Looking for Lincoln Story Trail
Champaign County

At the Courthouse, at the Museum of the Grand Prairie (formerly Early American Museum) and throughout the county and the state, follow the Looking for Lincoln Story Trail by finding the wayside exhibit storyboards. There are more than 200 wayside exhibit storyboards located throughout the Central Illinois landscape. Check the looking for Lincoln website for the specific locations.

Mahomet, Museum of the Grand Prairie
(formerly Early American Museum)
600 N. Lombard in Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

Mahomet, First School
1403 E. Oak St.

Tolono
Southeast corner of N. Long Rd. and W. Austin Rd.

Champaign
Southwest corner of First St. and W. Park St.

Urbana, Champaign County Courthouse
101 E. Main St. Urbana.

Urbana, Busey Bank
Northwest corner of S. Race St. and W. Elm

Homer Lake Road
Homer Lake Rd. at northern border of Homer Lake Forest Preserve

St. Joseph
Northwest corner of Water St. and Homer Lake Rd. (CR 2200E and 1400N)

Get involved! Meet new people! Volunteer!

We invite you to help expand our visitors’ knowledge of Abraham Lincoln as a lawyer in Champaign County. These exhibits have been designed to capture the essence of Lincoln’s life and times in this area and create an awareness of Lincoln’s local presence. In addition, visitors and schoolchildren will gain critical knowledge about the legal system and how it continues to work within today’s Courthouse. Opportunities to be involved include:

- research
- first-person interpretation
- school & public programs
- website development.

You will have an opportunity to meet people you might not otherwise have known; but even more importantly, you will share in our leadership role of assisting with the education of children and families and the teaching of local history.

For more information or to sign up to become a volunteer, visit www.museumofthegrandpraire.org or call (217) 586-3360.

The Lincoln exhibits represent a collaborative effort between the Champaign County Board and the Champaign County Forest Preserve District and are being guided by a jointly-appointed citizen group, the Lincoln Legacy Committee.

Abraham Lincoln: Large Presence in a Small Town was supported in part by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and designed by Taylor Studios, Inc.

Champaign County’s Lincoln was supported in part by grants from the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity’s Bureau of Tourism.

Brochure Photos: Courtesy, Champaign County Historical Archives, The Urbana Free Library and Homer Historical Society
Abraham Lincoln practiced law in Champaign County for nearly 20 years, as part of the 8th Judicial Circuit. From 1841 to 1860, he traveled from one county to another, through 14 counties - more than 10,000 square miles! While in Urbana, Lincoln prosecuted, defended, and settled civil disputes, and even served as a judge occasionally. Lincoln was well known and liked in Champaign County. One local newspaper editor said of him, “He seems to know my prairie neighbors, man for man.”

Two permanent exhibits celebrate Champaign County’s connection to the Great Emancipator. Come visit Abraham Lincoln: Large Presence in a Small Town in the Champaign County Courthouse and Champaign County’s Lincoln at the Museum of the Grand Prairie (formerly Early American Museum). Get to know Lincoln through these two exciting multimedia presentations.

Champaign County Courthouse
located at 101 E. Main Street, Urbana, Illinois.
Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Closed on Federal Holidays

There is limited on-street parking in Urbana. A parking structure is located on the west side of the Courthouse (across the street).

The Courthouse is a secure facility which can be accessed via the Main Street Entrance only. All persons entering the building must pass through a metal detector. All bags & packages must pass through an x-ray machine.

Cell phone and camera along with any items that might be considered a weapon, i.e. nail file, are not permitted in the courthouse. If on your person, you will have to return to your car and leave it there. As of March 1, 2007, these items are not allowed in the Courthouse.

Museum of the Grand Prairie
(formerly Early American Museum)
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve
Illinois Route 47, ½ mile north of I-74
600 N. Lombard, Mahomet
Mar.-Dec. Daily 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Jun., Jul., Aug. Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

For information on both exhibits contact the Museum of the Grand Prairie:
(217) 586-2612 www.museumofthegrandprairie.org