

## THE FAREWELL ADDRESS

My friends,

No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being, who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him, who can go with me, and remain with you and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

*A. Lincoln*



## NOLL LAW OFFICE INVITES YOU TO VISIT THE HISTORIC LINCOLN DEPOT



The Lincoln Depot is located at  
930 East Monroe Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701  
(217) 544-8695 or (217) 544-8441  
[www.LincolnDepot.org](http://www.LincolnDepot.org)



The Lincoln Depot is owned  
and maintained by  
Noll Law Office  
[www.Noll-Law.com](http://www.Noll-Law.com)

## LINCOLN DEPOT







The Great Western Railroad Depot, known as the Lincoln Depot, is the site where Abraham Lincoln boarded a train on February 11, 1861, bound for Washington, D.C., to be inaugurated 16th President of the United States.

The day was dismal and gray, with a constant chilling drizzle. Lincoln faced an uncertain future filled with the turmoil of a nation on the brink of civil war. As he bade farewell to the Springfield he loved so dearly, the moment was filled with warm memories and a reminder as well of the emptiness left by the death of his young son, Eddie. Lincoln's concise and emotional goodbye on that occasion ranks in eloquence with the Gettysburg Address. His words, known as the Farewell Address, underline how much of Springfield, Illinois, Lincoln took with him to his new home in Washington, D.C.

Visitors enter on the main floor of the Depot, a typical 19th century train station. The ticket cage is in the center, the gentlemen's waiting room on the east and the ladies' on the west, away from the language and tobacco spitting of the men.



Photographs and displays lead the visitor on a journey through highlights of Lincoln's life in Springfield — the places he lived and the friends he left behind. A state of the art video, narrated by National Public Radio journalist Scott Simon, is shown in the east waiting room. The video is filled with anecdotes of events that happened during Lincoln's 12-day journey to the White House and depicts Lincoln as a real person, not just a historic figure.

The mezzanine and second floors, which are not open to the public for tours, house the private workplace of Noll Law Office.



## THE BUILDING

Built in 1852, the Great Western Depot served as both a freight and passenger station as well as general offices of the railroad. Little is known of the original structure except that the first floor brick walls date from this building period, including the current entrance and window configuration. Extensive remodeling took place in 1857 to accommodate the growing railroad line. At this time, the building was raised 1/2 story to accommodate the offices of a superintendent and his assistant. In 1868, the building was closed to passenger traffic when a new passenger station was built two blocks north at Washington and 10th streets. Sometime between 1886 and 1917, the main, front section of the building was enlarged to a full two stories. The building you see today reflects this final remodeling. The baggage/freight wing, which extended from the main building south to Capitol Street, was destroyed by fire in 1968. A complete restoration of the building was completed in 2012-2013, allowing for commercial office space as well as the first floor public tourist areas.

Note: The funeral train, bearing Lincoln's body to its final resting place, arrived in Springfield at the site of the present AMTRAK station on Third Street between Washington and Jefferson Streets.

