

EXTENDED NETWORK

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WASHINGTON CHAPTER TAPPED FOR PHASE TWO, LINCOLN COTTAGE RENOVATION

INVITATION TO REHAB MAJOR NATIONAL TREASURE IS A DISTINCT HONOR FOR IFDA



The Washington Chapter has again been tapped as the design source and product locator for the Abraham Lincoln Cottage's newest renovation project, the Mary Todd Lincoln Sitting Room.

The room itself may be small but it's of immense historic significance: the Emancipation Treaty was signed right next door.

Located on the Soldier's Home grounds in Washington, the cottage was actually constructed as a charming country home for the Lincolns, who lived there during part of the Civil War. Mrs. Lincoln spent summers there to escape the Washington heat, and the President rode horseback to reach it from the White House.

As few rooms in the cottage are furnished, the project is likely to be on-going, reports Lincoln Cottage Committee liaison, Sarah Boyer Jenkins, FIFDA/FASID. There are no pictures of the cottage room or detailed inventory, so a diverse IFDA team, led by former Chapter President Marcia Geogan, FIFDA, is seeking appropriate furnishings, circa 1860-64, to be submitted to the Lincoln Cottage Curator for approval.

The Chapter is working with funds for furniture from Save America's Treasures, headed by 2007 IFDA Trailblazer Bobbie Greene McCarthy. Other



needs not yet funded include a rug, (donation under discussion); fabrics, such as the Mary Todd Lincoln Damask and a horsehair (donations under discussion), and wall color or wall covering to be selected by the committee. A few wood pieces have been located, as well as some upholstered pieces (funded by the Save America's Treasures donation). Curtain and valance fabrics are being located, to be hand-sewn, as required, by three IFDA committee members. Another member will install the wall treatment, and the remaining members have offered help as needed. A source for upholstery labor is still being sought.

In recognition of this distinct honor for the Washington Chapter - and for IFDA - Marcia

Geogan and Chapter President Valerie Buckner-Holzer was represented on Lincoln's 200th birthday, February 12. When the room is complete. Another reception will be held to honor the chapter's entire Board.

When former Chapter President Ross Hunter presented this project during the Chapter President's meeting in Philadelphia, three other chapters, Richmond, New York and Minnesota, offered assistance. "The committee is still seeking financial contributions or information on appropriate furnishings from all sources," Sarah points out. "Given President Barack Obama's interest in the Lincoln Presidency, IFDA and major donors stand to receive nationwide recognition for participation," she says.

High on the most-wanted list of furnishings is a fainting couch specific to the room (meanwhile, the committee has lined up a sofa and chairs as back up) Since only period pieces will be approved, photographs of any found items should be e-mailed to Marcia Geogan (originalsbyrandolph@gmail.com). Curator's approval is required before funds will be disbursed for actual purchases.

For more information, click on www.lincolncottage.com.