



General Management Plan Newsletter

Issue 1 Fall 2003

Dear Friends,

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning to plan for the future of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. The national historic site now includes the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek, Kentucky, which was acquired in 2001. The 1964 Master Plan is out of date. A planning team has been formed to develop a new general management plan, which will guide the management of the national historic site for the next 15 to 20 years. The plan will be useful in preparation for the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth in 2009, and beyond. In developing this plan, NPS staff will work closely with federal, state, and local agencies, interested parties, and the general public. We want you to participate in this planning process.

The national park system represents a collection of many of the nation's most outstanding and significant natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources. Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site is forever dedicated to the preservation, commemoration, and interpretation of the historic and natural resources associated with the birth and early years of the 16th President of the United States and the efforts of the Lincoln Farm Association and others in establishing a lasting tribute to Abraham Lincoln.

The purpose of a general management plan is to ensure that park managers have a clearly defined direction for protecting resources and providing public access. Together, the National Park Service and interested groups and individuals will explore ways to answer the following questions:

- What actions must we take to ensure that Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site and its resources are protected and maintained in good condition?
- What actions must we take to ensure that visitors and other members of the public learn and understand the purpose, significance, and mission of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site?
- What level and type of visitor use is appropriate for the national historic site?
- How can we work effectively with partners (other interested groups and individuals) to protect the resources and increase support for the national historic site?

You are invited to share your ideas about these and other questions with the planning team by completing and mailing the enclosed comment form. Thank you for taking the time to help us plan for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth E. Apschnikat".

Kenneth E. Apschnikat

Superintendent, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site



GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Planning is a decision-making process, and general management planning is the broadest level of decision making for units of the national park system. General management plans, which are required for all units of the national park system, are intended to set the management direction for the next 15 to 20 years. The new General Management Plan for Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site is being coordinated by the staff of the national historic site and NPS planning professionals, with participation by partners, neighbors, and the general public.

Planning in the national park system is organized around the following three primary questions:

Why was this park (national monument, national historic site, etc) established (what is its overall mission)?

What is the vision for the future of this place (what kind of place do we want it to be)?

How will we accomplish our vision for the future (what actions are needed to create the desired future conditions)?

WHY WAS THIS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ESTABLISHED?

The answers to the why question form the foundation for the plan. All concepts and actions in the plan must be consistent with this foundation, which is based on legislation and NPS policy. For Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, the planning foundation begins with statements of its mission, purpose, and significance and its interpretive themes (the stories visitors need to know). Draft versions of those statements and themes are presented in this newsletter. Your comments will help us refine them. The planning team will refer to the planning foundation to direct and test each step of the plan as it progresses, and the national historic site's managers will use the foundation statements to help make operational decisions long after the plan itself is completed.

WHAT IS THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS PLACE?

Developing a vision for the future of the national historic site (answering the what question) is the primary role of a general management plan. The planning team spends the most time on this step, and it is here that ideas and comments from you are the most important. A general management plan will apply 20 years into the future. The national historic site will be considered in its full ecological and cultural context as part of the surrounding region. Several possible courses of action for the site's future (called alternatives) will be developed and analyzed before a preferred management direction is selected. Evaluating a set of alternatives enables the planning team to compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantages of the different courses of action and to reach a sound approach to decision making, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

HOW WILL WE ACCOMPLISH OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE?

In some cases it may be necessary to include specific actions in the General Management Plan for Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site; however, most answers to the how question will be included in future implementation plans. For example, the desired conditions for the natural and cultural resources will be described in the General Management Plan, but specific actions to manage those resources will be identified in resource management plans. The overall goals and conditions to be met by the interpretive and educational programs will be established in the General Management Plan, as will the primary interpretive themes, but the necessary media will be detailed in an interpretive plan. Any current implementation plans will be evaluated and revised as necessary to be consistent with the new General Management Plan.

PLANNING TIME FRAME

The general management planning process for Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site is expected to take several years to complete. A summary of the process and the anticipated timeframe are presented below. You will have opportunities to share ideas and comments throughout the process.

| Step | Time Frame | Description | How You Can Be Involved |
|----------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Summer 2003 | <p style="text-align: center;">Initiate Project</p> <p>The planning team assembles, begins to identify the project's scope, customizes the planning process, and begins to establish contacts with participants.</p> | |
| 2 | Fall 2003 Winter 2004 | <p style="text-align: center;">Define Planning Context and Foundation</p> <p>The team examines why the national historic site was established and affirms its mission, purpose, and significance. Team members collect and analyze relevant data and public comments.</p> | <p>Read the newsletter Send us your ideas and comments. Come to public meetings.</p> |
| 3 | Winter 2004 Fall 2005 | <p style="text-align: center;">Develop and Evaluate Alternatives</p> <p>Using staff and public input, the team explores what the national historic site's future should look like and proposes a range of reasonable alternatives.</p> | <p>Read the newsletter Send us your ideas and comments.</p> |
| 4 | Winter 2005 Winter 2006 | <p style="text-align: center;">Prepare a Draft Document</p> <p>A <i>Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement</i> is published. The draft document describes the alternatives and the impacts of implementing each. Based on the impacts and public input, a preferred alternative is identified in the document.</p> | <p>Read the draft plan Send us your ideas and comments. Come to public meetings.</p> |
| 5 | Winter 2006 Summer 2006 | <p style="text-align: center;">Publish Final Document</p> <p>Based on review by the National Park Service and the public, the team revises the <i>General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement</i> and distributes a final plan. The plan is approved in a published record of decision.</p> | <p>Read the final plan, including NPS responses to substantive public comments and official letters.</p> |
| 6 | Summer 2006 and Beyond | <p style="text-align: center;">Implement the Approved Plan</p> <p>After the <i>Record of Decision</i> is issued, and as funding allows, the <i>General Management Plan</i> is implemented</p> | <p>Work with the national historic site to implement the plan.</p> |

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The current public comment period will continue through the winter of 2003-04. In the meantime, the planning team will collect and analyze information about the national historic site's resources, will learn more about opportunities and obstacles to fulfilling the goals, and will identify the diversity of resources and visitor experiences available at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site.

After we gather data and receive your comments, we will begin to identify alternative future visions for Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. These broad descriptions of desired resource conditions and visitor experiences will form the basis for the development of future alternative management strategies.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

Public participation is crucial to a good general management plan. Throughout the planning process, you will have several opportunities to express your thoughts and concerns about the future of the national historic site, to comment on the preliminary management alternatives, and to review draft documents. In this phase of the process, we are asking what you value about the national historic site and what issues (problems, concerns) you think park managers will face. We also are asking for your visions - how do you think Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site should look at the time of the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth (2009) and 20 years from now? (See page 5)

MISSION, PURPOSE, AND SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS FOR ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

MISSION

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site is forever dedicated to the preservation, commemoration, and interpretation of the cultural and natural resources associated with the birth and early years of the 16th President of the United States and the efforts of the Lincoln Farm Association and others in establishing a lasting tribute to Abraham Lincoln.

PURPOSES

The legislated purposes of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site are as follows:

- to protect and preserve the significant resources of the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, especially the Log Cabin, the Memorial Building, lands, and related features
- to protect and preserve the significant resources associated with the Knob Creek Farm and the early boyhood of Abraham Lincoln
- to commemorate the birth and early life of Abraham Lincoln and interpret the relationship of his background and pioneer environment to his service for his country as President of the United States during the crucial years of the Civil War

SIGNIFICANCE

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site has national significance for the following reasons:

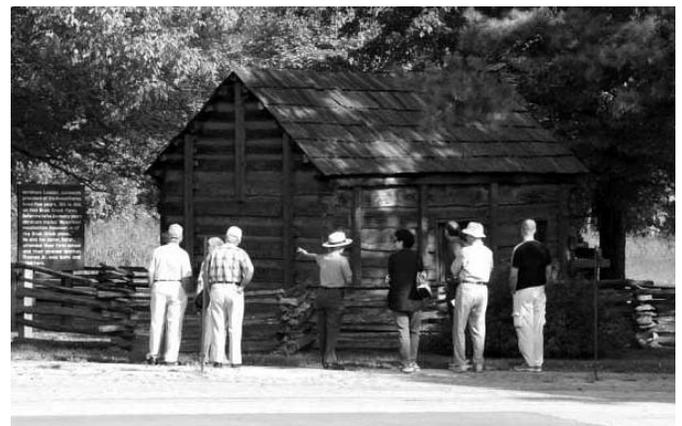
- This is the birthplace and early boyhood home of the 16th President of the United States, who successfully preserved the Union through the turmoil of the Civil War.
- The national historic site protects a formal landscape and the Memorial Building, which was constructed by the Lincoln Farm Association through popular subscription to formally enshrine and preserve a symbolic birthplace cabin.
- The Boyhood Home at Knob Creek preserves the setting and resources of Abraham Lincoln's early formative years (1811-1816).
- The Boyhood Home at Knob Creek also protects unusually diverse and abundant flora representative of the mixed mesophytic forest community, along with cedar glades.



Abraham Lincoln Memorial Building



Knob Creek



Ranger with visitors

**INTERPRETIVE THEMES FOR
ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

- In a log cabin at this place known as the Sinking Spring Farm, on February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln, who would become the 16th President of the United States, was born.
- The pioneer life he experienced in his first seven years at both the Sinking Spring Farm and the Knob Creek Farm shaped the fundamental character that Abraham Lincoln would need to lead the nation successfully through the trials of the Civil War.

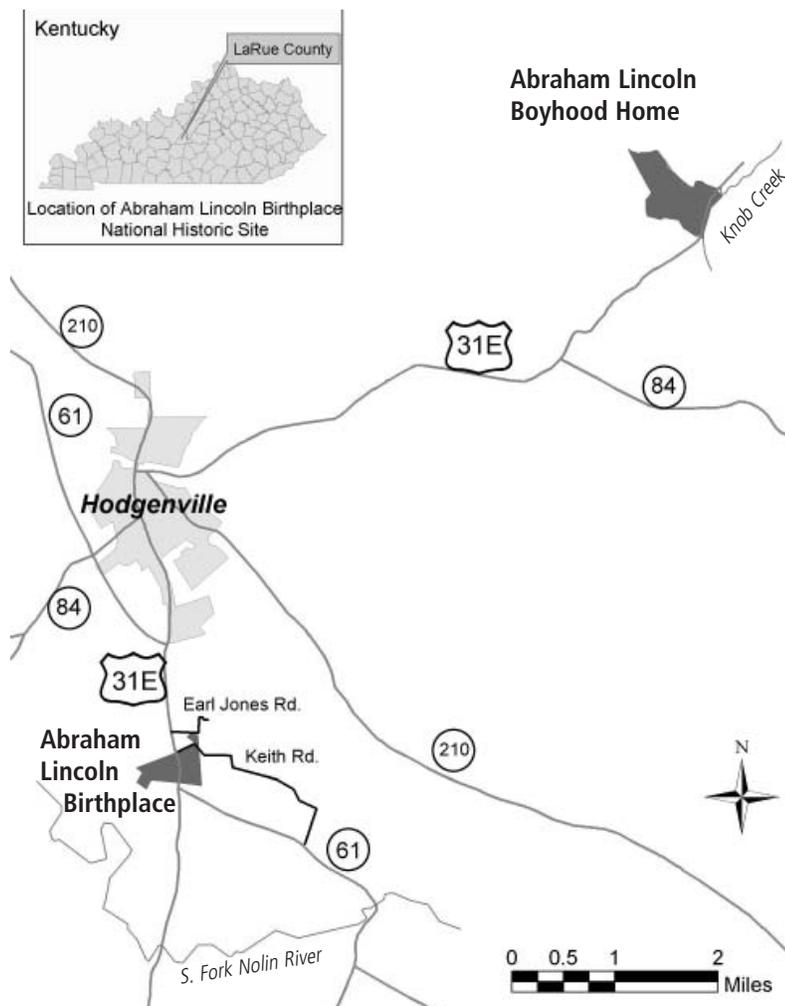
- The Log Cabin that is preserved at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace is a powerful symbol of America's devotion to the idea of an individual's right to rise to his fullest potential.
- Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site preserves the Memorial Building and the Log Cabin, which are significant manifestations of the American people's reverence for Abraham Lincoln. The National Historic Site represents one of the earliest nationwide efforts to commemorate his life and honor his place in the American culture.

You may offer your thoughts and suggestions in several ways:

- Fill out and mail the enclosed prepaid comment card
- Send a letter to the Superintendent, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, 2995 Lincoln Farm Road, Hodgenville, KY, 42748-9707
- Monitor the plan's progress on our Web site at <www.nps.gov/abli>
- Attend our public meetings. The first public scoping meetings are listed below:

| Public Scoping Meetings | |
|---|---|
| November 17, 2003 7:00 PM Hodgenville, KY Community Room | November 18, 2003 7:00 PM New Haven, KY New Haven School |

Call 270-358-3137 for directions and/or further information regarding these meetings.



Denver Service Center, John Paige, Planning
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**Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site
General Management Plan Newsletter
Comment Form**

Your Visions and Concerns

Please send us your comments and thoughts. You may attach more sheets if necessary.

What do you value most about Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site and his Boyhood Home at Knob Creek?

Given the mission, purpose, significance, and interpretive themes for Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site and Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek, how do you envision these areas by the 2009 bicentennial of Lincoln's birth and beyond?

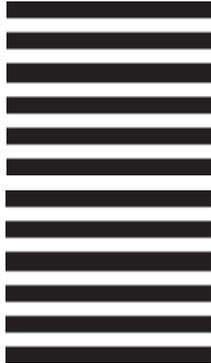
What are the most important issues that affect the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site and Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek now or will affect them in the future? What are your concerns?

Additional comments on the mission, purpose, significance, or other topics.

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Please fold the response form in half so the mailing address is visible, tape it (no staples, please), and drop it in the mail. Thank you.

Do you want to be on the mailing list for the General Management Plan? We will send you future newsletters and information dealing with Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. If the mailing list is incorrect, please indicate the corrections below.

- Please remove my name from the mailing list.
- The name or address you have is incorrect. Please change to the following:

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