

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

RECORD OF DECISION

**GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN/
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Lincoln Home National Historic Site

Illinois

The Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS) has prepared this Record of Decision (ROD) on the Abbreviated Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for Lincoln Home National Historic Site (Site) in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and NPS Director's Order 12, "Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis and Decision-Making and Accompanying Handbook." This Record of Decision includes a description of the background of the project, a statement of the decision made, synopses of other alternatives considered, the basis for the decision, findings on impairment of park resources and values, a description of the environmentally preferable alternative, a listing of measures to minimize environmental harm, and an overview of public and agency involvement in the decision-making process.

BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

The purpose of the GMP/EIS is to provide a comprehensive direction for resource preservation and visitor use, direction for management of the Site, including its resources and visitors, and a basic foundation for decision making for the park for the next 15 to 20 years. The plan prescribes the resource conditions and visitor experiences that are to be achieved and maintained in the park over time. The clarification of what must be achieved according to law and policy is based on review of the Site's purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, and special mandates.

DECISION (SELECTED ACTION)

The NPS has selected the as the preferred alternative Alternative 2, "A Retreat from Modern Life in the Heart of the City," as described in the Abbreviated Final GMP/EIS issued in November 2011. Under the selected action the NPS will focus on providing visitor opportunities to experience the historic Lincoln neighborhood as Lincoln knew it during his residence in Springfield, Illinois.

ALTERNATIVE 2 — THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Under Alternative 2, the Site management will focus on rehabilitating the historic neighborhood landscape to offer visitors a strong sense of the neighborhood as Lincoln knew it. This goal will

be accomplished by extensive rehabilitation at the core of the Site, but less extensive away from the core. The Lincoln lot will be restored if there is sufficient documentation.

How Visitors Will Experience the Site

As visitors enter the Site, they will enter the visitor center for orientation and to see exhibits and watch the film on Lincoln's life. After that, they will move to a new building on the Burch lot for a short orientation to prepare for the tour of the Lincoln Home. After the tour, they will have opportunities to see exhibits in the Lincoln backyard and Arnold and Corneau houses, as well as in a new structure on the Brown lot. The exhibits will illustrate Lincoln's life as well as features of life in Springfield in the mid-19th century.

Extensive living history programs and ranger-led tours will be emphasized, but visitors will also be able to experience the Site on their own, including the fenced lots where houses are missing. Self-guided tours using neighborhood wayside exhibits, cell phones, iPods, etc. will be available. Curriculum-based educational programs will include day-long history programs.

Visitors arriving by bus will be dropped off and picked up in the parking lot north of the visitor center. Visitors will have access to new restrooms and drinking water on the east side of the Site in a new building on the Carrigan lot.

How the Site Will be Managed

The NPS will rehabilitate the neighborhood's historic landscape to provide visitors with an understanding of and appreciation for the size, density, and diversity of this mid-19th century Springfield neighborhood. Rehabilitation will be most extensive at the intersection of Eighth Street and Jackson Street. Contemporary buildings will be constructed on the empty lots of three of the historic houses. Such contemporary buildings will reflect the historic character of the neighborhood with an overall design that visitors will recognize as non-historic. The Lincoln lot will be restored to the greatest degree possible.

One of the contemporary buildings will be built on the Burch lot to be a staging area for visitors to the Lincoln Home. A second contemporary building on the Brown lot will provide space for exhibits. The third contemporary building will be built on the Carrigan lot for visitor services. The Dean House will be rehabilitated to support the living history program.

In the remaining areas of the historic district, the historic landscape will be rehabilitated to illustrate 19th century outdoor life in the neighborhood. New features (such as foundation outlines and fences, residential streetscapes, sidewalks, and stairs) could be built to reflect the mass, density, and spatial organization of the neighborhood in Lincoln's time. Species of trees and shrubs that were present when Lincoln lived at Eighth and Jackson streets could be planted to reflect historic vegetation patterns as part of an overall effort to rehabilitate the historic landscape.

Most NPS administrative offices, including most interpretive staff offices, will be consolidated and moved to the new headquarters in the rehabilitated Stuve House and Stuve Carriage House.

Five additional historic houses no longer needed for NPS offices will be offered for lease. The visitor center will be expanded to provide space for two small NPS ranger offices when Eastern National's operations expand into the existing ranger offices. A new curatorial facility will be built in the southeast corner of the site. A total of eight houses will be available for the historic leasing program. The conference center will be remodeled to accommodate the day-long, curriculum-based educational history programs and will be renamed the Educational Center.

The bus drop-off and pickup and RV parking will be at the existing location in the lot north of the visitor center. Parking for lessees will be accommodated in the expanded administrative zone in the east alley.

A boundary adjustment will be sought to include the half block between Edwards and Cook streets and between South Ninth Street and the alley between South Eighth Street and South Ninth Street. This boundary adjustment will protect significant resources and values and enhance visitor appreciation and enjoyment of the Site.

The boundary adjustment, in addition, will address important operational and management issues by removing maintenance functions from several historic structures in the historic core and consolidating them into a new facility in the boundary expansion area and moving all employee and volunteer parking from the Site into this new area.

Mitigating Measures/Monitoring

Congress charged the NPS with managing the lands under its stewardship "in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations" (NPS Organic Act, 16 USC 1). As a result, the NPS routinely evaluates and implements mitigation whenever conditions occur that could adversely affect the sustainability of national park system resources.

To ensure that implementation of the action alternatives protects unimpaired natural and cultural resources and the quality of the visitor experience, a consistent set of mitigating measures will be applied to actions proposed in this plan. The NPS will prepare appropriate environmental review (i.e., those required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and other relevant legislation) for these future actions. As part of the environmental review, the NPS will avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts when practicable. The implementation of a compliance monitoring program will assist the Site in staying within the parameters of the NEPA and the NHPA and associated compliance laws, policies and regulations. The compliance monitoring program will oversee these mitigative measures and will include reporting protocols.

The following mitigative measures and best management practices will be applied to avoid or minimize potential impacts from implementation of the alternatives. These measures will apply to all alternatives.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The NPS will preserve and protect, to the greatest extent possible, the cultural resources of the Site. Specific mitigating measures will include the following:

- Continue to develop inventories for and oversee research about archeological and historical resources to better understand and manage the resources. Continue to manage cultural resources and collections following federal regulations and NPS policies and guidelines. Maintain the Site's collection in a manner that will meet NPS curatorial standards.
- Subject projects to site-specific planning and compliance. Make efforts to avoid adverse impacts through the use of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation, and by using screening and/or context-sensitive design that will be compatible with historic resources. If adverse impacts could not be avoided, mitigate these impacts through a consultation process with all interested parties.
- As appropriate, archeological surveys and/or monitoring will precede any ground disturbance. Known archeological resources will be avoided to the greatest extent possible during construction. If archeological resources that are listed in or are eligible for listing in the National Register could not be avoided, an appropriate data recovery plan will be developed in consultation with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the City of Springfield Historic Preservation Program and other stakeholders as appropriate. In the rare event that previously unknown archeological resources were discovered during construction, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will be halted until the resources can be identified and documented and, if the resources cannot be preserved in situ, an appropriate mitigation strategy could be developed in consultation with the SHPO.
- Before implementing any action that will adversely impact a National Register-eligible or listed structure, or any contributing element or feature of a National Register-eligible or listed landscape, an appropriate mitigative strategy will be developed in consultation with the Illinois SHPO. All mitigative documentation will be prepared in accordance with Section 106 and Section 110 (b) of the NHPA, 36 CFR 800 and the Secretary's Standards for Documentation. The documentation will be submitted to the NPS Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscape Survey program.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Exotic Species

Implement a noxious weed abatement program. Standard measures could include the following elements: certify all seeds and straw material as weed-free, identify areas of noxious weeds during preconstruction, treat noxious weeds or noxious weed topsoil before construction (e.g., topsoil segregation, storage, herbicide treatment), and revegetate with native species that were present during the time that Lincoln lived in the home, as described in the cultural landscape plan.

VISITOR SAFETY AND EXPERIENCES

- Implement a traffic control plan, as warranted.
- Implement measures to reduce adverse effects of construction on visitor safety and experience as necessary.
- Conduct an accessibility study to understand barriers to Site programs and facilities. Based on this study, implement a strategy to provide the maximum level of accessibility.

SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

During the future implementation of the approved management plan for the Site, the NPS will work with the City of Springfield and Sangamon County governments to further identify potential impacts and mitigative measures that will best serve the interests and concerns of both the NPS and the local communities. Partnerships will be pursued to improve the quality and diversity of community amenities and services.

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND AESTHETICS

Projects will avoid or minimize adverse impacts on natural and cultural resources. Development projects (e.g., construction of buildings, facilities and, utilities, and building rehabilitation) will be designed to work in harmony with the surroundings. Projects will be sustainable whenever practicable, by recycling and reusing materials, by minimizing use of new materials, by minimizing energy consumption during the project, and by minimizing energy consumption throughout the lifespan of the project.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Three other alternatives for managing the Site were evaluated in the draft GMP/EIS.

Alternative 1, the no-action alternative, describes a continuation of current management direction and trends at the Site, which follows the concepts outlined in the 1970 Master Plan. It provides a baseline for comparison in evaluating the changes and impacts of the other alternatives. Managers would continue to follow the special mandates and servicewide mandates and policies applicable to the Site.

NPS management would focus on maintaining the existing Lincoln-era neighborhood as it is today. Existing structures would be maintained as necessary to preserve their historic character and integrity. No restoration or rehabilitation would occur. Administrative offices, including administration, maintenance, interpretation, museum curatorial, and law enforcement, would remain where they are, dispersed in seven separate locations. The Cook House, Robinson House, and Shutt House would continue being leased under the leasing program. Lessee parking would remain in existing spaces. There would be no boundary adjustment recommended under this alternative.

Alternative 3 would focus on interpretation and rehabilitation of the neighborhood as Lincoln knew it along the entire length of Eighth Street. The historic landscape would be extensively

rehabilitated to reflect the diverse and active quality of the neighborhood in the heart of Springfield.

Other new buildings reflecting the historic character of the neighborhood but with an overall design that visitors would recognize as non-historic would be located on currently vacant lots. These structures would serve as buffers against modern visual and auditory intrusions. Interpretive information would be developed to explain the history of each neighborhood property to enhance visitor understanding of the Lincolns' social neighborhood setting.

A new contemporary building would be built on the Irwin lot to provide support space for the living history program. On the Worthen, Niles, and Bugg lots, a single building designed to appear as three separate houses from the street would serve curatorial storage functions. On the Roll and Jenkins lots, another single building designed to appear as two separate houses from the street would serve maintenance functions. Because some maintenance functions are not suitable for the historic district, it would also be necessary to build a second maintenance building in the boundary expansion area.

The Stuve House and Stuve Carriage House would be rehabilitated for use as NPS headquarters where offices of most staff, including interpretive staff, would be consolidated. The Sprigg House could also be used for NPS administrative purposes, and there would be two small offices in the visitor center, with support space in the Irvin House for living history and maintenance and curatorial in three new buildings.

A boundary adjustment would be sought to include the half block between Edwards and Cook streets and between South Ninth Street and the alley between South Eighth Street and South Ninth Street. This area would provide space for some maintenance functions that are not compatible with desired conditions in the historic district. It would also provide space for employee and volunteer parking.

Under **Alternative 4**, the Site management would focus on rehabilitating the landscape to provide visual cues of what was present during Lincoln's time, offering visitors a sense of self-discovery. The Lincoln lot would be restored to the greatest degree possible.

The existing historic houses and outbuildings would remain as the only large-scale buildings in the historic district. In the remaining areas of the historic district, the historic landscape, including residential streetscapes, would be rehabilitated to illustrate 19th century outdoor life in the neighborhood. New features such as foundation outlines and fences could be built to reflect the mass, density, and spatial organization of the neighborhood in Lincoln's time. Features such as sidewalks, paths, stairs, and walkways evoking former houses could be built to rehabilitate the circulation patterns of the historic landscape, following the treatment recommendations of a cultural landscape report. The Lincoln lot would be restored to the greatest degree possible.

The NPS would rehabilitate the exterior and interior of the Stuve House and Stuve Carriage House for NPS headquarters. A new curatorial facility would be built in the northeast corner of the site, and a new maintenance facility would be built in the southeast corner of the site. The

conference center would remain as it is and used for staff meetings, training, and the living history support center.

There would be no boundary adjustment recommended under this alternative.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Development of a preferred alternative involves evaluating the alternatives with the use of an analysis process called “Choosing by Advantages” or “CBA.” Through this process, the planning team identifies and compares the relative advantages of each alternative according to a set of factors. These factors were developed using the information and issues developed during scoping. Using these factors, the CBA process allows NPS staff to systematically evaluate how well each of the alternatives addresses the issues identified for this plan. The benefits or advantages of each alternative were compared for each of the following CBA factors:

- Factor 1: Preserve, rehabilitate, and restore cultural resources.
- Factor 2: Enhance visitor experience (basic support, as well as educational and interpretive experiences).
- Factor 3: Improve effectiveness and efficiency in NPS operations (park wide, in all divisions).

The relationships between the advantages and costs of each alternative were established. This information was used to combine the best attributes of the initial alternatives into the preferred alternative. This alternative gives the NPS the greatest overall benefits for each factor listed above for the most reasonable cost.

BASIS FOR DECISION

In reaching its decision to select the preferred alternative, the NPS considered the purposes for which the Site was established, and other laws and policies that apply to the management of the Site, including the NEPA, and NPS Management Policies 2006. The NPS also carefully considered public comments received during the planning process.

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE ALTERNATIVE

The environmentally preferable alternative is defined as “the alternative that will promote national environmental policy as expressed in Section 101 of the National Environmental Policy Act.” Section 101 states that “it is the continuing responsibility of the Federal government to:

- 1) fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
- 2) assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
- 3) attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;

- 4) preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage, and maintain, wherever possible, an environment which supports diversity and variety of individual choices;
- 5) achieve a balance between population and resource use which will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and
- 6) enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

The environmentally preferable alternative is Alternative 2, the alternative preferred by the NPS for the Site in this plan. This alternative will satisfy the goals of the NEPA by providing a high level of protection of resources while concurrently providing for a wide range of neutral and beneficial uses of the environment. This alternative will maintain an environment that supports a diversity and variety of individual choices, and it will integrate resource protection with an appropriate range of visitor uses.

All of the alternatives fully satisfy criteria 1 and 5 of Section 101 because they all protect the environment for future generations and achieve a balance of population and resource use that permits high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities. Alternatives 2 and 3 provide more culturally pleasing surroundings by filling in empty lots to better convey the urban density of Lincoln's residency there. During public meetings, the planning team heard comments about the out-of-place feeling of the empty lots. Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 would address overcrowding in the visitor center and provide more visitor experience opportunities than alternative 1, thereby better attaining the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment (criterion 3).

Alternative 2 meets the fourth criterion better than alternative 1, 3, or 4 because, while all of the alternatives preserve important aspects of our national heritage, rehabilitation under alternative 2 offers the most diversity and variety of individual choices. Lastly, criterion 6 is the only criterion that the alternative 1 satisfies to a greater extent than the other alternatives. Because the no-action alternative proposes no new construction, it proposes using little, if any, additional depletable resources. Weighed as a whole, however, alternative 2 satisfies the set of criteria for environmental preferability better than the other alternatives.

PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

This Draft GMP/EIS for the Site represents input from NPS staff, public agencies, elected officials, and the public. Consultation and coordination among the agencies and the public were vitally important throughout the planning process. The public had three primary avenues to participate during the development of the plan — participation in public meetings, responses to newsletters, and comments entered on the NPS planning website.

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND NEWSLETTERS

Public meetings and newsletters were used to keep the public informed and involved in the planning process. A mailing list was compiled that consisted of members of governmental agencies, organizations, businesses, legislators, local governments, and interested citizens.

The public involvement process began with a notice of intent to prepare the GMP/EIS that was published in the Federal Register on July 21, 2005.

The first newsletter, issued in November 2005, described the planning effort and solicited public input. Scoping meetings with stakeholders and the public were held during November 2005 in Springfield and were attended by a total of 25 people.

The NPS received comments in the meetings and in response to the first newsletter. Commenter's recommended that the Site should maintain the current condition of the Lincoln Home, restore other existing historic homes at the Site, reconstruct missing houses from the Lincoln era, bring the neighborhood alive with living history/costumed staff, and integrate the experience at the Lincoln Home with other Lincoln-related sites in the Springfield area. Others recommended that NPS staff work with the local community to promote the historical context of the region, including the African-American story in Springfield. Other reviewers emphasized the need to buffer the Site from modern intrusion in the surrounding city, and some requested that the Site acquire some of the land to the south. These comments were taken into consideration when deciding on issues for the plan to address.

A second newsletter distributed in November 2006 described the preliminary alternative concepts for managing the Site. After the newsletter was mailed, three public meetings were held in Springfield to obtain additional public comment on the preliminary alternatives. A total of 37 people attended these meetings. Responses to the newsletter and at the meetings combined support for one alternative or another with comments about specific components of the alternatives. Some reviewers expressed support for the boundary expansion. Other expressed their support for expanded interpretive programs. There were expressions both of support and concern regarding the potential reconstructions of missing houses. Other concerns focused on the costs associated with development proposed under the alternatives.

A notice of availability of the Draft GMP/EIS was published in the Federal Register on June 18, 2010. The draft document was distributed June 18, 2010, to a mailing list of 1,020. The official review and comment period was from June 20 to August 18, 2010. These individuals received information about the dates, times, and locations of four public meetings held at the Site visitor center in Springfield, Illinois. The availability of the document and information about the public meetings was also announced in the local media.

Four public meetings were held: on Tuesday, July 20, 2010, and on Wednesday, July 21, 2010. There were two presentations each day, at 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The meetings were held at the Site's visitor center. A total of 45 individuals attended the meetings. Public comments were recorded by members of the planning team.

CONSULTATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES, OFFICIALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Illinois Historic Preservation Officer, Section 106 Consultation

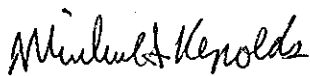
Agencies that have direct or indirect jurisdiction over historic properties are required by Section 106 of the NHPA of 1966, as amended (16 USC 270, et seq.), to take into account the effect of any undertaking on properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. To meet the requirements of 36 CFR 800, the NPS consulted with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, SHPO, during the planning process. In addition to consultation meetings, the Deputy SHPO also participated, along with other Federal, State, and local government officials in the development of management alternatives in a workshop held at the Site in the summer of 2006.

CONCLUSION

The NPS has selected the preferred alternative (Alternative 2) as its GMP/EIS for the Site. Among the alternatives considered, this alternative best protects the Site's cultural resources while also providing a range of quality visitor experiences, meets NPS goals for managing the Site, and meets national environmental policy goals. As described in the "Mitigation" section of the plan, all practical means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the selected alternative have been adopted. There will be no impairment of the Site's resources or values. (See attachment for the impairment determination.)

Approved:

Date:



2.27.12

Michael T. Reynolds, Regional Director
Midwest Region, National Park Service

ATTACHMENT: FINDINGS ON IMPAIRMENT OF PARK RESOURCES AND VALUES

BACKGROUND

The National Park Service (NPS) Management Policies, 2006 require analysis of potential effects to determine whether or not actions would impair park resources. The fundamental purpose of the national park system, established by the Organic Act and reaffirmed by the General Authorities Act, as amended, begins with a mandate to conserve park resources and values. NPS managers must always seek ways to avoid, or to minimize to the greatest degree practicable, adversely impacting park resources and values.

However, the laws do give the NPS the management discretion to allow impacts to park resources and values when necessary and appropriate to fulfill the purposes of a park, as long as the impact does not constitute impairment of the affected resources and values. Although Congress has given the NPS the management discretion to allow certain impacts within parks, that discretion is limited by the statutory requirement that the NPS must leave park resources and values unimpaired, unless a particular law directly and specifically provides otherwise. The prohibited impairment is an impact that, in the professional judgment of the responsible NPS manager, would harm the integrity of park resources or values, including the opportunities that otherwise would be present for the enjoyment of these resources or values. An impact to any park resource or value may, but does not necessarily, constitute an impairment, but an impact would be more likely to constitute an impairment when there is a major or severe adverse effect upon a resource or value whose conservation is:

- necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park;
- key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park; or
- identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents.

An impact would be less likely to constitute an impairment if it is an unavoidable result of an action necessary to pursue or restore the integrity of park resources or values and it cannot be further mitigated.

The Lincoln Home National Historic Site (Site) resources and values that are subject to the no-impairment standard include:

- the Site's cultural and historic objects, including archeological resources; cultural landscapes; ethnographic resources; historic structures; and museum collections;
- appropriate opportunities to experience enjoyment of the Site, to the extent that can be done without impairing them;
- the Site's role in contributing to the national dignity, the high public value and integrity, and the superlative environmental quality of the national park system, and the benefit and inspiration provided to the American people by the national park system; and

- any additional attributes encompassed by the specific values and purposes for which the Site was established.

Impairment may result from NPS activities in managing the Site, visitor activities, or activities undertaken by concessioners, contractors, and others operating in the Site. The NPS's threshold for considering whether there could be an impairment is based on whether an action would have major (or significant) effects.

Archeological Resources

Archeological studies in the Lincoln neighborhood began with excavations in the backyard of the Lincoln Home in late summer 1951. Since that time, nearly 41 archeological projects have been carried out within the Site. The bulk of the excavations that occurred in the past 37 years testify to the ongoing development and changes that have occurred in the Lincoln neighborhood. Archeological studies have been able to provide substantive information regarding the architectural development of not only the Lincoln Home but also of the other structures in the Site. Excavations throughout the Site identified the remains of architectural features and artifacts at the Lincoln, Shutt, Cook, Dean, Robinson, Arnold, Sprigg, Corneau, Carrigan, Dubois, and Morse houses and lots; the Allen Barn; and the conference center. The archeological resources are determined to be not fundamental to the Site.

Some of the actions in the preferred alternative (e.g., the construction of new facilities at the core of the Site and other NPS facilities) have the potential to affect archeological resources because of ground disturbance. In consultation with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer, the NPS will ensure that archeological assessments and surveys are carried out for all areas of potential effect proposed for development. The NPS will also ensure that archeological resources unexpectedly discovered during construction are avoided and preserved in situ to the greatest extent possible, or if that is not possible the resources will be adequately mitigated by data recovery or other means. There will be no major adverse impacts on archeological resources or values whose conservation is (1) necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation of the Site; (2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the Site or to opportunities for enjoyment of the Site; or (3) identified as a goal in the Site's GMP or other relevant NPS planning documents. Thus, there will be no impairment of the Site's resources or values.

Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes

The focus of the Site is the Lincoln Home. This was the only home owned by Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln lived here with his family from 1844 until he moved to Washington, D.C., in 1861 to take office as the 16th president of the United States. Lincoln's rise paralleled the rise of Springfield from a country village to a growing regional center. As his career prospered, Lincoln bought a small one-and-a-half story cottage on 8th and Jackson in 1844 to accommodate his growing family. Built in 1839, the house had a bedroom added on the first floor in 1846 and was enlarged to two stories in 1855-56 to accommodate the growing Lincoln family. The Lincoln's lived in this house during the 1860 presidential election.

An additional 14 historic structures are located within the Site. None of these have been individually evaluated for their eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, but most have been included in the National Register as part of the National Register Historic District listing.

In addition to the structural elements identified above, other important elements of the cultural landscape at the Site include circulation features such as Jackson Street; South Eighth Street; the alleys between South Seventh and South Eighth streets; South Eighth and South Ninth streets between Edwards Street and Jackson Street; between Jackson Street and Capitol Avenue; the sidewalks, vegetation on the lots and street shoulders; views and vistas of the Lincoln Home from various points in the Site; and views of the neighborhood from the Lincoln Home.

Historic structures and cultural landscapes are essential to the cultural integrity of the Site. However, because no historic structures or cultural landscapes will be adversely impacted by actions proposed by the preferred alternative, and the NPS will follow all appropriate standards and guidelines for the treatment of these historic properties, there will be no impairment as a result of implementation of the preferred alternative.

Museum Collections

According to the 2006 “Midwest Region Museum Collection Curatorial Facility Plan,” the Site has the sixth largest collection in the NPS Midwest Region, totaling nearly 500,000 items. The Site is one of the few park units in the Midwest Region that has permanent full-time collections management specialists.

Museum collections are essential to documenting and preserving the history of Lincoln’s life in Springfield and the historic Lincoln neighborhood. Archival collections are critical to continuing historical research and materials collections are essential to the design and display of interpretive exhibits for interpretive and educational programs. Under the preferred alternative, the Site’s museum and archival collections will be consolidated in a new facility. This new facility will provide greater curatorial storage capacity, enhance operational efficiency, and provide a greater level of protection for the collection.

The Site’s museum collections will be acquired, accessioned and cataloged, preserved, protected, and made available for access and use according to NPS standards and guidelines. Therefore, there will be no impairment of museum collections as a result of implementation of the preferred alternative.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, as guided by this analysis, good science and scholarship, advice from subject matter experts and others who have relevant knowledge and experience, and the results of public involvement activities, it is the Superintendent’s professional judgment that there will be no impairment of Site resources and values from implementation of the preferred alternative.

