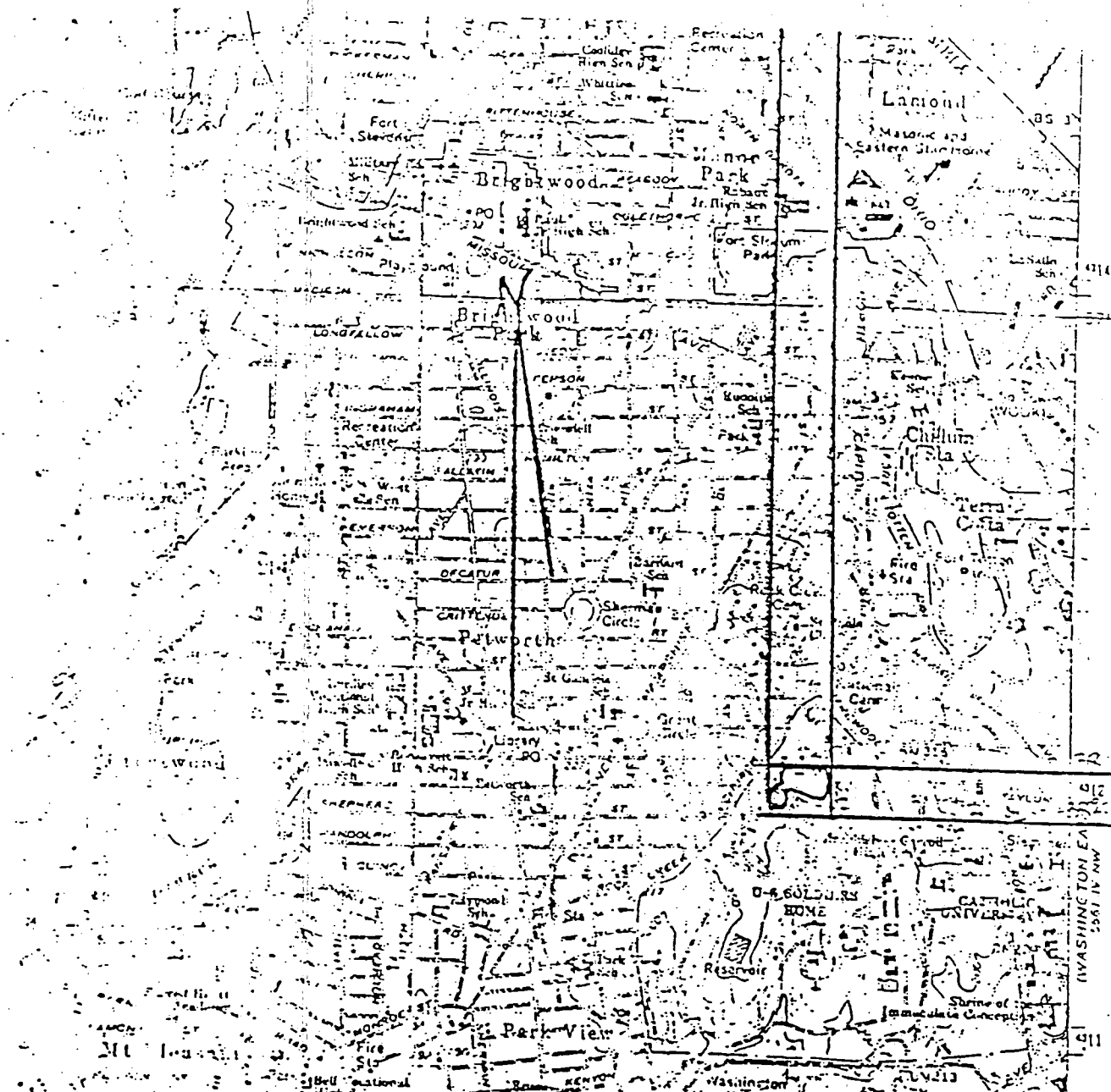
An Army committee purchased the estate of about 256 acres from George Riggs in 1851. Then known as "Corn Riggs House," the present Anderson Cottage was built by Riggs about 1811 as a summer home. Originally the house was a two-story brick structure in the Gothic style, with a wide front porch. The original exterior design of the house has remained basically unchanged, except that in 1897 the brick walls were coated with grey stucco, and in 1923 a small elevator shaft was constructed on the southwest corner. Today the house is still stucco grey, with white latticed windows, gingerbread, and wrought iron porches on the second floor.

The first residents lived in the Corn-Riggs House from 1851 until the completion of the new Main Building in 1857. In 1851 2nd Lt. Barton S. Alexander became the architect for the Washington Asylum, contracted to design three structures, the Main Building (later renamed for Scott, and today Sherman South), Building 1, the Governor's Resident, and Building 2, originally the quarters of the Secretary-Treasurer, later those of the Deputy Governor. Gilbert Cameron built the three buildings, all of similar design and faced with unfinished New York marble. Construction began in 1854 and was completed in 1857; there was no more major building until 1869.

The original Sherman South was a two-story Norman Gothic structure built on one of the highest points of land in the District of Columbia. At a 320-foot elevation, the main building provided living accommodations for the members and housed all activities of the home. In 1869 a third story was added over the mansard roof and a square castellated bellfry replaced the steeple of the clock tower. The building is connected by an annex to Sherman North, completed in 1891.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

397



U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home
 Washington, D.C., Rock Creek Church Rd.
 U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series
 D.C.-Md.-Va., Washington West Quadrangle

NW 38° 56' 30"	77° 00' 49"
NE 38° 56' 30"	77° 00' 39"
SE 38° 56' 24"	77° 00' 39"
SW 38° 56' 24"	77° 00' 49"

7. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Goode, Col. Paul R., The United States Soldiers Home, Richmond, Virginia; William Byrd Press, 1957.

Eberlein, Harold Donaldson and Hubbard Cortlandt Van Dyke, Historic Houses of Georgetown and Washington City, Richmond, Virginia: Dietz Press, 1958.

Report of National Capital Planning Commission

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 56' 30"	77° 00' 49"				
NE	38° 56' 30"	77° 00' 39"				
SE	38° 56' 24"	77° 00' 39"				
SW	38° 56' 24"	77° 00' 40"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 6 ACRES

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Blanche M. Higgins, Research Assistant and Benjamin Levy, Senior Historian	
ORGANIZATION	Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service	DATE	
STREET AND NUMBER:			
1100 L Street, N.W.			
CITY OR TOWN:	Washington	STATE	D.C.
		CODE	

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

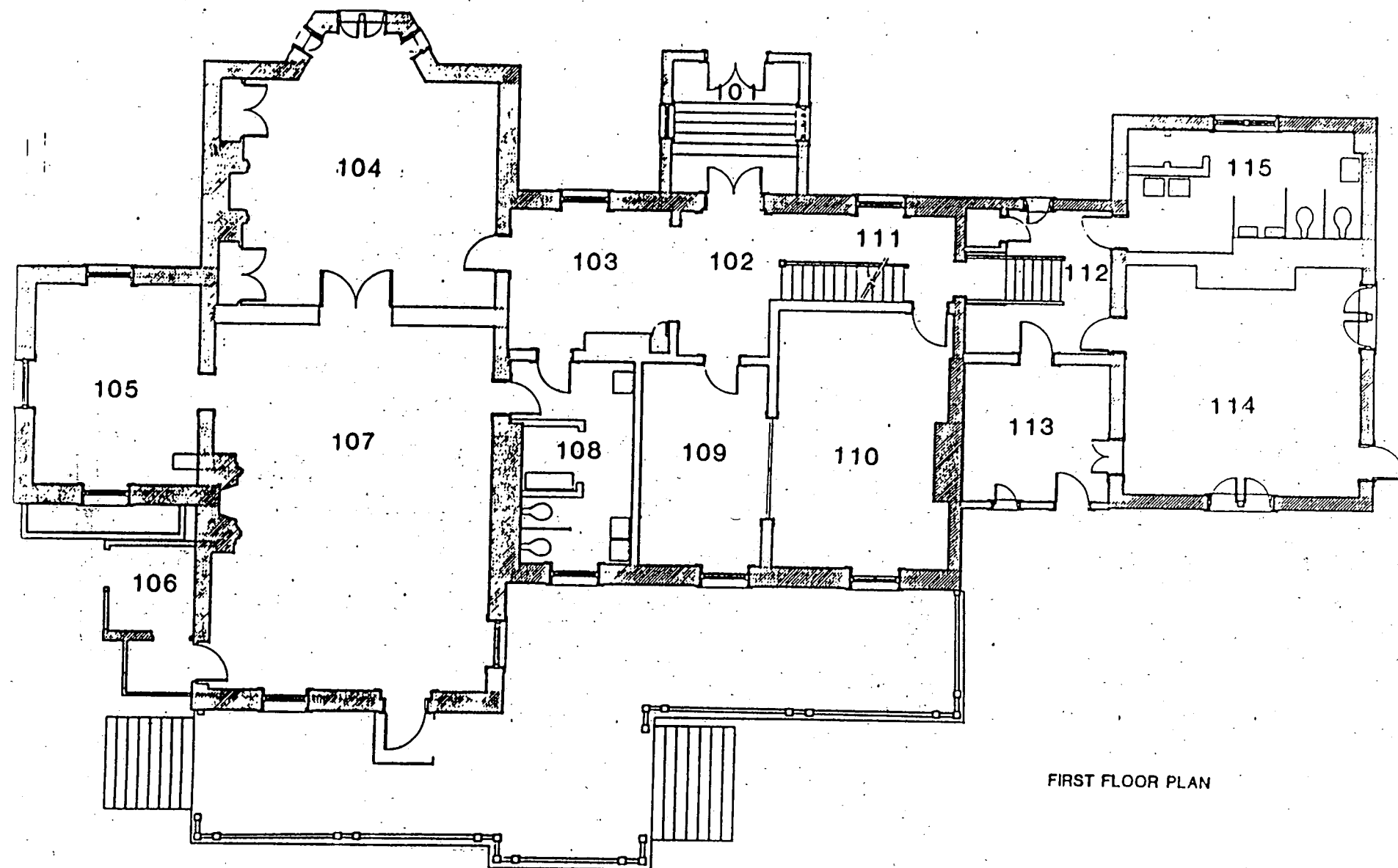
ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

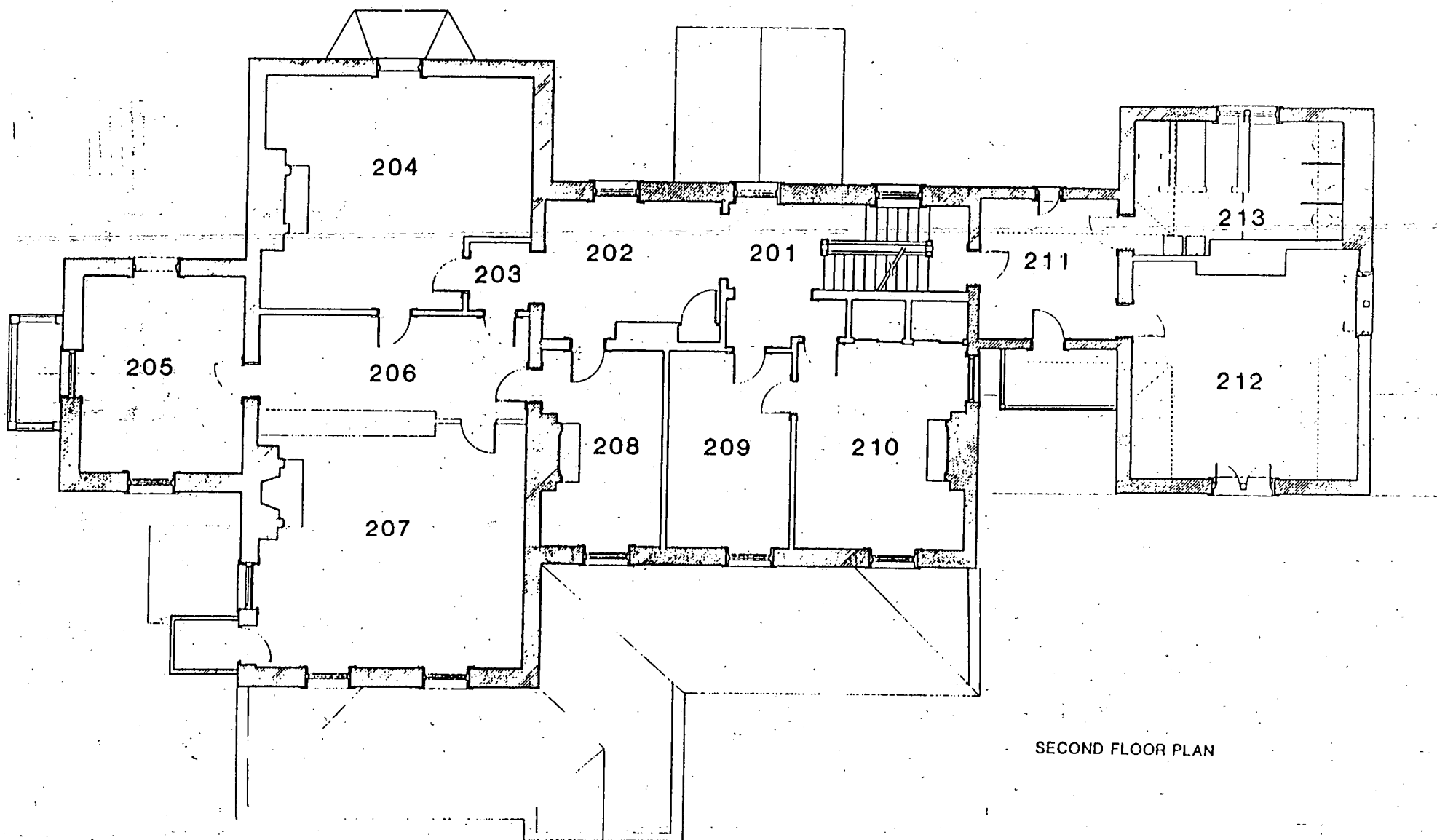
Section #2: Status and Condition of the Site

- Floor Plans
- 1985 Historic Structure Report (excerpts)



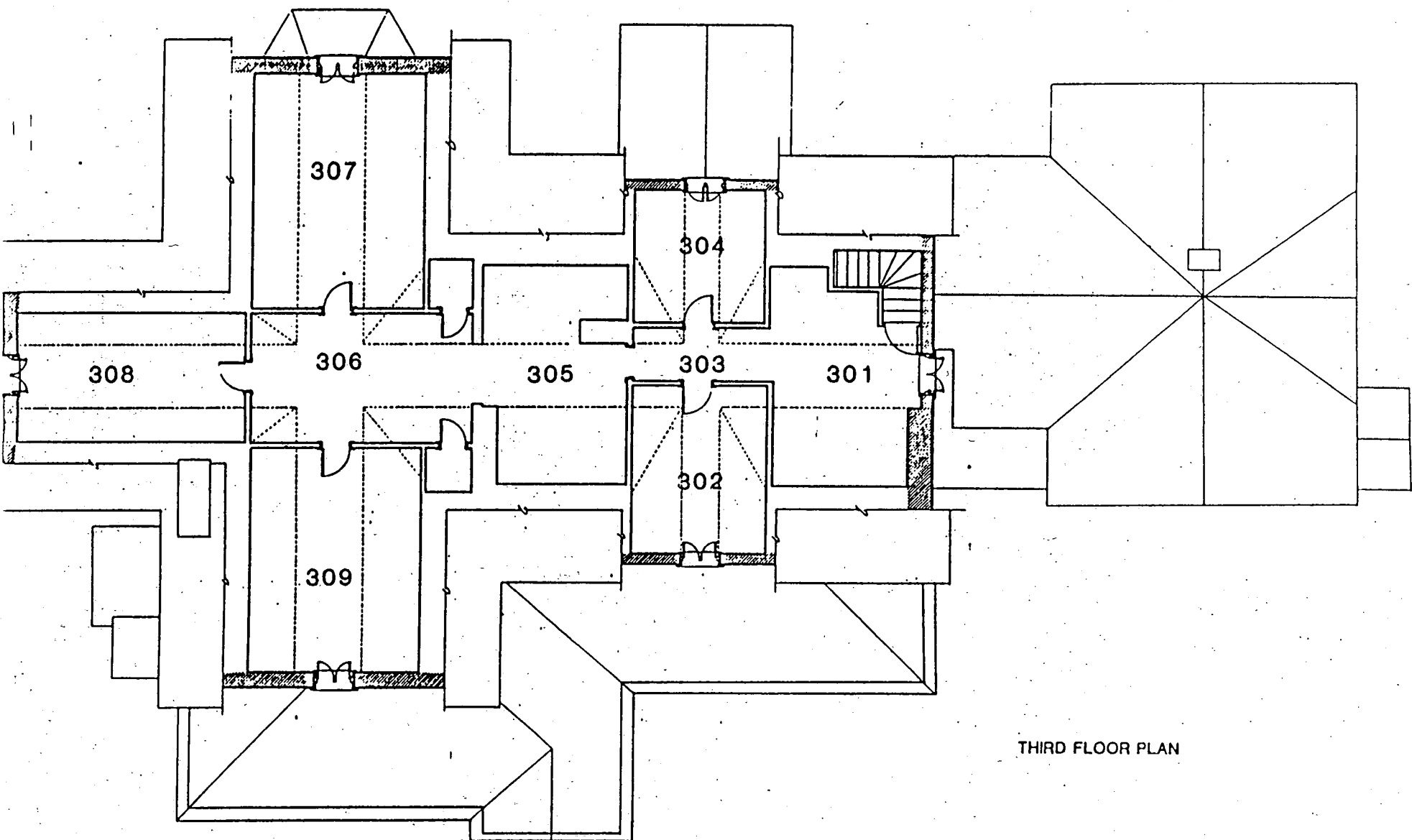
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

FIGURE 43. First Floor Plan - Existing.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

FIGURE 47. Second Floor Plan - Existing.



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

FIGURE 48. Third Floor Plan - Existing.

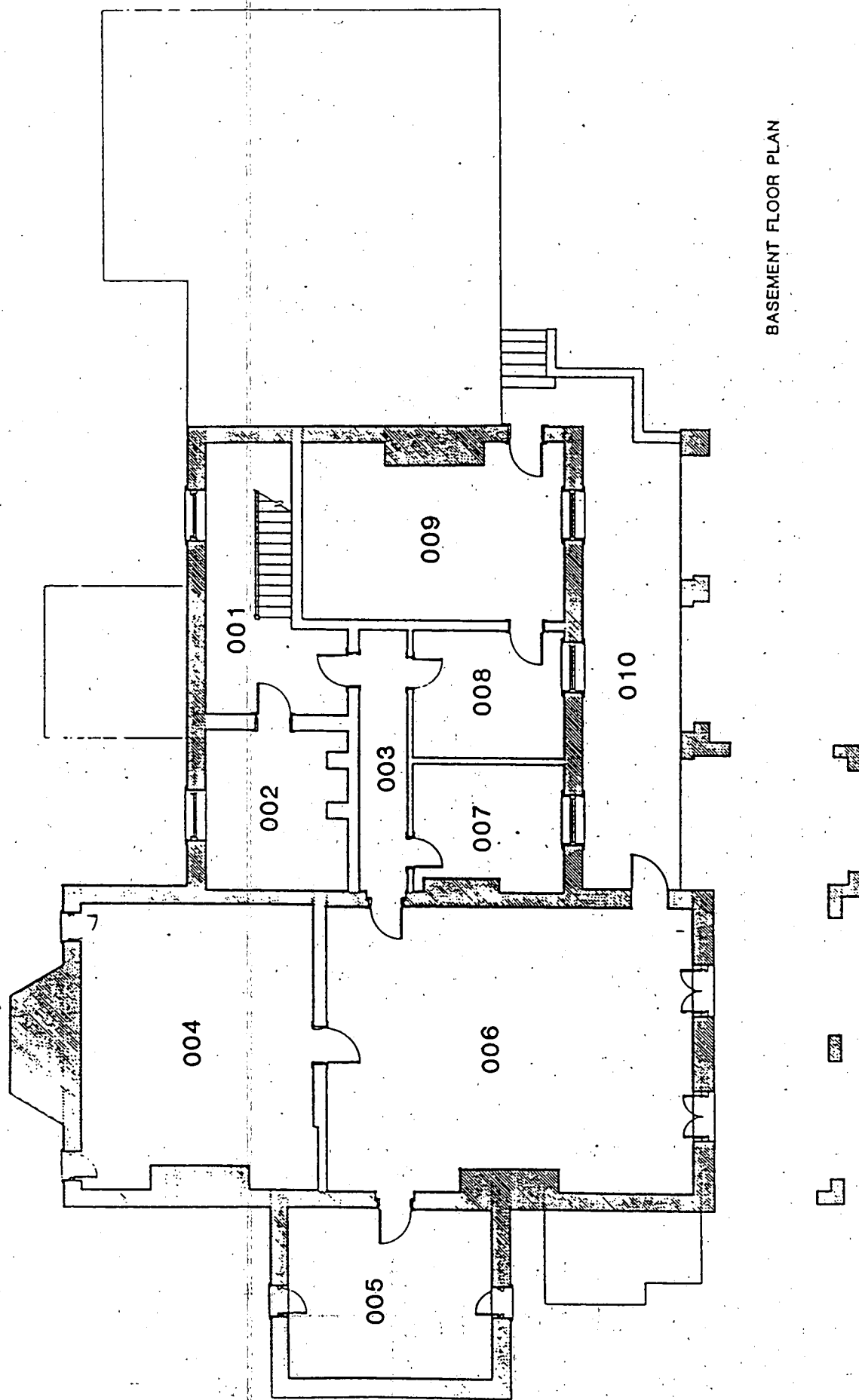


FIGURE 42. Basement Floor Plan - Existing.

The third floor garret spaces of the original construction and the western 1857 addition are very similar with plaster walls and ceilings, wood floors, casement windows and sloped ceilings. The only obvious differences appear to be the change in direction of the floor boards, and the provision of a central skylight and individual room vents in the ceilings.

D. Existing Conditions - Needed Repairs

Anderson Cottage has survived with most of its original building elements intact. The building has weathered utilization as a private residence, infirmary, dormitory and summer White House with relatively few major alterations. Fortunately the building has never undergone an intensive modernization program. The addition of rest rooms, interior partitions and plumbing, electrical and life safety equipment has done some damage to the original building fabric, however this is minimal. Because of its architectural and historical significance, the preservation of Anderson Cottage is of great importance. Future repair and maintenance in conjunction with the preservation plan must be carefully programmed and delineated so that the important architectural elements are preserved.

Generally the building is in good physical condition due to the long and careful guardianship of the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home. Many of the items requiring attention can be classified as routine maintenance.

1. Exterior

The existing asphalt shingle which covers the entire building is in good condition. Several missing or broken shingles, mostly on the ridge

crest, should be replaced. The flashing in all areas appears to be in good condition. Gutters and downspouts are adequate and functioning well to carry water away from the building.

The major problem is the existing stucco which is deteriorating in various locations, notably the chimneys, the south facade at the second story, and the west facade near the balconette. (See Figure 52.) Due to previous patching and repair with stucco mixes of different consistency and color, the stucco texture and color are very uneven. Should the budget allow, the stucco should be removed from the brick and replaced with a compatible mixture that would match as closely as possible the original. Removal of the stucco would permit further investigation of the masonry bearing walls. However, recent visual investigation of all walls from the basement to the attic, interior and exterior, provides no evidence of settlement or structural problems.

The different types of windows appear in good condition, however, the muntins should be re-glazed, broken lights replaced and the windows made operable. Many windows have been painted shut or have had their rope sash pulley mechanisms broken. Five windows have been modified for the installation of a fan, vent or air conditioner. Three (and possibly more) jib windows were altered or removed. Consideration should be given in the preservation plan to the repair or fabrication of windows to match the original. Several window sills and lower sash rails show evidence of wood deterioration due to exposure or improper detailing and must be repaired or replaced.

A few of the bargeboards require partial replacement where the decorative wood trim is either broken or cracked (See Figure 53.) Squirrel nests in the eaves behind several bargeboards should be removed



FIGURE 52. A view of the south facade that shows the deterioration of the stucco near the second story window. Patch and repair with incompatible mortar mixes has caused variation in the texture and color of the stucco.

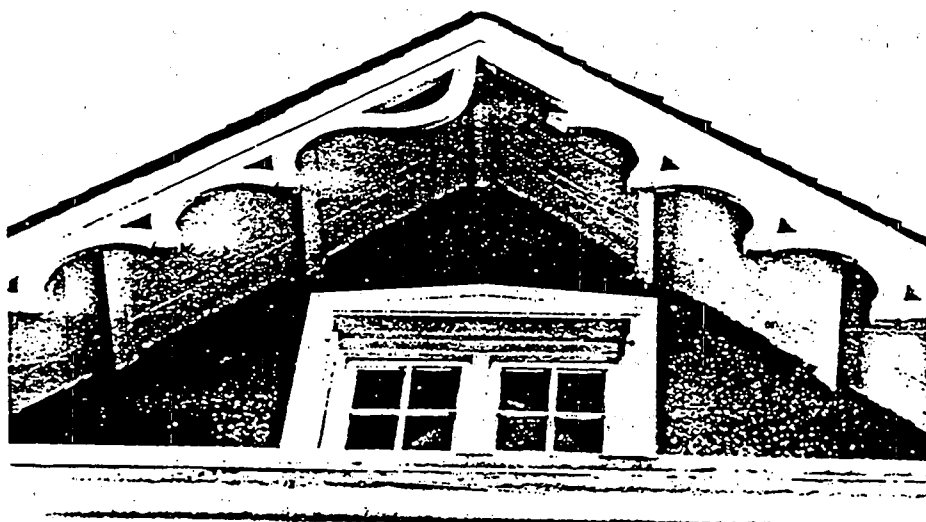


FIGURE 53. A detail of the broken and cracked bargeboard located on the central south facade gable which should be repaired/replaced.

and the access holes repaired to prevent further damage. Most of the decorative woodwork (including the eaves, brackets, bargeboards and soffits) is in good condition and requires no repair.

The woodwork of the verandah does require attention in several areas. Portions of the wood floors which are not protected from the elements are deteriorating and should be replaced. The molded bases of the chamfered wooden columns and the wooden railing with bisected diamond pattern millwork require replacement or repair in isolated areas. The rotted sillplates of the wooden lattice below the porch should be replaced. Direct contact with the soil and moisture has caused deterioration of the sill members and some diagonal lattice pieces. The stringer on the east steps to the verandah is weakened by wood deterioration and should be replaced.

Another area showing visible signs of structural decay and instability is the west balconette. The floorboards of the cantilevered structure should be replaced and the structure inspected for stability.

The condition of the site and recommendations for the landscaping and site work will be covered in future studies.

2. Interior

The interior elements of Anderson Cottage are also in good condition with a few exceptions. The plaster walls and ceilings throughout the house have very minor cracks. These cracks can be repaired without major disturbance to the building fabric. Covered by many layers of paint and in some areas wallpaper there is little evidence of peeling paint except in the garret and a few isolated areas.

The preservation strategy will determine the treatment of the wood floors. The existing carpeting and linoleum, not in character with the original design intent, could be removed and the wood floors refinished.

The baseboard, door and arch surrounds and stair millwork are in good condition. Patch and repair of wood joints and the replacement of incompatible millwork will be necessary in some rooms where alterations have been made. In several rooms the height or profile of the baseboard varies noticeably.

One problem area is the embrasure recess located below the double-hung and jib window sashes. Due to the installation of radiators in these recesses and the close proximity of the millwork to the heat, the panels and base have become warped, discolored and in some cases rotted. The location of the radiators should be re-evaluated as the repair of the panels will prove futile unless action is taken to correct the source of the problem. This deterioration and warpage is consistent at every window throughout the house, in varying degrees.

The interior tri-fold shutters, in most cases, are inoperable due to years of non-use, layers of paint and moisture problems caused by the radiator. (See Figure 54.) The hinges in some cases are broken or missing. Some window stoops, sills and stops are deteriorating and should be replaced to prevent further damage. The architrave surrounding the double hung and jib windows has warped, bowing inward, in some locations. In conclusion, all of the windows and adjacent millwork should be investigated for deterioration and possible repair or replacement.

The interior doors, including the sliding doors in Room 109, are in good condition. Some original hardware remains, however most has been replaced with incompatible contemporary hardware.

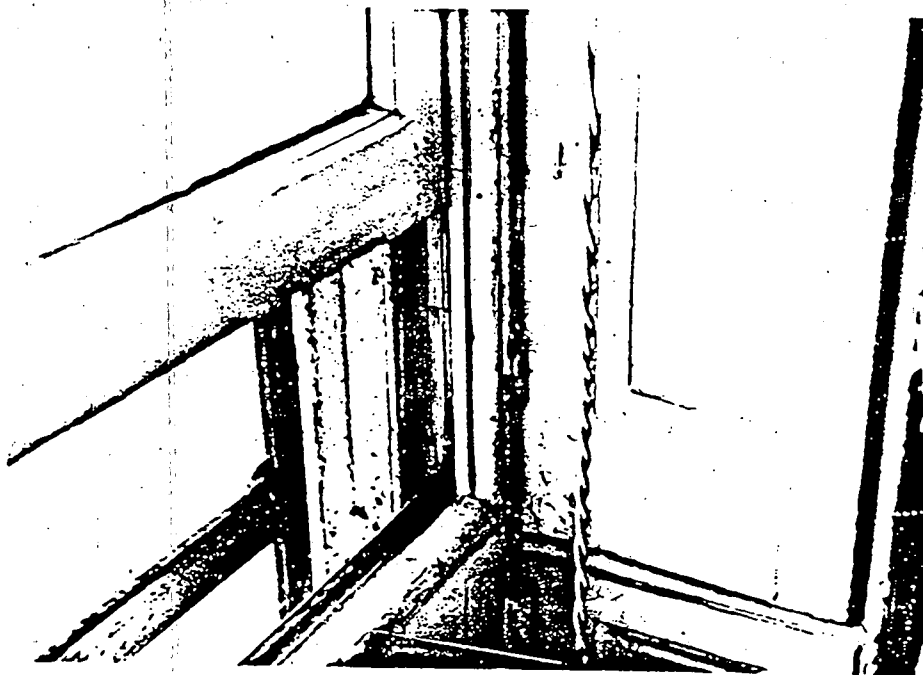


FIGURE 54. Interior view of the jib window in Room 109. This photo shows some of the problems with the windows - broken hardware and deterioration of the shutter and window stoop.

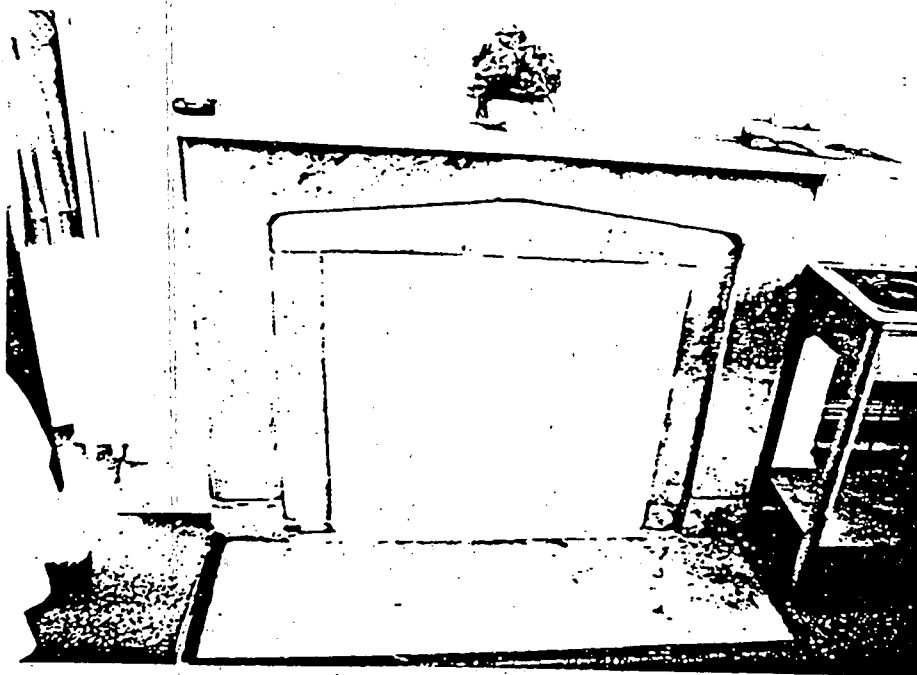


FIGURE 55. The marble mantel of this typical bedroom fireplace and hearth will require minor repairs and cleaning.

Most of the fireplaces appear in good condition, however, since many have been blocked it is difficult to ascertain the condition of the fireboxes and chimneys. Several of the mantels will need minor patching of the marble joints and minor cracks (See Figure 55.)

Decisions regarding partitions to be removed, fireplaces to be opened up, types of hardware to be installed and appropriate finish colors and textures will be dependent upon the preservation plan developed. Wood trim could be stripped and returned to a natural finish or paint finish appropriate to a specific time in history. The vinyl stair runner and tread boards could be removed and the stairs restored to their original appearance. And the sinks and contemporary mechanical, electrical, and plumbing intrusions could be removed and replaced with concealed equipment. The restoration strategy discussed next will determine the appropriate treatment for many of the interior architectural elements.

Section #3: Restoration Cost Estimate

- Revised Restoration Cost Estimate Memo

AN EXAMINATION OF THE COSTS OF RESTORATION FOR ANDERSON COTTAGE

A significant research, documentation and architectural/engineering design effort was completed between 1984 and 1985 under the direction of the Baltimore Corps of Engineer and the USSAH. Geier Brown Renfrow Architects was the lead consulting firm. Judy Robinson (then of Traceries, Inc.) and Matthew Mosca contributed to the architectural research and documentation efforts. Perry Girard Fisher did initial research into material culture and furnishings. The resulting reports and plans and specs are a matter of record and are available for use and review at this time.

1985 Project Objectives: In the simplest terms, the objectives of the 1984-85 period were to transform the historic residential structure into a public museum by providing spaces for exhibits, exhibit preparation and storage, and spaces for professional staff to administer the museum. The project would have incorporated a comprehensive new heating, cooling and electrical system that was designed to meet the needs for climate control in a museum space. Also included were modern bathrooms, an elevator and other amenities for the staff and public.

The preservation objective was to "restore" the structure to the time period of greatest significance, the period of the Lincoln Presidency. The "restoration" was planned to be comprehensive and would include recreation of interior paint, wall paper and decorative schemes and furnishing several "period" rooms as exhibit rooms. Treatments planned for the exterior would return the structure to the appearance of the Lincoln occupancy period. That project had an estimated construction cost of just under \$ 800,000.

2000 and Beyond: Re-examination of the 1985 objectives, along with the current and changing approaches to historic house museums, would suggest the following key issues for discussion:

- a. What museum uses would be placed on the second and third floors, and would an elevator be needed to support these uses?
- b. How many rooms would be restored? How many would be just refurbished?
- c. What standards should be adopted for interior climate and lighting for museum spaces?

Cost Estimation Assumptions: The following chart provides an analysis of the 1985 project and cost estimate, and updates this estimate to current times to account for price inflation over that time. It also provides a range of costs for each of the major work categories using the terms "low-end" and "high-end." The low-end costs would be for a rehabilitation or adaptive use project, while the high-end costs would assume restoration of 100% of the exterior and interior spaces and elements to museum standards.

Existing Floor Areas (sq. ft.):

Basement:	2,900
First Floor	4,200
Second Floor	3,900
Attic (obstructed)	<u>1,250</u>
TOTAL	12, 250

UPDATED COST ANALYSIS – ANDERSON COTTAGE

RESTORATION AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS

PROJECT ELEMENT	LOW-END COST	HIGH-END COST
Site Work: Work to modify or improve landscape and walkways, drives, and parking was <u>excluded</u> from the 1985 project. Assume some level of effort is needed	\$ 15,000	\$ 75,000
Exterior: Building Restoration and Repairs	\$ 100,000	\$ 300,000
Interior: Basic Repairs and Improvements	\$ 75,000	\$ 125,000
Interior: Historic Paint and Decorative Finishes Restoration	\$ 75,000	\$ 225,000
Life-Safety: New Fire Stairs & fire Sprinklers	\$ 90,000	\$ 110,000
Accessibility: Elevator & Shaft Work	\$ 90,000	\$ 100,000
HVAC & Electrical: Complete Replacement	\$ 185,000	\$ 365,000
Sub-total	\$ 630,000	\$ 1,300,000
Architect-Engineer-Consultant Fees @ 20%	\$ 125,000	\$260,000
Construction Contingency @ 15%	\$ 95,000	\$ 195,000
TOTAL	\$ 850,000 (About \$70/sq. ft.)	\$ 1,755,000 (About \$ 140/ sq. ft.)

Section #4: Interpretive/Use Possibilities and Estimated Operating Costs

- Use Possibilities and Estimated Operating Costs Memo
- Study for the Restoration of Anderson Cottage (excerpts)

Alternatives for Use of Anderson Cottage

Many uses have been made of this beautifully situated historic building over the years and many adaptive reuses have been suggested. Once restored, the building will provide an authentic space to tell nationally significant stories.

It would be hard to overstate the importance of Anderson Cottage, historically and architecturally. Its location on the historic grounds of the Soldiers and Airmen's Home gives a rich context for interpretation. Any use of the building should be linked to other sites related to President Lincoln, the Civil War, and the Emancipation Proclamation. Care should be taken to augment and not duplicate the related stories told elsewhere in the region. It is not necessary to amass significant Lincoln materials as long as the site can connect visitors to important collections. Having internet connections with the Springfield archives and other significant collections would be relatively inexpensive and of great value to visitors and students.

It is through collaboration with other museums, historic sites, schools or universities that the potential of this site would be most fully realized. A number of models exist for use of this site, however, creative and innovative uses of the site should not be overlooked. The restoration of the site would provide the opportunity to discover the family of Lincoln and his playful side, the turmoil of the war, the impact on daily life, and the debates about the Emancipation Proclamation.

These themes could unfold in many ways. The alternatives presented here go from a full scale museum with the most significant interpretative and educational content, to a center for tours and active learning activities, to a primary office use alternative that provides for some tours and interpretation, but less use of the building for educational activities. Operating cost estimates have been provided for the full-scale museum alternative, which is fleshed out in the greatest detail. Because of the many variables that would be involved, no cost estimates have been provided for the other two alternatives, however, as the educational content and programming declined, the operating costs could be expected to decline and be shared across a larger number of partners.

These alternatives represent some of the many uses and combinations of uses possible for Anderson Cottage. They have been chosen to stimulate discussion, not in any way foreclose other options or combinations of options that may emerge.

Working Assumptions

The alternatives have been developed based on the following assumptions.

- The goal of the property owner, USSAH, is to be relieved of restoration and operating expenses and to share the cottage with the general public, with appropriate safeguards to protect the privacy and security of the residents.

- USSAH will pay for heat, light, site security and minor maintenance; however, USSAH will not pay for cleaning, major repairs or major maintenance.
- A long-term lease will be signed between the USSAH and a new management entity to operate the site, with responsibilities and restrictions to be negotiated.
- Restoration may be phased, with all steps taken to allow full restoration at a future date.
- Architectural restoration costs would vary depending how much of the building is fully restored to first class museum standards, and how much is rehabilitated for office or other use purposes.

Alternatives

1. Full Museum Operation

Anderson Cottage has enough significance and interpretative material (narratives, letters, photographs, etc.) associated with it to be fully developed as a museum, although substantial additional research would be required. The stories of Lincoln, his family and household, the war time presidency, the impact of the Civil War on Washington, D. C., and the story of the Emancipation Proclamation are all strong and important stories that could be told here. It is not necessary to furnish any or all the rooms in order to tell these stories, although it could be a desirable interpretative technique. The collection of the museum would be the building, its site, and its associated history. There is enough important material that, should the parties desire, Anderson Cottage could be developed into a premier Lincoln/Civil War site.

There is sufficient documentation of the improvements made in the public rooms by Mrs. Lincoln to recreate a number of rooms in the Cottage to the Lincoln period. Objects for the re-furnished rooms could be assembled through an alliance with the Smithsonian or long-term loans from other institutions. Further research, including archeology, is desirable. Even if the furnishing plan were somewhat conjectural, as long as it is based on the best research available and the inclusion of some Lincoln artifacts, the recreation of a number of rooms to the Lincoln period would be a powerful vehicle for transporting the visitor into another era.

It is not contemplated that the museum would be a traditional house museum, fully furnished to period, because of the limitations this would place on interpretation and use of the spaces. The importance of the site does not relate to an existing collection of Lincoln furnishings, but to the activities and the people associated with the site. In addition, the history of Anderson Cottage and its use by the USSAH over the years, is an untold story that should be incorporated into this and any other interpretive alternatives.

A number of innovative techniques should be considered to allow the stories of Lincoln's children, wartime conditions, debates over abolition, and the life of all residents of the house to be told. These stories would be appealing to children and general audiences. A strong introductory video to orient the visitor could be accompanied by first person

narratives of many voices from the past that would be recorded and sound as a visitor entered. For example, Mrs. Lincoln could be heard calling to the children or discussing the latest redecoration project with a tradesman. Lincoln could be heard re-reading the Emancipation Proclamation or in a heated argument with those opposing emancipation.

Start Up and Operating Costs. The major costs for this scenario would be the substantial start-up expenses and a significant staff to develop, administer, market and care for the museum. (Because so many factors are involved, specific costs presented here should be considered preliminary in nature.)

Start up costs would include planning, research, initial organizational development and fundraising, the development, fabrication, and installation of exhibits, and initial expenses for office furniture and equipment. Start-up activities would take place over the two-year period, during which the physical restoration work was occurring.

In order to be open to the public at least five days a week, with attendant museum training of volunteers and related activities, a minimum of six full time staff would be required once the museum was in full operation. Permanent staff would include a Director or Site Manager, an Assistant or Curator, Receptionists, a Volunteer Coordinator or Director of Education, Marketing or Development Assistant and cleaning services. Staffing could be provided with a combination of full and part-time staff, but would still require the equivalent of six full time positions.

While the initial cost of repairs and maintenance may be small, over time and with increasing visitation, these costs will increase. Therefore a significant reserve would be needed to take care of maintenance and repair. In addition, museum exhibits cannot be expected to last beyond three to five years. Funding would be reserved or raised to assure that the quality of the exhibits is maintained. Additional costs would include insurance, office supplies, computers, telephones, educational and marketing materials, etc.

Start-up Cost Estimates:

\$150,000	research and minimal archeological investigation
\$200,000	for project management and associated costs over 2 years
\$100,000	museum planning and design
\$550,000	exhibit design and fabrication and production of video
<u>\$150,000</u>	office furniture and equipment
\$1,150,000	Total Start Up Costs

Annual Operating Cost Estimates:

\$320,000	staffing (including benefits)
\$ 75,000	for repairs and exhibit replacement reserves
<u>\$ 75,000</u>	for insurance and offices expenses
\$470,000	Total Operating Costs

Considerations. The operation of this type of museum would be the most expensive of the three alternatives presented here. If successful, expansion space into the adjacent Sherman building would be a possibility for visitor services and amenities. The governing entity of the museum would be responsible for securing annual operating funds and an initial endowment. Admissions, memberships, a museum store and event rental could be considered to augment funds raised through grants, donations and endowment. To raise sufficient funds to sustain the site over time, additional staff or volunteers would be required.

Hours of operation could be set to accommodate the concerns of USSAH, but if Anderson Cottage is developed into a premier site, there could be significant demand for expanded hours. With expanded hours and exhibits, the cost of operations would grow. Seeking national accreditation and attempting to expand visitation would also require additional funding. Should this scenario be chosen, it is recommended that the number of days the museum is open per week be at least five. The reason for this is that in order to qualify for grants, travelling exhibits etc., the level of professionalism and public accessibility must be relatively high.

2. Learning Center Operated by Major Existing Institution

If a full-scale museum operation appears too ambitious, the Cottage could be restored and then turned over to an existing institution to operate it. Under this scenario, a major institution--like a museum or university--would enter into an agreement with the entity set up to direct the restoration and use of Anderson Cottage. Under this agreement, the existing institution, for example the Smithsonian, would assume primary responsibility for operating Anderson Cottage, and make it part of its operations, with the Cottage functioning as a site for special programs relating to Lincoln and other themes.

If a major institution agreed to lease Anderson Cottage and provide the programming at the site, it is assumed the costs to develop and operate the site would be shared between that major institution and the entity leasing the site from USSAH, under terms acceptable to all parties. Use of the site would give the larger institution space for activities and programs not available elsewhere. A separate administrative staff for Anderson Cottage would be unnecessary, with these tasks handled by staff assigned by the major institution.

The type of interpretation and the portions of the building used for active programming would be subject to mutual agreement between the Cottage's management entity and the major institution. It is possible that another institution may have developed research and educational programs that could be moved to Anderson Cottage. For example, the Museum of American History could move exhibits and programming related to the Civil War to the Cottage. The goal would be to provide significant learning activities for school groups and other audiences that relate to the important themes of the site, while allowing for other uses important to the institution.

Considerations. For this alternative to work, a major partner interested in sub-leasing the site would have to be found. If another institution needed additional work or training space (for example, a consortium of heritage groups from Washington D.C., The National Park Service or the Smithsonian) the building could function as a training facility with a portion devoted to interpretation. Some operating costs might be covered through event rental, admissions, and rental of overnight accommodations for attendees at workshops or training sessions. A friends group of residents of USSAH and others would be of great benefit to assist in raising funds for the site.

3. Office Use with Some Interpretation and Visitation

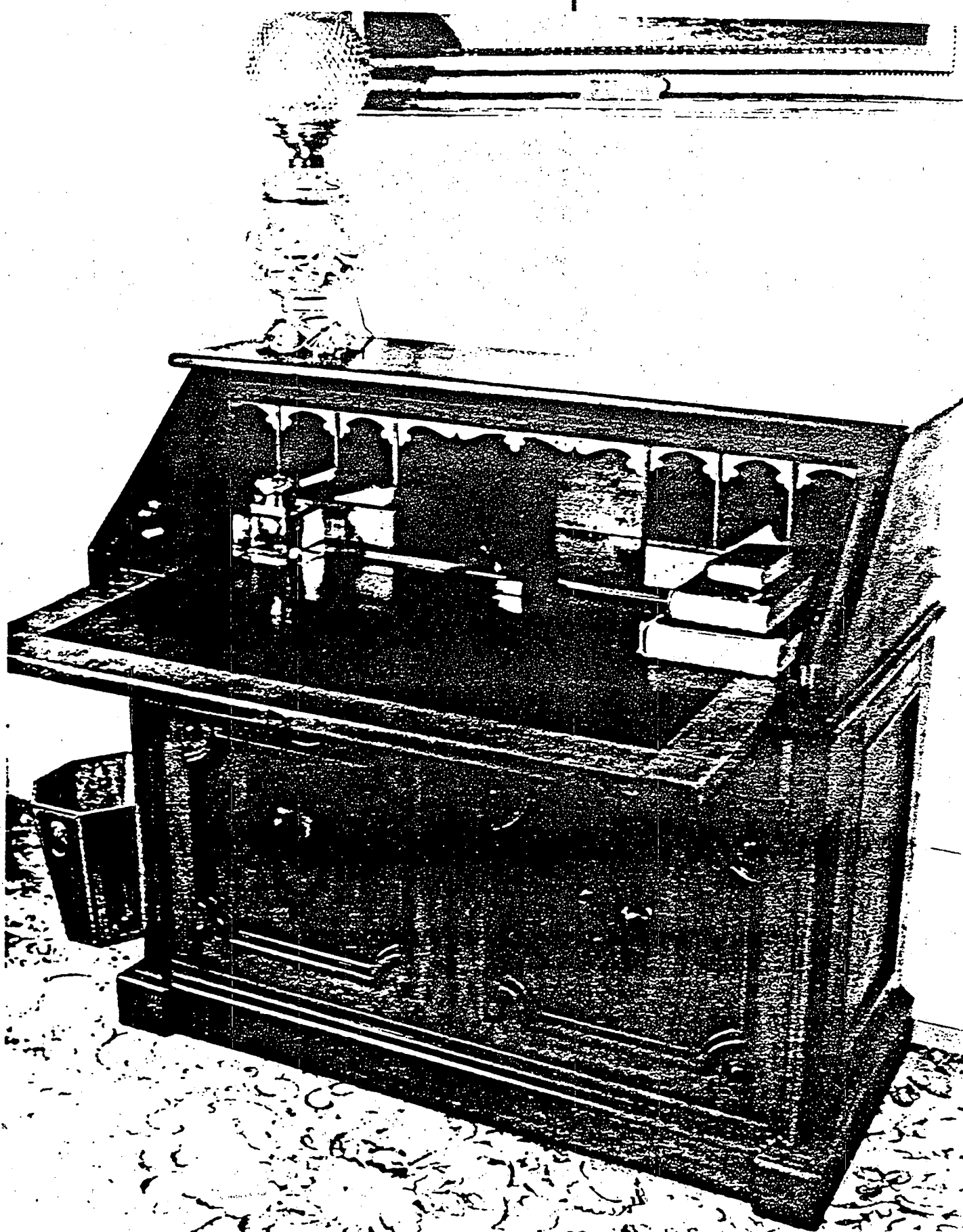
Under this alternative the Cottage would be used primarily for office space, with some interpretive activity on site. It would be an option to explore if funds were not available to develop and operate the Cottage as a fully interpreted site, and a major institutional partner could not be found. Under this alternative, the Anderson Cottage management entity would restore the Cottage, and rent most or all of the building to a compatible Tenant, for example, a non-profit organization with ties to Lincoln or the Civil War. A certain number of rooms on the first floor (possibly part of the second) would be furnished to period and open to tour groups or visitors. Either the Tenant or a friends group would offer an introductory video, guided tours (by volunteers or recorded audio tours) of the first floor, part of the second floor and immediate grounds of Anderson Cottage. The costs of exhibits would be limited, but the cost of the re-created period rooms could be significant. These could be partly or fully paid by the Tenant, depending on interest and willingness.

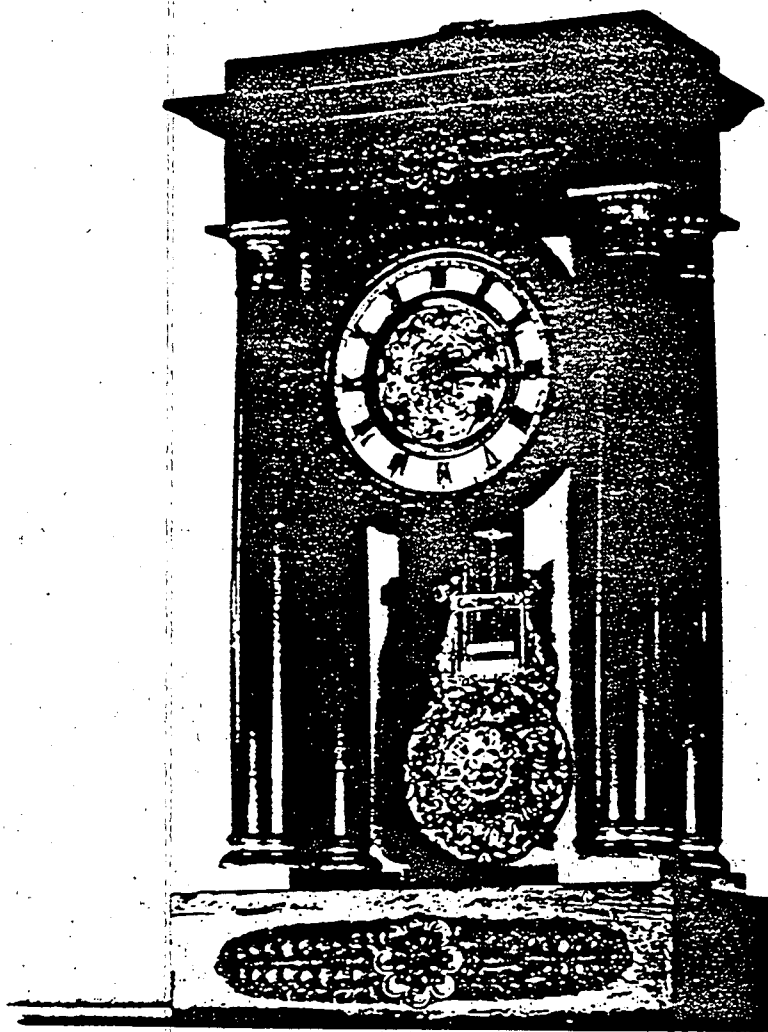
The costs of insurance, repairs and most of the basic operating costs of the building would be covered by the Tenant, either through rental income or by direct payment. Depending on the obligation of the Tenant for maintenance and operating costs, a significant rental might not be charged in the early years, particularly if the Tenant paid some or all of the costs to furnish the period rooms and staff visitation to the site. Updating of exhibits would require minimal annual expense, since the primary interpretative materials would be the period rooms and small scale exhibits.

Considerations. For this alternative to be possible, a Tenant would have to be found that saw advantages to being located in a building that had great historical significance and a certain amount of public attention and visitation. Money would be needed periodically to refresh and maintain the period rooms and reprint educational brochures. An important component of this plan would be to allow the friends group to rent the public rooms for small receptions and conferences to expand operating income to cover some of these expenses. Small grants could also be sought for this purpose as well. The friends group could be a nucleus of residents of the USSAH and others under the direction of the non-profit management entity.

Appendix A

Photocopies of objects known to have been in Anderson Cottage during the period of Abraham Lincoln's occupancy, and related correspondence.





IN THIS ROOM
ABRAHAM LINCOLN
SIGNED THE
EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION
ON JANUARY 31, 1863
WHICH FREED FOUR MILLION SLAVES
AND GAVE THEM THEIR FREEDOM
AND SLAVERY FOREVER
THE UNITED STATES



OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER
UNITED STATES SOLDIERS' HOME
Washington, D. C.

C
O
P
Y

November 14, 1927.

Colonel U. S. Grant, 3rd,
Director, Public Buildings & Parks,
Navy Building, 18th & C Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

My dear Grant:

I am sending to Mr. J. F. Gill, 15th & C Street, S. W., the following articles of furniture used by President Lincoln, during his occupancy of the Anderson Cottage, U. S. Soldiers' Home, during the summers of 1863-64 and 65, when it is understood, President Lincoln occupied those premises as his summer residence, to wit:

One desk.	One clock, Napoleon.
One meat platter.	One vegetable dish.
Two soup plates, Royal Doulton China.	

The crockery I found in the quarters of the Governor, U. S. Soldiers' Home, and to my knowledge, it has been there for a great many years. When my father was Governor of the Soldiers' Home, the set was far more complete than the few articles I am sending you. From my father, I learned that it was understood and accepted as a fact that this handsome set of china was purchased for President Lincoln and transferred to the Governor's house only when the Soldiers' Home was discontinued as a place of summer residence for the President. As to the authenticity of the desk and clock, I am enclosing memoranda from Mr. McGrath, who was born at the Soldiers' Home, and remembers well the museum that years ago was maintained in the Anderson Cottage comprising certain articles of furniture used by President Lincoln, among them the desk I am sending you.

I believe, however, that Mr. McGrath is in error in stating the Emancipation Proclamation was signed on this desk. I believe that it is highly probable that Mr. Lincoln drafted the Proclamation on this desk, which stood in the study at the Soldiers' Home, but that the formal draft was probably signed at his office in the White House.

All of these articles, I believe, have their authenticity sufficiently established to be considered without any question of doubt as genuine Lincoln relics.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ D. S. Stanley
D. S. STANLEY,
Colonel, U. S. Army,
Quartermaster.

DSS/cn

Section #5: Management and Partnership Opportunities

- Management and Partnership Opportunities memo
- Bill Authorizing and National Park Service Special Resource Study on Anderson Cottage
- Capital Assets: A Report on the Tourist Potential of Neighborhood Heritage and Cultural Sites in Washington, D.C. (excerpts)

Overview of Management and Partnership Alternatives for Anderson Cottage

The following is a brief overview of some of the management and partnership alternatives that have been discussed for Anderson Cottage up to this point. All assume continued ownership of the Cottage by the USSAH.

Potential Management Structures

- **An independent non-profit.** This would involve establishing a new 501.c.3 organization, with a management Board that could enter into a cooperative agreement with USSAH to manage the Cottage.
- **A stewardship site of the National Trust.** Stewardship sites are under the direct management of the National Trust, which retains final fiduciary responsibility for the care of the site and its ongoing activities. Examples include Drayton Hall in Charleston, SC, and the Gaylord Building in Lockport, IL. This would involve the Trust entering into a cooperative agreement with USSAH to manage the Cottage. At present, all stewardship sites are owned by the National Trust. Since USSAH plans to retain ownership of the Cottage, this would require a new arrangement of some kind between USSAH and the Trust.
- **A co-stewardship site of the National Trust.** Co-stewardship sites are operated by other organizations, generally non-profit organizations. They have their own fiduciary responsibility for the operation of the site and are governed by their own operational procedures. Examples include Cliveden in Philadelphia, PA, and the Frederick C. Robie House in Chicago, IL. These sites can be owned by the Trust or by another entity. The Trust often retains the final fiduciary responsibility for the care of the site, but not always. This approach would involve formation of a new 501.c.3 organization that would enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Trust and possibly with the USSAH, as well. The most likely arrangement would involve a lease of the property to the National Trust, and a sub-lease to the operating organization.

Potential Relationship with the National Park Service

- **Affiliated area of the National Park Service (NPS).** There seems to be little interest on the part of the Park Service and others for Anderson Cottage to become a formal part of the National Park System. However, there is considerable interest in the possibility of it becoming an Affiliated Area of the NPS. An Affiliated Area is a nationally significant area the NPS is associated with but does not own or manage. If a site is determined to be appropriate for affiliated status, a cooperative agreement is signed between the site's management entity and the Park Service, setting out the terms of the agreement. Affiliated status can make sites eligible to receive annual capital and/or operating funds through Park Service budget appropriations, depending on the terms of the agreement signed. The Tenement Museum in New York is an

example of a site that is both a National Trust Historic Site and an affiliated area of the NPS. The NPS is developing a cooperative agreement with the National Trust to conduct a Special Resource Study of Anderson Cottage over the next 6-8 months to determine what if any relationship with the NPS is appropriate.

Other Partnership Possibilities

The following are just some of the many other partnership possibilities that have been identified for the site.

- **Scholars and Universities.** The National Trust has been exploring a wide variety of research and educational partnership possibilities for the site. It has begun work with the Lincoln Forum of the Civil War Education Association, a national consortium of Lincoln scholars, to conduct research on the site that will help with restoration and interpretation. Contact has also been made with individuals from Howard University about opportunities to collaborate on telling stories about the Emancipation Proclamation and other aspects of African American history related to the site.
- **District of Columbia.** The Trust has initiated contact with the D.C. government and the DC Heritage Tourism Coalition to explore ways in which the Cottage could be tied into other heritage tourism and economic development initiatives in the city. The new Civil War Trail being developed by the Tourism Coalition, and efforts to establish a new museum for the city, offer major opportunities for collaboration. The new museum will be based in the historic library building next to the city's new Convention Center, but its focus will be on getting visitors out into the city to explore all of the stories the city has to tell. Opportunities also exist to find ways in which the development of the Cottage and related sites could contribute to over-all goals to revitalize the Georgia Avenue Corridor.
- **Other Local Civil War Sites.** Specific local sites that offer partnership opportunities of different kinds include Ft. Stephens, Ford's Theater, the African American Civil War Memorial, and the Battleground National Cemetery, among others.

A Bill

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Anderson Cottage located at the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, Washington, D.C.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. This bill may be cited as the Anderson Cottage Study Act.

SEC. 2. Purpose.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize a study of the Anderson Cottage located at the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home (USSAH) in Washington, D.C., in order to determine the most appropriate means to preserve and interpret this aspect of American history.

SEC. 3. Study.

(a) **IN GENERAL.** The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) shall conduct a study of alternatives for preserving and interpreting the Anderson Cottage. The study shall include:

- (1) recommendations on the major interpretive themes and stories, including use of the Anderson Cottage as Lincoln's Summer White House, as well as use by other U.S. presidents;
- (2) how the Anderson Cottage might be linked to major Lincoln, civil war, and civil rights themes in the D.C. area;
- (3) recommendations on management and interpretation of the Anderson Cottage, including eligibility for inclusion in the National Park System or affiliation with the National Park Service;
- (4) an assessment of special conditions on public visitation at USSAH, addressing the need for safety and privacy of the Home's residents;
- (5) recommendations on cooperative agreements with the District of Columbia and Federal entities;
- (6) an assessment of the restoration needs of the Cottage; and
- (7) cost estimates for each alternative.

(b) **REPORT.** The Secretary shall transmit to Congress a report on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the resource study under subsection (a).

(c) There is authorized to be appropriated \$50,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act.

CAPITAL ASSETS

*A Report on the Tourist Potential of
Neighborhood Heritage and Cultural Sites
in Washington, D.C.*

- WHAT IS READY
- WHAT IS ALMOST READY
- WHAT COULD BE READY

by Kathryn Schneider Smith
DC Heritage Tourism Coalition



Introduction

The tourism industry of Washington, D.C., is highly successful in bringing more than 21 million visitors to the city every year. A recent survey by the Travel Industry Association tells us that 61 percent of these travelers come here because they are interested in American history and culture—a higher percentage than any other city in the nation.

This presents an enormous opportunity. Our tourists see only a fraction of what there is to see in Washington, D.C. Most of our guests visit the National Mall, the museums, and the memorials in the monumental core, and then return home. They do not experience the great American city beyond the monuments that is also rich in the unique history and culture they seek. This report is designed to reveal some of the treasures in our downtown and our neighborhoods that our visitors miss, and to alert our policy makers and cultural organizations to the chance to bring more dollars to the city while telling a new story about Washington, D.C., off the Mall.

We have an opportunity to show millions of people from around the nation and the world that this is a beautiful, vibrant, fascinating city—a good place not only to visit, but to live and do business, and a national capital of which they can be proud. Indeed, it is a capital that reflects their own life and experience, because Americans of every race and creed have made it what it is. A new, international phenomenon known as heritage or cultural tourism provides a way.

Off-the-Mall

Washington is the kind of undiscovered territory many of our visitors are seeking.

THE PROMISE OF HERITAGE TOURISM FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.

There is reason to believe our visitors are looking for our off-the-Mall treasures. Travel-industry research tells us that today's sophisticated travelers have seen the major sights and are tired of homogenized attractions that make every place look like every other. They do not want to be passive or part of the herd. They are looking for authentic experiences that put them in touch with the unique history, culture, and character of a particular place.

People travel today to learn as well as have fun. They are looking for places that link their life experiences with those of others. Many of them are urban adventurers, people who love to explore cities and find places others have not discovered. The 1995 White House Conference on Travel and Tourism identified this trend as cultural tourism, and made it a priority. Cultural and heritage tourism is the fastest-growing segment of the travel industry in the United States and the world.

Off-the-Mall Washington is the kind of undiscovered territory many of our visitors are seeking. Most will, of course, focus on the monuments and memorials on a first or even second visit here. We are privileged to have the great symbols of the nation's heritage in our hometown. But these sites are overcrowded. Visitors must increasingly wait in long lines, or obtain timed-entry tickets to the most popular attractions. Our tourists need the change of pace and more personal experiences our off-the-Mall museums and other local attractions can offer.

People also come back to Washington again and again—to bring their families, to do business, or to attend conventions. In addition, there are almost five million people in the region, many of whom do not take advantage of the cultural and historical attractions of the city. They also need new places to take the family members and friends who visit them.

Tourism is the number one private-sector business in Washington, D.C., worth \$4.2 billion a year to the local economy. This is true even though most of our guests spend most of their time visiting free museums and shopping in tax-free shops on the Mall. This report is designed to bring some new raw materials to our major industry. When fully packaged and prepared, they can revitalize neighborhoods, bring new tax dollars to our city, and draw new customers to our local shops, restaurants and cultural institutions. In the process, we will paint a new picture of our city as beautiful, historic, cosmopolitan, and fun.

The upcoming
bicentennial of the city
as the nation's
capital provides
an unparalleled
opportunity to carry
out a comprehensive
heritage tourism
initiative in
Washington.

The November 1998 Economic Summit, spearheaded by the D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development, made it clear that Washington is ready to take advantage of heritage tourism as an economic development tool. The Strategic Economic Development Plan, formulated during the planning activities preceding the summit, calls for bringing more visitors to the District and moving them beyond the Mall, as well as involving neighborhood residents and businesses in preparing their own development plans that include heritage and cultural attractions. *Capital Assets* provides the raw material to support such initiatives.

WHAT IS HERITAGE TOURISM?

Heritage tourism, also referred to as cultural tourism, was defined by the 1995 White House Conference on Travel and Tourism as "travel directed toward experiencing the arts, history, and special character of unique places." The conference recognized that heritage tourism initiatives can strengthen the nation's cultural institutions and bring economic development to American localities, from rural communities to urban neighborhoods. The conference declared such initiatives a national priority.

THE DC HERITAGE TOURISM COALITION

The DC Heritage Tourism Coalition, the creator of this report, is a consortium of more than 70 off-the-Mall heritage and cultural institutions from East of the River to Georgetown. They include historic houses, neighborhood historical societies, museums, libraries, preservation groups, ethnic organizations, historic gardens and cemeteries, arts organizations, historic houses of worship, and community development corporations, as well as members of our city's tourism industry.

The group was convened in 1996 by the Humanities Council of Washington, DC and The Historical Society of Washington, D.C. to be a catalyst for a heritage tourism initiative in the nation's capital. It is now an independent, non-profit organization, dedicated to strengthening the image and the economy of the District of Columbia by engaging visitors in the diverse heritage of the city beyond the monuments.

In its first few years, the Coalition has begun to develop some examples of the kinds of new "tourism products" we need to help tourists find and enjoy our off-the-Mall attractions. It has, for example, created a bus tour of the Shaw neighborhood, "Duke Ellington's D.C.," that focuses on the rich African American history of Washington, and a walking tour of historic downtown for the Discovery Channel Store that features an archeology exhibit in the store, old photographs and documents, and dramatic stories that bring downtown's Civil War and diverse ethnic history to life.

Many of the attractions described in *Capital Assets* will soon be featured in a neighborhood heritage map, produced in collaboration with The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., Metro, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Coalition is also developing the city's first neighborhood historic marker program, in collaboration with The Historical Society of Washington, D.C. and the Downtown DC Business Improvement District. New neighborhood walking tours for Capitol Hill and Southwest are underway with funds from the city's Marketing Center.

There is, however, as this report reveals, much more to be done. The upcoming bicentennial of the city as the nation's capital provides an unparalleled opportunity to carry out a comprehensive heritage tourism initiative in Washington. The Coalition is ready to work with the city government and with the DC Committee to Promote Washington, the Washington DC Convention and Visitors Association, the DC Chamber of Commerce, the Washington Convention Center Authority, and the Hotel Association of Washington, D.C., to do this.

The city has a new marketing slogan--*Washington, D.C., The American Experience*--created by the DC Committee to Promote Washington. This report provides the raw material to create the tours, performances, exhibits, heritage trails, and other opportunities that will invite our guests to link their own lives to the American Experience in Washington in ways that are comfortable, educational, easy, and fun.

CAPITAL ASSETS—A HERITAGE INVENTORY

This report is the result of a heritage and cultural inventory conducted in 1997 and 1998 by the DC Heritage Tourism Coalition, with partial support from the D.C. Office of Economic Development. Communities across the nation have been looking to their strengths rather than dwelling on their liabilities by doing "asset mapping," identifying the people and places that enrich a place as well as constitute resources for economic development.

Seldom has this asset mapping included heritage and cultural sites, as this DC Heritage Tourism Coalition inventory does. **It is only a partial list in what will be an ongoing project, and we welcome all suggestions for additions.** As rich as this list is, it is not comprehensive. Washington's thriving performing arts--theater, music, and dance--are well described elsewhere and this project does not attempt to catalogue them. However, the lively arts, restaurants, and special retail attractions have been included on a selective basis where they specifically enhance the historical and cultural identity of the neighborhoods in which they are found.

This report also highlights a few people with energy and ideas already at work to enhance the cultural assets of their neighborhoods. We are acutely aware that they are merely examples of the many other dedicated citizens in every corner of the city. All of these efforts will be more effective if they are part of a comprehensive, citywide strategy.

Many people in neighborhoods across the city helped with this project. Those who came to meetings and spent hours assisting us are listed at the end of this report. The many others who answered our calls and provided information have our deep thanks.

Those who helped us agree that, while we want to welcome guests into residential Washington, we must do it in sustainable ways that do not overburden our attractions or damage fragile places. We need to be careful not to take big buses where smaller vehicles or walking tours could be arranged. We cannot overwhelm small spaces with crowds that spoil the experience and harm small sites or a community's way of life. The city has a tremendous asset in its Metro subway system, one of the most modern and attractive in the world. Not only is it a safe and efficient means of transportation, the ride is an experience in its own right. Metro needs to be a key component of a heritage tourism initiative in Washington.

What Other Cities are Doing to Promote Heritage Tourism

Cities across the nation are proving that heritage tourism works through investing in new tourism products and experiences, packaging, and marketing.

- *Philadelphia is investing \$12 million in private and public money to make heritage tourism a linchpin in its economic development planning.*
- *The government of Kansas City has invested \$27 million in an African American jazz museum and other attractions at 18th and Vine, recognizing that African American tourists spend \$30 billion a year in America.*
- *Los Angeles, with a tourist industry the size of the Washington area, estimates its heritage tourism initiative could bring an additional \$3 billion to the region.*
- *Neighborhood tours sponsored by the Chicago Office of Tourism are leaving up to \$250,000 a year in new, locally run craft shops.*

For more examples and case studies, see *Culture and Commerce*, the report of a citywide heritage tourism conference in March 1998, initiated by the DC Heritage Tourism Coalition and carried out in collaboration with the Cultural and Heritage Tourism Program of the D.C. Office of Economic Development and the DC Chamber of Commerce. Call 202-661-7581.

Those who helped us agree that, while we want to welcome guests into residential Washington, we must do it in sustainable ways that do not overburden our attractions or damage fragile places.

A CALL TO ACTION

This report, as rich as it is in lists of attractions, is not intended to be a guide book. It is a call to action. It analyzes the heritage and cultural resources of Washington, D.C., according to their readiness for visitors. Some of our historic sites are ready right now to be packaged and marketed in new ways. Some of our most important sites, however, are unmarked, uninterpreted, locked, hard to find, in neighborhoods not ready for visitors, or, in the worst cases, empty and derelict.

Capital Assets lists our historic sites and other cultural attractions in three categories:

- **READY.**

These places are open, in the business of welcoming people and actively providing a tourist experience. Most museums, for example, fall into this category.

- **POTENTIAL NOT FULLY REALIZED.**

This category includes such attractions as parks, gardens, historic cemeteries, statuary and outdoor murals that are accessible to the general public but that are hard to find and that do not offer as rich an experience as they would if there were programs, signs, or tours. It also includes buildings and sites important for their architectural merit or historic significance that have no signs identifying them and no active interpretation. There are also many sites, such as many of our historic places of worship, that are locked and inaccessible.

- **IN DANGER.**

These attractions are important sites that are empty, in physical disrepair, and in some cases derelict and in danger of demolition.



Ready: (Above) The Heurich House Museum of The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., a lavish Victorian home open for visitors.

Courtesy, The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.



Potential Not Fully Realized: (Above) Anderson Cottage at the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, where Abraham Lincoln wrote the final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation and spent one-quarter of his presidency; unrestored and not staffed for regular visitation.

Courtesy, U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home



In Danger: (Right) The Howard Theatre, once the jewel of Washington's "Black Broadway," now empty and deteriorating.

The Civil War

NATIONAL HISTORY PLAYED OUT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Civil War buffs throng the battlefields in nearby Maryland and Virginia, but seldom think to include the historic sites associated with the Union's central command in Washington.

The Civil War changed the nation and its capital city forever. Before the need for a strong defense focused attention on Washington, Americans were not so sure they wanted a strong federal government. The undeveloped national capital, with its muddy streets and few physical improvements, was ample evidence of the nation's ambivalence. With the attack on Fort Sumter, things changed quickly. The city was inundated with soldiers, newspaper reporters, and business entrepreneurs. The city suddenly got a public water supply and its first public streetcars. Schools, churches, and other institutions were commandeered for hospitals and other wartime uses until camps and hospitals could be built. The city was encircled with 63 forts on the surrounding heights--the most elaborate defense of any city in the Western Hemisphere at the time.

There are scores of places where a visitor can relive this history, beginning with one of the most important and least known battlegrounds of all--Fort Stevens off Georgia Avenue--where Union forces prevented a Confederate takeover of the capital of the Union as Lincoln himself stood on the ramparts. It is the only place in the world where a sitting president of the United States has ever come under enemy fire. While this was the only fort to see action, the remains of others can be found throughout the city. And what the city lacks in battlefields, it makes up for in tales of political intrigue, Confederate spying, and assassination plots.

The sites associated with Abraham Lincoln alone would make a weekend tour, perhaps beginning with one of the most under-appreciated sites in the city, his summer retreat at Anderson Cottage where he wrote the final version of the Emancipation Proclamation. There are at least eight cemeteries with Civil War burials in the District. One can also trace the footsteps of Clara Barton, Dorothea Dix, and Walt Whitman as they provided for the wounded. The list that follows only touches on the possibilities. A recent map of Civil War-related sites in Washington, D.C. by Stephen M. Forman and Thomas P. Lowry lists 98 places in the District of Columbia that might be part of a Civil War tourist experience in the nation's capital. There is more detail in Forman's *Guide to Civil War Washington*.

READY

African American Civil War Memorial, 10th and Vermont Ave., N.W. The nation's only national memorial to African American Civil War soldiers, which, when complete in July 1999, will include the names of 209,000 soldiers and their white officers, as well as a sculpture, the Spirit of Freedom, and a museum and interpretation center in the adjacent Prince Hall Lodge. It is likely to become a place of pilgrimage for people from across the nation.

Battleground National Cemetery, 6625 Georgia Ave., N.W. The nation's smallest national cemetery commemorates the 41 soldiers who fell defending Ft. Stevens

from the July 1864 Confederate attack on Washington. While it is ready to be visited, its structures, signs, and markers are all in need of repair.

Ft. Stevens, 13th and Quackenbos St., N.W. The only Civil War fort in Washington to see military action. It has a National Park Service marker, but given its major significance, it is under-interpreted.

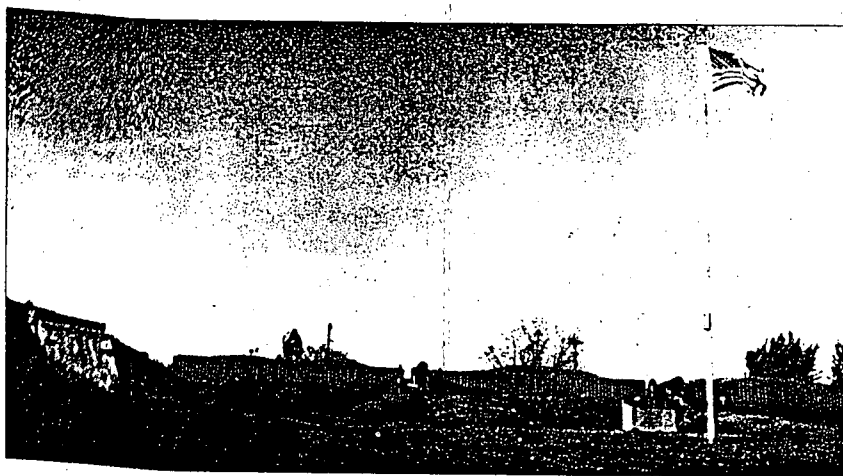
Ford's Theatre, 511 10th St., N.W. The famous building where Lincoln was assassinated still functions as a theater, with the presidential box intact. There is a Lincoln Museum on the ground floor.

The sites associated with Abraham Lincoln alone would make a weekend tour, perhaps beginning with one of the most under-appreciated sites in the city, his summer retreat at Anderson Cottage where he wrote the final version of the Emancipation Proclamation.



The Spirit of Freedom sculpture at the African American Civil War Memorial.

Courtesy, African American Civil War Memorial Foundation



Abraham Lincoln walked the ramparts at Fort Stevens during the Civil War attack by General Jubal T. Early, the only place a sitting president has ever come under enemy fire. A boulder and plaque marks his presence.

Peterson House, 516 10th St., N.W. The house across the street from Ford's Theatre where Lincoln was carried and later died, now operated as a house museum.

Lincoln Park, 11th and E. Capitol St. Site of the Emancipation Monument showing Lincoln with a rising former slave, paid for with donations from African American freedmen.

National Museum of Health and Medicine, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6825 16th St., NW., Building 54. Civil War medicine is a major focus for this museum; exhibits include the bullet that killed President Lincoln. Located behind guarded gates on the campus of Walter Reed, it is difficult for all but the most dedicated tourist to find.



Memorial sculptures. Most of the circles and squares along the avenues of central Washington are embellished with sculpture commemorating heroes of the Civil War; McPherson, Farragut, Scott, Logan, Sheridan, and Thomas are the most familiar. There are other less obvious memorials, however, such as the Arsenal Monument in Congressional Cemetery, commemorating 21 women who died in a munitions factory explosion. Kathryn Allamong Jacob has dedicated an entire book to no fewer than 33 Civil War monuments in Washington, D.C. (*Testament to Union*). There is no organized interpretation of these pieces of history and art.

Tours. American University Professor Edward C. Smith and historian and tour guide Stephen Forman both give tours of Civil War Washington, available for a fee by appointment. The National Park Service offers tours of Civil War Georgetown free of charge every other Sunday in warm weather, beginning at the C & O Canal National

Historical Park headquarters at 1057 Thomas Jefferson St., N.W.

POTENTIAL NOT FULLY REALIZED

Anderson Cottage at the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home for Distinguished Veterans, at Rock Creek Church Road and Upshur St., N.W. Abraham Lincoln's summer White House, where he wrote the final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation--a site of major national importance that is uninterpreted except by appointment and empty except for some administrative offices. The beautifully landscaped grounds boast historic buildings and ancient trees, including a magnificent copper beech under which Lincoln himself liked to sit. There is also a Civil War cemetery on the grounds, one of the first 12 national cemeteries created for Civil War casualties. (Arlington Cemetery was created when the cemetery at Soldiers' Home was filled.) This is a place of enormous importance that has attracted the attention of the Millennium Project of the White House, yet it is threatened by serious financial problems and the potential development of a section of its grounds.

Circle of Forts. Sixty-three forts were built on the highest ground encircling the city of Washington during the Civil War. Most of this land is still in public ownership, and many fort sites have become parks. There were plans to create a greenbelt and circular drive around the city on this land in the 1930s, following recommendations in the 1901-02 McMillan Plan. They were never realized. Today most of the remains of these military installations, except for Fort Stevens, are overgrown or not readily accessible.

Cemeteries. Many of Washington's historic burial grounds have Civil War graves, such as **Congressional, Glenwood, Mount Olivet, Oak Hill, and Rock Creek cemeteries**. There are also smaller cemeteries specifically created for Civil War dead, including **Battleground Cemetery** and the cemetery at the **Soldiers and Airmen's Home**, noted above, and a small cemetery at **St. Elizabeths Hospital**. Stephen M. Forman, a local tour guide and historian who specializes in the Civil War, has catalogued some of the specific graves in his *Guide to Civil War Washington*. There is no regularly scheduled interpretation of these sites.

Clara Barton's office and home, 437 7th St., N.W. A dramatic chance discovery recently revealed the third floor of this downtown building, owned by the federal government, as the home and office of the famed Civil War nurse. The General Services Administration and the National Park Service are working on plans to preserve and interpret it.

Fort Lesley J. McNair, 4th and P St., S.W. The place where the Lincoln conspirators were held awaiting trial, and where they were hung. Part of the judge's chamber remains at the site. While visitors are usually allowed on the grounds of Ft. McNair with identification, this site is not interpreted.

Mary Surratt Boarding House, 604 H St., N.W. One of the oldest residential buildings in Washington, this 1840s frame house became a boarding house frequented by the Lincoln conspirators. There is a plaque on the building, but its current function as Golos Chinese restaurant is far from its historic identity, and few notice it.

New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1313 New York Ave., N.W. The church of Abraham Lincoln; its pastor, Rev. Phineas D. Gurley, conducted his funeral service. Although the church building is a new, expanded version of the earlier church, Lincoln's pew remains in the sanctuary in its original place.

Theodore Roosevelt Island, Potomac River at Georgetown. African American Civil War soldiers were garrisoned and trained here. There is no public recognition of this at the site.

Winder Building, 17th and G St., N.W. An 1848 building that served as the Office of the Quartermaster General and the Bureau of Military Justice during the Civil War, and was probably visited frequently by Abraham Lincoln in the course of the war. The U.S. Signal Corps communicated by flags to the forts and camps around Washington from the roof.

IN DANGER

Old Naval Hospital, 9th and Pennsylvania Ave., S.E. The predecessor of Bethesda Naval Hospital, this building was built in 1865 for wounded Civil War sailors, who had been carried by boat to the nearby Navy Yard. This site is totally intact, with carriage house and original wrought

iron fence. Most recently used for social service programs, it is unmarked, unrecognized, and in poor physical condition.

St. Elizabeths Hospital, 2700 Martin Luther King Ave., N.W. Converted to a Civil War hospital specializing in artificial limbs, there is a little-known Civil War cemetery tucked away on the west campus. While individuals may enter St. Elizabeths, tourism to this extraordinary site is not encouraged. There is no plan for the future of this west campus, now largely empty except for some administrative offices. Given its potential for development, the entire campus is in danger.

PEOPLE WITH ENERGY AND IDEAS

• **Kerri Childress**, public affairs officer of the U.S. Soldiers and Airmen's Home, has recognized the enormous importance of **Anderson Cottage**. She has been waging a single-handed campaign for its restoration and interpretation. Ms. Childress currently gives tours herself by appointment.

• **Julia Washburn**, chief interpreter for the **Rock Creek Park** division of the National Capital Region of the National Park Service is working on a new, comprehensive interpretive plan that will include enrichment of the interpretation at Fort Stevens and the other forts in the city's circle of defenses.

• Former City Councilmember **Frank Smith** led the multimillion-dollar, volunteer effort to create the African American Civil War Memorial at 10th and U St., N.W., a major gift to the city and the nation that will be turned over to the National Park Service when complete in summer 1999.



Kerri Childress in the room where Lincoln wrote the final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Appendix

- **List of Studies on Anderson Cottage and Related Resource**
- **Selected News Clippings**

Appendix

- List of Studies on Anderson Cottage and Related Resource
- Selected News Clippings

Recent Studies of Anderson Cottage and Related Resources

1. Anderson Cottage Historic Structure Report, Geier Brown Renfrow Architects, February, 1985
2. United State Soldiers' and Airmen's Home Preservation Plan, Volumes I and II, Geier Brown Renfrow Architects, July 1985
3. Study for the Restoration of Anderson Cottage, Geier Brown Renfrow Architects, August, 1985.
4. United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home/LCOR Public-Private Venture Business Plan, LCOR Incorporated, August, 1998.
5. Capital Assets: A Report on the Tourist Potential of Neighborhood Heritage and Cultural Sites in Washington, D.C., Kathryn Schneider Smith, DC Heritage Tourism Coalition, 1999

THIS SEARCH	THIS DOCUMENT	THIS CR ISSUE	GO TO
Next Hit	Forward	Next Document	New CR Search
Prev Hit	Back	Prev Document	Home Page
Hit List	Best Sections	Daily Digest	Help
	Doc Contents		

Congressional Record article 1 of 3 [Full Display](#) - 10,395 bytes. [\[Help\]](#)

A TRIBUTE TO THE HISTORIC ANDERSON COTTAGE--SUMMER WHITE HOUSE TO THREE PRESIDENTS -- (BY CATHERINE WATSON) (Extension of Remarks - June 18, 1999)

[Page: E1338] [Link to GPO's PDF version for this page.](#) NEW

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

in the House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1999

- Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, on the grounds of the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home (USSAH) in Northwest Washington, D.C., sits one of our country's most historic buildings, the **Anderson Cottage**. Rarely visited and virtually unknown, it was the summer White House of three U.S. presidents: Chester Arthur, Rutherford B. Hayes, and, most notably, Abraham Lincoln. President Lincoln spent a quarter of his presidency living at the Soldiers' Home and it was in **Anderson Cottage** where he wrote the last draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.
- The building is in need of restoration, and the USSAH has been working with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to find funding to restore the building and open it up as an historic site. **Anderson Cottage** also is listed as one of the First Lady's 'Save America's Treasures' sites. The following article illustrates the importance of this home, as well as the equally historic Soldiers' and Airmen's Home on which it sits.

[FROM THE WASHINGTON TIMES, MARCH 18, 1999]

(BY CATHERINE WATSON)

I went to Washington recently to look for links to one of the country's heroes. I wanted to explore the city that Abraham Lincoln knew, the Washington of the Civil War.

Because I had only a few days, I thought I should choose the big names. But the highlight was a place I had never heard of—one of the least-visited of Lincoln sites and arguably the most important: **Anderson Cottage**. (See? I didn't think you had heard of it.)

The cottage lies off North Capitol Street, on the grounds of what Lincoln knew as the Soldiers' Home, now the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, a handsome, 320-acre campus on high ground in the Northwest quadrant of the city. About 1,100 retired enlisted personnel live there, veterans from World War II through Vietnam.

I parked near the house, walked up the wooden porch steps and entered a large room that would be familiar instantly to anyone who knows military posts. There was that same smell of governmental dust, the same kind of linoleum alternating with Veterans Affairs gray paint on the floor, even the same sickly pale green on some of the walls. I liked it.

But there didn't seem to be much to see. Just how important is it historically?

Very, said Kerri Childress, public affairs director for the home, whose office is in **Anderson Cottage**. This is where Lincoln finished the Emancipation Proclamation.

Ms. Childress, a tall, slim woman with bright blond, short-cropped hair, has a contagious enthusiasm for the Soldiers' Home, its residents and **Anderson Cottage**.

'This really is a well-kept secret,' she said. 'Even the Lincoln buffs are sometimes surprised.'

More surprising is how rarely it's visited. At most, 100 tourists a year find their way to the cottage.

'If this building were any place else, it would be a national shrine,' Ms. Childress said. 'We make such a big deal out of Ford's Theater. Nothing happened there except that he died. This was where he lived. This was where he created. This was where he became Abraham Lincoln.'

Like many presidents, Lincoln had a summer White House, though I had never associated that plain man with such a luxury. This was it--a getaway that may have been the only place in Washington where he and his family had a semblance of normal life or anything approaching happiness.

It's still fresh and countrylike, but now the Soldiers' Home is an island awash in city streets. During Lincoln's summers, it was well outside of smelly, muddy, crowded, insect-ridden Washington--a genuine country estate built for a local banker in 1840.

The government purchased the property in 1850 to create one of the nation's first homes for veterans. The cottage was renamed at the start of the Civil War to honor Maj. Robert Anderson, the Union Commander of Fort Sumter, the bastion off the South Carolina coast where the first official shots were fired.

Anderson Cottage was the first infirmary at the Soldiers' Home, the first guest house and, in 1954, the first dormitory for female veterans, Ms. Childress said.

The gray-stucco cottage also served as summer White House for presidents Rutherford B. Hayes and Chester A. Arthur. President James Buchanan had his summer residence across the street.

But it's the Lincoln connection that matters most.

'Secretary of War Edwin Stanton did not want Lincoln up here,' Ms. Childress said. 'He felt they could not protect him out here.' Stanton probably was right.

From late June to early November, starting in 1862, Lincoln commuted virtually daily by horseback between the cottage and the White House, accompanied by 20 to 30 cavalymen with their swords drawn. He didn't much care for the escort.

Even so, Ms. Childress said, one night he arrived at the cottage without his stovepipe hat. It had been shot off his head.

Anderson Cottage also is where John Wilkes Booth's first plot against the president was supposed to have been carried out. It was a kidnapping plan that later was abandoned in favor of a bullet.

There, too, Mary Todd Lincoln held seances, trying to connect with the spirit of her son, Willie, who had died in the White House just three months before the Lincolns first came to **Anderson Cottage**.

This also is where Mrs. Lincoln spent two months recuperating from an 1863 carriage accident. Some historians believe the carriage had been tampered with in an attempt on Lincoln's life, Ms. Childress said.

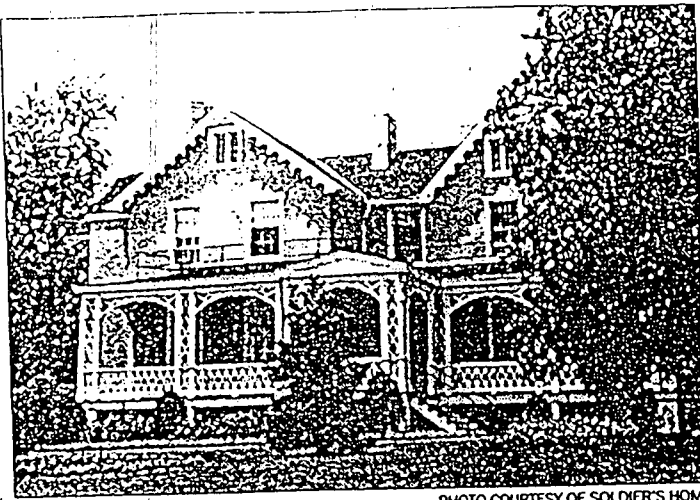


PHOTO COURTESY OF SOLDIER'S HOME

Abraham Lincoln and his family spent summers here.

National Perspective

DAVID M. SHRIBMAN

Abraham Lincoln did thinking here

WASHINGTON — Abraham Lincoln and his wife retreated in grief here after the death of their son. The wartime president and his family found a few moments of peace and solace here amid war and struggle. The Great Emancipator learned of the Union victory at Antietam here, repaired to the second-floor office and worked on a draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

This small cottage on the outskirts of Washington that served as Lincoln's summer White House stands so far from the daily commerce of politics that it is all but forgotten. No one visits. No post cards are available. No guidebooks tout its import. You can stand in the very room where the Emancipation Proclamation was polished and feel, well, absolutely nothing.

Here is a preservation

Fields wrote of his last ride from the capital to the cottage the day before he died: "His eye had that expression of profound weariness and sadness which I never saw in any other human eye." It was the look of Lincoln, pain coursing from every pore.

That sadness and pain had its home on the grounds of what is now known as the US Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in northeast Washington. Today it is a bustling place, all cars and concrete. In Lincoln's day, though, it was the country. Its hill provided a splendid view, from on high, into Washington. Its trees, including a copper beech that still stands, provided a place for Lincoln's children to play and, at least once, for the president to climb.

In all, Lincoln spent about a quarter of his presidency here.

Most years he would move his family to the cottage from early spring to late fall, commuting into town each morning, the journey taking

Lincoln's
retreat is
unlike almost
everything else

absolutely
nothing.

Here is a
preservation
and restoration
project waiting
to happen.

The capital
is a festival of
wide boulevards - and
tiny corridors
of power. It is a
city of monumental build-

ings - and hidden power centers. It provides a giant stage for performers - and a few real levers of power. And so one of the lessons of Washington - not only in our time but in all time - is to seek power in the nooks and crannies, in the out-of-the-way places beyond the reach of the searching eye.

This is the ultimate nook, the supreme cranny.

But Lincoln's retreat is a remarkable place for another reason. It is unlike almost everything else about Washington: It is notable not for the speeches given here but for the thoughts that lingered here. It is notable not for the decisions that were made here but for the emotions that were explored here. It is notable not for glory but for grief.

Here, in a place that once was remote, a setting that Washingtonians used for horse carriage rides and ice skating, America's wartime president went into retreat. Sometimes he would slip away to visit the local hospitals where the ambulance trains dumped the wounded soldiers from across the Virginia line. Sometimes he would wander to the cemeteries, full of Union dead, standing with other mourners, as if to soak up the grief. Always with him was the pain of the war he could not stop and, he feared, the war he could not win.

Lincoln is remembered today for soaring thoughts and soaring phrases, but mostly his heart occupied the lower altitudes. The diarist Maunsell B.

unlike almost
everything else
about
Washington: It
is notable not
for glory but
for grief.

muting into
town each
morning, the
journey taking
less time on
horseback in
1864 than it
does by taxi in
1997.

The original
mantelpieces
and banisters
are still here.
The trees that
so beguiled the

president have grown ever more lush and beguiling. The stucco exterior and the green-and-white trim of an early Gothic revival cottage are much as they were in Lincoln's time. But that's about all.

The cottage is a plain old office building, completely without charm. Paint peels from the walls and falls off in unsightly clumps from the ceilings. The main entryway is now the ladies' restroom. Maybe it is a metaphor for democracy that an unforgettable figure used this now-forgettable setting for his deepest reflection.

"I can think of no more historic unknown place in the country," says David Long, an East Carolina University historian.

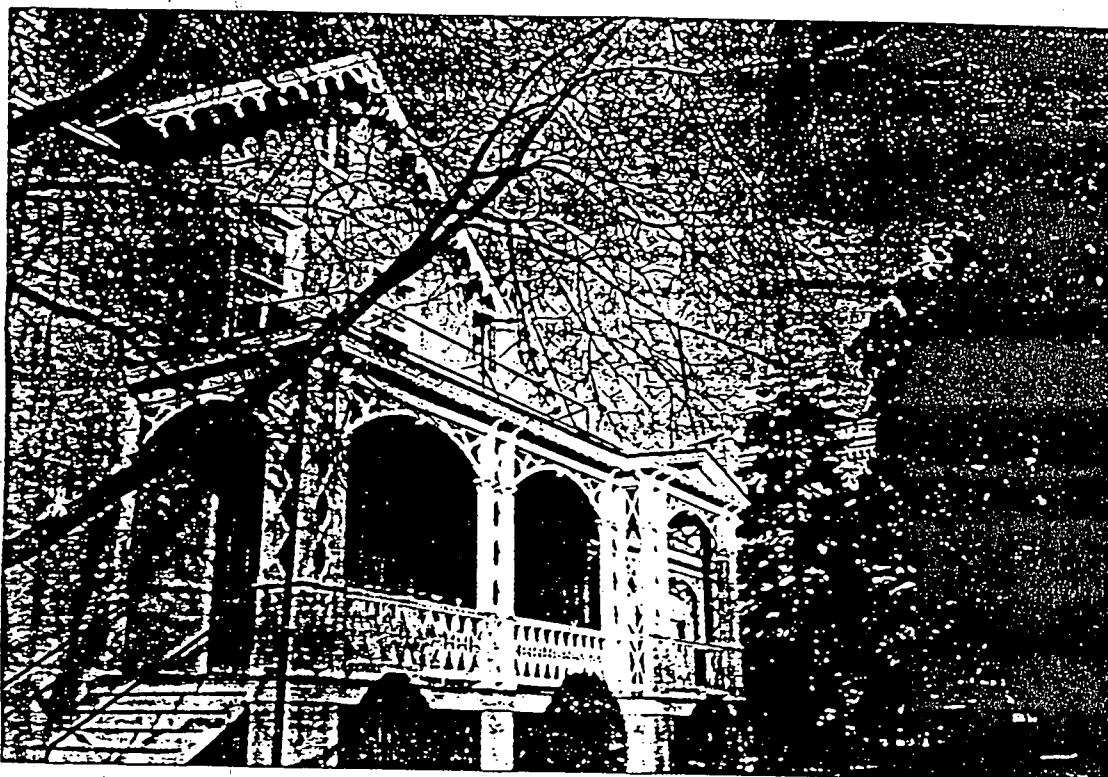
Now there are the stirrings of a preservation effort. The Lincoln Forum of the Civil War Education Association is trying to stoke interest in restoring the cottage. So is the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "We need to preserve this and do right by this," says Richard Moe, president of the trust.

This is a restoration project with a difference, though. It is a reminder, more urgent today than perhaps at any time in our history, that the work of politics and government doesn't occur only at podiums and in committee chambers. For Lincoln, as for us all, it goes on in little cottages where the trappings of power are stripped away and where we are left alone, trapped by our thoughts, our emotions and, if we are lucky, the better angels of our nature.

TODAY'S QUOTE

► "The ballot is stronger than the bullet."
— Abraham Lincoln (1856)

StarTribune



Anderson Cottage, a well-kept secret on the grounds of the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in Washington, D.C., was Lincoln's summer White House. Star Tribune photos by Catherine Watson

Abe Lincoln's Washington

Road less traveled

Catherine Watson

WASHINGTON, D.C. — It's hard to remember, amid the traffic and the controversy, that this city exists in more than present tense. That it still has tangible ties to the past. That it's still connected to heroes.

I went to Washington recently to look for links to one of them. I wanted to explore the city that Abraham Lincoln knew, the Washington of the Civil War. I didn't expect to be overwhelmed, but I was — by how many places were significant in his life, and by how many of those are still standing.

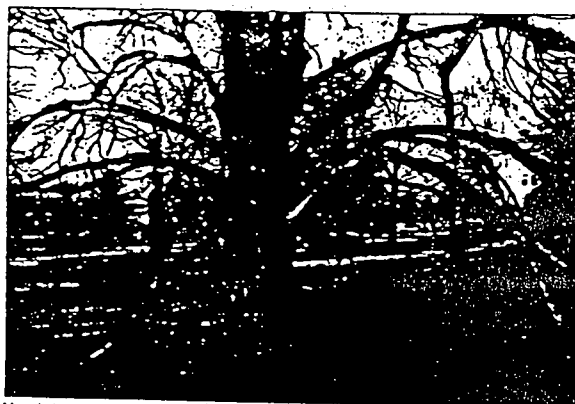
This is still Lincoln's city, in more than imaginary ways.

There are so many Lincoln connections, in fact — from the White House to Ford's Theatre — that a week wouldn't be enough time to see them all. Since I had only a few days in late January, I had to pick and choose. Mostly I chose the big names, because it had been a long time since I'd seen them.

But the highlight was a place I had never heard of — one of the least visited of Lincoln sites and arguably the most important: Anderson Cottage. (See? I didn't think you'd heard of it.)

I found it on my last afternoon in the city, when I had time for only one more visit. The cottage lies north of the Capitol. My other option was the old Washington Arsenal, Fort McNair, in exactly the opposite direction, where the co-conspirators in John Wilkes Booth's assassination plot were hanged.

I was torn, but I was also fighting afternoon traffic, and just then it was easier to turn north than south. Anderson Cottage it is, I thought, swinging onto North Capitol Street. I knew the minute I got there that it was the right choice.



Lincoln liked to read under the protective branches of this copper beech tree on the Soldiers' Home grounds beside Anderson Cottage.

Rich with Civil War structures and monuments, Washington, D.C., is still Lincoln's city. Easily the most interesting site is one almost nobody visits: Anderson Cottage, Lincoln's summer White House. "We make such a big deal out of Ford's Theatre," the cottage's spokeswoman said. "This was where he lived." It's also

About 1,100 retired enlisted personnel live on the grounds

Soldiers' Home

The house stands on the lovely grounds of what Lincoln knew as the Soldiers' Home, now the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home (USSAH), a handsome 320-acre campus on high ground in the northern part of the city. About 1,100 retired enlisted personnel live there, veterans from World War II through Vietnam.

I parked near the house, walked on the wooden porch steps and entered a large room that was instantly familiar, though not for Lincolnian reasons. I grew up on a military reservation, in the Veterans Administration enclave of Fort Snelling, and this interior came straight from my childhood. There was that same smell of government dust, the same kind of tilework alternating with VA gray paint on the floor, even the same sickly pale green on some of the walls. I liked it.

But there didn't seem to be much to see. Just how important is it historically?

Very, said Kerri Childress, public affairs director for USSAH, whose office is in Anderson Cottage. This is where Lincoln finished the Emancipation Proclamation.

Childress, a tall, slim woman with short, cropped, bright blond hair, has a contagious enthusiasm for the Soldiers' Home, its residents and Anderson Cottage.

"This really is a well-kept secret," she said. "Even the Lincoln buffs are sometimes surprised."

More surprising is how rarely it's visited. At most, 100 tourists a year manage to find the cottage.

"If this building were anywhere else, it would be a national shrine," Childress said. "We make such a big deal out of Ford's Theatre. Nothing happened there except that he died. This was where he lived! This was where he created! This was where he became Abraham Lincoln!"

Anderson Cottage

Like many presidents, Lincoln had a summer White House, though I'd never associated that plain man with such a luxury. This was it — a getaway that may have been the only place in Washington where he and his family had a semblance of normal life or anything approaching happiness.

It's still fresh and country-like up there, but now the Soldiers' Home is an island awash in city streets. During Lincoln's summers, it was well outside of smelly, muddy, crowded, insect-ridden Washington — a genuine country estate built for a local banker in 1840.

The government purchased the property in 1850 to create one of the nation's first veterans' homes. The cottage was renamed at the start of the Civil War to honor Maj. Robert Anderson, Union commander of Fort Sumter, the bastion off the South Carolina coast where the first official shots were fired.

Anderson Cottage was the first infirmary at the Soldiers' Home, the first guest house and, in 1954, the first dormitory for women veterans, of whom there are now 93, Childress said.

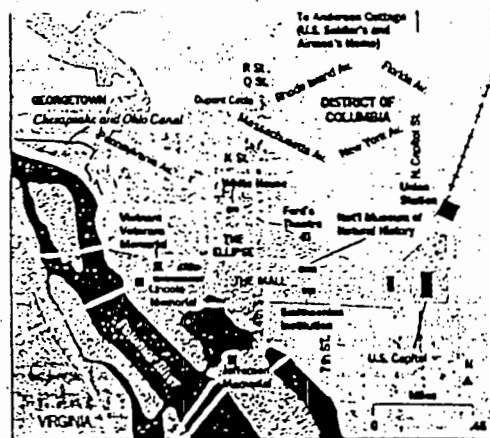
The gray-stucco cottage also served as summer White House for presidents Rutherford B. Hayes and Chester A. Arthur. President James Buchanan had his summer residence across the street.

But it's the Lincoln connection that matters most.

Mrs. Lincoln's refuge

"Secretary of War Edwin Stanton did not want Lincoln up here," Childress said. "He felt they could not protect him out here." Stanton was probably right.

From late June to early November, starting in 1862, Lincoln commuted by horseback between the cottage and the White House, virtually daily, accompanied by 20 to 30 cavalrymen, with their swords drawn. He didn't much



care for the escort.

Even so, Childress said, one night he arrived back at the cottage without his stovepipe hat. It had been shot off his head.

Anderson Cottage also figured in John Wilkes Booth's first plot against the president — a kidnapping plan that was later abandoned in favor of a bullet.

Here, too, Mary Todd Lincoln held seances, trying to connect with the spirit of her son, Willie, who had died in the White House just three months before the Lincolns first came to Anderson Cottage.

And this is where Mrs. Lincoln spent two months recuperating from an 1863 carriage accident. Some historians believe that the carriage had been tampered with in an attempt on Lincoln's life, Childress said.

Mrs. Lincoln refused to be taken to the White House after the accident. "There was an open-door policy at the White House" during the war, Childress said. "I can only imagine the chaos." Besides, "Mrs. Lincoln wasn't set up to be a politician's wife, especially a president's wife. What comforted her was this place."

Abe's arbor

At Anderson Cottage, "Lincoln

did not entertain and did as little business as possible," Childress said. "There is very little doubt in my mind that some of Lincoln's greatest thoughts and greatest writings took place in this house. This is the only place he would have had the solace and the quietude to do that."

As the afternoon deepened into winter twilight, Childress walked me across the drive to an ancient copper beech, a gigantic tree with a knobby trunk and a ring of low branches touching the ground. Where each touched, a young tree had sprung up.

"In summer," Childress said, "it is like a big canopy."

Lincoln took refuge in there, she said. When aides couldn't find him anywhere else, they'd look for him under the swooping branches, where he often went to read.

Sometimes he even played there. He climbed this tree a couple of times, she noted — once with his son Tad, another time with Secretary Stanton's children.

I was awed. This tree knew Abe Lincoln — one of the few living things in this world that did.

Cottage is little changed

Back inside, I saw that the cottage was bigger than it looked — a "cottage" only if you compared it with a mansion like the White House. The style is Gothic Revival, and it still has its lacy white trim, big front porch and heavy interior moldings.

Except for modern furniture and a few partitions, the layout of the house is about the way it was when the Lincolns knew it. The white marble mantelpieces are original. So is the simple wooden banister leading up from the entry hall. And the shutters folded into the window frames. And the sliding pocket doors on the ground floor — painted shut now, but still there.

I wandered upstairs on my own and easily found the large second-floor room at the front of the house that had been Lincoln's bedroom. This was where he wrote the final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The room was sparsely furnished — a Victorian dresser, a contemporary dining-room table ringed with modern chairs. But its appeal lay in its silence, not its fur-



The presidential box in Ford's Theatre where Lincoln was shot. One million visitors

nature. It was dead quiet there — genuinely peaceful. The only sound from outside was a plaintive bugle call as veterans lowered the flag for the day.

I could imagine the tall, gaunt president leaning against the fireplace mantel or looking out the windows at the green lawn that still surrounds the cottage. He probably even looked through the same panes of glass.

It hit me then: This place has more to do with Lincoln the president than any other shrine. More than his well-preserved home in Springfield, Ill. More than the frontier hamlet of New Salem. More than the White House itself.

Here he was not only commander-in-chief, but also husband, father, human being. No wonder he would take risks to ride out here every chance he got.

Helping out

The house is structurally sound — always has been and always will be, Childress said. "We will always take care of it." It's not restored, so it's not pretty, but it could be.

Unfortunately, the Soldiers' Home doesn't have the money to do it. The home has been funded from its beginning by small deductions from enlisted men's pay — now 50 cents a month, plus any fines and forfeitures from disciplinary actions. It has never been supported by taxpayer dollars.

But with the downsizing of the military, less money is coming in because there are fewer soldiers to fund the deductions. The effect has been "devastating," Childress said, "just devastating."

A rescuer may be coming, however. The United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home is negotiating with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to have the trust take charge of the cottage.

Rather than having it become just another Victorian house with antique furniture, Childress hopes it can be used as a learning center for an array of related topics: the Civil War, the effects of the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln himself. But all that, she said, is still a long way off.



Lincoln's second-floor bedroom in Anderson Cottage. This is the room where he finished the Emancipation Proclamation. (Furniture is not original, but the mantel is.) The house gets perhaps 100 visitors a year.

Getting in touch

Meantime, Anderson Cottage continues to be a government office. If you'd like to contribute to its maintenance or improvements, you can make checks out to "USSAH/Anderson Cottage" and send them to the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, 3700 North Capitol St. NW, Washington D.C. 20317.

For more information on the cottage and the Soldiers' Home, check the Web site at www.ahf.com, or use the above mailing address for: USSAH11@erols.com.

Getting there: Go north on North Capitol Street for about 2 miles until you cross Michigan Avenue; the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will be to your right. Look for signs directing you to turn left into the USSAH grounds. Staff members at the gates will direct you to the cottage. There is free parking behind it. It's best to call first, especially if you want to bring several people in: 1-202-722-3556. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Mrs. Lincoln refused to be taken to the White House after the accident. 'There was an open-door policy at the White House' during the war, Ms. Childress said. 'I can only imagine the chaos.'

Besides, 'Mrs. Lincoln wasn't set up to be a politician's wife, especially a president's wife. What comforted her was this place.'

At Anderson Cottage, 'Lincoln did not entertain and did as little business as possible,' Ms. Childress said. 'There is very little doubt in my mind that some of Lincoln's greatest thoughts and greatest writings took place in this house. This is the only place he would have had the solace and the quietude to do that.'

As the afternoon deepened into the winter twilight, Ms. Childress walked me across the drive to an ancient copper beech, a gigantic tree with a knobby trunk and a ring of low branches touching the ground. Where each touched, a young tree had sprung up.

'In summer,' Ms. Childress said, 'it is like a big canopy.'

Lincoln took refuge in there, she said. When aides couldn't find him anywhere else, they would look for him under the swooping branches, where he often went to read.

Sometimes he even played there. He climbed this tree a couple of times, she noted--once with his son Tad, another time with Stanton's children.

I was awed. This tree knew Abe Lincoln--it's one of the few living things in this world that did.

Back inside, I saw that the cottage was bigger than it looked--it's a 'cottage' only if you compare it with a mansion such as the White House. The style is Gothic revival, and it still has its lacy white trim, big front porch and heavy interior moldings.

Except for modern furniture and a few partitions, the layout of the house is about the way it was when the Lincolns knew it. The White marble mantelpieces are original. So is the simple wooden banister leading up the stairs from the entry hall. And the shutters folded into the window frames. And the sliding pocket doors on the ground floor--painted shut now, but still there.

I wandered upstairs on my own and easily found the large second-floor room at the front of the house that had been Lincoln's bedfront. This was where he wrote the final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The room is sparsely furnished--a Victorian dresser, a contemporary dining-room table ringed with modern chairs. But its appeal lies in its silence, not its furniture. It was dead quiet there the day I visited--genuinely peaceful. The only sound from outside was a plaintive bugle call as veterans lowered the flag for the day.

I could imagine the tall, gaunt president leaning against the fireplace mantel or looking out the windows at the green lawn that still surrounds the cottage. He probably even looked through the same panes of glass.

It hit me then: This place has more to do with Lincoln the president than any other shrine. More than his well-preserved home in Springfield, ILL. More than the frontier hamlet of New Salem, ILL. More than the White House itself.

Here he was not only commander in chief, but also husband, father and human being. No wonder he would take risks to ride out here every chance he got.

The house is structurally sound--always has been and always will be, Ms. Childress said: 'We will always take care of it.' It's not restored, so it's not pretty, but it could be.

Unfortunately, the Soldiers' Home doesn't have the money to do it. The home has been funded from its beginning by small deductions from enlisted men's pay--now 50 cents a month, plus any fines and forfeitures from disciplinary actions. It has never been supported by taxpayer dollars.

But with the downsizing of the military, less money is coming in because there are fewer soldiers to fund the deductions. The effect has been 'devastating,' Ms. Childress said, 'just devastating.'

A rescuer may be coming, however. The United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home is negotiating with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to have the trust take care of the cottage.

Rather than having it become just another Victorian house with antique furniture. Ms. Childress said she hopes it can be used as a learning center for an array of related topics: the Civil War, the effects of the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln himself. But all that, she said, is still a long way off.

[Page: E1339] [Link to GPO's PDF version for this page.](#) NEW

THIS SEARCH

[Next Hit](#)
[Prev Hit](#)
[Hit List](#)

THIS DOCUMENT

[Forward](#)
[Back](#)
[Best Sections](#)
[Doc Contents](#)

THIS CR ISSUE

[Next Document](#)
[Prev Document](#)
[Daily Digest](#)

GO TO

[New CR Search](#)
[HomePage](#)
[Help](#)

scribman
7

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

In a quaint summer cottage, President Lincoln found solace

DAVID
SHRIBMAN

WASHINGTON — Here Abraham Lincoln and his wife retreated in grief after the death of their son. Here the wartime president and his family found a few moments of peace and solace amid war and struggle. Here the Great Emancipator learned of the Union victory at Antietam, repaired to his second-floor office and worked on a draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Lincoln's summer White House stands so far from the daily commerce of politics that it is all but forgotten. No one ever visits. No post cards are available. No guidebooks tout its importance. You can stand in the very room where the Emancipation Proclamation was polished and feel — well, absolutely nothing.

Here is a preservation and restoration project waiting to happen. The capital is a festival of wide boulevards — and tiny corridors of power. It is a city of monumental buildings — and hidden power centers. It provides a giant stage for performers — and a few real levers of power. And so one of the lessons of Washington — not only in our time but in all time — is to seek power in the nooks and crannies, in the out-of-the-way places beyond the reach of the searching eye.

This is the ultimate nook, the supreme cranny.

But Lincoln's retreat is a remarkable place for another reason. It is unlike almost everything else about Washington: It is notable not for the speeches given here, but for the thoughts that lingered here. It is notable not for the decisions that were made here, but for the emotions that were explored here. It is notable not for glory, but for grief.

Here, in a place that once was remote, a setting that Washingtonians used for horse carriage rides and ice skating, America's wartime president went into retreat. Sometimes he would slip away to visit the local hospitals where the ambulance trains dumped the wounded soldiers from across the Virginia line. Sometimes he would wander to the cemeteries, full of Union dead, standing with other mourners, as if to soak up the grief. Always the pain of the war he could not stop and, he feared, the war he could not win, was with him.

Lincoln is remembered today for soaring thoughts and soaring phrases, but mostly his heart occupied the lower altitudes. The diarist Maunsell B. Fields wrote of his last ride from the capital to the cottage the day before he died: "His eye had that expression

of profound weariness and sadness which I never saw in any other human eye." It was the look of Lincoln, pain coursing from every pore.

That sadness and pain had its home on the grounds of what is now known as the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in northeast Washington. Today it is a bustling place, all cars and concrete. In Lincoln's day, though, it was the country. Its hill provided a splendid view, from on high, into Washington.

Its trees, including a copper beech tree that still stands on the grounds, provided a place for Lincoln's kids to play, and, at least once, for the president of the United States to climb.

In all, Lincoln spent about a quarter of his presidency here. Most years he would move his family to the small cottage from early spring to late fall, commuting into town each morning, the journey taking less time on horseback in 1864 than it does by taxicab in 1997.

The original mantelpieces and banisters are still here. The trees that so beguiled the president have grown ever more lush and beguiling. The stucco exterior and the green and white trim of an early Gothic revival cottage are much as they were in Lincoln's time. But that's about all.

The cottage is a plain old office building, completely without charm. Paint peels from the walls and falls off in unsightly clumps from the ceilings. The main entryway is now the ladies' rest room. Maybe it is a metaphor for democracy that an unforgettable figure used this most forgettable of settings for his deepest reflection.

"I can think of no more historic unknown place in the country," says David Long, an East Carolina University historian.

Now there are the stirrings of a preservation effort. The Lincoln Forum of the Civil War Education Association is trying to stoke interest in restoring the cottage. So is the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"We need to preserve this and do right by this," says Richard Moe, president of the trust.

This is a restoration project with a difference, though. It is a reminder, more urgent today than perhaps at any time in our history, that the work of politics and government doesn't occur only at podiums and in committee chambers. For Lincoln, as for us all, it goes on in little cottages where the trappings of power are stripped away and where we are left, alone, trapped by our thoughts, by our emotions and, if we are lucky, by the better angels of our nature.

(David Shribman is assisting managing editor, columnist and Washington bureau chief for *The Boston Globe*.)

Lincoln Site Put on Endangered List

By Linda Wheeler
Washington Post Staff Writer
Monday, June 26, 2000; B03

Hidden away in a retirement community in Northwest Washington is a house Abraham Lincoln called home during his presidency, a place where he escaped the pressures of the wartime White House and could climb trees with his son Tad. Rarely seen by the public, the house at the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home has been in continual use for more than 150 years.

Concerned that the little-known building was deteriorating because of years of heavy use, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has placed it at the top of its annual list of America's most endangered historic places for 2000. The list of private and public buildings is meant to bring public attention and financial support to historic sites that are threatened by neglect or demolition.

The list of 11, released today, includes historic neighborhood schools nationwide, 39 vintage buildings of the Eisenhower medical center in Leavenworth, Kan., and an art deco structure threatened by the expansion of the Santa Anita Racetrack in Arcadia, Calif.

In the 13 years the trust has created a list, only one of their designated buildings has been demolished, according to a spokesman. The trust has no official control over any of the sites, but its work is so well-respected that the annual list is taken seriously and generally wins response -- and money.

Trust President Richard Moe called the gabled, three-story building where Lincoln lived "the most significant Lincoln site in the country, the only one that tells the story of his presidency and the story of his family life."

ext: same
~~The exterior of the house is stucco, as when it was built, and there have been few modifications, so it looks much like what Lincoln saw when he was a guest there.~~

int: deterioration
~~Inside, the house has lost whatever charm it had. The high-ceilinged rooms that were once the formal sitting room and dining room for the Lincolns are now painted an institutional green and the space is filled with inexpensive desks, chairs and files. In a large, second-floor room identified as Lincoln's bedroom, the space was divided long ago by a temporary wall.~~

Moe said he is pleased that ~~the interior was never renovated and the shape of the rooms barely changed.~~ If the house is ever to be restored, Moe said, period furnishings, proper curtains and the right color on the walls would create the mood of the 1860s.

~~It is the condition of the damp basement with its antiquated electric system and old metal pipes that worries him.~~

"There's water seepage here that is damaging to the foundation, and there is a danger of a fire getting started," he said. ~~"The Soldiers' and Airmen's Home have been good stewards of their property, but their mission does not include historic preservation."~~

When Lincoln and other presidents stayed there, the house was still fairly new and the countryside location offered ~~a cool retreat from the hot, muggy city.~~

~~Initially built as the summer retreat for banker George Riggs about 1842, the building was purchased as the army asylum for elderly and disabled soldiers in 1851. When new facilities were completed for the veterans, the house was offered to the presidents for their personal use.~~

Lincoln was ~~one of four~~ ^(?) presidents to use the house: James Buchanan from 1857 to '60, Lincoln from 1862 to '64, Rutherford B. Hayes from 1877 to '80, and Chester Arthur from 1882 to '84.

Lincoln spent as much time as he could at the house between 1862 and 1864 during the warm months. ~~One afternoon in August 1864, Lincoln was riding alone on the Seventh Street Pike, now Georgia Avenue, when gunmen fired at him. Lincoln galloped back to the summer home and several soldiers were dispatched to investigate. They returned with the president's stovepipe hat with a bullet hole through it. No one was ever apprehended.~~



~~It was at the cottage that Lincoln wrote his final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation, saying in his notes when the document was finished that he "called the cabinet together to hear it," and it was published on the following Monday. I made a solemn vow before God that if General Lee was driven back from Maryland, I would crown the result by the declaration for freedom to the slaves."~~

at the home no

Among the many distinguished visitors to the summer White House was abolitionist Frederick Douglass according to Edward Smith, American University history professor and Civil War expert.

"They had casual visits there but I don't doubt that Douglass told him a couple times to get on with the Emancipation Proclamation and encouraged him to allow blacks to enlist in the Army," he said.

Smith said the house, now known as the Anderson Cottage, was extremely important to Mary Lincoln because it was the one place ~~"they truly were a couple. When at the White House, he was always with his Cabinet, always with other men. At the cottage, she got to spend time with him."~~

It was also there that Lincoln found solitude under a ~~tent-like copper beech tree~~ not far from the cottage. The tree, with the spread of about half a football field, ~~is still alive and continues~~ to offer the same good seats on its long, low branches that Lincoln liked. It's included on the list with the house.



The house and surrounding buildings are not open to the public because the property is a retirement home to about 1,100 soldiers and airmen, said ~~spokeswoman Jean Schaefer~~. She said home officials initially were not interested in having the Anderson Cottage on the trust's list because they didn't want bus loads of tourists disturbing the residents.

However, she said Moe assured home officials the trust had dealt with other historic properties with similar limitations. An agreement was worked out that would open the house to the public by appointment only.

"Our mission is to take care of the veterans, and the trust is very aware of our mission," she said. "We would like to see the Lincoln retreat restored but to undertake something like that is very expensive."

She said discussions between the trust and home officials had focused on the building's being restored for the use of Lincoln scholars. If the money is found to do that, Schaefer said, the study center would be compatible with the retirement setting and would not lead to many tours or tourists.

Endangered Sites

America's most endangered historic places 2000.

1. Abraham Lincoln's Retreat -- the Soldiers' and Airmen's home, Washington, D.C.
2. Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center, Leavenworth, Kan.
3. Historic neighborhood schools, nationwide.
4. Hudson River Valley, N.Y.
5. 5th and Forbes Historic Retail Area, Pittsburgh, Pa.
6. Nantucket, Mass.

7. Okeechobee Battlefield, Okeechobee, Fla.
8. Red Mountain Mining District, Ouray and San Juan counties, Colo.
9. The Santa Anita Racetrack, Arcadia, Calif.
10. Valley Forge National Historical Park, Valley Forge, Pa.
11. Wheelock Academy, Millerton, Okla.

© 2000 The Washington Post Company

lexis.comSM

[Change Client](#) | [Options](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Sign Off](#) | [Help](#)

[Search](#) | [Search Advisor](#) | [Get a Document](#) | [Check a Citation](#)

[ECLIPSE™](#) | [History](#)

View: [Cite](#) | [KWIC](#) | [Full](#) | [Custom](#)

[PREVIOUS](#) 3 of 25 [NEXT](#)

[Text Only](#) | [Download](#) | [Fax](#) | [Email](#)

[FOCUS™ - Narrow Results](#) | [Save As ECLIPSE](#) | [More Like This](#) | [More Like Selected Text](#)

Source: All Sources : / . . . / : News Group File, All

Terms: [lincoln w/2 house or home and headline \(lincoln\) and date\(geq \(6/1/2000\) and leq \(6/28/2000\)\)](#) ([Edit Search](#))

Chicago Tribune, June 27, 2000

Copyright 2000 Chicago Tribune Company
Chicago Tribune

♦ [View Related Topics](#)

June 27, 2000 Tuesday, CHICAGO SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: News; Pg. 6; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 638 words

HEADLINE: IT'S NO LOG CABIN, BUT **LINCOLN HOME** DEEMED TO BE WORTH PRESERVING

BYLINE: By Glen Elsasser, Washington Bureau.

DATeline: WASHINGTON

BODY:

A campaign was launched Monday to restore the summer home of President Abraham Lincoln, a cottage described as one of the capital's greatest hidden treasures. "Most of us think we know all there is to know about Abraham Lincoln, and we all carry a mental snapshot of him in our head," said Richard Moe, president of the non-profit National Trust for Historic Preservation. "But this house brings that snapshot into clearer focus."

According to Moe, time has taken its toll on the 1842 Gothic Revival-style house, which is now used for offices, and he says it is the only major Lincoln site that has not been restored. Located on the grounds of the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in an obscure corner of the city about 3 miles from the White House, Anderson Cottage tops this year's list from the National Trust of America's "11 Most Endangered Places."

Lincoln used the **house**--he dubbed it "the Soldiers Home"--throughout his presidency. In 1862, he was at the house when he completed the final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that "persons held as slaves" within "areas of rebellion against the U.S." would be free on or after Jan. 1, 1863.

The second-floor bedroom, where he wrote the landmark document, has been converted into a conference room containing few reminders of the past.

A print of the 16th president hangs above the marble fireplace. Although the room contains odd bits of furniture--an Empire sideboard and Connecticut clock-- no original pieces survive. The Lincolns had brought things from the White House for their stays, which usually lasted from June through November.

"It was a haven where he could escape the heat of the city, romp on the lawn with his son Tad or read in the shade of the great copper beech tree," said Moe, who told a gathering Monday that a combination of public and private funds would be needed for the restoration. Officials hope to turn

lexis.comSM

[Change Client](#) | [Options](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Sign Off](#) | [Help](#)

[Search](#) | [Search Advisor](#) | [Get a Document](#) | [Check a Citation](#)

[ECLIPSE™](#) | [History](#)

View: [Cite](#) | [KWIC](#) | [Full](#) | [Custom](#)

[PREVIOUS](#) 2 of 25 [NEXT](#)

[Text Only](#) | [Download](#) | [Fax](#) | [Email](#)

[FOCUS™](#) - [Narrow Results](#) | [Save As ECLIPSE](#) | [More Like This](#) | [More Like Selected Text](#)

Source: All Sources : / . . . / : News Group File, All

Terms: [lincoln w/2 house or home and headline \(lincoln\) and date\(geq \(6/1/2000\) and leq \(6/28/2000\)\)](#) ([Edit Search](#))

The Boston Globe, June 27, 2000

Copyright 2000 Globe Newspaper Company
The Boston Globe

♦ [View Related Topics](#)

June 27, 2000, Tuesday ,THIRD EDITION

SECTION: NATIONAL/FOREIGN; Pg. A3

LENGTH: 620 words

HEADLINE: TRUST EYES HISTORIC RENEWAL **LINCOLN'S** GETAWAY TOPS RESTORATION LIST

BYLINE: By Jennifer Walsh, Globe Correspondent

BODY:

WASHINGTON - President Lincoln's summer getaway, just 3 miles and a short horse ride from the White House, was an escape not just from the heat of the city but also from the day-to-day stresses of office.

Anderson Cottage, in northwest Washington, is where Lincoln wrote his second draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. The cottage desperately needs interior renovation, which is why the structure tops this year's list of most endangered historic places. The annual list, put together by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, identifies historical sites in danger of demolition or deterioration.

"It is a call to all Americans that some of our most precious treasures are at risk," Richard Moe, president of the trust, said yesterday.

Between 1862 and 1864, while battles loomed in the distance, ~~Lincoln's son Tad climbed the trees outside Anderson Cottage and was scolded in the family dining room when his pet goat ate flowers from the garden.~~ Lincoln's wife, Mary, stayed in the second-floor dressing room during her recovery from a head injury she suffered in a carriage accident. Some historians believe the mishap was a sabotage attempt intended for the president.

These days the dining room houses a copy machine and the dressing room's hardwood floor is covered with Army-green carpet, while the light-blue paint is peeling and the ceiling shows water damage. The spot where Lincoln worked on his famous document is practically bare, with the view from an old window once overlooking the Capitol blocked by a new building.

The only clues that the president spent about a quarter of his term here are the few portraits and mementos displayed by workers using the cottage, which sits on the grounds of the US Soldiers' and Airmen's Home.

"This is too important of a place to be largely unknown," Moe said. "This is one of the city's greatest hidden treasures."

1861-1865

Type: multiple story stone house

Location: Washington, D.C., on Pennsylvania Avenue

Description: The White House, thirty-one rooms, carpeted

Occupation: President of the United States

- On February 20, 1862, Willie dies in the White House at the age of eleven

Summers 1862, 1863, 1864

Type: two-story brick house

Location: Washington, D.C., four miles north of the Capitol

Description: Soldiers Home, also known as the Riggs House (renamed Anderson Cottage in 1888), twelve rooms

Occupation: President of the United States

| [Back to Lincoln Home Website Map](#) |

| [Back to Lincoln Home Home Page](#) |

Last Updated: Friday, 14-Apr-00 12:40:29

<http://www.nps.gov/liho/alhomes.htm>

Author: Tim Good

Links to Related
Sites



More News
Releases

Return to News
and Events

ECU PROFESSOR LEADS EFFORTS TO RESTORE PRESIDENTIAL RETREAT

The Anderson Cottage, site of an assassination attempt on President Lincoln as well as some of Lincoln's most important writing, needs a major restoration, according to an East Carolina University professor.

Dr. David E. Long, a history professor, is leading an effort by the newly-formed Lincoln Forum of the Civil War Education Association to restore the cottage in Washington, D.C. Constructed in the 1840s, the building is at the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, about four miles north of the Capitol.

From 1862 to 1864 Lincoln and his family spent their summers at the 14-room house. Historians think the President wrote the second draft of the Emancipation Proclamation at this summer retreat. Three other U.S. Presidents also used the building.

Long is a member of the Lincoln Forum Advisory Board. At the board's recent meeting in Gettysburg he was named chairman of a committee for the Anderson Cottage Restoration Project.

He said the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, a retirement community for war veterans, will continue to use the building for administrative offices but the restoration would add a museum and other attractions for visitors at the site. Money will come from private sources.

"It would be difficult to imagine a more significant historic preservation project anywhere on the planet," Long said.

In a report prepared for the Lincoln Forum Newsletter, Long wrote that the President and Mrs. Lincoln first moved to Anderson Cottage in June 1862 to get away from the heat and humidity of the city and to escape the grief they experienced after the death of their son Willie in February. They returned to the White House in mid-November.

Their summer routine of moving to the Anderson Cottage continued until Lincoln's death in April 1865. In those war years there were several noteworthy incidents, including an assassination attempt in August of 1864 as the President rode home on horseback unescorted from the Capitol.

As he neared the entrance, a shot rang out, causing the president to spur his horse until, breathless and hatless, he arrived at the gate to the grounds. Soldiers searched the area where Lincoln was fired on and found his hat on the ground with a bullet hole through the "stovepipe."

A month earlier, Confederate troops engaged Union forces at Fort Stevens, about two miles from the summer residence. On this occasion, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton insisted that Lincoln leave the house and return to Washington

In July 1863, Mary Todd Lincoln suffered a fall from her carriage and was knocked unconscious near the house. It was believed at the time that sabotage caused the carriage seat to break

After treatment at a nearby hospital, she returned to Anderson Cottage. Mrs. Lincoln's three-week recovery was complicated by a serious infection that at times rendered her incoherent and incapacitated. Her son, Robert Lincoln, later expressed the opinion that his mother "never quite recovered from the effects of her fall."

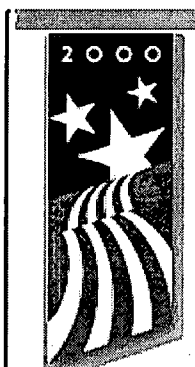
"There are many other incidents associated with the Lincoln's residence at the Anderson Cottage," Long said. Even so, he said the historic building, until now, has been "almost ignored by historians and politicians."

#####

gat/ 1-15-97

CONTACT: ~~Dr. David E. Long, East Carolina University, Department of History,~~
~~(919) 328-6956 or (919) 758-5369~~ For information about the Lincoln Forum and the
Civil War Education Association call 540-678-8598.

PHOTOS - The News Bureau's photo download site on the Internet features a photo of the Anderson Cottage. The address is <http://www.photos.ecu.edu>


[Home](#)
[Project Profiles](#)

SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES

Project Profile

June 1999

Anderson CottageLincoln's Summer Home
Washington, D.C.

Camp David, Warm Springs — places of retreat where our nation's greatest leaders have retired for the quiet and solitude needed to shape their thoughts and, eventually, the nation's destiny. Just such a retreat was Anderson Cottage, constructed in 1842-43 and named after Major Robert Anderson, who commanded Fort Sumter at the outbreak of the Civil War. This National Historic Landmark property served as the summer White House to numerous presidents, the most notable being Abraham Lincoln.



Located on the grounds of the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, this Gothic Revival cottage was home to Lincoln and his family during one-quarter of his presidency. ~~Today the cottage suffers from the weariness of time and stress. Once a country retreat for the Lincoln family, Anderson Cottage is now an office building with peeling paint and falling plaster.~~

The Lincoln Forum of the Civil War Education Association and the National Trust are working closely with the National Park Service and the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home to develop an appropriate public use for the facility. Currently, funding is needed for a comprehensive resource study to gather the historical documentation, determine the best public use, and develop the restoration plan to return the Anderson Cottage to its Lincoln-like appearance.

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Projects](#) | [Funding](#) | [Events](#)
[Newsroom](#) | [Get Involved](#) | [Resources](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Save America's Treasures is a public-private partnership between the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



The design and development of this website are provided by the AT&T Learning Network®



lexis.comsm[Change Client](#) | [Options](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Sign Off](#) | [Help](#)[Search](#) | [Search Advisor](#) | [Get a Document](#) | [Check a Citation](#) | [ECLIPSE™](#) | [History](#)View: [Cite](#) | [KWIC](#) | [Full](#) | [Custom](#)[PREVIOUS](#) 7 of 69 [NEXT](#)[Text Only](#) | [Download](#) | [Fax](#) | [Email](#)[FOCUS™ - Narrow Results](#) | [Save As ECLIPSE](#) | [More Like This](#) | [More Like Selected Text](#)Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : [News Group File, All](#)Terms: [headline \(lincoln\) and date geq \(06/22/2000\)](#) ([Edit Search](#))*The Associated Press State & Local Wire June 27, 2000*

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

◆ [View Related Topics](#)

The materials in the AP file were compiled by The Associated Press. These materials may not be republished without the express written consent of The Associated Press.

June 27, 2000, Tuesday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional**LENGTH:** 386 words**HEADLINE:** Sites linked to **Lincoln**, Washington called endangered**BYLINE:** By CARL HARTMAN, Associated Press Writer**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON**BODY:**

A house where Abraham Lincoln spent hot summers and the Valley Forge winter quarters of George Washington's army were added Monday to the list of endangered sites that the National Trust for Historic Preservation wants to protect from the ravages of time.

The Lincoln family found a stucco-coated brick house with gingerbread trim on a hill about three miles from the White House. Used by presidents in the second half of the 1800s, it is now on the grounds of the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, which houses 1,100 veterans.

For the Lincolns it was a place to escape Washington's humid heat, and to see friends and political figures privately.

In a second floor room on the southwest corner, with a view of the Capitol in the distance, the president is believed to have slept and to have written a draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. It now serves as an occasional conference room for the home's public affairs office.

Richard Moe, president of the trust, called Anderson Cottage - named later for a Civil War hero - "one of the city's hidden treasures." He wants the federal government and private donors to contribute to restoring it for use as an educational center. The cost is being studied and will run into "millions of dollars," he told reporters.

Valley Forge, 24 miles northwest of Philadelphia, is another of what the trust says are the most endangered historic places for the year 2000. Washington chose it for winter quarters for about 10,000 men in 1777 at one of the low points in the Revolutionary War.

Two days before Christmas, he wrote:

"We have this day no less than 2,873 men in camp unfit for duty because they are barefooted and

otherwise naked."

An estimated 2,500 died from cold, hunger and a smallpox epidemic.

The buildings, including crude huts erected by the soldiers themselves, remained almost as Washington left them until 1893, when the state of Pennsylvania set up a public park.

Six structures, including Washington's and the Marquis de Lafayette's quarters, are said to be suffering from extensive water damage and failed or failing roof systems. Lafayette served as an aide to Washington during the war.

Other sites added to the trust's list this year range from New York's Hudson River Valley to the Santa Anita Race Track in Arcadia, Calif.

GRAPHIC: AP Photo WX108

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2000

View: [Cite](#) | [KWIC](#) | [Full](#) | [Custom](#)

[PREVIOUS](#) 7 of 69 [NEXT](#)

[Text Only](#) | [Download](#) | [Fax](#) | [Email](#)

[FOCUS™ - Narrow Results](#) | [Save As ECLIPSE](#) | [More Like This](#) | [More Like Selected Text](#)

Source: [All Sources](#) : / . . . / : [News Group File, All](#)

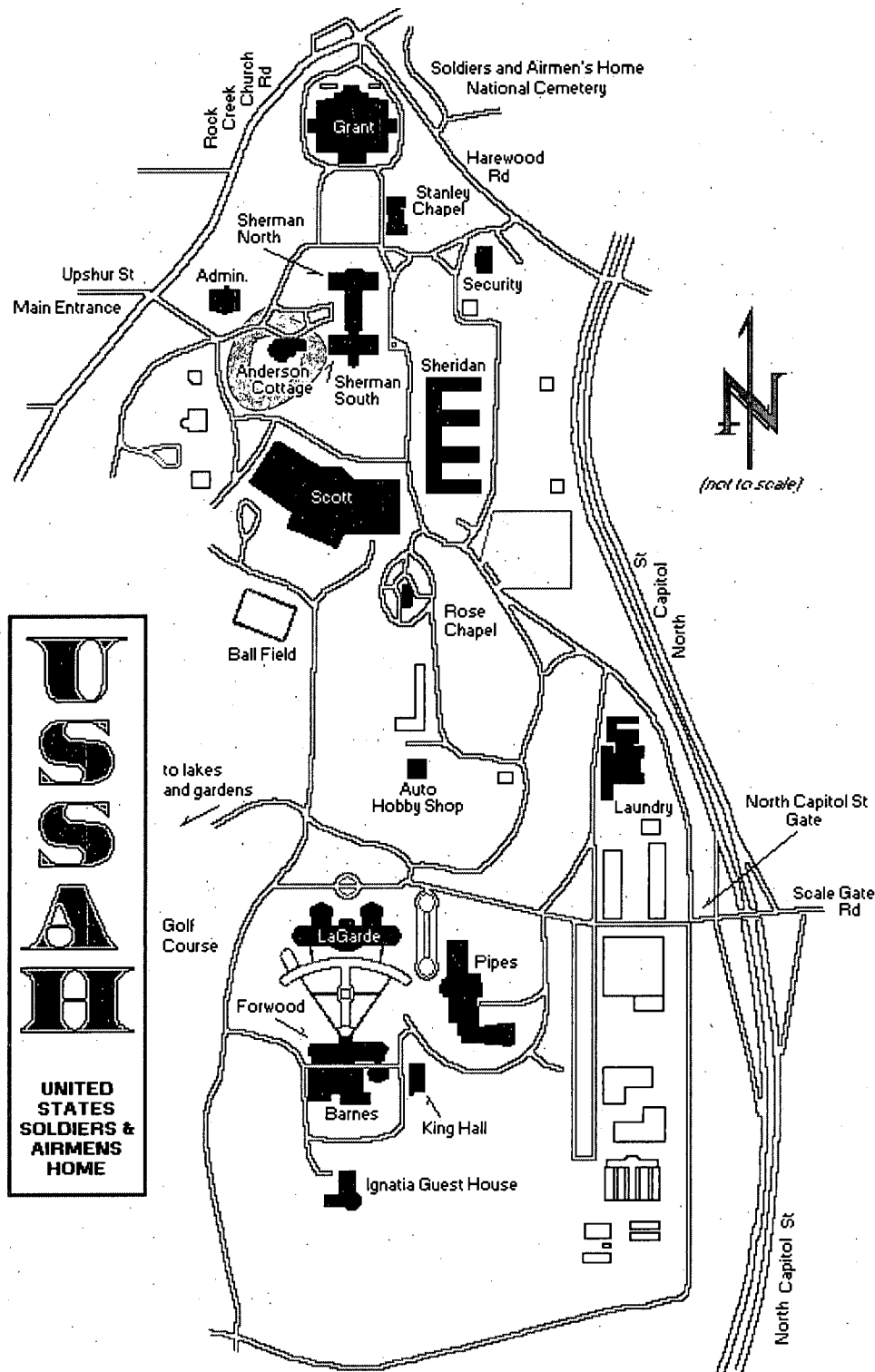
Terms: [headline \(lincoln\)](#) and [date geq \(06/22/2000\)](#) ([Edit Search](#))

View: [Full](#)

Date/Time: Wednesday, June 28, 2000 - 11:26 AM EDT

[Search](#) | [Search Advisor](#) | [Get a Document](#) | [Check a Citation](#)
[ECLIPSE\(TM\)](#) | [History](#) | [Change Client](#) | [Options](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Sign Off](#) | [Help](#)
[About LEXIS-NEXIS](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

Copyright © 2000 LEXIS-NEXIS Group. All rights reserved.



The Soldiers' Home was established in 1851, as an "asylum for old and disabled veterans." Four of the original buildings still stand and are listed as national historic landmarks. Two of the buildings, Quarters 1 and Anderson Cottage, served as the summer White House for U.S. presidents -- Chester Arthur, Rutherford B. Hayes, James Buchanan, and most notably Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln lived at the Soldiers' Home, in what is now called Anderson Cottage. In fact, Lincoln spent one-fourth of his presidency at Soldiers' Home, and it was here that he wrote the last draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Historic Anderson Cottage was constructed in 1842-43 as the home of George W. Riggs, who went on to establish the famous Riggs National Bank in Washington, D.C. In 1851, the cottage and farm land surrounding it was purchased by

the government to form the core of what is today the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home.

Nestled in the heart of our Nation's Capital on 320-acres of secure, park-like setting, nearly 1,300 veterans have found a home. No longer called "The Old Soldiers' Home," the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home is a thriving community.

- from the USSAH website

RETURN to the MAP PAGE

The Anderson Cottage

Restoration set to begin

February 24, 2000, was a banner day for The Lincoln Forum. On that day a group of historians, preservationists, museum directors, army generals, architects, collectors, and employees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and National Park Service, gathered for a meeting in the room where Abraham Lincoln changed the course of American history. Adding to the diversity of the group, there was even a clergyman (speaking on behalf of the residents of the Old Soldiers' Home) and a White House representative of First Lady Hillary Clinton's Save America's Treasures initiative. The meeting officially launched the effort to restore Anderson Cottage, the residence of Abraham Lincoln and his family during the summer and fall months of 1862, 1863, and 1864.

It is known that Lincoln and his family lived in this building for at least twelve and perhaps as many as eighteen months of his term in office. It is also known that he composed the second draft of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, in the same room where the meeting took place on February 24th. He composed that document on September 20, 1862, shortly after receiving word from western Maryland that during the nighttime of September 18, having been fought to a standstill by the Army of the Potomac a day earlier, Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia had re-crossed the Potomac River and returned to Virginia.

The Lincoln Forum has played an essential part in bringing about this meeting. At the first meeting of the Board of Directors of The Lincoln Forum in November 1996, Chairman Frank Williams had appointed a special committee to inquire into the feasibility of restoring this building. The efforts of that committee, and specifically Board member Chuck Platt, led to a meeting at the offices of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington. Following that gathering, NTHP President Richard Moe committed his organization to the restoration effort and specifically began to search for a funding source to underwrite the preparation of a historic structure report. That report would include the preliminary information necessary before any decision to proceed could be made. It would include estimates of costs involved in such an undertaking, and would document information as to the history of the structure, its present and past ownership, the physical changes in the structure since the period when Lincoln and his family resided there, and other relevant information that would be useful for short-term and long-range planning regarding the restoration.

This past fall a funding source was found, a source very closely aligned with The Lincoln Forum. Two members of the Lincoln Forum, Vice-Chairman Harold Holzer, and Board of Advisers member David Long, were present at the meeting on February 24th, and Chairman Frank Williams would have been there as well but for a previous commitment that required him to be in Kansas. Dick Moe has indicated his belief that The Lincoln Forum should play a central role not only in the restoration process, but in the eventual management and oversight of the facility that will result from this restoration. He mentioned the possibility of The Lincoln Forum establishing its national headquarters within the Center for the Study of the Presidency of Abraham Lincoln, a vision Moe has for a future that would include an institute where scholars could come to do serious research and writing in the subject area of

mid-nineteenth century American history.

This is an exciting prospect, and an initiative that would not have come about but for the key roles that The Lincoln Forum and its members have played. Stay tuned for what may very well become the most exciting and important historic preservation effort of the twenty-first century.

-David E. Long, Co-editor of The Lincoln Forum Bulletin

David E. Long serves as Chairman of the committee. For further information about this important project contact Professor Long at 919-328-6956 or 919-758-5369; or by fax at 919-328-6774. e-mail: Longd@mail.ecu.edu



NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HOME

News	Preservation Magazine	Travel Programs	Historic Homeowner
About the National Trust	Law and Public Policy	Trusty's Kid's Corner	Our Historic Sites



Success Stories

Past Lists

State Lists

In Memoriam

President's Note

View the Map

Join the Trust

Main Page

Abraham Lincoln's Retreat- The Soldiers' Home

Washington, D.C.



Click images for larger view.



One of America's greatest leaders drafted one of the country's most important documents at a presidential site known to few people today. Abraham Lincoln spent one quarter of his presidency at his summer residence, the Soldiers' Home, where he drafted the Emancipation Proclamation. The home, also known as Anderson Cottage since 1884, is located on the grounds of the 320-acre campus of the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, just north of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. This national treasure lacks the financial resources for a much-needed restoration that would bring it to the forefront of America's historical consciousness.

"The Soldiers' Home is probably the country's most significant Abraham Lincoln site, because it is the only one associated with his presidency," said National Trust President Richard Moe. "It is the only major Lincoln site in the country that has not been restored. With proper funding for restoration and education, it could become a great center of learning for all Americans."

Site Facts

History

President Lincoln's summer home where he drafted the Emancipation Proclamation

Threat

150 years of heavy use

Solution

Restore and open the Retreat as a premier educational center on the Lincoln presidency

Take Action



History: Constructed from 1842-1843 as the home of George W. Riggs, Jr., the retreat was purchased in 1851 by the U.S. Government to form the core of the U.S. Soldiers' Home, a 320-acre campus in Washington, D.C. Known to the Lincoln family as "the Soldiers' Home," this 14-room Gothic Revival cottage served as their summer residence from 1862 to 1864. It was later named after Brevet Major Robert Anderson, who commanded Fort Sumter at the outbreak of the Civil War and was an advocate for establishing a home for soldiers. Lincoln drafted the Emancipation Proclamation at the retreat before presenting it to his Cabinet in 1862.

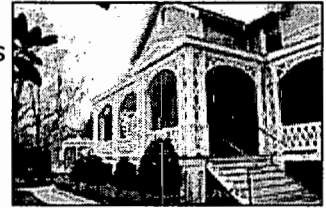
Questions? Email us at
pr@nthp.org

The Soldiers' Home was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1973 for its establishment as the first of its kind to house disabled or retired

enlisted American soldiers. At least five other presidents (Pierce, Buchanan, Grant, Hayes and Arthur) used the Soldiers' Home either as a presidential retreat or in some other capacity. The National Trust has named it an official project of Save America's Treasures.

Threat: This Gothic Revival cottage suffers from the effects of time, use, and stress. Over the years it has been transformed from a country cottage to a soldiers' home to a heavily used office building. Due to a shrinking financial base for upkeep, only the most basic repairs have been made to the cottage.

Seeping water in the basement, rotting wood windows, and antiquated electrical and plumbing systems are among the most urgent needs. Leaking radiator pipes in the 100-year-old heating system are damaging floors and interior woodwork that date to Lincoln's time.



Solution: By raising national awareness of the site, critical funding can be raised to ensure the full restoration and preservation of the interior configuration and exterior appearance of the cottage. The site has the potential to become an important Lincoln educational center, generating research, scholarship and programming related to Lincoln's presidency.

TAKE ACTION

The National Trust is committed to making this site a key educational center for understanding Abraham Lincoln's presidency. Principal tasks include restoring the cottage's interior configuration and exterior appearance to that of the Lincoln era and planning a diverse educational program to involve families, school children, scholars, international visitors and others in the rich history of the site. Historical interpretation of the Lincoln retreat at the Soldiers' Home will reveal the evolution of Lincoln's thinking during the Civil War, the significance of the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln's family life at the home, and daily life in Washington, D.C. for soldiers, freed blacks, fugitive slaves and ordinary citizens. The Trust intends to link the Lincoln retreat to other national and local Lincoln and Civil War-related sites and to use new technologies to make this important historic resource accessible to as many Americans as possible.

To deliver these high-reaching goals, the Trust anticipates funding needs of \$5 million in the first five years of the restoration and educational development project. If you desire more information on the Abraham Lincoln Retreat at the Soldiers' Home or are in a position to contribute to or endow the site in any way, please contact Sophia Lynn, project manager, at the National Trust for Historic Preservation at (202)-588-6308 or email sophia.lynn@nthp.org.

Visit the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home:
<http://www.afrh.com/sol-airm.htm>

[NTHP Home](#)
[Feedback](#)
[Search](#)
[Index](#)
[Calendar](#)
[Join the Trust](#)
[Preservation Books](#)
[Staff Services](#)

ANDERSON 9:30am THE WHITE HOUSE
COTTAGE 6/27 WASHINGTON

Fri. July 7

Karen T.
Ellen Lowell
Julie Elliott
Elliott

10:15am event → maybe a tour
a "Nat'l Treasures Announcement"
large crowd event? 200?

program (3) incl. POTUS

- * Didl mae? probably not
- * Gen. Hilbert - runs home
- * Holmes-Norton?
- * Mayor Williams
- * → or another resident - to introduce POTUS

"Lincoln Site Put on Endangered List" (post)