



Lincoln Hall

ADVANCE MISSION

CREATE OPPORTUNITY





ADVANCE MISSION

CREATE OPPORTUNITY

HILDENE, THE LINCOLN FAMILY HOME, has launched a capital campaign to build a multi-purpose, four-season facility.



In 1903, Robert Lincoln, the only child of Abraham and Mary Lincoln to survive to adulthood, purchased 392 acres of land in Manchester, Vermont where he built what he referred to as his ancestral home, Hildene. Robert's lifelong pursuit was to ensure that his father's legacy — one of a man who modeled integrity, perseverance, and civic responsibility — was safeguarded and properly understood. Since 1978, the Friends of Hildene, Inc. has carried on this tradition.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Hildene is known for its stunning natural beauty, unique historic context, working farms, pollinator sanctuaries, trail network, educational facilities and experiential programming.

To strengthen the foundation for the future and to reach new levels, we are committed to building a year-round, world-class educational and event facility. This vital initiative will allow Hildene to greatly expand programming, enhance financial self-sufficiency and advance mission.

Please join us in making Lincoln Hall a reality.

A HISTORY OF HILDENE

Robert Lincoln first vacationed in Manchester with his mother and brother Tad in 1864. He returned forty years later to build Hildene. He and his wife, Mary, created the name by blending two Old English terms “hil” and “dene” (hill and valley with stream). The house is perched on a promontory with commanding views of two mountain ranges cradling the valley below through which flows the famous Battenkill.

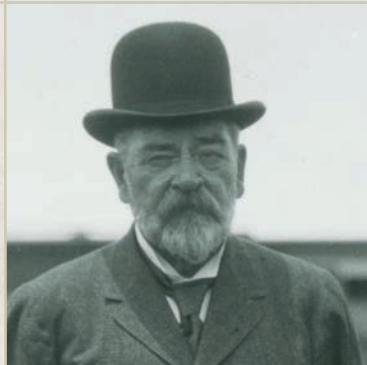
For over two decades, Robert’s family typically spent May to October at Hildene. They were valued members of the community, served on local boards and contributed to a variety of organizations. Hildene was integral to Robert’s life until his death in 1926.

The property remained in the family for another fifty years. President Lincoln’s great-granddaughter, Peggy Beckwith, lived in the home full-time from 1937 until her death in 1975. Honoring her grandmother’s wishes, Peggy bequeathed the property to the Christian Science Church, with the stipulation that it become a memorial to the Lincoln family.

In the absence of living descendants, it is with reverence and a profound sense of duty that we preserve the Lincoln family legacy.

Not long after, the Church announced that it could not meet expectations and sought instead to develop the property. A determined group of local citizens won the right to purchase the estate, taking on the stewardship of the Lincoln family legacy. They incorporated as Friends of Hildene, and while restoring the mansion and formal garden, opened the property to the public.

Throughout the years, thousands of volunteers, contributors and staff have reinvigorated Hildene, bringing the entire estate under the umbrella of its mission. Today, Hildene is an internationally respected cultural heritage site with a variety of venues, natural attractions and dynamic programming for all ages.







BUILDING ON MISSION

Hildene is a major economic force in southern Vermont. We welcome 42,000 guests each year, many of whom come to Manchester specifically to experience Hildene's restored mansion, carriage barn, formal gardens, exhibits and 1902 wooden Pullman railcar, part of the Vermont African American Heritage Trail. Visitors also enjoy our youth education center, pollinator gardens, goat dairy and cheesemaking facility. Twelve miles of trails meander through the estate and down to our farm in the dene where agriculture has been restored. There guests can visit our 1832 schoolhouse, walk out into the wetland on the 600' floating boardwalk, and visit the animal barn and teaching greenhouse.


From the child in kindergarten to adults enjoying retirement, Hildene's programming serves all ages. Over 3,500 elementary school children engage in our standards-based programs on history, agriculture and the natural sciences. High school students learn earth sciences in a modern classroom within our restored 19th-century barn. Children engage at summer camps tied to art, history, nature and community. Adults enjoy public programs that focus on everything from civics to nature.

In all we do, we strive by example to inspire guests to think more deeply about their roles as citizen-stewards.

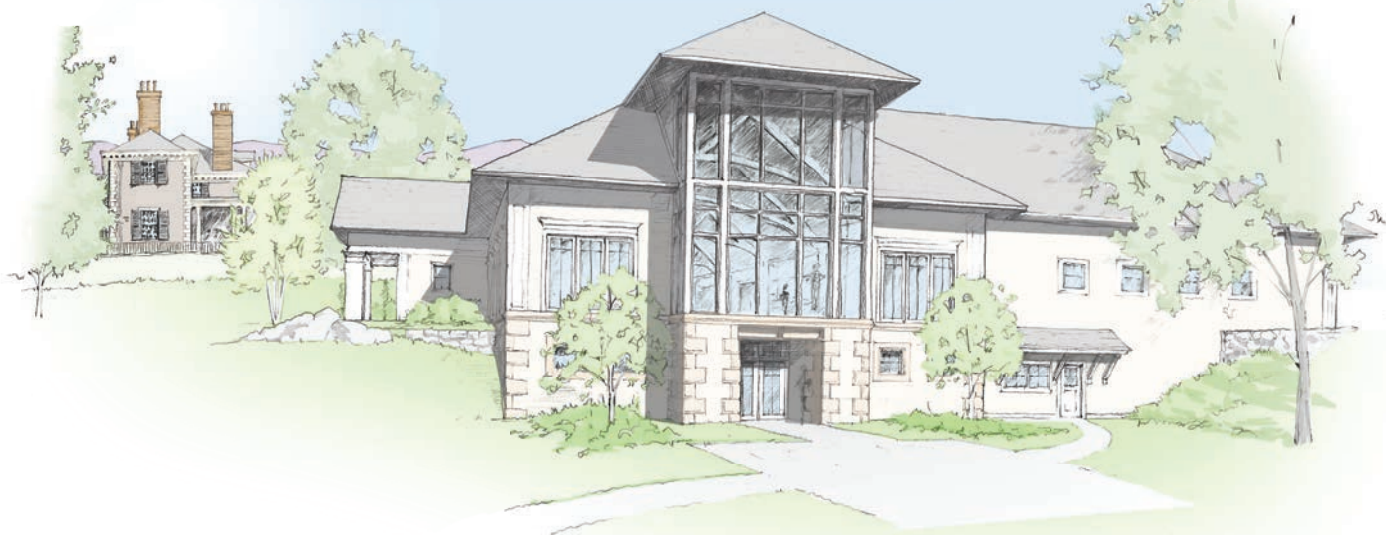
We are now poised to reach new levels. Lincoln Hall, a year-round facility, will allow us to expand current offerings, enhance our award-winning wedding and event services, and launch innovative programs to wider audiences.

**We advance our mission—
Values into Action—by
creating opportunity
through cultural heritage,
environmental stewardship,
and civic engagement.**





Hildene's Board of Trustees and hundreds of passionate donors recognize the need for a multi-functional, four-season assembly hall for presentations, workshops, forums, symposia, and celebrations.




THE NEED FOR --- LINCOLN HALL



Hildene is a first-rate institution, now in need of a first-rate assembly space. We have reached capacity to properly host our members, guests and learners. Programming events often sell out and our small meeting space is in constant and overlapping demand. It is clearly time to create a gathering place to accommodate our constituency. Without it, we cannot realize our potential. Hildene's Board of Trustees and hundreds of passionate donors recognize the need for a multi-functional, four-season assembly hall for presentations, workshops, forums, symposiums, and celebrations.

The immediate benefits and impact include our ability to:

- **EXPAND** our programming and reach wider audiences
 - **ATTRACT** highly acclaimed speakers
 - **CREATE** more opportunities for high-level educational programs
 - **ENHANCE** our guests' experiences
 - **ADVANCE** financial self-sufficiency by hosting year-round public and private functions
 - **FORTIFY** our value to the local community
 - **INCREASE** membership
- 

INVENTING THE FUTURE

With our roots in the past and our eyes on the future, Hildene must remain relevant and vibrant. A tasteful, modern facility in the heart of our campus will make it possible for Hildene to foster meaningful discourse with greater reach and impact. It will also be the perfect gathering place for weddings and other celebrations.

Open year-round and tech-ready, Lincoln Hall will make it possible to add more offerings to our robust educational programming for learners of all ages. We could accommodate symposia featuring nationally and internationally acclaimed speakers, attracting audiences hungry to address contemporary societal challenges. We could invite college students to enroll in accredited summer courses taught by prominent professors and focused on issues of sustainability and environmental stewardship, historic preservation, and civic engagement. With our reputation for best practices in agriculture, forestry and the natural sciences, we could host seminars and conferences by suitable trade and advocacy organizations... all with Lincoln Hall, and President Lincoln as touchstone.

These are just a few examples of how Lincoln Hall will powerfully reinforce Hildene's mission, while having a positive economic impact on the greater community.

Lincoln Hall will powerfully reinforce Hildene's mission, while having a positive economic impact on the greater community.



The pandemic pause was an opportunity for us to review the scope of Lincoln Hall. We added new functionalities to the original design, including an undercroft for exhibits, programming, and food service.

As of the beginning of 2022, we have raised nearly two-thirds of the \$5.7 million cost of this 14,000 square foot building.

We are asking for your support—in some cases additional support. Please consider a gift or pledge to help ensure that Hildene continues to grow and thrive well into the future.

Thank you.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

www.hildene.org | 802.362.1788

Brian Keefe, President | 802.362.3996 | brian@hildene.org

Nan Bambara, Advancement Director | 802.369-7994 | nan@hildene.org





AS HILDENE
THE LINCOLN FAMILY HOME