

For more than 100 years, since the time when the Botsford Inn was a stagecoach stop, winter travelers have found a cheery fire in the fireplace in the lobby of the inn. (Photo by Cynthia Abatt)

Local history abounds

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into a tavern by Steven Jennings in 1811. The 18 Mile House, as it was known at the time, was the coach stop on Grand River, then a plank road built along an Indian trail to Lake Michigan and the juncture of the post road to Lansing.

The year 1860, just before the outbreak of the

Civil War, saw the inn acquired by Milton C. Botsford and it became a popular place for drivers and farmers traveling the route to the Detroit markets. What is now the entry hall of the Inn originally served as a public bar, called a tap room. It was separated from other facilities because it at-

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Start with a sound structure



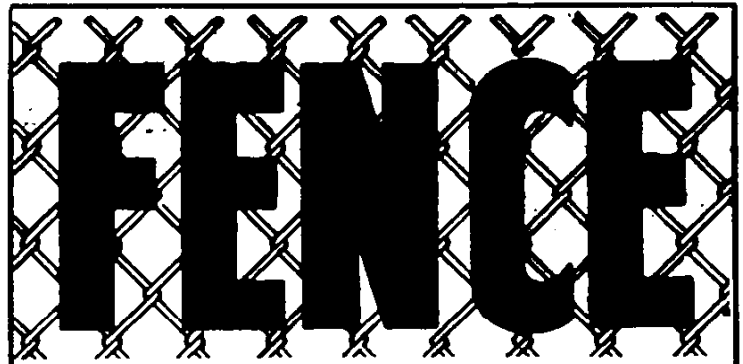
This house in Springfield, Illinois, was the only home Abraham Lincoln ever owned. Nevertheless, he equated the strength of the home with the strength of the government when he declared: "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

From here Lincoln emerged from local politics to be counted among the most memorable of presidents. In 1844, this house cost Lincoln \$1,500—a year's earnings. Still, it was considered a good buy—only five years old, with a 50x152 lot, cistern, well, privy, 30x13 foot barn, 16x20 foot carriage house and many good neighbors. To this place and the kindness of these people, he said, "I owe everything."

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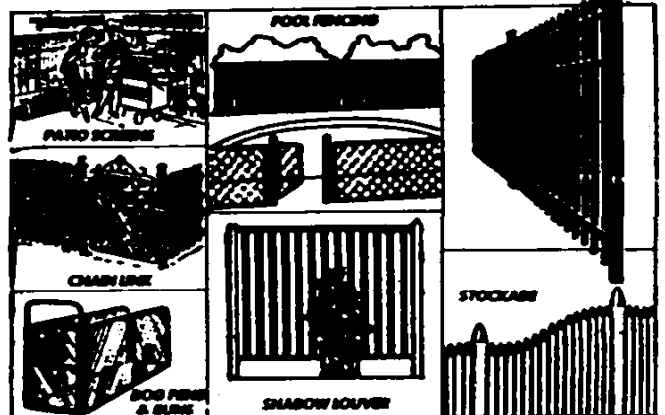
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