

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

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 Cortland Condit House

AND/OR COMMON Condit House Memorial Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
N/A

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Putnam

N/A VICINITY OF
CODE

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

15th

STATE
Illinois

COUNTY
Putnam

CODE

155

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Senachwine Township

STREET & NUMBER
N/A

CITY, TOWN
Putnam

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois 61560

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Putnam County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
N/A

CITY, TOWN
Hennepin

STATE
Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Illinois Rural Survey

DATE
9-30-82

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN
Springfield

STATE
Illinois

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION
 EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE
 UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE
 ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE N/A

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cortland House, built 1849-50, is constructed of local orange common brick and native lumber. The raised one-and-a-half story structure has Greek Revival overtones. A simple entablature and cornice returns can be found under the eaves of the building. Rectangular in shape, it is surmounted by a gently pitched wood shingle roof. Dual internal brick chimneys located in the gable ends of the structure help to convey a sense of orderliness and symmetry. The western two chimneys were never functional but provided balance to the overall building. Fenestration throughout the building consists of six over six windows. Federal style influence can be seen in the size and arrangement of these windows. The main floor has larger windows than those located in the upper half story. Smaller windows are also located in the lower half of the structure allowing a great deal of light to penetrate this subterranean level. Masonry arches are located above the entrance, with three windows on the western side of the building. Elsewhere, dentils and sills are constructed of wood. There are also two recessed false center windows for aesthetic balance only, on the main floor in the north and south ends.

The main floor has two principal entrances. The first is on the east side, where a wooden staircase leads to a small portico covering this door. The portico is supported by square columns accented with simple gingerbread. The other entrance is in the rear, or west, side of the house. A masonry arch highlights this doorway. The lower level had three sunken outside entrances, but the north and west entrances have been bricked over. The remaining south entrance leads into a large room that was used as a kitchen and eating area until the turn of the century, when these living activities were moved to the main level. A large fireplace still exists in this room. On the main level are five rooms (see diagram). The two east rooms (sitting room and parlor) both have fireplaces. All the fireplaces in the house have masonry arches, brick hearths, and pine mantels. There are simple columns or pilasters on either side of the hearth. Large pine doubled doors lead into the parlor from the sitting room. The parlor side of these doors is painted in imitation grain. The three small rooms on the west side were used as bedrooms. The center room has a stairway leading to a loft area. Hand-hewn walnut beams and collar beams support the roof and are readily visible. A small room divides the attic. This is not original, having been added at a later time. As restoration continues, this room will be removed and the loft returned to its original state.

Alterations to the exterior of the building have been few. As was previously mentioned, two lower level entrances, the north and west, have been bricked over. Around the turn of the century, a new floor was laid in the sitting room, which covered an open stairway leading to the large cooking room in the lower level. A new stairway leading to both the basement and loft was then located in the center back bedroom. In the early 1960's, this room also had a small section partitioned for the installation of a bathroom. All alterations are minor, and the unique architectural character of the house remains very much intact.

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

SPECIFIC DATES

1849-50

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

UNKNOWN

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cortland Condit House (1849-50) is significant for its unusual architecture and for its associative significance to the settlement of Putnam County.

The Rural Sites Survey conducted in 1982-83 has identified this raised, one-a-half-story Greek Revival structure as the only one of its kind in the four county area, which includes Putnam, Marshall, Stark, and Bureau Counties. This information, coupled with the Illinois Department of Conservation's survey of 1973 for Putnam County, has helped to distinguish the Cortland Condit House as the oldest surviving brick building in Senachwine Township. Additional significance relates to the settlement of this area. Cortland Condit donated and surveyed a section of his land for the establishment of a town. Lots were sold and the Town of Condit was founded. In 1882 the Town's name was changed to Putnam and has remained ever since. Cortland Condit (1802-1870) was one of two children born to Samuel Condit. The family lived along the Hudson River in New York State. In time, Cortland moved away from home and became a merchant who sold groceries at the corner of Broom and Bowery Streets in New York City. This business failed, however, and in 1834 Cortland Condit traveled out to Madison County, Illinois. He returned to New York in 1835. He, along with his wife, Mary L. Ten Eych Condit, and their family then returned back to Madison County. They remained there for a year before finally moving to Putnam County in the autumn of 1836. In 1849-50, the present brick farmhouse was erected. The couple pursued farming until their deaths; Cortland - August 3, 1870 and Mary - October 12, 1886. A grandson, Caleb Condit (1856-1945) retained possession of the home until Mrs. Elsie Condit Miles of Omaha, Nebraska inherited it from her father, Caleb. In 1972, Mrs. Miles graciously donated the house and remaining lot to the people of Senachwine Township to be used for "... the library and/or a historic site." Today, the home is the key historical focal point for Senachwine Township and the Village of Putnam, as well as being the only existing structure of its kind in Putnam, Bureau, Marshall, and Stark Counties.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ellsworth, Spencer Records of the Olden Time; Home Journal Steam Printing Establishment, Lacon, IL, 1880. pp. 266-267; page 637.

Ford, Henry A. The History of Putnam and Marshall Counties; Gazette Office, Lacon, IL, 1860. p. 96 reference to Senachwine. No mention of Condit.

Putnam County Courthouse records.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

QUADRANGLE NAME PUTNAM

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 116 129.910.310 14.516.114.610

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19 Township 14 Range 10 east of the Fourth Prime Meridian in the County of Putnam of the State of Illinois

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Jane Downey & James R. Schimmer

James Schimmer - North Central Illinois Council of Governments 4-15-83

ORGANIZATION

DATE

P.O. Box 206 - 400 North Main Street

815/875-3396

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Princeton

Illinois 61356

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Dave Kenny

TITLE

Director

DATE

6/22/83

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

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

1. Name of Site:
Common Putnam Library Branch
Historic Condit House

2. Location:
Street and number Township Section
City or Town Zip Code Senachwine 30
Putnam T14N 1/4 Section
County R10E NE
Putnam

3. Classification:
Category (check one) Integrity (check one)
() District (X) Building () Altered (X) Unaltered
() Site () Structure () Moved (X) Original Site

4. Ownership: Status (check one)
() Private (X) Occupied
(X) Public () Unoccupied
() Preservation work in Progress

Access to Public
() Yes (X) Restricted () Unrestricted () No

Present Use (check one or more)
() Agricultural () Industrial () Religious
() Commercial () Military () Scientific
(X) Educational () Museum () Transportation
() Entertainment () Park () Other (specify)
(X) Government () Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property:
Owner's name Village of Putnam Phone Number
Street and number
City or Town
State County Zip Code

6. Description: **Nice old 2 story brick bldg. now painted gray.**
Condition:
() Excellent (X) Good () Fair () Deteriorated () Ruins
() Unexposed
Is there a program of preservation underway? () Yes (X) No

EDUCATION



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

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Archaeological Site | (Pre-Columbian) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Archaeological Site | (Post-Columbian to 1673) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | French Influence | (1673-1780) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Illinois Frontier | (1780-1818) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Illinois Early | (1818-1850) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Illinois Middle | (1850-1900) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Illinois Late | (1900-present) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Famous People | (give names & dates) |

8. Specific Date: 1837

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

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

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)
Use additional sheets if necessary. **One of the oldest buildings in the county, if not the oldest.**

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: TH Date: _____

Organization: _____ Phone: _____

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.



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

