

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUL 13 1983

DATE ENTERED

**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**

HISTORIC

Cortland Condit House

AND/OR COMMON

Condit House Memorial Library

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

N/A OFF IL 29

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Putnam

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

15th

STATE

Illinois

CODE

012

COUNTY

Putnam

CODE

155

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

N/A

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Senachwine Township

STREET & NUMBER

N/A

CITY, TOWN

Putnam

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Putnam County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

N/A

CITY, TOWN

Hennepin

STATE

Illinois

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Illinois Rural Survey

DATE

9-30-82

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED
- DATE N/A

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cortland House, built 1849-50, is constructed of local orange common brick and native lumber. The raised one-and-a-half story structure has Greek Revival overtones. A simple entablature and cornice returns can be found under the eaves of the building. Rectangular in shape, it is surmounted by a gently pitched wood shingle roof. Dual internal brick chimneys located in the gable ends of the structure help to convey a sense of orderliness and symmetry. The western two chimneys were never functional but provided balance to the overall building. Fenestration throughout the building consists of six over six windows. Federal style influence can be seen in the size and arrangement of these windows. The main floor has larger windows than those located in the upper half story. Smaller windows are also located in the lower half of the structure allowing a great deal of light to penetrate this subterranean level. Masonry arches are located above the entrance, with three windows on the western side of the building. Elsewhere, dentils and sills are constructed of wood. There are also two recessed false center windows for aesthetic balance only, on the main floor in the north and south ends.

The main floor has two principal entrances. The first is on the east side, where a wooden staircase leads to a small portico covering this door. The portico is supported by square columns accented with simple gingerbread. The other entrance is in the rear, or west, side of the house. A masonry arch highlights this doorway. The lower level had three sunken outside entrances, but the north and west entrances have been bricked over. The remaining south entrance leads into a large room that was used as a kitchen and eating area until the turn of the century, when these living activities were moved to the main level. A large fireplace still exists in this room. On the main level are five rooms (see diagram). The two east rooms (sitting room and parlor) both have fireplaces. All the fireplaces in the house have masonry arches, brick hearths, and pine mantels. There are simple columns or pilasters on either side of the hearth. Large pine doubled doors lead into the parlor from the sitting room. The parlor side of these doors is painted in imitation grain. The three small rooms on the west side were used as bedrooms. The center room has a stairway leading to a loft area. Hand-hewn walnut beams and collar beams support the roof and are readily visible. A small room divides the attic. This is not original, having been added at a later time. As restoration continues, this room will be removed and the loft returned to its original state.

Alterations to the exterior of the building have been few. As was previously mentioned, two lower level entrances, the north and west, have been bricked over. Around the turn of the century, a new floor was laid in the sitting room, which covered an open stairway leading to the large cooking room in the lower level. A new stairway leading to both the basement and loft was then located in the center back bedroom. In the early 1960's, this room also had a small section partitioned for the installation of a bathroom. All alterations are minor, and the unique architectural character of the house remains very much intact.

# 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input 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 1849-50 BUILDER/ARCHITECT UNKNOWN

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cortland Condit House (1849-50) is significant for its unusual architecture and for its associative significance to the settlement of Putnam County.

The Rural Sites Survey conducted in 1982-83 has identified this raised, one-a-half-story Greek Revival structure as the only one of its kind in the four county area, which includes Putnam, Marshall, Stark, and Bureau Counties. This information, coupled with the Illinois Department of Conservation's survey of 1973 for Putnam County, has helped to distinguish the Cortland Condit House as the oldest surviving brick building in Senachwine Township. Additional significance relates to the settlement of this area. Cortland Condit donated and surveyed a section of his land for the establishment of a town. Lots were sold and the Town of Condit was founded. In 1882 the Town's name was changed to Putnam and has remained ever since. Cortland Condit (1802-1870) was one of two children born to Samuel Condit. The family lived along the Hudson River in New York State. In time, Cortland moved away from home and became a merchant who sold groceries at the corner of Broom and Bowery Streets in New York City. This business failed, however, and in 1834 Cortland Condit traveled out to Madison County, Illinois. He returned to New York in 1835. He, along with his wife, Mary L. Ten Eych Condit, and their family then returned back to Madison County. They remained there for a year before finally moving to Putnam County in the autumn of 1836. In 1849-50, the present brick farmhouse was erected. The couple pursued farming until their deaths; Cortland - August 3, 1870 and Mary - October 12, 1886. A grandson, Caleb Condit (1856-1945) retained possession of the home until Mrs. Elsie Condit Miles of Omaha, Nebraska inherited it from her father, Caleb. In 1972, Mrs. Miles graciously donated the house and remaining lot to the people of Senachwine Township to be used for "... the library and/or a historic site." Today, the home is the key historical focal point for Senachwine Township and the Village of Putnam, as well as being the only existing structure of its kind in Putnam, Bureau, Marshall, and Stark Counties.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ellsworth, Spencer Records of the Olden Time; Home Journal Steam Printing Establishment, Lacon, IL, 1880. pp. 266-267; page 637.

Ford, Henry A. The History of Putnam and Marshall Counties; Gazette Office, Lacon, IL, 1860. p. 96 reference to Senachwine. No mention of Condit.

Putnam County Courthouse records.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

QUADRANGLE NAME PUTNAM

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 219.9 03.0 4.5 6.1 14.6 0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                       
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                     

D                     

E                     

F                     

G                     

H                     

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 19 Township 14 Range 10 east of the Fourth Prime Meridian in the County of Putnam of the State of Illinois

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u>IL</u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Jane Downey & James R. Schimmer

James Schimmer - North Central Illinois Council of Governments 4-15-83

ORGANIZATION

DATE

P.O. Box 206 - 400 North Main Street

815/875-3396

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Princeton

Illinois 61356

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

*David K...*

TITLE

*Director*

DATE

6/22/83

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Delores Z...*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the  
 National Register

DATE

9/16/83

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

10

Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

A tract of land located in the Southeast Quarter of Section 19, Township 14 North, Range 10 East of the 4th P.M. described as follows: From the southeast corner of said Section 19 running west 1334 feet, running north 693 feet, running thence North 32 40' West 540 feet, running south 24 05' West 7 feet, running North 32 40' West 360 feet, to the place of beginning; From the place of beginning running thence South 58 58' West 210 feet, running North 40 38' West 101 feet, running North 57 20' East 224 feet to the center of the road, running thence South 32 40' East 101 feet along the center of the road to the place of beginning, containing .50 acres, more or less.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Condit, Cortland, House  
Putnam County  
ILLINOIS

Working No. JUL 13 1983  
Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Due: 8/11/83 - 8/27/83  
Action: ACCEPT  
RETURN 8/11/83  
REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Condition</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> excellent<br><input type="checkbox"/> good<br><input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated<br><input type="checkbox"/> ruins<br><input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | <b>Check one</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> unaltered<br><input type="checkbox"/> altered | <b>Check one</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> original site<br><input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
|--|---|--|---|

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance *(in one paragraph)*

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification

*Please provide boundaries location within the section mentioned in VBO, like a lot parcel, lot number or measure boundary describing outline of nominated property.*

**11. Form Prepared By**

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed *Obelous Byers* Date *8/11/83* Phone: *202-343-9553*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Condit, Cortland, House  
Putnam County  
ILLINOIS

Working No. 7/13/83  
Fed. Reg. Date: 9.7.84  
Date Due: 10/29/83  
Action:  ACCEPT 9/16/83  
 RETURN  
National Register REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

---

**8. Significance**

Period      Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates                      Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

---

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

---

Verbal boundary description and justification

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title                      date

---

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet*



1. Cortland Condit House

2. Putnam, IL

3. photo by Jane Downey

4. January 1983

5. negative with photographer

6. view of east (front) facade

7. #1 of 4

7/7/87

1849-50



1. Cortland Condit House
2. Putnam, IL
3. photo by Jane Downey
4. January 1983
5. negative with photographer
6. view looking northwest
7. #2 of 4

1849-50

7/17/83



1. Cortland Condit House

2. Putnam, IL.

3. photo by Jane Downey

4. January 1983

5. negative with photographer

6. view looking southwest

7. #3 of 4

7/13/83

Cortland House 1849-50



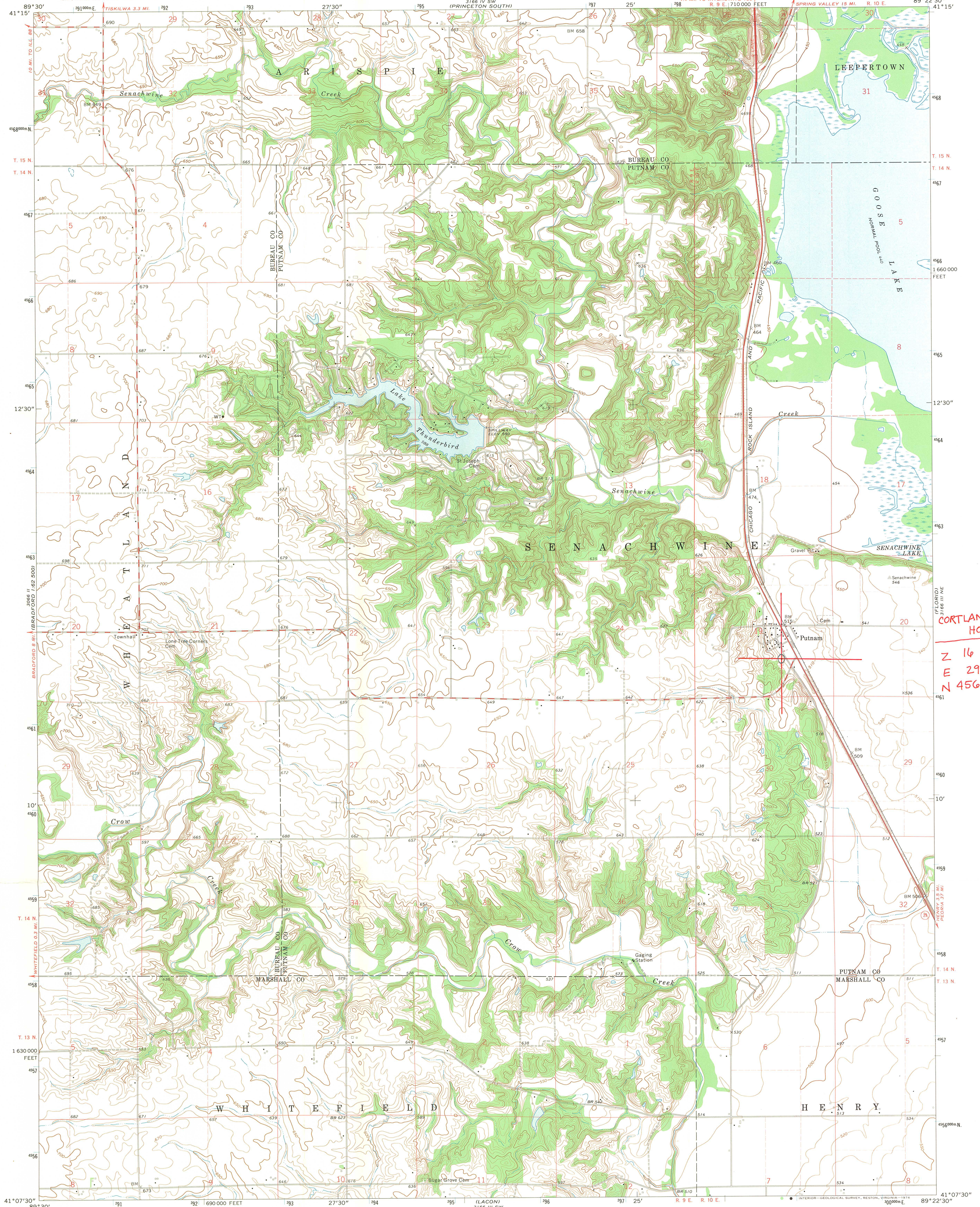
WEST SIDE (REAR)

CORTLAND CONDIT HOUSE 1849-50

PUTNAM, ILLINOIS

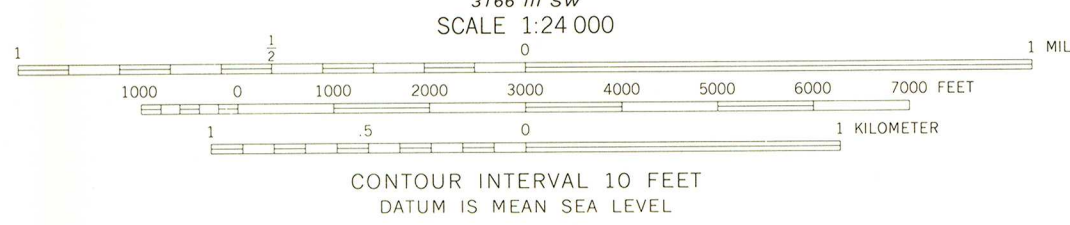
1. Cortland Condit House
2. Putnam, IL
3. photo by Jane Downey
4. January 1983
5. negative with photographer
6. rear (west) facade
7. #4 of 4

2/13/83



CORTLAND CONDIT HOUSE  
Z 16  
E 299 030  
N 4561 460

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 1972  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Illinois coordinate  
system, west zone (transverse Mercator)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 16, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum  
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, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

PUTNAM, ILL.  
NW/4 LACON 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4107.5-W8922.5/7.5  
1972

AMS 3166 III NW-SERIES V863

Illinois



Department of Conservation

life and land together

LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706

CHICAGO OFFICE - ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601

David Kenney, Director • James C. Helfrich, Assistant Director

July 6, 1983

Mr. Jerry Rogers  
Associate Director  
National Register Program  
National Park Service  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Enclosed are the following National Register nomination forms:

Cortland Condit House, Putnam  
Caroline Mark Home, Mount Carroll

Your prompt attention to these forms is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Ward".

Michael Ward  
National Register Assistant

MW:nr  
Enclosures

*rec'd*  
JUL 13 1983

Illinois



Department of Conservation

life and land together

LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62706

CHICAGO OFFICE - ROOM 100, 160 NO. LASALLE 60601

David Kenney, Director • James C. Helfrich, Assistant Director

September 6, 1983

Mr. Jerry Rogers  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
1100 L Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Rogers:

We are resubmitting the nomination for the Cortland Condit House.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mike Ward  
National Register Assistant

SEP 14 1983

MW:rkt

Enclosure