



# A Haunted Capital



by Natalie Lunis

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Consultant: Troy Taylor  
President of the American Ghost Society

BEARPORT  
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

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Publisher: Kenn Goin

Editorial Director: Adam Siegel

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Dawn Beard Creative

Cover: Kim Jones

Photo Researcher: We Research Pictures, LLC

### *Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Lunis, Natalie.

A haunted capital / by Natalie Lunis ; consultant, Troy Taylor, president of the American Ghost Society.

pages cm. — (Scary places: Cities)

Audience: Age 7 to 12.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-62724-243-1 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-62724-243-0 (library binding)

1. Ghosts—Washington (D.C.)—Juvenile literature. 2. Haunted places—Washington (D.C.)—Juvenile literature. 3. Washington (D.C.)—Social life and customs—Juvenile literature. 4. Washington (D.C.)—Buildings, structures, etc.—Juvenile literature. I. Taylor, Troy. II. Title.

BF1472.U6L86 2015

133.109753—dc23

2014009034

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America.

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# Haunted Washington, D.C.

Places that are filled with history are also thought to be filled with ghosts. If that is true, then Washington, D.C.—a city that dates back to the earliest days of the United States of America—is surely one of the most haunted cities in the country.







In this book, you will visit eleven of the most haunted spots in America's **capital** and come across some of its most famous ghosts. Among them are a former president who never left the White House, a vice president who still hurries to his office in the **Capitol** building, and a **First Lady** who has found a quiet and peaceful home—years after her death. Don't be scared when you meet these **spirits**, however. Instead, think of them as guides into America's colorful and exciting past.





# Lincoln's Ghosts

## The White House, Lincoln Bedroom

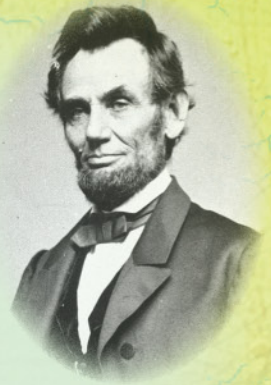
The White House is the home of the United States' **elected** leader—the president. For this reason, it is sometimes called “the people’s house.” Should it also be called “the people’s *haunted* house”? After all, many ghosts are said to be found there.

The White House





The most famous ghosts to haunt the White House belong to the Lincoln family. In the winter of 1862, while Abraham Lincoln was serving as president, his eleven-year-old son Willie became ill with **typhoid** and died shortly afterward. Both President Lincoln and his wife, Mary, were filled with **grief**. Mary, who had a strong belief in spirits, soon arranged several **séances** so she could try to contact her son. Less than a year later, she began to see him at night, standing at the foot of her bed.




Abraham Lincoln

In April 1865, about three years after Willie's death, President Lincoln was shot and killed while attending a play at Ford's Theatre in downtown Washington, D.C. Since then, his ghost has been seen inside the White House many times. Most often, it is spotted in a room that was once Lincoln's office.

Years after Lincoln's death, a bed and other pieces of furniture belonging to the Lincolns were brought in to Lincoln's old office. The room became known from that time on as the Lincoln Bedroom. It was a place for very important guests—and, according to some visitors, one very important ghost—to spend the night.

The Lincoln Bedroom

A decorative frame with a black border. Inside the frame, at the top, is a black skull with white eye sockets, flanked by two black hands with white fingers. The text is written in a black serif font on a white background.

During the 1940s, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill visited the White House and stayed in the Lincoln Bedroom. According to reports, he saw Lincoln's ghost standing near the fireplace. After that, he asked to be moved to another room.





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## About the Author

Natalie Lunis has written many nonfiction books for children. She lives in New York's lower Hudson River Valley—the home of the Headless Horseman.





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PUBLISHING

[www.bearportpublishing.com](http://www.bearportpublishing.com)

ISBN-13: 978-1-62724-243-1



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