

Dear Friends,

The National Park Service is pleased to announce the initiation of a feasibility study for the proposed Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky and lived there until he was seven. After moving away, he retained strong ties to the state. His early experiences in Kentucky and those lifelong ties influenced his personal and political life. Now Congress has passed legislation directing the National Park Service to study those sites associated with "Lincoln's Kentucky" to determine if those resources meet the criteria for designation as a national heritage area.

The Park Service is conducting this study in coordination with representatives from the Kentucky Historical Society, other Kentucky state and local agencies, and each site proposed for inclusion in the heritage area. Those sites are identified on the enclosed map.

Please join us for one of several meetings in January to learn more about this project. We will be in Elizabethtown and Hodgenville on January 5, in Louisville on January 6, and in Nicholasville and Lexington on January 7. At these meetings, study team members will provide general information about national heritage areas and feasibility studies, answer your questions, and gather your ideas for the study. The meetings will have an open house format and will

include a short presentation that will be given twice during each 2-hour meeting.

The study will take place over the next year; it will assess local support, identify a potential local management entity, and study the overall feasibility for the proposed heritage area.

After the study is completed, the findings will be reported to the secretary of the interior and to Congress.

We would like to hear from you about the proposed national heritage area. You may provide your thoughts at one of the public meetings or online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/KELI>. We look forward to hearing from you on this exciting project!

Sincerely,

Patty Wissinger
Regional Partnership Coordinator
National Park Service

Carla McConnell
Project Manager
National Park Service

What is a National Heritage Area?

A national heritage area is a locally managed area, designated by the United States Congress, where natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. National heritage areas are developed out of community partnerships and are planned around a region's shared heritage. Here are two examples of national heritage areas:

National Coal Heritage Area (West Virginia)

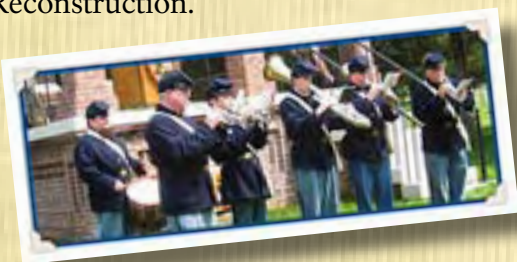
The rugged industrial landscape of this area showcases the stories of miners of many races and ethnicities who labored together to extract and transport coal; and it also showcases the stories of their wives, who struggled to maintain homes under primitive conditions. Coalfield history and culture contain key elements of a unique social and economic history that include the stories of industrial might, the struggle for labor unions, and the growth of distinctive cultural communities among

different ethnic groups who worked side-by-side and lived together in the "company towns" of the region.



Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area

Through Civil War and Reconstruction-era sites and resources across the state, the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area tells the whole story of America's greatest challenge: the Civil War years of 1860-1875. Tennessee's landscape is rich with powerful reminders of the Civil War and its compelling stories of the home front, the demands of battle and occupation, the freedom of emancipation, and the promise of Reconstruction.



How is a National Heritage Area Different from a National Park?

A national heritage area is a conservation strategy that requires congressional designation. National heritage area designation does not affect individual property ownership rights, but does proactively support local residents in the preservation of their own natural and cultural heritage. A national heritage area is not a unit of the national park system; however, separately managed NPS park units may exist within a designated national heritage area boundary. Although the role of the National Park Service varies with each national heritage area, usually the role includes technical and planning assistance, and limited financial assistance.

The management of a national heritage area is coordinated by a local entity in partnership with various stakeholders who work collaboratively on projects that meet the area's stated management goals.

What Are the Local Benefits to National Heritage Area Designation?

The designation has both tangible and intangible benefits. Heritage conservation efforts begin with a community's pride in its history and traditions, and in residents' interest and involvement in retaining and interpreting the landscape for future generations. Preserving the integrity of the cultural landscape and local stories means that future generations will be able to better understand their own relationship to the land. Heritage areas provide educational and inspirational opportunities that encourage residents and visitors to stay in a place.

How does this Feasibility Study Relate to the Lincoln Heritage Scenic Highway and the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail?

The proposed national heritage area overlaps much of the Lincoln Scenic Highway (designated a National Scenic Byway in October 2009). It also includes many of the historic sites that make up the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail. While the national heritage area, state heritage trail, and scenic byway programs are separate, they may work in tandem to enhance tourism and local pride in the area.

What are the Steps in the Development of a National Heritage Area Feasibility Study?

STUDY PROCESS	OUTCOMES
GATHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING PUBLIC INPUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify the region's contribution to national heritage using information provided by the public and subject matter experts• Develop interpretive themes to provide a framework for interpretation and to focus study efforts
PREPARE & PUBLISH DRAFT STUDY	<p>The draft study will include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The history of the study area and its contribution to our national heritage• National heritage area management alternatives• An application of the national heritage area criteria, including the identification of a management entity and financial feasibility plan
GATHER PUBLIC INPUT ON DRAFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invite public discussion and comment
FINALIZE STUDY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determine if study area meets the national criteria• Assess the public support for the designation and the capacity of the management entity• Send findings to the secretary of the interior and to Congress
CONGRESSIONAL ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Congressional action on feasibility study findings



We Want to Hear From You

Your input is important to us. Please share your thoughts in person at the public meetings or on the internet at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/KELI>

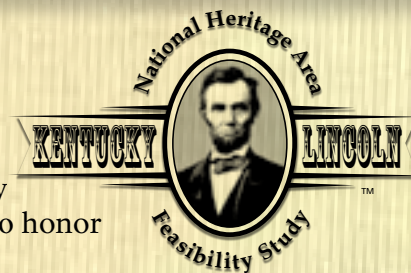
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DENVER SERVICE CENTER – CARLA McCONNELL, PLANNING
12795 WEST ALAMEDA PARKWAY
PO Box 25287
DENVER CO 80225-0287

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YOU'RE INVITED TO AN OPEN HOUSE

- Learn about the National Heritage Area Program
- Learn about the Kentucky Lincoln National Heritage Area Feasibility Study
- Discuss your ideas and questions about a proposed national heritage area to honor Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky



Tuesday, January 5, 2010

11:30am-1:30pm

Elizabethtown

Tourism & Convention Bureau
1030 N. Mulberry Street
Elizabethtown, KY

5-7pm

Hodgenville

Lincoln Museum
Community Room
58 Lincoln Square
Hodgenville, KY

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

11:30am-1:30pm

Louisville

Farmington Historic Plantation
3033 Bardstown Road
Louisville, KY

5-7 pm

Louisville

Farmington Historic Plantation
3033 Bardstown Road
Louisville, KY

Thursday, January 7, 2010

11:30am-1:30pm

Nicholasville

Main Street Playhouse
114 S. Main Street
Nicholasville, KY

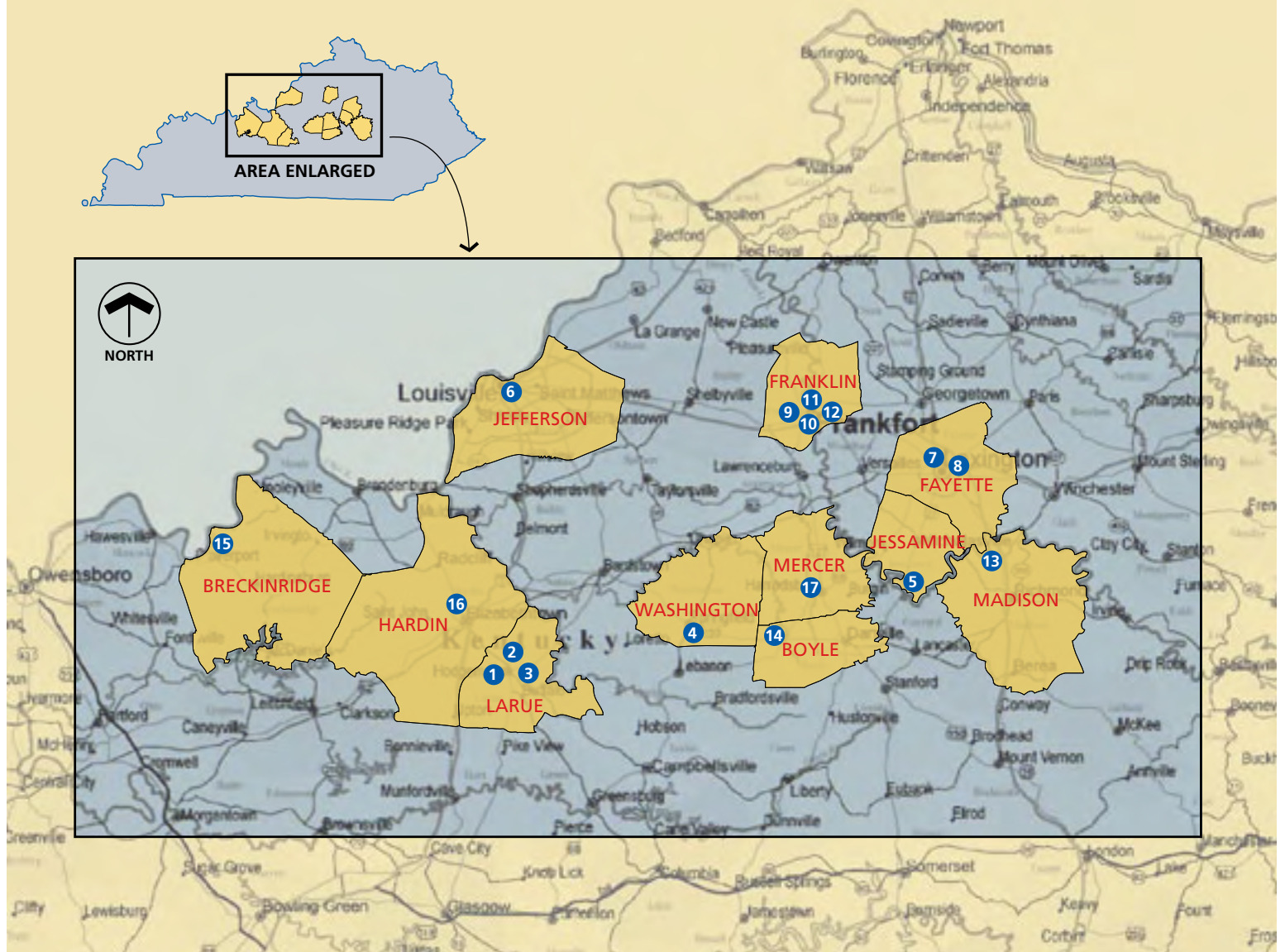
6-8pm

Lexington

Lexington Public Library (Central Branch)
140 East Main Street
Lexington, KY

(The library will validate parking for up to 3 hours in their parking garage.)

A sign language interpreter is available upon request. Please email the National Park Service at KentuckyLincoln@nps.gov or call 270-358-3137 by December 22 to request an interpreter.



Abraham Lincoln Sites Identified in Legislation:

- 1** Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park (2995 Lincoln Farm Rd., Hodgenville, KY)
- 2** Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit (U.S. 31E North of Hodgenville, KY)
- 3** Downtown Hodgenville, including the Lincoln Museum and Adolph A. Weinman statue (66 Lincoln Square, Hodgenville, KY)
- 4** Lincoln Homestead State Park and Mordecai Lincoln House (5079 Lincoln Park Rd., Springfield, KY, and Highway KY 258, Springfield, KY)
- 5** Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park (6614 Old Danville Rd., Nicholasville, KY)
- 6** Farmington Historic Plantation (3033 Bardstown Rd., Louisville, KY)
- 7** Mary Todd Lincoln House (578 West Main St., Lexington, KY)
- 8** Ashland: the Henry Clay Estate (120 Sycamore Rd., Lexington, KY)
- 9** Old State Capitol (700 Capital Ave., Frankfort, KY)
- 10** Kentucky Military History Museum (100 West Broadway, Frankfort, KY)
- 11** Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History (Kentucky Historical Society 100 West Broadway, Frankfort, KY)
- 12** New State Capitol (700 Capital Ave., Frankfort, KY)
- 13** White Hall State Historic Site (500 White Hall Shrine Rd., Richmond, KY)
- 14** Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site (1825 Battlefield Rd., Perryville, KY)
- 15** Joseph Holt House (Highway KY 144, 6 miles north of U.S. 60, west of Stephensport, KY in Breckinridge County)
- 16** Sites in Elizabethtown, including the Lincoln Heritage House
- 17** Lincoln Marriage Temple at Fort Harrod (100 South College St., Harrodsburg, KY)

Ten Criteria for Becoming a National Heritage Area



The Kentucky Lincoln Sites National Heritage Area feasibility study will include an analysis and documentation that determines feasibility based on the following criteria:

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