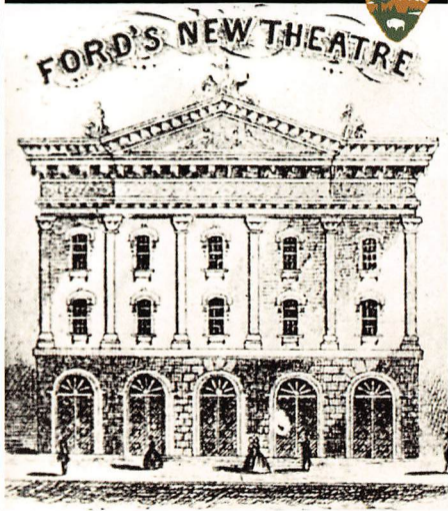


Ford's Theatre
National Historic Site



Ford's New Theatre



Ford's New Theatre

Fact: Abraham Lincoln enjoyed the theater and first saw a performance at Ford's Theatre on May 28, 1862.

Ford's New Theatre was opened in August of 1863, following a fire the year before. It seated 2500 people, about 1900 more people than it seats today. It ran productions throughout the Civil War, but was closed following President Lincoln's assassination. Eventually sold to the War Department, it was used as government offices and later a warehouse. It reopened as an active theater in 1968.