



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 29, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD INC. HOSTS THE TENTH ANNUAL UPPER STORY TOUR

The Tenth Annual Upper Story Tour celebrates the Lincoln Bicentennial year with a tour of beautiful historic structures and world class sites, sponsored by Downtown Springfield Incorporated (DSI) on Thursday, May 7, 2009, between 5:00 and 8:00 P.M.

"We are very excited this year to celebrate our milestone 10th year with a tour that will highlight Lincoln's neighborhood, the home of our current Governor, Pat Quinn, and architectural treasures seldom scene by the public. Our historic sites play a very crucial role in showcasing our city to millions each year," said Chuck Pell, DSI President and Event Chair. "While the Governor's Mansion and the Lincoln Home area offer tours year round to specific areas of each site, this year's Upper Story Tour will feature previously not toured venues "behind the velvet rope". In the words of Governor Pat Quinn, the Mansion "is the people's home". Keeping with the Lincoln Bicentennial theme, the tour will also include the Lincoln Family's first church – First Presbyterian Church of Springfield," Pell said.

The Upper Story Tour invites attendees to take time to look up and think beyond the ground floors passed every day on the sidewalk. "It is sometimes easy to overlook Springfield's upper stories," Pell added. "The tour allows us access to very unique historical and commercial spaces. We are grateful to all the building owners and curators who are helping us tell the story of Lincoln's Springfield."

Locations included on the 2009 Upper Story Tour are:

The Illinois Governor's Mansion - 5th & Jackson Streets
Henson Robinson House – Lincoln Home National Historic Site
DuBois House – Lincoln Home National Historic Site
Illinois State Bar Association – 424 S. 2nd Street
First Presbyterian Church – 321 S. 7th Street
413 S. 7th Street

Tickets for the Upper Story Tour are priced at \$5 for Downtown Springfield, Inc. members and \$10 for non-members and are available the day of the event beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. 6th Street and at the 413 7th Street tour location.

As in past years, the tour is scheduled during National Historic Preservation Month sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The tour gives Springfield residents the opportunity to see first hand the progress being made in

Springfield's historic downtown district. Another event to celebrate National Historic Preservation Month is the Pied Piper Downtown Architectural Walking Tour on Wednesday, May 6 at 5:30 p.m. This free tour begins in front of the Lincoln-Herdon Law Office and lasts about 1 ½ hours. Join Anthony Rubano of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency in this walking tour discussing the architectural styles, materials, and treatments that make up historic downtown Springfield. He will also talk about design successes and areas for improvement along the way. A reception will follow at The Widow at Windsor, 711 S. 5th Street. These tours will be held monthly May through October. This year's tour dates are May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2, and October 7, 2008. For more information, please call the DSI office at 544-1723 or go to downtownspringfield.org or downtownrediscover.com

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