

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SURVEYING

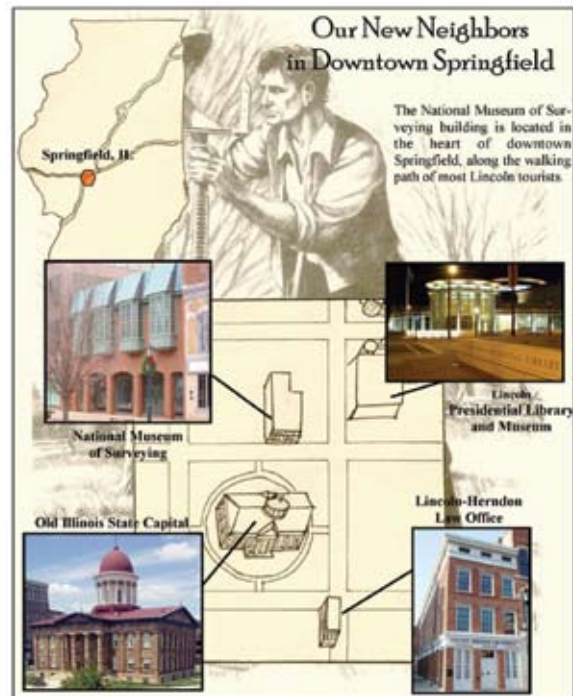
The Museum and Center are located at 2 North Old State Capitol Plaza, one block from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

Scheduled to open in 2008, the **National Museum of Surveying** will feature the stories, tools, and maps made by land surveyors for over 300 years, reshaping in the process the American landscape. The Museum aims to demonstrate how land surveying has influenced our everyday lives and feature exhibits pertaining to our three surveyor presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln's early career as Deputy Surveyor of Sangamon County, Illinois, will be highlighted. In addition to artifacts, the Museum will also have a library and archives of surveying materials.

The National Museum of Surveying will rent space to the Illinois Heritage Center, a consortium of organizations whose purpose is to encourage the research, preservation, and interpretation of American history and its relation to American landscapes. The members of the Illinois Heritage Center are the Under the Prairie Archaeological Museum, the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association, the Illinois State Historical Society, and the Sangamo Archaeological Center.

The **Under the Prairie Archaeological Museum** features the largest display of frontier-era archaeological artifacts in the Midwest. It exhibits hundreds of authentic relics of everyday life from the log cabins of the early 1800s, including artifacts from downtown Springfield and several Lincoln-related sites. Under the Prairie Archaeological Museum compliments visits to the nearby New Salem State Historic Site and other Lincoln sites.

The **Illinois State Historical Society**, established in 1899, is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering awareness, understanding, research, preservation, and recognition of Illinois history. The Society fulfills its mission through its publications (*The Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* and *Illinois Heritage*), an annual



Illinois History Symposium, the Historical Markers and Centennial Awards programs, tours, scholarships, teaching awards, and statewide advocacy.

The **Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association** is a 79-year-old, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to advance the science and art of land surveying and related fields. The Association protects the public welfare through its support of the Illinois Land Surveyors Act and Administrative Rules, resulting in the highest standards of ethical and professional work.

The **Sangamo Archaeological Center** is a private organization dedicated to the study of historic archeological sites and artifacts that fall outside of state-funded salvage programs. The Center houses one of the largest collections of pre-Civil War artifact assemblages in the Midwest, and conducts a number of research and educational programs.

National Museum of Surveying opening in Springfield

Springfield, Illinois—The National Museum of Surveying, Inc. is pleased to announce that it has purchased the historic Roberts Brothers building on the north side of Springfield’s downtown square as the future home of the National Museum of Surveying.

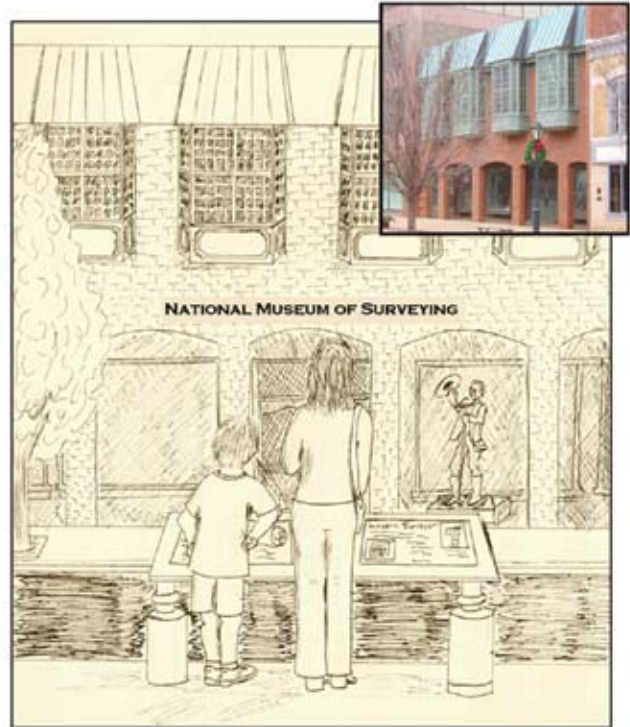
The National Museum of Surveying is scheduled to open in 2008 and will feature changing and permanent exhibits to illustrate the significant contributions land surveyors have made to our country. Many of America’s greatest heroes, including Abraham Lincoln, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, were surveyors. Lincoln’s work as a surveyor in central Illinois helped him become a state lawmaker and will be highlighted with a sculpture and several exhibits.

“Springfield and its connection to Abraham Lincoln are a perfect fit for the National Museum of Surveying, which will offer many opportunities to show how surveying led the development of our great country,” said David Lee Ingram, President of the National Museum of Surveying, Inc.

In addition, the Museum building will house several groups that will make up the Illinois Heritage Center. These groups include: the Under the Prairie Archaeological Museum and the Sangamo Archaeological Center (formerly located in Elkhart, Illinois), the Illinois State Historical Society, and the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association.

“The National Museum of Surveying and the Illinois Heritage Center will become a new tourist destination in Springfield,” said Robert E. Church, Executive Director of the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association. “In one building, visitors will be able to learn about the important role surveying has played in America, the role surveying played in Abraham Lincoln’s life, and about frontier-era Springfield and Illinois history.”

“Understanding the tradition of surveying is to understand how our culture begins to order itself across



Artist's impression of the new National Museum of Surveying.

Above: The National Museum of Surveying building in December 2006.



the landscape. The practice of historical archaeology, then, reveals the results of that occupation. The two museums will compliment each other very well,” said Robert Mazrim, owner and curator of the Under the Prairie Archaeological Museum.

“Not only will the National Museum of Surveying benefit from being located in Springfield, but Springfield will benefit as well,” Church said. “There are thousands of surveyors in the country who will be interested in coming to Springfield with their families to visit the new Museum.”

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