

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 27 1979  
DATE ENTERED JAN 3 1980

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME** Larchmound *name change per state request 1.24.80ce*

HISTORIC Robert Ridgway House Home

AND/OR COMMON Larchmound

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 1030 S. Morgan Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Olney VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Illinois CODE 012 COUNTY Richland CODE 159

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. Tom Rice

STREET & NUMBER 1030 S. Morgan Street

CITY, TOWN Olney VICINITY OF STATE Illinois

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Richland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Olney STATE Illinois

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey

DATE July 1974 FEDERAL  STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Illinois Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN Springfield STATE Illinois

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Larchmound, the Robert Ridgway home at 1030 S. Morgan Street, sits on ca. 1 acre of thickly planted land. The structure, although suggestive of the Gothic Revival style, with its steeply pitched gables, defies stylistic typing.

Completed in 1866, the original structure is a one and a half story residence constructed of brick laid in a common bond pattern. The roof consists of four large gable ends arranged in a cruciform manner. The south gable end is approximately five feet longer than the other three and has a dormer on the west side. An ornamental iron railing surmounts a porch on the north facade. Above the porch is a set of double doors each with a round arched glass inset above a panel. The first floor has a three sided bay on the west side and a three sided rectangular bay on the east side. The west bay has an iron railing similar to that on the north porch.

Two additions to the south end of the structure have been made. Both additions were constructed by any one of three generations of the Rowland family, who lived in the house from 1866-1909. The first addition is of brick laid in the modern common bond method. The gable roof, which has a dormer on the west side, continues the peak of the south gable end but has a steeper pitch. A small porch on the west side was probably constructed at the same time. The porch was enclosed in the late 1930's or early 1940's. The second addition is clapboard and forms two gable ends. On the first story this addition forms a porch the width of the addition.

Interior alterations are, for the most part, insignificant and reversible. One such alteration includes the bricking in of two fireplaces.

Exterior alterations to the structure include the enclosure of the west porch and the construction sometime in the late 1930's or early 1940's of stairs on the west side of the house, since made less obtrusive.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1913-1929

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Larchmound is the only remaining structure in Illinois associated with the productive years of Robert Ridgway, authority in the fields of botanical and ornithological research (as well as author and artist) and the only structure in Olney that appears in the Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey with greater than local significance.

Ridgway's bibliography of published works include over 500 books and papers, 27 of which he wrote during his years at Larchmound. "His most pretentious work, which is probably the most ambitious undertaking in American systematic ornithology, was 'The Birds of North and Middle America'. This catalogue which includes technical descriptions of every form of bird known from the northern section of the Western Hemisphere, with complete synonymies, . . . and measurements, consumed most of his official time from 1894 until his death. . ."<sup>1</sup> Three volumes of this eleven volume series were written during the years Ridgway lived at Larchmound -- Vol. 6 (1914), Vol. 7 (1916), and Vol. 8 (1919). ". . . when the eighth part of 'Birds of North and Middle America' appeared, his publication were the standard reference works on North American birds."<sup>2</sup> (It should be noted that of the last three volumes of the series volumes 9 and 10 were written by Dr. Herbert Friedman, Ridgway's successor as curator of birds at the Smithsonian, with Ridgway's notes. Volume 11 was written solely by Friedman.) In addition to his own works, Ridgway's name is perpetuated in the literature of science by a genus (23 species and 9 subspecies) bearing his name.

Ridgway, who worked with the Smithsonian Institution from 1867-1917, remained an active consultant in research for the Institute until his death in 1929. Prior to his retirement Ridgway purchased an 8 acre tract of land, later expanded to 96 acres, just north of Olney. The property was largely covered in 1970 by an artificial lake. On this property, 'Bird Haven', Ridgway built a three room cottage, since destroyed, as his retirement home. After two summers at 'Bird Haven' Ridgway, realizing it impractical to remain at 'Bird Haven' permanently, purchased Larchmound and the 8.69 acres on which the house stood (the land acreage has since been reduced to ca. 1 acre).

Larchmound, Ridgway's home from 1913 until his death, provided his base for personal and professional research. He chose Olney as his place of retirement in order to prove his idea that the territory surrounding Olney was so located in respect to climatic and soil conditions that

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See continuation sheet

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY LESS THAN ONE ACRE OLNEY QUADRANGLE

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 406000 1286020  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Shaela C. Dunne and Erik Robinson

ORGANIZATION

Illinois Department of Conservation

DATE

8/1/79

STREET & NUMBER

405 E. Washington Street

TELEPHONE

(217) 785-0271

CITY OR TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Dail Kenney*

TITLE

*Director, Ill. Dept. of Conservation*

DATE

*10/5/79*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Carol D. Shull*

DATE

*1-3-80*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*William H. Brinson*

DATE

*12-80*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

plants and trees native to either frigid, torrid, or temperate zones would thrive.

From Larchmound, Ridgway administered his research at 'Bird Haven' where there was growing naturally, sixty-four species and varieties of native trees. During his research at 'Bird Haven' Ridgway planted approximately 300 species and varieties of trees, shrubs and plants native to Illinois as well as numerous exotics. "In the nursery, awaiting transportation to 'Bird Haven' are more than 200 additional species."<sup>3</sup>. "'Records of Trees, Shrubs, Vines, and Other plants planted on Larchmound' as kept by Dr. Ridgway lists approximately 500 plantings."<sup>4</sup>. The hundreds of plantings at 'Bird Haven' and at Larchmound afford excellent cover and food for all kinds of birds. Larchmound, at one time, provided nesting sites for approximately 35 species of birds in the summer and approximately 42 species of birds in the winter. The ca. 1 acre which remain of the original 8.69 acres at Larchmound are being nominated because of the extent to which original plantings remain and because of the number and variety of species of birds these plantings continue to provide nesting sites for.

FOOTNOTES

1. Gehser, Paul H. "A Hundred Years of the Smithsonian." Nature Magazine. (Aug. - Sept., 1946).
2. Doan, Jan, ed. Foot-Prints, Past and Present, Richland County Illinois Geneological Society. Vol. 2, (no date).
3. Hansen, Marlin W. "Colorful Story of Robert Ridgway Told." Olney Daily Mail. (Dec. 21, 1927).
4. Gillespie, Charles Coulston. Dictionary of Scientific Biography. Vol. 9. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, (no date).

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Olney, Illinois. Interview, July 25, 1979.

Doan, Jan, ed. Foot-Prints, Past and Present, Richland County  
Illinois Genealogical Society. Vol. 2, (no date).

Gillespie, Charles Coulston. Dictionary of Scientific Biography.  
Vol. 9. N.Y.: Charles Scribner's Sons, (no date).

Marquis - Who's Who Inc. Who Was Who in America, 1897-1942. Vol. 1.  
N. Y.: Marquis - Who's Who Inc., 1968.

Davenport, J. Garvin. "Robert Ridgeway, Illinois Naturalist."  
Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society. Springfield:  
Illinois State Historical Society, vol. 63, no. 3 (Autumn,  
1970).

Dowell, Lela Campbell. "Robert Ridgeway, A Memory of Excellence."  
Illinois Magazine. Dan Malkovich, Publisher, (Oct. 1966).

Gehser, Paul H. "A Hundred Years of the Smithsonian." Nature  
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Hansen, Marlin W. "Colorful Story of Robert Ridgeway Told."  
Olney Daily Mail. (Dec. 21, 1927).

Harris, Harry. "Robert Ridgeway: with a Bibliography of his  
Published Writings and Fifty Illustrations." The Condor,  
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Beginning at an iron pipe located 151.85 feet South of the Southeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, Section Three (3), Township Three (3) North, Range Ten (10) East of the Third Principal Meridian, City of Olney, Richland County, Illinois, thence bearing North  $4^{\circ}05'$  W a distance of 100 feet to the place of beginning, thence North  $4^{\circ}05'$  W, 213.17 feet, thence South  $84^{\circ}39'$  W, 189.09 feet, thence due South 80 feet on a line parallel with the East line of South Morgan Street in said City of Olney, Illinois, thence in a Southwesterly direction to a point 150 feet East of the East line of said Morgan Street, thence West 30 feet, thence South  $4^{\circ}05'$  E, a distance of 95 feet, thence South  $84^{\circ}39'$  E, a distance of 359.09 feet to the place of beginning, being a part of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section Three (3), Township Three (3), North, Range Ten (10) East of the Third Principal Meridian.

80001406

Property Larchmount  
Ridgway Robert House  
State Ill-Richland Working Number 11-27-79 2814

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 6  
Maps 1

*Please send copy to handbooks*

**HISTORIAN**

*detachment home of Robert Ridgway -  
Allmerity in botanical + ornithological  
research - nominated for national  
significance.*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*accept  
Braham  
1-2-80*

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*accept  
Braham  
1-2-80*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_ Send-back \_\_\_\_\_ Entered JAN 3 1980  
Federal Register Entry 2-3-81 Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

**INSERT  
PHOTOS**



*Ridway, Robert House*

Larchmound

1030 S. Morgan St.

Olney, Illinois, *Richland County*

Shaela C. Dunne

June 1979

Illinois Department of Conservation

South (view of North facade)

Photograph number 1 *96*

NOV 27 1979

*COE*  
JAN 3 1980



*Ridgway, Robert House*

Larchmount

1030 S. Morgan St.

Olney, Illinois, *Richland County*

Shaela C. Dunne

June 1979

Illinois Department of Conservation

West (view of East facade)

Photograph number 2 *of 6*

JAN 3 <sup>PIE</sup> 1980

NOV 27 1979



*Ridway, Robert, House*

Larchmound

1030 S. Morgan St.

Olney, Illinois, *Richland County*

Shaela C. Dunne

June 1979

Illinois Department of Conservation

West (view of East facade)

Photograph number 346

JAN 3 <sup>DOE</sup> 1980

NOV 27 1979



Ridway, Robert House  
Richland County, Illinois

Larchmound

1030 S. Morgan St.

Olney, Illinois

Shaela C. Dunne

June 1979

Illinois Department of Conservation

East (view of West facade)

Photograph number 4 <sup>76</sup>

JAN 3 1980  
NOV 27 1979



*Ridgway, Robert House*

Larchmound

1030 S. Morgan St.

Olney, Illinois, *Rushland County*

Shaela C. Dunne

June 1979

Illinois Department of Conservation

East (view of West facade)

Photograph number 5 *96*

JAN 3 <sup>*POE*</sup> 1980

NOV 27 1979



*Ridgway, Robert House*

Larchmound

1030 S. Morgan St.

Olney, Illinois, *Richland County*

Shaela C. Dunne

June 1979

Illinois Department of Conservation

East (view of West facade)

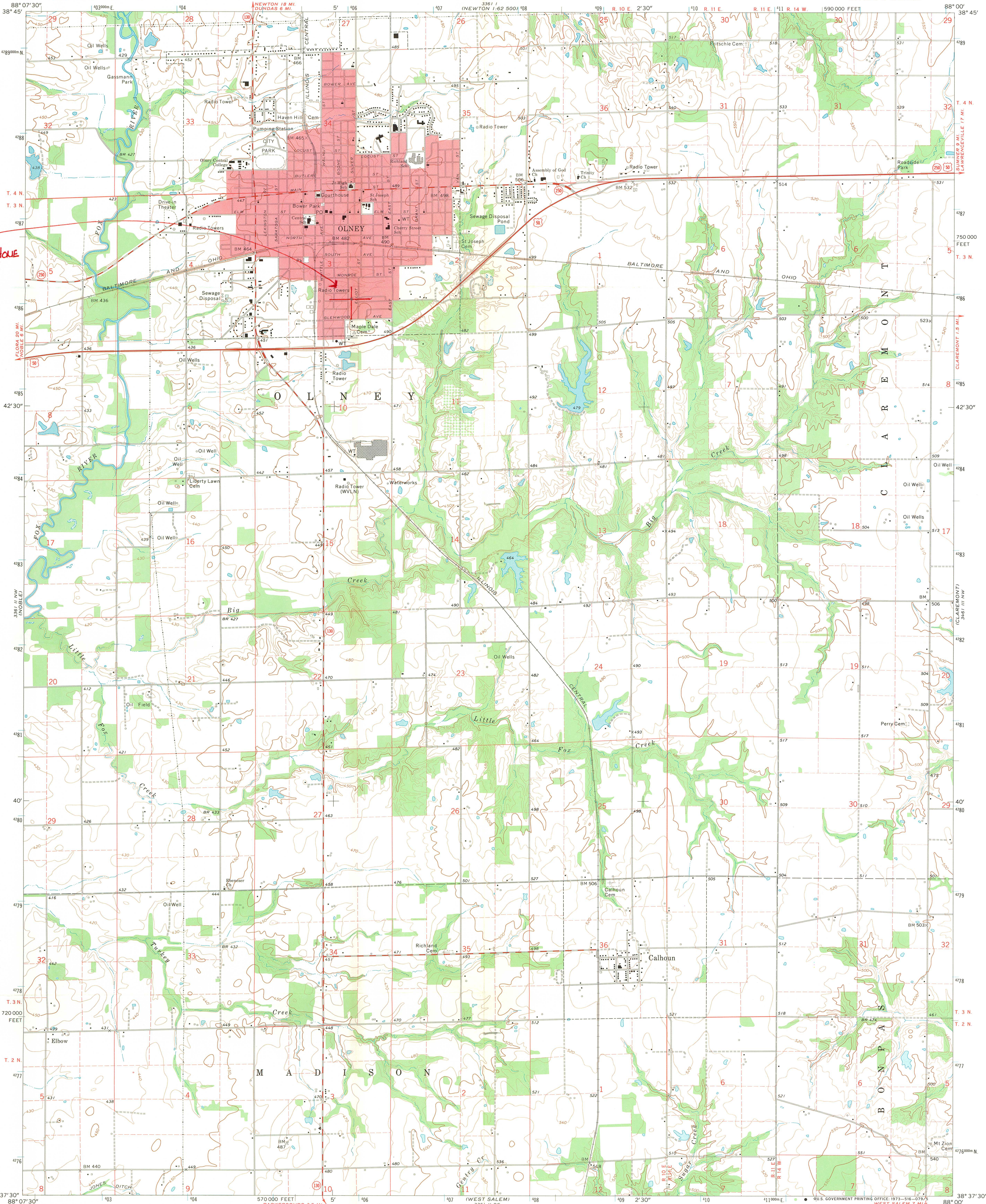
Photograph number 6 *46*

*DOE*  
JAN 3 1980

NOV 27 1979

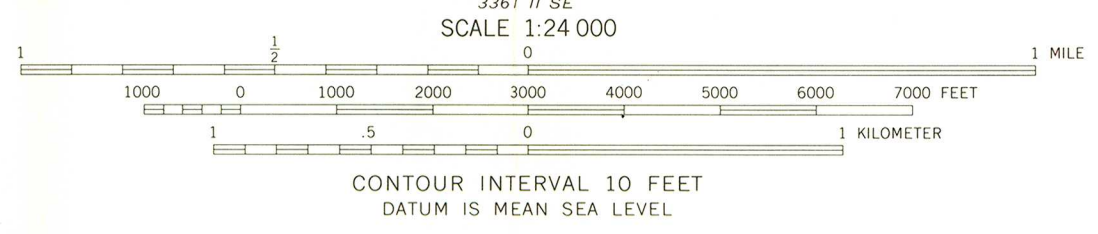
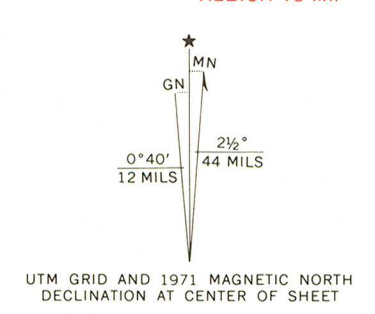
NEWTON 18 MI.  
DUNDAS 6 MI.

3 1/2 MI. SW  
(LAWRENCEVILLE 17 MI.)



ROBERT RIDGWAY HOUE  
"LARCHMOUND"  
Z 16  
E 106 000  
N 1 286 020

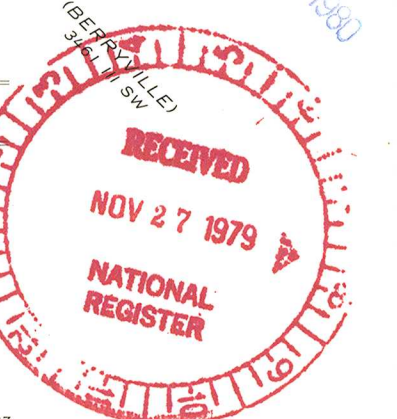
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1970. Field checked 1971  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Illinois coordinate system, east zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 16, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

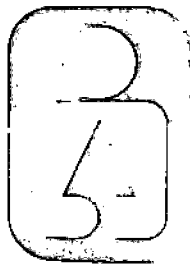
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



OLNEY, ILL.  
NE 1/4 OLNEY 15' QUADRANGLE  
N 3837.5—W 8800/7.5

JAN 3 1980

Illinois



Department of Conservation  
life and land together

605 WM. G. STRATTON BUILDING • 400 SOUTH SPRING STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706  
CHICAGO OFFICE — ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601  
David Kenney, Director • James C. Helfrich, Assistant Director

November 20, 1979

NOV 27 1979

Mr. Charles Herrington  
Acting Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation & Recreation  
Service  
440 G Street  
Washington, D. C. 20243

Dear Mr. Herrington:

Enclosed please find National Register nomination forms for Paxton First Schoolhouse (Paxton), Robert Ridgway Home (Olney), and East Rockford Historic District (East Rockford).

Thank you for your kind attention to these forms.

Sincerely,

Shaela C. Dunne  
National Register Assistant

SCD/js

Enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered JAN 3 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Ridgway, Robert, House	Olney Richland County

Also Notified

Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson

Honorable Charles H. Percy  
Honorable Daniel B. Crane

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Dr. David Kenney  
Director, Department of Conservation  
602 State Office Building  
400 South Spring Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

NR Byers/bjr 1/11/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202) 343-6401.