



For more information on:

Abe Lincoln's Pike County or Lincoln Days

contact:

The Abe Lincoln Project
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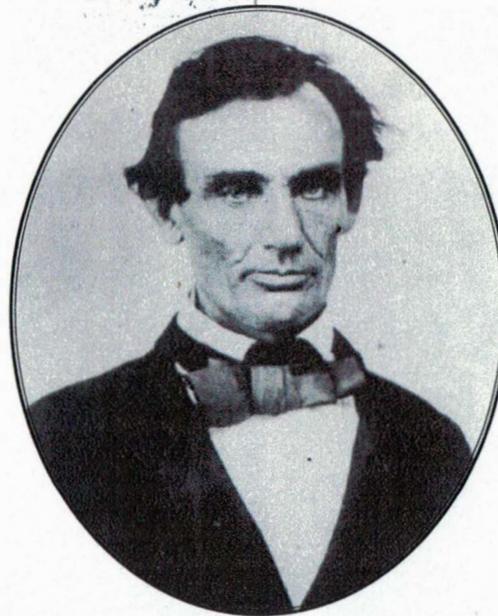
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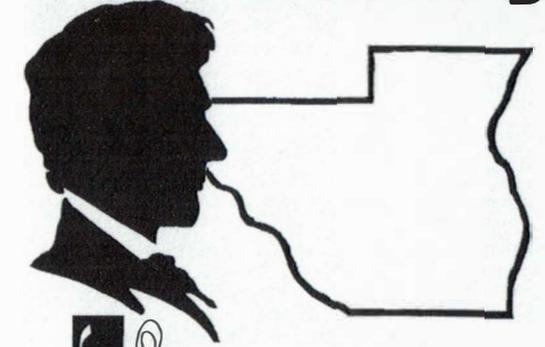


Daguerrotype, taken by Calvin Jackson in Pittsfield, October 1858, courtesy of Illinois State Historical Society.

Welcome to Abe Lincoln's Talking House Tour of the sites and homes in Pittsfield, Illinois. Tune your car radio to the designated FM channel at each stop, starting with 90.9 FM at the Pike County Visitor's Center, located at 224 W. Washington. If you are there, then you are at the beginning of the Talking House Tour! You need to enter Washington St. and turn right for one block. At the northeast corner of West St. & Washington is the first home. In the front yard of each home there will be a sign giving a brief description of the person that lived there during Lincoln's era. There are three sites - stop #5 Gilmer House, stop #12 Heck's Bakery and stop # 15 Free Press with signs attached to the existing buildings.

The William Watson Hotel, stop #13, is still in operation. Prominent patrons of historical interest have included Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas, John Hay, John Nicolay, Charles Philbrick, Col. William Ross, Col. Dick Gilmer, Alexander Starne, and Oziah Mather Hatch.

PIKE COUNTY



Abe Lincoln's Talking Houses Tour for Pittsfield, Illinois

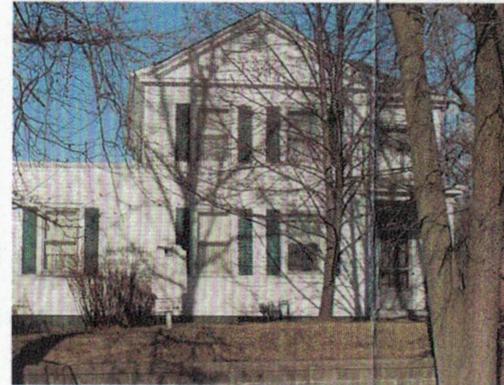
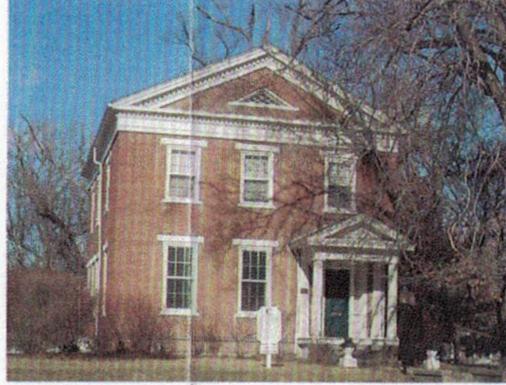
Tune your radio to the FM station on the sign in front of each house



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ABE LINCOLN'S TALKING HOUSE TOUR FOR PITTSFIELD, ILLINOIS

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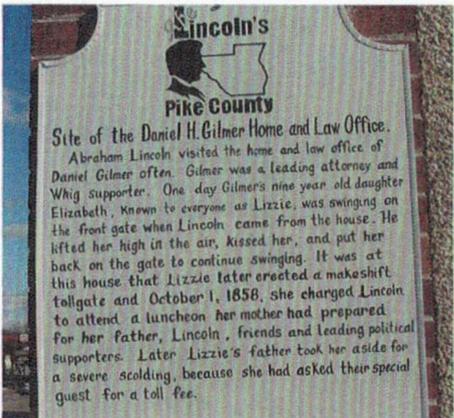


1) Pike County Visitor Center - 224 W. Washington St. - 90.9 FM. *Courtesy of the Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative.* The talking house tour begins at the Pike County Visitor Center. The talking house here tells about the Talking House Tour of Lincoln Sites as well as other events taking place in Pittsfield and Pike County. **(The next stop is one block west on Washington on same side of street. The northeast corner of Washington & West St. is the location of site #2.)**

2) Milton Hay House - 332 W. Washington St. - 89.1 FM. *Courtesy of Wal-Mart.* Presidential Secretary John Hay lived here while attending Thompson Academy. John was a nephew of Milton Hay, an attorney who studied law under Lincoln. Note the Wayside Exhibit in front of the house. Feel free to step out of your vehicle and read the exhibit. **(For next stop just drive forward to the next house on the north side of the street.)**

3) Scanland House - 402 W. Washington St. - 87.9 FM. *Courtesy of County Market.* Mrs. Scanland's turkey dinner grew cold while Lincoln was telling tales at the local drug store. Mayor Scanland was with Lincoln at the time. **(For next stop drive forward to Clinton St. (pass the hospital), turn right and go to the end of the street, turn right and pull into the gravel spot just past the house on the corner.)**

4) Grimshaw House - 750 W. Perry St. - 87.9 FM. *Courtesy of Cass Communications.* William Grimshaw's law office was in the front room. Lincoln and Grimshaw participated in several court cases together. Lincoln stayed here in October 1856 when campaigning with Lyman Trumbull. **(For next stop, go east on Perry St. to Madison St., turn right onto Madison go to the traffic signal at Washington St., turn left onto Washington, go one block to United Community Bank. A sign is on the northwest corner of the building.)**

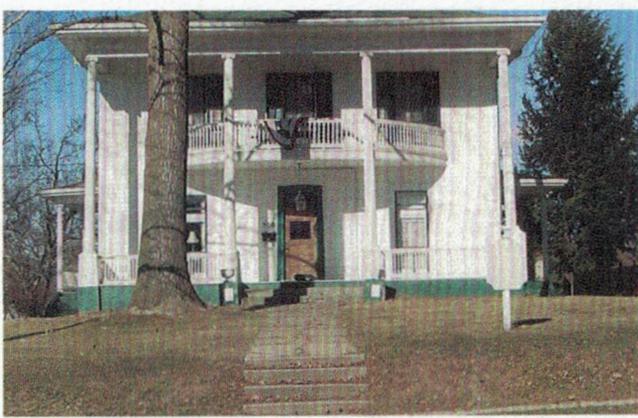


5) Gilmer Home - southeast corner of Monroe & Washington - 89.1 FM. *Courtesy of Snedeker Risk Management, LTD.* This home was located on the site of the present United Community Bank. **(For next stop, go east to the traffic signal, turn right, go one block, turn left onto Fayette St. Next stop is one & one-half blocks on right.)**

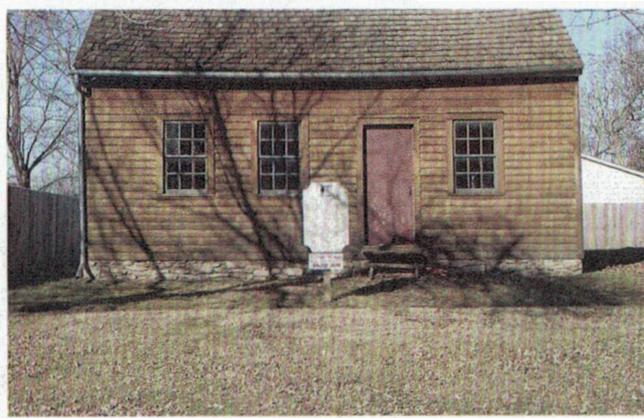
6) Lame House - 409 E. Fayette St. - 87.9 FM. *Courtesy of McDonalds Restaurant.* Mrs. Lame denied Lincoln access to her house to visit her injured husband, Charles. Lincoln had an ambrotype taken in Pittsfield and delivered it to the Lames. **(For next stop, loop around block onto Illinois St., turn right back onto Washington, go east about 4 blocks to large brick house on right side of street.)**

7) Noyes House - 629 E. Washington St. - 89.1 FM. *Courtesy of Sprague's Kinderhook Lodge.* Michael Noyes was the founder and editor of Pike County's first newspaper in 1841, "The Sucker and Farmer's Record." Noyes Family History shows that Lincoln gave a speech here. **(For next stop, continue east on Washington to second house past Farm Bureau and Health Care Center.)**

8) Ross House - just east of Pittsfield on Hwy 106 (aka Washington St.) - 87.9 FM. *Courtesy of J.B. Filbert Insurance.* Lincoln stayed here during his 1858 Senatorial campaign visit. Ross helped secure Lincoln's nomination for President in 1860. **(For next stop, west back to Pittsfield, #9 is on right side, one block past #7).**



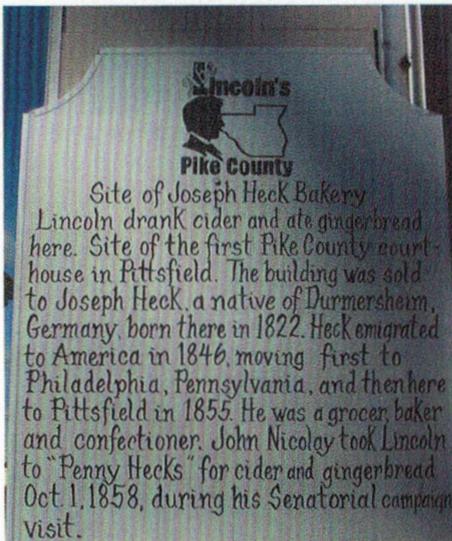
9) Garbutt House - 500 E. Washington St. - 87.9 FM. *Courtesy of Illini Community Hospital.* Presidential Secretary John Nicolay was taken here at age 16 by foster parents Rev. & Mrs. Zachariah Garbutt. Nicolay later wrote an article advocating Lincoln for President. Feel free to step out of your vehicle and read the Wayside Exhibit. **(For next stop, continue west on Washington, turn right onto Illinois St., north 2 blocks, turn left onto Jefferson St. Stop is on the corner.)**



10) Shastid House - 326 E. Jefferson St. - 89.1 FM. *Courtesy of Heimer & Associates.* John Greene Shastid and his family entertained Lincoln on his numerous visits to Pittsfield, including one time when Lincoln ate all the pigeons. Feel free to step out of your vehicle and read the Wayside Exhibit. **(For next stop, stay on Jefferson, go west two blocks to corner of Jefferson & Monroe. Site is at corner.)**



11) Star Hotel - N. Monroe St. - 87.9 FM. *Courtesy of Cherry's Guest House.* Captain George Edwards, half-brother to Dr. Thomas Shastid, built this hotel. He sold it to the Watsons who said Lincoln used to stay here. **(For next stop, turn left onto Monroe St., go south one block to Adams St., turn right onto Adams, site is half a block on right at the alley.)**



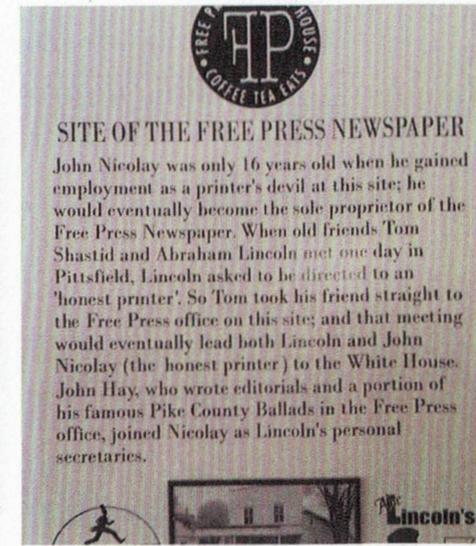
12) Heck's Bakery - 118 E. Adams St. - 88.9 FM. *Courtesy of Harpole's Heartland Lodge.* The bakery was located on the site of the first courthouse in Pittsfield. **(For next stop, turn left at intersection, go one block to Washington, turn left and park in front of the William Watson Hotel.)**



13) William Watson Hotel - 105 E. Washington St. - 89.9 FM. *Courtesy of William Watson Hotel.* Built in 1838 by William Watson, the first settler of Pittsfield. Also known as the Mansion House Hotel. Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas would gather in the hotel lobby between court sessions or while waiting for a verdict. **(For next stop, stay put! All you have to do is change to the next FM station.)**



14) Pike County Courthouse - 89.5 FM. *Courtesy of the Pike County Farm Bureau.* After the William Watson Hotel narrative, change the channel for a narrative about the Pike County Courthouse. Also view the Wayside Exhibit on the southwest corner of the Courthouse lawn. **(For the next stop, go to Pikeland Motors on the east side of the square and observe sign on the building.)**



15) Free Press Newspaper - 90.5 FM. *Courtesy of the Free Press Coffee House.* This newspaper office was located on the site of the present Pikeland Motors dealership. The Talking House Tour is now completed. Thank you. Our community now welcomes you to explore the fine restaurants and shops around the Courtyard Square and through the area.

