

LINCOLN LORE

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LINCOLN POINTS OF INTEREST IN PHILADELPHIA

The decided colonial atmosphere which finds expression in the memorial projects at Philadelphia has largely overshadowed the many sites of historical interest there, associated with Abraham Lincoln. Excepting the capital of the nation, no city on the eastern coast is so rich in episodes relating to the Emancipator as the metropolis where the founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence. A catalogue of these historic Lincoln spots would seem to be of some importance.

Chinese Museum

The longest sojourn Lincoln ever made in Philadelphia was in 1848 when he was there on June 7, 8, 9, and 10 attending the national Whig Convention which nominated Zachary Taylor for the Presidency. The sessions of the political assembly were held in what was known as the Chinese Museum. It stood on the northeast corner of Ninth and Sansom Streets. Although the structure has long since been removed pictures of the building are still available. It is not known where Abraham Lincoln found lodging during this convention but if the place could be discovered it might be noted by paraphrasing the Washington expression: "Lincoln slept here." He may have been one of the "many speakers," the names are not available, who addressed outdoor meetings at Independence Square on Friday, June ninth.

Musical Fund Hall

It does not seem possible that the building in which the first Republican Convention in America was held could become obscured so that it bears no external evidence in the form of a bronze marker of its historic significance. The Musical Fund Hall where the Republicans convened in 1858 still stands in downtown Philadelphia on the south side of Locust Street between 8th and 9th. While it is now used commercially it is still in a fine state of preservation and the interior lines of the auditorium have been more or less preserved in spite of a few partitions which have been erected. This building is of special interest to students of the Emancipator because it was here that the name of Abraham Lincoln was first placed before the National Republican Party for recognition and he came very near receiving the nomination for the Vice Presidency running second in the race with 110 votes.

Continental Hotel

Enroute to Washington for the inaugural in 1861 Lincoln arrived in Philadelphia at four p. m. on Feb-

ruary 21 and the presidential party were guests for the night at the Continental Hotel. That evening from the balcony of the hotel the president elect was warmly welcomed by Mayor Henry and Lincoln responded by a reply—one of his many balcony speeches.

Independence Hall (1861)

As early as seven a. m. on Washington's birthday, 1861, the President was on his way to Independence Hall where he was welcomed in a speech by Theodore Cuyler. Mr. Lincoln's opening words in reply were, "I am filled with deep emotion at finding myself standing here in this place where were collected together the wisdom, the patriotism, the devotion to principle, from which sprang the institutions under which we live." His closing words were, "I have said nothing but what I am willing to live by, and if it be the pleasure of Almighty God to die by." The group then retired to a platform erected in front of the building with the "venerable walls."

Sidewalk Marker

The various exercises at Philadelphia centered around the raising of a new flag on Independence Hall and a platform had been erected immediately in front of the building. Here upon being invited to raise the National Emblem Lincoln made a few informal remarks about the flag and the new star recently added to it. The spot where he stood has been marked by a bronze tablet set in flush with the sidewalk. It bears this inscription.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

STOOD HERE

WHEN HE RAISED THE FLAG ON INDEPENDENCE HALL

FEB. 22nd 1861

This tablet placed by Post 2

Department of Pennsylvania

Grand Army of the Republic

Philadelphia, Wilmington and
Baltimore Station

Lincoln was advised on the evening of February 21 while at Philadelphia of a plot to take his life while passing through Baltimore. Although he refused to cancel his appointment to go to Harrisburg the following day he was persuaded to return to Philadelphia on the night of the 22nd. Mr. Lincoln arrived from Harrisburg,

with Col. Lamon, Detective Pinkerton, and Gen. Supt. H. F. Kenny of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore R. R. They accompanied him to the P. W. B. Station where the train was boarded for Washington.

Logan Square

The Sanitary Commission of Philadelphia conducted a Sanitary Fair for two weeks beginning June 7, 1864. The buildings constructed on Logan Square were completed in forty days with the main hall extending through the center of the square from 18th to 19th streets. Single story buildings were erected entirely around the square. President and Mrs. Lincoln attended the fair on June 16, coming up from Washington in the morning and returning in the evening. Mr. Lincoln made an address on the occasion touching on the progress of the war.

Independence Hall (1865)

The body of the lamented President reached Philadelphia on Saturday, April 22 at 4:30 p.m. and was laid in solemn repose in the same room where the Declaration of Independence was signed. The casket was placed on a platform in the center of the hall and it lay directly north and south, the head to the south close to the old Liberty Bell. A statue of Washington at the east side stood out in bold relief against the black background. The appearance of Lincoln is described by an eye witness of the ceremonies, "The beard which commenced at the lower part of the chin is about two inches in length and presents a natural appearance, and the hair is brushed back from the forehead. The body is clothed in a full suit of black, a black silk cravat encircles the neck, over which turns a white linen collar."

Special invitations were extended to a limited number of citizens to view the body on Saturday night but it was not until early Sunday morning that the great mass of people passed by the honored dead. The remains of Lincoln rested in Independence Hall for thirty-three hours and during twenty of these hours, without intermission, two streams of mourners passed by the casket.

Possibly the bronze statue of Lincoln by Rogers at Fairmount Park and the other by Schweizer in the Union League building should be mentioned in this compilation of Lincoln points of interest in Philadelphia.