Few places in Illinois played a more important role in shaping Lincoln’s political success than BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL. It was home to some of Lincoln’s closest friends and colleagues, including Jesse Fell and David Davis, and its residents became some of his most important backers in his pursuit of national office.

The LOOKING FOR LINCOLN TOUR offers you a chance to walk in Lincoln’s footsteps. See the places where he stayed, worked and visited during his time in BN.

BN also has the perfect souvenir for your Lincoln adventure. THE MCLEAN COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY is now a part of the National Park Service Passport Program, which allows visitors to record their adventures by receiving a cancellation stamp in their NPS passport at each Looking for Lincoln site that they visit. The passport can be purchased at several Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area sites. The cancellations, like those received in an international passport, record the name of the passport community and the date it was visited.

1. ASAHEL GRIDLEY BANK AND MILLER-DAVIS BUILDINGS
   101-103 North Main Street and 102-104 East Front Street
   Bloomington, 61701
   Lincoln often visited the law offices of his friend, Judge David Davis, and the bank owned by Asahel Gridley.

2. BURR HOUSE BED AND BREAKFAST
   210 East Chestnut Street
   Bloomington 61701
   309.828.7686
   The house was originally built in 1864 by Luman Burr. Luman served as Bloomington’s circuit court clerk and clerked for several of Lincoln’s noteworthy cases. The two men became friends. Today, the house has been converted to a bed and breakfast.

3. DAVID DAVIS MANSION
   1000 Monroe Drive
   Bloomington, 61701
   309.828.1084
   This 19th century, 36 room estate was the home of Judge David Davis and his family. His influence on Lincoln’s legal and political career was crucial to the president’s success.

4. ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
   200 South University Street
   Normal, 61761
   309.438.2111
   Illinois’ first public university was founded in 1857 with legal assistance from Lincoln.

5. JESSE FELL HOME
   Corner of Broadway and Irving Streets
   Normal, 61761
   Fell’s home served as a gathering place for Lincoln’s friends and allies as they planned election strategies.

6. LINCOLN’S REAL ESTATE
   Corner of Jefferson and McLean Streets
   Bloomington, 61701
   Two lots at this site were owned by Lincoln for nearly five years.

7. LINCOLN AND THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD
   916 East Grove Street
   Bloomington, 61701
   Lincoln won a case for the railroad, and was then forced to sue the company for his fee.

8. MAJOR’S HALL
   Southwest Corner of East and Front Streets
   Bloomington, 61701
   On May 29, 1856 Lincoln delivered what would later be known as the “lost speech,” so-named because only a few phrases of it appeared in print. Lincoln spoke out against the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which launched him as the leader of the Illinois Republican Party.

9. MCLEAN COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY
   200 North Main Street
   Bloomington, 61701
   309.827.0428
   The original courthouse where Lincoln practiced law burned down in 1900, but a new building was constructed on the same site. It houses over 1500 linear feet of archives.

10. THE NATIONAL HOTEL
    West Front Street
    Bloomington, 61701
    Lincoln stayed in this hotel that was owned by his friend, John Ewing, who was later elected mayor of Bloomington.

11. PIKE HOUSE
    Southeast Corner of Center and Monroe Streets
    Bloomington, 61701
    Jesse Fell invited Lincoln to the law office of his brother, Kersey Fell, to try and persuade him to write an autobiography to help promote his presidential candidacy.

12. THE PHOENIX BLOCK
    106 West Washington Street
    Bloomington, 61701
    On the evening of May 28, 1856, Lincoln spoke from the portico of the Pike House Hotel. The hotel was lost to a fire in the early 1860s.

13. ROSIE’S BAR AND GRILL
    106 East Front Street
    Bloomington, 61701
    309.827.7019
    The second floor of this present day restaurant was home to Asahel Gridley’s law practice. Lincoln worked with Gridley in his office, and when Gridley gave up his law practice he turned it over to Lincoln.

14. WILLIAM “BILLY THE BARBER” FLORVILLE
    624 North Main Street
    Bloomington, 61701
    William was Lincoln’s most well-known African-American friend. He owned several lots at this corner.