



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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“Looking for Lincoln Welcomes Quincy to Coalition!”

Quincy— “The Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition would like to welcome Quincy into the Coalition of communities and historic sites devoted to quality visitor experiences that tell the remarkable stories of Illinois’ favorite son, Abraham Lincoln.. Quincy enjoys many qualities that would be the envy of other communities. They include a rich Lincoln and 19th century prairie history, a welcoming tradition, beautifully restored historic structures and an enthusiastic historic community that is fortunate to have a devoted public and private sector that demonstrate their commitment in both time and treasure. Quincy will make an outstanding Coalition member and will represent a major anchor in our Western Loop coming out of Springfield,” offered Hal Smith, Director of the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition and the new Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area.

A Coalition Team recently completed an assessment of the Quincy visitor experience, in the context of Abraham Lincoln. The Team submitted a report to the Looking for Lincoln Board with a positive recommendation for Quincy’s addition to the Coalition, as a full-fledged member. This comes following an outstanding performance by Quincy in the fall version of the Lincoln Douglas Debates, Reunion Tour ’08.

“Quincy offered an unparalleled Reunion Tour ‘08 experience this past October. The community demonstrated total commitment to the 150th debate anniversary weekend and to the spirit of Looking for Lincoln by featuring their compelling cluster of 18 new wayside exhibits that will be fully engaged by June 2009. It was a great weekend and we knew coming out of that experience, Quincy was ready and worthy,” Smith said.

Looking for Lincoln’s Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of the committee and voted to admit Quincy immediately. The Board has suggested Quincy select someone to write the Lincoln history and use it to interconnect the interpretation done at the new Interpretative Center and at both the Wood Mansion and the Eells House, as well as in the printed material that supports the Walking Tour of waysides.

“Every stop should interconnect the stories told at each of the other historic locations in Quincy, like the thread of a storyline running through a screenplay,” added Smith.

Looking for Lincoln has been assisted by Sen. Dick Durbin through the years, in both his promotion of the heritage advantages of being associated with the Coalition and in identifying funding sources for projects like the wayside exhibits. He also led the successful effort by the Illinois Congressional delegation last year, to enact legislation to establish the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, managed by Looking for Lincoln. In Quincy, Mayor John Spring and Chuck Scholz, who serves on the Looking for Lincoln Board, have also provided strong leadership in bringing Quincy to the Coalition.

The Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, designated last year by Congress, is the only heritage area in America named for a U.S. President. It was designated to preserve, enhance and promote visitor experiences in the 42 counties in central Illinois where Lincoln lived for nearly 30 years. The Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition, which will manage the heritage area, is a consortium of Lincoln-related communities and sites whose purpose is to tell the stories about Lincoln that are unique to each site. The goal is to interpret and protect those sites while creating satisfying visitor experiences

To plan travel in the Heritage Area, go to www.lookingforlincoln.com.

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