

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE | DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



KENTUCKY LINCOLN

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA FEASIBILITY STUDY | SEPTEMBER 2014



*Cheapside, Lexington, KY - November Court Day 1897,
Image provided by the University of Kentucky*

Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS), has prepared this national heritage area (NHA) feasibility study to determine the feasibility and suitability of designating the “Kentucky Lincoln” study area as a national heritage area. This study meets the requirements of the “Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines” (NPS 2003) and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

The Kentucky Lincoln study area includes resources in a 17-county region located in the north central portion of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The study area comprises 11 counties identified in the study’s congressional legislation, and was expanded to include six additional counties in response to feedback during public scoping and research conducted during the feasibility study process. Through this scoping process the initial list of 17 sites identified in congressional legislation was expanded to include 49 resources (2 natural resources, 39 historic resources, 8 cultural resources) that were inventoried and analyzed as part of the feasibility study process. Covering a distance of roughly 158 miles from east to west and 99 miles north to south, the final study area covers an estimated 3,488,243 acres (5,450 square miles). A comprehensive inventory of potential contributing resources was conducted within this study area and these resources were then analyzed for their association to Abraham Lincoln.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with state historic preservation offices, state historic societies, state tourism offices, and other applicable organizations and agencies to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as the Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area in section 482 of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (PL 110-229, May 8, 2008). The goal of this study was to determine if the study area meets the 10 criteria established in the National Park Service “Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines” (NPS 2003) for designation. The study was initiated in 2009. A copy of the authorizing legislation can be found in appendix A.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN’S CONNECTIONS TO KENTUCKY

Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky on February 12, 1809, grandson of a militia captain who migrated to Kentucky during the final period of the American Revolution. Lincoln’s father, Thomas, purchased the farm where Lincoln was born near present-day Hodgenville, Kentucky, in December 1808. He lost the farm in a legal dispute a few years later and relocated his family to a smaller farm on Knob Creek in 1811. Although the Lincolns moved from Kentucky to Indiana in 1816 when Abraham Lincoln was 7 years old, their years at Knob Creek were formative in Abraham Lincoln’s life. It was here that he reportedly first saw slaves in chains being transported along the Louisville to Nashville Pike. His family belonged to an anti-slavery Baptist congregation. Lincoln recalled that his parents’ decision to leave Kentucky for Indiana was based in part on their opposition to slavery.

As an adult, Lincoln educated himself in Indiana and Illinois as he prepared for his career as a lawyer and politician, but always maintained a close connection to Kentuckians. His law partner, William Herndon, was born in Kentucky and his closest personal friend, Joshua Speed, was also from Kentucky. Most importantly, his wife, Mary Todd, was from Lexington, Kentucky, and was a member of a prominent slave-owning family. On his visits to his wife's family home in Lexington, Lincoln became keenly familiar with the state's uneasy combination of a commitment to national unity and an embrace of slavery. His insights into Kentucky's unusual circumstances substantially shaped his political philosophy and the military strategies he pursued during the American Civil War. Without this close relationship to Kentucky and his deep sensitivity to the state's exceptional social and political conditions, his pursuit of the war and the outcome of the war itself, may have been different. As a man, a visionary, and a transcendent political leader, Abraham Lincoln was in many ways a product of the border state of Kentucky.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The study team conducted an extensive public involvement effort to promote public understanding of national heritage areas and how they are managed, to inform the public about the study and maximize their participation in the process, to assess public support for a national heritage area designation, to learn from the public about resources that may contribute to national heritage area designation, and to determine whether there is local capacity and commitment to coordinate a potential future national heritage area.

Efforts included newsletters, public meetings, and focus group meetings. Comment cards and an interactive website were also developed to allow people to conveniently submit their input on a wide range of topics, including the appropriate study area boundary, potential contributing resources, and the potential effects of national heritage area designation on the communities and resources within the study area. In 2009, the NPS staff met with local stakeholders to initiate the study. In 2010, the National Park Service held a series of public meetings in locations throughout north central Kentucky to gather input from the community. A total of 70 people attended the six meetings in January 2010. Meetings were held in Elizabethtown, Hodgenville, Louisville (two meetings), Nicholasville, and Lexington, Kentucky. In August 2010, a project update was sent to 500 addresses in the local area. This newsletter presented the themes of the study and proposed boundary. In March 2013, the study team returned to Kentucky to re-engage with local stakeholders, brief them on the status of the feasibility study, collect additional resource data, and assess the continued commitment to establish a national heritage area by the local community. The public input that the study team received throughout this process broadened the scope and influenced the research and analysis conducted during this feasibility study.

A summary of public involvement can be found in chapter 2. A summary of public comments may be found in appendix B.

STUDY FINDINGS

The feasibility study team concludes that the Kentucky Lincoln study area does not meet the 10 evaluation criteria for national heritage area feasibility. Only five sites and one natural resource within the study area were identified and documented to have direct connections to Abraham Lincoln. These are physical sites that Abraham Lincoln visited, and that had some known influence on his life. Because of the dispersed geographic distribution of this small number of resources

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

throughout the larger 17-county study area, this assemblage does not comprise a nationally distinctive landscape, one of the defining elements of a national heritage area.

GUIDE TO THIS DOCUMENT

This feasibility study is organized into six chapters plus appendixes. Each section is described briefly below.

CHAPTERS

Chapter 1: Introduction provides a brief description of what a national heritage area is, why national heritage area designation is valuable, and an overview of the study's purpose and legal requirements. This chapter also describes the feasibility study process and 10 criteria for evaluation.

Chapter 2: The Kentucky Lincoln Study Area describes the natural environment, land cover, and socioeconomic environment. This chapter also describes the role of heritage tourism in the study area and the public involvement strategy used during the study process.

Chapter 3: National Importance and Interpretive Themes Framework documents a brief history of the study area, and the historic relationship between Abraham Lincoln and the state of Kentucky. This chapter also presents the proposed NHA significance statements and interpretive theme framework for communicating the nationally important story of a proposed national heritage area dedicated to Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky.

Chapter 4: Inventory and Analysis of Kentucky Lincoln Study Area Resources provides a comprehensive inventory of potential natural, historic, and cultural resources that may contribute to a strategic assemblage of resources needed to define the nationally distinctive landscape of the proposed national heritage area. This chapter also analyzes these resources for their direct association with Abraham Lincoln as well as the integrity of these resources to tell the nationally important story.

Chapter 5: Evaluation of NPS National Heritage Area Criteria evaluates the feasibility and suitability of congressional designation of the Kentucky Lincoln study area as a national heritage area according to the 4 steps and 10 criteria established in the NPS "Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines" (NPS 2003).

Chapter 6: Summary provides an overview of the feasibility study findings and a conclusion with recommendations regarding national heritage area designation.

APPENDIXES

Appendix A: Feasibility Study Authorizing Legislation is the legislation prompting this feasibility study.

Appendix B: Public Comment Report summarizes the public comments received during the study.

Appendix C: Proposed Management Entity Application includes the request from the National Park Service to submit applications and the responses received from potential management entities.

Appendix D: Letters of Support are included for the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance as the proposed coordinating entity that were received from local organizations, government entities, and businesses within the study area.

CONTENTS

<i>Executive Summary</i>	<i>i</i>
Introduction	i
Legislative History	i
Abraham Lincoln’s Connections to Kentucky	i
Public Involvement	ii
Study Findings	ii
<i>Guide to this Document</i>	<i>iv</i>
Chapters	iv
Appendixes	iv

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION 1

<i>Purpose of the Feasibility Study</i>	<i>3</i>
Background	3
Definition of a National Heritage Area	3
Economic Impact of National Heritage Area Designation	4
Community-Based Approach	5
The Feasibility Study Process	6
Ten Criteria for Evaluating National Heritage Area Designation	7
Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act	7
The Study Team	8
Next Steps	9

CHAPTER 2: THE KENTUCKY LINCOLN STUDY AREA 11

<i>Introduction</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Study Area</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Natural Environment</i>	<i>15</i>
Ecoregions Within the Study Area	15
Natural and Physical Landscape Features Within the Study Area	25
Land Cover Within the Study Area	25
<i>Socioeconomic Environment</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>The Economics of Tourism in Kentucky</i>	<i>29</i>
Heritage Tourism Within the Study Area	29
Heritage Events Associated with Folk Traditions	29
Ongoing Heritage Tourism Programs	30
Related Heritage Tourism Programs Outside Kentucky	31
<i>Community Engagement and Involvement</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>What We Learned from the Public</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Summary</i>	<i>35</i>

CHAPTER 3: NATIONAL IMPORTANCE AND INTERPRETIVE THEMES FRAMEWORK 37

<i>Brief History of the Study Area</i>	<i>39</i>
--	-----------

CONTENTS

Introduction	39
Historic Overview	39
<i>Significance Statements and Interpretive Themes</i>	49
Significance Statements	49
Interpretive Themes	50
<i>Summary</i>	57
CHAPTER 4: INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS OF KENTUCKY LINCOLN STUDY AREA RESOURCES	59
<i>Introduction</i>	61
<i>Resource Analysis Methodology</i>	62
<i>Resource Inventory</i>	64
Natural Resources	64
Historic Resources	65
Cultural Resources	88
<i>Resource Analysis</i>	93
<i>Summary</i>	95
CHAPTER 5: EVALUATION OF NPS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA CRITERIA	105
<i>Introduction</i>	107
<i>Requirements for the Feasibility Study Process</i>	108
Initial Four Steps	108
Ten Criteria for Evaluation	109
<i>Summary</i>	122
CHAPTER 6: SUMMARY	123
<i>Feasibility Study Conclusion</i>	125
APPENDIXES, SELECTED REFERENCES, AND PREPARERS AND CONSULTANTS	127
<i>Appendix A: Feasibility Study Authorizing Legislation</i>	129
<i>Appendix B: Public Comment Report</i>	131
<i>Appendix C: Proposed Management Entity Application</i>	135
National Park Service Request for Applications	135
Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Association – 2013 Application	139
Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Association – 2011 Application	148
<i>Appendix D: Letters of Support</i>	157
<i>Selected References</i>	193
<i>Preparers and Consultants</i>	201
NPS Denver Service Center	201
NPS Southeast Region	201
NPS Washington Office	201
NPS Publication Services	201
Local Stakeholder Groups	201

FIGURES

- Figure 1. Initial Study Area Map 17
Figure 2. Revised Study Area Map 19
Figure 3. Kentucky Ecoregions 21
Figure 4. Land Cover Within the Study Area 23

TABLES

- table 1. Historic Sites in the Authorizing Legislation 14
Table 2. State-Protected Natural Areas Within the Study Area 26
Table 3. Population By County 27
Table 4. Population of Largest Cities in the Study Area 28
Table 5. Interpretive Theme – Significance Statement Matrix 54
Table 6. Resource Inventory and Analysis Matrix 97
Table 7. Themes and Associated Resources 114
Table 8. Sites Represented By Existing KLHTA Board of Directors (as of August 1, 2013) 120

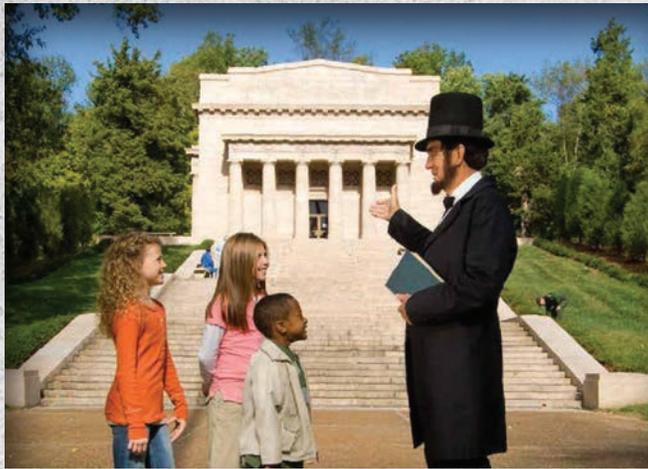
CONTENTS

Introduction

1



Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit at Knob Creek, NPS photo



*Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park,
Image provided by the KLHTA*



*Highway 150 between Perryville and Springfield,
Image provided by the KLHTA*



*Pate House, Image courtesy of J. Laine Nunn, Firelight
Entertainment Group, LLC*

PURPOSE OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY

The purpose of this national heritage area (NHA) feasibility study is to determine whether an assemblage of historic sites and resources in north central Kentucky meet the suitability and feasibility criteria for the study area to be designated as a national heritage area to honor Abraham Lincoln and his connections to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared this feasibility study at the request of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior as directed by Congress in section 482 of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (PL 110-229, May 8, 2008). Section 482, "The Study of Sites Relating to Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky," may be found in appendix A.

BACKGROUND

Born outside of Hodgenville, Kentucky, on February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln became the 16th president of the United States of America, serving as the commander-in-chief during the tumultuous years of the American Civil War. One of the most iconic figures in the nation's history, Abraham Lincoln's legacy is vigorously discussed and debated today. In 2009 the nation celebrated the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, bringing national attention to his humble beginnings in Kentucky.

Efforts by community members in Kentucky to have the region recognized nationally for its Abraham Lincoln heritage gathered strength during planning for the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth. In 2004 Kentucky established the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission to coordinate the state's commemorative activities. The Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance emerged as a grassroots coalition of Lincoln-related sites as the state prepared for the bicentennial. Building on the growing interest in the approaching bicentennial, congressional action encouraged by Senator Jim Bunning of Kentucky resulted in legislation that directed the National Park Service to study the suitability and feasibility of designating an 11-county region as a national heritage area to honor Abraham Lincoln's legacy in Kentucky.

Significant effort by state agencies, historic sites, local nonprofits, and interested citizens culminated in 2009 with statewide events, educational programs, museum exhibits, historic preservation projects, and driving tour routes celebrating Lincoln's history in Kentucky. That year also saw the designation of the Lincoln Heritage Scenic Highway, running 71.2 miles through the heart of Kentucky. Following the bicentennial the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance continued its work as a nonprofit honoring Abraham Lincoln's legacy in Kentucky, changing its name to the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance (KLHTA or the Alliance).

DEFINITION OF A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

According to NPS guidelines, a national heritage area is a place designated by Congress where natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make national heritage areas representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in them. Continued use of national heritage areas by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscapes enhances their significance.

Chapter 1: Introduction

National heritage areas are managed by a local entity in partnership with various stakeholders and partners. These stakeholders and partners include individual citizens; local, state, and federal governments; and nonprofit and private sector groups. Together, these entities work to preserve the integrity of the area's distinct landscape and local stories so that current and future generations understand this relationship to the land.

Using this approach, national heritage areas are based on their constituents' pride in their history and traditions and their interest and involvement in retaining and interpreting their special landscapes. Heritage areas work across political boundaries to collaboratively shape a plan for preserving the area's unique and distinct qualities.

A national heritage area is not a unit of the national park system nor is any of its land owned or managed by the National Park Service, unless such land was previously set aside as a unit of the national park system. If land within the established boundaries of a national heritage area is owned by the federal government, it is as a result of prior legislation establishing a military installation, national forest, and so forth. The designation of a national heritage area does not, however, preclude the creation of new national park system units within the area boundaries.

The federal government does not acquire land, manage land, or impose land use controls through a national heritage area. Rather, national heritage areas accomplish their goals through partnerships with governments, organizations, businesses, and individuals. The National Park Service provides technical, planning, and limited financial assistance to national heritage areas. The National Park Service is a partner and advisor; decision-making authority is retained by the local people and communities.

The heritage area designation process often begins with a community initiative to seek federal recognition as an official national heritage area. The first step in this process is called a feasibility study and is generally authorized by Congress through the urging of local community members. A feasibility study examines a region's history and resources and provides a strong foundation for eventual success as a national heritage area. The Secretary of the Interior and the National Park Service as the federal body charged with managing the national heritage areas program are frequently tasked by Congress to conduct these studies and asked to testify as to whether a region has the resources and local financial and organizational capacity to carry out the responsibilities that come with designation. Based on the study findings, the Secretary of the Interior then makes a recommendation to Congress. Should the Secretary recommend designation of a Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area, congressional legislation would be necessary to designate a national heritage area. The ultimate determination of national heritage area designation is made by Congress.

For more information on national heritage areas, visit: <http://www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/>.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION

National heritage area designation has been shown to assist in improving local, regional, and state economic conditions. According to the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, some of the benefits include leveraging federal dollars with local support, increasing community partnership, conservation of resources, improvement to quality of life, and sustainable economic strategies. Additional sales, jobs, payroll, and taxes paid to local governments are the results of heritage area designation. In 2013, heritage areas contributed \$12.9 billion to the national economy. This economic activity supported 148,000 jobs and \$1.2 billion in tax revenue (ANHA 2014). Heritage

areas have been able to award grants for projects such as historic structure work, trails work, and educational programs.

Several of the study area communities have seen a decline in downtown business districts over time, with shopping and commercial activities moving outside of the downtown core (Kentucky Heritage Council 2014). The downtown districts in towns such as Elizabethtown and Hodgenville, for example, are walkable, pedestrian-friendly districts. The preservation and marketing efforts of a national heritage area coordinating entity could encourage tourism at Lincoln sites, many of which are located within downtown business districts.

In 2004, Michigan State University estimated the economic impacts of seven national heritage areas and found that two-thirds of economic impacts would be lost to the regions without heritage attractions (Stynes and Sun 2004). Most of the direct effects accrue to hotels, restaurants, amusements, and retail shops.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation (2010) describes heritage tourism as follows:

- What is Heritage Tourism? *“Heritage tourism, as defined by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is ‘traveling to experience the places, artifacts, and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present.’”*
- What are the Benefits of Heritage Tourism? *“In addition to creating new jobs, new business and higher property values, well-managed tourism improves the quality of life and builds community pride. According to a 2009 national research study on U.S. cultural and heritage travel by Mandela Research, 78% of all U.S. leisure travelers participate in cultural and/or heritage activities while traveling, translating to 118.3 million adults each year. Cultural and heritage visitors spend, on average, \$994 per trip compared to \$611 for all U.S. travelers. Perhaps the biggest benefits of cultural heritage tourism, though, are diversification of local economies and preservation of a community’s unique character.”*

COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH

National heritage areas expand on traditional approaches to resource stewardship. They typically support community-based initiatives that connect citizens to the preservation and planning processes of local heritage stewardship. Through the efforts of a recognized local coordinating entity, numerous stakeholders come together to improve the regional quality of life through the protection of shared cultural and natural resources. This cooperative approach also allows national heritage areas to achieve both conservation goals and economic growth in ways that do not compromise local land use controls. The designation of a national heritage area does not provide the federal government or any associated coordinating entity the authority to regulate land, land uses, or property rights. The land use zoning and development controls of private property use and development remain fully under the jurisdiction of the local governments in the area.

THE FEASIBILITY STUDY PROCESS

This national heritage area feasibility study has been prepared with the direction provided by the NPS “Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines” (NPS 2003). These guidelines provide a process to evaluate the feasibility for designating this collection of historic sites and resources as a national heritage area. In general, the objectives of this feasibility study are to

- identify and define a study area that will be the primary focus of the feasibility study research, documentation, and inventory
- evaluate the potential for heritage tourism in the study area and local interest in the development of a potential national heritage area
- identify the national importance of Abraham Lincoln’s connections to Kentucky and identify an interpretive thematic framework for understanding how the resources in the study area contribute to a nationally distinctive landscape
- inventory and evaluate the potential of resources in the study area to support our understanding of Abraham Lincoln and his Kentucky roots
- verify whether or not there is public support and a strong local commitment by a coordinating entity to manage a potential national heritage area
- determine if the study area meets all 10 criteria for designation as a potential national heritage area (see criteria listed below)

The above overall objectives of the feasibility study were completed through a step-by-step public process that incorporated input from the public, managers of local sites, and subject matter experts. As the feasibility study developed, additional resource inventories and documentation were conducted in order to provide a more complete understanding of all the resources that may contribute to the national importance of the study area. The feasibility study process included the following phases:

1. Information gathering and public input
 - Identify the study area’s contribution to national heritage using information provided by the public, site managers, and subject matter experts.
 - Draft a narrative that explores the national importance of the study area and how it contributes to our national heritage.
 - Develop themes that provide a framework for interpretation and focus the feasibility study efforts on resources that can support these themes.
 - Conduct an inventory and site research into the resources that have the potential to support the identified themes and which collectively form a nationally distinctive landscape.
2. Preparation of feasibility study
 - Develop a feasibility study for NPS program review.
 - Conduct additional research and site visits based on comments received during review.
 - Refine the feasibility study based on additional research and local stakeholder feedback.

3. Completion of study and transmittal document
 - Make final determination as to whether the collection of resources in the study area meets the 10 criteria for evaluation of potential national heritage area designation.
 - Transmit findings to the Secretary of the Interior and to Congress.
4. Potential congressional action
 - Congress may choose to act on the feasibility study findings and recommendations.

TEN CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION

As identified above, this feasibility study includes an analysis and documentation that determines feasibility based on the 10 criteria established by the “Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines.” Chapter 5 of this feasibility study contains a detailed explanation of these criteria and discusses how the collection of sites in the feasibility study area relates to each criterion. This analysis factors into the determination of whether the study area warrants designation as a national heritage area. The 10 designation criteria are as follows:

1. The area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.
2. The area reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.
3. The area provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic features.
4. The area provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.
5. Resources that are important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.
6. Residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments within the proposed area that are involved in the planning have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the federal government and have demonstrated support for designation of the area.
7. The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area.
8. The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.
9. A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public.
10. The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described

COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

This feasibility study complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which mandates all federal agencies to analyze the impacts of major federal actions that have a significant effect on the environment. The NPS guidance for addressing this act is set forth in Director’s Order 12: *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making*,

Chapter 1: Introduction

which outlines several options for meeting the requirements of the act, depending on the severity of the environmental impacts of the alternatives.

A “categorical exclusion for which no formal documentation is necessary” was selected as the most appropriate NEPA pathway for this feasibility study. The feasibility study is excluded from requiring an environmental assessment because it matches one of the categories that under normal circumstances has no potential for impacts to the human environment. The categorical exclusion selected states:

“Legislative proposals of an administrative or technical nature (including such things as changes in authorizations for appropriations and minor boundary changes and land title transactions) or having primarily economic, social, individual, or institutional effects; and comments and reports on referrals of legislative proposals” (NPS 2005).

This feasibility study is consistent with this categorical exclusion because it was directed by Congress to determine if the area meets the feasibility requirement for designation as a national heritage area. In essence, this feasibility study is a report on a legislative proposal. If Congress decides to designate the feasibility study area as a national heritage area, then a comprehensive management plan would be developed for the area. Depending on the types of projects, programs, and other actions proposed in that management plan, an environmental assessment may be necessary at that time.

The categorical exclusion selected for this feasibility study requires no formal documentation; however, the study still contains several key NEPA components. Principally, the feasibility study relies heavily on public input and engagement of local stakeholders and subject matter experts to support its findings.

THE STUDY TEAM

National Park Service

An interdisciplinary team of NPS staff including community planners, cultural resource specialists, and natural resource specialists, was assembled to conduct this feasibility study. NPS heritage area program representatives for the Southeast Regional Office and the National Program Office also contributed to the feasibility study by providing policy guidance as well as reviewing and commenting on draft feasibility study findings. Subject matter experts and historians familiar with Kentucky and Abraham Lincoln were also called on to review and provide comments on draft feasibility study findings. The study team has also worked closely with a group of local representatives in Kentucky, and has invited input from members of the public through various public engagement strategies.

Local Stakeholder Group

A local stakeholder group, consisting of representatives of state and local agencies, historians, and Abraham Lincoln historic sites actively participated in the feasibility study process. The stakeholder group has been represented by members of the following agencies and organizations:

- Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park
- Georgetown College and University of Louisville historians

- Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission: Co-chairmen State Senator Dan Kelly and Judge Executive of LaRue County Tommy Turner
- Kentucky Arts Council
- Kentucky Department of Education
- Kentucky Department of Parks
- Kentucky Heritage Council
- Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance
- Kentucky Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet

The local stakeholder group played an important part in the feasibility study effort by providing information on study area resources, potential heritage area themes, and a proposed national heritage area boundary. Members of the stakeholder group organized site visits, provided support for public outreach efforts, documented and inventoried resources, and shared information on the history and importance of resources related to Abraham Lincoln in the study area. Through this collaborative effort additional resource data and information on the study area were incorporated into this feasibility study.

Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance

The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance is an active nonprofit organization composed of Abraham Lincoln related sites, other agencies and nonprofit organizations engaged in promoting Lincoln's legacy in Kentucky. The KLHTA mission is "to preserve and promote Kentucky's Lincoln heritage by establishing and maintaining vibrant self-sustaining partnerships between Lincoln heritage sites in Kentucky." The Alliance is based in Hodgenville, Kentucky, at the Lincoln Museum, and has strong connections to the Lincoln sites within the study area, and also to the communities, local and state agencies, educational institutions, and local businesses. The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance administers the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail, maintains a website, signage, and other informational materials, and produces merchandise as part of the KLHTA brand.

The Alliance and many of its members were part of the local stakeholder group consulted during this feasibility study. The Alliance also submitted an application during this study process for consideration as the proposed management entity. More information on the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance may be found in appendix C.

NEXT STEPS

Based on the study findings, the Secretary of the Interior will make a recommendation to Congress, which may use the findings in determining whether to take legislative action relative to designation of a national heritage area.

The Kentucky Lincoln Study Area

2



Lincoln Homestead State Park, NPS photo



*The Mordecai Lincoln House,
Lincoln Homestead State Park, NPS photo*



*Lincoln Museum, Hodgenville,
Image provided by the KLHTA*



Rural Kentucky Landscape, Image provided by the KLHTA

INTRODUCTION

An important first step in the feasibility study process is to identify and understand the area under consideration for national heritage area designation. Guidance on defining the study area is often provided in the legislation authorizing the feasibility study. The study team also gathers data on the natural environment as well as the socioeconomic environment of the region to better understand the study area, its potential boundaries, and the potential role national heritage area designation could play with regard to local heritage tourism. Community engagement is also important in defining the study area and enables the study team to tap into local knowledge about the region's history and contributing resources. The study team looks at all these factors to better understand the study area and address the 10 criteria for evaluating national heritage area designation, which are presented in chapter 5 of this feasibility study.

STUDY AREA

Public Law 110-229, authorizing a national heritage area feasibility study for a potential Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area, initially identified 17 historic sites within 11 counties in north central Kentucky. Based on this initial congressional guidance, the study team identified a preliminary study area that focused on this 11-county region and the 17 historic sites. This initial study area served as the starting point for research, community outreach, and resource analysis presented in this study.

TABLE 1. HISTORIC SITES IN THE AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

Initial 11 Counties	Historic Sites in the Authorizing Legislation
Boyle County	Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site
Breckinridge County	The Joseph Holt House
Fayette County	The Mary Todd Lincoln House Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate
Franklin County	The Old State Capitol The Kentucky Military History Museum The Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History The New State Capitol
Hardin County	Elizabethtown, Kentucky, including the Lincoln Heritage House
Jefferson County	Farmington Historic Plantation
Jessamine County	Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park
LaRue County	The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site The Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit Downtown Hodgenville, Kentucky, including the Lincoln Museum and Adolph A. Weinman statue
Madison County	Whitehall
Mercer County	Lincoln Marriage Temple at Fort Harrod
Washington County	Lincoln Homestead State Park and Mordecai Lincoln House

Through public and stakeholder group meetings, the study team determined that additional historic sites, resources, and counties beyond the initial legislated 11-county region may be relevant to the legacy of Abraham Lincoln and his connections to Kentucky. Based on this research, the study team, in partnership with the local stakeholder group, conducted additional site inventories, and resource analyses in the counties surrounding the initial study area to identify potential contributing resources that may be directly associated with Abraham Lincoln.

As a result of this research, the study team expanded the scope and looked at a much broader study area. All 11 counties in the authorizing legislation remain the focal point of the study area, but Garrard, Green, Hancock, Nelson, Oldham, and Shelby Counties have also been added. The expanded 17-county study area spans nearly 5,450 square miles of north central Kentucky.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

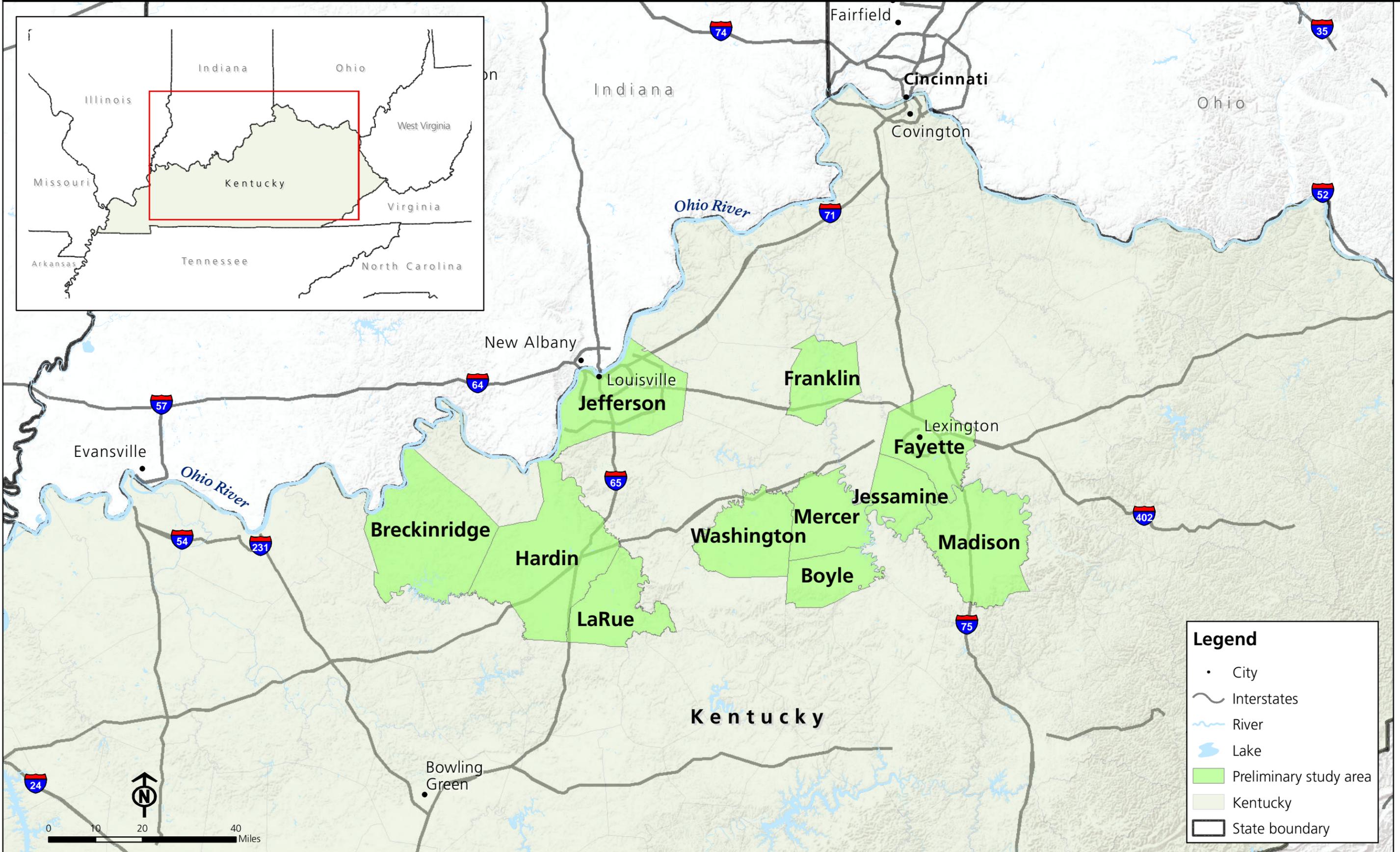
In order to fully understand the study area and what the proposed national heritage area may look like, the following information about the landscape and geography of central Kentucky is presented. The goal of presenting this information is to determine whether there are natural features and resources present that contribute to a nationally distinctive landscape, and whether the study area has distinct ecologic, geographic, or physical boundaries.

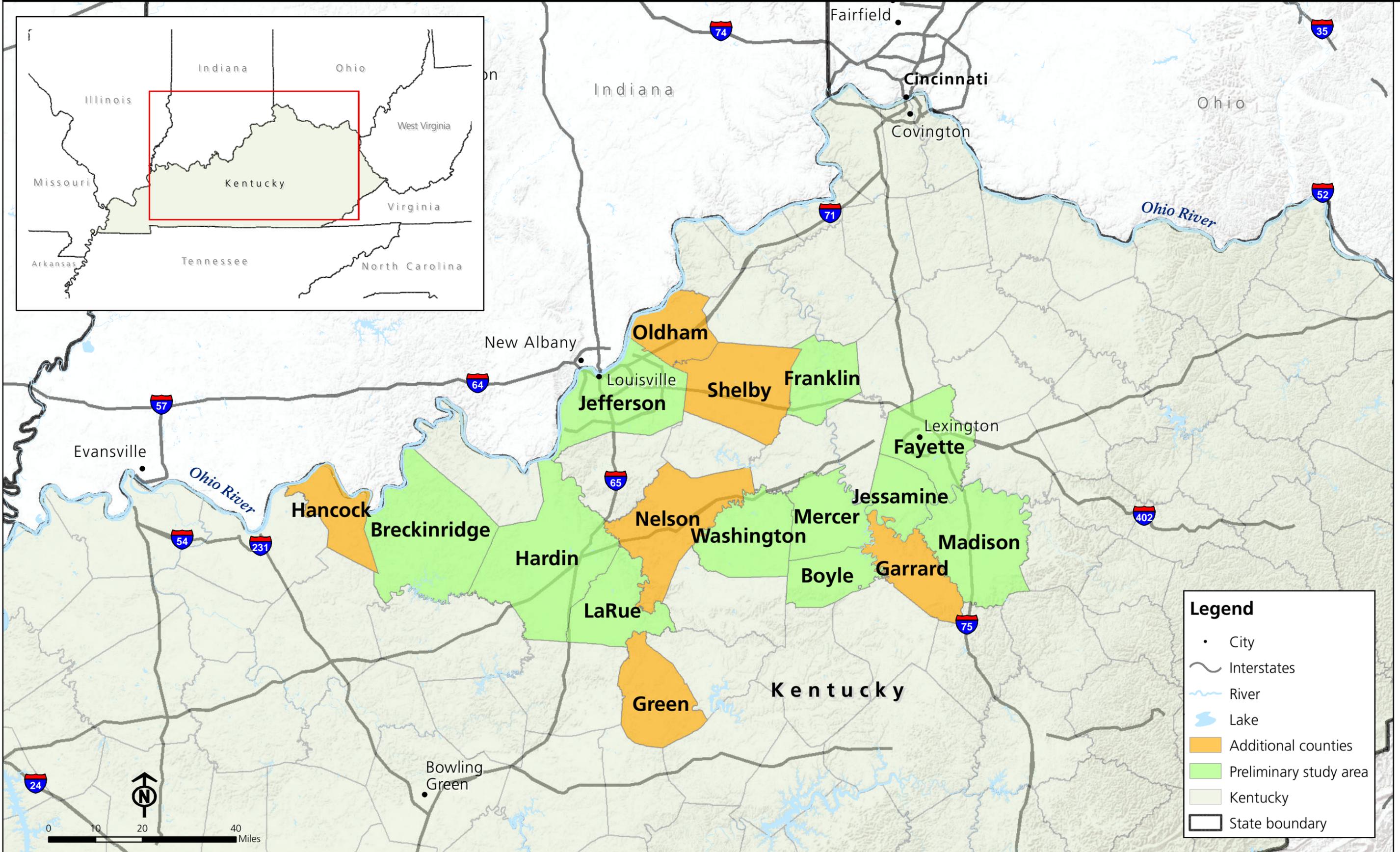
ECOREGIONS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

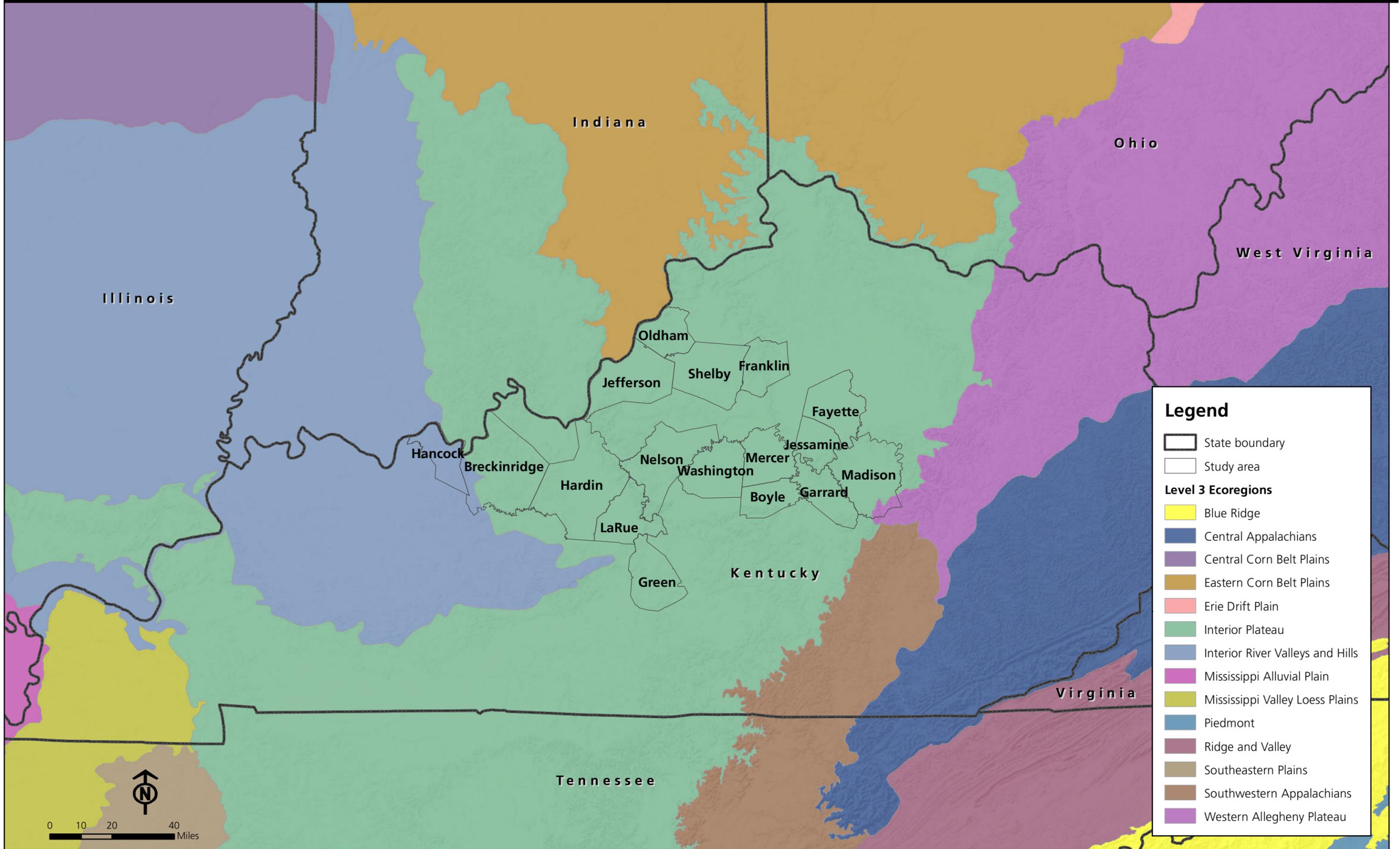
Ecoregions are areas with generally similar ecosystems consisting of environmental resources that are similar in type, quality, and quantity (US EPA 2014). The US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has categorized ecoregions by four levels of granularity, with level I having the coarsest data, and level IV having the most refined data. For example, level I includes 15 ecoregions for North America, while level II has 50 regions, and so forth. At level III (see figure 3), a majority of the study area falls within ecoregion 71, the Interior Plateau ecoregion, with small portions of the study area within the Interior River Valleys and Hills and Western Allegheny Plateau ecoregions.

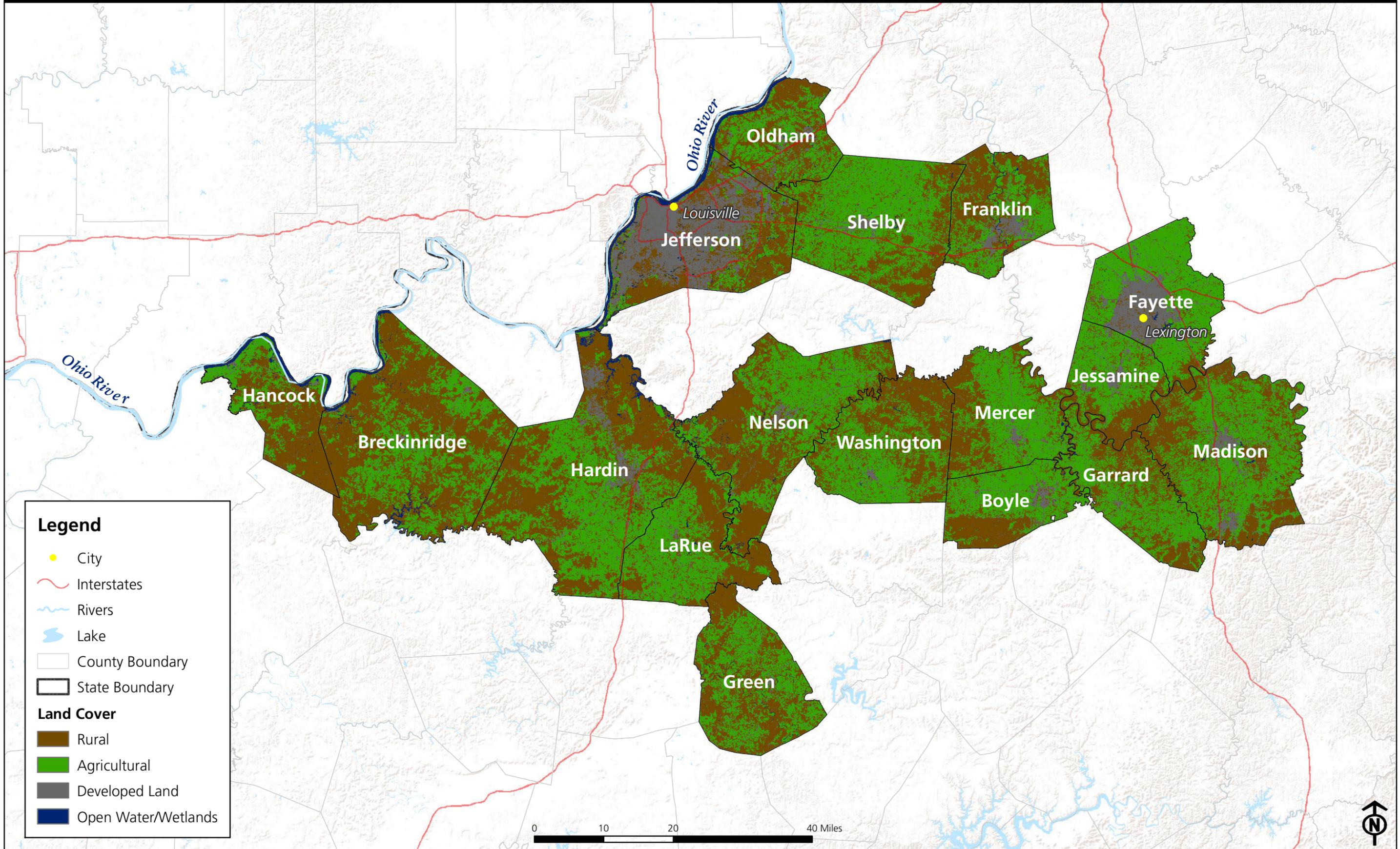
The Interior Plateau ecoregion consists of a series of grassland plateaus and forested uplands that are generally lower in elevation than the Appalachian Mountains to the east but higher than the coastal plains to the south (USGS 2012). Limestone and karst geology are the dominant geologic features of this ecoregion, which explains a prevalence of underground caves and sinkholes. This geological setting also contributes to a uniquely dynamic interaction of surface and groundwater hydrology and the common presence of springs, seeps, and underground streams. Prior to European and colonial settlement, temperate, deciduous forests and bluestem grasslands were the dominant vegetation cover in this ecoregion. Following the Revolutionary War, this relatively flat and fertile area attracted early colonial settlers and farmers who made their way into the region from the east. Portions of this ecoregion later became known as the Bluegrass Region of central Kentucky, where conditions are ideal to support livestock farming and a strong tradition of race horse breeding.

This Interior Plateau ecoregion stretches from the north in Ohio and Indiana to the south in Alabama, comprising the primary ecoregion of the central areas of Kentucky and Tennessee. Within the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the study area generally occupies the Interior Plateau ecoregion from east to west.









NATURAL AND PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE FEATURES WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

The study team also assessed whether the study area has clear natural barriers, such as rivers, mountains, canyons, or other types of landscape features that may define the boundary of a proposed national heritage area. These natural features often create obstacles for and mark boundaries to human settlement and culture, and thus frequently reflect distinct boundaries for national heritage areas.

The most dominant natural landscape feature found in the study area is the Ohio River along the northern border of Kentucky. The Ohio River is 981 miles long, beginning at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers and ending at Cairo, Illinois, where it flows into the Mississippi River. Historically, the Ohio River served as a major transportation route for western expansion of the American Frontier and was used by settlers migrating into the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky. The Ohio River also served as the border between the southern slave state of Kentucky and the northern free states of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. The Ohio River was a prominent transportation corridor during Abraham Lincoln's lifetime; it is well documented that he traveled on the river, which was regularly used to transport slaves to southern markets. This physical landscape feature—the Ohio River—clearly defines the northwestern edge of the study area.

Other natural boundaries within the study area are not distinct and could not be identified by the study team. The Appalachian Mountains that help define the eastern border of the Commonwealth of Kentucky are much farther east than the proposed national heritage area. Likewise, the Cumberland Gap along the Appalachian Mountains is another important geographic as well as a historically significant landscape feature that falls well beyond the study area. No significant natural landscape features could be identified to the south or southwestern edges of the study area to help define a physical boundary for a proposed national heritage area.

LAND COVER WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Although land cover and land use practices have changed significantly in Kentucky since Abraham Lincoln's birth in 1809, a rural landscape can be found throughout most of the study area.

Currently, farmland and land in agricultural production make up roughly 45% of the land cover within the study area, while an additional 41% of the land cover is classified as rural. River valleys and remote hollows reflect the physical environment and rural character that Abraham Lincoln would have recognized of his time in Kentucky. Developed/urbanized land cover areas account for roughly 10% of the study area. Louisville, Lexington, Richmond, and Elizabethtown are the most populous urban areas within the study area. There is also notable suburban development throughout Kentucky, which in certain places within the study area has comprised some of the fastest growing places in the state during the first decade of the 2000s (Green and Hagedorn 2011).

State-protected natural areas, such as large nature preserves and wildlife management areas, also support the rural setting within the study area. Ten such natural areas managed by state agencies in Kentucky are found within the study area and provide a window into the native ecology of central Kentucky and contribute to the area's rural character (see table 2). Additionally, certain cultural and historic sites assessed in chapter 4 of this study have retained some rural character, including Farmington Historic Plantation; Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site and Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit; Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate; and others.

Chapter 2: The Kentucky Lincoln Study Area

TABLE 2. STATE-PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Name	Agency	Acreage
Beargrass Creek State Nature Preserve	Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission	41
Blackacre State Nature Preserve	Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission	170
Vernon-Douglas State Nature Preserve	Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission	730
Floradiff State Nature Preserve	Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission	287
John A. Kleber Wildlife Management Area	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	2,334
John C. Williams Wildlife Management Area	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	688
Miller Welch-Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	1,847
T.N. Sullivan Wildlife Management Area	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	146
Tom Dorman State Nature Preserve	Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission	908
Yellowbank Wildlife Management Area	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources	6,775

SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Based on the expanded 17-county study area, demographic information was gathered from the US Census Bureau. These data provide insights into overall characteristics of the population within the study area, and help with understanding population counts as well as major population centers on the landscape. According to the 2010 US census the study area has a total population of 1,601,523 with Jefferson County being the most populous at 741,096. Jefferson County’s population accounts for roughly 46% of the study area population. This is primarily due to the city of Louisville, the largest city in Kentucky. See table 3 for all study area county populations.

TABLE 3. POPULATION BY COUNTY

County	Population
Boyle	28,432
Breckinridge	20,059
Fayette	295,803
Franklin	49,285
Garrard	16,912
Green	11,258
Hancock	8,565
Hardin	105,543
Jefferson	741,096
Jessamine	48,586
LaRue	14,193
Madison	82,916
Mercer	21,331
Nelson	43,437
Oldham	60,316
Shelby	42,074
Washington	11,717
Study Area Total	1,601,523

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

Fayette County, which includes the city of Lexington, is the second most populous county, with a population of 295,803. Three counties within the study area have populations greater than 100,000 (Jefferson – 741,096, Fayette – 295,803, Hardin – 105,543). Roughly 71% of the study area population lives within these three counties. Based on these population statistics and the concentration of the population in three counties, a majority of the study area has a relatively low population and could be considered more rural in nature.

Louisville and Lexington are the two highest-populated urban areas within the study area. Rounding out the top five populated cities within the study area are Richmond, Elizabethtown, and Nicholasville. See table 4 for populations of the largest cities in the study area. Collectively, roughly 61% of the study area population lives within these five cities.

TABLE 4. POPULATION OF LARGEST CITIES IN THE STUDY AREA

City	Population
Louisville-Jefferson	597,337
Lexington-Fayette	295,803
Richmond	31,364
Elizabethtown	28,531
Nicholasville	28,015

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

THE ECONOMICS OF TOURISM IN KENTUCKY

The Commonwealth of Kentucky has a diversified economy, with the largest industry employment occurring in the following industries: trade, transportation, and utilities; government; education and health services; manufacturing; professional and business services; and leisure and hospitality. Tourism is a major industry in Kentucky, so much so that the Commonwealth has established the Kentucky Department of Tourism as well as the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet to promote, track statistics, and manage state tourism efforts. The “Economic Impact of Kentucky’s Travel and Tourism Industry – 2012 and 2013” report released by the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, states:

- The tourism and travel industry contributed over \$12.5 billion to Kentucky’s economy in 2013. Direct expenditures by tourists accounted for over \$7.9 billion of this total—an increase of 2.6 percent since 2012.
- The 2013 tourism industry generated over \$1.3 billion in tax revenues to government—\$1.14 billion to the state and nearly \$168.7 million locally. This is an increase from \$1.23 billion in tax revenues in 2012.
- A total of 175,746 jobs in Kentucky resulted from the industry in 2013—up 1,740 jobs from 2012. Direct expenditures created 122,986 of these jobs.
- The tourism-generated jobs provided over \$2.8 billion in wages to Kentucky workers—an increase of nearly \$72 million from 2012 wages.

HERITAGE TOURISM WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

In order to promote tourism throughout Kentucky, the Kentucky Department of Tourism identifies nine different regions on the state tourism website, each focused on unique regional attractions, local traditions, and state heritage. Most of the study area falls within the north central regions identified as the “Bluegrass Region” and the “Bourbon, Horses & History Region.” Small portions of the study area extend into the “Bluegrass, Blues & Barbeque Region” and “Kentucky’s Southern Shorelines Region” (KDT 2014a). The “Bourbon, Horses & History Region” encompasses the majority of the study area and as the name implies it promotes horse racing and bourbon traditions as well as the history and legacy of Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky. Based on data from the “Economic Impact of Kentucky’s Travel and Tourism Industry – 2012 and 2013” report, the “Bourbon, Horses & History Region” saw travel and tourism expenditures of \$2,434,193, 628 and a tourism employment at 35,592 in this region.

HERITAGE EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH FOLK TRADITIONS

Within the study area, heritage events provide visitors with an opportunity to celebrate and connect to folklife traditions and customs. Kentucky is a state rich with folklife and local traditions; however the primary focus of this feasibility study is to identify and assess the connections of these folklife traditions with a broader understanding of the relationship between Abraham Lincoln and his native Kentucky. Some of the strongest connections and opportunities to experience folklife associated with Abraham Lincoln include the Pioneer Games, which are held at the Lincoln Days festival in

Hodgenville. This is one way local people honor the frontier activities that are traditionally identified with Lincoln, through such activities as railsplitting and fence-building. Even though these pioneer era practices are now obsolete, some people practice them throughout the year to prepare for the games. Other traditions that honor President Lincoln include Boy Scouts and school groups visiting the Lincoln boyhood home and reciting the Gettysburg Address there. Other heritage events are described in the resource narratives in chapter 4, and in the evaluation of criterion 2.

ONGOING HERITAGE TOURISM PROGRAMS

Within the study area, numerous heritage tourism programs were identified and many of these efforts illustrate the role of heritage tourism as an important economic activity in the region. Several Abraham Lincoln- and Civil War-related heritage tourism programs and trails were documented throughout the study area. These efforts include the following:

Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail

Early efforts to establish a tri-state Lincoln Trail through Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky first emerged in the 1960s. It was not until 2009 and the excitement around the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth in Kentucky that the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail was developed and formally established. Visitation to the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail sites has grown in recent years, to more than 400,000 visitors in 2013 (KLHTA 2014). The trail primarily focuses on a collection of sites throughout central Kentucky including

- Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park
- Ashland: The Henry Clay Estate
- Bluegrass Railroad Museum*
- Camp Nelson Civil War Park
- Centre College Lincoln Statue
- Civil War Museum of the Western Theater
- Farmington Historic Plantation
- Filson Historical Society
- Hardin County Lincoln Sites
- Jefferson Davis State Historic Site*
- Joseph Holt Home
- Kentucky Historical Society
- Lincoln Heritage National Scenic Byway
- Lincoln Homestead State Park
- Lincoln Legacy Museum and Statue
- Lincoln Marriage Cabin at Old Fort Harrod State Park
- Lincoln Memorial at Waterfront Park
- Lincoln Memorial University*
- Lincoln Museum
- Mary Todd Lincoln House
- Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site

- State Capitol Rotunda
- White Hall State Historic Site

*Outside the Study Area

Most of these sites and resources fall within the study area of this feasibility study and are analyzed for their association with Abraham Lincoln and their ability to contribute to a strategic assemblage of resources in chapter 4 of this study. Two sites fall outside the study area, the Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee and the Jefferson Davis State Historic Site in the southwestern corner of Kentucky. The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail is managed by the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance.

National Scenic Byways Program

Part of the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, the National Scenic Byways Program is a grassroots-based effort to establish, recognize, preserve, and enhance selected roads based on their archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities. The Lincoln Heritage Scenic Highway has been designated a national scenic byway and runs through the study area. The four key themes for the Lincoln Heritage Scenic Highway include Abraham Lincoln, US History and the Civil War, Bourbon Heritage, and Religious Heritage.

Civil War Discovery Trail

Managed by the Civil War Trust, the Civil War Discovery Trail links more than 600 Civil War-related sites in 32 states to share the legacy and history of the American Civil War. These sites include battlefields, historic sites, museums, forts, research centers, and cemeteries. Fifty-four Civil War-related sites are identified within Kentucky. Many of these sites and resources fall within the study area of this feasibility study and are analyzed for their association with Abraham Lincoln and their ability to contribute to a strategic assemblage of resources in chapter 4 of this study.

RELATED HERITAGE TOURISM PROGRAMS OUTSIDE KENTUCKY

Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area

Located in the state of Illinois, the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area is a 42-county national heritage area that celebrates and interprets the region where Lincoln lived and traveled for more than 30 years of his life, practicing law, running for office, and raising a family before becoming president and moving to Washington, DC. Many of the sites and resources within this national heritage area have a direct association with Abraham Lincoln as he spent the majority of his life in this part of the country. Although it is outside the study area, there may be potential collaborative opportunities with this existing national heritage area in order to promote the legacy of Lincoln and his life on the American frontier.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement and community engagement is an essential part of any national heritage area feasibility study, and is essential to understanding the study area and its resources. Information provided by the public helps guide the study team, helps define the study area, and helps in the identification of potential contributing resources and sites; it is important to the overall evaluation process. Ultimately, the successful designation of a national heritage area requires strong local support and active participation from citizens within the study area. A variety of public engagement strategies were used to provide opportunities for the community to become involved and contribute to the development of this feasibility study.

The feasibility study goals for public engagement included

- promoting public understanding of the national heritage area concept and how national heritage areas are managed
- informing the public about the goals of the feasibility study, the 10 criteria for evaluation, and maximizing their participation as well as local knowledge in the analysis of the study area and resources related to Abraham Lincoln
- assessing overall public support within the study area for a national heritage area designation
- determining if there is local capacity and a commitment from a local coordinating entity to manage a future national heritage area within the study area

To introduce the public to the concept of a national heritage area and gather community input on the feasibility study, a series of public meetings and open houses were held in locations throughout the study area. A total of 70 people attended the six public meetings held in January 2010. These meetings were conducted in Elizabethtown, Hodgenville, Louisville (two meetings), Nicholasville, and Lexington, Kentucky. The national heritage area concept and feasibility study process were presented to the public. The public was invited to provide comments on the feasibility study process and to suggest which counties and resources should be included in the study area. The comments were received in person at these meetings as well as through available comment cards.

Additional efforts to promote public involvement and seek comments included a project website, two newsletters, comment cards, media announcements, and articles. The NPS planning website contained study information and allowed the public to submit input online. This project website may be found at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/keli>. Thirty-six public comments were received electronically through this website. A public comment report may be referenced in appendix B.

Preliminary feasibility study findings were drafted focusing primarily on the 11-county area and the 17 resources identified in the feasibility study authorizing legislation. Public comments encouraged the study team to evaluate additional sites, resources, and counties outside the initial scope of the feasibility study authorizing legislation. While the National Park Service was directed by Congress to study the feasibility of the key sites within the proposed 11-county boundary and was limited to the specific sites identified in the legislation, the NPS program office eventually determined that expanding the study to include additional resources would be instrumental for determining whether heritage area designation was warranted.

Based on this guidance, additional focus group meetings were held in March 2013 to solicit supplemental information on additional sites that could contribute to an assemblage of resources within the study area. These meetings provided valuable information and helped broaden the overall scope of the feasibility study. A comprehensive inventory and analysis of contributing resources is presented in chapter 4 of this feasibility study. Over the life of the feasibility study, there has been a high level of sustained public involvement and community engagement.

WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THE PUBLIC

The majority of public comments received in person, online, or by mail were strongly supportive of the designation of the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area. Many of the public comments indicated that sites working to keep Abraham Lincoln's Kentucky legacy alive would benefit from additional support and that communities would take great pride in national heritage area designation. Numerous comments pointed out the positive effects of national designation, including growth in tourism and associated benefits to the local economy; preservation of related resources and enrichment of the legacy of the Lincoln heritage; enhanced educational opportunities for residents and visitors; encouragement to young people to strive for higher goals, as Abraham Lincoln did; and strengthening the friendly image that outsiders have of Kentucky through visiting the sites and experiencing "Kentucky hospitality."

Along with the general support for national heritage area designation and the need for including additional resources voiced during public scoping, comments and letters of support were also submitted recognizing the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance as the proposed management entity. Please reference appendix D for copies of these letters of support.

The feasibility study considered the public comments not only in determining the level of public support for national heritage area designation, but also in identifying the nationally important story of Abraham Lincoln and his legacy to the region. A primary concern that emerged through this process was the portrayal of African American history and slavery in the region. Any proposed national heritage area would take an inclusive approach to telling these stories. Because this feasibility study focuses on Abraham Lincoln and his connections to Kentucky, the topic of slavery would be a primary theme. The historic overview, significance, and potential interpretive themes for the study area are presented in chapter 3 of this feasibility study.

A large percentage of comments indicated that the initial sites and 11-county boundary area based on the feasibility study authorizing legislation was appropriate, but strongly encouraged the study team to consider additional resources and counties outside this initial scope of the study. As mentioned earlier, these additional sites and resources were moved forward in the feasibility study and are analyzed in chapter 4 of this study. The study area boundary was also reconsidered as a result of analyzing the additional resources.

Key concerns that emerged through the public participation process included potential local tax increases, potential loss of existing partnerships for preservation efforts, changes in land ownership, and an overshadowing of other historic events and people in the counties. Because of the nature of national heritage areas, many of these concerns do not apply. Designation does not result in any transfers of landownership and would not directly result in tax increases unless they were enacted by local governments.

Through public comment and community engagement, the study team was able to gauge a strong level of local support, develop the national importance and key interpretive themes of the study area, and identify a potential management entity in the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance.

SUMMARY

The information and data presented in this chapter enable the study team to better understand the potential of the study area to be recognized as a national heritage area. Exploring the natural landscape and socioeconomic characteristics of the study area provides insights into what a proposed national heritage area and its boundary may look like. Understanding local tourism trends provides insights into the role of a proposed national heritage area within the local, state, and regional economies. Engaging the public and seeking feedback on the feasibility study process provides insights into the level of local support and the potential long-term success of any proposed national heritage area. This information provides a valuable tool in assessing the 10 criteria for evaluating the feasibility and suitability of national heritage area designation in chapter 5 of this feasibility study.

National Importance and Interpretive Themes Framework

3



*Lincoln Marriage Temple, Old Fort Harrod State Park,
Image provided by the KLHTA.*



*Washington County Courthouse,
Image provided by the KLHTA*



*Mary Todd Lincoln House,
Image courtesy of Russell and Sydney Poore*



*Lincoln Marriage Temple, Old Fort Harrod State Park,
Image provided by the KLHTA*

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE STUDY AREA

INTRODUCTION

The following is a brief historical overview of the relationship between Kentucky and Abraham Lincoln. The purpose of this narrative is to provide a concise summary of the historical events associated with Kentucky that may have a connection or are linked to Abraham Lincoln as identified through research and public scoping conducted during the feasibility study process. The goal of this historical overview is two-fold: to highlight key historic events within the study area that may inform our understanding of the relationship between Kentucky and Abraham Lincoln, and to provide a foundation for teasing out the most important resources within the study area that would support an interpretive framework and serve as the basis for a national heritage area.

To this end, this history is relatively brief. It is not intended to be a comprehensive, in-depth history of either the Commonwealth of Kentucky or Abraham Lincoln, and undoubtedly, it does not include numerous events or aspects in local history that have occurred within the study area. This historic context has been reviewed and improved by subject matter experts from within and outside of the study area.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

“What a buzzel is amongst people about Kentucke? To hear people speak of it one would think that it was a new found paradise.”—Unknown frontier minister, 1775 (Harrison and Klotter 1997)

The Kentucky Frontier

For many Americans living in the last decades of the 18th century, the land known as “Kentucke” represented the essence of the frontier, and the endless promise of America. In the decades following the British victory in the French and Indian War, Americans poured over the Appalachian crest to settle in what was commonly known as “the Ohio Country,” occupying Indian land by cobbling together convenient treaties or ignoring tribal rights altogether. Following the conclusion of the 1775 Sycamore Shoals land purchase from the Cherokee nation in 1775, the Cherokee chief Oconostota offered Daniel Boone a more ominous assessment of Kentucky’s potential. “Brother, we have given you a fine land, but you will have much trouble settling it.”

American emigrants followed the Wilderness Road through the Cumberland Gap to the Bluegrass Country at the western foot of the Appalachians. In this rich country bordered by the mountains and the Ohio River, they found abundant available land, seemingly limitless game, and, as Oconostota predicted, plenty of trouble. The Shawnee Nation that claimed the land gave no credence to Cherokee land deals and they bitterly resisted the encroachments of the American “Long Rifles” from across the mountains. The British fueled the Shawnee resistance and hundreds of Americans were killed or captured in the wars that dragged on long after the end of the Revolution.

Even given the foreseen troubles, Kentucky proved to be, if not a new-found paradise, a land of new and varied opportunity. So much so, in fact, that its rapid growth made it the second state added to the union after the original 13. On June 1, 1792, Kentucky became the westernmost state in the Union, jutting into the trans-Appalachian frontier like the vanguard of an invading army.

The Lincolns in Kentucky

Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin¹ on the Sinking Spring Farm near Hodgenville, Kentucky, on February 12, 1809. The boy represented the third and last generation of Lincolns in Kentucky. His father, Thomas Lincoln, was the son of another Abraham Lincoln, a militia captain who led a large party of settlers west through the Cumberland Gap to Kentucky in the last years of the American Revolution. Captain Abraham Lincoln was slain by Shawnee Indian raiders in 1786. Young Thomas Lincoln witnessed both his father's killing and that of his slayer, who was shot dead by his older brother Mordecai.

Thomas Lincoln's future prospects suffered as a result of his father's death. His older brother inherited his father's estate, and by the age of 19 Thomas was on the road, looking for work as a farmhand and itinerant carpenter. He married Nancy Hanks, who by all accounts was lively and highly intelligent. Thomas Lincoln's prospects were looking up and the acquisition of the Sinking Spring Farm was one more step toward establishing his place in the world.

Thomas developed a reputation as a skilled carpenter and was remembered by his son as a story teller of extraordinary ability and wit. Unfortunately, his talents did not carry over into business. He lost the Sinking Spring Farm in 1812 in a title dispute² and moved his family a few miles east to a new farm on Knob Creek. Here young Abraham first learned the backbreaking reality of farming in the 19th century, which undoubtedly heightened his interest in business, law, and politics.

During the first half of the 19th century, Kentucky experienced rapid growth due to its rich resource base, its position on the Ohio River, and its strategic position between the northern states and the Deep South. Because of the state's position in this middle ground, Kentucky mirrored the complexities of the United States in the early and mid-19th century, including its conflicted embrace of slavery.

1. The story of Lincoln's rise from his birthplace log cabin to the highest office in the nation holds a special place in America's national memory. Lincoln's log cabin origins have been used variously to serve social, ideological, and political purposes since even before he was elected president. According to historian Barry Schwartz, author of *Abraham Lincoln and the Forge of National Memory*, the expression "from the log cabin to the white house" is "widely used and understood," symbolizing "the chance of everyone to advance through hard work." Although scholars continue to debate whether the circumstances of Lincoln's birth constitute a "log cabin myth" or a legitimate expression of the American Dream, it is clear that Lincoln's birth on the Kentucky frontier holds a special place in America's national ethos.

2. The loss of title for the Sinking Spring Farm understandably rankled Thomas Lincoln for years afterward and it gnawed at his son as well. Many years later Abraham Lincoln wrote, "Never stir up litigation. A worse man can scarcely be found than one who does this. Who can be more nearly a fiend than he who habitually overhauls the register of deeds in search of defects in titles, whereon to stir up strife, and put money in his pocket? A moral tone ought to be infused into the profession which should drive such men out of it." (Abraham Lincoln, "Notes for a Law Lecture" July 1, 1850; *Collected Works*, Vol. 2, pp. 81–82)

Kentucky and Slavery

A border slave state, Kentucky was home to a rich agricultural tradition that established it as one of the leading horse breeding states in the Union. While the numbers of slaves gradually declined as part of Kentucky's overall labor force, slaves as a commodity grew in importance as Kentucky exported enslaved African Americans to the cotton, sugar, and rice plantations of the Deep South. The state as a result remained committed to defending slavery as a national social and economic necessity.

At the same time, Kentucky shared much in common with the free states of the North. Kentucky's economy was more diverse than the states of the Deep South. Kentucky had the longest border on the Ohio River of any state and its reliance on commerce, manufacturing, distilling, hemp production, railroad development, and Louisville's emergence as a river port tied it to the complex economic development of the North. Kentucky also wrestled with the tortuous issue of slavery in a way that would have been utterly foreign in the Deep South.

Abraham Lincoln and Slavery

As with many Kentuckians, Abraham Lincoln's father and mother were opposed to slavery and belonged to a Separate Baptist³ congregation that found human bondage incompatible with Christian teachings. Combined with subsequent setbacks in farming, including the loss of the Knob Creek Farm, the issue of slavery motivated the Lincolns to move on, across the Ohio River to the free state of Indiana and the company of some of the thousands of anti-slavery Southerners who over time fled Kentucky and other southern states to escape the blighted, "peculiar institution" of slavery.⁴ Lincoln remembered later that his family had left Kentucky "partly on account of slavery." The image of slavery, he later remarked, was one "that had the power to make him miserable."

The Lincolns in Indiana continued the life they had lived in Kentucky, unremitting labor in subsistence farming. Here Lincoln received the first of the many crushing blows in his life when his mother died in 1818. Thomas returned to Elizabethtown, Kentucky, where he married the widow Sarah Bush Johnston, on December 2, 1819. Thomas then took his new wife across the river to the farm in Indiana. Sarah's brother had sold Thomas the Sinking Spring Farm. The family moved to Illinois in 1830 and the following year, the 22-year old Lincoln had come of age and left the farm and his family behind. He moved west and settled in the village of New Salem on the Sangamon River. Here he worked, began his first tentative steps into politics, and studied for the law.

It is not known with certainty when Lincoln first confronted the reality of slavery. It is reported that he saw slaves in chains on the road near the Knob Creek Farm but opposition to the institution was in any case fundamental to his earliest upbringing. However, crossing the Ohio

3. The Separate Baptists trace their origins to the First Great Awakening of the 1730s and 1740s. Although the Separate Baptist movement began in New England, Separate Baptists made their way west and south to the Appalachian frontier. They were a forerunner of the Southern Baptists. (William Warren Sweet, *Religion on the American Frontier. The Baptists, 1783-1830*. Cooper Square Publishers, Inc. New York, 1964)

4. "In his debate with [Stephen] Douglas, Abraham Lincoln must have recalled his father's removal from a slave state to a free state when he said: 'How many Democrats are there about here who have left slave states and come into the free state of Illinois to get rid of the institution of slavery?' One voice interrupted here and said a thousand, another added one thousand and one, to which Lincoln responded, 'I reckon there are a thousand and one.'" (Louis A. Warren, *The Slavery Atmosphere of Lincoln's Youth*. Lincolniana Publishers, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1933)

River did not remove him entirely from pro-slavery sentiments. Lincoln was only one of many Kentuckians who settled on the Illinois frontier. Among them was Joshua Speed, whom Lincoln met in the growing city of Springfield in 1839. Speed became his roommate, closest confidant, and lifelong best friend. Speed came from a prominent slave-holding family with a large estate near Louisville, Kentucky. Lincoln visited there and witnessed slavery, yet their friendship was somehow able to withstand their opposing views on the question of slavery. Years after they first met, Lincoln wrote to Speed that

You know I dislike slavery; and you fully admit the abstract wrong of it. ... I also acknowledge your rights and my obligations, under the constitution, in regard to your slaves. I confess I hate to see the poor creatures hunted down, and caught, and carried back to their stripes, and unrewarded toils; but I bite my lip and keep quiet. In 1841 you and I had together a tedious low-water trip, on a Steam Boat from Louisville to St. Louis. You may remember, as I well do, that from Louisville to the mouth of the Ohio, there were, on board, ten or a dozen slaves, shackled together with irons. That sight was a continued torment to me; and I see something like it every time I touch the Ohio, or any other slave-border. It is hardly fair for you to assume, that I have no interest in a thing which has, and continually exercises, the power of making me miserable. You ought rather to appreciate how much the great body of the Northern people do crucify their feelings.⁵

Through Speed, Lincoln met many other Kentucky expatriates in Springfield. These included William Herndon and Benjamin S. Edwards, whose son Ninian Edwards, Jr., later became Abraham Lincoln's brother-in-law. Ninian Edwards married Elizabeth Porter Todd, Mary Todd Lincoln's sister. Lincoln met Mary Todd at the Edwards home. Lincoln began his courtship of Mary in Springfield and married her in 1839.

The visits Abraham Lincoln made to Speed's home and the family's 550-acre plantation in Louisville and to the Todd home in Lexington provided both his most intense exposure to the institution of slavery as an adult and his most personal contact with the enslaved. At Farmington he saw between 45 and 60 slaves working the plantation fields. In Lexington he saw his in-laws' house servants, and the town square, "Cheapside," was home to the largest slave auction site in Kentucky. Outside his trips down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers as a young man, most of what Lincoln knew or felt about slavery on a personal level he learned in Kentucky.

Lincoln remained steadfast in his opposition to slavery throughout his entire life. However, his commitment to black civil rights beyond freedom from bondage is not so clear cut. Lincoln had grave doubts regarding the potential of former slaves assimilating into mainstream American society. He was not an abolitionist and regarded the "radical" abolitionists as nearly as grave a threat to the Union as the growing secessionist movement in the South. He certainly never went so far as to even hint at complete equality between white and black Americans. During the 1858 Senate campaign debates with Stephen Douglas, "Lincoln avowed that he had 'no purpose to introduce political and social equality between the white and black races.' He had never been in favor 'of making voters or jurors of negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry. ... I agree with Judge Douglas that he is not my equal in many respects—certainly not in color, perhaps not in moral and intellectual endowment. But in the right to eat bread, without leave of anybody else, which his own hand earns, he is my equal and the equal of Judge Douglas, and the equal of every living man'" (Goodwin 2006).

5. Letter from Abraham Lincoln to Joshua Speed, 1855.

His views on slavery and emancipation were substantially influenced first by renowned Kentucky statesman, Henry Clay, the man who also inspired his views on politics and economics. Clay was a founder of the American Colonization Society, which advocated for the “return” of freed slaves to Africa. Ignoring the fact that the vast majority of African Americans, free and enslaved, were native born, the society pushed for gradually emancipating slaves and shipping them to Liberia on the west coast of Africa. Before it ended its work, the society had successfully transported 13,000 former slaves to the utterly foreign lands of West Africa.

Lincoln was inspired by the mission and efforts of the society.⁶ He saw it as a viable solution to the most intractable problem facing the United States, one that threatened the nation’s identity and existence. “My first impulse would be to free all the slaves, and send them to Liberia, to their own native land” (Goodwin 2006). He continued to advocate for African American emigration to Liberia throughout his political career, including the early years of his presidency. Lincoln at various times also supported the concept of compensated emancipation, which entailed paying slave owners to liberate their slaves. This proposal received little support in either the North or South.

Lincoln’s Kentucky Political Influences, the Whig Party

Unlike his father, Abraham Lincoln was driven by a relentless ambition, what his later law partner, Kentucky native William Herndon, referred to as “the little engine that knew no rest.” He read endlessly and essentially educated himself while he engaged in a variety of ways to make a living from farming to crewing on river flatboats to storekeeping, and finally, law and politics. While living in Springfield, Illinois, Lincoln made the most of his opportunities. He entered politics, became a member of the Whig Party, a forerunner of the Republican Party, and embraced the Whig philosophy of Kentuckian Henry Clay, one of the country’s most influential political figures during the first half of the 19th century.

Abraham Lincoln gave his only political speech in Kentucky in 1840 in support of the Whig presidential candidate William Henry Harrison at the Union County Courthouse. In the Illinois legislature, Lincoln hoped to leave a similar imprint by carrying forward the Whig Party platform and establishing an ambitious program of internal improvements.⁷

In addition to Henry Clay, the other important Kentucky influences on Lincoln’s politics were Joshua Speed and his family, and Lincoln’s wife’s family. His father-in-law Robert Todd was a prominent figure in the Kentucky Whig Party who had served in the Kentucky House and Senate and counted Henry Clay among his closest friends and allies. Lincoln’s wife Mary Todd was both highly intelligent and well educated, an avid political spectator who absorbed Whig ideology through the frequent political functions at her father’s Lexington home. Described by her own sister as a “violent little Whig,” Mary embraced Whig politics with a fervor that was uncharacteristic of women during that period.⁸

6. Lincoln wrote in a eulogy for Henry Clay in 1852 that “If as the friends of colonization hope, the present and coming generations of our countrymen shall by any means, succeed in freeing our land from the dangerous presence of slavery; and, at the same time, in restoring a captive people to their long-lost father-land, with bright prospects for the future; and this too, so gradually, that neither races nor individuals shall have suffered by the change, it will indeed be a glorious consummation.”

7. “Lincoln likened his politics to an ‘old woman’s dance – short and sweet.’ He stood for three simple ideas: a national bank, a protective tariff, and a system for internal improvements. (Doris Kearns Goodwin, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, p. 90–91)

8. Mary wrote a friend in 1840 about the outcome of the 1840 presidential election, “I supposed like the rest of us *Whigs*, you have been rejoicing in the recent election of General [William Henry] Harrison, a cause that has

It was a bitter irony of history that the Whig Party, so much a creation of Henry Clay's political genius, was destroyed, along with the Missouri Compromise of 1820, by the last of Clay's political constructs, the Compromise of 1850. The compromise, the subsequent Kansas–Nebraska Act, and its concept of popular sovereignty undermined the Whig Party in the North and destroyed its base in the South. Many northern Whigs, including Abraham Lincoln, gravitated to the Republican Party, a sectional, anti-slavery party that emerged as a national political force in less than three years with Lincoln ultimately serving as its standard bearer in 1860. The Republican Party won that year's bitterly contested presidential election with a candidate who opposed the expansion of slavery and who could count on virtually no support south of the Ohio River.

The Presidential Election of 1860

There is no doubt that Kentucky's extraordinary circumstances were critical to the development of Lincoln's political strategy and his 1860 presidential campaign platform. In the speech he delivered in Cincinnati after his inauguration, the president-elect sent a message across the Ohio River to the citizens of Kentucky.

We mean to leave you alone, and in no way to interfere with your institution; to abide by all and every compromise of the constitution, . . . We mean to remember that you are as good as we; that there is no difference between us, other than the difference of circumstances. We mean to recognize, and bear in mind always, that you have as good hearts in your bosoms as other people, or as we claim to have, and treat you accordingly. . . . Fellow citizens of Kentucky—friends—brethren, may I call you—in my new position, I see no occasion, and feel no inclination, to retract a word of this. If it shall not be made good, be assured, the fault shall not be mine.

The people of Kentucky voiced their dedication to preserving the Union with a plurality of voters supporting the Constitutional Union Party in the fateful presidential election of 1860. In doing so, the Kentucky electorate returned a near-unanimous repudiation of Abraham Lincoln and the Republican Party. The president-elect received less than 1% of the popular vote in the state. However, Kentucky also rejected the other Kentuckian in the race, Vice President John C. Breckinridge, the state's rights candidate who won nearly the entire South. Reflecting the compromising spirit of Henry Clay, the people of Kentucky hoped to hammer out one more compromise over slavery. The state's last-ditch attempt to remain neutral in 1861 dramatically illustrates its divided loyalties and the quixotic hope of avoiding what promised to be a bloody sectional conflict.

Lincoln, Kentucky, and the American Civil War

When the Civil War erupted in 1861, the four border states of Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, and Kentucky were the fulcrum on which the outcome of the war balanced. Because of its size, population, and strategic location on the Ohio River, Kentucky, “was the most important of the four loyal slaves states” (Goodwin 2006) and therefore particularly critical to the Union cause.⁹ Its

excited such deep interest in the nation and one of such vital importance to our prosperity – This fall I have become quite a *politician*, rather an unladylike profession, yet at such a *crisis*, whose heart could remain untouched while the energies of all were called in question.” (Doris Kearns Goodwin, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, p. 95)

9. “In 1861, Kentucky was relatively a much larger state by population than it is today. In the House of Representatives, which was then just over half its present size, Kentucky had ten seats; now it has six. In

central location made it the ideal staging area from which either side could launch military incursions into enemy territory. Its large population was a valuable reservoir of troops.

Despite the absence of any real military experience, Abraham Lincoln emerged during the war as one of the keenest military strategists in American history. He understood at the outset the significant political and military obstacles to a successful fight to restore the Union. Among the most significant of these was the special nature of the border states and how they would react to the secession of the states in the Deep South.¹⁰ Slavery was legal in five of the states. Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri formed a line from the Chesapeake Bay to the Kansas border. For months after South Carolina seceded, these border states wavered or vainly attempted to declare neutrality in the coming conflagration.

Lincoln was keenly sensitive to his precarious political position in Kentucky. His dismal showing in the state's presidential election, the Confederate allegiances of tens of thousands of Kentuckians, and the actions of his wife's family reminded him that his, and the Union's hold on the state was tenuous at best. President Lincoln was acutely aware of the volatile situation in the border states and particularly that of Kentucky, due to his long association with the state's Whig Party, his family relations, and his continued association with Kentuckians in Springfield. It is no coincidence that of the 13 men who served in Lincoln's cabinets, 3 were from the critical border slave states of Kentucky and Missouri (and 2 more were from the northern border states). Lincoln wrote in the early months of the war that "I think to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the whole game. Kentucky gone, we cannot hold Missouri, nor, as I think, Maryland. These all against us and the job on our hands is too large for us. We would as well consent to separation at once, including the surrender of this capitol."¹¹

When the reckless Union general and abolitionist John C. Fremont threatened to turn the Civil War in Missouri into war to liberate slaves, Lincoln urged him to desist, stating that such a move would "certainly alarm our Southern Union friends and . . . perhaps ruin our rather fair prospects for Kentucky."¹² Mindful of Fremont's personal charisma and political aspirations and connections, the president initially tread carefully with the general, despite the enormous consequences of losing Kentucky to the Confederacy. "Allow me therefore to ask, that you will of your own motion, modify the paragraph so as to conform" [with the recent Confiscation Act of Congress].¹³ A panicked Joshua Speed wrote Lincoln that Fremont's proclamation "will crush out

population, Kentucky ranked ninth in the Union; in the value of livestock, fifth; in the value of farms, seventy; in the value of manufactures, fifteenth. In an era when armies still depended heavily upon horses for mobility, Kentucky's horses and mules were of inestimable value. The diversified agriculture of the state produced surpluses of corn, wheat, hemp, and flax. . . . If Kentucky joined the Confederacy, the South would have a good defense line on the Ohio River. On the other hand, a southern army poised in Kentucky would threaten to divide the North by driving to the Great Lakes." (Harrison and Klotter, *A New History of Kentucky*, p. 190)

10. While the term "border state" in the context of the Civil War refers to the northernmost slave states, the northern border states along the Ohio River, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, presented complications of their own. All were reliably for the Union, but each of them harbored substantial numbers of former Southerners and Democrats who were sympathetic to the Confederate cause. These formed the core of the so-called "Copperhead" movement that served as the core of northern resistance to the Union war effort.

11. Abraham Lincoln in a letter to Orville Browning, September 22, 1861. Cited in Anne E. Marshall, *Creating a Confederate Kentucky: The Lost Cause and Civil War Memory in a Border State*. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, p. 22.

12. "The Lincoln administration wrestled with the idea of authorizing the recruitment of black troops, concerned that such a move would prompt the border states to secede. When Gen. John C. Fremont in Missouri and Gen. David Hunter in South Carolina issued proclamations that emancipated slaves in their military regions and permitted them to enlist, their superiors sternly revoked their orders."

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war/>

13. A short time later, Lincoln ordered the insubordinate Fremont to rescind his order freeing confiscated slaves. (Doris Kearns Goodwin, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, p. 390)

every vestige of a union party in the state—I perhaps and a few others will be left alone.” Speed reminded the president that there were “from 180 to 200,000 slaves” in Kentucky, of whom only 20,000 belonged to Confederates . . . So fixed is public sentiment in this state against freeing negroes and allowing negroes to be emancipated and remain among us, that you might as well attack the freedom of worship in the north . . . as to wage war in a slave state on such a principle” (Goodwin 2006).

Southern sympathizers created a provincial state government and the Confederacy dedicated substantial forces and other resources in its efforts to pull Kentucky into its sphere, including a major invasion in 1862. The Confederates wanted the state for many of the same reasons that the Union was determined to hold it—troops, supplies, and its strategic location on the Ohio River.¹⁴

Further complicating Lincoln’s position in Kentucky were his “rebel kin” who served in the Confederate Army. When Lincoln’s brother-in-law and close friend, Confederate Brigadier Benjamin Helm was killed at the Battle of Chickamauga, the president was devastated.¹⁵ Three of Mary Todd Lincoln’s brothers (and Lincoln’s brothers-in-law) were killed at the Battles of Shiloh, Vicksburg, and Baton Rouge. Visits to the White House of his rebel relatives provoked harsh criticism of him and his wife as the war’s staggering carnage inflamed anger toward the rebel states.¹⁶ Despite these difficulties, the president never lost sight of Kentucky’s vital importance and this influenced his conduct of the war from beginning to end.¹⁷ He employed all his political skill and deployed large numbers of Union troops that were in demand in other theaters to keep the state in the Union.

By the summer of 1862, the appalling casualties suffered by Union forces combined with increasing pressure from abolitionist leaders such as Frederick Douglass and some Union army commanders to create momentum for the recruitment and arming of troops from among freed slaves. Camp Nelson, near Lexington, Kentucky, quickly developed into the largest recruitment, mustering, and training center for African American troops in Kentucky and one of the largest in the United States, as well as a large refugee camp for slaves fleeing to freedom. Nearly 80,000 Union troops, black and white, were deployed to Camp Nelson over the course of the war. Again, however, the prospect of recruiting freed slaves into the Union Army stirred particular outrage and led Union officials to delay enlisting African Americans in Kentucky until the final stage of the war.

When his attorney general Edward Bates resigned in November 1864, Lincoln looked to Kentucky for his replacement. “To replace Bates, Lincoln felt he had to find a man from one of the border states. ‘My cabinet has shrunk up North, and I must find a Southern man,’ he wrote to an associate (Goodwin 2006). His first choice was Joseph Holt, Judge Advocate General of the Union Army, a Kentuckian, who had previously served as postmaster general and secretary of war

14. Lincoln famously commented with his usual combination of humor and keen insight that, “I hope God is on our side but we must have Kentucky!”

15. Judge David Davis commented that he “never saw Mr. Lincoln more moved than when he heard that his young brother-in-law, Ben Hardin Helm . . . had been killed. I saw how grief-stricken he was . . . so I closed the door and left him alone.” (Doris Kearns Goodwin, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, p. 590)

16. Helm’s wife and Mary’s sister Emilie visited the White House on a presidential pass in 1864. In her request for a pass, Emilie wrote the president that “I have been a quiet citizen and request only the right which humanity and justice always gives to widows and orphans. I also would remind you that your *minnie* bullets have made us what we are.” After meeting Emilie in the White House, Union General Dan Sickles sternly upbraided his commander in chief. “You should not have that rebel in your house.” (Doris Kearns Goodwin, *Team of Rivals, The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, p. 591)

17. Lincoln had also commented on another occasion with his usual combination of humor and keen insight that, “I hope God is on our side but we must have Kentucky!”

in the Buchanan administration. Holt declined the nomination and recommended Joshua Speed's brother James, a Kentuckian and staunch Unionist.¹⁸

Kentucky remained in the Union throughout the war but its people paid a heavy price for their loyalty. Engagements between Confederate raiders and Union forces destroyed substantial amounts of the state's infrastructure. Union military and political officials alienated many Kentuckians with draconian policies directed at suspected Southern sympathizers and undoubtedly drove many neutral Kentuckians into the Confederate camp. The Emancipation Proclamation infuriated many Kentuckians who joined the fight to preserve the Union but felt strongly that the federal government had no authority to attack slavery in any state, whether in rebellion or not. The prospect of recruiting freed slaves into the Union Army stirred particular outrage and led Union officials to delay enlisting African Americans in Kentucky until the final stages of the war. To add insult to injury, as a "victorious" Union state, Kentucky received little or no federal aid during the Reconstruction era. The injury, of course, was the damage to Kentucky's landscape and productive capacity and the resulting decline of the state's economy.

"The decline in the number of farm workers, both black and white, had a devastating effect on agricultural production . . . because of the labor shortage, the state's acres under cultivation declined by some four million in 1865. Hemp production fell by over 80 percent, tobacco fell by 57 percent, wheat by 63 percent, barley by 15 percent. . .Horses in declined from 388,000 in 1861 to 299,000 in 1865; mules from 95,000 to 58,000; cattle from 692,000 to 520,000" (Harrison and Klotter 1997).

The Civil War's nearly disastrous impact on Kentucky undoubtedly alienated the state's collective memory of Abraham Lincoln. Many disillusioned Kentuckians embraced the South's "Lost Cause" in the postwar era. Kentucky's post-war memorialization of its Union and Confederate past was unique but at the same time sheds light on the larger American experience of Civil War reconciliation. Even though Kentuckians who served in the Union Army outnumbered Kentucky Confederates by more than two to one, Confederate war memorials predominate in the state. While turning its attention southward, Kentucky shifted away from the industrial development that substantially defined America's post-Civil War economy.

Remembering Lincoln and the Civil War

Following the American Civil War, reconciliation movements had begun to bring white Union and Confederate veterans together in efforts to heal old wounds and build a shared memory of the war and its sacrifices. Unfortunately, these shared recollections universally excluded the memory of black veterans' contributions to the Union victory, any recognition of slavery as the cause of the war, or the racial prejudice that profoundly shaped American culture in the post-Civil War decades. They did, however, open the door for Kentuckians to recall their state's deep and complex association with Abraham Lincoln and his legacy.

The restoration of Lincoln to Kentucky's collective memory took a major step forward in 1909 to 1911 when Kentucky created the nation's first monument to Lincoln at the site of his birth a century before. The centennial of Lincoln's birth led to the creation of the monument at the Sinking Spring Farm but it was intended to commemorate national reconciliation, not the victory that saved the Union. Significantly, the effort to memorialize Lincoln's birthplace was a national effort, not one led by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. For much of the 20th century, Kentucky

18. As Judge Advocate General, Holt served as the prosecuting attorney in the trial of the Lincoln assassination conspirators.

continued to struggle with the memory of Lincoln and his legacy in the state. However, as the civil rights movement awakened a nation to the legacy of the Civil War, the people of Kentucky began to reconcile with its memory of the war and with that of Abraham Lincoln, its most famous son.

There is, however, no better evidence of the broadening historical memory than Kentucky's efforts to reclaim Abraham Lincoln on the 200th anniversary of his birth. On one level, it is not surprising that in the twentieth-first century state officials and citizens alike might be swept up in the national excitement surrounding Lincoln's birthday. But such positive public outpouring does mark a sea change in regard for the sixteenth president—one that even he would recognize if he were to come back to see it. As a presidential candidate in 1860, Lincoln briefly considered making a campaign stop in Kentucky. Though he knew he had no chance of winning the state, he told a friend: "A visit to the land of my nativity might be pleasant," but he followed up this wistful sentiment with a dose of humorous realism when he pondered: "Would not the people lynch me?" (Marshall 2010).

With the celebration of his birth bicentennial in 2009, Lincoln could rest assured that his native state had at last embraced his memory and legacy.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS AND INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Based on the historic overview, the study team finds that Abraham Lincoln's relationship to Kentucky is part of a nationally important story. The proposed Abraham Lincoln Kentucky National Heritage Area may support a nationally important story through the study area's association with Abraham Lincoln's birth on the Kentucky frontier, his family and personal ties to Kentucky, and his evolving political views as well as American Civil War strategy during his presidency. His family life, friendships, as well as his views on slavery, politics, economics, and the conduct of the American Civil War were all influenced by his experiences and associations with the people, politics, and economy of Kentucky.

In order to evaluate the feasibility of national heritage area designation, significance statements and interpretive themes based on the nationally important story were developed. Significant statements and interpretive themes provide a lens for evaluating the ability of resources in the study area to directly connect visitors to the life of Abraham Lincoln and his experiences in Kentucky.

Significance statements express why the study area is nationally important and possesses exceptional values or qualities in a larger regional and national context. These significance statements are concise, factual statements that are grounded in scholarly inquiry and consensus. The proposed significance statements, identified below, capture the national importance of the study area for its association with Abraham Lincoln and his profound personal, professional, and political relationship with his native Kentucky.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS

- Born in February 1809 on the Kentucky Frontier, Abraham Lincoln is one of the most recognized figures in American history, serving as the 16th president of the United States during the American Civil War. From these humble beginnings in a log cabin to the highest office in the land, Abraham Lincoln embodies the American spirit of self-determination that continues to inspire us today.
- Although he left the state at an early age, Abraham Lincoln maintained ties to Kentucky through his marriage to Mary Todd and many of his close friends and associates. Kentuckians continued to influence Abraham Lincoln throughout his life and presidency; these experiences shaped a man who, in turn, shaped our national destiny.
- Kentucky's position as a border state and a slave-holding state that sided with the Union during the American Civil War influenced Abraham Lincoln's stance on slavery, the emergence of his political ideology, and the development of his military as well as political strategies during the American Civil War. Lincoln was deeply disturbed by slavery, which he saw for the first time in Kentucky.

INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Interpretive themes are the key stories that further elaborate on the most important ideas or concepts about the significance while communicating why these stories are important today. Interpretive themes provide the connections that people can use to understand the importance of an area and its resources. In other words, themes “represent” the broader stories that integrate the collection of individual resources so that they can be seen within the context of the whole. Themes are the tool used to tie resources to the larger ideas, meaning, and values of which they are a part. They are the building blocks, the core content, of an interpretive program, which is central to the national heritage area concept.

An important part of evaluating the potential success of a national heritage area is the determination of potential themes within the feasibility study area. A set of themes was created in preparation of the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln bicentennial and set the foundation for the development of the themes explored in this feasibility study. Building upon this initial work a survey of possible themes was conducted in the fall of 2009. The information gathered from numerous stakeholders, subject matter experts, and the public provided insights into the further development of the heritage area themes through 2014. Through this process five primary themes capture the stories to be shared with visitors. The relationship between the five interpretive themes and the significance statements identified above is illustrated in “Table 5. Interpretive Theme – Significance Statement Matrix.”

Theme A

Lincoln’s birthplace, family, and friends in Kentucky — Abraham Lincoln’s Kentucky family and friends substantially influenced his views on slavery, politics, and his perceptions of Southern culture and the South’s dedication to national unity.

Relationship to Significance Statement

This theme focuses on the Lincoln family as well as Lincoln’s friends and associates in Kentucky. Kentuckians influenced Abraham Lincoln’s personal development throughout his life from childhood until his death. Theme A has a strong relationship to the first and second significance statement as it reveals the story of Lincoln’s long and complex personal and professional relationship with the Kentuckians who played a formative role in his growth as a national political figure.

Relationship to the Nationally Important Story

In 1782, Abraham Lincoln’s grandfather, Captain Abraham Lincoln, brought his family through the Cumberland Gap to the frontier of Kentucky. Shortly after settling in what became Washington County, Captain Lincoln was killed by American Indians, and his holdings were left to his oldest son, Mordecai. Despite the tragic turn of events, the Lincoln family stayed in Kentucky, and one of the sons, Thomas Lincoln, became a carpenter by trade. It was here in Kentucky that Thomas married Nancy Hanks, and the couple moved to Sinking Springs, south of Hodgenville. Thomas and Nancy had three children. The second child, Abraham Lincoln, was born on February 12, 1809, and spent his formative childhood years at Sinking Springs and Knob Creek on the farmland frontier.

This personal link to Kentucky influenced the professional and personal relationships Abraham Lincoln developed throughout his life and political career. Despite leaving the state at a young

age, many of Lincoln's business associates and law partners also had Kentucky roots. Perhaps one of the strongest influences on Lincoln's life was his courtship and marriage to Mary Todd, who was from a prominent Lexington family. The Todd family and their connections to the political and business elite of the state further linked Abraham Lincoln and his legacy as president during the Civil War to Kentucky. Virtually all that Lincoln knew of the South and many of his experiences with slavery he learned in Kentucky, at his in-laws' home and the Farmington Plantation of his slave-owning friend Joshua Speed. Kentuckians, in personal and professional relationships with Abraham Lincoln, profoundly influenced his life and career.

Theme B

Lincoln, slavery, emancipation, and self-liberation — Abraham Lincoln's aversion to slavery, his awareness of the misery it inflicted, and his grasp of the unbridgeable gulf between American ideals and the fundamental injustice of slavery, was ingrained by his exposure to the institution in Kentucky.

Relationship to Significance Statement

This theme explores the relationship between Abraham Lincoln, slavery, and emancipation. First exposed to slavery in Kentucky, Lincoln's personal and political views on slavery were molded by these experiences. With the declaration of the Emancipation Proclamation Lincoln forever changed Kentucky and the nation. Theme B has a strong relationship to the second and third significance statement as it reveals the story of Lincoln's boyhood in Kentucky, where he gained a profound understanding of the social dilemmas relating to slavery, the same dilemmas he confronted throughout his life, and which influenced his political and military policy during the American Civil War.

Relationship to the Nationally Important Story

During Abraham Lincoln's lifetime, Kentucky was transformed from a rugged American frontier to a prominent state. A great deal of Kentucky's growth and economic development was achieved through slavery and the slave trade. Many of Lincoln's early personal experiences with slavery took place in Kentucky and many of his friends and family members were slave owners. While visiting lifelong friend Joshua Speed at Farmington Plantation, Lincoln saw slaves being sold and transported along the Ohio River by steamship. This memory haunted Lincoln throughout his career and created a lasting impact on the young politician, greatly influencing his political stance on slavery. Many of Lincoln's early experiences and exposure to slavery took place in Kentucky.

The issue of slavery in Kentucky challenged Abraham Lincoln throughout his political career, especially during the American Civil War. Kentucky's pro-Union and pro-slavery stance created a complex political climate that created tension throughout Lincoln's presidency as many of his political decisions directly impacted Kentucky and threatened the state's loyalty to the Union. In an effort to reinforce Union troops, Camp Nelson in Kentucky became a primary recruiting, enlistment point and training ground for African American soldiers during the war. The Emancipation Proclamation brought freedom to slaves in Confederate states and strengthened the resolve of the war effort, but this put tremendous strain on Lincoln's relationship with Kentucky. With the declaration of the Emancipation Proclamation and an eventual end to American slavery, the new status of African Americans as freedmen and their role in Kentucky society would also impact the state. The role that Lincoln and his political policies played in ending slavery and the liberation of African Americans forever changed Kentucky and the entire nation.

Theme C

Lincoln's ideals, policy, and politics — Abraham Lincoln's political vision, influenced by the progressive philosophies that evolved in Kentucky, exemplifies his dedication to the common people, and to the creation of a government that rewarded initiative, promoted development, and enhanced opportunity for all Americans.

Relationship to Significance Statement

This theme reveals how the distinctive conditions in Kentucky fundamentally shaped the future president's views on society and his political and economic ideology. Lincoln adopted views from prominent Kentucky political leaders on politics, economics, and emancipation that defined him as a national political figure and the 16th president of the United States. Theme C has a strong relationship with the second and third significance statements as it explores the political and ideological connections from Kentucky that influenced Abraham Lincoln. These ideals and policies guided President Lincoln during the American Civil War and impacted Kentucky's role as a border state.

Relationship to the Nationally Important Story

As a border state, Kentucky had ties to the north and to the Deep South, and was committed both to the Union and the institution of slavery. Kentuckians played pivotal roles in the development of Lincoln's character and ideals that influenced both his personal and political life. Lincoln's Kentucky friends and colleagues molded his views and political platform, which permeated both American politics as well as the American public thought throughout his political career.

Many of Kentucky's prominent political figures greatly influenced Abraham Lincoln's character, ideology, and political views. Henry Clay, one of Kentucky's greatest politicians, who made his home at Ashland Estate, represented Kentucky in the senate, worked tirelessly to preserve the Union, and ran for president as a Whig candidate. Known as the "Great Compromiser," Henry Clay was a role model and political idol during Lincoln's formative years as a politician. Another prominent political figure, Cassius Marcellus Clay, had a profound influence on Lincoln's political ideology toward emancipation and slavery. These as well as other Kentuckians played a role in molding Abraham Lincoln's political views and helped establish his political platform.

Kentucky was a state caught between secession, slavery, and the issue of emancipation where ideology on these issues and political stance were closely tied. The political climate in the state was a microcosm of the challenges facing the nation as a whole, and this environment forged Abraham Lincoln's character and ideals on many of the important political decisions he would make as president. Lincoln's relationships with fellow Kentuckians, including his own family was often tested because of differing political views. Lincoln's experiences in Kentucky influenced both his personal ideology as well as political platform and gave Lincoln a unique perspective into the impact that many of his decisions as president would have on the entire nation.

Theme D

Fate of the nation: Lincoln, Kentucky, and the Civil War — The American Civil War and the fate of the nation hung on Kentucky's allegiance to the Union, leading President Lincoln to focus on this pivotal border state as an essential element of his wartime strategy.

Relationship to Significance Statement

This theme focuses on the unusual character of Kentucky as a pro-slavery, pro-Union state strategically located to serve as either a major asset to the Confederate cause or a key to Union victory during the American Civil War. The political, social, and military situation in Kentucky profoundly influenced President Lincoln, his administration, and his general staff in their pursuit of the war. Lincoln's personal understanding of Kentucky's special conditions was critical to his handling of military and political affairs in the state and probably saved Kentucky for the Union. Theme D supports the third significance statement, which identifies the national importance of Kentucky's role as a border state during the American Civil War and how this impacted many of President Lincoln's war time decisions.

Relationship to the Nationally Important Story

Theme D highlights the relationship between Abraham Lincoln and Kentucky during the American Civil War. President Lincoln's policies and leadership had profound effects not only on Kentucky, but also the United States before, during, and after the American Civil War. Kentucky's politics and society also affected many of the personal connections and wartime decisions President Lincoln made.

As the American Civil War and secession divided the nation, Kentucky found itself in the tenuous position of hoping to remain loyal to the Union while not ready to give up the institution of slavery. Kentucky was of vital strategic importance to the Union, and keeping Kentucky in the Union was paramount on President Lincoln's mind and influenced many of his political decisions, policies, and appointments during the war. Lincoln said, "I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky." In order to gain support in the state, Lincoln appointed many Kentuckians such as Joseph Holt to prominent military and political positions. Through a great deal of political as well as military maneuvering, Lincoln was able to keep Kentucky's loyalty throughout the Civil War and the Battle of Perryville marked the last attempt of the Confederacy to take control of the state.

As with the divided nation, Abraham Lincoln's family members were also divided during the American Civil War, as many of Mary Todd Lincoln's rebel kin supported the Confederacy. Despite being offered a position in the Union army, Ben Hardin Helm, Lincoln's brother-in-law, chose to enlist in the Confederacy. Openly criticized for his family connections during his presidency, President Lincoln remained close to his Kentucky relatives and wept at the news of Helm's death at the Battle of Chickamauga. President Abraham Lincoln's leadership through the American Civil War had a profound effect on the nation as well as Kentucky, but many of Lincoln's wartime decisions also had a very personal impact on his relationships with family and friends.

Theme E

Scars of war, Kentucky's uneasy memory of its native son, and Lincoln's relevancy today — The scars that the war inflicted on this loyal slave state prompted its embittered white majority to embrace their southern allegiances and struggle for more than half a century with its American Civil War legacy and that of its most famous native son.

Relationship to Significance Statement

Theme E focuses on Kentucky’s post American Civil War struggle to come to terms with its most famous son, Abraham Lincoln. The state rewrote its history by “joining the Confederacy after the war” and burying the memory of support for the Union in numerous monuments to the South’s “Lost Cause” in the Civil War. Theme E explores the relevance and memorialization of Abraham Lincoln’s legacy today. With his iconic place in American history, Abraham Lincoln still has a profound impact not only on Kentucky, but on the United States and the world. This interpretive theme is strongly tied to the first significance statement by exploring the evolving perspective and memory of Abraham Lincoln in his native Kentucky.

Relationship to the Nationally Important Story

Abraham Lincoln and his legacy continue to remain a relevant and vital part of the American identity. The recent success and overwhelming interest in Lincoln during the bicentennial celebration of his birth is a testament to the importance of his legacy in contemporary America. Since Lincoln’s humble beginnings on the Kentucky frontier more than two centuries ago, numerous memorials, statues, shrines, and museums have been erected to commemorate his accomplishments and share his legacy as one of America’s greatest presidents. The fascination with Lincoln and the pivotal role he played in American history make him an iconic national figure whose fortitude and strength guided the country through one of its greatest challenges.

As the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln as well as the proving ground of many of his political and personal views, Kentucky is a part of the Lincoln story. In order to truly understand the impact and role that Abraham Lincoln had on the nation, one must first understand the impact and role that Kentucky had on Lincoln’s formative years.

TABLE 5. INTERPRETIVE THEME – SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT MATRIX

Theme A	Lincoln’s Birthplace, Family, and Friends in Kentucky – Abraham Lincoln’s Kentucky family and friends substantially influenced his views on slavery, politics, and his perceptions of Southern culture and the South’s dedication to national unity.
In Lincoln’s Own Words	I was born February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. (Letter to Jesse W. Fell) My earliest recollections, however, is of the Knob Creek place. (Letter to Samuel Haycraft)
Significance Statements	Born in February 1890 on the Kentucky Frontier, Abraham Lincoln is one on the most recognized figures in American history, serving as the 16th president of the United States during the American Civil War. From these humble beginnings in a log cabin to the highest office in the land, Abraham Lincoln embodies the American spirit of self-determination that continues to inspire us today. Although he left the state at an early age, Abraham Lincoln maintained ties to Kentucky through his marriage to Mary Todd and many of his close friends and associates. Kentuckians continued to influence Abraham Lincoln throughout his life and presidency; these experiences shaped a man who, in turn, shaped our national destiny.
Theme B	Lincoln, Slavery, Emancipation, and Self-Liberation – Abraham Lincoln’s aversion to slavery, his awareness of the misery it inflicted, and his grasp of the unbridgeable gulf between American ideals and the fundamental injustice of slavery, was ingrained by his exposure to the institution in Kentucky.

Significance Statements and Interpretive Themes

In Lincoln's Own Words	You may remember, as I well do, that from Louisville to the mouth of the Ohio there were, on board, ten or a dozen slaves, shackled together with irons. That sight was a continual torment to me; and I see something like it every time I touch the Ohio, or any other slave-border. (Letter to Joshua Speed)
Significance Statements	Although he left the state at an early age, Abraham Lincoln maintained ties to Kentucky through his marriage to Mary Todd and many of his close friends and associates. Kentuckians continued to influence Abraham Lincoln throughout his life and presidency; these experiences shaped a man who, in turn, shaped our national destiny. Kentucky's position as a border state and a slave-holding state that sided with the Union during the American Civil War influenced Abraham Lincoln's stance on slavery, the emergence of his political ideology, and the development of his military as well as political strategies during the American Civil War.

Theme C	Lincoln's Ideals, Policy, and Politics – Abraham Lincoln's political vision, influenced by the progressive philosophies that evolved in Kentucky, exemplifies his dedication to the common people, and to the creation of a government that rewarded initiative, promoted development, and enhanced opportunity for all Americans.
In Lincoln's Own Words	What Kentuckian, worthy of his birth place, would not do this? Gentlemen, I too am a Kentuckian. (Notes from a speech to Kentuckians, February 1861)
Significance Statements	Although he left the state at an early age, Abraham Lincoln maintained ties to Kentucky through his marriage to Mary Todd and many of his close friends and associates. Kentuckians continued to influence Abraham Lincoln throughout his life and presidency; these experiences shaped a man who, in turn, shaped our national destiny. Kentucky's position as a border state and a slave-holding state that sided with the Union during the American Civil War influenced Abraham Lincoln's stance on slavery, the emergence of his political ideology, and the development of his military as well as political strategies during the American Civil War.

Theme D	Fate of the Nation: Lincoln, Kentucky, and the Civil War – The American Civil War and the fate of the nation hung on Kentucky's allegiance to the Union, leading President Lincoln to focus on this pivotal border state as an essential element of his wartime strategy.
In Lincoln's Own Words	I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky.
Significance Statements	Kentucky's position as a border state and a slave-holding state that sided with the Union during the American Civil War influenced Abraham Lincoln's stance on slavery, the emergence of his political ideology, and the development of his military as well as political strategies during the American Civil War.

<p>Theme E</p>	<p>Scars of War, Kentucky’s Uneasy Memory of Its Native Son and Lincoln’s Relevancy Today – The scars that the war inflicted on this loyal slave state prompted its embittered white majority to embrace their southern allegiances and struggle for more than half a century with its American Civil War legacy and that of its most famous native son.</p>
<p>In Lincoln’s Own Words</p>	<p>A highly respectable gentleman of Harding County, KY, inquired if I was a son of Thomas Lincoln, whom he had known long ago, in that county. I answered that I was, and that I was myself born there. He wrote again, and among other things, simply inquired if it would be agreeable to me to revisit the scenes of my childhood. I replied among other things, It would indeed; but would you not Lynch me? (Letter to George G. Fogg)</p>
<p>Significance Statements</p>	<p>Born in February 1890 on the Kentucky Frontier, Abraham Lincoln is one on the most recognized figures in American history, serving as the 16th president of the United States during the American Civil War. From these humble beginnings in a log cabin to the highest office in the land, Abraham Lincoln embodies the American spirit of self-determination that continues to inspire us today.</p>

SUMMARY

Identifying the nationally important story, significance statements, and an interpretive theme framework is an important part of the feasibility study process. This framework enables the study team to better understand and assess the resources within the study area for their association with Abraham Lincoln and his connections to Kentucky. For the purposes of this study, a positive feasibility determination requires a strategic assemblage of resources that have a direct association with Abraham Lincoln and maintain a high level of integrity capable of supporting these interpretive themes and connecting visitors to this nationally important story. This interpretive framework is used to address NHA criterion 5 (Resources important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation) in the evaluation of the 10 criteria for national heritage designation presented in chapter 5.

Inventory and Analysis of Kentucky Lincoln Study Area Resources

4



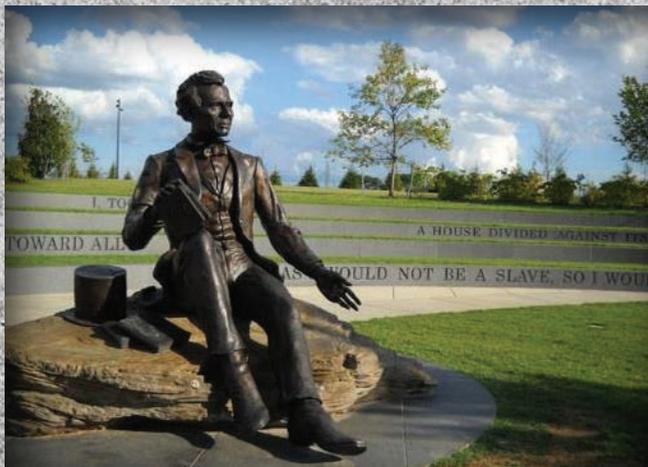
Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site, Image provided by the KLHTA



Judge Joseph Holt Home, Image provided by the KLHTA



Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park, NPS photo



*Lincoln Memorial at Louisville's Waterfront Park,
Image provided by the KLHTA*

INTRODUCTION

The next step in the process of evaluating the feasibility of designating a national heritage area to honor Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky is the inventory and analysis of potential contributing resources within the study area that may support the nationally important story and the interpretive themes identified in chapter 3. The first criterion for designation of a national heritage area is an assemblage of resources that together form a cohesive nationally distinctive landscape capable of telling a nationally important story. Resources are key to national heritage areas, as they are the best places to articulate the nationally significant story. If resources do not exist, or do not have integrity, the nationally important story could just as well be told at any educational location.

Identified in Public Law 110-229, 17 individual sites of historic significance in 11 counties were the initial focus of the resource inventory and analysis. Through public scoping, additional study area research, and consultation with subject matter experts, additional sites and resources were also identified and added to this inventory, broadening the scope of the study area outside the original 11 counties to expand to a 17-county study area.

In this analysis, the team focused first on legislated sites, and then on sites identified in public scoping with the greatest interpretive potential. For example, while historical or road side markers were suggested that may provide interpretation of particular events related to Abraham Lincoln and his family, very few can be directly linked to tangible resources that could effectively convey the story of Lincoln in Kentucky. Additionally, sites without an associated landscape or structure were not included. In total, 49 sites were identified for further analysis, with an additional 2 regional landscapes.

RESOURCE ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

The feasibility study authorizing legislation directed the study team to analyze, document, and determine whether an assemblage of *natural, historic, and cultural* resources within the study area would support the designation of a national heritage area recognizing the legacy of Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky by meeting national heritage area criteria. Accordingly, each of these 51 identified resources was first placed into these broad categories with the following parameters:

- Natural Resources – Waterways, including creeks and rivers; and natural landscapes
- Historic Resources – Buildings, historic structures, and cultural landscapes, such as battlefields and cemeteries
- Cultural Resources – Archival collections located in repositories, including museums; and commemorative art, such as statues, monuments, sculptures, and other commemorative features

The team analyzed each resource to gather detailed information regarding its historic connections to Abraham Lincoln, public accessibility, ownership/leaseholdship, management, and level of historic documentation. This information was used to determine whether or not each resource has a direct association with the life, career, and policies of Abraham Lincoln, as well as the resource's overall level of integrity. Based on NHA program direction, the guidelines for this analysis are as follows:

- Direct association with Abraham Lincoln
 - **Contributing resources are those directly associated with the life of an individual.** In this case, Abraham Lincoln must be directly associated with the resources that are considered to contribute to a strategic assemblage of resources needed to designate a national heritage area devoted to his life, career, and policies. For historic and natural resources to meet this requirement, Abraham Lincoln must have spent some time at the site or been influenced by his experiences at the location.
 - **Documentation must make clear how the resource represents the life of the individual or the individual's significant contributions.** To meet this requirement, there must be documented evidence that Abraham Lincoln spent time at the location or was influenced by his experiences there.
- Documented integrity
 - **A contributing resource must retain integrity from the period of its significant historic associations.** Maintaining a high level of integrity is essential in order for a site to be able to convey the nationally important story and support the interpretive framework. Resources must have documented integrity to meet this requirement. In most cases, listing in the National Register of Historic Places fulfills this requirement, unless it has been significantly damaged or reconstructed/relocated since its period of significance.

Sites must meet each of these requirements (direct association with Abraham Lincoln and documented integrity) to be considered as part of a strategic assemblage of resources that comprises a nationally distinctive landscape related to Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky. For example, if a resource is clearly associated with Abraham Lincoln but is not documented in the national register, then it would not be included as part of the strategic assemblage. Resources that are not part of the strategic assemblage may still contribute to a national heritage area by providing opportunities for recreation and education. All 51 resources are presented in narrative format below, organized by natural, historic, and cultural resource categories. Following this inventory an analysis of resources is presented and summarized in the resource analysis matrix presented in table 6.

RESOURCE INVENTORY

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Ohio River

Northern Kentucky border with Indiana

The Ohio River is a primary landscape feature of this region of the country, and is critical to the history and development of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Along with the Cumberland Gap, it was one of the primary points of entry for settlers and pioneers into Kentucky following the American Revolution. It has been a major route of transportation, a hub of commerce, and center of trade for hundreds of years. The Ohio River also formed the border between slave states in the South and free states to the North, making Kentucky a strategic border state during the American Civil War. For the purpose of this feasibility study, the segment of the Ohio River that forms the border between Kentucky and Indiana was the primary focus of this inventory and analysis.

Not only was the Ohio River important for the growth of Kentucky, it is important to communicating the story of Abraham Lincoln and his family within the state. When he was young, the Lincoln family is known to have traveled across the Ohio River to migrate into Indiana. This crossing is commemorated by a historical marker adjacent to the Ohio River in Cloverport, Kentucky. Lincoln also represented himself in his first law case when he was accused of conducting an illegal ferry operation across the river. This event is commemorated through a historical marker as well, and the building in which the trial was conducted is still extant (see Samuel Pate House). Abraham Lincoln himself wrote about his experiences traveling on the Ohio River and witnessing slaves in bondage to his good friend Joshua Speed (see Farmington Plantation). His personal writings and historic documentation illustrate that Abraham Lincoln was influenced by his experiences on the Ohio River.

Since Lincoln's time, the Ohio River has been heavily dammed by the Army Corps of Engineers. Twenty dams are now in place along the Ohio River, resulting in a slower river flow and muddier waters. Though this river resource has been heavily modified for flood control over the years and there are modern intrusions along its banks (i.e., cellular towers), the Ohio River has direct connections with Abraham Lincoln and played a role in a number of important events that occurred during Lincoln's life. The river has several access points that provide public access along the boundary of the study area.

Rural/Agricultural Landscapes

Throughout the study area

During Lincoln's time in Kentucky, the predominant landscapes in the region were rural and agricultural. Most development was concentrated around small towns and county seats, and his childhood home and other locations of significance, particularly in his younger years, were at the periphery. Many of his childhood experiences would have taken place in this undeveloped rural landscape. With increasing development over the years, many of these early landscapes have been substantially altered; consequently, such connections to this period in Kentucky history have lost integrity or disappeared altogether due to modern development. A few site-specific rural/agricultural landscapes such as those found at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park and

Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit were identified as part of some of the historic resources analyses below.

Despite issues with landscape integrity, there are still many rural areas within Kentucky. As demonstrated in the land cover section and map in chapter 2, a high percentage of land is still in agricultural use or considered rural. Likewise, lower populations in most of the counties within the study area indicate that the region is generally rural, with major urban populations concentrated in Louisville and Lexington. Though it is difficult to determine the condition and integrity of these landscapes, local insights, photography, and site visits indicate that the study area generally maintains rural landscapes in many places. This is further illustrated through geographic information systems mapping in “Figure 4. Land Cover Within Study Area.” It is, however, difficult to make comparisons between this contemporary rural landscape and the rural and agricultural character of Kentucky in the time of Lincoln. The introduction of modern infrastructure and urban expansion has created a setting that differs substantially from the rural and agricultural character of 19th century Kentucky.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park and Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit

Hodgenville, LaRue County

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park is dedicated to preservation, commemoration, and interpretation of the cultural and natural resources associated with the birth and early years of our 16th president and the efforts of the Lincoln Farm Association and others in establishing a lasting tribute to Abraham Lincoln. The park contains two units located within 10 miles of each other. The birthplace unit represents Lincoln’s humble beginnings with a symbolic cabin enshrined within a neoclassic memorial building. The Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit at Knob Creek was home to the Lincoln family during his early formative years. Lincoln’s experiences as a young boy growing up in Kentucky helped mold him into the man who became the nation’s 16th president. As the only national park unit within the study area dedicated to the legacy of Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park and the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit would be a focal point and play a significant role if a national heritage area designated to honor Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky is established by Congress.

The birthplace unit features 116 acres of the original Sinking Spring Farm, which was purchased by Abraham Lincoln’s father Thomas in 1808. This is the primary park unit and has several visitor amenities such as lodging, visitor center, information and interpretive centers, exhibits, museum, picnic area, and bookstore. It also holds special events at various times throughout the year. The visitor center and exhibits were renovated for the Abraham Lincoln bicentennial. The Memorial Building was also renovated with emphasis on the symbolism within the design of the structure. An accessible boardwalk provides access for disabled visitors who wish to visit the Memorial Building. The park does not provide food services nor does it allow picnicking anywhere other than the designated park picnic area.

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park contains approximately one-third of the original Sinking Spring Farm and has had many owners over the past two centuries. One of the most significant property purchases that eventually led to site protection and park creation occurred in the early 1900s. In 1905, the Sinking Spring property at the birthplace unit was purchased at public auction by Richard Lloyd Jones in the name of Robert Collier, owner of *Collier’s Weekly*. Collier and

Jones formed the Lincoln Farm Association, raised money to protect the site, and eventually lobbied for the creation of a national park. They achieved their goal in July 1916 when Congress approved the acceptance of the site on behalf of the American people from the Lincoln Farm Association. The park was placed initially under the direction of the War Department and remained so until 1933, when it was turned over to the National Park Service.

At the boyhood home unit, NPS personnel plant an interpretive garden each spring to represent items the Lincoln's garden might have contained. There are also opportunities for bird watching, wildlife viewing, and walking on a nature trail along Knob Creek. Visitors can picnic in designated areas and view the reconstructed boyhood cabin as well as participate in interpretive talks, which are held in the summer. Overlook Trail is another option that gives hikers a view of the Knob Creek valley through several points of interest with picnic tables along the way.

As for the Knob Creek Farm property, after the Lincoln family left the property in 1816, the ownership of the land passed through several families over the next 100 years. In 1928, Chester and Hattie Howell Howard purchased the Knob Creek property with plans to memorialize Abraham Lincoln. They wanted to make the site a stop along the newly established Lincoln Trail. In 1931, the Howards moved logs, which once belonged to the Gollaher family, and reconstructed a cabin on the site. They also constructed an adjacent building, known today as the "Tavern," to supply refreshments and gas to travelers. The Boyhood Home at Knob Creek became a successful tourist site and was operated by members of the Howard family for nearly 70 years. The site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

Members of the community then worked with local, state, and national organizations to have the Knob Creek site donated to the federal government. Congress authorized the acquisition of the site on November 6, 1998, and the National Park Service officially assumed management of the site on November 6, 2001; the National Park Service continues to oversee the site today as a unit of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park.

The birthplace and boyhood home are open daily. According to 2008 visitor data, the park receives approximately 200,000 visitors each year.

Abraham Lincoln lived at the Knob Creek Farm during some of the most formative years of his life—from age two to seven. Later in life he had recollections of the Knob Creek Farm, and it was here that he and his sister, Sarah, first attended school. Abraham Lincoln recalled fond memories such as planting pumpkin seeds in the field only to watch them wash away in a flash flood. He also remembered nearly drowning in the creek and being saved by his childhood friend Austin Gollaher. He also recalled the death of his younger brother, Thomas, who died from an unknown illness and was buried in the Redmon family cemetery on a hill overlooking the valley (NPS 2011).

It was also at Knob Creek where Abraham Lincoln first viewed the institution of slavery, as he witnessed slaves being moved along the Cumberland Trail on their way to auction (NPS 2011). The experiences and lessons he learned while at Knob Creek would influence him during his presidency as well as throughout his life.

In 1815, based on an old land grant, heirs to an estate filed claim on the whole Knob Creek valley. Thomas Lincoln was named as a defendant and that led to his decision to remove his family from Kentucky. In December 1816, when Abraham was seven, Thomas Lincoln relocated his family to south central Indiana. Although the lawsuit was dismissed, none of the Lincoln family ever resided in Kentucky again (Kentucky Historical Society 2009).

Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate

Lexington, Fayette County

Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate, a national historic landmark, is located one and one-half miles east of downtown Lexington, Kentucky. The estate was built by one of Abraham Lincoln's political heroes, Senator Henry Clay, in the early 1800s. One of the great statesmen of the first half of the 19th century, Henry Clay earned the nickname "Great Compromiser" because of his ability to bring together different political opinions. Henry Clay had an important impact on a young Abraham Lincoln's political views and was a powerful influence throughout his career. Clay's impact on the history of the United States is honored through the museum and educational center that preserves and interprets the life and legacy of Henry Clay at Ashland.

Ashland sits on 16.7 acres and includes 8 buildings, formal garden, peony garden, 8 historical markers, and 10 interpretive signs. The main building is the mansion, rebuilt by Henry Clay's son on the original foundation and modeled on his father's home. The mansion is furnished with artifacts of which about 80% belonged to the family including a substantial number of Henry Clay objects. Guided tours of the mansion are conducted and it has self-guided permanent and changing exhibits as well as a brief, introductory video. Abraham Lincoln's connections to Henry Clay are documented by a number of artifacts and are an integral part of the tour experience. Ashland's museum store is located at the entrance to the mansion and has a great selection of books, historical items, and gifts inspired by the exhibits. The first floor is wheelchair accessible.

The grounds feature walking trails, formal garden, and peony garden. Ashland's outbuildings include a smokehouse, privy, icehouses, dairy cellar, gasworks, and cottage. All of these areas are interpreted with signage. From April through October, box lunches, desserts, and cold drinks are available from the Ginkgo Tree Café, which operates from a wing of the smokehouse. Ashland hosts a number of special events each year including a 19th century family festival, holiday candlelight tours, teas, and special tours.

Guided tours are available daily during hours of operation. In 2008, Ashland hosted approximately 13,737 visitors, and in 2009, the attendance numbers increased to 14,895 visitors.

The Henry Clay Memorial Foundation took ownership of the estate in 1948, funded by the will of Henry Clay descendant Nannette McDowell Bullock, and it opened to the public in 1950. The Henry Clay Memorial Foundation continues to operate the site.

Battle of Richmond Battlefield Park

Richmond, Madison County

Battle of Richmond Battlefield Park protects and commemorates the site of the Battle of Richmond, recognized as the second largest Civil War battle fought in Kentucky. During the late summer of 1862, Confederate General Braxton Bragg and Major General Kirby Smith launched a grand offensive aimed at winning back Kentucky and moving the war further north, out of Tennessee. As Smith marched his Confederate forces north toward Lexington, his army clashed with Union forces under William "Bull" Nelson, outside of Richmond on August 29–30, 1862. The ensuing battle resulted in a routing of Union forces and a significant Confederate victory in Kentucky. This would embolden further Confederate actions in Kentucky, until General Bragg's defeat at Perrysville (Wagner, Gallagher, and Finkelman 2002).

The battlefield park is currently operated by the Battle of Richmond Association (established in 2001), which is a nonprofit organization with the mission of preservation and interpretation of the

historic battlefield site. The Battle of Richmond Battlefield Park visitor's center is open to the public and allows visitors to understand the importance of the battle through interpretive materials (e.g., maps, films, artifacts, etc.). Visitors can walk the battlefield trail, which highlights key points of the battle with interpretive markers. The park also periodically hosts living history demonstrations, battle reenactments, and guest lecturers.

Belle of Louisville Steamboat

Louisville, Jefferson County

The Belle of Louisville—originally named Idlewild—is a Mississippi River-style steamboat that runs along the Ohio River in Louisville, Kentucky. The steamboat was built in 1914 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as a ferry and freight carrier, and was later modified to operate as an excursion boat. The steamboat has travelled on waterways across the country and is known as the most widely traveled river steamboat in the nation. It was renamed the Belle of Louisville in 1962, and underwent significant restoration in 1963. In August 2005, the Waterfront Development Corporation assumed operation of the steamboat on behalf of the City of Louisville. It is now listed as a national historic landmark. Though built after the time of Lincoln, it is representative of similar vessels that would probably have carried him as he traveled across the Ohio River to visit Louisville.

The Belle of Louisville is open to the public, and sightseeing and history tours are offered throughout the year. The steamboat is also available for private charter and as a venue for special occasions upon request (Belle of Louisville 2014).

Berea College

Berea, Madison County

Berea College was founded in 1855 by abolitionist John G. Fee as one of the first fully integrated colleges in the South. In its early days, Berea enrolled a nearly equal number of black and white students, which was unheard of in a slaveholding state. However, in 1904 the Commonwealth of Kentucky passed the “Day Law,” which outlawed integrated education in the state. The college was not reintegrated until the law’s repeal in 1950 (BlackPast.org 2014). Because of this unique history, Berea College serves as an example of the racial tensions that defined the Civil War and continued to impact the South for decades.

Aside from its clear connections to the racial issues surrounding the Civil War, Berea College has two specific sites that can be loosely tied to Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln Hall, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, was named in his honor, but was built in 1887, decades after his death. The college also houses a modern collection, the Shedd/Schwarzschild Abraham Lincoln Collection, which consists of more than 1,800 books and other materials related to the study of Abraham Lincoln’s life.

Berea is a private college, but both Lincoln Hall and the Abraham Lincoln Collection are accessible to the public. The collection is part of the Berea College Special Collections and Archives, and there are no restrictions on use by researchers.

Bodley-Bullock House

Lexington, Fayette County

The Bodley-Bullock House is considered one of the most prominent mansions in the Bluegrass Region. It was built around 1814 for Lexington Mayor Thomas Pindell, but was sold shortly after construction to General Thomas Bodley, who was a veteran of the War of 1812. The house was

originally constructed in a Federal architectural style, but has since had additions of both Green Revival and Victorian style. The building also has a distinct Civil War history, having served as the headquarters for both Union and Confederate troops when each occupied the city. The building is a contributing property to the Gratz Park Historic District, listed in the national register, near downtown Lexington (NPS 2014a).

The site is currently leased by the Junior League of Lexington, which uses the building as its headquarters. Though a headquarters building, the Bodley-Bullock House still operates as a house museum, and is open to the public year round for tours and special events (The Junior League of Lexington 2014).

Camp Dick Robinson

Garrard County

Camp Dick Robinson was a Civil War recruiting camp that was critical to Union efforts to maintain the allegiance of Kentucky during the war. It was established in August 1861, and served as the base of operations for several of the first Union regiments in the state. At the outset of the war Kentucky had attempted to stay neutral in the conflict, and the creation of the camp prompted Governor Beriah Magoffin to complain to Abraham Lincoln that the camp was in violation of Kentucky's Civil War status. Lincoln, however, refused to remove the soldiers, stating that the camp "consisted exclusively of Kentuckians," and that it was not the "popular wish of Kentucky" to close it. The camp was taken by Confederates in 1862, who renamed it "Camp Breckinridge" and used it as a supply base. They eventually fell back to Perryville to interrupt Union forces, resulting in the Battle of Perryville. Camp Nelson— further north in Jessamine County—ultimately replaced Camp Dick Robinson. Camp Dick Robinson, however, is important for its role in solidifying the Union cause in Kentucky (Sanders 2014).

The Robinson mansion, which served as camp headquarters, still sits on approximately 325 acres of farmland on the site of the former Civil War camp. The building, which is under private ownership, was once listed in the national register, but has since been de-listed. A Civil War interpretive station was dedicated near the site of the old camp in 2013, with interpretive markers commemorating the camp's role in the Civil War and history of the region (Edwards 2013).

Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park and National Cemetery

Nicholasville, Jessamine County

Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park is located about five miles south of Nicholasville in extreme southern Jessamine County. During the Civil War, Camp Nelson was the largest African American recruitment camp in Kentucky and the third largest in the nation. Given President Lincoln's goal of freeing pro-Union sections of east Tennessee from Confederate control, Camp Nelson served as an important, strategic site to bring Union troops to the region in addition to recruiting African American troops. Many of the African American recruits, who were emancipated upon enlistment, brought their families with them to Camp Nelson in the hope that they would also be freed or at least escape slavery. About 5,400 slaves enrolled at Camp Nelson. Camp Nelson was designated a national cemetery for Union dead in 1867 and remains a military cemetery—525 of the 4,000 acres have been restored (Kentucky Department of Tourism 2011a). President Lincoln never visited the camp, but it was directly affected by federal law and policy during the Civil War. It continues to tell the story of African American enlistment.

Visitors to Camp Nelson can learn about the history of the site and its connection to the Civil War, slavery, and Abraham Lincoln at the park's recently updated interpretive center, which is housed in

the park's main administrative building. The interpretive center functions as an audio/visual museum that provides excellent nonpersonal interpretive and educational opportunities for visitors. Visitors can also walk nearly four miles of interpretive trails throughout the site. The trails are routed past several historic sites in the park and are supplemented with many interpretive signs. The park also hosts several special events throughout the year that relate to the site's overall history and specific historic events that occurred there. The park also offers guided tours of historic structures on-site e.g., Perry House, and regularly provides guided tours to school groups. In 2008, Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park had approximately 8,500 visitors.

Camp Nelson National Cemetery is owned and managed by the US Department of Veterans Affairs, but additional funding for preservation and education has been acquired through coordinated efforts of volunteers, local government, and nonprofit organizations.

Danville National Cemetery

Danville, Boyle County

Danville National Cemetery lies within the boundaries of Bellevue Cemetery in the city of Danville. The land that comprises Danville National Cemetery was once part of Bellevue Cemetery, but was purchased by the federal government at the beginning of the Civil War. Several Civil War hospitals existed in the area, and the cemetery was created for mortally wounded soldiers. Most of the initial interments were from Union soldiers, but the adjacent Bellevue Cemetery contains a Confederate burial section with 66 graves. The soldiers' lot of the cemetery was designated a national cemetery in 1876, which is now marked by square posts with the letters "U.S." inscribed on the upper face (US Department of Veterans Affairs 2014). The cemetery is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and is open to the public from dawn until dusk (NPS 2014b).

Farmington Historic Plantation

Louisville, Jefferson County

Farmington, a 14-room Federal-style home, was the center of John and Lucy Speed's 19th-century hemp plantation. Abraham Lincoln, a close friend of John Speed's son, Joshua, spent about three weeks at Farmington in 1841. Designed from plans drawn by Thomas Jefferson and completed in 1816 with slave labor, the newly restored house features original paint colors, historic wallpaper and carpet, and is furnished with Kentucky furniture and period furnishings from the time of Lincoln's visit (Historic Homes Foundation 2010).

In August 1841, Abraham Lincoln traveled from Illinois to Louisville, Kentucky, to visit Joshua Speed and his family at Farmington. In the four years since they had known each other, sharing living quarters in Springfield, the two men had developed a close friendship. It was thanks to Joshua that the young lawyer and Illinois state legislator saw his social and political circles widening, eventually to include a bright and attractive young woman named Mary Todd. However, at the time of the visit, a beleaguered Lincoln had broken off his relationship with Mary and had decided not to run for reelection. When Joshua extended his invitation, his friend was in deep despair (Historic Homes Foundation 2010).

Abraham Lincoln's three weeks at Farmington would prove to be restorative. He was welcomed and befriended by the Speed family, taking long walks with Joshua and borrowing law books from Joshua's brother, James, who years later became attorney general in Lincoln's last cabinet. The recently widowed Mrs. Speed gave him a Bible, counseling him to read it. He brightened his own spirits by applauding the courtship of Joshua and his future bride, Fanny Henning, later crediting it

with encouraging his return to courting Mary Todd. Scholars agree that Lincoln's Farmington visit was one of the happiest experiences of his life (Historic Homes Foundation 2010).

Farmington was probably the first slave plantation Abraham Lincoln visited and, though it was probably not the first time he had seen slaves, his September 27, 1841, letter to Joshua's half-sister, Mary Speed, following his departure from Louisville, is his first known written observation of slavery. The impressions he recorded of slaves chained to one another aboard the steamboat and soon to be sold never left him, and over the years, slavery was perhaps the one subject on which Abraham Lincoln and Joshua Speed (who nevertheless supported the Union) could not agree. Their strong feelings on the issue did not undermine their lifelong mutual devotion. On November 30, 1866, a year and a half after President Lincoln's assassination, and 25 years after his visit to the Speed family at Farmington, Joshua wrote of him, "He disclosed his whole heart to me" (Historic Homes Foundation 2010).

Farmington opened as a museum in 1959, and has gone through several different interpretations over the years. This historic site currently occupies 18 acres and is based on extensive reinterpretation and restoration completed in 2002, which strived to reflect the life of the Speed family from 1816 to 1841. The main house at Farmington was painstakingly restored to the period of significance reflecting the time when Lincoln visited the plantation. Along with the main house, numerous reconstructed outbuildings can be found on-site. Based on archeological and historic evidence, the summer kitchen/cook's quarters were reconstructed in 1992. The stone and timber barn and stables were rebuilt on their original foundations in 1963. Although there is no historic evidence of blacksmithing at the site, a blacksmith shop similar to those of the period of interpretation was built in 1961. The springhouse was reconstructed in 1968. Efforts to restore the grounds and gardens of Farmington to the 1816–1841 period have led to extensive historic research and documentation to ensure accuracy (Historic Homes Foundation 2010).

Educational programs at the Farmington Historic Plantation focus on Abraham Lincoln's experiences at Farmington and explore the history of slavery at the site. These programs are designed for the 4th- to 5th-grade local curriculum, but can be tailored for other grades. On-site educational programs include daily life at Farmington Plantation; Lincoln and Farmington: An enduring friendship; Farmington detective for a day; and Lincoln logs. A travel trunk and online teaching materials are also available and allow for off-site learning about Abraham Lincoln's connections to the Farmington Historic Plantation.

The Farmington Historic Plantation is owned and managed by The Historic Homes Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization created in 1957. The mission of the foundation is the purchasing, preserving, and displaying of historic buildings and their collections, as well as advancing education of, culture, and the arts in Kentucky. They currently own and manage three historic homes in the state.

The Farmington Historic Plantation is open to the public. An interactive self-guided mobile tour of the grounds is available and accessible through mobile devices. Farmington is also available for special functions and private events.

Fort Boyle *Hardin County*

Fort Boyle was an earthen Union Civil War fortification built in 1863 to protect an L&N Railroad trestle that passed over Big Run. The trestle had been burned by the Confederate forces of General John Hunt Morgan in 1862, and was rebuilt and opened in 1863. The fort was named for General

Jeremiah T. Boyle, the military Governor of Kentucky (Hardin County History Museum 2014). The earthworks still exist, but they are housed on private property (American Forts Network 2012).

Fort Duffield

West Point, Hardin County

Fort Duffield was built in 1861–62 under the order of Union General William T. Sherman to protect the city of Louisville and his West Point supply base during the Civil War. The 1,000-foot-long earthen fortification—the largest earthen work Civil War fortress in Kentucky—was positioned 300 feet above West Point at the confluence of the Salt and Ohio Rivers, where it could defend against attack via the Louisville–Nashville Turnpike and the Ohio River. During its construction, 61 men from the Ninth Michigan Infantry Regiment lost their lives due to disease. They were buried on a hill near the fort site, which today houses a memorial cemetery with stone markers and a granite monument to honor the men who gave their lives to build the fort and ultimately preserve the Union. The immense fortress was never challenged in battle, but its strategic location undoubtedly was important to the outcome of the Civil War in Kentucky (Jones n.d.).

Today, the fort site is part of Fort Duffield Park and Historic Site, which is managed by the Fort Duffield Heritage Committee/Friends of Fort Duffield. The park is open to the public daily, and offers interpretation through signs, a self-guided walking tour, and private tours. They also hold periodic living history events. The fortress is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and is part of the Civil War Trust’s Civil War Discovery Trail (Civil War Trust 2014).

Fort Sands

Hardin County

Fort Sands was an earthen Union Civil War fortification built to protect the L&N Railroad trestle that rose 90 feet above Sulfur Fork in eastern Hardin County. A stockade/blockhouse was constructed southwest of the railroad tracks in 1862 during its first phase of construction. The stockade and trestle bridge were captured and burned by the forces of Confederate General John Hunt Morgan in the same year. A 500-foot bridge was completed in 1863. Throughout that year, the Ohio Regiments of the Union Army worked to reinforce the earthen fortress, equipping it with artillery for added defenses. The fort was named Fort Sands after Alexander C. Sands, who was the US Marshall for the Southern District of Ohio (Hardin County History Museum 2014). The railroad was safeguarded for the duration of the war. The earthworks still exist, but they are housed on private property (American Forts Network 2012).

Grave of Captain Abraham Lincoln (Long Run Cemetery)

Louisville, Jefferson County

Captain Abraham Lincoln moved his three sons to Hughes Station in Jefferson County around 1784. With the help of his sons, Mordecai, Josiah, and Thomas, Lincoln began construction of a cabin near Long Run Creek. In May 1786, Lincoln and his sons were attacked by American Indians while returning from the station. Captain Lincoln was killed in the attack, and buried on his land near the unfinished cabin. Long Run Baptist Church was eventually constructed near his burial site, and the church’s cemetery grew around his grave. A granite stone commemorates Captain Lincoln’s burial site, and a plaque tells the history of the site and story of his death; a historical marker also marks the grave. The cemetery is open to the public daily (Brent and Brent 2005).

Grave of Thomas Lincoln, Jr. (Redmon Cemetery)

Hodenville, LaRue County

Redmon Cemetery is a small family cemetery that lies on a knoll overlooking Abraham Lincoln's boyhood home at Knob Creek. The family of George Redmon is buried here, as well as Tommy Lincoln, the younger brother of Abraham Lincoln who died in infancy. It is believed that Tommy was born and died in 1812; his cause of death is unknown. While clearing the cemetery site in 1933, the Works Progress Administration discovered his grave, which was then marked by a stone with the initials "T.L." A new tombstone was donated by Boy Scout Post 15 of Des Moines, Iowa, in 1959. The cemetery is located on private land (Abraham Lincoln Research Site 2014).

As the burial place of Abraham Lincoln's brother Tommy, there is undoubtedly a strong family connection to the site. The cemetery site is very near his boyhood home, and it is almost certain that he would have visited here at some point in his childhood.

Greensburg, Kentucky

Greensburg, Green County

Greensburg was incorporated in 1794, and serves as the seat of Green County. From 1800 to 1840, Greensburg was considered a center of trade and education in southern Kentucky. It was a hub of manufacturing and its flatboats full of goods from local factories were floated down the Green River to New Orleans. To commemorate its rich history and key sites in the city, Greensburg has a historic district composed of 47 contributing properties, including the Old Green County Courthouse, the Woodson Lewis Building, and the Old Depot. A historic walking tour sponsored by the Southern & Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association passes many of these sites and celebrates the architecture and heritage of historic Greensburg. The district has is composed of a mix of public and private properties with variable public accessibility.

Greensburg is also home to many famous Kentuckians, several of whom are connected to Abraham Lincoln. Notable individuals with connections to Lincoln include Mary Owens, one of Lincoln's brief early love interests; William Herndon, Lincoln's law partner; and Mentor Graham, who was an educator of Lincoln in Illinois. The city also has connections to Union Civil War generals E. H. Hobson and William Ward (South & Eastern Kentucky 2014). The birthplace home of William Herndon is in downtown Greensburg, which is marked by a historical marker.

Many individuals from Greensburg were particularly important influences on Abraham Lincoln, including William Herndon and Mentor Graham. Herndon was Lincoln's law partner and close friend, and became a Lincoln biographer after his assassination. Mentor Graham was an early teacher with whom Lincoln lived for six months in 1833. However, neither lived in Greensburg for long, nor knew Lincoln while in Kentucky.

Helm Place and Helm Family Cemetery

Elizabethtown, Hardin County

Helm Place, home of Confederate General Ben Hardin Helm, was constructed between 1832 and 1840 by his father John LaRue Helm. Ben Helm was the husband of Emilie Todd, the younger half-sister of Mary Todd Lincoln. On the eve of the Civil War, President Lincoln offered Ben Hardin Helm the position of Paymaster of the US Army at the rank of major. Helm declined Lincoln's offer, and instead returned to Kentucky and joined the Confederate army in the fall of 1861. Through their family ties by marriage to the Todd sisters, both Lincoln and Helm illustrate how the Civil War

divided many families during the conflict. This site provides a chance to explore Lincoln's personal relationships and family ties in Kentucky and how they were affected by his presidency.

The mansion itself currently serves as an office, and is not open to the public as a historic site (Brent and Brent 2005). The Helm Family Cemetery, however, is open to the public wishing to pay their respects to the family interred within the stone wall enclosure. The family cemetery includes the graves of John LaRue Helm, who served two incomplete terms as governor of Kentucky, and his son, Confederate General Ben Hardin Helm, who fell at the battle of Chickamauga on September 20, 1863. The site has two new interpretive markers, erected by General Ben Hardin Helm Camp #1703 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, that focus on the Helm family, the home, and Ben Hardin Helm's role in the Civil War. The site also has two Kentucky state roadside markers, one on the Helm Cemetery that lists General Ben Hardin Helm's connection to President Lincoln and his role in the Civil War and another that lists Governor John LaRue Helm as favoring neutrality for Kentucky in the Civil War and his harsh criticism of President Lincoln. Each September, on a weekend near the anniversary of General Helm's death, the local Sons of Confederate Veterans holds a memorial program for the beloved Kentucky leader whom President Lincoln shed tears for when told of his death.

The Helm mansion, also known as Helm Place and Governor John LaRue Helm House, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. The family cemetery is included within the boundary of that nomination and the site is described as

“[t]he area nominated consists approximately of a rectangle east of the developed area along Dixie Highway, including the main house and outbuildings to the north, the cemetery at the southwest corner, and the barn on the east.”

The cemetery is currently owned and managed by the Hardin County Historical Society. John L. Helm IV and his wife, Julia M. Helm, deeded the cemetery to the nonprofit organization on October 10, 1978. A right-of-way providing access to the cemetery was also given to the historical society at the same time by Robert E. and Goedella Robbins.

Henry Bibb Sites in Oldham County *Oldham County*

Henry Bibb was an American author and abolitionist who was born a slave in Shelby County, Kentucky. He is known to have spent time in Oldham County before he eventually fled north to freedom. He helped create Canada's first black newspaper, and eventually published an autobiography that recounted his life and struggles, which became one of the best-known slave narratives (Ottawa Citizen 2006). A feasibility study is currently underway through the Oldham County Historical Society that seeks to investigate options for an educational program to honor Henry Bibb (Oldham County Historical Society 2014).

Henry Clay Law Office *Lexington, Fayette County*

Henry Clay—a prominent 19th century political figure and major influence on Abraham Lincoln—began his law practice in this small brick building in downtown Lexington. The office was built in 1803, and Clay occupied it from 1803 to 1810, during which time he was elected to two successive terms in the Kentucky Legislature and also to fill unexpired terms in the US Senate. Clay later served as a US Congressman, Senator, Secretary of State, and ran for the presidency three times (National Park Service 2014c).

Lincoln called Clay his “beau ideal of a statesman,” and considered him a political role model. Lincoln campaigned for Clay in 1844, and served as an elector for him in the State of Illinois. Following Clay’s death in 1852, Lincoln delivered a eulogy for him, praising both his life and legacy (The Henry Clay Memorial Foundation 2014). Lincoln is never known to have met Henry Clay or visited his law office, but his impact on Lincoln is clear.

The building was purchased by the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 1967, and underwent a restoration that was completed in 1971. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The law office is presently owned by the First Presbyterian Church, but operated under a lease agreement by the Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship (Kaintuckeean 2012). A state historical marker near the structure describes the significance of Henry Clay and the law office.

Historic Lexington (Downtown Commercial District)

Lexington, Fayette County

Lexington was founded in 1775, and was Kentucky’s first major city. It is located in the heart of the Bluegrass Region, and it has been a center of commerce, education, and culture since 1800. The city has hosted some of the 19th century’s most important people, including Abraham Lincoln, Mary Todd Lincoln, Henry Clay, and Jefferson Davis. In fact, Lexington is colloquially referred to as the “Athens of the West,” due in large part to the city’s many recognized institutions, events, and people. Much of its rich history can still be seen in the many surviving structures that comprise downtown Lexington (National Park Service 2014d).

Many of the city’s structures and districts are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including the Downtown Commercial District, which encompasses Cheapside, the old town square. Cheapside was the largest slave auction site in Kentucky. Thousands of slaves were sold there, many of whom were taken to the Deep South to places such as New Orleans. It is likely that Abraham Lincoln visited Cheapside during multiple visits to the Todd family house—now operated as the Mary Todd Lincoln House—which is only a few blocks down the street. The square now features two prominent statues of Confederate leaders: John C. Breckinridge and John Hunt Morgan. Two state historical markers interpret aspects of Cheapside.

Cheapside is now used as a public recreational area and contains numerous interpretive features. It contains several structures under a mix of public and private ownership, with variable visitor services and accessibility by site. The Mary Todd Lincoln House, Isaac Scott Hathaway Museum, and the Lexington Public Library sponsor a self-guided “Lincoln’s Lexington Walking Tour” that directs visitors to several sites of importance throughout the downtown Lexington area.

Additionally, The Lexington History Center is housed in the Old County Courthouse, which hosts four museums: Lexington History Museum, Lexington Public Safety Museum, Isaac Scott Hathaway Museum, and Kentucky Renaissance Pharmacy Museum. These sites provide interpretive experiences on various aspects of Lexington history, including African American history and the history of Bluegrass Region pharmacies. They offer exhibits, research opportunities, and community outreach.

Abraham Lincoln’s wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, grew up in Lexington, so he had many family ties to the city. Lexington was also home to Henry Clay, who had a profound impact on his political career. Additionally, Lincoln’s Civil War counterpart and rival, Jefferson Davis, attended college at Transylvania University and was a friend of the Clay family. Sites of particular importance in Lexington include the site of Mary Todd Lincoln’s birth, Mary Todd Lincoln House, and Henry Clay’s Law Office (Mary Todd Lincoln House 2014). Though there is no documentation to suggest

that Lincoln visited any of these sites, he did visit Lexington several times in his life and clearly had personal and political ties to the city. It is also almost certain that Abraham Lincoln would have visited Cheapside during his visits, where he would probably have directly encountered the commercial slave trade in Kentucky.

Hunt-Morgan House

Lexington, Fayette County

The Hunt-Morgan House, originally known as Hopemont, was built in 1814 in Federal architectural style by John Wesley Hunt, the first millionaire west of the Allegheny Mountains. Since it was built, many notable figures have resided there, including Hunt's grandson, Confederate General John Hunt Morgan, and his great grandson, Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan, who won the Nobel Prize for his work in genetics (National Park Service 2014e). The building is now a museum that contains a collection of early Kentucky furniture, antique porcelain, and 19th century paintings. The second floor houses the Alexander T. Hunt Civil War Museum of the Hunt-Morgan House, which features an extensive collection of Civil War relics and memorabilia (The Blue Grass Trust 2014a). The building is a contributing property to the Gratz Park Historic District, listed in the national register, near downtown Lexington.

The museum is currently operated by the nonprofit Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation, which was formed to save the home from demolition in 1955. The Civil War museum is also maintained in part by the Morgan's Men Association. The house is open to the public mid-March through mid-December, with guided tours offered in the afternoon Wednesday through Friday (The Blue Grass Trust 2014b).

The Hunt-Morgan House has a clear connection to early Kentucky history, and to the prominent roots of Lexington. The Hunts were a well-known family—through the Civil War—and the building itself features a unique style that is reflective of architecture in the time of Lincoln. The Civil War collection housed at the museum is also a link to the legacy of Lincoln.

Judge Joseph Holt Home

Breckinridge County

The historic Holt Home was the residence of Joseph Holt. A respected attorney, Joseph Holt served as secretary of state and postmaster general under President James Buchanan. During the Civil War, Holt was appointed judge advocate general of the US Army by President Abraham Lincoln. His most memorable role as judge advocate general came following the assassination of President Lincoln, when he presided over the trial of the Lincoln assassination conspirators. After his death in 1894 in Washington, DC, Holt's body was returned to his Kentucky home for burial. Holt is credited with helping to keep Kentucky in the Union during the Civil War and working alongside Lincoln to preserve the Union.

Located in rural Breckinridge County, Kentucky, the Holt House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 based on its significance in national history, politics, and architecture. The original portion of the Holt House was constructed in approximately 1850, during the time of Holt's national service, with a later addition dating to the 1870s. Throughout his tenure in Washington, Joseph Holt visited the home frequently and hosted social gatherings. Gardens surrounding the house were filled with native and nonindigenous plants and trees received as gifts or acquired by Holt during his travels. This includes an exceptional ginkgo tree, dating to Holt's time. The family cemetery where Joseph Holt is buried is located on a small parcel to the east of the home.

After many years of negotiation, the Judge Joseph Holt Home and surrounding 19.5 acres were acquired by Breckinridge County Fiscal Court in December 2008 through a \$158,000 Kentucky Lincoln Bicentennial Preservation Grant administered by the Kentucky Heritage Council / State Historic Preservation Office in partnership with the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, the Kentucky Historical Society, and the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet. As a condition of the grant, the heritage council holds a preservation easement on the property.

Stabilization is a critical first step, as exposure to the elements has resulted in significant water damage throughout the home. To assist with stabilizing the damage, the Kentucky Lincoln Bicentennial Commission gave a stabilization grant of \$7,000 in early 2009 to patch the roof and purchase Plexiglas window coverings to repel water and help prevent further deterioration. Congressman Brett Guthrie has secured a \$150,000 federal Save America's Treasures earmark, which would be administered on a 50-50 matching basis and used to repair the roof, gutters, and windows. Rehabilitation work began in 2012 with the assistance of a \$500,000 federal transportation enhancement grant, which was announced by Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet Secretary Marcheta Sparrow.

To assist the fiscal court in long-term rehabilitation plans, a Holt Home steering committee has been formed including representatives of the Kentucky Heritage Council, Kentucky Historical Society, Preservation Kentucky, Kentucky Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and many local leaders and elected officials, volunteers, and advocates. Local supporters and steering committee members have organized the Friends of the Holt Home, an advocacy organization working with the county to achieve 501(c)(3) nonprofit status to begin fundraising and broadening local interest and involvement. The Breckinridge County Fiscal Court is working with Friends of the Holt Home to make plans to reintroduce the home to public use and develop the property to maximize its potential for local economic development.

Today the Holt House is a featured site along the new Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail. The connection to Abraham Lincoln is through Joseph Holt's political appointment by Lincoln, and his role in the trial of the Lincoln assassination conspirators. There is a positive outlook for preservation and restoration of the Holt House and its return to honored status in the Breckinridge County landscape.

Lexington Cemetery and Henry Clay Monument

Lexington, Fayette County

Lexington Cemetery was founded in 1849, and is the second largest cemetery in Kentucky. Many notable Kentuckians are buried there, including politicians, authors, businessmen, and sports figures. Among these famous figures is Henry Clay, the famous 19th century politician. A monument to Clay stands in the center of the cemetery. It was erected in 1857 using native limestone, and consists of a statue of clay atop a 120-foot column. The remains of Clay and his wife rest in two marble sarcophaguses on the floor of a chamber at the base of the monument (National Park Service 2014f). Other important graves in Lexington Cemetery include John C. Breckinridge, vice-president of the United States and Confederate general; John Hunt Morgan, a famous Confederate general and cavalry officer; and Levi Todd, a founder of Lexington and grandfather of Mary Todd Lincoln (Kentucky Historical Society 2014). The Lexington National Cemetery lies directly adjacent to the larger Lexington Cemetery, and is the final resting place for many soldiers who lost their lives during the Civil War.

Lexington Cemetery, Lexington National Cemetery, and the Henry Clay Monument are all listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The cemeteries have strong connections to important periods of American history, and the monument is recognized as an impressive artistic achievement (National Register 1976). The cemeteries and monument are owned and managed by Lexington Cemetery Company, and open to the public daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lincoln Heritage House

Elizabethtown, Hardin County

Located in Freeman Lake Park are the pioneer homes of the Hardin Thomas family. Thomas Lincoln, the father of Abraham Lincoln, is believed to have completed carpentry and cabinetry on the later four-room log structure built around 1805. For several years, Thomas Lincoln was a resident of Hardin County, working as a carpenter and craftsman. The Lincoln Heritage House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. Through the work of the Hardin County Historical Society, the cabin was restored and opened to the public in 1973.

The Lincoln Heritage House, known as the oldest home standing in the county, was gutted by fire in May 2009. All traces of the home's woodwork by Thomas Lincoln were consumed by the flames with the exception of a mantle that had been removed in 1919 and installed in the library at Fort Knox. As a result of the fire, the house is currently closed to the public. In 2010, plans to rebuild the house were underway using the original home's foundation as well as the still standing fireplaces. The exterior of the house has since been rebuilt but extensive interior renovations are still ongoing. Logs for the reconstruction were taken from a home of the same period in a neighboring county, allowing for the restoration of the house to a similar time period the Lincoln family knew while living in Kentucky. The site is devoted to the history of Thomas Lincoln's life and work while living in Hardin County. A state roadside historical marker, #1468, gives a brief description of Thomas Lincoln's work on the home. The Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission installed a second interpretive marker acknowledging the significance of the home and its connection to Lincoln.

The Lincoln Heritage House is located in the city of Elizabethtown's Freeman Lake Park. The park is managed by the city of Elizabethtown, Parks and Recreation Division. Freeman Lake Park consists of 170-acres that are open year round. The park has recreational walking trails, picnic facilities including covered picnic areas with electricity, water, and restrooms, playgrounds, volleyball courts, bandstand, paddle boat and canoe rentals at the lake, and fishing amenities for visitors. Also found at the park is one of the county's one-room schoolhouses as well as the Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln Memorial (a memorial to Abraham Lincoln's stepmother). Freeman Lake Park is host to many yearly public events and festivals. The Lincoln Heritage House Fall Festival premiered in 1973 with an "Old Fashioned Days" theme and grew into the annual Heartland Festival held in late August.

Lincoln Homestead State Park and Mordecai Lincoln House

Springfield, Washington County

The Lincoln Homestead State Park celebrates and interprets the history of Abraham Lincoln's parents and close relatives through the preservation of original as well as reconstructed historic structures of significance. Located in north central Kentucky, the site provides visitors with an opportunity to learn about life on the Kentucky frontier by touring these structures and interacting with period-costumed interpreters. The park interprets important events in the life of the Lincoln family such as the marriage of Abraham Lincoln's parents and the growth of their small family on the Kentucky frontier.

The park is located north of Springfield, Kentucky, in Washington County and covers 120 acres. The site includes four structures, one of which is original; the others are reconstructions. The Francis Berry House is the original two-story log home where the Berry family lived and Thomas Lincoln courted, proposed to, and married Nancy Hanks. The Francis Berry House was moved eight miles to its current park site in 1942. The Mordecai Lincoln House, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is a replica of the house built by Thomas Lincoln's older brother, Mordecai, and is located on the site of the original cabin approximately one-half mile from the other structures. The Lincoln Cabin, a replica of the log home where Thomas Lincoln lived until he was 25, is also open to visitors. Finally, a replica of a blacksmith shop is on-site and depicts where Thomas Lincoln learned his trade as a blacksmith and carpenter. Interpretive brochures and signage informs visitors about the historic significance of the site and its relationship to Abraham Lincoln. A memorial to Nancy Hanks can also be found at the site (Kentucky Department of Parks 2014a).

Lincoln Homestead State Park and the Mordecai Lincoln House are currently owned and managed by Kentucky State Parks. Kentucky State Parks oversees 17 state resort parks, 11 state historic parks, and 24 state recreational parks. The park came into being on June 19, 1936, at a meeting of the Washington County, Kentucky Fiscal Court, where the Washington County Historical Society presented a resolution requesting the court to order the conveyance to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, several tracts of land for the establishment of a Lincoln Homestead State Shrine. Over the years land has been added to the park including the development of the golf course and the addition of the Francis Berry House (Kentucky Department of Parks 2014a).

Lincoln Homestead State Park is open year round and features an 18-hole golf course, picnic shelters, tables, grills, restrooms, and a playground along with the historic structures described above. The park also has a gift shop for visitors and allows fishing in a nearby lake. In 2008, the park received approximately 2,400 visitors.

The Lincoln Institute *Shelby County*

The Lincoln Institute is an educational institution that was founded as a result of the 1904 Day Law, which outlawed integrated education in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The law forced Berea College—the first integrated college in Kentucky—to abandon its progressive approach to education; black students were no longer allowed to attend classes with whites. Consequently, the trustees of Berea College decided to establish a new institution that was intended to specifically meet the needs of black students. The trustees purchased 444.4 acres of land in Shelby County that would eventually become the site of the Lincoln Institute—named for President Abraham Lincoln. The Lincoln Institute opened in 1912 with 85 students. Operated under the leadership of President Whitney M. Young, Sr., the school gained recognition as a prominent boarding school for blacks.

In 1954, the separate but equal doctrine was found to be unconstitutional, and the all-black school lost relevance. The Lincoln Institute experienced a steady decline in enrollment over the years following, and eventually held its final graduation in 1966. Lincoln School—a school for gifted students—opened at that location in the same year, but closed in 1970. Since 1972, the school has operated as a year round nontraditional education program for academically talented, economically disadvantaged youth. This mission is now achieved through the Whitney M. YOUNG Scholars Program (Lincoln Foundation 2014).

Berea Hall, built in 1910, is the main administrative and classroom building at the institute, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The birthplace of Whitney M. Young, Jr.—a civil rights leader who attended the Lincoln Institute, and son of the former president—is housed on-site,

and designated a national historic landmark. It is currently operated as a museum, and is open to the public by request (National Park Service, 2014g). The Lincoln Institute is currently operated by the nonprofit Lincoln Foundation. The US Department of Labor also operates the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Job Corps Center, which is housed on 54 dedicated acres of the campus.

Lincoln Marriage Temple at Old Fort Harrod State Park

Harrodsburg, Mercer County

The Lincoln Marriage Temple on the Old Fort Harrod State Park grounds is believed to shelter the log cabin where Abraham Lincoln’s parents, Thomas Lincoln and Mary Hanks, were married on June 12, 1806. It was built in 1931 to protect the cabin, which was moved from its original location in Washington County, Kentucky, near the city of Springfield. The logs of the marriage cabin were moved from their original location and carefully stored at the new site until funds could be raised to rebuild it. The cabin was erected two years later in May 1913.

In 1931, Mrs. Edmund B. Hall of Muncie, Indiana, donated a substantial amount of money that was needed to build a temple that would enclose the cabin and protect it from the elements. This protective temple structure was patterned after the Lulbehrud Church (founded in 1799) near Mount Sterling, Kentucky. The architect for this project was Frederick L. Morgan of Louisville. The temple was constructed of handmade brick using a Flemish bond pattern in the shape of a cross. The cabin was placed directly under the intersection of the temple under an opening that leads to a spire and belfry. The newly protected cabin and temple were dedicated on June 12, 1931, the 125th anniversary of the Lincoln and Hanks wedding.

Old Fort Harrod State Park, which houses the temple, allows visitors to explore Kentucky’s pioneering history and how its early settlers lived. Built in 1927, the reconstructed Fort Harrod, which commemorates the struggles and sacrifices of these early pioneers, is the focal point of the site. Old Fort Harrod features costumed interpreters that interact with visitors and reenact period woodworking and blacksmithing. The park has picnic facilities, shelters, a playground, amphitheater, and gift shop. Another amenity is the Mansion Museum—a Greek Revival house built in 1813—which exhibits Civil War artifacts and displays information on Lincoln.

Kentucky State Parks owns and manages the 22-acre site. Kentucky State Parks oversees 17 state resort parks, 11 state historic parks, and 24 state recreational parks. The park grounds are open year round. The Lincoln Marriage Temple is open seasonally, while other fort buildings are open seasonally and year round.

Lincoln Memorial Cemetery (Mill Creek Cemetery)

Elizabethtown, Hardin County

Lincoln Memorial Cemetery, also known as Mill Creek Cemetery, is the final resting place of Abraham Lincoln’s paternal grandmother Bathsheba Lincoln. Though information is incomplete regarding Lincoln’s grandparents on both sides, records indicate that Abraham Lincoln, Sr. was married to Bathsheba Herring in 1780. The couple had five children, Mordecai, Josiah, Mary, Thomas, and Nancy. Abraham Lincoln, Sr., died in May 1786, and Bathsheba moved the family to Washington County, where she lived until about 1801. She then lived with her daughter Nancy in the Mill Creek area of Hardin County. Bathsheba lived here until her death in about 1836, when she was buried at Mill Creek Cemetery. Her grave is marked by a large gravestone, which was dedicated as a gift from the people of Illinois to the people of Kentucky in 1960. A stone is set into its base that came from Abraham Lincoln’s tomb in Springfield, Illinois.

The cemetery is currently located on Fort Knox Military Reservation, so public access is severely restricted. The cemetery is only open to the public on Memorial Day, depending on the state of national security. The US Army could also be willing to open the cemetery for a special ceremony. There is presumably no interpretation offered on-site (Brent and Brent 2005).

Lincoln Memorial at Waterfront Park

Louisville, Jefferson County

The Lincoln Memorial at Waterfront Park is an interpretive site located in Louisville, Kentucky, along the Ohio River north of River Road, between I-65 and the Big Four Bridge. Dedicated on June 4, 2009, the \$2.3 million memorial was funded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the family of Harry S. Frazier, Jr., the Kentucky Historical Society, and the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. The memorial tells the story of how, as a young man, Lincoln experienced slavery in Louisville and on the Ohio River.

The Lincoln Memorial at Waterfront Park is a large interpretive landscape facing the Ohio River featuring a 12-foot statue of Lincoln, four bas-reliefs, and a stone amphitheater. The Lincoln Memorial at Waterfront Park uses sculptural elements, artistic expression, and Abraham Lincoln's own words to convey Lincoln's lifelong ties to Kentucky and the state's influence on his life. The memorial offers glimpses of different stages of Lincoln's life, including his childhood in Kentucky, his political and social rise, the impact of the Civil War on Lincoln, his family, and the nation, and the roots of his abhorrence of slavery.

Louisville artist Ed Hamilton sculpted Lincoln and conceived the statue and the four bas-reliefs that line the path into the site. The bas-reliefs represent stories of Lincoln's lifelong ties to Kentucky. The face of the granite amphitheater seating is engraved with four famous Lincoln quotes, and the site is planted with a variety of trees, including several that were Lincoln favorites. The larger Waterfront Park contains a number of cultural and artistic features for visitors to enjoy including the Belle of Louisville Mississippi River steamboat, Riverview Park, and the Big Four Bridge. Students, teachers, and the public routinely visit the Lincoln Memorial and the park, which also features concerts and festivals during the spring, summer, and fall.

The site is owned and managed by the Waterfront Development Corporation. Established in 1986, the Waterfront Development Corporation plans, coordinates and implements strategies to revitalize Louisville's Waterfront. The organization was created by an inter-local agreement between Jefferson County, the City of Louisville (now Louisville Metro), and the Commonwealth of Kentucky to oversee redevelopment of Louisville's waterfront from a blighted and underused area into a vibrant, active area. The Lincoln Memorial at Waterfront Park is free to the public and is open year-round during park hours. Visitations to the site number in the tens of thousands annually.

Mary Todd Lincoln House

Lexington, Fayette County

The Mary Todd Lincoln House in downtown Lexington, Kentucky, was the first site restored to honor a first lady. It was the family home of Mary Todd Lincoln and where she and her husband Abraham Lincoln stayed at various times while visiting Lexington. Mary Todd Lincoln and her family were Kentuckians who directly influenced Abraham Lincoln's personal development, ideals, and path to the presidency.

Built between 1803 and 1806 as an inn, the property became the home of politician and businessman, Robert S. Todd in 1832. Mary Todd was born in December of 1818 in Lexington and was 13 when

her family moved into the former inn in downtown Lexington. She resided at the house during her formative years until 1939 when she moved to Springfield, Illinois, to live with her sister. It was there that she met Abraham Lincoln as a junior partner at her cousin's law firm, and the couple married on November 4, 1842.

Lincoln first visited the Todd family house in Lexington in 1847 and stayed there on multiple occasions in subsequent years, which would influence the rest of their lives. The house is where he witnessed slavery firsthand through the Todd family's slaves, as well as the slave auctions at the nearby courthouse (Kentucky Mansions 2011).

After Lincoln's election to the presidency in 1860, the Todd house became divided on his political values. In addition to Mary Todd Lincoln's influence on Abraham Lincoln, other Todd family members were also significant to Lincoln's personal and political life, particularly during the Civil War era. More than half of Mary's 14 remaining siblings supported the Confederacy. Four of her brothers fought in the Confederate army; two of whom were killed during the war. Many northerners accused her of southern sympathies, while many Confederates called her a traitor.

Although she never returned to her home in Lexington after her father's death in 1849, her time spent there during her younger years had a lasting impact on the rest of her life and the history of America (Mary Todd Lincoln House, Isaac Scott Hathaway Museum, and the Lexington Public Library).

The Mary Todd Lincoln House is approximately 5,250 square feet with 14 rooms on three floors. It contains period furniture, family portraits, and other furnishings from the Todd family as well as the Lincoln family. The original property once contained separate slave quarters, an outdoor kitchen, a wash house, a smoke house, and stables with a carriage house. Tours of the home focus on the biography of Mary Todd Lincoln with primary topics being her family background, education, slavery, the Civil War, and personal tragedies. The house offers guided public tours, and group and school tours by appointment. The facility has an elevator in the rear making the first floor wheelchair accessible. The upper floors are not wheelchair accessible, although photographs of the rooms are provided.

The Mary Todd Lincoln House was first opened to the public in 1977 following restoration efforts by the First Lady of Kentucky, Mrs. Beula Nunn, and the Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation, Inc. (KMPF). The house is owned by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and, through a long-term lease agreement, is maintained and operated by Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation, Inc. The state's only responsibility for the house is to carry insurance on the building. The museum collection within house is the property of Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation, Inc.

Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, educational organization whose mission is to recognize and assist in rescue, renovation, and preservation efforts for historic structures and sites throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky; to provide educational opportunities for their members and the general public on preservation and Kentucky history; and to provide management, maintenance and support for the Mary Todd Lincoln House.

Staff members at the Mary Todd Lincoln House provide a variety of educational programs and special events throughout the year. These include a program that brings first-person interpretation to elementary schools across Kentucky, a traveling banner exhibit with children's workbooks available for two- to three-month loans to any public institution in Kentucky (e.g., schools, libraries, museums). Self-guided walking tour publications for downtown Lexington as well as a Lexington

Cemetery map are also available. The House also offers special lectures, and staff available for speaking engagements to civic organizations. Museum visitation in 2009 was 9,307 and has ranged from 7,000 to 9,600 over the previous five years.

Mentor Graham Historical Marker

Green County

Mentor Graham was an educator who was born in Green County in 1800. Graham studied at Brush Creek Academy in his youth, and was hired as headmaster of the newly established Greensburg Academy in 1818. At Greensburg Academy, Mentor Graham taught Mary Owens, his first cousin and an early love interest of the young Abraham Lincoln. Later, Graham moved to Illinois and settled in the Sangamon River area, where he continued teaching. Three years later, he began teaching at New Salem, where Lincoln was among his students. Mentor Graham is credited for whatever higher education the future president received. Mentor Graham and his relationship to Lincoln are described on a historical marker at Bloyds Crossing north of the city of Greensburg. The marker is publicly accessible, but does not refer to any tangible resources. Greensburg Academy—located in the city of Greensburg—is the only known building related to Mentor Graham in Kentucky (Brent and Brent 2005).

My Old Kentucky Home State Park, and Federal Hill

Bardstown, Nelson County

My Old Kentucky Home State Park contains Federal Hill, the home of Judge John Rowan. Judge Rowan was a Kentucky defense lawyer who also served in several state and federal political capacities, including secretary of state, the US Congress, and the Kentucky General Assembly. Federal Hill was built between 1795 and 1818, and was home to three generations of the Rowan family. During their time there, the Rowans hosted many important figures, including Aaron Burr, Henry Clay, and others. The song “My Old Kentucky Home, Good Night,” the official state song of Kentucky, was written about Federal Hill by Stephen Collins Foster, a relative of the Rowan family. After 120 years of Rowan family occupancy, Madge Rowan Frost sold the home and grounds to the state in 1922, which officially became My Old Kentucky Home State Park in 1936. The building itself is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is regularly open for public tours. The public park also contains a 39-site campground (Kentucky Department of Parks 2014b).

New State Capitol

Frankfort, Franklin County

Frankfort is the capital city of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. When Kentucky became a state in 1792, Frankfort outbid other towns (including Lexington) for the privilege of becoming the capital of the new state. The first statehouse was built by 1794, but burned down in 1813. The next capitol building was completed in 1816 and burned down in 1824. Finally, what is now known as the “Old State Capitol” was built in 1830; it remained the state’s capitol building for the next 80 years and was in use during Abraham Lincoln’s lifetime. The current capitol was dedicated in 1910. The New State Capitol, designed by architect Frank Mills Andrews, draws from the French Beaux-Arts style, and is recognized as one of the most beautiful state capitols in the country.

Andrews’ design was reminiscent of the buildings and palaces found in France. Many of the building’s character-defining features were inspired by some of France’s most famous places, and the capitol rotunda’s 190-foot dome is based on Napoleon’s tomb. Beneath the dome in the rotunda, stands a larger than life-size statue of Abraham Lincoln, towering 14 feet tall and surrounded by sculptures of Jefferson Davis, Henry Clay, Alben Barkley, and Dr. Ephraim McDowell. Lunettes of

the nave are decorated with oil paintings; the east mural depicts Daniel Boone and his men seeing the Bluegrass for the first time from a Pilot Knob in Powell County and the west mural depicts Boone and the Transylvania Company negotiating with the Cherokee Indians for the land known as “Kentucky,” according to the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

The Kentucky State Capitol is listed in the National Register for Historic Places and features changing history and cultural exhibits on the first floor. The building currently houses the Kentucky state legislature as well as the Kentucky Supreme Court. The building is owned and managed by the state government. Because it is an active seat of state government, numerous state governmental offices are on-site and access is limited. The first floor of the Capitol is open to the public, and guided tours are regularly offered.

Old Morrison – Transylvania University

Lexington, Fayette County

Old Morrison is a historic building on the campus of Transylvania University in Lexington. It was built in 1834 in a Greek Revival style, with six large Doric columns along the building façade. The building was named for Colonel James Morrison, who willed the money for its construction, with Henry Clay as the executor of his will. The building once held a two-story chapel, the academic and law departments, the school library, and a variety of classrooms. It also houses the crypts of two former faculty members at Transylvania University: botanist Constantine Samuel Rafinesque and St. Saverus Francois Bonfils. During the Civil War, Transylvania and Old Morrison were closed, and the building was used as an army hospital—first by Union forces and later by Confederate forces.

Old Morrison underwent an extensive renovation in 1961, and again after a fire in 1969. The building currently holds administrative offices and is open to the public year round. It is designated a national historic landmark (National Park Service 2014h).

Old State Capitol

Frankfort, Franklin County

The Old State Capitol is a national historic landmark located in the old town area of Frankfort, not far from the north bank of the Kentucky River. Completed in 1830, this Greek Revival structure was the home of Kentucky state government until 1910. It introduced Greek Revival architecture to the United States west of the Appalachian mountains, and is widely recognized as a beautiful masterpiece of 19th century American architecture; it boasts a self-supporting stone stairway, a light-flooded rotunda, and dual legislative chambers.

Although the Old State Capitol in Frankfort does not have direct ties to Abraham Lincoln, it was the scene of many pre-Civil War debates on slavery and secession. It was also here in November 1850 that Henry Clay delivered a speech to a full House of Representatives in support of the Compromise of 1850. It was also the only capitol of a Union state to be occupied by Confederate forces during the Civil War. The Old State Capitol now serves as an important component of the Kentucky Historical Society’s campus in downtown Frankfort, which also includes the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History and the Kentucky Military History Museum at the Old State Arsenal.

The Old State Capitol is part of the Kentucky Historical Society, which is a quasi-governmental entity. Funded through the Kentucky state government and part of the tourism, arts, and heritage cabinet, the Kentucky Historical Society also has a nonprofit foundation that financially supports the society’s collections and programming efforts.

The Old State Capitol is available for guided tours on Wednesdays through Saturdays. Tours are scheduled and begin at the nearby Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History. Tours of the Capitol primarily feature discussions of the building's use as a capitol. Civil War themed tours and programs are currently being developed. The Kentucky Historical Society also hosts large groups and school tours giving visitors a glimpse of everyday Kentucky life during the tumultuous 19th century.

In the galleries of this stately historic structure, visitors can access and view the re-created 1850s Kentucky State House and Senate Chambers, as well as the re-created State Law Library, to get a sense of state government operations in the mid-19th century. Visitors can also tour a small exhibit of photographs, maps, and artifacts that help tell the story of the three Kentucky capitol buildings that previously stood where the Old State Capitol is located through artifacts recovered during archeological digs (at the "The Frankfort Public Square: A Place for History" exhibit). Lastly, the Old State Capitol also houses an exhibition that highlights five stylistic design eras and the commonwealth's treasures from those times ("Great Revivals: Kentucky Decorative Arts Treasures" exhibit). The Old State Capitol has restrooms and is wheelchair accessible. In 2008, the Old State Capitol received approximately 38,969 visitors.

Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site

Perryville, Boyle County

Perryville became the site of the most destructive Civil War battle in Kentucky, leaving more than 7,600 killed, wounded, or missing. The park museum tells of the battle that was the last serious attempt of the South to gain possession of Kentucky; the Perryville Battlefield was the decisive victory in the Union's efforts to maintain control of the state. The battlefield is one of the most unaltered Civil War sites in the nation; vistas visible today are virtually the same as those soldiers saw on that fateful day on October 8, 1862.

The Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site offers visitors more than seven miles of self-guided walking trails with more than 40 interpretive signs that provide information about battle events. The first Civil War monument on the site was erected in 1902 to honor fallen Confederate soldiers and a Union monument was dedicated in 1931. Since then, numerous monuments to fallen soldiers have been added to the site. Walking as well as driving tour brochures of the site are available and expose visitors to the critical battlefield areas within the site. The 300-acre site also features a picnic shelter, restrooms, tables, grills, and playground facilities.

The battlefield site has a museum and gift shop that chronicles the events of the Perryville Battle. Actual battlefield artifacts, Civil War displays, and maps of the battle are featured in museum exhibits. The museum also manages educational programs for school groups. The School of the Soldier program is geared toward 3rd- to 5th-grade classes and exposes students to Civil War history. A large selection of Civil War books and memorabilia is available in the museum gift shop. An annual reenactment of the battle takes place in October, using authentic weaponry, clothing, campsites, and demonstrations of infantry, artillery, cavalry, and Civil War reenactments. The weeklong event consists of numerous lectures, tours, demonstrations, and public programs, creating a large draw for visitors to the region.

The Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site is owned and managed by Kentucky State Parks. It is open year round for public visitation. The museum and interpretation of the battle are also supported through the volunteer efforts of the Perryville Volunteer Corps and the Friends of the Perryville Battlefield.

Samuel Pate House

Hancock County

The Samuel Pate House lies along the Ohio River between Hawesville and Lewisport. The seven-room log house was built in 1822 by Samuel Pate, and is famous as the location of Abraham Lincoln's first law case. In 1827, an 18-year-old Abraham Lincoln was accused of operating a ferry across the Ohio River without a license, and the case was tried at the home of Justice of the Peace Samuel Pate, who served as judge at the trial. Lincoln had taken two men from the Indiana side of the river to a steamboat mid-stream. Lincoln represented himself in the trial, and successfully argued that he had not technically violated the law because he had not *crossed* the river. According to one source, Lincoln had many questions about the law and court procedures, and Pate invited him to observe on law days. The site is said to be a place where Lincoln would continue to visit and learn about law (Brent and Brent 2005).

The building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is currently under private ownership. No regular interpretation is offered. The site is also marked by a state historical marker that describes Lincoln's first law case.

Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln Memorial

Elizabethtown, Hardin County

The Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln Memorial cabin was built in 1992 as part of Kentucky's Lincoln bicentennial celebration. Special 122-year-old hand-hewn logs were used for the reconstruction of the cabin where Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's stepmother, resided while in Elizabethtown. The memorial cabin is a close replica of the one Sarah was living in at the time she was courted by Thomas Lincoln.

Born on December 13, 1788, in Hardin County, Kentucky, Sarah Bush Johnston first met Thomas Lincoln in 1806 when she was married to her first husband. Following the death of her first husband in 1816, Sarah moved into a small log cabin that served as the inspiration for the memorial. After the death of Thomas Lincoln's first wife, Mary Hanks, Thomas Lincoln briefly returned to Elizabethtown and married Sarah Bush Johnston on December 2, 1819. Thomas brought Sarah to Indiana along with her three children, where Abraham met his new mother for the first time. Sarah Bush Johnston would play an important role in young Abraham Lincoln's development and life. She encouraged Abraham Lincoln's education and literacy by providing him with many books, which were hard to come by on the frontier. Lincoln always fondly referred to Sarah Bush Johnston as "mother" and had a close relationship with her (Elizabethtown Tourism & Convention Bureau 2010c).

The 14-foot-by-14-foot memorial cabin site is devoted to the life of Sarah Bush Johnston and her time in Kentucky. Furnished with period housewares and tools from when Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln lived in the area, the cabin preserves the memory of Sarah while teaching visitors about her life. The cabin is open to the public on weekends during the summer and by special appointment the rest of the year. Three interpretive signs identify the significance of the cabin while educating the public and honoring this extraordinary woman who influenced Abraham Lincoln's personal development from childhood through adulthood. The most recent interpretive marker at the site was created for the bicentennial (Elizabethtown Tourism & Convention Bureau 2010c).

The Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln Memorial was established and built by a nonprofit group in August 1992. Ownership and management of the memorial cabin and the butterfly garden adjacent to structure was turned over to the city of Elizabethtown after its completion. The cabin is located in

the city of Elizabethtown's Freeman Lake Park and is managed by the city's parks and recreation division. Freeman Lake Park consists of 170 acres that are open year round. It has recreational walking trails, picnic facilities including covered picnic areas with electricity, water, and restrooms, playgrounds, volleyball courts, bandstand, and paddle boat/canoe rentals at the lake and fishing amenities. Also found at the park is the Lincoln Heritage House. Freeman Lake Park is host to many yearly public events and festivals.

Union County Courthouse

Morganfield, Union County

The current Union County Courthouse is the third for Union County, and was opened in 1872. The first courthouse was built in 1811–1812, and the second was built in 1819–1820. The (second) Union County Courthouse was the site of Abraham Lincoln's only known speech in Kentucky, which occurred in 1840 when Lincoln campaigned for Whig presidential candidate William Henry Harrison.

The current Union County Courthouse is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and is under the ownership of the Union County Fiscal Court. There is no active interpretation of the Lincoln story, but the site is marked by a state historical marker that describes the events surrounding Lincoln's only political speech in his native state.

White Hall State Historic Site

Richmond, Madison County

White Hall was the home of Cassius Marcellus Clay, emancipationist, political advocate, newspaper publisher, and friend to Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln appointed Clay as minister to Russia. Clay's restored 44-room Italianate mansion was built by his father General Green Clay (War of 1812) in 1799, and remodeled in the 1860s. In addition to the historic artifacts and period furnishings, White Hall has many innovative features for its time, including indoor running water and central heating.

Although raised by one of the wealthiest landowners and largest slaveholders in Kentucky, Cassius Marcellus Clay did not approve of the institution of slavery. Clay freed the slaves that he personally owned in 1844, and he devoted a great portion of his life to speaking out against slavery and fought for the emancipation of slaves. Clay's views were not widely approved in his hometown; however, he did not let its widespread opinion deter him. He traveled to political rallies, speaking out against slavery. It was on one such trip in 1854 in Springfield, Illinois, that Clay met the young politician, Abraham Lincoln. Clay and Lincoln became good friends over the years, and Clay nearly ran as the vice president under him. Though he did not eventually run, he campaigned heavily for Lincoln, and played an active role in advising the president. He reported to Lincoln that he felt Kentucky would react favorably to emancipation.

White Hall State Historic Site is a 13.6-acre park with eight historical buildings. Guided tours of the mansion and grounds are conducted. White Hall has exhibits pertaining to Abraham Lincoln in both the main mansion as well as in the restored corncrib building. These interpretive displays focus on Cassius M. Clay's work as ambassador to Russia and on Clay's personal connection to the Lincoln and Todd families. The exhibit housed in the corncrib focuses on the political connections between Lincoln and Clay. White Hall hosts a number of special events throughout the year, such as the site's annual Ghost Walk. These events change each year, but their themes are always connected with Lincoln and/or slavery.

White Hall State Historic Site is currently managed by Kentucky State Parks. Guides in period costumes provide tours and access to the site. The site is open to the public, and group tours are available by appointment.

White Hall also has a small nonprofit foundation, White Hall-Clermont Foundation, which provides a minor amount of support through fundraising and volunteers. White Hall receives approximately 10,000 visitors a year.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Downtown Hodgenville, Kentucky, Including the Lincoln Museum and Adolph A. Weinman Statue

Hodgenville, LaRue County

The town of Hodgenville (the seat of LaRue County) is located about three miles north of Abraham Lincoln's birthplace at Sinking Spring Farm and seven miles southwest of Lincoln's boyhood home at Knob Creek Farm. This location at the heart of Lincoln's Kentucky youth lends itself well to the town's potential to commemorate and interpret the story of Lincoln and his Kentucky roots. The Lincoln Museum and the Lincoln statue play important roles in this commemoration and are effective complements to the education and interpretation provided at the nearby Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park.

The Lincoln Museum in Hodgenville is the official Lincoln Museum of Kentucky. The museum is located in the national historic district in downtown Hodgenville and is in the National Register of Historic Places. It offers self-guided tour materials and hour-long guided tours for groups of up to 100 people. The museum presents Abraham Lincoln through a series of 12 major events in his life and the history of America. It contains 20 wax figures depicting the events and periods of Lincoln's life via life-size dioramas.

The museum also houses a library, a film, meeting rooms, an art gallery of original Lincoln-themed works in a variety of media, as well as a gift shop with a large selection of books related to Abraham Lincoln. The Lincoln Museum is open daily year-round and is American with Disabilities Act accessible. There is a nominal admission charge. Bus parking is also available. According to 2008 data, museum visitation is around 30,000 annually.

The Lincoln Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization operated according to its bylaws by a volunteer board of trustees elected annually by the membership. In addition to paid staff, there is a large pool of trained volunteers who assist with tours and programs throughout the year. To maintain quality control, the Lincoln Museum has successfully participated in performance management surveys conducted by the American Association for State and Local History, as well as other museum assessment programs.

Lincoln Statue

Another feature in Hodgenville is the Abraham Lincoln statue in the center of the town's square. The monumental-sized bronze sculpture was authorized by congressional commission and created by Adolph A. Weinman in 1909 for the centennial of Lincoln's birth. The statue was unveiled in Hodgenville on May 31, 1909, during the Lincoln Centennial celebration as a tribute to Kentucky's

most famous native son and the nation's first martyred president. Abraham Lincoln's son attended the dedication ceremony in 1909 (La Rue County Chamber of Commerce 2011).

In 2008, with sponsorship from Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, Hodgenville was one of three Kentucky sites selected to receive funding for another Lincoln sculpture. After a national contest with 76 submissions from across the United States, the local committee selected Daub Firmin Hendrickson Sculpture Group's depiction of the "Boy Lincoln" as the epitome of Abraham Lincoln's youth and formative years in Kentucky. The life-sized bronze sculpture of Abraham Lincoln at age seven carrying a book, cane fishing pole, and rucksack and accompanied by his dog "Honey," captures the essence of him as a child in frontier Kentucky. This sculpture is placed approximately 90 feet directly opposite and facing the Lincoln statue as if to make the viewer contemplate what the future may hold.

Located in the Sculpture Plaza and surrounding area are a number of interpretive panels and historic markers that broaden the reader's knowledge of historic events in this area. In addition to the Lincoln Museum and Lincoln statues, Hodgenville contains a visitor center that guides tourists to local Lincoln attractions as well as others within the state. Other facilities include the Nancy Lincoln Inn, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Inn and its four cabins were constructed in 1928 and are still available for overnight guests.

The Sculpture Plaza is under the care and supervision of the city of Hodgenville with additional support from community volunteer organizations.

Hardin County History Museum *Elizabethtown, Hardin County*

Founded in 2003, the Hardin County History Museum collects and preserves artifacts, documents, and other memorabilia from the Hardin County region dating from early Indian inhabitants to modern times. Through a variety of permanent and rotating exhibits, as well as speakers, tours, and promotions, the history museum strives to promote knowledge and appreciation for area heritage. A special collection of artifacts related to the Lincoln family is on display in the designated Lincoln Room at the museum.

The museum's collection contains many aspects of Hardin County history, Abraham Lincoln family history, and a special film about Lincoln titled, "Lincoln: I, too, am a Kentuckian." The film highlights Abraham Lincoln's birth, first seven years of life, and family history associated with the county. A special collection of artifacts is on display in the Lincoln room at the museum as well as 12 interpretive markers on Lincoln paternal and maternal family heritage, education, religion, local interests, and political relations. As part of the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail, two interpretive markers were also installed on the front lawn of the Hardin County History Museum during the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln bicentennial. These markers discuss the Lincoln family leaving the county for Indiana and life while on the Kentucky frontier.

The museum also houses an excellent collection of county Civil War artifacts and histories from the county's divided loyalties. The town, considered a rundown hamlet in the 1860s, was adjacent to a modern railroad line. Harding County was often occupied by Union troops and attacked by Confederate forces throughout the war. A film featuring Confederate General John Hunt Morgan's cannoning of Elizabethtown on December 27, 1862, and subsequent battle from house-to-house is played daily.

A special exhibit on county history relating to slavery, the Emancipation Proclamation, and enlistment of local African Americans in the Union army is housed in the Marvin and Joyce Benjamin Gallery. The museum is universally accessible and has restroom facilities, a bookstore/gift shop, and a genealogical library. The museum received 4,299 visitors in 2009.

The Hardin County History Museum, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is managed and governed according to its bylaws under the leadership of a board of directors who are elected from its membership during an annual meeting. An all-volunteer staff interested in local history and its preservation manages to the day-to-day operations and staffing of the museum. The museum is open to the public, and group tours are available by appointment.

Forkland Community

Forkland, Boyle County

Forkland is a community located in central Kentucky along the North Rolling Fork River. It is an old community, dating as far back as the late 18th century, and once was the home of Lucey Shipley Hanks—maternal grandmother of Abraham Lincoln. Lucey had several children—including Nancy Hanks, who moved to Washington County where she met Thomas Lincoln—and has many descendants throughout the Forkland area. Lucey and her second husband Henry Sparrow are buried in Forkland, but their graves have been destroyed and their exact location is unknown.

Today the community houses the Forkland Abraham Lincoln Museum, which was opened in 2008 with a grant from the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and the Kentucky Historical Society. This museum is intended to provide information on the lesser known maternal side of Lincoln’s family, and houses photographs of family members, Lincoln artifacts, and authentic newspapers about his death. There are other artifacts that demonstrate general life in the Forkland area in the 1800s and early 1900s. The museum is open to the public every Saturday, May through October, during special events, or by appointment (Forkland Museum 2014).

Abraham Lincoln has maternal family roots that have been in the Forkland area since the late 18th century, and his grandmother lived there for more than 34 years. She had eight children, and descendants scattered throughout the region. Despite these secondary connections, there is no indication that Lincoln himself ever spent time in the area. His mother, Nancy, moved away before she met his father, and they never lived in Forkland. Additionally, the museum, while dedicated to the study of Lincoln and Forkland, has no primary artifacts owned by Lincoln or his family.

Kentucky Military History Museum

Frankfort, Franklin County

Located at the Old State Arsenal site overlooking Frankfort, the Kentucky Military History Museum focuses on the service of various branches, types, and periods of Kentucky military. The museum is considered part of the Kentucky Historical Society campus, which also includes the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History and the Old State Capitol. The Old State Arsenal building dates back to 1850 and houses museum exhibits that emphasize the Kentucky militia, state guard, and other volunteer military organizations, from the Revolutionary War period through the modern military activity.

The Kentucky Military History Museum provides displays and interpretive information of firearms, edged weapons, artillery, uniforms, flags, photographs, personal items, and other equipment that illustrates the state’s military heritage. Museum tours allow visitors to focus on the rich history of the arsenal building without being distracted by an exhibition full of artifacts. Tours include a look at the

architecture, the story of the arsenal grounds, a discussion of the building's role in the Civil War, and a viewing of a new museums-to-go exhibit and a cartridge factory table.

The Kentucky Military History Museum is operated by the Kentucky National Guard and the Kentucky Historical Society. As noted above, it is a component of the Kentucky Historical Society campus in downtown Frankfort. The museum is open on Saturdays and tours must be scheduled at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History.

Kentucky Railway Museum

New Haven, Nelson County

The Kentucky Railway Museum is a museum in New Haven, Kentucky, dedicated to telling the story of Kentucky's railroads and the people who built them. The museum was originally opened in 1958, but has since relocated and expanded to accommodate more than 40,000 visitors per year. The current museum building was completed in 1995, and is a 5,000-square-foot replica of the original brick L&N New Haven depot. The museum features an operating steam locomotive (L&N 152), as well as an accompanying fleet of passenger cars. It also contains operating diesel-electric locomotives that are used for off-site excursions on the railroad. The museum contains more than 70 pieces of rail equipment, and tracks are under construction for the display of their rolling stock. It is currently operated by a nonprofit organization, and is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday. Train excursions are offered on Saturday and Sunday (Kentucky Railway Museum 2014).

Museum Row (Old Bardstown Village and Civil War Museum of the Western Theater)

Bardstown, Nelson County

Museum Row is a collection of museums that interpret several pieces of American history, with particular emphasis on the Civil War. The Civil War museums include the Civil War Museum and Women's Civil War Museum. The Civil War Museum is the fourth largest Civil War museum in the country, and primarily focuses on the western theater of the war. The museum features an array of original artifacts from both the Union and Confederacy, including clothing, weapons, and other memorabilia. The Women's Civil War Museum further communicates the Civil War story, specifically depicting the role of women in the Civil War—the only such museum in the country. Other museums on Museum Row include the Pioneer Village, War Memorial of Mid America, and the Wildlife Museum. The museums of Museum Row are operated by the nonprofit Old Bardstown Village/Civil War Museum, and are open to the public from March to November (Old Bardstown 2014).

Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History (Kentucky Historical Society)

Frankfort, Franklin County

As part of the Abraham Lincoln bicentennial commemoration, the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History featured a major exhibition sharing Abraham Lincoln stories unique to Kentucky. Through rare artifacts and engaging images, *Beyond the Log Cabin: Kentucky's Abraham Lincoln* tells the story of Lincoln's lifelong engagement with Kentucky. The HistoryMobile of the Kentucky Historical Society, which includes a self-contained Lincoln traveling exhibit, toured the state during the bicentennial. The center's library and special collections include family history resources on Lincoln genealogy.

The headquarters of the Kentucky Historical Society, the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, was completed in April 1999. This 167,000-square-foot, \$29 million state-of-the-art facility in downtown Frankfort has welcomed more than a million visitors and earned many awards for

excellence. Kentucky Historical Society Abraham Lincoln-related artifacts are located in this facility. In addition, the center also offers Kentucky books and crafts, as well as unique items inspired by the society's collections and exhibitions. The Center for Kentucky History provides rental venues to groups and individuals.

The center houses a permanent display called "A Kentucky Journey," a 20,000-square-foot exhibit featuring 12,000 years of Kentucky history, as well as various changing exhibitions. The Martin F. Schmidt Library specializes in genealogical research. Statewide outreach programs that touch every county of the state are offered by the center along with online database and research resources.

The Kentucky Historical Society history campus includes the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, the Old State Capitol, and the Kentucky Military History Museum at the Old State Arsenal. Funded through Kentucky state government and part of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, the Kentucky Historical Society also has a nonprofit foundation that financially supports the society's collections and programming efforts. Total annual visitation for the history campus is approximately 75,000 with the center's visitation averaging around 20,000 (most of whom are local schoolchildren).

Washington County Courthouse, Lincoln Legacy Museum, and Downtown Springfield Statue *Springfield, Washington County*

The Washington County Courthouse houses the Lincoln Legacy Museum, which highlights the major parts of Abraham Lincoln's story with special emphasis on his family background. The Courthouse also contains the marriage bond of Lincoln's parents, Thomas and Nancy, who were married near Springfield in 1806. A statue of Lincoln was erected in 2009 across the street from the courthouse, interpreting Lincoln's confusion about where—and perhaps whether—his parents were actually married. The site is owned by the Washington County Fiscal Court, and managed by the City of Springfield.

The museum is open Thursday through Saturday and highlights the marriage of Lincoln's parents. Additional facets of Abraham Lincoln's story are also interpreted, such as the industrious ancestors that he never knew, the talents of his father in the woodworking industry, his family's life in Springfield, and other influences that molded him into one of the best US presidents. The one-and-one-half times-life-size, full-figure bronze sculpture of Lincoln stands across the street from the museum looking towards the old Washington County Courthouse. Just below, is a bronze plaque imprinted with a reproduction of Nancy Hanks and Thomas Lincoln's Bond of Marriage.

RESOURCE ANALYSIS

The study team used the information presented as part of this analysis to determine each resource's direct or indirect association with the life, career, and policies of Abraham Lincoln, as well as the resource's overall level of integrity. Based on these parameters, the following five historic resources and one natural resource were found to have a direct association with Abraham Lincoln and his time in Kentucky, as well as an established integrity:

- Natural Resources
 - The Ohio River

- Historic Resources
 - Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park and Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit
 - Farmington Historic Plantation
 - Historic Lexington (Downtown Historic District)
 - Mary Todd Lincoln House
 - Samuel Pate House

Many of the inventoried resources within the study area were found to have indirect connections to Abraham Lincoln, indicating that Lincoln never visited or was influenced by his experiences at these locations. Many of these sites were associated with family members or prominent figures such as Henry Clay, who had a profound influence on Lincoln, but it was the individual, not the physical site or location, that influenced Abraham Lincoln. Other sites and resources had direct associations with the American Civil War, a significant historic event during Lincoln's lifetime and an event that molded both his presidency and his legacy. Many of these American Civil War sites have an established integrity, but most have only an indirect connection to Lincoln himself. This is due to the massive scope of the conflict, the overwhelming number of Civil War-related sites in the nation, and the fact that Lincoln never visited Kentucky during the war.

Conversely, a few sites had a direct connection to Lincoln, but no solid documentation or established integrity. The Grave of Thomas Lincoln, Jr. (Redmon Cemetery) and Union County Courthouse were each visited by Abraham Lincoln at some point, but the sites have either changed substantially since that time, or their status is unknown. The Grave of Thomas Lincoln, Jr. exists on private property, and its current integrity cannot be easily assessed. Though Lincoln gave a speech at Union County Courthouse, the building itself has been reconstructed since that time. And the integrity of the contemporary rural/agricultural landscapes throughout the area cannot be effectively compared to the landscape in the time of Lincoln due in part to modern infrastructure and urban expansion, as discussed in the narrative description above.

As part of this inventory and analysis process, cultural resources were also evaluated by the study team. Cultural resources were defined as those resources found in museum archives and collections such as physical objects, county records, and art work. Commemorative art such as statues, monuments, and sculptures were also considered within the cultural resources category. The primary concern regarding museum archives and collections in this study is that they do not contain any primary collections directly related to Abraham Lincoln, particularly any personal artifacts

relating to his life in Kentucky. Additionally, statues and monuments were built to commemorate Lincoln after his death, so they cannot be said to have a direct connection with his life. While these cultural resources can play a valuable role in supporting education and connecting visitors to the nationally important stories, they cannot be directly associated with Lincoln based on the evaluation criteria.

In “Table 6. Resource Inventory Matrix,” the full analysis of resources is presented. In order for resources to contribute to the strategic assemblage they must have a direct association with Lincoln and have integrity as defined in the methodology section of this chapter.

SUMMARY

Through the inventory process, the study team researched, documented, and analyzed a number of natural, historic, and cultural resources within the Kentucky Lincoln study area. Initially looking at 17 sites identified in the study's authorizing legislation, the scope of this inventory was significantly expanded based on public comments and feedback from subject matter experts. Overall, only five historic resources and one natural resource were found to meet national heritage area program guidance of having a direct association and ties to Abraham Lincoln. These are places he visited, wrote about, and which had a direct influence on his life. A Resource Inventory Matrix was developed as part of this process and informed the 10 criteria for evaluating national heritage area designation presented in chapter 5.

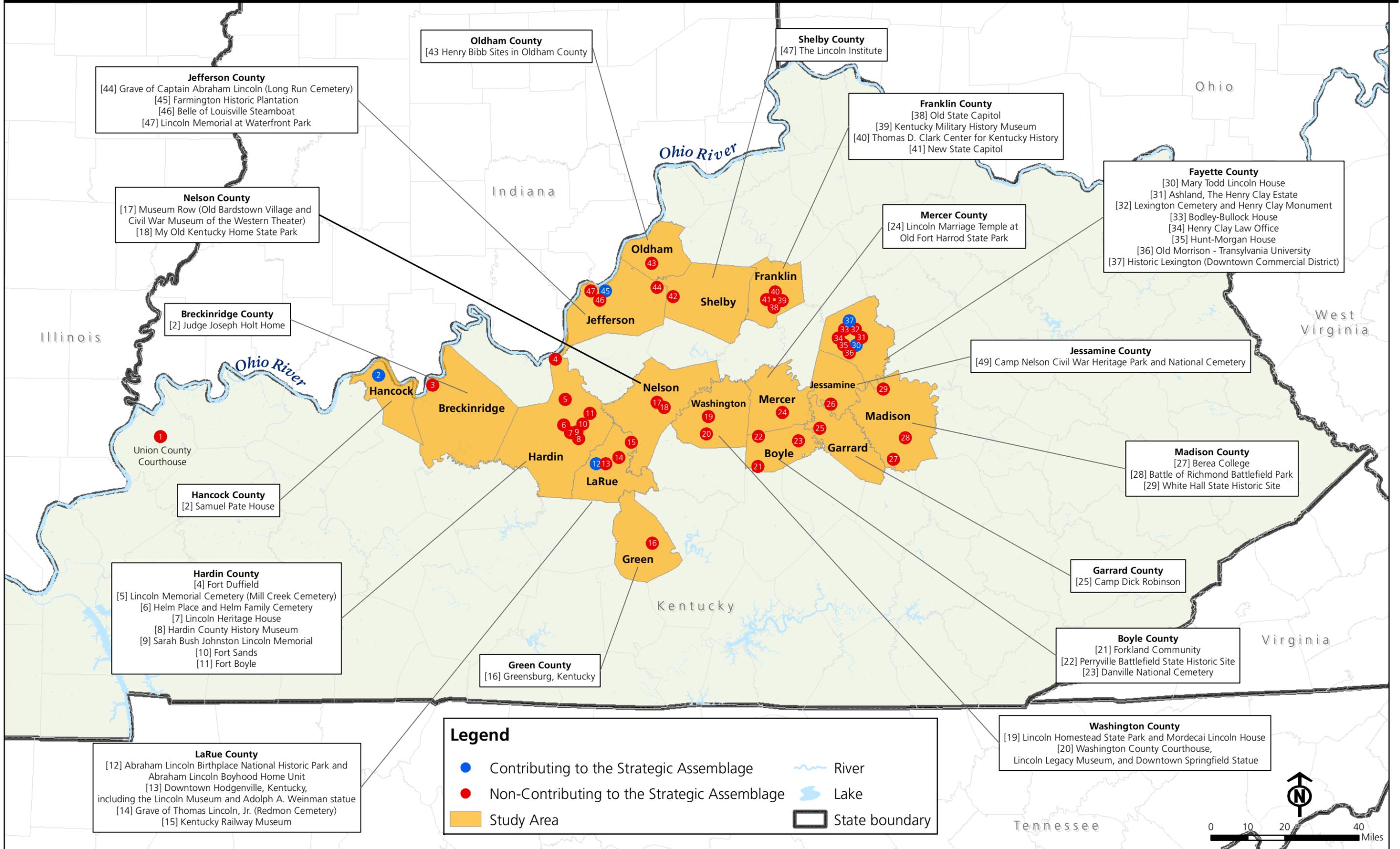


Table 6: Resource Inventory Matrix

Legislated or Scoping	Site Name	County	City	Resource Type	Within Expanded Study Area	Association	Integrity	Strategic Assemblage	Public Accessibility	Ownership/Leasorship Type	Management Entity
Legislated	Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park and Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit	LaRue	Hodgenville	Historic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Full	Public	National Park Service
Legislated	Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate	Fayette	Lexington	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Nonprofit	Henry Clay Memorial Foundation
Scoping	Battle of Richmond Battlefield Park	Madison	Richmond	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Nonprofit	Battlefield of Richmond Association
Scoping	Belle of Louisville Steamboat	Jefferson	Louisville	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Public	City of Louisville
Scoping	Berea College	Madison	Berea	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Nonprofit	Berea College
Scoping	Bodley-Bullock House	Fayette	Lexington	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Nonprofit	Junior League of Lexington
Scoping	Camp Dick Robinson	Garrard		Historic	Yes	No	No	No	Partial	Private	Private
Legislated	Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park and National Cemetery	Jessamine	Nicholasville	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Nonprofit	Camp Nelson Restoration and Preservation Foundation
Scoping	Danville National Cemetery	Boyle	Danville	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Public	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Legislated	Downtown Hodgenville, Kentucky, including the Lincoln Museum and Adolph A. Weinman statue	LaRue	Hodgenville	Cultural	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full/Partial	Various	Multiple
Legislated	Hardin County History Museum	Hardin	Elizabethtown	Cultural	Yes	No	No	No	Full	Nonprofit	Hardin County Museum
Legislated	Helm Place and Helm Family Cemetery	Hardin	Elizabethtown	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full/Partial	Home: Private Cemetery: Nonprofit	Home: Private Cemetery: Hardin County Historical Society
Legislated	Lincoln Heritage House	Hardin	Elizabethtown	Historic	Yes	No	No	No	Partial	Public	City of Elizabethtown, Parks and Recreation
Legislated	Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln Memorial	Hardin	Elizabethtown	Historic	Yes	No	No	No	Full	Public	City of Elizabethtown, Parks and Recreation
Legislated	Farmington Historic Plantation	Jefferson	Louisville	Historic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Full	Nonprofit	The Historic Homes Foundation
Scoping	Forkland Community	Boyle	Forkland	Cultura	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full/Partial	Various	Multiple
Scoping	Fort Boyle	Hardin		Historic	Yes	No	No	No	Unknown	Private	Private
Scoping	Fort Duffield	Hardin	West Point	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Nonprofit	Fort Duffield Heritage Committee/Friends of Fort Duffield
Scoping	Fort Sands	Hardin		Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Unknown	Private	Private
Scoping	Grave of Captain Abraham Lincoln (Long Run Cemetery)	Jefferson	Louisville	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Public	Jefferson County Fiscal Court
Scoping	Grave of Thomas Lincoln, Jr. (Redmon Cemetery)	LaRue	Hodgenville	Historic	Yes	Yes	No	No	Unknown	Private	Private
Scoping	Greensburg, Kentucky	Green	Greensburg	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full/Partial	Various	Multiple

Table 6: Resource Inventory Matrix

Legislated or Scoping	Site Name	County	City	Resource Type	Within Expanded Study Area	Association	Integrity	Strategic Assemblage	Public Accessibility	Ownership/Leasorship Type	Management Entity
Scoping	Henry Bibb Sites in Oldham County	Oldham		Historic	Yes	No	No	No	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Scoping	Henry Clay Law Office	Fayette	Lexington	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Partial	Nonprofit	Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship (Henry Clay Memorial Foundation)
Scoping	Historic Lexington (Downtown Commercial District)	Fayette	Lexington	Historic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Full/Partial	Various	Multiple
Scoping	Hunt-Morgan House	Fayette	Lexington	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Nonprofit	Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation
Legislated	Judge Joseph Holt Home	Breckinridge		Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Partial	Public	Breckinridge County Fiscal Court
Legislated	Kentucky Military History Museum	Franklin	Frankfort	Cultural	Yes	No	No	No	Full	Public	Kentucky National Guard/Kentucky Historical Society
Scoping	Kentucky Railway Museum	Nelson	New Haven	Cultural	Yes	No	No	No	Full	Nonprofit	Kentucky Railway Museum
Scoping	Lexington Cemetery and Henry Clay Monument	Fayette	Lexington	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Nonprofit	The Lexington Cemetery
Legislated	Lincoln Homestead State Park and Mordecai Lincoln House	Washington	Springfield	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Public	Kentucky State Parks
Legislated	Lincoln Marriage Temple at Old Fort Harrod State Park	Mercer	Harrodsburg	Historic	Yes	No	No	No	Full	Public	Kentucky State Parks
Scoping	Lincoln Memorial at Waterfront Park	Jefferson	Louisville	Historic	Yes	No	No	No	Full	Nonprofit	Waterfront Development Corporation
Scoping	Lincoln Memorial Cemetery (Mill Creek Cemetery)	Hardin	Elizabethtown	Historic	Yes	No	No	No	None	Public	U.S. Army
Legislated	Mary Todd Lincoln House	Fayette	Lexington	Historic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Full	Nonprofit	Kentucky Mansions Preservation Fund
Scoping	Mentor Graham Sites	Green		Historic	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Scoping	Museum Row (Old Bardstown Village and Civil War Museum of the Western Theater)	Nelson	Bardstown	Cultural	Yes	No	No	No	Full	Nonprofit	Old Bardstown Village/Civil War Museum
Scoping	My Old Kentucky Home State Park	Nelson	Bardstown	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Public	Kentucky State Parks
Legislated	New State Capitol	Franklin	Frankfort	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Public	State of Kentucky
Scoping	Old Morrison - Transylvania University	Fayette	Lexington	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Private	Transylvania University
Legislated	Old State Capitol	Franklin	Frankfort	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Public	Kentucky Historical Society
Legislated	Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site	Boyle	Perryville	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Public	Kentucky State Parks
Scoping	Samuel Pate House	Hancock	Lewisport	Historic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partial	Private	Private

Table 6: Resource Inventory Matrix

Legislated or Scoping	Site Name	County	City	Resource Type	Within Expanded Study Area	Association	Integrity	Strategic Assemblage	Public Accessibility	Ownership/Leasorship Type	Management Entity
Scoping	The Lincoln Institute	Shelby		Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Nonprofit	Lincoln Foundation
Legislated	Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History	Franklin	Frankfort	Cultural	Yes	No	No	No	Full	Public	Kentucky Historical Society
Scoping	Union County Courthouse	Union	Morganfield	Historic	No	Yes	No	No	Full	Public	Union County Fiscal Court
Scoping	Washington County Courthouse, Lincoln Legacy Museum, and Downtown Springfield Statue	Washington	Springfield	Cultural	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Public	Washington County Fiscal Court
Legislated	White Hall State Historic Site	Madison	Richmond	Historic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Full	Public	Kentucky State Parks
Scoping	The Ohio River	N/A	N/A	Natural	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Various	Public	N/A
Scoping	Rural / Agricultural Landscapes	Multiple	Multiple	Natural	Yes	Yes	No	No	Various	Various	Multiple

Evaluation of NPS
National Heritage
Area Criteria

5



White Hall State Historic Site, Image provided by KLHTA



*Benjamin Hardin Helm House,
Image provided by the KLHTA*



*Kentucky State Capitol Building,
Image provided by the KLHTA*



*Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate,
Image provided by the KLHTA*

INTRODUCTION

In the “Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines” the National Park Service outlines a two-part process that must be conducted for a study area to be considered for designation as a national heritage area. The first part of the process addresses four initial steps that are necessary before the Department of the Interior can make a formal recommendation to Congress. The four steps must be completed before the second part of the analysis process—the evaluation of the 10 criteria for national heritage area designation—is applied to the study area. The evaluation of the 10 criteria is done to demonstrate whether or not a study area meets all 10 criteria required in order to be considered for national heritage area designation.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDY PROCESS

INITIAL FOUR STEPS

These initial four steps relate to the overall feasibility study process and are designed to ensure that a fundamental level of public support and a local management commitment exists within the study area. The study area that would represent the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area has been assessed using the four-step evaluation process. Summaries of the assessments are included below:

1. Completion of a suitability and feasibility study

The preparation of this feasibility study serves the purpose of fulfilling this requirement for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area. Working collaboratively with local stakeholders, subject matter experts, and the general public, as well as the individual historic sites listed in the study authorizing legislation, the study team produced this feasibility study to provide data, research, and documentation on the study area and the potential contributing resources that would make up the basis of a proposed national heritage area. The Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area Feasibility Study makes recommendations based on this information, resulting in the final assessment of the 10 criteria for evaluating potential national heritage area designation.

2. Public involvement in the suitability and feasibility study

Public engagement and participation in this feasibility study was an important component of the evaluation and feasibility study development process. Initial scoping meetings with representatives from historic sites and other interested stakeholders were held in September 2009. The primary purpose of these meetings was to initiate the feasibility study process, inform local communities of the proposed national heritage area, and seek feedback from the local community and interested stakeholders. These preliminary meetings also provided an opportunity for the study team to visit many of the proposed historic sites and document resources that may contribute to the nationally distinctive landscape of the proposed national heritage area.

Following these initial scoping meetings, information gathered from these sessions was used to develop a feasibility study newsletter, which was distributed to more than 500 individuals and organizations throughout the region. The newsletter introduced the feasibility study to the general public and informed the community of numerous public meetings that took place throughout the region during the first week of January 2010. Participation in the planning process and feedback were solicited from the attendees at these meetings. At the conclusion of the public meeting process, additional public involvement was solicited through another newsletter in August 2010 and on the Internet using the NPS planning website, www.parkplanning.nps.gov/keli.

During the spring of 2013 additional site visits were also conducted to further assess additional resources and sites that emerged through this public involvement process. A more comprehensive list of potential contributing resources and sites within the study area was developed. Feedback from community stakeholders, representatives from the historic sites, and the public served as the foundation for this feasibility study and informed the study team's analysis.

3. Demonstration of widespread public support among heritage area residents for the proposed designation

Throughout the feasibility study process, public support and community feedback within the study area regarding the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area was positive and well received. Most of the public comments were in favor of and supported national heritage area designation and many commenters encouraged the study team to explore the potential of adding additional Abraham Lincoln related sites not listed in the authorizing legislation. Based on these positive comments a number of additional sites and resources were inventoried and analyzed by the study team. These recommendations to include additional historic sites in the proposed heritage area illustrate enthusiasm and public interest in exploring national heritage area designation. The public meetings were well attended and demonstrated that there is widespread public support for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area within the region. A summary of public comments can be referenced in “Appendix B: Public Comment Report.”

4. Commitment to the proposal from key constituents, which may include governments, industry, and private and nonprofit organizations, in addition to area residents

Building on the success and public interest generated during the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln’s birth, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has renewed its commitment to telling the story of our 16th president and sharing the state’s Lincoln legacy with the world. The Kentucky Historical Society played a pivotal role during the 2009 celebrations and continues to be a strong advocate for the development and designation of the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area. Local municipal governments such as Hodgenville and Elizabethtown are also strongly committed to seeing the success of the proposed national heritage area.

This local and statewide commitment to the national heritage area designation became apparent in the emergence of the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance as the potential management entity. Many letters of support for the Alliance to serve as the potential management entity were received from state and municipal governments as well as local citizens and nonprofit groups throughout the study area (see “Appendix D: Letters of Support”). The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance planned and managed many of the bicentennial events, cultivated numerous partnerships, and currently manages the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail. The Alliance is a committed partner with a proven track record of success that represents many key constituents who are dedicated to the future and long-term success of the proposed national heritage area honoring Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky.

TEN CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Having met the four initial steps in the national heritage area feasibility study process, described in the introduction, the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area was then evaluated using the 10 criteria for national heritage area designation identified in “Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines.” These 10 criteria for evaluation are more specific in content and provide a critical lens through which the study area, its assemblage of resources, local support of national heritage area designation, and the proposed management entity can be analyzed. A study area and its resources must meet all 10 criteria for evaluation in order to be considered for national heritage area designation.

1. The area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public

and private entities, and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.

In order to fully meet criterion one, a study area must contain a strategic assemblage of resources that maintain a high level of integrity capable of fully articulating a nationally important story. This strategic assemblage should form a nationally distinctive landscape that contains enough resources within a clearly defined geographic area so that a distinct sense of place is recognizable to visitors. This assemblage must provide visitors an opportunity to connect to and understand a distinct aspect of American heritage. In the context of this study, that aspect of American heritage is the connection between Abraham Lincoln and the parts of his life spent in Kentucky. Based on the historic overview described in chapter 3, the study team identified a nationally important story related to Abraham Lincoln and the influences of Kentucky on his life, career, and politics.

Through a comprehensive inventory and thorough analysis of potential contributing resources, five historic resources and one natural resource were identified that have a direct association with Abraham Lincoln and his time in Kentucky. These historic resources include Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park and Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home, Mary Todd Lincoln House, Historic Lexington (Downtown Commercial District), Farmington Historic Plantation, and the Samuel Pate House. The Ohio River was the one identified natural resource. Lincoln visited these places during his lifetime, and research suggests that they profoundly influenced his life, career, and politics. Because of their direct connection with Abraham Lincoln, these sites allow visitors to experience places Abraham Lincoln would have known in Kentucky and provide a unique experience only available in Kentucky. Likewise, the Ohio River was a dominant natural feature during Lincoln's lifetime and a key transportation route that he used many times and even wrote about. However, these five resources are scattered throughout the large 17-county study area. Due to the limited number of resources with a direct association with Abraham Lincoln, and their dispersed distribution, the study team concludes that there is not a strategic assemblage of resources capable of fully supporting national heritage area designation.

Many other sites and resources were researched, documented, and analyzed as part of this feasibility study, but found to have indirect connections to Abraham Lincoln; it is not documented that he ever visited or spent time at these sites. Several sites were identified that are associated with Lincoln's family and relatives, including Lincoln Homestead State Park and Mordecai Lincoln House, Lincoln Heritage House, Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln Memorial, Lincoln Marriage Temple at Old Fort Harrod State Park, the Forkland Community, and several grave sites. Although these sites have direct family connections to Lincoln, it is not documented that he ever visited these sites. Many of the people with whom these sites are associated had direct influences on his life, but the sites themselves are not known to have directly influenced Lincoln's life, career, or politics.

Certain other sites were found to have associations with politicians and individuals that had an impact on Lincoln's political ideology and influenced Lincoln during his presidency, including Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate; Henry Clay Law Office; White Hall State Historic Site; Judge Joseph Holt Home; Greensburg, Kentucky; and Helm Place and Helm Family Cemetery. The individuals who lived at these sites influenced Lincoln, but the physical locations of their homes in Kentucky were unrelated to the influence of the individual. In fact, Lincoln's interactions with many of these individuals occurred outside of Kentucky in Illinois and Washington, D.C.

Many sites and resources associated with the American Civil War were also identified and analyzed in the study area, including Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park and National Cemetery, Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site, Battle of Richmond Battlefield Park, the Old State Capital, Hunt-Morgan House, Bodley-Bullock House, and various other forts and cemeteries. Although the Civil

War was fought during Abraham Lincoln's presidency and was a critical national event that defined his presidency, these sites do not have a direct connection to Lincoln; he did not visit this theater of the war. Because of their indirect connections to Abraham Lincoln, these sites and resources cannot be considered part of the strategic assemblage needed to warrant national heritage area designation.

Other types of cultural resources were also inventoried and analyzed as part of the feasibility study process. A number of statues and monuments were documented throughout the study area. These efforts to commemorate Abraham Lincoln after his death are an important part of honoring his legacy and place in American history. These statues and monuments are considered decorative arts and were added to the landscape after Lincoln's death and lack a direct historic connection to Lincoln. They could be moved or displayed in other locations, and are often not necessarily tied to a specific site or place on the landscape. Given Abraham Lincoln's importance in national history, statues and monuments honoring his legacy can be found throughout the nation. Because of these factors, these types of cultural resources are generally not considered as contributing to part of a strategic assemblage of resources.

Collections and archives in numerous museums were also considered during the feasibility study. These collections and artifacts are valuable tools in supporting interpretation and telling the nationally important story. However, none of the included collections contain a significant number of primary artifacts that belonged directly to Abraham Lincoln. Notable artifacts include original newspaper articles, belongings of friends and family, and even a death mask replica—none of which can be tied directly to Lincoln. Also, these collections are movable and not physically tied to the landscape, and thus they are not considered part of the strategic assemblage needed to define a nationally distinctive landscape. Consequently, these collections cannot be considered part of the strategic assemblage needed to define a nationally distinctive landscape.

Based on the analysis of natural, historic, and cultural resources presented in chapter 4, the study team concludes that the study area does not meet criterion 1. For a full inventory of sites and resources identified and analyzed for their ability to contribute to a strategic assemblage, please see chapter 4.

2. The area reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.

Because the feasibility study focuses on the nationally important story of the life of Abraham Lincoln and his connections to Kentucky, it is difficult to meet criterion 2, which deals primarily with assessing contemporary traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife. Although Kentucky is rich in numerous folklife traditions, it is hard to make direct connections between these living traditions and the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln in the state. The Kentucky Department of Tourism advertises much of the study area as the "Bourbon, Horses & History Region" and the "Bluegrass Region," reflecting central Kentucky's traditions of horse breeding and bourbon making. While they are illustrative of Kentucky's frontier heritage, there is little documentation connecting Abraham Lincoln to these contemporary traditions and folkways.

Many of the sites and resources analyzed as part of this feasibility study host cultural events, demonstrations, and historic reenactments that provide some insights into traditional folklife found in Kentucky. The annual Lincoln Days Event in LaRue County pays tribute to the Lincoln legacy and celebrates many local folk traditions such as railsplitting and fence-building. Historic interpreters at Lincoln Homestead State Park and the Lincoln Marriage Temple at Fort Harrod reenact life on the Kentucky frontier and provide an opportunity to explore pioneering traditions. Civil War reenactments at Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site and Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park

provide a historic perspective of military events that occurred during Lincoln's presidency. Although many of these cultural events commemorate and honor Abraham Lincoln's legacy, they serve more as interpretive and educational opportunities rather than the living continuation of specific regional traditions, customs, and beliefs.

The study team concludes that the study area does not meet criterion 2.

3. The area provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic features.

As part of the feasibility study guidelines, the study team evaluated the potential opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic features within the study area. Although a strategic assemblage of resources with direct associations to Abraham Lincoln was not identified under criterion 1, the study team did evaluate the potential of directly associated resources to provide outstanding conservation opportunities within the study area. Most of the historic resources with direct association with Abraham Lincoln presented in chapter four of this study are well documented and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, generally indicating a high level of integrity and conservation. During the 2009 bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, significant efforts at the local, state, and national levels resulted in the inventory, documentation, and conservation of many resources with both direct and indirect associations with Lincoln in Kentucky, raising awareness and promoting conservation efforts. Although there is always potential to conserve and document additional sites such as the Grave of Thomas Lincoln, Jr., given the high level of existing conservation and documentation efforts that have occurred within the study area, it is unlikely that national heritage area designation would provide significantly more outstanding opportunities for conservation of historic resources associated with the nationally important story of Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky found within the study area.

National heritage area designation may encourage the conservation of the natural, scenic, and rural landscapes. Heritage-related scenic, rural, and natural features are best illustrated at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park / Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit and Farmington Historic Plantation, where visitors can experience and appreciate a rural Kentucky landscape that Abraham Lincoln would have recognized. Based on the population data and land cover information presented in chapter 2 of this feasibility study, urban/suburban growth areas are primarily focused within Jefferson (Louisville) and Fayette (Lexington) Counties. The majority of the study area still remains rural with relatively low populations. Outside the two major urban areas of Louisville and Lexington, the study found that the landscape of the study area continues to maintain its rural character and significant threats could not be identified.

Another key element for evaluating the outstanding opportunities for conservation within the study area is the level of existing coordination and management already in place that support conservation values and resource stewardship. The Lincoln Heritage Scenic Highway, designated by the US Department of Transportation, currently operates within the study area and provides federal support for the conservation of archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities. National heritage area designation may duplicate the efforts of the Lincoln Heritage Scenic Highway in promoting conservation and heritage tourism in Kentucky.

Based on the information presented in this feasibility study, the study team concludes that a high level of conservation activity already exists for the resources contributing to the assemblage, and national heritage area designation may duplicate existing conservation efforts of local, state and other federal agencies. Criterion 3 is not met.

4. The area provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.

Although a strategic assemblage of resources with direct associations to Abraham Lincoln was not identified under criterion 1, the study team did evaluate the potential of the five identified historic resources and one natural resource (the Ohio River) to provide for outstanding recreational and educational opportunities within the study area. In order to meet this criterion a cohesive visitor experience that encourages outstanding recreational and educational opportunities at a large landscape scale should be present. Because the proposed national heritage area would focus solely on the nationally important story of an historic figure, Abraham Lincoln, and his time in Kentucky, recreational and educational opportunities are generally limited to heritage tourism activities such as visiting and touring historic sites and attending special events associated with the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln.

Four of the five historic resources (Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park and Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home, Mary Todd Lincoln House, Historic Lexington (Downtown Commercial District, and Farmington Historic Plantation) identified as having a direct connection to Abraham Lincoln under criterion 1 of this evaluation are all fully accessible and open to the public. Individually, these sites all have educational programming and provide opportunities for heritage tourism related recreational activities and special events. The Samuel Pate House, the fifth site identified as having a direct connection to Abraham Lincoln, is in private ownership and only partially open to the public, limiting its ability to support and contribute to overall recreational or educational activities in the study area.

In order to support national heritage area designation these historic resources should collectively provide outstanding opportunities for recreation and education and their geographic distribution should be considered a factor in determining these opportunities. Within the 17-county study area only 4 counties (Fayette, Hancock, Jefferson, and LaRue) contain resources that have been identified as having direct associations to Abraham Lincoln. The limited number of directly associated historic resources and the dispersed geographic distribution of these sites throughout the larger study area significantly impacts and limits their ability to provide outstanding opportunities for educational and recreational experiences at the large landscape scale common to a national heritage area experience.

Other forms of recreating and experiencing the study area include touring along the Lincoln Heritage Scenic Highway. This driving route provides a recreational driving experience through the rural Kentucky countryside; one of the three themes of this national scenic byway is Abraham Lincoln. The Ohio River, identified as having a direct association with Lincoln, also provides opportunities for other river-based forms of recreation within the study area. Although these linear corridors provide a diversity of recreational opportunities within the study area, it is difficult to communicate the nationally important story of Abraham Lincoln and his relationship to Kentucky to visitors traveling along them. Traveling these corridors provides diverse recreational opportunities, but their potential to provide outstanding educational opportunities related to Abraham Lincoln and his time in Kentucky is limited.

Based on the lack of a strategic assemblage of resources directly associated with Abraham Lincoln and the geographic distribution of the few identified directly associated resources, there are limited outstanding recreational and educational opportunities related to the national importance of the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area. The study team concludes that criterion 4 is not met.

5. Resources that are important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.

As part of this feasibility study, the nationally important story, significance statements, and an interpretive theme framework were laid out in chapter 3. Five major themes were identified in that chapter: 1) Lincoln’s Birthplace, Family, and Friends in Kentucky, 2) Lincoln, Slavery, Emancipation, and Self-Liberation, 3) Lincoln’s Ideals, Policy, and Politics, 4) Fate of the Nation: Lincoln, Kentucky, and the Civil War, and 5) Scars of War, Kentucky’s Uneasy Memory of Its Native Son and Lincoln’s Relevancy Today. These themes collectively communicate the broad story of Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky, including his life, career, and policies.

To be designated a national heritage area, the area must contain resources that retain a degree of integrity that could support the interpretation of those themes. In this study, only five historic resources and one natural resource were found to comprise an assemblage of resources with a direct connection to Abraham Lincoln and maintain an appropriate level of integrity. These resources include Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park and Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit, Mary Todd Lincoln House, Historic Lexington (Downtown Commercial District), Farmington Historic Plantation, the Samuel Pate House, and the Ohio River. Most of these sites are fully accessible to the public, and many already have robust interpretive and educational programs that connect visitors to the story of Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky. Of these resources, the Samuel Pate House is the only resource under private ownership and only partially accessible.

While these resources are directly linked to Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky, and have significant potential for supporting interpretation, they do not represent the breadth of Lincoln history presented in the interpretive themes. Table 7 below identifies sites associated with each interpretive theme. As demonstrated in table 7, the resources that comprise the strategic assemblage generally focus around the first two themes, with only one resource associated with the third theme. No sites that are part of the strategic assemblage convey the Lincoln stories in the final two themes. Many sites that were analyzed as part of the resource inventory do align with these themes, but they do not have the appropriate direct connection with Lincoln, or are not of sufficient integrity.

TABLE 7. THEMES AND ASSOCIATED RESOURCES

Themes	Associated Resources
<p>Lincoln’s Birthplace, Family, and Friends in Kentucky – Abraham Lincoln’s Kentucky family and friends substantially influenced his views on slavery, politics, and his perceptions of Southern culture and the South’s dedication to national unity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park and Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit ▪ Farmington Historic Plantation ▪ Mary Todd Lincoln House
<p>Lincoln, Slavery, Emancipation, and Self-Liberation – Abraham Lincoln’s aversion to slavery, his awareness of the misery it inflicted, and his grasp of the unbridgeable gulf between American ideals and the fundamental injustice of slavery, was ingrained by his exposure to the institution in Kentucky.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park and Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit ▪ Historic Lexington (Downtown Commercial District) ▪ Mary Todd Lincoln House ▪ Farmington Historic Plantation ▪ The Ohio River

TABLE 7. THEMES AND ASSOCIATED RESOURCES

Themes	Associated Resources
<p>Lincoln’s Ideals, Policy, and Politics – Abraham Lincoln’s political vision, influenced by the progressive philosophies that evolved in Kentucky, exemplifies his dedication to the common people, and to the creation of a government that rewarded initiative, promoted development, and enhanced opportunity for all Americans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None
<p>Fate of the Nation: Lincoln, Kentucky, and the Civil War – The American Civil War and the fate of the nation hung on Kentucky’s allegiance to the Union, leading President Lincoln to focus on this pivotal border state as an essential element of his wartime strategy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None
<p>Scars of War, Kentucky’s Uneasy Memory of Its Native Son, and Lincoln’s Relevancy Today – The scars that the war inflicted on this loyal slave state prompted its embittered white majority to embrace their southern allegiances and struggle for more than half a century with its American Civil War legacy and that of its most famous native son.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park and Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit

Based on the lack of a strategic assemblage of resources to tell the full story of Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky as presented in the themes, the study team concludes that the interpretive framework cannot be supported and criterion 5 is not met.

6. Residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments within the proposed area that are involved in the planning have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the federal government and have demonstrated support for designation of the area.

The proposed management entity, Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance, has been involved in planning for the preservation, promotion, and funding of Lincoln sites since the organization began in 2005, and has a demonstrated history of working collaboratively with residents, business interests, other nonprofit organizations, and local governments to build financial support. The period from 2008 to 2013 saw \$5 million in Lincoln-related investments in Kentucky from local and state government, nonprofit, private, business, and citizen sources. The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance anticipates a diverse array of funding to support both basic operations and projects related to heritage tourism, education, preservation, and development. The Alliance has received pledges of support from various agencies totaling \$25,000 each year for the first three years of operation if a proposed national heritage area is designated by Congress. Additionally, KLHTA members have a history of successful merchandising and the Alliance requires in-kind contributions from member organizations.

The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance, in consultation with state and local governments, nonprofits, private and business partners, developed a three-year conceptual financial plan in 2011. The financial plan submitted by the Alliance seeks to match anticipated federal funds with funds raised from a combination of local government, private, corporate, membership, and earned income sources, in addition to in-kind contributions. The financial plan projects steady growth over the first three years, which the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance is committed to attaining. To help

galvanize the awareness, support, and momentum, the Alliance is also exploring a relationship with a professional fundraising firm, which will assist in enhancing partnerships and enlisting support.

In 2013 the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance submitted an updated plan that highlighted progress made toward achieving its strategic plan and marketing plan goals. Of the five strategic goals, the Alliance has accomplished goals 1 and 2 and made substantial progress on goal 4. Goals 3 and 5 were postponed until fall of 2013. Of the three marketing plan goals, the Alliance has accomplished goals 1 and 2, and has achieved moderate success in accomplishing goal 3. Additionally, the Alliance has accomplished other actions outside of the strategic and marketing plan, all which further the heritage area concept. These additional actions include adding new sites to the heritage trail, raising funding to support a part-time staff position, obtaining 501(c)(3) status, furthering the strategic plan, and adding a Facebook page and smartphone app. Copies of these financial plans can be referenced in appendix C of the feasibility study.

The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance intends to build strategic partnerships to further the fundraising goals and leverage financial support for the proposed national heritage area. As the proposed management entity, it expects to work with many of the partners who supported the Lincoln bicentennial while building support with new partnerships.

Based on the financial information provided by the proposed management entity, the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance, the study team concludes that criterion 6 has been met.

7. The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area.

Partnerships are critical to the long-term sustainability of any designated national heritage area and to the implementation of national heritage area projects. The ability to build and maintain strong working partnerships between local, municipal, state, and federal government agencies throughout the region was a factor in evaluating the proposed management entity.

The proposed management entity, as described in criterion 10 and in appendix C, is the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance. Through its makeup, the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance exhibits support and collaboration from a variety of organizations and various levels of government. The Alliance is made up of representatives of the Lincoln historic sites, including sites that are managed by private and public organizations. Local and state government units are also represented on the Alliance. The Alliance reserves up to three board of director positions for elected officials or government representatives, and therefore reinforces a commitment of working with local government partners.

Additionally, a variety of local and state organizations has worked collaboratively on Abraham Lincoln heritage efforts and continues to do so. Since 2005, state agencies, educational institutions, and businesses have partnered with the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance or its individual member sites on Lincoln-related events and promotions. Partners in these efforts have included the Kentucky Department of Education, Kentucky Educational Television, the Kentucky Historical Society, the Kentucky Heritage Council, Preservation Kentucky, the Rural Heritage Development Initiative, the Elizabethtown Visitors Center, the Springfield Tourism Commission, the Lexington Visitors Center, Georgetown College, the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, Preferred Marketing Solutions, and others.

The Lincoln Trail Passport program, organized by the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance, is an outstanding example of collaboration and partnership in action. Partners involved in this successful program include:

- Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park
- Ashland: The Henry Clay Estate
- Farmington Historic Plantation
- Hardin County History Museum
- Jefferson Davis Monument State Historic Site
- Kentucky Department of Travel
- Kentucky Heritage Council
- Kentucky Historical Society
- Lincoln Homestead State Park
- Lincoln Museum Hodgenville
- Mary Todd Lincoln House
- Perryville Battlefield State Park
- White Hall State Historic Site

A number of these partner organizations have contributed to this feasibility study effort by participating in focus group meetings, publicizing and attending public meetings, and writing letters of support for the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance. The organizations represented by the Alliance have shown a continued commitment to working in partnership toward the future success of a designated national heritage area.

The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance has received letters of support, documented in the appendixes, from government agencies, elected officials, Lincoln sites, a university, and an interested individual. Letters indicated the writers' belief that the Alliance would be successful in coordination of heritage area projects and programs. Some agencies committed to partnering with Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance, and pledged financial support or intent to set aside funds in furtherance of the national heritage area. Several representatives of Lincoln historic sites also wrote to support the Alliance and expect to partner with the organization on projects and programs. Letters of support are attached in appendix D.

Based on the information provided in this feasibility study, the study team concludes that the proposed management entity meets criterion 7.

8. The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.

Outlined in chapter 2 of this feasibility study, tourism is a significant part of the Commonwealth of Kentucky's economy, and heritage tourism efforts would complement economic activities already occurring within the study area. National heritage area designation of the study area would provide additional support and capacity to existing heritage tourism efforts already occurring in the region.

The proposed management entity, Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance, has developed strategic goals of enhancing economic development through heritage tourism. Marketing and increasing travel to communities and resources throughout the study area are part of this plan. The Alliance intends to use economic impact data to make decisions on investments in Lincoln-related

promotions and events. The group expects to have a positive economic impact both in the region and in surrounding areas through these efforts.

Based on information and data presented in this feasibility study, the study team concludes that proposed national heritage area designation would support and strengthen local economic activities. Criterion 8 is fully met.

9. A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public.

The initial efforts to define the study area boundary came directly from the study legislation (Public Law 11-229). The legislation included 11 Kentucky counties. The study team prepared preliminary study area boundary maps that were tied to county boundaries, although these political lines were not the historical county boundaries during Abraham Lincoln's lifetime. The resulting study area was discontinuous and had few to no ties to the physical geography of the study area. Because of the dispersed nature of these counties, they did not form one cohesive landscape for analysis, so evaluating a nationally distinctive landscape using only these 11 counties did not work. The Ohio River, identified as a natural resource with a direct association with Lincoln, which forms the northern boundary of Kentucky, emerged as the only feature on the physical landscape that clearly defined a geographic boundary for the study area.

This preliminary boundary map based on these 11 counties was presented at public meetings, distributed in a newsletter, and posted on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website. Based on comments received at public meetings and written comments sent to the National Park Service, this study area boundary received general support from the public. There were also many suggestions from the public to include additional sites and counties outside those recognized in the study legislation. Based on these comments, additional sites, resources, and counties were added to the study area for analysis, with the goal of identifying a strategic assemblage of resources that would support a clearly defined boundary to the study area.

As a result, the study team broadened the study area to include the additional counties of Garrard, Green, Hancock, Nelson, Oldham, and Shelby. Through a comprehensive inventory and thorough analysis of potential contributing resources throughout the 24-county study area, five historic resources and one natural resource were identified that have a direct association with Abraham Lincoln and his time in Kentucky. These historic resources include Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park and Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home, Mary Todd Lincoln House, Historic Lexington (Downtown Commercial District), Farmington Historic Plantation, and the Samuel Pate House. The Ohio River was the one identified natural resource. However, given the limited number of contributing resources and their distribution throughout a much larger geographic area, a conceptual boundary focusing on these resources could not be identified.

Within this expanded area, the study team also attempted to define a boundary by looking at geographic features, eco-regions, historic settlement patterns, and land use types. No distinctive landscape type or features could be found to clearly distinguish the study area from the larger regional area of central Kentucky. As mentioned earlier, the Ohio River was the primary landscape feature used to define the northern and western boundary of the study area, but clearly defined boundaries for the study area's southern and eastern edges could not be identified. Contemporary political boundaries, such as counties, do not meet criteria for a boundary, as they do not relate to the nationally important story, significance, or themes of the potential national heritage area.

Based on the research and geographic information systems analysis conducted during the course of the feasibility study, a clearly defined conceptual boundary map for the study area could not be defined and criterion 9 has not been met.

10. The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.

As part of the evaluation process of this criterion, the study team accepted applications from organizations interested in serving as a management entities for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage area. During the development of this feasibility study, three organizations expressed interest in the role of serving as a management entity for the proposed national heritage area. Of these three organizations, only one submitted a completed application to serve as a management entity—Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance. The KLHTA management entity application can be referenced in appendix C. The following is a description of the proposed management entity.

Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance

The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance is a nonprofit organization, which emerged during planning for the Lincoln bicentennial and formalized its nonprofit status in 2009. The Alliance administers the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail, and if the study area is designated as a national heritage area by Congress, would embrace national heritage area coordination and management as its primary responsibility. The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance intends to work with partners and sites to collaboratively ensure continued preservation, interpretation, and promotion of Lincoln heritage resources and the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area as a whole.

Vision. The vision of the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance is to strengthen the Lincoln-related sites and communities in Kentucky through preservation, education, cultural, economic and community development programs, and events and promotions; to maintain the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail interpretive and promotional infrastructure; to work toward the establishment of a Lincoln National Heritage Area in Kentucky; to seek continued financial support for the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance from local, state, federal, and private sources; and, to further the world's understanding and appreciation of the state's influence upon the principles, ideals, and contributions of Kentucky's native son, Abraham Lincoln.

Organizational Structure. The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance is based and has office space in Hodgenville, Kentucky, at the Lincoln Museum, and has strong connections to many of the Abraham Lincoln sites within the study area, and also to the local communities, local and state agencies, educational institutions, and local businesses. The KLHTA capacity currently consists of its membership sites, volunteer board members and four board officers, as well as its first paid staff member, serving as director of the organization.

Membership — Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance, in its bylaws, has set up the following membership system:

- Primary members are Lincoln-related sites in Kentucky that are open to the public and provide interpretive programs to the public. Primary membership is subject to the approval of the board of directors. Each primary member of the KLHTA is entitled to appoint a director to the KLHTA board.

- Affiliated members include agencies and entities that coordinate with the Lincoln sites. Affiliated members could include state departments of parks, heritage, historical society, preservation, travel and tourism, arts, transportation, education, and other entities.
- Sustaining members are those individuals or organizations who wish to support the efforts of the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance. General public membership is important to the KLHTA. The general public is represented in the Sustaining Members category.

Board of Directors — KLHTA bylaws call for 5–20 directors. As of 2013, there were 12 active board members, and the Alliance anticipates welcoming additional board members. The board of directors currently consists of representatives from the following sites and organizations:

**TABLE 8. SITES REPRESENTED BY EXISTING
KLHTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(AS OF AUGUST 1, 2013)**

ORGANIZATIONS
Ashland: The Henry Clay Estate
Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park
Farmington Historic Plantation
The Judge Joseph Holt Home
The Lincoln Museum, Hodgenville
Mary Todd Lincoln House
Hardin County History Museum
Kentucky Historical Society
Lincoln Legacy Museum
Jefferson Davis Monument
White Hall State Historic Site
Lincoln Memorial at Waterfront Park

The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance has four standing committees and uses temporary committees to accomplish short-term projects. The standing committees consist of an executive committee, nominating committee, finance committee, and program-of-work committee. The Alliance also has four officer positions, chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer.

Staff — The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance hired its first paid staff member in 2013, to serve as director of the organization. The KLHTA director has ultimate responsibility for all projects. If the study area is designated a national heritage area by Congress, the Alliance would anticipate hiring additional staff in order to build capacity and administer the national heritage area.

Partnerships and Public Support. The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance intends to achieve its vision through dynamic cooperative partnerships and public support. This includes partnering with visitor and convention bureaus and other organizations for tourism promotion, with educational institutions for student programming, and with conservation and preservation

organizations to complete related projects. The Alliance also has strong ties to historians at many Kentucky universities and colleges. The Alliance has received pledges of financial support from several partners.

The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance also enjoys public support through each member site's individual membership and visitorship. The organization plans to enhance public engagement through strategic relationships with key stakeholders, such as tourism and convention bureaus, through inviting them to become members or partners. The Alliance aims to partner with organizations to create overall strategy for promotion and support of the national heritage area locally, nationally, and internationally. The organization will also work with local government officials to help communicate the opportunity as well as the responsibility that the national heritage area designation represents for their communities.

Many letters in support of the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance as a management entity for a Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Area were received by the study team. Letters came from elected officials, government agencies, historic sites, and prominent community members. The Alliance is the result of grassroots organization that pulled together substantial successes during the Lincoln bicentennial, and has continued to build on this success. See Appendix D for letters of the support.

Current Activities. Since 2010, the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance has engaged in many projects that mirror the activities of successful National Heritage Areas. These include strategic planning, fundraising, marketing, public education, and preservation. In 2013, the Alliance submitted an update of the organizations accomplishments and how they support strategic plan and marketing plan goals. See appendix C for current marketing plan, strategic plan, and financial plan.

In many ways, these activities are an extension of Lincoln Bicentennial goals of: establishing Kentucky as part of the Lincoln story on the state and national level; incorporating the relevance of the Lincoln story into educational programming across Kentucky; strengthening the long-term legacy of Kentucky's Lincoln sites and museums; and enhancing Kentucky's Heritage tourism industry.

The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance also remains active in the stewardship of resources throughout the study area, including the Judge Joseph Holt Home, the Lincoln Heritage House, the Lincoln Inn, and historic landscapes, throughout the region. The Alliance recognizes the importance of protecting these sites for future generations. One goal of the Alliance is to achieve collective successes, as well as support individual site successes—including financial health, dynamic interpretation, accessibility, and outstanding public programming for individual historic sites.

If a study area is designated a national heritage area by Congress, one of the first activities that a management entity must accomplish is the completion of a comprehensive management plan for the newly designated national heritage area, this generally takes up to three years. Heritage areas are often funded through matching grants by the federal government with the intention of providing startup funding to initiate locally organized heritage preservation efforts. The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance intends to sustain itself beyond the years when federal funds are available through membership dues, fundraising, grant writing, and earned income (i.e., merchandise sales).

Based on the information provided in the management entity application and their commitment to the feasibility study process, the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance is recognized as the proposed management entity for a potential national heritage area in the study area. This management entity is described above, and criterion 10 is fully met.

SUMMARY

The study team concludes that the study area does not meet all 10 evaluation criteria for designation as a national heritage area based on the NPS “Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines” (NPS 2003). Criteria 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9 were not fully met based on the current guidance for national heritage area designation. Criteria 6, 7, 8, and 10 were fully met and illustrate the local commitment and ongoing work of the proposed management entity, the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance. Based on this evaluation the study team finds that the study area does not meet the criteria for designation of a national heritage area focusing on Abraham Lincoln’s life and connections within Kentucky.

Summary

6



*Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln Memorial Cabin, Freeman Lake Park,
Image provided by the KLHTA.*



*Farmington Historic Plantation,
Image provided by the KLHTA*



*Old State Capitol,
Image provided by the KLHTA*



*Highway 150 between Bardstown & Springfield,
Image provided by KLHTA*

FEASIBILITY STUDY CONCLUSION

The Department of the Interior, National Park Service, has prepared this national heritage area feasibility study to determine the feasibility and suitability of designating the “Kentucky Lincoln” study area as a national heritage area. This study followed the process identified in “Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines” (NPS 2003) and complies with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

The Kentucky Lincoln study area includes resources in a 17-county region located in the north central portion of Kentucky. An 11-county area was first identified but the study area was expanded based on public scoping and research conducted during the feasibility study process. Covering a distance of roughly 158 miles from east to west and 99 miles north to south, the final study area covers an estimated 3,488,243 acres (5,450 square miles). A comprehensive inventory of potential contributing resources was conducted within this study area and these resources were then analyzed for their association to Abraham Lincoln. Through this process the initial list of 17 sites identified in congressional legislation was expanded to include 49 resources (2 natural resources, 39 historic resources, and 8 cultural resources) that were inventoried and analyzed as part of the feasibility study process.

The study team concludes that the Kentucky Lincoln study area does not meet all 10 evaluation criterion for designation as a national heritage area based on the NPS “Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines” (NPS 2003). Criteria 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9 were not fully met based on the current guidance for national heritage area designation because it does not contain a strategic assemblage of resources and sites that have a direct association with Abraham Lincoln. Only five historic sites and one natural resource within the study area were identified and documented to have direct connections to Abraham Lincoln. These are physical sites that Abraham Lincoln visited and he was influenced by his experiences and time spent at these locations. Because of the dispersed geographic distribution of these limited resources throughout the larger study area, this assemblage does not support a nationally distinctive landscape, the defining feature of a national heritage area. Criteria 6, 7, 8, and 10 were fully met and illustrate the local commitment and ongoing work of the proposed management entity, the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance. Based on this feasibility study the study team concludes that the study area does not meet the criteria for the designation of a national heritage area focusing on Abraham Lincoln’s life and connections within Kentucky.

APPENDIXES, SELECTED REFERENCES, AND PREPARERS AND CONSULTANTS

APPENDIX A: FEASIBILITY STUDY AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

SEC. 482. STUDY OF SITES RELATING TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN KENTUCKY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HERITAGE AREA.—The term “Heritage Area” means a National Heritage Area in the State to honor Abraham Lincoln.

(2) STATE.—The term “State” means the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

(3) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area” means the study area described in subsection (b)(2).

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Kentucky Historical Society, other State historical societies, the State Historic Preservation Officer, State tourism offices, and other appropriate organizations and agencies, shall conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a National Heritage Area in the State to honor Abraham Lincoln.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA.—The study area shall include—

(A) Boyle, Breckinridge, Fayette, Franklin, Hardin, Jefferson, Jessamine, Larue, Madison, Mercer, and Washington Counties in the State; and

(B) the following sites in the State:

(i) The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site.

(ii) The Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit.

(iii) Downtown Hodgenville, Kentucky, including the Lincoln Museum and Adolph A. Weinman statue.

(iv) Lincoln Homestead State Park and Mordecai Lincoln House.

(v) Camp Nelson Heritage Park.

(vi) Farmington Historic Home.

(vii) The Mary Todd Lincoln House.

(viii) Ashland, which is the Henry Clay Estate.

(ix) The Old State Capitol.

(x) The Kentucky Military History Museum.

(xi) The Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History.

(xii) The New State Capitol.

(xiii) Whitehall.

(xiv) Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site.

(xv) The Joseph Holt House.

(xvi) Elizabethtown, Kentucky, including the Lincoln Heritage House.

(xvii) Lincoln Marriage Temple at Fort Harrod.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include analysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the study area—

(A) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that—

(i) interpret—

(I) the life of Abraham Lincoln; and

(II) the contributions of Abraham Lincoln to the United States;

(ii) represent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States;

(iii) are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use; and

(iv) would be best managed—

(I) through partnerships among public and private entities; and

(II) by linking diverse and sometimes non-contiguous resources and active communities;

(B) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and historical events that are a valuable part of the story of the United States;

(C) provides—

(i) outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features; and

(ii) outstanding educational opportunities;

(D) contains resources that—

(i) are important to any identified themes of the study area; and

(ii) retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

(E) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and State and local governments that—

(i) are involved in the planning of the Heritage Area;

(ii) have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants in the Heritage Area, including the Federal Government; and

(iii) have demonstrated support for designation of the Heritage Area;

(F) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with the individuals and entities described in subparagraph (E) to develop the Heritage Area while encouraging State and local economic activity; and

(G) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than the third fiscal year after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the findings of the study; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC COMMENT REPORT

Summary of Public Scoping Comments Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area Feasibility Study National Park Service – Denver Service Center – April 2010

In 2010, the National Park Service held a series of public meetings in locations throughout north central Kentucky to gather input from the community. A total of 70 people attended the six meetings in January 2010. Meetings were held in Elizabethtown, Hodgenville, Louisville (two meetings), Nicholasville, and Lexington, Kentucky. The National Park Service collected public input during the meetings, as well as through a newsletter and comment form sent to approximately 500 addresses in the local area. Public comments were also shared through the NPS planning website, at the following address: <http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/keli>.

The following report summarizes the comments received from members of the public during the comment period from January to March 2010. The numbers in parentheses following the first several comments indicates the number of comments received relating to the summary statement. The most frequently heard comments are at the top of this report.

Comments on the overall proposed Kentucky Lincoln NHA

- The NHA would benefit the sites that are working to keep this legacy alive. (12)
- Communities of KY would take great pride in this heritage if this becomes an NHA. (10)
- NHA would have a very positive effect, as it would:
 - Encourage tourism and grow local economy (41)
 - Be a very positive addition to the Lincoln heritage sites (and past efforts) by preserving and enriching the legacy, a rich facet of history in the region and the U.S. (26)
 - Increase educational enrichment and opportunities for local communities and visitors from afar (19)
 - Encourage youngsters of humble beginnings to strive for higher goals, as Lincoln did. (5)
 - Help strengthen the friendly stereotype that outsiders have about Kentucky (by visiting these sites in KY and experiencing KY hospitality)
- Concern that the designation will cause a local tax increase since the local sites may need to raise revenue to match NPS funding. (3)
- Vast majority of respondents indicated that the proposed sites (in legislation) are good and appropriate. However, several individuals suggested additional sites that should be added now, or at a later date. See separate spreadsheet that lists other suggested sites for NHA.
- Consider broadened geographic scope to include areas of southern Indiana (connective via Louisville metro area), and other “outside the historic box” sites that are connected to Lincoln.
- Local historians should have been consulted prior to identifying the sites.
- If money is available, the NHA should purchase historic sites in Hardin County (e.g., Fort Sands)
- The NHA planning team should contact the following for data and assistance:

- Hardin County Historical Society in Elizabethtown
- Kentucky History Center
- Breckinridge County Historical Society
- The process may be too slow. As debate/review of the NHA proposal goes on, history may be lost unless some local sites can secure funding for interim preservation.
- The timing of this NHA is important, due to the recent momentum of the Bicentennial, and the upcoming sesquicentennials of his inauguration and the Civil War.
- Notifications for the public meetings in early January were not published as they should have been.
- Concerns with how the history of African-Americans will be portrayed in the NHA.
- Concerns with how partnering groups and programs/activities currently involved with the sites (e.g., Camp Nelson) will be impacted by an NHA designation.
- What is economic impact to the immediate area and to the state?
- Will ownership of the property and facilities remain as it is now?
- How will the property and facilities be managed?
- Who will manage the interpretation of the facility themes and how will the themes be accomplished?
- What will NPS bring to the facility in terms of finances and development?
- How will NPS designation impact current activities?
- “Looking back to the impact of the Centennial of Lincoln's birth and the impetus of Lincoln preservation from 1909 on, I must comment that our local history and culture have been adversely affected to some degree. This has been a result of a created apathy within the community due to the overwhelming emphasis upon one personage and the perceived notion that National Parks are maintaining our history for us. Because of this attitude, much more important local history has been lost forever from this lack of personal/community initiative to preserve, record, & publish. We still have not grown out of this self-destructive mode. It would be important for a Heritage Area to reach beyond Lincoln the man and encompass the rich culture that nourished him in his formative years. Remember, Lincoln is NOT symbolic of the people of central and south central Kentucky, so this iconography should never be forced upon as representative of the ideals and aspirations of the people living here during the 1st half of the 19th century. The log cabin itself is poorly stereotypical of all, leading even the descendants of pioneer Lincoln neighbors to believe all persons lived, learned, and interacted the same as the migratory Thomas Lincoln and his family. If truth be told, many of us are the grandchildren generations removed of individuals who loved their homes and remained. More clearly, most of the history of LaRue County happened AFTER Lincoln left, and many men and women left their own important marks as a legacy with more impact upon us today than any Lincoln left. I'll be forwarding by mail a copy of my own editorial printed locally before the Bicentennial that more eloquently states my thoughts on those long-forgotten by history who represent the spirit of Lincoln in this, the “Cradle of Emancipation” we call LaRue County (I should say I call it that, as it's a phrase I introduced some 10 years ago in my research and writings on African-American history in the local area.)”

Site-specific comments

- Several suggestions for additional sites to be included. See separate spreadsheet which itemizes these sites.
- NHA should emphasize that White Hall has the Colt that Lincoln gave Cassius Clay and Clay's commission as an ambassador to Russia (signed by Lincoln).
- Multiple people suggested that several civil war sites/markers could or should be incorporated into the NHA.
- One person responded by saying that including civil war sites would be too much for this NHA (watering it down), and that the sites should be considered for another/separate NHA.
- Several letters supporting the restoration of the Joseph Holt house, and its inclusion in the NHA.
- Several letters supporting the continued preservation and interpretation of Camp Nelson, and its inclusion in the NHA.
- Modernization and urban development continues to encroach on the Mary Todd Lincoln house, altering the feeling of the place once one steps outside. The NHA could provide funding to the MTL house that could be used to both maintain and improve the exterior surroundings of the house (to protect against the urban encroachment).

APPENDIX C: PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ENTITY APPLICATION

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

KENTUCKY LINCOLN NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA FEASIBILITY STUDY COORDINATING ENTITY APPLICATION/REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Please provide answers to the following questions, along with requested supporting materials by October 3, 2010. Your responses will be used by the National Park Service to evaluate your organization's capability as a coordinating entity. Some of the information provided may be incorporated in the feasibility study.

Section One: Public Support, Community Representation, and Statewide Presence

Section Points: 25

1. Where is your organization located? (NHAs are intended to be locally coordinated.)
2. How does your organization represent the varied interests (academic, business, nonprofit, neighborhood, government, etc.) that will be affected by the potential designation of a Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area through board membership, general membership, advisory committees, or programs?
3. How would your organization strengthen community representation and public support for a Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area?
4. How would you characterize the recognition and/or representation your organization has within Kentucky?

Supporting Materials to be Provided

- Board member bios
- Current member number totals
- List of advisory or special program committees with history and purpose

Section Two: Partnerships and Fundraising

Section Points: 25

1. What is your organization's experience with partnership (government, community, business, nonprofit, etc.) projects?
2. How would your organization build partnerships or establish partnership projects with organizations and government agencies?
3. What fundraising experience does your organization have?

Supporting Materials to be Provided

- 3-year financial plan, (see attachment 1)
- List of partnership commitments (see attachment 2)

Section Three: Organizational Capacity and Stability, Infrastructure, and Commitment to this National Heritage Area

Section Points: 25

1. What is your organization's current focus and mission?
2. How will the national heritage area work fit with your organization's existing programs? Approximately what percentage of time will be focused on the national heritage area?
3. What is your organization's current capacity (staff, volunteers, etc.) and infrastructure (office, copy machines, etc.)? How do you envision the staff and infrastructure to change upon becoming the NHA coordinating entity?
4. What time commitments will be required of board members/staff?
5. What is the management structure you would propose for coordination of the NHA?
6. What experience does your organization's leadership have in facilitation, management, strategic planning, partnership, fundraising, and consensus-building?
7. How will your organization sustain itself and remain active in implementing heritage area goals? How will your organization remain viable once the initial period of National Heritage Partnership Program funding is over?

Supporting Materials to be Provided

- Existing publicity materials

Section Four: Vision for the National Heritage Area

Section Points: 25

1. What is your organization's vision for the NHA?

Please submit responses to:
Carla McConnell
National Park Service – DSC-P
12795 W Alameda Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80225-0287
Carla_McConnell@nps.gov

**ATTACHMENT 1: SAMPLE PORTRAYAL OF COORDINATING ENTITY
3-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN AND FINANCIAL CAPABILITY**

Specific financial commitments, if known, should be identified. Where specific commitments cannot be determined, please provide information on the past capacity of your organization’s ability to attract funding, or rationale of how your organization would do so in the future. Provide explanations of how estimates were determined.

A sample way to portray your financial plan is presented below:

Conceptual Financial Plan from Proposed Coordinating Entity

	Anticipated Amount		
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Expected Funding:			
National Heritage Area Program Funding <i>(\$150,000 per year is not guaranteed, but estimated based on recent examples of the first three years as a national heritage area)</i>	150,000	150,000	150,000
<i>Total Funding:</i>			
Estimated Expenses:			
<i>Total Expenses:</i>			

ATTACHMENT 2: SAMPLE PORTRAYAL OF PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENTS

Partnership commitments can demonstrate, in large part, the capacity of the local participants to undertake and implement a future NHA. They may be agreements for working relationships, financial contributions, or pledges of other types of assistance.

A sample way to portray commitments to the partnership is presented below:

Organization	Activity	\$ Commitment

Please attach letters of commitment or support if possible.

Specific commitments may be difficult to ascertain at this stage. Indications of commitments to assist and work in partnership with the management entity by state and local governments and other organizations may be substituted for actual dollar or other specific contributions.



Response to the National Park Service’s Management Entity Questions
Submitted to the by the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance- August 7, 2013

Answers are in italics below.

Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area Feasibility Study
Management Entity Questions
April 10, 2013

NHA Criterion # 6: Residents, business interests, non-profit organizations, and governments within the proposed area are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the federal government, and have demonstrated support for designation of the area;

NHA Criterion # 10: The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.

1.	<p>Page 86, general:</p> <p>Please explain the ways in which residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments have participated in the development of conceptual financial plan, and outline the rules for all participants moving forward. The general description of letters of support that came in for the concept of the heritage area is not sufficient to suggest each of these entities has committed to active participation, financial support, or other partnership activities.</p> <p><i>The KLHTA’s conceptual financial plan was compiled by its members in consultation with government, nonprofit, private, and business partners. At present, KLHTA member organizations (which includes nonprofit and government entities) and local tourism/cvbs are the most active participants and the principle contributors of financial support. On July 31, 2013, the KLHTA submitted its <u>updated conceptual financial plan</u> to the Denver Service Center including additional commitments of support from tourism/cvbs within the study area.</i></p>
2.	<p>Page 88, line 1:</p> <p>Please describe the achievements made by KLHTA in the last two years. Have items identified in the marketing and strategic plans for completion</p>

in 2011 and 2012 been accomplished?

The KLHTA has been active in achieving its organizational goals over the last three years. The following items relate to the organization's 2011-2013 Strategic Plan, 2011-2012 Marketing Plan, and other accomplishments:

2011-2013 Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Consolidate and protect Lincoln Heritage website and marketing resources

- *The KLHTA has accomplished this goal by:*
 - 1) *Successfully managing transfer of the Lincoln Heritage Trail web site from the Kentucky Heritage Council to the Kentucky Department of Travel, which has committed to hosting and updating the site as part of the state's KentuckyTourism.com web site.*
 - 2) *Obtaining, protecting, and refreshing the Lincoln Heritage Trail brand including logo, promotional map graphics; onsite interpretative sign graphics, promotional sign graphics, merchandise templates; and more.*

Goal 2: Position organization for National Heritage Area Designation

- *The KLHTA has accomplished this goal by:*
 - 1) *Submitting its application to the NPS to serve as coordinating entity for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.*
 - 2) *Obtaining support and commitments from partners within the study area to support the KLHTA's conceptual financial plan.*
 - 3) *Mapping a legislative strategy for achieving the proposed designation.*

Goal 3: Establish a populated and diverse membership base

- *The KLHTA has solidified its board membership but postponed the broader portions of this goal. The KLHTA is currently in the final stages of hiring administrative staff that will begin implementing this goal in earnest in fall of 2013.*

Goal 4: Continue programmatic collaboration amongst LHT sites

- *The KLHTA and its members have continued to collaborate programmatically and strategically to support their mutual interests. This includes: Updating, reprinting, and distributing the Lincoln Heritage Trail printed map;*

<p><i>participating in a Lincoln Heritage Trail passport program; sustaining the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail website; and collectively pursuing the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area. A copy of the updated Lincoln Heritage Trail map can be accessed at this link</i></p> <p><i>Goal 5: Establish KLHTA advocacy infrastructure</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• The KLHTA has postponed this goal and is currently in the final stages of hiring administrative staff that will begin implementing this goal in earnest in fall of 2013.</i> <p><u><i>2011-2012 Marketing Plan</i></u></p> <p><i>Goal 1: Consolidate, preserve, and renew LHT marketing resources and relevant Lincoln Bicentennial resources.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• The KLHTA has accomplished this goal by:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1) Successfully managing transfer of the Lincoln Heritage Trail web site from the Kentucky Heritage Council to the Kentucky Department of Travel, which has committed to hosting and updating the site as part of the state's KentuckyTourism.com web site.</i> <i>2) Obtaining, protecting, and refreshing the Lincoln Heritage Trail brand including logo, promotional map graphics; onsite interpretative sign graphics, promotional sign graphics, merchandise templates; and more.</i> <p><i>Goal 2: Demonstrate increased visitation and receipts at Lincoln Heritage Trail Sites</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• The KLHTA was successful in accomplishing this goal. The net visitation at Lincoln Heritage Trail sites increased by 5.5 percent from 2011-2012. Additional documentation can be found by clicking here.</i> <p><i>Goal 3: Achieve active participation among key influencers, stakeholders, and resource providers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• The KLHTA has been moderately successful in pursuing and accomplishing this goal. This includes marshalling support and contributions for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area. The KLHTA is currently in the final stages of hiring administrative staff that will begin implementing this goal in earnest in fall of 2013.</i> <p><u><i>Additional Accomplishments</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Added five new sites to the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail including: Louisville's Lincoln Memorial at Waterfront Park; the Springfield Legacy Museum in Washington County; Lincoln Memorial University near Middlesboro; the Kentucky Lincoln National Scenic Byway; and the Joseph Holt House in Breckenridge County. The KLHTA is</i>
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	<p><i>currently updating its major marketing pieces to reflect these additions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Raised \$62,000 in financial commitments and grants to support the KLHTA including funding for a part-time staff position, which will start in September, 2013.</i> • <i>Attained 501-c-3 tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service. See confirmation letter here.</i> • <i>Held a strategic planning session with the KLHTA board in November, 2012, to begin crafted the organization's next strategic plan.</i> • <i>Established and maintained an organizational Facebook page.</i> • <i>Worked with the Kentucky Historical Society to create a Lincoln Tour on the Explore Kentucky History Smartphone app.</i>
3.	<p>Page 94, line 44:</p> <p>Does the alliance have office space? Is there a staff of the alliance, or is it a member organization with staff located in their respective organizations?</p> <p><i>The KLHTA is has office space at the Lincoln Museum in Hodgenville, Ky.</i></p> <p><i>The KLHTA is currently in the final stages of hiring its first paid administrative staff.</i></p>
4.	<p>Page 95, line 3:</p> <p>Please explain in more detail the organizational structure and governance of the alliance – this paragraph says that there are 15 volunteer board members currently, but below on line 39 we mentioned that the bylaws call for 20 directors. There are two board officers -- are those the only two executive positions, or are some positions not filled? There is mention of a plan to hire an executive assistant and administrative assistant. Is there still a plan to hire an executive director? Who would serve the lead role of the local coordinating entity? Would the board chair serve as the acting management and administrative position of the alliance?</p> <p><i>KLHTA's bylaws indicate not less than five (5) nor more than twenty (20) members be elected to the board of directors.</i></p>

	<p><i>There are currently twelve active members of the board of directors. A list of current board members can be accessed at this link. The KLHTA anticipates welcoming additional board members over the next year.</i></p> <p><i>The KLHTA will welcome its first paid staff member on September 1, 2013 to serve as director of the organization. The KLHTA director will have ultimate responsibility for all KLHTA projects, including the proposed NHA. Upon designation of the NHA, the KLHTA anticipates hiring additional staff to administer the NHA. Plans to hire an administrative assistant are currently on hold.</i></p>
5.	<p>Page 95, line 18:</p> <p>In listing its accomplishments, there is a reference to funding staffing hires – is this over and above the \$72,000 mentioned earlier?</p> <p><i>No. Current staff compensation will come from the organization’s listed resources.</i></p>
6.	<p>Page 95, line 39:</p> <p>Please provide more detail about the primary member. The following page outlines three levels of membership: directing, affiliated, and sustaining. In which level would the primary member fall?</p> <p><i>As stated on page 1, article II a. of the KLHTA bylaws, primary members are defined as Lincoln-related sites in Kentucky that are open to the public and provide interpretive programs to that public. Primary membership is subject to the approval of the board of directors. Each primary member of the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance is entitled to appoint a director to the KLHTA the board of directors as stipulated on page 3, section 2 of the organizational bylaws. The KLHTA bylaws can be accessed at this link.</i></p>
7.	<p>Page 96, Table 6:</p> <p>Not all the sites are listed. Will some sites not have members of the board in the future?</p> <p><i>Primary members are eligible but not required to appoint a director to the board. There are currently twelve active members of the board of directors, and the KLHTA anticipates welcoming additional board members over the next year.</i></p>

8.	<p>Page 96, line 8:</p> <p>This line describes four officer positions, whereas the previous page says that only two board officers currently exist. Will the two remaining executive positions be filled in the future?</p> <p><i>At time of submission of the KLHTA's application to serve as coordinating entity of the proposed NHA, only two of the four board officer positions were filled. The remaining seats were filled at a later date.</i></p>
9.	<p>Page 96, line 25:</p> <p>The previous page states that the goal of the alliance is to hire a full-time executive assistant and part-time administrative assistant. Will the development position be filled as well? Additional information on the comprehensive staffing plan would be very helpful.</p> <p><i>The KLHTA will welcome its first paid staff member on September 1, 2013, to serve as director of the organization. The KLHTA director will have ultimate responsibility for all KLHTA projects, including the proposed NHA. Upon designation of the NHA, the KLHTA anticipates hiring additional staff to administer the NHA. Plans to hire an administrative assistant are currently on hold.</i></p>
10.	<p>87, table:</p> <p>What is the likelihood of the growth anticipated over the stated three year period?</p> <p><i>The KLHTA and its members are committed to achieving the projections listed in its 3-year conceptual financial plan, which calls for steady growth within that period.</i></p>
11.	<p>The financial analysis is based on a number of assumptions about partner funding and future growth. While these may be adequate for study purposes, we will need more substantive projections regarding future funding.</p> <p><i>The KLHTA has bolstered its conceptual financial plan with additional commitments of support from partners within the study area. These commitments were forwarded to the Denver Service Center on July 31, 2013, as part of an <u>updated conceptual financial plan</u>. In addition, KLHTA members have a demonstrated history of building partnerships and resources</i></p>

to support Kentucky's Lincoln heritage. (The period from 2008-2013 witnessed more than \$5 million in Lincoln-related investments in Kentucky from government, non-profit, private, business, and citizen sources.) This record of partnerships and investments offers additional evidence of the credibility of the KLHTA's conceptual financial plan.



**UPDATED CONCEPTUAL FINANCIAL PLAN FOR THE
PROPOSED KENTUCKY LINCOLN NATIONAL HERITAGE
AREA**

Submitted to the National Park Service on July 31, 2013

Narrative Summary

This conceptual financial plan was compiled by the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance (KLHTA) in consultation with its government, nonprofit, private, and business partners. The plan represents estimated funding and expenses for the first three years of the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area. Key perspectives that informed this conceptual plan are as follows:

- A. KLHTA member organizations have a demonstrated history of building support and resources for Lincoln-related projects in Kentucky. During the recent Lincoln Bicentennial commemoration, KLHTA members generated broad-based support amongst government, nonprofit, private, and business sources totaling more than \$5 million. Major projects included: Establishment of the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail; new public art projects; and conservation of Lincoln-related historic structures.
- B. The KLHTA has secured commitments for the proposed NHA totaling more than \$25,000 per year from tourism/cvbs within the proposed area. Additional support is available within the proposed area and from communities that may be included in forthcoming expansions of the original area under study.
- C. KLHTA members have a history of successful merchandising. The organization is currently planning to re-launch its signature line of products in early 2014 consisting of t-shirts, hats, fleeces, and more. Once the proposed NHA is established, the KLHTA will bolster this line with products relating to the themes of the NHA.
- D. The KLHTA will raise funds to coordinate educational endeavors related to Kentucky's adoption of the Common Core state standards. The Kentucky Department of Education is also creating new social studies standards for Kentucky history. The KLHTA is uniquely positioned to coordinate educational programming amongst its members.
- E. KLHTA member organizations will provide substantive in-kind contributions to support the activities of the NHA. These contributions include office space, computer equipment, communications resources, stationery, and more. It is expected that in-kind contributions will exceed the conservative estimate budgeted in the conceptual financial plan.



**SAMPLE PORTRAYAL OF COORDINATING ENTITY
3-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN AND FINANCIAL CAPABILITY**

Expected Funding:	Anticipated Amount		
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
National Heritage Area Program Funding <i>(\$150,000 per year is not guaranteed, but estimated based on recent examples of the first three years as a national heritage area)</i>	125,000	150,000	150,000
Public and private contributions: tourism/cvbs; banks and corporations; individual donations; local governments;	60,000	80,000	100,000
Grants to support education, preservation, and marketing/economic development	40,000	50,000	60,000
Earned income: Membership dues; merchandise program; promotional license plate sales.	10,000	15,000	20,000
In-kind contributions: Office space, equipment, phone, internet, stationary	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total Funding:	\$250,000	\$310,000	\$345,000
Estimated Expenses:			
Administrative Staff: Salary and benefits	75,000	75,000	100,000
Office space, equipment, phone, internet, stationary (Can be in-kind)	20,000	20,000	20,000
Marketing and promotions	80,000	85,000	85,000
Education: Curriculum development; Field trip support; Educational resources	65,000	70,000	70,000
Foundation/ Capital Reserve	0	20,000	30,000
Grants to Kentucky Lincoln heritage sites for marketing, education, and conservation	10,000	40,000	40,000
Total Expenses:	\$250,000	\$310,000	\$345,000

KENTUCKY LINCOLN HERITAGE TRAIL ASSOCIATION – 2011 APPLICATION



Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance Marketing Plan 2011-2012 (Draft) Updated June, 2011

Mission Statement:

To preserve and promote Kentucky's Lincoln heritage by establishing and maintaining vibrant self-sustaining partnerships between Lincoln heritage sites in Kentucky.

Vision Statement:

To establish the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail as a premiere heritage tourism experience in Kentucky, serving local, regional, national, and international audiences. To assist in creating thriving Lincoln related sites and communities in the Commonwealth through preservation, education, and economic development.

2011-2012 KLHTA Marketing Goals:

- * Consolidate and protect LHT website and marketing resources
 - * Establish KLHTA advocacy infrastructure
 - * Establish a populated and diverse membership base
- * Continue programmatic collaboration amongst LHT sites

Key People Groups:

Customers: Heritage Tourists, Citizens, Educators, Students, Historians

Stakeholders: Lincoln Trail Sites and Communities, Tourism/CVBs, Local Govt.

Influencers: Tourism Professionals; Welcome Centers; LHT Advocates; Community Leaders, Teachers, School Administrators, Media

Resource Providers: Business/Corporate Sponsors; Private Foundations; KLSA Members; Merchandise; Local Govt.; Granting Organizations;

2011-2012 Prioritized Target Audiences:

Potential New Members
Resource Providers
Heritage Tourists
City and County Leaders in LHT Communities
School Administrators, Teachers
State Government: Legislators; THA Agencies; Education Cabinet

Target Geographies:

Kentucky Communities
Contiguous States
United States

Vivid Descriptors/Points of Pride:

Lincoln = Kentucky
Inspiring
Fun/Entertaining
Insightful
Authentic
Educational
Patriotic

Prioritized Marketing Goals:

1. Consolidate, preserve, and renew LHT marketing resources and relevant Lincoln Bicentennial resources.
2. Demonstrate increased visitation and receipts at Lincoln Heritage Trail Sites.
3. Achieve active participation among key Influencers, stakeholders, and resource providers

Message Integration:

1. Incorporate the following prioritized messages into all major marketing initiatives:
 - a. The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail is a fun, family-friendly, way to explore and learn
 - b. Marketing resources drive to website: www.kylincolntrail.org
 - c. Supporting the LHT will generate increase visitation and economic impact in Kentucky communities
2. Consistent, constant, continuous use of the LHT "brand" so that marketing messages from multiple independent partners are repeated and remembered

Media Mix:

Target Audience	Marketing Tools
Heritage Tourists (State, Regional, National, International); Tourism Professionals	Lincoln Trail Website Lincoln Trail Tear-Away Maps Press Releases
City and County Leaders in LHT Communities	Direct Mail Interpersonal Communication
School Administrators, Faculty - Primary, Secondary, Post-secondary	Listserve E-mail Direct Mail
Residents of Lincoln/Civil War Communities in Kentucky	Press Releases Local Advertising Merchandise
State Government: Legislators; THA Agencies; Education Cabinet	Direct Mail Interpersonal Communication E-mail Lincoln Trail web site

Promotional Resources Development and Implementation

LHT Web Site (www.kylincolntrail.org)

Audience: Regional and National Tourists; Kentucky residents; Students

Desired Outcome: Provide one-stop site for information on Lincoln-related sites and events in Kentucky; educational resources; media room

Budget: \$300 per year webhosting fee; volunteer time

Production Schedule:

Transfer Date:	February 28, 2011
Updates Complete:	March 15, 2011
Go-Live Date:	March 30, 2011

LHT Tear-Away Map

Audience: Heritage Tourists; Welcome Center Visitors; Lincoln Site Visitors

Desired Outcome: Increased Visitation at Lincoln Trail Sites; Branding/Awareness; Drive to Website

Distribution Method: Direct Mail; UPS; Hand Delivery

Budget: \$1,250

Production Schedule:

Print Date:	March 15, 2011
Mailing to Distribution Points:	May 1, 2011

Direct Mail Membership Campaign

Audience: Lincoln-related sites in Kentucky; Tourism Professionals; City and County Leaders in LHT Communities; Lincoln Enthusiasts

Desired Outcome: Engage key stakeholders and interested parties with compelling evidence of the need to join and support the KLSA.

Distribution Method: Direct Mail; E-mail;

Budget: \$200

Production Schedule:

Create KLSA Letterhead	February 15, 2011
Compile Targeted Distribution List	March 15, 2011
To Production/Printers	April 1, 2011
Distribution:	April 15, 2011

Targeted Press Releases

Audience: Heritage Tourists; Lincoln Site Visitors

Desired Outcome: Increased awareness of local Lincoln site/Lincoln Trail; Increased Visitation at Lincoln Trail Sites; Branding/Awareness; Drive to Website

Distribution Method: E-mail

Budget: \$0

Lincoln Site	Subject	Production Schedule:
Lincoln Museum- Hodgenville	Lincoln visits Cincinnati on route to Washington Feb. 1861. "I, too, am a Kentuckian speech."	* Complete: Jan. 20 * To Lincoln Museum for Review: Feb. 1 * Release: Feb. 7
Mary Todd Lincoln House	February 22, 1861 – Just before Lincoln’s inaugural train enters Philadelphia, a local newspaper writes that “the entire female population are in ecstasies of curiosity to know who she was, what she is, what she looks like, what her manner is, and if she has a presence of the sort necessary in the exalted station to which she will soon be introduced.” CC pg. 122	* Complete: Jan. 15 * To MTL House for Review: Feb. 1 * Release Feb. 14

APPENDIXES, SELECTED REFERENCES, AND PREPARERS AND CONSULTANTS

Hardin County History Museum	Civil War History Lincoln's move to the Knob Creek farm, 1811.	
Springfield/ Washington County Joseph Holt House	Civil War History * "Lincoln's Advocate" Movie * Holt returns to Kentucky to bolster Unionist sentiment, 1860-61; Holt appointed Sec. of War by James Buchanan 1861? Holt appointed Judge Advocate General by Lincoln- 1862;	March 30, 2011
Farmington Historic Plantation	With Speeds assistance, Lincoln funnels weapons to Kentucky Unionists, Spring, 1861, recounts humorous story of Magoffin attempting to secure weapons from New Orleans	April 15, 2011
Ashland: The Henry Clay Estate	Henry Clay family members in war/Lincoln administration	
Whitehall State Historic Site	Cassius Clay appointed minister to Russia, 1860; Clay appointed major general, year??? Clay's advises Lincoln on Emancipation Proclamation, 1862-63	
Camp Nelson	Camp Nelson established 1863. African American troops enlisted, 1864. Lincoln letter to Alfred Hodges, March 1864.	
Jefferson Davis State Historic Site	Jefferson Davis 1st inaugural address, February 18, 1861.	* Complete: Jan. 15 * To Davis Birthplace for Review: Feb. 1 * Release Feb. 4



Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance Strategic Plan 2011-2013

Mission:

To preserve and promote Kentucky’s Lincoln heritage by establishing and maintaining vibrant self-sustaining partnerships between Lincoln heritage sites in Kentucky.

Vision:

To establish the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail as a premiere heritage tourism experience in Kentucky, serving local, regional, national, and international audiences. To assist in creating thriving Lincoln-related sites and communities in the Commonwealth through preservation, education, and economic development.

Plan:

Goal 1: Consolidate and protect LHT website and marketing resources

OUTCOME	IMPLEMENTATION	DEADLINE
Transfer Website From KHC	KHS working with KHC on transition plan	April 15, 2011
Create Usage-Rights Proposal for Relevant KALBC/LHT Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LHT Logo - LHT Tear Away Map - LHT Pop-Up Display Banners - “I, too, am Kentuckian” Bookmarks - 4th/5th Grade Learning Resource Sheets - “I, too, am a Kentuckian” T-Shirt Template 	Iris working with KLHTA board on written proposal to KHS	
Consolidate and Preserve LHT Interpretive Sign Graphics and Data	Contact KHS/KHC requesting consolidation and transfer	April 1, 2011
Transfer Birthplace of Lincoln License Plate to KLSA; Implement Fund Raising Component	Request KHS to notify Transportation Cabinet of official transfer	November 15, 2012

Goal 2: Position organization for National Heritage Area Designation

OUTCOME	IMPLEMENTATION	DEADLINE
Submit Application for Coordinating Entity to NPS	Iris and Warren to compile	October 15, 2011
Obtain Feasibility Study from NPS	Ongoing- Dependent on NPS	Fall, 2011
Compile Legislative Strategy Regarding Designation/ Congressional Authorization	KLHTA board to create	Fall, 2011
Implement Legislative Strategy	KLHTA board/ member organizations	Dependent on Strategy Timetable

Goal 3: Establish a populated and diverse membership base

OUTCOME	IMPLEMENTATION	DEADLINE
Research, Indentify, and Recruit Primary Site Members	KLHTA board to indentify and solicit new members	May 15, 2011
Research, Identify, and Recruit Associate Members	KLHTA board to indentify and solicit new members	June 15, 2011
Invite Potential Supporting Members	KLHTA board to indentify and solicit new members	July 15, 2011
Integrate Membership Development into Organizational Culture	Website, member correspondence, annual meeting	August 1, 2011

Goal 4: Continue programmatic collaboration amongst LHT sites

OUTCOME	IMPLEMENTATION	DEADLINE
Continue LHT Marketing and Awareness: Press Releases, LHT Website Updates, Tear Away Map Printing/Distribution	Ongoing	Ongoing
Enhance Visitation with 2011 Summer Passport	KLHTA marketing committee to draft Passport parameters	April 1, 2011
	Communicate to Lincoln Sites for Approval/Participation	April 15, 2011
	Implement LHT Summer Passport	May 15, 2011

Goal 5: Establish KLHTA advocacy infrastructure

OUTCOME	IMPLEMENTATION	DEADLINE
File 501c-3 paperwork File Articles of Incorporation paperwork	Iris working with local attorney to file	April 15, 2011
File advocacy regulatory paperwork	After 501c-3 is approved, file uniform federal paperwork/ other applicable state paperwork	July 1, 2011
Brainstorm advocacy committee structure	Create under KLHTA bylaws	August 1, 2011
Recruit advocacy committee leadership	KLHTA board compiles candidate list and process of invitation/recruitment	TBD
Recruit advocacy committee members	KLHTA board/ advocacy committee chair compile candidates list and begin invitation/recruitment	TBD
Hold first advocacy committee meeting/orientation	Attendance goal 90%	TBD
Create and approve KLHTA advocacy plan	Involve advocacy committee in plan creation/implementation	June 1, 2012
Implement advocacy plan	Strategic, creative, broad-based	August 1, 2012

3-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN AND FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

Anticipated Amount			
Expected Funding:	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
National Heritage Area Program Funding <i>(\$150,000 per year is not guaranteed, but estimated based on recent examples of the first three years as a national heritage area)</i>	0	125,000	150,000
Public and private donations and fundraising: banks and corporations; private foundations; individual donations; local governments; tourism\cvb's; nonprofits.	40,000	60,000	125,000
Grant writing: Historic preservation; education; research; public programming; professional development.	25,000	30,000	60,000

APPENDIXES, SELECTED REFERENCES, AND PREPARERS AND CONSULTANTS

Membership/Earned income: Dues; merchandizing program; promotional license plate.	15,000	17,500	35,000
In-kind contributions: Office space, equipment, phone, internet, stationary	15,000	17,500	25,000
<i>Total Funding:</i>	\$95,000	\$250,000	\$395,000
Estimated Expenses:			
Historic Preservation	0	20,000	30,000
Marketing and Promotions	2,000	25,000	35,000
Education	1,000	23,000	25,000
Administrative Staff	72,000	140,000	175,000
Office space, equipment, phone, internet, stationary	15,000	20,000	25,000
Foundation/ Capital Reserve	0	15,000	95,000
Professional Development	5,000	7,000	10,000
<i>Total Expenses:</i>	95,000	250,000	395,000

APPENDIX D: LETTERS OF SUPPORT



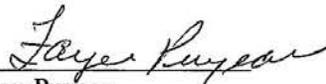
The Lincoln Museum, Inc.

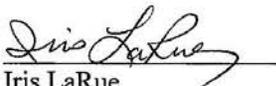
66 Lincoln Square
Hodgenville, Kentucky 42748
270-358-3163

January 22, 2010

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky and lived here until he was almost eight years of age; and, whereas his personal and political ties to Kentucky remained strong through the remainder of his life; and, whereas Kentucky is the proud location of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Park, Lincoln's Boyhood Home at Knob Creek, and at least seventeen other venues who preserve and promote the Lincoln heritage; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Trustees of The Lincoln Museum at the regular meeting of January 22, 2010, do hereby declare their support of all efforts toward the designation of the Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.


Faye Puyear
Chair, Board of Trustees


Iris LaRue
Director, The Lincoln Museum

"Lincoln: Our Link To The Future"

LaRue County Chamber of Commerce

60 Lincoln Square PO Box 176
Hodgenville, KY 42748

"Birthplace of Abraham Lincoln"

Phone/Fax: (270) 358-3411

www.laruecountycommerce.org

E-mail: info@laruecountycommerce.org



Board of Directors

Kenny Rambo
Independent Consultant
President

Dr. Tom Davenport
Elizabethtown Community &
Technical College
President-Elect

Nathan Nash
LG&E an e-on company
Past President

Melissa Nalley
Elizabethtown Community &
Technical College
Secretary

Bonnie Wolford
Lincoln National Bank
Treasurer

Nina Cundiff
Community Volunteer
Membership Chair

Teleana Davis
Citizens Union Bank

Lisa DeWitt
LaRue Insurance

Patrick Durham
The Sweet Shoppe

David Harrison
Lincoln's Loft

Claude Ramey
Pamida

Stefanie Rock
Magnolia Bank

Pam Stephens
Lincoln National Bank

Beverly C. Whelan, CPA
Certified Public Accountant

Chamber Staff

Rita Williams
Executive Director

Dean Henderson
Executive Assistant

February 3, 2010

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky and lived here until he was almost eight years of age; and, whereas his personal and political ties to Kentucky remained strong through the remainder of his life; and, whereas Kentucky is the proud location of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Park, Lincoln's Boyhood Home at Knob Creek, and at least seventeen other venues who preserve and promote the Lincoln heritage;

NOW THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Trustees of the LaRue County Chamber of Commerce at the regular meeting of February 3, 2010, do hereby declare their support of all efforts toward the designation of the Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Handwritten signature of Kenny Rambo in black ink.

Kenny Rambo
President

Handwritten signature of Rita T. Williams in black ink.

Rita T Williams
Executive Director



Carla McConnell
Denver Service Center
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-09901

February 8, 2010

Dear Ms. McConnell:

This letter is to demonstrate Ashland's support of the proposed Kentucky Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. We at Ashland have for the last several years developed the story of Henry Clays influence on Abraham Lincoln a great deal and it has become a significant component of our tour. We are a member of the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Heritage Trail. Given all that has been done at Ashland and around the state to support the legacy of Abraham Lincoln, we wholeheartedly endorse the creation of the proposed Heritage Area. We believe a tremendous story has been developed across Kentucky and that it certainly mandates preservation in perpetuity. Ashland intends to support the NHA however it can and to participate fully in the process of its creation and development. We believe this NHA will enhance the lives of Kentuckians by generating tourism which stimulates the economy and by creating a legacy of which all Kentuckians can be proud.

In sum, we are proud of the Clay-Lincoln connection we have developed and that we interpret and we are supportive of any initiative like the NHA which will help to promote and preserve it. We thank the National Park Service for moving forward on this project and look forward to seeing it through.

Yours,

Eric Brooks
Curator
Ashland, the Henry Clay



Hodgenville Main Street/Renaissance Association, Inc.
Post Office Box 176
Hodgenville, KY 42748-0176

Ms. Carla McConnell
National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-9901

Dear Ms. McConnell:

On January 12, 2010, the Board of Directors of Hodgenville Main Street adopted the following resolution:

The Hodgenville Main Street/Renaissance Association, Inc., endorses and supports the proposed Kentucky Lincoln Sites National Heritage Area. This is a program which will certainly improve tourism and related income near the sites, thus benefitting the entire community.

At Main Street we believe that preserving our heritage and making people aware of it and giving them access to it is part of our job. This community is so immersed in Lincoln heritage, and has been for so long, that the consciousness (and the sub-consciousness) of it colors everything we do as a community. We name our banks, our businesses, our downtown square for Lincoln. Our annual fall festival is Lincoln Days. On February 12, there is a big luncheon attended by many people from all over the community and some from far away, or returning home for the event. Many of us collect Lincoln history and memorabilia and there are several in the community who are well known as Lincoln historians.

For the last few years Hodgenvillians of many groups and interests were focused on the Lincoln Bicentennial and that has stirred renewed interest not only here but nationally. Each new attention to the Lincoln heritage has inspired more. We feel that all U.S. citizens should have the opportunity to look more thoroughly into the Lincoln heritage and that the best way to enable that would be through a National Heritage Area in Lincoln's honor.

Hodgenville Main Street/Renaissance is prepared to work with others, to provide assistance and to support in any way required this proposal and the Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Celia McDonald".

Celia McDonald
Main Street Manager



Dedicated to the Enhancement of Education, Infrastructure and Industry

February 24, 2010

Carla McConnell
National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, Colorado 80225

Dear Ms. McConnell:

Union County, Kentucky strongly supports the establishment of a Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Area.

Such an area will have strong economic and cultural impact on the state where President Abraham Lincoln was born.

And Lincoln remained close to his native state throughout his career and had many friends and associates in and from Kentucky during his life.

We feel certain the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and local communities of the Heritage Area, will use the necessary resources for proper management and promotion of the areas.

Naturally, Union County wants to have Lincoln's 1840 speech at our Courthouse included in the Heritage Area. Union County will be a proud and dedicated supporter of the Heritage Area and will do what is necessary to assure its success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Monsour". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Paul Monsour
Union County Director of Tourism
pmonsour@ucfirst.org
270-389-9600-office
270-952-1191-cell

P.O. Box 374 • 100 West Main Street • Morganfield, Kentucky 42437
Phone 270-389-9600 • 877-459-1593 • Fax 270-389-0944
www.ucfirst.org
Member of Northwest Kentucky Forward





June 21, 2010

Elizabethtown Tourism &
Convention Bureau
1030 N. Mulberry St.
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

To whom it may concern:

The Elizabethtown Tourism & Convention Bureau would like to give our support to the Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

The proposed project would not only benefit Elizabethtown but the state of Kentucky as well. Our Lincoln heritage is an important part of our history as a nation. By declaring this area as a national heritage area we are preserving our landscape for future generations.

Our residents take pride in our Lincoln heritage and believe that preserving it is vitally important. This designation would help us continue to keep Lincoln history alive in Kentucky.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherry Murphy".

Sherry Murphy
Executive Director

1030 North Mulberry Street • Elizabethtown, KY 42701
Phone: 270-765-2175 • 1-800-437-0092 • Fax: 270-737-6568
Web: TourEtown.com



STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
11th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-1974
Phone 502-564-2172
Fax 502-564-9015
www.parks.ky.gov

MARCHETA SPARROW
SECRETARY

GERRY VAN DER MEER
COMMISSIONER

September 14, 2010

Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance
66 Lincoln Square
Hodgenville, Kentucky 42748
ATTN: Iris La Rue

Dear Ms. La Rue:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support of the Kentucky Lincoln Sites National Heritage Area organization in Hodgenville, KY.

This organization highlights the heritage and cultural tourism activities throughout the Commonwealth and promotes the heritage and culture of Abraham Lincoln and the Lincoln Heritage Trail in every community across our great state.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of the Kentucky Department of Parks, as we partner with you to highlight Lincoln's legacy with relation to Kentucky.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerry van der Meer".

Gerry van der Meer
Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Parks

The Holt House Steering Committee
4557 Highway 1401
Hamed, KY 40144

20 September 2010

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

To Whom It May Concern:

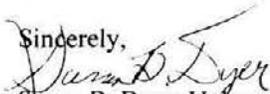
This letter is written to express support for the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance (KLSA) and its application to serve as coordinating entity for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

With the Lincoln Bicentennial the emerged group, KLSA united for the purpose of developing partnerships and creating needed resources to administer more effectively for public programs with Lincoln connections.

With the KLSA as the entity for the Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area the group will be able to work together as a strong team that will incorporate the relevance of the Lincoln story into educational programming across Kentucky. The culture effect will strengthen areas especially rural areas as it will strengthen long-term legacy of Kentucky's sites such as the Judge Joseph Holt home as it enhances Kentucky's Heritage Tourism Industry.

I highly recommend the KLSA as the entity best positioned to coordinate the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,



Susan B. Dyer, Volunteer/ Encourage for the Judge Joseph Holt House/
Author of Lincoln's Advocate: The Life of Judge Joseph Holt / Serving on
the Holt House Steering Committee

**Breckinridge County
Property Valuation Administrator
Dana H. Bland
P.O. Box 516
Hardinsburg, KY 40143
Phone: 270-756-5154 Fax: 270-580-4244**

September 21, 2010

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express support for the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance (KLSA) and its application to serve as coordinating entity for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

The KLSA is a partnership organization with demonstrated ability to coordinate an NHA of this nature. During the Lincoln Bicentennial in which the group emerged, KLSA member organizations united for the purposes of creating partnerships, administering public programs, and assembling needed resources. These organizations, individually and collectively, created educational programs for the public, worked to conserve cultural and environmental resources, and leveraged support from local, state, federal, and private sources. The success of Kentucky's Lincoln Bicentennial was in many ways a result of KLSA organizations' planning, collaboration, and accomplishments. As such, the group has demonstrated the requisite experience and resources to effectively coordinate the proposed NHA.

I highly recommend the KLSA as the entity best positioned to coordinate the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,



Dana H. Bland
Breckinridge Co PVA



KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
State Capitol Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 502-564-8100

Representative Dwight D. Butler
18th Legislative District

Committees:
Appropriations and Revenue
Banking and Insurance
State Government
Program Review and Investigations
BR Subcommittee on General Government
Special Subcommittee on Energy
Military Affairs and Public Protection
Sub Committee Veterans Affairs

Office Address:
Capitol Annex, Room 405D
Frankfort KY 40601
502-564-8100 Ext. 640
Legislative Message Line:
800-372-7181

September 21, 2010

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support the application for the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance (KLSA) to serve as the coordinating entity for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area. The group's focus is to protect and promote the Commonwealth's unique Lincoln heritage.

The KLSA is a partnership organization which has demonstrated the ability to coordinate a National Heritage Area (NHA) of this nature. During the Lincoln Bicentennial, when the group emerged, KLSA member organizations united for the purpose of creating partnerships, administering public programs, and assembling needed resources. These organizations, individually and collectively, created educational programs for the public, worked to conserve cultural and environmental resources, and leveraged support from local, state, federal, and private sources. The success of Kentucky's Lincoln Bicentennial was in many ways a result of KLSA organizations' planning, collaboration, and accomplishments. As such, the group has demonstrated the requisite experience and resources to effectively coordinate the proposed NHA.

I highly recommend the KLSA as the entity best positioned to coordinate the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dwight Butler".

Dwight Butler
State Representative



September 21, 2010

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

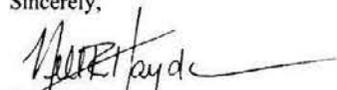
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to endorse the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance (KLSA) as coordinating entity for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

The KLSA emerged out of the group that conducted the Kentucky Lincoln Bicentennial. They are an energized group that created partnerships, administered public programs and assembled needed resources to create a landmark three-year celebration of President Lincoln's Kentucky roots. I am confident that their professionalism, organizational skills and enthusiasm will create great success for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

I highly recommend the KLSA for coordinating the proposed NHA. If you wish additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Neil R. Haydon
Director



Ray Powers
Judge Executive

P.O. Box 227
Hardinsburg, KY 40143

Office: 270.756.2269 Fax: 270.756.2364



September 21, 2010

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written to support the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance (KLSA) and its application to serve as coordinating entity for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area. The KSLA will serve most effectively to coordinate this National Heritage Area (NHA) designation.

The Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance is composed of Lincoln-related sites and supporters in Kentucky. The group's mission is to protect and promote the commonwealth's unique Lincoln Heritage. The Judge Joseph Holt House in rural Breckinridge County is nationally significant because of the architecture and association with President Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War.

The strong partnerships created during the Lincoln Bicentennial with the KLSA worked together as a team to create the most efficient public programs, and assembled needed resources. The group has demonstrated requisite experience and resources to effectively coordinate the proposed NHA.

I highly recommend the KLSA as the entity to coordinate the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Powers".

Ray Powers
Breckinridge County Judge Executive

Web: www.bckentucky.com | Email: judge@bckentucky.com

Commonwealth of Kentucky

702 CAPITAL AVENUE
CAPITOL ANNEX 242
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
502-564-2450
MESSAGE LINE 800-372-7181



5TH SENATE DISTRICT

carroll.gibson@lrc.ky.gov

CARROLL GIBSON
SENATE MAJORITY WHIP

September 21, 2010

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to you today to express my strong support for the application submitted by the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance to serve as the coordinating entity for the Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

The KLSA is a tremendous organization that joined numerous Lincoln-related sites and supporters to preserve the legacy of our nation's 16th President. They worked diligently during the Lincoln Bicentennial to promote our rich heritage and thrived in creating historical educational programs and increasing tourism at historical sites throughout the region. In addition, the group has developed strong partnerships throughout the community and has been successful in securing funding from both the public and private sectors. The achievements by KLSA are remarkable and demonstrate its ability to coordinate the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the KLSA application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance during your review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carroll Gibson".

Carroll Gibson
Senate Majority Whip

COUNCIL
LARRY D. ASHLOCK
N. STEVEN ATCHER
MARTY E. FULKERSON
KENNY LEWIS
RONALD B. THOMAS
TIM C. WALKER



200 West Dixie Avenue
P. O. Box 550
Elizabethtown, KY 42702
(270) 765-6121
Fax: (270) 737-5362
Web Site: www.etownky.org

CITY OF ELIZABETHTOWN
DAVID L. WILLMOTH, JR., MAYOR

September 21, 2010

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

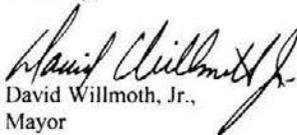
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express support for the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance (KLSA) and its application to serve as coordinating entity for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

The KLSA is a partnership organization with demonstrated ability to coordinate an National Heritage Area of this nature. During the Lincoln Bicentennial in which the group emerged, KLSA member organizations united for the purposes of creating partnerships, administering public programs, and assembling needed resources. These organizations, individually and collectively, created educational programs for the public, state, federal and private sources. The success of Kentucky's Lincoln Bicentennial was in many ways a result of KLSA organizations' planning, collaboration, and accomplishments. As such, the group has demonstrated requisite experience and resources to effectively coordinate the proposed National Heritage Area.

I highly recommend the KLSA as the entity best positioned to coordinate the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,


David Willmoth, Jr.,
Mayor

DW/ko





201 West Dixie Avenue, Elizabethtown, KY 42701

www.hardinkyhistory.org

270.763.8339

September 21, 2010

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express support for the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance (KLSA) and its application to serve as coordinating entity for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

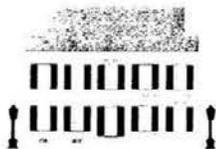
KLSA, a partnership organization in which the Hardin County History Museum enjoys membership, has the proven ability to coordinate an NHA of this nature. During the Lincoln Bicentennial in which the group emerged, KLSA member organizations united for the purposes of creating partnerships, administering public programs, and assembling needed resources. The sister organizations comprising KLSA, individually and collectively, created educational programs for the public, worked to conserve cultural and environmental resources, and leveraged support from local, state, federal, and private sources. The success of Kentucky's Lincoln Bicentennial was in many ways a result of KLSA organizations' planning, collaboration, and accomplishments. As such, the group has demonstrated the requisite experience and resources to effectively coordinate the proposed NHA.

I highly recommend the KLSA as the entity best positioned to coordinate the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim C. Walker".

Tim C. Walker, President
Hardin County History Museum Board of Directors



Mary Todd Lincoln House
578 West Main Street
P.O. Box 132
Lexington, Kentucky 40588 (859)233-9999

September 22, 2010

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express support for the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance (KLSA) and its application to serve as coordinating entity for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

The Mary Todd Lincoln House has been involved with the KLSA since the Lincoln Bicentennial. The group's mission is to protect and promote the commonwealth's unique Lincoln heritage. The KLSA is a partnership organization and has demonstrated ability to coordinate an NHA of this nature. During the Bicentennial, we united for the purposes of creating partnerships, administering public programs, and assembling needed resources.

Individually and collectively, we created educational programs for the public, worked to conserve cultural and environmental resources, and leveraged support from local, state, federal, and private sources. The success of Kentucky's Lincoln Bicentennial was in many ways a result of KLSA organizations' planning, collaboration, and accomplishments. As such, the group has demonstrated the requisite experience and resources to effectively coordinate the proposed NHA.

I highly recommend the KLSA as the entity best positioned to coordinate the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

Gwen Thompson
Executive Director

Restored and Operated by Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation, Inc.



City of Springfield

127 W. Main
Springfield, Kentucky 40069
Phone 859/336-5440

John W. Cecconi
Mayor

September 22, 2010

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express support for the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance (KLSA) and its application to serve as coordinating entity for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area. This group's mission is to protect and promote Kentucky's unique Lincoln Heritage.

The KLSA is a partnership organization with demonstrated ability to coordinate an NHA of this nature. During the Lincoln Bicentennial in which the group emerged, KLSA member organizations united for the purposes of creating partnerships, administering public programs, and assembling needed resources. These organizations, individually and collectively, created educational programs for the public, worked to conserve cultural and environmental resources, and leveraged support from local, state, federal, and private sources. The success of Kentucky's Lincoln Bicentennial was in many ways a result of KLSA organizations' planning, collaboration, and accomplishments. As such, the group has demonstrated the requisite experience and resources to effectively coordinate the proposed NHA.

I highly recommend the KLSA as the entity best positioned to coordinate the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area. The KLSA's potential for building partnerships, fostering education, enhancing tourism, and developing support is unsurpassed by any organization in Kentucky.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John W. Cecconi".

Dr. John W. Cecconi
Mayor
City of Springfield

Springfield Tourism Commission
127 W. Main Street
Springfield, KY 40069
(859) 336-5440



September 22, 2010

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express support for the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance (KLSA) and its application to serve as coordinating entity for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area. This group's mission is to protect and promote Kentucky's unique Lincoln Heritage.

The KLSA is a partnership organization with demonstrated ability to coordinate an NHA of this nature. During the Lincoln Bicentennial in which the group emerged, KLSA member organizations united for the purposes of creating partnerships, administering public programs, administering heritage tourism initiatives and assembling needed resources. These organizations, individually and collectively, created educational programs for the public, worked to conserve cultural and environmental resources, and leveraged support from local, state, federal, and private sources. The success of Kentucky's Lincoln Bicentennial was in many ways a result of KLSA organizations' planning, collaboration, and accomplishments. As such, the group has demonstrated the requisite experience and resources to effectively coordinate the proposed NHA.

I highly recommend the KLSA as the entity best positioned to coordinate the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,


Sandra P. Davis
Chairperson
Springfield Tourism Commission



WASHINGTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT

Courthouse Annex
P.O. Box 126
Springfield, KY 40069
Office: (859) 336-5410 Fax: (859) 336-5407
www.washingtoncountky.com

John A. Settles
Judge Executive

September 22, 2010

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express support for the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance (KLSA) and its application to serve as coordinating entity for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area. This group's mission is to protect and promote Kentucky's unique Lincoln Heritage.

The KLSA is a partnership organization with demonstrated ability to coordinate an NHA of this nature. During the Lincoln Bicentennial in which the group emerged, KLSA member organizations united for the purposes of creating partnerships, administering public programs, and assembling needed resources amongst fifteen Lincoln related sites in twelve counties in Kentucky. These organizations, individually and collectively, created educational programs for the public, worked to conserve cultural and environmental resources, and leveraged support from local, state, federal, and private sources. The success of Kentucky's Lincoln Bicentennial was in many ways a result of KLSA organizations' planning, collaboration, and accomplishments. As such, the group has demonstrated the requisite experience and resources to effectively coordinate the proposed NHA.

I highly recommend the KLSA as the entity best positioned to coordinate the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area. The KLSA's potential for building partnerships, fostering education, enhancing tourism, and developing support is unsurpassed by any organization in Kentucky.

Sincerely,

John A. Settles
Washington County Judge Executive



LINCOLN MEMORIAL
UNIVERSITY

VALUES • EDUCATION • SERVICE

6965 Cumberland Gap Parkway
Harrogate, Tennessee 37752
423.869.3611
www.lmunet.edu

September 23, 2010

Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance
66 Lincoln Square
Hodgenville, Kentucky 42748
ATTN: Iris La Rue

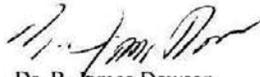
Dear Ms. La Rue:

Lincoln Memorial University was established in 1897 in Harrogate, Tennessee as a result of Abraham Lincoln's vision to "do something for the people" of our area. We are very proud to bear his name and embrace his legacy. It is my pleasure to write a letter of support of the Kentucky Lincoln Sites National Heritage Area organization in Hodgenville, KY.

This organization highlights the heritage and cultural tourism activities throughout the Commonwealth and promotes the heritage and culture of Abraham Lincoln and the Lincoln Heritage Trail in every community across Kentucky.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of the Kentucky Department of Parks, as we partner with you to highlight Lincoln's legacy as it relates to the state of Kentucky.

Sincerely,



Dr. B. James Dawson
President



BRUCE T. BUTLER
CIRCUIT JUDGE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
46TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, DIVISION 1
P.O. Box 989
HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY 40143-0989
PHONE 270-756-6278 FAX 270-756-1280

BRECKINRIDGE CIRCUIT COURT
GRAYSON CIRCUIT COURT
MEADE CIRCUIT COURT

September 24, 2010

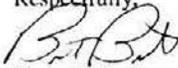
National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express support for the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance (KLSA) and its application to serve as coordinating entity for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

The KLSA is a partnership organization with demonstrated ability to coordinate an NHA of this nature. During the Lincoln Bicentennial in which the group emerged, KLSA member organizations united for the purposes of creating partnerships, administering public programs, and assembling needed resources. These organizations, individually and collectively, created educational programs for the public, worked to conserve cultural and environmental resources, and leveraged support from local, state, federal, and private sources. The success of Kentucky's Lincoln Bicentennial was in many ways a result of KLSA organizations' planning, collaboration, and accomplishments. As such, the group has demonstrated the requisite experience and resources to effectively coordinate the proposed NHA.

I highly recommend the KLSA as the entity best positioned to coordinate the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Respectfully,

Bruce T. Butler

BTB/dbt

September 25, 2010

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of support for the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance and the desire that KLSA be a coordinating organization for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

All of the different areas associated with the KLSA have in practice, proven themselves as capable to the task of educating, preserving and garnering support from public and private sources.

I feel the KLSA is the most logical choice in coordinating the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul J. O'Donoghue". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul J. O'Donoghue

Member (Friends of the Joseph Holt House)

BRETT GUTHRIE
SECOND DISTRICT, KENTUCKY
COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
AVIATION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

September 27, 2010

ASSISTANT WHIP
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MEMBER, HIGHER EDUCATION, LIFELONG
LEARNING AND COMPETITIVENESS
HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR AND PENSIONS
HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you in support of the application submitted by the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance to serve as the coordinating entity for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Area. Because the proposed National Area will include sites in my district, I am extremely interested in their efforts.

According to the information I have received, the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance is comprised of Lincoln-related sites and supporters in Kentucky. The group's mission is to protect and promote Kentucky's unique Lincoln heritage. Their efforts and accomplishments during the Lincoln Bicentennial demonstrate the group's ability to coordinate the proposed Lincoln National Heritage Area.

I am asking for your full and fair consideration, within applicable laws and regulations, of this request. If I can provide you with any additional information, please contact Brian Smith, my Director of Economic Development at 270-438-6599 or brian.smith2@mail.house.gov. You may forward your reply to my Hardin County office located at 411 W. Lincoln Trail Boulevard, Radcliff, Kentucky, 40106. Thank you in advance for your kind assistance.

Sincerely,

BRETT GUTHRIE
Member of Congress

BG/bds



September 27, 2010

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

PO Box 5192
306 West Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40602

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express support for the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance (KLSA) and its application to serve as coordinating entity for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

The KLSA is a partnership organization with demonstrated ability to coordinate an NHA of this nature. During the Lincoln Bicentennial in which the group emerged, KLSA member organizations united for the purposes of creating partnerships, administering public programs, and assembling needed resources. These organizations, individually and collectively, created educational programs for the public, worked to conserve cultural and environmental resources, and leveraged support from local, state, federal, and private sources. The success of Kentucky's Lincoln Bicentennial was in many ways a result of KLSA organizations' planning, collaboration, and accomplishments. As such, the group has demonstrated the requisite experience and resources to effectively coordinate the proposed NHA.

Preservation Kentucky is the statewide non-profit partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and for the last four years has hosted the Rural Heritage Development Initiative (RHDI), one of two pilot programs of its kind in the country to examine the economic benefits of rural preservation. As a part of this program, the RHDI worked to designate a historically and culturally significant roadway as the Abraham Lincoln Heritage National Scenic Byway in October 2009. The proposed National Heritage Area would work perfectly in coordination with the National Scenic Byway. We have worked with the KLSA and know they would be the best fit to administer the National Heritage Area.

I highly recommend the KLSA as the entity best positioned to coordinate the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

Amy Sparrow Potts
Field Services Director
Rural Heritage Development Initiative



June 26, 2013

National Park Service
National Heritage Areas

RE: Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area

The Elizabethtown Tourism & Convention Bureau supports development of our regional economy by focusing on our area's strength of tourism through our historical assets and therefore indorses and encourages the designation of the Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

We continually strive to bring awareness to Kentucky's Lincoln heritage to the traveling public. We believe the best way to represent Lincoln's Kentucky heritage is to continue our regional partnership under a designated National Heritage Area.

We believed so strongly in this endeavor that we sat aside funding in our 2012-13 budget but unfortunately the designation was delayed. Once the designation goes forward, we plan to continue to be apart of the development and expansion and are willing to put forth funding to assist the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance's plans for the Lincoln NHA.

Our Tourism Commission is looking forward to continuing our work with our Lincoln partners for decades to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherry Murphy".

Sherry Murphy
Executive Director

1030 North Mulberry Street
Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701
(800) 437-0092 • TourEtown.com



July 5, 2013

Letter of Support: Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Frankfort/Franklin County Tourist and Convention Commission, it is my privilege to write a letter of Support for the proposed **Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area and the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance**. Fully aware of the historical significance of President Abraham Lincoln on our entire nation, as Kentuckians, we are unusually proud to have significant ties to his legacy.

The opportunities this proposed trail provides for all of Kentucky is noteworthy and especially true for Frankfort, the capital city of the Commonwealth. Our main tourism niche is heritage travel and we are most proud to have two identified sites in Frankfort which are identified on the proposed Trail.

Realizing the Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area will not be designated until 2014-2015, at the earliest, our Tourist Commission would like to formally commit to a contribution of \$5,000 per year for a 3-year period toward the worthy project. We understand these funds will be matched with federal funds to support the marketing, education, and preservation activities within the designation. Our Commission reserves the right to alter this contribution if necessary.

We have a long and successful collaboration with the Kentucky Historical Society, and the New State Capitol, each of which are identified in the proposed NHA. In keeping with the history of these relationships, it is a natural commitment for our Commission to make to this effort.

Sincerely,

Joy Jeffries,

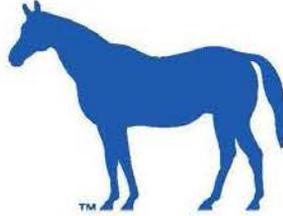
Executive Director

Tourist Commission Board of Directors

Dr. Bill Braden, Chairman - Mr. Gary Burk, Vice Chairman - Mr. Marc Stone, Treasurer
Mr. Brian Booth, Mr. Andrew Casebier, Mr. Ed Councill, and Ms. Phyllis Liebman,

100 Capital Avenue * Frankfort, KY 40601 * 800.960.7200

www.visitfrankfort.com



July 21, 2013

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear Colleagues at the National Park Service:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Lexington, Kentucky, is home to two landmark homes that significantly share the story of Abraham Lincoln and the very important role that Kentucky played in shaping of our country's 16th president. These two homes include the Mary Todd Lincoln House, his wife's childhood home, and Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate, home of Kentucky's most famous congressman and a great source of inspiration to Lincoln. Both sites are open to the public for tours and educational opportunities.

Lexington is one of many important cities in the great Commonwealth of Kentucky with ties to Lincoln. Given the overwhelming influence of the state on Lincoln, it seems only fitting that the National Park Service establish the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Area.

In support of this initiative, the Lexington Convention and Visitors Bureau is pleased to pledge \$5,000 per year for a total of three years to establish and grow the Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Quinn K. Ramer".

Mary Quinn K. Ramer
Vice President, Marketing

cc: Lincoln Museum Hodgenville
Attn: KY Lincoln NHA
66 Lincoln Square
Hodgenville, KY 42748

Lexington Convention and Visitors Bureau

250 West Main Street Suite 2100 Lexington KY 40507 (859)233-1221 or (800)848-1224 www.visitlex.com



345 Lancaster Avenue • Richmond, Kentucky 40475 • 800-866-3705 / 859-626-8474 • Fax 859-626-8121 • www.richmondkytourism.com

July 22, 2013

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to express support for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area and the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance.

Kentucky's Lincoln heritage consists of numerous sites and landscapes that are an important part of our nation's history. The proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area would provide outstanding opportunities for heritage tourism, education, and conservation in our community. The Lincoln-related sites, stories, and activities within this proposed NHA are relevant to local, regional, national, and international audiences.

Our organization is committed to enhancing heritage tourism and economic impact in our community. We support the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance (KLHTA) and its effort to establish the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area. Upon designation of the Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area, our organizations will be pleased to consider a contribution of \$5,000 to the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance, if they receive designation. These funds will go toward activities related to the NHA. We reserve the right to alter or abolish this contribution at any time at our sole discretion.

Sincerely,

Lori Murphy-Tatum
Richmond KY Tourism

Belle Jackson
Berea KY Tourism

July 23, 2013

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

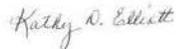
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express support for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area and the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance.

Kentucky's Lincoln heritage consists of numerous site and landscapes that are an important part of our nation's history. The proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area would provide outstanding opportunities for heritage tourism, education and conservation in Springfield, Kentucky. The Lincoln-related sites, stories and activities within this proposed National Heritage Area are relevant to local, regional and international audiences.

The Springfield Tourism Commission is committed to enhancing heritage tourism and economic impact in our community. We support the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance and its effort to establish the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area. Upon designation of the Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area, our commission will be pleased to consider at this time a contribution of \$2500.00 per year to the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance for the first three years of the designation to support activities related to the National Heritage Area. Due to our budget at this time, this is the best commitment we can make. If in the future it becomes necessary to contribute more we will take it into consideration at the time of need. WE reserve the right to alter or abolish this contribution at any time at our sole discretion.

Sincerely,



Kathy Elliott
Springfield Tourism Commission
Springfield, Kentucky



Mary Todd Lincoln House
578 West Main Street
P.O. Box 132
Lexington, Kentucky 40588 (859)233-9999

July 26, 2013

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express enthusiastic support for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area and the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance.

Many years prior to the Lincoln Bicentennial (2008-2010), my institution began working collaboratively with the other Lincoln Sites in Kentucky through our state's Bicentennial Commission. We had outstanding success in reviving the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail in celebration of the 200th birthday of our native son. Our efforts were rewarded with renewed interest in Kentucky's Lincoln story, as evidenced by significant media coverage and substantially increased visitation. We were fortunate that our state capitalized on the Lincoln Bicentennial's potential to strengthen heritage tourism, education, and preservation in our communities.

The momentum and successes created during the Bicentennial should be maintained and built upon. The proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area is an outstanding opportunity to use the numerous sites and landscapes of the region to continue to share this important part of our nation's history with diverse audiences.

The Mary Todd Lincoln House is committed to education, preservation, and serving the public good. We are active in the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance (KLHTA) and fully support its efforts to establish the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area. We are grateful that, through the KLHTA, we have the opportunity to continue to work collaboratively with the many Lincoln sites in our state and are excited about the future.

Sincerely,

Gwen Thompson, Director
Mary Todd Lincoln House
(859) 233-9999
mtlhouse@windstream.net

Restored and Operated by Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation, Inc.



Friends of the Holt Home, Inc.

30 July 2013

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

To the National Park Feasibility Study:

This letter is written in regards for support of the Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area and the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance.

Kentucky is strong in Lincoln's heritage as the stories of Lincoln's life, beginning here, influenced him and gave him an everlasting connection to his roots and how he developed into our nation's greatest President. With Kentucky's unique, and strong researched based sites and landscapes America will continue to enjoy as they visit and learn more about Lincoln with numerous roles Kentucky and Kentuckians along with Lincoln's family and friends who helped shape his life as the 16th President.

The Lincoln- related stories and sites about Abraham Lincoln as a young boy and then later in life while he was President still endure as the rich history continues to teach scholars, students, and visitors whom travel to see the interesting and worthy Lincoln- related places in Kentucky designated in the KY Lincoln National Heritage Area Feasibility Study.

One of Lincoln's favorite quotes, "Stand with anybody that stands right. Stand with him while he is right and part with him when he goes wrong." The Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance stand together as proving when Lincoln sites work together they all become stronger offering better history, providing the greatest opportunities for heritage tourisms, educating, and teaching conservation to our communities.

With the assistance of the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance to partner with the last official Lincoln site identified in the beginning feasibility study, the Judge Joseph Holt Home in rural Breckinridge County has been saved for the ages just like Lincoln because of the effort put

forth by many wonderful Kentucky's during the KY Lincoln Bicentennial. Acquisition for the Judge Joseph Holt Home and 19.5 acres was won through grants from the KY Heritage Council/ State Preservation Office that was placed there by the KY Lincoln Bicentennial, and a grant from the Kentucky Historical Society helped with stabilization. Without the partnering of the Kentucky Lincoln sites that have now become the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance this jewel would not have been saved as the home of Lincoln's Lawyer, and top legal advisor for Lincoln and the United States Army during the Civil War.

The Friends of the Holt Home are committed to enhance heritage tourisms and economic development that could bring new life and rebirth as Judge Holt's legacy and home is now under renovation. A rural community who for the first time in their history since 1799 have worked together to save their history(the only home in America still standing today that represents the complete story of the Lincoln Conspiracy Trial.) The only home left of Judge Joseph Holt. Our community realizes the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance's strength and it massive work load that continues to establish the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage area has saved a national treasure and will continue to partner as other communities will look for help as did our rural community.

Saving the Holt Home gives insight and hope to other communities who will be identified in the study. When the Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area becomes reality our site will be a model for others to follow. For having partners, guidance, and the willingness to help others look at what has been saved as Judge Holt's home has received an additional \$500,000.00 grant through blood, sweat and tears of hard work and grant writing and has worked to secure part 2 of a Transportation Enhancement grant for phase 2 renovation.

The saving of this jewel in America makes this Feasibility Study have more strength as this site has been saved that has one of the strongest histories in the nation as the Holt home is listed on the National Register as significant in politics, history and architecture that tells how two Kentuckians, President Abraham Lincoln and Joseph Holt worked together to keep America together, and stood strong during the most critical time in the history of our nation and the first assassination of a President where Holt helped hold our nation together as the prosecuting judge of the Lincoln Conspiracy Trial

Sincerely,

Susan B. Dyer/ Volunteer/ President of the Friends of the Holt Home/
Author of Lincoln's Advocate: The Life of Judge Joseph Holt/
Lecturer for the Fifth Annual George S. Prugh Lecture in Military Legal History
on Joseph Holt: Lincoln's Judge Advocate General at the Judge Advocate
General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, VA



August 14, 2013

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau, it is a privilege to submit a letter of support for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

As representatives of Kentucky's largest city, Louisville, we are home to two important historically significant Lincoln sites. These include the Farmington Historic Plantation where Lincoln spent time with close friends while visiting the area and the Lincoln Memorial in Waterfront Park which recognizes the impact on Lincoln's life when he watched slaves being loaded on to waiting riverboats on the Ohio River. We fully recognize the resonance that Lincoln related sites, stories and activities have with visitors of a regional, national, and international audience and believe this designation would only serve to further solidify Kentucky's role in Lincoln history.

In an effort to support the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail Alliance's (KLHTA) mission to secure the Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area designation, the Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau is pleased to pledge \$5,000 per year for a total of three years, when the designation has been made official. We reserve the right to alter this contribution at any time based on our discretion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James T. Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

James T. Wood
President/CEO
Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau

502.584.2121
800.626.5646
502.561.3120 fax

One Riverfront Plaza
401 West Main Street, Suite 2300
Louisville, Kentucky 40202-4223
www.gotolouisville.com

KentuckyHistoricalSociety

Grant Acceptance Form

**Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission
Kentucky Historical Society**

**Lincoln Museum
66 Lincoln Square
Hodgenville, KY 42748**

Project Title: Lincoln Commission Grant

Grant Number: KALBC #309

Grantee (fiscal agent): Lincoln Museum Hodgenville on behalf of the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance

Project Director: Iris LaRue

Amount of Grant: \$10,000

Grant Period: April 15, 2010 – April 15, 2015. All grant funds must be expended by April 15, 2015.

Use of Funds: It is the responsibility of the grantee to use the grant funds as approved by the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. The award is detailed below.

Grant will support preservation and utilization of educational and marketing materials for use by Lincoln Trail sites in collaborative initiatives. Grant will strengthen the long-term viability of the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail and will enhance tourism and cultural infrastructure in participating and surrounding counties. Funds will support the following:

- Continued Utilization of Educational Materials for K-12 students.
- Marketing of the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail to Tourists
- Printing of New Map and Brochure Materials
- Website Maintenance and Upkeep
- Preservation/Administration of Lincoln Bicentennial Resources Including: Signage, Lesson Plans, Design Templates, Retail Products, and License Plate



KentuckyHistoricalSociety

In accordance with state law, grant funds, in whole or in part, may be transferred to the Kentucky Lincoln Sites Alliance for use in accomplishing the purposes of this grant allocation.

Reports: The grantee must complete a final report to the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission at the Kentucky Historical Society by June 15, 2015, outlining how the funds were spent, including receipts for travel expenses, invoices from consultants, and copies of any exhibit planning reports or other documents.

Recognition: The grantee shall provide recognition of the support provided by the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission in all publicity, documentation, and products related to the project, including future exhibits that these funds have supported.

Non-compliance: Failure by the grantee to comply with any of the grant condition and responsibilities may result in the termination of this agreement and the subsequent return of grant funds to the Kentucky Historical Society.

Signatures:

Name (Printed)	Signature	Date
Authorizing official of recipient organization		

Name (Printed)	Signature	Date
Program Coordinator Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Kentucky Historical Society		



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