



The Lincoln Marriage Cabin and Temple

Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married on June 12, 1806, in the log cabin of Richard Berry in the small community of Beechland near Springfield in Washington County. Over time, the property passed from the Berry family to W. A. Clements of Springfield. In 1911, N. L. Curry of Harrodsburg visited the cabin site and was granted permission to move it to the grounds

of the Harrodsburg Historical Society. The minutes of the society in May 1911 note that the cabin was a gift of Mr. Clements.

The logs of the cabin were moved and carefully stored at the new site until funds could be raised to rebuild it. The cabin was erected in May 1913. Much concern was soon expressed over its deteriorating condition.

In 1931, Mrs. Edmund B. Hall of Muncie, Indiana, donated the money needed to build a temple to enclose the cabin and protect it from the elements. It was patterned after the Lulbegrud Church (founded in 1799) near Mt. Sterling. The architect was Frederick L. Morgan of Louisville. It was constructed of handmade brick in Flemish bond in the shape of a cross. The cabin is directly under the intersection under an opening which leads to a spire and belfry.

The newly protected marriage cabin was dedicated on June 12, 1931, the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the wedding. The dedication was attended by Kentucky governor Flem D. Sampson and William Nuckles Doak, secretary of labor in the administration of Herbert Hoover.

The Marriage Temple, the Lincoln Memorial at Hodgenville, the Lincoln bronze in Louisville, and other Lincoln sites demonstrate the growing esteem which Kentuckians came to hold for their most famous native son by the early twentieth century.



The Kentucky Historical Society is an agency of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet.