

P-0029121

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: KENTUCKY	
COUNTY: WASHINGTON	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER AUG 21 1972	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Mordecai Lincoln House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Mordecai Lincoln House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
5.9 miles north of Springfield on Ky. Hwy. 528

CITY OR TOWN:
Springfield

STATE Kentucky	CODE 21	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 229
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments used as barn last two years

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Commonwealth Of Kentucky

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Capitol Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Frankfort

STATE: Kentucky	CODE 21
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office Of Court Clerk, Washington County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main at Lincoln Park Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Springfield

STATE: Kentucky	CODE 21
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Survey Of Historic Sites In Kentucky

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Frankfort

STATE: Kentucky	CODE 21
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The "Mordecai Lincoln House," as it appears now, is a frame, five-bayed, two-storied rectangular block, measuring 52½ feet, with brick exterior chimneys in the gable ends. Built in the federal style, the small-paneled doors, the presence of chair-railing, and the delicate tooling on the mantels, the stairway, and door and window frames would indicate that the house dates from 1815. However, the room on the right or south side, with the room above it are log, and it is clearly evident that this log house dates from 1797 (Mordecai Lincoln ownership) and the 1815 frame was added.

The portal, centered in the facade, features balanced side windows with an outstanding window on the second floor level above the lower arrangement. The central hall, flanked by one large room on either side, is beautifully proportioned. The mantels, doors, chairboard and window frames in the two rooms and the hall on the first floor as well as those in the four bedrooms on the second floor were fashioned from yellow poplar, walnut and cherry while the flooring throughout the house is ash. There is evidence that, originally, a two-room service wing flanked the main block of the building on the east with an entry from the parlor and also from the hall.

At present the house stands in a one-acre yard, among a few fine old trees, on the east side of the Walton Lick Road (now designated Hwy. 528) blazed originally in 1793. Opposite the house and yard on the front is the golf course in the 152 acre Lincoln Homestead State Park.

The fifteen-paned window sashes are destroyed; a number of balusters in the staircase are missing; and many of the horizontal planks in the exterior siding are rotten. The interior of the house, because it has not been remodeled for plumbing, central heating or electricity, is much as it was when built with the exception of the original wing on the east which about 1900 was replaced with a shed-room. For the last few years the house has been used as a barn, has had no maintenance, and is in a deplorable condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

II. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1797 - 1815

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Mordecai Lincoln House is the one structure in Kentucky, of those formerly owned by members of the sixteenth President Lincoln's family, which still stands largely intact on its original site and in an unaltered condition. The cabin of the President's grandfather, Captain Abraham Lincoln who when he was killed in 1786 owned over 5000 acres in Kentucky Territory, is not extant. The dwellings established by the five children of this pioneer settler are either gone, or reconstructed as shrines on other sites, or, are replicas.¹

The earlier biographers of President Lincoln (his friends and associates - Noah Brooks, William Herndon, John Nicholay, Colonel John Hay and Henry Pirtle) when chronicling the massacre of the Revolutionary War Captain Abraham Lincoln, related that the three sons--Mordecai, Josiah, and Thomas--were with their father at the time. It was Mordecai Lincoln who shot the Indians that had killed his father and was about to kill the young Thomas Lincoln, the future President's father.² "That shot might have changed the course of American history; had its aim been slightly less accurate, we might still be selling slaves in the markets of Charleston and New Orleans."³

An impressive economic standing in the Kentucky country would have been assured for this family had the President's grandfather lived to improve and develop the vast estate already in his possession at the time of his death.⁴ As events evolved it was Mordecai Lincoln, eldest son and heir-at-law, who of the five children attained financial security and social status, as is evident by the handsome house he owned and occupied when but 26 years old.

(see continuation sheet)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barton, Wm. E., The Lineage Of Lincoln, Bobbs-Merrill Co, Indianapolis, 1929.
 Lincoln, Waldo, The History Of The Lincoln Family, Commonwealth Press, Mass., 1923.
 Nicolay, John, A Short Life Of Abraham Lincoln, 1902.
 Weik, Jesse W., The Real Lincoln, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1922.
 Tarbell, Ida M., The Life Of Abraham Lincoln, Doubleday & McClure N.Y. 1900.

(see continuation sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37° 44' 54"	85° 12' 35"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: (Geographical Data: James L. Parrot, Mrs. E.O. Kelly, Jr. (C.E. Springfield, Kentucky)

ORGANIZATION: Kentucky Heritage Commission DATE: Revised 6/19/72

STREET AND NUMBER: "Simmstown"

CITY OR TOWN: Springfield STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: _____

Date: _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 8/21/72

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

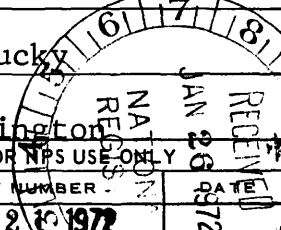
Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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8 - Statement of Significance:

Mordecai Lincoln attained his majority in 1792⁵ and in July of that year he succeeded in obtaining administration of his late father's estate which in 1788 had been granted to John Caldwell.⁶ Another important event occurred in the subject's life in 1792 when he married Mary Mudd, daughter of Luke Mudd.⁷ While Mordecai Lincoln did not marry into a patrician Bluegrass family as did his nephew, the future President; he did by his marriage to Mary Mudd cement his ties with the first families of Nelson and Washington Counties, Kentucky. Mordecai Lincoln had no need to support the "humble, log cabin background" perpetrated by President Lincoln. From correspondence it is obvious that the latter was cognizant of the fact that a "charge of aristocracy" could be fatal to the political career of an aspiring frontier candidate in Illinois.⁸ Historians Linder and Barton maintain that President Lincoln had a high regard for his Uncle Mordecai and his wife and knew the names of their children.⁹ It is a strange and sad coincidence that Dr. Samuel A. Mudd of Maryland, who was tried as one of the conspirators in Lincoln's assassination, was a first cousin twice removed of Mary (Mudd) Lincoln.¹⁰

Mordecai Lincoln took his place as one of the leading citizens in Washington County, Ky. In January, 1797 he contracted to sell for 400 pounds the 400 acre tract in Jefferson County which his father had entered in 1780.¹¹ Four months later, for 100 pounds, he bought of Terah Templin--the first Presbyterian minister ordained in Kentucky¹² 300 acres of the latter's 600 acre survey entered in 1783.¹³ This is the land on which stands "The Mordecai Lincoln House." Mordecai and Mary (Mudd) Lincoln were the parents of three sons and three daughters, all born in Washington County. No strong evidence has appeared, other than the profit motive, to explain why within five years Mordecai sold his impressive home and 200 acres of the tract¹⁴ and returned to the 130 acre homestead farm¹⁵ for which he never gained title from General Matthew Walton though he paid taxes on the tract for eighteen years.¹⁶

In 1811 Mordecai Lincoln moved his family from Washington County to Grayson County, Kentucky. Here he lived until 1828 when he migrated to Illinois, settling in Hancock County¹⁷ where in December 1830 at Fountain Park, Illinois he died.¹⁸ Consequently, neither he nor his wife, who died in 1850, lived to see their nephew, Abraham Lincoln, become sixteenth President of the United States.

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8. Statement Of Significance

Additional Information submitted in order to verify that this building was Mordecai Lincoln's House; supplied at request of Dr. Mullen of National Register.

In April, 1797 when Mordecai Lincoln purchased the 300 acres for 100 pounds from Terah Templin the recorded deed does not indicate a dwelling (Washington Co., Ky. Deed Book A, p.473) February 4, 1802 when he sold 200 acres for 200 pounds to Wilfred Haydon the deed description mentions "that tracts or parcel of land with the appurtenances and improvements." (Washington Co., Ky. Deed Book B, p.515) Further, when Mordecai Lincoln sold the remaining 100 acres in 1806 that transaction does not mention appurtenances (Washington County Deed Book C, p.240.).

May 22, 1972 Milton D. Thompson, Jr., architect and chairman of the Kentucky Heritage Commission, made a thorough study of the Mordecai Lincoln House and his examination showed that the right, or south, side of the house is a 2-story log-one room below with one above. There is evidence that the stairs to the second story room were on the east wall. June 9, 1972 Kentucky Department of Parks, present owner of the property, had more photographs taken which show this log house (pictures included). The county court records, and the professional examination indicate that this log section of the house would have been Mordecai Lincoln's home from 1797-1802.

Existing evidence indicates that the fine federal frame house now on the property would have been added to the Mordecai Lincoln log house around 1815. Washington County had a saw mill one mile to the north in 1814 (court order book C, p.65); the War of 1812 was over, and Wilfred Haydon was a wealthy man. The description "1797-98" date should be deleted in the first paragraph of 7. Description. When the frame addition was built on the Mordecai Lincoln log house the latter, as was the custom, was renovated to conform, architecturally, with the frame federal house.

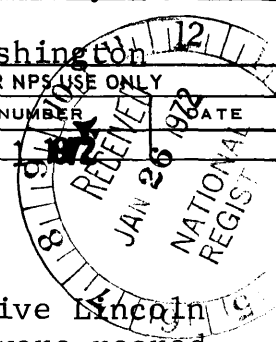
The house was nominated because of the log section was Mordecai Lincoln's who, an historical personality himself, was called President Lincoln's favorite uncle; and because Mary Mudd Lincoln (Mordecai's wife) was a cousin of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd who was convicted for alleged involvement in President Lincoln's murder; and because the frame house Wilfred Haydon added to the log house is one of the finest architectural examples in Kentucky.

June 19, 1972

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COUNTY	Washington
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#8 Significance: Cont'd

NOTES:

1. The cabin in Washington County in which the five Lincoln children: Mordecai, Josiah, Thomas, Ann and Mary--were reared to adulthood by their mother, Bersheba Lincoln, is a replica erected in 1934 in Lincoln Homestead Park (Courier-Journal, Louisville, June 13, 1934.) The dwelling house established by Mordecai Lincoln in Grayson County, Ky. in 1812 was razed, (letter from Mrs. McAtee to Richard D. Mudd, 1941, in "Mudd" file, Kentucky Historical Society Archives, Frankfort.) Josiah Lincoln, the other Uncle of President Lincoln, had but one home in Kentucky after his marriage and that was a log house razed in 1941. The mantel from this building is preserved in the re-constructed Francis Berry House in Lincoln Homestead State Park, (Brochure: "Lincoln Homestead Trail, 1967")

After leaving his childhood home Thomas Lincoln owned four pieces of property in Kentucky. The house on the Mill Creek property purchased in 1803 is no longer standing, (L.A. Warren, Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood, N.Y. 1926, p. 47); Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln's home on the lot in Elizabethtown (1806-1808) not extant, (L.A. Warren, Lincoln Lore, No. 215, May 22, 1933); The "Birthplace Cabin" on the Sinking Springs Farm was razed before 1867; the logs were re-erected permanently in 1911 at the Hodgenville Memorial Site, (Roy Hayes, "Is The Cabin Authentic", The Abraham Lincoln Quarterly, Sept., 1948, pp. 127-163). The third home of President Lincoln's parents, the log cabin on the Knob Creek Farm, is a replica not on the original site and said to be built of logs from Austin Gallaher's cabin, (R. Gerald McMurtry, "Re-discovering The Supposed Grave Of Lincoln's Brother Sept., 1945.)

2. Louis A. Warren, "Abraham Lincoln, Senior, Grandfather of the President", Filson Club Quarterly, Louisville, July 1931, pp. 147-148.

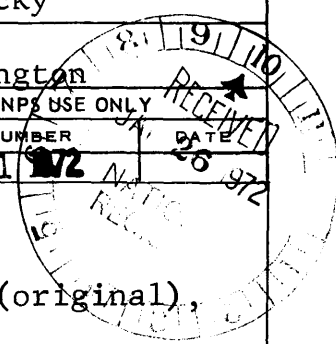
3. Richard D. Mudd, Mudd Family in the United States, Michigan, 1951, p. 695.

4. Warren, "Abraham Lincoln, Senior, Grandfather of the President," Filson Club Quarterly, p. 150.

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Kentucky
COUNTY	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Number all entries)

8 #Statement of Significance:

5. Washington County, Ky., Commissioners Tax List (original), October 18, 1792.
6. Nelson County, Ky., Court Order Book, October 14, 1788, p.50, Ibid. July 10, 1792, p. 199.
7. Mary M. Stancliff, Nelson County Marriage Bonds, 1785-1832. vol. II.
8. William E. Barton, The Lineage of Lincoln, Indianapolis, 1929, pp. 1-5
9. Ibid., p.7
10. Louis A. Warren, "Uncle Mordecai Lincoln," The Lincoln Kinsman, June 1939.
11. Jefferson County, Ky., Deed Book U, p.251. Entry Book A, May 29, 1780. p. 107.
12. Walter B. Posey, Frontier Mission, Lexington, 1966, p.11.
13. Washington County, Ky., Deed Book A, p. 473.
14. Ibid., Deed Book B., February 4, 1802, p. 515.
15. Ibid., Deed Book C., November 1810, p.481. A statement:"farm on which Mordecai Lincoln now lives"found in this transfer of title provided for the first time (1966) knowledge of where Mordecai Lincoln was living between the years 1806-1811.
16. Washington County, Ky., Commissioners Tax Lists, 1792-1810.
17. Warren, "Uncle Mordecai Lincoln," The Lincoln Kinsmen, June 1939, p.6.
18. Mudd, Mudd Family in the United States, 1951, pp.694-695.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

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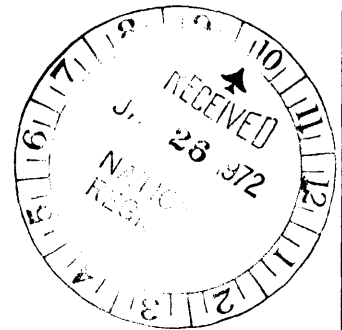
STATE Kentucky	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER AUG 21 1972	DATE

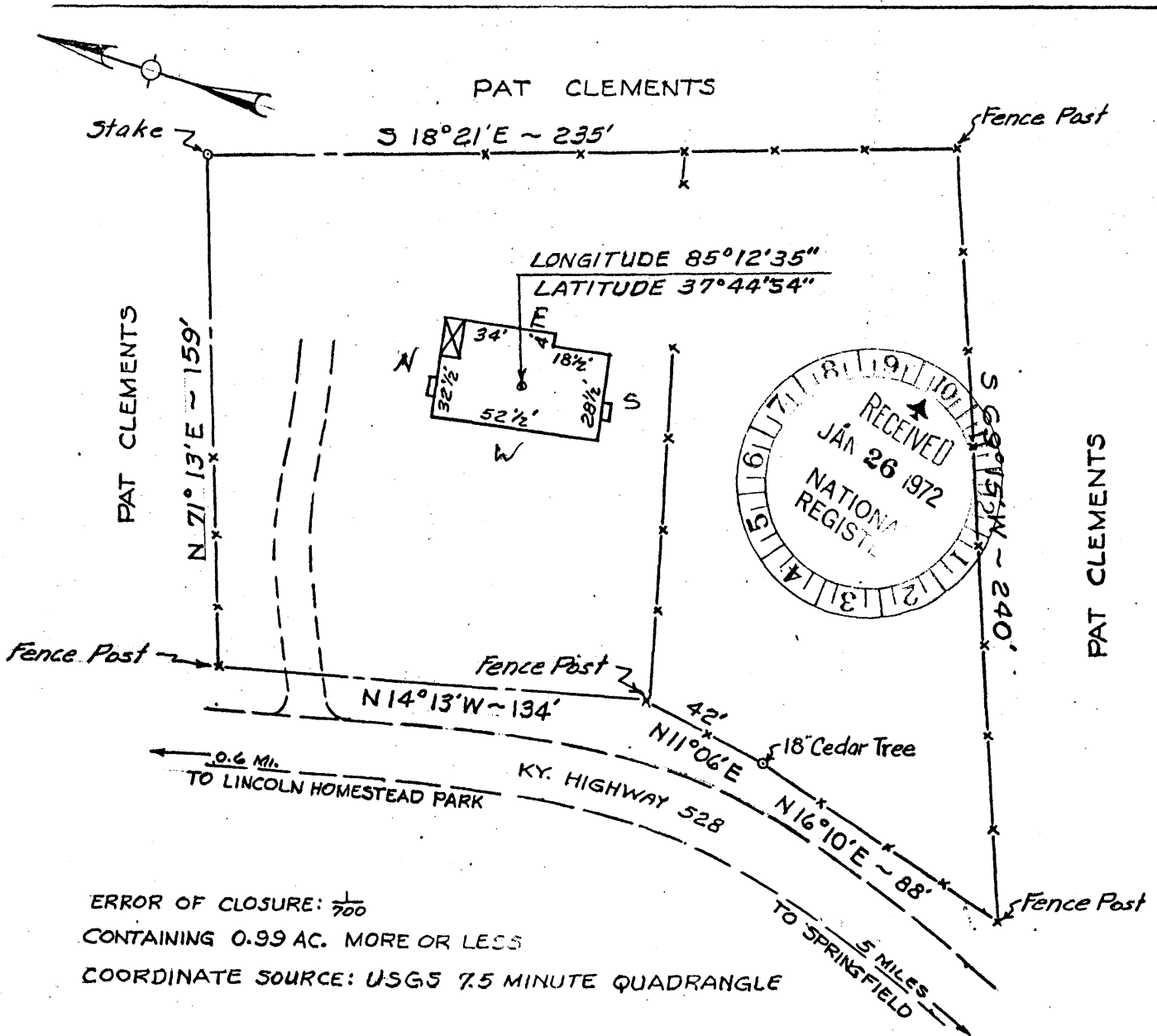
(Number all entries)

9 Major Bibliographical References:

Warren, Louis A., Lincoln Parentage and Childhood, Century Co., N.Y., 1926.

"Mordecai Lincoln House as Neglected as the Man,"
Preservation News, Washington, D.C., February 1971.





Being A Part of the Same Land Conveyed to Edna Clements and Letitia Clements, et al. by Mrs. Jennie Le... et al. By Deed Dated October, 1900, and Recorded at Deed Book No. 95, Page 196 In The Office of the Clerk of The Court of Washington County, Kentucky.

PLAN OF LAND
 OPTIONED TO
 WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 SPRINGFIELD, KENTUCKY

DATE: AUG. 29, 1969 SCALE: 1" = 50'
 SURVEY & DWG. BY: J. Lloyd Parrott, L.S. No. 405

REVISED FEB. 24, 1971