



COVER

The Old State Capitol, the site of Lincoln's "House Divided" speech and often called "the most historic building west of the Allegheny Mountains," stands in the square in downtown Springfield. The reproduction of this Lincoln Shrine is taken from a water color painting by Paul Norton.



Lincoln statue at Rosamond cemetery

The Story of Lincoln Land is simple, yet uncommon. It is a reflection of the people who lived it and the places they lived.

Although this story is about history, it is intended to be enjoyed rather than studied.

And while this story is geographical in nature, the only map offered is a guide to places to visit and enjoy.

Before you, in word and picture, is the story of people who really lived and places that still bid the traveler welcome. Before you is the story of a tall man and the building of the "tall state."

Visit Lincoln Land in these pages. Then, travel the paths of greatness along the Valley of the Sangamon.



The Lincoln Home

*I*llinois was a young state when Abraham Lincoln and his wife moved to the home at Eighth and Jackson Streets—the only home he ever owned.

Lincoln's shaving mirror and soap dish, Mary's sewing box, and their sons' toys are preserved as a reminder of the Lincolns' life there.

Down the street from the Lincoln Home is the Ninian Edwards Home. There, Abe courted Mary; and, after a stormy engagement, married her in 1842. The Victorian couch on which they courted can be seen there today.

Twice a day, Lincoln walked the five blocks to his office located in the Sixth and Adams Streets Building. Lincoln's office is arranged as it was when he prepared briefs there. This restored structure, now known as the Lincoln-Herndon Building, also houses the Federal Court where Lincoln tried many cases.

Lincoln left Springfield in February of 1861. Standing on the platform of a train in the Great Western Station, now the Lincoln Depot Museum, Lincoln said, "I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return."

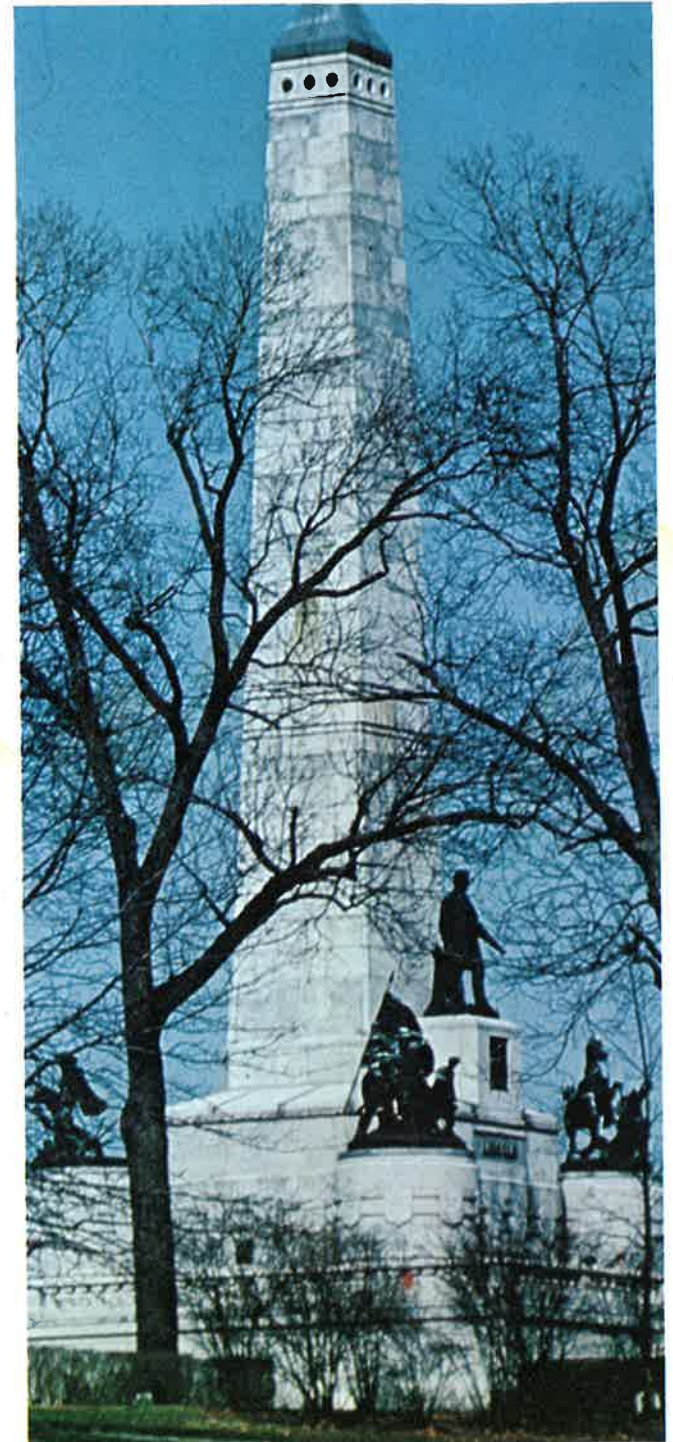
Following his death, he returned to be buried in Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery. The Lincoln Tomb marks his resting place.



The Lincoln-Herndon Building, Springfield



The Lincoln Law Office



The Lincoln Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery



Interior, Lincoln Home



Diorama in the Ninian Edwards Home



The Lincoln Depot Museum



The Parlor of the Ninian Edwards Home



The Ninian Edwards Home



The Rutledge Tavern



The New Salem Grist Mill

The log cabin village of New Salem, twenty miles northwest of Springfield, recalls a vital part of our country's past. The winding dirt street. The ox-drawn wagons. The small garden plots and animal yards surrounded by split-rail fences. New Salem is representative of hundreds of similar settlements which lived briefly as the frontier moved westward. More significant, two years after a mill was built on the Sangamon River and the town was founded on a nearby bluff, Abe Lincoln, then only 22, arrived in New Salem. The year was 1831. Lincoln later described himself as "like a piece of floating driftwood." But by the time he was to leave in 1837, his course was firmly set for a career in law and politics. In the six interim years, Abe tried his hand at a variety of jobs—store clerk, mill hand, postmaster,

unsuccessful storekeeper, surveyor, and soldier in the Black Hawk War.

While in New Salem Abe studied endlessly, especially the law, doing his work in various of the town's log buildings including the Rutledge Tavern.

Abe was liked and respected by his neighbors who twice sent him to the State Legislature.

In 1837, Lincoln borrowed a horse, threw his meager belongings into two saddle bags, and set out to practice law in Springfield.

Eventually, New Salem became a dusty ghost town. Now, as an Illinois State Park, New Salem has been authentically reconstructed. Every last detail—from the mill on the Sangamon to kitchen butter molds—is as it was in Lincoln's day.

Abe's later circuit-riding days are memorialized by a statue at the park entrance. Nearby is the New Salem Carriage Museum and a rustic covered bridge.

New Salem Carriage Museum



New Salem Scene



Carriage Museum Covered Bridge



The Isaac Gulihur Cabin



The Steamboat Talisman

Not far from the New Salem grist mill the excursion boat Talisman, a replica of early "stern-wheeling" riverboats, plies the Sangamon.

A few miles downstream in Petersburg is the boyhood home of poet Edgar Lee Masters who immortalized another waterway in his *Spoon River Anthology*.



Clayville Stagecoach Stop



Clayville Tavern Parlor



Beecher Hall at Illinois College



Edgar Lee Masters Boyhood Home

The Clayville Stagecoach Stop, built near Pleasant Plains about 1824, is the oldest brick structure in Sangamon County. Its hand-hewn exposed beams, hand-forged strap hinges, and great iron locks are reminders of Illinois' pioneer heritage.

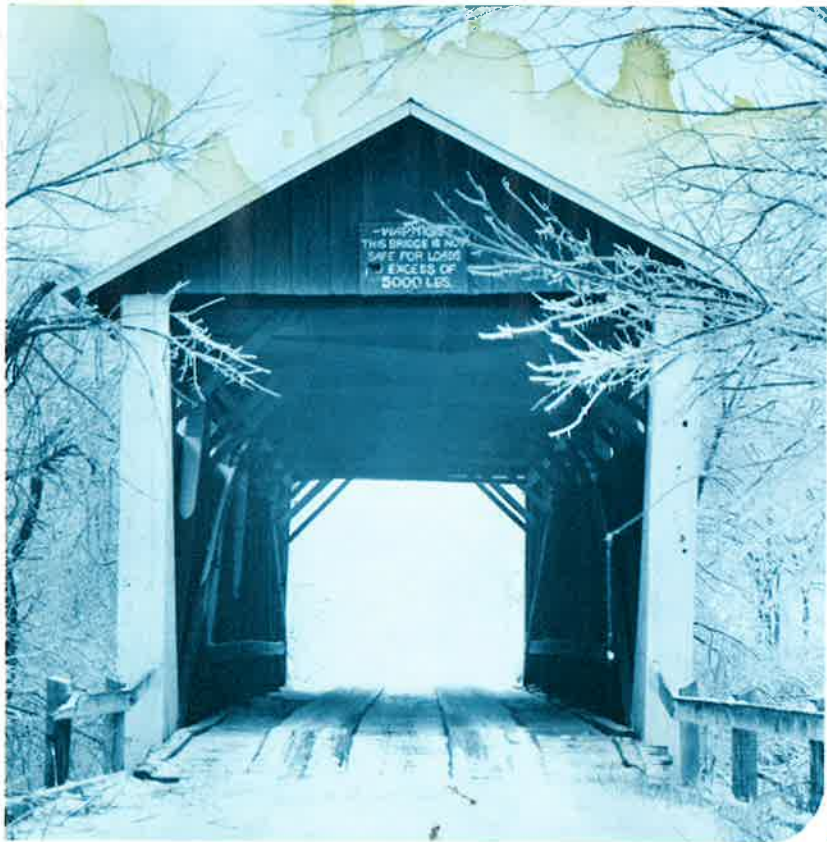
The Clayville Inn was a rallying center for the Whig Party during the 1840's and served as a stage stop until railroads came to the area in the mid-1850's.

Although modern highways have replaced the dirt coach roads, Clayville continues to be a popular stop for travelers in Lincoln Land.

Higher education in Illinois got its start in Jacksonville when Illinois College's Beecher Hall was built in 1829. Also in Jacksonville is the Octagonal House, once an underground railroad station that sheltered runaway slaves.



The Octagonal House in Jacksonville



The Sugar Creek Covered Bridge

To the south of Springfield, near Glenarm, a picturesque covered bridge spans Sugar Creek. And, to the west of Springfield, is a second covered bridge over Spring Creek.

To anyone who loves the sound of bells, the pealing of the 66 cast bronze bells in the Rees Carillon is beautiful music.

The Carillon—whose bells weigh a collective 37 tons ranging from a diminutive eleven pounder to a giant seven and a half ton instrument—is housed in a 132-foot tower above Washington Park's reflecting pool and rose gardens.

From there, every Sunday afternoon and at other special times, the bells chime their concert over the countryside.

Lincoln Road Marker



The Rees Carillon in Washington Park



Lincoln the Circuit Rider



Courtroom of the Beardstown Courthouse



The Mt. Pulaski Courthouse



The Postville Courthouse in Lincoln

Civic center, public gathering place, and serving as a church on Sunday, the courthouse was never as interesting as during "court week" along the Eighth Circuit. Court week was the week the circuit judge arrived to transact the legal business of the county.

The Postville Courthouse in the town of Lincoln is a replica of the 1840 original and the scene of many Lincoln law cases.

The brick Mt. Pulaski Courthouse was erected in 1848. It was in this building that Lincoln tried the "horological cradle case." The case involved the trade of an alleged patent on a cradle for a piece of land.

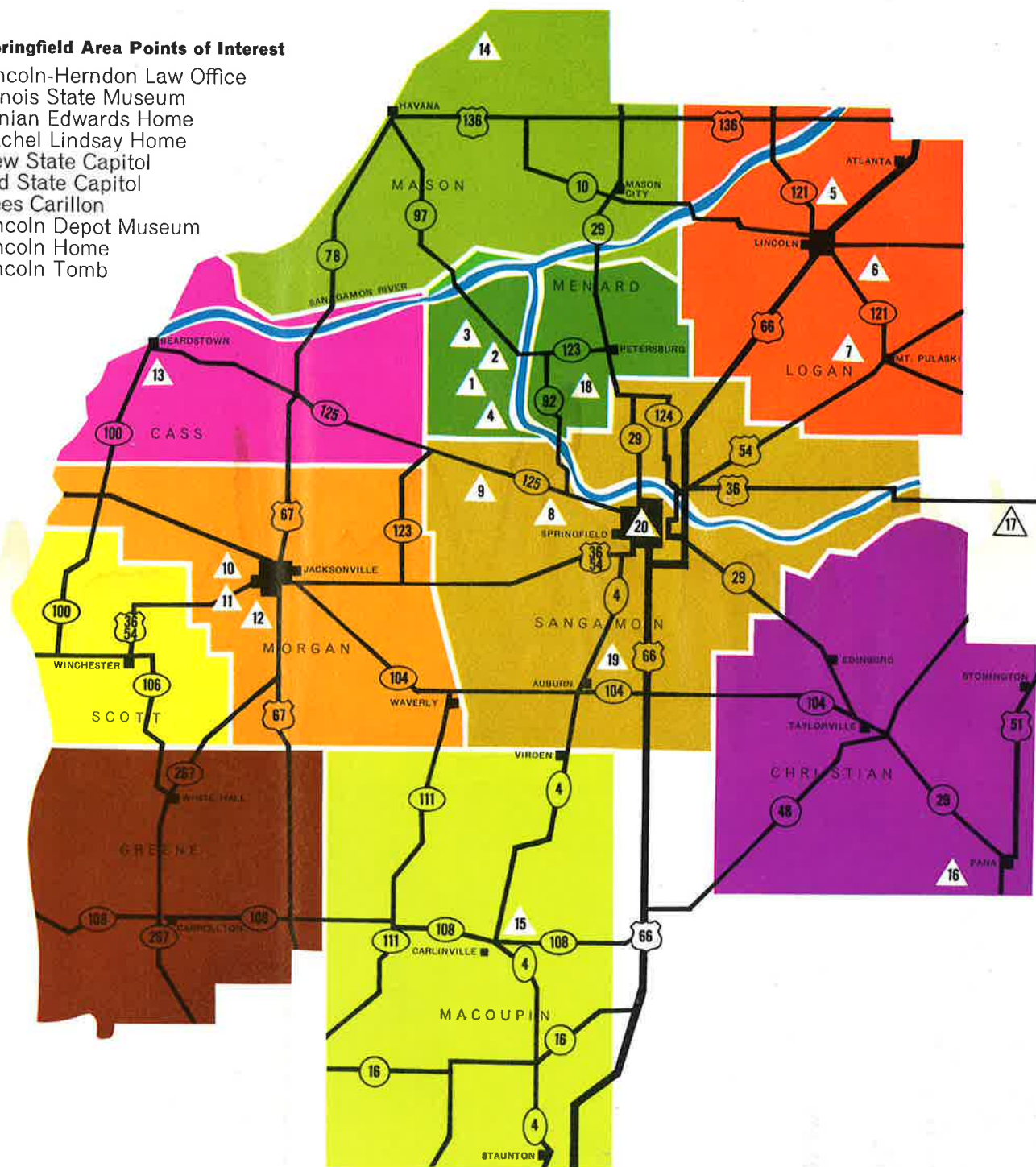
"The patent," said Lincoln, "was a cradle rocked by machinery, with weights running on pulleys which being wound up would rock itself until it ran down, thus saving time to mothers."

Lincoln operated the cradle in court. When the judge asked "how the thing could be stopped," Mr. Lincoln replied:

"It's like some of the glib talkers you and I know, Judge, it won't stop until it runs down."

In Beardstown is the courtroom where Lincoln defended Duff Armstrong on a murder charge in the famous "Almanac Trial." Lincoln discredited testimony of the key witness, who claimed he'd seen Duff commit the crime by moonlight, by producing an almanac which proved the night to have been moonless.

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- Springfield Area Points of Interest**
- Lincoln-Herndon Law Office
 - Illinois State Museum
 - Ninian Edwards Home
 - Vachel Lindsay Home
 - New State Capitol
 - Old State Capitol
 - Rees Carillon
 - Lincoln Depot Museum
 - Lincoln Home
 - Lincoln Tomb



Layout and design by Monty Pollner



Illinois State Capitol Building, Springfield

*T*he Capital was moved to Springfield from Vandalia in 1837 largely because of the efforts of Abraham Lincoln and eight of his colleagues called the "Long Nine"—their total height was 54 feet.

In Lincoln's day, the state government functions were carried out in the Old State Capitol Building (front cover). The present State Capitol, begun in 1868 and occupied in 1876, is the sixth capitol.

Discover more about Lincoln Land

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REMAINS OF THE 1930s, 1940s