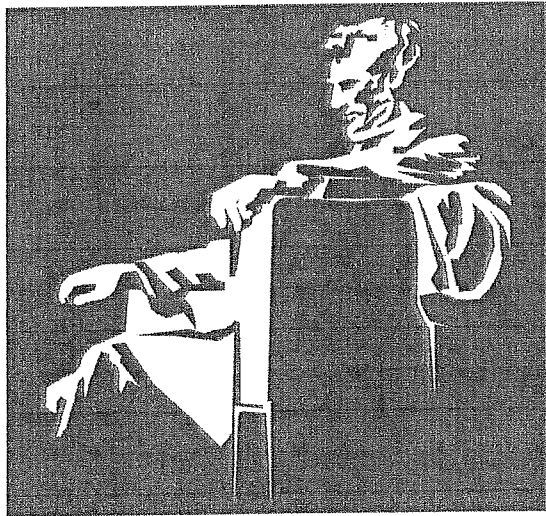


CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
HISTORIC SITES COMMISSION

L A N D M A R K I N G



A P P L I C A T I O N

231 SOUTH SIXTH STREET, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701

HISTORICAL STRUCTURE NAME: Strawbridge/Shepherd House

COMMON ADDRESS OF STRUCTURE: Shepherd Road, Springfield

LANDMARK OR DISTRICT DESIGNATION: ORDINANCE

Under Chapter 101 of the City of Springfield 1988 Municipal Code, the Historic Sites Commission is empowered with the ability to recommend to the City Council certain structures within its jurisdiction for designation as Historical Landmarks.

Section 101.10 Criteria for Landmark Designation

The Commission shall consider the following criteria in determining whether to recommend an improvement for Landmark designation:

- (a) *Significant value as part of the historical, archaeological, cultural, artistic, social, or other heritage of the Nation, State, or City;*
- (b) *Association with an important person or event in national, state, or local history;*
- (c) *Representative of the distinguishing characteristics of architectural type, period, or method of construction, or the notable work of a master builder, designer, architect, or artist, or a work that possesses high artistic value or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity although its components may lack individual distinction;*
- (d) *Any additional criteria established by the rules promulgated by the Commission.*

(Ord. No. 76-2-92, Feb. 4, 1992)

LANDMARK OR DISTRICT DESIGNATION: PROCESS

- I. Chapter 101.13 Process may be initiated by the owner or the Historic Sites Commission by no less than eight votes.
- II. If an interested third party wishes the Commission to initiate the landmarking process, a formal request to the Commission for consideration should include information comparable to #1 through #13 in the application. The Commission will notify the owner to begin process.
- III. Once the owner or the Commission initiates a request, a favorable vote of no less than eight members is required to start the designation process (101.13). The application is passed from the Commission to the Registry Committee.
- IV. The Registry Committee, upon receipt of request to landmark or designate a district, shall:
 - A. By certified mail, notify, or attempt to notify, the owner or his/her representative that a request to landmark or district has been submitted. (101.11).
 - B. Note that an application for landmarking or districting has been initiated (101.11).
 - C. Request owner's written preference- consent or oppose.
 - D. If consent given- request made to the owner or interested representative, information necessary to complete the application and a historical analysis report.
 - E. The Registry Committee is provided with copies of the application. Discussions are held with all interested parties.
- V. Upon notification to the secretary by the chairman of the Registry Committee, the secretary shall (101.14 A.1):
 - A. Schedule a full Commission meeting to review the recommendation of the Registry Committee. If it is determined that the property considered does not merit a public hearing, the secretary shall notify the owner and applicant within 30 days. The notification shall contain a formal denial and factual basis for denial.
 - B. Schedule a public hearing if the Commission finds the application merits further consideration.
 - C. Schedule a public hearing if the owner(s) or applicant(s) is/are entitled to a public hearing in spite of denial by the Commission.
- VI. Public Hearing (101.14 A.2)
 - A. The secretary shall notify, in writing, the owner as to the date, time, place and purpose of the hearing.

- B. Notification shall be made by certified mail not less than 15 days in advance of the hearing date.
- C. A notice of the public hearing describing property, setting forth date, place and purpose of the hearing shall be posted or a notice may be prominently posted on the properties.
- D. The applicant shall submit to the commission 10 days prior to the public hearing a completed application, a visual presentation of the significant improvements of the property and proposals for preservation.

VII. If the Commission recommends designation (101.14 A.2):

- A. The secretary shall inform the Mayor of the Commission's recommendation with the accompanying application and background material.
- B. The Mayor's Office shall then cause a proposed ordinance to be drafted.
- C. The proposed ordinance shall be submitted to the City Council for presentation, copies will be provided to the owner and interested parties.

VIII. Council Action

- A. Following first reading by the City Council, the proposed ordinance shall be referred to the proper Committee for consideration.
- B. On second reading, the City Council shall accept or reject the Committee recommendation.

LANDMARK OR DISTRICT DESIGNATION: INFORMATION

1. **Structure Name:**

Historic:

Common: Strawbridge/Shepherd House

2. **Common Address:** (number, street, city, state, and zip code)

Shepherd Road, Springfield, Illinois, 62707

3. **Legal Description:** (as shown on abstract or tax assessor's role)

W ½ NE ¼ EX N 1551' THEREOF & N 8 AC W ½ SE ¼ 26-15-5.

Also described as Middle third of Township 15 North, Range 5 West, Section 26 of Woodside Township.

4. **Name of Property Owner:** (as shown on tax assessor's records)

University of Illinois at Springfield

5. **Owner's Address:** (as shown on tax assessor's records)

Attention: Vice Chancellor of Administrative Affairs

Public Affairs Center Room 591

P. O. Box 19243

Springfield, IL 62794-9243

6. **Provide an Outline Map:** (delineate the boundaries and location of property proposed for designation. Use additional page if necessary.)

Map attached

7. **Photographs:** (Attach as "Exhibit A" at least two photographs identifying the two most prominent elevations of the property.)

Photos attached

8. **Classification:** (check appropriate classification)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Ownership</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Public Acquisition</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> in progress
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
<input type="checkbox"/> site			
<input type="checkbox"/> object			

<u>Accessible</u>	<u>Present Use</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant

9. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys:

Name & Type of Historical Survey, (i.e. Federal, State, County or Local)

Determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Date: May 7, 2003

Depository for Survey Records: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Springfield, Illinois

10. Description & Condition:

<u>Check One</u>		<u>Check One</u>	<u>Check One</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved/date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Summarize a description of the present and original physical appearance- if known.
(use additional page as needed)

This building complex consists of an original 1845 I-house in the Federal/Greek Revival style, with a

number of later additions. It is situated in a rural setting at the University of Illinois at Springfield, 200 feet west of its namesake Shepherd Road. The I house style is a fairly typical design of residential building of the mid 19th century, two rooms long, separated by a central stair hall, and one room deep, with gabled ends and a central entrance that symmetrically divides the front façade. The siding is clapboard. A brick chimney stands at each gable end of the roof; another emerges from an early addition in the rear.

The Greek Revival-style, recessed entrance, with side lights and transom, includes a dentilled pediment supported by a pair of simple pilasters.

Fenestration also follows classical I house design, the front or east elevation showing four windows on the first floor and five on the second, the central window situated over the front entrance. Four windows (two each on the first and second floors) open from the north façade of the I building, and two from the south. Most windows in the I house section of the complex are 6/6, others are 1/1 or 2/2; none date to the construction of the original I house, although some are thought to be more than a century old.

Additions

Four major construction phases can be discerned in the building, starting with the original erection of the house in the mid-1840's. An early, one-and-a-half story wing contemporaneous in construction with the I house, extends back from the west wall of the I house and is covered by a shed roof. It has two windows on its north side and two on the west. Two major gable-roofed adjacent additions, comprising the second and third phases of construction, extend west from the south part of the original house. From the north they appear today as one wing and match the height, length, and general design of the I house, forming an L plan. The western or more recent of these additions includes a fireplace in the first floor room, apparently used as a kitchen. A small shed with a sloping roof is attached to the west end of the L and probably served as a pantry and mudroom. The windows of these additions, some boarded, are of different sizes, some perhaps shortened when porches were added on the north and south sides in the fourth construction phase. The north porch has been removed.

Outer doors in each of the two main additions forming the east-west element of the L, open on a shed roof porch that extends westward from the west third of the original building to the end of the arm of the L extension, which is Askew from deterioration, the porch is topped by a small decorative gabled dormer and ornamented with a frieze comprised of a series of short spindles. Two other doors—now boarded--open from the north side of the western main addition and from the shed addition.

Additional facts of interest on the physical aspects of the building.

> Overall Dimensions: 40 feet south to north, by 56 feet east to west.

> Foundations: the foundation under the original structure and the second addition are of limestone, most likely from a local quarry. The remaining foundations on the third and fourth additions are Poston Springfield brick.

> Structural System, Framing: The structural system depends on hand-hewn oak logs in a braced-frame pattern with hewn and pegged joints set in a masonry wall foundation of either limestone or brick. The

roof framing is common and lacking a principal purlin, the common rafters attaching to a ridge board. The rafter trussing system is indiscernible, with elements of all three common types of joisting; the rafter trussing system was completed in the early 1970s. A queen post-like truss at the north end lacks the horizontal linkage; a king post appears on the south end, but again, the horizontal elements are missing.

> Walls: exterior walls are horizontal clapboard siding; most of the original of which having been replaced in kind.

> Porches and Stoops: originally, the entry porch had been supported by round prominent columns. That porch system was replaced by 1909 with a simple stoop underneath a pedimented recessed doorway and is currently a simple concrete slab with a wheel chair ramp attached. The pedimented recessed door may always have been present, though it is not possible to discern through use of historical photos. The later, south porch, of the Queen Anne style, covers two entrances to the house. The porch, 43 feet long and 8 feet wide, is currently clapboard sided, though pictures show that it was originally open.

> Chimneys: those in the original I house were most likely used for heating, and on the first floor, possibly for cooking. The third chimney rises from the earliest addition along the west wall of the I house and may have serviced a free-standing stove or oven.

> Roof: low pitched, side gabled on the original structure with an addition on the back in a lean-to style. The roof of the addition to the south of the original structure is front gabled. All of the roofs are covered with asphalt shingles.

The cornice line of the house is discontinuous across the gable end with a band of ornate trim and slight return. The front and back of the house incorporate a wide, divided band of trim.

Some distinctive interior historic features and notes.

> Number of rooms: 10 (6 on first floor, 4 on second), plus south porch and west shed.

> First Floor: The central hall and stairway are flanked to the north and south by large rooms, each with a fireplace at the far end. Entries off the hall have been narrowed from the original design. Another fireplace stands at the west wall of the large room at the west end of the L extension.

> Second Floor: The second floor landing in the I house accommodates a small closet like room, with two small rooms adjacent, in the 1-1/2 story addition along the west wall of the I house. Otherwise, the main rooms off the hallway duplicate the layout of the first floor, including two fireplaces.

> Stairways: Main stairway: black walnut. The railing, constructed of two finely carved pieces, curves at the upper end to reach the second floor landing. The handrail is mounted on a turned newel post either original with the building or at least fairly early.

> Flooring: Most of the existing flooring consists of oak planks, but many of these have been removed for access to electrical systems and to heating and cooling ducts.

> Wall and Ceiling Finish: The walls of the house are plaster, except for the few places where drywall fills in large doorways.

> Doorways and Doors: Of the 13 doorways in the house, the doors in the original structure—most likely original—have four panels and original hardware. Other doors are mostly late 20th century design.

> Trim and Decorative Features: except for the stairway and its distinctive newel post, no trim or other decorative features have survived in the house. Although records of the University include a memo listing trim stripped and stored elsewhere on the campus, those items have not been located.

11. **Period of Significance:** (check one)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- 1999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | | |

12. **Areas of Significance:** (check and explain)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeology-Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeology-Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/Settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/Government |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | | |

1845 construction Unknown (built for [and possibly by?] Thomas Strawbridge, Jr.
Specific Dates Builder/ Architect

13. **Statement of Significance:** (use additional pages as necessary)

The Strawbridge/Shepherd House was determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, on May 7, 2003. This designation indicates that a site meets sufficient criteria for inclusion in the National Register but that formal listing has not occurred; it is one of only a miniscule fraction of sites over 50 years of age so determined. Its significance for Springfield and Sangamon County is both historical and architectural, and both are well-documented.

Brief biographical history

Thomas Strawbridge, Jr., the first saddle maker in Springfield, Illinois, constructed the home. He was born in County Donegal, Ireland, in 1798. The Strawbridge family left Ireland for the United States in 1810 and first lived in Baltimore, Maryland. The family later moved to Pennsylvania and then Ohio before arriving in rural Sangamon County in 1823. After a career as a saddler, in 1841 Strawbridge acquired 680 acres of quality farmland from the vast estate of Thomas Iles. Strawbridge lived in the home he built on the land he farmed until his death in 1880.

Contemporary documents often refer to Strawbridge as a generous man. During the Civil War, he hauled fresh farm produce daily for free distribution to the Union soldiers training at Camp Butler, just east of Springfield. When the Union troops were replaced at the camp by Confederate prisoners of war, he continued that daily activity. Strawbridge also made significant contributions to many charities, but was especially generous with the Home for the Friendless, a refuge for widows and orphans. The organization still exists today as the Family Service Center of Sangamon County. Following his death in 1880, Strawbridge left the bulk of his fortune to the Home for the Friendless and his land to his sister (Strawbridge never married).

In 1883, Charles M. Shepherd purchased at public auction 320 acres of the former Strawbridge holdings, including the farmstead that Thomas Jr. had built. Charles, the son of Thomas C. Shepherd, owner of one of the largest farms in the area, made several additions to the original I-house. Born on a farm six miles south of Springfield, Charles attended then Illinois University in Springfield, later joined the Eleventh Missouri Infantry during the Civil War and participated in the battles for Fredericktown and Vicksburg, among others. Married in 1869 to Sarah Ford, member of a family of early settlers of Sangamon County, Charles moved with his wife and three children to the Strawbridge farm soon after he had acquired it. Eventually, the farm included 732 acres. The Shepherd family held the property until 1970, when the State of Illinois' Capital Development Board purchased the land, including the house, for the new Sangamon State University (now the University of Illinois at Springfield).

Historical Significance:

- >the oldest known standing farmhouse within the present city limits, and in a rural setting;
- >the builder and first owner of the house and its farm, Thomas Strawbridge, Jr., opened and ran the first saddle and harness shop in Springfield and the surrounding area and provided free produce from his farm to both Union soldiers and Confederate prisoners at Camp Butler.

Architectural Significance:

- >one of the city's—and the area's--oldest and best-preserved examples of a Federal/Greek Revival style I house; preserved elements include the general conformation of the original design, a typical Greek Revival entrance, five intact fireplaces, and an

original or at least early walnut staircase with a distinctive walnut newel post;

>an excellent example of the evolution of a mid-19th century farmhouse from an I-house to a complex with four major phases of construction, including the addition of a long and elaborately decorated enclosed porch.

Considering the scarcity of relatively intact pre-Civil War buildings of any type within the city limits, this remarkably well preserved example in much like its original setting, and with distinctive historic and architectural attributes, make it a prime candidate for landmark status.

14. Major Bibliographical References

Barrows, David, Physical Plant Manager, University of Illinois at Springfield, Files, including internal memoranda, 1969-2005.

Brink. Illustrated Atlas Map for Sangamon County, Illinois. 1874.

Gleason, Patrick T., "Illinois Historic Buildings Survey, Strawbridge/Shepherd House," Draft Ms. [2005].

"Illinois State Journal", June 9, 1880. Obituary of Thomas Strawbridge, Jr.

Jones, John H. "Strawbridge/Shepherd House," Archives, Brookens Library, University of Illinois at Springfield, Series 21/1/17 Box 4, Presidential Records Folder #168, 1980.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. A Field Guide to American Houses.
Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. (New York), 2000.

Plat Book of Sangamon County. Springfield: Sangamon County Abstract
County, 1914.

Portrait and Biographical Album of Sangamon County, Illinois. Chicago:
Chapman Brothers, 1891.

Power, John C. and S. A. History of Early Settlers of Sangamon County,
Illinois, "Centennial Record". Springfield: Phillips Brothers, Inc., 1970.

Property deeds, Sangamon County, Illinois State Regional Archives Depository, University of Illinois
at Springfield.

Sangamon County, Illinois. Chicago: Interstate, 1881.

Shepherd, Charles M., personal diary, 1878, Archive, University of Illinois at Springfield.

“Strawbridge Bequest Will Benefit Churches of City,” The State Journal-Register, page 36, October 8, 1967.

Wallace, W. A. Past and Present of the City of Springfield and Sangamon County, Illinois. Chicago: The S. J. Clark Publishing

15. **Form Prepared By:**

Name: Jerome Jacobson (based largely on the HABS draft report by Patrick T. Gleason, graduate student, History Department, University of Illinois at Springfield).

Title (Jacobson): Director

Phone #: 787-7302; 836-1551 (day) same (night)

Save Old Springfield October 9, 2005; re-submitted March 14, 2007
Organization Date

University of Illinois at Springfield
Property Owner Date

17. **Submission of Application:**

Mail or deliver to:

Springfield Historic Sites Commission
231 South Sixth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Attention: Ms. Terri Whitfield, Secretary, Springfield Historic Sites Commission

Questions:

Ms. Terri Whitfield, Secretary, Springfield Historic Sites Commission
(217) 789-2377 ext. 476
twhitfield@cwlp.com

[Maps and](#)

[Directions](#)

[Printable Map](#)

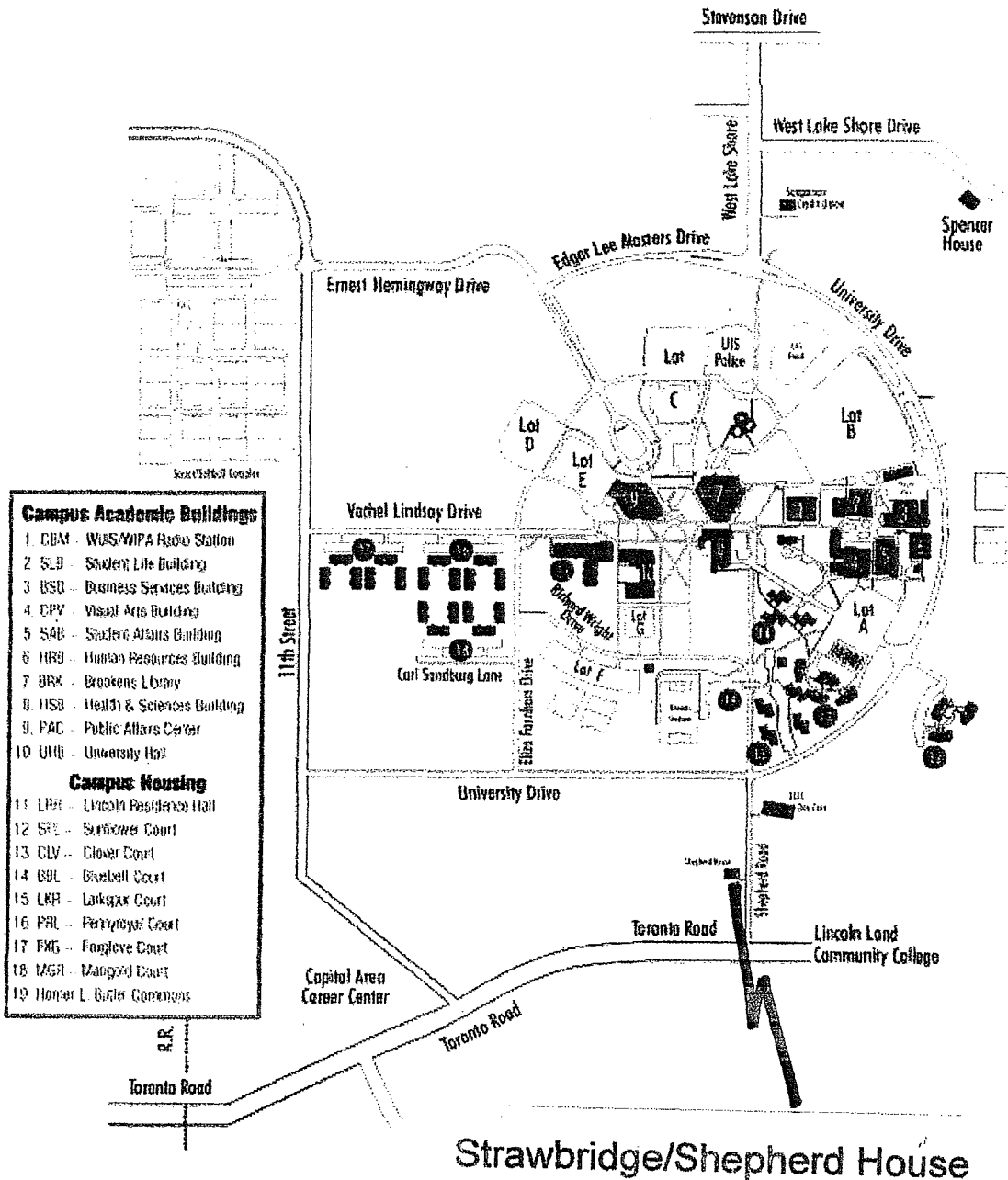
[\(pdf\)](#)

[Campus](#)

[Buildings](#)

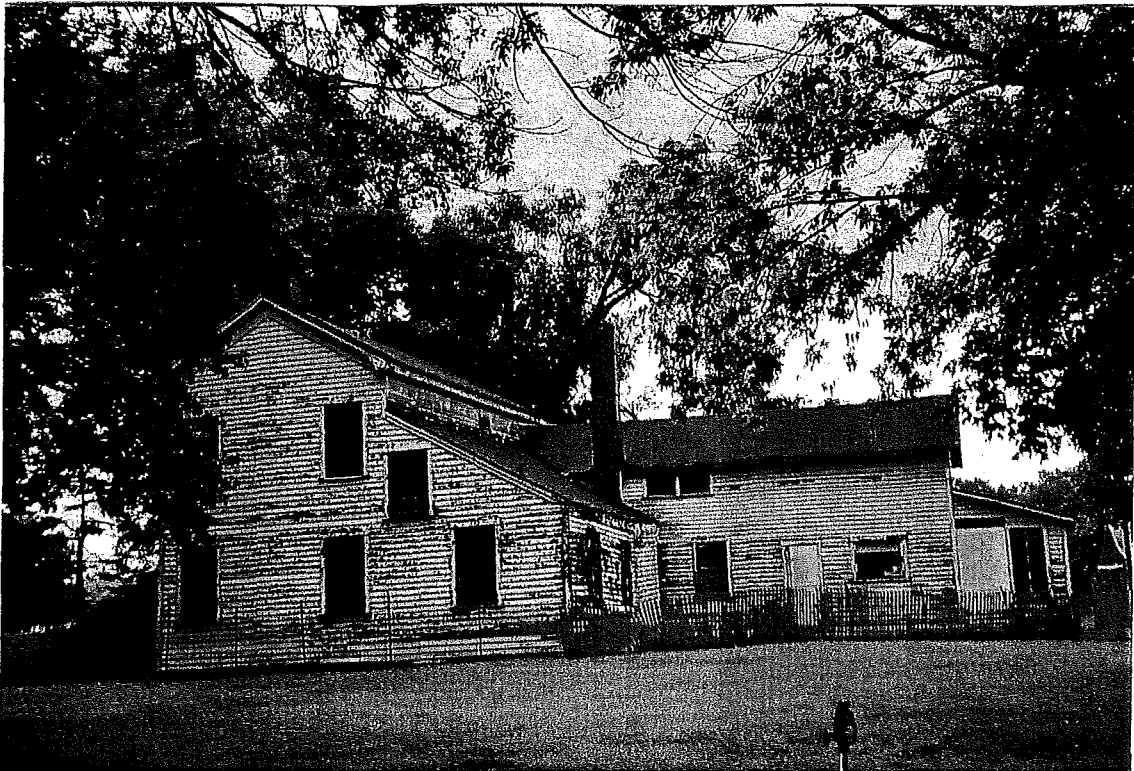
[Phone Directory](#)

Map of the UIS Campus

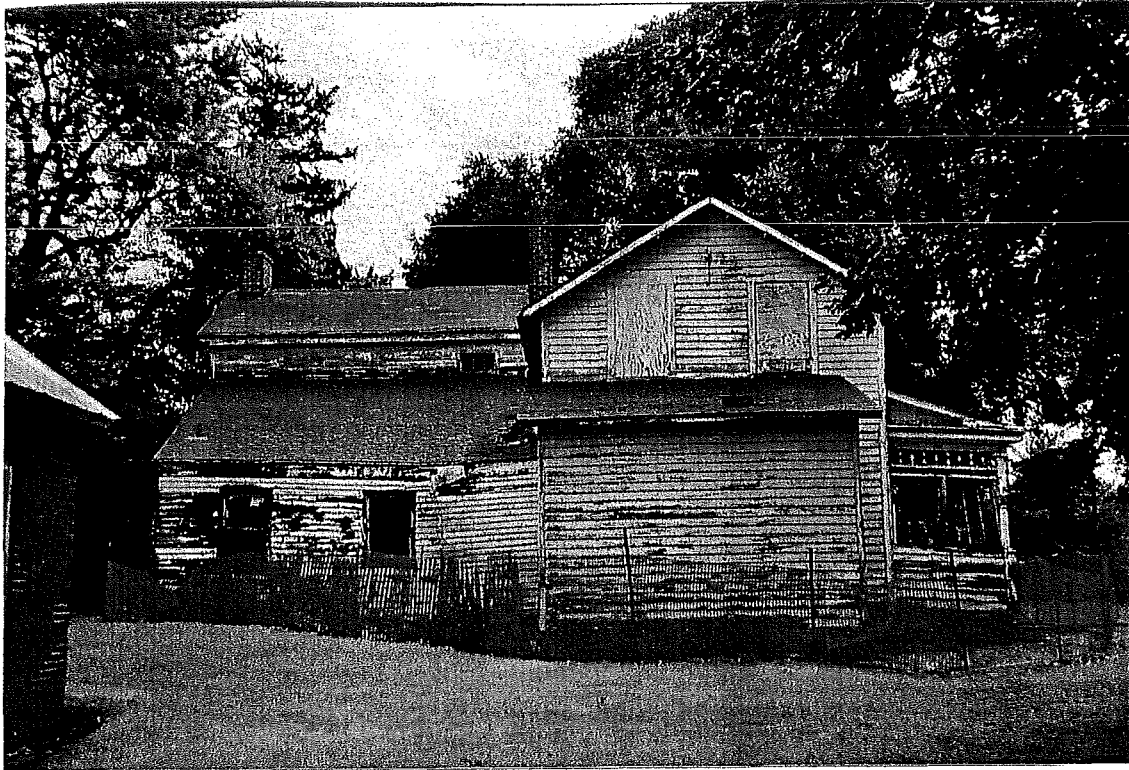




Strawbridge/Shepherd House: front (east) façade



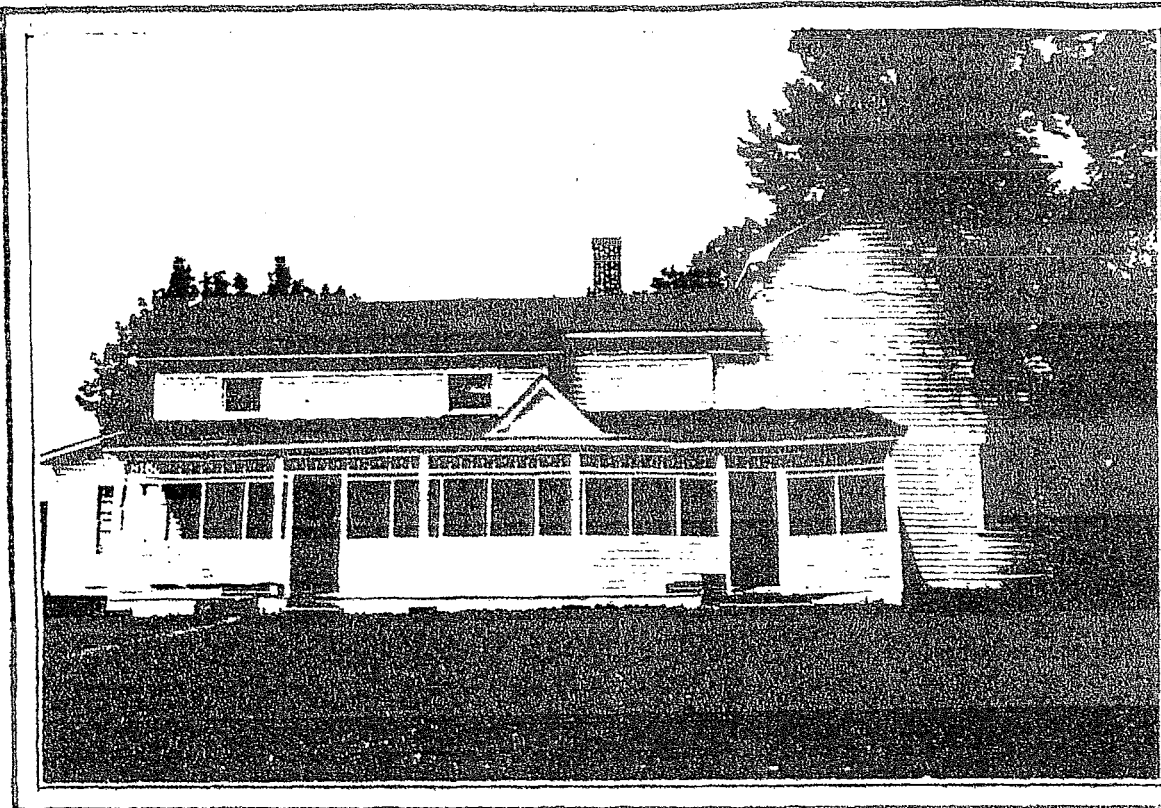
View toward south



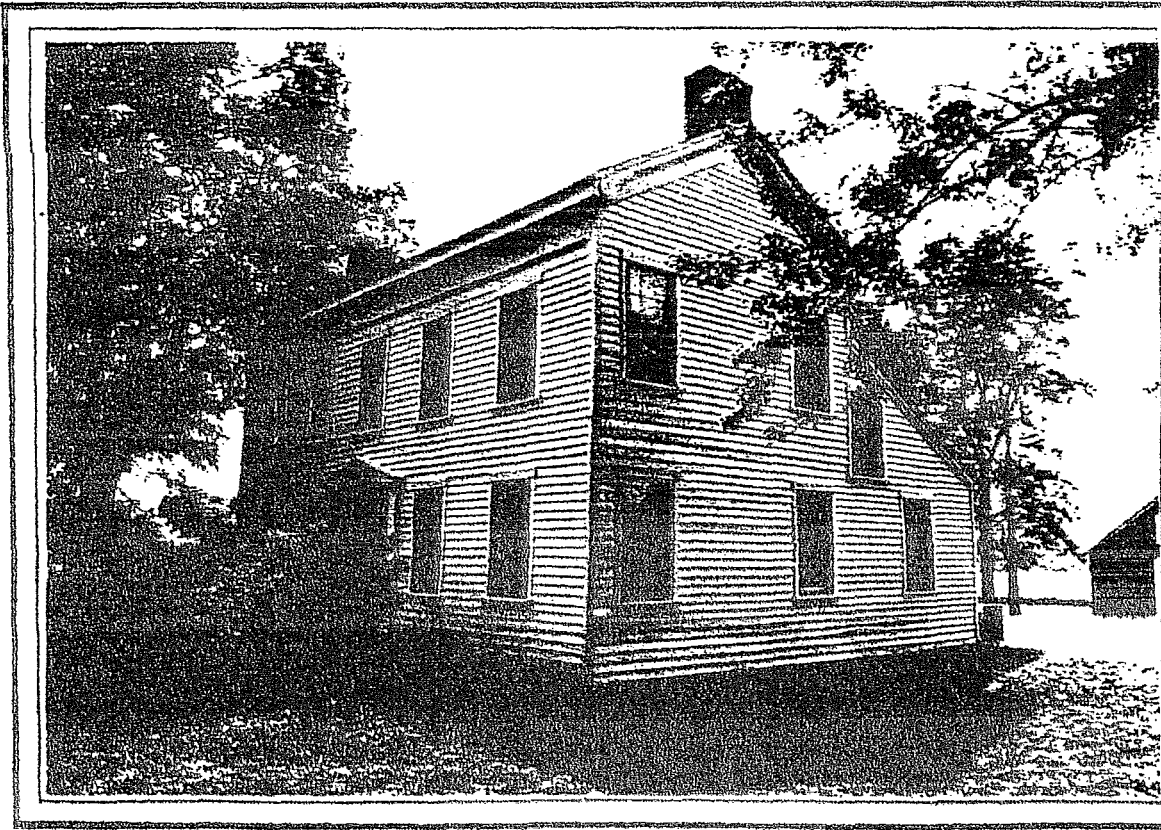
Strawbridge/Shepherd House: view toward east



View toward north

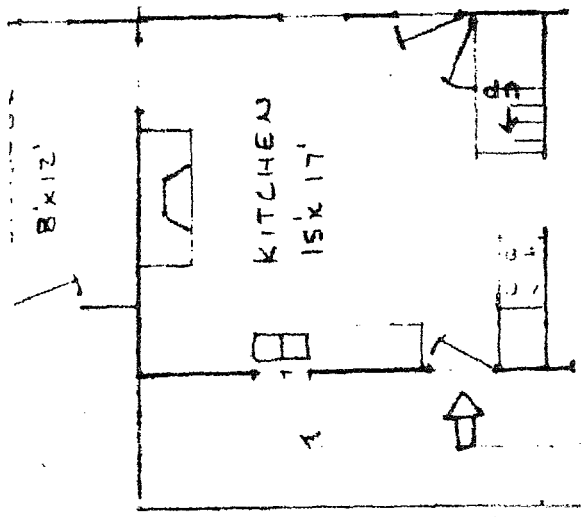


DATE: 8/01/90
 LOCATION: South Elevation
 COMMENTS: Upper and Lower Roof Structures Have Noticeable Sag



DATE: 8/22/90
 LOCATION: East and North Elevation
 COMMENTS: North Wall Bulging Out Slightly on East Corner of Porch Window

1990 photos: compare with 2005 (color) photos to view partial result of neglect



Floor plan, first floor, showing present plan
(after 1970 drawing)

NORTH

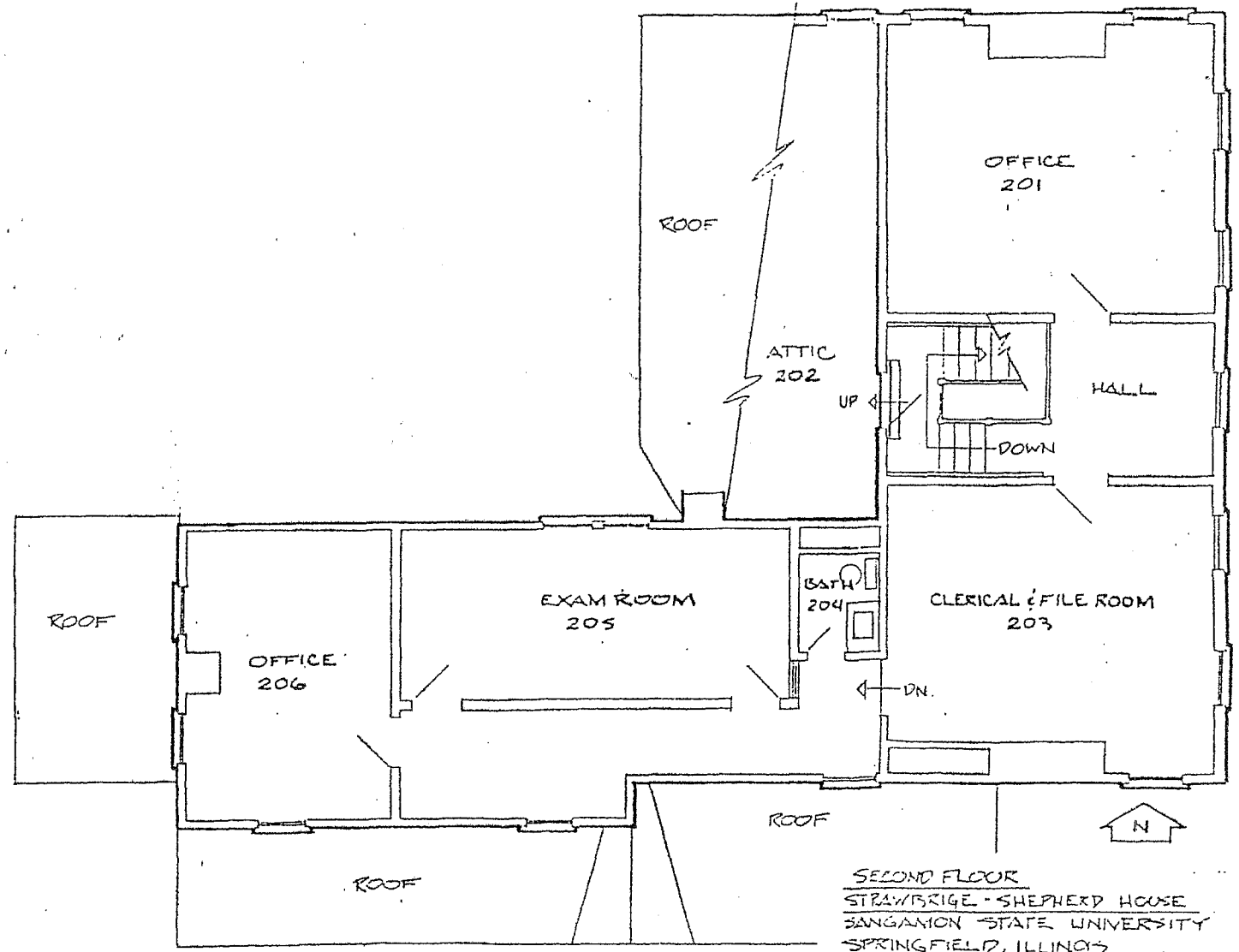
16,690' FIRST FLOOR

SHEPHERD HOUSE
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"
SANGAMON STATE UNIVERSITY

1970

ALLIED DESIGN CONSULTANTS, INC.
405½ South Sixth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701
(217) 522-3355

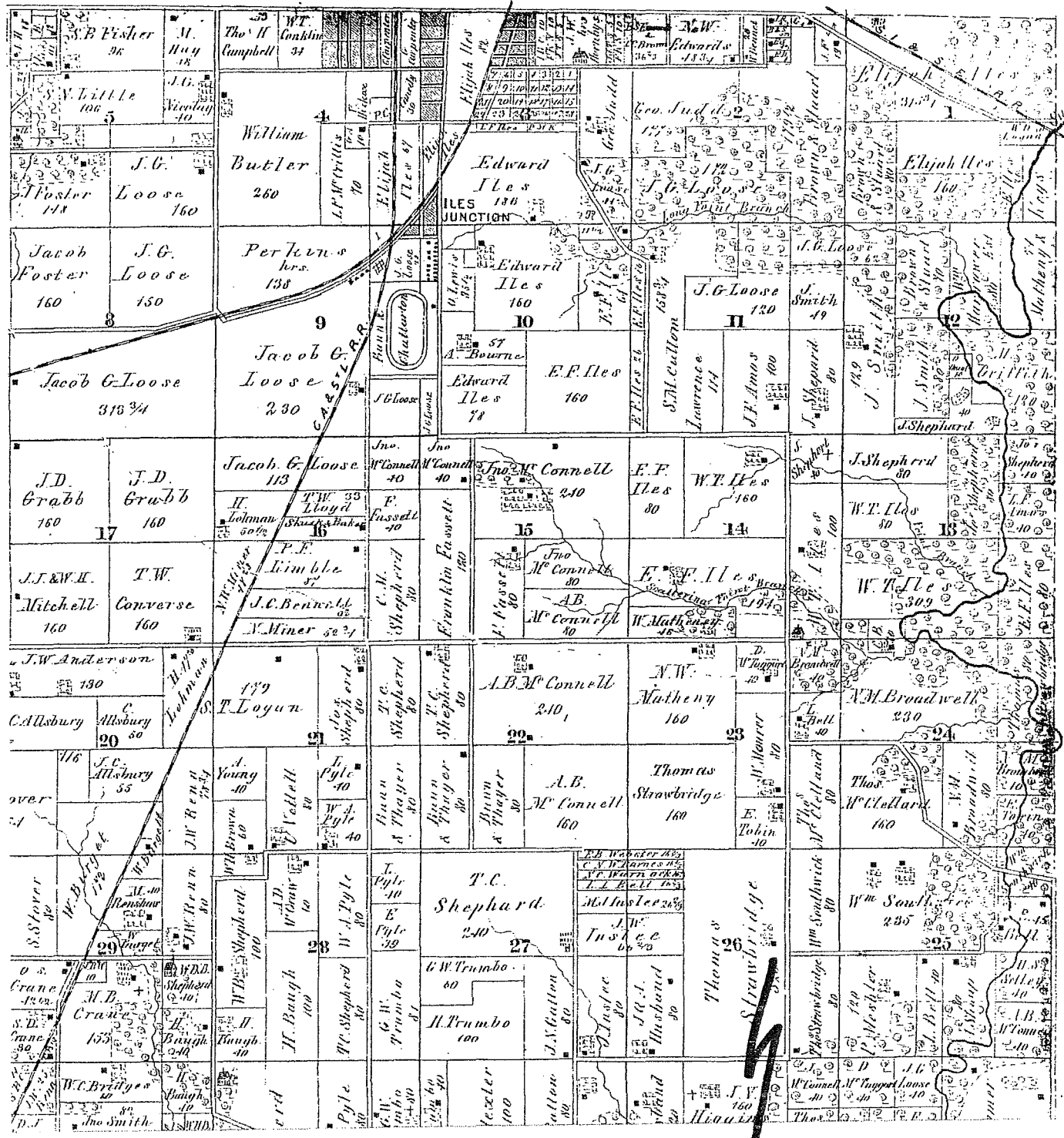
PROJECT: SSU - Strawbridge/
Shepherd House
JOB #: 9017
PAGE #: 1



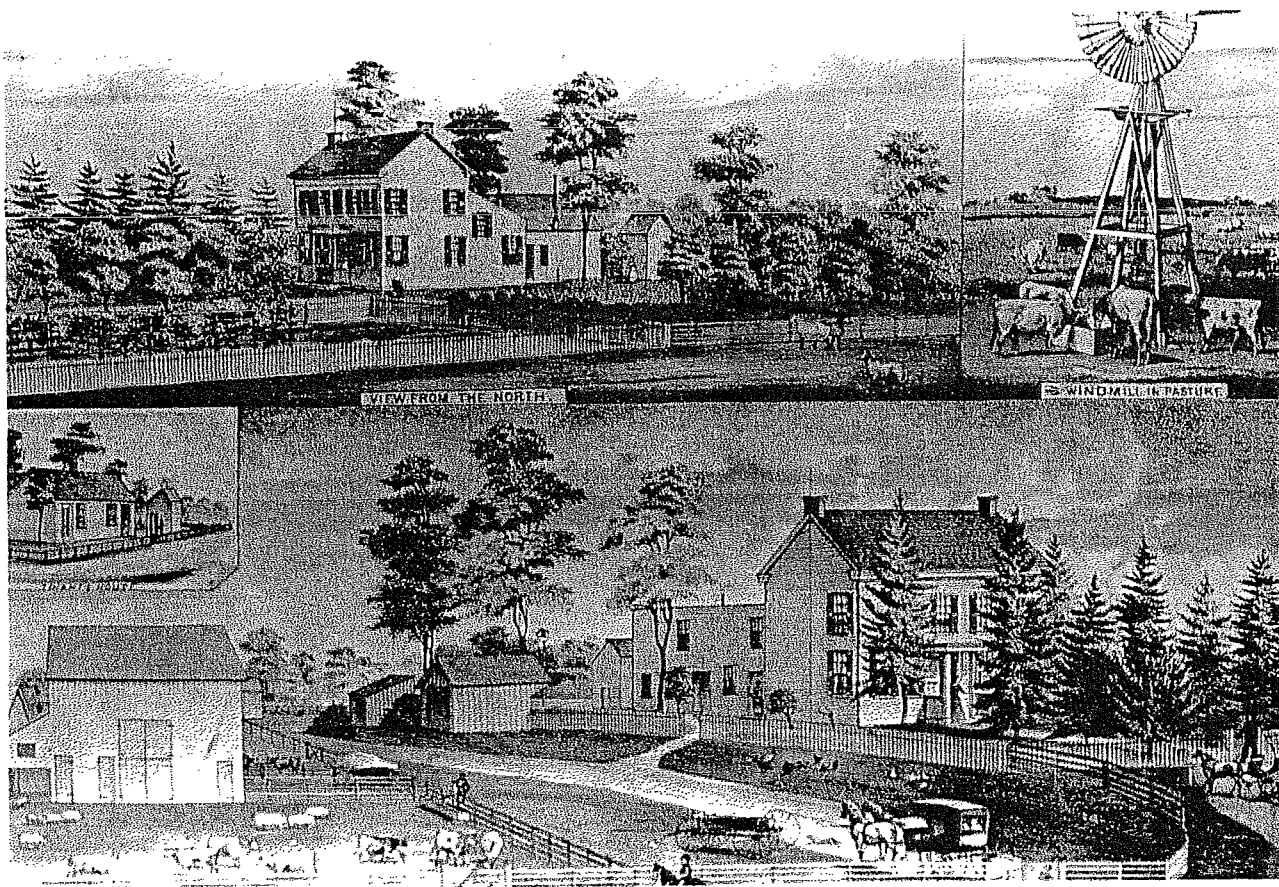
Floor plan, second floor, from 1990 drawing,
showing main outlines of present plan
(a few interior details may not reflect present layout)

MAP OF WOODSIDE TOWNSHIP

TOWN 15 NORTH, RANGE 5 WEST 3RD P.M.



Thomas Strawbridge farmstead location shown in 1874 Illustrated Atlas Map of Sangamon County



Drawings of Thomas Strawbridge farmstead,
from 1874 Illustrated Atlas Map of Sangamon County