

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Marcia Young

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Architectural Gems* Oral History project

Interview # AG-V-L-2016-050

Marcia Young, site manager for the David Davis mansion in Bloomington from 1990 to 2014, gave a tour of the mansion on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Architectural Gems* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: October 30, 2016      Location: David Davis mansion, Bloomington, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Peter Harbison, ALPLM employee

Technical Support: Mark Suszko and Tom Craven, IIS videographers

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 1:21 / 1.35 hrs.

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The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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## Abstract

### Marcia Young, *Architectural Gems*, AG-V-L-2016-050

**Overview of Interview:** Marcia (Dildine) Young was born September 19, 1942 in Terre Haute, Indiana. Marcia began working at the David Davis mansion in Bloomington, Illinois in 1987, and served as the site manager for the mansion from 1990 to 2014 at the time of her retirement. Early in her tenure as site manager, the site was meticulously restored. During this interview, she gave a tour of the mansion and its grounds.

The David Davis Mansion State Historic Site is a beautifully restored, Victorian home, built between 1870-1872 for Judge David Davis (1815-1886) and his wife Sarah (1814-1879). The site consists of the historic Victorian style mansion and grounds of Judge David Davis, a close friend and confidant of Abraham Lincoln. After the judge's death in 1886, two succeeding generations of the Davis family lived in the house until 1960, when it was donated to the state of Illinois. The mansion's builder, Alfred H. Piquenard, was one of the Midwest's leading architects, and included among his commissions the current state capitols of Illinois and Iowa. Today, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency administers the 32-room mansion, 1870s heirloom garden, outbuildings, and remaining four acres of the original estate.

As Abraham Lincoln's colleague and political advisor, David Davis played a significant role in American history. For twenty years, Lincoln (the lawyer) and Davis (first as a lawyer and then, the elected judge) rode the Eighth Judicial Circuit together. Davis was also a businessman, an Illinois state legislator, a U.S. Supreme Court justice (appointed by Lincoln), a U.S. Senator from Illinois, and the author of *Ex parte Milligan* decision. But perhaps Davis's greatest achievement was helping Lincoln become the Republican Party's candidate for president in 1860.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** David Davis mansion in Bloomington, IL; Judge David Davis; Abraham Lincoln as a lawyer on the circuit; Alfred H. Piquenard; Sarah Davis; lawyering on the circuit in the 1840s-1850s; Illinois Historic Preservation Agency; 19th century Bloomington, Illinois;

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