

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Strawbridge-Shepherd House

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 5255 Shepherd Road

City or town: Springfield State: IL County: Sangamon Code: 167

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B XC D

 <u>DSITRO</u> Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Illinois Historic Preservation Agency</u>		<u>04-09-15</u> Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: _____ **Date:** _____

Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____


Signature of the Keeper

6-8-15

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State x
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s) x
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	2	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
2	2	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/civic

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Greek Revival

Queen Anne

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: _____

Foundation: Limestone/brick

Walls: Weatherboard

Roof: Shingle

Other: Chimneys: Brick

Porches: Wood

Cornice: Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Strawbridge-Shepherd homestead is located on the southern edge of the University of Illinois at Springfield campus at 5255 Shepherd Road. The property encompasses approximately 2.39 acres, which includes the main house, a small barn, a brick outbuilding used as a summer kitchen and washing operation and a fruit cellar. The house gets its name from the only two families that occupied the site until 1970 when it was acquired by Sangamon State University. It evolved over the nineteenth century through a number of construction phases. Thomas Strawbridge, Jr. built the original two-story house around 1845 after acquiring the land for farming in 1841. At the same time or shortly thereafter, a rear one and a half-story section with a shed roof was constructed. Another addition around 1865 changed the house into an L-shape. Charles M. Shepherd purchased the property in 1883 after Strawbridge died in 1880. He subsequently made a number of alterations to the house including adding porches to the 1865

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addition. Shepherd added distinctive Queen Anne detailing to the house which contrasted with the Greek Revival style that Strawbridge built his house in. Presently, the house is an eclectic mix of Greek Revival and Queen Anne styles. The house appears much as it would in the late nineteenth century with each construction phase remaining true to its respective time period. The most distinctive Greek Revival details are the wide band of trim at the cornice line and the recessed front door with transom and sidelights framed with pilasters. The south porch, which was added by Shepherd, shows the clearest examples of Queen Anne with spindle-work trim beneath the roof line and spool-like balusters. Most of the outbuildings built by both Strawbridge and Shepherd no longer remain. The buildings that are left are the small barn, brick outbuilding and fruit cellar. The brick outbuilding was built circa 1880. The small barn was likely built after the turn of the century. The fruit cellar, which has yet to be excavated, was built circa 1910. Today, the house contains nearly 3,000 square feet of floor space. The foundation has been rebuilt using reusable limestone from the original 1845 construction and brick from later additions. The roof is made of wooden shingles similar to those originally used.

Narrative Description

Physical Setting (See Photo #1)

The front façade of the house faces east and sits back nearly 200 feet from Shepherd Road, which is the eastern boundary of the property. The entrance to the property is just south of the house off Shepherd Rd. The entrance is a gravel road that quickly splits off towards the house and also serves as a service road that heads southeast and marks the southern boundary of the property. The path that heads towards the house loops south of the house, then just east of the small barn and back onto the service road. The western boundary of the property is along a drainage ditch, approximately 200 feet from the house. Just beyond the ditch is a prairie field with a walking trail, providing an excellent view from the house. The northern boundary of the property runs just north of the house through vegetation and several trees. There are also several large trees along the gravel road entrance of the property and a few in the western portion of the property. The thickest vegetation is in the northwest corner of the property. Located only several feet west from the northern portion of the house is the subsurface fruit cellar. The brick outbuilding is located just a few feet west from the fruit cellar. The small barn is located approximately 100 feet from the house in the direction of the southwest corner of the property.

East Exterior (See Photo #2)

Viewed from the east (Shepherd Road), the house appears like the original 1845 structure. It is a side-gabled, symmetrical 5-ranked structure. The front door is centered and recessed, with a 5-paned transom and sidelights framed with unfluted pilasters. The door is six-paneled and painted

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white. The windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with simple sills and lintels painted white and original shutters painted green. At the roof line is a cornice representing a subtle form of an entablature. There are two brick chimneys on either interior end of the house. They are on the ridge of the roof. Currently, a small porch is being constructed at the entrance based off the original porch, which had since been removed.

North Exterior (See Photos #3, 4)

Viewed from the north, the house appears as the side of the original 1845 construction with a one and ½ story lean-to built around the time of the original construction. This side of the original construction has four windows similar to the front façade. It also has decorative cornice moldings at the returns, which were added by Shepherd. These replaced the simple returns. The lean-to is a few feet shorter in width to the original construction and has a dropped shed roof. It has a 1/1 pane modern window on the first floor and 6/6 pane window for the attic. Beyond the lean-to is the circa 1865 perpendicular wing that expands out towards the west. Originally, a one and a ½ story construction with a shed roof, it was converted closer to a two story wing with gabled roof under Shepherd. Shepherd also added a porch to the north side of wing, most likely around the time that the south porch was constructed. The north porch has since been removed. The north exterior of the wing has four windows and a door. The two windows on either side of the north entrance are 6/6 double-hung. The windows on the second floor are six-pane side-by-side windows and are located in the eastern portion of the wing.

West Exterior (See Photos #4, 5)

Viewing from the west, the lean-to takes up approximately 2/3s of the length of the house before it is interrupted by the 1865 wing. The lean-to originally ran the length of the house on the rear and was incorporated into the newer wing. The lean-to has two windows and door. Moving from north to south, the first window is a modern 1/1 window, followed by a 6/6 window and then an entrance. Above the lean-to and partially interrupting the frieze band of the original construction is a small 3-pane window, which allows light into the central staircase. On the west exterior of the 1865 wing, there are no windows on the first floor where there was formerly a small pantry. The location of the fireplace is visible. The second floor has two 6/6 windows.

South Exterior (See Photo #6)

Viewing the house from the south (driveway), Shepherd's influence is most clearly evident. As with the north exterior, there is a decorative cornice molding added to the original construction. There is one 6/6 window on each floor of the eastern section of the house. The lean-to addition that is incorporated with the 1865 wing, has an entrance and 6/6 window on the first floor. The second floor has a 5-pane window. The rest of the wing (or the western most portion), juts out a couple feet from the rest of the house. There is also an entrance to this portion with two 6/6 windows on either side. The second floor has two small 6-pane windows. The most prominent feature on this exterior is the porch, which extends across the entire wing and a

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portion of the original construction. It has a dropped shed roof with a gabled pediment on the west half of the roof. It has delicate turned porch supports with spindlework ornamentation in the frieze. The floorboards of the porch are painted green. This is where the entrance to basement is located. A concrete path leads up to the house from the driveway.

Interior (See Photos #7-11)

The original plan is a classic example of a Midwestern two-story I-house. It is two rooms wide and one room deep on each floor separated by a central hall with a staircase. It is a brace-framed structure of hand-hewn oak timber, secured with mortise and tenon joints and rests on a limestone foundation. All four rooms contain its own fireplace and were framed with walnut mantels. The center staircase contains a simply turned newel post of black walnut. The floors are made of oak.¹ All four rooms measure approximately 15 X 17 ft. The first floor rooms most likely served as parlor and dining rooms. The upstairs rooms were most likely bedrooms. Currently, the first floor is being used by the Illinois State Historical Society (ISHS) as office space. The second floor is being used by the Springfield and Central Illinois African-American History Museum (SCIAAHM).

The lean-to addition of the house most likely served as a kitchen until the new wing was constructed. Currently, it is used as a hallway and for restrooms. The basement is located underneath this section. Inside the basement, the limestone foundation is visible along with the brick foundation of the 1865 wing. The old entrance was located just outside the lean-to on the western side.

The 1865 wing, including the portion incorporated with the lean-to, is believed to have served as a dining room and kitchen. A rear staircase was also constructed here, which no longer remains.² Currently, the first floor is used by the ISHS for office and storage space. The second floor portion of the wing is being used for exhibit space by the SCIAAHM.

Outbuildings (See Photos #12, 13)

The brick outbuilding (ca. 1880), located west of the house, is believed to have been used as both a summer kitchen and washhouse. There are two separate rooms in it to indicate that, one with a fireplace. It is front-gabled with a brick chimney located on the ridge of the roof. The windows and doorways are semi-arched. It also has a brick path just outside the entrances. The fruit cellar (non-contributing), built circa 1910, is located in between the brick outbuilding and the house.³ It is currently subsurface. The small barn (non-contributing) or implement shed also remains. Its date is unknown, but was likely built somewhere around the turn of the century. It is painted red and likely housed agricultural equipment.

Occupancy and Restoration (See Photos #14, 15)

In 1970, Sangamon State University purchased the property and began updating the Strawbridge-

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Shepherd house for functional use. Interior work was done to accommodate offices and classes. Several rooms were installed with commercial carpeting and wall paneling. Ceilings were lowered. Chimneys were rebuilt, electrical service updated and central air conditioning and new heating installed. Aluminum storm windows and doors were also installed. These changes were done in such a way that they could be reversed by a restoration effort.⁴ After being left unoccupied in 1982, the property quickly deteriorated. In 2006, the house had been marked for demolition by the current owner, the University of Illinois. The Elijah Iles House Foundation (EIHF) stepped in to save the house, which had nearly been demolished. The university eventually agreed to allow the EIHF to rehabilitate and restore the property. The EIHF began its restoration effort in 2006 with help through various donations, grants and support from organizations such as the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Landmarks Illinois and the National Trust. A concerted effort was made to bring the house back to its nineteenth century appearance retaining the fabric of the house. The restoration contractor, Tom Bundy, was hired to oversee the restoration. He had experience in the restoration of other historic Springfield area projects, including the Elijah Iles house.

The south side porch was removed and reusable components were used along with reproductions of porch supports and spindlework. The pediment on the roof line was moved left of its original location. The foundation of the house was restored with reusable limestone and brick. The wooden sills had to be replaced. Also, a new wall was built to enclose the lean-to addition. The roof was repaired and new shingles appropriate for the time period installed. A large stained-glass window, added by Shepherd, was removed from the south gable end and a solid wall was put in its place to stay true to the original 1845 structure. Several of the interior walls were rebuilt. The west side pantry, built circa 1900, was removed. Alterations done in the 1970s, such as, carpeting, paneling and lowered ceilings were removed. Modern doors and windows were removed. Original plaster that could be preserved was saved. Plastering in poor condition was redone. Windows and doors, original to the house and in good condition were left intact. The original mantels left intact were returned to their respective fireplaces. The fireplace mantel in the 1865 wing was replaced with a reproduction. The pedimented frontispiece over the front door, added by the Shepherds sometime after 1910, was removed and original shutters were returned. This restoration work went on through 2008, with new heating and cooling being installed along with drywall and interior painting in 2010. The restoration work was done with the goal of bringing the homestead back to its mid to late nineteenth century appearance, reversing changes done in the 1970s. Today, the house has a high level of historical integrity after the careful restoration effort. It contains original materials throughout the house. In 2007, the university leased the property to EIHF. It has gone through adaptive re-use and is now occupied by the ISHS and the Springfield and Central Illinois African-American History Museum whom it was subleased to in 2014.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1845-1885

Significant Dates

1845
1865
1885

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

—

Architect/Builder

unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Strawbridge-Shepherd house is one of the best examples of an evolving nineteenth century farmhouse within the present city limits and is located in a semi-rural setting. It is also one of the city's and area's best preserved examples of a Greek Revival style house. Preserved elements include the general conformation of the original design, and an original walnut staircase with distinctive walnut newel post, along with intact fireplaces, flooring, doors and windows. It provides an excellent example of a mid-nineteenth century homestead evolving from a simple two-story side-gabled form to a complex with three or four major phases of construction. The period of significance of 1845-1885 is justified by the conformation of the original design and subsequent additions with the last major construction, circa 1885, adding Queen Anne details to the house. Similar farmhouses on the National Register in the Springfield area include; the Tiger-Anderson house built in 1832, the Joseph Miller house near Rochester, and the Cotton Hill farm located on the other side of Lake Springfield from the Strawbridge-Shepherd house.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Originally built circa 1845, the structure and the farm site evolved over the nineteenth and early twentieth century, reflecting the desires of its owners and the styles of the time. It is one of the best preserved and clearest examples of an evolved farmhouse in the area. Located five miles south of downtown Springfield, the site serves as an example of the changing character of Sangamon County from its pioneer days in the early nineteenth century to an increasingly settled region.

The first owner, Thomas Strawbridge, Jr., was born in Ireland in 1798. His father, Thomas Strawbridge, Sr., moved his family of seven children to America after his wife Jane died in 1809. They arrived in Baltimore and settled for a short period in Pennsylvania and Ohio before moving to Champaign, Illinois in 1811. It was in Lebanon, Ohio that Thomas, Jr. learned saddle and harness making in which he would later make a living. The family eventually moved to Sangamon County in 1823.⁵ At this time, the county was just beginning to be settled in significant numbers. Illinois had just become a state in 1818 and had a relatively small population of 35,000. Most of the population of the state at this time was to the south along the Mississippi and Wabash Rivers. The rest of the state to the north was sparsely settled along

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rivers. Transportation overland was an extremely difficult matter trying to navigate through woods, marshes and prairie.⁶ When it became a state, the central and northern parts were still largely considered frontier.

The first owner of the land where the Strawbridge-Shepherd house is located was Thomas Iles. Living in Kentucky, Iles had been purchasing land in Illinois. He purchased the eighty acre site where the eventual Strawbridge-Shepherd house would be located. He purchased it as an investment for \$1.25 an acre in 1827, recognizing the growing settlement of the area. When Iles died in 1840, his estate was left to his wife and five children. Betsy Iles, the daughter of Mr. Isles and sister of Elijah, was married to James Strawbridge. James acquired the site through a series of estate divisional deeds and in turn, sold the land to his brother Thomas Strawbridge, Jr. In 1841, Thomas had acquired a total of 680 acres of farmland in the Woodside Township from the estate of Isles. The Strawbridge-Shepherd site was on an open prairie just west of Sugar Creek.⁷ Much of the creek has disappeared into Lake Springfield, which was built in the 1930s.⁸ It served as a suitable location for farming with its rich soil.

Strawbridge had been making a living as saddle and harness maker in Sangamon County. He was known as the first saddle and harness maker in the area and had opened up a shop in Springfield.⁹ He built a farmhouse on his newly acquired land around 1845. It was probably at a cost of nearly \$300 which was about the same amount as his annual salary.¹⁰ The house was a wooden structure built with Greek Revival style applied to a simple side-gabled two story form.

The Greek Revival architectural style became popular in the 1820s and was the dominant domestic architectural style from about 1830 to 1850. It came from a growing interest in classical buildings, particularly the Greek temple form, in the final years of the eighteenth century. It was also part of a conscious effort at separation from Europe not only architecturally, but politically and socially as well. The United States wanted to become less dependent on Europe and develop its own ideas and self-image.

In the United States, a growing number of trained architects, such as, Benjamin H. Latrobe, Robert Mills and William Strickland designed high-style public buildings in the Grecian style.¹¹ Information about Greek forms flooded into the country through illustrations in books. The details of the Greek orders were then widely re-engraved and issued almost universally as parts of all American architectural handbooks between 1825 and 1845. Average architects and builders had access to this style and were able to implement it. However, the highly-stylized Grecian public buildings built in the United States contrasted sharply with the adapted domestic architecture. Houses like the Strawbridge-Shepherd were much more restrained in elaboration as compared to the highly elaborate public buildings. This had to deal with cost and the building materials available in the area. It also would not be very practical to build a temple-like farmhouse although some Southern plantation owners did do this. Most Greek Revival houses would have more simple features of the style built out of wood.

The style penetrated almost all sections of the country. It moved westward with the advancing frontier and is seen in surprising refinement in localities that were wilderness just a few years before. The designers and builders of this period adapted new architectural styles with traditional

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styles and local building materials that were available. They also conformed to the climatic conditions of the region. As Illinois was settled and civilized, the influences of settlers from the American East merged with more established settlers from the South and Southeast.¹² The new settlers built themselves the kind of building they were accustomed to or had seen in the places from which they came. While the designers of the Strawbridge house are unknown, it was likely they were conceived and built by good carpenters at the time implementing designs from handbooks.

Part of the appeal of the Greek Revival was that it was new and stylish. Some even saw it as trendy.¹³ In the 1840s, critics of this architecture were growing louder, claiming that the style was out of touch with contemporary life, pretentious and indiscriminately applied to everything. Its influence gradually declined, with the Gothic Revival and Italianate styles replacing it on the East coast. It remained the dominant style in interior states and rural areas until the early 1860s.¹⁴ In the end, it may have just become too popular and had run its course.

The Strawbridge house was a well-executed example of restrained Greek Revival applied to a symmetrically-balanced form. Strawbridge likely hired one or more carpenters who used handbooks in planning and local materials in construction of the house. They may have also based it off another Greek Revival house in the area. As he accumulated added wealth from farming, Strawbridge built additions and outbuildings to enhance his farmhouse. This would have been very common.

The most distinctive Greek Revival details used in Strawbridge house include the wide band of trim at the cornice line representing an entablature and the recessed door with a transom and sidelights framed with unfluted pilasters. It also originally had a Grecian portico that was supported by square unfluted Doric columns over the main portal. The white painting of the clapboard siding of the house also would speak to Greek Revival. The wooden entablature crossing the façade includes wood piece that runs horizontally along the width at lower one-fourth of the entablature. The entablature originally returned at the gable ends.

The lean-to along the back of the original house may have been built as an addition somewhere between 1845 and 1850. It also could have been part of the original construction. The framing appears to have been from the work of the same builder of the 1845 house. The next addition came circa 1865, at the latest before 1874. It was a balloon-framed one and a half story addition that ran perpendicular to the 1845 construction turning the house into an L-shape. The south one-third of the lean-to addition was incorporated into the new wing. It was capped with a shed roof with the roof facing the north. It served a utilitarian purpose, with the western portion of the wing serving as the new kitchen.¹⁵ Strawbridge installed doors on opposite sides of the wing creating multiple entrances for the house. A rear staircase was also included in the construction. This was most likely the last major alteration to the house until Charles M. Shepherd purchased the site in 1883. Over the years, Strawbridge also had a number of outbuildings constructed at the farm site. This included a tenant house built circa 1865 and a number of sheds and barns built before 1874. The brick outbuilding is believed to have been built circa 1880.¹⁶ The site at one time also had a windmill. Most of these structures no longer remain.

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Strawbridge is believed to have employed hired men and a full-time tenant to perform manual labor on his farm. He continued to make money from his saddle and harness business, most likely appointing someone to manage his shop in Springfield for a number of years after he built his house in 1845. He never married, but a number of people resided with him at his house including his sister Mary Lyons, an orphaned boy from Germany and a servant. Strawbridge was well-respected in his community. During the Civil War he hauled loads of his farm produce to supply Union troops along with Confederate prisoners in Camp Butler. He refused payment for this service.¹⁷

Strawbridge passed away in 1880. His will left provisions for his sister Mary, numerous other relatives and a servant. He also left bequests for numerous churches, orphanages and to fund the education of freedmen. One thousand dollars was given to the Freedmen's Aid Society which sent monetary and volunteer aid to African Americans in the South. The bulk of his estate went to the Home of the Friendless, a Springfield orphanage.¹⁸ In 1883, executors of the estate of Strawbridge held a public sale of Thomas' farmland. Charles M. Shepherd purchased 320 acres including the Strawbridge house and farmstead.¹⁹

Charles M. Shepherd was born in the Woodside Township in 1841, the youngest son of Thomas C. and Ellen Miller Shepherd, who were born in Shepherdstown, Virginia which later became part of West Virginia. Thomas' great-grandfather, Thomas Shepherd, a native of Wales, had acquired sizable wealth in real estate after arriving in America. The Shepherds moved to Sangamon County in 1836, a number of years after the Strawbridge family arrived. Charles was raised just a few miles away from the Strawbridge farmstead. He studied at the Illinois State University at Springfield before the Civil War broke out. At the age of nineteen, he became a member of the Eleventh Missouri Infantry and served for three years during the war. Nine companies of the Illinois regiment became connected with the Missouri regiment as the Illinois quota was full. After the war, he returned to his father's farm. In 1869, he married Sarah E. Ford with whom he had three sons. Later in life, he was active in local political affairs and served as a school director for about fifteen years.²⁰

After Shepherd acquired the Strawbridge farm in 1883, he added to it over the years and at one time owned 730 acres. He made alterations to the home and used modern equipment. He planted fruit and shade trees and developed a property that was one of the most pleasing features of the landscape.²¹ Shepherd almost immediately started making changes to the house. He altered the 1865 wing in several ways. The shed roof was replaced by a gable roof creating more living space on the second floor. Full second story windows were used on the west gable end and small low windows were used along the north and south side walls.²²

Porches were also added on opposite sides of the 1865 wing. The porches were fitted with Victorian detailing. It implemented Queen Anne spindlework trim beneath the roof line and turned porch supports. Other changes to the house included the insertion of a large modern two-light window of stained glass into the south gable wall of the 1845 house and the replacement of the slight returns with decorative moldings. These new features reflected the changing tastes in style during Shepherd's time. More popular now were the romantic elaborations and ornamentation of the Victorian era.²³

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The Victorian era coincided with the reign of Britain's Queen Victoria, who ruled from 1837 to 1901. In American architecture, the styles that were popular from 1860 to 1900 are generally referred to as Victorian. During this period increased industrialization and the growth of the railroads led to dramatic changes in house design and construction. Industrialization allowed for complex house components and decorative detailing to be mass-produced in large factories and for it to be shipped at low cost on the expanding railroad network.²⁴ Sale catalogs offered kit houses, which delivered materials to the customer and let them put it together. Victorian homes filled up with furnishings and wallpaper which reflected to others their quality in taste. It was a period of economic growth, enthusiasm and energy.²⁵

Victorian handbooks promoted the modernization of houses that had fallen out of style. Victorian styles were reflected in the extravagant use of complex shapes and elaborate detailing. During the final decades of nineteenth century, builders felt more freedom in the building of houses, borrowing from different styles and creating more personal expression with their houses. A few of the Victorian styles included the Stick, Shingle, Queen Anne and Romanesque. These styles tended to borrow from each other and other historicist styles more so than with previous building styles. Shepherd may have gotten his ideas from handbooks or catalogs in the application of his verandas, stained-glass window and corner moldings. It also shows a degree of wealth in his willingness to decorate his house with elaborations instead of just sticking with the plan of the original Greek Revival house.

Shepherd continued to make changes to the house and add more buildings to the site up through the early twentieth century. Around 1900, a small utilitarian pantry was added to the west end of the 1865 wing. A little later, the Grecian portico was replaced with a larger porch supported by Doric columns. Interestingly enough, he retained the Greek Revival character of the front façade of the house despite using romantic and Victorian detailing on the side of the house. Later on, the Shepherds would take out the porch all together and place a pedimented frontispiece, Georgian in style, over the door. After Shepherd's death in 1910, the property remained in the Shepherd family until it was purchased by Sangamon State University in 1970. The Shepherds made little changes to the house, allowing it to appear much as it did in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.²⁶

The migration of the Strawbridge and Shepherd families into Sangamon County marked a period of increasing settlement in the county along with the rest of the state. Like many other new settlers in the region, they had travelled from the East bringing along with them their customs and ideas. When Strawbridge built his house around 1845, gone were the pioneer days of just a couple decades earlier in central Illinois. The open prairie was now used for farming and instead of building log cabins, new settlers were building more elegant houses influenced by the styles of the time. By the time the Shepherds occupied the house, the population of the county had exploded with the arrival of the railroads. Industrialization and mass production allowed for more elaborate ornamentation which people like the Shepherds could afford. The Strawbridge and Shepherd owners presented through their house the developments and ideas of their time, along with their wealth.

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The Strawbridge-Shepherd house reflects the changing tastes of its owners and of nineteenth century America. The history of the Strawbridge and Shepherd family also reveals the changing landscape of Sangamon County. Strawbridge produced a vernacular Greek Revival house around 1845, displaying the dominant style of the period. The additions he added were for utilitarian purposes and were very common for farmhouses. Shepherd made his mark on the house with the porches and the more elaborate detailing that was widely promoted during his time. The detailing is somewhat restrained however and does not disrupt the original Greek Revival features. The house passed through only two families which helped with the house in keeping with the original features that were built in the nineteenth century. It was built in three or four major phases which were the original 1845 construction, 1845-50 lean-to, circa 1865 wing and the Shepherd alterations in the late nineteenth century. The house remains true to each of these construction phases. It serves as a classic example of a farmhouse that evolved over the nineteenth century. This remarkably well-preserved example in its original setting, and with distinctive historic and architectural attributes, make it a great candidate to be placed on the National Register.

Notes:

¹ John Jones, "Strawbridge/Shepherd House," 1980, student paper, Charles M. Shepherd Papers, 1874-2007, Archives, Brookens Library, University of Illinois at Springfield.

² ibid.

³ Richard Evan Hart, *The Strawbridge-Shepherd Farm Site* (Springfield, Ill: Elijah Iles House Foundation, 2007), 32.

⁴ ibid, 30.

⁵ John Carroll Power and Sarah A. Power, *History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois "Centennial Record"* (Springfield, Ill: E.A. Wilson & Co, 1876), 693-694.

⁶ Theodore Calvin Pease, *The Frontier State, 1818-1848* (Chicago: McClurg, 1922), 2-10.

⁷ Hart, 7.

⁸ John Mack Faragher, *Sugar Creek: Life on the Illinois Prairie* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1986), 10.

⁹ Power, 694.

¹⁰ Colclasure, Eric, "Old Settlers Day October 23 at Historic Strawbridge-Shepherd House," *Examiner.com*, Oct. 18, 2010, <http://www.examiner.com/article/old-settlers-day-october-23-at-historic-strawbridge-shepherd-house>.

¹¹ Virginia McAlester and A. Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 1984), 184.

¹² W. Barksdale Maynard, *Architecture in the United States, 1800-1850* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002), 220-221.

¹³ ibid, 244, 261.

¹⁴ McAlester, 184.

¹⁵ Jones.

¹⁶ Hart, 25, 32.

¹⁷ ibid, 9, 10.

¹⁸ *History of Sangamon County, Illinois* (Chicago: Interstate Publishing Company, 1881), 1065.

¹⁹ Hart, 10-12.

Strawbridge-Shepherd House

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²⁰ *Portrait and Biographical Album of Sangamon County, Illinois* (Chicago: Chapman Brothers, 1891), 714.

²¹ Joseph Wallace, *Past and Present of the City of Springfield and Sangamon County, Illinois* (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1904), 1051.

²² Jones.

²³ Hart, 26-28.

²⁴ McAlester, 239.

²⁵ Leland M. Roth, *A Concise History of American Architecture*, (New York: Harper & Row, 1979), 126.

²⁶ Jones; Hart, 18, 29, 32.

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Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Barker, R. Lou Porter. "A Brief Shepherd Family History and Review of Charles M. Shepherd's Handwritten Personal Diary of 1878." December 10, 1975. Charles M. Shepherd Papers, 1874-2007. Archives, Brookens Library, University of Illinois at Springfield.
- Eric, Colclasure. "Old Settlers Day October 23 at Historic Strawbridge-Shepherd House." *Examiner.com*. Oct. 18, 2010. <http://www.examiner.com/article/old-settlers-day-october-23-at-historic-strawbridge-shepherd-house>.
- Faragher, John Mack. *Sugar Creek: Life on the Illinois Prairie*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1986.
- Hart, Richard Evan. *The Strawbridge-Shepherd Farm Site*. Cotton Hill on Sugar Creek Series. Springfield, Illinois: Elijah Isles House Foundation, 2007.
- Howard, Robert P. *Illinois; a History of the Prairie State*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1972.
- Illustrated Atlas Map of Sangamon County, Illinois*. Springfield, IL: Brink, McCormick and Company, 1874.
- "Illinois State Journal." June 9, 1880. Obituary of Thomas Strawbridge, Jr.
- Jones, John. "Strawbridge/Shepherd House." 1980. student paper. Charles M. Shepherd Papers, 1874-2007. Archives, Brookens Library, University of Illinois at Springfield.
- McAlester, Virginia and A. Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf, 1984.
- Maynard, W. Barksdale. *Architecture in the United States, 1800-1850*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002.
- Pease, Theodore Calvin. *The Frontier State, 1818-1848*. Chicago: McClurg, 1922.
- Plat Book of Sangamon County*. Springfield, IL: Sangamon County Abstract County, 1914.
- Portrait and Biographical Album of Sangamon County, Illinois*. Chicago: Chapman Brothers, 1891.

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Power, John Carroll and Sarah A. Power. *History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois "Centennial Record."* Springfield, IL: E.A. Wilson and Company, 1876.

Roth, Leland M. *A Concise History of American Architecture.* New York: Harper & Row, 1979.

Thomas Strawbridge, Jr. Deed Copy. March 27, 1841. Charles M. Shepherd Papers, 1874-2007.
Archives, Brookens Library, University of Illinois at Springfield.

Wallace, Joseph. *Past and Present of the City of Springfield and Sangamon County, Illinois.*
Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1904.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: University of Illinois at Springfield Brookens Library:
Archives/Special Collections

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.39

Strawbridge-Shepherd House
Name of Property

Sangamon County, IL
County and State

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 39.722551 Longitude: -89.616664

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at a point on Shepherd Rd. at the center line of the existing gravel driveway which leads to the Strawbridge-Shepherd house at 5255 Shepherd Rd., Springfield, IL, which beginning point is the southwest corner of the parcel, and going westward on a meandering line that is the center of the existing gravel driveway to a point where the driveway crosses a waterway approximately 420 ft. west of Shepherd Rd., which point is southwest corner of parcel, and then going northward approximately 320 ft. on a line parallel to Shepherd Rd. to the northwest corner

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of the parcel, and then going eastward 400 ft. on a line perpendicular to Shepherd Rd. to the northeast corner of the parcel and then going south to the point of beginning at the southeast corner of the parcel.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These are the boundaries set in the terms of lease of the house by the University of Illinois to the Elijah Iles House Foundation, and in the sub-lease to the Illinois State Historical Society.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: James Welt
organization: _____
street & number: 3912 Eagle Wing Rd
city or town: Springfield state: IL zip code: 62711
e-mail: jwelt2@uis.edu
telephone: (217) 691-1247
date: 3/24/2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Strawbridge-Shepherd House

Sangamon County, IL
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Name of Property

Key of Figures

- Figure #1: 1874 rendering of Strawbridge farmhouse
- Figure #2: Google Earth GIS map location of property
- Figure #3: Site map of property
- Figure #4: First floor plan of house
- Figure #5: Second floor plan of house

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Strawbridge-Shepherd House

City or Vicinity: Springfield

County: Sangamon

State: IL

Photographer: James Welt, unless otherwise noted

Date Photographed: 8/27/2014, unless otherwise noted

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Number of Photographs: 15

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 11 Page 1

Strawbridge-Shepherd House

Name of Property

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

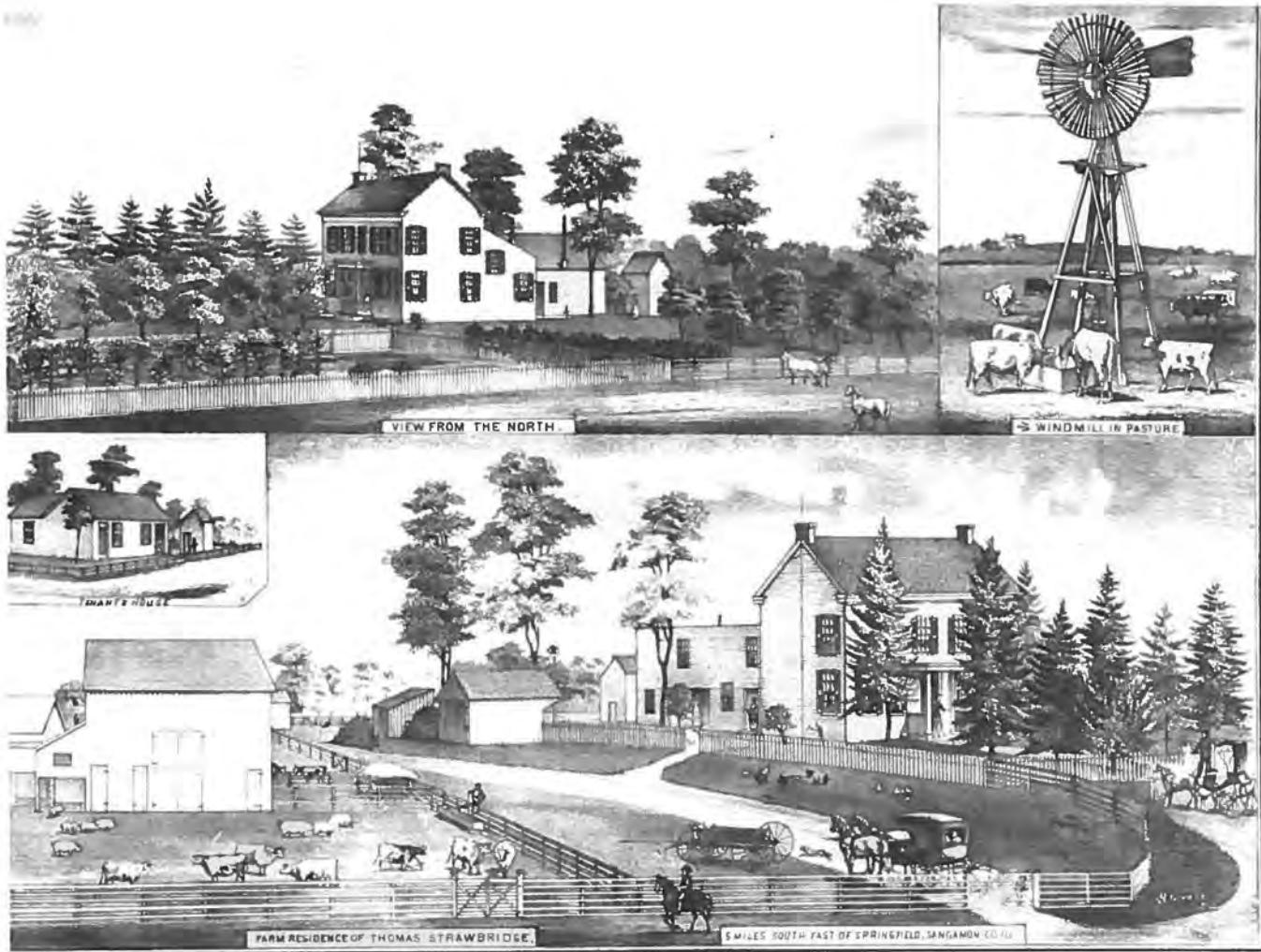


Figure #1

Illustrated Atlas Map of Sangamon County, Ill., Chicago: Brink, McCormick and Co., 1874.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Strawbridge-Shepherd House

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Section number 11 Page 2

Figure #2
GIS Map Location



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 11 Page 3

Strawbridge-Shepherd House

Name of Property

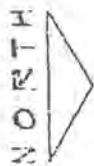
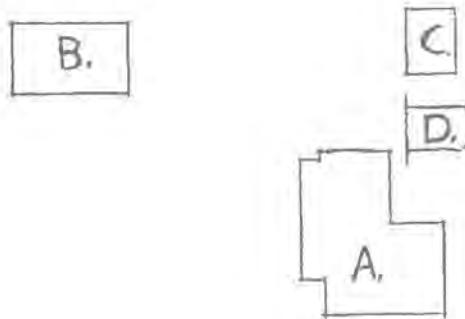
Sangamon County, IL

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Site Map

- A. Main House
- B. Small Barn (noncontributing)
- C. Brick Outbuilding
- D. Fruit Cellar (noncontributing, subsurface)



SHEPHERD ROAD

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Section number 11 Page 4

1st Level Floor Plan
Strawbridge Shepherd House
University of Illinois - Springfield

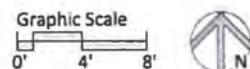


Figure #4

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Strawbridge-Shepherd House

Name of Property

Sangamon County, IL

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

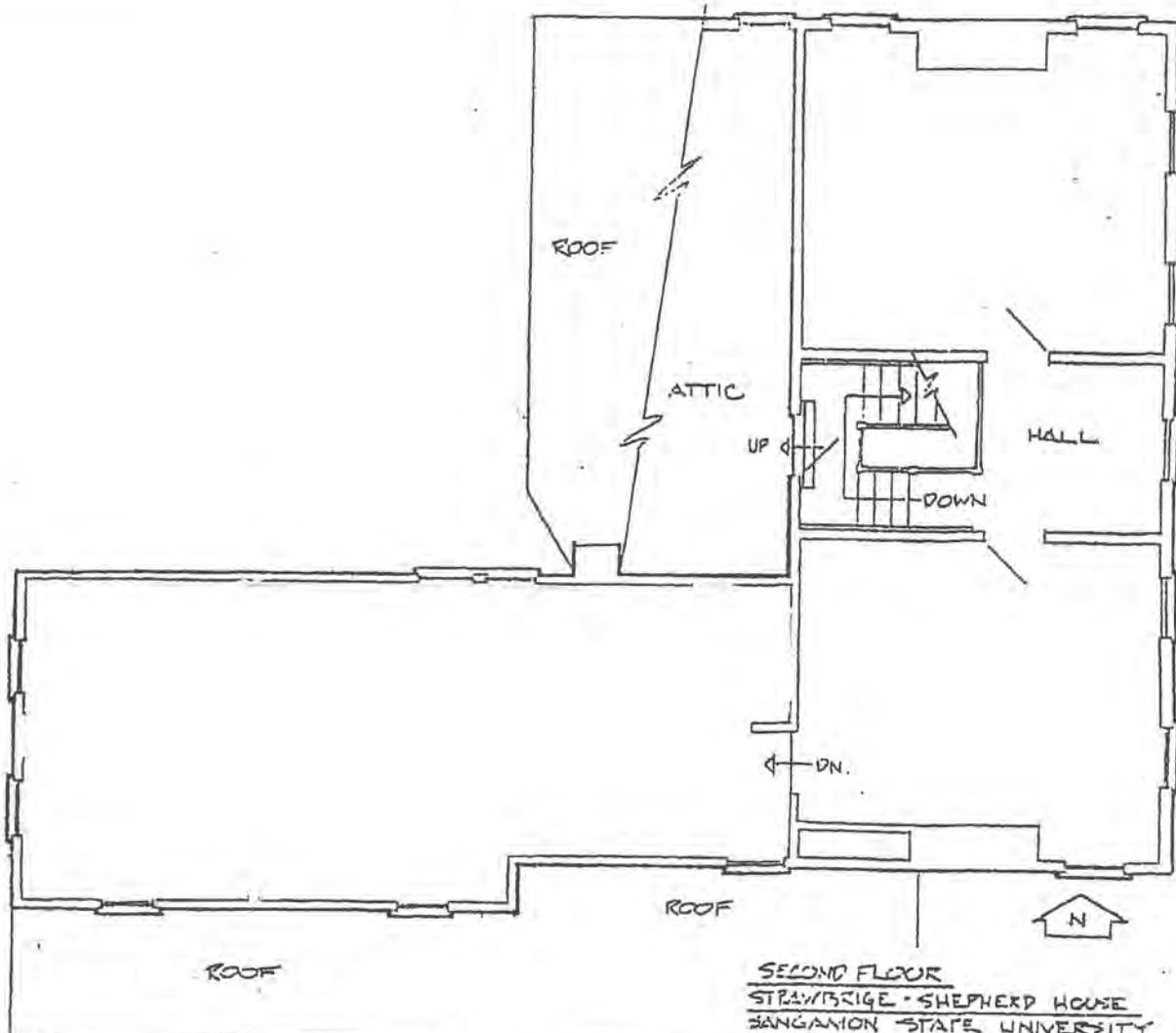
Section number 11 Page 5**Floor plan, second floor**

Figure #5































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Strawbridge--Shepherd House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, Sangamon

DATE RECEIVED: 4/24/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/19/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/03/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/09/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000317

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6-9-15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



April 13, 2015

Ms. Barbara Wyatt
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW Suite NC400
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Wyatt:

Enclosed for your review is the following National Register Nomination Form that was recommended by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council and signed by the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. It is being submitted in a digital format on the enclosed disks, and it is the true and correct copy.

Strawbridge Shepherd House, Springfield, Sangamon County

Please contact me at the address above, or by telephone at 217-785-4324. You can also email me at andrew.heckenkamp@illinois.gov if you need any additional information or clarification. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Heckenkamp".

Andrew Heckenkamp
National Register Coordinator

Enclosures