

Motion Endorsing the Creation of a “Looking for Lincoln”
Wayside Marker for Two Historic Urbana Trees

As part of the Lincoln Bicentennial celebrations the Urbana City Council endorses the creation of a new "Looking for Lincoln" Wayside Marker in Urbana to mark the site of "The Lincoln Elm Tree." The site is between 608 and 704 E. Main Street, on property once owned by Nancy [Webber] Munhall. Beneath this majestic elm tree in 1856 Abraham Lincoln spoke to a crowd of over 5,000 citizens gathered for a rally on behalf of Republican presidential candidate John Fremont. The event is recorded in several newspapers of the day, and is documented in J. O. Cunningham's *History of Champaign County*.

The Wayside Marker should also celebrate the "The Lincoln Pine Tree," located across Main Street. Abraham Lincoln is said to have replaced a small tree damaged by his carriage during a visit to the Webber home with a new sapling pine. This now ancient pine tree can still be seen growing on the property at 605 E. Main Street.

The commemoration of the sites of two historic Urbana trees is especially appropriate in view of the fact that Urbana was one of the original recipients of the Tree City, USA Award and has ever since continued to meet the standards of that program.

The Wayside Marker could be placed on city property in the parkway between the street and sidewalk at 608 East Main Street, with the permission of the property owner. Further, the city arborist is requested to investigate the possibility of planting of a new, insect-resistant variety of American Elm on this property to mark the location of the historic elm..