



Preservation of the Lincoln Homestead

It is estimated that \$450,000 will be needed to purchase the Lincoln Homestead in Rockingham County. Given the economic outlook of the Commonwealth, criteria for the inclusion of sites and staff and funding reductions by the National Park Service, pursuing state and federal funding to preserve and maintain the Homestead may not be feasible at this time. Other options that should be considered include (i) the introduction of legislation and/or budget amendment to preserve the property, the state fiscal exigency notwithstanding; (ii) seeking the assistance of Preservation Virginia; (iii) pursuing potential grant opportunities; (iv) initiating a fundraising campaign; and (v) seeking the assistance of certain celebrities and other persons with mutual interests in preserving the property.

The Subcommittee must recommend to the Commission the next steps that should be taken.

Lincoln in Richmond: Final Site Visit

The Commission and Subcommittee agreed to hold its bicentennial meetings in Lincoln-related localities in Virginia. The first meeting was held in Lincoln, Virginia in July 2009, the second in Rockingham County, site of the Lincoln Homestead, in August 2009, and the third in Petersburg in October 2009. The final site visit will be held in Richmond in Spring 2010.

To signal Lincoln's trip to Richmond, it is suggested that the format be changed to avoid a repetition of events associated with the "Walk Toward Freedom," which was held in April 2009 by the Library of Virginia and other groups. Under consideration is a tour of the Civil War Center at Tredegar, followed by lunch, an evening seminar with a panel of Lincoln historians and scholars to which the public would be invited, and possibly a reception for guests of the Commission and Subcommittee. It is envisioned that the seminar would focus on the effect of Lincoln's legacy on Virginia and the nation and the implications and challenges of his legacy for the future. In addition, the event should serve as a catalyst for reflection, racial healing, unity, and civic engagement in the Commonwealth. Officials at the Civil War Center at Tredegar have been approached to seek their collaboration and assistance with planning, coordination, and publicity.

Concluding Lincoln Bicentennial Event

The Subcommittee must recommend whether to hold a concluding event for the Lincoln Bicentennial in Virginia.

Sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation January 1, 2013

January 1, 2013 marks the Sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation. The King Commission has determined it appropriate to commemorate this historic event with appropriate programs and activities across the Commonwealth. A significant component of the commemoration is the Slave Burial Ground/African American Cemetery Project, which entails the identification and appropriate marking of slave burial grounds and African American cemeteries across the Commonwealth to honor the lives of enslaved and other African Americans who died before the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. The Commission has charged its Lincoln Bicentennial Subcommittee with planning for the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Implementation of the Slave Burial Ground/African American Cemetery Project will require the following action:

Continued

Name additional persons to assist the Commission/Subcommittee

- Dr. Laurantette Lee, Virginia Historical Society
- Dr. Shawn O. Utsey, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Representative of Preservation Virginia
- Representative of Reclamation of Negro Burial Grounds Organization
- Representative of the Institute of Historical Biology, College of William and Mary
- Representative of Richmond Archaeological Association
- Representative of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Richmond and Vicinity
- Assistance of the Chicora Foundation, Inc.
- Assistance of the National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Others

Establish the organizational structure of the Project

- Conduct research to identify and locate cemeteries
- Seek the participation and assistance of public and private institutions of higher education to assist with research and to serve as regional contacts and depositories for information to Subcommittee
- Solicit local partners to canvass Commonwealth and identify burial grounds and cemeteries
- Solicit corporate partners to assist with marking/honoring grave sites

Seek funding and in-kind services

- Identify potential contributors and philanthropic organizations

Organize local and/or regional celebrations

- Exhibits and period musical programs

Plan lectures and symposia

Initiate outreach to various state and local agencies, relevant legislative groups, historical societies, and professional, community, and faith-based organizations

Develop public relations initiatives

Plan culminating event(s)