

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

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|---|--|---|--|
| 1. STATE<br><b>Illinois</b>   |  | 2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO.<br><b>XIV, The Civil War, 1861-1865</b> |  |
| 3. NAME(S) OF SITE<br><b>Lincoln Tomb</b>   |  | 4. APPROX. ACREAGE<br><b>12.4 acres</b>   |  |
| 5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet)<br><b>Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Sangamon County</b>                          |  |   |  |
| 6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <b>State of Illinois, Division of Parks and Memorials, State Office Building, Springfield, Illinois</b> |  |   |  |

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)  
**The Lincoln Tomb in Springfield's Oak Ridge cemetery is the final resting place of Abraham Lincoln, his wife and three of his four sons. The Tomb is a solemn and moving memorial which symbolizes not the death of Abraham Lincoln but rather the living legacy of compassion, courage and understanding which he left to the Union he preserved.**

Immediately after Lincoln's death on April 15, 1865, citizens of Springfield organized the National Lincoln Monument Association to spearhead the drive to erect a Tomb and memorial to the martyred president. During construction of the tomb, the body of Lincoln lay in a temporary vault near the present memorial. In 1871 the body was placed in a crypt in the partially completed tomb, work on which had begun in 1869. The tomb was dedicated in 1874 and in 1895 the Monument Association gave control of the site to the State of Illinois. The original cost of the tomb was \$130,000, part of which came from small donations from public and private groups and individuals throughout the country. Extensive reconstructions were carried out in 1901 and 1931.

In 1876 a group of criminals attempted to steal Lincoln's body but were foiled in the attempt. At this time and during periods of reconstruction the body has rested in various parts of the tomb. In 1901 the body was placed in a cement vault ten feet below the floor of the tomb a short distance from the cenotaph which the visitor sees today. In crypts south of the cenotaph are the remains of Mrs. Lincoln, and three of Lincoln's sons, Edward Baker, William Wallace, and Thomas.

The tomb's exterior design consists of a shaft 117 feet high, resting on a simple square building. On the corners of the spire are four heroic bronze groups representing infantry, cavalry, artillery and the navy of the Civil War period. On the south side of the shaft above the entrance to the tomb is a ten-foot statue of the Civil War president. In front of the tomb entrance is a bronze reproduction of

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)  
**Rexford Newcomb, In the Lincoln Country: Journeys to the Lincoln Shrines of Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Other States (Philadelphia, 1928); Maurine Redway and Dorothy Bracken, Marks of Lincoln on Our Land (New York, 1957); "The Lincoln Tomb", informational publication, State of Illinois Department of Conservation, Division of Parks and Memorials.**

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, ILABS, etc.)

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|---|--|---|--|
| 10. PHOTOGRAPHS*<br>ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. CONDITION<br><b>Excellent</b>            | 12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.)<br><b>State Memorial</b> | 13. DATE OF VISIT<br><b>April 26, 1959</b> |
| 14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature)<br><b>Charles E. Shedd, Jr.</b>                                  | 15. TITLE<br><b>Historic Sites Historian</b> | 16. DATE<br><b>6/15/59</b>                                    |  |

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)  
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SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE  
Illinois

NAME(S) OF SITE  
Lincoln Tomb

Gutzon Borglum's massive head of Lincoln. The entrance leads to a foyer where is displayed a reduced copy of the Daniel Chester French statue in the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D. C. A circular corridor leads to the burial chamber and circles back to the foyer. In niches along the circular corridor are four-foot statues representing various phases of Lincoln's life, and four bronze tablets present the Farewell Address to Springfield, The Gettysburg Address, a portion of the Second Inaugural Address and a biographical sketch.

While the Lincoln Home in Springfield preserves the simple, human story of the living Lincoln, the Tomb is an eloquent memorial to the immortal spirit of the man whose stature continues to grow with the Union he did so much to save.