



Rural Historic Structural Survey of New Lenox Township Will County, Illinois

*Volume 1 - Context History of Rural Survey Region
and
Volume 2 - New Lenox Township Rural Historic Structural Survey Report*

August 2003

**for the Will County Land Use Department and
the Will County Historic Preservation Commission**

WJE | ENGINEERS
ARCHITECTS
MATERIALS SCIENTISTS

**Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.
120 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2000
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 372-0555**



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Cover photographs: Views of New Lenox Township, with a long entrance road leading to a farmstead north of Laraway Road in Section 25 shown at top left, a Gabled Ell farmhouse on Delaney Road in Section 34 at top right, a farmstead in Section 20 on Haven Avenue, and a shed on a farmstead along Laraway Road.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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- Previous Surveys
- Books, Articles, and Other Publications
- Maps and Aerial Photographs

APPENDIX A: Will County Map

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the request of the Will County Land Use Department (Will County), acting as liaison for the Will County Historic Preservation Commission (Historic Preservation Commission), Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) has prepared the following report of the general history for townships in northern Will County, Illinois. Northern Will County was settled by pioneer farmers of European origin beginning in the late 1820s. Two subsequent historical developments led to an increase in settlement. First, the region became more accessible after the Treaty of Chicago of 1833 expelled the remaining Native Americans to land west of the Mississippi. Second, the Illinois and Michigan Canal, begun in 1836 and completed in 1848, increased transportation and trade in the region.

The Rural Structures Survey of unincorporated Will County performed in 1988 identified approximately 21,000 structures, 343 of which were noted to be potentially significant. The 1988 survey documented sites with photographs and survey data on standard Illinois Historic Preservation Agency format cards. Because of the numerous changes that have occurred in the years since the first rural survey in 1988, the Will County Historic Preservation Commission recognized the need to reassess the agricultural heritage in the region. Northern Will County in particular is one of the fastest developing areas of the state, and for this reason it was selected as the first area in the county to be reassessed.

The Will County Rural Historic Structural Survey described in the companion volume on New Lenox Township was conducted on an intensive level, reconfirming the data gathered in the 1988 survey, and also including additional information such as sketch site plans and identification of more detailed building features. This volume covers the geological, historical, and architectural contexts of northern Will County agriculture.