

## LINCOLN'S SECOND WHITE HOUSE: THE SOLDIERS' HOME

- The Lincolns spent June to November in 1862 through 1864 in a cottage built on the grounds of the Soldiers' Home.
  - The Soldiers' Home was established through the efforts of Major Robert Anderson, General Winfield Scott, and Secretary of War Jefferson Davis during the administration of Millard Fillmore.
  - The Lincoln Cottage was a Gothic structure originally built for George Washington Riggs, a banker of some note, who sold it for the use of retired and indigent soldiers.
  - Before the Lincolns, James Buchanan had also used the cottage as a favorite retreat.
  - Lincoln first visited the cottage on his third day in office, accompanied by Secretary of War Stanton who also kept a summer home to escape the summer heat and Potomac humidity.
- Lincoln frequently conducted his Presidential business from the cottage even when the rest of his family members were not with him.
- The President often traveled to and from the Soldier's Home cottage without guard, and on one occasion a would-be assassin shot through his iconic stovepipe hat.
- In July of 1864, Secretary of War Stanton sent a carriage to bring the Lincoln's back to the White House under guard since Confederate General Jubal Early had invaded the outskirts of the capital. (The Soldiers' Home at that time was only four miles from the Confederate line.)
- Lincoln wrote the Emancipation Proclamation while staying in the Soldiers' Home cottage.
- For more insights and stories about the Soldiers' Home, click on <http://www.mrlincolnwhitehouse.org/inside.asp?ID=119&subjectID=4>
- To read more about the Lincolns and the Soldiers' Home, read *Lincoln's Other White House: The Untold Story of the Man and His Presidency* by Elizabeth Brownstein



Lincoln Cottage in 2007. Wikipedia. 18 July 2008. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Lincoln\\_Cottage\\_2007.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Lincoln_Cottage_2007.jpg)