

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Larchmound

*Name: Ridgway,
Robert, House
(Larchmound)*

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1030 S. Morgan Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Olney

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Illinois

VICINITY OF

CODE

012

COUNTY

Richland

CODE

159

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"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Tom Rice

STREET & NUMBER

1030 S. Morgan Street

CITY, TOWN

Olney

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Richland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Olney

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey

DATE

July 1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Illinois Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Larchmound, the Robert Ridgway home at 1030 S. Morgan Street, sits on 2.69 acres of thickly planted land. The structure, although suggestive of the Gothic Revival style, with its steeply pitched gables, defies stylistic typing.

Completed in 1866, the original structure is a one and a half story residence constructed of brick laid in a common bond pattern. The roof consists of four large gable ends arranged in a cruciform manner. The south gable end is approximately five feet longer than the other three and has a dormer on the west side. An ornamental iron railing surmounts a porch on the north facade. Above the porch is a set of double doors each with a round arched glass inset above a panel. The first floor has a three sided bay on the west side and a three sided rectangular bay on the east side. The west bay has an iron railing similar to that on the north porch.

Two additions to the south end of the structure have been made. Both additions were constructed by any one of three generations of the Rowland family, who lived in the house from 1866-1909. The first addition is of brick laid in the modern common bond method. The gable roof, which has a dormer on the west side, continues the peak of the south gable end but has a steeper pitch. A small porch on the west side was probably constructed at the same time. The porch was enclosed in the late 1930's or early 1940's. The second addition is clapboard and forms two gable ends. On the first story this addition forms a porch the width of the addition.

Interior alterations are, for the most part, insignificant and reversible. One such alteration includes the bricking in of two fireplaces.

Exterior alterations to the structure include the enclosure of the west porch, the removal of two chimneys from the original structure, and the construction sometime in the late 1930's or early 1940's of stairs on the west side of the house, since made less obtrusive.

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1913-1929

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Larchmound is the only remaining structure in Illinois associated with the productive years of Robert Ridgway, authority in the fields of botanical and ornithological research (as well as author and artist) and the only structure in Olney that appears in the Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey with greater than local significance.

Ridgway's bibliography of published works include over 500 books and papers, 27 of which he wrote during his years at Larchmound. "His most pretentious work, which is probably the most ambitious undertaking in American systematic ornithology, was 'The Birds of North and Middle America'. This catalogue which includes technical descriptions of every form of bird known from the northern section of the Western Hemisphere, with complete synonymies, . . . and measurements, consumed most of his official time from 1894 until his death. . ."1. Three volumes of this eleven volume series were written during the years Ridgway lived at Larchmound -- Vol. 6 (1914), Vol. 7 (1916), and Vol. 8 (1919). ". . . when the eighth part of 'Birds of North and Middle America' appeared, his publication were the standard reference works on North American birds."2. (It should be noted that of the last three volumes of the series volumes 9 and 10 were written by Dr. Herbert Friedman, Ridgway's successor as curator of birds at the Smithsonian, with Ridgway's notes. Volume 11 was written solely by Friedman.) In addition to his own works, Ridgway's name is perpetuated in the literature of science by a genus (23 species and 9 subspecies) bearing his name.

Ridgway, who worked with the Smithsonian Institute from 1867 to 1917, remained an active consultant in research for the Institute until his death in 1929. Prior to his retirement Ridgway purchased an 8 acre tract of land, later expanded to 96 acres, just north of Olney. The property was largely covered in 1970 by an artificial lake. On this property, 'Bird Haven', Ridgway built a three room cottage, since destroyed, as his retirement home. After two summers at 'Bird Haven' Ridgway, realizing it impractical to remain at 'Bird Even' permanently, purchased Larchmound and the 8.69 acres on which the house stood (the land acreage has since been reduced to 2.69 acres).

Larchmound, Ridgway's home from 1913 until his death, provided his base for personal and professional research. He chose Olney as his place of retirement in order to prove his idea that the territory surrounding Olney was so located in respect to climatic and soil conditions that

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plants and trees native to either frigid, torrid, or temperate zones would thrive.

From Larchmound, Ridgway administered his research at 'Bird Haven' where there was growing naturally, sixty-four species and varieties of native trees. During his research at 'Bird Haven' Ridgway planted approximately 300 species and varieties of trees, shrubs and plants native to Illinois as well as numerous exotics. "In the nursery, awaiting transportation to 'Bird Haven' are more than 200 additional species."³. "'Records of Trees, Shrubs, Vines, and Other plants planted on Larchmound' as kept by Dr. Ridgway lists approximately 500 plantings."⁴. The hundreds of plantings at 'Bird Haven' and at Larchmound afford excellent cover and food for all kinds of birds. Larchmound, at one time, provided nesting sites for approximately 35 species of birds in the summer and approximately 42 species of birds in the winter. The 2.69 acres which remain of the original 8.69 acres at Larchmound are being nominated because of the extent to which original plantings remain and because of the number and variety of species of birds these plantings continue to provide nesting sites for.

FOOTNOTES

1. Gehser, Paul H. "A Hundred Years of the Smithsonian." Nature Magazine. (Aug. - Sept., 1946).
2. Doan, Jan, ed. Foot-Prints, Past and Present, Richland County Illinois Geneological Society. Vol. 2, (no date).
3. Hansen, Marlin W. "Colorful Story of Robert Ridgway Told." Olney Daily Mail. (Dec. 21, 1927).
4. Gillespie, Charles Coulston. Dictionary of Scientific Biography. Vol. 9. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, (no date).

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BIBLIOGRAPHY (Cont'd.)

- Bullard, Mrs. Anna K., President, Ridgeway Memorial Association, Olney, Illinois. Interview, July 25, 1979.
- Doan, Jan, ed. Foot-Prints, Past and Present, Richland County Illinois Genealogical Society. Vol. 2, (no date).
- Gillespie, Charles Coulston. Dictionary of Scientific Biography. Vol. 9. N.Y.: Charles Scribner's Sons, (no date).
- Marquis - Who's Who Inc. Who Was Who in America, 1897-1942. Vol. 1. N. Y.: Marquis - Who's Who Inc., 1968.
- Davenport, J. Garvin. "Robert Ridgeway, Illinois Naturalist." Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society. Springfield: Illinois State Historical Society, vol. 63, no. 3 (Autumn, 1970).
- Dowell, Lela Campbell. "Robert Ridgeway, A Memory of Excellence." Illinois Magazine. Dan Malkovich, Publisher, (Oct. 1966).
- Gehser, Paul H. "A Hundred Years of the Smithsonian." Nature Magazine. (Aug. - Sept., 1946).
- Hansen, Marlin W. "Colorful Story of Robert Ridgeway Told." Olney Daily Mail. (Dec. 21, 1927).
- Harris, Harry. "Robert Ridgeway: with a Bibliography of his Published Writings and Fifty Illustrations." The Condor, Cooper Ornithological Club. vol. 30, no. 1, (Jan. - Feb. 1928).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Shaela C. Dunne and Erik Robinson

ORGANIZATION

Illinois Department of Conservation

DATE

8/1/79

STREET & NUMBER

405 E. Washington Street

TELEPHONE

(217) 785-0271

CITY OR TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered JAN 3 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Ridgway, Robert, House	Olney Richland County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Daniel B. Crane

OFFICE OF HISTORICAL PRESERVATION

2005
(NR)

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

1. Name of Site:

Common Larchmont
Historic

2.. Location:

Street and Number Township Section
1030 S. Morgan
City or Town Zip Code Range 1/4 Section
Olney
County

Richland

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

() District (x) Building
() Site () Structure

Integrity (check one)

(x) Altered () Unaltered
() Moved (x) Original Site

4. Ownership:

(x) Private
() Public

Status (check one)

(x) Occupied
() Unoccupied
() Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

() Yes () Restricted () Unrestricted (x) No

Present Use (check one or more)

() Agricultural () Industrial () Religious
() Commercial () Military () Scientific
() Educational () Museum () Transportation
() Entertainment () Park () Other (specify)
() Government (x) Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name Allen Welker Phone Number
Street and Number
City or Town
State County Zip Code

6. Description:

() Excellent (x) Good () Fair () Deteriorated () Ruins () Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? () Yes (x) No

SCIENCE

7. Historical Themes : (check one or more of the following)

- Archeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
- Archeological Site (Post-Columbian to 1673)
- French Influence (1673-1780)
- Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)
- Illinois Early (1818-1850)
- Illinois Middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois Late (1900-present)
- Famous People Robert Ridgeway (give names & dates)

8. Specific Date: ca 1860

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- Aboriginal (historic)
- Aboriginal (pre-historic)
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communication
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape Architecture
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Political
- Religion/Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Urban Planning
- Other (specify)

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates) Use additional sheets if necessary. Was Rowland house before Rob't Ridgeway bought it. Built by Beard T. McCawley, ca 1860. In 1914 Dr. Ridgeway bought home for his retirement, in 1906 he had built "Bird Haven" with many exotic species of plants & trees. He worked with the Nat'l Museum in Wash. D.C., then the Smithsonian. ^{Date:} ~~Was an international~~ known figure in Natural history. Also famous for a still used book on colors. _{Phone:}

9. Form prepared by:

Street and number: _____

City or Town: _____

County: _____

Zip Code _____

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

