

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota	
COUNTY: <u>Ramsey</u> Hennepin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-11-22-0006	DATE 11/25/69

1. NAME

COMMON:
Ramsey (Alexander) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
265 South Exchange Street

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Paul

STATE Minnesota	CODE 22	COUNTY: Ramsey	CODE 123
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Historic House</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
690 Cedar Street

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul	STATE: Minnesota	CODE 22
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Ramsey County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
15 West Kellogg Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul	STATE: Minnesota	CODE 22
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Sites Act of 1965, H. F. No. 1743, 1965
Minnesota Statutes

DATE OF SURVEY: 1965 Federal State County Local

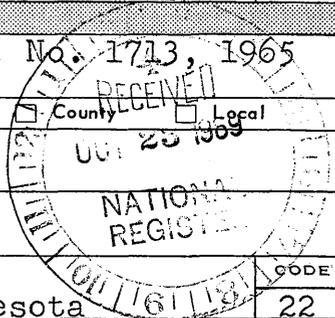
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
690 Cedar Street

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul	STATE: Minnesota	CODE 22
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Minnesota
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ENTRY NUMBER
DATE



FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

7. The Ramsey house was built between 1868 and 1872. The architect, Monroe Scheire, the contractor, John Summers and the chief carpenter, Matthew Taylor, were all from St. Paul. At that time the Irvine Park neighborhood, where the house was built, was one of the better sections of the city. The house has sixteen rooms, three stories and a full basement. It was built of local grey limestone and cost about \$40,000. The style is French Neo-Baroque of the Second Empire, featuring mansard roof, elaborate dormers, arched doors and windows with massive lintels and bracketing under the eaves. This mansion, surrounded by a cast-iron fence, symbolizes the solid prosperity and respectability of its owner.

On the first floor is the large parlor, measuring twenty by forty feet. Its floor-to-ceiling bay window is flanked by white marble fireplaces. The original carpet and gas light chandeliers, Steinway piano and furniture still furnish the room. The library and reception room are on the other side of the main hall; each has a fireplace, and the library has a bay window. In the back wing are the dining room, kitchen, pantry and storage rooms. First floor ceilings are fifteen feet high.

The second floor is reached by a main staircase and a back staircase. The main section of the second floor is taken up by four large bedrooms; each is furnished with original furniture. The rear wing contains two bathrooms, one bedroom and the Governor's study. In his study, the Governor read, entertained and conducted business. His law and history books line the shelves, his law shingle and an engraving of Lincoln hang above the plain desk, a spittoon rests beside the swivel chair and an easy chair sits beside the iron stove.

On the third floor, are three bedrooms for servants, a room later used as a nursery, and the attic. The porches and floors are select Minnesota white pine; most other woodwork is birch or walnut. The window sills and frames are two feet thick, with butternut shutters which fold into the frame. The house was built with pipes for gas lighting and flues for hot air heating. When electric lights and hot water heating were later installed, the original fixtures were retained.

In 1872, the Ramseys and their daughter Marion bought furniture for eight rooms in New York. Some articles were moved from their former St. Paul house, and many furnishings were added through the years, including the popular angelic marble lovers, ostrich eggs on pedestals and glass domes over bouquets and clocks.

Marion married Charles E. Furness in the house parlor in 1875. When her mother, Mrs. Ramsey, died in 1884, Marion, with her children, returned as mistress of the house. After Mrs. Furness' death in 1935, her daughters continued to live in the Victorian milieu until they died - Laura in 1959 and Anita in 1964. Laura and Anita Furness had willed the mansion to the Minnesota Historical Society. It was their wish that it be restored, so far as possible, to its original appearance, and that it be opened to the public. When the Ramsey House came into

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7. Description, continued

the possession of the Historical Society in 1964, the building looked very much as it did when the Governor had it built. The furnishings, plaster and wallpaper are now being restored. Hot air heat with humidity and temperature control is being installed. The carriage house is being reconstructed to the 1872 appearance, and will be used as an interpretation and orientation area for visitors touring the house. A St. Paul urban renewal project is improving the neighborhood which had deteriorated since the turn of the century.

reconstructed or restored?



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8. Alexander Ramsey held a greater number of important local and federal offices than any other Minnesotan. From the time he arrived, in 1849, until his death in 1903, he devoted himself to the public and private welfare of Minnesota and its citizens. He established the administrative machinery of the territory and guided the territory and state through difficult early years. He represented the State in the United States Senate for twelve years. Before he returned to his adopted home, he served in the administrative branch of the federal government for seven years. This Victorian mansion reflects the life of a man of public affairs and as such provides a contrast to the log cabin and frame house of the homesteader and the immigrant.

Alexander Ramsey, ex-Congressman from Pennsylvania, was appointed governor of Minnesota Territory because of his successful campaigning for Zachary Taylor in the election of 1848. When he arrived in the spring of 1849 with his wife and small son, the governor's house was not yet ready. They stayed with Henry H. Sibley at Mendota, beginning a friendship which lasted nearly half a century. Ramsey's first message to the Legislature showed his broad interest in the settlement and development of the territory. He organized the government, ordered a census and set a date for the elections. His greatest accomplishment was his negotiation of the treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota in the summer of 1851, by which the Sioux tribes ceded twenty-four million acres to the United States. When a Democratic governor was appointed in 1852, Ramsey stayed in St. Paul; he was elected mayor in 1855. In the first election for the State of Minnesota, 1857, Ramsey was the new Republican party's nominee for governor. He was defeated by his friend and political rival, Henry H. Sibley, but won the office in the election of 1859. He was the first governor to offer the War Department troops after the firing on Fort Sumter in April, 1861. In August, 1863, while many Minnesota men were fighting in the South, the Sioux rose in a desperate effort to reclaim their lost domain from the swelling numbers of small farms and villages. As they swept down the Minnesota valley, burning out farmer and villager, Governor Ramsey raised a force of militia and paroled soldiers and commissioned Sibley as their commander. By late fall, the uprising was defeated and the tribes driven from the State or penned in prison camps. Later that year, Governor Ramsey was elected

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ryland, William James, Alexander Ramsey, Philadelphia Harris and Partridge, 1941

Fowell, William Watts, A History of Minnesota, St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1956.

Urevig, Frances, "Alexander Ramsey", Gopher Historian, Winter, 1957-58. pp. 16-17.

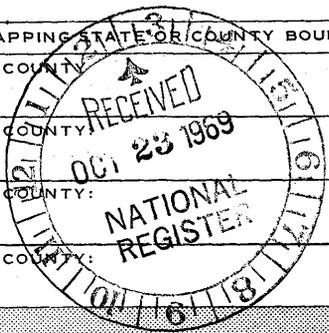
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	44	55	40
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"	93	05	54
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



15/491810/4976260
 1-31-77
 UTM Ref. um
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John Grossman, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Historical Society DATE: October 2, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER: 690 Cedar

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Russell H. Fridley

Title: Director, Minnesota Historical Society

Date: October 7, 1969

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

Ewert Allen Conrady
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: NOV 25 1969

ATTEST:

William J. Schmitz
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: NOV 10 1969

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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COUNTY	
Ramsey	
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8. Statement of Significance, continued

X
X
United States Senator by the state legislature. He was serving in that office while he built this mansion. After retiring from the Senate, he entertained President Rutherford B. Hayes in his new home in 1878. The next year, President Hayes asked Ramsey to be his Secretary of War; he accepted and returned to Washington until 1886, serving as Minnesota's first cabinet member and later active on two special commissions. When he returned, he devoted his last years to his friends, family, and public welfare activities. Each year, Sibley called on May 27 to observe with his old friend, the anniversary of Ramsey's arrival in Minnesota. At the age of eighty-eight, Alexander Ramsey died on April 23, 1903. This house remained the family home, essentially the same as when he lived there for another sixty- one years.

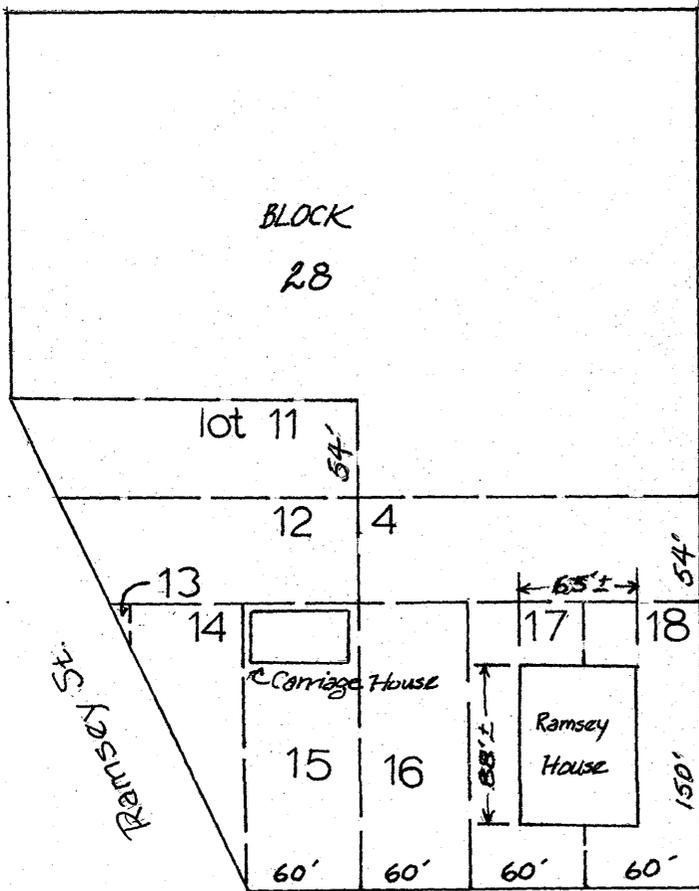


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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Minnesota	
COUNTY	
Ramsey	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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69-1122-0006	11/25/69

(Number all entries)



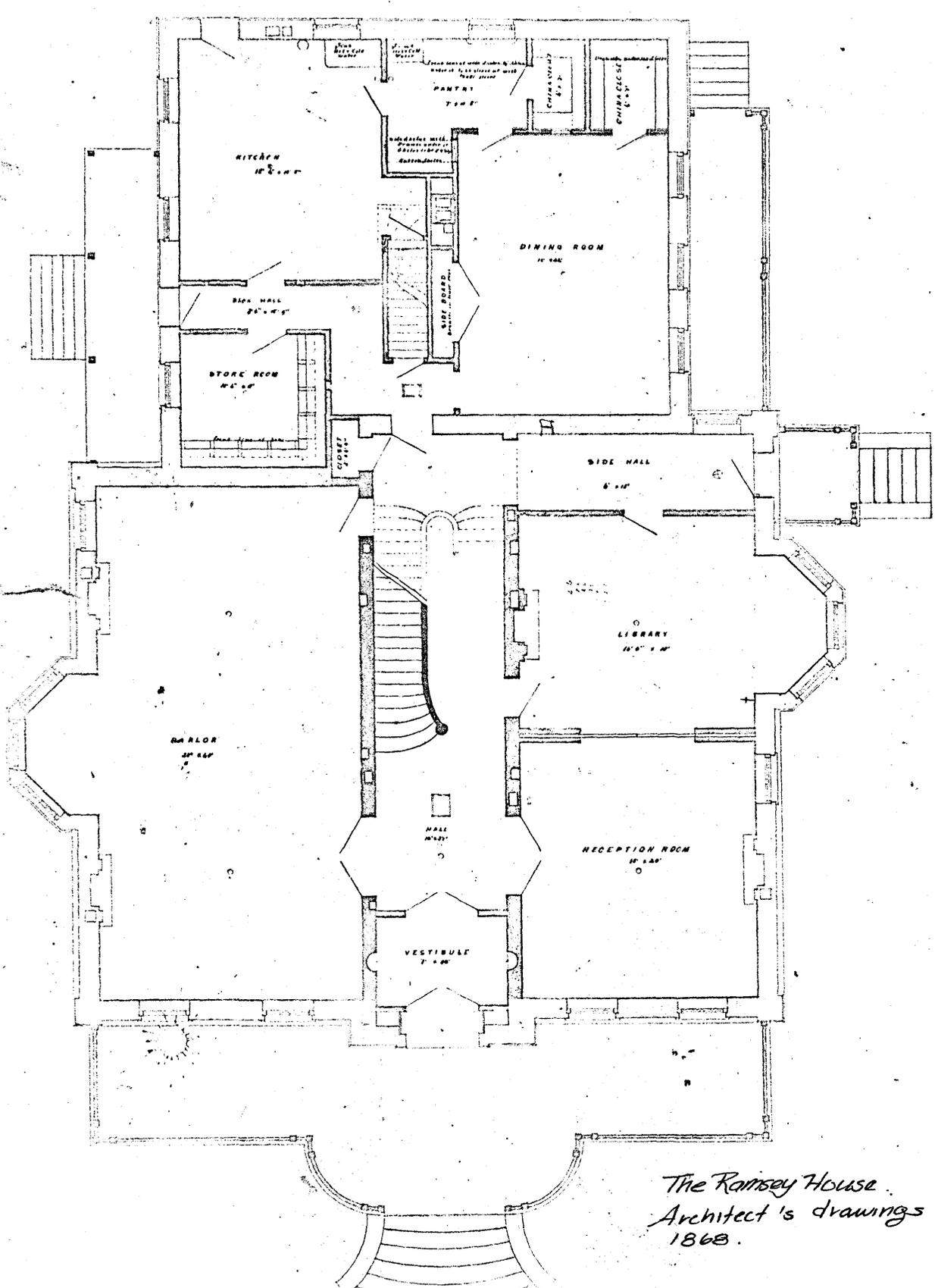
Walnut St.



Exchange St.

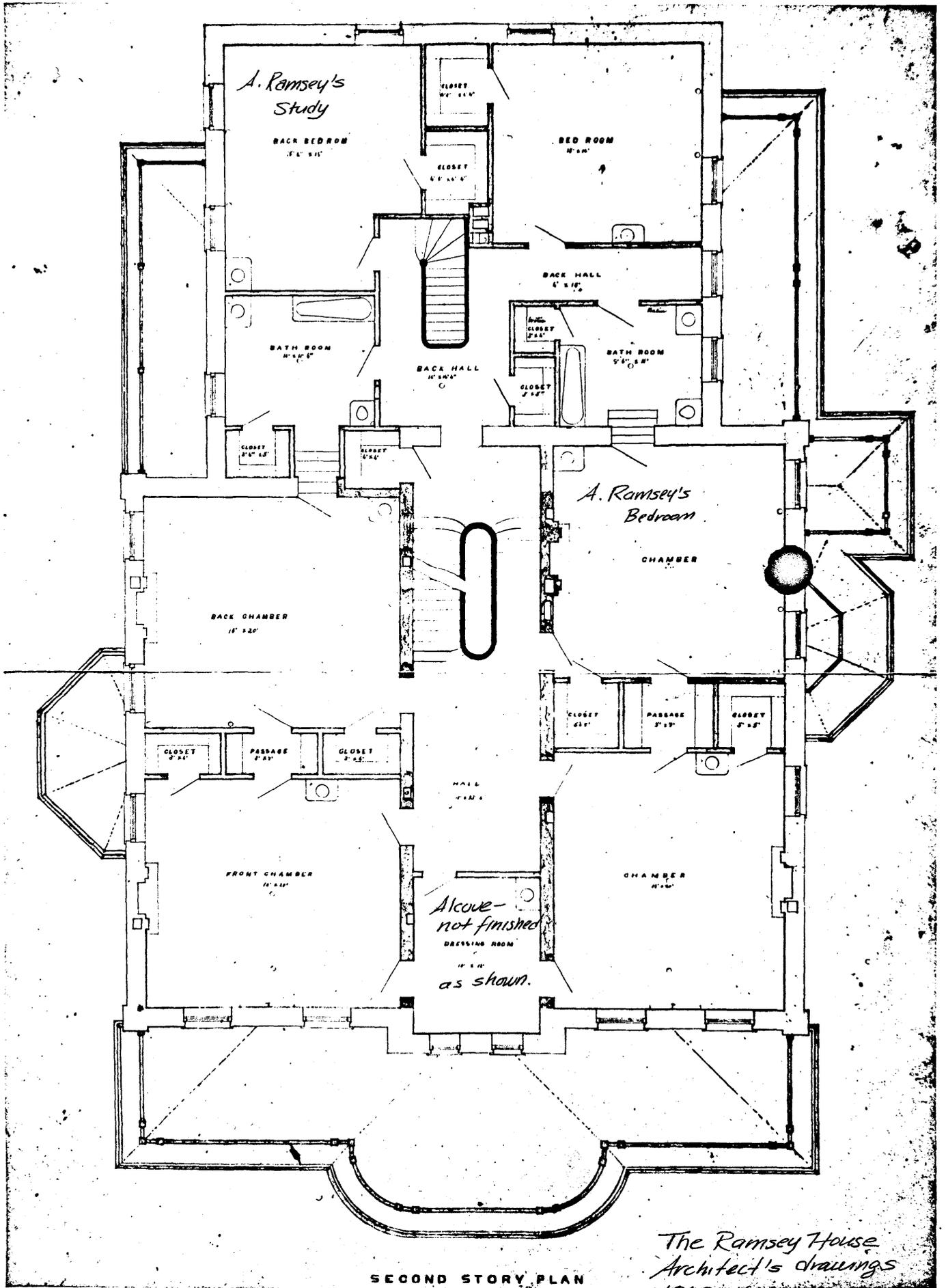
Legal Description: Lots 11, 12, 13, 14 or parts thereof,
and Lots 4, 15, 16, 17 and 18, all in block 28,
Rice & Irvines Addition to St. Paul in Ramsey County.

Taken from County Plat Book, Ramsey County,
St. Paul, Minn.



*The Ramsey House
 Architect's drawings
 1868.*

FIRST STORY PLAN



Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Minnesota	
COUNTY	
Ramsey	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-11-22-0006	11/25/69

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Ramsey (Alexander) House	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
265 South Exchange Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
St. Paul			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Minnesota	22	Ramsey	123
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. "St. Paul East" 7.5' Quadrangle			
SCALE:			
1:24000			
DATE:			
1951			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

