

*2nd draft*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only  
received APR 10 1985  
date entered

1. Name

historic The von KleinSmid Mansion

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 218 West Center

not for publication

city, town Sandwich,

vicinity of

state Illinois

code 012

county DeKalb

code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other: VACANT

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Ron Thomas

street & number Rte. 1, Box 43

city, town Sheridan,

vicinity of

state Illinois 60015

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. DeKalb County Court House

street & number

city, town DeKalb

state Illinois 60115

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Illinois Historic Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records IL Department of Conservation, Land and Historic Sites

city, town Springfield,

state Illinois

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

### Check one

unaltered

altered

### Check one

original site

moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The von KleinSmid Mansion, which is located on a wooded, 2 acre site, is a 2½ story, 20 room, red brick structure in the Italian Villa Style with Second Empire influences.\* The building has a t-shaped plan and irregular massing, a 3½ story, protruding, central pavillion, and a Mansard roof with straight sides on the front portion. The front pavillion, or tower, has a flat roof, as does the rear portion of the house. Other predominant features include: massive cornices at the top and bottom of the Mansard roof slope; wood dentils on the frieze at the bottom of the slope and on the frieze at the top of the central tower; an imposing wood stairway with ornamental balustrades rising from the ground level to the main entry level; and a stone belt course at the floor line of the main level. The third floor dormer windows are gable roofed; the tower and the dormers have circular, stone headed windows. The other windows in the main level of the front portion of the house have segmental stone heads with prominent keystones. The remainder of the windows, and most door openings, have straight, stone lintels. The main entrance has double, panelled doors with a glass transom beneath a stone, circular arch with a keystone incised with the von KleinSmid family crest and date (1875). On the east and west sides of the front tower at the main entry level, there are double, louvered doors with circular glass transoms that formerly opened to the verandas that flanked the entry. There are also two doorways (east and west sides) with flat stone lintels in the lower level of the tower. (The double, louvered doors that were at this level are presently missing.)

The only major difference between the present and former appearance of the mansion is the absence of the roofless verandas, with turned balustrades, that were formerly attached to the structure: one that extended outwardly on each side of the front tower (the left one wrapping around to the bay window on the east side), and one that wrapped around the rear portion of the mansion and the back portion of the west side. These verandas were supported by round, wood columns with Doric orders that rested on limestone pads. The rear verandas had two, wood stairways with turned balustrades that ran from the main level to the ground (one on the east side and one on the west side.)

Features on the east elevation include: (1) a bay with three windows each in the lower and upper levels, and two tall windows and a doorway at the main level. (The door provided access to the veranda.); and (2) roofed balconies at the main and upper levels, each having turned, wood balustrades. A wood stairway, similar to the main exterior stairway, runs from the balcony at the main level to the ground level.

The rear portion of the mansion has asymmetrical fenestration with flat, stone lintels. There are several doorways in this part of the mansion; on the main level - two on the west, one on the rear, and one on the east (at the balcony location); on the lower level, there is one door on the west side.

The von KleinSmid Mansion has 20 rooms, excluding bathrooms and hallways. The entrance hall is divided into a foyer (in the tower base) and a stair hall by a large, arched opening with double doors with etched glass panels, (One of the etched panels was broken and has been replaced with clear glass.) The staircase, with turned, walnut balusters, newel post and handrail, rises continuously from the main level to the upper level. Most of the lower level rooms have white pine floors with beaded, wood wainscoting. The main floor rooms have heavy, molded woodwork, wood floors (some white pine, some hardwood) with walls and ceilings that are plastered and papered or paneled over with wood and false, wood beams. (1930s work) The kitchen has beaded wood wainscoting and a beaded

\*See D-1, D-2 and D-3.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

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Present and Original Physical Appearance (cont.)

wood corner cabinet. Off of the kitchen there is a pantry featuring oak cupboards with 4 leaded glass doors and carved moldings. There is an enclosed, rear staircase, with a curved lower section, that provides access from the dining room to the upper level of the mansion. The rooms on the upper level have plastered walls, white pine floors, and heavy molded woodwork, similar to that used on the main level.

There are two fireplaces with Italian marble mantels, one in the front parlor and one in the library. The double doorway between the front parlor and the library have sliding, wood doors that can be totally concealed in the wall by hinged, folding trim. The ceiling heights in all three levels are 10 feet. The exterior walls are 20 inches thick (14 inches of brick). The von KleinSmid mansion is in excellent structural condition, but is in need of minor exterior and interior repairs, and replacement of the wood verandas and stairways.

The mansion had the first indoor bathroom plumbing in Sandwich (1875) and a central gas lighting system.

## 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 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				
<b>Specific dates</b>	1865-1900	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Unknown	

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 20 room von KleinSmid Mansion is an excellent example of the Italian Villa Revival Style of architecture with Second Empire features. The structure stands today basically unaltered on the exterior, with the exception of its missing verandas (which will be rebuilt). Its imposing design and proportions are enhanced by its two acre setting which contains a number of large trees. The mansion evokes the same sense of wealth and power that observers must have felt when it was first built in the decade between 1865-1875 by a well-to-do hardware merchant, George (von) KleinSmid. KleinSmid established one of the first business firms in DeKalb County. The von KleinSmid mansion is the only residential structure in Sandwich that is built in the Italianate/Second Empire Styles, both of which are not well represented in the community.

### Elaboration

When the missing verandas and stairways are restored by the mansion's present owner, the structure's exterior will match the appearance it had in 1875, the year it was completed. Old bricks from the same local quarry, from which the bricks were obtained to build the mansion originally, will be used to make the minor repairs that are needed in the masonry on the east side of the front tower. And old bricks will be used to rebuild the walks that once circled the house. From the top level of the central tower, which is the highest point in Sandwich, a person can see most of the community as the original owner did.

One of Sandwich's most famous residents, Rufus von KleinSmid, lived in the mansion from his early childhood in 1875 until he left to attend Oberlin College in 1894. In 1920, he became president of the University of California, and in 1946 its chancellor. He was widely noted for his leadership in the field of industrial relations.

His father, George (von) KleinSmid, was born June 26, 1831, in the Prussian province of Westphalia. His mother, Mary, brought her children to America in 1848, when her son George was 17 years of age. They located in Cincinnati, where he learned the business of a shoemaker and worked in that trade until 1851, when he moved to Chicago. He worked there as a shoemaker for several years, but finding his health affected by confinement, he began working as a salesman for a hardware firm and acquired a thorough knowledge of this business.

He moved to Sandwich in 1856 and established a hardware enterprise, one of the first major businesses in DeKalb County. The brick business block he constructed was 24' x 105' in dimension and three stories in height. He eventually employed a general assistant, several tanners, and two of his sons as salesmen. The Voters and Taxpayers of DeKalb County, 1876, indicate that his business was valued at \$32,000. He was also one of the city's first aldermen when the Sandwich city council was formed in 1872.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Schmidt, Carl F., The Victorian Era in the United States, Scottsville, N.Y., 1971  
 Whiffer and Koeper, American Architecture 1807-1976, The MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass.  
Portrait and Biographical Album of DeKalb County, Illinois, Chicago, Chapman Bros., 1885  
 U.S. Census Records, 1860, 1870, and 1880  
The Voters and Taxpayers of DeKalb County, 1876.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.25 acres

Quadrangle name Plano, IL

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	3	6	4	6	8	10	4	6	1	1	4	4	10
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

C 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

D 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

E 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

F 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

G 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

H 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1,2,3 and 4 in Block 10 of Hall's Addition to the Village (now city) of Sandwich, except the North 105 feet of Lot 1 and the East 16 feet of the North 105 feet of Lot 2 in Blk. 10 of said Hall's Addition, all in DeKalb County, Illinois.

### 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 Charles Kirchner

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 522 East Monroe telephone (217) 789-2330

city or town Springfield, state Illinois 62701

# 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 William G. Farmer

title Deputy S.H.P.O. date 3/21/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 5-9-85

for Melous Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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

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date entered

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8

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Statement of Significance (cont.)

He was married to Louisa Simon in Chicago in 1855 and they eventually filled their 20 room mansion with 13 children (Louisa, Frank, George, Bertha, Raymond, Lucretia, Lilly, Walter, Austin, Rufus, James, Maud and Mabel). In addition to their large family, the U.S. Census records note that the von KleinSmids employed a live-in maid and gardner/laborer (Dora and Edward Hoffman). From all indications, the von KleinSmids were one of the leading families of Sandwich.

The mansions other owners over the years have included: Mr. LeDoyt, a postmaster of Sandwich, and William G. Wallenbeck, who converted the property into apartments. The present owner, Ron Thomas, purchased the mansion several years ago and is in the process of restoring the exterior of the structure to its original appearance.

Ref #  
8500 0979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

von KleinSmid Mansion  
DeKalb County  
ILLINOIS

Working No. APR 10 1985  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86  
Date Due: 5/9/85 - 5/25/85  
Action: ACCEPT 5-9-85  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

- 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
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition	<input type="checkbox"/> 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"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

---

Verbal boundary description and justification

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

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

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



VON KLEINSMID MANSION, Sandwich, IL.  
Photographer-Charles Kirchner,  
Springfield, IL.

Front Entrance Foyer. P-8



VON KLEINSMID MANSION, Sandwich, IL.  
Photographer-Viking Photographic,  
Interior doors to central hall, one  
with etched glass.

P-9

VIKING PHOTOGRAPHIC

13 N. Main Street

Sandwich, Illinois 60548

815-786-7766

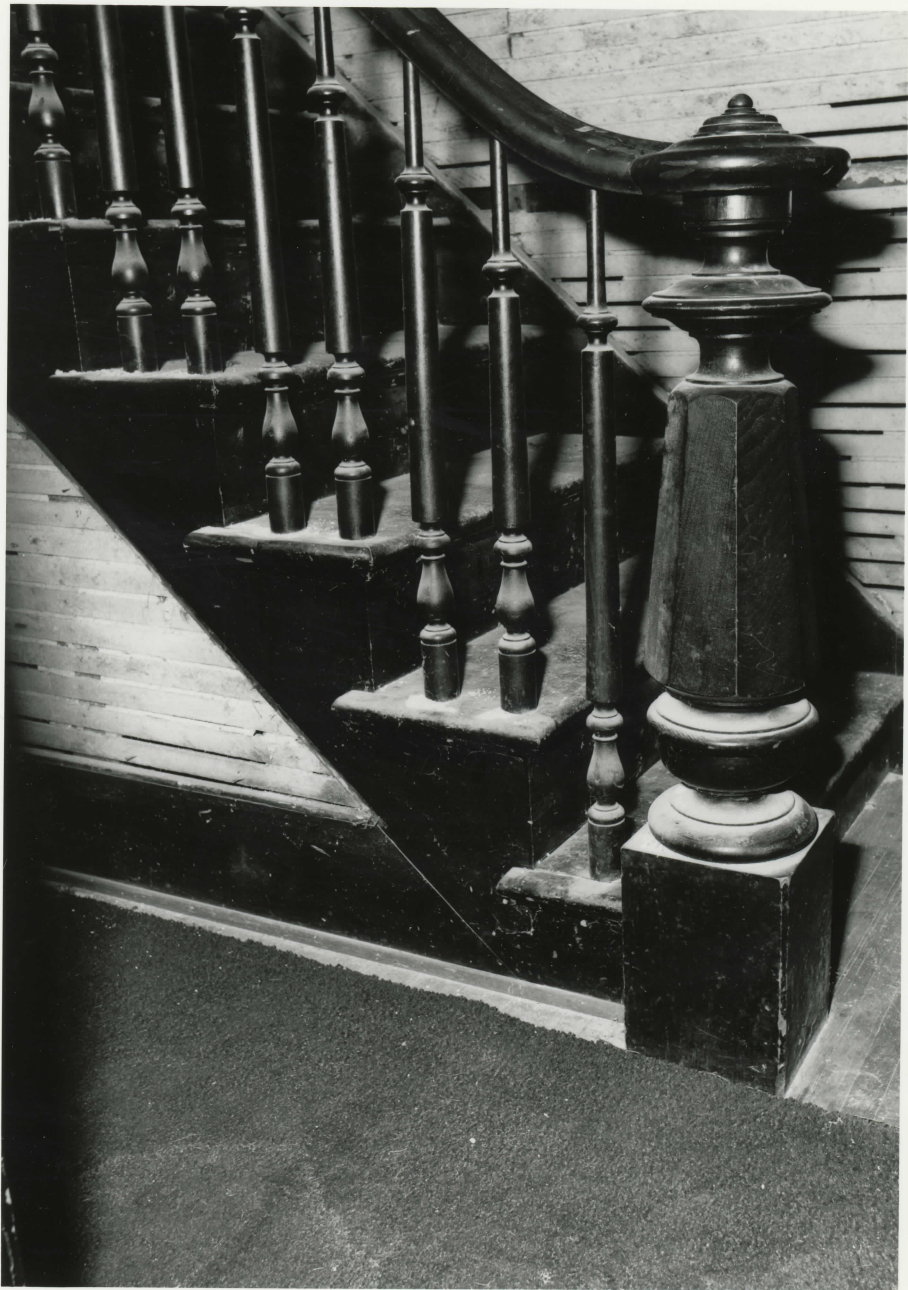
A-66-9



VON KLEINSMID MANSION, Sandwich, IL.  
Photographer - Charles Kirchner,  
Springfield, IL.

Main hall/staircase.

P-11



VON KLEINSMID MANSION, Sandwich, IL.  
Photographer- Viking Photographic,  
Sandwich, IL.

Main inter. stair ballustrade.

P-10

VIKING PHOTOGRAPHIC  
13 N. Main Street  
Sandwich, Illinois 60548  
815-786-7766

A-66-10



VON KLEINSMID MANSION, Sandwich, IL.  
Photographer - Charles Kirchner,  
Springfield, IL.

Front parlor(N.E.)/fireplace P-12



VON KLEINSMID MANSION, Sandwich, IL.  
Photographer-Viking Photographic,  
Sandwich, IL.

Front view showing masonry walls. p-2

VIKING PHOTOGRAPHIC  
13 N. Main Street  
Sandwich, Illinois 60548  
815-786-7766

A-65-5



VON KLEINSMID MANSION, Sandwich, IL.  
Photographer - Charles Kirchner,  
Springfield, IL. P-15

Library(fam. sitting room)looking East;  
shows screen dr. & ceil. treatment.



VON KLEINSMID MANSION, Sandwich, IL.  
Photographer - Charles Kirchner,  
Springfield, IL.

Double wood sliding doors between  
front parlor & library. P-13



VON KLEINSMID MANSION. Sandwich, IL.  
Photographer - Charles Kirchner,  
Springfield, IL.

Library/fireplace with marble mantel.  
P-16



VIKING PHOTOGRAPHIC

13 N. Main Street  
Sandwich, Illinois 60548  
815-786-7766

VON KLEINSMID MANSION, Sandwich, IL.  
Photographer - Viking Photographic,  
Sandwich, IL.

Dining Room/main floor. P-17

A-67-3



VON KLEINSMID MANSION, Sandwich, IL.  
Photographer - Viking Photographic,  
Sandwich, IL.

Pantry cabinets.

P-20

VIKING PHOTOGRAPHIC  
13 N. Main Street  
Sandwich, Illinois 60548  
815-786-7766

A-67-5



VON KLEINSMID MANSION, Sandwich, IL.  
Photographer - Charles Kirchner,  
Springfield, IL.

P-19

Kitchen/built-in corner cabinet.



VON KLEINSMID MANSION - Sandwich, IL.  
Photographer-Viking Photographic,  
Sandwich, IL.

West elevation; camera facing East.  
P-6

VIKING PHOTOGRAPHIC  
13 N. Main Street  
Sandwich, Illinois 60548  
815-786-7766

A-65-2



VIKING PHOTOGRAPHIC  
13 N. Main Street  
Sandwich, Illinois 60548  
815-786-7766

VON KLEINSMID MANSION - Sandwich, IL.  
Photographer-Viking Photographic,  
Sandwich, IL.

Keystone (Goes over front entrance.)

P-7

~~AK~~ A 67-2

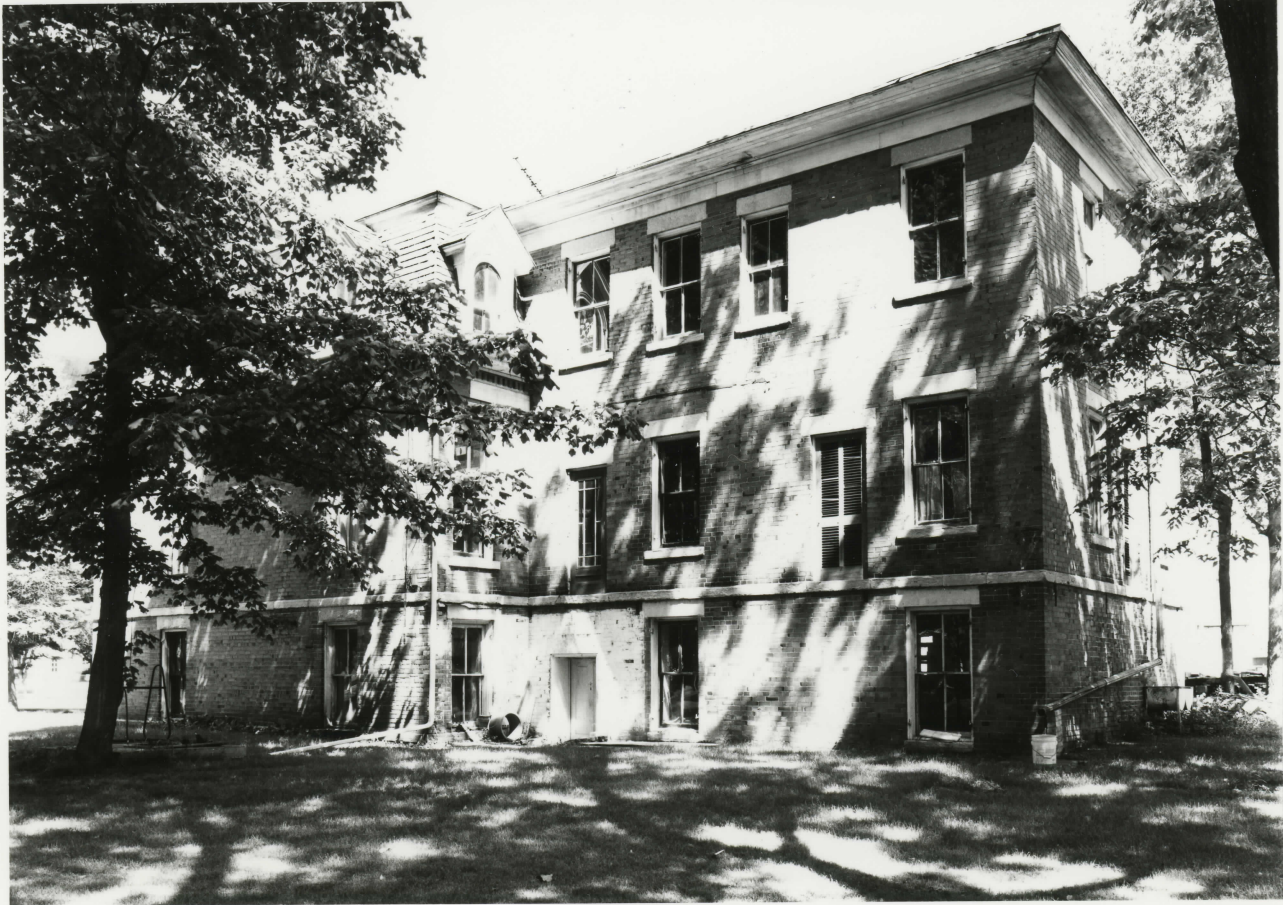


VON KLEINSMID MANSION, Sandwich, IL  
Photographer-Viking Photographic,  
Sandwich, IL.

Perspective view of front pt. of man-  
sion. Camera facing S.W. , P-3

VIKING PHOTOGRAPHIC  
13 N. Main Street  
Sandwich, Illinois 60548  
815-786-7766

A-65-4



VON KLEINSMID MANSION, Sandwich, IL.  
Photographer-Viking Photographic,  
Sandwich, IL.

West side of mansion; camera facing  
Northeast. P-4

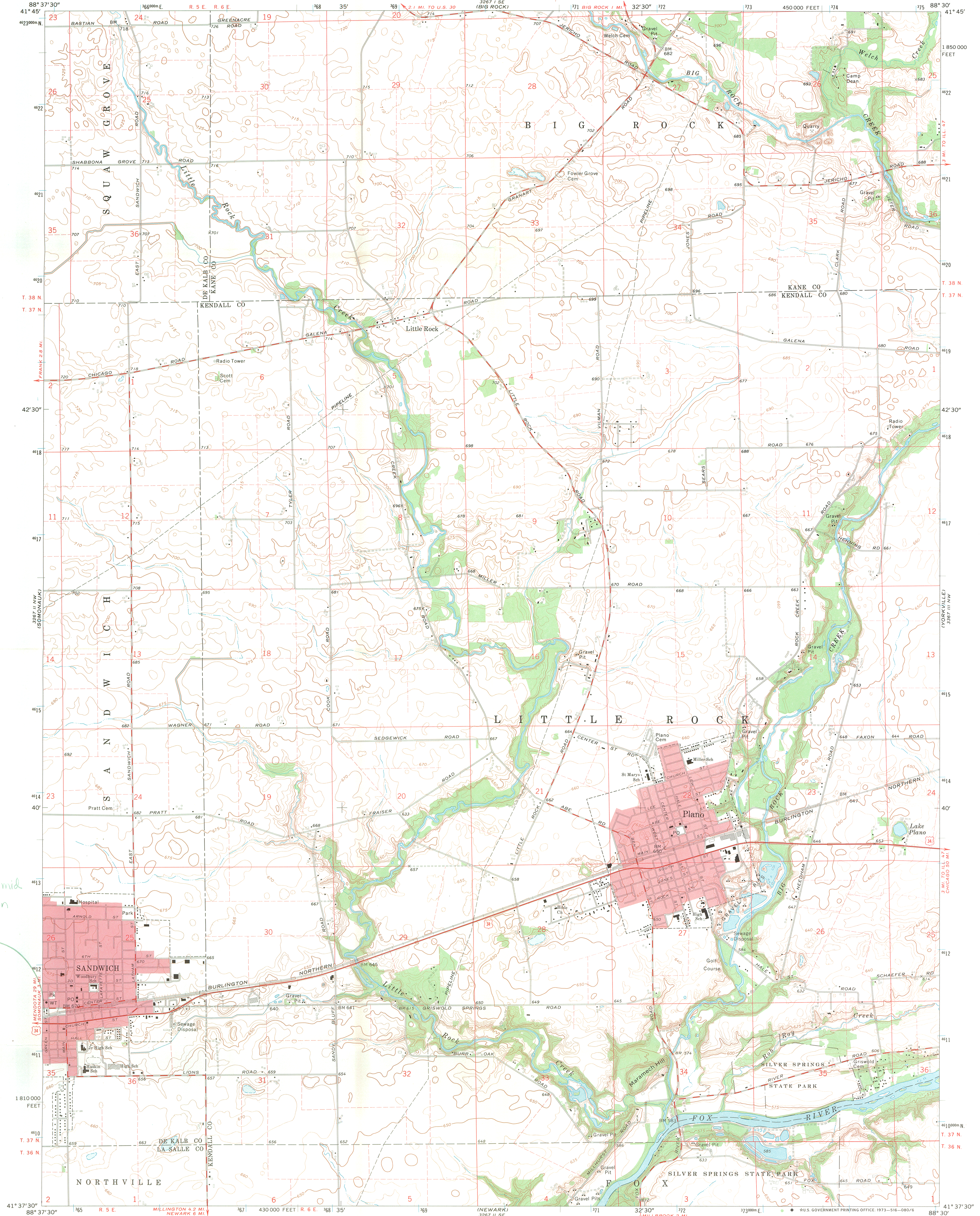
VIKING PHOTOGRAPHIC

13 N. Main Street

Sandwich, Illinois 60548

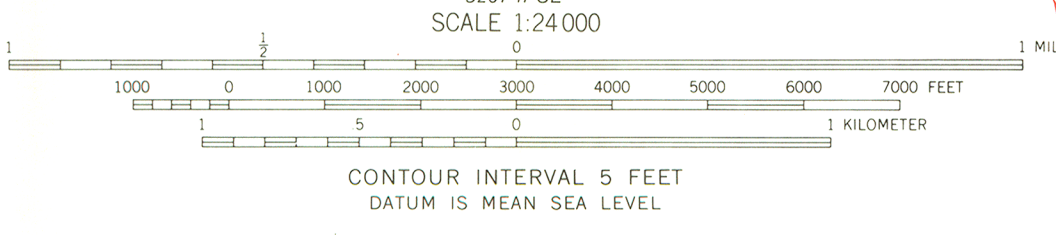
815-786-7766

A-64-8



The Van Kleinsmid  
Mansion  
N461140  
E364680

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1969. 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 areas 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



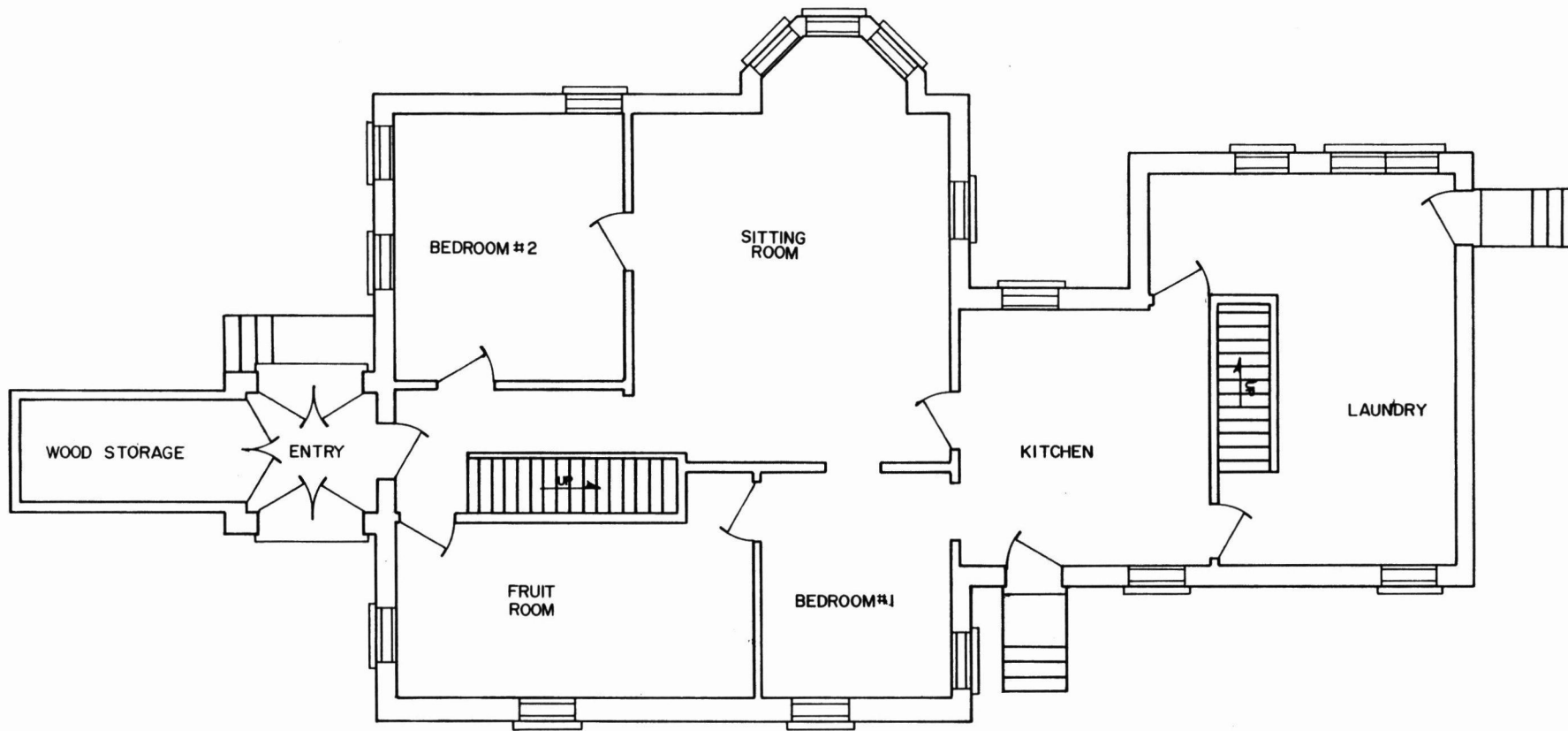
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

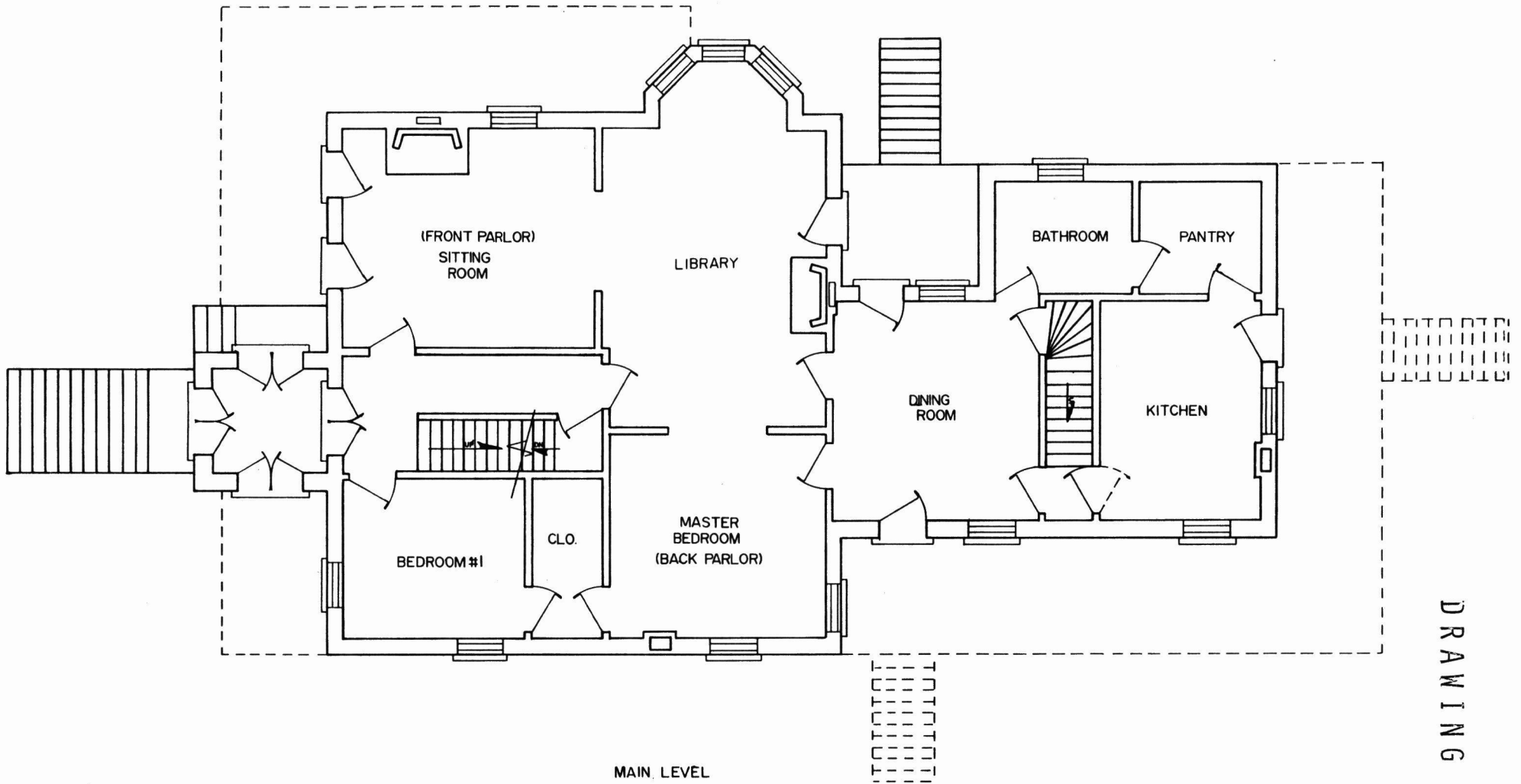
PLANO, ILL.  
NE/4 SANDWICH 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4137.5-W8330.7.5  
1971  
AMS 3267 11 NE-SERIES V863



BASEMENT

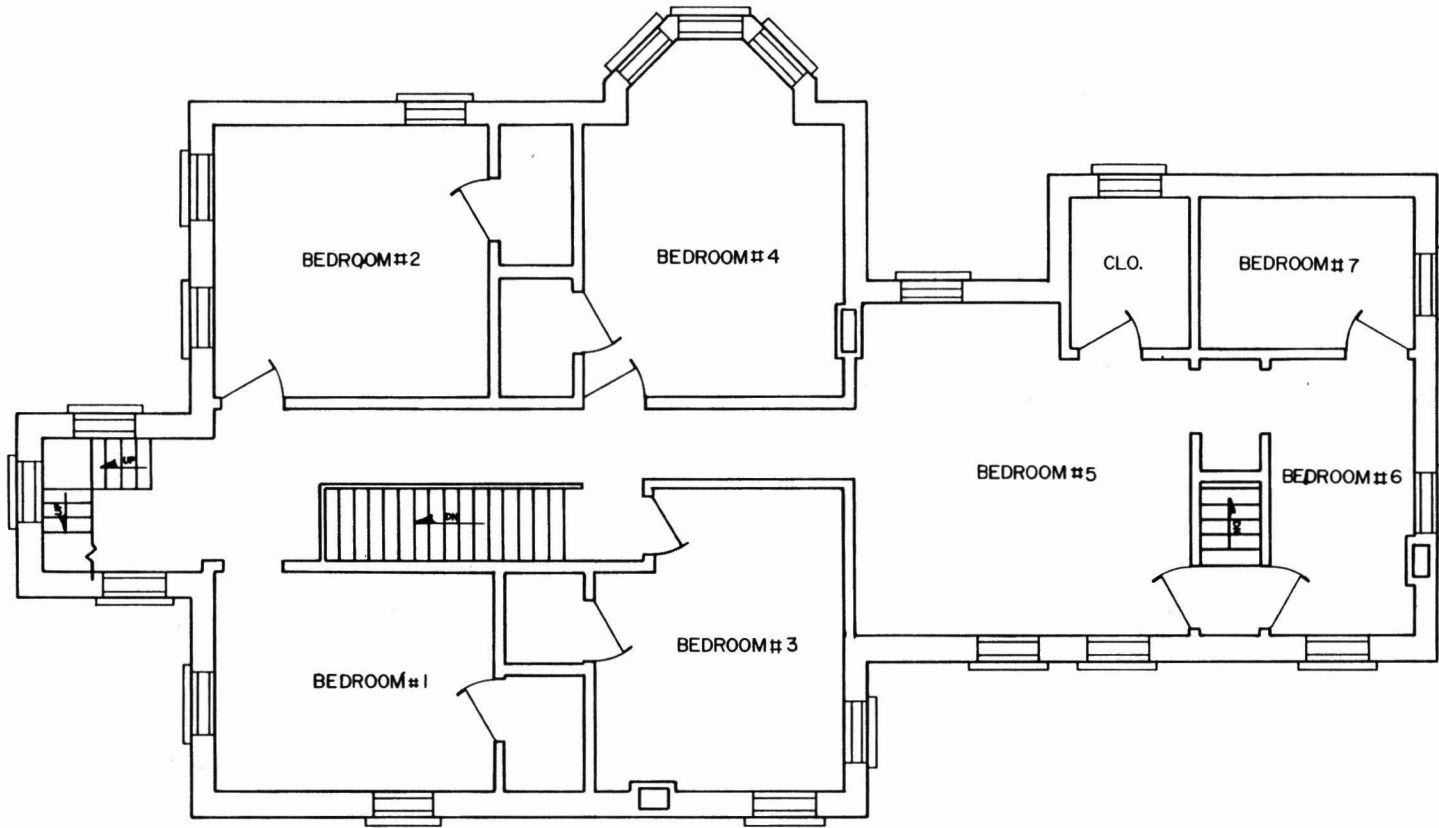
SCALE  
1/4" = 1' - 0"

DRAWING 1



SCALE  
1/4" = 1'-0"

DRAWING 2



SECOND STORY

SCALE  
1/4" = 1'-0"

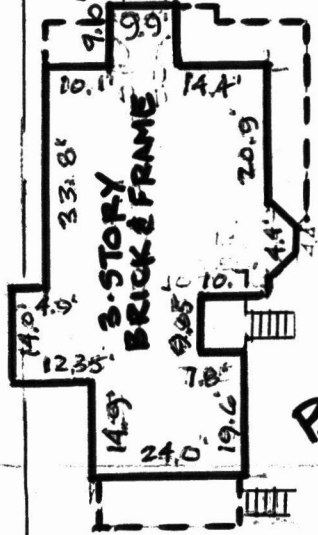
DRAWING 3

LOT-4

LOT-3

LOT-2

LOT-1



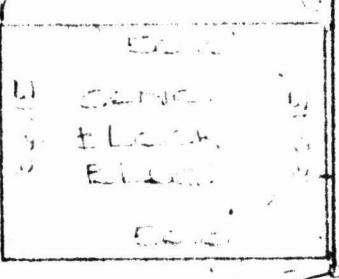
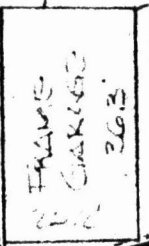
3-STORY  
BRICK & FRAME

BLOCK-10

DRAWING 1

EXCEPTION

FUTURE  
EXCEPTION



BURLINGTON NORTHERN RR.



VON KLEINSMID MANSION - PLOT PLAN

DRAWING 4

66.0

66.0

50.0

236.28

234.05

67.76

67.76

67.76

271.02

17.33

4.26

26.3

89-53-30

89-21-30

100-4-05

100-33-54

100-33-54

100-33-54

100-33-54

100-33-54

100-33-54

105.0

143.55

100-33-54

100-33-54

100-33-54

100-33-54

100-33-54