

# HERE I HAVE LIVED

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Recreating the Land of

*Lincoln*



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## Case 1: Lincoln's New Salem

**"Mill at New Salem, 1829", 1950. Fred H. Turner Wood Block Prints (MS 974), Folder 1.**

When James Rutledge and John Camron first settled on a bluff overlooking the Sangamon River in 1828, they petitioned the state for permission to dam the river and construct a grist- and sawmill. By October 1829, the venture proved so successful that Rutledge and Camron hired a surveyor to plat a new town around the mill site: New Salem. Quickly becoming a local center for commerce, New Salem attracted farmers and merchants from hundreds of miles away—including a young Abraham Lincoln aboard a flatboat bound for New Orleans that found itself stuck on the Rutledge dam in 1831. This rare woodblock print by Champaign artist Fred Turner depicts the Rutledge-Camron mill as it was reconstructed in the 1930s atop its original foundation based on archaeological records.

**Camp New Salem "All-Day Program" flyer, undated. Civilian Conservation Corps Collection (MS 537), Folder 1.**

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), established by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 at the height of the Great Depression, was a federal relief program designed to provide temporary public service work, housing, and medical care to single, unemployed men aged 18 to 25. The program benefited more than 92,000 workers in Illinois, including many at Camp New Salem. Established in 1934 with 206

men, the camp built upon the Old Salem Lincoln League's work by accurately reconstructing the Rutledge-Camron mill as well as seven of the village's original log structures. CCC workers were also responsible for creating new hiking trails, erecting fences and shelters, and building a restaurant and theater. Throughout this time, the camp continued to host public programs featuring dances, food, and tours of New Salem State Park (now Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site).

**CCC Tour of Duty Completion Certificate for Eugene Runyan, 1934. Civilian Conservation Corps Collection (MS 537), Folder 1.**

More than 400 workers, mostly young men from Northern Illinois, were assigned to Camp New Salem at some point during their tours with the Civilian Conservation Corps. As the name suggests, all regular CCC members were civilians. Operationally, however, the War Department had authority over CCC camps. As a result, camps were divided into "companies" and "barracks" directed by U.S. Army Reserve officers.

***Camp New Salem News* No. 3, 1935. Civilian Conservation Corps Collection (MS 537), Folder 1.**

The CCC workers at New Salem regularly published camp newsletters highlighting local events, updates on site progress and work assignments, and other stories. Also included in these newsletters were short comic sections. Several other issues of *Camp New Salem News* from the Civilian Conservation Corps Collection are available at the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections.

**“Scenes on the Sangamon River, Old Salem State Park, Petersburg, Ill.” postcard. Dorothy Golden Postcard Collection (MS 266), Box 1.**

While most of the cabins, shops, and mills at New Salem have been accurately reconstructed, this forested scene near the restored site bears little resemblance to how the area appeared in the 1830s. New Salem residents cleared the trees around the village, using them to construct cabins, mills, and other wooden buildings. A century later in the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps planted new trees in the area.

**“Rutledge Tavern, Lincoln New Salem State Park, Ill.” postcard. Dorothy Golden Postcard Collection (MS 266), Box 1.**

**“Hill Residence, Hill-McNamar (McNeil) Store, Berry-Lincoln Store, Lukins and Ferguson Residence” postcard. Dorothy Golden Postcard Collection (MS 266), Box 1.**

This postcard depicts a street of reconstructed log homes and stores circa the 1950s – notably including the Berry-Lincoln store where Abraham kept shop and worked as postmaster. The specific locations of this street’s structures were identified in 1918 by former New Salem resident Louisa Clary and confirmed by period maps and deeds of sale.

**Exterior photograph of Dr. Francis Regnier’s reconstructed cabin at New Salem, 1900s, by Natalia Belting. Facsimile, Lincoln Prints and Ephemera (MS 1045), Box 1, Folder 55.**

This photograph, showing the outside of a reconstructed cabin once belonging to a New Salem physician, is one of several taken of the rebuilt village buildings by Natalia Belting, a faculty member in Department of History at the University of Illinois from 1941 to 1985. More of these photos are available in the Lincoln Prints and Ephemera collection at the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections.

**"Doctor F. Regnier's Residence and Office" postcard. Facsimile, Dorothy Golden Postcard Collection (MS 266), Box 1.**

This photo, printed on a 1950s postcard, shows the interior of Dr. Francis Regnier's reconstructed cabin replete with period furnishings.

**"The Lincoln-Berry Store in New Salem State Park" postcard. Facsimile, Dorothy Golden Postcard Collection (MS 266), Box 1.**

**"First Berry-Lincoln Store and U.S. Post Office" postcard. Facsimile, Dorothy Golden Postcard Collection (MS 266), Box 1.**

While most of the New Salem structures were furnished to resemble the original 1830s buildings, liberties were sometimes taken with interior design. For instance, this postcard shows an 1860s portrait of Abraham Lincoln hanging in the cabin where he once kept shop.



## **Case 2: The Lincoln Home**

**Photograph of the Lincoln Home draped in black for mourning, 1865. Facsimile, Lincoln Prints and Ephemera (MS 1045), Box 3, Folder 1.**

Abraham Lincoln's assassination at the hands of Confederate sympathizer John Wilkes Booth in April 1865 sparked a wave of intense public mourning across the nation. Draped in Victorian-style black mourning banners, the martyred president's Springfield house became a place of pilgrimage for mourners. Lucian Tilton, who rented the home from 1861-1869, accommodated visits from large crowds such as this one—crowds so sizable in fact that Tilton requested a military protection detail for the premises.

***First Biennial Report of the Lincoln Homestead Trustees to the Thirty-Sixth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, 1889.***  
**Facsimile, Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana.**  
**<https://archive.org/details/firstbiennialrep00linc>.**

After Robert Lincoln gifted the Lincoln Home to the State of Illinois in 1887, the legislature established the Lincoln Homestead Trustees to administer the property. The trustees hired former house renter O.H. Oldroyd as live-in custodian to oversee care, commissioned complete architectural plans and drawings of house and grounds, and insured the house for \$2,500. This 1889 report includes a copy of Robert Lincoln's deed of gift, the Illinois statute creating the trustees, and a detailed list of expenditures. First editions of the First and the Second Biennial Reports are also held by the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections.

***"The Springfield Home". Facsimile of etching printed in Bernhardt Wall, *Lincoln's New Salem: A Pilgrimage*, 1926. Q. 973.7 L63C3W15L.***

This etching by Bernhardt Wall, an artist well-known in the early twentieth century for his illustrated volumes on American Presidents, depicts some of the changes made to the Lincoln Home and surrounding area in the 1920s. Note the added enclosed entryway at the front of the house, the power lines overhead, and the automobile parked on a paved street.

**Original brick from the home of Abraham Lincoln, sold by mason contractor Harry C. Jorgensen, 1958. Lincoln Artifacts (MS 129).**

Although Lincoln's Springfield home and neighborhood were not fully restored until the 1980s, the state did conduct some more minor restoration work and repairs in the decades prior. In 1954, mason worker Harry C. Jorgensen was awarded a \$2,540 contract to

complete brickwork for one such restoration project. After being offered \$5 for a chip from the debris by a tourist, Jorgensen got the idea to package and sell brick pieces taken from his Lincoln Home worksite.

**Illustrative Plan and Concept Design for Lincoln Home Area. Facsimiles, Edwin B. Goodell, *The Comprehensive Master Plan, Lincoln Home Area*, 1968. Q.973.7L63 E6L439c.**

In the 1960s, the Abraham Lincoln Association and the Junior League of Springfield commissioned a study by Massachusetts architectural firm Lawrence W. Walquist, Jr. and Associates to recreate an 1860s setting around the house. These pages from that study present the firm's ambitious redesign of the entire neighborhood, complete with restored buildings, a new park, and a spacious visitor center acting as a buffer between the modern city and the historic Lincoln Home Area.

**Department of the Interior press release endorsing the idea of creating a Lincoln Home National Historic Site, February 12, 1970. Printed in National Park Service, *Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Illinois: Master Plan*, 1970. 973.7L63 E6Un3m 1970.**

In 1970, Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel offered his written support for a new study conducted by the National Park Service that proposed creating a federally-operated "Historic Preservation Zone" of the four blocks surrounding the Lincoln Home in order to reverse the century of "incompatible development" that disrupted the historic scene. The proposal, however, would ultimately require Congressional approval.

**Press release letter from Sen. Charles H. Percy announcing a bill to formally establish Lincoln Home National Historic Site, February 1, 1971. Earl C. Kubicek Collection (MS 1015), Box 1, Folder 5.**

On February 1, 1971, U.S. Senator Charles Percy of Illinois co-sponsored a bipartisan bill to officially designate the Lincoln Home as a National Historic Site and bring the house under the care of the National Park Service.

Exhibit curated by the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections,  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

On display from November 2019 to February 2020  
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