



# General Management Plan / Alternatives Newsletter

Issue 2 Fall 2004

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the planning team, I am pleased to share this second General Management Plan newsletter with you and ask for your continued help in planning the future of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site. As a reminder, general management plans provide overall guidance for the long-term management of an NPS unit. This process requires that we develop a range of possible alternative future conditions and management strategies for the historic site. The plan will determine how the park will address resource preservation, visitor uses, development needs, and interpretation or education issues for the next 15 to 20 years.

The planning team has developed a set of management prescriptions that describe how specific portions of the park would be managed for resources, visitor experience and park operations. Three preliminary alternative concepts were then developed based on suggestions from the public and the park using different applications of the management prescriptions.

This newsletter is your first opportunity to respond to the preliminary management alternatives. Your comments and suggestions will help in developing a preferred alternative that will be presented in the *Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* available for public review and comment in 2006.

I welcome your continued participation in this important planning effort as we look forward to the commemoration of the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth in 2009 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Apschnikat  
Superintendent

## What We Heard From You

We received a good response to our initial request for public input. The planning team held a series of public scoping meetings last November in Hodgenville and New Haven. Thirty-two people attended these meetings to let the National Park Service know what values the park has that should be protected and what issues (opportunities, problems, or concerns) park managers should address in the plan. We also received several letters from local organizations and businesses offering ideas and suggestions for the future management of the park.

### Values

Comments we received told us that local residents and business people appreciate the park's role in commemorating Lincoln in Kentucky and supporting the local economy. Most participants described the primary value at the Boyhood Home Unit at Knob Creek as the natural and historic landscape. People want the Boyhood Home Unit left pretty much as it is.

### Issues

Commenters told us that we should broaden our interpretive program to incorporate more of the Lincoln-in-Kentucky story, and included some interesting ideas for interpreting the Boyhood Home Unit. It was also recommended that the NPS work with the local community to promote the historical context of the region. Some people were worried about the effects of commercial and residential development near the park boundary. The park also needs to be ready for commemorating the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth in 2009.



## Management Prescriptions

As part of this phase of the General Management Plan process, the planning team has developed management prescriptions that describe the desired future condition of cultural and natural resources, the desired visitor experience, and the appropriate types of facilities. These prescriptions were then divided into four sets to form distinct zones. All areas of both park units were placed into one of these zones (See alternative zoning maps). The management prescriptions helped guide the development of the preliminary management alternatives also presented in this newsletter.

### Support Services Zone

This zone would be applied to areas of the park that would have the primary purpose of administrative or maintenance functions. It would be located in previously disturbed areas away from primary visitor use areas. Due to its nature, it is not intended for visitors except for official business. It would include facilities for administration and operations such as offices, warehouse, maintenance shops, storage areas, employee housing, and utilities.

### Visitor Services Zone

The Visitor Services Zone would be applied to areas that would contain significant development to support park visitation and enjoyment. Here, visitors would enter the national historic site and receive an orientation to its resources and interpretive messages. Facilities could include a visitor facility, indoor and outdoor exhibits, museum displays, a theater, multi-purpose space, public restrooms, and interpretive sales area.

### Interaction Zone

This zone would be applied to areas that allow visitors to interact personally with the park's cultural or memorial features and natural resources. Landscapes would be maintained to preserve an historic appearance. Visitors would participate in self-guided or ranger-led interpretive activities. Facilities would include historic and memorial structures and amenities such as paved walks, stairs, benches, and drinking fountains.

### Discovery Zone

Undeveloped portions of the park would be in the Discovery Zone. The primary purpose of this zone is to preserve cultural resources and maintain or restore natural resources and processes. Visitor activities would include walking/hiking, wildlife viewing, and experiencing scenic views with photography opportunities. There would be no facilities except primitive trails and some unobtrusive directional and interpretive signs.

## Preliminary Management Alternatives

The NPS planning team is required to develop alternative ways to achieve the desired future conditions while meeting the park's stated purpose and protecting significant resources and values. The planning team considered suggestions from the public and park staff to develop the four preliminary alternatives summarized here. The alternatives are not final and may change based on comment from the public and NPS professionals. They are being distributed to all who are interested so that the NPS can benefit from your review and comment.

### Alternative A

Under this alternative (referred to as the No-Action alternative), the national historic site would continue current management direction guided by the 1964 Master Plan. There would be no significant change in interpretation and management. The Boyhood Home Unit would continue to be operated without a long-range plan.

### Alternative B

This alternative would emphasize the preservation and conservation of cultural and natural resources. Visitor opportunities would be enhanced through the restoration of an authentic historic scene at the park and telling the larger story of the Lincolns in the area. This will be accomplished with minimal facility development within the park.

At the **Birthplace Unit**, the landscape around the Memorial Building would be restored to its 1930s appearance according to the park's 2004 Cultural Landscape Report. Facilities such as the visitor center, administration, maintenance facility, and housing structures would be moved outside the park to enhance the memorial setting. Keith Road, in the northeast corner of this unit, would be removed and relocated outside the park to improve visitor safety and preserve natural resources. In addition, the current visitor parking area would be moved back from the memorial area and a small visitor contact station would be constructed near the main entrance.

At the **Boyhood Home Unit**, the tavern building would be rehabilitated and opened for visitor services and park operations. The replica log cabin would be

restored. If the original site of the Lincoln cabin can be located, it would be marked and interpreted.

### Alternative C

This alternative would enhance visitor opportunities while continuing to preserve cultural and natural resources. There would be more opportunities for visitors to understand and appreciate the park's resources through methods such as trail development and enhanced interpretation.

Existing structures would remain at the **Birthplace Unit**. Administrative offices would be moved to one of the park quarters and visitor services would be expanded into the space previously occupied by offices. The memorial grounds would be restored to their 1930s appearance through landscaping and enhanced by moving the existing parking lot toward Highway 31E. A larger parking lot, improved picnic area, and handicapped-accessible nature trail would be constructed on the east side of this unit. Keith Road would be removed and relocated outside the park to improve visitor safety and preserve natural resources.

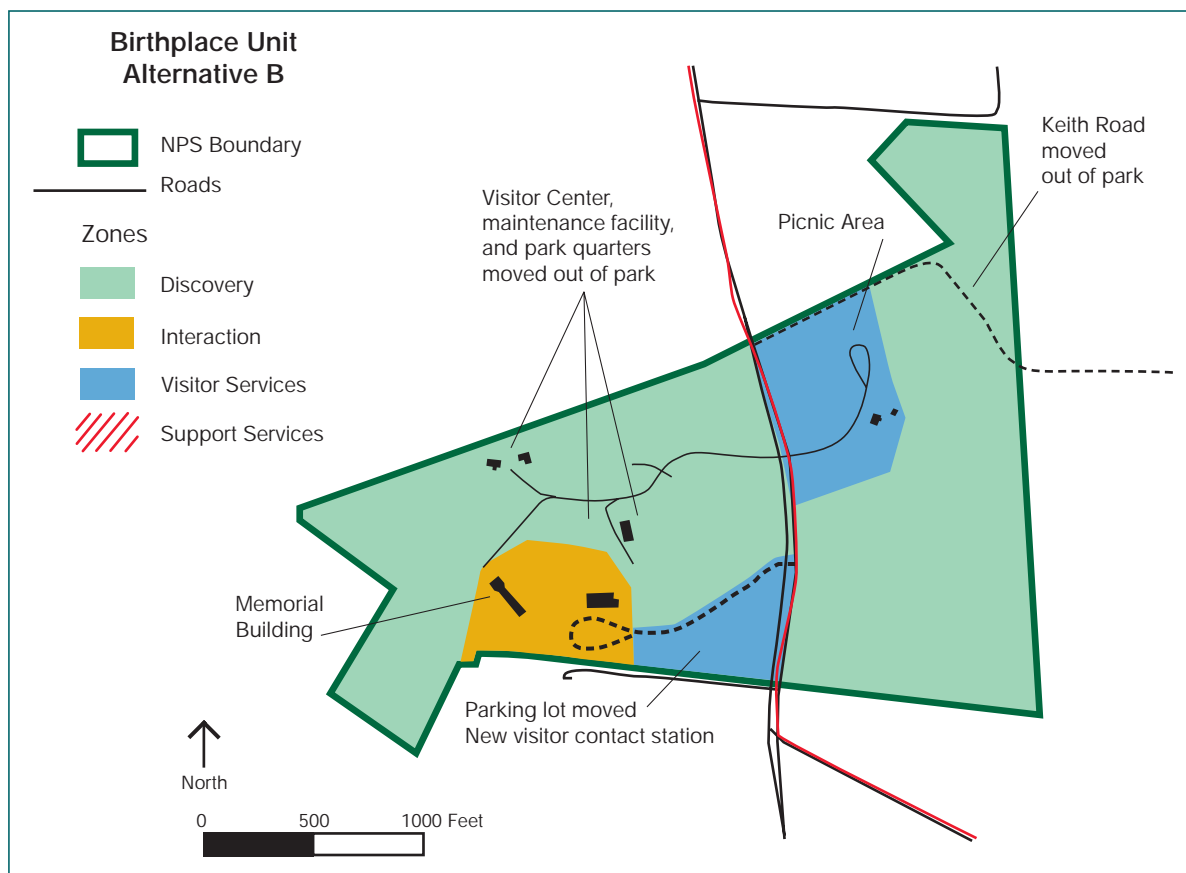
At the **Boyhood Home Unit**, the tavern building would be rehabilitated for visitor services and park operations. The replica cabin would be restored and open to the public. Visitor opportunities would be enhanced with additional trails, restrooms, interpretive signs, and picnic tables.

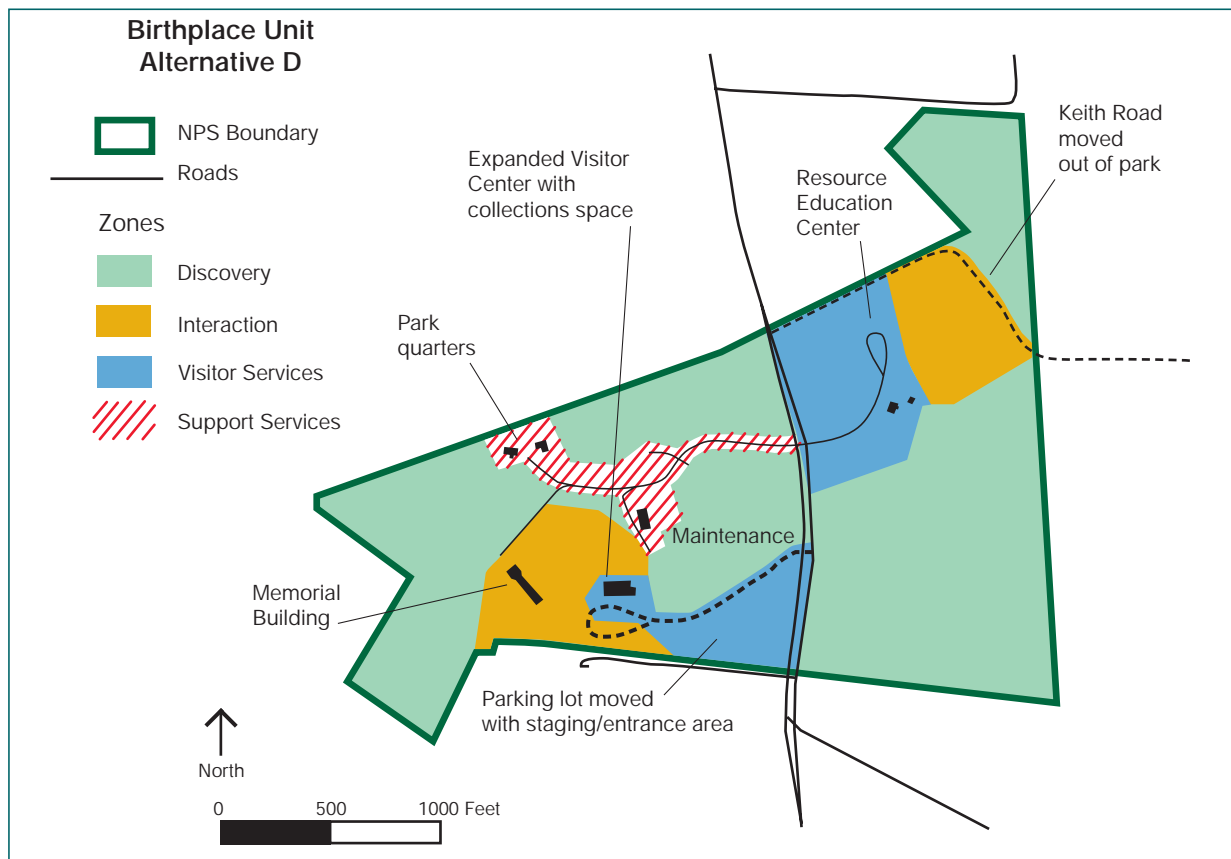
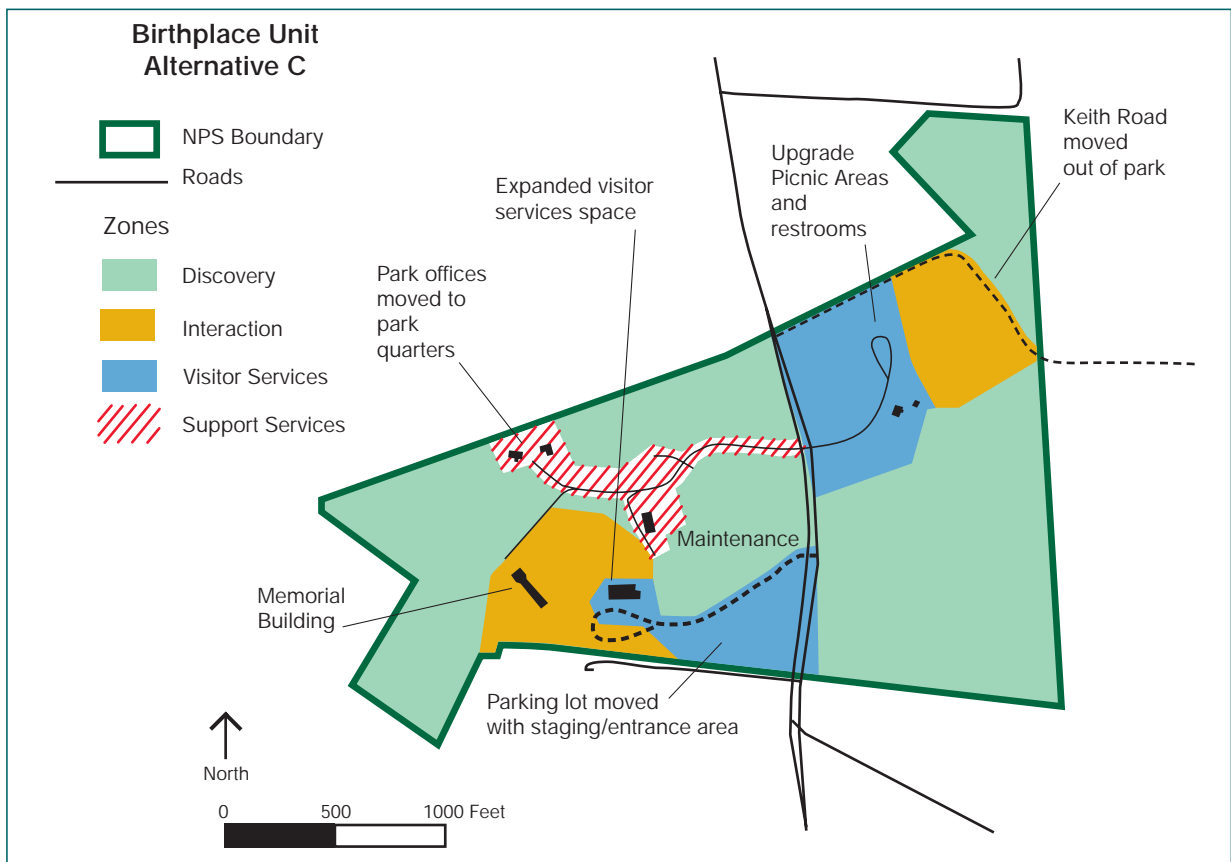
### Alternative D

The goal in this alternative would be to instill a stewardship ethic in visitors through enhanced interpretation and resource education. Re-creation and restoration of the historic scene would be undertaken to provide greater opportunities for visitors to understand Abraham Lincoln and his early childhood. Facilities would be significantly improved and expanded.

At the **Birthplace Unit**, the resource education program would be improved through construction of a new education center east of Highway 31E. The existing visitor center would be enlarged to accommodate expanded interpretive and educational programs. Keith Road would be removed and relocated outside the park to improve visitor safety and preserve natural resources.

At the **Boyhood Home Unit**, the tavern building would be removed and replaced with a modern visitor information facility. An outdoor pioneer lifestyle exhibit would be constructed including a replica cabin and other structures, farming equipment, plots of historic crops, and other interpretive elements. Additional trails and interpretive signs would be constructed on the property.



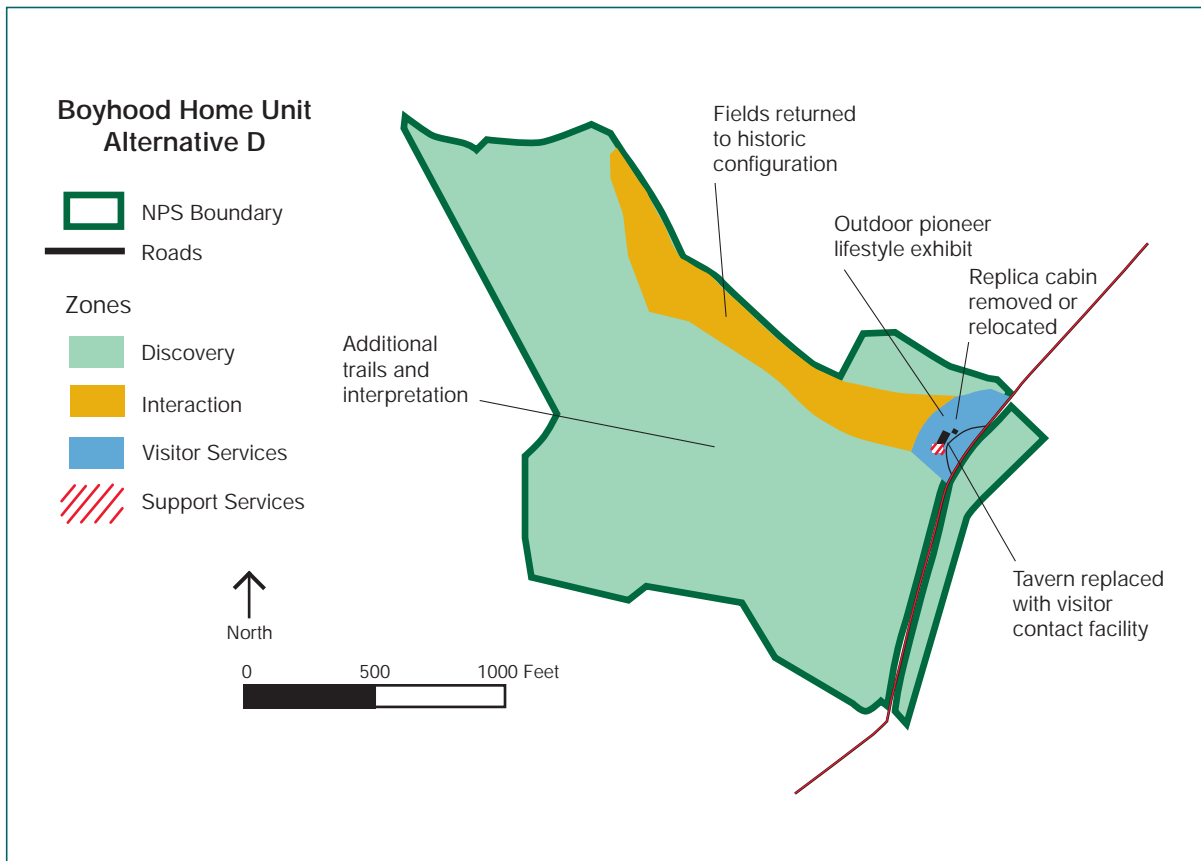


### Boyhood Home Unit Alternative B



### Boyhood Home Unit Alternative C





## Preferred Alternative

The NPS has not yet developed a preferred alternative. The preferred alternative will be designated after we obtain public input and conduct a decision-making analysis. It will be described in the *Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement*. It could be one of the preliminary alternatives or it could be made up of parts from the preliminary alternatives. In addition, the planning team will designate an Environmentally Preferred Alternative in that document.

## Boundary Adjustment

As part of the National Park Service planning process, the planning team looks at areas outside the national historic site boundaries that meet one or both of the following criteria:

- include significant resources or opportunities for public enjoyment related to purposes of the park
- address operational and management issues such as access and boundary identification by topographic or other natural features or roads.
- added lands would be feasible to administer and
- other alternatives for management and resource protection would not be adequate.

The planning team is currently evaluating two pieces of property. The Nancy Lincoln Inn property, adjoin-

ing the Birthplace Unit, is needed to improve management and the visitor experience. This property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places but is not directly tied to the Lincolns.

Approximately 50 acres adjacent to the north side of the Boyhood Home Unit is sought to protect a glade containing rare and sensitive plants and to protect the scenic and historic viewshed from incompatible development. A boundary expansion may require legislation to occur. Any non-federal land that is acquired would be from a willing seller or donation only.

## Planning Time Frame

The general management planning process for Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site is expected to take several years to complete. A summary of the process and anticipated timeframe are shown in the table. We are on step three of the process and the public will have opportunities to share ideas and comments throughout the remainder of the process.

Following this newsletter, the park and planning team will begin to expand the alternative concepts. Comments from the public will help guide the team in the production of complete alternatives and identification of the preferred alternative in the *Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*.

Step	Time Frame	Description	How You Can Be Involved
1	Summer 2003	<b>Initiate Project</b> The planning team assembles, begins to identify the project's scope, customize the planning process, and begins to establish contacts with participants.	
2	Fall 2003– Winter 2004	<b>Define Planning Context and Foundation</b> The team examines <i>why</i> the national historic site was established and affirms its mission, purpose, and significance. Team members collect and analyze relevant data and public comments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the newsletter.</li> <li>• Send us your ideas and comments.</li> <li>• Attend public meetings.</li> </ul>
<b>WE ARE HERE</b>	3	Winter 2004– Fall 2005	<b>Develop and Evaluate Alternatives</b> Using staff and public input, the team explores <i>what</i> the national historic site's future should look like and proposes a range of reasonable alternatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the newsletter.</li> <li>• Send us your ideas and comments.</li> <li>• Attend public meetings.</li> </ul>
	4	Winter 2005– Winter 2006	<b>Prepare a Draft Document</b> <i>A Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement</i> is published. The draft document describes the alternatives and the impacts of implementing each. Based on the impacts and public input, a preferred alternative is identified in the document. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the draft plan.</li> <li>• Send us your ideas and comments.</li> <li>• Attend public meetings.</li> </ul>
	5	Winter 2006– Summer 2006	<b>Publish Final Document</b> Based on review by the National Park Service and the public, the team revises the <i>General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement</i> and distributes a final plan. The plan is approved in a published record of decision. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the final plan, including NPS responses to substantive public comments and official letters.</li> </ul>
	6	Summer 2006 and Beyond	<b>Implement the Approved Plan</b> After the <i>Record of Decision</i> is issued, the <i>General Management Plan</i> can be implemented. However, approval of the GMP does not guarantee funding for any of the prescribed actions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the national historic site to implement the plan.</li> </ul>



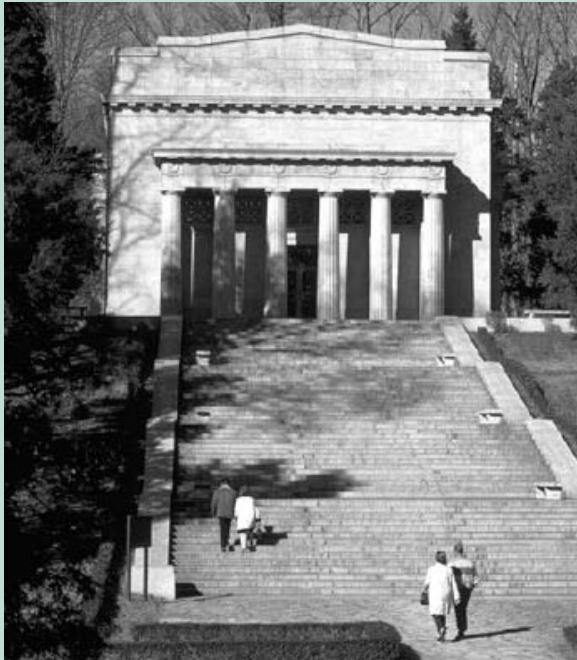
## How to Participate

The planning team welcomes your comments anytime in the planning process. Right now, we would like to hear your ideas, suggestions and recommendations on the management zone prescriptions and the preliminary alternative concepts presented in this newsletter. Please comment through any one of the following methods:

1. Fill out the enclosed comment form and drop it in the mail
2. Fill out an electronic comment form at <http://planning.nps.gov/plans.cfm>

3. Mail or drop off a letter to the:  
**Superintendent,  
Abraham Lincoln Birthplace  
National Historic Site,  
2995 Lincoln Farm Road,  
Hodgenville, KY 42748-9707**
4. Attend public alternatives meetings.  
The place and times to be announced.

Be aware that due to the requirements of public disclosure (mandated by the Freedom of Information Act), the National Park Service must make the names and addresses of commenters public if requested. Individual respondents may request that this information not be released. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses available for public inspection if requested.



### The Bicentennial of Lincoln's Birth

In 2009, the nation, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, LaRue County and Hodgenville will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth on February 12, 1809. The sites associated with his birth and early boyhood in Kentucky are commemorated at Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in LaRue County. With the addition of the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home at Knob Creek to the National Park System in 2001, the national historic site now consists of two units. The site of Lincoln's birth is memorialized at the Birthplace Unit south of Hodgenville. The rural environment, historic features and events that affected him as a boy are preserved and interpreted at the Boyhood Home Unit ten miles northeast of the Birthplace Unit.

Because of Lincoln's popularity and his importance to the nation and the world, preparations are being made for an event on a national and international scale. The anticipated visitation to the state and its economic impact, especially to communities near Lincoln-related sites, is expected to be significant.

Lincoln-related national parks, private museums, educational institutions, committees, commissions, and others are currently working individually and in partnership to plan for a series of events that will begin in 2008 and continue through 2009. The National Park Service manages three sites that commemorate Lincoln's life in the Midwest (Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in Indiana, and Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Illinois). The park units are planning an extensive itinerary of activities, events, publications, educational products, and special ceremonies for the bicentennial. A plan to involve the other Lincoln-related national sites in Washington, D.C. and elsewhere in the nation is also being developed.

Congress established the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission to work on national projects such as a new Lincoln penny, Lincoln postage stamps, special events in Washington, D.C., and other celebrations and activities. The governor of Kentucky has established the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission by executive order to plan and conduct statewide bicentennial tributes to Abraham Lincoln.

This General Management Plan will be a part of the events leading up to the commemoration of Lincoln's birth in 2009. We hope you will join us in that celebration.