

(Note for Second Presbyterian Church)

Old Second Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Ill.

During the special session of the legislature in the fall of 1839 (the first session held at Springfield), the House of Representatives occupied this church, the State House being unfinished. The House also sat here during the short special session which opened Nov. 25, 1840, and, perhaps, ~~hereafter~~ for a few days of the regular session which immediately followed. At the special session of 1840, the Whigs were interested in preventing a sine die adjournment (because they desired to protect the State Bank, which had been authorized in 1838 to suspend specie payment until "after the adjournment of the next session of the General Assembly), and to this end they sought to break the quorum. All the Whigs walked out except Lincoln and Joseph Gillespie, who were left behind to demand a roll-call when necessary. A few were brought in by the ~~Sergeant-at-Arms~~ ~~Quartermaster~~ Sergeant at Arms. Lincoln and Gillespie, perceiving that there would be a quorum if they remained, started to leave; and finding the doors locked, Lincoln raised a window and both men ~~leaped~~ jumped out; -- an incident, as Mr. Herndon says, which Lincoln "always seemed willing to forget." It was in this church, too, that Lincoln delivered an address before the Washingtonian Temperance Society, on Washington's birthday, in 1842. The church building was ^{erected} built in 1839, and stood until torn down some thirty years later to make room for a new edifice. -- J. McCan Davis.