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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Looking for Lincoln” wayside exhibit unveiled at Jacksonville’s Grierson House

***Exhibit is one of ten to tell the Lincoln story in Jacksonville that
are part of the new Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area***

Jacksonville– This is one instance where officials hope tourism falls by the wayside – the wayside exhibit, that is.

“Today we dedicate this new “Lincoln and Grierson” wayside exhibit for Jacksonville, where Mr. Lincoln enjoyed valued and treasured friendships, pursued his passion for politics, and practiced his legal profession. These friendships, along with others across central Illinois, helped set the course and direction of his life and political career while influencing the future of our state and nation. Here, at the home of General Benjamin Grierson, we are reminded of the friendship and mutual admiration these two men had for one another. General Grierson reminds us also of the caliber of leaders that called Jacksonville home during Illinois’ early years as a state and on into the Civil War. Governor Duncan and Governor Yates, Reverend James Jaquess, friends from Illinois College, John Hardin, Joseph King, Charles Philbrick and so many others remind us what life on and near State Street was like when Lincoln visited. All of these individuals will be represented in the wayside exhibits Jacksonville will finish installing this summer forming the rich walking and driving tour known as the ‘Voices of Jacksonville,’” said Hal Smith, Director of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area.

“General Grierson was recognized for his leadership as a soldier in the Civil War by the likes of Governor Richard Yates, General Ulysses S. Grant, General William T. Sherman and his friend and President, Abraham Lincoln. It is proper and fitting that he be recognized here today as a patriot, a soldier, a hero and a pillar of Jacksonville. It serves to remind us of those relationships like Grierson and Lincoln’s, and those of others in Morgan County, helped to shape Abraham Lincoln in his development

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as a man, a lawyer, a politician and a friend,” added Smith during the wayside exhibit dedication ceremony.

“Some of Lincoln’s closest friends called Jacksonville home. They supported Lincoln politically and perhaps unwittingly, helped to prepare him for some of the greatest challenges ever faced by an American President. General Grierson was a trusted friend of both Abraham Lincoln and his fellow citizens in Morgan County,” Smith added.

Over the next several months, the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition will deliver an additional 100 new wayside exhibits in 19 central Illinois communities. The Jacksonville exhibits will total 10, creating a very inviting walking and driving tour through the community. The exhibits are a part of a series of 210 beautifully designed storyboards, complete with pictures, images and historical text that tell unique stories about Abraham Lincoln and his connection to 50 different Illinois communities in the newly designated Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. Together they form the Looking for Lincoln Story Trail and visitors will be encouraged to collect rubbings from each of the unique rubbing medallions on each wayside reflecting the unique story being told on each wayside.

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