

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE <b>Illinois</b>	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. <b>XIV, The Civil War, 1861-1865</b>	4. APPROX. ACREAGE <b>-</b>
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>The Lincoln Home State Memorial</b>		
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>Corner 8th and Jackson Streets, Springfield, Sangamon County</b>		
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <b>State of Illinois, Division of Parks and Memorials, State Office Building, Springfield, Illinois</b>		

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)  
This simple frame house, the only one Lincoln ever owned, was home to the Lincolns for sixteen years, from 1844 to 1861, except for the period Lincoln served in Congress from November 1847 to March 1849. The house saw the emergence of Lincoln from a small town lawyer to a figure of national importance, and witnessed some of the most important episodes in the man's life prior to his inauguration as president. From the house Lincoln walked to the law office he shared with "Billy" Herndon, and in his home on May 17, 1860, Lincoln received a committee from the Republican Nominating Convention bearing the formal notification of his nomination as the party's candidate. During the campaign Lincoln received well-wishers at the home and on February 6, 1861, gave a "grand levee" to bid farewell to his friends and fellow citizens on the eve of the departure for Washington. None of the family ever returned to live in the house.

The house was built in 1839 and was originally a one-story cottage with two attic rooms. Lincoln purchased the property from the Rev. Charles Dresser in January 1844, and brought to it his wife and infant son, Robert. Dresser was the clergyman who married Lincoln and Mary Todd in 1842. The Lincolns spent the major part of their married life in the house and in it were born three more sons, the first of whom, Edward Baker, died there.

The house is made entirely of native woods, with a frame of oak, split laths of hickory and oak, and door frames and weatherboarding of black walnut. During the Lincoln occupancy, the original structure was enlarged to a full two stories with twelve rooms. The brick retaining wall and fence along the front of the house were erected in 1850 and five years later was extended along the Jackson street side. Furnishings of the period include some original Lincoln pieces, and an effort has been made to reproduce the interior decoration, including wallpaper, to create a picture of the comfortable home the Lincolns knew. The exterior of the house was for many years painted white with green shutters. The present tinted beige more closely ap-

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)  
**Albert J. Beveridge, Abraham Lincoln: 1809 - 1858, Two vols. (Boston, 1928), I; Archie L. Bowen, Lincoln Centennial Association Papers, 1925, 17-72; Rexford Newcomb, In the Lincoln Country: Journeys to the Lincoln Shrines of Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Other States (Philadelphia, 1928); Maurine Redway and Dorothy Bracken, Marks of Lincoln on Our Land (New York, 1957).**

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, I.I.A.B.S., etc.)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION <b>Excellent</b>	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) <b>Historic House Museum</b>	13. DATE OF VISIT <b>April 26, 1959</b>
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Charles E. Shedd</i> <b>Charles E. Shedd, Jr.</b>		15. TITLE <b>Historic Sites Historian</b>	16. DATE <b>June 16, 1959</b>

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
Illinois	The Lincoln Home State Memorial

proximates the original paint.

Among the occupants of the house after the Lincolns departed were L. Tilton, president of the Great Western Railroad, pioneer line in Illinois; George H. Harlow, one of the founders of the Union League, and O. H. Oldroyd, who assembled the notable collection of Lincolniana which for a time was exhibited in the house and was later sold to the Federal Government. In 1887, Robert Todd Lincoln gave the house to the State of Illinois as a public museum.

The years which Lincoln spent in Springfield were crucial ones in the development of the man and the growth of his reputation. The simple, comfortable house at the corner of 8th and Jackson Streets is intimately associated with those years of trial and growth. More eloquently than monuments of stone and bronze the house preserves the memory of the man who called it home.



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
NPS Photo by Richard Frear

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Abraham Lincoln spent the years from 1844 to 1860 in this house, the only home he ever owned. During the time he lived here, he rose from a small-town lawyer to the Presidency. The house is preserved as nearly as possible in its original form, many of the furnishings are original pieces or replicas of those used by Lincoln.

**Lincoln Home**  
**National Historic Site**  
**Illinois**

