



FACT SHEET

President Lincoln's Cottage is a National Monument and award-winning museum, with a mission to reveal the true Lincoln and continue the fight for freedom.

As a "museum of ideas," President Lincoln's Cottage shares the stories of Lincoln's consequential presidency in a meaningful and authentic way that engages our audience in the fight for freedom and equality today.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- President Lincoln's Cottage is a private, nonprofit organization located in northwest Washington, DC on the historic Armed Forces Retirement Home campus.
- The site is open year-round and offers a variety of experiences to the public including guided tours, events, education programs, and special exhibits that encourage participants to view Lincoln's example as a model to problem solve and think creatively.
- In 1973, the site was designated as a National Historic Landmark.
- In the 1990's, the significance of Lincoln's life here was "re-discovered," with the help of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- In 2000, President Bill Clinton declared the Cottage and the surrounding 2.3 acres a National Monument
- Following an eight-year restoration and \$15 million dollar capital campaign, President Lincoln's Cottage opened to the public in 2008.
- **President Lincoln's Cottage is the only National Monument in the country that receives no federal operating support.**

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- From June to November of 1862, 1863 and 1864 – more than a quarter of his presidency – President Lincoln and his family resided in a Gothic Revival house on the grounds of the Soldiers' Home. During his summers at the Cottage, Lincoln plotted war strategy, hosted political meetings, and welcomed Cabinet members, political allies and adversaries, and foreign dignitaries.
- During Lincoln's first season at the Soldiers' Home, he drafted the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.
- Lincoln made the three mile commute to and from the White House daily interacting with soldiers with news from the front lines and self-emancipated people living as refugees in "contraband camps." Kidnappings during the commute were a constant concern, and Lincoln survived a possible assassination attempt during an evening ride home.
- The Soldiers' Home was established in 1851 as the first federal institution to provide care for retired or disabled army veterans. During Lincoln's time, 100-200 disabled veterans lived on the grounds. The Soldiers' Home was used as a presidential retreat by Presidents Buchanan, Hayes, and Arthur. Today nearly 300 retired servicemen and women are residents of the Armed Forces Retirement Home.



- The United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery was visible to Lincoln when he lived at the Cottage. Approximately 8,000 Civil War dead were buried there during the war. After the portion of the cemetery made available to the Army reached capacity Arlington National Cemetery was established.
- Over the 19th century, the historical significance of President Lincoln's Cottage faded from national memory as the public had little to no access to the grounds. The Cottage was adapted for a variety of uses by the Soldiers' Home.

RECOGNITION

- President Lincoln's Cottage is the recipient of 41 National awards and honors for exemplary work in preservation, interpretation, and education. Past awards have come from a range of organizations and corporations including: The American Alliance of Museums, US Distance Learning Education, the American Association of State and Local History, the U.S. Green Building Council, TripAdvisor, Groupon, the Society for Experiential Graphic Design, and The Lincoln Forum.
- Received the Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons for the Students Opposing Slavery Program in 2016.
- Voted "Best Museum Off the Mall" by the Washington City Paper 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020.
- Voted "One of the Best" DC Charities by Catalogue for Philanthropy 2019/2020.
- President Lincoln's Cottage has been covered by a variety of local, national, and international press including: *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washingtonian*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Travel + Leisure*, *Teen Vogue*, *Smithsonian*, NBC, CNN, NPR, BBC, PBS, C-SPAN.



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