



## Hats Off to Mr. Lincoln



### Bicentennial Top Hat Comes to Lincoln Neighborhood

In commemoration of Abraham Lincoln's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, the city of Springfield has placed a series of decorated top hats representing different aspects of President Lincoln's life throughout the downtown area. The project, called "Hats Off to Mr. Lincoln," features fiberglass top hats designed by local artists and sponsored by various businesses. The primary sponsors of the project are the Springfield Rotary Clubs with help from the Springfield Area Arts Council.

### Mr. Lincoln's Top Hat

Perhaps the most iconic object associated with Abraham Lincoln's image is the top hat. Walking to and from his law office in Springfield, Lincoln was easily recognized in his long black coat and tall stovepipe hat. He was already a tall man—standing 6 feet 4 inches—and the hat added another 10 inches to his height! Not only did the hat enhance his professional image, it also served as a place where he could store papers, notes, and other legal documents.

men's outdoor attire in the early 1800s. Those in society's upper class usually wore top hats made of felted beaver fur, whereas the hats of working class men were usually made with rabbit fur.

#### Century of the Top Hat

The nineteenth century is sometimes called the "Century of the Top Hat," as top hats became a popular addition to

*This hat was worn by Abraham Lincoln to Ford's Theatre on the night of April 14, 1865—the night he was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.*



### Hat at 7<sup>th</sup> and Jackson



The hat on display at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site is located at the intersection of 7<sup>th</sup> and Jackson Streets. It was decorated by Karen Friedrich's 4<sup>th</sup> grade art class at Our Savior's Lutheran School in Springfield, Illinois. Its title is "Unite to Stand." It was sponsored by Brian Barstead of Ameriprise Financial.

The hat will remain on display until at least the end of September 2009. Please refer to the list of all "Hats Off to Mr. Lincoln" hat locations on the back of this page.

# “Hats Off to Mr. Lincoln” Hat Locations

Location	Title
1. Union Station (500 E. Madison)	“A Slice of History”
2. Union Square Park (6 <sup>th</sup> and Jefferson)	“History and Freedom Unfolding Before Us”
3. Springfield CVB (109 N. 7 <sup>th</sup> )	“Road Trippin’ Through Lincolnland”
4. Springfield Hilton (700 E. Adams)	“It’s the Life in Your Years”
5. Lincoln Public Library (7 <sup>th</sup> and Capitol)	“The Words of Lincoln”
6. Hoogland Center (S. 6 <sup>th</sup> and Jackson)	“The Words of Lincoln”
7. Lincoln Home NHS (7 <sup>th</sup> and Jackson)	“Unite to Stand”
8. Springfield Clinic (1025 S. 6 <sup>th</sup> )	“Unite to Stand”
9. Springfield Clinic (1025 S. 6 <sup>th</sup> )	“The Penny Hat”
10. WMAY Studio (210 S. 5 <sup>th</sup> )	“If I Had Another Face Would I Wear This One?”
11. Globe Tavern Site (4 <sup>th</sup> and Adams)	“Winkin’ Lincoln”
12. Intersection of Capitol and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Streets	“A Maizing Illinois”
13. Illinois State Museum (502 S. Spring)	“Vachel Lindsay’s Lincoln”
14. Illinois State Museum (502 S. Spring)	“Lincoln Logs”
15. Chamber of Commerce (6 <sup>th</sup> and Adams)	“Bow Ties of Lincoln”
16. St. John’s Hospital (800 E. Carpenter)	“Created Equal”
17. Maldener’s (6 <sup>th</sup> and Monroe)	“Lincoln’s Springfield”
18. Community Blood Center (1134 S. 7 <sup>th</sup> )	“Lincoln’s Springfield”
19. Widow at Windsor Antiques (5 <sup>th</sup> and Cook)	“In Lincoln’s Words”

