

OCT 12 1988

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lincoln Boyhood Home

other names/site number LU-46

2. Location

street & number US Highway 31E, one mile south of Athertonville not for publication NA

city, town Athertonville vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Larue code 123 zip code 42748

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

David L. Morgan 10-4-88
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, State Historic Preservation Officer Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

NA
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- 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:)

Patrick Andrews 11/15/88

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE, Roadhouse

RECREATION AND CULTURE, Commemorative
Monument

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE, Specialty Store

RECREATION AND CULTURE, Commemorative
Monument

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic Architecture/Single Pen Log

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Hollow Core Concrete Block/Stone
walls Wood/Log

roof Composition Shingles/Split

other Wood shingles

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G NA

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture

Other: Lincoln Iconography

Significant Person

N/A

Period of Significance

1933 - ca. 1938

Significant Dates

1931-1933

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Construction supervisor: Robert Thompson,
who oversaw dismantling of original cabin
Lincoln Tavern designer: Mr. Howard

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data: NA

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 1.1 acres

UTM References

A

1	6
6	2
0	1
8	5

4	1
6	3
4	4
0	

Zone Easting Northing

C

1	6
6	2
0	2
3	0

4	1
6	3
2	8
0	

Zone Easting Northing

B

1	6
6	2
0	2
8	5

4	1
6	3
3	9
0	

Zone Easting Northing

D

1	6
6	2
0	1
2	0

4	1
6	3
3	4
0	

Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip Thomason

organization Thomason and Assoc. date 8/22/88

street & number P.O. Box 121225 telephone 615-383-0227

city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Lincoln Boyhood Home is a complex of four buildings located along U.S. Highway 31E in the northeastern section of Larue County, Kentucky. The largest building on the property was originally known as the Lincoln Tavern and was completed in 1933 as a roadside tourist center. Adjacent to this building is a small single pen, log building which was built ca. 1800 and moved to this location in 1931. This log building is presented as a replica of the boyhood home of Abraham Lincoln when his family resided at this location between 1811 and 1816. In addition to these contributing buildings there is also a non-contributing ca. 1988 open pavilion and ca. 1950s frame storage shed located to the west and north, respectively, of the Lincoln Tavern and replica of the Lincoln Boyhood Home.

This complex of buildings (see map) is located on a band of flat, fertile farmland adjacent to Knob Creek, a tributary of the Rolling Fork River. The site is approximately 2 miles southwest of the community of Athertonville and seven miles east of the county seat of Hodgenville. The buildings face U.S. Highway 31E which is the main highway in the eastern section of the county. In front of the Lincoln Tavern is an asphalt and gravel parking area and surrounding the buildings are wide yards with numerous shade trees. The complex is defined on the north by a wood split rail fence and beyond the fence are open pastures. A wood split rail fence also encloses the replica of the boyhood home.

The Lincoln Tavern (photos 1-6) is a one-and-one-half story log and concrete, asymmetrical plan, five bay building. The exterior consists of unhewn logs with saddle and V-notching and concrete chinking. The building rests on a hollow core concrete block foundation and has a hipped and gable roof of composition shingles. On the west facade is a prominent limestone block chimney.

On the main (south) facade (photo 1) is an entrance with original double doors of multi-light glass and frame design. Windows are triple and paired four-over-four sash on all facades and in the gable dormers at the roofline. Across the central bays of the main facade is an original one-story shed roof porch with unhewn log posts. At the rear (north) facade (photo 2) is a one-and-one-half-story original wing with an interior brick chimney and

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Lincoln Boyhood Home, Larue Co., KY

attached one-story shed roof porch with a metal standing seam roof. Windows on this facade are two-over-two and four-over-four sash with the exception of a fixed multi-light window in the east bay.

The interior of the building (photos 5 & 6) consists of a large open room on the main block of the first floor containing a gift shop and in the rear wing are separate restrooms and a kitchen area with most original fixtures intact. The interior retains exposed logs and concrete chinking on the walls, exposed rafters at the ceiling and original wood floors. On the west wall is an arched fireplace of limestone blocks. A notable feature of this room is the original wood bar (photo 6) located along the north wall of the room. The half-story consists of separate residential space for the owner.

The replica of the Lincoln Boyhood Home is a single pen log building constructed ca. 1800 by the Gollaher family. This building stood on an adjacent farm and was moved to this location and reconstructed in 1931. Built in a rectangular single pen design, the building has a prominent log and mud chimney on the east facade (photo 7). The building consists of hewn logs with half-dovetail notching and mud and rock slat chinking. The roof is gable with a wood shingle surface and the building has a stone foundation. On the main (south) facade (photo 8) is a vertical board door and vertical board hinged window. The interior consists of one large room which presently houses an exhibition of furniture and artifacts.

To the north and northwest of these buildings is a ca. 1950s shed roof, board and batten storage shed (photo 9) and a ca. 1988 open log and frame pavilion (photo 10). Both buildings are non-contributing.

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State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Lincoln Boyhood Home complex is significant under criteria A for its role in Larue County tourism and under criterion consideration F as a commemorative monument and its place in Abraham Lincoln iconography. The complex is one of two major commemorative monuments in the county which are directly associated with Lincoln's life and one of four sites in the country associated as Lincoln's place of residence. The complex was completed in 1933 and has been a major tourist site in the county since its construction. In the past fifty years the complex has assumed its own historical value as a commemorative monument as the site of Lincoln's boyhood home.

In the early 20th century Larue County became a center for Lincoln memorials and artifacts. Lincoln's birthplace south of Hodgenville became a national site in 1916 and as roads improved during the 1920s thousands of tourists traveled to the county to visit his birthplace memorial. In 1933, the Lincoln Boyhood Home complex was constructed to take advantage of this tourist trade and honor the site of the home of Lincoln's family from 1811 to 1816. Located adjacent to U.S. Highway 31E, this tourist attraction became a well known stop between Bardstown and Hodgenville and continues to be a major tourist attraction in the county. Since its development in the early 1930s few major changes have occurred to the buildings and site.

By the early 20th century Abraham Lincoln had achieved recognition as one of the country's most important presidents. Adulation of Lincoln increased with each passing decade as publications on his life and presidency extolled the virtues of the "rail-splitter". Herndons's Life of Lincoln published in 1889 by his former law partner William H. Herndon, was a biographical account of Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln-A History, was a more scholarly work published in ten volumes in 1890 by J.G. Nicolay and John Hay. These publications increased knowledge of Lincoln and his prominence as one of the country's preeminent historical

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figures. This homage to Lincoln occurred at a national, state and local level with various private and governmental groups organized to promote Lincoln's heritage.

Promotion of Lincoln and his heritage was especially pronounced in Larue County due to his historical associations with the area. Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, son of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Thomas Lincoln's farm was located three miles south of Hodgenville on rolling timber land and contained a single-pen log residence adjacent to a constant spring. Lincoln and his family lived on the farm until 1811 when they relocated to a more fertile farm along Knob Creek in the northeastern section of Larue County. From 1811 until 1816 the Lincoln family lived in a small single-pen log residence on the banks of the creek at the approximate location of the present reconstructed cabin. Lincoln later stated that his first recollections were of the "Knob Creek place". In 1816, when Lincoln was seven years old the family lost the land in a title dispute and moved to Indiana.

In Larue County, efforts to memorialize Lincoln began in the early 1900s. One of the first publications which detailed Larue County sites was the "Souvenir of Lincoln's Birthplace" published by Thomas Kirkpatrick in 1903. This pamphlet was designed to promote Larue County Lincoln sites and the commercial section of Hodgenville. Views included the Lincoln birthplace site, his boyhood home site on Knob Creek and a photograph of Austin Gollaher, Lincoln's boyhood playmate.

On a state level, the Lincoln Monument Commission was established in 1904 by the Kentucky Legislature to select a suitable sculpture and erect a monument in the public square of the town nearest the birthplace of Lincoln. Sculptor Adolph Weinman of New York was chosen to create the monument and in September of 1907 he came to Hodgenville to make measurements and discuss the proposed location of the statue. In 1909, Weinman shipped the statue from his studio in Rhode Island to Hodgenville and it was placed on a granite pedestal in the center of the town square. Dedicated on May 31, 1909, the statue depicting Lincoln's seated figure was the first completed monument to his life and heritage in the county. The Ladies Lincoln League was formed by local residents for the purpose of caring for and promoting the Lincoln statue.

On a national level, efforts were made in the early 20th century to purchase and suitably memorialize Lincoln's birthplace south of Hodgenville. A single pen log cabin reputed to be the birthplace of Lincoln had already been moved from this site and displayed across the country. In 1896, the cabin was exhibited at the Tennessee Centennial Exposition in Nashville and was later on display in New York's Central Park. In 1904 it was placed in storage in New York City.

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The birthplace site itself was purchased from Richard Creal by A.W. Dennete, a wealthy New York businessman. Dennete had visited the farm to see the birthplace site and decided that the land should be protected and open to the public and the cabin returned to its original site. Dennete was a great admirer of Lincoln and urged Congress to buy the farm and convert it into a national park. Despite his efforts, Dennete was unsuccessful and eventually suffered financial reverses and was forced to sell the farm. This sale was ruled void in May of 1905, and the property was sold at a commissioner's sale later that year to satisfy Dennete's creditors.

The birthplace site was purchased at the sale by Robert J. Collier of New York, publisher of the Collier Magazine. Collier used his magazine to promote the Lincoln birthplace and solicit funds for a memorial building in his honor. Eventually \$250,000 was raised by the magazine and the log cabin was returned from New York to its original location. Plans for the memorial called for a one-story Neo-Classical style temple to enclose the cabin on its approximate original site. President Theodore Roosevelt visited the birthplace site and laid the cornerstone of the building on the one hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth, February 12, 1909. The building was completed and dedicated by President William Howard Taft on November 9, 1911. The property was officially turned over to the United States in 1916, together with an endowment fund of \$50,000. President Woodrow Wilson accepted the property at the memorial building on September 4, 1916.

The opening of the Lincoln Birthplace Memorial coincided with changing transportation patterns in the country. In 1910 there were 468,000 registered automobiles. This figure climbed to 8 million by 1920 and 23 million by 1930. Roads to accommodate these millions of cars increased dramatically during these years under the Federal Aid Road Acts of 1916 and 1921. During the 1920s, U.S. Highway 31E was established in Larue County along older road routes, paved, and opened for automobile travel. A similar paved highway, U.S. 31W, followed the historic route of the Louisville and Nashville turnpike along the western edge of the county. These routes were two of the main roads through Kentucky which connected the upper Midwest and South.

Construction of these two routes brought thousands of tourists to Larue County to visit the Lincoln birthplace and this visitation spurred other developments associated with Lincoln. The Nancy Lincoln Inn was constructed in 1928 by James R. "Jim" Howell on land directly adjacent to the Lincoln birthplace. The inn complex was composed of a large log building which housed a souvenir shop, snack bar and a collection of Lincoln memorabilia. Adjacent to this building

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Lincoln Boyhood Home, Larue Co., KY

were four small log cabins which were used as overnight tourist cabins. The Nancy Lincoln Inn was operated by Howell from 1928 until his death in 1957. This complex has attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors since its construction and continues to be a major tourist attraction and appears eligible for listing on the National Register.

Another major tourism development was the establishment of the Lincoln Boyhood Home on Highway 31E at Knob Creek. In 1931, Hattie and Chester Howard purchased 308 acres containing the site of Lincoln's boyhood home along Knob Creek. The original single pen log residence occupied by the Lincoln family on the property was razed in the 19th century. However, a single pen log residence built ca. 1800 by the Gollaher family still existed on the property. The Howards decided to move and reconstruct this log building on the approximate site of the Lincoln cabin and to also build a tavern and restaurant for tourists adjacent to the cabin. The complex was to serve both as a memorial to Lincoln and take advantage of the growing tourism trade in the county.

In 1932 and 1933, the Howards worked on the reconstruction of the cabin and the construction of what was originally called the "Lincoln Tavern". The Rolling Fork Echo of July 13, 1933 mentions that Chester Howard was constructing a "roadside inn and souvenir camp on the site of Lincoln's home when he was a boy. Mr. Howard...has conferred and gathered together all available data of Lincoln's boyhood for the benefit of the genuine Lincoln lover and casual tourist alike." A photograph of the site dated September 23, 1933 shows both the Lincoln Tavern and replica cabin completed and opened for business (see enclosure). The tavern cost \$4,200 to build and its opening was celebrated with a live band and visitors from throughout the area. A wide semi-circular gravel drive led to both buildings and in front of the tavern were gas pumps to supply gas to travelers. The tavern itself was a good example of rustic architecture with an exterior of unhewn logs and log porch posts, all from the farm's trees.

Concurrent with the opening of the Lincoln Tavern complex the Lincoln Memorial Highway Association was busy gathering funds to promote the Lincoln Trail. The Lincoln Trail spanned Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois and follows the route of the Lincoln family in their homes and travels across these states. Paving of this road system continued throughout the 1930s. The Association also expended funds for markers and tourism promotion. The Lincoln Trail ran along Highway 31E and the Lincoln Tavern and this tourist site was mentioned and promoted by the Association.

Despite the Depression of the 1930s, thousands of tourists stopped at the tavern and cabin site each year. In addition to attracting tourists for its association

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with Lincoln, the tavern was also a popular local "watering hole" and dance hall. The business thrived and prospered throughout the Depression and into the 1940s. During the early 1950s the county voted to prohibit liquor sales and the tavern was converted into a museum and gift shop. In recent decades the complex has continued to be a major tourist attraction in the county, and averages over 20,000 visitors each year.

In recent years, sites associated with Lincoln's places of residence have been recognized as significant in national, state and local history. In addition to the Lincoln Boyhood Home complex, three properties have been identified as Lincoln residential sites. The Lincoln Birthplace Memorial in Larue County was listed on the National Register on October 15, 1966. Also on that date, the site of Lincoln's residence in Spencer County, Indiana was listed on the National Register. This site consists of a reconstructed cabin on the site of an early 19th century Lincoln home. Lincoln's residence in Springfield, Illinois was listed on the National Register on August 18, 1971.

The Lincoln Boyhood Home complex is significant for its role in tourism and as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln. Since its construction few changes have occurred to the buildings and site. The site is one of only four in the country which is associated with Lincoln's place of residence and the only one privately owned. By attracting over 20,000 visitors annually, it continues to be an important aspect of Larue County tourism and is significant for its commemoration of the life and heritage of Abraham Lincoln.

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Lincoln Boyhood Home, Larue Co., KY

Bibliography:

Federal Writers Project, WPA, Kentucky - A Guide to the Bluegrass State. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1939.

Larue County Deed Records, 1931-1933, Hodgenville, Kentucky.

Liebs, Chester H. Main Street to Miracle Mile, American Roadside Architecture. Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1985.

Howard, Fabian. Interview, May 21, 1988.

Rolling Fork Echo. 13 July, 1933.

Warren, Dr. Louis A. "Lincoln Lore", bulletin of the Lincoln Life Foundation, # 411, Feb. 22, 1937. Fort Wayne, Indiana, private printing.

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Lincoln Boyhood Home, Larue Co., KY

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary for the Lincoln Boyhood Home is illustrated on the accompanying sketch map of the property. The Lincoln Boyhood Home is bounded on the west by a line which runs from a split rail fence on the north to the western edge of Highway 31E on the southwest. This line is located approximately 10 feet west of the western edge of the pavilion. The boundary on the north is defined by a split rail fence and by the southern bank of Knob Creek. The eastern boundary is defined by a line running from the southern bank of Knob Creek on the north to the northern edge of Highway 31E on the south. This line is located approximately 10 feet to the east of a split rail fence which encloses the cabin. The southern boundary is defined by the northern edge of Highway 31E.

Verbal Boundary Justification: The boundary for the Lincoln Boyhood Home is drawn to include all buildings and structures associated with the site and its immediate grounds. The boundary includes two non-contributing buildings which are located to the rear of the contributing Lincoln Tavern and Cabin and do not detract from the overall appearance of the site. The split rail fence and course of Knob Creek are site features which add to the site's association with Lincoln's Heritage and the parking area and picnic grounds have been used by tourists since the 1930s. The boundary incorporates historic, natural, and modern features which are associated with the site's role in tourism and Lincoln heritage.

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88002531

Date Listed: 11/16/88

Lincoln Boyhood Home
Property Name

Larue
County

KY
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

11/16/88
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

This is a commemorative property, but Criteria Consideration F (commemorative property) was not checked. Marty Perry with the KY SHPO says that this was an oversight and agrees with the official amendment to the form to add Consideration F.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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Section number _____ Photo Key _____ Page _____ Lincoln Boyhood Home, Larue Co., KY

Photo Key

Photography by: Thomason and Associates, Nashville, TN

Date: April 20, 1988

Location of Negatives: Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky

1. Main (south) facade, Lincoln Tavern, facing northeast.
2. West facade, Lincoln Tavern, facing east.
3. North facade, Lincoln Tavern, facing south.
4. East facade, Lincoln Tavern, facing west.
5. Interior of first floor shop, Lincoln tavern, facing west.
6. Interior of first floor shop showing original bar, Lincoln Tavern, facing northeast.
7. North and east facades, Lincoln Boyhood Home replica, facing south.
8. South and west facades, Lincoln Boyhood Home replica, facing northeast.
9. Ca. 1980 shed, facing north.
10. Ca. 1980 pavilion, facing north.



Knob Creek

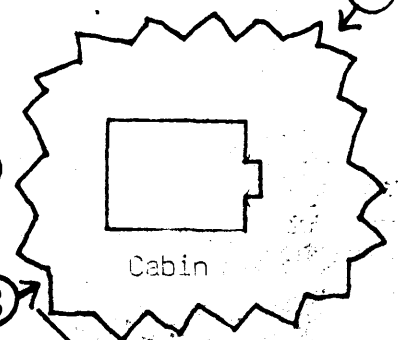
Fence line



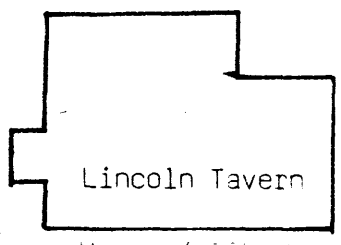
Shed



Pavilion



Cabin



Lincoln Tavern

Museum/Gift Shop

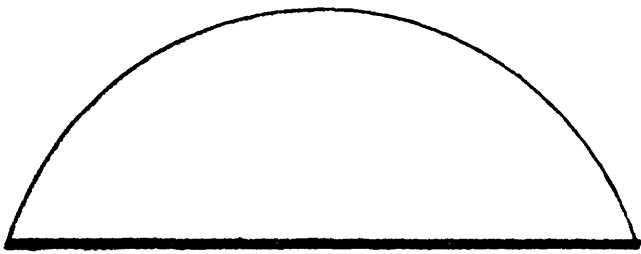


Picnic Area



Parking

Parking



U. S. 31E

Boundary

LINCOLN BOYHOOD HOME
LaRue County, Kentucky
Not To Scale



Photo #
and direction