The Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.
LINCOLN ROOM
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MEMORIAL
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The Lincoln Memorial
The
Lincoln Memorial
Washington, D. C.
The Lincoln Memorial

The beautiful Grecian temple erected in Washington "to enshrine forever" the memory of a man who traced his career from humble birth in a frontier log cabin to the Presidency, only to die at the hand of an assassin in the hour of his greatest triumph, has become America's greatest patriotic shrine in the truest sense. No other edifice in the nation is better entitled to the designation. To it come people from every State of the Union which he saved, and from the far corners of the earth where his name has become the symbol of hope and opportunity. Measured by the numbers who visit it annually, by its artistic and architectural qualities and engineering achievements, or by the esteem in which it is held by the people, it is America's first sanctuary of patriotic veneration.

Its setting, its approaches, the superb landscape treatment of its grounds, its design, its structural detail, the heroic statue, the artistically executed murals and inscriptions, and the perfection of details combine to make it the perfect memorial.

But there is a spiritual quality about the Lincoln Memorial which transcends material achievement. It is felt by visitors who invariably bare their heads upon entering the building and speak in reverent, hushed tones. In the presence of the remarkably life-like statue of Lincoln seated in majestic contemplation, the lesson of Gettysburg and the great plea for conciliation, justice and human rights made in his Second Inaugural Address are heard with new understanding and inspiration.

Prophetic are the words engraved upon the marble wall above the statue of the Emancipator:

*In This Temple
As in the hearts of the people
for whom he saved the Union
The memory of Abraham Lincoln
is enshrined forever*
The Memorial Structure

The pure Doric style of Athens' famous Parthenon, unrivaled as a work of art in ancient or modern times, inspired the American architect, Henry Bacon's design for the Lincoln Memorial. Its architectural refinements include a deviation from the vertical in the setting of the Ionic columns, the face of the entablature, and the walls of the Memorial Hall, which, in varying degrees, tilt inward toward the building.

The exterior of the Memorial symbolizes the Union of the States. A colonnade of the States surrounds the outside walls, the names of the 36 States existing at the time of Lincoln's death being engraved upon the frieze above the columns. The names of the 48 States of the Union existing in 1922, when the Memorial was dedicated, appear on the walls above the colonnade.

The Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall contains three separate memorials to Abraham Lincoln. In the central room, an heroic marble statue of the Emancipator looks East through the colonnaded portals toward the Washington Monument and the United States Capitol. Inscribed on the south wall, and separated from the central hall by a row of columns, is the memorial to Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. The memorial to the Second Inaugural Address is located on the north wall, in a similar chamber. Two murals by Jules Guerin, "Emancipation" and "Reunion," decorate the walls above the Gettysburg and Second Inaugural inscriptions.

A circular plateau 760 feet in diameter, exquisitely landscaped, surrounds the building. There is a masonry approach to the steps ascending the terrace which is supported by a granite retaining wall. Above the terrace rises the white Colorado-Yule marble walls of the Memorial, quarried in the Rocky Mountains, 10,000 feet above sea level.

The Colonnade

There are 38 columns in the colonnade, two forming the entrance portal. Each is 44 feet high and 7 feet 5 inches in diameter at the base. The colonnade rests upon a platform of 3 steps, totaling 8 feet in height. The colonnade is 188 feet 4 inches long and 118 feet 6 inches wide.

The Greek Ionic columns which separate the Memorial Hall into three chambers are 50 feet high and 5 feet 6 inches in diameter at the base. The interior walls are Indiana limestone. The ceiling is 60 feet above the floor. The ceiling is paneled with Alabama marble saturated with beeswax to make it translucent. The floor and the two ornamental tripods on the butresses flanking the steps are Tennessee marble.

The central chamber is 60 feet wide and 74 feet deep. The north and south chambers, 63 feet wide and 38 feet deep. The maximum height of the structure, from the bottom of the foundations on bedrock, is 192 feet.

The Frieze

The frieze surmounting the exterior of the building is beautifully decorated by stone carving featuring a design of American Eagles, laurel wreaths and miscellaneous ornamentations. The decorative carving on the stone work of the building was executed by Ernest C. Bairstow of Washington.

* * *

2
Springtime – the Japanese Cherry Blossoms

Winter Scene
IN THIS TEMPLE
AS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN
IS ENSHRINED FOREVER
The Statue

The outstanding feature of the Lincoln Memorial, and a sculptural work hailed by many as one of the greatest of all times—certainly the most impressive statue ever conceived and executed by a native American sculptor, is the colossal marble statue of Abraham Lincoln by Daniel Chester French.

The imposing statue dominates the central chamber of the Memorial Hall. It depicts Lincoln seated in an attitude of deep contemplation. In his sober mien, his heavily lined features, firm chin, deep-set reflective eyes and clenched fist, are expressed the compassion, power and determination that made the Civil War President great. The spirit of the living Lincoln has been remarkably expressed by the sculptor in this inspired work.

Georgia and Tennessee Marble

The statue is carved from 28 blocks of Georgia white marble and is 19 feet high from head to feet. As a standing statue it would be 28 feet high. It is 19 feet wide, including the draped chair. It rests upon an oblong pedestal of Tennessee marble 10 feet high, 16 feet wide and 17 feet deep. The plinth between the bottom of the seat and the pedestal stands upon a platform of Tennessee marble 34 feet 5½ inches long, 28 feet 1 inch wide and 6½ inches high.

Two courses of Tennessee marble steps with 14-inch treads and 6½-inch risers give access to the platform.

The statue was carved by Piccirilli Brothers of New York, the sculptor, Mr. French, personally assisting.

Lighting the Statue

Great study was given by the sculptor to the lighting of the statue in order to obtain the proper expression on the features of the figure. In this study he received the assistance and counsel of America's leading illumination technicians and art authorities. The effect was achieved in part through the impregnation of thin slabs of marble used in the ceiling with beeswax to attain translucency and through the utilization of Mazda lamps equipped with X-ray reflectors. A total of 125 of these lamps were placed in the attic space, 40 inches above the marble slabs. In addition, 24 powerful electric flood lights, each 30 by 47 inches in size, were placed approximately 20 inches above 12 glass panels in the ceiling of the central chamber to reverse the heavy contrasting shadows cast upon the statue by daylight entering from the entrance portal which created an unnatural and undesirable effect.

The Inscription

The inscription carved on the wall above the statue was composed by Mr. Royal Cortissoz, Art Editor of the NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE. It is a masterpiece of expressive prose. In its majestic simplicity it contributes much to create the atmosphere which gives a cathedral-like quality to the Memorial.
FELLOW COUNTRYMEN: AT THIS SECOND APPEARING TO TAKE THE OATH OF THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE THERE IS LESS OCCASION FOR AN EXTENDED ADDRESS THAN THERE WAS AT THE FIRST. THEN A STATEMENT SOMEWHAT IN DETAIL OF A COURSE TO BE PURSUED SEEMED FITTING AND PROPER; NOW AT THE EXPIRATION OF FOUR YEARS DURING WHICH PUBLIC DECLARATIONS HAVE BEEN CONSTANTLY CALLED FORTH ON EVERY POINT AND PHASE OF THE GREAT CONTEST WHICH STILL ABSORBS THE ATTENTION AND ENGROSSES THE ENERGIES OF THE NATION LITTLE THAT IS NEW COULD BE PRESENTED; THE PROGRESS OF OUR ARMS UPON WHICH ALL ELSE CHIEFLY DEPENDS IS AS WELL KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC AS TO MYSELF AND IT IS I TRUST REASONABLY SATISFACTORY AND ENCOURAGING TO ALL WITH HIGH HOPE FOR THE FUTURE NO PREDICTION IN REGARD TO IT IS VENTURED-ON THE OCCASION CORRESPONDING TO THIS FOUR YEARS AGO ALL THOUGHTS WERE ANXIOUSLY DIRECTED TO AN IMPENDING CIVIL WAR. ALL DREADED IT-ALL SOUGHT TO AVOID IT. WHILE THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS WAS BEING DELIVERED FROM THIS PLACE DEVOTED ALTOGETHER TO SAVING THE UNION WITHOUT WAR INSURGENT AGENTS WERE IN THE CITY SEEKING TO DISOLVE THE UNION AND DIVIDE EFFECTS BY NEGOTIATION: BOTH PARTIES DEPRECIATED WAR BUT ONE OF THEM WOULD MAKE WAR RATHER THAN LET THE NATION SURVIVE AND THE OTHER WOULD ACCEPT WAR RATHER THAN LET IT PERISH. AND THE WAR CAME-ONE EIGHTH OF THE WHOLE POPULATION WERE COLORED SLAVES NOT DISTRIBUTED GENERAL-ELY OVER THE UNION BUT LOCALIZED IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF IT. THESE SLAVES CONSTITUTED A PECULIAR AND POWERFUL INTEREST. ALL KNEW THAT THIS INTEREST WAS SOMEHOW THE CAUSE OF THE WAR TO STRENGTHEN PERPETUATE AND EXTEND THIS INTEREST WAS THE OBJECT FOR WHICH THE INSURGENTS WOULD REND THE UNION EVEN BY WAR. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMED NO RIGHT TO DO MORE THAN TO RESTRICT THE TERRITORIAL ENLARGEMENT OF IT, NEITHER PARTY EXPECTED FOR THE WAR THE MAGNITUDE OR THE DURATION WHICH IT HAS ALREADY ATTAINED. NEITHER ANTICIPATED THAT THE CAUSE OF THE CONFLICT MIGHT CEASE WITH OR EVEN BEFORE THE CONFLICT ITSELF SHOULD CEASE. EACH LOOKED FOR AN EASIER TRIUMPH AND A RESULT LESS FUNDAMENTAL AND ASTOUNDING. BOTH READ THE SAME BIBLE AND PRAY TO THE SAME GOD AND EACH INVOKE HIS AID AGAINST THE OTHER. IT MAY SEEM STRANGE THAT ANY MEN SHOULD DARE TO ASK A JUST GOD'S ASSISTANCE IN WRINGING THEIR BREAD FROM THE SWEAT OF OTHER MEN'S FACES BUT LET US JUDGE NOT THAT WE BE NOT JUDGED. THE PRAYERS OF BOTH COULD NOT BE ANSWERED—THAT OF NEITHER HAS BEEN ANSWERED FULLY. THE ALMIGHTY HAS HIS OWN PURPOSES—WOE UNTO THE WORLD BECAUSE OF OFFENSES FOR IT MUST NEEDS BE THAT OFFENSES COME BUT WOE TO THAT MAN BY WHOM THE OFFENSE COMETH.
THE Memorial Addresses, the famous Lincoln Gettysburg speech (page 8) delivered at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on November 19, 1863, and the Second Inaugural Address delivered from the steps of the U.S. Capitol on March 5, 1865, are considered to be among the outstanding pieces of oratorical writing in the English language. They are carved on massive stone tablets reaching from floor to ceiling. They are framed in stone and are decorated at the sides with palm leaves and Eagles—with wreaths at the bases. The decorations were carved by Miss E. B. Longman.

The Gettysburg and Second Inaugural Addresses were Lincoln's two outstanding oratorical efforts made while serving as President. The Cooper Union speech made in New York City and the "House Divided" speech delivered in Springfield, Ill., before his election, have been hailed by many historians as equally eloquent and courageous.
FOUR SCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO OUR FATHERS BROUGHT FORTH ON THIS CONTINENT A NEW NATION CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY AND DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL.

NOW WE ARE ENGAGED IN A GREAT CIVIL WAR TESTING WHETHER THAT NATION OR ANY NATION SO CONCEIVED AND SO DEDICATED CAN LONG ENDURE.

WE ARE MET ON A GREAT BATTLEFIELD OF THAT WAR. WE HAVE COME TO DEDICATE A PORTION OF THAT FIELD AS A FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR THOSE WHO HERE GAVE THEIR LIVES THAT THAT NATION MIGHT LIVE. IT IS ALTOGETHER FITTING AND PROPER THAT WE SHOULD DO THIS - BUT IN A LARGER SENSE WE CAN NOT CONSECRATE - WE CAN NOT HALLOW THIS GROUND. THE BRAVE MEN LIVING AND DEAD WHO STRUGGLED HERE HAVE CONSECRATED IT FAR ABOVE OUR POOR POWER TO ADD OR DETRACT.

THE WORLD WILL LITTLE NOTE NOR LONG REMEMBER WHAT WE SAY HERE BUT IT CAN NEVER FORGET WHAT THEY DID HERE. IT IS FOR US THE LIVING RATHER TO BE DEDICATED HERE TO THE UNFINISHED WORK WHICH THEY WHO FOUGHT HERE HAVE THUS FAR SO NOBLY ADVANCED. IT IS RATHER FOR US TO BE HERE DEDICATED TO THE GREAT TASK REMAINING BEFORE US - THAT FROM THESE HONORED DEAD WE TAKE INCREASED DEVOTION TO THAT cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion - that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people by the people for the people shall not perish from the earth.
The Gettysburg Portrait

This portrait of President Lincoln, made by the Washington photographer, Alexander Gardner, was posed for on November 18, 1863, shortly before Lincoln entrained for Gettysburg to deliver his famous speech. It is often called the "Gettysburg portrait."
The Murals

The Decoration above the Gettysburg Address

Justice and the Law

The central figure, Justice, has the sword of Justice in one hand—the Scroll of the Law in the other. Seated are two Sibyls interpreting the Law. Guardians of the Law holding the torches of Intelligence are standing.

Freedom and Liberty

The central group, which is the principal feature of the decoration above the Gettysburg Address, portrays the Angel of Truth presenting the priceless gifts of Freedom and Liberty to a Negro slave. The shackles of bondage are shown falling from the arms and feet of the subject. They are guarded on either side by Sibyls. In its concept this painting closely resembles Guerin's "Unity", the central group of the mural painting above the Second Inaugural Address.

The Decoration above the Second Inaugural Address

Fraternity

Fraternity holds the Man and the Woman, developing the abundance of the Earth. The Vessel of Wine and the Vessel of Oil, are symbols of Everlasting Life.

Unity

The Angel of Truth is joining the hands of the Laurel crowned figures of the North and South, signifying Unity, and with her protecting wings, ennobles the arts of Painting, Philosophy, Music, Architecture, Chemistry, Literature and Sculpture. Immediately behind the figure of Music is the veiled figure of the Future.
The Central figure is being crowned with the Laurel wreath of Immortality. The standing figures are Faith, Hope and Charity. On each side is the Vessel of Wine and the Vessel of Oil, the symbols of Everlasting Life.

Charity

The Central figure of Charity, attended by her hand maidens, is giving the water of Life to the Halt and the Blind and caring for the Orphans.

Jules Guerin's mural decorations in the Lincoln Memorial typify in allegory the principles so strongly expressed by Abraham Lincoln during his life, and the ideals of freedom and liberty cherished by mankind throughout the world.

In the two paintings are six distinctive groups. The settings represent Enchanted Groves, each provided with a background of Cypress trees, symbolical of eternity.

The painter was an American artist of French descent, living in New York City. The paintings are on canvasses, each 60 feet long and 12 feet wide. Each canvas weighs 600 pounds. Approximately 300 pounds of paint were used. There are 48 figures in the two paintings, the standing figures being 8½ feet high.

The laurel and pine leaf ornamentation on the bronze ceiling beams also were executed by Mr. Guerin.
Site

In selecting a site for the Lincoln Memorial, the Commission of Fine Arts considered many locations, most of them in closer proximity to the U. S. Capitol, and, though there was much sentiment for these locations among Members of Congress, the Potomac Park site, then an isolated morass, was chosen. The selection was vigorously attacked, one Congressman declaring that "Old Abe" would shiver and shake himself to pieces with ague and malaria if placed in that desolate swamp. The Fine Arts Commission replied, however, that: "In judging a site of a memorial to endure throughout the ages we must regard not what the location was, not what it is today, but what it can be made for all time to come." The Commission also pointed to the importance of giving the memorial undisputed domination over a large area together with a dignified isolation from competing structures. The Commission prevailed and its judgment has been vindicated by the fact that the location has become one of the most beautiful in the National Capital and the Memorial is unsurpassed in its dignity of setting by any other in the world. It is located on the left bank of the Potomac at the western extremity of the Mall parkway which extends from the U. S. Capitol on the east to the river. It forms the westernmost point of the five-point composition for the National Capital, other points being the Capitol, the White House, the Washington Monument and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

Contributing greatly to the beauty of the Lincoln Memorial is the rectangular reflecting pool, 2,000 feet long and 160 feet wide, immediately to the east. The pool, flanked by a close planting of English elms on either side, affords a magnificent approach to the Memorial. To the west, the classical Arlington Memorial Bridge, symbolizing the reunion of the States, and an avenue of stately proportions and formal ornamentations lead to the Arlington National Cemetery hemicycle, completing a most imposign composition.

*The Lincoln Memorial arises from a swamp (1918)*
The Lincoln Memorial today

Arlington Memorial Bridge and the Lincoln Memorial from Columbia Island
In this temple
History

The erection of a National Memorial in honor of Abraham Lincoln, in the City of Washington, was first proposed by Congress on March 29, 1867. Other efforts were made through the introduction of legislation in 1901, 1902, 1908 and 1909. None of these measures succeeded, however, the failure of a fund-raising campaign by public subscription nullifying the initial effort, and Congress was reluctant to act favorably on other proposals. In December 1910, however, Senator McCullom of Illinois introduced a Bill to create a Lincoln Memorial Commission which passed both houses and was signed by President William Howard Taft on February 9, 1911.

Selection of the Architect

Henry Bacon and John Russell Pope, Architects, of New York City, were invited by the Commission to submit designs for the Memorial in 1911. The design of Mr. Bacon was adopted by Congress on January 29, 1913, and Mr. Bacon was appointed Architect for the Memorial on February 1, 1913.

Upon the recommendation of the Commission of Fine Arts presented by Daniel H. Burnham of Chicago, Chairman, the Memorial Commission voted to select the Potomac Park site on February 3, 1912.

Ground was broken for the memorial construction at high noon on February 12, 1914—the 105th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. The ceremonies were simple and were performed in the presence of a small gathering of citizens. Joseph C. S. Blackburn, the Resident Commissioner, turned the first spadeful of earth and spoke briefly. Four Boy Scouts acted as aides.

The Commission selected Daniel Chester French as sculptor for the Lincoln statue on December 18, 1914. The original plan called for a statue 13½ feet in height. After viewing the sculptor's quarter-size model, however, the Commission decided that a statue of this size would be insignificant in proportion to the exceptionally large scale of the Memorial and voted, on November 9, 1917, to increase the height of the statue to 19 feet.

The Memorial Commission

The final meeting of the Commission was held on April 5, 1922, and Memorial Day, May 30, 1922, was selected as the dedication date. Members of the Memorial Commission were President Taft, who was elected Chairman; Henry A. Vale, Secretary; Shelby M. Cullom; Joseph G. Cannon; George Peabody Wetmore; Samuel Walker McCall; Hernando D. Money, and Champ Clark. Mr. Money was succeeded upon his death in 1912 by Thomas S. Martin. Senator Cullom died in 1914 and was succeeded by Joseph C. S. Blackburn, who was in turn succeeded by John Temple Graves in 1920. Senator Clark was succeeded by Thomas R. Marshall in 1921, and Nathan B. Scott replaced George Peabody Wetmore the same year. The Directors of Public Buildings and Grounds of the National Capital served as Executive and Disbursing Officers for the Commission. They were: Col. Spencer Cosby, 1911-1913; Col. William W. Harts, 1913-1917; Col. William S. Ridley, 1917-1921, and Lt. Col. C. O. Sherrill, 1921-1922.

The George A. Fuller Co. was the contractor for the Memorial. The National Foundation and Engineering Co. and M. F. Comer constructed the foundations. The total cost of the Memorial, including the statue, was $2,939,720.
SCULPTOR, Daniel Chester French, and Architect, Henry Bacon, photographed at the base of the Lincoln statue as technicians apply the finishing touches.
Dedication

In the presence of a thin line of blue-clad veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic and the eldest son of the martyred President, the National Memorial to Abraham Lincoln was dedicated on the afternoon of Memorial Day, May 30, 1922. Chief Justice Taft, ex-President of the United States and Chairman of the Memorial Commission, presided. Dr. Robert R. Moton, President of Tuskegee Institute, born of former slave parents, delivered the principal address. Venerable Edward Markham read his poem, "Lincoln, the Man of the People." President Warren G. Harding accepted the memorial for the United States. Rev. Wallace Radcliffe, pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church which Lincoln attended in Washington, pronounced the Benediction.
President Harding accepts the Memorial

William Howard Taft, Chairman of the Memorial Commission, presiding at the Dedication ceremonies.

Dr. Robert R. Moton, President of Tuskegee Institute, delivering address at Lincoln Memorial dedication.
Abraham Lincoln

The qualities of Lincoln's character encompassed so many of the cardinal virtues necessary to produce a complete and great man that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to isolate any one of these factors that would stand above all of the others. We compromise, therefore, by saying that it was his "humanitarianism" that won for him the love and veneration of the people. But it was Lincoln's determination that brought victory to the North, his courage that abolished slavery, and his unswerving leadership that saved the Union.

The paradoxical nature of Lincoln's life and accomplishments have been well expressed by Miss Helen Nicolay, daughter of the private secretary to the Civil War President, in a commentary on Lincoln prepared for the Memorial Commission:

"A child born to poverty on the edge of the Wilderness; a ruler whose word became law over a continent, wide as the Atlantic; a martyr whose name is a talisman in the remotest corners of the earth . . . . Practical-minded, he had the soul of a mystic; religious, he accepted no creed; growing-up without the advantage of schools, he wrote the most beautiful English prose of his time. A poor man who never owned a slave, he gave freedom to millions. A man of infinite sadness, his genius for finding laughter in little things enabled him to bear his crushing weight of sorrow."

Early Life

Abraham Lincoln was born in a rough log cabin in Hardin County near Hodgenville, Kentucky, on February 12, 1809, the child of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. While a small boy, he moved with his parents across the Ohio River to Indiana. After the death of his mother when he was nine years old, his father married Sarah Bush Johnston, a widow with children of her own who developed a deep love for her step-son and an understanding of his nature. With her encouragement, young Lincoln pursued his studies in the dimly-lit cabin, reading the Bible, Weem's "Life of Washington," Aesop's Fables, such of the classics as he was able to borrow, and the Revised
Lincoln's home at Springfield, Ill.

Statutes of Indiana, which awakened within him an interest in the law. His habit of untangling legal phraseology and involved statements by rewriting them briefly in his own simple words was the foundation of the superb style he was to develop in later life.

Lincoln moved with his family to Illinois in 1830. On a trip to New Orleans as a boat hand the following year, he observed a slave market in progress and returned to Illinois with the definite opinion that traffic in human beings should be abolished. At New Salem, in Sangamon County, he clerked in a general store, operated a tavern, served as a captain of volunteers in the Black Hawk War, became postmaster, was an unsuccessful candidate for the State Legislature, and worked as a surveyor's assistant. In 1834 he again ran for the State Legislature and was elected. He was reelected in 1836, '38 and '40. During this period he read law, "studying with nobody," and received a license to practice. In 1842 he was married to Mary Todd in Springfield. In 1846 he was elected to Congress on the Whig ticket, serving a single term.

Returning to Springfield in 1848, he resumed the practice of law and temporarily absented himself from political life. The proposal of Senator Stephen Douglas to repeal the Missouri Compromise aroused his political ardor and started him on the
road that led to the presidency. His famous "House Divided" speech at Springfield, the series of debates on the slavery issue with Stephen Douglas, and the Cooper-Union speech in New York had brought Lincoln into national prominence. Lincoln had developed into an orator of fiery zeal and his manner of speaking was equally as effective as his stirring words in winning the acclaim of his audiences. The new Republican Party championed the cause of abolition and, despite the fact that Lincoln had been defeated for the Senate by Douglas, named Lincoln as their candidate for the presidency in 1860.

Lincoln's election presaged secession. The enraged South was not to be reconciled and at 4:30 a.m. on April 12, 1861, five weeks after Lincoln's inauguration, Beauregard's 10-inch mortars poured cannon shot against Fort Sumter and the nation was at war against itself. The long war placed a great burden on the President, but he met every crisis with determination and poise. His principal purpose, he declared, was to "save the Union" and to accomplish this he stood ready to compromise the slavery issue. The South was uncompromising, however, and in January 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the slaves. He was reelected in 1864, while the rebellion still raged.

When Richmond fell in the spring of 1865, and news of Lee's surrender reached Washington, Lincoln rejoiced, not at the defeat of the South, but in the realization that the Union had been preserved. This was a time, he said, to "bind the nation's wounds."

It was in this spirit that he went forth to celebrate the return of peace among his countrymen by attending a performance at Ford's Theater in Washington on the night of April 14, 1865—only to meet death at the hands of the actor-assassin, John Wilkes Booth.

Lincoln Photographs

LINCOLN students find evidence of the qualities of greatness in his photographs and the original negatives of his portraits have been carefully preserved. Early pictures of the beardless Lincoln emphasize the serious nature of his character as a young man. Lincoln did not raise a beard until he was nominated for the Presidency and did so at the suggestion of a young girl who wrote him, saying that all the ladies would love him if he grew a beard and would make their husbands vote for him.

Lincoln's face reflects the problems which engaged his mind during his public service and his photographs suggest the anxiety and sadness of the war years. A moody man, frequently depressed by events in his public life and private affairs, he paradoxically found release from tense situations in storytelling. He possessed a rare talent for fitting a humorous incident to a point in dispute.
The Assassination Plot

The assassination of Abraham Lincoln while attending a performance of Tom Taylor’s comedy, “Our American Cousin,” at Ford’s Theater in Washington (below), was part of an incredible plot to destroy not only the President, but also Secretary of State Seward, General U. S. Grant and Vice-President Johnson. Seward was viciously attacked with a dagger while bedridden, but managed to survive. Grant’s change of plans foiled his would-be assassins and Johnson’s assigned killer lost his nerve.

John Wilkes Booth, author of the assassination plot was killed during his capture. Four of the conspirators were hanged. Four others were sentenced to long prison terms. Much false sympathy has since been wasted upon these conspirators. Their vicious acts plunged the nation into grief, anger and chaos retarding national recovery half a century.

It was truly America’s greatest tragedy.
Visitors

The Lincoln Memorial attracts more visitors than any other patriotic shrine in America—perhaps in the entire world. It has averaged more than 1,000,000 visitors per year since it was first opened to the public in 1922, and in recent years the number is approaching the 2 million mark.

The visitors come from all parts of the nation and the world, and from all walks of life. The great-granchildren of slaves, foreign princes, the world’s great military leaders, visiting statesmen, artists and every-day citizens. It has been the inspiration for successful motion picture dramas, for countless written words, and its picture is familiar to almost every man, woman and child in the United States.

The President of the United States, assisted by his Army, Navy and Air aides, lays a wreath at the feet of the marble Lincoln each year on the anniversary of his birth as the United States Marine Band plays appropriate airs and the colors of a hundred patriotic societies are massed against the memorial’s colonnade. But no more sincere tribute has been paid to the memory of the great humanitarian than that of the 10-year-old spokesman for a group of children from one of Washington’s colored schools who, after laying a wreath, turned toward the statue and with bowed head said simply:

"Mr. Lincoln, we thank you."

President Harry S. Truman and Maj. General U. S. Grant 3rd, grandson of the Civil War General, stand at attention as a presidential aide places a wreath at the Lincoln Memorial on February 12, 1947.
Negro school children pay homage to the memory of their Emancipator.
PRESIDENT TRUMAN addressing a convention of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People at the Lincoln Memorial on June 29, 1947. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt is seated in the front row.

General Dwight (Ike) Eisenhower salutes the Lincoln statue after laying the presidential wrath on February 12, 1944.

Actors representing American youth gaze upon the Lincoln statue as movie cameras record their expressions of awe and respect.
UNITED in their respect for the man who saved the Union — bow before the statue of Abraham Lincoln — 60 years after his death.
The Lincoln Memorial

Dedicated May 30, 1922

Architect ........................................... Henry Bacon
Sculptor ........................................... Daniel Chester French

Structural Statistics

Supported by piers running to bedrock...

Maximum height from bedrock—192 ft.
Number of exterior columns ............... 34
Height of exterior columns ............... 44 feet
Diameter of exterior columns (at base) ... 7 feet 5 inches
Length of colonnade (front) ............... 188 feet 4 inches
Depth of colonnade (side) ................. 118 feet 6 inches
Height of memorial hall (floor to ceiling) ... 60 feet
Height of interior columns ............... 50 feet
Diameter of interior columns (at base) ... 5 feet 6 inches
Size of central chamber .................. 60 by 74 feet
Size of north and south chambers ........ 63 by 38 feet

Building Materials

Exterior ........................................... Colorado-Yule Marble
Interior walls ................................... Indiana Limestone
Interior ceiling ................................. Alabama Marble
Pedestal for Statue ............................ Tennessee Marble
Platform for Statue ............................ Tennessee Marble
Statue ............................................ Georgia White Marble
Floor of Memorial Hall .................... Pink Tennessee Marble
Exterior columns .............................. Colorado-Yule Marble
Interior columns ............................... Indiana Limestone
Contents of Cornerstone
Laid May 30, 1922

The Bible.
The Constitution of the United States, amended to May 1, 1913.
Autograph of Lincoln (placed inside front cover of Bible).
Life of Abraham Lincoln, by Helen Nicolay,
autographed by Robert T. Lincoln

Maps of the United States, 1914; Alaska, 1913; Post Route of the
Philippine Islands, 1915; Hawaiian Islands, 1909; Post Route of
Porto Rico; Canal Zone, 1912; Gettysburg battlefield. 1913; Per-
manent system of highways, District of Columbia, 1914; City of
Washington, 1911, with superimposed map showing holdings of
original proprietors, 1792.

Photograph of ground-breaking for Memorial, Feb. 12, 1914.
The Lincoln Memorial—pamphlet by Colorado-Yule Marble Co.

Copies of contracts with Henry Bacon, Architect; National Foundation
& Engineering Co. and M. F. Comer for the foundations; George
A. Fuller Co. for the superstructure.

Three photos; renderings of Arlington Amphitheater and Chapel.
Letters by the contractors and subcontractors.
Illustrations for National Geographic Magazine (March 1915).
Inauguration medal, President Wilson, 1913.
Current new money.
Feb., 1915.
National Geographic Magazine—June 1913 and Nov. 1914.
Washington Star and Star’s weekly War Pictorial, Feb. 11, 1915.
Autographs—folio and plaster tablet.
New current postage stamps.
Silk American flag.
Letter from Senator John F. Shafroth (Colorado).
Statement of Hon. J. C. S. Blackburn at setting of stone.
Location

The Lincoln Memorial is located in Potomac Park between Constitution and Independence Avenues, on the line of 23rd Street, N. W. It can be approached from downtown Washington from any of these streets. It is approached from Virginia via the Arlington Memorial Bridge and is the first structure to be seen on crossing the Potomac by this bridge.

Hours and Administration

The Memorial is administered by the National Capital Parks, a unit of the National Park Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior. It is open to the public each day of the year (Christmas excepted) between the hours of 9:00 a. m. and 9:00 p. m. There is no admission charge and the well-trained members of the Memorial staff, in their National Park Service green uniforms, will respond courteously to any requests for information.

Information

Information, descriptive circulars, etc., may be obtained by addressing requests to the Superintendent, National Capital Parks. Room 1227 Interior Building, Washington 25, D. C. The park historians also will arrange special interpretive lectures for school groups and other organization planning to visit the Memorial and will schedule ceremonies or memorial services for groups desiring to conduct them at the Memorial. Correspondence relative to such events also should be addressed to the Superintendent, National Capital Parks.

Photographs and technical data were obtained through the courtesy of the National Park Service, E.J.K.

Stant Lithographic Service, Washington, D. C.