OMB No. 10024-0018

National Register of Historic Places Application

Christopher Stratton

Prepared by Fever River Research

For the Gustave Koerner House Restoration Committee

2005

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Gustave Koerner House Restoration Committee
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NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gustave Koerner House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 200 Abend Street q not for publication
city or town Belleville q vicinity
state Illinois code IL county St. Clair code 163 zip code 62220

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this q nomination q 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 q meets q does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant q nationally q statewide q locally. (q See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

_____.
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

_____.
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property q meets q does not meet the National Register criteria. (q See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

_____
Signature of commenting or other official Date

_____
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

q entered in the National Register
q See continuation sheet _____
q determined eligible for the
q See continuation sheet. _____
q determined not eligible for the
National Register _____
q removed from the National Register _____
q other (explain): _____
_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- q private
- x public-local
- q public-State
- q public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- x building(s)
- q district
- q site
- q structure
- q object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter N/A if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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)

q **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

x **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

x **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristic 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.

q **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.)

Property is:

q **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

q **B** removed from its original location.

q **C** a birthplace or a grave.

q **D** a cemetery.

q **E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.

q **F** a commemorative property.

q **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1849-1896, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
1855, ARCHITECTURE

Significant Dates

1849, 1855

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Gustave Koerner

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bilbiography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

x State Historic Preservation Office
q Other State Agency
q Federal Agency
x Local Government
q University
q Other
Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1				**3**			
2				**4**			

q See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher Stratton

organization Fever River Research date 17 April 2004

street & number P. O. Box 5234 telephone (217) 525-9002

city or town Springfield state IL zip code 62705

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title City Of Belleville

street & number 101 S. Illinois Street telephone (618) 233-6810

city or town Belleville state IL zip code 62220-2105

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Gustave Koerner House is a large two-story, side-gabled, double-pile, brick, Greek-Revival-style dwelling with a side-hall floor plan. The house faces north and occupies a wedge-shaped lot at the southeast corner of Lincoln and Abend Streets. A two-story, shed-roofed, brick rear service wing extends off the rear of the dwelling, giving the residence an L-shape overall. A two-story porch extends along the west side of the wing. There also is a two-story, pentagonal bay window (or "tower") along the east side of the wing. The exterior of the house has modest Greek-Revival detailing, including a wide cornice on the façade, lug stone sills and lintels, a cut stone watertable, recessed front entrance with transom and side-lights, and attic fan-lights. The house originally had close eaves and a simple brick cornice with dentils. Ca. 1875, however, the eaves were extended and given returns on the gable-ends; at the same time, Italianate-influenced brackets eaves were added along the cornice.[1] The majority of the windows in the house have double-hung sash with six-over-six lights, dating from the period of significance for the property. Only a handful of replacement and/or modern sash are present. Historic images of the property indicate that the windows once had shutters; these have all been removed, however.

The main block of the house measures 33'-11" (north/south) by 27'-3" (east/west). The front (north) façade is divided into three symmetrical bays, with two windows and a door (not centered) on the first floor and three windows on the second floor. The front entrance is recessed several feet from the wall plane, providing a sheltered stoop for those entering, and is approached via a short flight of cut stone steps. The west elevation of the main house originally had only two windows present: a window on the second floor; and a small, attic fanlight high in the gable end. A window on the first floor was added at some point in the twentieth century to allow light into the hallway flanking it. In contrast, the east elevation of the main house has four windows on the first floor, and three windows and doorway on the second floor. The doorway on the upper floor led out onto a balcony supported by ornamental iron brackets. The balcony was located off of a bedroom and may have served as a sleeping porch (and perhaps also as a platform for speeches). The brackets remain intact, but the deck and balustrade have been removed. A ca. 1890 photograph shows that the balcony had been removed by that time. The house originally had two chimneys at each gable end; the western of these have since been removed below the roofline.

The main block of the house has a side-hall floor plan. On the first floor, a hallway extends the full depth of the west of the house, and is flanked by two principal rooms on the east. The hallway has an open stairway with a fine balustrade, which continues up to the attic level. Each

[1] A ca. 1867-1869 lithograph of the house shows as having close eaves and brick dentils along the cornice (Shrader 1867-1869).

of the main rooms on the first floor originally was accessible from the hallway, and they were connected to one another through a wide doorway in their common wall (possibly being separated by pocket doors). Both rooms have fireplaces centered along their east walls, which are equipped with Classical-inspired frame mantels. Given their location and relationship to one another, the two rooms most likely served public, formal space. The north room may have been used as a front parlor, while the southern room possibly was used as a dining room or sitting room. The Koerners also had a sizable library (numbering 500 books in 1896), which may have been placed in either of these chambers (St. Clair County Probate Record, Roll 122, Seq. 400063). The function of these rooms may have changed over time, and their precise use during the Koerners' period of occupation remains unknown at present.

On the second floor, the stairway opens onto a hallway, which is not full depth (in contrast to the floor below) and is illuminated by a single window on its west side. A small room is located at the north end of the hallway. This chamber may have served either as a bedroom, nursery, or storage area at various times—depending on the lifecycle of the Koerner family. On the east side of the hall, there are two large rooms whose footprints mirror those on the first floor. These larger rooms functioned as bedrooms historically, and each of them has a fireplace. Interestingly, the fireplace mantels in these rooms differ from those on the floor below, as well as from each other; both have Classical elements, but the mantel in the south bedroom also has trim suggestive of Egyptian-Revival. The northern bedroom may have served as the master bedroom for the Koerners. It originally was illuminated by three windows and also has a set of double doors that access the balcony discussed above. The stairway is finished up to the attic level, although attic itself was never finished out as living space.

The rear service wing appears to be original to the house and measures 40'-4" (north/south) by 14'-6" (east/west). The wing can be accessed by means of interior doorways from the main house, as well as from exterior doorways on the east and west. On the interior, the wing originally was divided into three rooms on each floor. The Koerners apparently used northern of these rooms was used as a "back parlor" (or sitting room). In the 1865, the room was equipped with a center table and was used by the family for reading and needlework (Koerner 1909:II:441).[2] It may also have held part of the family's library at one time. The northern room was expanded considerably ca. 1875 with the addition of a large, two-story pentagonal bay window on its east side. The middle room in the wing originally was the largest of the three and

[2] In his memoirs, Gustave Koerner recalls a strange occurrence on the night Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. "We were sitting in our back parlor around the center-table, some reading, others doing needle-work, when we heard the report of a gun between nine and ten o'clock. It was so loud that we supposed the gun had been fired on our back-porch, which runs along the west side of the south wing of the house. Our room had a window looking out on the porch, and I immediately rose, raised the window, but could not see no person nor any smoke" (Koerner 1909:II:441).

served as a kitchen throughout its history. It was accessible through exterior doors on the east and west and had two windows in each of these same walls. The kitchen is believed to have had a direct water supply (presumably by means of a hand pump connected to a well) from the date of its construction. During the January 1854 fire, for instance, Koerner mentions his son having drawn water from the kitchen (Koerner 1909:I:605). It is possible that the kitchen wing was constructed over a well, although this has not been proven definitively as of yet.[3] The original use of second floor of the wing is less clear, though we suspect it was used as additional bedroom space and/or servants quarters. The Koerners had a large family, and census records indicate that they had servants living with them as well[4] (U. S. Bureau of the Census 1850:425, 1860:283; 1870:433; 1880:438B). Hence the use of the rooms may have changed through time, being used as family bedrooms at first and later used as servants' quarters. A two-story, frame porch appears to have always been present on the west side of the rear service wing, albeit having seen some modifications through time.[5] At some point the north end of both levels of the porch was framed in and converted for use as bathrooms.

As originally constructed, the Koerner House had only a small cellar room (measuring approximately 12'x12') beneath it. This cellar is located below the northern end of the service wing and is accessed by means of a bulkhead stairway on the east. The ceiling in the cellar was finished with lath and plaster (since removed), which suggests that the area saw considerable use—presumably as a cold storage area and scene of kitchen-related activities. The bulkhead entrance had to be expanded after the bay window was added to the rear wing. Late in the nineteenth century, a new basement room was excavated immediately north of the original cellar in order to install a steam boiler for heating the house. The boiler has since been removed.

In respect to building materials, the Koerner House rests on limestone foundations, and has exterior and main interiors built of locally produced soft-mud brick. The interior framing predominately is full-dimensional, vertical-sawn, unsurfaced, non-local white pine lumber. The one exception is the roof sheathing, which is variably sized, circular-sawn, non-edged (presumably locally procured) oak. This mix of local and non-local framing stock is typical of the period in which the Koerner House was constructed. All original framing is held with

[3] There is an arched opening in the foundations on the east side of the kitchen which correspond to this suspected well.

[4] In 1880, there were two female servants living with the Koerners (United States Bureau of the Census 1880:438B).

[5] The ca. 1867-1869 lithograph of the Koerner House clearly shows an L-shaped porch located within the reentrant angle formed by the main block and service wing of the dwelling. In contrast, the 1867 bird's eye view shows no porch present. However, this may simply be an oversight on the artist's part, considering that all of the fire insurance maps published between 1889 and 1917 show an L-shaped porch, similar to that depicted on the ca. 1867-1869 lithograph.

machine-cut nails. The trim work in the main block of the house is fairly elaborate and is indicative of the high status of the house at the time of its construction. Examples include the fireplace mantels, which already have been discussed, and the door casings, which are paneled. In addition, the door and window and window trim is molded and has mitered joints. All original doors are four-paneled. Interior walls and ceilings are plastered.

The personal property inventory compiled after Gustave Koerner's death in 1896 provides a detailed listing of the interior furnishings and personal effects in the home at that time. The inventory presents the image of a high-status household, which was well furnished and prepared for formal entertainment. In addition to the wide range of furniture listed, the inventory notes: a library of 500 books; eight oil paintings (including four family portraits); multiple lithographs, steel engravings, and photographs; a sizable collection of kitchenware, including three different sets of tableware (silver, plated, and pearl/ivory handled), several dozen plates, and glassware (champagne and wine glasses, and tumblers); one clock, four mirrors, four stoves, and a refrigerator. The bedroom furniture/items listed in the inventory suggest that there were three or four bedrooms in use the house at this time (St. Clair County Probate Record, Roll 122, Seq. 400063).

During the late twentieth century, the Koerner House was converted into a four-unit apartment building. This resulted in some of the original rooms being partitioned to created closets and bathrooms and three of the windows on the east elevation being framed in. In addition, the exterior walls were furred out and drop ceilings installed in many rooms. Gratefully, these modifications were largely cosmetic. The historic trim, staircase, mantelpieces, and additional detailing in the dwelling largely were left in place, as were the original plastered walls and ceilings. Moreover the gross floor plan remains intact. Restoration plans call for all non-original partitions and ceilings to be removed. The Koerner House retains sufficient integrity for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

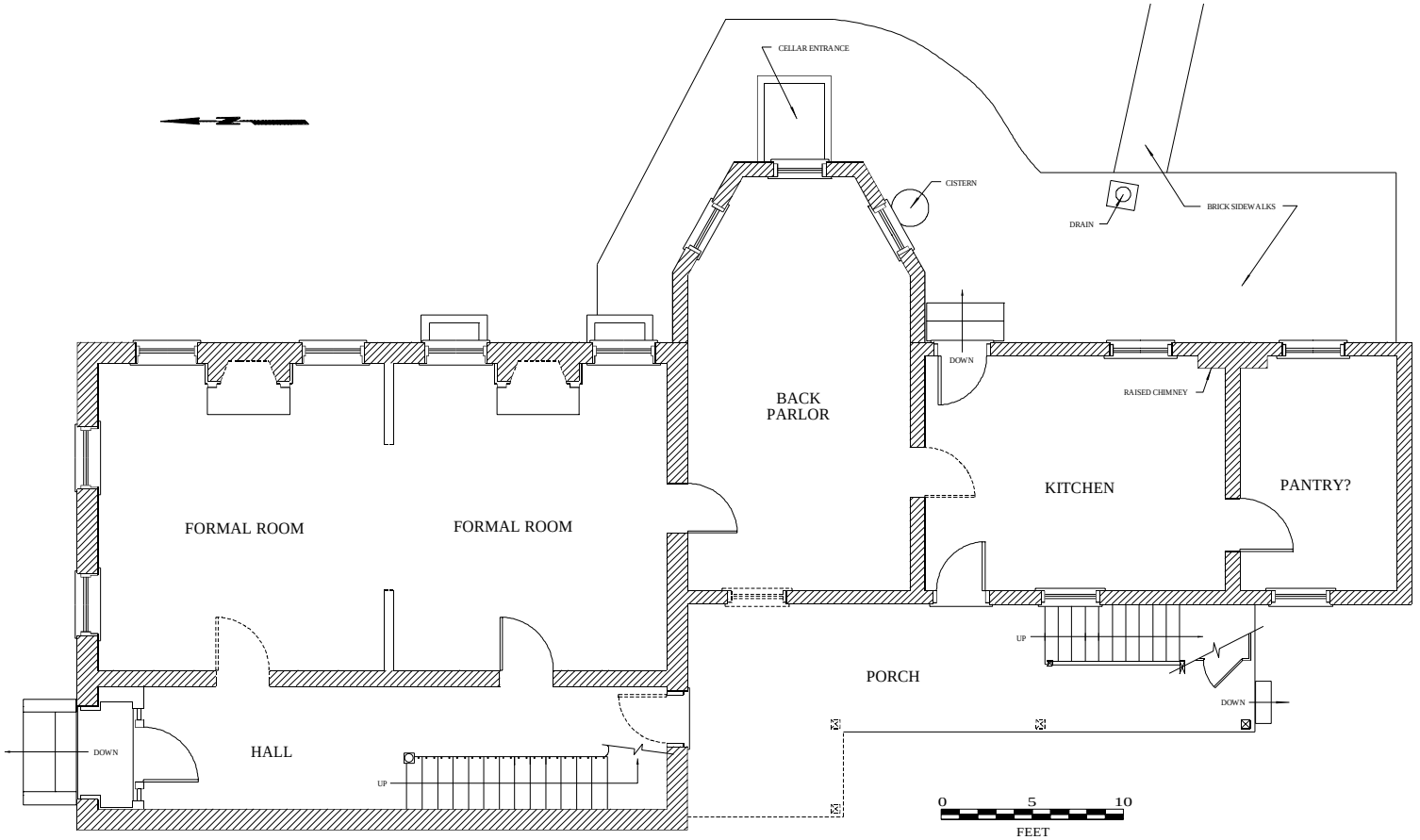

Figure 1. First floor plan of the Gustave Koerner House, ca. 1890. Dashed lines indicate conjectural features (Fever River Research 2004).

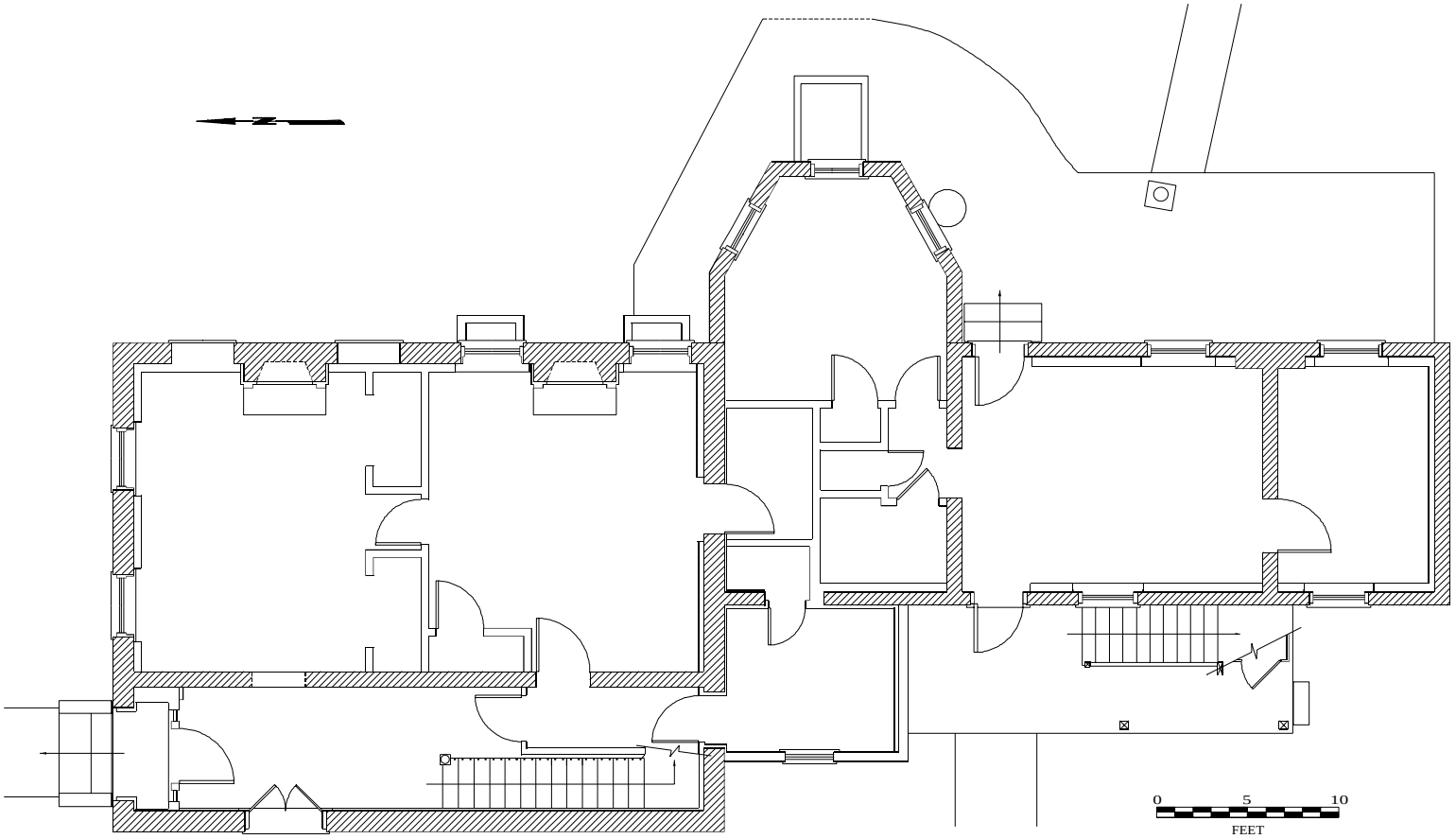

Figure 2. First floor plan of the Gustave Koerner House, showing existing conditions (Fever River Research 2004).

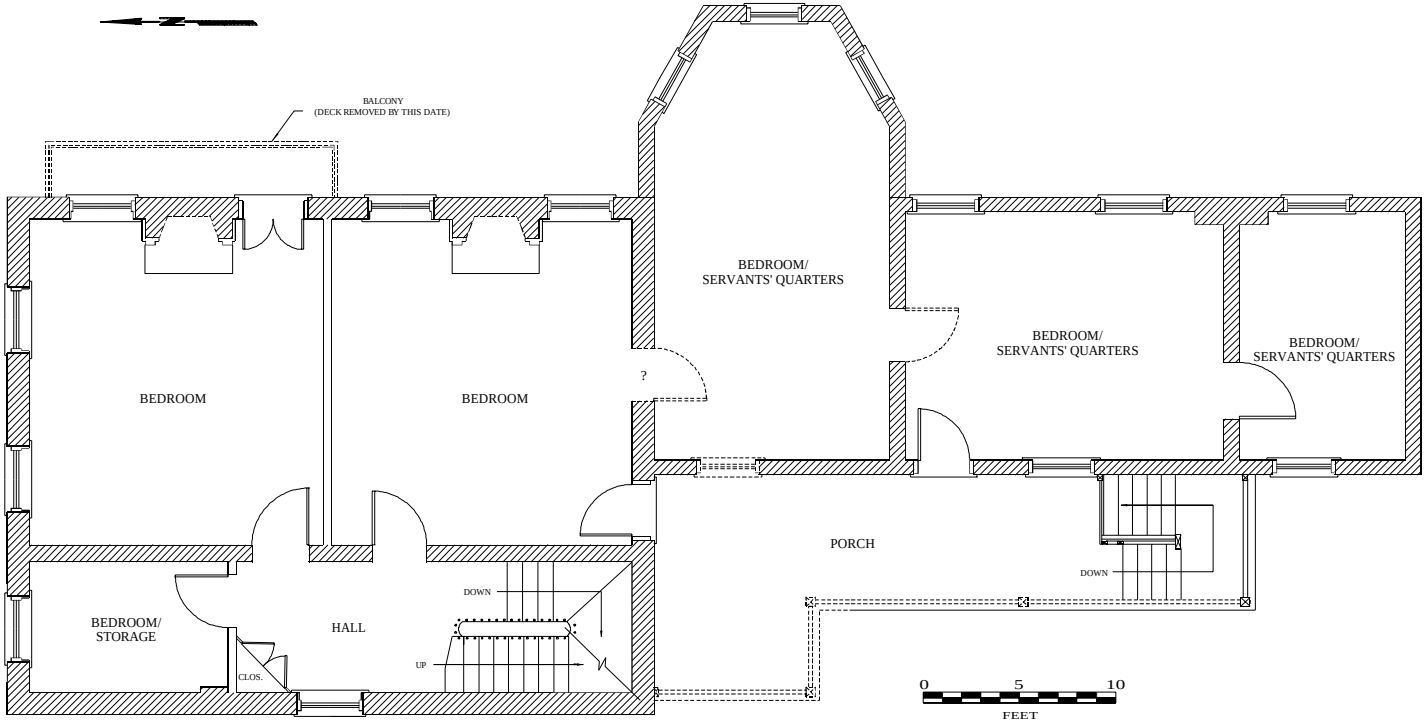

Figure 3. Second floor plan of the Gustave Koerner House, ca. 1890. Dashed lines indicate conjectural features (Fever River Research 2004).

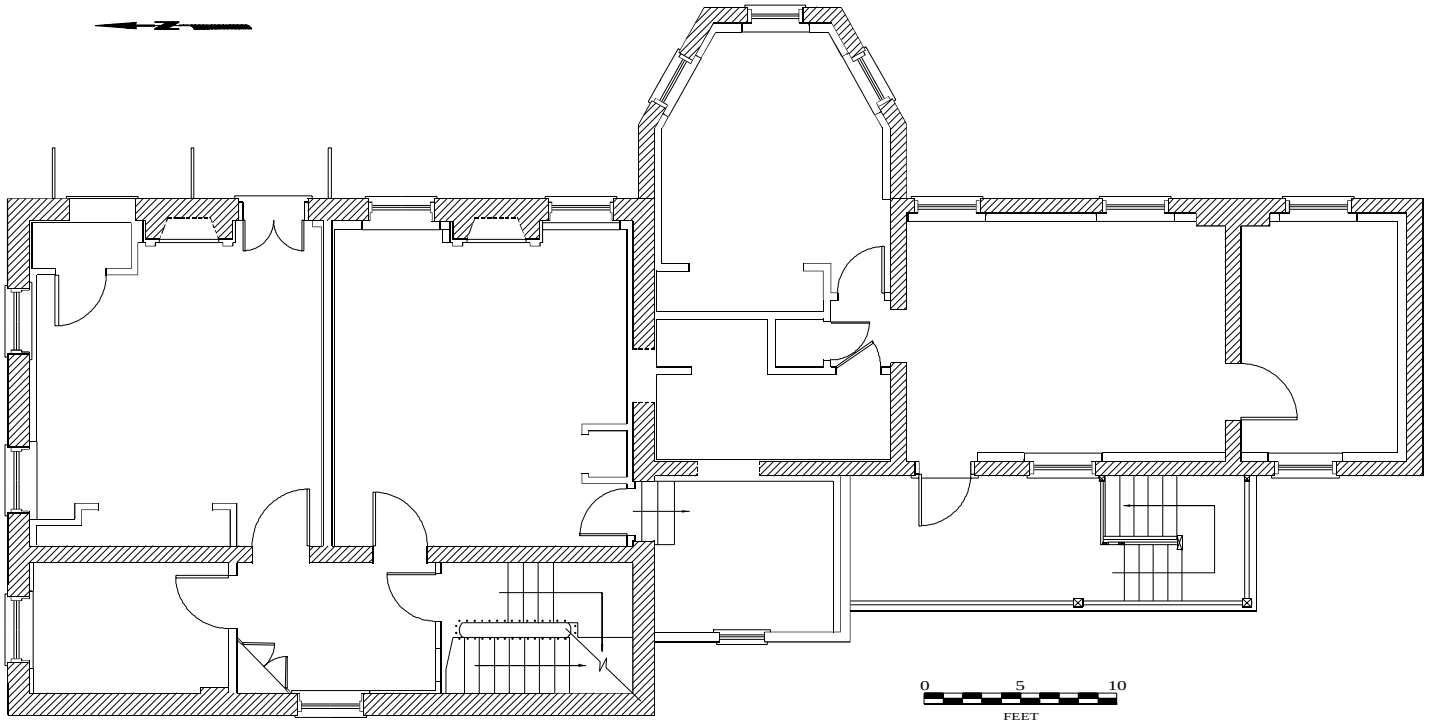

Figure 4. Second floor plan of the Gustave Koerner House, showing existing conditions (Fever River Research 2004).

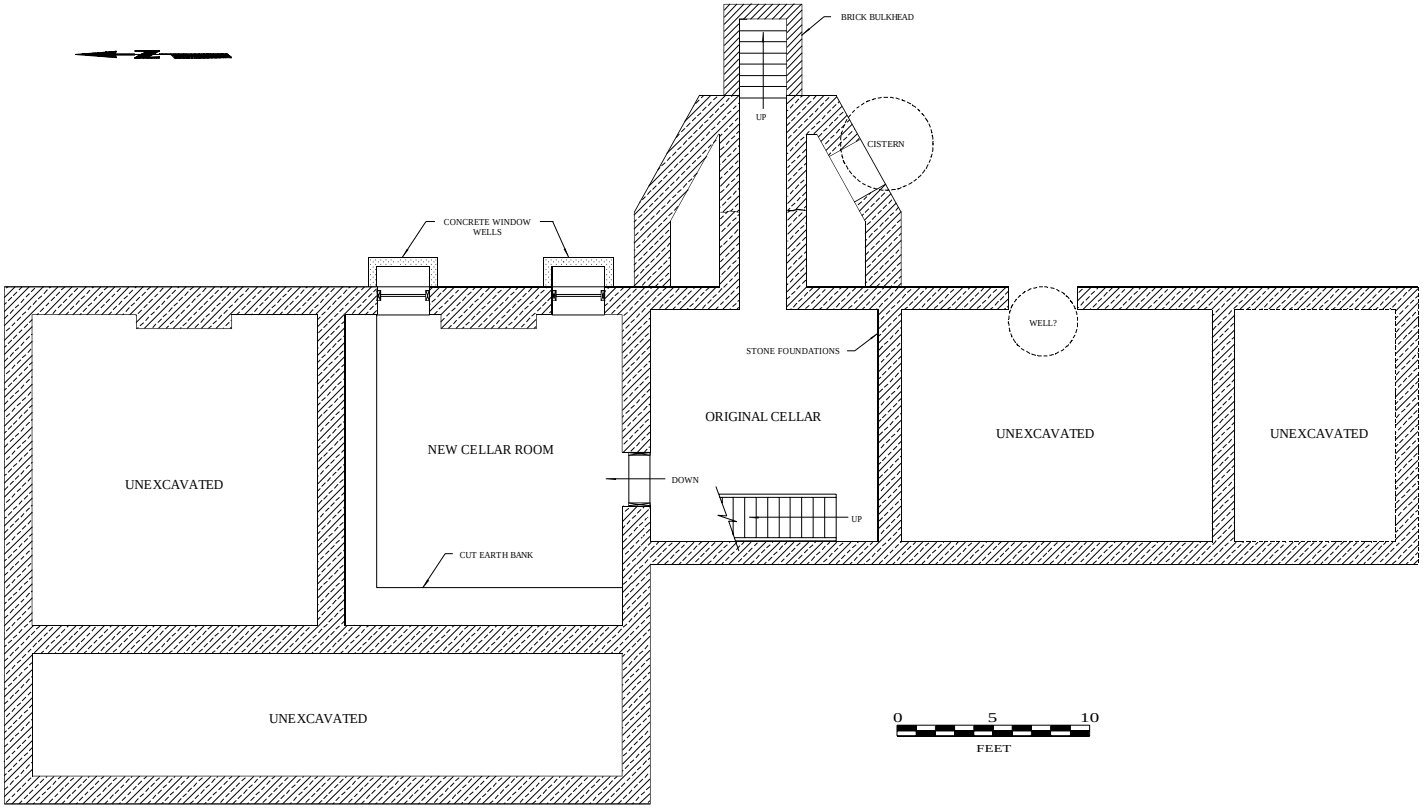

Figure 5. Basement and foundation plan of the Gustave Koerner House, showing existing conditions (Fever River Research 2004).

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gustave Koerner House is an imposing two-story, brick Greek-Revival dwelling located at 200 Abend Street in Belleville, St. Clair County, Illinois. The residence was constructed in 1848-1849, and rebuilt in 1854-1855, for Gustave P. Koerner, a nationally prominent lawyer and politician, who resided here until his death in 1896. Born in Germany in 1809, Koerner was forced to flee to the United States in 1833 after participating in a failed liberal revolution in Frankfort. A lawyer by profession, Koerner achieved admission to the Illinois bar and started practicing law in Belleville. Early in his career, he allied himself with the Democratic Party, and he quickly became a leading political voice for the growing German community in St. Clair and adjoining counties. He was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1842, becoming the first German in Illinois (or Missouri) to be elected to state office. He later served as an associate justice on the Illinois Supreme Court from 1845 to 1848 and was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1852. Koerner broke with the Democratic Party in 1856 over the issue of the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the introduction of slavery to the western territories. He afterwards helped organize the Republican Party and became a close political ally of Abraham Lincoln. Koerner provided vital assistance to Lincoln during his bids for the United States Senate in 1858 (when Lincoln first achieved national prominence) and President in 1860, by bringing his German constituency into the Republican Party. Koerner helped raised several regiments from his home district during the early months of the American Civil War. He later served as United States Minister to Spain from 1862 to 1864, and is credited with helping to maintain friendly relations between Spain and the United States during the war. In 1872 he and other Liberal Republicans allied themselves with the Democrats in opposition to the Grant Administration, which had become tarnished by a series of corruption scandals. Koerner was considered as a possible presidential candidate for the Liberal Republican Party, but ultimately was chosen as the party's gubernatorial candidate in Illinois—a contest he lost. In addition to his political career, Koerner was a prolific writer, who authored several books and was a regular political commentator in the press.

The Gustave Koener House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for national significance as per Criterion B (significant persons in history), in recognition of the important role Gustave Koerner played in local, state, and national politics—most notably in the creation of the Republican Party and in crafting an influential political voice for the large German population in Illinois and the Midwest. The period of significance for the Koerner House is 1849-1896—a span of forty-seven years, which encompasses the entire period Gustave Koerner lived in the residence and the most prolific period of his political career. The house is intimately associated with Gustave Koerner, and it is the only property so closely linked to his

life and career that survives today. The house also is being nominated to the National Register as per Criterion C, as being locally significant example of Greek Revival domestic architecture.[6]

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

[The site-specific information included in the following discussion is based in large part on primary research conducted by Dianne Renner Walsh, a member of the Gustave Koerner House Committee. Walsh has done extensive research on the history of the Koerner House and on Gustave Koerner's life and career.]

Gustave Koerner's Early Life

Gustave P. Koerner[7] was born on November 20, 1809 at Frankfort-on-Main, in southwestern Germany. His father, Bernhard, had named him after King Gustavus Adolphus IV of Sweden, out of respect for the Swedish ruler's staunch opposition to the French emperor Napoleon I. [8] Napoleon had defeated the two principal German powers, Austria and Prussia, in succession at Austerlitz (1805) and Jena (1806), and then bested Russia at Friedland (1807). These victories placed Napoleon in control of continental Europe, and left many Germans with a deep sense of wounded pride. Bernhard Koerner's hatred of Napoleon was further stirred when the French summarily executed his former employer—a Mr. Palm of the publishing firm of Palm and Enke—for having sold an anti-French tract entitled "Germany in its Deepest Humiliation" (Koerner 1909:I:2-4). The origins of Gustave Koerner's christening would serve as an apt precursor to his later political struggles.

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[6] The only Greek Revival house specifically cited in the National Register form for the Belleville Historic District is the Emma Kunz House at 602 Fulton. It reportedly is one of the oldest surviving houses in Belleville and is fairly modest. It is single-story dwelling with a dentiled cornice and a Classical door surround (Amy Easton, pers. comm., 28 April 2004). The house has been relocated from its original site, however.

[7] Koerner's formal first name was "Gustavus", and this is the form that often appears in legal documents, such as his will and probate records. He generally was referred to as "Gustave", however, and this is the form we have followed throughout the National Register nomination. Documentary sources provide two middle names for him. Koerner himself used "Philip," and "Gustavus Philip Koerner" is the name that is inscribed on his diploma from Heidelberg University. However, in the *Das Scharzes Buch* (*The Black Book*)—an 1837 alphabetical register of those persons implicated in revolutionary activities in Germany since 1830—he is listed as "Gustav Peter." The two middle names presumably derive from Koerner's baptismal sponser, Philip Peter Roeder, who was a merchant at Heilbronn (Dianne Renner Walsh, pers. comm., 7 July 2004).

[8] Gustavus Adolphus IV had joined the Third Coalition against Napoleon (comprised of England, Austria, Russia, and Sweden) in 1805. He was deposed by his own subjects in 1809 after losing Swedish Pomerania to France and Finland to Russia in 1808, and as a result of his perceived despotism and mental imbalance (Bridgwater 1960:I:554).

Once he became of age, Koerner decided to study law. He began his university studies at Jena (1828-1830) and then at Munich (1830-1831). While at Munich, Koerner had his first serious encounter with authority. After spending Christmas Eve 1830 drinking with his university friends, he became involved in a snowball fight that led to an altercation with the police. The snowball fight was harmless enough, but the authorities were on edge due to recent political disturbances. A police detachment was sent to break up the gathering, and in the process one of the officers was knocked down and injured. Implicated in the incident, Koerner was arrested and spent four months waiting for his case to be heard. He later recounted that he had studied more law during his brief confinement than he had learned in two years at Jena (Koerner 1909:I:146-156, 160). Koerner later transferred to the University of Heidelberg, where he completed his studies and received his doctorate of law in June 1832 (Koerner 1909:I:186-187).

Koerner then returned to his home city of Frankfort to practice law. He almost immediately became involved in the Burschenschaft, a liberal reform movement seeking the political regeneration and unification of Germany, and it was only a matter of time before he clashed with state authorities. In the wake of the Napoleanic Wars, the governments of Germany (as well as the rest of Europe) had become reactionary, rejecting the liberalism of revolutionary France and determined to maintain the status quo. This conservatism was exemplified by Austria, under the leadership of Prince Metternich, and by Prussia, which was the largest of the [then] thirty-nine German states and the dominant military force in the region. An undercurrent of French liberalism remained, however, in the western German states that had been included within Napolean's "Grand Empire,"[9] and many intellectuals and professionals there rejected the conservative trend in their nation. These feelings were stirred in July 1830, when a revolution broke out in France that resulted in the deposition of Louis XVIII and the accession of Louis Philippe, the "citizen king." Later that year, revolutions broke out in Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Poland, and portions of Germany (Palmer 1965:458). Although most of these revolutions were quickly stamped out, the liberal reform movement continued to spread throughout Germany, particularly amongst students and intellectuals. On April 3, 1833 Koerner and his associates attempted a coup in Frankfort, which was planned as part of a general liberal uprising throughout Germany. Unfortunately, the Frankfort revolt failed miserably, and Koerner himself was wounded while attempting to storm a guardhouse. The young lawyer was then

[9] Most of western Germany had been joined to the Empire in 1806 as the “Confederation of the Rhine,” and the Rhineland, which had been conquered in 1792, was attached to France proper. These states were freed from French control in 1813, but many of the reforms Napoleon had implemented during his rule remained in effect and influenced later legislation (the Rhineland, Bavarian Rhenish Palatinate, and Baden continued using the Code of Napoleon as a legal base until 1901). In 1819 parliamentary institutions were introduced in Baden, Bavaria, and Wuretemburg (Kohn 1960:101, 134). These reforms represented good legacies from an otherwise autocratic French regime under Bonaparte.

forced to flee to France in order to avoid arrest (Koerner 1909:I:224-230, 235-236). Koerner ultimately was listed on the *Das Scharzes Buch* (*The Black Book*), an alphabetical register of persons implicated in revolutionary activities in Germany since 1830, which was complied by the Bundeszentralbehoerde (Central Bureau of Political Investigation) in 1837 (Bundeszentralbehoerde 1837; Koerner 1909:I:224-227).[10]

Immigration to Illinois

While in France, Koerner made the decision to immigrate to the United States. He did so in the company of a number of other German émigrés he already was acquainted with, including Theodore Engelmann, Sr.. During the Transatlantic voyage, Gustave became engaged to Engelmann's daughter Sophia, and the couple would marry two years later. The immigrants arrived in New York City in June 1833 and then headed west, by way of the Erie Canal and Ohio River, to St. Louis.[11] Rather than settle in Missouri, which was a slave state, Koerner and his associates chose to settle in St. Clair County, Illinois, where they joined a small German community already established in rural Shiloh Valley Township.

Shiloh Valley can accurately be described as the "cultural hearth" of German settlement in southwestern Illinois. The first German immigrants to settle in Shiloh Valley were the Knobloch, Heberer, Mueller, and Messer families, who were described as "well-to-do agriculturalists and tradesmen from Hesse-Darmstadt." These families arrived in 1831 and settled in the vicinity of Turkey Hill (Brink, McDonough and Company 1881:64). Many of the immigrants who arrived after 1832, however, were intellectuals and educated professionals like Koerner. Theodore Hilgard was a lawyer who had served as secretary to the Palatinate Parliament and as a justice on the Court of Appeals in his homeland before immigrating (Hirsch 1944:165-6). Theodore Kraft, who immigrated with Hilgard, had been a member of the Burschenscaft (Koerner 1909:I:287). Adolphius Reuss, George Engelmann, and Adolphus Schott were all physicians. On the whole, the German immigrants were educated by American standards, and their American neighbors took to calling them "Latenier," referring to "Latin Scholars" (Brink, McDonough and Company 1881:64-65). The bulk of the German immigrants who came to St. Clair County during the 1830s came from Baden, Hesse, the Palatinate, and the Rhineland.

Some of the immigrants had taken university courses on agriculture, and Theodore Hilgard, Jr. was said to have spent a year in Pennsylvania observing agricultural practices there before

[10] Koerner is listed as number 908 in the report.

[11] A more common route for German immigrants moving into the Midwest carried them through New Orleans and then upstream to St. Louis.

coming to Illinois. The majority, however, had never tried their hand at farming, and it is perhaps not too surprising that many Germans preferred to purchase established farms rather than starting new ones on unbroken ground. An 1881 county history observed:

> The German... is not exactly a pioneer or frontiersman. He prefers to make his home in districts where the American pioneer has performed the arduous task of opening the wilderness to cultivation. The plow is the German's "forte" not the axe nor the rifle (Brink, McDonough and Company 1881).

It was relatively easy for the immigrants to acquire land due to the fact that many of the American inhabitants of the region were eager to move on to new lands in central and northern Illinois, or across the Mississippi. After thirty years of intensive farming, some of the older farms were beginning to wear out, and those farms that were located in timbered areas (once sought after) were now decreasing in value as the agricultural potential of prairie land was finally being realized. George Engelmann purchased an 120-acre farm located on the southern slope of Shiloh Hill from Benjamin Watts for five dollars an acre. Engelmann also purchased an adjacent farm of 100 acres that was owned by Watts' son for his uncle back in Heidelberg (Koerner 1909:291-3).

The Germans, many of whom had been urban dwellers, often found the farmsteads they had purchased to be far too rustic for their tastes and spent a great deal of energy improving them. According to George Engelmann:

> [The immigrants'] wants were too numerous to be supplied. They had bought farms, and paid for them, but the log cabin, that had sheltered the former occupant, would not answer now. Houses had to be built, or to be improved or adorned, cellars had to be dug and wells to be sunk, fences needed repairing; the little garden patch of the pioneers could not now give satisfaction; a vegetable garden was only an appendix to the flower bed. All this was thought to be absolutely indispensable with comfort, they had to have it, or be miserable (Brink, McDonough and Company 1881:65).

In some cases, these improvements were carried out at the expense of the crops that were being grown, causing their American neighbors to express "their wonder, that the Germans, who were rated among the best farmers in Pennsylvania, were such poor farmers in Illinois." Some of the Germans eventually abandoned farming and took up other trades. George Engelmann, for instance, turned his farm over to orchards and vineyards and established a starch factory. Similarly, Theodore Hilgard and Augustus Dilg erected a brewery in Belleville (Brink, McDonough and Company 1881:65). Gustave Koerner also would choose a professional career over farming.

On the whole, however, those Germans who tried farming in St. Clair County generally succeeded at it. Unlike their American neighbors, who preferred farms up to 400 acres in size, the German immigrants were often satisfied with farms of only 30 to 40 acres. Their success on these small tracts was partially linked to their habit of fertilizing their farmland with manure; this European practice insured the immigrants of a healthy crop each year, unlike the American farmers who generally didn't put anything back into the soil. German farmers also used a system of crop rotation—something that "made a lasting impression on the native population" (Bateman et al. 1907:813).

The success that the early German immigrants met with in St. Clair County encouraged further immigration by family members and friends. The influx of Germans to Shiloh Valley was so profound that the area became known as the "Lateiner Settlement." As Dr. G. Englemann wrote in *Das Westland*, a North American periodical for Germans printed in Heidelberg in 1837, "nearly the whole settlement is situated in Town 1 North, R. 7 [West], and extends from 5 to 9 miles east of Belleville" (Brink, McDonough and Company 1881:64).

German immigration into St. Clair County continued into the 1840s, and rapidly accelerated in the years following the Revolution of 1848. The wider Shiloh Valley area was still envisioned by many Germans as a prime location to emigrate. Friedrich Karl Hecker, a “German patriot and soldier” instrumental in the 1848 political uprising in Germany, settled in rural Mascoutah Township. This wave of immigration had a dramatic impact on Shiloh Valley and surrounding townships, which went from having a population that was predominantly American, with a significant German minority in the middle 1830s, to having a population that was overwhelmingly German by the 1860s. The surrounding counties of Monroe, Washington, Clinton, and Madison also attracted a large number of German settlers during this period. Belleville, in particular, took on a distinctly German character, which was evident in the composition of its population and business community, as well as in its architecture. In 1874, three of Belleville’s five newspapers were published in German (Warner and Beers 1874:9), and the German language continued to be widely spoken in the city well into the twentieth century.

Politically, this “German element” came to represent an important voting constituency in Illinois, whose support was eagerly sought by all major parties. Coles (1987:26) notes, “The German voters held the balance of power between the whig and democratic parties before 1856 and between the democratic and republican parties after that date.” For some thirty years (ca. 1840-1870), that constituency would be represented most visibly and effectively by Gustave P. Koerner. With the formation of the Republican party in the 1850s, Koerner’s political influence

extended onto the national stage, placing him in the ranks of such noted German-American political leaders as Carl Schurz.[12]

Koerner's Early Political Career

Koerner spent his first year in America working with the Engelmann family on their farm in Shiloh Valley. During this period, he perfected his English skills, occasionally worked as a tutor, and briefly entertained the possibility of becoming a journalist (Koerner 1909:I:302-303). Early in 1834 he wrote a critical "Review of Duden's Report Concerning the Western States of North America," which was published by his brother Charles in Germany. Although Koerner ultimately chose to return to the law, his interest in journalism continued throughout his life. In 1836, for instance, he and a number of other German residents in St. Louis and St. Clair County jointly purchased the *Anzeiger des Westens*. This paper, which was organized in 1834, eventually became the "leading organ for the Germans of the Mississippi Valley." Koerner started submitting articles to the paper in 1836 and continued to do so until it changed ownership in 1849-1850 (Koerner 1909:I:404-405).

Koerner restarted his legal career in the fall of 1834, when he traveled to Lexington, Kentucky to study law at Transylvania University. Koerner already had earned a legal degree in Germany, but he needed to acquaint himself with American laws in order pass the Illinois Bar. He recognized early on that his success in America would depend on more than just knowing the letter of the law:

> A lawyer must necessarily first learn perfectly not only the speech and laws of the land but must enter deeply into the customs and spirituality of the people, provided he would compete with the voluable and practical advocate and if he would speak the hearts and conscience of the jury who will give its decision in a civil case (Koerner).

While in Lexington, Koerner made the acquaintance of the Senator Henry Clay and Mary Todd, who would marry Abraham Lincoln in 1842 (Koerner 1909:I:349-351, 361).

Koerner returned to Illinois in 1835 and, after passing the bar, starting practicing law with Adam W. Snyder in Belleville.[13] Snyder was one of a number of prominent lawyer/politicians who

[12] Carl Schurz served in succession as a Minister to Spain (1861-1862), general of volunteers (1862-1865), U. S. Senator from Missouri (1869-1875), and as Secretary of the Interior (1877-1881). Like Koerner, he was a prolific writer and public speaker (Bridgwater 1960: I:1207).

[13] Snyder had come to Illinois prior to statehood and was a protégé of Jesse B. Thomas, who represented Illinois in the U.S. Senate from 1818-1829. After serving in the Black Hawk War (1832), he was elected to Congress. In

hanged their shingles in Belleville during this period, among them, John Reynolds, Lyman Trumbell, James Shields, and William Bissell. Snyder himself was a rising figure in the state Democratic Party, and this association no doubt influenced Koerner's early allegiance to the party. More importantly, however, Koerner viewed the Democrats as being more immigrant-friendly than their Whig opponents. In his memoirs, he noted that,

> It must be said that the Democratic party from that time on, in victory or defeat, never abandoned the cause of the aliens who came here to become citizens, which accounts for the fact that the Germans almost unanimously voted with party until the slavery question in 1856 carried most of them into the Republican party, and down to the reconstruction of the Union in 1868 (Koerner 1909:I:424).

The Whigs, as a rule, represented the more conservative element in American politics, drawing much of its support from middle and upper class. Starting in the late 1830s, the party also had a growing nativist element within its ranks—a movement that was engendered by the growing tide of immigrants to the United States. In Illinois, the nativist movement was spurred initially by the large number of Irish workers coming to work on the Illinois and Michigan Canal, though it also focused on Germans. The Democrats sought to capitalize upon both of these new constituencies (Pease 1918:260).

Under Illinois' first state constitution, anyone who was 21 years of age and had resided in the state for six months could vote. As such, the increasing number of German immigrants coming into southwestern Illinois represented a significant new element to Illinois politics. Perhaps due to Koerner's presence as a member of the bar—where he received considerable exposure through traveling the "circuit"—people came to believe that he could control the German vote and solicited his favor in this regard. Although Koerner claimed the German population could not be "bossed" as easily as either the Americans or Irish, he was nonetheless "constantly called on for help by aspiring candidates and consequently often placed in a difficult position" (Koerner 1909:I:).

Koerner's direct involvement with the Democratic party dates to 1837, when he was elected as a delegate to the Democratic State Convention, which was held in December at Vandalia (Koerner 1909:I:424). A new convention had to be held after the party's first choice, Colonel J. W. Stephenson, died. Koerner and fellow Belleville natives Reynolds, W. C. Kinney, and James Shields, supported Adam W. Snyder's bid for governor (Pease 1918:250).

1842, Snyder was nominated as the Democratic candidate for Governor but died before the election (Dunne 1933:V:40).

During the election of 1840, Koerner supported the Democrats by starting a German debating club (short-lived due to lack of Whig involvement) and publishing a German weekly campaign paper named the *Messenger of Liberty for Illinois.* The paper had more than 200 subscribers within two weeks and eventually attracted such a wide readership in Missouri that its name was changed to the *Messenger of Liberty for Illinois and Missouri.* Koerner also was called upon to speak at political rallies held in those areas with large German populations, often having to address the mixed audience in both German and English. Illinois Democrats did very well in the election, at all levels, particularly in the heavily German counties bordering St. Clair. Nationally, however, the Whig presidential candidate William Henry Harrison was elected. It was at a Whig rally in Belleville during the election that Koerner first made the acquaintance of Abraham Lincoln (Koerner 1909:I:443-446). Koerner was selected by the General Assembly to carry Illinois' electoral college votes to Washington early in 1841 (Koerner 1909:I:448).

Koerner was nominated for the state legislature in 1842. He claimed to have accepted the nomination with reluctance and did so only at the insistence of Adam Snyder and James Shields. Although running in a strongly Democratic area, Koerner was by no means assured a victory. The Whigs nominated A. Badgley, a member of an early pioneer family and former Democrat. There also was a small nativist voting block, based in Illinoistown, that had to be overcome (Koerner 1909:I:465). Even so, Koerner received a substantial majority in the election, becoming the first German ever elected to the legislature in Illinois, or Missouri. He received considerable exposure by the German press in Illinois and elsewhere in the Midwest for his accomplishment (Koerner 1909:468). One indication of the depth of German support for the Democratic Party during this period was the torch light parade and serenade given to former president Martin Van Buren during his visit to St. Louis in 1842. According to Koerner, the parade, which was made up of approximately 1,000 Germans, represented "the first time that the German element made itself felt by a great demonstration" (Koerner 1909:I:475-476).

In 1837, Koerner had become law partners with James Shields (Koerner 1909:I:415). Born in Ireland in 1801, Shields immigrated to the United States in 1826 and started practicing law at Kaskaskia (Randolph County), Illinois in 1832. He proved to be a remarkably successful politician and represented Illinois in a number of state offices.[14] Shields was elected as an

[14] Shields served in succession as a legislator (1837-1839), state auditor (1841-1843), and associate judge on the Illinois Supreme Court (1843-1845). After serving as a brigadier general over Illinois troops during the Mexican War, he was appointed Governor of the Oregon Territory (1848) but resigned this post after being elected to the U.S. Senate in 1849. He later briefly represented Minnesota in the senate (1858-1859), before moving to California. After the outbreak of the Civil War he was appointed a brigadier general and saw service in the eastern theater (1861-1863). He returned to California for a short time and eventually moved to Missouri, where he once again reestablished a law practice. He ended his remarkable career as a state legislator (1874-1879), dying in 1879 (Dunne 1933:IV:41). Despite these achievements, he is perhaps best remembered for his near duel with Abraham

associate justice to the Illinois Supreme Court in 1842 but resigned in 1845, before his term was up, in order to accept the post of Commissioner of the General Land Office in Washington. Governor Thomas Ford appointed Koerner to succeed Shields, and the state legislature subsequently elected him to a full term. Koerner's position on the court paid him considerably less than his private practice had, but it had considerable benefits attached to it. It provided him the prestige of having been a judge (a benefit when he returned to private practice), gave him public exposure, and offered potential patronage.[15] Equally important, it gave the "German Element," in general, more esteem and helped soften nativist feelings towards the group (Koerner 1909:I:491).

The call for volunteers during the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848 met with energetic response by Germans of St. Clair and Monroe Counties. Although Koerner did not enlist, his speaking talents were called upon during a recruiting rally held in Peoria in May 1846. He also instructed his friend Shields on drilling before the latter departed for Mexico. Shields eventually was placed in command of a brigade of Illinois troops (Koerner 1909:I:495-501).

The impact of the German vote in Illinois was tempered somewhat by the Constitution of 1848, which disenfranchised all voters who were not naturalized citizens (in contrast to the generous voting rights allowed by the Constitution of 1818). The Whigs generally supported the Constitution, in large measure due to this stipulation. Koerner opposed the new Constitution on multiple grounds, including the new voting restrictions, but also due to the sharp reduction in salaries allowed to state officers. His salary as a Supreme Court Justice was dropped to $1,200, which was about half of what he was making in private practice prior to joining the court in 1843. Since he had every expectation of making even more, he declined to be candidate to the court for the next term and returned home to Belleville (Koerner 1909:I:523-524).

In 1848, Koerner and many of his fellow German immigrants rejoiced at the news of the liberal revolution in Germany. He seriously entertained thoughts of returning to Germany to directly participate in the events there, and in lieu of that, lobbied for a diplomatic post in Europe. Although he did secure confirmation to a post at the American consulate in Hamburg, he declined the post after it became clear that the revolution would fail and that there would be a reactionary backlash in Germany. Koerner did write a series of articles in the *Missouri Republican* where he sought to provide a more comprehensive view of events in Germany than offered by other accounts (Koerner 1909:I:521-523).

Lincoln in 1842. This episode arose from a series of editorials (known as the "Lost Townships Letters") published in the Sangamo Journal in which Lincoln satirized Shields.

[15] A Supreme Court justice could remove and appoint the clerks and masters-in-chancery in the twelve counties within his circuit (Koerner 1909:I:491).

In 1851, Koerner took on editorial responsibilities with the *Belleviller Zeitung*, a German-language paper published by B. Hauck. He derived no financial benefits from the arrangement and focused solely on editorial matters, leaving the remainder of the newspaper's business to others. Koerner had contributed political commentary to the *Zeitung* in the past, but now saw the paper as a vehicle for providing an important counterpoint to the political agenda being promoted by the more radical of the recently-arrived "Forty-Eighters." Some of the Forty-Eighters entertained notions that they had more enlightened views of democracy and society than most Americans, and called for revolutionary reforms in established American institutions. In doing so, they provoked a negative response from not only native-born Americans, but also from the earlier generation of German immigrants. The latter group, of which Koerner was a part of, referred to the Forty-Eighters as "Greens." In response, Henry Boernstein, who assumed control of the St. Louis-based *Anzeiger des Westens* in 1850, labeled the older immigrants "Grays." Boernstein carried on a running editorial battle with the *Belleviller Zeitung* and its editor Koerner, whom he ridiculed as "Gray Gustav." Koerner was nonplussed and claimed Boernstein's attacks only resulted in the increased circulation of the *Zeitung* in St. Louis. Koerner continued as editor of the *Zeitung* until 1853 (Koerner 1909:I:549-550). For the remainder of his life, however, he continued to submit editorial pieces to other German and English newspapers in Belleville, and even to the Chicago papers. Koerner said it developed into a habit: "Whenever some important subject occupied my mind I felt it a kind of burden resting on me, I had to put it on paper or in print to get relief" (Koerner 1909:I:404-405).

During the rancorous "Railroad Wars" of the early 1850s, Koerner was a vocal advocate for a liberal policy regarding railroad charters, allowing them to be granted wherever the people were willing to pay for them. He and fellow Belleville politicos, John Reynolds and Don Morrison, had hoped their city would receive a direct rail connection during this period, but the Ohio and Mississippi and the Mississippi and Atlantic—the two great east-west rail lines constructed through southern Illinois—bypassed the city. The Belleville men took it upon themselves to finance a short line running to Illinoistown, opposite St. Louis, which was placed in service by 1854. This line subsequently was extended to Alton, where it intersected the Chicago and Alton, providing an important link to central and northern Illinois (Coles 1987:43-46).

During the election of 1852, the Whigs and Democrats aggressively courted the growing German population in Illinois. Although the Whigs had done poorly with German voters in past, they hoped to exploit the rift between Catholic and Protestant Germans caused by Louis Kossuth, the controversial Hungarian revolutionary then in exile in the United States. James Shields, now a U. S. Senator, urged Illinois Democrats to nominate Koerner for Lieutenant-Governor, in recognition of the invigorated political spirit Kossuth had engendered amongst the Germans (Holt 1999:744). Koerner had received early support by the Democratic press and was

nominated in April 1852 (Koerner 1909:I:585-586), while Joel Matteson received the nomination for Governor. The Whigs in turn selected Francis Arenz, another German, to run for State Treasurer during the election (Coles 1987:105,110). Koerner was by no means the nominal "German" candidate. His ethnicity certainly allowed him to run more strongly in some sections of the state, but he also had a solid résumé and was a respected political figure by this date. He and Matteson won the election. In 1855, there was a prospect of Koerner becoming Governor through line-of-succession, when Matteson narrowly missed being elected to the United States Senate. Abraham Lincoln was the early favorite in the election (which at that time was decided in the state legislature, rather than by popular vote) but lost ground to Matteson as the voting went on. Lincoln ultimately threw his remaining support to Lyman Trumbull, who was elected on the tenth ballot (Lincoln 1989:355-357).[16]

Formation of the Republican Party

Gustave Koerner remained faithful to the Democratic Party until passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854. This bill, which was sponsored by Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, allowed the status of slavery in the new territories of Kansas and Nebraska to be decided on the basis of "popular sovereignty," thus specifically repealing the Missouri Compromise of 1820. Douglas had inserted this clause into the bill not because he wished to see slavery extended; he simply wanted to get Southern support for the northern route of the proposed trans-continental railroad, which he envisioned connecting to his home city of Chicago. While Douglas knew there would be howls of protests over the bill, he had no idea that the controversy would irrevocably split his party and speed the country toward Civil War.

German-Americans on the whole disapproved of slavery, and they certainly had no desire to see the institution extended into the territories. Koerner was no exception. After abolitionist Elijah Lovejoy was killed by a mob in Alton in 1834, Koerner had written prophetically in his diary: "Negro slavery is the only rope by which the devil holds the American people. The descendants must now suffer for the greediness of their ancestors. This national debt is more oppressive and dangerous than the English one" (Koerner 1909:I:341). In 1842-1843, he and Lyman Trumbull attacked Illinois' indentured servitude law through the Sarah Border's case, which was heard before the Illinois Supreme Court.[17] In the fall of 1853, Koerner paid the fine of a free African-

[16] Reflecting on his defeat with Elihu Washburne afterward, Lincoln wrote, "I could have headed off every combination and been elected, had it not been for Matteson's double game—and his defeat gives me more pleasure than my own gives me pain" (Lincoln 1989:355-357).

[17] This case is covered in West Law, as case number 1843 WL 4086 (ILL.)

American man who had violated Illinois' so-called "Black Law."[18] The man was unable to pay the fine attached to the charge, so his services were being sold at public auction. Seeing the sale progress, Koerner stopped his carriage and immediately paid the $50.17 owned, proclaiming that, "As long as I live in Belleville no man shall be sold here if I can help it" (Koerner 1909:I:31).

Though profoundly dismayed by implications of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, Koerner did not break with the Democratic Party immediately. Instead, he chose to oppose the bill and its author from within the ranks of the party. He helped organize anti-Nebraska rallies in his home district and presented a petition calling for its repeal to the state legislature. It was not until 1856, after the state and national Democratic conventions failed to repudiate the Kansas-Nebraska Act, that Koerner found it impossible to remain with the party in good conscience.[19] He thereupon joined the growing ranks of anti-Nebraska Democrats who were joining a coalition of former Whigs, Free-Soilers, abolitionists, and nativists to form the new Republican Party (Jewett 2003:27-29; Cole 1987:142, 147). Before officially joining the party, Koerner wrote an open letter in which he clearly outlined the criteria necessary for him to join the Republican ranks. The party needed to reject the Kansas-Nebraska Act, oppose the extension of slavery onto free soil, affirm the Constitutional rights of southern states, and protect the rights of all citizens regardless of birth or religion. This position statement served as the basis on which many other Anti-Nebraska Democrats in Illinois joined the Republican Party. It also helped catapult Koerner into the ranks of the party leadership (Jewett 2003:28-29).

Koerner attended the National Republican Convention held in Philadelphia later that year. Although Koerner was a not delegate, Thomas Jewett has suggested that he may have played a behind-the-scene role, encouraging German support for John C. Frémont's nomination for President and in crafting of the party's platform. It is of interest that the main planks in the platform were identical to those in Koerner's earlier position paper (Jewett 2003:29). After returning from the convention, Koerner launched a campaign for the State Senate. He conducted an aggressive speaking tour, thoroughly canvassing his own district besides campaigning for the party at large throughout the Midwest. Although he lost his own race, the Republicans did fairly well in Illinois, winning the Governor's office and perhaps half the local elections (Jewett 2003:31).

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[18] Introduced in 1853, the "Black Law" was designed to discouraged African-American settlement in Illinois by imposing fines upon free blacks who remained in the state longer than ten days, and by fining whites who brought blacks with them (Koerner 1909:II:30).

[19] Koerner supported all of the major planks in the Democratic platform, save for its support of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. He refused to compromise on this issue.

In 1858, Koerner served as president of the Illinois Republican State Convention and was instrumental in securing the U. S. Senate nomination for Abraham Lincoln, who was to run against incumbent Senator Stephen A. Douglas. Koerner had known Lincoln since 1842, and two men had maintained cordial relations ever since, despite their different political allegiances. In 1854, they had jointly represented the City of St. Louis in a suit against the Atlantic Railroad Company (Koerner 1909:II:109-110). Their personal relationship strengthened once they became political allies. On several occasions during the 1858 campaign Lincoln solicited Koerner's help in solidifying the German vote behind the Republicans. In one letter, he wanted to ascertain whether Frederick Hecker (a hero of the Revolution of 1848) could be persuaded to make some addresses on his behalf in Springfield and other locations. In a second letter, Lincoln expressed his fear that his campaign was losing ground in Madison County and inquired of Koerner, "Can not you, Canisius, and some other influential Germans set a plan on foot that shall gain us accession from the Germans, and see that, at the election, none are cheated in their ballots." He had received information that the Germans there were sometimes cheated at the polls (Lincoln 1989:480-481). Koerner was seated next to Lincoln during the seventh and final Lincoln-Douglas Debate, which was held at Alton, Madison County on October 15, 1858.

Koerner was a delegate to the 1860 Republican National Convention in Chicago, where he and fellow German Carl Schurz were influential in crafting the anti-slavery and pro-immigrant planks adopted for the party's platform. The second plank was a personal victory for Koerner, in that it quelled latent Nativist elements within the party and firmly established a commitment to German-American voters. Koerner also joined with David Davis, Stephen T. Logan, Jesse K. Dubois, Orville H. Browning, and others members of the Illinois delegation in orchestrating Lincoln's nomination for president. Thomas Jewett describes Koerner's performance at the convention as that of a "master politician," helping to pick Lincoln's home state as the site of the convention, keeping the convention hall packed with Lincoln supporters, and laboring to persuade several state delegations to vote for Lincoln after support for William Seward's nomination flagged (Jewett 2003:34). Koerner's name appeared at the bottom of the three-word telegram—"Don't Come Here"—Lincoln's campaign managers sent to Lincoln in Springfield while his supporters negotiated the details of his presidential nomination.[20]

Following the convention, Koerner campaigned hard for Lincoln, and German-Americans in Illinois responded enthusiastically to the Republican Presidential candidate. A large Republican rally was held in Belleville in July 1860. Prior to the rally, Koerner hosted Carl Schurz, Frank Blair and a number of prominent St. Louis Republicans for lunch at his home (Koerner 1909:II:99). Lincoln had to give up his legal practice during the election, and he recommended

[20] Gustave Koerner to Abraham Lincoln, telegram dated 18 May 1860. Abraham Lincoln Papers, Series I (General Correspondence 1833-1916), Library of Congress, Washington D. C.

that Koerner take his place on an important case he had pending before the State Supreme Court (Koerner 1909:II:110).

Koerner and the Civil War

Upon the onset of the Civil War, Koerner helped organize the 9th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, a regiment comprised mostly of St. Clair and Madison County recruits, three-fourths of whom were German. Shortly afterward, Koerner was called to Springfield to assist Governor Yates at the outset of the Civil War, and helped organize troops and supplies. While there, he was instrumental in placing Ulysses S. Grant in his first assignment. In May Koerner served as Yates' representative to a Governor's conference held in Columbus, Ohio (Koerner 1909:II:122-127). Koerner then returned to Belleville and recruited the 43rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which named itself the "Koerner Regiment" in his honor (Koerner 1909:II:161-165). In September 1861 Koerner received a Presidential appointment to serve as aide-de-camp to General John C. Frémont, with the rank of colonel. Frémont, the Republican Presidential candidate in 1856, had been placed in command of the Department of Missouri but had recently fallen into some disfavor with the Lincoln Administration. Koerner occupied an independent position on the general's staff, and it allowed him look after the needs of the many Illinois troops serving within the department. Frémont would be removed from command on November 2, 1861 and replaced by Henry Halleck. This decision provoked a near mutiny by Germans troops, who greatly admired Frémont. Koerner wrote Lincoln about the situation and reassured him as to the loyalty of the Germans (Koerner 1909:I:166, 189-191).

Koerner's diplomatic skills were called upon once again in January 1862, when General Samuel R. Curtis replaced General Franz Sigel in the command of Army of Southwestern Missouri. Sigel offered his resignation after being demoted. Although Sigel ultimately would prove to have questionable military skills, he had served with some distinction during the Revolution of 1848 and was extremely popular with Germans throughout the United States. Indeed, many of the Germans who had enlisted in the West had done so with the expectation of serving under his command. Lincoln requested that Koerner mediate between the German general and Halleck, his district commander. Koerner succeeded in mollifying Sigel and convinced him to return to the army (Koerner 1909:II:196-200). The President recommended Koerner's services to Halleck, in the following note:

> My dear Sir: The Germans are true and patriotic, and so far as they have got cross in Missouri it is upon mistake and misunderstanding. Without a knowledge of its contents Governor Koerner, of Illinois, will hand you this letter. He is an educated and talented German gentleman, as true a man as lives. With his assistance you can set everything right with the Germans. I write this without his knowledge, asking him at the same time, with reference to the German element in your command, you should have Governor Koerner with you; and if agreeable to you and him, I will make him a brigadier-general, so that he can afford to so give his time. He does not wish to

> command in the field, though he has more military knowledge than many who do. If he goes into the place he will simply be an efficient, zealous, and unselfish assistant to you. I say all this upon intimate personal acquaintance with Governor Koerner. Yours, very truly (Lincoln 1989b:302-303).

Koerner was offered a positioned on Halleck's staff, he declined due to health problems (Koerner 1909:II:203-204.)[21]

In June 1862, Lincoln appointed Koerner United States Minister to Spain. He was to replace Carl Schurz, who resigned from the post to accept a commission in the Union Army. Given his choice, Koerner would have preferred to serve either in Berlin or Vienna, where his knowledge of German language and culture would have had decided benefits. With this in mind, he approached the American ministers to Prussia and Austria, as to whether they wanted to switch posts with him and go Madrid; both men refused, however (Koerner 1909:II:211-213, 225). While serving in Spain, Koerner succeeded in calming Spanish fears about possible American expansionism into Cuba, and he is credited with influencing Spain's neutrality during the Civil War (Jewett 2003:35). He later wrote a book about Spain, entitled *Aus Spainen*, which was published in Germany in 1867 (Koerner 1909:II:450-451).

Koerner returned to the United States in August 1864 and met with Lincoln in Washington in November. He formally tendered his resignation from the diplomatic service in December 1864 (Koerner 1909:II:431, 437-438). Koerner served as a pallbearer at Lincoln's funeral on May 2, 1865. He was the only one of the twelve pallbearers selected who was not a resident of Springfield, which provides some indication of his close relationship with Lincoln and the esteem to which he was held by the deceased President's associates (Koerner 1909:II:443).

Koerner's Later Career

Following the Civil War, Koener went into semi-retirement from public life, though he did serve in a number of appointive positions and remained a perennial favorite during nomination season. In 1867, he was appointed president of the board of trustees for the Soldier's Orphan Home at Bloomington (Dunne 1933:V:20). During the 1868 election, he was touted as a potential Republican candidate both for Governor and Attorney General. Koerner declined to run for either office, but accepted a position as elector-at-large for Ulysses S. Grant, who was running for President. Koerner canvassed the state for Grant, making speaking engagements at Quincy, Warsaw, Galena, Freeport, Rockford, Aurora, Chicago, Bloomington, Springfield, and Alton (Koerner 1909:II:479-484). In 1871, Koerner made a bid for United States Senator. In his

[21] Koerner was suffering from a serious eye infection at this time.

memoirs he claimed to have had only a half-hearted interest in the contest and to have entered his name only at the insistence of his friends, who believed that he might emerge as the compromise candidate over his two principal opponents—Richard Oglesby and John A. Logan. Logan won handily, and Koerner professed to be "not a bit disappointed" in the result (Koerner 1909:II:523; Bogart and Thompson 1920:63). In July of that same year, Koerner was appointed to the newly created Illinois Railroad and Warehouse Commission of Illinois, where he served ably until January 1873 (Koerner 1909:II:525-527).

During this period, Koerner and many other Republicans became alienated from the Grant Administration. There were multiple issues involved. The administration had been rocked by a series of corruption scandals, and civil service was deteriorating under the "spoils" system. Furthermore, Grant had angered many German-Americans by allowing the surreptitious sale of government arms and munitions to France during the Franco-Prussian War (Koerner 1909:II:524). As the 1872 election approached, an opposition party known as the Liberal Republicans was formed. The Liberal Republican movement started in Missouri early in 1872 under the leadership of Senator Carl Schurz. A platform was drawn up which called for a general amnesty in and reconciliation with the southern states, the reduction of the tariff, denounced presidential patronage and advocated reform of civil service, and called for a national convention of all Liberal Republicans in Cincinnati in May. Koerner and like-minded Republicans in Illinois wholeheartedly threw their support to the idea. The movement spread throughout the Midwest and East, encouraging the Democratic Party to join forces with it (Koerner 1909:II:535).

Although Koerner was considered as a possible Presidential candidate at the Cincinnati convention, he faced long odds due to the fact that two fellow Illinoisans, Senator Lyman Trumbull and Supreme Court Justice David Davis, also had thrown their hats into the ring. Koerner shifted his support to Trumbull, but the nomination ultimately went to Horace Greeley, the noted publisher of the New York Tribune (Howard 1972:342-343). Even so, Koerner did have considerable influence within the new party, and he was chosen to be its gubernatorial candidate in Illinois. Party leaders hoped his nomination would attract German voters and counter that group's general dislike of Greeley (Bogart and Thompson 1920:77). Koerner lost the election, but he had the satisfaction of carrying his home county of St. Clair and receiving 12,000 more votes statewide than his party's presidential candidate did (Koerner 1909:II:576).

The Liberal Republican movement collapsed after the election of 1872, leading some of its members—Carl Schurz[22] among them—to rejoin the ranks of the GOP. Koerner, however,

[22] After finishing his term as Senator in 1875, Schurz went on to serve as Secretary of the Interior during the Hayes Administration (1877-1881). He broke ranks with the Republicans once again in 1884 when the party nominated the controversial James G. Blaine as their candidate for president. Schruz and other disaffected Republicans—

refused to do so. His party loyalty had always been based on strict principles, and once those principles were betrayed—first by the Democrats over slavery, and then by the Republicans over corruption—he cut himself free of those parties and chose an independent path. In 1876, Koerner supported Democratic Presidential candidate Samuel Tilden and campaigned on his behalf, speaking to German audiences in Indiana, Wisconsin, and northern Illinois. Tilden won the popular vote but lost the election in the Electoral College to Republican Rutherford B. Hayes.

In 1877, Koerner began work on his second book, *The German Element in the United States, 1818 to 1848*, which was printed in 1880. He wrote his two volume *Memoirs* during his final years.

In the midst of his involvement in state and national politics, Koerner also had found time to serve his hometown of Belleville. He had served as a member of the Belleville School Association in 1850-1851 *(Belleville Weekly Advocate* 15 August 1850, 14 August 1851) and as director of the Belleville Teachers Institute in 1860 (*Belleville Weekly Advocate* 13 April 1860). He was particularly proud of his association with German Library Society. Founded in 1836, Koerner wrote the constitution and by-laws for the society, and later wrote the charter that was submitted to the State of Illinois. Dr. Anton Schott kept the library at his residence in Shiloh Valley from 1836 until 1852-1853, when it was moved to Belleville and consolidated with the collection of the Belleville Saengerbund. This German library became the nucleus of the present public library in Belleville, which was created in 1883. Except when he was absent in Europe, Koerner remained an active member of the German library and often served as a director of the institution in 1883, 1887, 1892-1895. In his memoirs, he remarked, "I take as much pride in the exertions I made during all this time in securing success for our library as in anything in my long life" (Koerner 1909:I:413).

Gustave Koener died at his home in Belleville on April 9, 1896. He had continued his legal practice up until the time of his death and reportedly was one of the oldest active lawyers in the state. Dunne (1933:V:19) notes that Koerner's "legal lore is said to have covered every department in the science of jurisprudence, and he won distinction at the bar among men of national reputation, including Lincoln, Douglas, Breese and Palmer."

HISTORY OF THE KOERNER HOUSE

The Koerners erected their house at 200 Abend Street in 1848-1849. The land on which the house was erected contained two-acres and had been purchased by the Koerners in 1836, shortly

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known as "Mugwumps"—joined forces with the Democrats to secure the victory of Grover Cleveland during the election (Bridgwater 1960: II:899, 1207).

after the couple were married (St. Clair County Deed Record H:484-485). The lot was located on a rise overlooking Belleville, and was adjacent to Shawneetown Road (then a major artery leading east of town). At the time of its purchase, the land was located on the edge of Belleville and was covered with mature timber, including white oak, walnut, hickory, and sycamore. Gustave recalled people thinking him "mad" for having paid $50 per acre, but he quickly recouped the cost of the parcel through the sale of a dozen or so large trees for lumber (Koerner 1909:406). From the outset, the Koerners envisioned building on the lot, but it was not until the late fall 1848—after Gustave had completed his term on the Illinois Supreme Court—that they signed a contract for the construction of the house, which was completed the following fall (Koerner 1909:I:524). The Koerners had had their original two-acre parcel surveyed and subdivided into ten lots—known as "Koerner's Addition to Belleville"—in July 1848 (St. Clair County Deed Record T:403).

Prior to 1849, the Koerners had resided in several other homes in Belleville. Immediately after their marriage, the couple had rented a modest one-room cottage on Illinois Street (Koerner 1909:I:405). Around 1841-1842, they moved to a larger house situated on the corner of Second North and Richland Streets. Koerner described it as being a "very neat new house…standing on a block or half a block of ground, with a fine flower and vegetable garden, a large stable and other outhouses, and a very spacious, shady yard—a most pleasant place, particularly for the children (Koerner 1909:I:476).

The Koerners chose to construct their new house in the popular Greek Revival Style. Unlike the classical genre promoted by Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Latrobe, and others during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries (which drew its inspiration from Roman architecture and the writings of the sixteenth-century Italian architect Palladio), Greek-Revival architecture developed out of a new-found appreciation for the profound influence the arts and culture of ancient Greece had had on Rome. Greece's role as the birthplace of democracy—via Classical Athens—also had a powerful appeal in the United States, and this ideological link between the two nations was accentuated by the War of Independence waged by the Greeks against the Ottoman Empire between 1821 and 1830. Greek Revival began to be adopted for public buildings on the Eastern Seaboard during the late 1810s (most notably with the Second Bank of the United States and the water works in Philadelphia) and spread westward from there. The style was destined to remain popular in the United States up to ca. 1860 and was so common that it was referred to as the "National Style" (McAlester and McAlester 1995:182-184; Hamlin 1926:109, 124-125). The source of inspiration for Greek-Revival architecture was the temples of Classical Greece. American interpretations of the Greek temple form varied. While many institutional, religious, and government buildings constructed in the United States were near duplicates of Greek temples, the form was too austere to be rigorously followed with most domestic construction. Instead, key decorative features of the Classical temple (columns,

pediments, entablature, cornice) were adapted to existing American house forms. Common elements found on Greek-Revival dwellings include: a low-pitched side- or front-gabled roof; a cornice line emphasized with a wide trim (frieze) board with returns at the corners; the accentuation of the formal entranceway with side and overhead transom lights and elaborate door surrounds; and the presence of an entrance porch or full-width front porch supported by columns (square or round) with classical-inspired capitals. Although Greek-Revival domestic architecture saw its greatest articulation in the ante-bellum plantation homes of the South, basic stylistic elements are found on contemporary vernacular dwellings in the South and elsewhere in the eastern United States. Greek Revival's applicability to domestic design was promoted and disseminated throughout the United States through such popular building guides as Asher Benjamin's *The Practical House Carpenter* (1830) and *The Builder's Guide* (1839) and Minard Lafever's *The Modern Builder's Guide* (1833, 1841). Aside from offering advice on modern construction techniques, these guidebooks provided the common carpenter with representative drawings of window and door surrounds, molding details, and floor and elevations plans that could be easily translated into "real world" construction (McAlester and McAlester 1995:179-184; Hamlin 1926:109, 124-125).

The earliest known Greek-Revival buildings in Illinois date to the middle 1830s. Once introduced, the style seems to have spread very quickly throughout the state. The transition from Federal to Greek Revival was particularly abrupt in respect to public buildings. For example, when the citizens of Vandalia started construction on a new capitol building in 1836, they selected a design in the familiar Federal style. Yet, only one year later, work had started on a brand new capitol building in Springfield that was distinctly Greek Revival, having two porticos supported by Doric columns, pedimented gable-end walls, wall pilasters, and a Doric entablature complete with triglyphs and metopes. The cornerstone on the capitol in Springfield was laid on July 4, 1837. Preceding this building by one year was the State Bank in Shawneetown (1836), which was constructed in the form of Greek temple of the Doric order. Given their prominence, the State Bank and the Old State Capitol set the standard for public buildings that followed them in Illinois, and over the next decade, Greek-Revival-courthouses were erected in counties across the state. Many of these courthouses had a front-gabled, temple form similar to the Shawneetown Bank, including those in Adams County (1837), Jo Daviess County (1839), Knox County (1839), and Sangamon County (1845). Two of the earliest high-style, domestic examples of the Greek Revival in the state are the John Wood Mansion (1835) in Quincy and the Henry B. Clarke House (1836) in Chicago.

Hence, by the time the Koerner House was erected, Greek Revival was a well-established if not conservative style. The house was well built and substantial in size, but not overly elaborate—attributes that bespeak of Gustave Koerner's successful career but essentially modest character.

Unfortunately, the Koerner House was largely destroyed in a fire early in 1854. In his memoirs, Gustave provides a lengthy description of the conflagration:

> On the night of the 21st of January our house took fire. The chimney in the mansard room must have been defective. It had been on fire during the day, but had not burned through till evening, when some woodwork near the chimney must have become ignited. Theodore had gone out into the walk around the house to close the window-shutters of the rooms below, when he observed a glare in the east room of the attic. He ran in, and I at once filled a bucket with water in the kitchen and hastened up the stairs, Theodore following with another bucket full. When we came up, the smoke was stifling; but if we had had a few more buckets, we could have extinguished the fire. By the time Theodore returned with two more buckets, the smoke was suffocating us, and we had to give up. Round the room next to the floor ran a row of presses filled with files of old reviews, congressional documents, remnants of wall paper, and many other inflammatory things. Our house at that time stood rather isolated. There were but few neighbors. Some of them tried to climb from the roof of a wing of the house, which was lower than the main building, onto the roof of the latter. But here had been rain lately, and, the weather having suddenly turned very cold, the roof, the walks around the house, and the streets were all a sheet of ice. The floor of the garret soon burned through, and the fire fell into the bedroom where Sophie and I and Victor slept. Victor was already sleeping in his cradle, and Sophie, wrapping him up, (for it was a bitter cold night,) carried him over to Mrs. Abend's house, which was only about fifty yards from our own place. By this time a number of persons had arrived from town, and we began saving furniture, carpets, piano, etc., on the first and second floors. Very little could be saved from the second floor. When the fire-engine arrived, it was too late to stop the conflagration; besides, the water almost immediately froze in the pipes. A high northwest wind prevailed. The east wall was blown down in the night, the west wall followed next morning. We found hospitable shelter at the Abends' for some days (Koerner 1909:I:605-606).

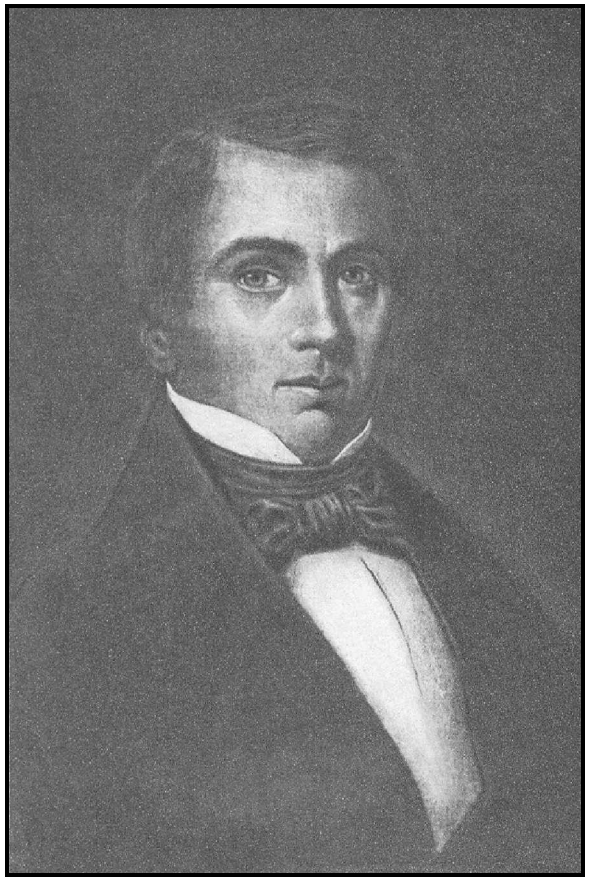
The Koerners had only recently paid off the costs of constructing the house, and its destruction put them in a difficult financial situation. Even so, Gustave refused to accept the funds that were raised from a building subscription initiated by his friends. Within days of the fire, the ground had been cleared, and Koerner had signed contracts for rebuilding the dwelling. In the meantime, the family rented a "new and very good house" from A. Anderson in town (Koerner 1909:I:606-607). While Koerner's description of the fire mentions the east and west walls of the house having been blown down during the fire, it not clear whether the building was completely destroyed. The wing—which he mentions—may have survived the fire, and the existing foundations beneath the main block been reused. It is not known what extent the rebuilt portion of the house resembled the original, though they may have been nearly identical, considering the dwelling had been built only five years before and it represented the result of many years of planning on the Koerners' part. On January 13, 1855, the *Belleville Times* reported that the house was still under construction. The Koerner family presumably reoccupied the dwelling later that year.

The Koerner House is depicted on a ca. 1867-1869 lithograph, which looks south towards the residence from the intersection Abend and Lincoln Streets. At this date, the main block of the house had close eaves and a simple brick cornice with dentils. This type of cornice is commonly found on contemporary brick houses throughout Belleville. The lithograph also shows the rear porch in its original configuration, being open and L-shaped. A fence surrounds the house lot (Schrader 1867-1869). The Koerner House also is depicted on an 1867 bird's eye view of Belleville (Ruger 1867). Copies of both illustrations have been attached below. The 1889 Sanborn fire insurance map of Belleville indicates that a two-story bay window had been added to the east side of the rear service wing by this date. This source also depicts a small, one-story, frame outbuilding—possibly a summer kitchen or carriage house—lying to the southeast of the house (Sanborn-Perris 1889). A ca. 1890 photograph shows the house largely as it appears today, with reconfigured cornice and side bay window. It is suspected these exterior modifications may have been undertaken ca. 1875.

The Koerner House is depicted on five subsequent insurance maps, the last of which post-dates 1917. None of these shows any alterations to the configuration of the house, though there are some changes in respect to outbuildings (Sanborn-Perris Map Company 1894, 1900; Sanborn Map Company 1907, 1917).

Following Gustave P. Koener's death in April 1896, his heirs appear to have rented his former residence to Fred Paro for a time. A rent receipt from Paro, dated February 1899, is included in Koerner's probate file (St. Clair County Probate Record, Roll 122, Seq. 400063). On May 26, 1899, the Koerner heirs sold their father's residence and associated land (Lots 8, 9, and 10 of Koerner's Addition) to William Winklemann. Winklemann owned the property until 1918, when he sold it Wilhelmina Wehmeyer (St. Clair County Deed Record Deed Record 270:245; 518:186-187).

During the forty-seven years that Gustave Koerner lived in the Koerner House, it served not only as his family home, but also the site of social events related to his political career. There also is little doubt that he prepared much of his public and private writings at the residence. Although some of Koerner's political affairs may have been conducted out of his legal offices in Belleville, none of these offices remain standing today. As such, the residence at 200 Abend Street remains the property most closely associated with this nationally significant politician and German-born intellectual.



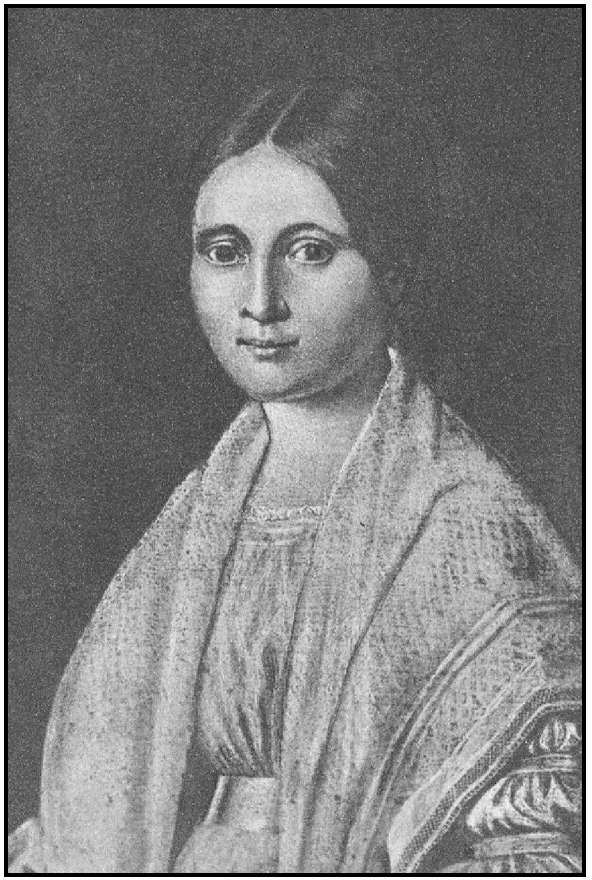


Figure 6. Gustave and Sophia (Englemann) Koerner in 1836, around the time of their marriage (Koerner 1909:I:opp. 404, opp. 406).

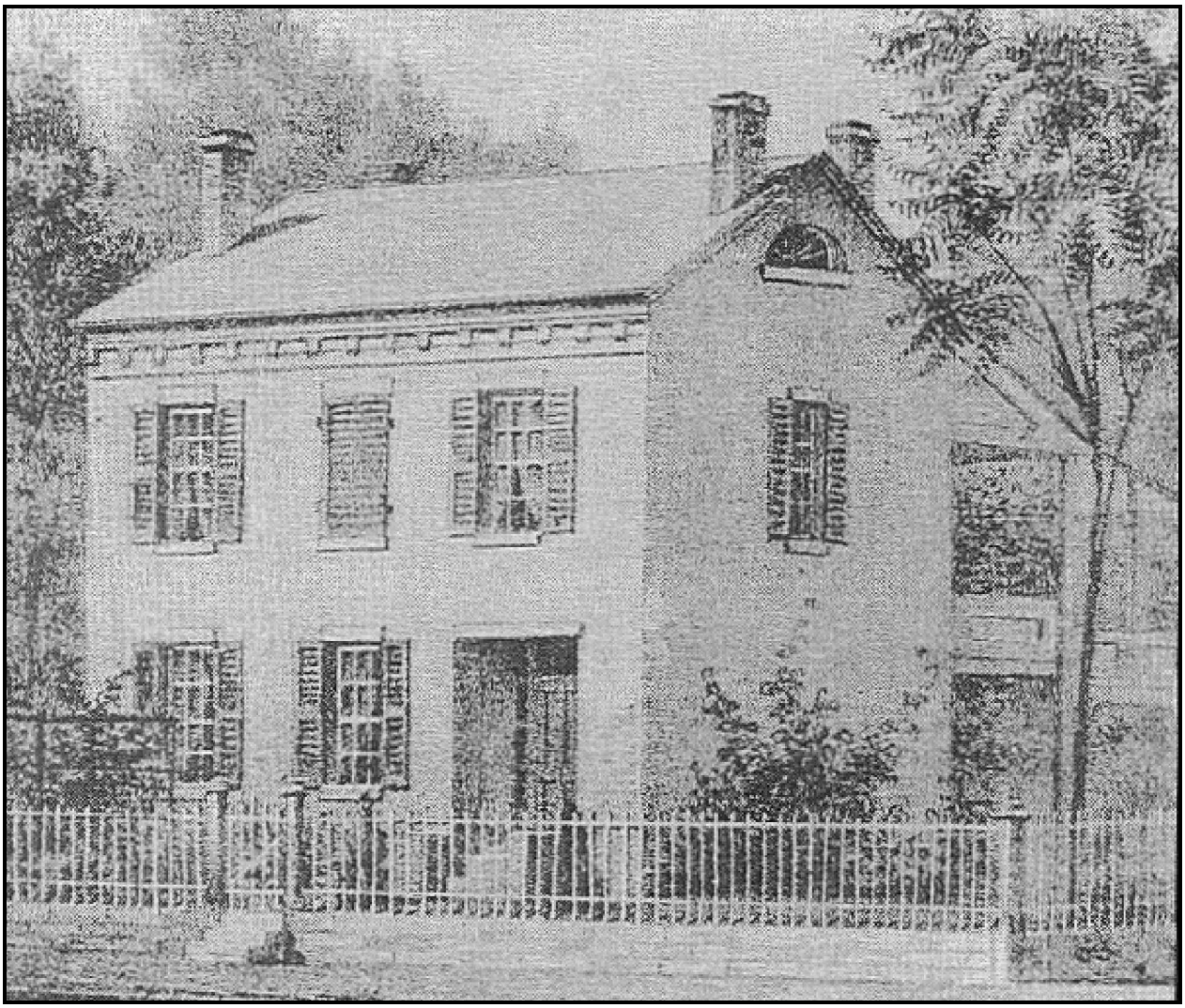


Figure 7. Ca. 1867-1869 lithograph of the Gustave Koerner House. This image shows the house with close eaves and dentils along the cornice (Schrader 1867-1869).

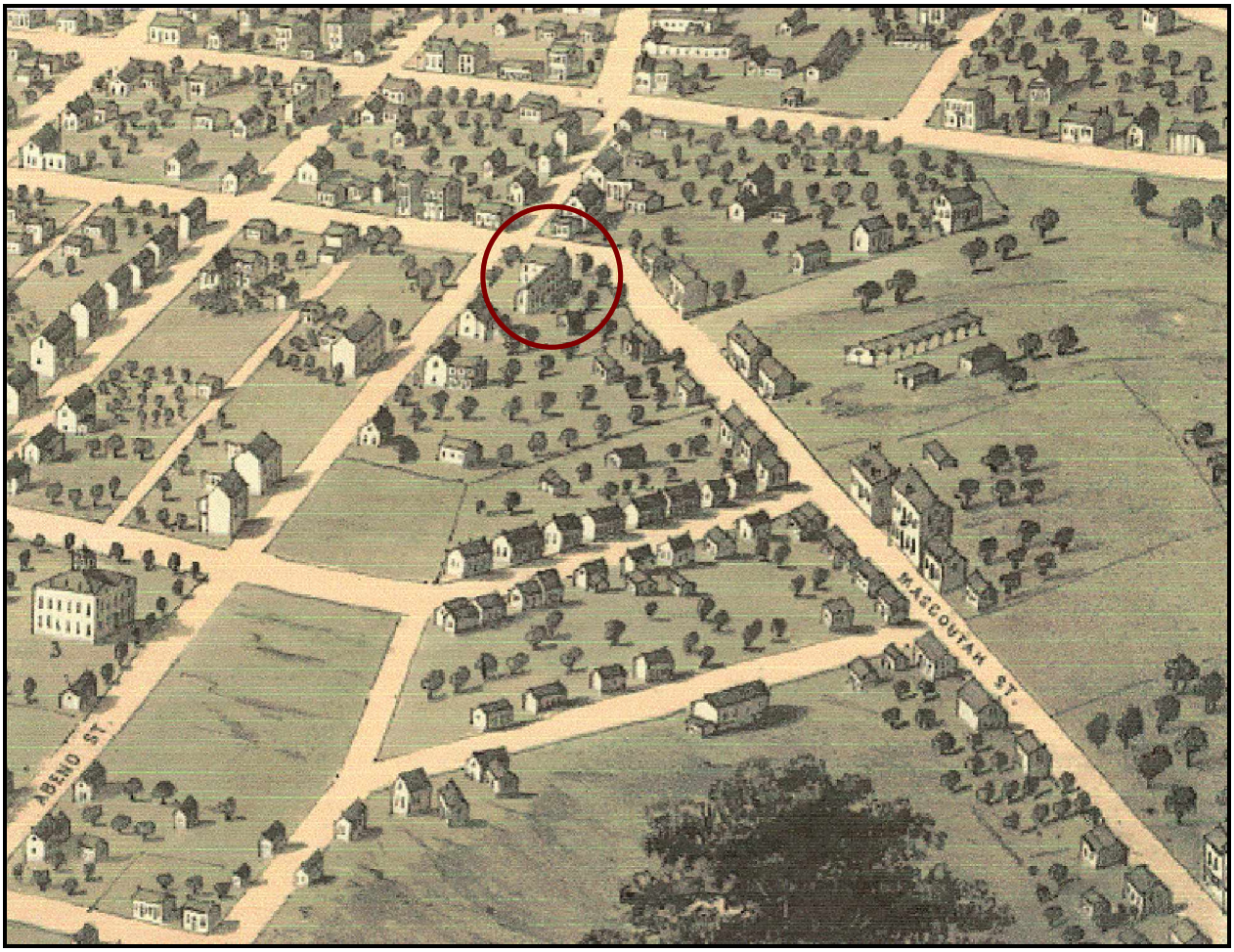


Figure 8. Location of the Gustave Koerner House (circled), as illustrated by an 1867 bird's eye view of Belleville. Note the house's prominent position at the intersection of Abend and Mascoutah Streets (Ruger 1867).

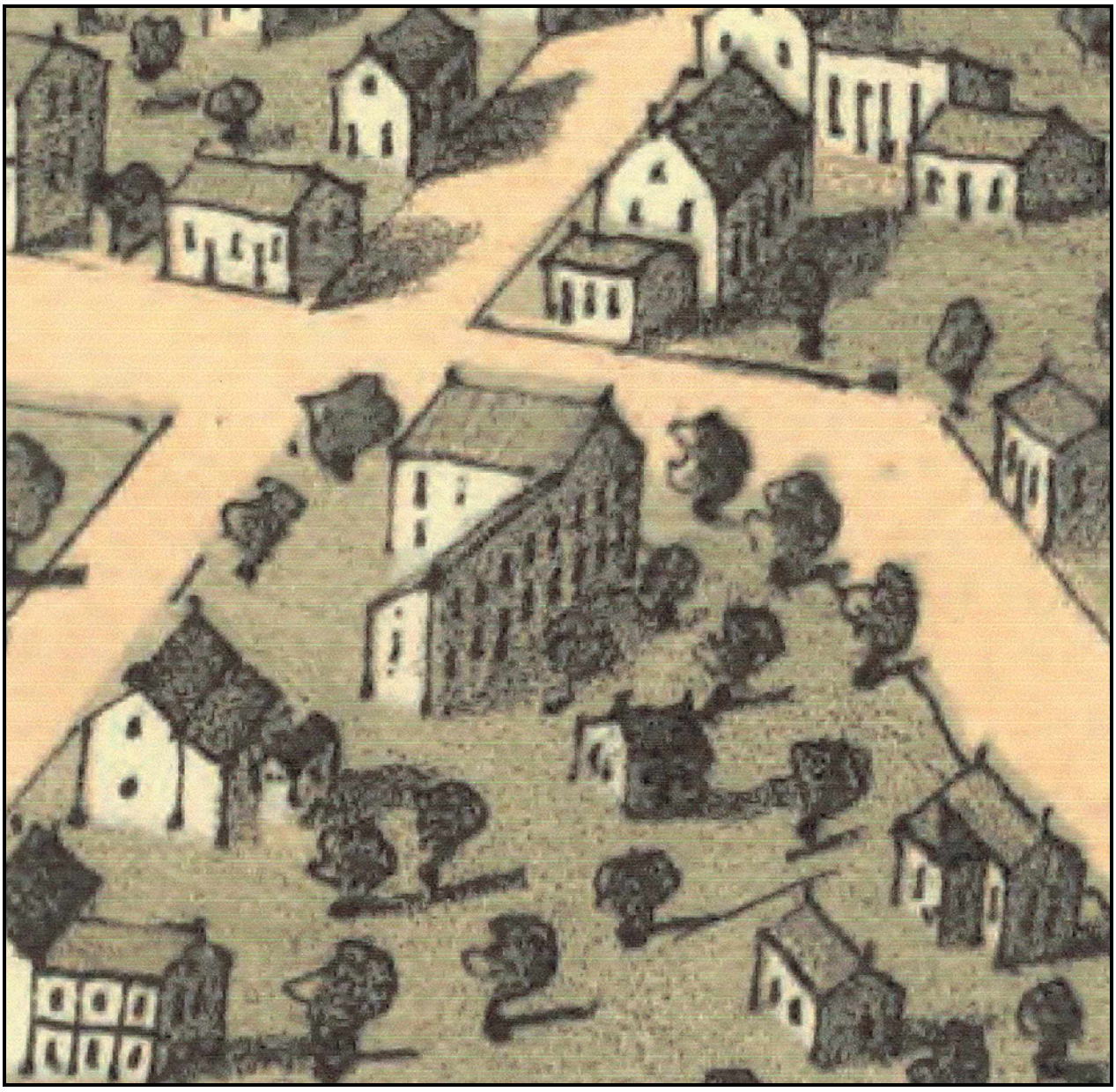


Figure 9. Detail of the previous figure. This illustration shows the house as originally construction—prior to the addition of the large two-story bay window on the east side of the rear service wing (Ruger 1867).

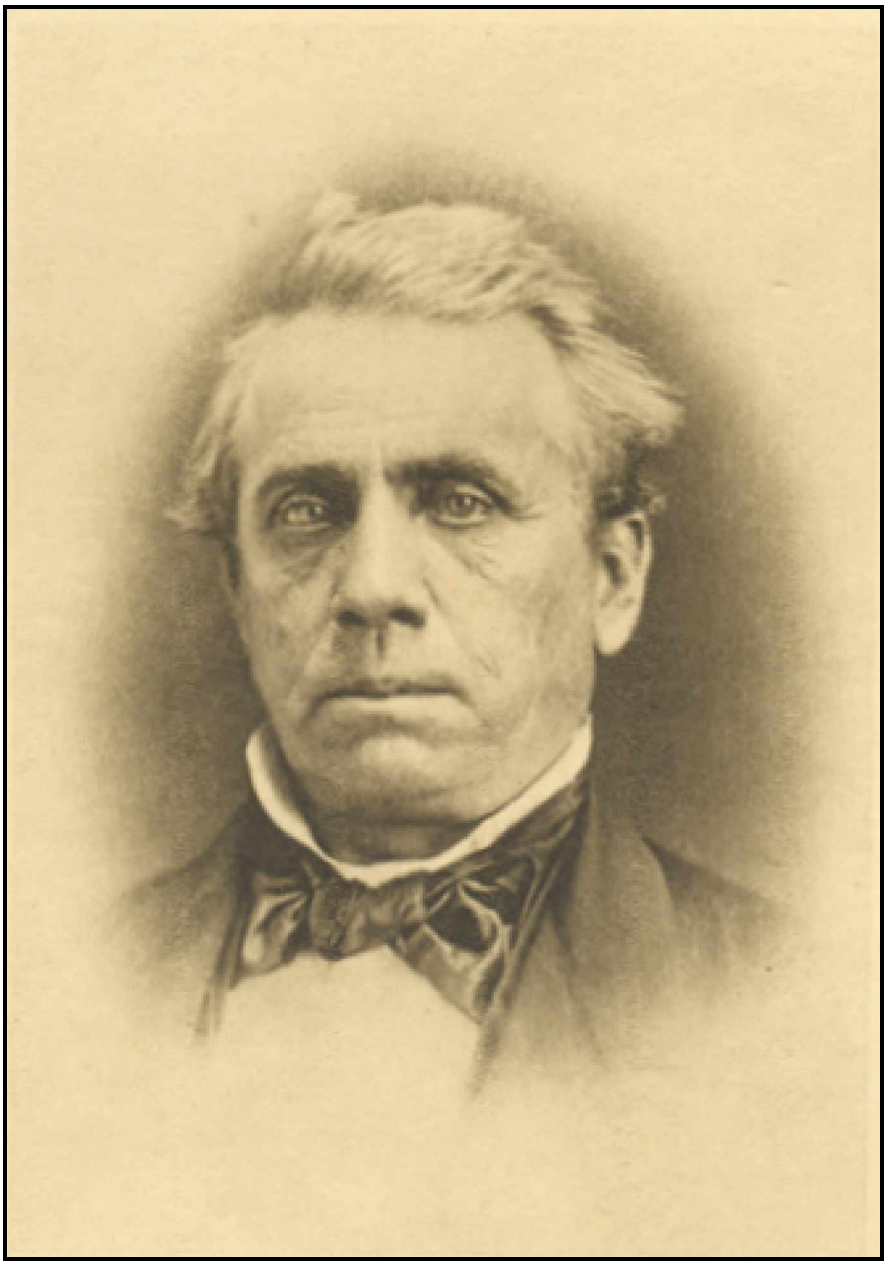


Figure 10. Photograph of Gustave Koerner in middle age, at the height of his political career (Koerner 1909:I:frontispiece).

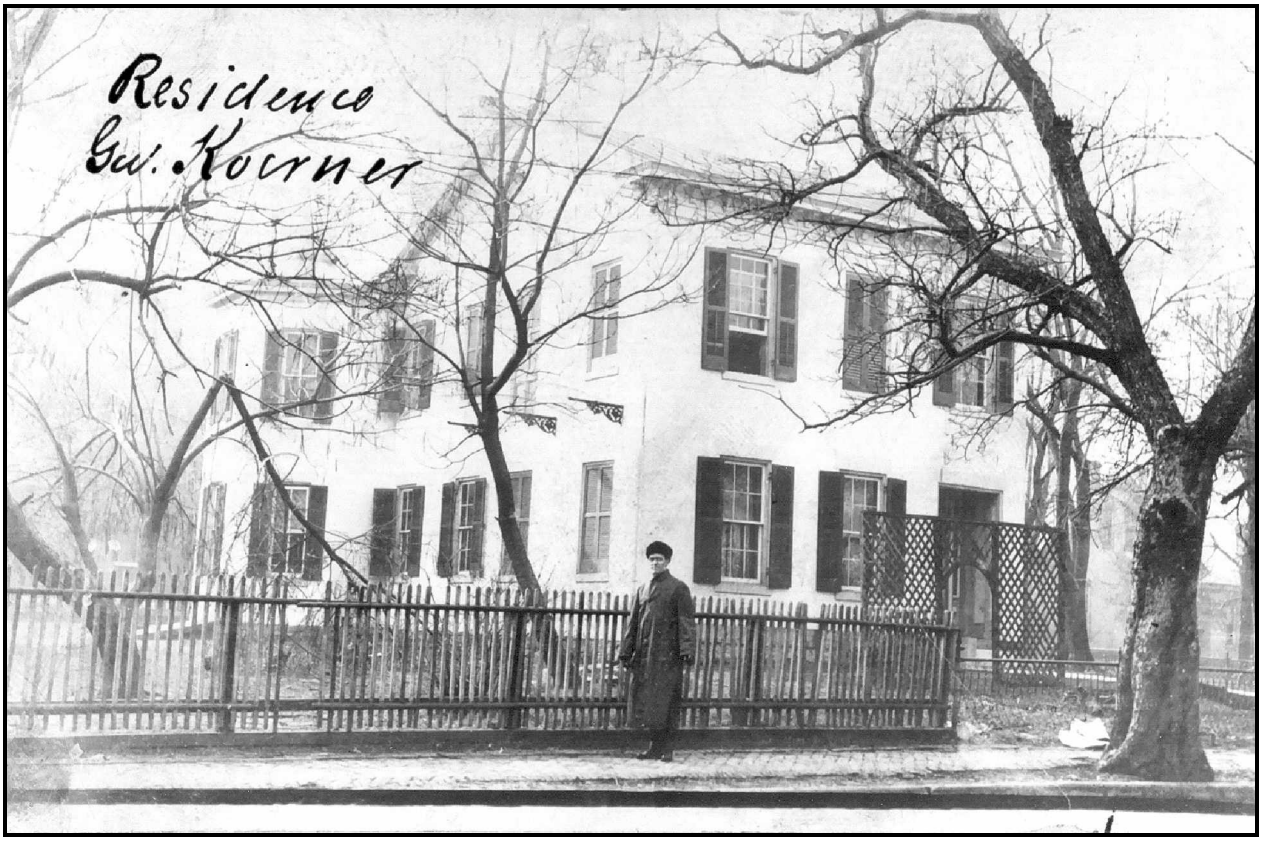


Figure 11. Photograph of the Gustave Koerner House, taken during the late nineteenth century. This image is undated but is suspected to have been taken ca. 1890. It shows the east and north elevations largely as they appear today. Note the rebuilt cornice on front and the bay window on side. The side balcony also had been removed by this date. A picket fence surrounds the property. The individual shown in front of the house may be Gustave Koerner himself (Photograph courtesy of St. Clair County Historical Society).

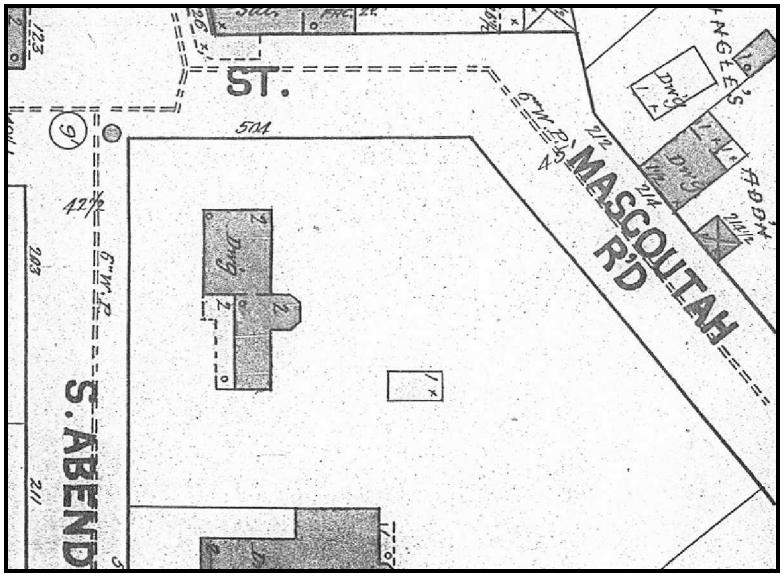


Figure 12. An 1889 Sanborn-Perris fire insurance map, showing the Gustave Koerner House and associated house lot. This is the earearliest such map available for the property. By this date, a two-story pentagonal bay had been added to the east side of the rear service wing. A small outbuilding is shown to the east of the residence (Sanborn-Perris Map Company 1889).

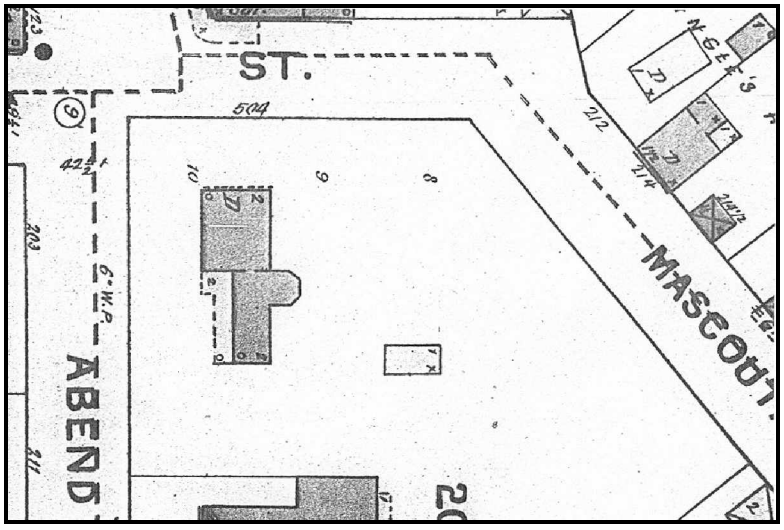


Figure 13. An 1894 Sanborn-Perris fire insurance map showing the Gustave Koerner House and associated house lot (Sanborn-Perris Map Company 1894).

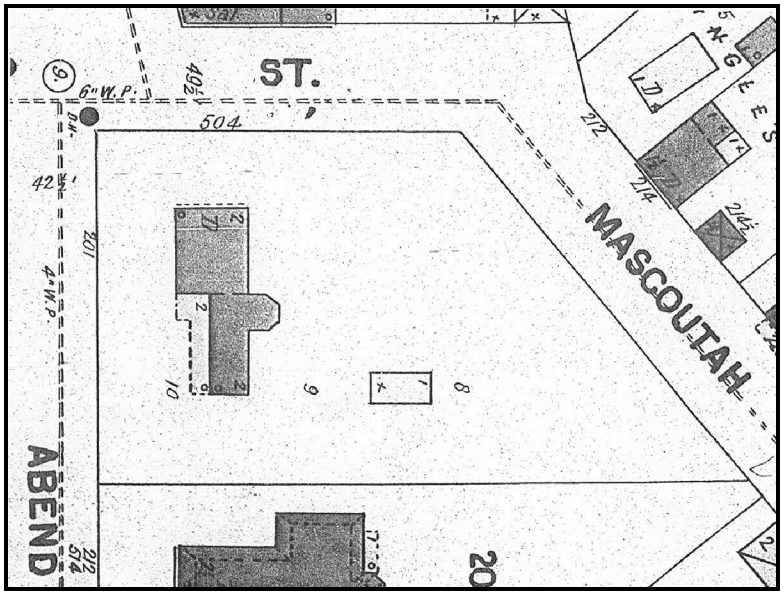


Figure 14. A 1900 Sanborn-Perris fire insurance map showing the Gustave Koerner House and associated house lot (Sanborn-Perris Map Company 1900).

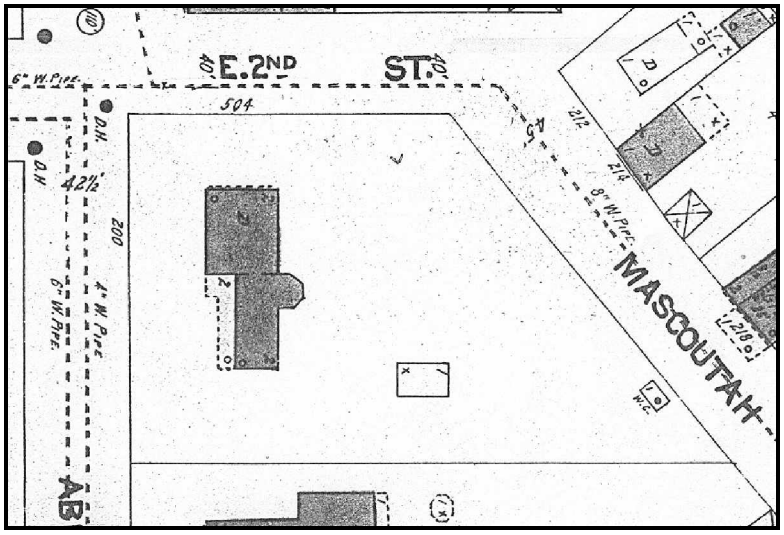


Figure 15. A 1907 Sanborn-Perris fire insurance map showing the Gustave Koerner House and associated house lot. A second outbuilding is illustrated on the house lot, facing Mascoutah Avenue (Sanborn Map Company 1907).

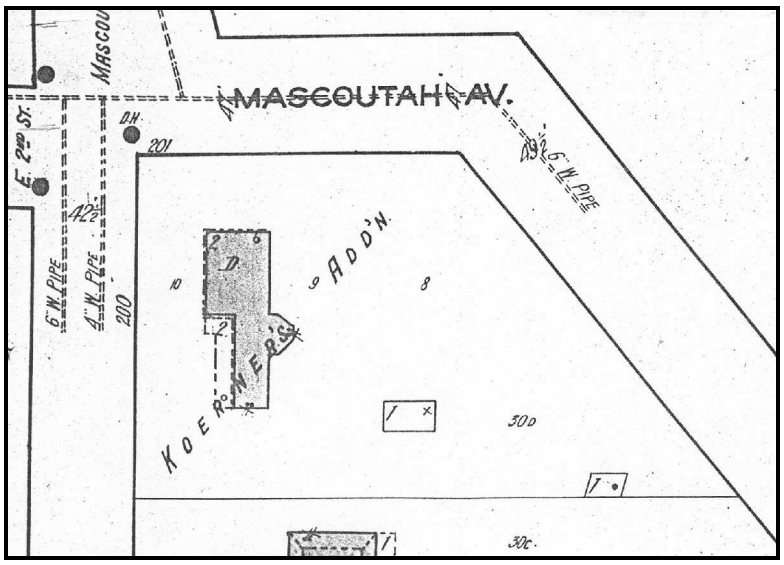


Figure 16. A 1917 Sanborn-Perris fire insurance map showing the Gustave Koerner House and associated house lot. The Koerner residence appears unchanged from 1889. However, a new outbuilding is illustrated on the south lot line (Sanborn-Perris Map Company 1917).

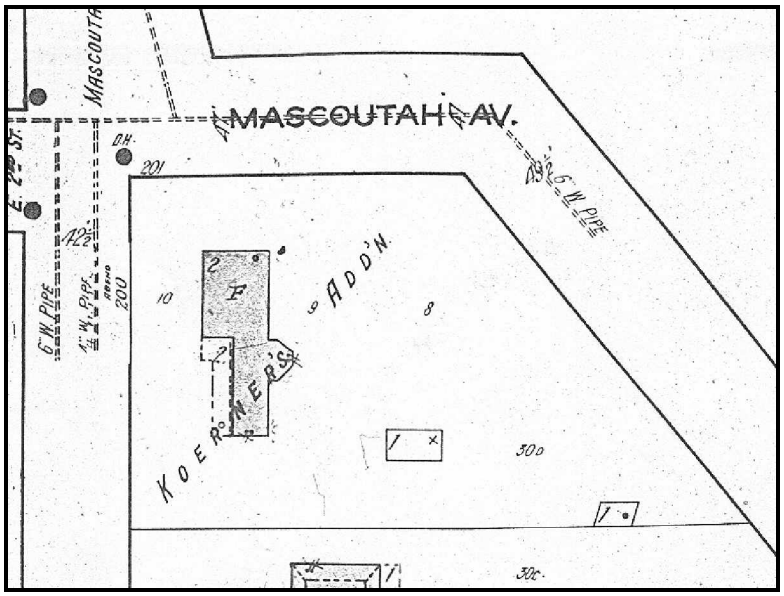


Figure 17. Sanborn map showing the Koerner House and associated house lot published post-1917.

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1907 *[Map of] Belleville, Illinois*. Sanborn Map Company, New York.

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St. Clair County
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Schrader, Th[eodore?]
1867-1869 *Belleville, Ills.(View from Eimer's Hill)*. Th. Schrader, St. Louis.

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United States Geological Survey (USGS)
1982 *O'Fallon, Illinois Quadrangle Map.* 7.5 minute series. U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The Gustave Koerner House lies on Parts of Lot 1 and 4 of the "Wehmeyer Place" subdivision to Belleville, which is recorded on page 27 of Plat Book "Y" of St. Clair County, Illinois. The boundary beginning at the southeast corner of Lincoln and Abend Streets, and then runs 142' south, then 80' east, then 141.73' north, and then 80' west to the place of beginning. Historically, the Koerner House occupied a larger parcel (comprised of Lost 8, 9, and 10 of Koerner's Subdivision), but this tract was later subdivided and built over with additional residences. The defined boundary encompasses the Gustave Koerner House and remnants of the historic house still attached to the dwelling.