

**For Immediate Release****Contact:** Hilary Malson

202-829-0436 x31228

hmalson@savingplaces.org**New Exhibit: Lincoln's Slippers at President Lincoln's Cottage***16th President's original slippers on view at President Lincoln's Cottage July 1 2014 – November 30 2014.*

Washington, DC – While Abraham Lincoln's public image was defined by his signature stovepipe hat, his private, more casual nature is highlighted in the newest exhibit at President Lincoln's Cottage in Washington, DC. Meetings at the Cottage were often impromptu and informal, and Lincoln was known to greet guests while wearing carpet slippers. An original pair of Lincoln's own slippers is on public display at President Lincoln's Cottage from July 1, 2014 through November 30, 2014; the slippers are on loan from the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, OH.

"One of our favorite recollections of Lincoln's time here was recorded by an Englishman in 1864, who made it clear that he was surprised that the United States President would greet visitors with his hair ruffled and 'feet enveloped in carpet slippers,'" notes Erin Carlson Mast, Executive Director of President Lincoln's Cottage. "It was an impromptu visit, but President Lincoln managed to charm his visitors, articulating what he thought made this country so great, why it was important to hold the Union together. The Cottage served as the setting for some of Lincoln's most important decision making – most notably the development of the Emancipation Proclamation – but it also became a home and a place of respite for Lincoln and his family. Today, the Cottage allows visitors to walk in Lincoln's slipper-covered footsteps to better understand Abraham Lincoln, the private man and the president."

The slippers are the latest item to join "originALS," a series of exhibitions at President Lincoln's Cottage featuring original objects connected to President Abraham Lincoln that speak to the importance and complexity of the Lincoln story and relate directly to Lincoln's time here at the Soldiers' Home. Objects previously highlighted in the "originALS" series include President Lincoln's personal briefcase, Tad Lincoln's cherished photo album, and the Civil War diary of Private Albert Nelson See.

President Lincoln's Cottage, "the Cradle of the Emancipation Proclamation," is located on the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, DC. While living here for more than a quarter of his presidency, Abraham Lincoln bonded with soldiers and veterans, made crucial decisions about the Civil War, and, most notably, developed the Emancipation Proclamation his first summer in residence. His daily commute put him in regular contact with wounded soldiers and self-emancipated men, women, and children. Today, the site offers an intimate, never-before-seen view of Abraham Lincoln's presidency and private life, and new perspectives on the influential ideas Lincoln developed while living here. Hours of operation: The Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center is open 9:30am-4:30pm Monday-Saturday and 10:30am-4:30pm Sunday. Cottage tours are on the hour, 7 days a week. For more information on President Lincoln's Cottage, visit: www.lincolncottage.org or call 202-829-0436.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately-funded non-profit organization, works to save America's historic places. President Lincoln's Cottage is a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit: www.preservationnation.org.