

A Lincoln

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S COTTAGE
AT THE SOLDIERS' HOME

Contact:

Alison Mitchell
202-829-0436 x31228
alison_mitchell@nthp.org

Ann Colgrove
202-829-0436 x31225
ann_colgrove@nthp.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrating the Civil War Sesquicentennial at President Lincoln's Cottage – the Cradle of Emancipation

The Cottage is Where Lincoln Developed the Emancipation Proclamation & Strategized during the Civil War

Washington, DC – President Lincoln's Cottage, a focal point of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, offers visitors compelling and tangible links to the 16th president with unique and extraordinary insights into his public and private life. Termed by Lincoln scholar Allen Guelzo the "Cradle of Emancipation," President Lincoln spent one quarter of his presidency here and was living here when he drafted the Emancipation Proclamation and deliberated critical issues of the Civil War.

President Lincoln's Cottage, located in Washington, DC, is the most significant site associated with Abraham Lincoln's presidency open to the public today. Although the Cottage is in a pastoral setting 3 miles north of the White House, life here brought Lincoln and his family closer to the war. Lincoln commuted three miles daily by horseback or coach to the White House, last visiting the Cottage the day before his assassination. *The New York Times* said of the Cottage: "Its power is the power of association, its contact with a historical presence; we literally walk in a great figure's footsteps."

The Cottage will be hosting a number of public programs throughout the anniversary including several *Cottage Conversations*, an evening lecture series that offers a unique experience in the Cottage and a chance to hear from distinguished Lincoln authors, collectors, and artists. The current special exhibit, *Being Lincoln*, will be open through July 2011 and explores Lincoln's iconic image through the eyes of Lincoln presenters and begs the question – what does it really mean to *be* like Lincoln? The next exhibit, opening August 2011, will focus on the statue of Lincoln and his horse at the Cottage and the process of creating this life-sized portrait. For more information on upcoming events, visit www.lincolncottage.org.

Intimate, guided tours– limited to 20 people – of the Cottage provide a thought-provoking, media-enhanced experience that reveals Lincoln's ideas and actions as they unfolded at this place. State-of-the-art technology, built into the Cottage during its restoration, allows the content of the tour to be updated as new research emerges. The Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center, adjacent to the Cottage, houses thematic galleries and changing exhibitions providing visitors of all ages opportunities to connect with our past and explore Lincoln's life and times.

In addition to guided tours, for school groups and educators, the Cottage offers programs including *Lincoln's Hat*, a social studies and language arts program based on Lincoln's unique writing habits designed for grades 1 to 3, *I See the President* for grades 4-5, and *Debating Emancipation* which also available online and designed for grades 6 and up.

For information about visiting President Lincoln's Cottage, go to www.lincolncottage.org. For information about using the Cottage for meetings and events, go to www.lincolncottage.org/events.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a non-profit membership organization bringing people together to protect, enhance and enjoy the places that matter to them. By saving the places where great moments from history – and the important moments of everyday life – took place, the National Trust for Historic Preservation helps revitalize neighborhoods and communities, spark economic development and promote environmental sustainability. With headquarters in Washington, DC, 9 regional and field offices, 29 historic sites, and partner organizations in all 50 states, the National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to a national network of people, organizations and local communities committed to saving places, connecting us to our history and collectively shaping the future of America's stories. For more information, visit www.PreservationNation.org.

###