Indiana University South Bend
History Club Special Feature

In fall of 2015, the IU South Bend History Club commemorated the 150th anniversary of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. The focal point of this semester-long effort of remembrance was a trip to Springfield, Illinois, and the surrounding area to visit monuments and museums. The trip was made possible by generous funding provided by the IU South Bend Student Government. The following pages showcase a selection of photographs that the History Club and its faculty advisor, Dr. Timothy Willig, have kindly shared with the Undergraduate Research Journal of History.

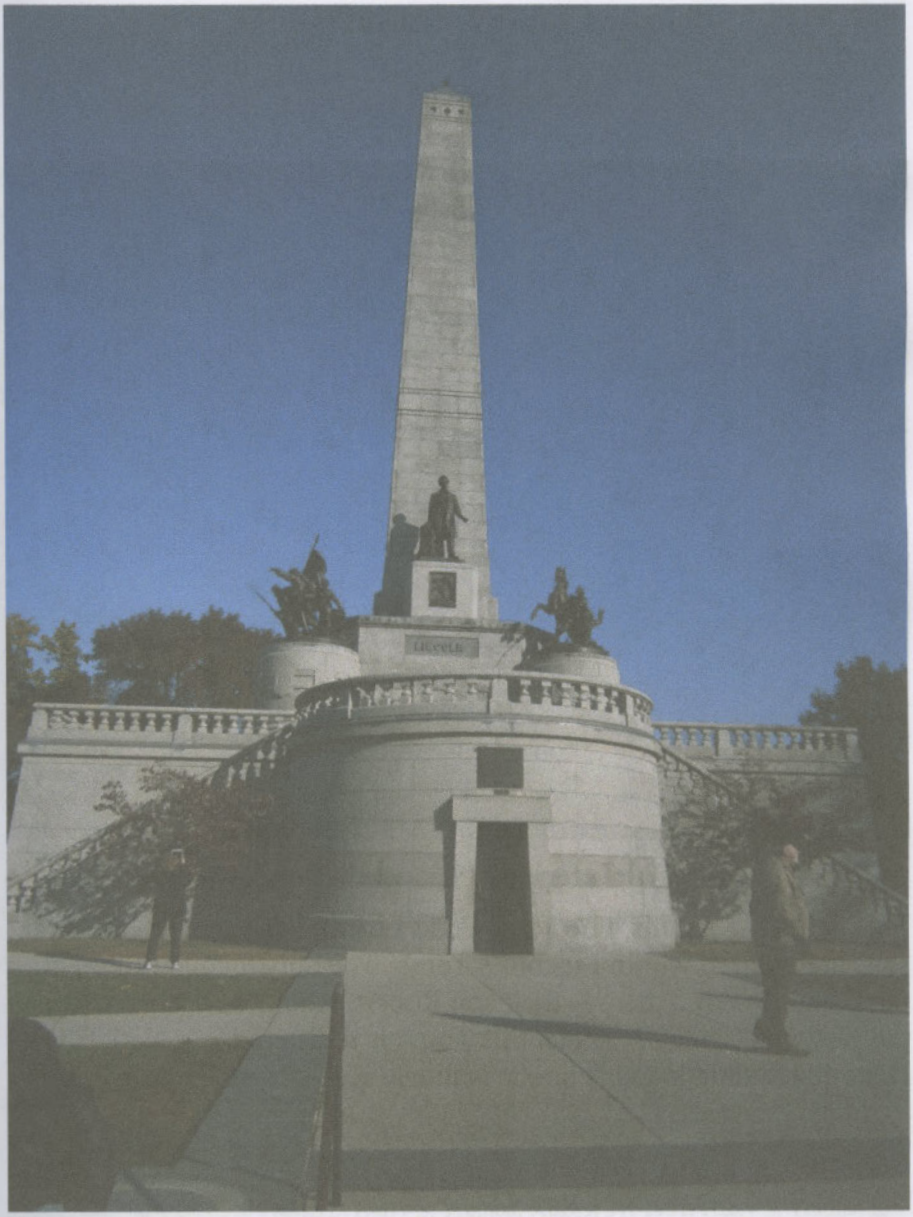
Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Springfield, Illinois

This is Abraham Lincoln's home, restored to its 1861 appearance.

The Old State Capitol

(Text from placard)

The Old State Capitol was the fifth statehouse in Illinois history. The building served as capitol from 1839 to 1876. Its cornerstone was laid during ceremonies held July 4, 1837. During the 1830s and 1840s the building dominated Springfield's square and became a center of public life. Benefit dinners and other civic affairs took place in its rooms. The legislative chambers were the scene of frequent political meetings. Cultural programs often accompanied legislative sessions, which attracted citizens from throughout Illinois to the Capitol City. Abraham Lincoln frequented the building from 1839 until he departed in 1861 to assume the presidency. As a lawyer, he often practiced before the Illinois Supreme Court. Lincoln delivered several important speeches, including the 1858 "House Divided" Address, in Representatives' Hall. The Governor's Room served as his informal headquarters during the 1860 presidential campaign. In 1865 citizens paid their last respects to the assassinated president in Representatives' Hall before burial at Oak Ridge Cemetery.



The Exterior of President Lincoln's Tomb

The Interior of Lincoln's Tomb

President Lincoln, his wife Mary Todd Lincoln, and three of their sons are interred within Lincoln's Tomb. The only member of their family not interred there is their son Robert, who is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Lincoln's Tomb is registered as a National Historic Landmark and is on the National Register of Historic Places.