

## The Rambler

... Is Clued In  
On Restoration

By GEORGE KENNEDY

The House Where Lincoln Died, 516 Tenth street N.W., is being completely restored and the other day Stanley W. McClure, National Parks Service historian, took the Rambler through it.

As we crossed the street from the Lincoln Museum or Ford Theatre Building, which contains Mr. McClure's office, he said:

"As you can see from the sign, it was called the Petersen House. Petersen was a Swedish tailor who came here from Germany and purchased the house about 1849. It's a well-constructed building.

"We hope to reproduce the shop." The Park Service has done a lot of research recently in reconstructing. Andrew Johnson's tailor shop in Tennessee.

"The curving brownstone steps to the high stoop, up which Lincoln was carried, will have to be replaced. They have become badly cracked and chipped. But we can use the same iron railings. They are in perfect condition."

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WE WALKED UP the steps and entered the house's "first" floor. The rooms were without furniture and the carpeting had been removed from the floor of pine boards about 6 inches wide.

"Mrs. Lincoln spent most of the night on the couch against that wall," said Mr. McClure as we stood in the front room.

"The second room is the death room. The public will walk into a little pen at the entrance of the room and then go out the new door we have cut through the north wall and down an outside staircase into the garden.

"All the furniture of that room is extant, the bed Lincoln died in, the marble-topped wash stand, the copy of Rosa Bonheur's 'Horse Fair,' etc.

"In the early 1870s they were sold by the Petersens to a collector named Charles F. Gunther. He took them to Chicago where they were exhibited in a house of horrors known as the Libby Prison Museum.

"They are now in the Museum of History in Lincoln Park, Chicago. There is little chance that they will be given to us, but we can reproduce them exactly.

"We also have the working sketches made by an artist named A. E. Waud for Harper's Weekly. They show just where the furniture was placed.

"THE CABINET met in the little room behind. Later, Stanton, Secretary of War, interviewed witnesses there.

"The Petersens continued living in the house until 1876, when they sold it to Louis Schade, who published the Washington Sentinel here. The Schades were so bothered by tourists who wanted to see The Room Where Lincoln Died, that they moved out. Osborn H. Oldroyd rented it from them in 1893 to exhibit the Lincoln items he had been collecting since 1860.

"The Government bought the house from the Schade family in 1896 for \$30,000, but not the collection. It allowed Oldroyd to continue showing the items for a small admission without paying rent.

"Henry Ford wanted to buy the collection from Oldroyd for \$100,000. But when Oldroyd learned that Mr. Ford wanted to take the items to Detroit, he wouldn't sell. Oldroyd made a real sacrifice. The collection eventually was sold to the Government in 1926 for \$50,000.

"In 1932 it was moved across to the Lincoln Museum. This house was refurnished as a supplementary exhibit by five patriotic women's societies. At that time a bit of the original wallpaper was found under a moulding and Burge, the wall paper manufacturer in Buffalo, reproduced it for us.

"I believe we have enough left over to paper it again."

