



# Foundation Document

## Ford's Theatre National Historic Site

Washington, D.C.

August 2013



Ford's Theatre National Historic Site

Petersen House



Washington, D.C. Vicinity

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## Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a frame work in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises over 401 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management in order to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



*The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The Sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.*

## Introduction

Every unit of the national park system is to have a foundational document that will provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management, or foundation document. The core components of a foundation document include the park's purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, interpretive themes, and special mandates and administrative commitments. The foundation document also includes an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for Ford's Theatre National Historic Site can be accessed online at:

<http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.



**1931 exterior of Ford's Theatre. Note: To the right of the theatre the Star Saloon building has been removed and the area used for parking. See picture on page 4 for comparison. (NPS collection)**

## Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

### Brief Description of the Park

Ford's Theatre National Historic Site includes the Ford's Theatre restored to its 1865 appearance, the Petersen House (also known as The House Where Lincoln Died), and the Lincoln Museum collection (exhibited in the basement of Ford's Theatre) and other associated artifacts.

The First Baptist Church of Washington, D.C., was the first structure built on the current site of Ford's Theatre, in 1834. As the city of Washington grew, the congregation merged with the Fourth Street Baptist Church, and the building remained vacant for a number of years.

Despite the outbreak of the Civil War on April 12, 1861, John T. Ford purchased the First Baptist Church building and renovated the former church into a theatre. The theatre opened with the performance of the Christy's Minstrels on December 13, 1861, and the site became a commercial success. In December 1862 a devastating fire gutted the building, but the entrepreneurial Ford rebuilt, and the theatre was reopened on August 1863 as Ford's New Theatre. The theatre's central location on 10th Street in Washington, D.C., roughly between the Capitol building and the White House, made Ford's Theatre a popular entertainment venue for those seeking reprieve from the events of the Civil War. An avid theatre goer, President Abraham Lincoln attended shows at least a dozen times at Ford's Theatre between 1863 and April 14, 1865.

While attending a performance of "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theatre, President Lincoln became the first American president to be assassinated. On April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth, southern sympathizer, shot President Lincoln in the presidential theatre box. President Lincoln was carried across the street to the Petersen House where every effort was made to comfort him during his final hours. Members of the president's cabinet, family, and friends rallied around his side. The Petersen House became a focal point for the federal government during this national catastrophe. Meanwhile, having fled through Baptist Alley at the back

of the theatre, Booth was on the run, and the manhunt for the president's assassin and his conspirators began. On April 15, 1865, President Lincoln died at the Petersen House and the mood of the nation shifted from celebrating the end of the war to one of national mourning. Booth was captured 12 days later.



**April 1865 exterior of Ford's Theatre after the assassination of President Lincoln. Mourning bands hang from the windows and guards are posted at the doors. Photographed by Alexander Gardner. (NPS Collection)**

After Lincoln's assassination, Ford tried to reopen the theatre in July 1865 but public outcry and federal pressure forced him to close the theatre for good. The property was eventually purchased by the federal government in 1866. The theatre was quickly converted to an office building and used for records storage by the War Department until June 9, 1893, when the upper floors collapsed, killing 22 people and injuring another 68. Following the collapse, the building was again rebuilt and continued to function as a War Department office building until July 1, 1928. Meanwhile, across the street the Petersen House had become a place of pilgrimage for many Americans hoping to honor President Lincoln as a martyr to the cause of liberty and unity. The influx of overwhelming public interest forced the owners to rent the house to the Memorial Association of the District of Columbia. The association invited Osborn H.I. Oldroyd, a well known Lincoln memorabilia collector, to live in and curate the house for public access. Oldroyd brought his renowned collection of Lincoln memorabilia and artifacts to the site. Recognizing the importance of the house as a civic shrine for the nation, the federal government purchased the Petersen House in 1896.



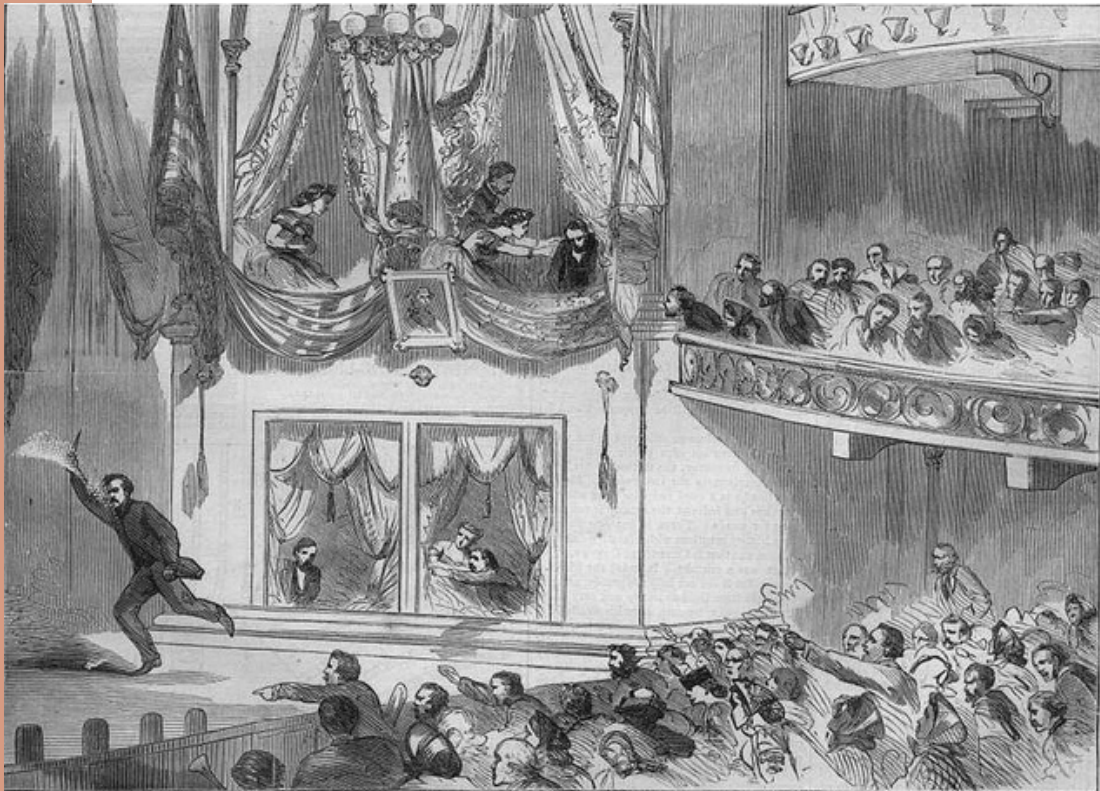
In 1926, the federal government decided to purchase the entire Oldroyd Lincoln collection. In order to consolidate the management of Ford's Theatre, the Petersen House, and the Lincoln Museum Collection, the federal government transferred both properties along with the Lincoln collection, to the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital in 1928. Ford's Theatre was then repurposed as the Lincoln Museum and the collections put on display in this location. Following Executive Order 6228 in 1933, both sites and the museum collection were transferred permanently to the National Park Service, which manages these sites today as the Ford's Theatre National Historic Site.

As early as 1946, public and congressional efforts to restore Ford's Theatre to its appearance on April 14, 1865, began to emerge. As support grew, funding for the project was secured and Ford's Theatre closed its doors on November 29, 1964, as a full restoration project began. Over the next three years, extensive historic research and documentation were used to painstakingly restore Ford's Theatre, its interior, and the presidential theatre box to the condition during President Lincoln's time. In partnership with the Ford's Theatre Society, founded in 1967 by Frankie Hewitt, Ford's Theatre reopened its doors as a working theatre and historic site on January 30, 1968. The Ford's Theatre Society is the primary partner of the National Park Service at the site. Over the years, the Ford's Theatre Society has brought live theatre and performances to Ford's Theatre through their partnership with the National Park Service. With the support of this partnership, further renovations were undertaken in 2007, including the addition of new exhibit and display space in the basement of the theatre and improved accessibility and educational opportunities. The theatre reopened on February 12, 2009, the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

## Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for Ford's Theatre National Historic Site was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The park was established when the initial enabling legislation adopted by Congress was signed into law on June 23, 1970 (see appendix A for enabling legislation and subsequent amendments). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

*The purpose of FORD'S THEATRE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE is to preserve the setting and interpret the assassination and death of President Abraham Lincoln in April 1865.*



Line drawing showing Booth's exit after shooting Lincoln at Ford's Theatre. (NPS Collection)



## Park Significance

Significance statements express why a park's resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of Ford's Theatre National Historic Site, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the park and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The following significance statements have been identified for Ford's Theatre National Historic Site. (Please note that the sequence of the statements do not reflect the level of significance.)

1. **First Presidential Assassination.** Ford's Theatre is the site of the first assassination of an American president.
2. **Key Event of the Civil War.** The assassination of President Abraham Lincoln was a key event in the Civil War era.
3. **The Petersen House.** The federal government purchased the Petersen House in 1896 to commemorate and preserve the site where President Lincoln died. It is the first home bought by the federal government to be operated as a museum and interpretive site.
4. **A Working Theatre.** After the restoration to its 1865 appearance, Ford's Theatre was reestablished as a working theatre in 1968 in recognition of President Lincoln's love of the performing arts.
5. **Presidential Line of Succession.** The events at the Petersen House surrounding President Lincoln's assassination led to the development of the presidential line of succession and continuity of office.
6. **Artifacts and Evidence of the Assassination.** Ford's Theatre National Historic Site manages and interprets the most extensive collection of artifacts associated with the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.



Lincoln was attended to by his cabinet and many others at the Petersen House. (NPS Collection)

## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park’s legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Ford’s Theatre National Historic Site:

- **Authenticity and sense of place.** Ford’s Theatre and the Petersen House provide an opportunity to experience the setting where the assassination and death of President Abraham Lincoln took place in April 1865. An authentic sense of place creates a unique personal experience for visitors by placing them in the context of the historic events leading up to and including President Lincoln’s assassination.
- **The Recreated 1865 Theatre Interior.** The reconstructed Ford’s Theatre interior with the presidential theatre box allows visitors to experience the theatre setting as President Lincoln would have in 1865.
- **Museum Collections and Archives.** Ford’s Theatre National Historic Site museum collections and archives are the largest collection of President Lincoln artifacts related to the assassination. The museum collection includes part of the Oldroyd Collection of Lincoln artifacts, which is the original Lincoln Museum collection of Osborn Oldroyd. The collection includes artifacts related to the conspirators, the federal investigation, and evidence related to the assassination of President Lincoln.



**Our American Cousin stage set, the box where President Lincoln and guests were sitting while watching the play. (NPS Collection)**



Currier and Ives rendering of The Assassination of President Lincoln. (NPS Collection)

- Commemoration of President Lincoln.** Following the events of April 14–15, 1865, both Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House became sites of national pilgrimage as civic shrines to the assassination and death of President Lincoln. Ford's Theatre National Historic Site informs and inspires more than half a million visitors annually about the life and legacy of President Abraham Lincoln.
- Survival of our Democracy.** Ford's Theatre National Historic Site serves as a symbolic representation of the survival of democracy and the continuation of the federal government in the face of the violent act of assassination. Despite the attempts of the conspirators, the democratic ideals of the United States survived the assassination and death of President Lincoln. Although this event had a profound effect on American history, the federal government successfully transitioned through this tragedy.
- Ford's Theatre Society Partnership.** Ford's Theatre National Historic Site partners extensively with the Ford's Theatre Society to improve the visitors' experience at the park. The partnership allows for the production of live theatre performances and other events in Ford's Theatre. The partnership also enhances the daytime experience through programming and dedicated front-line staff. Across 10th Street, the Ford's Theatre Society's Center for Education and Leadership occupies the building next to the Petersen House. Access to the center's exhibit space was made available through an extensive rehabilitation of the building that connects this facility to the Petersen House. Visitors seamlessly enter this building through an accessible elevator and continue their experience by learning about the aftermath of the assassination, the impact on Lincoln's family, and his legacy to the nation. Artifacts from the Ford's Theatre National Historic Site are also on display at the center.
- Live Performance.** Performances at Ford's Theatre connect visitors to the historic use of the building. Watching a performance at Ford's Theatre as President Lincoln did creates a unique experience and allows for deeper visitor engagement at the park.

## Other Important Resources and Values

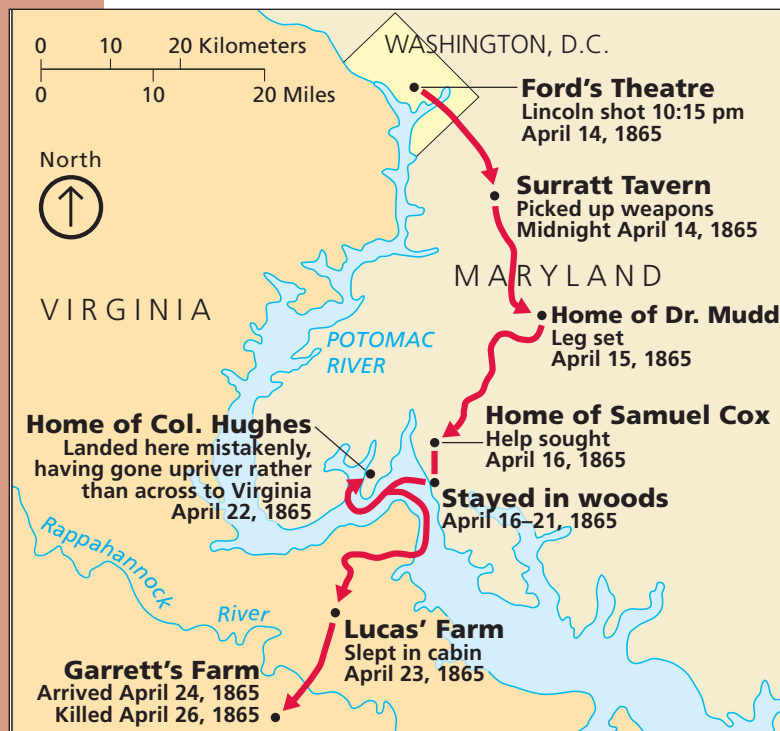
Ford’s Theatre National Historic Site contains other resources and values that are not fundamental to the purpose of the park, and may be unrelated to its significance, but are important to consider in planning processes. These are referred to as “other important resources and values” (OIRV). These resources and values have been selected because they are important in the operation and management of the park, and warrant special consideration in park planning.

The following other important resources and values have been identified for Ford’s Theatre National Historic Site:

- **10th Street Landscape and Viewshed.** The physical location of Ford’s Theatre and Petersen House on 10th Street in Washington, D.C., played a significant role in their place in history. Roughly located between the White House and Capitol building, the theatre became a popular entertainment venue. The Petersen House’s location across the street from the theatre was the closest place to take the mortally wounded president. The 10th Street streetscape supports an immersive visitor experience and connects these two buildings physically.

The 10th Street viewshed also contributes to the L’Enfant Plan of Washington, D.C. The National Park Service is dedicated to improving and perpetuating these historic planned viewsheds, as outlined in the 2010 National Mall Plan.

- **Baptist Alley and Booth’s Escape Route.** After shooting President Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth leapt from the presidential box onto the stage and ran out the back door into Baptist Alley. Booth’s escape and the subsequent manhunt for the assassination conspirators is a significant part of the Ford’s Theatre National Historic Site story. Beginning in Baptist Alley and ending 12 days later in Virginia, the chase for America’s first presidential assassin gripped the nation.
- **Archeology.** William Petersen ran a tailor shop in the storefront of what we now call the Petersen House and his family took in boarders in the rooms above. Archeological resources at the Petersen House allow us to learn about the diet, consumer habits, entertainment, and social life of the Petersen household.



This map shows the route of Booth's escape after he shot President Lincoln. (NPS Image)

## Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from, and should reflect, park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significance statements and fundamental and other important resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. They go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. Themes help to explain why a park story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the park.

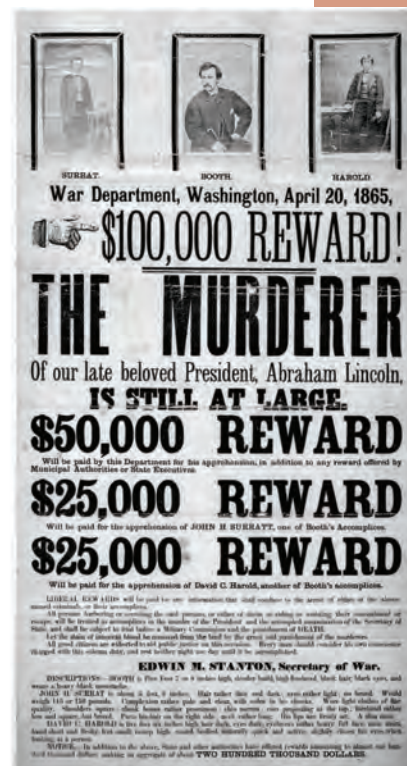
The following interpretive themes have been identified for Ford's Theatre National Historic Site (each of these has several subthemes, which appear in appendix D):

- The causes behind the assassination of Abraham Lincoln were many and varied, and are still meaningful today.
- Lincoln's assassination and death had far-reaching and profound consequences.
- Lincoln's love for the performing arts provides insight as to why Ford's Theatre became the backdrop for the assassination, and why the physical site is still relevant today.
- The Lincoln assassination created political, social, and personal crises that found their geographical focal point at the Petersen House.
- During the presidency of Abraham Lincoln and the time of the Civil War, the city of Washington and the nation underwent profound changes.

Ford's Theatre National Historic Site also works with partners and others to tell the extended story of Abraham Lincoln's life, the Civil War, and the assassination conspiracy at other sites across the United States.



The conspirators.  
(NPS Collection)



Reward poster.  
(NPS Collection)

## Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental and other important resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

### Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many of the management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the park, or through a judicial process. They may expand on park purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the park. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memoranda of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for Ford's Theatre National Historic Site.

Key special mandates and administrative commitments identified by the park include:

- Partnership agreement with the Ford's Theatre Society
- Museum artifact loan agreements
- Cooperating association agreement for the NPS bookstore with Eastern National
- United States Park Police security contract

For more information about these existing commitments for the park, please see appendix C.

### Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the park's fundamental and other important resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the park's planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values
2. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
3. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

The analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data collection needs.

## Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource and value analysis table includes current condition, potential threats and opportunities, planning and data needs, and selected laws and NPS policies related to management of the identified resource or value.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Authenticity and Sense of Place
<p><b>Importance of the Resource or Value</b></p>	<p>Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House provide an opportunity to experience the setting where the assassination and death of President Abraham Lincoln took place in April 1865. An authentic sense of place creates a unique personal experience for visitors by placing them in the context of the historic events leading up to and including President Lincoln's assassination.</p>
<p><b>Related Significance Statements</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First Presidential Assassination.</li> <li>3. The Petersen House.</li> <li>4. A Working Theatre.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Current Conditions and Trends</b></p>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House receive a high volume of visitation in rather small spaces.</li> <li>• Ford's Theatre also hosts numerous live theatrical performances and special events throughout the year.</li> <li>• Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House are subject to frequent maintenance needs and demands.</li> <li>• Both Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House are listed as being in good condition on the List of Classified Structures (LCS).</li> <li>• Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places and are contributing buildings in the Pennsylvania Avenue Historic District, which is also listed.</li> <li>• The streetscape between Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House also receives a heavy volume of use and is not under NPS management.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is some demand to increase the number of visitors entering the Petersen House at one time. Fifteen visitors is the current number established for resource protection and visitor experience.</li> <li>• Increasing demands for theatre use by third parties, mostly not related to the park's purpose.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Authenticity and Sense of Place
<p><b>Threats and Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High volume of visitation in the spring affects the quality of educational and interpretive opportunities.</li> <li>• Illegal and legal street vendors, panhandlers, idling buses, and other traffic-related issues can seriously impact visitor safety and experience, as well as interpretive opportunities between Ford’s Theatre and the Petersen House.</li> <li>• Continual limitations on funding and personnel needed to maintain the facilities.</li> <li>• Increasing needs for access will have a direct correlation to increasing maintenance demands and preservation issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a joint annual work plan reflecting both NPS and the Ford’s Theatre Society activities.</li> <li>• Collaborate with the Ford’s Theatre Society to expand walking tours to augment services related to high visitation.</li> <li>• Explore possible closure of 10th Street block to vehicular traffic. This could improve visitor experience dramatically by increasing safety and providing a more pedestrian friendly environment that would improve the quality of interpretation. It would also potentially improve the cultural landscape.</li> <li>• Continue partnership fundraising efforts and explore additional opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Data Needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update historic structures report for Ford’s Theatre.</li> <li>• Historic furnishings report for all components of the park.</li> <li>• Viewshed analysis of the 10th Street streetscape.</li> <li>• Cultural landscape inventory/report.</li> <li>• Facility energy usage.</li> <li>• Administrative history.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Planning Needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor use management plan.</li> <li>• Comprehensive interpretive plan update.</li> <li>• Sign/exhibit plan.</li> <li>• Soundscape assessment and management plan.</li> <li>• Energy use and efficiency evaluation and assessment.</li> <li>• Position management plan.</li> <li>• Resource stewardship strategy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p>	<p><b>Park-specific Laws, Policies, and Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design Development Document of Ford’s Theatre and the Petersen House 2001</li> <li>• Historic Structure Report for Petersen House, 2006</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directors Order’s 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i></li> <li>• Directors Order’s 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• Directors Order’s 32: <i>Cooperating Associations</i></li> <li>• Directors Order’s 42: <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services</i></li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>, section 5.3, “Stewardship”</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>, section 9.3.1.7, “Facilities for Arts and Culture”</li> </ul>



Fundamental Resource or Value	The Recreated 1865 Theatre Interior
<b>Importance of the Resource or Value</b>	The reconstructed Ford's Theatre interior with the presidential theatre box allows visitors to experience the theatre setting as President Lincoln would have in 1865.
<b>Related Significance Statements</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First Presidential Assassination.</li> <li>2. Key Event of the Civil War.</li> <li>6. Artifacts and Evidence of the Assassination.</li> </ol>
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High volume of visitor traffic in the spring affects the visitor experience and interpretative programming at the park.</li> <li>• Being a working theatre limits visitor access to the park.</li> <li>• Constantly changing stage sets can occasionally affect authenticity of the theatre.</li> <li>• Ford's Theatre is subject to frequent maintenance needs.</li> <li>• Ford's Theatre is listed as being in good condition on the List of Classified Structures.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desire for visitor comfort affects authenticity as in, for example, contemporary seating.</li> </ul>
<b>Threats and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of the presidential box impacts historic artifacts.</li> <li>• The presidential box is very small and visitors have to enter and exit through the same door, making it difficult to manage large crowds viewing this area.</li> <li>• If visitation continues to increase, the opportunity for the visitor to view the box could become even more restricted. It is also currently difficult to provide an exact schedule for viewing the box to visitors.</li> <li>• Continual limitations on funding and personnel needed to maintain the facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace original artifacts with replicas to preserve original artifacts.</li> <li>• Restage original artifacts in a climate-controlled setting in the collections.</li> <li>• Seeing the interior of the theatre, even though it is recreated, imparts an emotional connection with the visitor that cannot be duplicated by other forms of researching the assassination.</li> <li>• Develop a use plan for the presidential box access.</li> <li>• Collaborate with the Ford's Theatre Society in the preparation of future exhibit management plans to ensure consistent communication with the public regarding artifacts collections and exhibit displays.</li> </ul>
<b>Data Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic furnishings report for all components of the park.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive interpretive plan update.</li> <li>• Museum collections management plan and exhibit plan.</li> <li>• Integrated pest management plan.</li> <li>• Resource stewardship strategy.</li> </ul>
<b>Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b>	<p><b>Park-specific Laws, Policies, and Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design Development Documents of the Ford's Theatre and Petersen House 2001</li> <li>• NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i></li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director's Orders 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Orders 42: <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services</i></li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>, section 5.3, "Stewardship"</li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>, section 9.3.1.7, "Facilities for Arts and Culture"</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Museum Collections and Archives
<p><b>Importance of the Resource or Value</b></p>	<p>Ford's Theatre National Historic Site museum collections and archives are the largest collection of President Lincoln artifacts related to the assassination. The museum collection includes part of the Oldroyd Collection of Lincoln artifacts, which is the original Lincoln Museum collection of Osborn Oldroyd. The collection includes artifacts related to the conspirators, the federal investigation, and evidence related to the assassination of President Lincoln.</p>
<p><b>Related Significance Statements</b></p>	<p>1. First Presidential Assassination. 6. Artifacts and Evidence of the Assassination.</p>
<p><b>Current Conditions and Trends</b></p>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of the collection is not on display and is located at the NPS Museum Resource Center in Landover, Maryland. This includes an archeology collection.</li> <li>• A majority of the significant items directly related to the assassination are currently being displayed at Ford's Theatre National Historic Site.</li> <li>• The resources on display are highly appreciated by visitors and experience high demand for access and viewings each year.</li> <li>• The museum is closed to the general public while Ford's Theatre Society is hosting live theatrical performances throughout the year, but open to theatre patrons during performances. The closure can be unexpected to visitors, especially during matinee productions.</li> <li>• Collection at the NPS Museum Resource Center has been entered into the NPS museum database.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently there are no plans for additional exhibits from the collection because there is very little additional space at the park.</li> <li>• Artifact conservation is a continual need of the collection.</li> <li>• The museum checklist and inventory is completed annually.</li> </ul>



Carol Highsmith photograph of overcoat worn by President Lincoln on the night he was shot by John Wilkes Booth. Quilted inscription reads: One Country, One Destiny. (NPS Collection)



Carol Highsmith photograph of derringer used by Booth to assassinate President Lincoln. (NPS Collection)

Fundamental Resource or Value	Museum Collections and Archives
Threats and Opportunities	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Idling buses on 10th Street produce a volume of soot that infiltrates the Petersen House and Ford's Theatre. They also produce vibrations that could have long-term impacts on the fragile architecture of the Petersen House.</li> <li>• Most of the collection at the NPS Museum Resource Center has not been entered into the NPS museum database.</li> <li>• Lack of funding for curatorial staff to work with the collection, including artifact conservation.</li> <li>• Large crowds in the museum in the spring can affect the visitors' ability to view and experience the museum collection.</li> <li>• Objects in the museum are exposed to light levels that require a period of "resting," in particular textiles and paper documents.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A better understanding of the collection could yield tremendous opportunities to improve interpretation and scholarly research at the park.</li> <li>• Continue to collaborate with the Ford's Theatre Society to consider displaying the museum collections at the Center for Education and Leadership.</li> <li>• Establish new museum exhibits and a rotation plan for museum objects at the existing location.</li> <li>• Explore additional funding opportunities for conservation of museum collections.</li> <li>• Work with the Ford's Theatre Society on opportunities to digitize museum collections so they may be publicly accessed.</li> <li>• With the Ford's Theatre Society, improve communication with the public on where collection pieces are located, and when and where they are on display.</li> <li>• Increase collaboration with the Ford's Theatre Society and others hosting collections on exhibit development and scheduling.</li> </ul>
Data Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic furnishings report for all components of the park.</li> </ul>
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive interpretive plan update.</li> <li>• Sign/exhibit plan.</li> <li>• Integrated pest management plan.</li> <li>• Museum housekeeping plan.</li> <li>• Resource stewardship strategy.</li> <li>• Scope of collection statement.</li> <li>• Fire protection survey.</li> <li>• Collections security survey.</li> <li>• Collections conservation survey.</li> </ul>
Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Park-specific Laws, Policies, and Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2013 museum collections management plan</li> <li>• Partnership agreement with Ford's Theatre Society</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Orders 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i>, section 5.3.5.5, "Museum Collections"</li> <li>• <i>NPS Museum Handbook</i></li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Commemoration of President Lincoln
<p><b>Importance of the Resource or Value</b></p>	<p>Following the events of April 14–15, 1865, both Ford’s Theatre and the Petersen House became sites of national pilgrimage as civic shrines to the assassination and death of President Lincoln. Ford’s Theatre National Historic Site informs and inspires nearly a million visitors annually about the life and legacy of President Abraham Lincoln.</p>
<p><b>Related Significance Statements</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First Presidential Assassination.</li> <li>2. Key Event of the Civil War.</li> <li>3. The Petersen House.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Current Conditions and Trends</b></p>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Ford’s Theatre and the Petersen House are heavily used with a high volume of visitation.</li> <li>• Ford’s Theatre also hosts live theatrical performances and special events throughout the year.</li> <li>• Ford’s Theatre and the Petersen House are subject to frequent maintenance needs</li> <li>• Both Ford’s Theatre and the Petersen House are listed as being in good condition on the List of Classified Structures.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is some demand to increase the number of visitors entering the Petersen House at one time. Fifteen visitors is the number established for resource protection and visitor experience.</li> <li>• Increasing demands for theatre use by third parties, mostly not related to park purpose.</li> <li>• Interpretive/educational park ranger staff and Ford’s Theatre Society staff are conducting visitor programming on the street.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Threats and Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High volume of visitation in the spring can affect educational opportunities on the street as well as at the Petersen House.</li> <li>• Illegal and legal vendors, idling buses, and other traffic-related issues can seriously impact visitor safety and experience, as well as interpretive opportunities.</li> <li>• Continual limitations on funding and personnel needed to maintain the facilities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a joint annual work plan reflecting both NPS and the Ford’s Theatre Society’s activities.</li> <li>• Improving communication between interpretive/educational park ranger staff and Ford’s Theatre Society staff could increase programming opportunities for visitors.</li> <li>• Additional interpretation about the Petersen House and Lincoln’s legacy.</li> <li>• Walking tours and waysides could be expanded to augment services related to high visitation.</li> <li>• Explore possible closure of 10th Street block to vehicular traffic. This could improve visitor experience dramatically by increasing safety and providing a more pedestrian-friendly environment that would improve the quality of interpretation.</li> <li>• Expand park’s volunteer program to assist management and maintenance of the Petersen House.</li> <li>• Work collaboratively with the Ford’s Theatre Society on special programming for both sides of 10th Street to address periods of high visitation.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Commemoration of President Lincoln
Data Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative history.</li> <li>• Viewshed analysis of the 10th Street streetscape.</li> </ul>
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petersen House maintenance and housekeeping plan.</li> <li>• Soundscape assessment and management plan.</li> <li>• Comprehensive interpretive plan update.</li> <li>• Resource stewardship strategy.</li> </ul>
Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Park-specific Laws, Policies, and Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership agreement between the Ford's Theatre Society and the National Park Service</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director's Order 64: <i>Commemorative Works and Plaques</i></li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>, section 5.3, "Stewardship"</li> </ul>



The Petersen House receives hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. (NPS Photo)

Fundamental Resource or Value	Survival of Our Democracy
<b>Importance of the Resource or Value</b>	Ford's Theatre National Historic Site serves as a symbolic representation of the survival of democracy and the continuation of the federal government in the face of the violent act of assassination. Despite the attempts of the conspirators, the democratic ideals of the United States survived the assassination and death of President Lincoln. Although this event had a profound effect on American history, the federal government successfully transitioned through this tragedy.
<b>Related Significance Statements</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First Presidential Assassination.</li> <li>2. Key Event of the Civil War.</li> <li>3. The Petersen House.</li> <li>5. Presidential Line of Succession.</li> </ol>
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These resources are heavily used with a high volume of visitation.</li> <li>• Ford's Theatre also hosts live theatrical performances and special events throughout the year.</li> <li>• Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House are subject to frequent maintenance needs.</li> <li>• Both Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House are listed as being in good condition on the List of Classified Structures.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is some demand to increase the number of visitors entering the Petersen House at one time. Fifteen visitors is the number established for resource protection and visitor experience.</li> <li>• Increasing demands for theatre use by third parties, mostly not related to park purpose.</li> <li>• Continued interest into President Lincoln's assassination and ongoing debate about the many outcomes this event had on the history of the United States.</li> </ul>
<b>Threats and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High volume of visitation in the spring can affect educational and interpretive opportunities on the street.</li> <li>• Illegal and legal vendors, idling buses, and other traffic-related issues can seriously impact visitor safety and experience, as well as interpretive opportunities.</li> <li>• Continual limitations on funding and personnel needed to maintain the facilities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a joint annual work plan reflecting both NPS and the Ford's Theatre Society's activities.</li> <li>• Walking tours could be expanded to help expand services related to problems with high visitation.</li> <li>• Develop additional interpretive themes that deal with the political issues that spawned from Lincoln's assassination.</li> <li>• Ongoing scholarly research and understanding into the effects and outcomes of the historic events that took place at this site.</li> <li>• Develop additional interpretive and educational programs related to the Civil War's 150th anniversary and other future anniversaries.</li> </ul>
<b>Data Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional scholarly research into the aftermath of President Lincoln's assassination and its numerous impacts on the nation.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive interpretive plan update.</li> <li>• Sign/exhibit plan.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Survival of Our Democracy
Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Park-specific Laws, Policies, and Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None identified</li></ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Director's Order 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i></li><li>• <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i>, section 5.3, "Stewardship"</li><li>• <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i>, section 7, "Interpretation and Education"</li></ul>



Chris Hunt photograph showing recreated 1865 presidential box under theatrical lighting. (NPS Collection)

<b>Fundamental Resource or Value</b>	<b>Ford’s Theatre Society Partnership</b>
<b>Importance of the Resource or Value</b>	<p>Ford’s Theatre National Historic Site partners extensively with the Ford’s Theatre Society to improve the visitor’s experience at the park. The partnership allows for the production of live theatre performances and other events in Ford’s Theatre. The partnership also enhances the daytime experience through programming and dedicated front-line staff. Across 10th Street, the Ford’s Theatre Society’s Center for Education and Leadership occupies the building next to the Petersen House. Access to the center’s exhibit space was made available through an extensive rehabilitation of the building that connects this facility to the Petersen House. Visitors seamlessly enter this building through an accessible elevator and continue their experience by learning about the aftermath of the assassination, the impact on Lincoln’s family, and his legacy to the nation. Artifacts from the Ford’s Theatre National Historic Site are also on display at the center.</p>
<b>Related Significance Statements</b>	<p>3. The Petersen House.                      4. A Working Theatre.                      6. Artifacts and Evidence of the Assassination.</p>
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ford’s Theatre Society provides extensive staffing and infrastructure to enable daytime visits to the park.</li> <li>• The Ford’s Theatre Society provides complementary programming using the dynamic intersection of theatre and history to educate patrons about the Civil War and President Lincoln’s legacy.</li> <li>• The addition of the Center for Education and Leadership has broadened the story the National Park Service is able to tell.</li> <li>• The Ford’s Theatre Society’s distance-learning technology and rich online content has enabled audiences who cannot visit the historic site to experience the story.</li> <li>• The Ford’s Theatre Society’s educational programs enable local students to connect with the Ford’s Theatre story on a deeper level for free or reduced costs.</li> <li>• The Ford’s Theatre Society staff handles and resolves the majority of customer service complaints on-site and via phone/email/mail.</li> <li>• The Ford’s Theatre Society’s dedicated front-line staff ensures a smooth process for daytime visitors, enabling rangers to focus on interpretation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ford’s Theatre Society will be using its second floor gallery for rotating exhibits.</li> <li>• The Ford’s Theatre Society will deepen the level of training for front-line staff in order to improve customer service and the visitor experience.</li> <li>• The Ford’s Theatre Society will continue to look for opportunities to further engage on-site visitors to enhance their experience.</li> </ul>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Ford's Theatre Society Partnership
Threats and Opportunities	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited federal resources to maintain park in desired condition strains partnership donations and funding potential.</li> <li>Previous lack of leadership continuity at the park inhibited long-term planning.</li> <li>Duplicative communication efforts and lack of a cohesive communication strategy between the National Park Service and the Ford's Theatre Society create a confusing story for patrons.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a joint annual work plan reflecting both NPS and the Ford's Theatre Society's activities.</li> <li>The society's independence as a nonprofit 501(c)3 enables it to be nimble in the face of new trends and sudden changes.</li> <li>The Ford's Theatre Society is open and willing to explore new theatrical programming to engage patrons in other stories related to the park.</li> <li>The Ford's Theatre Society will continue to explore ways of expanding its online presence.</li> <li>The Ford's Theatre Society will continue to develop programming dedicated to showing how Lincoln's legacy lives on today.</li> </ul>
Data Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified.</li> </ul>
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ford's Theatre Society is in the process of developing a strategic plan. NPS staff will be involved in the development of the plan.</li> </ul>
Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Park-specific Laws, Policies, and Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership agreement with Ford's Theatre Society</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>, section 1.10, "Partnerships"</li> <li>NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>, section 9.3.1.7, "Facilities for Arts and Culture"</li> <li>NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>, section 7.6.2, "Cooperating Associations"</li> <li>Director's Order 20: <i>Agreements</i></li> <li>Director's Order 21: <i>Donations and Fundraising</i></li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Live Performance
<p><b>Importance of the Resource or Value</b></p>	<p>Performances at Ford’s Theatre connect visitors to the historic use of the building. Watching a performance at Ford’s Theatre as President Lincoln did creates a unique experience and allows for deeper visitor engagement at the park.</p>
<p><b>Related Significance Statements</b></p>	<p>4. A Working Theatre.</p>
<p><b>Current Conditions and Trends</b></p>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watching a play in the theater where President Abraham Lincoln visited creates a unique interpretive experience.</li> <li>• High volume of visitor traffic in the spring affects the theatre experience and interpretative programming at the park.</li> <li>• The museum is closed to the general public while the Ford’s Theatre Society is hosting live theatrical performances throughout the year, but the theatre area is open to theatre patrons during performances.</li> <li>• At times, design of the stage sets can affect the theatre appearance.</li> <li>• Ford’s Theatre is subject to frequent maintenance needs.</li> <li>• The Ford’s Theatre Society actively promotes live theatre and provides needed technical support for the performing arts.</li> <li>• Modern lighting needed for performances detracts from the historical scene.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limitations of the facility for theatrical productions sometimes leads to inappropriate use of the facility during productions and potential safety hazards.</li> <li>• Short plays related to the history of Ford’s Theatre (“One Destiny,” and occasionally others) produced by the Ford’s Theatre Society typically occur in the busy times of the year.</li> <li>• The successful partnership with the Ford’s Theatre Society enables the continued presence of live performances at the park.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Threats and Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of an updated agreement with the Ford’s Theatre Society.</li> <li>• Overall size and capacity of the facility to meet visitation and production demands can be overwhelming and creates conflicting interests.</li> <li>• Continual limitations on funding and personnel needed to maintain the facility.</li> <li>• Increasing needs for access will have a direct correlation to increasing maintenance demands and preservation issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeing the interior of the theater, even though it is recreated, imparts an emotional connection with the visitor that cannot be duplicated.</li> <li>• Patron surveys show that the theatre has a unique power to educate our audience about history in a dynamic, memorable, and engaging way.</li> <li>• Continue to work collaboratively with the Ford’s Theatre Society to address safety concerns and facility limitations related to theatrical productions while protecting resources.</li> <li>• Continue to improve orientation for production companies to assure resource protection and visitor experience goals.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Data Needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update historic structures report for Ford’s Theatre.</li> <li>• Energy use and efficiency evaluation and assessment.</li> </ul>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Live Performance
<p><b>Planning Needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor use management plan.</li> <li>• Emergency operations response plan updated.</li> <li>• Volunteer management plan.</li> <li>• Soundscape assessment and management plan.</li> <li>• Partnership management plan with the Ford's Theatre Society.</li> <li>• Resource stewardship strategy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Laws and Policies that Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p>	<p><b>Park-specific Laws, Policies, and Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Design Development Documents of the Ford's Theatre and Petersen House, Washington, D.C., 2001</i></li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i>, section 9.3.1.7, "Facilities for Arts and Culture"</li> </ul>



1863 plan view of Ford's Theatre seating areas. The presidential box is labeled as Private Box No 1. (NPS Collection)

## Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values

Other Important Resource or Value	10th Street Landscape and Viewshed
<p><b>Importance of the Resource or Value</b></p>	<p>The physical location of Ford’s Theatre and Petersen House on 10th Street in Washington, D.C., played a significant role in their place in history. Roughly located between the White House and Capitol building, the theatre became a popular entertainment venue. The Petersen House’s location across the street from the theatre was the closest place to take the mortally wounded president. The 10th Street streetscape supports an immersive visitor experience and connects these two buildings physically.</p> <p>The 10th Street viewshed also contributes to the L’Enfant Plan of Washington, D.C. The National Park Service is dedicated to improving and perpetuating these historic planned viewsheds, as outlined in the 2010 National Mall Plan.</p>
<p><b>Related Significance Statements</b></p>	<p>1. First Presidential Assassination. 3. The Petersen House.</p>
<p><b>Current Conditions and Trends</b></p>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The streetscape between Ford’s Theatre and the Petersen House receives a heavy volume of use and is not managed by the National Park Service.</li> <li>• Numerous restaurants and souvenir shops operate along the 10th Street block.</li> <li>• 10th Street is a stopping point for numerous tour groups and buses.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is demand to increase the number of visitors entering the Petersen House at one time. Fifteen visitors is the current number established for resource protection and visitor experience.</li> <li>• Other attractions and restaurants are increasing in the area, bringing more visitors and competing for visual attention.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Threats and Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy visitation is impacting the historic fabric and visitor experiences, including heavy tour bus traffic.</li> <li>• Illegal and legal vendor street vendors, idling buses, and other traffic-related issues can seriously impact visitor safety and experience, as well as interpretive opportunities between Ford’s Theatre and the Petersen House.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking tours could be expanded to augment services related to high visitation.</li> <li>• Explore possible closure of 10th Street block to vehicular traffic. This could improve visitor experience by dramatically increasing safety and providing a more pedestrian-friendly environment that would improve the quality of interpretation.</li> <li>• Opportunity to expand the context and interpretation of the Petersen House streetscape and back alley of Ford’s Theatre.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Data Needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update historic structures report for Ford’s Theatre.</li> <li>• Viewshed analysis of the 10th street streetscape.</li> <li>• Boundary survey.</li> <li>• Cultural landscape inventory.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Planning Needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor use management plan.</li> <li>• Comprehensive interpretive plan update.</li> <li>• Sign/exhibit plan.</li> <li>• Resource stewardship strategy.</li> </ul>

Other Important Resource or Value	10th Street Landscape and Viewshed
<p>Laws and Policies that Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p><b>Park-specific Laws, Policies, and Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design Development Documents of the Ford's Theatre and Petersen House, Washington, D.C., 2001</li> <li>• Historic Structure Report for Petersen House, 2006</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director's Order 28: Cultural Resource Management</li> <li>• NPS Management Policies 2006, section 5.3, "Stewardship"</li> </ul>



1865 advertising for play after the assassination of President Lincoln. Public threats and outcry forced the federal government to close Ford's Theatre. One hundred and three years would pass before Ford's Theatre would reopen again as a working theatre in 1968 under the auspices of the Ford's Theatre Society. (NPS Collection)

Other Important Resource or Value	Baptist Alley and Booth's escape route
Importance of the Resource or Value	After shooting President Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth leapt from the presidential box onto the stage and ran out the back door into Baptist Alley. Booth's escape and the subsequent manhunt for the assassination conspirators is a significant part of the Ford's Theatre National Historic Site story. Beginning in Baptist Alley and ending 12 days later in Virginia, the chase for America's first presidential assassin gripped the nation.
Related Significance Statements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First Presidential Assassination.</li> <li>2. Key event of the Civil War.</li> <li>6. Artifacts and Evidence of the Assassination.</li> </ol>
Current Conditions and Trends	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ford's Theatre Society hosts live theatrical performances throughout the year that require the use of Baptist Alley to accommodate these performances and their equipment.</li> <li>• Ford's Theatre is subject to frequent maintenance needs that rely on the access through the alley.</li> <li>• Ford's Theatre is listed as being in good condition on the List of Classified Structures.</li> <li>• The alley is actively used by other neighboring businesses.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing use for theatrical productions and events by the Ford's Theatre Society within Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House.</li> <li>• Increased use of the alley by other neighboring businesses.</li> <li>• Increasing interest in John Wilkes Booth and the assassination story with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.</li> </ul>
Threats and Opportunities	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High volume of visitation in the spring can affect educational opportunities on the street.</li> <li>• Illegal and legal vendors, idling buses, and other traffic-related issues can seriously impact visitor safety and experience, as well as interpretive opportunities.</li> <li>• Due to the increased number of restaurants on the theatre block, pest management is becoming more of an issue.</li> <li>• Traffic flow, parking, and truck deliveries in the alley are a threat to visitor safety and access.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with the Ford's Theatre Society to explore expanded programs, such as walking tours during high visitation.</li> <li>• Discussions have occurred related to closing the theatre block of 10th Street. Visitor experience could improve dramatically by increasing safety and making the area more pedestrian friendly.</li> <li>• Develop a working relationship with other entities interpreting the conspiracy story.</li> <li>• Explore additional opportunities to interpret the story of John Wilkes Booth's escape.</li> </ul>
Data Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viewshed analysis of the 10th Street streetscape.</li> <li>• Boundary survey.</li> <li>• Cultural landscape inventory.</li> </ul>
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign/exhibit plan.</li> <li>• Resource stewardship strategy.</li> </ul>
Laws and Policies that Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p><b>Park-specific Laws, Policies, and Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None identified</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director's Order 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i>, section 5.3, "Stewardship"</li> </ul>

Other Important Resource or Value	Archeology
<b>Importance of the Resource or Value</b>	William Petersen ran a tailor shop in the store front of what we now call the Petersen House and his family took in boarders in the rooms above. The archeological excavations and resulting collections represent a tightly dated slice of life of a middle-class, German-immigrant tailor and his family and their boarders, from approximately 1850 to 1864. Archeological resources at the Petersen House allow us to learn about the diet, consumer habits, entertainment, and social life of the Petersen household.
<b>Related Significance Statement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None Identified.</li> </ul>
<b>Current Conditions and Trends</b>	<p><b>Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Petersen House archeological site is recorded in the Archeological Sites Management Information System and is listed in good condition.</li> <li>• The archeological collections are cataloged in the Interior Collection Management System and curated for long-term preservation at the Museum Resource Center in Landover, Maryland.</li> <li>• Storage conditions meet all requirements as stated in 36 CFR Part 79, <i>NPS Museum Handbook</i> and supplements, and Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None identified.</li> </ul>
<b>Threats and Opportunities</b>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The greatest threat to the remaining intact archeological deposits in the courtyard is the potential for any form of ground disturbance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The archeological reports and collections present a wonderful database to provide for the public interpretation of the lives of a middle-class, immigrant family in Civil War Washington, D.C.</li> </ul>
<b>Data Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None Identified.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None Identified.</li> </ul>
<b>Laws and Policies that Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</b>	<p><b>Park-specific Laws, Policies, and Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None identified.</li> </ul> <p><b>NPS Policy-level Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></li> <li>• <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i></li> <li>• Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i></li> </ul>

## Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management, and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose and significance, and fundamental and other important resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental or other important resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions not directly related to purpose and significance, but still indirectly affects them. Usually a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

The following are key issues for Ford's Theatre National Historic Site and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

- **Site management within the National Mall and Memorial Parks.** At one time under the management of the National Mall and Memorial Parks, Ford's Theatre National Historic Site was made an independent park unit in 2008. Following five years of growth and development it was announced that the Ford's Theatre National Historic Site would once again be managed as part of the National Mall and Memorial Parks.
- **Role and relationship with the Ford's Theatre Society.** The historic partnership between the Ford's Theatre National Historic Site and their nonprofit partner, the Ford's Theatre Society, is an important part of the future planning of the park and the management of live performances at the theatre. Clearly understanding this relationship and defining each other's roles and responsibilities is crucial for the future of the park.
- **Signage and the streetscape.** Signage and the streetscape between Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House were identified as areas of concern. Signage on 10th Street, the branding and signage of the Ford's Theatre Society's Center for Education and Leadership, and the theatre's new box office can present a confusing streetscape for visitors. Waysides would provide additional information to visitors about Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House. Outside commercial interests such as street vendors and mobile kiosks create additional challenges for the park. Another major concern is managing the streetscape outside park boundaries.
- **Heavy seasonal visitation and visitor experience.** Ford's Theatre National Historic Site remains one of the most popular destinations within Washington, D.C. Numerous groups visit the park and it is a prominent stop on many tour bus routes. Heavy seasonal visitation during the spring and fall months, bus and other vehicular traffic, and the distribution of visitors at the park put pressure on the park resources, negatively impact visitor experience, and present visitor safety issues.
- **Partnering with related sites.** Many sites across the country tell stories related to Lincoln's life and death, the conspiracy, and the Civil War. There may be possibilities for augmenting the visitor experience or better connecting other sites to the resources at Ford's Theatre National Historic Site and the Ford's Theatre Society.
- **Financial sustainability.** All national parks need to protect resources, serve visitors, and operate in a way that allows them to function in a variety of economic conditions.



## Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation, and the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, park significance, and park purpose, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of park resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority, and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium- or low-priority needs. These priorities inform park management's efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.

### Data Needs

Related to an FRV?	Data Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
X	Energy use and efficiency evaluation and assessment	H	In order to better achieve NPS systemwide goals for energy efficiency, an evaluation and assessment of energy use at the park would provide valuable data that could influence management and planning.
X	Historic furnishings report for all components of the park unit	H	Both Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House use historic furnishings to help with interpretation and visitor understanding of the park. A historic furnishings report was recognized as important to managing these assets at the park.
X	Fire protection survey for museum collections	H	The survey would determine fire risk for collections.
X	Security survey	H	The survey would determine risks to the collections.
X	Historic resource study	M	This is needed to address all cultural resources (archeology, structures, cultural landscapes, museum collections, ethnography, and history) related to the park.
X	Scope of collection statement	M	This would define the extent of the collections that are protected by the park.
X	Conservation survey for museum collections	M	The survey would evaluate the status of current conditions of the collection.
X	Update historic structures report for Ford's Theatre for all components of the park unit	M	The Petersen House historic structure report was updated in 2006. An updated historic structure report for Ford's Theatre would provide better direction for resource management at the site.
X	Viewshed analysis of the 10th Street streetscape	M	A viewshed analysis would provide data on the streetscape and help in the development of future planning needs.

Related to an FRV?	Data Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Parkwide Issue	Boundary survey	M	Due to new facilities and building access points that have come online, clearly defined park boundaries are needed. A boundary survey would also help define Baptist Alley, John Wilkes Booth's escape route.
X	Cultural landscape inventory/report	M	A cultural landscape inventory would provide data to help make informed management decisions regarding the park's streetscape and surrounding buildings.
X	Additional scholarly research into the aftermath of President Lincoln's assassination and its numerous impacts on the nation	L	This research would assist in developing future interpretive materials and keep the park's messaging up to date.
Parkwide Issue	Administrative history	L	An administrative history for the historic site would help provide continuity and create a record of park management for the Ford's Theatre National Historic Site properties.

**Planning Needs**

Related to an FRV?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
X	Visitor use management plan	H	Because of the park's heavy seasonal visitation and new vehicular and pedestrian circulation patterns, a visitor use management plan was identified as an immediate planning need. It would address the distribution of visitors, elimination of choke points, improvement of circulation patterns, identification of safety issues, and improvement of the ticketing process.
X	Emergency operations response plan update	H	Due to new facilities and building access points that have come online since this was completed, updating the emergency operations response plan is needed.
X	Comprehensive interpretive plan update	H	Updating the interpretive plan based on the outcome of the foundation workshop was identified as a planning need. This would also allow interpretive training to be updated.
X	Integrated pest management plan	H	Due to the park's urban location, an integrated pest management plan was identified as an important need for the park and for the management of museum collections on display at the theatre.
X	Museum housekeeping plan	H	A long-term housekeeping plan for the museum on the lower level of Ford's Theatre is needed.

Related to an FRV?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
X	Partnership management plan with the Ford's Theatre Society	H	Most aspects of the partnership between Ford's Theatre National Historic Site and the Ford's Theatre Society are addressed in a partnership agreement, which is currently expired. If the partnership agreement with the Ford's Theatre Society is not renewed, a separate plan may be needed to address shared collections, exhibits, and use of the theatre.
X	Petersen House maintenance plan and housekeeping plan	H	Although the Petersen House recently went through an extensive restoration process, a long-term housekeeping plan for the house is needed.
Parkwide Issue	Financial sustainability plan	M	This plan would help prepare the park for changing economic conditions by examining the appropriateness of all existing and potential fees and exploring additional revenue sources.
X	Sign/exhibit plan	M	Because of new facilities and building access points that have come online, an integrated sign and exhibit plan is needed to help provide consistency and clarity to the visitor experience. It would also help visitors determine where certain collections are located and help direct circulation through the related sites.
Parkwide Issue	Position management plan / transitional management assessment program (TMAP)	M	This plan would address organizational efficiencies and how contracting/ maintenance activities can be integrated within the National Mall and Memorial Parks.
X	Volunteer management plan	M	This plan will address the volunteer program that operates at the park and will help better integrate the park and partner organization's volunteer efforts.
X	Soundscape assessment and management plan	L	Because Ford's Theatre is a working theater that hosts numerous live performances, an integrated soundscape assessment and management plan was identified as a planning need.
X	Resource stewardship strategy	L	A resource stewardship strategy would establish a 10-year plan consisting of comprehensive strategies to better meet long-term goals for cultural resource management.
Parkwide Issue	Ethnographic overview and assessment	L	The park has ethnographic elements that could be investigated and which might be helpful for future planning and interpretation.

## Part 3: Contributors

### National Park Service

#### National Mall and Memorial Parks

- Bob Vogel, Superintendent
- Karen Cucurullo, Deputy Superintendent
- Rae Emerson, Deputy Superintendent of Ford's Theatre National Historic Park
- William Cheek, Supervisory Park Ranger
- Carolyn Richard, Chief of Interpretation
- Rosanna Weltzin, Deputy Chief of Interpretation
- Roger Powell, Park Ranger
- Eric Martin, Park Ranger
- Susan Spain, Project Executive, The National Mall Plan
- Darryl Mcleod, Facilities Manager

#### National Capital Region

- Sue Hansen, Chief of Interpretation
- Wendy O'Sullivan, Assistant Regional Director for Partnerships
- David Hayes, Regional Planner
- Gary Scott, Regional Historian (retired)

#### Washington Office

- Patrick Gregerson, Chief of Planning

### Ford's Theatre Society

- Allison Alonzy, Associate Director of Visitor Services
- Kristin Fox-Siegmund, Director of Programming
- Sarah Jencks, Director of Education Programming
- Liza Lorenz, Director of Communications and Marketing

### Preparers

- Tokey Boswell, Project Manager, WASO Park Planning and Special Studies
- Carrie Miller, Cultural Resource Specialist, NPS Denver Service Center-Planning
- Justin Henderson, Cultural Resource Specialist, NPS Denver Service Center-Planning
- John Paul Jones, Visual Information Specialist, NPS Denver Service Center-Planning

### Consultants

- Nancy Shock, Foundation Coordinator, WASO Park Planning and Special Studies
- Pam Holtman, Quality Assurance Coordinator, WASO Park Planning and Special Studies
- Melody Bentfield, Contract Librarian, NPS Denver Service Center-Planning

## APPENDIXES

### Appendix A: Legislation Leading to the Establishment of Ford's Theatre National Historic Site

Thirty- Ninth Congress. Sess. I. Ch. 26, 27, 28. 1866.  
Purchase of Ford's Theatre by the U.S. Army for document storage.

April 7, 1866. CHAP. XXVIII. — *An Act making additional Appropriations, and to supply the Deficiencies in the Appropriations for sundry civil Expenses of the Government for the fiscal Year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and for other Purposes.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, and to supply deficiencies in the appropriations, for the service of the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, namely :*

For the purchase of the property in Washington city, known as Ford's theatre, for the deposit and safe-keeping of documentary papers relating to the soldiers of the army of the United States, and of the museum of the medical and surgical department of the army, one hundred thousand dollars.

Sixty-Ninth Congress. Sess. I. Ch. 286-289. 1926.  
Purchase of the Oldroyd Collection, later to be added to the Lincoln Museum.

**CHAP. 287.**—An Act For the purchase of the Oldroyd collection of Lincoln relics.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War, and the Attorney General are hereby designated as a commission with authority, in their discretion, to purchase the Oldroyd collection of Lincoln relics, and that the sum of \$50,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to enable the commission to consummate such purchase.*

Approved, May 11, 1926.

70TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES } REPORT  
 1st Session } } No. 299

ESTABLISHMENT OF A LINCOLN MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
 IN BUILDING KNOWN AS FORD'S THEATER

JANUARY 17, 1928.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the  
 state of the Union and ordered to be printed

MR. BEERS, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, sub-  
 mitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 7206]

The dwelling in which President Lincoln died houses the Oldroyd collection of Lincoln relics which the Government has acquired. The building is not fireproof, and with its valuable contents it may at any time be destroyed. It is not safe for any large crowd of visitors and it is not large enough for the present collection, to say nothing of any additions. Across the street is Ford's Theater, where the President was shot. This was acquired by the Government soon after the tragedy in order that it might never again be used as a theater or put to commercial use. It has of late been used as a Government storehouse, which is not compatible with its tragic associations.

It seems eminently fitting that the Oldroyd collection shall be transferred to the Ford building after that has been suitably remodeled. Your committee therefore advises the passage of H. R. 7206.

The cost of repairing and remodeling Ford's Theater has been carefully estimated by the Director of Public Buildings and Grounds for the District of Columbia and other responsible persons who state that the total amount required to be expended would not exceed \$100,000. It should be borne in mind that in any event considerable repairs would have to be made to the building in the very near future.

Carefully prepared charts and diagrams of the interior of Ford's Theater have also been made, which show the arrangements of the three floors of the building as it would be when remodeled.

Besides the Oldroyd collection of Lincoln relics, numbering several thousand pieces, and now the property of the United States, other Lincoln collections of value and of interest are promised which could

**2**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A LINCOLN MEMORIAL MUSEUM**

be suitably exhibited when Ford's Theater is converted into a national museum.

It seems to the committee that another use, to which Ford's Theater could well be put to the greatest advantage, would be to establish there a headquarters for the veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic. These old soldiers now are with only a very small and unsatisfactory rented space in a building, which is soon to be torn down. Surely in the Nation's Capital some provision should be made for a headquarters for these veterans.

This bill has been indorsed by a large number of organizations of the highest standing, not only of veterans, but of other civic and patriotic bodies.

Your committee therefore unanimously recommends that the bill H. R. 7206 do pass.



Ninety-first Congress. Sess. 2. CH. 288. 1970.  
 Legislation establishing Ford's Theatre National Historic Site.

**Public Law 91-288**

**AN ACT**

June 23, 1970  
 [H. R. 12860]

To establish the Ford's Theatre National Historical Site, and for other purposes.

Ford's Theatre  
 National Historical  
 Site.  
 Establishment.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That, the properties administered by the Secretary of the Interior in the District of Columbia known as the House Where Lincoln Died, the Lincoln Museum, Ford's Theatre, and the property authorized to be acquired in section 2 of this Act are hereby established as the Ford's Theatre National Historic Site, which shall be administered in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented, and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666), as amended and supplemented.

16 USC 1 et  
 seq.  
 16 USC 461-467.  
 Property ac-  
 quisition.

**SEC. 2.** The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire by donation or by purchase with donated or appropriated funds the property and the improvements thereon located at 517 Tenth Street, Northwest, in the District of Columbia, adjacent to the historic Ford's Theatre and consisting of approximately eight hundred and twelve square feet of land.

Appropriation.

**SEC. 3.** There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act, of which not more than \$94,000 shall be used for the acquisition of the property referred to in section 2 of this Act, and not more than \$176,000 shall be used for the development of said property.

Approved June 23, 1970.

Ninety-first Congress, Sess. 2, Report No. 91-1099, 1970.  
 House Report on the establishment of the Ford's Theatre National Historic Site  
 includes language about live performances.

91st CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES } REPORT  
 2d Session } } No. 91-1099

ESTABLISHING THE FORD'S THEATRE NATIONAL  
 HISTORICAL SITE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

MAY 18, 1970.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of  
 the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. TAYLOR, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
 submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 12860]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 12860) To establish the Ford's Theatre National Historical Site, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of H.R. 12860, by Representatives John Saylor and Joe Skubitz, is to designate Ford's Theatre, the Lincoln Museum, and the House Where Lincoln Died as the Ford's Theatre National Historic Site, and to add to that complex the property and building adjacent to the theater known as 517 10th Street, NW.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

Ford's Theatre is one of the famous, historic structures in Washington, D.C. Constructed in 1863, it was considered one of the finest theaters of its day; however, its fame today evolves not from its contributions to the performing arts, but from the tragedy which occurred there on April 14, 1865. It was there—on that day—that Abraham Lincoln was shot, and it was from there that he was carried to the Peterson House where he died.

Both the theater and the House Where Lincoln Died have been Government properties for many years—in fact Ford's Theatre was acquired in 1866. In more recent times, they have been administered by the National Park Service as a part of the National Capital Park System. The theater has now been restored to its appearance on the



night of the assassination and it is a major visitor attraction in the city. It serves a dual function :

First, it houses the Lincoln Museum containing many priceless artifacts and memorabilia associated with his era ; and

Second, it has been converted into a living history exhibit which accommodates live theater performances.

The historical importance of the events which took place in this area, the authenticity of the restoration effort and the demonstrated attractiveness of the buildings to the visiting public merit its designation as a national historic site. Few places in the Nation have set the scene for events which so dramatically affected the course of the history of this country.

Since the restoration of the theater a few years ago, visitations have increased rapidly. In 1969, the committee was told, visitations totaled 424,000, but tours of the building during periods of heavy use are made difficult because of restricted access. There are three front doors to the theater which must serve both as points of ingress and egress so that an efficient traffic pattern cannot be developed.

This problem can be resolved if the property adjacent to the theater on the north is purchased and used to help accommodate the flow of visitors. In addition, the installation of emergency exits through that building will make the theater safer for the visiting public.

But for the fact that the property and the building can help to assure the safety of the visiting public, to protect the Federal investment in the restored theater, and to provide needed space for administrative offices and theater-related support facilities, the desirability of the acquisition of the property might be arguable. However, all of these factors argue most persuasively for the purchase of the property.

Title to the property involved is presently held by the Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. It was purchased in December 1967, at the request of the National Park Service because it viewed the property to be essential to the effective use of the theater. The Park Service recognized that the structure is a potential fire hazard to the restored theater and it was also concerned that the property might be converted into an enterprise adverse to the historic preservation effort. Since the National Park Service was not in position to acquire the property, the present owner purchased it as a "holding action" to halt the rapid price escalation of the property in order to preserve the opportunity for the Government to buy it. Because of this willingness on the part of Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. to invest in the property, the Government may still acquire the property at the December 1967 price, but congressional authorization is required before the National Park Service can formalize its agreement with the owner and take title to the property at the price agreed upon.

#### COST

The property to be acquired if H.R. 12860 is enacted, is adjacent to the north side of the theater. The purchase price agreed upon is approximately \$94,000—including \$90,000 for the land and improvements and approximately \$3,910 for incidental expenses incurred by Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. Construction on the property will include the demolition of the interior of the building and its reconstruction to adapt it to the needs for the theater as described above. It is anticipated that the reno-

vation program will require the appropriation of approximately \$176,000. Accordingly, the bill, as recommended, limits appropriations for acquisition and development to the amounts estimated to be necessary.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs recommends the enactment of H.R. 12860.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATION

On July 8, 1969, a communication from the Secretary of the Interior was directed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives recommending the enactment of legislation authorizing the acquisition of the property described. While the executive communication is silent with respect to the designation of the area as Ford's Theatre National Historic Site, the Director of the National Park Service recognized the merits of the innovation suggested by the sponsors of the bill and recommended its approval in testimony before the Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation. The executive communication follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, D.C., July 8, 1969.*

\* The Lincoln Memorial Museum—consisting of Ford's Theatre, the House Where Lincoln Died (the Petersen House), and the Oldroyd collection—were officially transferred from the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital to the National Park Service in 1933 through Executive Order 6166.

## Appendix B: Related Federal Legislation, Regulations, and Executive Orders

### *Legislation and Acts*

- Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act – 1974
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act – 1979
- Historic Sites Act – 1935
- Museum Properties Management Act – 1955
- National Environmental Policy Act – 1969
- National Historic Preservation Act – 1966, as amended
- National Parks Omnibus Management Act – 1998
- National Park Service Organic Act – 1916
- Redwood Act, Amending the NPS Organic Act – 1978

### *Code of Federal Regulations*

- Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 1, General Provisions
- Title 36, Chapter 800, Protection of Historic Properties

### *Executive Orders*

- Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment”
- Executive Order 12003, “Energy Policy and Conservation”
- Executive Order 13423, “Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management”

### *NPS Management Policies 2006*

#### *NPS Director's Orders*

- Order 6: *Interpretation and Education*
- Order 24: *NPS Museum Collections Management*
- Order 28: *Cultural Resource Management*
- Order 47: *Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management*
- Order 64: *Commemorative Works and Plaques*
- Order 75: *Civic Engagement and Public Involvement*

## Appendix C: Inventory of Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose
Ford's Theatre Society	Partnership agreement	2003	Expired as of 2012	Ford's Theatre Society and NPS	Provides overall guidance on the relationship and responsibilities shared between the National Park Service and the Ford's Theatre Society.
Center for Education and Leadership	Artifact loan agreement (L.2011.03)	12/12/2011	12/3/2012	Ford's Theatre Society and NPS	Provides legal record on the loan agreement between the Ford's Theatre Society and the National Park Service for the display and stewardship of museum artifacts at the Center for Education and Leadership.
U.S. Supreme Court	Artifact Loan Agreement (L.1999.01)	1999	Expired, needs to be updated	Supreme Court and NPS	Provides for long-term loan of artifacts to the Supreme Court.
National Constitution Center	Artifact Loan Agreement (L.2009.03, L.2010.04)	12/3/2012	12/15/2013	National Constitution Center and NPS	Provides for loan of artifacts to the National Constitution Center.
Reagan Presidential Library	Artifact Loan Agreement (L.2013.01)	6/1/2013	9/30/2013	Reagan Presidential Library and NPS	Provides for loan of artifacts to the Reagan Presidential Library.
Eastern National	Cooperating association agreement			Eastern National and NPS; Servicewide	Provides management and operations for the Ford's Theatre bookstore and gift shop.



**Bust of Abraham Lincoln sculpted by Carl Tolpo. (NPS Collection)**

## Appendix D: Interpretive Themes and Supporting Content

The following interpretive themes and supporting content were developed for the 2010 long-range interpretive plan for Ford's Theatre National Historic Site.

- I. The causes behind the assassination of Abraham Lincoln were many and varied, and are still meaningful today.
  - a. Temper of the times
  - b. Lincoln's speeches and actions—example of Lincoln April 11, 1865, speech
  - c. Choices and actions
    - i. Lincoln's enemies including the conspiracy and conspiracy theories
    - ii. Common people
    - iii. Other people (e.g. Lincoln's Cabinet, Thomas Eckert, etc.)
  - d. Presidential powers and limitation in times of war
  - e. Was the Civil War over? Why kill Lincoln now?
  - f. Race relations and emancipation
  - g. Presidential security
  - h. Lincoln as Commander in Chief
  - i. Conspiracy and manhunt
  - j. John Wilkes Booth's life and times—who he was as a person
- II. Lincoln's assassination and death had far-reaching and profound consequences.
  - a. The passionate response to Lincoln's death
  - b. Lincoln's legacy and mythology as a national and international icon
  - c. Reconstruction
  - d. Ford's Theatre and Petersen House as national treasures
  - e. Presidential security
- III. Lincoln's love for the performing arts provides insight as to why Ford's Theatre became the backdrop for the assassination, and why the physical site is still relevant today.
  - a. Booth as an actor
  - b. 19th Century theatre experience
  - c. Theatre as a respite for Lincoln
  - d. History of Ford's Theatre
- IV. The Lincoln assassination created political, social, and personal crises that found their geographical focal point at the Petersen House.
  - a. Petersen House as a boarding house—architectural and cultural significance
  - b. Medical treatment and death/mourning rituals
  - c. Origins of an investigation

- V. During the presidency of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, the city of Washington and the nation underwent profound changes.
  - a. Emancipation Act of 1862
  - b. Conflict between Union and Confederate loyalists
  - c. Influx of contrabands to “Free” Washington City
  - d. Influx of war workers and resident soldiers
  - e. Lincoln’s use and support of technology
  - f. The impact of Lincoln’s legacy on present-day leaders



**1893 photograph showing crowds gathered outside Ford’s Theatre after collapse of building interior – 22 federal employees were killed and more than 60 were injured. (NPS Collection)**

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National Capital Region Foundation Document Recommendation  
Ford's Theatre National Historic Site

July 2013



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This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the National Capital Regional Director.



RECOMMENDED  
Robert Vogel, Superintendent  
National Mall and Memorial Parks

*July 25 2013*  
Date

APPROVED  
Stephen E. Whitesell  
National Capital Region, Regional Director

*August 6, 2013*  
Date



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

FOTH 804/120724  
August 2013

# Foundation Document • Ford's Theatre National Historic Site



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