

**KENOSHA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
HISTORICAL ARTIFACT DETERMINATION**

ARTIFACT NAME/DESCRIPTION	ABRAHAM LINCOLN STATUE
ADDRESS	711 59TH PLACE, LIBRARY PARK
CONSTRUCTION DATE	1909
ARCHITECT/SCULPTOR/BUILDER	CHARLES NIEHAUS

STANDARDS FOR DESIGNATION - MUST CHOOSE 1 OR MORE		
X	1	Item is a local historical artifact that is at least 50 years old.
X	2	Item is associated with a property that meets the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

STANDARDS FOR DESIGNATION - MUST CHOOSE 1 OR MORE		
X	3	Item exemplifies or reflects the cultural, archaeological, political, economic, social, or religious history.
	4	Item is identified with personages, events, or periods of history which personages, events, or periods are significant to the community.
X	5	Item embodies distinguishing characteristics of architecture, an architect, architectural materials, craftsmanship, or works of nature.
	6	Item is in its inherent historical nature provides the citizenry with educational or aesthetic enrichment.
X	7	Check here if the historical artifact is located in a designated local, State, or National Register property or district.

<i>Level of Action</i>	<i>For Listing</i>	<i>No Listing</i>	<i>Removal from Listing</i>
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & INSPECTIONS	X		
PUBLIC HEARING DATE: 03/28/2013	RECOMMENDATION DATE: 03/28/2013		
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION	X		
COMMON COUNCIL	X		
DATE OF COUNCIL ACTION: 04/15/2013			

DESCRIPTION:

The Abraham Lincoln statue is located in the northeast corner of Library Park. It is approximately five (5') feet in height and sits on a graduated granite stone base of approximately seven (7') feet in height. The bronze statue is a seated depiction of Abraham Lincoln at rest in an upholstered chair, looking out over the spacious grounds of the Library Park. He is seen wearing a suit coat, vest, and tie with his left leg crossed over the knee of his right leg. His right hand rests in his lap touching papers, his elbows resting on the arms of the chair which features carved legs.

The granite base features a wreath surrounding the inscription, "1809 – Lincoln – 1865" on one side and the engraving – "A GIFT TO KENOSHA BY ORLA MINER CALKINS 1909" on one of the other sides. Memorial trees for soldiers who lost their lives in the World War form a background for the Lincoln statue located in Library Park.



SIGNIFIGANCE:

The Abraham Lincoln statue was dedicated in 1909 and commemorated the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth. The statue cost \$6,000, and was given to the city by Orla Miner Calkins. Mr. Calkins was a local citizen and admirer of Lincoln. As plans for the unveiling of the statue were being completed, Calkins passed away unexpectedly on May 23, 1909. The unveiling took place as Calkin's body was carried past on the way to the cemetery.

The statue was designed by Charles Henry Niehaus of New York, a well-known portrait sculptor. The statue is a replica of a statue in Muskegon, Michigan. Niehaus was a conservative sculptor, perhaps why Calkins chose him to execute the statue. The Lincoln statue is an attractive, well-executed sculpture that befits its stated purpose; that is, to honor the President that Calkins revered.

The statue was refurbished in 2003 to remove green patina which was a build-up of corrosion from years of atmospheric pollution. The corrosion breaks up and distorts the sculptural form below. The restoration involved removing the corrosion with microscopic spheres of glass at less than 20 pounds per square inch. Damaged areas were repaired and a historically appropriate patina was applied, which would have been originally applied at the foundry.

Library Park is located in downtown Kenosha, a few blocks west of Lake Michigan. Bounded by Seventh Avenue on the east, Eight Avenue on the west, 59th Place on the north and 61st Street on the south, the park comprises 5.5 acres of land. Set aside as public space when Kenosha was settled in 1835, nationally-known landscape architect O.C. Simonds platted the design of Library Park, an informal, romantic style. Library Park's historic landscape was added to the National Register of Historic Places in June 22, 2000.