

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE <b>Indiana</b>	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. <b>XIV, The Civil War, 1861-1865</b>
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>Nancy Hanks Lincoln State Memorial</b>	4. APPROX. ACREAGE <b>60</b>
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>Spencer County, at Lincoln City, on State Highways 162 and 345</b>	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <b>State of Indiana, Division of Parks and Memorials, Indianapolis</b>	

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)  
Included in Nancy Hanks Lincoln State Memorial are approximately 22.6 acres of land in the original farm owned by Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham. Here, near Little Pigeon Creek, the Lincolns lived from 1818 to 1830, during which time Abraham grew from boyhood to manhood. The Memorial also includes the traditional gravesite of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of Abraham, and the traditional site of the Lincoln cabin home. As the site where Lincoln spent one quarter of his life, specifically <sup>the</sup> early formative years, the Memorial is worthy of recognition as having exceptional value. While the authenticity of the cabin and grave sites is based on tradition only, the identification of the Lincoln farm land is positive.

The Lincolns moved from Kentucky to Indiana in the late fall of 1816, the family consisting of Tom and Nancy Hanks Lincoln and their children, Sarah, nine, and Abe, seven. They spent the first hard winter in Indiana in a rude "half-face" camp; not until the next year would Tom erect a more substantial log dwelling. In October of 1818, Nancy Hanks Lincoln was stricken with the milk-sickness, a deadly swamp fever, and within a few days was dead. She was buried on a gentle knoll between a quarter and a half-mile from the home. A year later Tom Lincoln married the widow Sarah Bush Johnson and brought his new wife and her three children back to the home on Little Pigeon Creek.

Abraham attended school for short periods during the stay in Indiana, but his formal education in Kentucky and Indiana probably amounted to less than a year in all. Nevertheless, it was during the years in Indiana that the character of Lincoln was shaped and on the boy was placed the stamp of the frontier that was forever to be associated with the man. In these years Lincoln became an avid reader and a master of cross-roads debate. His ready wit, inquiring mind, and gift for oratory became a tradition in the neighborhood, and it is evident that his affinity for the law and for politics dated from the years on the Indiana frontier. When the Lincolns left Indiana for Illinois, the twenty-one-year-old Abe was ready to take a man's part in the world. The years

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works) William E. Barton, The Life of Abraham Lincoln, Two vols. (Indianapolis, 1925), I; Beveridge, Albert J., Abraham Lincoln: 1809-1858, Two vols. (Boston, 1926), I; Bess V. Ehrmann, The Missing Chapter in the Life of Abraham Lincoln (Chicago, 1938); Emanuel Hertz, The Hidden Lincoln: From the Letters and Papers of William H. Herndon (New York, 1938).

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, IABS, etc.) Richard E. Bishop, The Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial: An Account of the Planning and Development of the Memorial Buildings, Sculpture and Grounds by the Indiana Lincoln Union and the Indiana Department of Conservation, 1940-1944 (n.p., 1944); Paul V. Brown,

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION <b>Very good</b>	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) <b>State Memorial</b>	13. DATE OF VISIT <b>April 29- May 2, 1959</b>
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <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 Indiana	NAME(S) OF SITE Nancy Hanks Lincoln State Memorial
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in Southern Indiana, a region more akin to Kentucky and the South than to the North, had provided a gentle transition from one section of the Nation to another. This background, throughout his life, gave the man an understanding of and sympathy for the South which enabled him to meet with compassion and insight the supreme crisis which destiny thrust upon him in 1861. The Indiana years were crucial in the emotional and intellectual growth of Lincoln. The land which was the Lincoln farm deserves classification of exceptional value as a tangible reminder of the years when Lincoln the boy became Lincoln the man.

The Nancy Hanks Lincoln State Memorial is an integral part of Lincoln State Park, most of which is a recreational area providing facilities for fishing, picnicking, boating and camping. Principal features of the site are the Memorial buildings - two low halls connected by a cloister; the traditional gravesite of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and the traditional cabinsite, enclosed by a low wall and marked by a replica in bronze of a cabin fireplace. All of these features are within walking distance of one another. The area has been reforested and conveys to the visitor some feeling of the wilderness solitude as the Lincolns knew it. Aside from a few directional and informational markers and formal monumentation little has been done to inform the visitor of the significance of the site. Visitor interest at present centers around the Nancy Hanks Lincoln gravesite, although the State plans future interpretive development to explain the broader significance of the site.

9. Reports and Studies (cont'd.)

The Indiana Lincoln Memorial in Spencer County, Indiana; Report of the Indiana Lincoln Union (n.p., 1938); Charles E. Shedd, Jr., Historic Site Survey: Lincoln State Park and Nancy Hanks Lincoln State Memorial: Spencer County, Indiana (Ms. Report, National Park Service, Region Five Office, June, 1958).