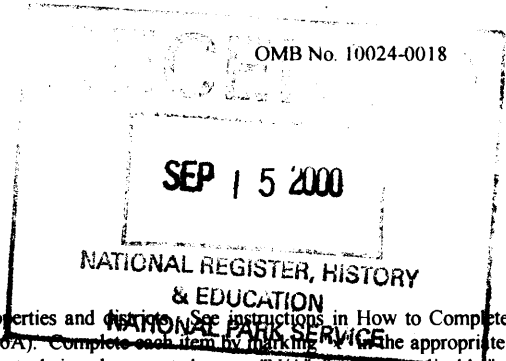


1197

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park

other names/site number State Historical Society of Iowa inventory number 33-008-114

2. Location

street & number Corner Mill and Stone not for publication

city or town: Clermont vicinity state Iowa code IA county Fayette code 065 zip code 52135

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia Ollinger DSHP 9-5-00
Signature of certifying official Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- X entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain)

Signature of Keeper

Linda McChilland

Date of Action

10/30/00

Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park
Name of Property

Fayette, Iowa
County and State

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u> 3 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: LANDSCAPE Sub: Park
RECREATION AND CULTURE Work of art

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: LANDSCAPE Sub: Park
RECREATION AND CULTURE Work of art

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (Enter categories from instructions): N/A

STONE: granite foundation _____ roof _____ walls _____ other METAL: bronze, iron

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
See continuation sheets

Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park
Name of Property

Fayette, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

Areas of Significance
(Enter Categories from instructions)
ART

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Period of Significance:
1902

Significant Dates:
1902

Significant Person:
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Cultural Affiliation:
N/A

Architect/Builder:
Bissell, George E.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository:

Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park
Name of Property

Fayette, Iowa
County and State

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property: Less than 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
 15 608825 - 4761860

____ See continuation sheet for complete listing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title: Robert C. Vogel, Preservation Planning Consultant

organization: Robert C. Vogel & Associates. date: January 25, 2000

street & number: 216 Cleveland Avenue S.W. telephone: 651-604-0175

city or town: New Brighton state: Minnesota zip code: 55112-3508

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name: City of Clermont

street & number: PO Box 6 telephone: (319) 423-7376

city or town: Clermont state: IA zip code: 52135-0006

=====
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park
name of property
Fayette, Iowa
county and State

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Lincoln Park, also commonly known as "City Park," is a public park located at the corner of Mill and Stone streets in the City of Clermont (population 523). The setting is urban: Mill Street (U.S. Route 18) is the town's principal throughfare and surrounding land uses are a mix of medium density residential and commercial, with the old Rock Island railroad depot immediately northeast of the historic site. The focal point of the park is the bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States, and its four bronze panels with Civil War scenes, by the American sculptor George Edwin Bissell. Other designed landscape elements of the park include a walkway, a wrought iron fence, the concrete bases for four non-extant cannons, and various ornamental plantings. The park also contains late-twentieth century memorials to fallen Clermont servicemen from World War II and the Korean Conflict, three concrete park benches, and a flagpole, but these additions do not detract from the historic feeling of the place.

The trapezoidal-shaped parcel encompasses less than one acre of level ground and is enclosed along Mill and Stone streets by a 3-foot high wrought iron fence that was constructed at the time of the statue's installation in 1902. The Abraham Lincoln Statue is one of several George Bissell works commissioned by Governor Larrabee and displayed as public art in the town of Clermont and at the Larrabee's Montauk estate. The statue, which was cast by the Henry Bonnard Bronze Company, is signed by Bissell and bears the inscription: *Erected in 1902 in memory of the Soldiers and Sailors of the Civil War 1861-1865*. The statue is an original work of art (not a copy of Bissell's 1893 Edinburgh Lincoln), slightly larger than life size, and is finished in a dark brown patina. It portrays a standing Abraham Lincoln holding the Emancipation Proclamation and by all accounts it is an outstanding likeness of the President. (In a letter to Governor Larrabee dated July 10, 1902, the sculptor claimed that he had based his portrait on a life mask of Lincoln made in 1861.) The base of the monument consists of North Jay Granite, which is from a quarry in Connecticut and was selected because it is very nearly white in color and closely resembles marble. The tripartite base rises about 3½ feet to the granite pedestal. Around the sides of the pedestal are four bronze panels, also by Bissell, with reliefs that depict scenes from the battles of Shiloh and Mobile Bay, Lee's surrender at Appomattox, and the men of Clermont's own Company C, 12th Iowa Volunteer Infantry, marching off to war. Three of the panels carry well-known lines from Lincoln's First and Second Inaugural Addresses:

Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection.

The mystic chords of memory stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land.

With malice toward none with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives to see the right – Let us strive on to finish the work we are in.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 7 Page 2

Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park

name of property

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The fourth panel bears the following epigraph (author unknown):

They have won a nation's gratitude and undying laurels not to be forgotten by future generations.

Letters preserved in the Larrabee Papers at Montauk show that the original concept called for three battle scenes and the names of local veterans. The reasons behind the change are not clear.

Since the park was dedicated in 1902 there have been some minor alterations and changes to the property, but these have not affected its historic integrity. The Civil War era cannons originally installed when the park was dedicated were removed c.1942 as the part of the community's contribution to a World War II scrap metal drive. The Lincoln Statue is in an excellent state of preservation.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park

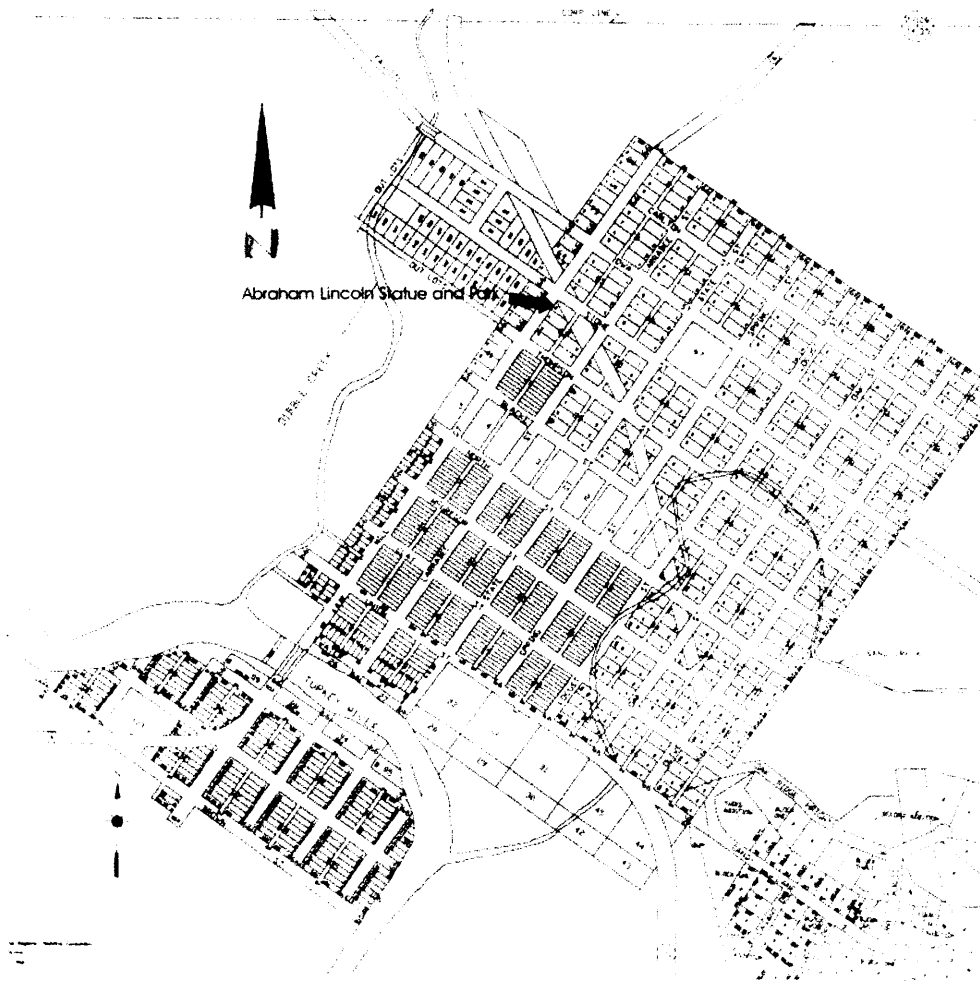
name of property

Fayette, Iowa

county and State

Map showing location of the Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park, City of Clermont, Iowa

CLERMONT, IOWA



Taken from Regional Planning Commission map, 1998

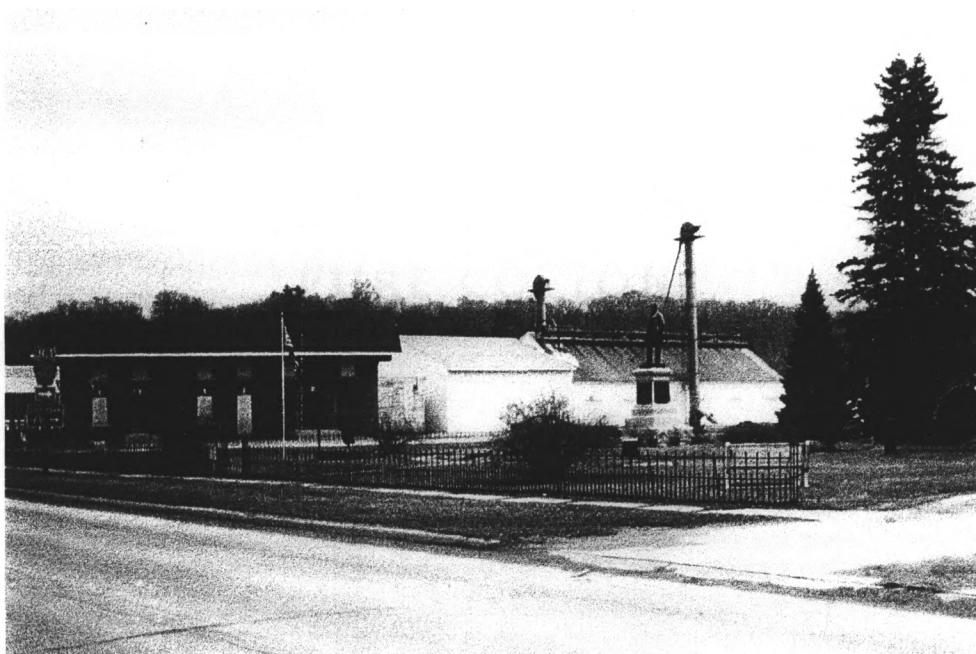
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park
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View of Lincoln Park, camera facing east – March 2000



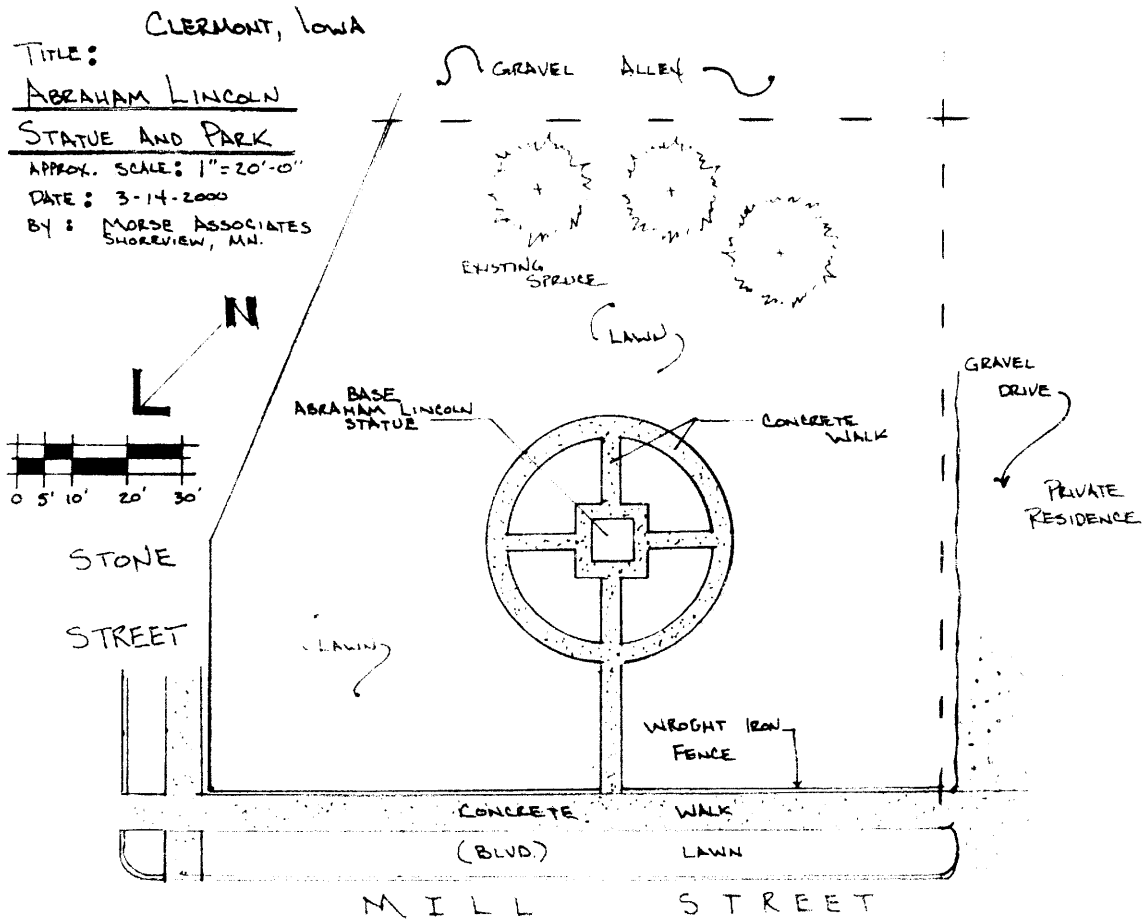
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 7 Page 5

Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park
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Site Plan
Lincoln Statue and Park



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Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park
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View of Lincoln Statue camera facing southeast – March 2000



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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 7 Page 7

Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park
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View of front panel – March 2000



Front Panel – The Surrender – depicts General Lee's surrender to General Grant at Appomattox—the caption reads: "With malice toward none with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives to see the right -- Let us strive on to finish the work we are in."

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 7 Page 8

Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park
name of property
Fayette, Iowa
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View of panel on Lincoln's left – March 2000



Left Side Panel – Naval – depicts Farragut with Dewey at Mobile Bay – the caption reads: “The mystic chords of memory stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land.”

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Section 7 Page 9

Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park
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View of panel on Lincoln's right – March 2000



Right Panel – The Battle – depicts Ciermont soldiers in the fight at Shilo –the caption reads: “They have won a nation’s gratitude and undying laurels not be forgotten by future generations.”

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 10

Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park

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View of back panel– March 2000



Back Panel – The Departure – depicts a Clermont soldier leaving his wife and family –the caption reads: “Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection.”

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 8 Page 11

Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park are significant under National Register Criterion C. Erected in 1902 as the town's Civil War veterans' memorial, the Lincoln statue and panels represent a notable example of the work of George Edwin Bissell (b. 1839, d. 1920), one of the most important naturalistic sculptors of the Gilded Age. Contextually, it relates to the history of American sculpture at the national level and to the broad pattern of historical development in Clermont.

The Abraham Lincoln Statue was donated to the people of Clermont by the family of Governor William Larrabee (b. 1832, d. 1916) as a permanent public memorial to local veterans who had served in the Union forces during the Civil War. The total cost of the statue, as recorded in the Larrabee family papers, was slightly more than \$5,000. Parkland acquisition and construction costs were financed by a subscription raised by the members of the Soldiers' Monument Commission, a local organization founded in 1902. The parcel selected for the park was obtained from Dr. William Lewis, a venerated Civil War combat surgeon, for \$300, with the doctor donating one-third of the purchase price. Local committees were organized to grade the park, plant trees and flower beds, mount cannon, and erect a wrought iron fence. Contrary to local tradition, the Abraham Lincoln statue had not yet been delivered when the memorial park was formally dedicated: the correspondence and records of Larrabee, Bissell, and the foundry all indicate that the statue and panels were not delivered and installed until October, 1902. As it happened, the park dedication ceremonies were disrupted by a "fearful" storm which struck Clermont on the night of May 17, and the celebration had to be postponed until June 19-20, 1903, to coincide with a reunion of the members of the 12th Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment. This event included the dedication of the Colonel David Henderson Statue in front of the Episcopal Church on Mill Street. Several thousand people are reported to have participated in the festivities, which included speeches, parades, band concerts, and banquets. According to one local history, this was Clermont's "greatest day."

George Edwin Bissell was born in the town of New Preston, Litchfield County, Connecticut, on February 16, 1839, the son and nephew of quarrymen. After the outbreak of the Civil War, Bissell enlisted in the Union Army and later served as paymaster in the Navy until the end of the war. Upon his return to civilian life, Bissell joined his father in the marble business in Poughkeepsie, New York, where he was employed crafting models for stone monuments. Though he lacked formal training, he obtained his first commission as a sculptor in 1871 when he created a lifesize marble figure for the local fire department. In 1875 he went to Europe, where he studied at the English Academy in Rome and later with Aimee Millet and Tabar at the Arts Decoratif in Paris. His output was considerable, especially public monuments and statues based on military themes, and such was his success that during the years 1883-1896 he was able to divide his time between Poughkeepsie and Paris. After 1896 he resided at Mount Vernon, New York, but kept a studio in Florence, Italy.

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Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park

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Bissell's standing as an important American artist of the Gilded Age is underscored by a number of prominent works, including his Soldier's and Sailor's Monument, Waterbury, Connecticut, the portrait statue of General Horatio Gates on the Saratoga Battle Monument, statues of John Watts and Colonel Abraham de Peyster in New York City, his pieces at the Smith Memorial in Philadelphia, and the marble bust and bronze statuette of Abraham Lincoln owned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Bissell's work attracted the attention of former Iowa Governor William Larrabee, who had been impressed by Bissell's heroic bronze of Abraham Lincoln displayed in Edinburgh, Scotland. Late in 1901, Larrabee commissioned Bissell to create a second Lincoln statue as well as four bronze panels for the memorial park in Clermont. The artist also contributed bronze statues of Admiral David Farragut and General William T. Sherman, which Larrabee placed in his private collection at Montauk. The Henry Bonnard Bronze Company of New York, which also cast subjects for Frederic Remington and other well-known artists of the day cast all of these works. (The foundry was destroyed by fire c.1910.) Bissell died at Mount Vernon on April 30, 1920.

This project has been funded with the assistance of a matching grant-in-aid from the State Historical Society of Iowa, Community Programs Bureau, through the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, under provisions of the national Historic Preservation Act of 1966; the opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of the Interior.

This program received Federal funds from the National Park Service. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in Federally Assisted Programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should write to: Director, Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 29240

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 13

Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park

name of property

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Historic Photograph of Lincoln Park and Statue ca. 1920.

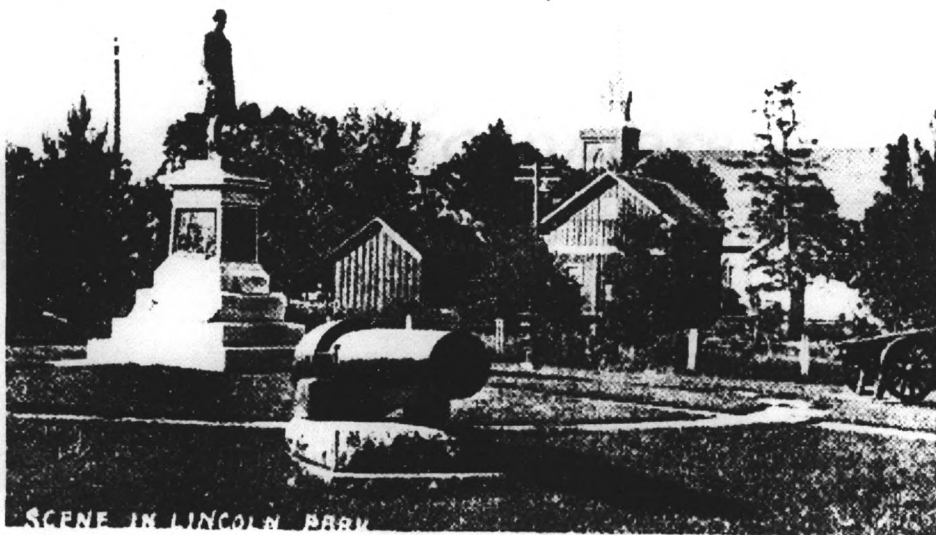


Photo courtesy of the Clermont Historical Society

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9.10 Page 14

Abraham Lincoln Statue and Park

name of property

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county and State

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Clermont Historical Society. *Historic Clermont*. 3rd ed. Elkader (Ia.): Griffith Press, 1987.

Dictionary of American Biography. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1933. [Biographical sketches of George Edwin Bissell and William Larrabee]

Larrabee, William. Papers. State Historical Society of Iowa, Montauk.

Taft, Lorado. *The History of American Sculpture*. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1903.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal boundary description

Lincoln Park comprises Lot 7 and part of Lot 8 of Block 62, Clermont Original Town.

Verbal boundary justification

The nominated property includes the entire area historically associated with the city park.