

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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DATE ENTERED	

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Clark R. Griggs House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
505 West Main

CITY, TOWN
Urbana

STATE
Illinois

VICINITY OF
CODE
12

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
21
COUNTY
Champaign
CODE
019

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Willis C. Baker,
Joseph F. Coble

STREET & NUMBER
301 Hessel Blvd.

CITY, TOWN
Champaign

VICINITY OF

STATE
Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Champaign County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Urbana

STATE
Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Illinois Historic Structures Survey

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN
Springfield, Ill.

STATE
(see continuation sheet)

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Clark R. Griggs house is a fine example of a small two-story Italianate residence. It was built in 1871, and both the exterior and the interior fabric remain virtually intact.

Projecting eaves on the house are supported by brackets, set in pairs. The front porch is accented by wooden trim in a fleur-de-lis shape, and a balustrade with cutout x-shaped pieces. Nicely proportioned windows are surmounted by basket-handle brickwork. Bricks throughout are handmade in sand molds. The foundation under the original structure is of random-cut limestone. Floor joists are of sawn solid walnut beams.

The plan of the house is asymmetrical. Access is through a front entry which opens to the East into a parlor, and towards the South to the dining room. A curved stairway with the original walnut handrail rises to the second floor hall where there is a round, etched glass window on the West side. Original leather paneling in the stairway is also extant.

There is a small bay window in the parlor which projects on the East side; the focal point of the room is the fireplace on the South wall.

The parlor opens into the dining room to the South, where oak floors form a border around pine boards in the center of the room. The dining room is separated from the study to the East by a large arched doorway.

The original house, consisting of the entryway, front parlor, dining room and study on the first floor, and three bedrooms and bath on the second floor, was served by a separate kitchen.

Soon after the house was built, a two-story addition was made on the South side, providing an attached kitchen. A back stairway leads from this room to a maid's room above. The kitchen opens to a porch on the East side of the house. Evidence from the brickwork clearly indicates this portion was an addition to the original structure, and the basement foundation which changes from limestone to brick at this point also confirms this fact. Corner posts and ceiling boards of the porch are of a type commonly used in the 1880's, suggesting the addition was made approximately 10 years after the construction of the house.

The pattern of the porch balustrade was carefully matched to that of the front porch (also the addition is slightly taller), and indication of the careful workmanship found throughout.

A second, one-story addition was later made to the rear of the house, again providing kitchen facilities and converting

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES **1871**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clark R. Griggs house is one of the last examples of Italianate style architecture in Urbana. It is described by Ralph M. Line, architectural historian, as a "finely proportioned structure which displays careful construction and notable attention to details".¹

The house has survived almost totally intact for over 100 years. Although the house is primarily significant because of its architecture, it is of value from a historic standpoint as well. Clark R. Griggs, who built the house, was one of the most outstanding figures in the history of Champaign County. Griggs never lived in the home; rather it was occupied by his son who remained in Urbana to oversee his father's local business investments. Clark R. Griggs went east to work on his railroad investments after influencing the selection of Urbana as the location of the forerunner of the University of Illinois.

In 1859 Griggs came from Massachusetts to engage in farming on land near Philo, Illinois. During the Civil War he served as a sutler in the Union cause. Later he was mayor of Urbana. His most significant contribution to the community was the location of the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

Having been elected to the Illinois General Assembly, he immediately set out to gain the new Land Grant University for his constituents. From his legislative position as Chairman of the Manufacturing and Agricultural Committee, he engineered the political processes which resulted in the awarding of the University to Urbana.

"No man ever lived in Champaign county who exercised a greater influence or accomplished more good for the county than Clark R. Griggs."²

Mr. Griggs was also a railroad developer with interests in five states. He actively engaged in the construction, and served as President of the Indianapolis, Bloomington and Western Railroad. This line intersected with the Illinois Central at Champaign; It opened new trade routes and created important economic influences on the area. Although unknown to Griggs, his skill at railway routing was later to make a national contribution. His routing plans for the ill-fated Southern Penn Railway through the Allegheny Mountains were rediscovered in

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic Sites in Champaign County. Champaign, 1976. Champaign County Historical Museum.

Lohmann, Karl B. Alumni Quarterly, v. 1. #2 (15 Oct., 1915). Urbana, University of Illinois Press.

(see continuation sheet #2)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME _____
UTM REFERENCES

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

A

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 Lot Two of C. R. Griggs Addition to the City of Urbana, except the following described tract: Commencing at the Southeast Corner of Lot 2 of C. R. Griggs' Addition to the City of Urbana, thence in a Northerly direction along the (see continuation)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Patricia L. Miller, Director

ORGANIZATION Champaign County Historical Museum DATE July 12, 1978

STREET & NUMBER 709 W. University TELEPHONE (217) 356-1010

CITY OR TOWN Champaign STATE Illinois ZIP 61820

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 _____

TITLE _____ DATE _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
	DATE _____
ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE _____
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
Representation in Surveys	6	1
Lohman, Karl. <u>100 Houses of Urbana, Illinois: Who Lived in them and When?</u> Urbana Library Archives. Urbana, Illinois.		
Heitzman, Frank. <u>Survey.</u> Ricker Library, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.		
Iber. <u>The Iber Inventory.</u> Ricker Library, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.		
Champaign County Historical Museum. <u>Historic Sites in Champaign County.</u> Champaign County Historical Museum.		
Hill, Gregory, et al. <u>Urbana Preservation Study.</u> Urbana Planning Library, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.		

7 2

the previous room to other uses. Pine siding and nails from the siding indicate that this portion was probably added in the 1890's.

The house is compact and nicely porportioned throughout. With the exceptions of early additions to the structure, and concessions to modern plumbing and heating fixtures, very little alteration has been made to the house since 1871.

8 3

1938. These plans were used for routing one of America's most historic highways, the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

The Clark R. Griggs house is a building which is important to preserve because of its unusual degree of architectural integrity, the local scarcity of other examples of the style, and its historical importance due to association with an extremely influential figure in local and state events.

¹ Ralph M. Line, SAH, Professor emeritus, Architecture Department, University of Illinois.

² Matthews, Milton W. Early History and Pioneers of Champaign County.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

#2

9

4

Lothrop, J. S. Champaign County Directory 1870-71, with History of the Same. Chicago, 1871. Rand McNally and Company.

Matthews, Milton W. and McLean, Lewis A. Early History and Pioneers of Champaign County. Urbana, 1876. Champaign County Herald.

Solberg, Winton U., The University of Illinois 1867-1894; An Intellectual and Cultural History. Urbana, 1968. University of Illinois Press.

Unpublished manuscripts

Urbana. University of Illinois Archives, Record Series 2/5/3-95, letter, Clark R. Griggs to Dr. Wallace Stearns, 1906.

Urbana. University of Illinois Archives, Record Series 2/5/3-95, Letter, Allan Nevins to President Edmund J. James, 4 September, 1915.

Urbana. University of Illinois Archives, Record Series 8/4/22, Charles L. Stewert Papers (Oral History Brief).

Interviews

Line, Ralph M., Urbana, Ill. July 6, 1978.

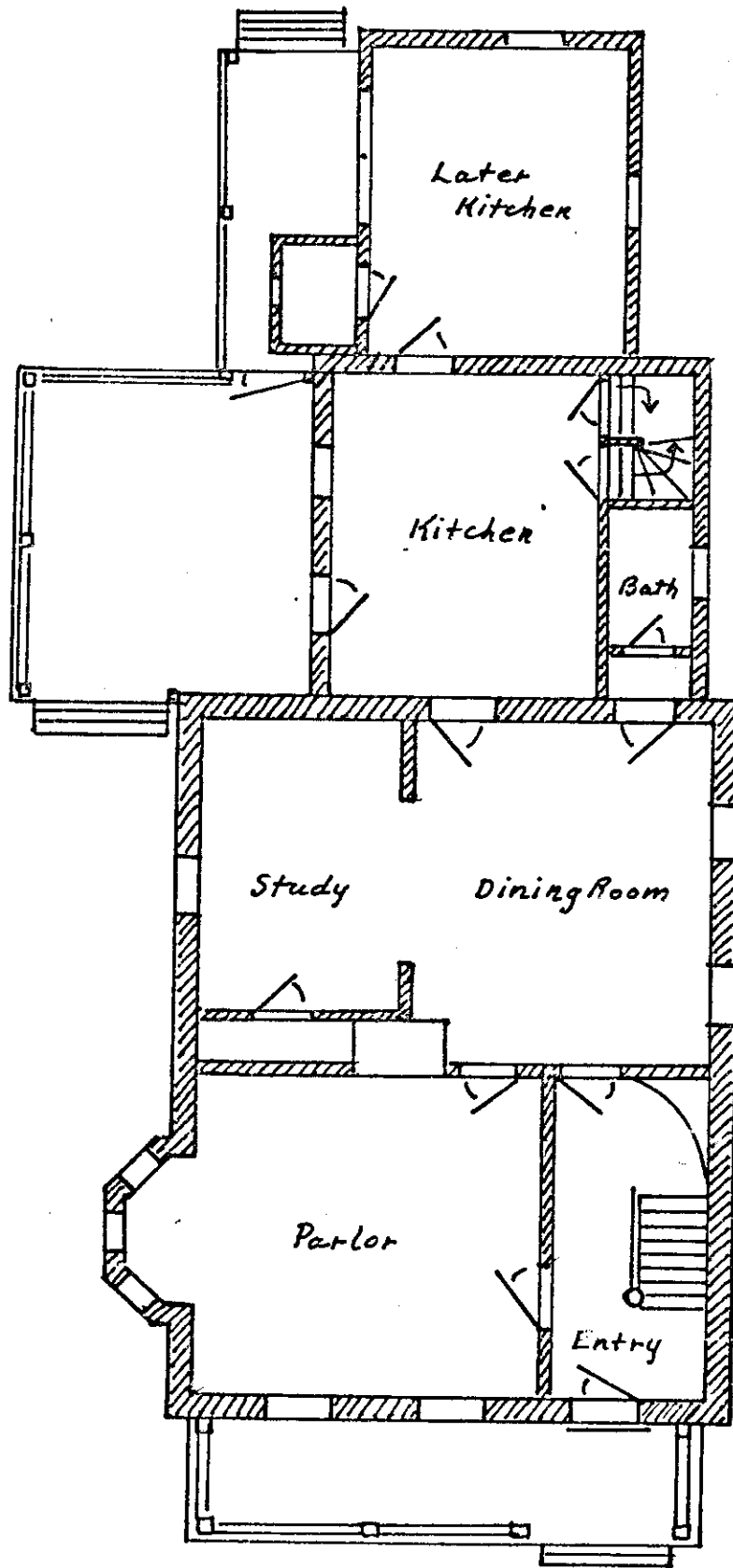
Rea, Mrs. John (daughter-in-law of last resident), Urbana, Ill., July 9, 1978.

10

4

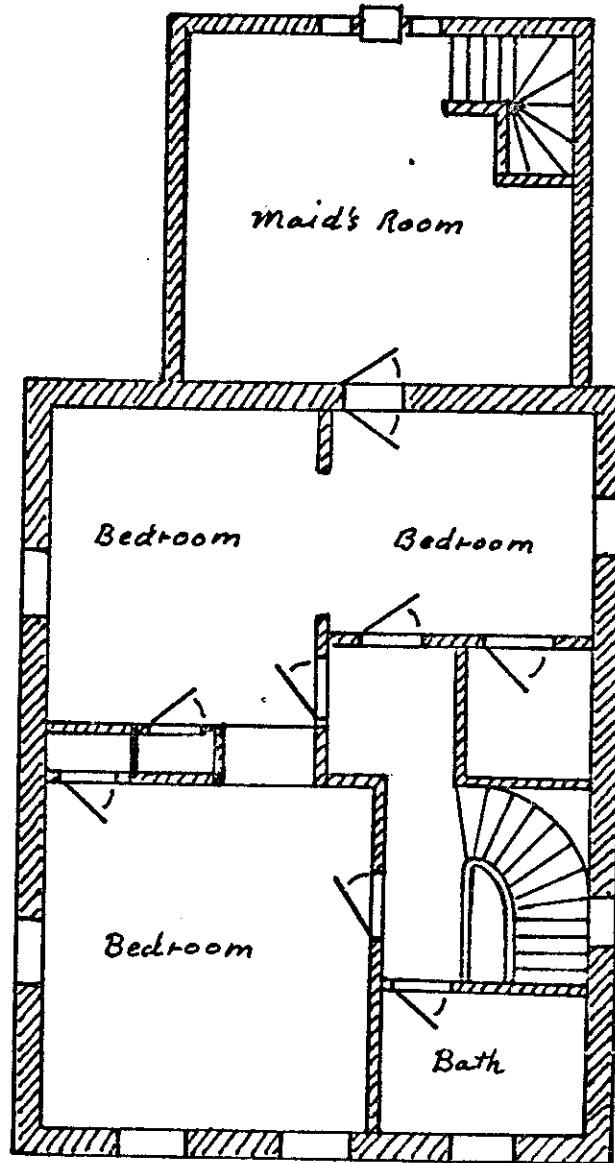
East line of said lot 2 a distance of seven (7) feet, thence in a Westerly direction to the Southwest corner of said lot 2, thence in a Southeasterly direction along the South line of said lot 2 to the point of beginning, being a portion of the East half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 8, Township 19 North, Range 9 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Champaign County.

Clark R. Griggs House
505 W. Main St. Urbana, Ill.



1st. floor

Clark R. Griggs House
505 W. Main St. Urbana, Ill.



2nd. floor

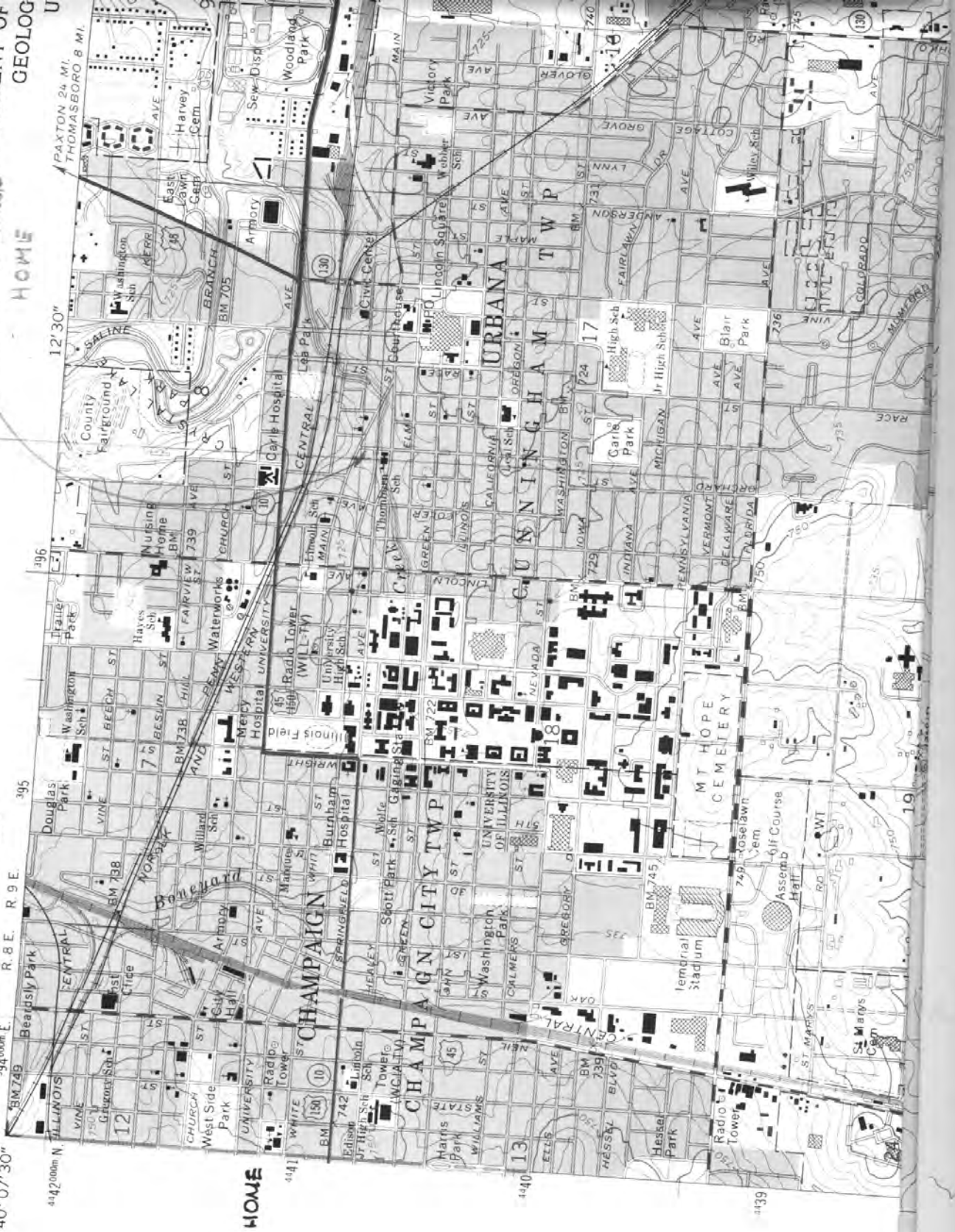
3364 III NE
(RISING)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

88° 15'
40° 07' 30"

394,000m. E.
R. 8 E. R. 9 E.

CLARK R. GRIGGS DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
HOME



CLARK R. GRIGGS HOME
ZONE 16
E: 396 S70
N: 4440 840

PAXTON 24 MI.
THOMASBORO 8 MI.