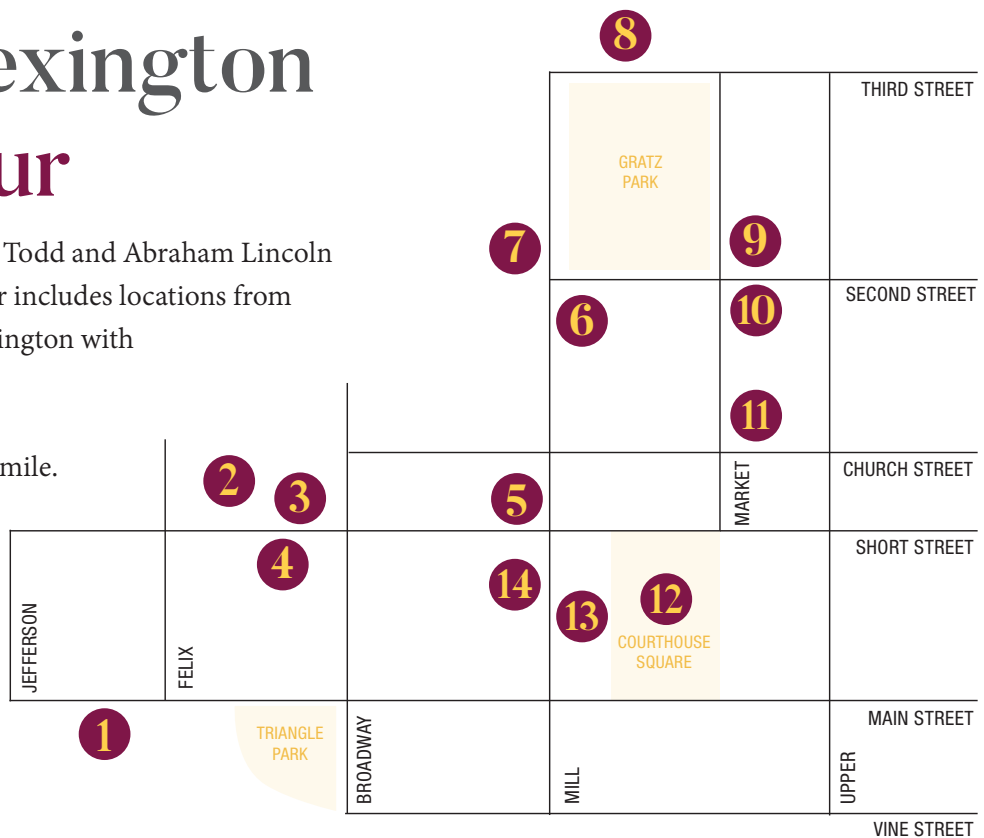


# Lincolns' Lexington Walking Tour

Discover the city of Lexington as Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln would have known it. This walking tour includes locations from Mary's youth and her later visits to Lexington with her husband, Abraham.

The walking tour is approximately one mile.



1

## MARY TODD LINCOLN HOUSE

578 West Main Street

This house was the Todd family home from 1832 to 1849. Mary Todd lived here from age thirteen to twenty-one, when she left for Springfield, Illinois, to live with a sister. There she met Abraham Lincoln and they were married in November 1842. The Lincolns stayed at this home during a three-week visit to Lexington in November 1847 and on several other occasions, including to settle the estate of Mary's father in 1849. The house opened as a museum in 1977.

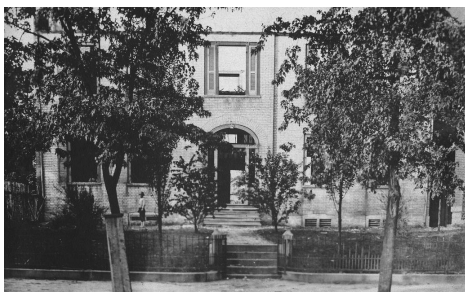


2

## PARKER PLACE

511 West Short Street

Parker Place is named after Mary Todd's maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Parker. Her husband, Robert Parker, died in 1800 and Elizabeth lived in a house on this site until her death in 1850. Mary Todd is said to have enjoyed a close relationship with her grandmother. Lincoln visited Lexington in the spring of 1850 to help settle her estate. In her will, Elizabeth freed three African Americans she had enslaved. The façade visible today was built in 1871.



3

## TODD HOUSE SITE

501 West Short Street

Mary Todd Lincoln was born on this site, December 13, 1818. In 1820, the Todd household included Robert and Eliza Parker Todd, their four children, including Mary, and three enslaved women. In 1826, Mary's mother Eliza died here. Robert and his second wife, Betsy Humphreys, moved their growing family to the house on Main Street in 1832 (stop 1). The Todds' home on this site was demolished in 1887.



4

## ROBARDS' HEADQUARTERS

514–522 West Short Street

Beginning around 1850, slave trader Lewis Robards occupied several buildings on this block. He staged sales in one building and showed enslaved women in another. The Lincolns would have been aware of these activities when they visited Mary's brother Levi, who was living across the street in the old Todd home.



5

## POST OFFICE

307 West Short Street

Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln may have sent letters from the post office in this building. Erected in 1836, the structure is Lexington's earliest surviving post office. Lexington's postmaster in 1836 was Joseph Ficklin. A young Jefferson Davis, the future president of the Confederacy, boarded at Ficklin's nearby home on High Street.



6

## HENRY CLAY'S LAW OFFICE

176 North Mill Street

Todd family friend Henry Clay used this building as a law office from about 1804 to 1810. Abraham Lincoln greatly admired the Kentuckian and once called him "my beau-ideal of a statesman." In addition to supporting the Whig political party, Henry and Abraham backed the movement to relocate free Blacks to colonies in West Africa.



7

## HOPEMONT

201 North Mill Street

Kentucky's first millionaire, John Wesley Hunt, built this house around 1814. His grandson, John Hunt Morgan, became a Confederate general who led raids into Union-held territory. After raids in 1862, Abraham Lincoln told one of his generals, "They're having a stampede in Kentucky. Please look to it." Four of Mary Lincoln's brothers served in the Confederate army. Her stepmother, Betsy Todd, was quoted as saying "I wish there were ten thousand like John Morgan."



8

## OLD MORRISON

301 West Third Street

Built around 1830, this Greek Revival building housed classrooms, the chapel, and the library of Transylvania University. Founded in 1780, Transylvania is the oldest university in Kentucky. Mary Todd's father and two brothers attended, as did the future Confederate president, Jefferson Davis. Mary attended public lectures here, but female students were not admitted until the late 1800s. Union troops used Old Morrison as a hospital during the Civil War.



9

## BODLEY-BULLOCK HOUSE

200 Market Street

Robert Todd, Mary's father, clerked in the law office of Thomas Bodley, who bought this house in 1814. In the 1830s, one of Bodley's daughters was a classmate of Mary Todd's at the Mentelle School, where they studied French, dancing, and literature. During the Civil War, Union troops used the house as their headquarters and printed their newspaper, *The Mail Bag*, here.



## 10 RIDGELY HOUSE

190 Market Street

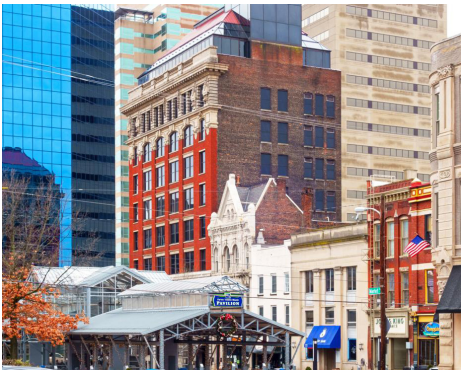
From 1827 to 1830, Mary Todd attended a school run by Episcopalian rector John Ward in this building. Built by a veteran of the American Revolution, the structure dates to 1794, making it one of the oldest in Lexington. Reverend Ward opened his school here in 1821.



## 11 McCHORD'S CHURCH SITE

180 Market Street

The Todd family attended the Second Presbyterian Church that once stood on this site. Robert Todd was a founding member of the church, which was established in 1815 and named for its first pastor, James McChord. During their 1847 visit to Lexington, the Lincolns may have attended services in a new church building that had just been dedicated on this site.



## 12 COURTHOUSE SQUARE

Short Street between Cheapside and Upper

Early in his career, Robert Todd, Mary's father, co-owned a store on this square that sold groceries, spirits, and dry goods.

Before the Civil War, the square included an auction block and a whipping post where enslaved people were punished for a variety of offenses. Abraham Lincoln may have attended court and witnessed slave sales here. Built in 1899, the stone Richardson Romanesque-style building on this site was Fayette County's fifth courthouse.



## 13 CASSIUS CLAY PRINTING OFFICE

North Mill Street between Main Street and Short Street

In 1845 Cassius Clay opened an office here to print an emancipationist newspaper. Proslavery locals dismantled the printing equipment while Cassius was ill, but he continued the publication in Cincinnati until 1846. A Todd family friend, Cassius was considered as a running mate for Lincoln in 1860. Lincoln appointed him ambassador to Russia in 1861.



## 14 GIRON'S CONFECTIONERY

125 North Mill Street

Immigrant Mathurin Giron opened a confectionery on this site after 1810, constructing this building in the 1830s. Musical programs and dances were held in the ballroom on the second floor. A Todd relative remembered young Mary Todd often bought sweets from Giron's. Mary Lincoln's white almond cake is said to be a recipe from Giron's.