

= Abraham Lincoln ( Flannery ) =

Abraham Lincoln is a marble sculpture of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln by Irish artist Lot Flannery , located in front of the old District of Columbia City Hall in Washington , D.C. , United States . It was installed several blocks from Ford 's Theatre , where Lincoln was assassinated . Dedicated in 1868 on the third anniversary of Lincoln 's death , dignitaries at the unveiling ceremony included President Andrew Johnson and Generals Ulysses S. Grant , William Tecumseh Sherman and Winfield Scott Hancock . The statue has been removed and rededicated twice . The first rededication was in 1923 following an outpouring of support from citizens and a veterans group that the statue be restored . The second rededication took place in 2009 after a three @-@ year remodeling of the old City Hall . The statue is the nation 's oldest extant memorial to the president . It previously stood on a column , but now rests on top of an octagonal base .

= = History = =

= = = Background = = =

Most of the residents of Washington , D.C. were shocked and horrified by the assassination of Republican President Abraham Lincoln on April 14 , 1865 . Because of its geographical location , the city was sometimes suspected of being sympathetic to the Confederacy during the Civil War . Since Lincoln was killed in Washington , some of the residents worried Republican congressional leaders would seek revenge on the city . Thirteen days after Lincoln died , in an attempt to show loyalty , city and business leaders decided to erect a memorial honoring the slain president . It was the first Lincoln monument commissioned after his death , but not the first one built . In 1866 , a plaster statue ( later replaced by a metal one ) of Lincoln was erected in San Francisco . It was destroyed during the firestorm that followed the 1906 earthquake .

The total cost of the memorial was \$ 25 @,@ 000 . Washingtonians were responsible for most of the donations with the remaining funds raised by the Lincoln Monument Association . The largest donation came from John T. Ford , the manager of Ford 's Theatre at the time of Lincoln 's assassination . He held a benefit performance at his theater in Baltimore , raising \$ 1 @,@ 800 . Although several designs were submitted , the monument 's planning committee unanimously chose the model by Lot Flannery ( 1836 ? 1922 ) , a local Irish @-@ American artist , calling it the " most spirited " and " an excellent likeness . " Flannery had known Lincoln and was at Ford 's Theatre the night of the assassination . His statue is the only statue of Lincoln created by someone who knew him . In addition to the Lincoln sculpture , Flannery 's notable works include the Arsenal Monument at Congressional Cemetery and a sculpture of President Chester Arthur on display at the Smithsonian American Art Museum . Frank G. Pierson was chosen to be the monument 's architect .

= = = Dedication = = =

On the evening of April 14 , 1868 , the Lincoln statue was moved from Flannery 's studio to City Hall . The covered statue was guarded by police so no one could see it before the dedication ceremony the following day . On April 15 , all of the city 's offices were closed at noon and all flags were flown at half @-@ staff . An estimated 20 @,@ 000 people , around 20 % of Washington 's population , attended the dedication . Dignitaries at the dedication included President Andrew Johnson , General Ulysses S. Grant , General William Tecumseh Sherman , and General Winfield Scott Hancock . Supreme Court Justices and members of Congress were not in attendance because Johnson 's impeachment trial was taking place . A Masonic ceremony , along with music and prayers , took place at the dedication before the main speech by Major General Benjamin Brown French . Following the speech , Washington mayor Richard Wallach introduced Johnson , who uncovered the statue . The crowd cheered , followed by more music and finally a benediction .

## == Removal and rededications ==

In 1919 , the memorial was dismantled and placed in storage during the renovations of City Hall . Some of the city 's residents and officials didn 't want the memorial reinstalled when renovations were complete since the much larger and grander Lincoln Memorial was already under construction . Others thought the tall pedestal was unsafe . When the public heard of the plans to leave the monument in storage , many were upset and groups such as the Grand Army of the Republic demanded the statue be reinstalled . President Warren G. Harding even lobbied Congress on behalf of angry citizens . Government officials conceded , but by that point , the statue was missing . It was later found in crates behind the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and cleaned . On June 21 , 1922 , an Act of Congress authorized the rededication , which took place April 15 , 1923 , 55 years after the initial dedication . When the statue was replaced , it was set on a new shorter base instead of the original column . An unexpected consequence of this was vandals having easy access to the statue . Lincoln 's fingers were broken off several times and his right hand had to be replaced .

In 2006 , the memorial was moved when renovations once again took place on the old City Hall , now home to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals . The statue was restored and cleaned before being returned when renovations were completed in 2009 . On April 15 , 2009 , 144 years after the original dedication , the memorial was rededicated a second time . The statue is the country 's oldest extant memorial to Lincoln . It is one of six statues in public places in Washington , D.C. honoring the slain president .

## == Design and location ==

The marble statue is located on Indiana Avenue NW , in front of the old District of Columbia City Hall in the Judiciary Square neighborhood . It measures 7 @. 3 feet ( 2 @. 2 m ) high 2 @. 9 feet ( 0 @. 88 m ) wide while the granite base measures 6 @. 4 feet ( 2 @. 0 m ) high and 7 feet ( 2 @. 1 m ) wide . The statue portrays Abraham Lincoln standing , wearing a long coat with a bow tie and waistcoat . His left hand rests on a fasces while his right arm is by his side . Lincoln 's partially open right hand points to the ground as he looks to his left . The right hand was replaced at some point and the new one is considered too large to scale . A sword or scroll previously hung by his right side , but is now missing . The two @-@ tiered base consists of a rectangle on top of a lower square @-@ shaped foundation .

The statue originally stood on an 18 @-@ foot ( 5 @. 5 m ) high marble column atop a 6 @-@ foot ( 1 @. 8 m ) high octagonal base . A reporter asked Lot Flannery why the statue was set on such a high pedestal . He responded : " I lived through the days and nights of gloom following the assassination . As to every one else , it was a personal lamentation . And when it fell to me to carve and erect this statue I resolved and did place it so high that no assassin 's hand could ever again strike him down . "

Inscriptions on the monument include the following :

Lot Flannery , Sculptor ( rear of the sculpture )

LINCOLN ( front of the base )

ABRAHAM LINCOLN / 1809 ? 1865 / THIS STATVE WAS ERECTED / BY THE CITIZENS OF THE / DISTRICT OF COLVMBIA / APRIL 15 1868 / RE @-@ ERECTED APRIL 15 1923 / VNDER ACT OF CONGRESS / OF JVNE 21 1922 ( rear of the base )

Frank G. Pierson , Architect ( rear of the base , lowest section )