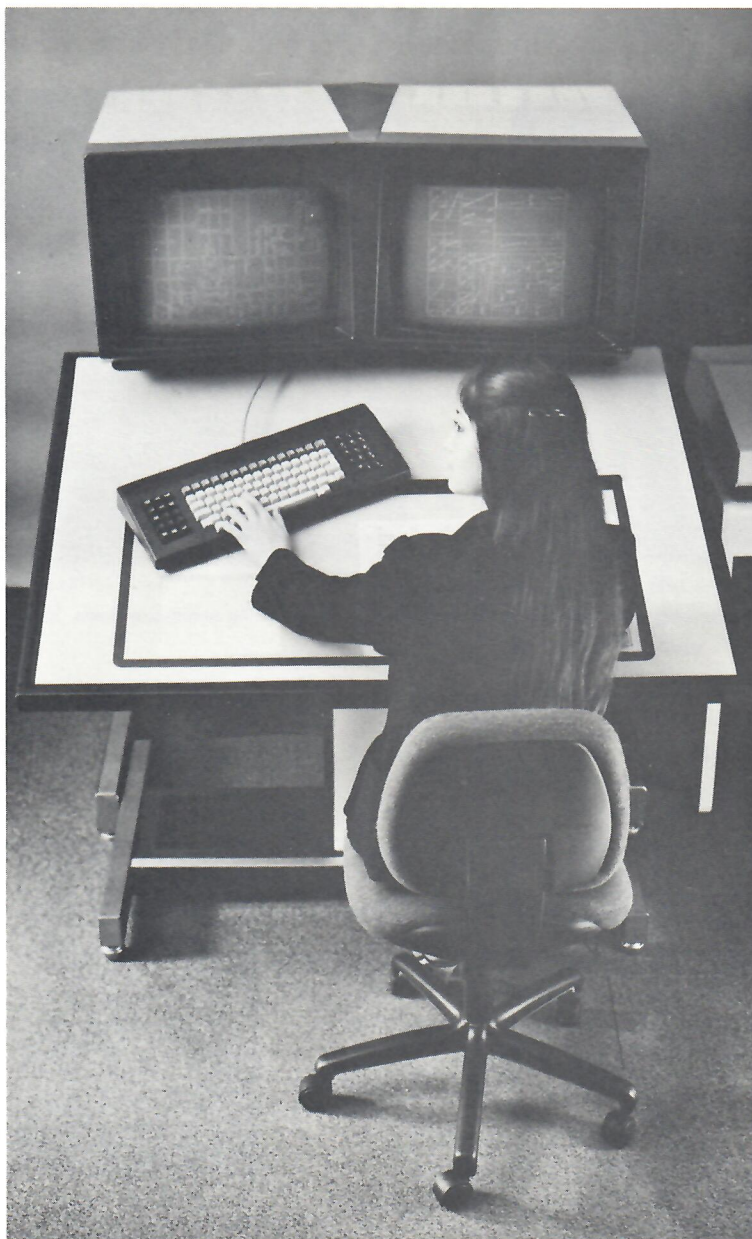


# Map News

 THE SIDWELL COMPANY

Winter Quarter • Number 127

## SIGNET® System Forms Data-Graphics Link



*A typical SIGNET® workstation. A single-screen workstation that performs similar functions will be available soon.*

A customized SIGNET® System stores graphic and alphanumeric information in one location, the computer. The system can include the mapping for an entire jurisdiction, as well as all the facts, figures and reports the jurisdiction needs to maintain.

A major benefit of the system is the ability to create a software link between data and graphics. The link allows a user to access data through graphic information and simultaneously view both types of information on the dual-screen computer workstation. The software link also provides search capabilities between data and graphics.

An example will illustrate the potential of SIGNET®. To find a particular parcel of land on the computer map, search criteria, such as a person's name and/or address, is used to locate the parcel in the system. The computer will search through the stored data records on file and look for a match between the name typed in and the names on file. When it finds a match, it will locate the piece of property on the map linked to the name. Once the property is located, the computer can be given a few simple commands to generate a report, such as property record information, about the parcel. Hard copies of the screens containing both the map and the report can be produced quickly and easily.

SIGNET® can search the data files for any type of information stored. For instance, a search

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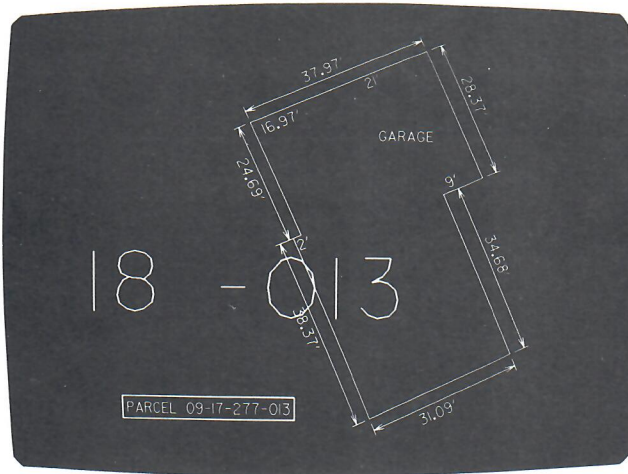
for three bedroom homes with basements within a city block can be completed. The system will look at the stored data records of all the homes within the block. When it finds those matching the three bedroom with basement criteria, it will flag those homes on the computer map. A quick print of the map can be made, along with a bulk printout of necessary information about all comparable parcels meeting the criteria.

The distinction of necessary information is an important one. Much information concerning a graphic element can be stored on the system, but it is not always necessary to retrieve all the information. SIGNET® allows for the selective retrieval of data. If a printout of a property owner name, parcel number, street address and phone number is all that is needed, the computer will print out only that information. Any type of graphic element can have pertinent data

linked to it, enabling the report generation capabilities. For instance, utility poles can have location and transformer information linked to them; an intersection can be searched for accident report information; and an area can be searched for school-aged children in order to plan a bus route. Any graphic information that is stored on the system can be linked to any relevant data.

The benefits derived from SIGNET®'s data-graphics link are limited only by the imagination. Using SIGNET®, all types of information can be manipulated in ways not possible using conventional means of storage.

The Sidwell Company has developed a program which demonstrates the many benefits of a SIGNET® System. Arrange to see the demonstration by calling SIGNET® consultants Derrel Owens or Ron Lampe at 312/231-0206. Free SIGNET® brochures are available upon request.



SIDWELL COUNTY PROPERTY RECORD CARD REPORT	
PARCEL NO. : 1809-277-013	DISTRICTS
RESIDENT : JOHN Q. SMITH	ELECTION : ELECTION DIST. 52
OWNER : SAME	ZONING : R-3 SINGLE FAMILY RES.
	TAX CODE : 9026
	CORPORATE : DOWNERS GROVE
	CITY WARD : 2ND WARD
LOT (S) : 18 PARKSIDE	BUILDING INFORMATION
LOT SIZE : N/A	BUILDING AREA : 1270 SQ. FT.
ACREAGE : N/A	ROOMS : 08
	BEDROOMS : 4
	BATHROOMS : 2
	FIREPLACES : 1
ASSESSMENTS	BUILDING USE : RESIDENCE
LAND : 5510 (1982)	CONSTRUCTION TYPE : WOOD FRAME
BUILDING : 1800 (1982)	EXTERIOR WALLS : BRICK
TOTAL : 23520 (1982)	FOUNDATION TYPE : CONCRETE
	BASEMENT TYPE : FULL CEMENT FLOOR-FINISHED
	FLOOR SUPPORT : WOOD JOISTS
	FLOORING : HARDWOOD
LAND : 4950 (1979)	INTERIOR WALLS : DECORATED, DRY WALL
BUILDING : 16170 (1979)	ROOFING MATERIAL : COMPOSITION
TOTAL : 2120 (1979)	HEATING SYSTEM : FORCED HOT AIR
EXEMPTIONS : HOMESTEAD	STREET PAVEMENT : GRAVEL
	IMPROVEMENTS : SIDEWALK-CURB-WATER-SEWER-GAS

An example of SIGNET®'s ability to link data to graphic information, and how the information would appear on the workstation screens. Here, a property record card report is attached to a building.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONVENTIONS

**January 16, 1985**  
Iowa Users' Meeting  
Des Moines, Iowa

**January 22-25, 1985**  
Michigan Township  
Association  
Dearborn, Michigan

**February 5, 1985**  
Illinois Users' Meeting  
Normal, Illinois

**March 4-6, 1985**  
Illinois Property  
Assessment Institute  
Peoria, Illinois

**March 10-15, 1985**  
A.S.P./A.C.S.M.  
Washington, D.C.

**March 20-22, 1985**  
Iowa State Association  
of Counties  
Des Moines, Iowa



*Tom Lester, now responsible for marketing Sidwell's Commercial Services.*

## Tom Lester, Commercial Services Representative

Tom Lester has been appointed marketer of The Sidwell Company's tax map lease atlas service.

The atlases, hard bound and printed on durable paper, provide a convenient desk top reference for all county property information. This includes subdivision names and boundaries, permanent parcel index numbers, parcel and lot dimensions, and large parcel acreages. They are frequently used by realtors, lawyers, savings & loans, title companies, banks, engineers, surveyors and other professional needing current property information.

Tom will service customers in Kent County, Michigan and Cook, DuPage, Will, Kane, Peoria, Sangamon, Lake, McLean, St. Clair, McHenry and Champaign Counties, Illinois.

Call Tom at 312/231-0206 to find out how the atlas service can save you valuable time and money.



*Art Schroeder, former Supervisor of Assessments, is the latest member of Sidwell's Customer Engineering team*

## Art Schroeder Joins Sidwell Staff

Art Schroeder, former Supervisor of Property Tax Assessments, Peoria County, Illinois, has recently joined The Sidwell Company's Customer Engineering staff. In his new position, Art will be responsible for providing technical assistance and consultation to property mapping clients. This includes developing procedures for gathering property records to be used in projects, client education and training in new system implementation, and analysis and design of map maintenance systems.

Art brings with him a wealth of experience. He was a real estate appraiser for 4 years prior to his 7½ years as Supervisor of Assessments. Past projects include preparation of map implementation procedures, design of computer system requirements for Peoria County Real Estate Assessment System, and conversion of real estate records to the Permanent Parcel Numbering System. We are confident that Mr. Schroeder will contribute greatly to the servicing of Sidwell clients.



*David Squires,  
Customer Engineer Manager*

## Dave Squires Receives I.A.A.O. Citation

Customer Engineer Manager, David Squires, has once again been honored by the International Association of Assessing Officers. He was selected to receive the group's Presidential Citation for the year, "in recognition of efforts in the promotion of I.A.A.O. goals and activities during 1983-84."



## Upcoming Users' Meetings

This year's Users' of Sidwell Systems Meetings will be held on January 16, 1985 in Des Moines, Iowa and on February 5, 1985 in Normal, Illinois. The annual meetings of current system users and Sidwell technical staff are designed to address special issues, problems, and questions held by attendees.

Presentations on mapping related topics will be given by Sidwell under the direction of Dave Squires, Customer Engineer Manager. All existing Iowa and Illinois clients are encouraged to attend.

## Dave Squires Addresses Assessors

Dave Squires, Customer Engineer Manager, gave presentations to the Nebraska Association of Counties in Omaha, and to the Association of Municipal Assessors in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. Dave spoke about the history of assessment mapping from its infancy to present-day computer graphics technology.

If you are interested in having Dave make a presentation to your group on property mapping or SIGNET®, call him at 312/231-0206.

—❖❖❖ **HAPPY NEW YEAR** ❖❖❖—

## Questions & Answers

Direct questions to:  
**Kim Penton**  
Promotional Coordinator  
c/o The Sidwell Company

**Q.** Can ASCS (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) aerial photography be used for a new mapping project?

**A.** ASCS photography can be used, but is not recommended for several reasons. ASCS photography is taken by the Department of Agriculture for agricultural purposes, not for assessment mapping purposes. Therefore, the scale and specifications used are often inappropriate for assessment mapping.

For property mapping, where boundaries and improvement must be determined, photography is taken only in the early spring and late fall when trees are foliage free. ASCS photography is taken in the summer, when crops and foliage are mature and crop identities and acreage can be determined. Aerial photography for property mapping should be taken on clear days when the angle of the sun is 30 degrees or more above the horizon. Shadows are shortest at this time, and are less likely to obscure ground information. Observers of ASCS photography are interested in viewing large areas of land and shadows do not present a problem.

In many areas ASCS photography was last taken years ago. Property mapping should be based on current aerial photography to accurately portray ground features. Using ASCS photography for a property mapping project could decrease the level of project accuracy, and make it difficult to use aerials for determining improvements and property boundaries.



THE SIDWELL COMPANY

Write to: The Sidwell Company, 28W240 North Avenue,  
P.O. Box M, West Chicago, IL 60185 or phone 312/231-0206

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON SIDWELL SERVICES, INCLUDING SIGNET®