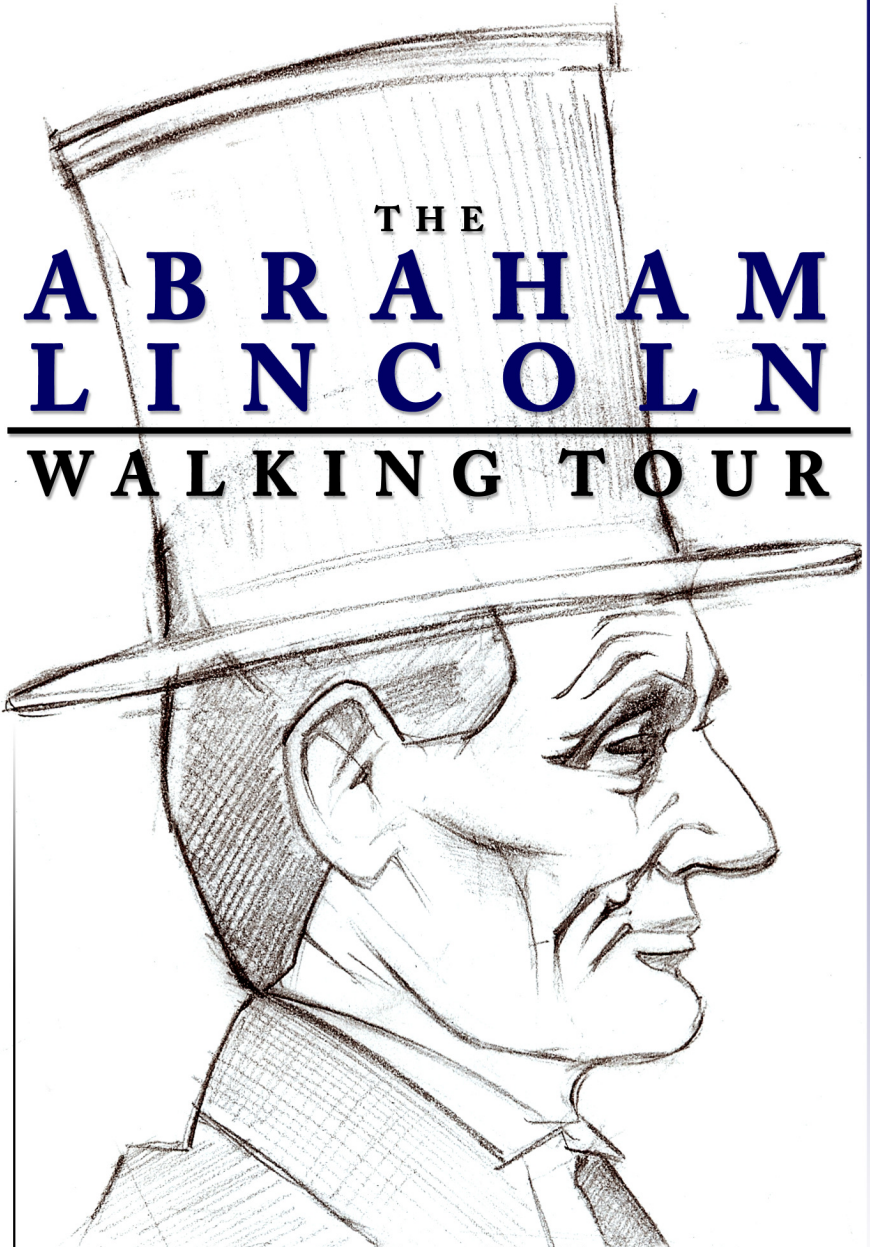


The Exeter Historical Society
PRESENTS

THE
A B R A H A M
L I N C O L N
WALKING TOUR



A tour of key sites in Exeter, New Hampshire,
relating to Abraham Lincoln's historic visit in 1860.

The **Abraham Lincoln Walking Tour** was
created by the **Exeter Historical Society**
in honor of the



**Lincoln
Sesquicentennial
Celebration**

— — — — —
March 2010
— — — — —

1860 - 2010
LINCOLN'S HISTORIC VISIT

Acknowledgments

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln visited Exeter, New Hampshire, to visit his son, Robert, and to make a few political speeches. Later that same year, Lincoln was elected as our 16th president. The Exeter Historical Society has created this Lincoln Walking Tour to put us in the steps of Lincoln.

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Infinite Imaging

Welcome to the digital age 



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the Exeter Historical Society
unless otherwise noted.



The Mission of the Exeter
Historical Society is to serve
as the steward of and
advocate for the history of
Exeter, New Hampshire.

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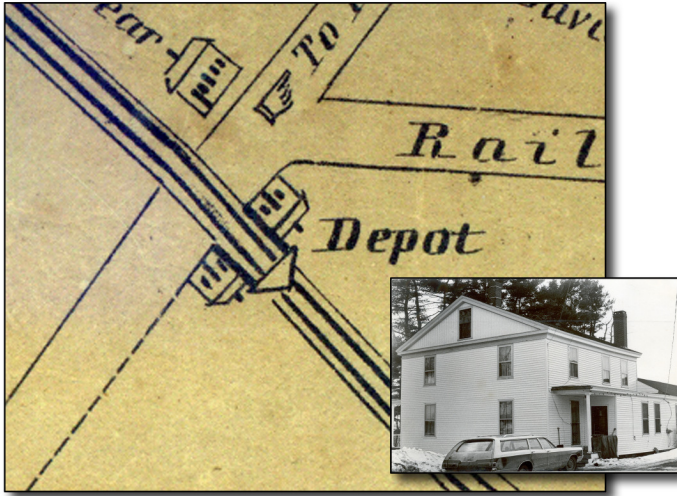
Introduction

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected as our 16th president. Most people know that Lincoln became president at a difficult time in our history - a time when the nation was in danger of breaking apart over the issue of slavery. But few people are aware that before he became a candidate for the presidency, Abraham Lincoln visited Exeter, New Hampshire. Some historians are convinced that his visit to New Hampshire was an important step on his path to the presidency.

Early in his career, Abraham Lincoln had served as a United States Representative from Illinois. There he met Amos Tuck from Exeter, New Hampshire, and they became close friends. When Lincoln was looking for a school for his son, Robert, to attend for a year before college, he decided on Phillips Exeter Academy at Tuck's suggestion.

Exeter of 1860 was just as politically active as it is today. The Republican Party can trace its origins to a series of meetings held in Exeter. Many of those Republicans thought Abraham Lincoln would be a good man for president in that time of crisis. On February 29th, two days after his triumphant speech at the Cooper Union in New York, Abraham Lincoln arrived by train at the Front Street station in Exeter to visit his son. The Republicans asked him to speak in town, and at several other places in New Hampshire. Those who heard Abraham Lincoln speak began to think of him as a presidential candidate. When the New Hampshire delegation arrived at the Republican Party Convention in Chicago, they overwhelmingly cast their votes for Abraham Lincoln on the first ballot. Fortunately for our nation, Lincoln was elected the following November. Abraham Lincoln was able to succeed in preserving the union and saving our nation, but only after leading us through a tragic war.

1. Railroad Station Site



Abraham Lincoln arrived in Exeter by train from New York and disembarked at this site. The depot straddled the tracks and the train passed through it. A section of the original building still stands on Arbor Street. The new depot was built in 1867, despite protests from the townsfolk regarding anticipated traffic problems. The street leading to the new depot was named Lincoln Street in honor of the beloved president.

Railroads revolutionized travel in the 19th century. Passenger service came to Exeter in 1840. To get to Concord, Lincoln had to travel through Lawrence, Massachusetts, and Manchester, New Hampshire. Trains ushered in the era of whistle stop campaigning. Later, the advantage of more extensive rail service played a role in the superiority of the North in fighting the Civil War. After his assassination, Lincoln's coffin traveled by rail from Washington to Illinois, memorialized by Walt Whitman's elegiac poem, *When Lilacs Last in the Door-yard Bloom'd*.

2. Amos Tuck House



Lincoln had befriended Amos Tuck during his brief career in the House of Representatives. It was likely Tuck's influence that brought Robert Todd Lincoln to Phillips Exeter Academy to study after failing the entrance exam to Harvard. After a year of preparation, Robert Lincoln was accepted into Harvard University.

Abraham Lincoln did not have a great deal of political experience prior to his election to the Presidency. A lawyer by trade, Lincoln served one term as a representative from Illinois. He subsequently lost a bid for senator to Stephen Douglas in 1858. At the time, senators were elected by state legislatures.

Although it was long believed that Abraham Lincoln stayed with Amos Tuck during his Exeter visit, Tuck later wrote to him, "I very much regretted that I was absent when you were at Exeter, and was sorry you did not call upon my family, even in my absence." It is unknown where Lincoln stayed during his trip to Exeter, but the most likely candidates are the Squamscott House on Front Street, the Granite House on Center Street or perhaps Robert Lincoln's room at Mrs. Clarke's boarding house.

3. Phillips Exeter Academy



Robert's attendance at Philips Exeter Academy prompted the trip to Exeter. Lincoln's speech at Cooper Union in New York made it financially possible.

It is a matter of debate whether Abraham Lincoln had presidential aspirations prior to his visit to Exeter. His popularity as a speaker in the cause of limiting the extension of slavery into the territories would likely attest to the idea that the notion had entered his mind. It is possible that Ichabod Goodwin had invited Lincoln to campaign in New Hampshire. The political climate in Exeter certainly made the trip serendipitous in advancing his path to candidacy. The cause of abolitionism, however, was not universally embraced by the citizens of Exeter. While slavery had long before fallen from favor in New Hampshire, abolitionists were still considered by many to be radicals.

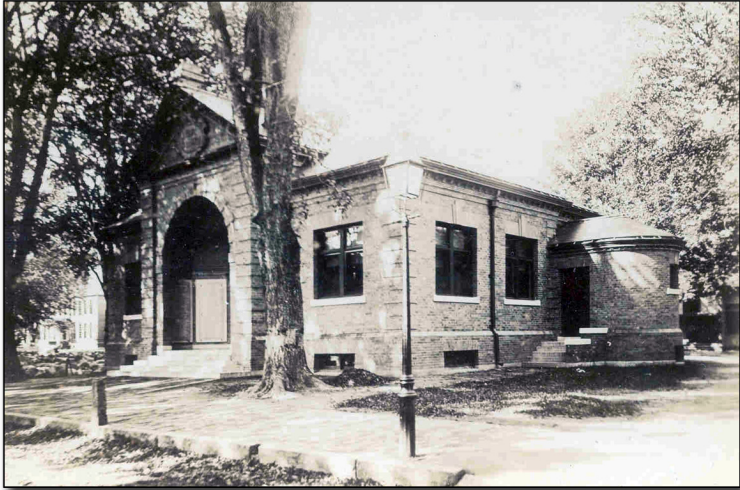
4. Site of the Second Parish Church



In 1860, the Second Parish Church stood adjacent to the Philips Exeter Academy property. Abraham Lincoln attended services here with Robert while he was in Exeter.

Abraham Lincoln was not a particularly religious man, at least in regards to attending services on a regular basis. As a student at Exeter, however, Robert was required to attend services. He had options as to which church to attend, but the Second Parish was the one most closely associated with the Academy. Lincoln did read the Bible, espoused Christian ideals, and was sworn in on a Bible, the same one that Barack Obama used for his inauguration in 2009.

5. Exeter Historical Society

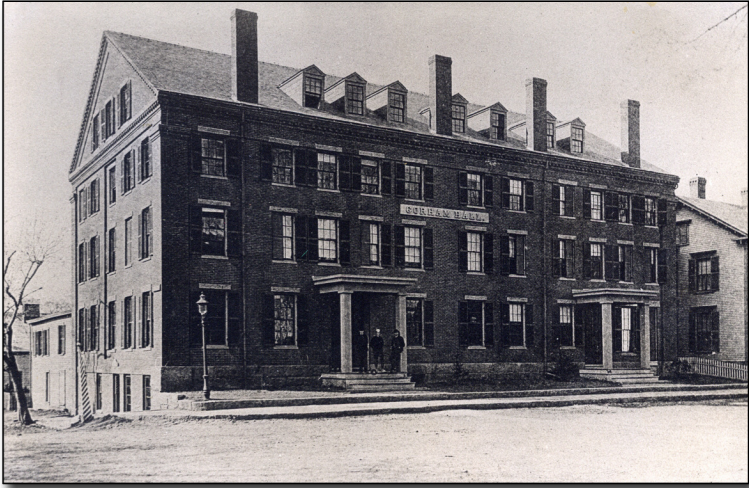


The Exeter Historical Society building, constructed in 1894, serves as a monument to Civil War soldiers who enlisted in Exeter. The building housed the town library until 1988.

Several local residents served with distinction in the Civil War including General Gilman Marston and Captain George Julian. General Marston was elected to Congress in 1859 and continued to serve during and after the war. He was wounded in the arm at the Battle of Bull Run. General Marston's wartime diary, one of the Civil War artifacts housed at the Exeter Historical Society, includes an account of Lincoln's death. Captain George Julian fought at the Battles of Fredricksburg and Petersburg.

The Exeter Historical Society strives not only to collect and preserve artifacts and documents significant to the history of our town, but also to promote an understanding and appreciation of that history among Exeter's citizens. In conjunction with that role, the Society has organized and been a proud sponsor of the 2010 Abraham Lincoln Sesquicentennial Event.

6. Squamscott House



On October 12, 1853, a group of citizens opposed to slavery, led by Amos Tuck, met at this site to organize. They named their new political association the Republican Party. It was this group that invited Abraham Lincoln to speak while he was in Exeter.

New Hampshire credits this event as the birth of the current Republican Party. Mr. Tuck has the distinction of having suggested the name. Ripon, Wisconsin and Jackson, Michigan dispute the claim, each espousing itself as the true home of the Grand Old Party.

The Squamscott House was also an inn and Lincoln may have stayed here when he visited the town. Records and ledgers from the time period were later destroyed by a fire. The Granite House, the other lodging house in Exeter at the time, was located on Center Street and no longer exists. Exeter's Post Office was situated diagonally across Court Street from the Squamscott and there are indications that Lincoln and Robert visited it to pick up mail.

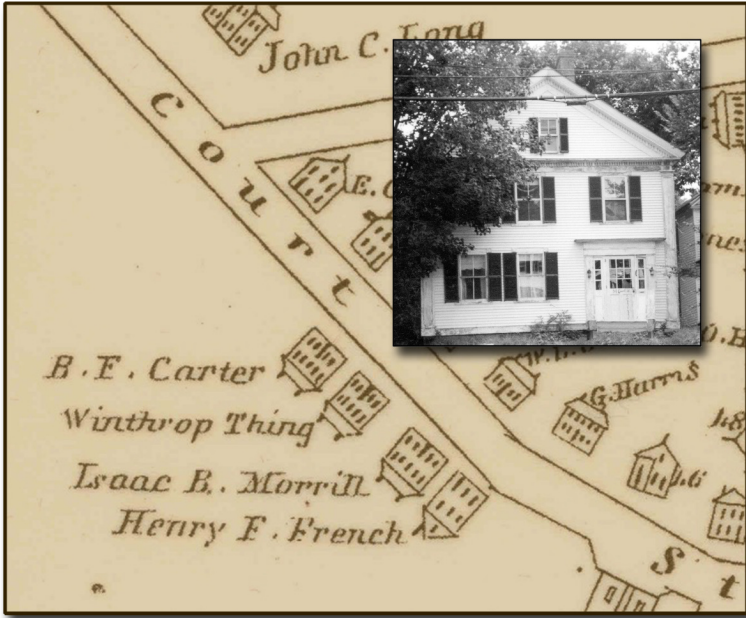
7. Exeter Congregational Church (First Parish Church)



The pew used by Abraham Lincoln was moved to this building after the Second Parish merged with the First Parish in 1920.

On February 22, 1845, a group of Democrats who had separated from their party over the issue of slavery, met in the vestry of the First Parish Church. These “Independent Democrats” nominated Amos Tuck for Congress and John P. Hale for United States Senate. The group adopted a resolution against policies that would “extend and perpetuate slavery”. Both men were subsequently elected and Hale became the sole voice against slavery in the Senate for the next two years.

8. Birthplace of Sculptor Daniel Chester French



Exeter native, Daniel Chester French, became a world renowned sculptor best known for his “Minuteman” statue in Concord, Massachusetts, and the “Seated Lincoln” that resides in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. French was born here in April of 1850. Soon after, his family moved to a newer home on Pine Street where young Dan grew up until the age of 10.

In 1860, the French family moved to Concord, Massachusetts. It is unknown whether the young sculptor crossed paths with Abraham Lincoln when he visited Exeter in March of that year. French returned to his native town in later years, sculpting the elegant World War I Memorial that stands in Gale Park on Front Street. It was dedicated on July 4, 1922.

9. Exeter Town Hall



Abraham Lincoln spoke to a packed crowd of local residents at the Exeter Town Hall on March 3, 1860. His remarks focused on the constitutional arguments for blocking the extension of slavery into the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. Although no one recorded the speech in its entirety, much of it can be reconstructed from first hand accounts - including a lengthy reporting of it in the Exeter-based newspaper, *The American Ballot* - and by referencing the speech made at Cooper Union in New York while he was on his way to Exeter.

Abraham Lincoln strongly argued that “a house divided against itself cannot stand.” He saw resolution of the slavery question as vital to the survival of the nation. He did not promise emancipation in his campaign, however. Lincoln used the analogy of a “snake in the bed with the children” to illustrate the difficulty of eliminating slavery without harming the unity of the republic.

10. Swasey Pavilion



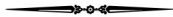
A gift to the town from Ambrose Swasey, the Pavilion (or bandstand as it is locally known) was designed by architect Henry Bacon who also designed the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Throughout his career, Bacon frequently worked in conjunction with sculptor Daniel Chester French, an Exeter native. Together they created the World War I Memorial in Gale Park on Front Street.

Although Daniel Chester French accompanied Henry Bacon on a site tour for the pavilion, the design was completed by Bacon alone. It was erected in the summer of 1916, just two years after the cornerstone for the Lincoln Memorial had been laid.

11. Folsom Block



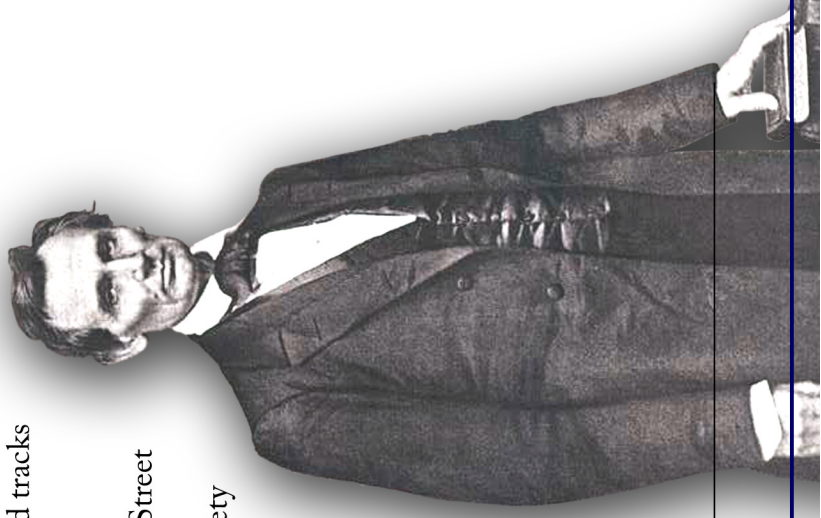
Robert Lincoln, during his time as a student at the Academy, boarded at this location and his father visited him here during his visit. Robert's friends attended his father's speech and commented on Lincoln's ungainly appearance. They were won over, however, by his rhetorical skill and personal magnetism as were so many of those who heard him speak. Robert and his friend, George Latham, traveled with Lincoln to his Concord and Manchester appearances. Lincoln also regaled the boys with stories and enjoyed listening to the banjo during his visit at the boarding house.

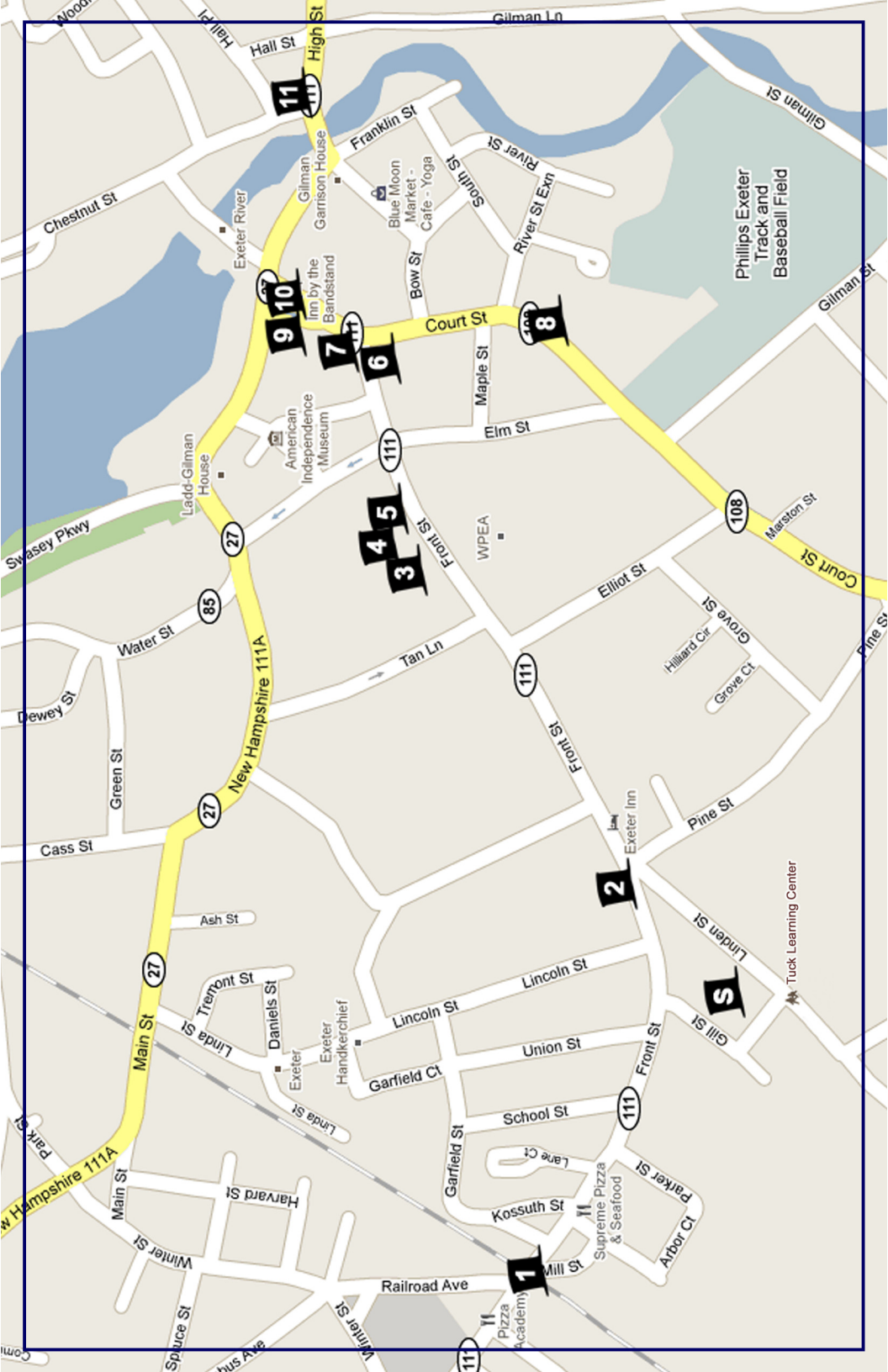


Abraham Lincoln's political ability precipitated his meteoric rise to the presidency. His goal was to preserve the union at all costs, a goal that would ultimately lead the nation into a brutal and protracted battle for survival. His leadership brought the nation through its darkest hour.

S (Starting Location). Gale Park | Near intersection of Lincoln, Front, and Gill Streets

1. **Railroad Station Site** | Where Front Street crosses the railroad tracks
2. **Amos Tuck House** | 89 Front Street
3. **Phillips Exeter Academy** | Between Tan Lane and 47 Front Street
4. **Site of the Second Parish Church** | Next to and behind Exeter Historical Society
5. **Exeter Historical Society** | 47 Front Street
6. **Squamscott House** | 24 Front Street
7. **Exeter Congregational Church** | 21 Front Street
8. **Birthplace of Daniel Chester French** | 34 Court Street
9. **Exeter Town Hall** | Front Street
10. **Swasey Pavilion** | On Front Street
11. **Folsom Block** | 9 Pleasant Street



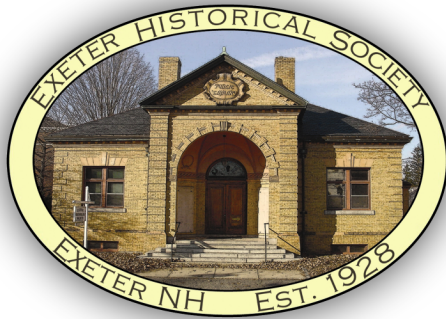


Wood
Gilman Ln
IS Gilman St
Chestnut St
Hall St
High St
Exeter River
Franklin St
River St
River St Expi
Blue Moon Market - Cafe - Yoga
Sollitt St
Bow St
Court St
Maple St
Elm St
WPEA
Ladd-Gilman House
American Independence Museum
WPAE
Front St
Tan Ln
Elliot St
Grove St
Hilliard Ctr
Grove Ct
Pine St
Cass St
Green St
Water St
Dewey St
Main St
Ash St
Tremont St
Linda St
Daniels St
Exeter Handkerchief
Lincoln St
Garfield Ct
Union St
School St
Garfield St
Lane Ct
Kossuth St
Supreme Pizza & Seafood
Parker St
Arbor Ct
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Winter St
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Winter St
Mill St
Pine St
Linden St
Gill St
Exeter Inn
Phillips Exeter Track and Baseball Field
Tuck Learning Center

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