

LINCOLN LORE

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ILLINOIS MARKS LINCOLN SITES

A plan for marking historic sites situated on the state highway system has been adopted by the State of Illinois and special attention has been given to designating the spots of interest to admirers of Abraham Lincoln.

The markers used are of uniform size, large enough to be read easily from an automobile and placed parallel with the highway to allow full reading advantages. The letters of the text are gold and the background dark blue. The inscriptions on those markers which refer to Abraham Lincoln are here given in full.

LINCOLN NATIONAL MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

From the Wabash River to the Sangamon five miles west of Decatur, the Lincoln National Memorial Highway follows substantially the route taken by the Lincoln family in their migration from Indiana to Illinois in the spring of 1830.

Erected August 31, 1935 on U. S. 50 at Vincennes bridge.

LINCOLN NATIONAL MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

From the site of the Lincoln cabin on the Sangamon three miles south of here, to the Wabash River opposite Vincennes, the Lincoln National Memorial Highway follows substantially the route taken by the Lincoln family in their migration from Indiana to Illinois in the spring of 1830.

On south side U. S. 36 400 yds. east of spur to cabin site. Two warning signs.

LINCOLN'S FIRST ILLINOIS HOME

On an eminence overlooking the Sangamon River, three miles south of there stood the first home of Lincoln in Illinois. To this site came the Lincoln family in March, 1830. Here they lived until 1831, when the parents removed to Coles County and Abraham set out on his own career.

On U. S. 36 west of Decatur at junction of spur to cabin site. Two approach signs.

LINCOLN FARM, 1831-1834

From 1831 to 1834 Thomas and Sarah Lincoln, father and stepmother of Abraham Lincoln, lived in a cabin which stood a short distance to the north. It was their first home in Coles County, and their second home in Illinois.

On north side of Lincoln National Memorial Highway (county road here.) No warning signs.

LINCOLN FARM, 1834-1837

In 1834 Thomas Lincoln purchased 40 acres situated about 400 yards north and east of this point. Here, with his wife Sarah, he lived until 1837, when he sold the land. It was his second home in Coles County.

On south side of Lincoln National Memorial Highway. No warning signs.

THE LAST LINCOLN FARM

In 1837 Thomas Lincoln erected a cabin on a tract of land situated one-half mile to the east. Here he resided until his death in 1851. Abraham Lincoln visited here frequently, and after 1841 held title to forty acres of the land on which his parents lived. The State of Illinois now owns most of the Lincoln farm.

On north-south oiled road at junction of dirt road extending east to farm. Two warning signs.

SHILOH CEMETERY

In Shiloh Cemetery are the graves of Thomas and Sarah Lincoln, father and step-mother of Abraham Lincoln. On January 31, 1861, shortly before assuming the Presidency, Lincoln came here from Springfield to visit his father's grave in company with his step-mother.

Erected at or near entrance to cemetery. No warning signs.

LINCOLN AND THE BLACK HAWK WAR

On May 8, 1832, while encamped approximately one mile west of this point, Abraham Lincoln was mustered

into the military service of the United States. A few days earlier he had been elected captain of a militia company from Sangamon County.

On west side U. S. 67 at intersection of tarvia road running west to Andalusia south of Milan.

FORT WILBOURN

On the eminence to the southwest stood Fort Wilbourn where the Second Army of Illinois volunteers was mustered in for service in the Black Hawk War. Here, on June 16, 1832, Abraham Lincoln enlisted as a private in Jacob M. Early's company—his fourth enlistment of the war.

On U. S. 51. Placed in triangle immediately south of the new bridge, with text facing U. S. 51.

FORT JOHNSTON

On the eminence to the east stood Fort Johnston, headquarters of Gen. Henry Atkinson during part of the Black Hawk War. Here, May 27, 1832, Abraham Lincoln enlisted as a private in Elijah Iles' company—his third enlistment of the war.

At junction of Routes 71 and 23.

METAMORA COURT HOUSE

As a member of the traveling bar of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, Lincoln came twice a year to Metamora, then the seat of Woodford County, to attend court in the court house which faces the north side of this park. David Davis, Robert G. Ingersoll and Adlai E. Stevenson were others who practiced here.

Erected in southeast corner of park in place of wooden marker. Faces State Route 116.

POSTVILLE COURT HOUSE SITE

From 1839 to 1848 the seat of Logan County was Postville, which centered in the court house located on this site. In this structure Abraham Lincoln, a member of the traveling bar of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, attended court twice a year.

On north side of street, U. S. 66.

MT. PULASKI COURT HOUSE

Mt. Pulaski was the seat of Logan County from 1848 to 1854. In this building, then the court house, Abraham Lincoln attended court twice a year.

Erected in front of old court house, one block from 121.

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

On August 21, 1858, the first of the famous joint debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas was held in this park. Here 10,000 people heard the two contestants for the United States Senatorship discuss the question of slavery in American politics.

Erected March 15-21, 1936 on west side of State Route 23 in Ottawa, in park just inside low stone wall at inner edge of side walk, and due east of boulder marking debate site.

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

On September 15, 1858, in the midst of the senatorial campaign of that year, Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas met at Jonesboro in the third of the famous series of debates which made Lincoln a national figure. The debate was held in a grove one quarter-mile to the north.

Erected in small circle in center of Jonesboro, State Route 146.

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

On September 18, 1858, the fourth of the famous joint debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas was held approximately one quarter-mile south of here. Twelve thousand people heard the two candidates for the United States Senatorship discuss the question of slavery in American politics.

On south side of State Route 16 at western edge of Charleston (north of fair grounds), 75-100 feet east of Big Four tracks. Erected March 15-21, 1936.