

Spotlight on

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

EXHIBITION HALL, U.S. CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

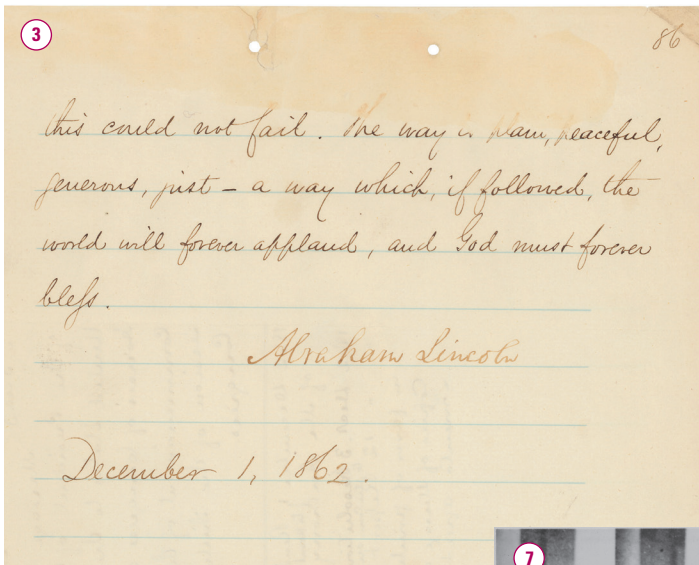


Architect of the Capitol

Abraham Lincoln (center of photo) reads his address during his second inauguration on the East Front of the Capitol. March 4, 1865.



U.S. CAPITOL



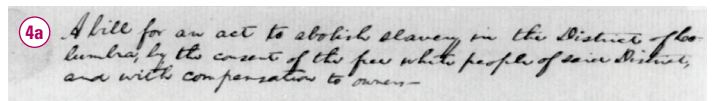
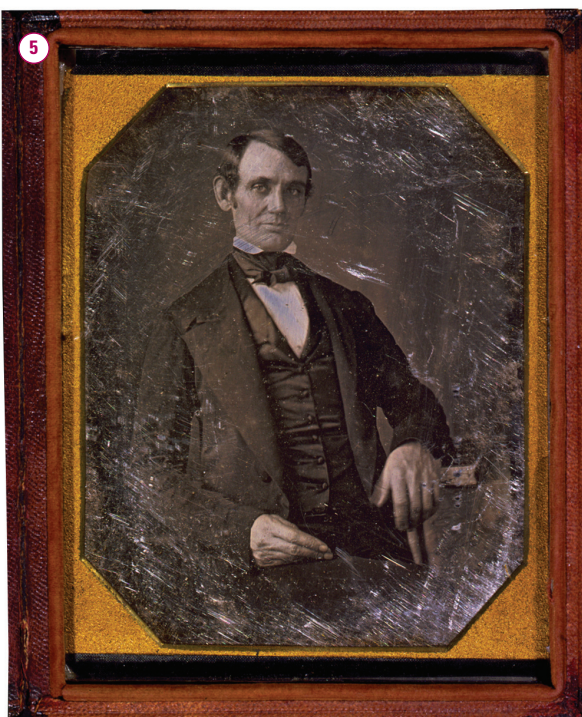
3 President Abraham Lincoln's annual message to Congress December 1, 1862

Records of the U.S. Senate, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

Likening the Civil War to a "fiery trial," President Lincoln summoned the Union to the great task of abolishing slavery.

5 Abraham Lincoln, daguerreotype attributed to Nicholas H. Shepherd ca. 1847

Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress



4a Abraham Lincoln's draft of a bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia January 1849

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

These are Abraham Lincoln's notes for a bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, written while he was a member of the House (30th Congress).

4b Lincoln's message to Congress March 6, 1862

Records of the U.S. Senate, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

In this message President Lincoln suggests Congress pass a joint resolution encouraging the gradual abolishment of slavery by individual states. (Not shown here)



Architect of the Capitol

6 Table from Lincoln's second inauguration 1865

The Massachusetts Historical Society

This cast-iron table was made especially for Abraham Lincoln and was cast from the same molds used to make the balusters and other decorative elements on the Capitol dome.



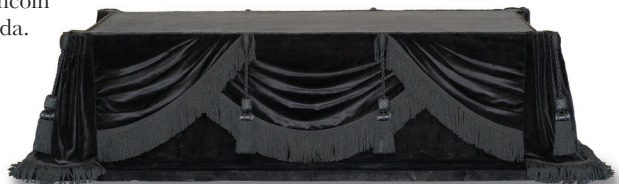
7 Photograph of Lincoln's second inauguration March 4, 1865

Architect of the Capitol

Abraham Lincoln reads his address standing next to the Lincoln table on the east front of the Capitol.

8 Catafalque 1865 *Architect of the Capitol*

Made of rough pine boards nailed together, the catafalque (a support for a casket) was hastily constructed in 1865 for the lying-in-state of Abraham Lincoln in the Rotunda.





Architect of the Capitol

U.S. Capitol dome under construction, 1861.

When the Civil War began, the Capitol dome was only partially completed. The firm hired to construct the dome, Janes, Fowler, Kirtland & Company, was warned not to expect payment during the war. They decided to proceed anyway, and their perseverance made an impression on President Lincoln. He felt that if people saw the construction of the Capitol going on, it was a sign that the Union would go on.



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www.visitthecapitol.gov