



Rural Historic Structural Survey
of
Channahon Township
Will County, Illinois

April 2009

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

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

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of
Channahon Township
Will County, Illinois

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary

At the request of the Will County Land Use Department, acting as liaison for the Will County Historic Preservation Commission, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) has prepared this summary report of the 2009 intensive survey of farmsteads in Channahon Township in Will County, Illinois. The survey included approximately thirty-six square miles with 32 farmsteads and related sites containing more than 150 individual structures.

The first settlers of European decent arrived in Channahon Township in 1831. Early development in the township was agrarian and centered along the waterways of the Des Plaines and Du Page Rivers. In 1848, the Illinois and Michigan Canal was opened and linked the farming community to markets in Chicago. The prospect of railroads spurred continued growth in the township. In the late nineteenth century, after Channahon Township had been bypassed by most railroads and use of the canal dwindled, the population and economy of the township fell into decline. The isolated township once again focused on its success as a farming community. The construction of paved roads in the 1920s and 1930s connected the community to larger markets but it was the completion of Interstate 55 in the 1950s that reinvigorated the economic base of the township. The roadway provided a quick and efficient means of transporting goods. Land along the interstate corridor was quickly purchased farmland and developed it as manufacturing plants for the petrochemical and soybean industries. In more recent years, the population has grown in response. Channahon Township is considered one of the fastest growing areas in Illinois. New residential and commercial development has changed the landscape of northwest Channahon Township.

Of the 32 farmsteads identified in the current survey, four sites have the potential to be considered for Will County Historic Landmark designation or listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The present study also identified additional noteworthy sites that are excluded from consideration as county landmarks since they are located within the incorporated limits of the Village of Channahon. In some cases, the eligibility of the site would be enhanced if certain historic features were restored or non-historic cladding materials such as vinyl siding were removed. Other sites have either been designated Contributing, which means in the context of this report that they retain their overall character as historically agricultural sites but lack individual distinction; or Non-contributing, which indicates that the site lacks sufficient integrity to present the theme of agricultural history in the survey region. Due to the extent of suburban development in these two townships, no potential historic districts have been identified as part of the present survey.

The Channahon Township intensive survey was performed to update the previous survey of the township performed in 1988. In the previous survey, 42 farmsteads and related sites were identified in the township, containing at least 220 structures. Because of the rapid pace of contemporary development in Will County since 1988, the Will County Historic Preservation Commission recognized the need to reassess the agricultural heritage of the region. WJE has previously completed eight intensive survey projects in eleven of the County's twenty-four townships covering Wheatland–Plainfield–Lockport, Du Page, Homer, New Lenox, Green Garden, Manhattan, Frankfort, and Joliet–Troy Townships. Copies of the previous survey reports were provided to public libraries and respective governing agencies in the area. Cumulatively, the surveys have documented more than 4,350 structures on more than 980 sites over approximately 430 square miles of Will County. Performing a separate survey for each township has allowed more detailed information to be collected, such as individual photographs of each historic structure, an assessment of current conditions, and preparation of site sketch plans. With the permission of property owners, the survey work was performed with close-up access to the buildings, which allowed for close range photography and a reliable identification of building materials. The survey data was compiled and analyzed using database software and geographic information system (GIS) software.

In this report, Chapter 1 contains a description of the project methodology. Chapters 2 and 3 provide the historical and architectural context within which the surveyed farmsteads were established, grew, were

reconfigured, and in some cases were abandoned. Chapter 2 covers the historical context of Will County agriculture, as well as the historical development of Channahon Township. Chapter 3 discusses the architectural context of the rural survey area. Chapter 4 summarizes the survey results and includes a discussion of the National Register and Will County criteria for designation of historical and architectural significance. Also in Chapter 4 are several tabulations of the survey results and an overview of a select number of historically and/or architecturally significant farmsteads. A bibliography of research sources follows the text. Appendices include historic and contemporary plat maps for Channahon Township, and maps developed for this report to present the results of the survey and research.

CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

Background

At the request of the Will County Land Use Department, acting as liaison for the Will County Historic Preservation Commission, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) has prepared this summary report of the intensive survey of farmsteads in Channahon Township in Will County, Illinois. A previous survey of farmsteads in Will County was performed in 1988. Beginning in 1999, WJE has prepared intensive surveys of individual townships in Will County. Previous townships surveyed included Plainfield, Wheatland, and Lockport (completed November 2000), Du Page (November 2001), Homer (November 2002), New Lenox (August 2003), Green Garden (July 2004), Manhattan (September 2006), and Frankfort (December 2007). Concurrently with this study, the survey of Joliet and Troy Townships was completed.

The objectives of the study are to provide comprehensive information on all historic rural structures located in the area; to assess the eligibility of rural districts or individual buildings for designation as local landmarks or nomination to the National Register of Historic Places; to inventory the existing structures in the area for future study; to provide background on significant architectural styles and rural structure types common to the area; and to provide background history of the development of the area. The present study has been developed to meet the requirements and standards of the Certified Local Government program.

Survey Methodology

Survey Team

The survey team from WJE consisted of Kenneth Itle, Michael Ford, Timothy Penich, and Deborah Slaton. Mr. Itle served as Project Manager and developed the summary report and performed some field survey work. Mr. Ford and Mr. Penich performed field survey work. Ms. Slaton was the reviewer of the summary report.

Background Research

Work on the rural survey began in August 2008. Background research was performed at the State of Illinois Library in Springfield, the University of Illinois Libraries, the Joliet Public Library, and the Three Rivers Public Library in Channahon and Minooka. In addition, extensive historic research materials compiled for previous Will County rural survey reports were available.

Field Survey

A project initiation meeting was held to discuss the project approach and scope. An initial reconnaissance survey was performed in August 2008 to identify existing farmstead sites. At that time, abandoned farmsteads or farmsteads where demolition was threatened were surveyed to an intensive level. Intensive field survey work was performed from August 2008 through February 2009. The survey team first approached the primary residence on the site to request permission of the homeowner/tenant to conduct the survey on the farmstead site. At sites where no one was home, or where owner permission was not provided, the site was surveyed from the public right-of-way. Typically each structure on the site was photographed individually using a digital camera. A sketch plan of the farmstead was prepared. Written notes for each building included a listing of exterior materials, overall condition, and estimated decade of construction based on structural type and style. Any history information provided by the owner, such as dates of construction or names of original owners, was also noted.

Database and Base Map Preparation
Mapping for the survey was prepared using ArcGIS.[1] Baseline mapping showing roads, railways, streams, township boundaries, etc., as well as 2005 aerial photography of the survey area, was downloaded from the Illinois Natural Resources Geospatial Data Clearinghouse internet site.[2] Individual points were added to the baseline map at the location of each farmstead site surveyed. Each point represents a particular record in the Microsoft Access database. The database contains all field survey information; historical information specific to each property, such as names of previous owners based on historic atlases and plat maps; and the assessment of historic significance. On the database forms, the "notes" field typically contains other miscellaneous observations of the project team from the field work. Occasionally, this field contains verbal information for the resident or another source; these are so noted.

Prior to inserting the digital photographs into the database, the photograph files were converted from color .jpg files to reduced-size black-and-white .bmp files. The Microsoft Access database was used to generate the property lists included in this summary report, as well as the individual survey forms. The ArcGIS software was used to generate the maps of the survey area included in the appendix.

Presentations
A presentation of the survey results was made to the Will County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on March 4, 2009. This final summary report incorporates comments provided by the HPC members and Will County staff on the draft report, submitted in March 2009.

Report and Submittals
The summary report was prepared using Microsoft Word. Will County will be provided with the following final materials under separate cover: printed copies of the final summary report; printed copies of the individual property survey forms; digital photographs as original color .jpg files; ArcGIS mapping files; Microsoft Access database file; survey sheets as .pdf file; and report text as Microsoft Word file and .pdf file.

Survey Gaps and Future Research

The present study is not meant to be a definitive review of the history of each property surveyed; rather, based on historic research and field survey, the relative significance of each property has been assessed. In the future, as new development or renovation work may affect particular properties, the history and significance of the particular property should be researched in detail, using the present survey as a starting point.

The present study focused on architectural features of the survey region. Other studies could be undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the survey region; to identify and assess cultural landscape features such as fence rows, hedges, and earthworks; to study historic transportation infrastructure and routes in detail; or to study particular architectural themes, such as limestone masonry construction, in greater detail.

The present study also is focused on built structures of the historic period. Throughout Will County, and particularly in Channahon Township, are important archaeological sites. Pending further study, some of these sites may be determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D for archeology.

[1] ArcGIS is one brand of GIS software. GIS stands for geographic information system, a computerized methodology for organizing data geographically.
[2] <www.isgs.uiuc.edu/nsdihome/>

CHAPTER 2

CONTEXT HISTORY OF THE RURAL SURVEY AREA

Geologic and Topographic Background to the Illinois Region

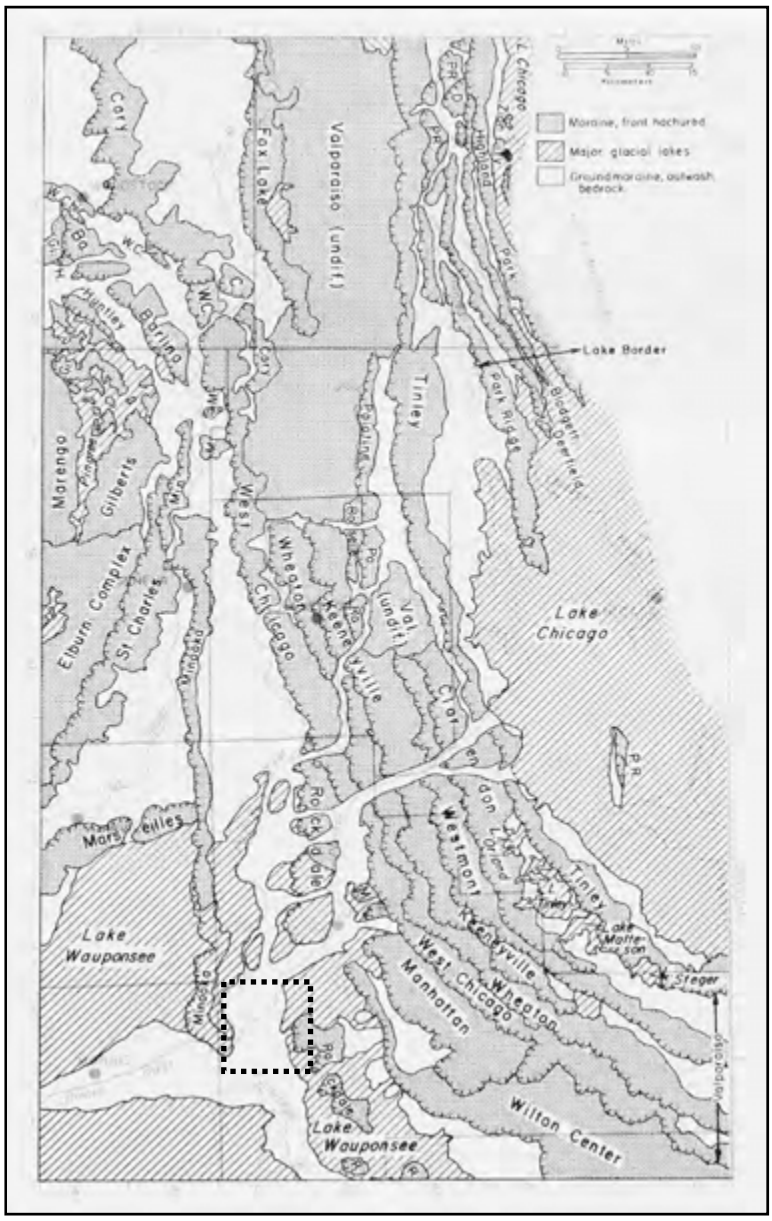
As with most of Illinois, the survey area was profoundly altered by glaciation. Over approximately one million years during the Pleistocene era, the northern hemisphere was alternately covered by, and free of, large ice sheets that were hundreds to a few thousand feet thick. Pleistocene glaciers and the waters melting from them changed the landscapes they covered. The ice scraped and smeared the landforms it overrode, leveling and filling many of the minor valleys and even some of the larger ones. Moving ice carried colossal amounts of rock and earth, for much of what the glaciers wore off the ground was kneaded into the moving ice and carried along, often for hundreds of miles.

A significant feature left by the advance and retreat of glaciers in the northeast corner of the state are glacial moraines—low mounds several miles long left by the furthest advance of glaciers in the Wisconsinan period. Channahon Township lies to the west of the Valparaiso Morainic System in the valley of the former glacial Lake Wauponsee. The last ice sheets in this area began to retreat approximately 13,500 years ago. The retreating and melting glaciers continued to impact the area for a few more thousand years, as the outflow deposited sand and gravel.

Channahon Township is in the watershed of the Des Plaines River, which crosses the township from north to southwest, from section 2 to section 31. Also in the township is the Du Page River, which flows south from section 5 to its juncture with the Des Plaines River in section 20. The Illinois and Michigan Canal runs parallel to the Du Page and Des Plaines Rivers in the township; the canal enters the township at section 4, then angles south parallel to the Du Page River before running along the north bank of the Des Plaines River to section 30. The Du Page River is impounded in section 17, where the canal temporarily combines with the river. Numerous small tributary creeks flow into the major river system in Channahon Township, including Cedar Creek in section 11, Jackson Creek in section 14, Grant Creek in section 32, and an unnamed creek in section 16. Compared to other townships in Will County, there is a very large variation in elevation in Channahon Township, ranging from 620 feet above sea level at the southeast corner of section 36, to a low of just over 500 feet above sea level at the banks of the Des Plaines River. This topography has affected the style of historic construction in the township. For example, there are multiple examples of the bank barn type in Channahon Township sited to take advantage of the natural sloping topography.

First Nations in the Illinois Region

Human habitation of the North American continent from the Paleo-Indian culture has been dated to the end of the last glacial advance (about 15,000 to 12,000 years ago). Increasing warmth toward the close of the Pleistocene Era caused the melting and disappearance of the ice sheet in approximately 9000 B.C. The arrival of the First Nations, or Native Americans, in the region between the middle Mississippi Valley and Lake Michigan appears to date from the earliest period following the retreat of the polar ice sheet. This time is known as the Paleo-Indian Period, when peoples in the region briefly occupied campsites while subsisting on deer, small mammals, nuts, and wild vegetables and other plants.



Illustrated above are the moraine systems in northeastern Illinois. Channahon Township lies west of the Valparaiso Morainic System in the Lake Wauponsee outwash area. (H.B. Willman, Summary of the Geology of the Chicago Area*, Illinois State Geological Survey Circular 460 (Urbana, Illinois, 1971), 43.)*

The first signs of specific colonization date from the Archaic Period, prior to 1000 B.C., when deer hunting and wild plant gathering supported a dispersed population. As climatic conditions changed over the next several thousand years, populations tended to concentrate near river floodplains and adjacent areas. In the Woodland Period (1000 B.C. to A.D. 1000), crude grit-tempered pottery appeared in northeastern Illinois. The end of this period saw the advent of large fortified towns with platform mounds, such as the community at Cahokia located east of St. Louis. Further north, villages in the upper Illinois River Valley lacked large platform mounds.[3] It was also a period of a widespread trading network known to modern anthropology as the Hopewell Interaction Sphere. The villages of this period were typically located on valley bottom lands, close to river transportation. Agricultural development included cultivation of floodplain lands; by A.D. 650 maize was being grown in the Illinois River Valley.[4]

The time span between A.D. 1000 and the coming of European explorers and settlers is known as the Mississippian Period. Northeast Illinois was at the fringe of the larger Middle Mississippi culture present in central and southern Illinois. At the beginning of this period, the communities of large fortified towns and ceremonial platform mounds reached their zenith. Channahon Township contains the largest number of identified prehistoric sites of any township in Will County, which are often located near watercourses.

Among the sites in Channahon Township is the Fisher site, located in section 31 on the south bank of the Des Plaines River. This 16.5-acre village site was first investigated by George Langford in the 1920s. He reported two large mounds, seven smaller mounds, and fifty inhabited sites marked by depressions containing hearths, camp refuse, and pits. The site featured both habitation and burial features, including a large plaza encircled by house sites and low burial mounds. His carefully documented excavations at the site formed the basis for subdividing the cultures of the Mississippian Period (A.D. 1000 to A.D. 1673) into the Langford Tradition and Fisher Phase, which remains central to the interpretation of other archeological sites in Will County and northeastern Illinois. Unfortunately, much of this site had not yet been studied when it was destroyed by gravel quarrying.[5]

Another significant archaeological site in Channahon Township is the Briscoe Mounds site in section 16 on the north side of Front Street overlooking the Des Plaines River. The site contains two burial mounds constructed between A.D. 1000 and A.D. 1200 during the Mississippian Period. This site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 and is now owned by the State of Illinois.[6]

The Arrival of European Settlers

French Explorers and Settlers in the Illinois Territory

By the time of the French explorations of the seventeenth century, the native inhabitants of Illinois as a group belonged to the Algonquian linguistic family, closely related to the Chippewa. The specific tribes in the northeast Illinois region included the Miami (located on sites near the Calumet River, the juncture of the Des Plaines and Kankakee Rivers, and the Fox River) and the Illinois (present throughout the rest

[3] Several Woodland sites are present in the river valleys of the Des Plaines and Du Page Rivers. See John Doershuk, *Plenemuk Mound and the Archaeology of Will County*, Illinois Cultural Resource Study No. 3 (Springfield, Illinois: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 1988), 11–14.

[4] James E. Davis, *Frontier Illinois* (Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1998), 25. "The Late Woodland is a period of increasing dependence on corn agriculture, although northeastern Illinois groups appear less corn-dependent than do central and lower Illinois River valley peoples." (Doershuk, *Plenemuk Mound and the Archaeology of Will County*, 13–14.)

[5] Doershuk, 57; <dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/i&m/CORRIDOR/archeo/sites/sites.htm>.

[6] Ibid.

of modern-day Illinois). "Illinois" was a native word signifying "men" or "people."[7] By the early to mid-1700s, the Potawatomi moved into the area from the region of Michigan and northern Wisconsin.

In 1673, the expedition of Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet traveled primarily along the Mississippi River and up the Illinois River to the region of Cook and Will Counties.[8] This expedition claimed the region for France. In 1678, an expedition led by Robert de La Salle with Henry Tonti and Father Hennepin explored the region along the Mississippi River and adjacent territory on behalf of France. A Jesuit mission was established at Chicago in 1696 by Father Pierre Pinet, but it failed to last more than a year. As time progressed the French centered their principal activities in the middle Mississippi valley, focusing on Fort de Chartres near Kaskaskia and its connections with Québec via the Ohio, Maumee, and Wabash Rivers and the Great Lakes, well to the south and east of the upper Illinois Valley.

During this period, the Native Americans were undergoing migrations, often leading to conflict among the various tribes. The Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo, and Potawatomi displaced the Miami and Illinois in the Chicago region. The Potawatomi, followed by the Sauk and the Fox, were the predominant peoples in the northeastern Illinois by the later 1700s. Also present in the region were the Winnebago and the Shawnee.[9]

French colonial settlers in the southern and central portions of Illinois brought with them traditional agricultural practices from northern France, including open-field plowlands divided into longlots, and communal pasturing areas.[10] However, unlike labor practices in France, colonial settlers utilized African slaves. By the middle of the eighteenth century, black slaves comprised one-third of the region's population.

Early settlements founded as missions and fur trading posts, such as Cahokia and Kaskaskia, developed into the core of agricultural communities.[11] French colonial farms produced wheat for human consumption and maize as feed for hogs. A staple of the settlers' diet was wheat bread. Livestock for use as dairy production, meat consumption, and draft animals were also present on the region's farms. The open field agriculture system continued in use beyond the era of French domination, and ended only with the influx of settlers from the east coast after 1800.[12]

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[7] John R. Swanton, *The Indian Tribes of North America* (1952, Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin Number 145; reprint, Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1969), 241.

[8] Louis Jolliet was born at Beauport, near Québec, in September 1645. He began to study at the Jesuit College of Québec in 1655 and in 1662 he received minor religious orders from Bishop Laval. After leaving the seminary and becoming a fur trader, he gained proficiency in surveying and mapmaking. Jolliet was chosen by the government of France to be a member of a delegation meeting with the chieftains of the Indian tribes assembled at Sault Sainte Marie in 1671. Beginning the next year, Jolliet led an expedition down the Mississippi, during which he traveled up the Illinois and Des Plaines Rivers. During this expedition he surmised that digging a canal to connect the waterways in this region would allow transportation from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico. The Illinois and Michigan Canal constructed in the 1830s and 1840s was the realization of this route.

[9] Jean L. Herath, *Indians and Pioneers: A Prelude to Plainfield, Illinois* (Hinckley, Illinois: The Hinckley Review, 1975), 20–21.

[10] Carl J. Ekberg, *French Roots in the Illinois Country: The Mississippi Frontier in Colonial Times* (Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1998), 2–3. "Longlots" are, as the name implies, long narrow plots of cultivated land that developed because of the difficulty for plowing teams to turn around. Forms of longlots date back to ancient Mesopotamia; French colonial forms developed from Medieval European models. The longlots in Illinois typically had length to width ratios of 10 to 1.

[11] Ibid., 33.

[12] Ibid., 173–251.

Illinois in the English Colonial Period and Revolutionary War

Land ownership was not an original right when the Virginia Company settled Jamestown in 1607. The company owned the land and paid its employees for their labor in food and supplies out of a common storehouse, limiting their motivation to farm. After a period of starvation that nearly wiped out the settlement, the company gave each employee an incentive of a three-acre garden, which led to regular land distribution consisting of a 50 acre "headright."[13]

French influence in the Illinois territory began to wane by the mid-1700s. Québec on the St. Lawrence River fell to the British in September 1759 during the French and Indian War, opening a route through the Great Lakes to the middle part of the continent. In 1763, the French ceded land east of the Mississippi to the British. In October 1765, the British took possession of Fort Chartres (and briefly renamed it Fort Cavendish), extending British authority across the continent east of the Mississippi River. Unchallenged British control of the Illinois region lasted until the Revolutionary War. In 1778, at the direction of the Governor of Virginia, George Rogers Clark led an expedition against the British and captured their posts in the frontier northwest. Clark marched across southern Illinois, and by July 1778 had disarmed the British-held frontier forts of Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes, claiming the region for the newly independent American colonies.

Land Division and Distribution in the New Nation

When land claims of several of the newly independent states overlapped, the United States Congress, under the Articles of Confederation, struggled to maintain control over the territory extending to the Mississippi River. After making all land west of the Pennsylvania Line to the Mississippi River common national property, a system of land division was developed based on meridians and base lines, which were subdivided further into a series of rectangular grids. In the "Rectangular System," distances and bearing were measured from two sets of lines that are at right angles to each other: the Principal Meridians, which run north and south, and the Base Lines, which run east and west. Subdividing lines called Range Lines are spaced at six mile intervals between the meridians and base lines. Range Lines defined territories known as townships.[14]

On 20 May 1785, Congress adopted this system as the Land Survey Ordinance of 1785. (Eventually, frontier settlers west of Pennsylvania and north of Texas could walk up to a plat map on the wall of a regional land office and select a one quarter section property for farming, which was thought to be sufficient to sustain individual farmers.[15]) In 1787, after about twenty months of surveying work, the first national public land sales occurred, consisting of 72,934 acres with $117,108.22 in revenue.[16] Also in that year, the Ordinance of 1787 organized the Northwest Territory, including what would become Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

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[13] John Opie, *The Law of the Land: Two Hundred Years of Farm Policy* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1994), 19.

[14] Townships were the largest subdivision of land platted by the United States. After the township corners were located, the section and quarter section corners were established. Each township was six miles square and contained 23,040 acres, or 36 square miles, as nearly as possible to fit specific geographic conditions such as lakes and rivers, political boundaries such as state boundaries, as well as survey errors. Each township, unless irregular in shape due to the factors cited above, was divided into 36 squares called sections. These sections were intended to be one mile, or 320 rods, square and contain 640 acres of land. Sections were numbered consecutively from 1 to 36, utilizing the same criss-cross numbering pattern on each section regardless of national location or actual township configuration. Sections were subdivided into various smaller parcels for individual farms. A half section contains 320 acres; a quarter section contains 160 acres; half of a quarter contains 80 acres, and quarter of a quarter contains 40 acres, and so on. Today, legal descriptions of real estate continue to describe parcels according to the portion of the section within which they are located.

[15] Opie, *The Law of the Land*, 10.

[16] Ibid., 15.

After the ratification of the new United State Constitution, land legislation was not addressed for several years. Meanwhile, settlement continued on the portions already surveyed and sold by the government, and extended into unsurveyed land with settlement by squatters (many of whom were later evicted by federal troops). Additional federal land sales took place in 1796, and in 1800 the government opened land offices in Cincinnati, Chillicothe, Marietta, and Steubenville, all in Ohio.

Development of the Northwest Territory

In 1801, Illinois, then part of the Northwest Territory, became part of the Indiana Territory. Eight years later the Illinois Territory was formed, including the region of Wisconsin. By 1800, fewer than 5,000 settlers lived in the territorial region, with most located in the southern portion of what became Illinois along the Mississippi, Ohio, and Wabash Rivers. The northern portion of the state was more sparsely populated, as European settlers did not begin to enter this area until the early years of the 1800s.

At this time, the Native American tribe leader Tecumseh organized the tribes of the Northwest Territory against European settlers. Although defeated in the Battle of Tippecanoe of 1811, Tecumseh remained active throughout the War of 1812 and aided British forces in capturing many European-settled areas. These reverted to American control at the end of the war. A series of treaties with Native American populations influenced the future of northeast Illinois. In 1795, a peace treaty with Native Americans included the ceding of "one piece of land, six miles square, at the mouth of the Chicago River, emptying into the southwest end of Lake Michigan, where a fort formerly stood."[17] It was on this land that Fort Dearborn was established in 1803, where a settlement of French traders and their Native American wives developed. The site grew initially from the fur trade, and despite the Fort Dearborn Massacre of 1812, more settlers came to the area.

Cutting across the western half of the region later known as Will County was a land corridor ceded by the Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Chippewa in a treaty signed in St. Louis on 24 August 1816. The corridor, defined by the cartographic features now known as the Indian Boundary Lines (and still present on many maps of the area), was meant to allow European settlers access to Lake Michigan for the construction of a waterway (later developed as the Illinois and Michigan Canal). The corridor was physically surveyed by James M. Duncan and T.C. Sullivan in 1819; its southern boundary was defined by a line drawn from a point on the shore of Lake Michigan ten miles south of the Chicago River, to a point on the Kankakee River ten miles north of its mouth.[18] Channahon Townships lies entirely within this corridor. Channahon Township was first surveyed in 1822. Odd-numbered sections were reserved to help finance the construction of the proposed canal.

Illinois Statehood

The United States Congress passed an enabling act on 18 April 1818 admitting Illinois as the twenty-first state as of 3 December 1818. A bill had passed Congress in early 1818 moving the northern boundary northward to include the mouth of the Chicago River within the Illinois Territory.[19] The statehood act was approved despite the fact that the population of the state was only 40,258 persons, less than the 60,000 persons required by the Ordinance of 1787. The state capital was established first at Kaskaskia and moved to Vandalia two years later. Much of the land in the state was the property of the United States government. Early sales offices were located at Kaskaskia, Shawneetown, and Vincennes. Until the

[17] As quoted by A.T. Andreas in his *History of Chicago, from the Earliest Period to the Present Time* (Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1884), 79.

[18] *Will County Property Owners, 1842* (Joliet, Illinois: Will County Historical Society, 1973), 1.

[19] The northern boundary of the Illinois Territory was on an east-west line from the southern line of Lake Michigan. In order to give the future state a portage on Lake Michigan, the boundary line was moved ten miles north of the initial boundary. The Congressional legislation was amended before passage, moving the future state's northern boundary a total of fifty-one miles north. This gave the region more potential economic security as well as less potential for the area to align politically with the slave states of the South.

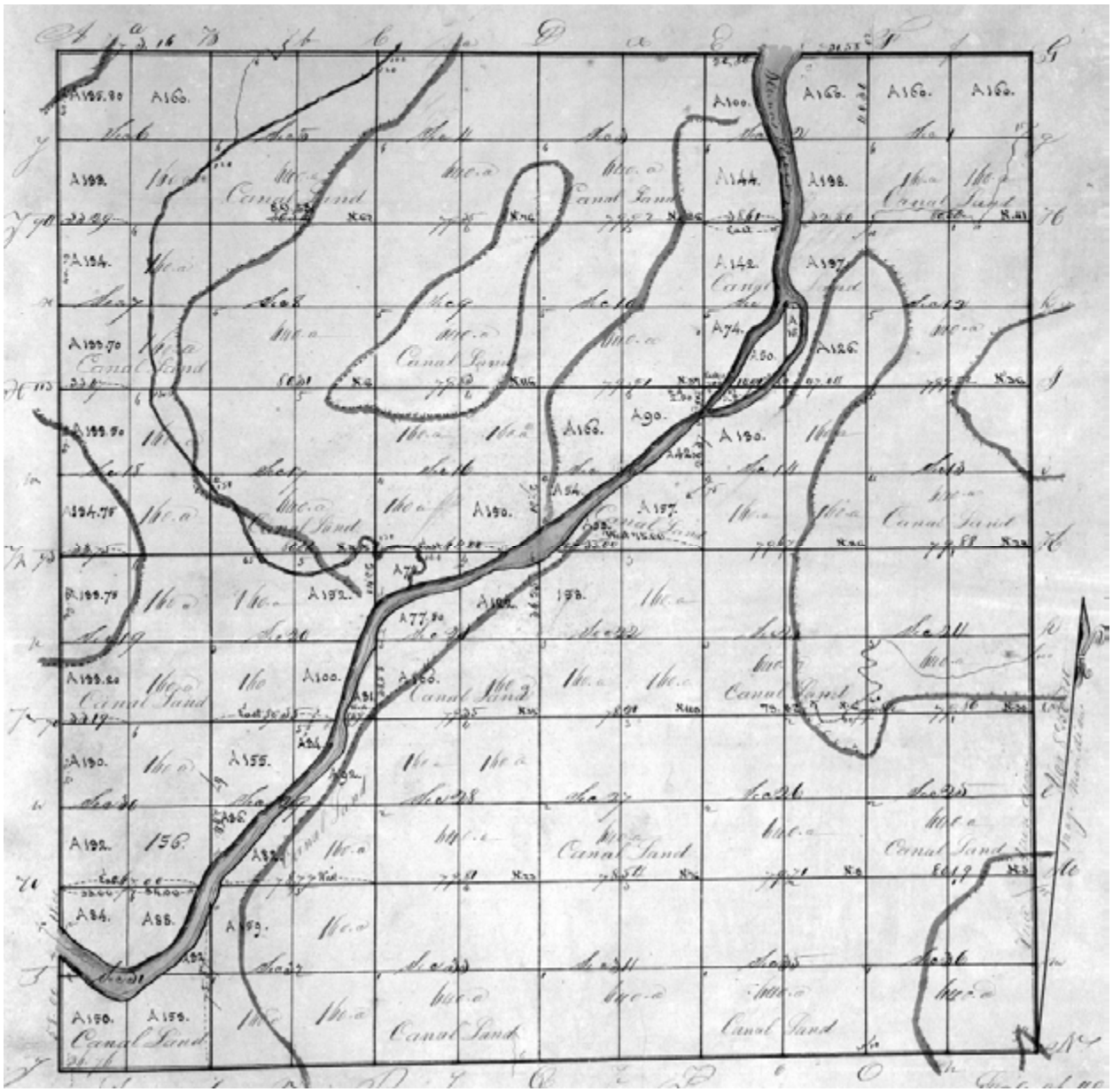
financial panic of 1819, there was an initial rush of sales and settlement at the southern end of the state where navigable streams and the only road system were located.[20]

The Native Americans who occupied the area were divided into powerful tribes who at times fought the European settlers to hold their hunting grounds. Chief among these tribes was the Kickapoo, who were among the first to engage in war with European settlers and the last to enter into treaties with the United States government. On 30 July 1819, by the Treaty at Edwardsville, the Kickapoo ceded their land to United States and began to retreat to Osage County. By 1822, only 400 Kickapoo were left in the state. The 1832 Peace Treaty of Tippecanoe was negotiated with the Potawatomi tribe, resulting in the ceding of the land now occupied by Chicago and Joliet to the federal government.

The early 1830s saw the greatest land boom to that date in American history. Land sales gradually came under the control of the General Land Office as the survey moved westward. In 1834 and 1835 alone, twenty-eight million acres were shifted from closed to open land for purchase. Two years later the Van Buren administration placed an enormous 56,686,000 acres on the market. These lands were located in some of the most fertile farming regions of the nation: Illinois, Iowa, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Missouri.[21] The building of the Illinois and Michigan Canal in the later 1830s and 1840s (discussed in Chapter 2) led to a land boom in Chicago, which had been platted in 1830 and incorporated in 1833.[22] The rate of growth in northern Illinois soon matched and then surpassed that in the southern portion of the state.

The first land sales in Channahon Township took place in 1835. At this time, most of the even-numbered sections in the townships entered private ownership, although many parcels were owned by eastern speculators. As noted above, odd-numbered sections were intended to help finance the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal; many of these sections were sold to private owners in the 1840s and early 1850s.

[20] Olin Dee Morrison, *Prairie State, A History: Social, Political, Economical* (Athens, Ohio: E. M. Morrison, 1960), 24–25.
[21] Ibid., 51.
[22] Between 1840 and 1860 the population of Chicago increased from 4,470 to nearly 100,000, growth tied to the economic boom resulting from the opening of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. By 1890, Chicago's population was more than 1,000,000 persons (Harry Hansen, ed., *Illinois: A Descriptive and Historical Guide* (New York: Hastings House Publishers, 1974), 176–83).



The original plat map of Channahon Township, prepared in 1822. Stands of timber cover much of the township. Note that the odd-numbered sections are designated "Canal Land."

Settlement and Development of Northeast Illinois

By 1826, more European settlers began to move to the northeast Illinois region, so that by 1831 a few hamlets were present between LaSalle and Chicago. Also present in the region was a tribe of nearly 1,000 Potawatomi in the area along the Du Page River south of what would become Plainfield.[23] At the beginning of the Black Hawk War in 1832 the largest settlement north of the Illinois River (except for Chicago) was on Bureau Creek, where there were about thirty families. A few other settlers had located along the river at Peru and LaSalle, and at Ottawa. At Walker's Grove or Plainfield, there were twelve or fifteen families.[24] Along the Du Page River, partially located in the region that would become Will County in 1836, there were about twenty families. In Yankee settlements, which embraced part of the towns of Homer, Lockport and New Lenox, there were twenty or twenty-five families. Along the Hickory in the town of New Lenox there were approximately twenty more families, and at the Reed's and Jackson Grove there were six or eight more.[25]

In 1832, a band of Sauk Indians led by Black Sparrow Hawk resisted their deportation by European settlers from their ancestral lands. Although most of the fighting occurred in the Rock River area in Northwest Illinois and southern Wisconsin, an Indian panic swept through Will County settlements. The settlers in Walker's Grove together with about twenty-five fugitives from the Fox River area hurriedly constructed a stockade from the logs of Stephen Begg's pigpen, outbuildings, and fences ("Fort Beggs"). The prospect of engaging Indians in pitched battle from the confines of "Fort Beggs" prompted the settlers to leave the makeshift stockade in favor of Fort Dearborn in Chicago. Meanwhile homesteaders in the eastern Will County area gathered at the Gougar homestead and decided to flee to Indiana.[26]

Also in 1832, northwest Will County was the scene of an epidemic of smallpox among the Potawatomi, inflicting a mortality rate at least twice that of European settlers. Approximately one-third of the Native American population in the region died during the epidemic.[27]

The end of the Black Hawk War brought about the expulsion of the Sauk and Fox from lands east of the Mississippi River. Also in 1832, the Winnebago ceded their lands in Wisconsin south and east of the Wisconsin River and east of the Fox River to Green Bay. The Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Chippewa tribes still held title to land in northern Illinois outside of the Indian Boundary lines. In September 1833, a gathering of Native American chiefs and leaders was held in Chicago to "negotiate a treaty whereby the lands might be peaceably ceded, and the Indians removed therefrom, to make way for the tide of white emigration which had begun to set irresistibly and with ever increasing volume to the coveted region."[28] A Chicago historian, A.T. Andreas, writing in the 1880s, emphasized the disadvantaged position of the Native Americans, who had seen the effects of war on other Native Americans and experienced the ravages of epidemic on their own peoples:

> Black Hawk's ill-starred campaign, followed by the subsequent treaty made by his tribe, showed them the inevitable result [that] must follow resistance. They knew quite well that they had no alternative. They must sell their lands for such a sum and on such terms as the Government agents might deem it politic or just or generous to grant. The result of the treaty was what might have been expected. The Indians gave up their lands and agreed for certain considerations, the most of

[23] Herath, 21.
[24] A Potawatomi village was located to the south of Walker's Grove. (Helen Hornbeck Tanner, ed., *Atlas of Great Lakes Indian History* (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987), Map 26, 140.)
[25] Ibid.
[26] Robert E. Sterling, *A Pictorial History of Will County*, Volume 1 (Joliet: Will County Historical Publications, 1975).
[27] Tanner, ed., *Atlas of Great Lakes Indian History,* 173.
[28] Andreas, *History of Chicago,* 123.

> which did not redound to their profit, to cede all their lands to the Government, and to leave forever their homes and the graves of their fathers for a land far toward the setting sun, which they had never seen and of which they knew nothing.[29]

In the resulting treaty, the three tribes ceded land "along the western shore of Lake Michigan, and between this lake and the land ceded to the United States by the Winnebago nation at the treaty of Fort Armstrong. . . ."[30] As compensation, the tribes received land on the east bank of the Missouri River and a series of monetary payments.[31]

Immigration into Will County after the Black Hawk War increased so markedly that settlers began agitating for separation from Cook County. Residents of these settlements, then part of Cook County, demanded a more convenient place to record their land purchases and to pay their taxes. Accordingly, Dr. A. W. Bowen of Juliet and James Walker of Plainfield went to the state capital of Vandalia and successfully lobbied a detachment petition through the General Assembly. On 12 January 1836, an act was passed creating Will County from portions of Cook, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties. Will County also included at that time the northern part of what would later become Kankakee County. (In 1845, the boundaries of Will County were changed to their present extent.) The county was named in honor of Dr. Conrad Will, a member of the state legislature who lived in the southern part of Illinois.[32]

On 7 March 1836, an election was held to select Will County's first public officials. They in turn set the price of tavern licenses and created a book for recording the ear markings of livestock. Since swine, sheep, cows, and other livestock freely roamed the city streets and open fields, settlers devised special ear markings consisting of slits, crops, and holes to identify their animals. These "brands" were recorded with pen and ink drawings in the county clerk's office.[33]

The primary concern of pioneer farmers was providing food for their families and livestock. Most farmers homesteaded around wooded land to provide building materials and fuel. On cultivated land, settlers would need to grub out tree stumps before breaking the prairie sod with a walking plow. This latter activity was often difficult, since the soil tended to ball up on the plow. In 1833, John Lane of Lockport invented the breaking plow, which eliminated this problem. Lane's innovation developed from an improvised steel plow attached to the plow molding board. It successfully cut the prairie sod so that the soil could be turned over.[34]

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[29] Ibid.

[30] As quoted in Andreas, *History of Chicago,* 124.

[31] It has been reported that Native Americans returned to Will County as late as 1900 on pilgrimages (Herath, 21):

> Though officially ousted, the Indians, being great travelers, made pilgrimages back to the land of their childhood for many years. Small ragtag bands of women and children were seen as late as the 1870s along the Du Page, wending their way north in the spring and south in the fall. In 1900 an old Indian man, a small boy and a horse pulling a travois were seen along the Kankakee River.

[32] Born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 3 June 1779, Conrad Will migrated westward after studying medicine. He was instrumental in the formation of Jackson County from the lower half of Randolph County and part of present day Perry County. Will served first in the Illinois state Senate and later the state House of Representatives, until his death on 11 June 1835. On the following 12 January, the state legislature passed an act sectioning the southern portion of Cook County in northern Illinois, naming it after Conrad Will. (Alice C. Storm, *Doctor Conrad Will* (Joliet, Illinois: Louis Joliet Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1917), 1–5.)

[33] Address of George H. Woodruff, *Sixth Annual Reunion of the Will County Pioneer Association* (Joliet: The Press Company, 1886), 5–6.

[34] Fayette Baldwin Shaw, *Will County Agriculture* (Will County Historical Society, 1980), 1. The site of Lane's farmstead has a Will County historical marker commemorating his importance due to the invention of this plow.

The boom in agricultural production that coincided with the opening of the Illinois and Michigan Canal in 1848 was soon followed by the introduction of railroad service in the following decade. Plank roads were also a significant mode of transportation in the mid-nineteenth century.

In the late 1840s, the United States still owned 14,060,308 acres of land in Illinois. Between 1848 and 1857, much of this land passed into private hands. In addition to land that could be purchased from the government, alternate five mile sections each side of the route planned for the Illinois and Michigan Canal in western Will County were offered for sale by the canal authority. Later, alternate six mile sections on each side of the route granted to the Illinois Central Railroad (which passed through eastern Will County) were available for purchase from the railroad.[35]

In 1848, Illinois adopted township government as the basic level of local government, although in most locations functioning governments were not set up until 1850. By law, three services were to be provided by the townships: general assistance to the needy, property assessment for tax purposes, and maintenance of township roads and bridges. A unique feature of township government was the annual town meeting, held each April in all townships. This system continues to the present day.[36] Until the twentieth century, almost all public infrastructure (such as roads) was thus maintained by each township with local tax revenue.

Agricultural Development

By the 1850s, Illinois was a major agricultural state. Its corn production was 57.65 million bushels, which increased to 115.2 million in 1860, making it the leading corn producer in the nation.[37] Wheat was also a major crop—the state was fifth in wheat production in 1850 and first in 1860. Acreage in improved farmland increased two and one half times in the decade. Other principal farm crops were oats, rye, and barley. The average price for corn and wheat was $1.25 per bushel. In the early- to mid-1800s, agricultural implements were primitive and included reapers, iron plowshares, and hay tenders. The first McCormick reaper in the County appeared in Wheatland Township in 1846. Some local inventions that could be attached to modify the McCormick included gearing produced by W. Holmes of Hickory Creek in Will County, produced at Adams' Foundry, followed by a turf and stubble plow.[38]

The major crops in Will County historically have been corn and wheat, although wheat production declined in the later 1800s after infestations of the chinch bug and the army worm. (Wheat farming revived during World War I due to incentives from the U.S. government.) As early as 1850, corn was the leading crop in the survey area, since it could be fed to livestock as well as processed into other

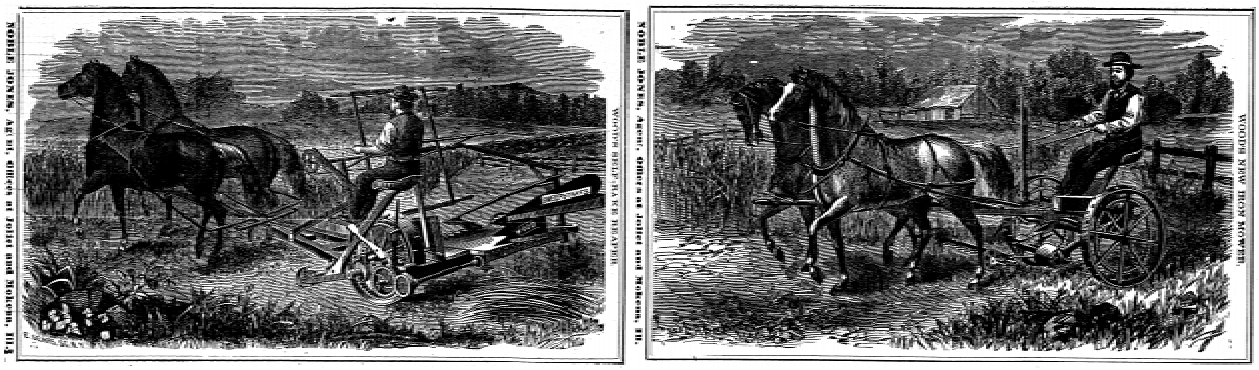
[35] The lands were sold to settlers and speculators. It is estimated that six million acres passed into the hands of speculators between 1849 and 1856. There were several types of speculators. Small farmers bought the land for pasturage, timber, or simply as an investment. Small businessmen also bought land as an investment, and in this group was included practically every prominent politician in Illinois except Abraham Lincoln. Professional speculators operated on a large scale, with corporations or individuals owning land in many states. Finally, East Coast capitalists invested in western lands—Samuel Allerton, a wealthy resident of New York, owned 2,000 acres in Frankfort, New Lenox, and Homer Townships in Will County and an additional 400 acres in Cook County. In time, settlers purchased the land from speculators. The Chicago Land Office was the last one opened and the last one closed, except for Springfield which took over all the unfinished work of all offices and remained open until 1877. (Shaw, *Will County Agriculture*, 1–2.)

[36] Bryan Smith, "Township Government in Illinois: A Rich History, A Vibrant Future." <http://www.comptrollerconnect.ioc.state.il.us>

[37] "Corn" was the medieval term used in England for the grain known later as wheat. Settlers given "Indian corn" (maize) by the Native Americans began to sow it themselves, and corn (maize) became one of the leading grain crops in the United States by the 1800s. (United States Department of Agriculture, *Yearbook of Agriculture* (1936), 496.)

[38] Shaw, *Will County Agriculture*, 13.

products.[39] Other grain crops included oats, barley (used in beer production), and rye. Potatoes were also grown in the region through the late 1800s, but several seasons of wet summers led to rotting crops, followed in subsequent years by potato bugs. Strawberries and grapes were grown in limited areas by the 1870s.[40]



Two of the variety of mechanical farm implements that were available to Will County farmers after the Civil War. Above left: A self-raking reaper. Above right: A mower. Both of these were advertised by Noble Jones, a farm implement dealer with offices in Joliet and Mokena, in the 1872 Will County directory.

The change from self-sufficient farming to cash crop farming occurred during the mid-nineteenth century. Prior to that time, a farmstead typically had less than ten acres. Most farms were 80 acres in size by the end of the century, sometimes with additional parcels of 40 and 80 acres.[41] However, a few individuals in Will County owned larger parcels of land. In order to divide their parcels of land and enclosure pasturage, farmers used split-rail fencing and vegetation such as osage hedges. Other means included wire fencing, available after 1860, and barbed wire, introduced in the 1880s.[42]

Cattle, hogs, and sheep were also a significant part of northeastern Illinois agriculture. The Chicago Union Stock Yards, incorporated by act of the Illinois State Legislature in 1865, was a ready market. Horses were also bred, as they were an indispensable for the operation of farm machinery; oxen were also used into the 1870s. The dairy industry also was initially a significant part of the region's agriculture.[43]

The average value of a southern Illinois farm in 1910 was $15,000; in the northern part of the state it was $20,700. The annual value of farm products measured in dollars rose from $186 million in 1896 to $277 million in 1912; this was accompanied by an increase in production of field crops by 70 percent and 76 percent respectively for those years. During this time, wheat, rye, and oat production was on the decline. Livestock production remained fairly constant in overall value but sales of animals decreased by 50 percent during this period. Vegetable production was led by root crops like potatoes, turnips, and carrots. Of orchard fruits, apples had the greatest production.[44]

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[39] *Souvenir of Settlement and Progress of Will County Illinois* (Chicago: Historical Directory Publishing Co., 1884), 244.
[40] Shaw, *Will County Agriculture*, 8.
[41] It should be noted that plat maps from the period reflect land ownership, not tilled land or the extent (through land leasing or barter) of a farmstead.
[42] Ibid., 5.
[43] The dairy industry in the Midwest was centered on Elgin, Illinois, and the western counties around Chicago until the beginning of World War I, after which Wisconsin came to be known as "America's Dairyland." (Daniel Ralston Block, "The Development of Regional Institutions of Agriculture: The Chicago Milk Marketing Order" (Ph.D. diss., University of California at Los Angeles, 1997), 49–52).
[44] Morrison, *Prairie State, A History*, 98.

Rascher's Birds Eye View of the Chicago Packing Houses & Union Stock Yards (Charles Rascher, 1890; Library of Congress collection).

With the development of the gasoline engine and adaptation to the tractor, working conditions on the farm improved considerably. Water could be pumped using gasoline engines instead of depending on the wind to run windmills. Engines also provided power to operate milking machines, grind feed, and run various kinds of machinery. The coming of the gas powered automobile and truck led to demands for better roads in Illinois. At the 1913 meeting of the Illinois Farmers' Institute, Illinois State Highway Engineer A.N. Johnson recognized these needs:

> In particular, there is a vast field for the development of motor truck traffic, which it has not been necessary heretofore to consider in plans for road improvement. It is believed that in many sections of the State the opportunity is big for the development of this class of traffic, and provision should be made in the future for road building on a majority of the main roads for the eight and ten ton motor truck. Already truck farmers in the vicinity of Chicago have clubbed together in the purchase of a motor truck by which a 24-hour trip has been reduced to 8 hours, while the delivery of milk from the farm to the city by motor truck is already an economic proposition.
>
> It is believed therefore that the construction to be undertaken on our main roads should be a character that can withstand the heavy motor traffic, heavy horse drawn traffic, as well as the lighter forms of traffic, and that a serious mistake will be made to put down any other than rigid, durable forms of pavement. In Illinois this reduces the choice of the road surface to brick and concrete.[45]

With the implementation of the Civil Administrative Code in 1917, which formed the departmental structure within the executive branch, the Illinois Department of Agriculture was formed as a regulatory and promotional agency.[46]

[45] A.N. Johnson, "Cost of a System of Durable Roads for Illinois," in *Eighteenth Annual Report of the Illinois Farmers' Institute,* edited by H.A. McKeene (Springfield, Illinois: Illinois State Journal Company, 1913), 149.

[46] Information from the website of the Illinois Department of Agriculture <www.agr.state.il.us/aghistory.html>. The department actually dated back to 1819, when the Illinois Agricultural Association was formed. Although little is known of the activities of this early group other than a collection of letters by its founders, it established an organization that became the Illinois State Agricultural Agency in 1853. This semi-public organization continued to function until replaced in 1871 by the Department of Agriculture under the supervision of the State Board of Agriculture.

Farm machinery changed drastically in the early twentieth century with the introduction of internal combustion engines. At left, a tractor advertisement from Ruge & Wilke in Beecher, Illinois, illustrates the types of tractors available in the 1910s as well as listing the tremendous variety of other implements that were available. From the Prairie Farmer's Reliable Directory of Farmers and Breeders, Will and Southern Cook Counties, Illinois *(Chicago: Prairie Farmer Publishing Company, 1918), 349.*

Twentieth Century Developments

Land area of farms in the Chicago area declined from 88.7 percent of total area in 1900 to 84.9 percent in 1920 and to 80 percent in 1925. In the century between 1830 and 1925, the number of farms had peaked in 1900. By 1925, the total number of farms was 5,000 less than in 1880.[47] During that same period livestock production (including swine) peaked in 1900. For the counties within fifty miles of Chicago, the average number of dairy cows per square mile of farmland declined from 46.1 in 1900 to 42.8 in 1925. Acreage in cereal production showed a gradual increase after 1925. Sheep and wool production peaked in 1880 and horses and mules in 1920, declining as a direct result of the introduction of the tractor and motor truck. Dairy production in the Chicago region peaked in 1900 and declined markedly in the following two decades.[48]

Although the Great Depression of the 1930s had a dramatic impact on all Americans, for American farmers the economic decline began a decade earlier. Numerous factors led to the decline of the farm economy in the post-World War I era. To meet the needs of the wartime economy that was feeding American and European populations, American farmers increased production by cultivating lands that formerly were kept fallow. Following the war, farmers continued this trend, overproducing despite reductions in demand. As commodity prices fell, so did the standard of living of many farmers since prices in the rest of the economy were increasing. Farmers went into debt, mortgaged their property, and in many cases lost their farms to creditors.

The coming of the Great Depression deepened the crisis further. Agricultural production in Illinois collapsed from almost $6.25 billion in 1929 to $2.5 billion in 1933. As unemployment in industrial

[47] Edward A. Duddy, *Agriculture in the Chicago Region* (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1929), 3.
[48] Ibid., 4.

centers soared, some people fled to rural communities, putting additional pressure on rural areas as most did not have access to welfare relief.[49] Within days of the inauguration of Franklin Roosevelt, legislation was formulated that Congress would later pass as the Agricultural Adjustment Act. The numerous adjustment programs initiated under the New Deal led to limitations in agricultural production in order to raise crop prices to acceptable levels. These included twenty percent of the land or 1,218,062 acres used in corn production being retired; over 1,000,000 acres of land in wheat production were also retired.[50] In 1934, 15,734,600 acres of land were in production, for a total crop value of $218,569,000 nationally; this grew to 17,692,100 acres and a crop value of $273,931,000 the following year.[51]

Soybeans were first planted in the late 1930s as a forage crop mainly to be fed to dairy cows and cattle. Although some soybeans were processed through a threshing machine and sold on the market it was not a popular grain product. Ten or fifteen years later, however, soybeans became a valuable food and commercial product as new uses were developed with the assistance of state and federal agricultural programs.

During World War II, farmers were encouraged by the federal government to increase their production by the use of power machinery and the latest scientific processes. When a decline in demand arose, the farmer was forced to continue his heavy production rate. Cash crop income in 1950 was $2.038 billion nationally. Of this livestock and livestock products accounted for $1.26 billion; crops, $763 million; and government pay for adaptation of production program, with $10.6 million paid to the farmers in Illinois. Principal crops were corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, hay, fruit, and greenhouse products. The average value of a farm in Illinois in 1950 was $28,400.[52] The farm population in Illinois declined from 1,341,104 in 1900 to 772,521 in 1950.[53]

The abandoning of farms and the consolidation of small farms into large ones resulted in many buildings being razed or abandoned. Moreover, changes in farming meant that many old farm buildings were too small, or unsuitable for other reasons, and were replaced by larger, more suitable and flexible structures. By the twentieth century many barns were constructed by professional builders following plans influenced by farm journals and using mass-produced lumber from a nearby yard or sawmill. In 1987, there were 1,239 farms in Will County covering 328,729 acres. Ten years later, the continued decline in agricultural production in northeastern Illinois was apparent, as farmland was lost to suburban development. By 1997, there were only 910 farms in Will County, and though the average farm was larger, the total acreage devoted to agriculture had declined by more than 10 percent to 293,526 acres. After dipping to only 830 farms in the county in 2002, the number of farms in the county increased slightly by 2007 to 877. The total acreage in the county continued to decline steadily, however, and by 2007 only 220,851 acres remained in agricultural use. In recent years almost half the farm acreage in the county remained planted in corn, with soybeans covering another quarter of the acreage. Raising beef cattle, dairy, and hogs also remained significant cash products in the county. The average farm sold crops worth more than $145,000 in 2007. Between 2002 and 2007, the value of products sold directly to individual consumers by Will County farms more than doubled to $1.3 million, reflecting the increasing popularity of farmer's markets and vegetable crops in the county.[54]

By 1997, there were 79,000 Illinois farms utilizing 28 million acres and about 80 percent of the total land area in the state. Illinois was the leading state in agricultural-related industries such as soybean

[49] Morrison, *Prairie State, A History,* 108.
[50] United States Department of Agriculture, *Yearbook of Agriculture* (1936), 1155–1156.
[51] Ibid., 1146.
[52] Morrison, *Prairie State, A History*, 116.
[53] Salamon, 35.
[54] Ibid.; Census of Agriculture.

processing, meat packing, dairy manufacturing, feed milling, vegetable processing, machinery manufacturing, foreign exports, and service industries.[55]

Recent decades have seen tremendous suburban growth in formerly rural areas near Chicago, particularly in the northern portions of Will County. Along with this suburban development has come conflict between the "new" settlers and established farmers:

> A while back, farmer Ray Dettmering was arrested for plowing his fields late at night in Matteson, Illinois, a rural community 30 miles southwest of Chicago. The 28-year-old farmer told police officers that he needed to prepare his fields for spring planting after days of rain had put him behind schedule. The real problem? A few years earlier, subdivisions had been built near Dettmering's corn and soy bean fields. The new residents claimed they couldn't hear their TVs above the tractor noise. Others were having trouble sleeping. Two neighbors complained to the police, and Dettmering was booked and fingerprinted. "What were these people thinking when they moved to the country?" he asked. "It's not like these farms snuck up on them."[56]

Perhaps in response to incidents such as this, the Illinois Farm Bureau issued a booklet in 1999 titled *The Code of County Living*, targeted at former city dwellers and suburbanites who have moved to rural areas on the metropolitan fringe. The booklet discusses the comparative limitations of rural living compared to more established suburban areas.

> In rural Illinois, you'll find working farms. You'll also find a level of infrastructure and services generally below that provided through the collective wealth of an urban community. Many other factors, too, make the country living experience very different from what may be found in the city.[57]

[55] Census of Agriculture.
[56] Charles Lockwood, "Sprawl," *Hemispheres*, United Airlines magazine (September 1999), 82–84.
[57] *The Code of Country Living* (Bloomington, Illinois: Illinois Farm Bureau, 1999), 3.

Channahon Township Developmental History

Channahon Township is situated at the confluence of the Du Page and Des Plaines Rivers. The Des Plaines River flows northeast-southwest and diagonally bisects the township. The Du Page River flows from the north and converges with the Des Plaines River just west of the center of the township. The waterways are framed by rolling hills and wide lowlands of timbered and prairie marsh and underlain by aerated gravel soil and iron rich sandstone.[58]

Channahon Township includes the Village of Channahon, which benefitted from its proximity at the juncture of the Du Page and Des Plaines Rivers, and is bordered by the townships of Troy to the north, Jackson to the east, Wilmington to the south, and Grundy County to the west. Interstate 55 runs north-south just east of the Village of Channahon and bisects the township.

The township has a rich Native American history as evidenced by the presence of burial mounds and uncovering of ancient Stone Grave Indian tribe flagstone caskets.[59] By the 1830s, the Potawatomi tribe occupied the township, benefitting from the confluence of fresh water tributaries that provided ample fishing and rich soil for cultivation.

In 1831, Joseph Shoemaker of Ohio was the first settler of European decent in Channahon Township. He constructed a log cabin along the Des Plaines River in the southeast portion of the township. Shoemaker was soon followed by Dr. Ira Knapp and George and Russell Tryon of Vermont who laid claim to land along the Du Page River in the northwest quadrant of the township.[60] The majority of Channahon Township's early residents arrived from New York State and included Michael Morehouse, J. M. Fryer, Isaac Jessup, Judge Peck, Peter McCowan, Nicholas Barhuyte, and Burke and Isaac Van Alstyne.[61] Along with the arrival of the Van Alstyne family in 1835 came the first African settler to Will County, a servant named Dick. The area was named "Channahon" by Judge Peck in reference to its Potawatomi meaning "the meeting of the waters."[62]

In the early history of Channahon Township, the early settlers and Potawatomi tribe maintained a peaceful and friendly relationship. Seymour Treat laid claim in 1833 on a small island in the Des Plaines River in section 11, an area the locals dubbed "Treat's Island," and proceeded to construct a sawmill. The Potawatomi tribe occupied the southern portion of the island, referred to as "Sugar Bush," and the neighbors were said to be so friendly that in 1835, when the Potawatomi received cash annuity from the government, the tribe gave Seymour Treat $1,000 to fund the completion of his mill.[63]

Troutman's Grove was another early settlement in Channahon Township. Named after John Troutman, who laid claim to the land in 1832, the community was nestled along the banks of Jackson Creek in section 23 in eastern Channahon Township. Joseph McCune and the Thornburg family were original inhabitants of the small farming community.[64]

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[58] George H. Woodruff, *History of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: Wm. Le Baron Jr., & Company, 1878), 591.
[59] Phyllis Dillon, *History of Channahon: Homecoming of 1972* (pamphlet), 7; William W. Schofield, *Contemporary Local History*, 2 vols. (Joliet: Will County Historical Society, 1972), 14.
[60] Woodruff (1878), 592–593.
[61] W. W. Stevens, *Past and Present of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing, 1907), 66–69.
[62] Ibid., 66.
[63] Woodruff (1878), 265; R. J. Heck, *Gleanings and Biographies* (Joliet: Will County Historical Society, 1969), 5. Today, Treat's Island is a wooded island within the Des Plaines River, inaccessible by road, owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.
[64] Stevens (1907), 66.

In 1836, construction started on the Illinois and Michigan Canal. The path of the canal as surveyed in the 1830s ran north-south through Channahon Township along the Du Page River. In Channahon Township, the development of the Illinois and Michigan Canal included the construction of a number of structures. Approaching from the north, the canal runs between the Du Page and Des Plaines Rivers. At the west edge of the original town of the Village of Channahon, Lock No. 6 connects the canal to a lake created by damming the Du Page River. Canal traffic would cross the river at this artificial lake behind the so-called "slackwater dam" and descend through Lock No. 7. Shortly below the dam, the Du Page River joins the Des Plaines River. After Lock No. 7, the canal continues parallel to the Des Plaines River. About one-quarter mile upstream of the dam was a small feeder canal on the west side of the Du Page River, which supplied water to the portion of the canal below Lock No. 7. In Channahon, a locktender's house was built along the west side of Lock No. 6. This Greek Revival-style structure was constructed in Lockport circa 1848 and floated down the canal to its present location. A smaller locktender's shelter was built to the west of Lock No. 7; this structure was demolished in 1910. The original circa 1846 timber crib dam at the Du Page River required frequent repair and was replaced by a stone dam in 1877.

Left: Lock No. 6 and the Locktender's House in Channahon. Right: Lock No. 7. Both locks were originally constructed of ashlar stone masonry, but both have subsequently been repaired using concrete. The existing concrete coffer dams were constructed in the 1950s.

Two views of Lock No. 6 and the Locktender's House in 1936, before construction of contemporary navigation features led to the removal of the wooden lock gates and the installation of a concrete coffer dam at both locks in Channahon. Photographs from the Historic American Building Survey, No. ILL-157.

In 1934, work began to alter these nineteenth century canal features as part of the development of the Des Plaines River for contemporary barge traffic. Concrete coffer dams were installed at both locks to

close off the canal from the Du Page River. The stone dam was replaced by a new concrete dam across the Du Page River. [65] Today, the preserved locks and locktender's house are likely the oldest existing structures in Channahon Township. These historic structures are protected as part of the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor.

One other noteworthy historic feature related to the Illinois and Michigan Canal was located in Channahon Township. A feeder canal was constructed to supply water to the Illinois and Michigan Canal from the Kankakee River; this feeder canal originated in section 9 of Wilmington Township. From its start, the feeder canal ran northwest, crossing the southwest corner of Channahon Township into Grundy County. Curving back to the northeast, the feeder canal terminated at a stone viaduct within section 31 of Channahon Township. The viaduct was built to carry the feeder canal over the Des Plaines River to connect to the Illinois and Michigan Canal on the north bank of the river. No visible remains survive of this viaduct structure; the site of the southern embankment is now a marina, and the northern embankment is within the Des Plaines River, which has a higher water level in this vicinity following the navigational improvements of the 1930s.

In the late 1830s, the expectation of the Illinois and Michigan Canal and the federal land sale of 1835 spurred growth throughout Channahon Township. Early development and land speculation was centered along rivers and the proposed path of the canal. Under the guise of promotional enterprise, large communities were platted and engravings were made depicting busting river towns with thriving industrial centers. These images were used to sell land to speculators and pioneers in New York and Chicago. These "paper cities" only existed through the paper and engraving used to promote them, as was quickly learned by unsuspecting pioneers who arrived to stake their claim. Kankakee City, located at the southwest corner of Channahon Township in section 31, was one such "paper city." Two thousand acres were platted with ten public squares, and an ornamental engraving depicted buildings, warehouses, and an active wharf in the "city." By 1837, disheartened settlers like James McKeen arrived to discover the marshy lowlands. At its peak, the settlement reached a population of seventy before it quickly dissolved.[66]

Myrvin Benjamin platted a new settlement in section 17 of the township in 1845, with the name "Du Page." The community was site to take advantage of the location at the juncture of the Du Page and Des Plaines Rivers and the proximity of the nearly completed Illinois and Michigan Canal. The new settlement experienced rapid early development in the 1840s and 1850s, with a post office established by 1846. The waterways provided the farming community with easy transport of goods to and from Chicago. The Illinois and Michigan Canal board of trustees saw the community's importance as a canal town and renamed it "Swifton" in honor of the board president.[67] The community name changed to "Channahon" when the township government was organized in 1850. The first Village of Channahon was incorporated in 1896, but quickly dissolved in 1908 to avoid liability over an automobile accident that occurred when the village's Du Page River Bridge collapsed.[68]

The Channahon Township government was organized in 1850, with George Tryon serving as the first supervisor.[69] In 1852, a Methodist church was constructed within the community of Channahon; this congregation had a membership of approximately eighty people by 1878.[70] By 1873, there were five

[65] Historic American Engineering Record, HAER No. ILL-42, HAER No. ILL-43, HAER No. ILL-101, and HAER No. ILL-102 (1992); and Historic American Building Survey, HABS No. ILL-157 (1936).
[66] Schofield, 7.
[67] Woodruff (1878), 597.
[68] Dillon, 3.
[69] Stevens (1907), 66–69.
[70] Ibid., 598.

bridges crossing the Du Page and Des Plaines Rivers, all of wood log construction with stone foundations.[71]

The township's location along the canal provided potential to develop industry and transport goods to major markets. Joseph Lewis was an entrepreneur who took advantage of the resources provided by the canal. By 1852, Lewis had constructed a grain warehouses and gristmills powered by the canal and opened the first sandstone quarry in Channahon Township. In 1870, the population of the township had reached 1,164 persons. By 1878, the community of Channahon consisted of four stores, a grocery store, two blacksmiths, one wagon shop, a hardware store, and the Methodist church.[72]

In the 1870s, the Shermanville settlement developed on the former site of Kankakee City in the southwest corner of the township. The settlement benefitted from its proximity to the canal and railroad, deposits of sandstone, and the repercussions of the Chicago Fire of 1871. As Chicago began to rebuild after the fire, durable building materials such as sandstone were much in demand. Sandstone quarries were opened in Shermanville, and the stone was transported by railroad and canal boat to Chicago. The settlement saw rapid development and was noted on the 1873 plat map. However, within a year it was observed that the sandstone was high in iron content, which caused severe rust staining of buildings built using the stone. The stone became to be considered inferior and production, along with the growth of the community, was halted almost as quickly as it began.[73] By 1878, Shermanville was referred to as "a place only in name."[74]

As railroads developed in the middle of the nineteenth century and superseded canals as the primary means of transportation, the settlement of Channahon was bypassed by the primary rail routes. The first railroad in the township was the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad, which was constructed across the northwest corner of section 6 circa 1852–1854 but did not include a stop within the township.[75] Around 1864, a north-south line was built by the Chicago and Alton Railroad through the township.[76] The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway was built parallel to this line. [77] These two routes were built through the eastern half of the township, separated from the village settlement by the Des Plaines River.

The rural communities of Millsdale and Drummond developed in response to the new rail lines. Millsdale was located east of the historic site of Treat's Island, along the Des Plaines River, and Drummond was situated in section 22, just west of the historic site of Troutman's Grove. (Refer to the 1909 map of the township in Appendix A.) Both settlements were located along east-west roads through the township and consist of a school and cluster of farmsteads. Millsdale had its own post office from the 1880s until 1902. Neither locale ever grew into a substantial settlement. Both settlements were within the area of Channahon Township incorporated into the Joliet Arsenal, and any structures were demolished in the early 1940s.

As the railroad replaced the canal as the primary means of transport, industry declined in Channahon, and the population of the village fell. By 1900, the population of the township had fallen to 959 persons, and

[71] Ibid., 596.
[72] Ibid., 598.
[73] Schofield, 8.
[74] Woodruff (1878), 598.
[75] This railroad was known as the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad after 1866. After the bankruptcy of the company in the 1970s, the line through Channahon Township was acquired by CSX Railroad.
[76] The Chicago and Alton Railroad was later known as the Alton Railroad. The Alton Railroad was purchased by the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad in 1947. After a 1972 merger, this line was part of the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad. (Illinois Central Gulf was merged into the Canadian National Railway in 1999.) The line in Channahon Township was part of a route sold to BNSF around 1996.
[77] Following a 1996 merger, this line is part of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (now BNSF).

the community refocused on farming.[78] The population of the township continued to decline in the early twentieth century, reaching a low of 747 persons in 1930.

Left: Detail of 1939 aerial photography showing the unincorporated village of Channahon. Although the village blocks had been platted in the 1840s, much open land remained in the village until the second half of the twentieth century, as seen here. Arrows indicate the location of the two Illinois and Michigan Canal locks at the west side of the village. Right: Detail of the 1939 aerial photography showing section 31 at the southwest corner of Channahon Township. The location of the feeder canal and viaduct over the Des Plaines River is clearly visible, although the viaduct itself had been demolished prior to the 1930s. To the south, the arrow marks the Fisher site, an archeological site later destroyed by quarrying operations.

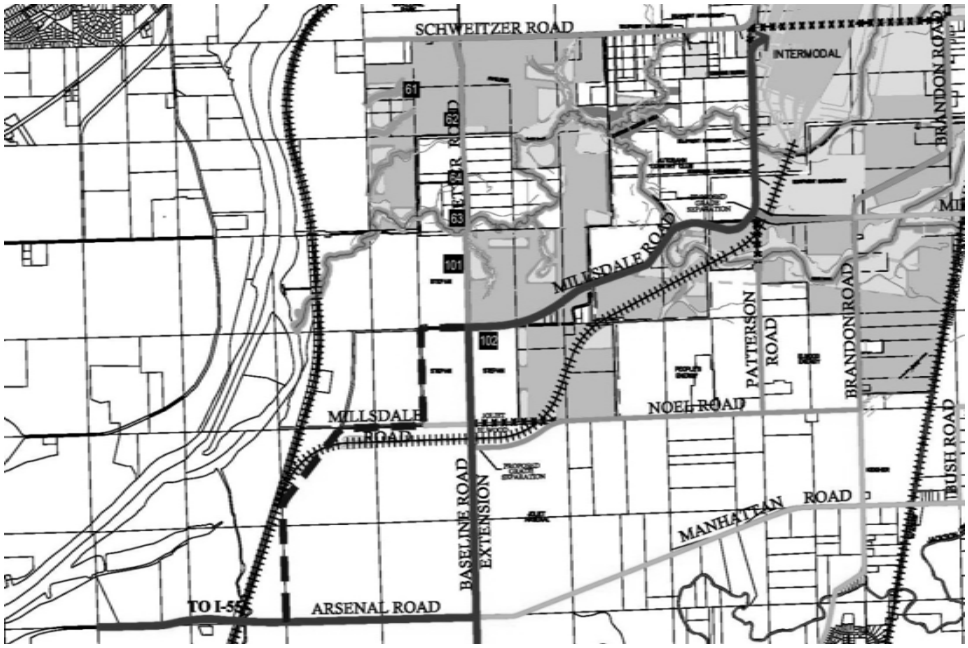
In the twentieth century, the development of highway infrastructure in Channahon Township made transport of agricultural goods affordable and efficient. The farmsteads were linked directly to the markets of Joliet and Chicago. The first paved road was constructed in 1906 in the southwest quadrant of the township. Concrete roads were an improvement for farmers transporting goods and began to revive the struggling agricultural economy.[79] The completion of U.S. Route 6 in the 1920s provided another step in the improvement of the township's highway system. U.S. Route 66 was conceived in 1926 as a paved road linking Los Angles to Chicago. The original route of passed east of Channahon Township through Jackson Township, but in the late 1930s, a new path that bypassed the City of Joliet was proposed. The new U.S. Route 66 was completed in 1938 and cut north-south through the center of Channahon Township. The old route was re-designated U.S. 66 Alt. In the 1950s, the new U.S. Route 66 was rebuilt as Interstate 55. The Interstate 55 corridor has spurred an era of industrial development for Channahon Township far greater than that realized by the Illinois and Michigan Canal. Since the 1950s, manufacturing and refinery plants have developed south of the Des Plaines River along the Interstate 55 corridor. Petrochemical plants, soybean oil production factories, and freight hauling industries have taken advantage of the location and surrounding resources, spurred by the presence of the Joliet Arsenal complex.

In 1962, the community of Channahon voted to reincorporate as the Village of Channahon with William A. Cook presiding as the first mayor.[80] Since that time, the Township and Village of Channahon have seen rapid growth. Although the central part of the village had been platted as city lots in the 1840s, the community included much vacant land which was not built upon until the decades after World War II.

[78] 1900 Census; Stevens (1907), 66–69; Dillon, 2.
[79] August Maue, *History of Will County, Illinois* (Indianapolis: Historical Publishing, 1928), 175–176.
[80] Dillon, 3.

Upon reincorporation in 1962, the population of the village was 1,100 persons, but by the 2000 census it had grown to reach 7,344.[81] Population growth accelerated in the 1990s and 2000s, and Channahon is one of the fastest growing communities in Illinois, having grown by 88 percent in the 2000s. In 2009, the estimated population is 13,821 persons.[82] Current efforts by the Village of Channahon are focused on the development of a central business district at the intersection of State Road 77 and U.S. Highway 6. In the first decade of the twenty-first century, a new town hall district has been completed with plans to construct an upscale shopping complex. New residential subdivisions, such as Ravine Woods and Copper Leaf Estates, have been rapidly expanding to the west and northwest quadrants of the township. The Village of Minooka and City of Joliet have also expanded into Channahon Township. Much of the southwest quadrant of the township has been protected from development and set aside as restricted wetlands and forest preserves. New intermodal freight, warehouse, and industrial developments have occurred on the former Joliet Arsenal site in the southeast portion of the township.

Among the contemporary urban and industrial developments that continue to alter the formerly agricultural landscape of Channahon Township is the CenterPoint Intermodal Center North. This intermodal center, which will allow transfer of shipping containers between rail and truck modes of transportation, is proposed to occupy section 32 of Joliet Township and adjoining section 5 of Jackson Township. Road and rail infrastructure leading to the intermodal center and 14.2 million square feet of associated warehouse and industrial development will affect the northeast corner Channahon Township, if the site is built up as proposed over the decade of the 2010s. The recent demolition of 1988 survey sites no. 12-03, 12-04, and 12-05 is related to the development of the intermodal center. Site 102 in the present survey will also likely face demolition in the near future.



Transportation plan of the CenterPoint Intermodal Center prepared by Ruettiger, Tonelli & Associates, Inc., Joliet and Naperville, Illinois. Bold lines indicate new or existing roads to be upgraded for truck traffic. Primary truck access will be through Jackson and Channahon Townships to Interstate 55, marked by the dark bold line. Channahon Township sites documented in the present survey are shown by black boxes on the plan above. In particular, the six remaining farmstead sites in sections 1 and 12 are likely to be affected by this development.

[81] Ibid.

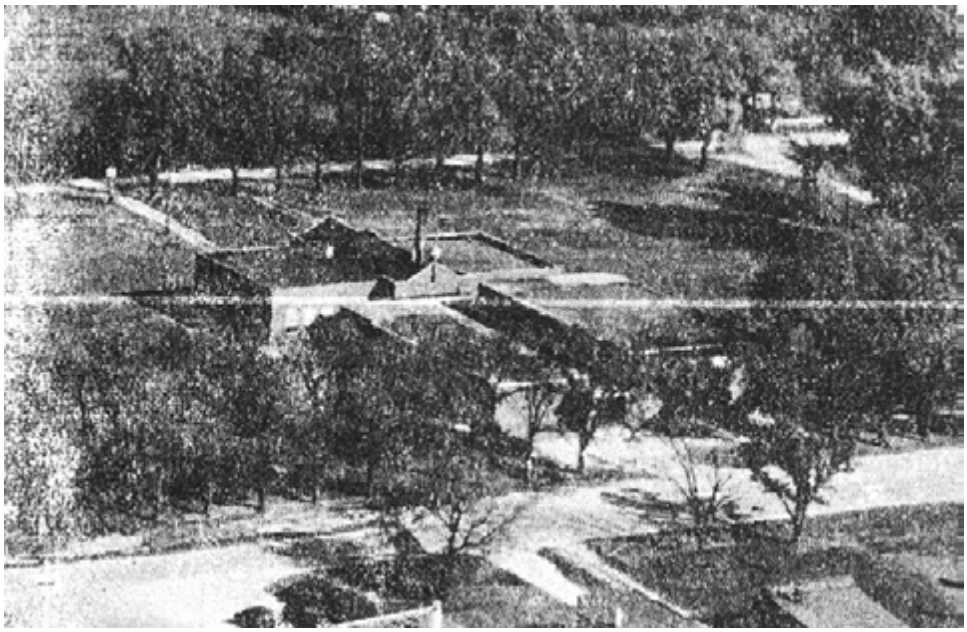
[82] <www.bestplaces.net/city/Channahon-Illinois.aspx>. The population of the township is slightly higher, at 14,194 persons.

Channahon Township Schools

The first school in Channahon Township was taught by Reverend Perry using the residence of Russell Tryon as a classroom. In 1837–1838, a wood-framed schoolhouse was constructed on the property of Dr. Ira Knapp in section 8 where Mr. Perry continued to teach.[83] With the growth of the township came the rapid development of the school system. By 1860, the Channahon Township school system had expanded to include eight schoolhouses, two of which were located in the Village of Channahon.[84]

In 1869, a new school building was constructed in the Village of Channahon. The "handsome, elegant, and substantial two-story building" was a graded school with a high school department and managed by Professor Layburn with the assistance of Misses Brown and Blount. The new school building laid the foundation for the present Channahon school district.[85] In 1872, Channahon Township schools were ranked one of the best conducted schools in the entire country. The township sustained nine school districts with a total of 415 pupils and thirteen teachers spread across five schoolhouses and one graded school with a high school curriculum.[86]

As the population of the township fell in rapid decline, so did the school system. In 1920, Channahon Township had only five school districts that employed seven teachers and had a total enrollment of 126 students. The secondary education program had been reduced to two grades with graduates completing their study at the Joliet Township High School. The "handsome and elegant" 1869 school building had been destroyed by fire and replaced by a one-story brick structure consisting of a central assembly hall flanked by two pairs of rooms.[87]



The 1922 Channahon Grade School, 1955 photograph from This is Will County. *Today, this building is known as the Pioneer Path Elementary School.*

[83] Woodruff (1878), 595–596.
[84] Leslie Joseph Farrington, "Development of Public School Administration in the Public Schools of Will County, Illinois, As Shown in a Comparison of Three Selected Years: 1877, 1920, and 1965" (Ph.D. diss., Northern Illinois University, 1967), 79.
[85] Ibid., 80.
[86] Ibid.
[87] Ibid., 165.

By 1948, Channahon's struggling educational system consisted of two school districts; Schweizer District 30 and Channahon District 17. District 30 had an enrollment of seventeen and was discontinued in the 1950s. District 17 owned the 1922 brick school building and had a total enrollment of 116 elementary and secondary students. In 1948, the district chose to focus on elementary education and ceased operation of its secondary program. Thereafter, high school students were sent to Joliet Township High School or Minooka Community High School to complete their education.[88]

As new development moved into Channahon Township and the school-aged population increased, District 17 underwent a period of expansion and facilities improvements. During the 1950s, classrooms were added and a suitable auditorium and gymnasium space was constructed at the district's remaining school building to meet the needs of the growing township. By 1965, the district reached an enrollment of 350 elementary students with thirteen teachers and a full time principal.[89]

In 2007, Channahon School District 17 had an enrollment of 1658 elementary students and consisted of four school buildings all located in the northwest quadrant of Channahon Township. The district boundaries include western and central Channahon Township. Pioneer Path Elementary School occupies the historic 1922 school building and is the oldest school in the district; it currently serves early childhood through first grade. The remaining school buildings—N. B. Galloway School for second through fourth grades, Three Rivers School for fifth and sixth grades, and Channahon Junior High School for seventh and eighth grades—were constructed after 1965.[90]

Elementary students in northeast Channahon Township are served by the Troy Community Consolidated School District 30-C. The district was founded in 1949 and consists of seven schools located in the Plainfield and Shorewood communities.[91] Laraway Community Consolidated School District 70-C was formed in 1953 in the City of Joliet. The district serves elementary aged pupils in the far northeast quadrant of Channahon Township.[92]

High school students residing east of the Des Plaines River attend Joliet Township High School. Students living west side of the river attend the new Minooka Community High School south campus, which is located in section 6 of Channahon Township and opened in 2008.[93] All students in southern Channahon Township attend Wilmington School District 209-U from elementary school through high school.[94]

[88] Ibid., 266.
[89] Ibid.
[90] District 17 website, <www.channahon.will.k12.il.us>.
[91] District 30-C website, <co.troy30c.org>.
[92] District 70-C website, <www.laraway70c.org>.
[93] Minooka Community High School District 111, <www.mchs.net>.
[94] District 209-U website, <www.wilmington.will.k12.il.us>.

Bridges

One historic bridge was identified in the survey area. This iron truss bridge is located in the southern part of section 32. Prior to the construction of the Joliet Arsenal in the early 1940s, this bridge apparently served as a road bridge for Blodget Road over the Grant Creek Cutoff. The road formerly followed a somewhat indirect path in this area, and the cutoff formed a north-south connection between the Des Plaines River in section 32 of Channahon Township and Kankakee River in section 5 of Wilmington Township. With the changes to the topography of this area as part of the development of the arsenal that impounded the Grant Creek Cutoff, the bridge was apparently relocated. It now has contemporary concrete abutments, and serves to carry an access road in the Des Plaines Conservation Area across the main channel of Grant Creek.

The historic steel truss Blodget Road bridge in section 32 of Channahon Township.

Cemeteries

The Willard Grove Cemetery in section 8 of Channahon Township contains burials dating to the 1850s. The cemetery is located on the east side of Minooka Road and overlooks the Illinois and Michigan Canal. The cemetery remains open for interments today.

Joliet Arsenal

The Joliet Arsenal was established by the U.S. Army in 1940, one of the first such plants established after the start of World War II in Europe.[95] Ultimately sixty plants were established nationwide from June 1940 to December 1942. The plant was owned by the United States government but was operated by a private contractor. Production activities included the manufacturing of explosives and other chemicals and the loading, assembling, and packaging of ammunition. The site contained 1,391 buildings, 1,138 dating to the World War II era. These utilitarian buildings were constructed for temporary use. Of particular historic interest are six buildings comprising the TNT Line 7; this group represents the first example of a later widely used industrial process for the manufacturing TNT.

The 37,000-acre Joliet Arsenal complex was constructed from 1940 to 1942. Prior to the 1940s, the site was used for farming. The site included six cemeteries, which were preserved. (These cemeteries are now within the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie; one is in Channahon Township, the McCune Cemetery along Jackson Creek in the southeast quarter of section 23.) Most of the agricultural buildings on the site were demolished, but ten farmhouses were relocated to serve as staff housing. Eight of the houses were wood framed structures and were relocated to the administrative area of the Elwood Unit (in section 17 of Florence Township). Additionally, two brick farmhouses were retained on their original sites on Illinois Highway 53 near the southwest corner of the Elwood Unit (in Florence Township). Throughout the arsenal site, streams were straightened, ditches and drain tiles were constructed, and a complex road and rail system was created.

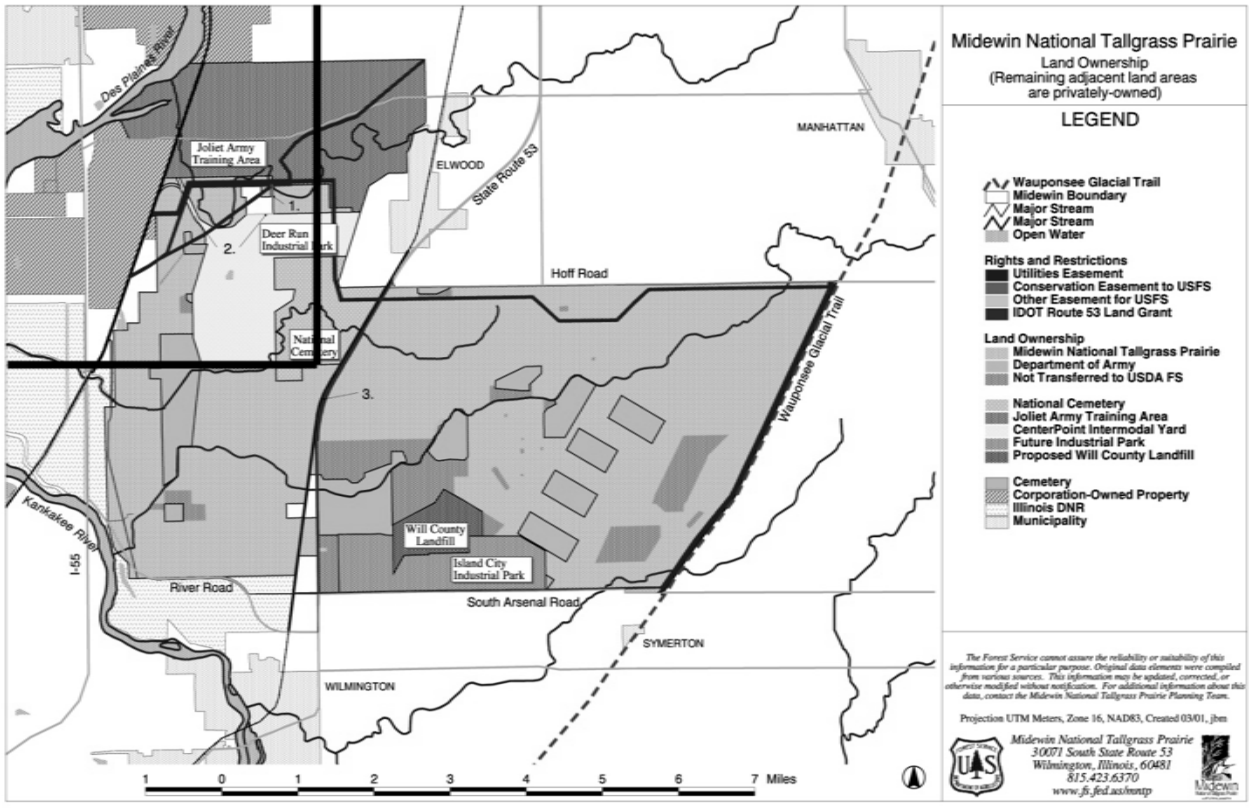
Originally, the complex was built and administered as two separate plants. The Kankakee Ordnance Works, to the western part of the site, produced and stored explosives including trinitrotoluene (TNT), dinitrotoluene (DNT), lead azide, and tetryl. The Elwood Ordnance Plant, to the eastern part of the site, loaded, assembled, and packed bombs and artillery ammunition. The complex was actively used from September 1941 to August 1945, when it was placed on standby status. The Kankakee and Elwood Units were merged under one administration as the Joliet Arsenal in 1946, renamed the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant in 1963. Production resumed during the Korean War and continued from 1952 to 1957, and again during the Vietnam War, from 1965 to 1976. Major rehabilitation and modernization of the facilities on the site occurred in the early 1970s.

In Channahon Township, the Kankakee Ordnance Works originally included much of the township south of the Des Plaines River, on sections 12 through 15, 21 through 29, and 32 through 36. No built structures dating prior to the 1940s are known to survive in this area. Shortly after World War II, western portions of the government site were sold to private industrial users or turned over to the State of Illinois. This land was west of the major north-south rail line through Channahon Township and lies along Interstate 55. This area of the township now contains major industrial sites owned by the Dow Chemical Co., B.A.S.F. Corporation, and an Exxon Mobil oil refinery. Portions of section 29, 32, and 33 are owned by the state as the north part of the Des Plaines Conservation Area. Even with these sales of land, by 1990 the U.S. Army still owned 23,500 acres in Will County.

In June 1992, the army announced its intention to decommission the site. In 1997, 15,080 acres of the former Joliet Arsenal were transferred to the USDA Forest Service, creating Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. A portion of section 34 in Channahon Township is included in Midewin. Pending clean up of industrial wastes on additional portions of the site by the army, Midewin Tallgrass Prairie will eventually

[95] This section is based on the following sources: Peter Rathbun, "Joliet Army Ammunition Plant: Written Historical and Descriptive Data" Historic American Engineering Record Survey No. IL-18 (1984); USDA National Forest Service, *Midewin Land and Resource Management Plan* with *Final Environmental Impact Statement* (2002); and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, "Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery," <www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/abrahamlincoln.asp>.

expand to include 19,000 acres. A portion of the arsenal, located in sections 13, 14, 23, and 24 of Channahon Township and adjacent areas of Jackson Township, was retained by the army as the Joliet Army Training Area. Also, a new national cemetery, Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, was dedicated on October 3, 1999, at the southeast corner of Channahon Township and adjacent areas of Jackson, Wilmington, and Florence Townships, on 982 acres of the former arsenal. Other portions of the arsenal site were zoned for private industrial and commercial uses, including a large intermodal freight transportation facility which began operation in 2002 in sections 25, 26, 35, and 36 of Channahon Township. Industrial and warehouse uses, annexed to the Village of Elwood, have begun to be developed in the southeastern portion of Channahon Township in this decade.



Above: The current status of land ownership in the former Joliet Arsenal and vicinity. Isolated pockets of land within Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Florence Township are parcels that have been retained by the army, pending the cleanup of industrial wastes or other hazardous items. Heavy black lines added to the upper left corner of the plan show the limits of Channahon Township. Source: Figure 7, USDA National Forest Service, Midewin Land and Resource Management Plan *(2002).*

CHAPTER 3

AMERICAN RURAL ARCHITECTURE

Farmstead Planning

The relationship of the farmhouse to the barn and other farm buildings was generally determined by five factors: topography, weather conditions, convenience and labor efficiency, land survey organization, and, most importantly for some settlers, ethnic or regional tradition. A south facing orientation secured maximum light; an orientation toward the east allowed a barn to place its back against west prevailing winds. Local snow accumulation also influenced barn locations. In much of the Midwest, the geometric grid of roads and survey lines was basically aligned with compass directions, and farmers often lined up their barns and farm buildings in conformity. Where the terrain was more rugged, farmers followed the contours of the land in laying out buildings. In terms of labor efficiency, the barn did not need to be near the house except in areas where winters were cold and harsh. It was desirable to locate the barn closer to the field and other outbuildings than to the house.

Development of Balloon Framing

The initial settlement of Will County coincided with one of the most revolutionary developments in American building construction: the introduction of the balloon frame. Referred to as "that most democratic of building technologies,"[96] the balloon frame allowed the construction of a house with a minimum of labor and a moderate amount of carpentry skills. The key to the success of the balloon frame was the proper construction and erection sequence of its components. Prior to the development of the balloon frame, builders using timber for the construction of houses and other structures used structural systems such as the box frame or braced frame. It utilized heavy timbers to form posts, girts, girders, braces, and rafters, all fastened together with traditional carpentry joining such as mortise and tenons, splices, dovetails, and others. This type of structural system required builders to have a crew of five or six men to raise and set the heavy timbers.[97] The materials used in the construction of a balloon frame structure consisted of milled lumber that was much lighter in weight than heavy timbers.[98]

Credit for the development of the balloon frame is usually given to George Washington Snow of Chicago,[99] although others give note that the originator of the system was a carpenter, Augustine Taylor, who with Snow built the first structure using balloon frame construction, St. Mary's Church, in 1833.[100] At that time Chicago lacked a sawmill to produce the cut lumber, but mills were present in Indiana and in

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[96] Michael P. Conzen, "The Birth of Modern Chicago," in *1848: Turning Point for Chicago, Turning Point for the Region* (Chicago: The Newberry Library, 1998), 22.

[97] For a thorough discussion of the early architectural history of Illinois, see Thomas Edward O'Donnell, "An Outline of the History of Architecture in Illinois," *Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society* (Springfield, Illinois, 1931); and Thomas Edward O'Donnell, "Recording the Early Architecture of Illinois in the Historic American Buildings Survey," *Illinois State Historical Society, Transactions for the Year 1934* (Springfield, Illinois, 1934).

[98] Advances in milling techniques in the early 1800s and the invention and development of machinery to produce nails from iron in the late 1700s and early 1800s preceded the development of the balloon frame.

[99] Paul E. Sprague, "Chicago Balloon Frame: The Evolution During the 19th Century of George W. Snow's System for Erecting Light Frame Buildings from Dimension Lumber and Machine-made Nails," in *The Technology of Historic American Buildings*, H. Ward Jandl, ed. (Washington, D.C.: Foundation for Preservation Technology for the Association for Preservation Technology, 1983), 36.

[100] Fred W. Peterson, *Homes in the Heartland: Balloon Frame Farmhouses of the Upper Midwest, 1850–1920* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1992), 14.

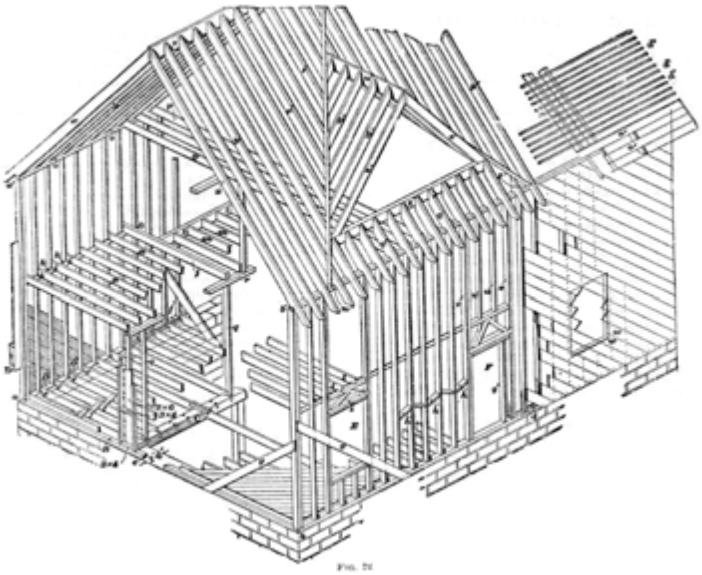
Plainfield in northwestern Will County.[101] However, these mills were relatively far away, and transportation of milled heavy timbers difficult and expensive. Therefore, it was necessary to develop a more economical construction system.

The classic balloon frame consists of the following elements:[102]

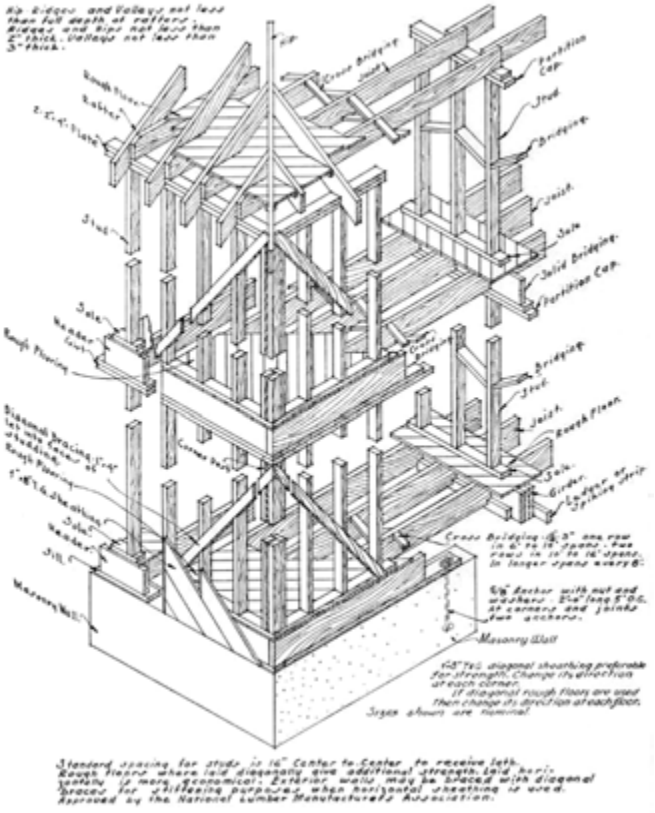
- A sill, made from a large section of milled lumber (e.g., 4x8) or two or more smaller pieces (two 2x8s), set on a masonry or concrete foundation,
- Floor joists (2x10, 2x12, etc.), typically at 16 inches on center,[103] reinforced by diagonal bridging, nailed to the sill and nailed to:
- Studs (2x4 or 2x6), also set at 16 inches on center, running the full height of the building wall, to which is nailed:
- Ledgers to support the second floor joints,
- Exterior wall sheathing, consisting of wood boards (1x8), often set at a diagonal to create a structural diaphragm,
- A top plate on the stud wall, on which are set:
- Roof rafters (2x10, 2x12, etc.) set at 16 to 24 inches on center, to which roof sheathing consisting of wood boards are nailed, followed by wood roofing shingles,
- Exterior wall siding,
- Flooring nailed to the wood joists, consisting of two layers of wood boards (a rough board subfloor followed by a finished wood strip surface),
- Interior wall finish, consisting of wood lath nailed to the wood studs, covered by two to three layers of plaster.

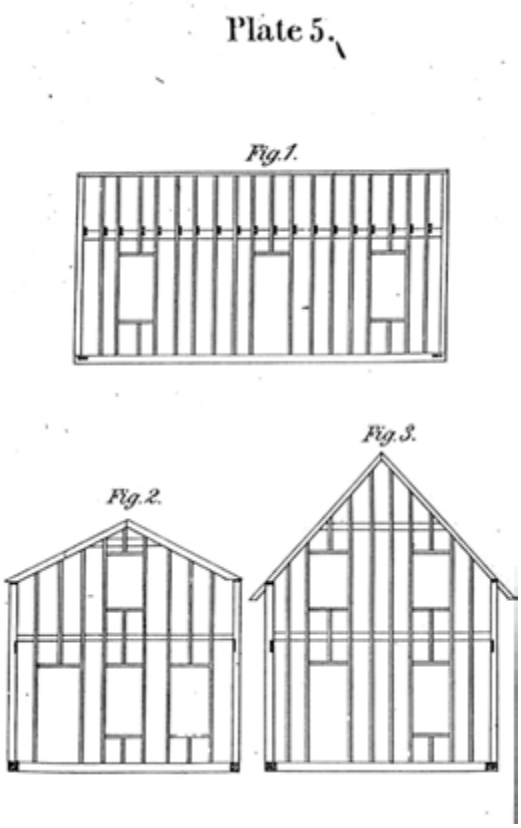
Since a carpenter with one or two helpers could frame and sheath a small one story house in one week, the balloon allowed a settler to have a dwelling on their land in a short amount of time. In addition, there was a 40 percent savings in the amount of material to enclose the same volume as compared to the braced frame.[104] Additions were as easy to construct as the original house, and easier to frame into than if braced framing was used. Another benefit of the balloon frame's light weight was that it allowed a structure to be moved more easily to a new site, if more room was needed on a property for other buildings or if additional land was obtained.

[101] Sprague, "Chicago Balloon Frame," 37.
[102] As with any new system or technique, there was a period of transition in which older framing methods were used alongside balloon framing. This is discussed in Sprague, "Chicago Balloon Frame."
[103] Platform framing, also called Western framing, developed from balloon framing, allowing floor joists to be spaced up to 24 inches on center. Platform framing involved setting each floor level as a platform on the stud walls, allowing the use of shorter stud walls.
[104] Peterson, 9 and 11.



*The balloon frame derived its name from the lightweight framing that allowed a large volume of space to be enclosed economically. The drawing shown above is from was published nearly sixty years after the system was developed [*Masonry, Carpentry, Joinery, *International Library of Technology Volume 30 (1889; reprint Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 1980), Carpentry section, drawing between pages 101 and 102]. Below right is a drawing of balloon framing from 1894 [William E. Bell,* Carpentry Made Easy, or the Science and Art of Framing *(Philadelphia: Ferguson Bros. & Co., 1894), plate 5]. Below left is a drawing of platform or Western framing construction, a development from balloon framing, published in the 1930s [Charles George Ramsey and Harold Reeve Sleeper,* Architectural Graphic Standards, *3rd ed. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1941)]*.





Farming trade publications touted the benefits of the balloon frame.[105] Its inherent advantages led American farmers to adopt the balloon frame as the standard structural framing system for houses by the end of the century. Although many ethnic groups brought their own techniques of constructing farmhouses and farm buildings with them to the United States, they often adopted balloon framing techniques in whole or in part and adapted it to their traditions.[106]

As different architectural styles were introduced, the balloon frame was easily modified to create the forms and spaces required. Albert Britt of Illinois, in his book *An America That Was,* describes his family's new farmhouse that "cost nearly a thousand dollars":[107]

> Farmhouses were built without benefit of architect or reference to a particular style or period. Such plans as existed were principally in the head of the local carpenter who bossed the job. Ours was named Perkins and he came from Alexis, all of six miles away . . . A model of our house could have been made easily with a set of child's building blocks, but it was roomy and comfortable without dormers, turrets, or scrollsaw ornamentation, which were unpleasantly common on dwellings of that time. Prime consideration was enough interior space to suit a family's needs, and if the house was leakproof through rain and snow and windproof for anything short of a cyclone, all hands were satisfied. Houses were painted white, window blinds green. Barns were always painted red and as the color weathered some of the barns were beautiful. If a barn was in sight from the road it usually had the year of construction painted on it in large white numerals.[108]

With the completion of the new farmhouse, Britt goes on to describe how the older farm structures were adapted for new functions: "with the building of a new home the little old one became a stable for horses, and the lean-to kitchen the family smokehouse."[109] This shows the flexibility that the framing system allowed, since these new functions required new or larger openings, relocating the structure, or construction of additions.

[105] Peterson, 15–24.
[106] One example was German-Russian farmers from Eastern Europe: "German-Russians eventually combined *Batsa* brick with balloon-frame construction, placing clay brick in walls between the studs to stabilize and insulate the dwelling." (Michael Koop, "German-Russians," in *America's Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups that Built America,* Dell Upton, ed. (New York: Preservation Press, John Wiley & Sons, 1986), 131.)
[107] Albert Britt, *An America That Was* (Barre, Massachusetts: Barre Publishers, 1964), 33.
[108] Ibid.
[109] Ibid.

Masonry Construction

Brick

Historically, brick masonry construction is relatively uncommon in the survey region. Nineteenth century examples of brick construction are very rare; typically, the locally abundant limestone was used for masonry work. Some early twentieth century brick masonry structures were documented during the survey.

Left: The house at the Randall Farmstead in section 9 of Channahon Township (site 96) is a rare example of nineteenth century brick masonry construction in the survey area. Right: Other examples of brick masonry construction date to the early twentieth century, such as the house at the Dirst Farmstead, site 79 in section 6.

Joliet Limestone

One building material dating from the earliest period of European settlement in northwestern Will County was limestone quarried from the Des Plaines and Du Page River Valleys. These same regions later provided gravel for use in concrete construction in Will County and the Chicago area. The Des Plaines River Valley just to the north of Channahon Township contains numerous quarries of limestone, referred to as Joliet Limestone. These quarries were utilized first for limestone for masonry construction but are primarily used today as sources of gravel.

The area surrounding Joliet contains abundant supplies of limestone, derived predominantly from the Niagaran strata. Owing to oxidation of ferrous minerals contained in the stone, the color of the stone ranges from buff near the surface to gray tones at deeper levels. Its surface is a hard, compact and slightly porous, brittle dolomite. The stone has thin seams of greenish clay (chert) running through the whole mass, which upon long exposure in alternately wet and dry conditions causes the solid calcium carbonate layers to delaminate.[110]

A prosperous period for quarrying stone in the Joliet area began during the 1830s and lasted until nearly the end of the century. Martin H. Demmond was the first to quarry stone in the Joliet district, most likely on the bluffs west of the Des Plaines River overlooking the fledgling Joliet settlement. Commercial quarrying activities began about a decade later, when William Davidson and his brother opened the first of their quarries in 1845, one mile south of Joliet at a point where the canal turns west-southwest with the curve of the river.[111]

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[110] Linda Ponte, "The Celebrated Joliet Marble Field," in *An Historical Geography of the Lower Des Plaines Valley Limestone Industry, Time and Place in Joliet*, Michael Conzen, ed. (Chicago: The University of Chicago, 1988), 15.
[111] Robert E. Sterling, *Joliet: Transportation and Industry: A Pictorial History* (St. Louis, Missouri: G. Bradley Publishing, Inc., 1997), 116.

The opening of the I & M Canal in 1848 provided an easy means to transport stone quarried in western Will County. Also, by the mid-1850s tracks for the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad had been laid between the river and canal, affording quarries access to more transportation facilities. The limestone industry grew steadily, both in number and acreage size of firms.

The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 provided enormous stimulation to the stone quarrying industry. Not only was stone needed at once to replace destroyed buildings, especially in the city center, but new building ordinances created a "fire" zone in which wood construction was (in theory) prohibited. Many new quarries were started to cater to the increased demand. For example, the Joliet Stone Company incorporated in 1872.[112] As the quarry industry peaked in the 1880s, many smaller businesses were bought out by much larger operations or forced by competition to abandon their sites. The consolidation of established quarries changed the methods of the business. Tools to crush, cut, rub, and saw stone became more advanced and raised production, while some of the old established quarries saw themselves eclipsed by newer and larger enterprises.

However, the development of smoother business links with customers in metropolitan areas could not offset competition from alternative sources with superior building stone, especially limestone quarried near Bedford, Indiana. The availability of the more durable Indiana limestone and the discovery of the lack of long-term durability of the Joliet stone, in addition to the introduction of other building materials such as concrete, led to the gradual decline of the Joliet area stone industry. Some quarries survived by shifting production to crushed stone to use as aggregate for concrete or road and railroad construction.

Surviving Joliet limestone structures identified in Channahon Township are often smaller outbuildings, although stone was used for building foundations of wood-framed structures. The uses of locally-quarried stone are exemplified by the Nichols (or Nickel) Farmstead, site 61 in section 1 of Channahon Township, now abandoned. Left: The small root cellar on the site is entirely constructed of stone masonry. Right: The large Raised Barn on the site has a ground floor of stone masonry supporting a heavy-timber framed barn above.

[112] Ibid.

Concrete

Although concrete was used by the Romans in antiquity, its use in recent times dates from the mid-nineteenth century. In 1860, S. T. Fowler patented a type of reinforced concrete wall construction, but it was not until the 1870s and 1880s that examples had actually been constructed. By 1900 numerous systems of reinforced concrete construction had been patented.[113]

Concrete was seen as a material with great potential for use on the farm. Farmers were given guidance in using concrete on the farm, recommending its use in a variety of structures:

> Concrete can be used on the farm for residences, barns, poultry houses, garages, piggeries, stalls and mangers, milk houses, machine sheds, ice houses, silos, all kinds of tanks and troughs, vats and wallows, manure pits, septic tanks, piers and foundations, sidewalls, steps, driveways, hen nests, pump pits, fence posts, etc.
>
> ———
>
> Of all the buildings on the farm, which should be built of concrete, probably none is more important than the silo. Here is a structure in which it is essential to keep the silage fresh in order that the stock may be keep thrifty and growing all winter. The silo prevents a waste of corn stalks, which contain about one-third of the food value of the entire crop, and it enables a large number of animals to be maintained on a given number of acres. The concrete silo is ratproof, windproof, fireproof and will withstand cyclones. It will not dry out in the hot summer months, keeps the silage in perfect condition and can be constructed at a moderate first cost. There are four types of silos: Monolithic, cement block, stave and cement plaster construction.
>
> . . . Concrete buildings contain no crevices in which to harbor vermin, and this freedom from lice makes it possible for the birds to retain more flesh at the end of the setting period and therefore more strength. Poultry can withstand dry cold when housed, but cannot endure dampness or drafts from below, and a concrete floor will also keep out rats. Instances are known where concrete is used successfully for nests, dropping platforms and roosts, thus greatly simplifying the problem of cleaning. The first requirement of a milk house is that it is scrupulously clean, and the construction should be such as to eliminate breeding places for germs and cracks or crevices for dirt to collect, making cleaning difficult or impossible. A milk house properly constructed of concrete fulfills these requirements, and concrete floors are recommended for sanitary reasons, with proper provisions for draining. The milk house should be located with reference to other buildings, such as stables and manure pits.[114]

The survey area contains relatively few examples of cast-in-place concrete structures, which were generally observed only for building foundations. One cast-in-place silo was identified, at the Limacher Farmstead, site 74 in section 5 of Channahon Township.

Concrete Block

Beginning in the early 1900s, mass production of concrete block units succeeded after several earlier developments failed to lead to widespread production.[115] Harmon S. Palmer patented a cast iron machine with a removable core and adjustable sides in 1900, allowing companies and cottage industries to spring up across the country. Palmer founded the Hollow Building Block Company in 1902, selling $200 block machines. Other manufacturers who flooded the market with similar machines (without directly infringing on Palmer's patent) led to increased use of concrete block in building construction.

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[113] William B. Coney, "Preservation of Historic Concrete: Problems and General Approaches," National Park Service Preservation Brief 15, 2.

[114] "The Use of Concrete Work on the Farm," *Building Age* (February 1917), 102–103.

[115] Pamela H. Simpson, *Cheap, Quick, and Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870–1930* (Knoxville, Tennessee: University of Tennessee Press, 1999), 11.

The blocks were produced by mixing Portland cement, water, sand, and gravel aggregate; placing the mixture in the machine and tamping it down to eliminate voids; and pulling a lever to release the block from the machine. Newly made blocks were stacked until the concrete cured, typically for one month. Blocks were made with a variety of face textures and even color, with "rockface" block being one of the most popular styles.[116]

The survey area has a number of concrete block structures, including a number of similar feeder barns. Above left: The feeder barn at the John M. McDonald Farmstead, site 112 in section 19. Above right: The feeder barn at site 116 in section 30. Below: The distinctive crib barn at the Dirst Farmstead, site 79 in section 6, uses perforated concrete block units.

Although early block machines and block manufacturers produced units relatively larger than contemporary units, by the mid-1920s standards were introduced by concrete products organizations that

[116] Ibid., 24.

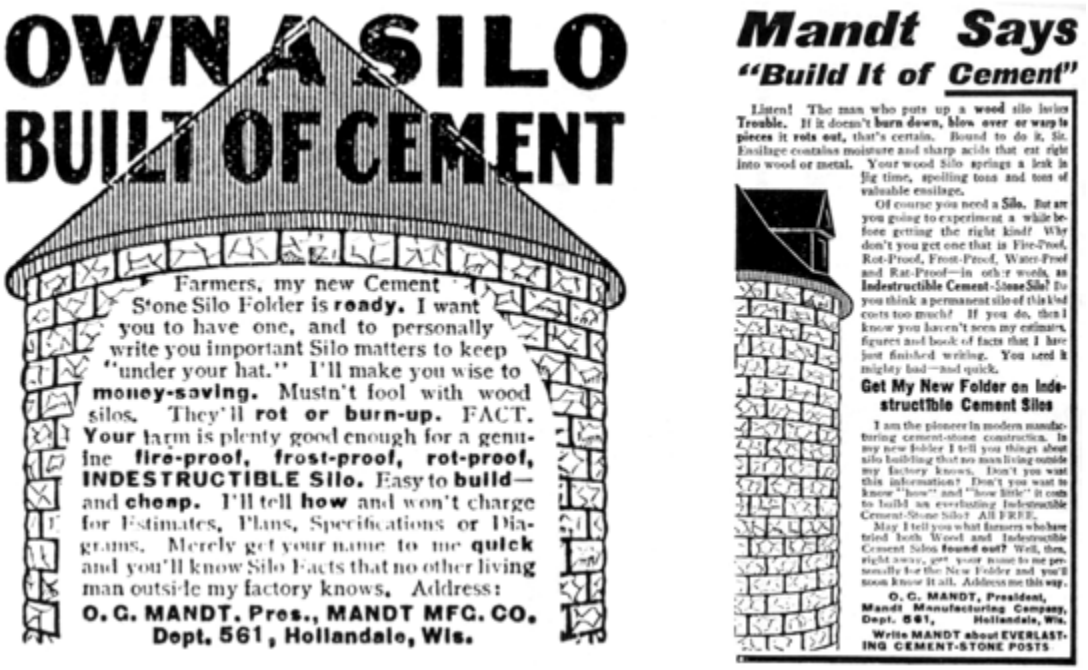
included fabrication of units 8 by 8 by 16 inches in size. Other standards, produced by the National Association of Cement Users, the Concrete Producers Association, and the Concrete Block Manufacturers Association, promoted testing to improve quality.[117] However, concrete block began to fall out of favor as a building facing material during this same period. During the 1930s, smooth-faced block began to dominate the industry as architectural styles changed. Also by the later 1930s, mass production of block units began to supplant the use of earlier concrete block machines.

Just as with concrete, farmers were encouraged to use concrete block for their structures. At the annual meeting of the Illinois Farmers' Institute in 1913, one lecturer discussed concrete block for silos:

> It is clear that the cash outlay for material becomes of the first importance and cost of labor becomes second. To illustrate, a man in such circumstances might have gravel on his farm. Also, he might have lumber, which he could use temporarily for the scaffold. The cost of cement block molds is slight, and if this man were somewhat of a mechanic, he would find it advantageous to secure a mold or molds and make his own cement blocks at odd times. In this way a cement block silo could be built with less cash outlay than any other form of silo.[118]

Building trade journals also promoted the use of concrete block on the farm:

> If one may judge from the demand and the variety of uses to which it is put, the concrete block is the most important of all cement products. When properly made it has not failed to give satisfaction as a building material and much of its popularity has resulted from the pleasing architectural effects that have been brought about. Hollow blocks represent a considerable saving in cost, without reducing the strength so as to impair the safety of the building. The use of facings to bring about pleasing exterior treatments has its advantages while the interior air chambers allow them to conduct heat or cold but slowly. This fact makes buildings of this material warm in winter.



By the 1910s, farmers had several choices of silos using concrete block. Both advertisements are from the farm journal Hoard's Dairyman, *1909.*

[117] Ibid., 21–22.

[118] M.L. King, "Planning the Silo," in *Eighteenth Annual Report of the Illinois Farmers' Institute*, H.A. McKeene, ed. (Springfield, Illinois: Illinois State Journal Company, 1914), 64.

Classification of Farmhouses

Most built structures can be grouped into one of three categories of stylistic classification: "high style," where the building clearly relates to a defined architectural style in form and detail; vernacular or "folk architecture," where builders or owners without formal architectural training construct buildings based on regional or cultural customs, and where stylistic elements derived from style books are applied or mixed within the same structure; and utilitarian, where style is entirely secondary and efficient use of materials is the primary factor in the design. Most buildings fall into the categories of vernacular and utilitarian. Farmhouses were usually built by a builder or carpenter, and reflect general types of houses popular at the time. A discussion of the utilitarian types of farm buildings is covered later in this chapter. The discussion below first describes the architectural *styles* found to some degree in the survey area. This is followed by an outline of the *types* of farmhouses, since most of these structures are better categorized by this means, with only the applied ornament being classified by style. Some houses in the survey area have undergone extensive renovations, making identification of a style or type difficult. In these situations, an assessment has been made as to possible original style or type with notes made in the comment portion of each survey form giving additional information on additions or alterations.

Architectural Style

In the second half of the nineteenth century, architectural styles were disseminated through style books promoting not only aesthetic features of houses but also the orderly qualities for a proper domestic environment.[119] Another source of building ideas was agricultural journals. Although carpenters and builders rarely followed such books and journals exactly, these publications did influence the types of houses being constructed (as discussed in the next section) as well as the stylistic elements applied to those houses. Although it is unlikely that many of the buildings in the survey area were built using designs or supervision of academically trained architects, many of the farmhouses were built by carpenters and builders competent at applying fashionable architectural styles in their work.

Greek Revival

The Greek Revival style was popular in the United States beginning in the 1820s and continued in some regions until the 1870s. Inspired by archaeological excavations and measured drawings of ancient Greek temples, the style was developed by America's first trained architects and spread by pattern books that influenced carpenters and builders across the relatively young United States. American culture found an identification with the democracy in Ancient Greece. Greek Revival buildings have simple rectilinear forms, prominent classical ornament, molded cornices and window lintels, and other ornamental motifs inspired by Classical architecture. The style's simple massing and details went along with the sometimes limited materials and resources of rural areas. Only one house with Greek Revival detailing was observed in the survey area; see the photo on page 41.

Gothic Revival

Gothic Revival was roughly contemporary with Greek Revival, although with very different inspiration. It utilized late Medieval Gothic forms that have vertically oriented massing with steeply sloped roofs, and detail features such as pointed arches, narrow lancet windows, decorative bargeboards and finials, battlemented parapets, and clusters of chimney stacks. Like Greek Revival, pattern books guided architects and builders. Andrew Jackson Downing's *The Architecture of Country Houses* helped popularize this style. Gothic Revival architecture was not observed in the survey area.

[119] Peterson, *Homes in the Heartland*, 68.

Above: The house at the Randall Farmstead, site 96 in section 9 of Channahon Township, exemplifies the Greek Revival style, with its symmetrical layout and bold cornice line, including cornice returns at the gable ends. This historically significant mid-nineteenth century house is currently vacant.

Italianate

Italianate, or Italianate Victorian, was one of the most popular and fashionable building styles in the mid-1800s, popular from about 1850 to 1880. Inspired by Italian Renaissance architecture, Italianate style houses feature rectilinear massing, low pitched roofs, overhanging eaves with bracketed cornice, and tall rectangular windows. Other features often present are moldings or hoods around window lintels (which are sometimes arched) and polygonal or rectangular bays or towers. No farmhouses with Italianate style detailing were identified in the survey area.

Second Empire

Roughly contemporary with Italianate was the Second Empire style, which took its name from the public buildings with mansard roofs built under French emperor Napoleon III. (The first empire was the reign of his uncle, Napoleon). The style was transformed and applied in the United States to domestic as well as institutional buildings. In addition to the mansard roof and architectural features often present on Italianate buildings, Second Empire buildings often feature rich classical or baroque detailing and dormer windows with moldings or hoods. No examples of Second Empire are extant in the survey area.

Queen Anne

Popular in the last two decades of the nineteenth century, this building style in its purest form utilized irregular, asymmetrical massing and floor plans, several types of building materials, and extensive ornament to create an eclectic architectural tapestry that was often picturesque and entertaining. None of the farmhouses in the survey region reflect all of the primary elements of Queen Anne, although the massing and details of some of them show Queen Anne influence, likely due to the influence of the style on builders and carpenters. The name "Queen Anne" for this style of design was popularized by nineteenth century English architects led by Richard Norman Shaw, although the architectural precedents from the reign of Queen Anne (1702–1714) have little connection to this heavily ornamented style. A few Queen Anne style houses were documented in the survey area.

Left: The house at the Limacher Farmstead, site 74 in section 5 of Channahon Township, has been variously remodeled and expanded by additions, but retains some original eclectic detailing. Right: The house at the Bell Farmstead, site 113 in section 18 of Channahon Township, exemplifies the complex massing, varying materials, and exterior ornament of the Queen Anne style. Although the interior and exterior of this house are generally well preserved, the windows and siding have been replaced with vinyl materials.

Colonial and Georgian Revival

After the comparative excesses of the Italianate, Second Empire, and Queen Anne styles, the Colonial and Georgian Revival styles are more restrained and utilize stricter use of ornament and proportion. Introduced on the east coast at the end of the nineteenth century, the Colonial Revival style spread to the Midwest over the next decade and became an influential style for larger homes and public buildings into

the 1930s. The rectilinear forms of Colonial Revival structures are often symmetrical and have gabled roofs with dormers, classical columns and ornament, and ornamental window shutters. Georgian Revival buildings differ in that they adhere more closely to symmetrical floor plans, have strong cornice lines, Flemish bond brick coursing, watertables, and other elements of traditional Colonial period architecture. No examples of the Colonial Revival were identified in the survey area.

Craftsman or Arts and Crafts Style

The Arts and Crafts movement originated in England in the mid-nineteenth century, although it did not become fashionable in the United States until the first two decades of the twentieth century. The style favored simple designs with natural materials, low-pitched roofs, battered wall treatments, exposed rafters, and casement and double hung windows. No true examples of Craftsman style houses were identified in the survey area, although several of the bungalow type houses in the survey may include Craftsman-inspired interior features.

Prairie Style

The Prairie Style was developed by several architects in the Midwest but originated chiefly from the Chicago area, where Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Burley Griffin, Marion Mahony Griffin, William Purcell, and George Elmslie (among others) formulated a set of principles uniquely suited to and inspired by the American suburban and rural landscape. In many ways this style developed from the Arts and Crafts movement, although it was a distinct style with its own characteristics. Prairie Style structures are characterized by broad, horizontal massing, hipped and gabled roofs with deep overhangs, asymmetrical floor plans, and geometric detailing based on nature motifs. Natural and earth-toned materials such as wood, stucco, and brick predominate, and windows often have leaded glass windows that repeat and develop nature motifs. The style was fashionable from around 1895 to 1920. The survey area does not have any “high style” Prairie Style houses.

Tudor Revival

From about 1910 to 1940, Tudor Revival was one of several fashionable revival styles in practice. Based on English late medieval architecture, the style was adapted to unique American building forms created by the balloon frame. Although Tudor Revival buildings were also built in stone, the use of wood and stucco to imitate a half-timbered appearance was a predominant feature. Often times only the ground or first floor was clad with stone while the upper story was clad with wood and stucco “half-timbering.” The style also utilized asymmetrical floor plans and massing, narrow multi-paned windows, prominent masonry chimneys, and steeply sloped roofs. The survey area has one Tudor Revival style house.

This house at the Connell Farmstead, site 109 in section 16 of Channahon Township, is a rare example of the Tudor Revival style in the Will County rural survey area. Note the varied roof line and large brick chimney of this early twentieth century house.

House Types

Vernacular residential dwellings are not always suited to classification by architectural style because style is not the primary organizing principle in their design. Most vernacular houses relate to a *type* that describes or classifies their massing and floor plan. This section discusses the different types of housing found specifically in the survey area. Additional types and subtypes do exist but have been excluded because they are not pertinent to the discussion of Channahon Township.

During the survey, few structures could be readily identified that date from the earliest period of settlement (approximately the 1840s and 1850s). House types dating from the earliest settlement may have used configurations known as single pen or double pen, which basically are one or two room houses respectively. A double pen dogtrot consists of two rooms with the space in between covered by the roof. A saddlebag house is similar to the double pen except for the inclusion of a central chimney between the two rooms.

The house types classified below are those that are typically found in the survey area. As with any classification system, alternate systems could be utilized. Most of the definitions provided below were derived from *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory* by Stephen C. Gordon.[120] Building forms followed the movement of settlers from New England westward through the Ohio Valley to Illinois.[121] However, a significant number of the settlers in the survey area were new immigrants to the United States. Their influence on the region's buildings is visible in some of the extant house types, but more readily visible in the barns and other farm structures.

I House

The name "I House" was first recognized in 1930 as a housing type in Indiana that had originated in the Middle Atlantic states. The form was later identified in the other Midwestern "I" states of Illinois and Iowa.[122] The form consists of a two story, one room deep plan that is at least two rooms wide. Chimneys were often placed at each end of the floor plan. No examples of the I House type were identified in Channahon Township during the survey.

Hall and Parlor

The Hall and Parlor house is a simple rectangular plan dwelling one to one-and-a-half stories in height, with a side oriented gable roof. In plan, these types of houses have one larger room for the kitchen and daily living and a side room used as a more formal parlor or a bedroom. There is often an addition at the rear of the house extending from the parlor side. Chimneys are often placed at each end of the house. The type was used less often after the late 1800s.[123] No Hall and Parlor houses were identified in the survey area. Some houses in the survey may have started as Hall and Parlor types, but through renovations and additions have evolved into other forms.

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[120] Stephen C. Gordon, *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory* (Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Historic Preservation Office, 1992).

[121] For overviews of patterns of ethnic migration and diffusion, see Fred B. Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," in *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture,* Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, eds. (Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1986); and John A. Jakle, Robert W. Bastian, and Douglas K. Meyer, *Common Houses in America's Small Towns: The Atlantic Seaboard to the Mississippi Valley* (Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1989).

[122] Kniffen, 7–8.

[123] Gordon, 125. Since the form can be confused with later cottage types of houses, one feature that can date it properly is the height to width ratios of the window openings: tall window openings usually date a house to the 1800s.

New England One and a Half

This house type is a rectangular plan dwelling, one to one-and-a-half stories in height and at least two bays wide. Flanking a central entrance hall and stairs are two large rooms with two or more smaller rooms across the rear of the house. Some houses of this type are not symmetrical across the front, depending upon the interior layout. New England One and a Half houses were popular from the earliest days of settlement in Will County in the 1830s up to the Civil War. They often include Greek Revival ornament, such as pilasters, architraves, cornice returns, and entablature panels. Farming settlers emigrating from New England, where this house type originated, brought this house type with them to the Midwest. No New England One and a Half type houses were identified in the survey area.

Side Hallway

Side Hallway houses are typically simple rectilinear volumes, two stories in height, and often with gable roofs oriented to the front or the side. In plan the entry is at the end bay of the front elevation, opening into the main stair hall. Adjacent to the hall is the main parlor with additional rooms at the rear of the house. The form was popular until the 1880s.[124] No Side Hallway type houses were identified in the survey area.

Upright and Wing

The Upright and Wing was popular in the mid to late 1800s.[125] The type consists of an upright portion with a gable end, usually one-and-a-half to two stories, and a one to one-and-a-half story wing. The gable end of the wing is usually at or below the eave of the upright. Upright and Wing type houses have T- or L-shaped floor plans. Inside, the wing contains a kitchen and one or two bedrooms and the upright a parlor and additional bedrooms.[126] The Upright and Wing type is common throughout Will County. The five examples identified in Channahon Township represent about one quarter of the surviving historic farmhouses in the survey area.

Upright and Wing farmhouses are a common type in the survey area. Left: The house at the John M. McDonald Farmstead, site 112 in section 19 of Channahon Township. Right: The upright and wing house at site 63 in section 1 of Channahon Township.

[124] Ibid., 126.

[125] Peterson groups the Upright and Wing with the Gabled Ell type (both being forms of L- or T-plan houses), making it "the most numerous and familiar farmhouse type in the Upper Midwest…" (Peterson, *Homes in the Heartland*, 96.) Peterson also notes that many L- and T-plan houses are the result of additions being constructed to existing rectangular house forms (Ibid., 99).

[126] Gordon, *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory*, 132.

Gabled Ell

The Gabled Ell house type usually dates from the two decades after the Civil War.[127] It has an L-shaped plan, sometimes with additions to form a T-shaped plan, and usually is two stories in height with a gabled roof. Within the main "L" there is often a porch. In most arrangements, the gable end of the shorter of the two wings faces the street or main approach with the broad side of the other wing at the side. Unlike other townships in Will County, the Gabled Ell type is less common in Channahon Township, representing about one-quarter of the surviving historic farmhouses (although this includes several Queen Anne style houses, illustrated above).

Above: The Gabled Ell type is exemplified by the house at site 118 in section 31 of Channahon Township.

Four-over-Four

The Four-over-Four basically consists of a central hallway flanked by two rooms on each side in a house two to two-and-a-half stories in height. This house type usually has a gable roof, with the ridge line running parallel to the front face. Exploiting balloon frame construction, the form was popular in the middle 1800s, although it returned during the vogue of the Colonial and Georgian Revival styles. One Four-over-Four type farmhouse was identified in Channahon Township; refer to the photograph of the Randall Farmstead on page 41.

[127] Ibid., 136.

Gable Front

The Gable Front house describes a variety of house types dating from the mid-1800s through the 1920s. It is similar to the Four-over-Four, except that the main entrance at the gable end facing the street or main approach. It is also similar to the Side Hallway type, and usually has a rectangular floor plan. One Gable Front-type house was observed in the survey area.

American Foursquare

The American Foursquare[128] was introduced around 1900 and continued to be popular until the 1920s. It consists of a two to two-and-a-half story block with a roughly square floor plan with four rooms on each floor. Roofs are hipped or pyramidal, with dormer windows (hipped and gable) on at least the front elevation and sometimes the side and rear elevations. Foursquares usually have front porches but may also have bay windows (some extending both stories) and one story rear additions. Many Foursquares were built from plans developed by local lumber companies or mail order sources that advertised in farm journals; others were purchased whole and delivered as pre-cut, ready-to-assemble houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company or home manufacturers. Compared to other townships previously surveyed, American Foursquare type farmhouses were uncommon in the survey area, with only two examples identified.

Examples of the American Foursquare type in the survey area. Left: The house at the Feeney Farmstead, site 111 in section 19. Right: The house at site 85 in section 8.

Bungalow

The term bungalow derives from the word *bangla,* an Indian word adopted by the British in the nineteenth century for a one story house with porches. The American house form descended from the Craftsman movement, using natural materials and simple forms to create an informal domestic environment. Popular from approximately 1905 to 1935, there are two basic types of bungalows (and numerous subtypes), each deriving its name from the dominant roof forms. The Dormer Front Bungalow (also called the Shed Roof Bungalow) has a gable or shed roof turned parallel to the front elevation and a single large dormer. The Gable Front has a front facing gable, with the ridge of the roof running perpendicular to the main elevation. The relatively few examples of the Bungalow type in the survey area are somewhat simpler than those found in city and suburban neighborhoods and lack stylistic features such as exposed roof beams, ornamental wall trim, or shingle siding. Bungalows are somewhat common in the survey area, with three examples identified in Channahon Township. All three examples are Dormer Front bungalows.

[128] The term "American Foursquare" was coined by Clem Labine, former editor of the *Old-House Journal.* (Gordon, *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory*, 137.)


Channahon Township has some bungalow type houses. Left: The house at the Michael McDonald Farmstead, site 115 in section 30, is a typical example of a bungalow house with a dormer to the front. Right: The house at the Dirst Farmstead, site 79 in section 6, is a similar bungalow type house.

Cape Cod

The Cape Cod was a popular house type from the 1920s to the early 1950s. The type was inspired by eighteenth century cottages in Massachusetts and Virginia.[129] The Cape Cod has a simple rectangular plan, one story in height with dormers and a gable roof. No Cape Cod style farmhouses were identified during the survey.

Ranch

Because the ranch type is a relatively recent domestic architecture development (it generally dates from the post-World War II era), ranch style houses were generally not recorded in the rural survey. The presence of a ranch style house was noted on the site plan of surveyed farmsteads to indicate that these houses likely replaced the original house on the site or provided an additional dwelling on the property. Ranch style houses are usually one or at most two stories and have rambling floor plans and relatively low-pitched hipped or gabled roofs. Although much of the newer housing in recently developed areas has features and elements reminiscent of older architectural styles (Colonial Revival, Dutch Colonial, or even Queen Anne), its true architectural lineage traces back to the ranch houses of the 1950s and 1960s.

[129] Ibid., 140.

Development of the Barn

The barns of the Midwest have several typical functions: animal shelter, crop storage, crop processing, equipment storage, and machinery repair. However, barns also have specialized functions designated by adjectives such as "sheep" barn or "dairy" barn. In some instances a substitute term was used such as hog house or implement shed, especially if a larger multipurpose "barn" is also on the farm. Nonetheless, these structures shared some similar forms and structural systems.[130]

Pioneer settlers, faced with clearing virgin forest or breaking sod, usually had little time to do more than erect a roughhouse and perhaps a crude animal shelter in the first years of settlement. Not until after some ten years on a homestead, or perhaps not even until the second generation, did the pioneer have the means to construct a large barn.[131]

The need for large barns necessitated the development of structural systems to enclose large volumes of space. As the frontier of settlement passed into the Midwest, many early barns were constructed of logs by settlers who either possessed log-building skills or gained these techniques by association with other ethnic or cultural groups. Although the eastern Midwest was well forested, providing sufficient log materials, the prairies of the central Midwest (including Illinois) had less forested land to supply log construction. Therefore, other solutions were required.[132]

The skeletal framework of barns consists typically of sill timbers resting directly on the foundation (usually stone, although concrete was introduced in the early 1900s). The sills also form the substructure for the floor joists and wall framing. The barn's joists sometimes remained round, except for the top side, which was flattened to accommodate floorboards. Most early barns had a gable roof composed of rafters, rough sawn boards, and wooden shingles. Vertically attached boards, some as large as fourteen inches wide, ran from the sill to the top plate of the wall for siding on timber frame barns.[133]

As discussed earlier in this chapter, light framing techniques and advanced wood milling machines influenced the development of Midwestern farmhouses. However, barns continued to be built with heavy timber. As these large framing members became scarce and expensive in the early twentieth century, new innovations were sought, such as plank framing that featured the substitution of plank lumber for heavy long, square timbers.[134]

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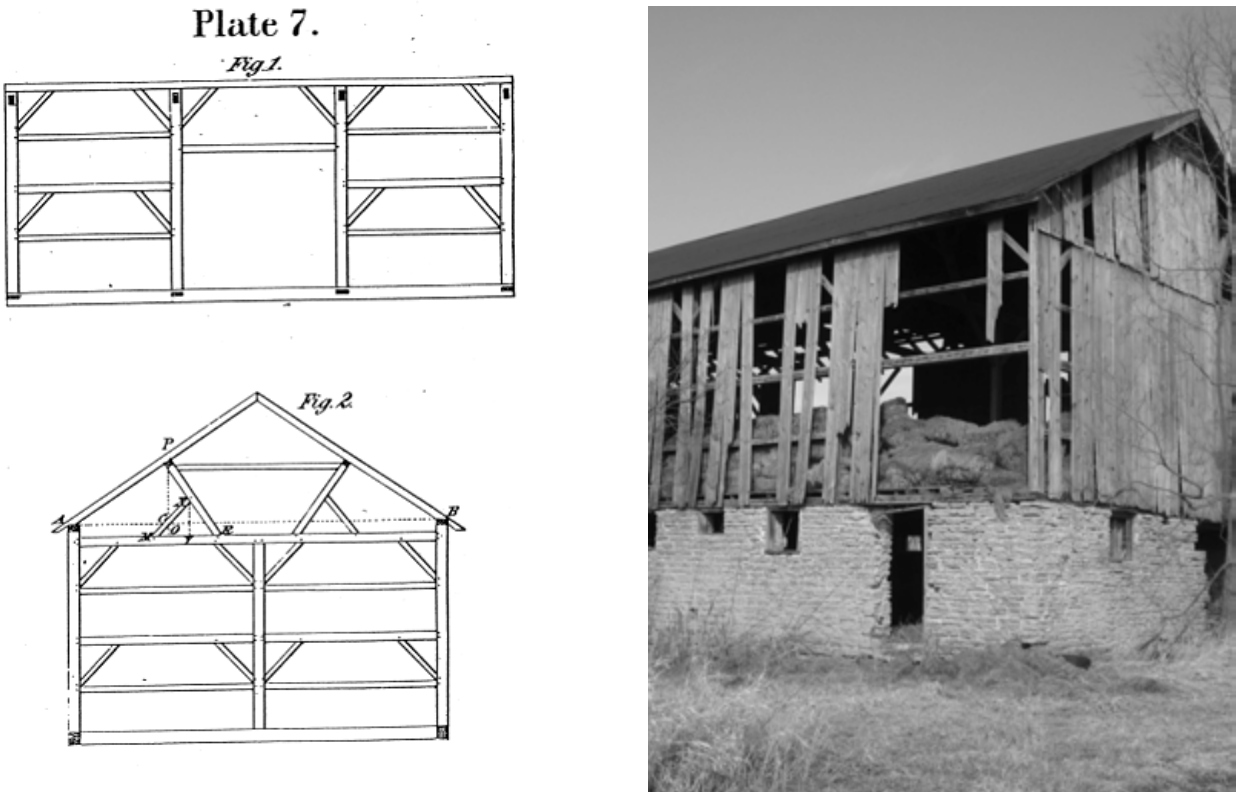
[130] Allen G. Noble and Hubert G. H. Wilhelm, "The Farm Barns of the American Midwest," in *Barns of the Midwest*, Allen G. Noble and Hubert G. H. Wilhelm, ed. (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1995), 9.
[131] Hubert G.H. Wilhelm, "Midwestern Barns and Their Germanic Connections," in *Barns of the Midwest*, 65.
[132] Ibid.
[133] Ibid., 48–50.
[134] Lowell J. Soike, "Within the Reach of All: Midwest Barns Perfected," in *Barns of the Midwest*, Allen G. Noble and Hubert G. H. Wilhelm, ed. (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1995), 147. Two major forms of plank framing developed. The first took dimension plank lumber and imitated heavy timber framing, carrying the loads through posts and beams. The second type opened up the center of the barn by using a truss for the framing bents. This was followed by an adaptation of the balloon framing for barn construction. Stud walls replaced posts and girts for handling loads; roof loads were carried by trusses made from lighter weight lumber (Ibid., 155–156).



Left: A drawing of heavy timber barn framing from 1894 [William E. Bell, Carpentry Made Easy, or the Science and Art of Framing *(Philadelphia: Ferguson Bros. & Co., 1894), plate 7]. Right: A detail view of the barn at the Nichols (Nickel) Farmstead, site 61 in section 1 of Channahon Township. This circa 1860s barn is constructed with similar heavy timber framing, where major posts and beams support a framework of smaller wall girts and roof rafters, which in turn support solid wood plank wall cladding and spaced roof decking boards.*

At the beginning of the twentieth century, new barn building ideas emerged from a growing field of experts: agricultural engineers, experiment station researchers, and commercial farm planning services. The American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) soon contained a committee on farm structures after its formation. The result of these efforts widened the variety of barn building plans available to farmers and encouraged improved building standards.[135] At about this time, manufacturers and marketers of pre-cut, ready-to-assemble houses (such as the American Foursquare house type discussed above) entered the market for barn construction. Two major Iowa firms, the Louden Machinery Company of Fairfield and the Gordon-Van Tine Company of Davenport, advertised plans for their pre-cut barns along with their pre-cut homes.

Engineering research led to the development of framing for gambrel roofs, culminating in the Clyde or Iowa truss. (The shape of the gambrel roof allowed a larger loft space to store hay than the gable roof allowed.) The first step in this development was the work of John Shawver of Ohio, who developed a gambrel truss form using sawn lumber. The Iowa truss was developed by A.W. Clyde, an engineer with the Iowa State College farm extension service, around 1920. It allowed construction of a stiff frame at far lower cost than the Shawver truss, which required expensive extra-length material.[136]

[135] Ibid., 158.

[136] Ibid. The open loft, free from interior braces like those used in the Shawver and Iowa trusses, was finally achieved with the laminated gothic arch roof. The gothic roof was developed over a two decade period, with an early system using sawn boards 12 inches wide, 1 inch thick, and 3 to 4 feet long from which the outside edge was shaved to the needed curvature. Three or four plies were laminated together with nails, with splices staggered along the curve. These rafters were placed 2 feet on center. However, due to the material wasted in shaving the lumber and the

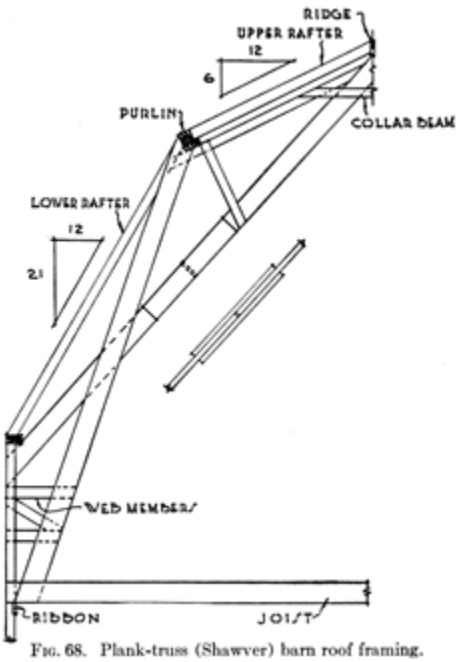


Fig. 68. Plank-truss (Shawver) barn roof framing.

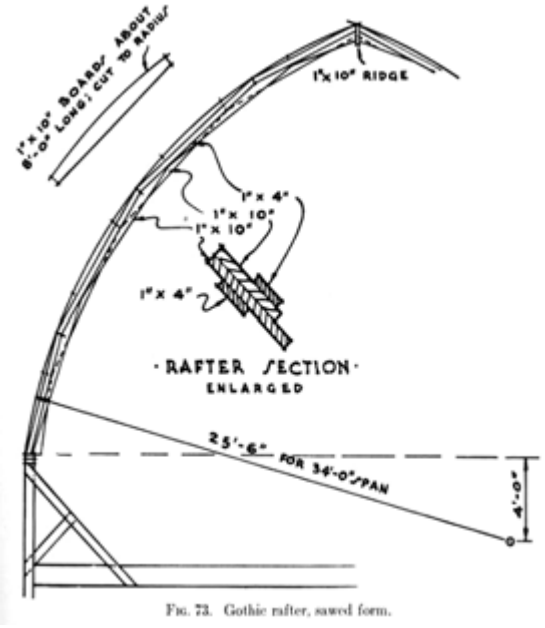


Fig. 73. Gothic rafter, sawed form.

The Shawver and sawn gothic arch barn roof rafters. [Deane G. Carter and W.A. Foster, Farm Buildings*, Third Edition. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1941), 136, 141.]*

During the 1930s, the Gothic roof entered the last phase of its evolution. At Iowa State Agricultural College, Henry Giese tested existing types of laminated bent rafters in an attempt to solve their shortcomings. Working in collaboration with Rock Island Lumber Company, distributor of Weyerhauser Forest Products, he explored the potential of modern glues to yield a stronger bent rafter. Using Douglas fir, clear of knots and defects, glue-laminated under approximately 100 pounds per square inch of pressure and shaped to an arch form, the rafter was stronger than those laminated conventionally with nails and bolts (either the shaved- or bent-lumber techniques). Rafter performance was also improved with the use of hinge connections at the supports. Weyerhauser was marketing these factory-built rafters under the trademark of Rilco by 1938.[137] The United States Forest Products Laboratory also performed tests on glued laminated construction. Their laboratory tests showed that laminated rafters were two to four times stronger than ordinary bent and sawed rafters laminated with nails.[138]

The two-story loft barn ceased to be built shortly after World War II.[139] In the first half of the twentieth century the dependence on draft animals waned and mechanical power in the form of tractors increased, and farmers no longer needed loft space.[140] Farmers began to build fewer custom wood frame structures,

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labor consumed in sawing and nailing, farmers and builders were slow to adopt this system. Bent or sprung arches were the second major type of curved rafter construction, first used in an experiment in Davis, California, in 1916. The perceived savings in material and labor required to produce the same contour by bending instead of sawing, made this system more popular. Bent-rafter gothic arch construction, although more economical in labor and material, proved less rigid that the more expensive sawed type. For this reason, many farmers adopted a combination of the two, with the sawed rafters spaced every 8 to 12 feet and the bent rafters spaced between, twenty-four inches on center (Ibid., 161–2).

[137] Ibid., 162–163.

[138] Ibid., 164.

[139] Ibid., 165.

[140] In 1930, 61,000 combines were counted by the U.S. Census; in 1953, 918,000. One in six farmers already owned a tractor by 1932. In 1944, 14 percent of the nation's hay was harvested with windrow balers; by 1948, the figure was 46 percent. See Glenn A. Harper and Steve Gordon, "The Modern Midwestern Barn, 1900–Present," in *Barns of the Midwest*, Noble and Wilhelm, ed., 225.

which were susceptible to fires, as manufactured buildings using steel became available. Early metal-barn types, such as Quonsets, developed initially in the 1930s and gained a notable measure of popularity among some Midwestern farmers immediately after World War II. One of the leading manufacturers of Quonset barns and sheds was the Great Lakes Steel Corporation of Detroit, whose structures were purported to be fireproof, rat-proof, and sag-proof. Corrugated metal was also a suggested covering for wooden barn siding, and organizations as the Asbestos Farm Service Bureau promoted the use of asbestos-based cement boards for re-siding old barns.[141]

Because lofts were no longer needed, one-story barn construction became more standard in the postwar years. The shift from loose to baled or chopped hay reduced the need for haymows as many farmers adopted the "loose-housing" or "loafing" system for housing cattle. University of Wisconsin agricultural scientists argued that cows would be more content and give more milk if they were allowed to roam in and out of the barn at will. The loose-housing system resulted in the construction of one-story galvanized all-steel barns.[142] The pole barn was a simple method for constructing the necessary enclosure for farm implements and the limited amount of hay still required on the farm. Pole barns use round poles set into small, individual foundations, to which engineered roof trusses and wall girts and siding are attached. The structural concept for the modern pole barn was developed by H. Howard Doane of St. Louis in the early 1930s. He and George Perkins, his farm manager, used creosoted wood poles (which were commonly used for telephone poles) for the vertical structural members.[143] Pole barns and manufactured buildings are common throughout the survey area, and remain the standard means of construction for contemporary farm buildings.

Left: An advertisement for a metal covered machine shed similar in form to a Quonset shed, from the Peoria publication The Illinois Farmers Guide, *August 1939. Right: An advertising postcard for a Morton Building, manufactured by Interlocking Fence Company of Morton, Illinois.*

[141] Ibid., 226.
[142] Ibid., 225.
[143] Ibid.

Barn Types

As with house types, several systems have been used to classify barns, either by function; shape and structural system; ethnic traditions and their influence; or regional characteristics and commonalties.[144] The classification types developed below are based on Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek's *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns & Other Farm Structures* and Allen G. Noble's *Wood, Brick & Stone.* Classification is generally made by the shape and function of the barn.

Three-bay Threshing Barn

The Three-bay Threshing barn (also called the English barn) was introduced into North America through English colonial settlement in southern New England.[145] The English and continental European immigrants of the early 1800s introduced this barn type to the Midwest. It was originally designed as a single function barn to store or process grain and was most suitable for small-scale, subsistence farms. It is a single level, rectangular structure divided into three parts or sections, each termed a bay.

Large double doors are centered on both long sides of the structure. Hand threshing with a grain flail was done in the central bay, sometimes called the threshing bay. Following threshing, the large doors were opened to create a draft, which, during winnowing, would separate the chaff from the heavier grain, and carry it away. Flanking the central bay were the other two bays of generally equal dimensions. One was used during the fall or winter to store sheaves of harvested grain, awaiting threshing. The other bay was used for storing the threshed grain, commonly in bins, and straw, which was used as feed and bedding for horses and cattle.[146] Early examples had steeply pitched (over 45 degrees) gable roofs and low stone foundations. They were sided in vertical boards with small ventilation openings high on the gable ends. Windows are largely absent, although later versions included them at animal stall locations. Gable-end sheds were a common addition.[147]

Eventually, as dairying replaced wheat production in the agricultural economy, the threshing/storage function of this barn type became less important. At first animals were not housed in the structure, although interior remodeling was often made to introduce animal stalls in one of the two side bays. This effectively reduced the grain storage and processing function and only offered shelter for a modest number of animals.[148] In some cases this barn type was lifted up and placed onto a raised basement, which then could house the animals, especially dairy cows.[149]

Raised, Bank, and Basement Barns

The Raised or Bank barn originated in central New York as a shelter for dairy cattle. It was the first multi-purpose barn to gain widespread popularity. These barns are usually larger than Three-bay Threshing barns and have a ground floor level for cattle and dairy cows with an upper level for hay and feed storage. This upper level is reached by an earthen ramp, bridge, or the natural slope of an embankment. Basement barns are similar to Raised barns, in that the foundation walls extend up to the bottom of the second floor.

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[144] Often there are more conflicts than agreements between different classification systems. The types defined herein seem to best describe the structures actually present and the social and ethnic origins of their builders.

[145] Fred B. Kniffen, "Folk-Housing: Key to Diffusion," in *Common Places, Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, ed. (Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1986), 11.

[146] Charles Calkins and Martin Perkins, "The Three-bay Threshing Barn," in *Barns of the Midwest*, Allen G. Noble and Hubert G.H. Wilhelm, ed. (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1995), 40–41.

[147] Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek, *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and Other Farm Structures* (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1995), 77.

[148] Allen G. Noble, *Wood, Brick and Stone*, The North American Settlement Landscape, Volume 2: Barns and Farm Structures (Amherst, Massachusetts: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984), 56–58.

[149] Calkins and Perkins, "The Three-bay Threshing Barn," *Barns of the Midwest*, 59.

However, Basement barns do not have ramps nor are they sited to utilize the natural topography to access the second floor. Several Bank or Raised barns were identified in the survey area.

Rolling topography along the Des Plaines and Du Page Rivers in Channahon provides more opportunities for bank barns compared to other parts of Will County. Above: The barn at the Nichols (Nickel) Farmstead, site 61 in section 1, is a classic example of the Raised barn type, with a stone ground floor level and a timber-framed upper story. Below left: The historic Bank barn at the Porter–Lewis Farmstead, site 66 in section 3. Below right: This historic bank barn overlooks the Des Plaines River at site 110 in section 20.

German Barn

German barns, also called German/Swiss barns or Pennsylvania barns, include a group of barns introduced into the Delaware valley by German-speaking settlers. It was one of the first American barn types to combine crop storage and animal shelter. It became a structure synonymous with Pennsylvania Dutch culture and its mixed grain-livestock agriculture. These barns had a lower story partially cut into the natural slope of the land and an upper level that was accessed from a slope or ramp. A forebay is formed by recessing the ground floor wall and enclosing it at each end with the masonry gable end walls. Another distinctive feature is the use of a combination of stone masonry and wood framed and sheathed walls: stone was typically reserved for gable end walls and/or north facing walls. This barn type was not observed in the survey area.

Plank Frame Barn

This relatively small barn type originated in the eastern Midwest around 1875.[150] Plank frame barns can have gable or gambled roofs and are typically one story in height plus a large hay loft. They are multi-purpose, with small ground floor windows for animal stalls and a large sliding door for equipment. Their floor plans are usually small, approximately 30 by 40 feet. Plank frame barns use small dimension milled lumber rather than the heavy timber framing of earlier barn types. Several examples of plank frame barns were identified in the survey area.

Two small plank frame barns in Channahon Township are depicted above. These two early twentieth century barns have concrete foundations. Left: The plank frame barn at the Dirst Farmstead, site 79 in section 6. Right: The plank frame barn at the Varley Farmstead, site 98 in section 9.

Three-ended Barn

This barn type is a modification to the Three-bay Threshing barn, adding a hay barn addition perpendicular to an existing barn. This addition, sometimes called a straw shed, could have less height than the main portion of the barn or be taller than the main barn. The additions could also have an open bay at ground level into which a cart could drive to unload hay into the loft space. No three-ended barns were identified in the survey area.

Round Barn

Non-orthogonal barns (round or polygonal in plan) were popular in the first two decades of the twentieth century. In Illinois, agriculture professor Wilber J. Fraser of the University of Illinois promoted the use of round barns. No existing round barns were documented in the survey area.

[150] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book,* [117]

Round Roof Barn

Round Roof Barns came into existence with structural advances in the first quarter of the twentieth century. Although called round, roof shapes for this type are often gothic arch in form. The name describes the roof shape, although the configuration of their floor plans were usually based on more typical barn types such as Plank frame, Dairy, or Raised barns. No Round Roof barns were identified in the survey area.

Wisconsin Dairy Barn

A barn associated with dairying is the Wisconsin Dairy barn, which originated at the Wisconsin's Agricultural Experiment Station at Madison around 1915. It was specially designed to provide a structure for efficient dairy farming. This large barn was typically 36 by 100 feet or larger. It had a gambrel roof or occasionally a round roof, although early versions were often gable-roofed with horizontal boarding. Rows of small windows and gable-end doors were typical. There was usually a large gable-end loft opening and a triangular hay hood. Frequently there are roof ventilators.[151] Only one dairy barn was identified in the survey area.

Above: The large dairy barn at the Feeney Farmstead, site 111 in section 19. This barn features an unusual degree of architectural elaboration, including eave returns at the gable end and gabled dormers at the first loft level.

Feeder Barn

During the last two decades of the nineteenth century, Illinois and Iowa developed into the regional center for beef production. Farmers with rougher land, more suited to cattle than crops, raised their cattle from birth to finished beef. They fattened their stock on surplus corn, alfalfa, and feed supplements, and sold them to the rail-connected beef-processing industry in Chicago. The industry was also aided by the introduction of the refrigerated box car. In order to build a barn to hold cattle and hay, the feeder barn (sometimes called the hay barn) was developed. Cattle are housed and fed on the ground floor with a loft above to hold hay. The feeder barn type is relatively common in the survey area.

[151] Noble and Cleek, 77.


Examples of feeder barns in Channahon Township. Left above: The barn at the John M. McDonald Farmstead, site 112 in section 19. Right above: The barn at the Bell Farmstead, site 113 in section 18. Left below: The feeder barn at the Michael McDonald Farmstead, site 115 in section 30. Right below: The feeder barn at site 116 in section 30.


Pole Barn

The latest major barn type, called the pole barn, evolved in the eastern Midwest. The walls of the building are hung on poles that are driven into individual footings buried in the ground below the frost line. The floor is typically concrete slab or dirt. There is no loft. Later versions usually have metal siding, especially those erected after World War II.[152] The pole barn is an example of economical construction techniques applied to modern agriculture. Pole barns are uncommon in Channahon Township, in contrast to other areas of Will County.

Quonset Shed

Sometime referred to as Quonset "huts," this metal building type is named for the U.S. Naval Air Station at Quonset Point in Davisville, Rhode Island, where sheds of this type were built in 1942, although wood-framed examples were already common in the 1930s. Its universal use in the military during World War II made Quonset sheds seem to be an ideal economical building type in the postwar years, finding use as storage facilities, offices, homes, and commercial ventures such as movie theaters. Military Quonsets often had steel framing members to support the corrugated galvanized metal sheathing, but civilian examples used wood framing as well. Where observable, the examples present in the rural survey area usually have wood framing. Their use in the survey area includes implement sheds, animal shelters, and other types of storage.

[152] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 120.


Left: This quonset shed is located on the Dixon Farmstead, site 75 in section 5. Right: This contemporary manufactured building is located on the Bell Farmstead, site 113 in section 18.

Manufactured Building

While pole barn structures use manufactured materials assembled by a local builder or the farmer himself, manufactured buildings were developed as a complete system in the 1940s. Such buildings offer quick construction time and potentially lower cost because of the use of standardized components. The buildings also allow for large floor areas, giving farmers flexibility of usage. This building type remains common for newly constructed agricultural buildings in the survey area.

Grain Elevators

Grain elevators began to be constructed alongside developing rail systems during the second half of the nineteenth century. Early elevators were often associated with the flour mills they served. They were usually timber-framed structures, as were the mills themselves.[153] Concrete grain elevators and silos, usually constructed in banks of two to ten or more, were constructed in the early decades of the twentieth century.

Corncribs

Pioneer farmers frequently built log corncribs during their two centuries of migration into and settlement of the Midwest. Most crude frontier log cribs were little more than bins, loosely constructed of saplings or split rails and laid up with saddle notching to hold them together.[154] Sometimes the logs were skinned to lessen the danger of infestation by worms and insect. The bin-like cribs were typically covered with thatch or cornstalks to help shed the rain; a board and shingle roof took more effort, required nails, and therefore was more expensive. Unfortunately, thatch roof corncribs were more readily infested by rodents. Log construction of corncribs remained popular through the 1800s in areas where timber resources proved readily accessible.

The invention of the circular saw in 1860 and its growing adaptation to steam power by mid-century made lumber cheap enough for general use on outbuildings such as corncribs, enabling later versions to be built of narrow lumber slats.[155] The corncrib usually rested on log or stone piers.[156] In constructing a frame corncrib, two methods of attaching the slat siding or cribbing were used. The slats were attached

[153] Keith E. Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture* (Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1988), 176.
[154] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 170–171.
[155] Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 26.
[156] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 155.

either horizontally or vertically; cribbing attached diagonally for extra strength seems to have come into practice about 1900.[157]

The size of the corncribs remained small, even as corn production rose during much of the nineteenth century, in part due to the practice of corn shocking. Corn could be gradually "shucked out" as needed and hauled to the crib or barn for milling and feeding to livestock. Large corncribs were unnecessary since farmers could leave much of their corn in the field until spring.[158] Crib width was influenced by the climate of a region; drier conditions allowed for wider cribs with no increased loss of corn due to mold. As corn production outgrew the single crib in the developing Corn Belt, double cribs were formed by extending the roof over a pair of cribs to form a gable roof. If the gap between the cribs was then lofted over, extra space was gained beneath the roof for overflow storage of ear corn. Spreading the cribs apart not only increased the loft space but created a storage area below for wagons, tools, and implements. These structures, called crib barns, became common in the Midwest by 1900.[159] The creation of larger corncribs and their overhead grain bins depended upon the invention of new methods to raise the grain and ear corn higher than a farmer could scoop it. High cribs were made possible by the commercial adaptation of continuous belt and cup elevators from grain mills and by the portable grain elevator grain.

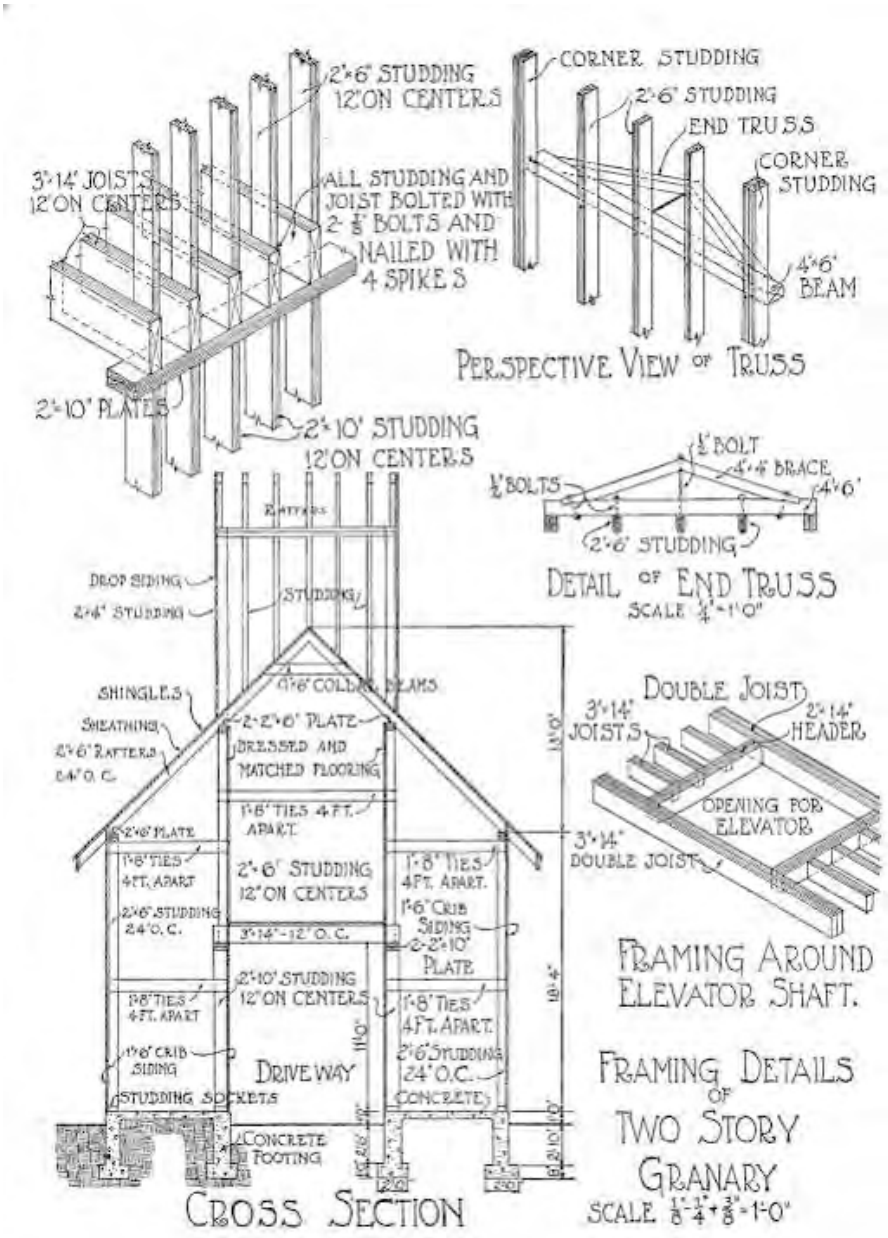
In the early decades of the twentieth century, both concrete and steel were promoted as alternative construction materials for corncribs and grain elevators. The use of hollow clay tiles was also encouraged in those parts of the Midwest where they were manufactured, notably in Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana.[160] The most common variety of concrete corncrib was made of interlocking stave blocks, which had been cast with ventilating slots. In some cases, steel wires or rods were incorporated in the vents to keep out rodents. The blocks were laid up in the form of a circular bin. These were encircled with steel rods, enabling the structure to withstand lateral pressures from the corn heaped within. Single and double bin corncribs of this type were most common, although four-bin corncribs were not unusual. Between 1900 and 1940, concrete was promoted as a do-it-yourself material, poured into rented forms, for building corncribs.[161]

No wood frame corn cribs were observed during the survey. Crib barns, silos, and metal grain bins are much more common.

Crib Barns

Crib barns are simple structures formed of pens or cribs that have a space between the cribs for implement storage. There are two basics types: crib barns with the gable or roofline parallel to the cribs, and transverse crib barns with the roofline perpendicular to the pens. The configuration of crib barns developed from practical limitations and needs, such as the height to which a scoopful of corn could be pitched from a wagon (which dictated the bin height) and the size of farm equipment (which dictated the spacing between bins). Later crib barns, including many examples in the survey area, have mechanical elevators housed in a small projecting cupola at the ridge of the crib barn roof. Crib barns constructed of concrete block are also present in the survey area.

[157] Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 27.
[158] Keith E. Roe, "Corncribs to Grain Elevators: Extensions of the Barn, " in *Barns of the Midwest*, 170.
[159] Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 60.
[160] Ibid., 177.
[161] Ibid., 176.



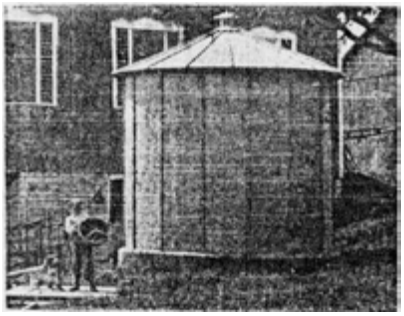
Crib barns, usually with two bins, abound in the survey area. Illustrated above are framing details of a crib barn from Smith & Betts Farm and Building Book *(Chicago: The Radford Architectural Company, 1915).*

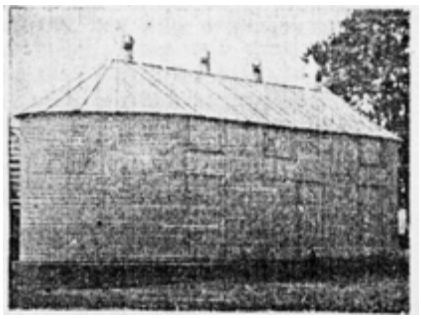
Wood crib barns are common in the survey area. From upper left, these examples are located at the Porter–Lewis Farmstead, site 66 in section 3; site 116 in section 30; the Dirst Farmstead, site 79 in section 6; the Randall Farmstead, site 96 in section 9; the Connell Farmstead, site 109 in section 16; and site 147 in section 18.

Metal Bins

Metal construction for corn storage came into use early in the twentieth century and was promoted by the steel industry during World War I as a crop saver for the patriotic farmer. Rectangular or hexagonal corncribs were constructed from flat, galvanized-steel sheet metal with ventilating perforations. Corrugated, curved sheets created the more common cylindrical bin type, which was usually topped with a conical roof. The steel corncrib had wall ventilation slits and, most times, a roof ventilator at its peak.[162] Steel was ideal for fabricating standard parts, as well as being vermin-proof. Proper design of metal bins included such factors as ventilation, consideration of structural loads from the feed to be contained, and use of a concrete or heavy timber foundation with the exterior walls anchored to the foundation. Roofs usually consisted of overlapping sheets to form a conical form.[163]

Corn bins made of steel rods or heavy wire mesh also became available in the 1930s. The wire mesh type was particularly popular after World War II because of its low cost, ease of filling, and low maintenance. Wire mesh-type bins have fallen out of use since the 1980s, but the solid metal bins are still commonly used today. Compared to other areas of Will County, grain bins are not common in Channahon Township.





Above left and center: Illustrations of two types of metal corn bins from The Illinois Farmer's Guide, August 1939. Above right: A 1930s era grain bin survives at site 101 in section 12. Below: Two contemporary metal grain bins are located on the Dixon Farmstead, site 75 in section 5.

[162] Ibid.

[163] R.E. Martin, "Steel Bin Design for Farm Storage of Grain," *Agricultural Engineering* (April 1940): 144 and 146.

Silos

Silos are structures used for preserving green fodder crops, principally field corn, in a succulent condition. Silos are a recent phenomenon, employed only after 1875 and not truly established until shortly before the turn of the twentieth century. The stored green fodder material is termed ensilage, which is shortened to silage. The acceptance of silos was gradual, but this type of structure eventually came to be enthusiastically embraced by farmers because it offered certain advantages. First, larger numbers of cattle could be kept on the farm because the food value of corn is greater than that of a combination of hay and grain. Second, less water was needed for stock in the winter, lessening labor requirements as frequent ice breaking and thawing was no longer required. Finally, because succulent green fodder could be fed throughout the year, cows produced milk during the entire winter season, increasing the income of the farm.[164]

The first silos were pits excavated inside the barn. The earliest upright or tower silos date from the late 1880s and were rectangular or square in form and constructed with the same materials and techniques as those used in the barn itself, with framed lumber walls.[165] Many were constructed within the barn building.[166] Later examples of this silo type had rounded corners on the inside formed by a vertical tongue-in-groove lining. The rectangular silo appeared in some areas as late as 1910. The octagonal silo type that followed attempted to achieve the advantages of a circular silo while keeping the ease of angular construction. In the 1890s circular forms began to be seen. A shift from the rectangular to the circular stems from the efficiency of the circular form in storing corn ensilage by eliminating air space and thereby reducing spoilage.

The wooden-hoop silo was formed with wood, soaked and shaped into gigantic circular hoop forms and then fastened together horizontally in the tower shape. This style did not become popular because the hoops tended to spring apart. A more common type of wood silo was the panel or Minneapolis silo, also known by several other names. It was advertised in numerous farm journals in the early twentieth century. It consisted of ribs set about 20 inches to 24 inches apart and horizontal matched boards (known as staves) set in grooves in the ribs. Steel hoops were placed around silo to lock the boards in place. This type of silo was made with either single or double wall construction and was polygonal in plan.

Masonry silos, constructed of hollow clay tile, brick, or concrete block, appeared in the first decades of the twentieth century. In comparison with the other two types of silos, brick silos were more difficult to construct because of the time required to erect the relatively small masonry units. There were many patents on concrete blocks for silo purposes, with some blocks curved and other finished with rock-faced building blocks. Some patented blocks had reinforcing sold with the blocks or integral with the block units.[167] Concrete block silos were finished on the interior with a layer of cement mortar to seal joints that might otherwise leak air or water.

The hollow clay tile silo, generally known as the "Iowa Silo," was developed by the Experiment Station of the Iowa State College and erected during the summer of 1908 on the college farm.[168] Brick and tile companies manufactured curved blocks for silos, advertising them in farm journals. The main complaint regarding the hollow block silo was that the masonry units were porous and leaked water. The mortar joints on both inside and outside of wall needed to be properly pointed as a precaution against leakage. Some silo builders washed the interior of the wall with cement mortar as a further precaution. Steel reinforcing consisted of heavy wire embedded in the mortar joints.

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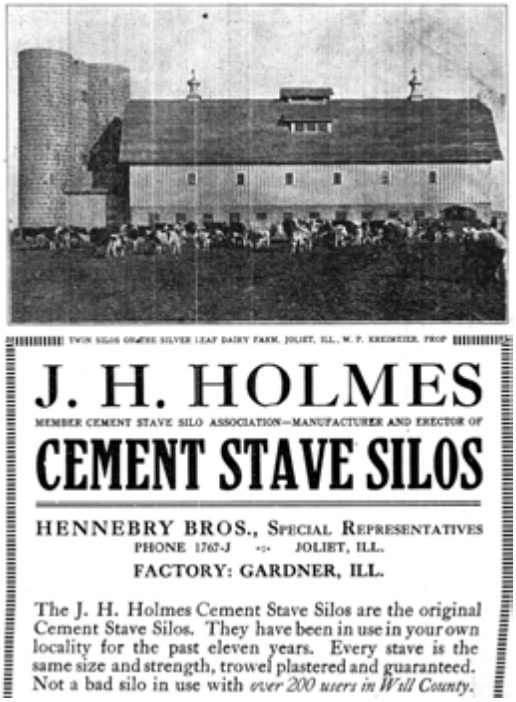
[164] Noble, *Wood, Brick and Stone*, 71–72.
[165] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 158.
[166] Ingolf Vogeler, "Dairying and Dairy Barns in the Northern Midwest," *Barns of the Midwest* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1995), 108.
[167] W.A. Foster, "Silo Types and Essentials," *Hoard's Dairyman* (21 February 1919) 201, 216, 217, and 232.
[168] Ibid.

Concrete stave silos were constructed as early as 1904 in Cassopolis, Missouri, which used book-shaped staves.[169] Several patents existed for cement stave silos, including that of the Mason & Lawrence of Elgin, Illinois, dating from 1914.[170] Farmers also could make their own concrete staves or blocks to construct a silo or other farm structure. Concrete staves could vary in size, but were often approximately 30 inches long, 10 inches wide, and 2-1/2 inches thick. One end of the block was concave and the other convex to allow fitting the blocks in the assembled structure.[171]

This excerpt from *Concrete* magazine from 1927 outlines the erection procedure for a concrete stave silo:

> Concrete stave silos are quickly and easily erected. Three men can easily erect two average sized silos each week and some crews can do better than that, especially when the proper equipment is at hand. . . . Concrete staves are generally set up dry, no mortar being used in the joints. In some types a grove is molded entirely around the edge of the stave. . . . The hoops or steel rods, placed to reinforce the silo, are set as the erection of the wall progressed. Hoops are usually composed of two or three sections, depending upon the diameter of the silo. The sections are joined by means of special lugs. After the hoops are placed in position they are drawn tight enough to hold them in position. . . . After the entire silo walls are completed, the hoops are drawn tight, care being exercised to draw them all to the same tension. . . . After the walls are erected and the hoops tightened, the interior walls are ready for a wash that seals the joints and produces a smooth, impervious surface. A cement wash, made of a mixture of cement and water and of the consistency of thick paint, is often used.[172]



Above: A detail view of the steel hoops and turnbuckles on a concrete stave silo. Right: An advertisement for concrete stave silos from the Prairie Farmer's Reliable Directory *(1918), 359.*

[169] Foster, "Silo Types and Essentials." Patents were granted on this type of stave silo in 1908, and the type was known commercially as the Playford patent cement stave silo.
[170] "How to Make and Sell Concrete Silo Staves," *Concrete* (October 1927): 32–35.
[171] David Mocine, "Keep Workmen Busy the Year Round," *Concrete Products* (January 1948): 161.
[172] "How to Make and Sell Concrete Silo Staves," *Concrete* (October 1927) 32–35.

Silos constructed with monolithic concrete walls also appeared in the early decades of the twentieth century. Concrete silos were built using "slip-forms," with the forms usually about two feet high and lifted once the level below had cured sufficiently, leaving horizontal cold joints between each level.[173] Such silos could be expensive to construct since labor was required to prepare the concrete and lift the forms. However, forms could be rented from contractors or cement manufacturers. Farmers who chose to build a concrete silo could obtain guidance from farm and building trade journals. Qualities of the reinforcing steel and type, concrete components and mixing, formwork, and concrete placement were outlined, as stated in this excerpt from *Hoard's Dairyman* from 1919:

> When used, the cement should be in perfect condition and contain no lumps, which cannot readily be pulverized between the fingers. Sand and gravel or broken stone should conform to the requirements of proper grading and cleanliness. . . . Water must be clean, free from oil, alkali, silt, loam, and clay in suspension. Steel used in reinforcement should be secured from one of the manufacturers specializing in steel for use in concrete construction. . . . Wire mesh fabrics may be used instead of steel bars but if used should contain an amount of metal equal in cross-section area to the rods for which substituted.[174]

In 1913, farmers were lectured at the annual gathering of the Illinois Farmers' Institute not only about the utility of the silo but also other issues to consider:

> The question of general arrangement of the farm buildings is too often neglected. This should be of second consideration, as there is beauty in utility. Often the upper portion of a well-built silo showing above the sloping roof of some of the other buildings adds very materially to the general appearance of the group of buildings. Also the side near the top often affords the best place for the farm name.[175]

Farm journals gave their readers information for constructing a silo with the "essential features . . . necessary to secure good, sweet silage," focusing primarily on the silo walls.[176] Wall strength, smoothness of interior wall surfaces, and air and water tightness were considered essential features. The foundation for the silo typically consisted of a wall ten inches minimum in width extending below the frost line and six to eight inches above grade. Conical roof shapes were common on some early silos, but gambrel and, later, domical roofs became more prevalent.[177] An essential feature of any roof was a snug fit to prevent birds from entering the silo.

After 1949, a new type of silo appeared: the blue Harvestore silos. Constructed of fiberglass bonded to sheets of metal, they were first introduced in Wisconsin. The glass-coated interior surface prevented silage from freezing and rust from forming. Because the container was airtight, the silage would not spoil. Augers, derived from coal-mining equipment, were used to bore the silage out at the bottom of the silo, a great change from the earlier top-unloaded silos. A large plastic bag at the top of the structure allowed changes in gas pressure to be equalized, and took up the space vacated by removal of silage.[178] In 1974 the company launched another line of products for the containment of manure called Slurrystore. By

[173] The presence of cold joints had the potential to allow air to enter the silo. Therefore, it was important to coat the silo interior with a layer of cement mortar. As with other silo types, this mortar layer needed to be renewed periodically.
[174] H. Colin Campbell, "Concrete Silo Construction," *Hoard's Dairyman* (21 February 1919): 200.
[175] King, "Planning the Silo," in *Eighteenth Annual Report of the Illinois Farmers' Institute,* 64.
[176] W.A. Foster, "Silo Types and Essentials," *Hoard's Dairyman* (21 February 1919): 201.
[177] Gambrel and domical roofs allowed for filling the silo to the top of the outer wall, maximizing the storage capacity.
[178] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 108–9.

1999, over 70,000 of Harvestore structures of various sizes (tall or short, narrow or stout) had been built.[179]

Silos are somewhat common in Channahon Township; this relates to the past importance of dairy farming and stock raising in agricultural economy of the township. Concrete stave and Harvestore silos are the most common, although one cast concrete silo was also documented.



Concrete stave, cast concrete, and Harvestore silos are present in the survey area, including these examples at the Porter–Lewis Farmstead, site 66 in section 3; the Dixon Farmstead, site 75 in section 5; and site 114 in section 20.

[179] Harvestore Systems, DeKalb, Illinois, www.harvestore.com

Other Farm Structures

> We did much of our own carpentering as a matter of course. The farmer who couldn't build his own henhouse or woodshed wasn't much of a farmer.[180]

Farmhouses, barns, corn cribs, and silos make up approximately half of the buildings surveyed as part of this study. The remaining outbuildings include many of the building types illustrated below. They include chicken houses, hog houses, milk houses, smokehouses, water tanks and windmills. As implied by the above quote, many of these outbuildings likely were built by the farmers themselves.

Above: site 63; site 98; other examples to be added for final draft.

[180] Britt, *An America That Was*, 127.

CHAPTER 4

SURVEY SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Period of Significance: 1835 to 1970

The first settlement by settlers of European origin occurred in Will County in the 1830s. Settlers first came to the region of present-day Channahon Township in the mid-1830s, and most areas of the township had been settled by the mid-1850s. An approximate starting date of 1835 is used for the period of significance.

Channahon Township began its development as a farming community and benefitted from its proximity along the Des Plaines and Du Page Rivers and Illinois and Michigan Canal. The township was successful as an agrarian community and canal town; however, the lack of an extensive railroad network limited its industrial growth. Channahon Township remained a rural community well into the twentieth century. In 1940, the United States government purchased a large expanse of land southeast of the Des Plaines River and developed it for use as an Ordnance Plant. All of the farmland was cleared and little physical evidence remains of the farmsteads and rural settlements that once occupied the territory.

The new route of U.S. Route 66 was completed in 1938 and proceeded due north-south down the centerline of Channahon Township. The road was re-designated Interstate 55 and upgraded to a limited-access highway in the late 1950s. The development of the interstate system in Channahon Township spurred industrialization along the interstate corridor which altered the agricultural landscape. Large manufacturing plants were erected along the interstate and the economic base of Channahon Township became more reliant on industry.

The Village of Channahon was incorporated in 1962. Since the 1960s, subdivisions have been constructed on existing farmsteads to the north and east of the village center. In recent years, the population and physical extent of the village has grown rapidly. Real estate developers have been aggressive in their demolition of rural structures and construction of large, upscale residential and commercial subdivisions to the west and northwest of the Village of Channahon, although the credit crisis and recession of 2008 have slowed growth over the last two years. With the advent of the interstate system came intensive industrialization and suburbanization and the decline of agriculture as a major social and economic force in Will County. Therefore, a closing date for the period of agricultural significance would fall approximately around 1970.

The use of the closing date of 1970, however, does not mean that all elements constructed prior to that time were surveyed. Only a select number constructed between 1950 and 1970 have been included. Horse farms in Channahon Township generally have not been included, unless they are located on a historic agricultural site. The contemporary horse farms not included in the survey of Channahon Township were omitted because of their apparent disconnection to the earlier agricultural economic life of the region; this applies to only a few properties in the township. Agricultural support structures such as manufactured buildings or grain bins that may post-date 1970 were included in the documentation of historic farmsteads.

Significance

National Register and Local Landmark Criteria

A selected number of properties within the rural survey area are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register Criteria for Evaluation, as cited below, provide standards that significant historic properties are required to meet in order to be listed in the National Register:

> The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:
>
> A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
> B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
> C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
> D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information in prehistory or history.[181]

The three criteria that are most applicable to the rural survey area are A, B, and C. Under Criterion A, the survey region has significance as a historic agricultural region with over 100 years of historical significance. The survey region has less significance under Criterion B, except on a local level as discussed below. Under Criteria A and C, the survey region contains architecturally significant structures that represent the diverse range of agricultural practices that occurred during the period of significance.

In addition to eligibility for national listing, properties within the survey region are also eligible for local Will County listing, either individually as landmarks or as a group as a preservation district. The following are the criteria for Will County landmark listing as stated in the Will County Preservation Ordinance:

> Criteria for Consideration of Nomination. The Commission may recommend to the County Board the designation of landmarks and preservation districts, where not more than fifty percent (50%) of the property owners whose property is located within the boundaries of the proposed district object to designation, when after a thorough investigation results in a determination that a property, structure or improvement, or area so recommended meets one (1) or more of the following criteria:
>
> a) It has character, interest, or value which is part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of a local community, the County of Will, State of Illinois or the Nation;
> b) Its location is a site of a significant local, County, State, or National event;
> c) It is identified with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the local community County or Will, State of Illinois, or the Nation;
> d) It embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials;
> e) It is identified with the work of a master builder, designer, architect, engineer, or landscape architect whose individual work has influenced the development of the local area, County of Will, State of Illinois, or the Nation;
> f) It embodies elements of design, detailing, materials, or craftsmanship that render it architecturally significant;
> g) It embodies design elements that make it structurally or architecturally innovative;

[181] Quoted from National Register Bulletin 15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources Division, 1997), 2; originally published in *Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 60*.

h) It has a unique location or singular physical characteristics that make it an established or familiar visual feature;
i) It has character which is a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure with a high level of integrity or architectural significance;
j) It is suitable for preservation or restoration;
k) It is included in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the Illinois Register of Historic Places.
l) It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to pre-history, history or other areas of archaeological significance.

In the event a property, structure, or an area is found to be of such significant character and quality where it is determined that its designation as a landmark or preservation district is in the overall best interest of the general welfare, any person may nominate and the Commission may recommend to the County Board such appropriate designation.

One of the differences between national and local listing is that local significance may be easier to justify than national significance. Properties that are eligible and listed as local landmarks, but may be more difficult to nominate for the National Register, receive important recognition and thereby afforded a certain measure of protection. Eventually, these properties could be listed as National Register properties if the case for their nomination improves. Additionally, local landmark designation often gives protections that National Register listing does not. The suggested properties have been researched sufficiently in performing this survey to merit consideration as Will County Landmarks.[182] It should be noted that some of the properties with local landmark potential could be determined, after performing additional research, to have sufficient significance for National Register designation.

Another measure of recognition is the listing of farmsteads that have been "owned by a straight or collateral line of descendants of the original owner for at least 100 years."[183] Since 1972, the Illinois Department of Agriculture has administered the Illinois Centennial Farms Program. Illinois has been settled by farmers since the early 1800s, meaning that some farms have been in the same family for more than 100 years. To recognize the achievement of 150 years of ownership, the Illinois Sesquicentennial Farms Program was established in 2000. Application for either program requires a written legal description and the familial line of farmer owners.

[182] It is useful at this point to provide general readers of this report with information on the issues surrounding the designation of a property as a Landmark as embodied in the Will County Preservation Ordinance. (The issues discussed herein are current as of the date of this report.) Landmarks may be properties (including districts), structures, or natural features. Any individual or group may propose a property for designation to the Historic Preservation Commission. Although the property owner does *not* need to be the party proposing designation, and the property owner does *not* need to grant consent in event of approval by the Historic Preservation Commission and the Will County Board, the property owner is notified in accordance with legal requirements of public hearings (adjacent property owners are notified as well).
The Will County Preservation Ordinance protects historic sites designated as Landmarks from alteration and demolition. (The ordinance also has a clause that provides for the review of demolition permits on buildings and structures 30 years and older.) All work on the Landmark (with the exception of normal maintenance) must be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission prior to beginning work, although work limited by economic hardship or in response to emergency situations is allowable with proper documentation. Demolition of a Landmark is permitted only after review of the demolition application by the Historic Preservation Commission, who may require written, graphic, and/or photographic documentation of the Landmark prior to demolition. Owners of Will County Landmarks are not obligated to preserve, rehabilitate, or restore their properties; however, owners may be eligible for low-interest loans, tax credits, or grants to assist with such actions. (Source: "Will County Landmark Nomination Questions," n.d.)
[183] Introduction to the Illinois Centennial Farms Program application form, Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Integrity

One important issue in the consideration of significance of a property or site is its historical and architectural integrity. This can be defined as the degree that a structure or group of structures retains its original configuration and materials, and that these materials are in good enough condition that measures can be taken to extend their service life. Replacement of selected elements, such as rotted wood members, may be necessary, but total replacement is not necessary. The issue applies primarily to the exterior of the structure, although in some cases the integrity of the interior may be a factor as well.

In the areas of Will County included in this and past intensive surveys, individual buildings on farmsteads may be in poor condition or significantly altered. In these instances, determination of significance can only be made on the historical importance of the original owner or builder. Some farmstead sites have an eroded integrity because of the loss of one or more significant structures, making it difficult to recognize the agricultural connections of the site. Determination of integrity has to be made on a case by case basis. In many instances, the presence of a former farmhouse or barn alone communicates agricultural origin of the site.

Another issue that defines the integrity of a structure is the presence of historically appropriate materials. Since a 150-year-old farmhouse is unlikely to have all of its original wood siding in place, an appropriate replacement would be wood siding material of similar dimension to the original. The presence of artificial or synthetic siding material, such as metal, aluminum, or vinyl siding, seriously detracts from the integrity of the building or element. It should be noted that this applies not only to farmhouses but barns and other agricultural support buildings. To address the addition of contemporary finish materials to historic buildings while still identifying structures of historic interest, this survey report uses the terminology "potentially" significant. This terminology is used to describe structures for which the overall form and architectural character remains intact, but for which contemporary finish materials have been added to the building exterior. The removal of these finish materials and the repair of the original wood siding (which typically is left in place in such installations) is a straightforward activity that, if implemented, would restore the integrity of these historic structures. Although the presence of contemporary finish materials generally disqualifies a structure from individual listing as a historic landmark in some registries, this survey report is intended to serve as a planning tool, and the identification of sites with a potential to be listed as historic landmarks increases the usefulness of this tool.

This issue is addressed in *Preservation Brief No. 8: Aluminum and Vinyl Siding on Historic Buildings*, which states the following:

> Preservation of a building or district and its historic character is based on the assumption that the retention of historic materials and features and their craftsmanship are of primary importance. Therefore, the underlying issue in any discussion of replacement materials is whether or not the integrity of historic materials and craftsmanship has been lost. Structures are historic because the materials and craftsmanship reflected in their construction are tangible and irreplaceable evidence of our cultural heritage. To the degree that substitute materials destroy and/or conceal the historic fabric, they will always subtract from the basic integrity of historically and architecturally significant buildings.[184]

Contributing and Non-contributing Properties

Many of the farmsteads and supporting rural sites in the survey can be considered contributing to a potential rural heritage district or simply retain the character of an agricultural development. In evaluating the sites in this survey, a contributing site is one that retains a *coherent* appearance as a farmstead or

[184] John H. Myers, with revisions by Gary L. Hume, *Preservation Brief No. 8, Aluminum and Vinyl Siding on Historic Buildings: The Appropriateness of Substitute Materials for Resurfacing Historic Wood Frame Buildings* (October 1984).

whatever its original function once was. Most of the structures on the property were observed to be in good or fair condition, although a few of the structures might be considered to be in poor condition. Non-contributing sites are listed as such because they lack integrity, such as potentially significant structures that have been significantly altered or were observed to be in poor condition. Abandoned farmsteads are also generally listed as non-contributing.

Will County Land Use Department Planning Documents

In April 2002, Will County adopted a new *Land Resource Management Plan*. The plan addresses the importance of Will County Landmarks and National Register designated properties and sites through preservation planning. The document is also very realistic, recognizing that growth likely will occur and, if not regulated properly, could have a detrimental impact on the character of the County's rural areas. The *Land Resource Management Pla*n focuses primarily on land use and development forms, but advocates that the preservation of rural areas should include the preservation of those elements significant to agricultural production and the agricultural landscape, such as rural structures. Therefore, the *Land Resource Management Plan* supports the goals for the preservation of rural structures.

The new *Land Resource Management Plan* also includes discussion of different forms of development in rural areas, both historically and at present. This includes preserving the character of hamlets and other small rural crossroad settlements. Contemporary development trends include Conservation Design Subdivisions, which rearrange the typical layout of streets and housing lots, setting aside a substantial amount of land as permanent open space. Conventional Suburban Residential subdivisions typically consume the entire development parcel. Historic structures and landscapes are specifically recognized in the *Land Resource Management Plan* as meriting protection when developing a Conservation Design Subdivision.[185]

A detailed review of the new *Land Resource Management Plan,* and its application to the rural survey area, is beyond the scope of this report. However, the information provided in this new document should be considered in the development of protection measures for the rural heritage areas and sites discussed below.

Municipal and County Government Coordination

As part of the survey of Channahon Township, significant farmstead sites that lie within the incorporated limits of the Village of Channahon were identified. Generally, the Will County Historic Preservation Commission does not consider landmark nominations for properties within incorporated municipalities. However, the Village of Channahon does not have a local historic preservation ordinance. Through the passage of a municipal ordinance granting Will County the authority to designate a property, a property nominated within the municipality could proceed through the normal landmark designation review process. If, in the future, the Village of Channahon were to adopt a local historic preservation ordinance, jurisdiction of county landmarks within the municipality would be transferred to local from county jurisdiction. If a municipality without a local historic preservation ordinance were to annex a property that is already designated as a county landmark, the Will County preservation ordinance would continue to govern protection of the property.

[185] To view the *Land Resource Management Plan* in its entirety, please visit http://www.willcountylanduse.com/lrmp/lrmpmain.html, or contact the Will County Land Use Department, Planning Division, at (815) 727-8430.

Potential Historic Districts, Thematic Designations, and Landmarks

Due to the extensive contemporary industrial and residential development which has occurred in most of Channahon Township, no potential historic districts have been identified as part of the present survey.

Individual Landmarks

Throughout the survey, there are several individual sites that have clear potential for local landmark status. These sites and other notable farmsteads are discussed individually in the following section beginning on page 93. Some of these sites may also have the potential for National Register nomination after additional research. It is clear from the limited research performed for this survey that the Randall farmstead in section 9 would likely be considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This does not mean that other sites are not eligible; merely that further study is required before a determination of eligibility could be made.

Will County landmark eligible properties include the following:

- Site 96 PIN No. 10-09-400-030 Randall Farmstead (page 93)
- Site 66 PIN No. 10-03-300-001 Porter–Lewis Farmstead (page 95)
- Site 78 PIN No. 10-05-300-008 McCowan Farmstead (page 96)
- Site 113 PIN No. 10-18-100-008 Bell Farmstead (page 99)

As noted above, the Randall Farmstead is considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This property is located within the incorporated limits of the Village of Channahon; however, since the village does not currently have a local historic preservation ordinance, it is included on this list for consideration by the Will County Historic Preservation Commission. Refer to the discussion of Municipal and County Government Coordination on the previous page.

Two other properties deserve particular mention. The Nickel Farmstead, site 61 and PIN 10-01-100-004 (page 98) contains a number of historic outbuildings dating to the mid-nineteenth century; however, the original farmhouse at this site has recently been demolished, and the demolition of the surviving structures on this site is pending. Due to the loss of historic integrity, the property is not included in the list of landmark-eligible properties. The Davis Farmstead, site 107 and PIN 10-16-101-001 (page 100) contains a circa 1850s house. The historic outbuildings on the site have been demolished subsequent to the 1988 survey, and the house itself has been remodeled and is currently in poor condition. Pending repair of the house and further consideration of the historic integrity of the site, this property could be considered for local landmark designation.

These properties, as well as other farmsteads associated with prominent families in Channahon Township, are discussed in detail beginning on page 93.

Survey Summary

The survey of Channahon Township documented 154 structures, including 21 houses and 16 main barns on 32 sites. Cumulatively since 1999, the Will County Rural Historic Structural Survey has documented more than 4,350 structures on more than 980 sites.[186] The tables below provide a breakdown of the survey results for Joliet, Troy, and Channahon Townships.

Farmhouses

House Type	Joliet	Troy	Channahon	Totals
I House	1	1	–	29
Hall and Parlor	–	–	–	20
New England 1-1/2	–	–	–	8
Four over Four	1	2	1	74
Side Hallway	–	1	–	9
Upright and Wing	3	8	4	176
Gabled Ell	13	19	6	185
Gable Front	5	4	1	55
Foursquare	2	2	2	83
Bungalow	6	2	3	44
Cape Cod	2	1	–	27
Ranch	6	8	3	*
Other	2	5	1	125
Totals	**41**	**53**	**21**	**835**

* Ranch type houses are grouped with the "Other" category.

Barns

Barn Type	Joliet	Troy	Channahon	Totals
Three-bay Threshing	1	4	1	168
Bank	1	2	3	21
Raised	–	–	1	7
Pennsylvania German	–	–	–	9
Three-ended	1	1	–	11
Plank frame	1	6	4	99
Feeder	–	3	6	30
Dairy	3	7	1	81
Round roof	–	–	–	5
Round	–	–	–	2
Other or Unclassified	–	–	–	14
Totals	**7**	**23**	**16**	**447**

[186] It should be noted that the rapid suburbanization of Will County since survey work began in 1999 means that some of these structures have already disappeared. For example, the 1999–2000 survey documented sites in Plainfield and Wheatland Townships. During an updated survey by WJE for the Village of Plainfield of the village's planning area in 2005–2006, it was found that 35 of 112 farmstead sites existing in 1999 had been demolished within the intervening six years.

Outbuildings

Building Type	Joliet	Troy	Channahon	Totals
Animal shed or shelter	—	6	2	88
Barn (secondary)	—	—	—	26
Cellar	2	—	1	7
Chicken coop	2	6	1	114
Corn crib	—	—	—	13
Crib barn	9	21	11	383
Foundation	3	2	5	77
Garage	31	36	21	333
Horse stable	3	3	—	13
Hog house	—	—	—	14
Implement shed	—	1	—	183
Machine shed	2	20	15	87
Mesh bin	—	1	—	43
Metal bin	8	31	3	397
Milk house	1	—	—	89
Pole barn / Manufactured building	16	35	19	338
Privy	2	—	—	9
Pump house / Well house	6	6	4	78
Shed	22	26	21	356
Silo	3	9	10	249
Smoke house	—	2	1	24
Summer kitchen	—	4	—	26
Windmill	1	3	1	42
Other	9	6	2	94
Totals	**120**	**218**	**117**	**3,083**
Total, including houses and barns	**168**	**294**	**154**	**4,368**

Comparison to 1988 Survey Results

As part of the data compilation, a limited comparison was made between the results of the 1988 reconnaissance survey of Will County and the existing conditions in Channahon Township in 2009. The 1988 survey, conducted by Michael A. Lambert in August–October 1988 for the State of Illinois, was a reconnaissance-level survey performed from the public right-of-way. In the 1988 survey of Channahon Township, approximately 220 buildings on 42 farmstead sites were documented.[187]

Among the farmstead sites documented in 1988, no historic structures survive at 13 sites in Channahon Township. Virtually all of these farmsteads have been lost to contemporary residential or industrial development. The loss of historic farmsteads has accelerated in the present decade.

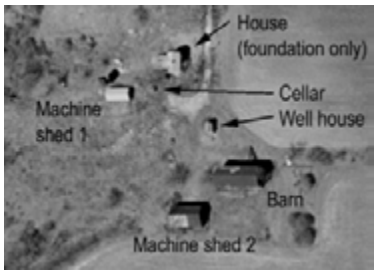
In addition, at seven sites in the township included in the present survey, contributing historic structures have been lost since 1988. This includes the loss of the original house or major historic outbuildings such as barns or crib barns. This must be considered an underestimate of the loss of historic structures since 1988, since this determination could be made only when the 1988 survey photograph clearly shows a historic building that no longer exists. The loss of historic structures on a property often seems to be related to the end of active farming and a change to residential use of the property.

[187] Excluded from this total are five sites in Channahon Township that were not documented during the 1988 survey, but which are included in the present survey and therefore obviously existed at that time.

The following series of tables list farmsteads and sites included in the survey area and their potential for landmark designation; farmhouses, with type; and barns, with type. The ID numbers listed on the tables correlate to the maps included in Appendix C.

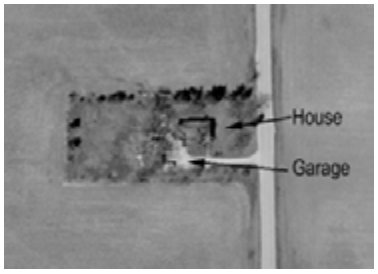
Table 1. Surveyed Farmsteads and Related Sites in Channahon Township

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
61	10-01-100-004	Schweitzer Road	**Nickel Farmstead**	Contributing



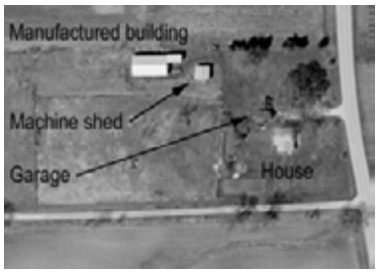

1918 directory: Michael Nickel, wife Carrie, children: Hattie, Arthur, Carrie, and Mattie

62	10-01-100-007	Vetter Road	**Riess House**	Non-contributing



Newly developed house site, 1940s.

64	10-01-300-013	Vetter Road	**Fallon Farmstead**	Contributing



ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
63	10-01-300-014	Vetter Road	**Millon Farmstead**	Contributing

66	10-03-300-001	Frontage Road	**Porter–Lewis Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

71	10-04-100-007	South Canal Road	**Essington–Kunke Farmstead**	Non-contributing

1918 directory, wife Mary A. Emiley, "Locust Grove Farm" owner of 157.5 acres, resident in county since 1886.

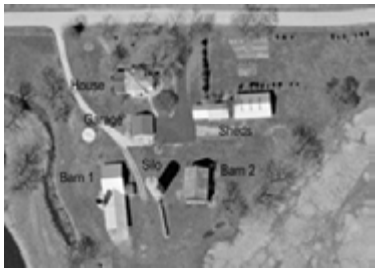
Includes 1988 Sites No. 4-01, 4-02, and 4-03.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
73	10-04-100-007	South Canal Road		Non-contributing

First indicated as a separate parcel on 1948 plat map. Not visible in 1939 aerial photography.

76	10-05-200-001	North Canal Road	**Julian Duval House**	Non-contributing

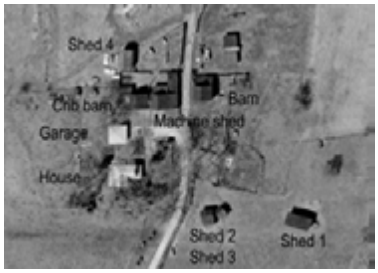
74	10-05-200-030	North Canal Road	**Limacher Farmstead**	Contributing



Per 1918 directory, Peter Limacher resident in county since 1854.

Limited access, survey performed from road right-of-way

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
78	10-05-300-008	Ford Road	**McCowan Farmstead**	Local landmark potential




75	10-05-400-005	South Canal Road	**Dixon Farmstead**	Contributing

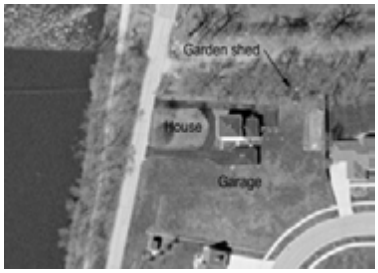

This farmstead is historically associated with an adjacent 160 acre farm parcel, the SW 1/4 of sec. 4

79	10-06-400-030	Minooka Road	**Dirst Farmstead**	Contributing




1918 directory: John F. Dirst, wife Ida A. Paul, children Paul, Fletcher, Almira, Stewart, Wilson, Helen, Harold W.; resident in county since 1891; "Alfalfa Meadow Farm"

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
85	10-08-100-022	Tryon Street		Non-contributing



Does not exist in 1939 aerial view. Constructed circa 1950s on parcel subdivided from Edward Liberty, Sr., farmstead.

98	10-09-106-006	U.S. Route 6 (Eames Street)	**Varley Farmstead**	Contributing

1918 directory: Thomas Varley (born 1878), children: Mary, Raymond, Alice

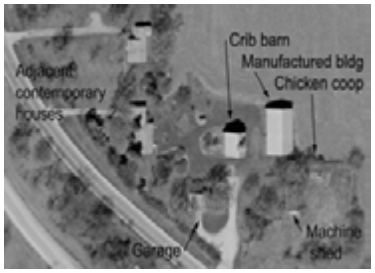
Ranch house adjacent to the south built in 1973.

96	10-09-400-030	Bluff Road	**Randall Farmstead**	National Register potential

1888 directory: J. S. Randall, 81 acres (W. H. Kirkham listed in New Lenox Township)

1918 directory: John J. Dempsey, wife Mary, children John, Leo, Edwin
Adjacent ranch house built 1961. Adjacent subdivision developed in 1980s and 1990s. Currently vacant.

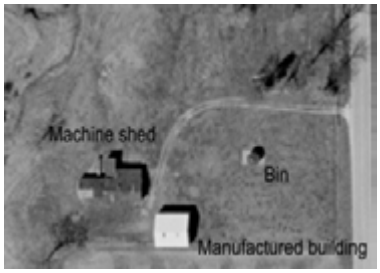
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
100	10-10-300-003	Frontage Road	**Glidden–Beith Farmstead**	Non-contributing



1918 directory: Frank P. Bieth, wife Melissa Glidden; children Mary and Stephen. also residing at farm is Cornelia Glidden.

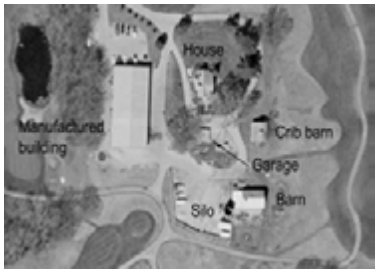
1988 photo seems to show one-room schoolhouse on site.
Notice posted for rezoning and annexation of parcel to Village of Channahon, August 2008.
It is unclear whether "Beith" or "Bieth" is the preferred spelling.

101	10-12-100-004	Vetter Road		Non-contributing



102	10-12-300-002	Millsdale Road	**Emiley Farmstead**	Non-contributing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
109	10-16-100-016	Bluff Road	**Connell Farmstead**	Contributing




Likely acquired by Connell family around 1884 (Date of residency in county given in 1918 directory for Charles W. Connell.) Since the early 1990s, this farmstead has been owned by the Channahon Park District.

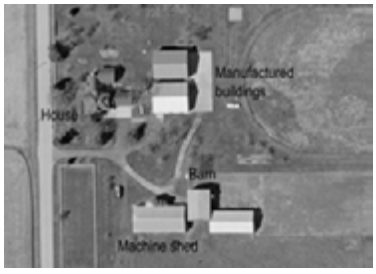
Now serves as the maintenance complex for the Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Course, opened in 1993.

107	10-16-101-001	Bluff Road	**Davis Farmstead**	Contributing

1918 directory: Ralph W. Davis (wife Flora), tenant on 190 acres owne d by W. B. Davis

Much of the former farmland associated with this farmstead is now owned by the Channahon Park District and has been developed as a golf course.

113	10-18-100-008	Bell Road	**Bell Farmstead**	Local landmark potential




1918 directory lists William Bell, resident of county since 1869; children include Fannie, George, Milton, Leslie, Marie, and Oliver

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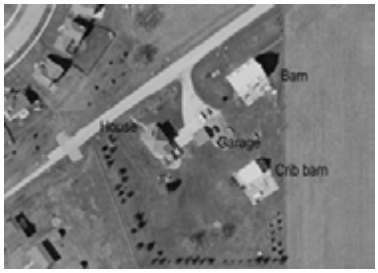
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
147	10-18-401-008	Bridge Street		Contributing

1918 directory lists John Briscoe, wife Lottie Kammerer, children Cyril, Jeraldine, Cleota, Naomi, owner of 280 acres in sections 18, 19, and 20; resident in county since 1879.

111	10-19-100-010	Hansel Road	**Feeney Farmstead**	Contributing



1918 directory: Barney Feeney, wife Mary Ann, children: John, Francis, William, Robert, Michael; resident of county since 1861. Owned by Feeney descendants into the 1960s.

112	10-19-200-018	Hansel Road	**John W. McDonald Farmstead**	Contributing

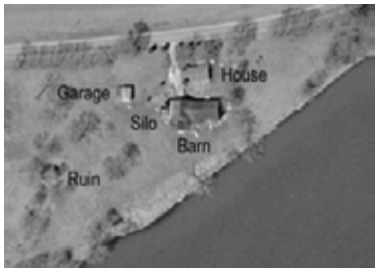
1918 directory lists McDonald Brothers (James J. and John M.) as tenants on 301 acres owned by John W. McDonald, their father, a resident of the county since 1854.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
120	10-20-100-029	Blackberry Lane		Non-contributing

157	10-20-101-013	Blackberry Lane	**Rittof Farm**	Non-contributing

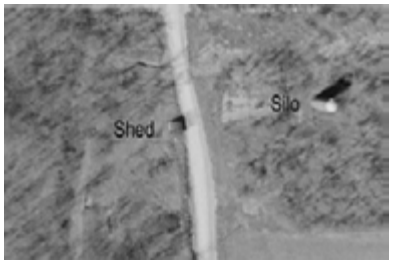
Newly established farmstead in 1950.

110	10-20-200-002	Front Street	**Briscoe Farmstead**	Non-contributing



1918 directory: Mrs. Patrick Briscoe, children William J., Richard A., Agnes F., Nichols, John, Mary, Michael, Ellen, Edward, resident in county since 1878; "Briscoe Homestead"

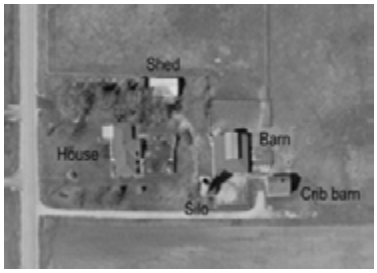
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
114	10-20-300-013	Blackberry Lane		Non-contributing



1918 directory lists Nicholas Briscoe under his mother's entry (see site 110) but is indicated as not residing at home. No Wagner listed for Channahon Township in 1918.

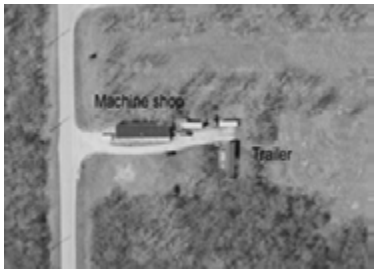
Remnants of barn foundation visible adjacent to silo

116	10-30-200-006	McKinley Woods Road		Contributing



115	10-30-200-008	McKinley Woods Road	**Michael McDonald Farmstead**	Contributing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
122	10-31-303-006	County Line Road		Non-contributing



The 1878 directory also lists Mrs. Peter Coyle (perhaps the mother of Ellen Coyle). The 1884 listing includes Mrs. Peter Coyle, sec. 29; Ellen Coyle, sec. 31, this farmstead; and Peter Coyle [Jr.], sec. 32. By 1888, Peter Coyle owned the property in sections 29 and 32.

118	10-31-400-011	Des Plaines River Road		Contributing

Table 2. Farmhouses in Channahon Township

ID		House Type	Style	Materials	
	Date	*Significance*			
61		—	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	—	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	—
				Roof:	—
62		Ranch	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1949	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Cement asbestos shingle
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
63		Upright and wing	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete block, stone
	1870s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
64		Upright and wing	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete block, stone
	1870s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Aluminum siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
66		Ranch	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1950s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
71		—	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	—	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	—
				Roof:	—
74		Gabled Ell	Queen Anne	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1900	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Cement asbestos shingle
75		Bungalow	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1910s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Cement asbestos shingle
				Roof:	Cement asbestos shingle
76		Gable Front	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1943	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
78		Gabled Ell	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1830s-1840s	*Local landmark potential*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
79		Bungalow	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1914	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Brick
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
85		American Foursquare	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1950s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle

ID		House Type	Style	Materials	
	Date	***Significance***			
96		Four over Four	Greek Revival	**Foundation:**	Brick
	circa 1859	*National Register potential*		**Walls:**	Brick
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
98		Gabled Ell	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1939	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle roof
107		Upright and wing	Greek Revival	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1850s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
109		Gabled Ell	Tudor Revival	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1930s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
111		American Foursquare	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1910s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
112		Upright and wing	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1870s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
113		Gabled Ell	Queen Anne	**Foundation:**	Stone, concrete
	1890s	*Local landmark potential*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
115		Bungalow	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1930s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Brick, vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
118		Gabled Ell	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1880s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
120		Raised ranch	Contemporary	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1990s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
147		Split-level	Contemporary	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1963	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Brick
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle

Table 3. Barns in Channahon Township

ID	Barn Type	Materials	
Date	*Significance*		
61	Raised barn	**Foundation:**	Stone
1860s	*Local landmark potential*	**Walls:**	Stone / vertical wood siding
		Roof:	Sheet metal
66	Bank barn	**Foundation:**	Stone
1860s	*Local landmark potential*	**Walls:**	Wood plank
		Roof:	Sheet metal
74	Bank barn	**Foundation:**	Stone
1870s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Board and batten
		Roof:	Asphalt shingle
74	Feeder barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood plank
		Roof:	Sheet metal
75	—	**Foundation:**	—
—	*Non-contributing*	**Walls:**	—
		Roof:	—
78	Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	None
1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood
		Roof:	Sheet metal
79	Feeder barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
1930s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Sheet metal
		Roof:	Sheet metal
79	Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood plank
		Roof:	Sheet metal
98	Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood
		Roof:	Sheet metal
109	Three-bay threshing	**Foundation:**	Stone
1870s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Board and batten
		Roof:	Sheet metal
110	Bank barn	**Foundation:**	Stone
1870s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood
		Roof:	Sheet metal
111	Dairy barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
1910s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood siding
		Roof:	Sheet metal

ID		Barn Type	Materials	
	Date	***Significance***		
112		Feeder barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1930s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Concrete block, wood
			Roof:	Sheet metal
113		Feeder barn	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Board and batten
			Roof:	Sheet metal
115		Feeder barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1930s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Concrete block
			Roof:	Sheet metal
116		Feeder barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1930s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Concrete block, wood
			Roof:	Sheet metal, asphalt shingle
120		Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1930s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Concrete block, wood
			Roof:	Sheet metal

Notable Farmsteads in Channahon Township

Randall Farmstead ***Site 96 (PIN 10-09-400-030)***

This farmstead was established by John T. Randall around 1859. Randall was born in Orleans County, Vermont, in 1815, but grew up in New York. The ancestors of the Randall family had come to America about 1640 and settled in Scituate, Massachusetts. In 1849, John Randall and his wife Beulah S. Russell came to Will County with their young children. They had six children, Albert, Oscar, Gershom, Laura, Mary, and Joseph. The family first settled in Troy Township along the Du Page River, but moved to the Village of Channahon in 1855. In 1859 they settled this farm east of the village in section 9 of Channahon Township. John Randall represented Channahon Township on the Board of Supervisors from 1863 to 1865, and later served as township assessor and township highway commissioner. He died November 30, 1882, and Beulah survived him until September 16, 1891.[188] The large brick Greek Revival style house on the property was likely built for the John T. Randall family around 1859.

The large Greek Revival style brick house on the Randall Farmstead was likely built around 1859 for the Randall family.

Albert T. Randall was born in Ohio in 1837, the son of John and Beulah Randall. Around 1857, Albert T. Randall left his parents' home in Channahon Township, living for a time in Wisconsin before setting out with a gold prospecting party for Pike's Peak, Colorado, in 1859. He served in the Civil War as part of the First Colorado Infantry. After the war, he returned to Will County and took charge of the family farm. IN 1890, Albert Randall moved into the village, and opened a dry goods and grocery store. After his mother's death in 1891, he sold this farmstead to William H. Kirkham, although he still owned farmland in sections 17 and 18 that was rented out. Albert T. Randall served variously as assessor, justice of the peace, and on the board of supervisors for Channahon Township.[189]

[188] Woodruff (1878), 837; *Genealogical and Biographical Record of Kendall and Will Counties, Illinois* (Chicago: Biographical Publishing Company, 1901), 232–233.
[189] *Kendall and Will Counties* (1901), 232–233; Stevens (1907), 672–673.

The owner of this farmstead after the Randall family was William Henry Kirkham. He was a son of John Kirkham, a native of Nottinghamshire, England, who immigrated to the United States in 1856. John Kirkham worked as a laborer and rented several farms in Will County before buying a farm around 1870 in Lockport Township. John Kirkham and his wife Mary had two daughters and a son. Their son William Henry was born in 1860 and was educated in the Lockport schools, graduating from high school there. He married Lillian Hopkins. William and Lillian and their family resided at this farmstead in the 1890s.[190]

As shown on historic atlases and plat maps, by the early 1900s this farmstead was owned by Al Schweizer, and by 1918 by the John J. Dempsey family as noted in the *Prairie Farmer's Reliable Directory of Farmers and Breeders of Will and Southern Cook Counties*. The farmstead was owned by Dempsey family into the 1970s. The existing gambrel roof crib barn and other outbuildings on the site were likely built for the Dempsey family. This Dempsey family is likely the descendants of John and Ellen Dempsey, farmers who settled in sections 28 and 29 of Troy Township in the 1840s. Refer to the discussion of the Dempsey Farmstead in the Joliet and Troy Townships survey report, page 162.

Due to the locally distinctive character of the circa 1859 brick Greek Revival style house on the site, the Randall Farmstead is considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Randall Farmstead also contains a contributing circa 1920s crib barn (at left) and two other outbuildings: an older garage (at right), and a contemporary two-car garage.

[190] *Kendall and Will Counties* (1901), 217–218; Stevens (1907), 382–385.

Porter–Lewis Farmstead ***Site 66 (PIN 10-03-300-001)***

Leman and Arzelia Porter came to Will County in 1866 from Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and purchased this 240 acre farmstead. Around 1871, they purchased an adjoining 80 acre tract making the farm a full quarter section. Leman Porter died in 1895. Their son, Harvey B. Porter, was born in Ohio in 1860 and came west with his parents. Harvey Porter attended the Tri-State Normal School in Angola, Indiana, and graduated in 1888. After graduating, he moved to Joliet and opened a model-making shop. In the early 1890s, as his father's health declined, Harvey Porter returned to take up management of the farm. He served as highway commissioner for Channahon Township for several years. One daughter of Leman and Arzelia Porter, Alta, married C. Sherman Lewis, a farmer in Channahon Township.[191]

By 1909, Alta Porter Lewis and her sisters had inherited the farmstead. In the 1918 directory, C. Sherman and Alta Lewis are listed as residing here, at the "Sunset View Farm." Their children included Alma, Leslie, and Charles. The farm is still owned by the Lewis descendants today. Due to the presence of the well-preserved bank barn and other historic outbuildings, the Porter–Lewis farmstead is judged to be Will County landmark eligible.

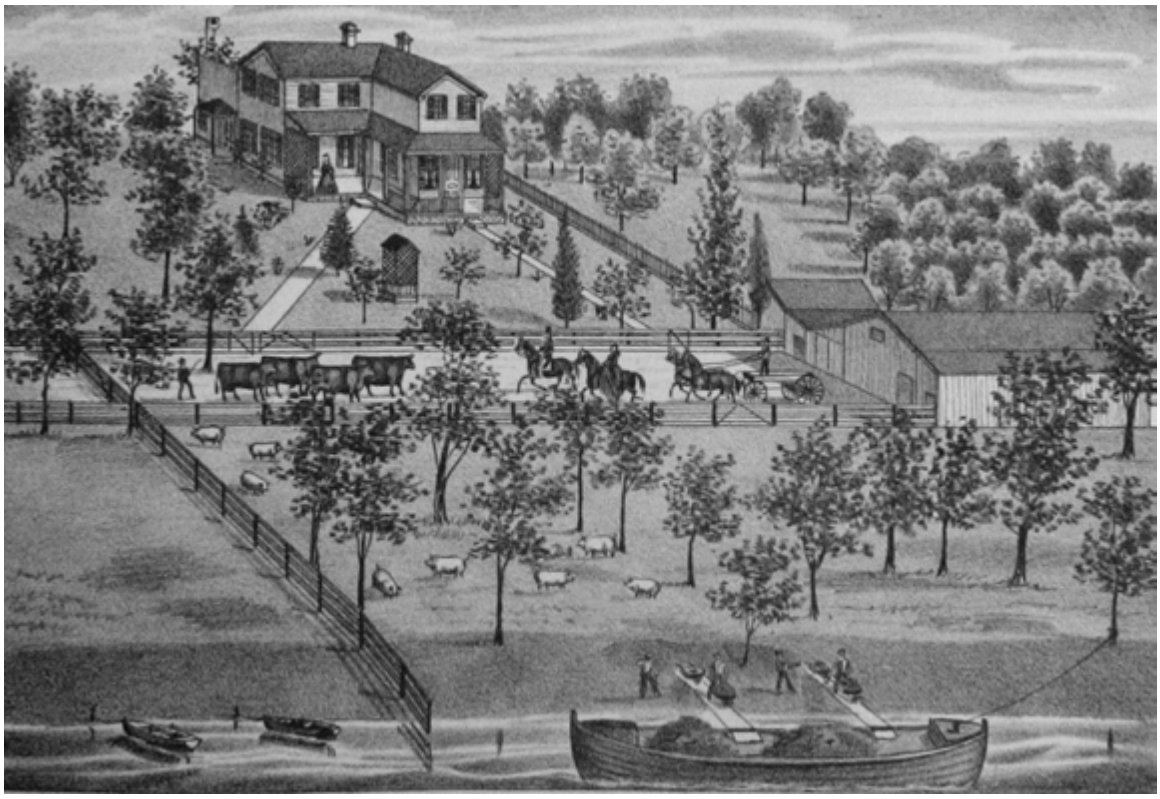
Above: view of the Porter–Lewis Farmstead in section 3, site 66 in the present survey, published in the 1873 Combination Atlas Map of Will County, *plate 77. Of the various structures shown in this view, only the bank barn still exists (at center with cupola). Below left: The circa 1860s bank barn as it appears today. Below right: Other outbuildings, such as the arch roof crib barn, were likely built by the Lewis family after 1900.*

[191] *Genealogical and Biographical Record of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: Biographical Publishing Company, 1900), 444–445.

McCowan Farmstead ***Site 78 (PIN 10-05-300-008)***

Peter McCowan immigrated to the United States from Scotland. Peter and his wife Arabella moved to Will County in 1835 and settled on this site, which at the time was unbroken prairie. Their son, John McCowan, was born in New York State in 1826 and came west with his parents. John continued to farm this site until retiring in 1874, after which he moved to Joliet (still alive in 1907). John's wife was Sarah McCowan, born in Pennsylvania in 1837.[192] Another son of Peter and Arabella, Charles, was born in New York in 1832. Charles established a farm site in section 7 of Channahon Township in 1857, of which no evidence survives, while John farmed this site.[193]

Abel McCowan, son of John and Sarah, was raised on this farm. He was born May 13, 1852, in the house on this site. He taught two terms of school in Troy Township of Will County and Aux Sable Township in Grundy County, before taking up farming at the family homestead. "Abel S. McCowan . . . owns and cultivates 176 acres of land on section 5. He also buys and ships stock. . . . He has good buildings upon [his farm] and the latest improved machinery and all the equipments of the place are such as facilitate the work of the farm. He buys and ships much stock and as he is an excellent judge of farm animals he is enabled to make judicious purchases and profitable sales."[194] Abel McCowan and his wife Antoinette are listed as residing here at the "Wide Water Farm" in the 1918 directory, but the McCowan family had sold the farmstead by the 1920s. Since the 1950s, this farmstead has been owned by Francis W. and Marjorie Meade.



View of the McCowan Farmstead in section 5, site 78 in the present survey, published in the 1873 Combination Atlas Map of Will County, *plate 75½. The gabled ell house depicted still exists, although somewhat altered. As seen in this view, the front gable of the house (right side of house) is oriented to the east to face the Illinois and Michigan Canal. Note the canal boat in the foreground.*

[192] Stevens (1907), 694–695.
[193] Woodruff (1878), 837.
[194] Stevens (1907), 694–695.


Left: At least portions of the gabled ell house at site 78 likely date to the 1830s or 1840s. Compare to the illustration on the previous page. This photograph is taken from the northeast at a reverse angle to the sketch; the east-facing front gable is at the left in this photograph. Right: The existing outbuildings on the site likely date to the early part of the twentieth century.

Although the gabled ell farmhouse on the site is somewhat altered, due to its age, association with an early farm family of the township, and its site orientation facing the Illinois and Michigan Canal, this property is judged to be Will County landmark eligible.

The 1909 S*tandard Atlas of Will County* indicates that F. McCowan owned the farm in section 6 of Channahon Township, site 79 in the present survey (PIN 10-06-400-030). By 1918 as noted in the *Prairie Farmer's Reliable Directory of Farmers and Breeders of Will and Southern Cook Counties*, the owner was John F. "Fred" Dirst. The existing buildings on the site were likely built by the Dirst family in the 1910s and 1920s.


Above: The Dirst Farmstead, site 79 in the present survey, was apparently established in the 1910s on land formerly owned by the McCowan family. The existing bungalow house, feeder barn, and concrete block crib barn date to the ownership of this farm by the Dirst family.

Nickel Farmstead ***Site 61 (PIN 10-01-100-004)***

Henry Nickel was born in Germany in 1821 and immigrated to the United States in 1850. He ultimately settled in Channahon Township, and owned this farm by the 1870s. He died in 1899. One son, Joseph Nickel, settled a farmstead in section 22 of Troy Township, local landmark-eligible site 82. Refer to the Joliet and Troy Townships survey report for a discussion of this farmstead. Another son, Michael Nickel, was born here in 1861 and later inherited the original homestead. He and his wife Caroline Brookman had seven children.[195] Michael and Caroline Nickel resided here in 1918 as noted in the directory, although the farm was sold after the 1920s.

The Nickel Farmstead, now abandoned and facing demolition, contains a number of locally distinctive farm buildings dating to the mid nineteenth century. Above left: The raised barn on the site has a local limestone ground floor and a heavy timber upper structure. Above right: Another stone building on the site is this smokehouse or root cellar. Below left: Only the stone foundation remains of the original house on the site. This gabled ell type house is documented as site 1-04 in the 1988 survey. Below right: The farmstead contains several other wood-framed outbuildings.

[195] Stevens (1907), 846–847.

Bell Farmstead ***Site 113 (PIN 10-18-100-008)***

William Bell was born in northern Ireland in 1839. He immigrated to Canada with his parents in 1847, and in 1868 moved to Will County, Illinois, shortly after his marriage to May Latimer, a native of Canada. They settled this farmstead in section 18. William and May had six children, Fannie, Ervin, Milton, Oliver, Leslie, and Marie. The Bell farm ultimately included 238 acres in section 18 of Channahon Township and adjacent land in Grundy County. As shown on historic plat maps, this farmstead was owned by Bell descendants into the 1960s.[196] Although the farmhouse on this site has been altered by the addition of vinyl siding and vinyl windows, the site is considered potentially Will County landmark eligible due to its association with a long-resident farm family and as a rare example of a high-style farmhouse in Channahon Township.

Left: The large Queen Anne style house at this farmstead was built for William and May Bell, likely in the 1890s or early 1900s. Right: The feeder barn on the site also was likely built when the Bell family owned the farmstead.

Varley Farmstead ***Site 98 (PIN 10-09-106-006)***

The 1873 atlas of Will County indicates that William French was the owner of this farmstead. As indicated on the 1893 atlas and subsequent maps into the 1920s, the farmstead was owned by Thomas Varley. Thomas Varley was a pioneer of Wheatland Township, with a homestead in section 28 of that township. He emigrated from Yorkshire, England, in 1850 and settled immediately in Will County.[197] The Varley that owned this site in the twentieth century was likely his grandson, also named Thomas Varley. According to the 1918 *Prairie Farmer's Reliable Directory of Farmers and Breeders of Will and Southern Cook Counties*, Thomas Varley, born in 1878, owned this 80 acre farm.

The Varley farmstead has an interesting plank frame style barn.

[196] Stevens (1907), 757–758.
[197] *Portrait and Biographical Album of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: Chapman Bros., 1890), 399–400.

Davis Farmstead ***Site 107 (PIN 10-16-101-001)***

George B. Davis was born in Montgomery County, New York, in 1821. His father, Joseph Davis, was a pioneer in Will County in 1836, and his family joined him in Channahon Township in 1837. Joseph Davis purchased land but before the family could establish a homestead, he died on September 30, 1838. Thereafter, George Davis and his brothers carried on the farm. In 1843, George Davis married Olive Comstock, and they purchased the land for a farmstead, site 107 in the present survey, from the government on April 8, 1845. He served as School Director and Trustee in Channahon Township.[198] George B. Davis died in 1901, and his son Wilbur Davis inherited the farmstead.

Wilbur B. Davis was born here in 1860. He worked on his father's farm and in 1882 married Harriet Sage. They had four children, including Ralph W. Davis, who later inherited the farmstead.[199] By the time of the 1918 directory, Ralph W. Davis (born 1891) and his wife Flora are listed as tenants on this site, the "Hickory Grove Farm," which was still owned by Wilbur Davis. The farmstead was owned by Davis descendants into the 1980s. Portions of the surrounding farmland was acquired by the Channahon Park District in the early 1990s for a public golf course.

Only the historic farmhouse survives at this site. The circa 1850s upright and wing style house has been greatly remodeled and is currently in poor condition, although some indications of its original Greek Revival style remain.

[198] Woodruff (1878), 835; *Will County* (1900), 334–335.
[199] Stevens (1907), 714–715.

Limacher Farmstead ***Site 74 (PIN 10-05-200-030)***

Historic atlases and plat maps identify Peter Limacher and other members of the Limacher family as the owner of this farmstead from 1873 into the 1940s. Peter Limacher was likely a sibling of Joseph Limacher of Joliet, who came to Will County with his parents from Switzerland as a young child.[200] According to the 1918 directory, Peter Limacher had been a resident of the county since 1854 (either the date of his birth or the family's arrival in Will County). The farmstead retains a historic house and several large barns and other outbuildings.

Historic buildings on the Limacher farmstead include the house, which has been greatly remodeled and expanded but retains some original detailing, such as the eave brackets, as well as numerous outbuildings, including a bank barn, a feeder barn, and two silos.

Dixon Farmstead ***75 (PIN 10-05-400-005)***

This farmstead was illustrated in the 1873 *Combination Atlas Map of Will County*, at which time the owner was William Gathany. However, no structures survive from that time. According to the 1893 *Plat Book* and 1902 *Map of Will County*, the owner was L. M. Cantrell. After the Cantrell family, the farm was owned by the Dixon family, from the early 1900s into the 1940s. Per the 1918 directory, the farmstead was occupied by Smith R. "Harry" Dixon as tenant on 237 acres owned by his father J. T. Dixon. Most of the existing buildings on the site were likely built for the Dixon family. Although the farm buildings are located in a small portion of the southeast quarter of section 5, this farmstead traditionally is connected to the 160 acre parcel at the southwest corner of section 4.

The Dixon farmstead contains a bungalow style house and a small crib barn with lean-to shed addition, among numerous other outbuildings.

[200] Maue (1928), 759.

Connell Farmstead ***Site 109 (10-16-100-016)***

The 1862 and 1873 atlases of the county identify the owner of this farmstead as M. Manning. The three-bay threshing barn on the site likely dates to the period of Manning family ownership. From 1893 into the 1970s, atlases and plat maps indicate that the farmstead was owned by the Connell family. Other buildings on the site, including the Tudor Revival style house, were built for the Connell family.

Since the early 1990s, this farmstead has been owned by the Channahon Park District. It now serves as the maintenance complex for the Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Course, opened in 1993.

Historic farm buildings surviving at the Connell Farmstead include the Tudor Revival style house and the three-bay threshing barn.

Feeney Farmstead ***Site 111 (PIN 10-19-100-010)***

Early twentieth century atlases and plat maps indicate that this farmstead was owned by the Feeney family. The farmstead was apparently acquired by Barney Feeney in 1861, and he still resided here in 1918 as listed in the *Prairie Farmer's Reliable Directory of Farmers and Breeders of Will and Southern Cook Counties*. The existing American Foursquare house and gambrel roof dairy barn date to the first decades of the 1900s. The farm was owned by Feeney descendants into the 1960s.

The Feeney farmstead contains a number of early twentieth century farm buildings, including the American Foursquare style house and the gambrel roof dairy barn.

Charles C. Smith Farmstead ***Section 21, does not survive***

A major early landowner in Channahon Township was Charles C. Smith. His extensive holdings were located in sections 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 32, and 33. His large residence was located in the southeast quarter of section 21. All of this land was acquired by the U.S. government after 1940 for the Joliet Arsenal, and no trace of the farmstead buildings on this large estate survive.

Charles Clayborn Smith, born in Jefferson County in eastern Tennessee, in 1818. He settled in Joliet with his parents in 1835; his father, Barton Smith, was a veterinarian and served as Justice of the Peace. For nine years Charles Smith worked as a peddler, travelling by wagon throughout Cook, Iroquois, Vermillion, and Will Counties. Around 1848, he began to rent a farmstead in section 21 of Channahon Township, a 140-acre plot of which 35 acres had been broken, the rest being native prairie and woodland. By 1850, he was able to purchase the farm. For many years, he herded cattle on the open prairie of his farm. His holdings gradually increased, and by the 1890s he owned 2,950 acres in Channahon and Wilmington Townships. He had a dairy herd of 150 cows that supplied a creamery and also had a contract to supply beef to the State Penitentiary in Joliet; in one year alone he supplied beef worth $35,000. Smith's wife was Corenza Burr, who had grown up in Jackson's Grove in Will County; the Burrs were extended family to Aaron Burr, third Vice President of the United States. Of their nine children who survived to adulthood, Charles W. Smith, who married Margaret A. Miller, took up farming in Channahon Township, specializing in beef cattle. Another son, Floyd H., inherited 630 acres and continued to operate the main farmstead after Charles Smith's death in 1892.[201]

Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Corenza Smith in 1890.

[201] Woodruff (1878), 837; Chapman (1890), 659–660, and *Kendall and Will Counties* (1901), 85–86.

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Previous Surveys

In 1988, Will County performed a survey of unincorporated rural areas, documenting approximately 4,867 structures dating from before 1945. The documentation, performed by architect Michael A. Lambert, consisted of black and white photographs and a completed information card utilizing a format established by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Recorded information included the approximate age, architectural style, construction materials, noticeable additions or alterations, and overall condition of the structure. For most sites, survey data was gathered from the public right-of-way. In addition to the survey a report was prepared, "Historic Structures of Will County," dated 1991. The report examined the overall rural themes present in the county and identification of noteworthy structures.

In 1999, the Will County Land Use Department, acting as liaison for the Will County Historic Preservation Commission, engaged Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. to perform an intensive survey of Wheatland, Plainfield, and Lockport Townships in northwest Will County, Illinois. In 2001, an intensive survey was performed of Du Page Township in Will County, followed by Homer Township in 2002; New Lenox Township in 2003; Green Garden Township in 2004; Manhattan Township in 2006; and Frankfort Township in 2007. The resulting reports from these surveys were used as a basis for developing this report.

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GLOSSARY

abutment. A masonry mass (or the like) which receives the thrust of an arch, vault, or strut.

adaptive reuse. The conversion or functional change of a building from the purpose or use for which it was originally constructed or designed. Such conversions are accomplished with varying degrees of alterations to the building. The more change that is necessary, the less likely that particular new use is appropriate for a historic building.

addition. An extension or increase in floor area, number of stories, or height of a building or structure.

arch. A curved construction which spans an opening; usually consists of wedge-shaped blocks call voussoirs, or a curved or pointed structural member which is supported at the sides or ends. Arches vary in shape from semicircular and semi-elliptical to bluntly or acutely pointed arches.

architectural conservation. The science of preserving architecture and its historic fabric by observing and analyzing the evolution, deterioration, and care of structures; the conducting of investigations to determine the cause, effect, and solution of structural problems; and the directing of remedial interventions focused on maintaining the integrity and quality of historic fabric.

balloon frame. A system of framing a wooden building where all vertical structural elements of the exterior walls and partitions consist of light single studs (usually 2x4, but sometimes larger) which may extend the full height of the frame and are fastened by nails to the studs. Balloon framing differs from a braced frame in that a balloon framed wall acts as a bearing wall and does not rely on posts and beams to support joists.

baluster. One of a number of short vertical members, often circular in section used to support a stair, porch, or balcony handrail or a coping.

balustrade. An entire railing system (as along the edge of a balcony) including a top rail and its balusters, and sometimes a bottom rail.

barrel vault. A masonry vault of plain, semicircular cross section, supported by parallel walls or arcades and adapted to longitudinal areas.

bay. one architectural subdivision of a wall, roof, or structure marked by repetition of similar elements, such as columns or windows.

beam. A horizontal structural member whose prime function is to carry transverse loads, as a joist, girder, rafter, or purlin

brick. A solid or hollow masonry unit of clay or shale, molded into a rectangular shape while plastic, and then burnt in a kiln

column. A slender vertical element carrying compressive loads from other structural elements above.

contributing. A historic property which retains historical integrity and forms a part of a grouping of related properties

corbel. In masonry, a projection or one of a series of projections, each stepped progressively farther forward with height; anchored in a wall, story, column, or chimney; used to support an overhanging member above or, if continuous, to support overhanging courses

cornice. The exterior trim of a structure at the meeting of the roof and wall or at the top of the wall in the case of a parapet, usually consisting of bed molding, soffit, fascia, and crown molding; any molded projection which crowns or finishes the part to which it is affixed; the third or uppermost division of an entablature, resting on the frieze; an ornamental molding, usually of wood or plaster, running round the walls of a room just below the ceiling; a crown molding; the molding forming the top member of a door or window frame

course. a continuous horizontal range of masonry units such as bricks, as in a wall.

dormer. a projecting structure built out from a sloping roof, usually containing a vertical window or louver.

elevation. A drawing showing the vertical elements of a building, either exterior or interior, as a direct projection of the vertical plane; also used for the exterior walls of a building other than the facade (front).

fabric. The structural and material portions that make up the building (frames, walls, floors, roof, etc.).

facade. The exterior face of a building which is the architectural front, sometimes distinguished from the other faces by elaboration of architectural or ornamental details.

gable. The vertical triangular portion of wall at the end of a building having a double-sloping roof, from the level of the cornice or eaves to the ridge of the roof.

gambrel. A roof which has two pitches on each side.

hip. A roof which has equal pitches on all sides of a building.

integrity. A district, site, building, structure, or object with intact original location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, to an extent that its historic character is discernible.

joist. One of a series of parallel beams of timber, reinforced concrete, or steel used to support floor and ceiling loads, and supported in turn by larger beams, girders, or bearing walls; the widest dimension is vertically oriented.

landmark. A property or district which has been designated by a government entity as possessing historic significance.

lintel. A horizontal structural member (such as a beam) over an opening which carries the weight of the wall above.

mansard. A roof having a double slope on four or more sides of the building, the lower slope being much steeper.

mortar. A mixture of cementitious materials (such as cement and/or lime) with water and a fine aggregate (such as sand); can be troweled in the plastic state; hardens in place. When used in masonry construction, the mixture may contain masonry cement or ordinary hydraulic cement with lime (and often other admixtures) to increase its plasticity and durability.

mortise. A hole, cavity, notch, slot, or recess cut into a timber or piece of other material; usually receives a tenon, but also has other purposes, as to receive a lock.

National Register of Historic Places. The official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. The National Register includes districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and cultures.

National Historic Landmark (NHL). Historic and archeological sites, buildings, and objects possessing exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States. NHLs are buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects are of exceptional national significance in American history and culture.

non-contributing. A property physically located within a historic district or area of study which does not relate to the defined criteria of historic significance for the area.

parapet. A low guarding wall at any point of sudden drop, as at the edge of a terrace, roof, battlement, balcony, etc; in an exterior wall, fire wall, or party wall, the part entirely above the roof.

pointing. In masonry, the final treatment of joints by the troweling of mortar into the joints. The removal of mortar from between the joints of masonry units and the replacing of it with new mortar is properly called "repointing."

pyramidal. A hip roof in which all planes of the roof come together at a single point.

rehabilitation. Returning a property to a state of usefulness through repair or alteration which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions or features of the property which are significant to its historical, architectural, and cultural values.

restoration. Accurately recovering the form and details of a property and its setting as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of later work or by replacement of missing earlier work.

ridge. The horizontal line at the junction of the upper edges of two sloping roof surfaces.

shed. A roof consisting of a single, sloping plane.

significant. A district, site, building, structure, or object that has integrity and that is associated with historical events or patterns of events; or that are associated with the lives of significant persons; or that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, style, period, or method construction, or possess high artistic values.

sill. A horizontal timber, at the bottom of the frame of a wooden structure, which rests on the foundation; the horizontal bottom member of a window or door frame.

spandrel. In a multistory building, a wall panel filling the space between the top of the window in one story and the sill of the window in the story above.

stabilization. Applying measures designed to reestablish a weather-resistant enclosure and the structural stability of an unsafe or deteriorated property while maintaining the essential form as it exists at present.

stud. An upright post or support, especially one of a series of vertical structural members which act as the supporting elements in a wall or partition.

tenon. The projecting end of a piece of wood, or other material, which is reduced in cross section, so that it may be inserted in a corresponding cavity (mortise) in another piece in order to form a secure joint.

tension. The state or condition of being pulled or stretched.

truss. A structure composed of a combination of members that resist axial loads, usually in some triangular arrangement so as to constitute a rigid framework.

vault. A masonry covering over an area which uses the principle of the arch.

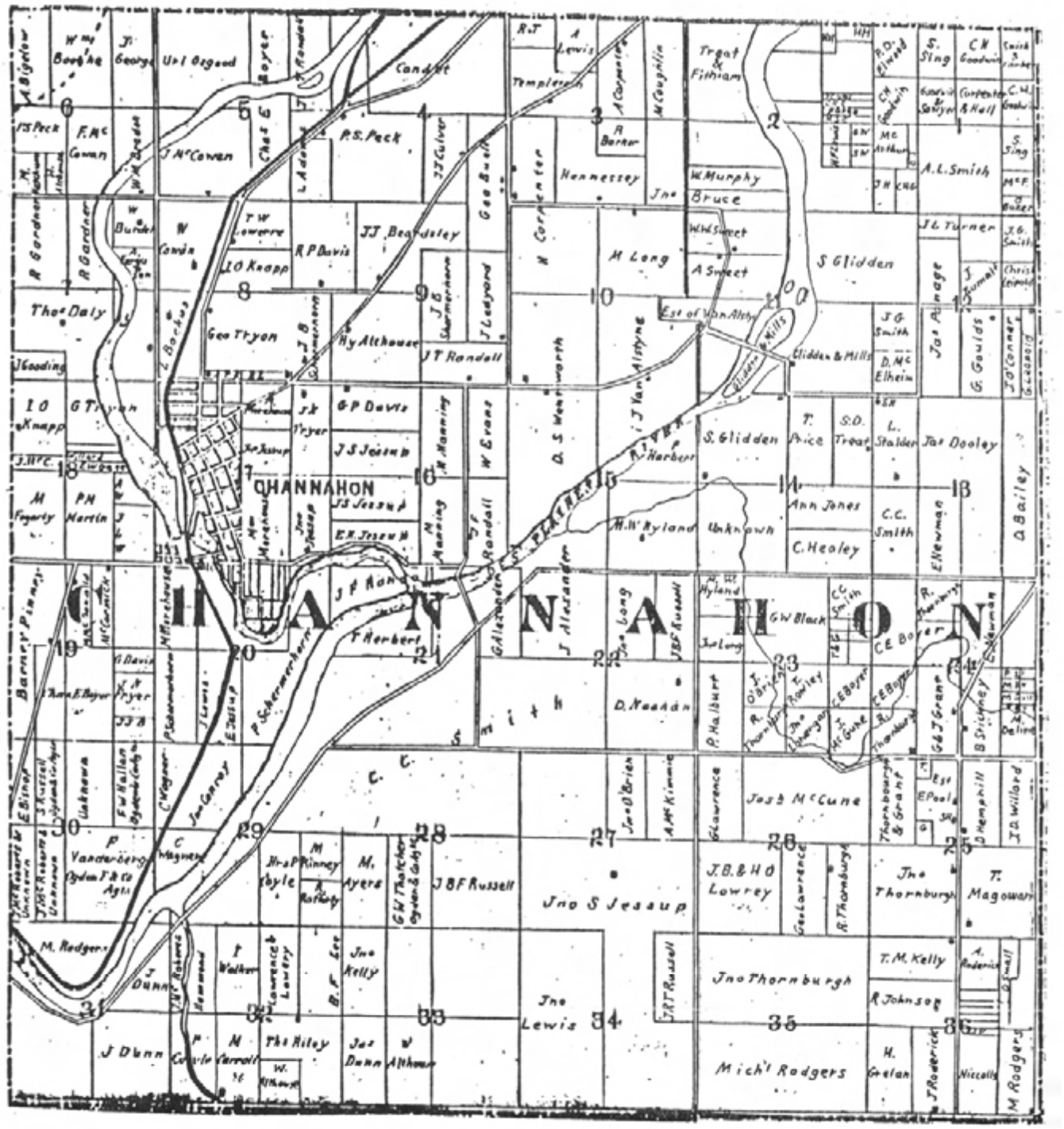
wythe. One thickness of brick or other masonry material in a wall, commonly about 4 inches.

APPENDIX A

HISTORIC PLAT MAPS

This appendix contains historic farm atlas and plat maps for Channahon Township. Refer to Bibliography for map sources.

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.



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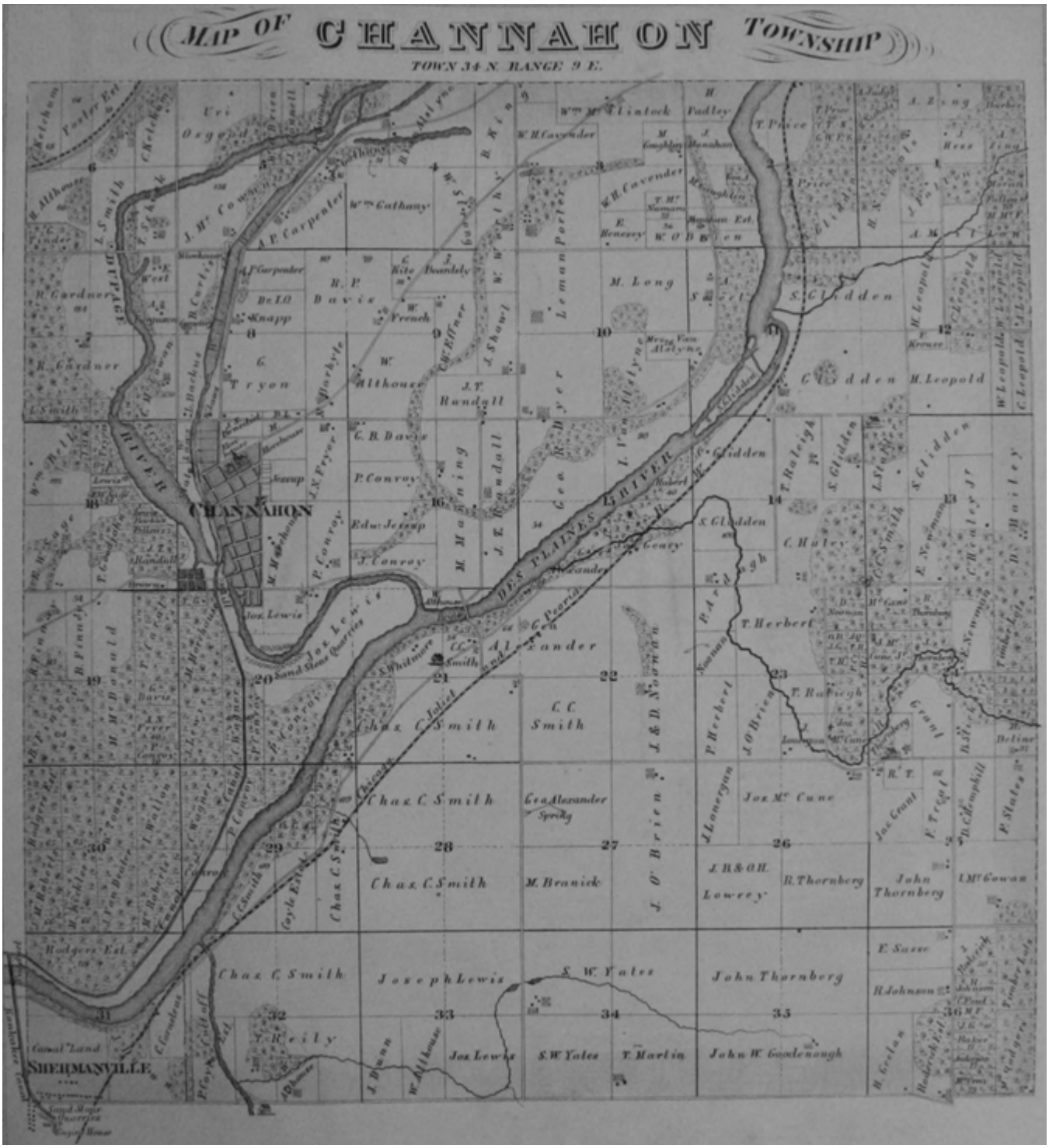

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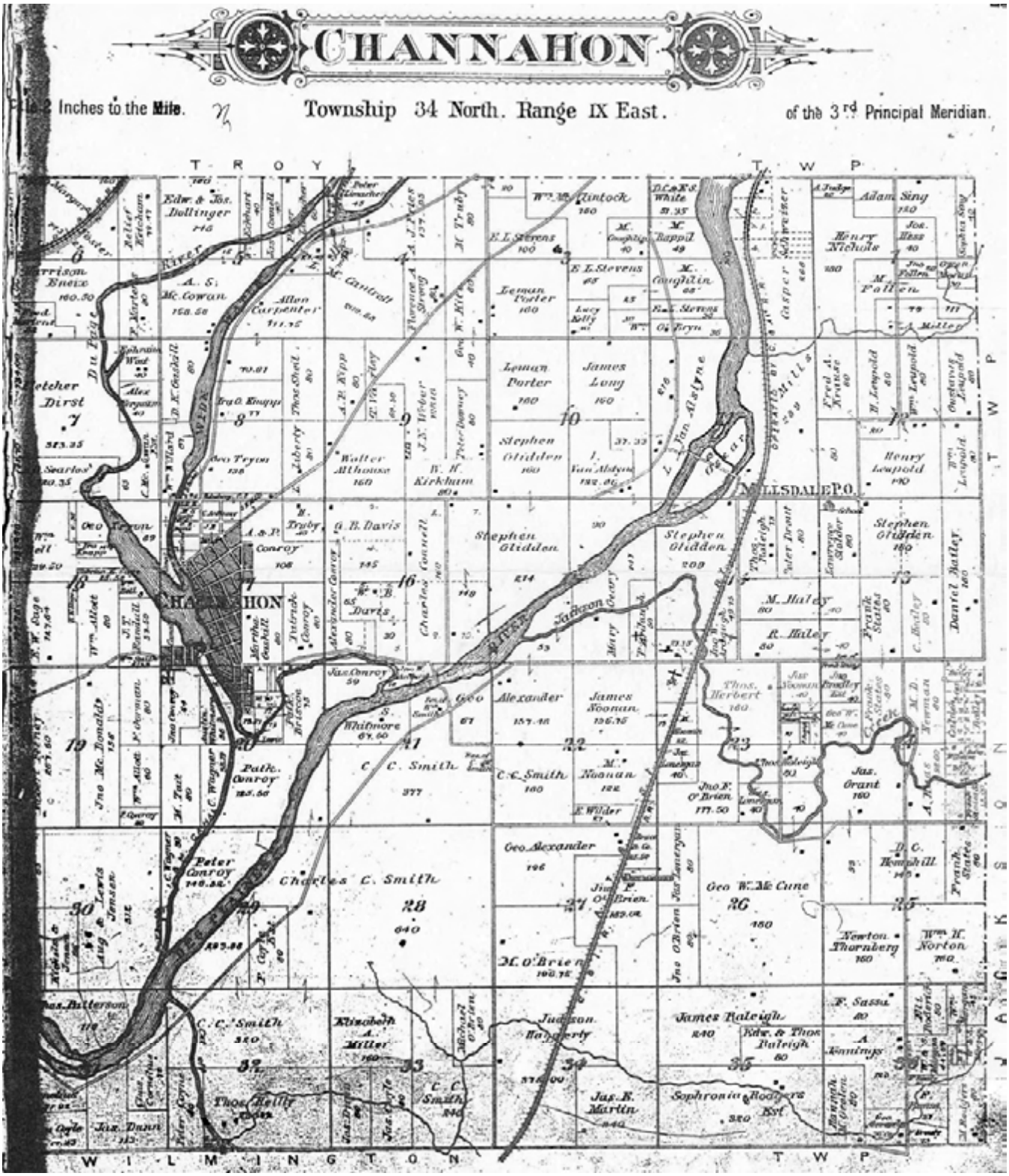
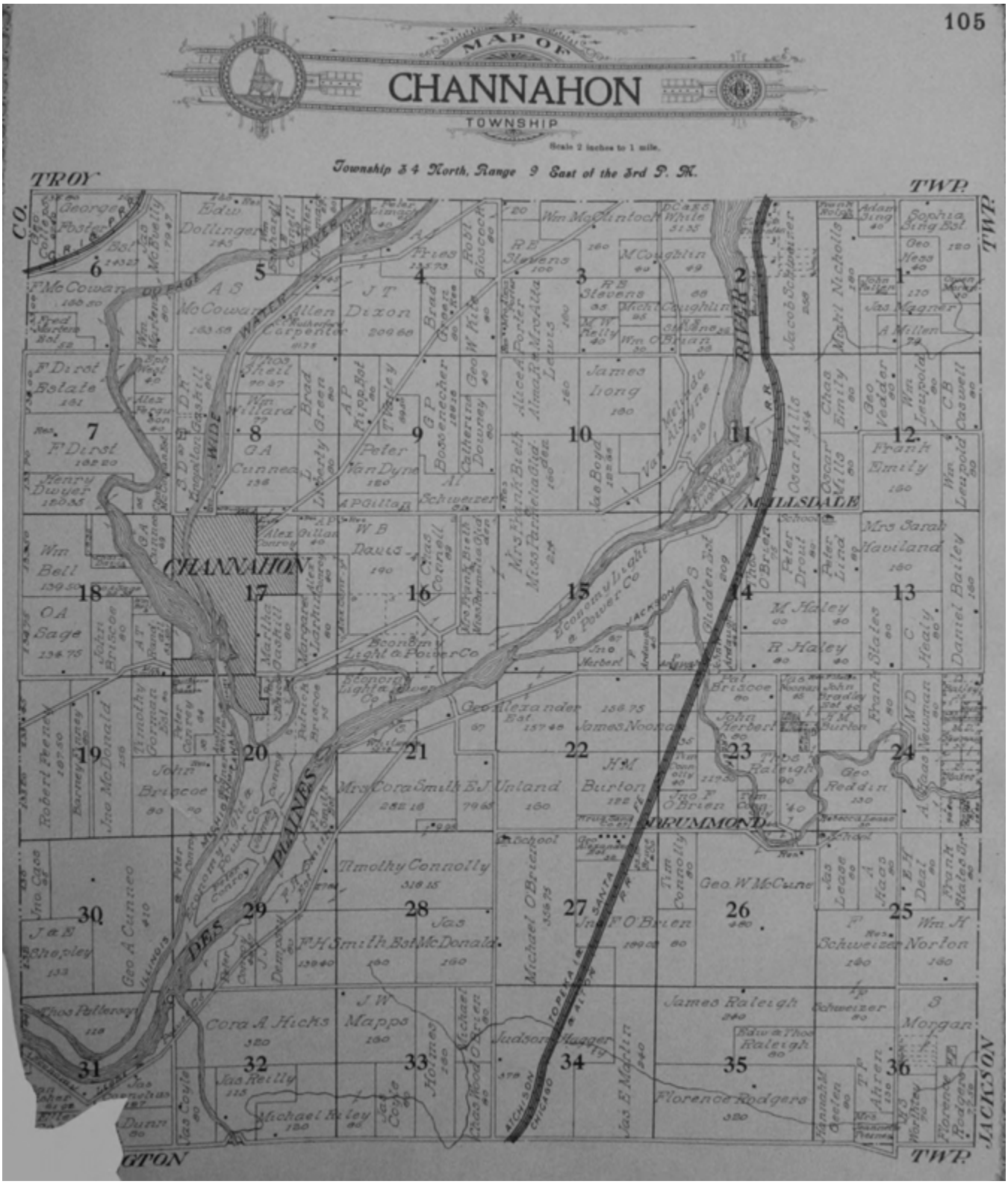


Channahon Township 1893

Channahon Township 1902



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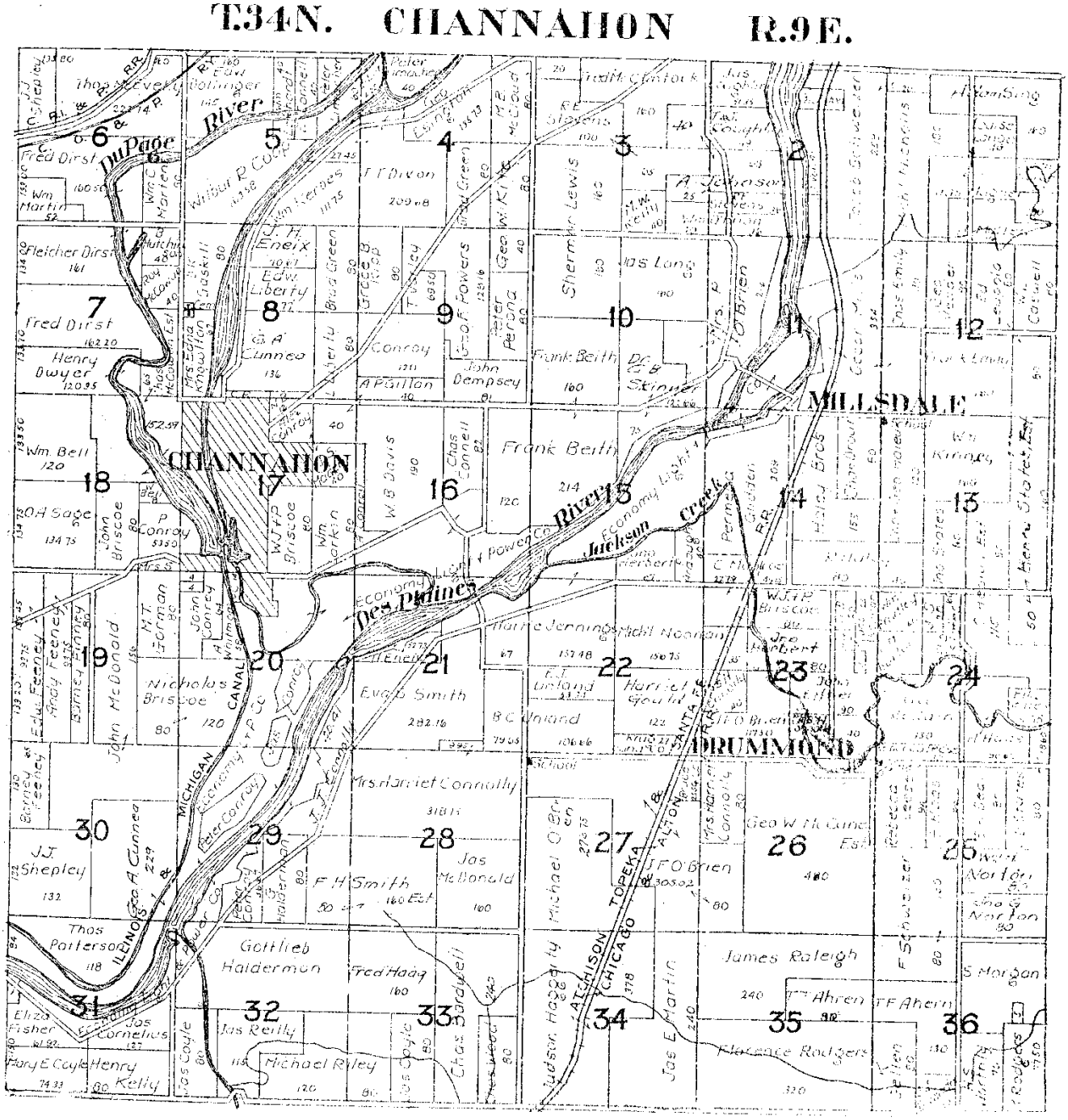

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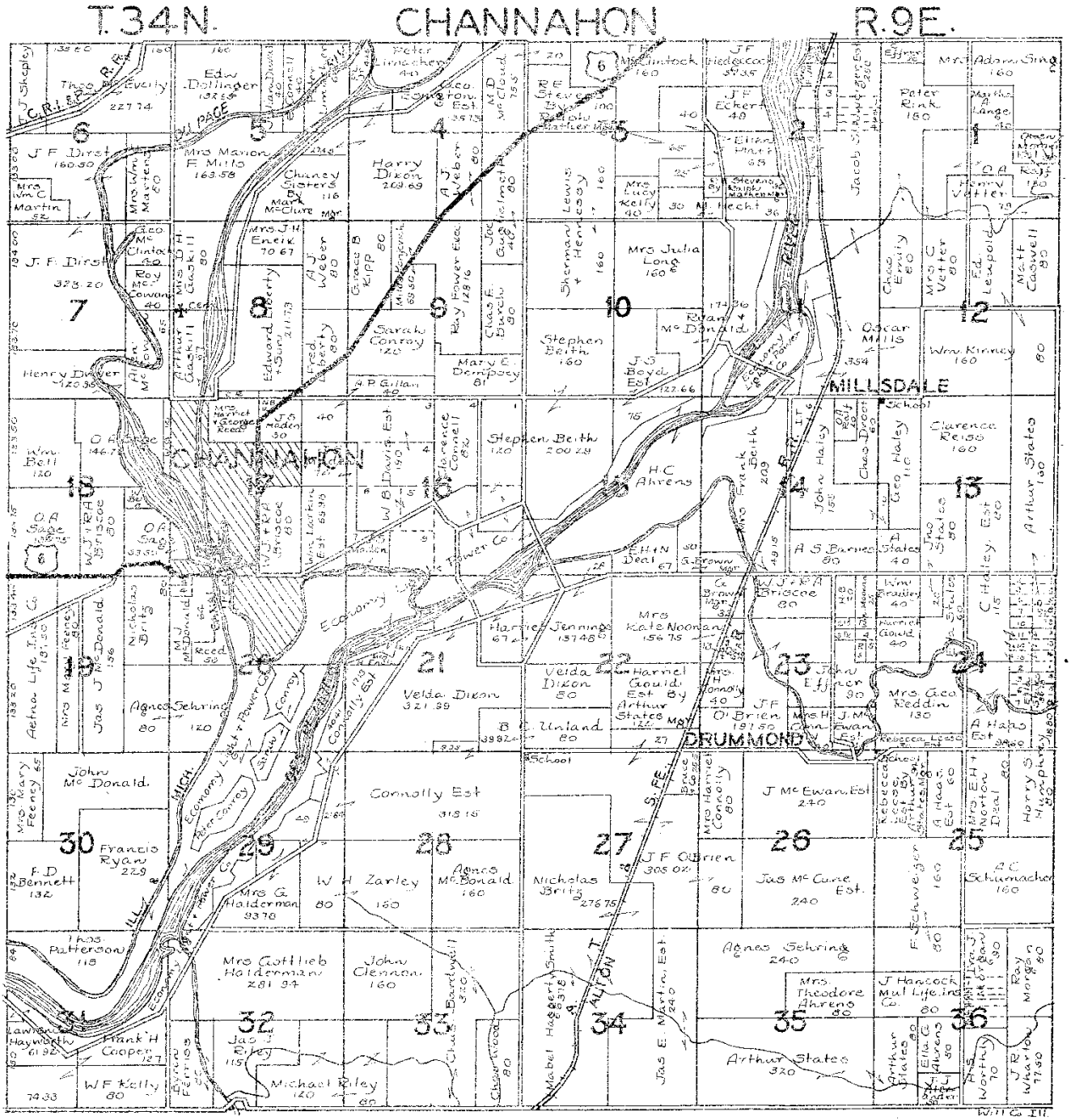
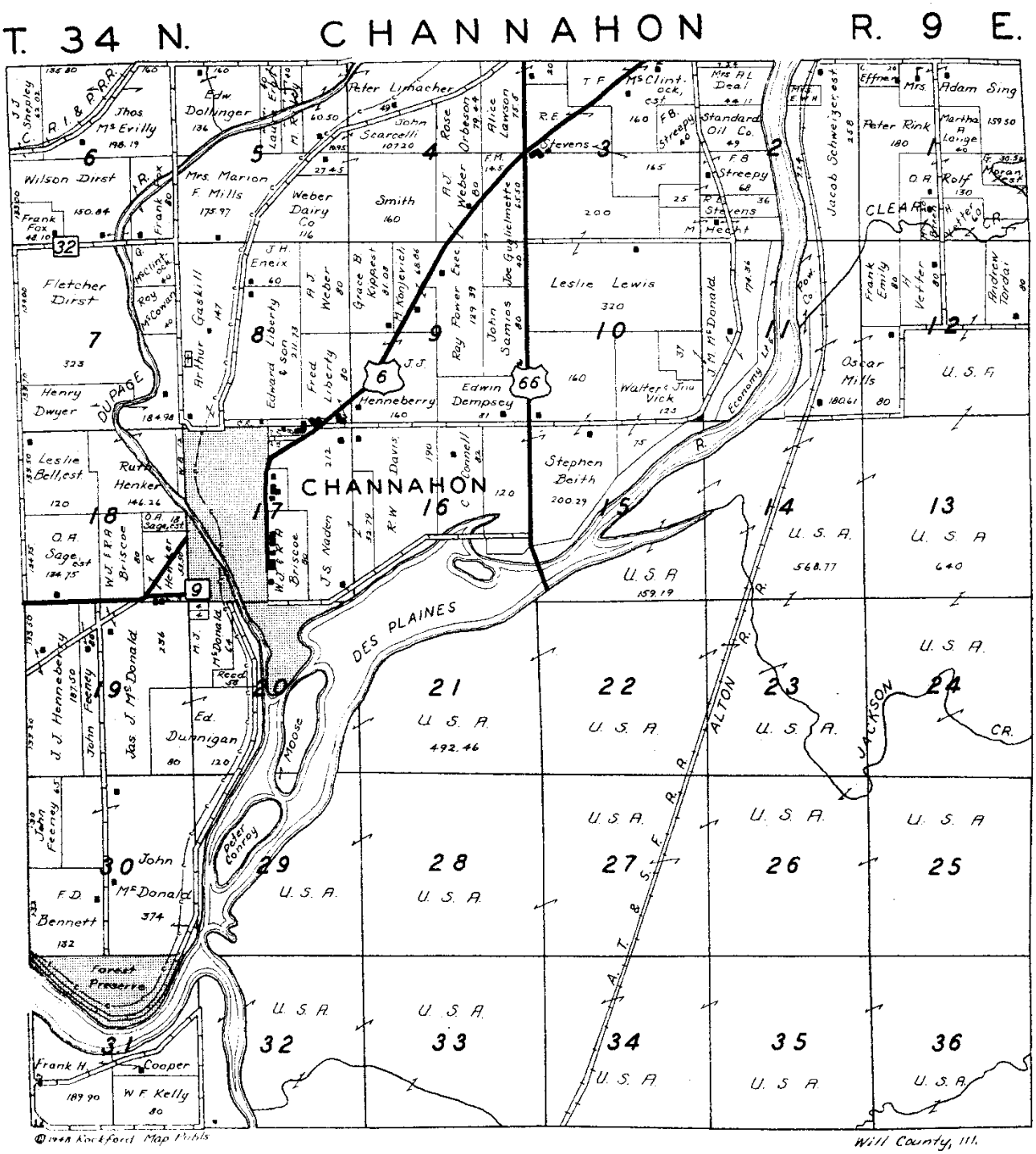


Channahon Township circa 1940



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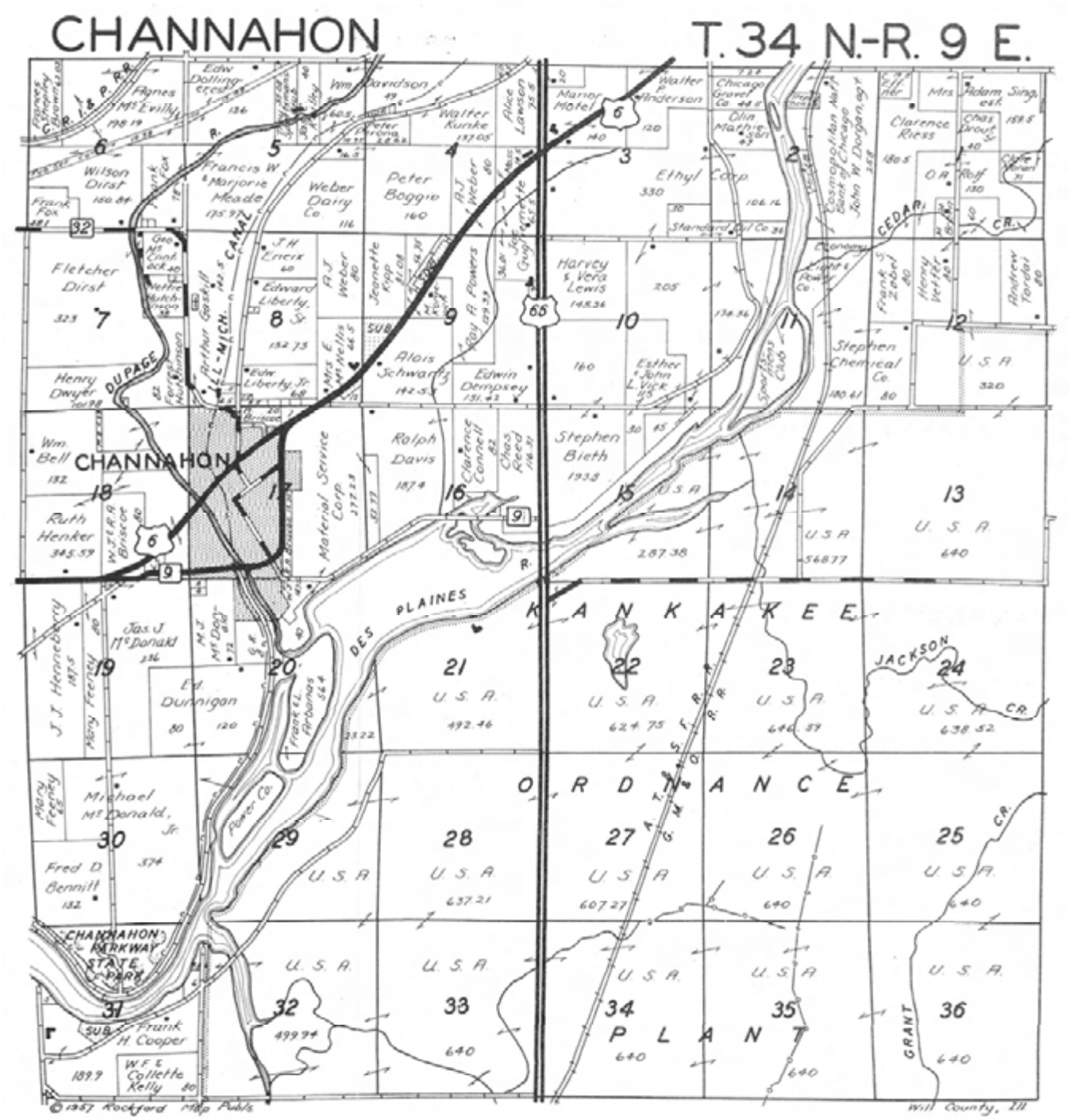

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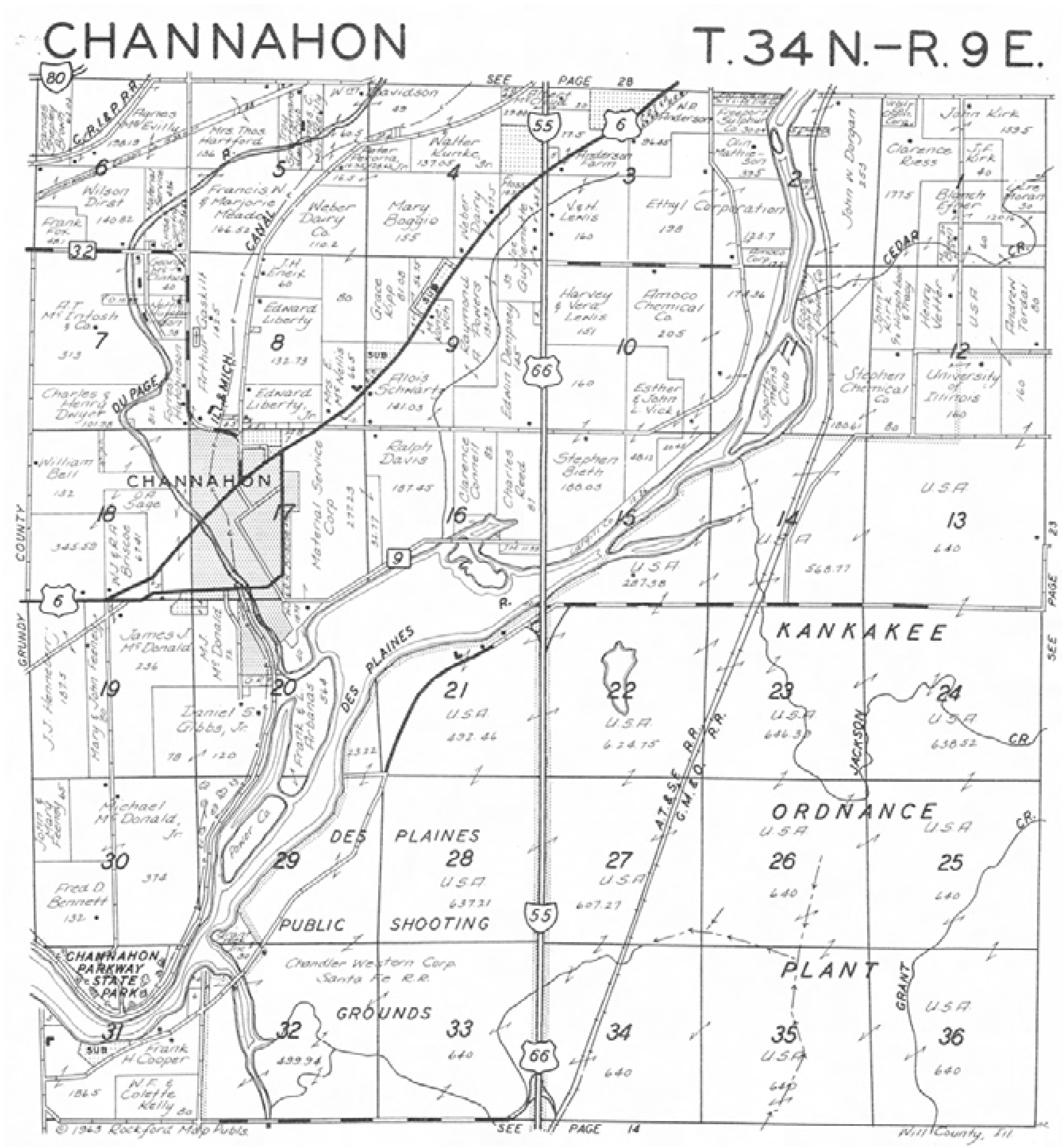

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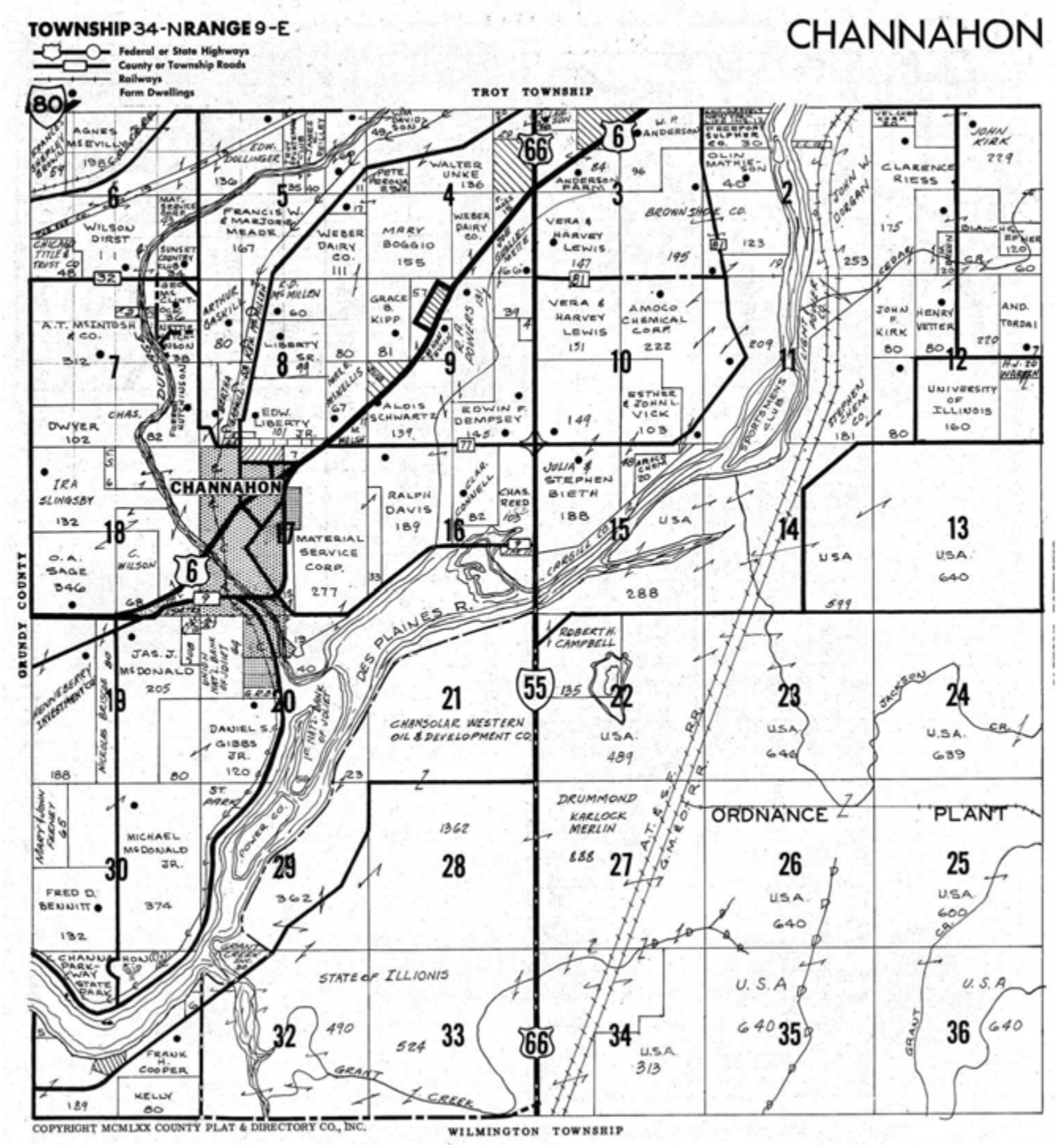

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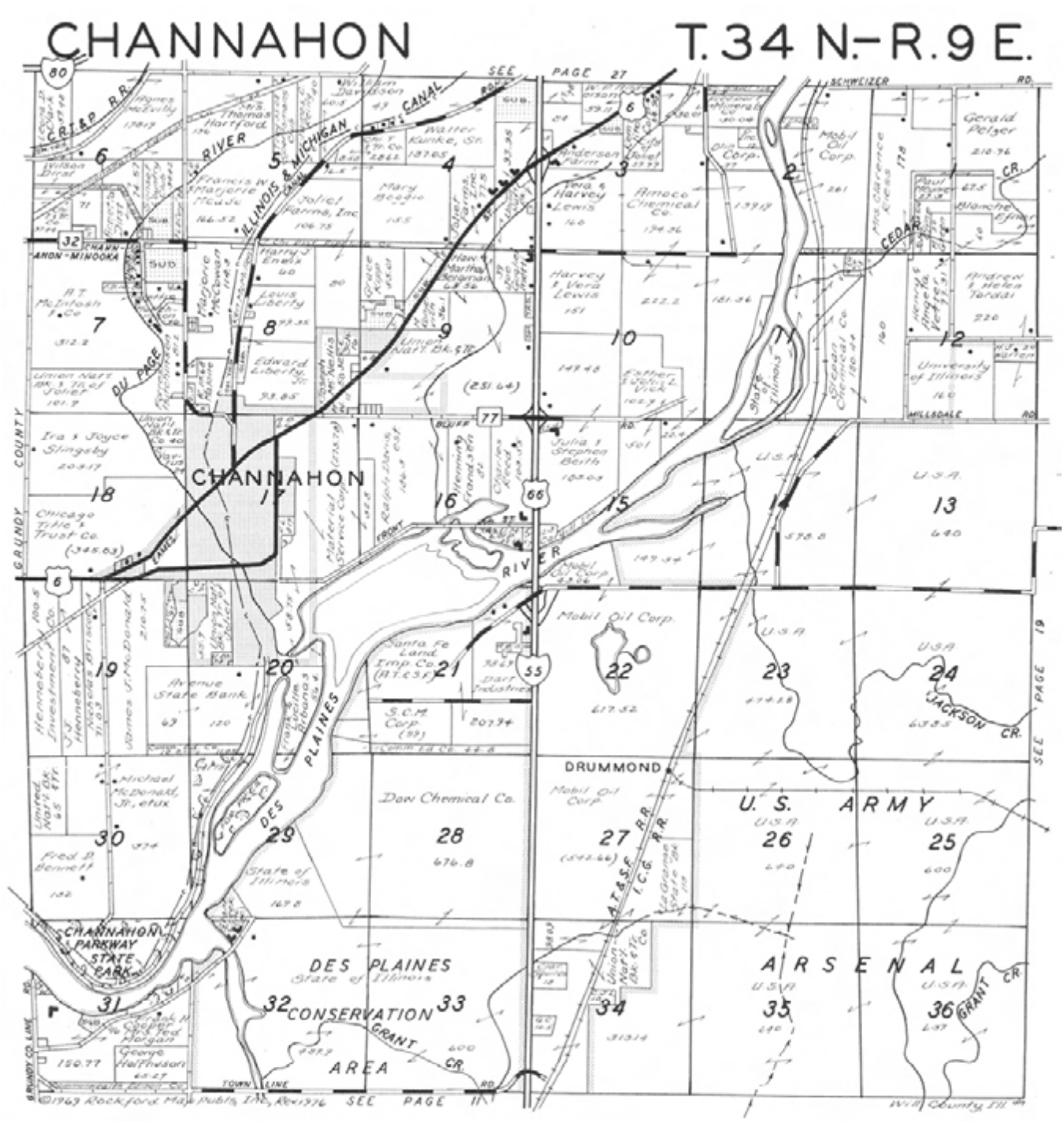

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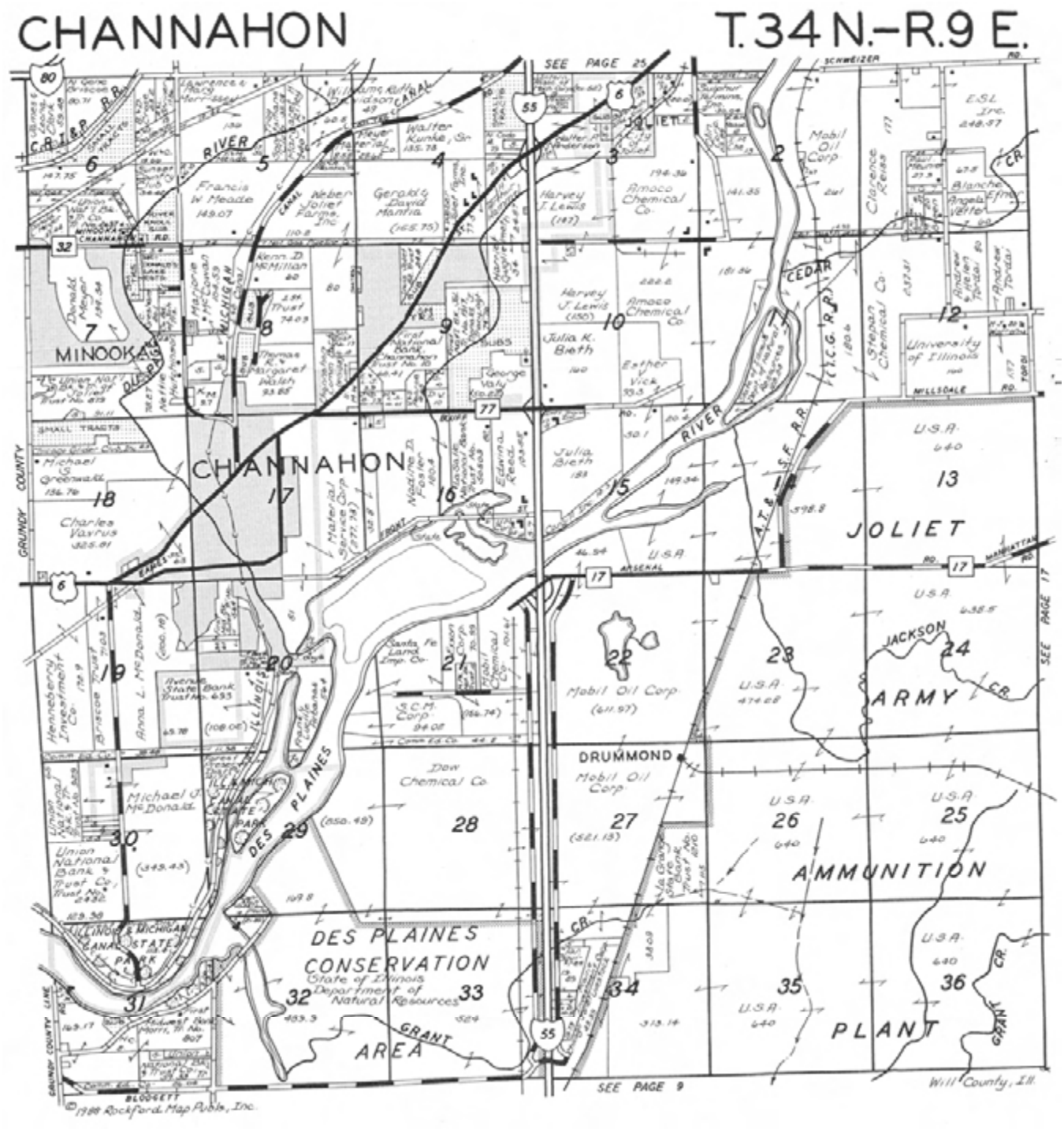

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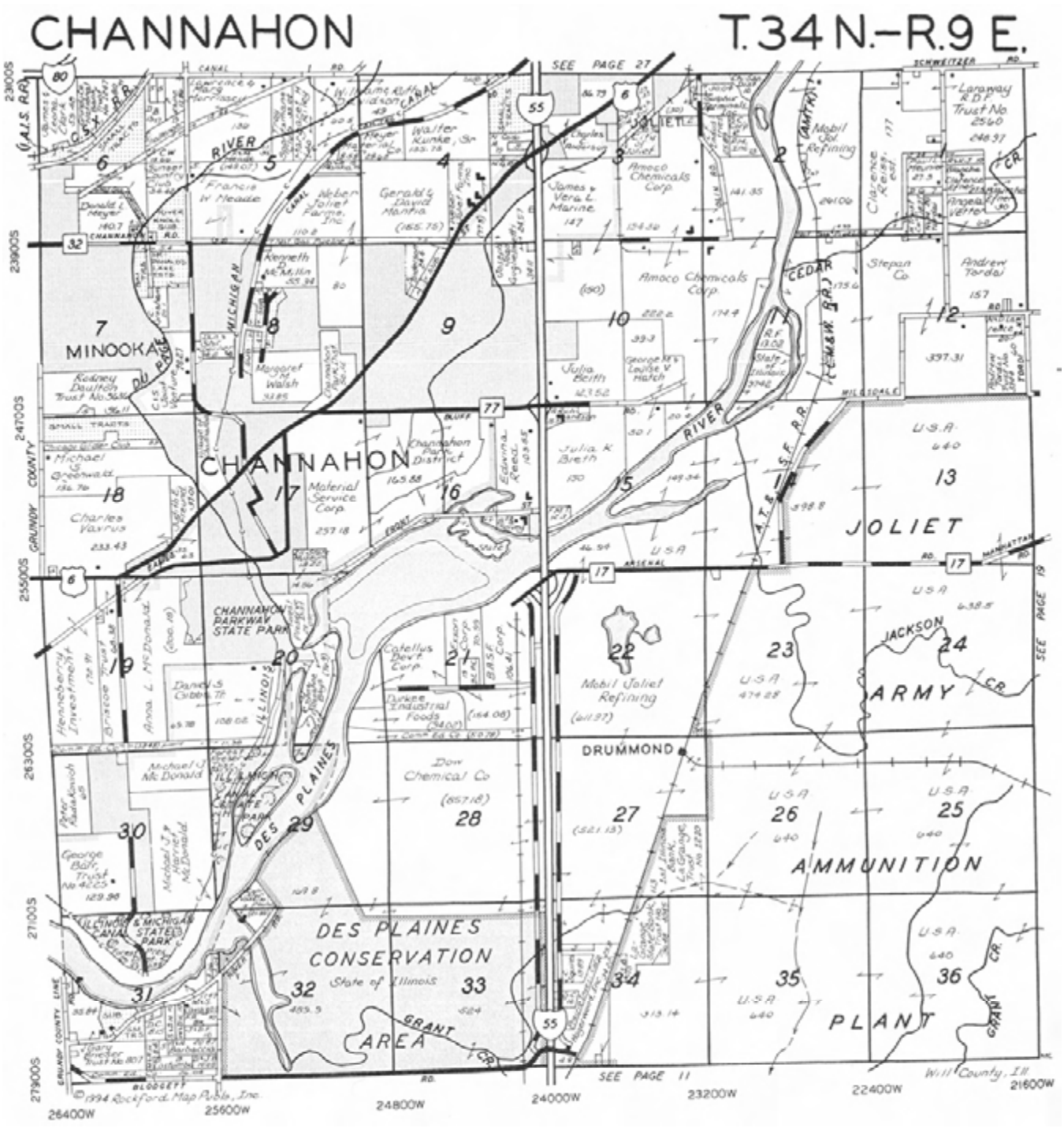
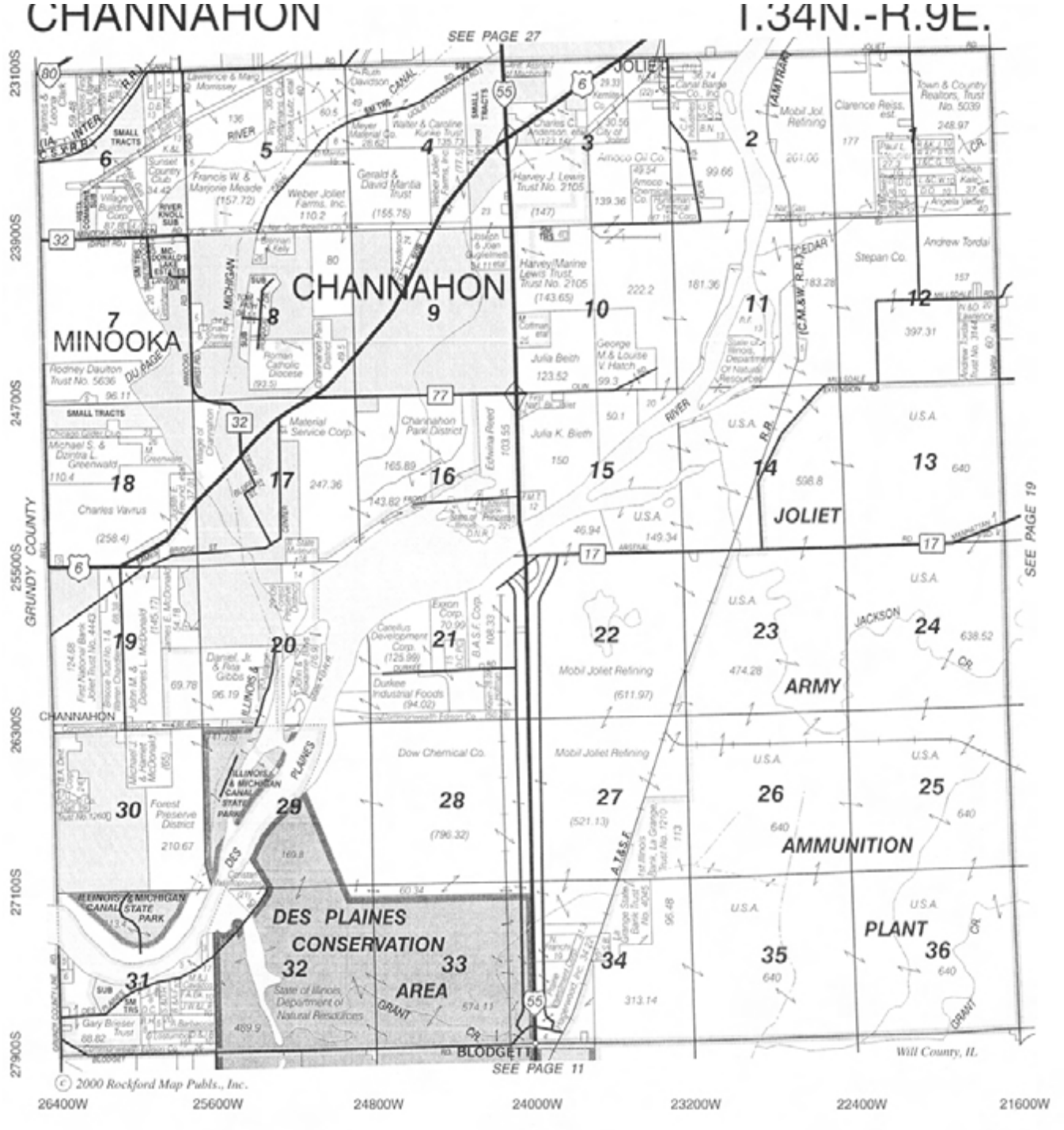


Channahon Township 1994



Channahon Township 2000

Channahon Township 2007

APPENDIX B

SURVEY MAPS

The following maps were generated as part of this study using ArcGIS software. The background aerial photography and baseline maps were downloaded from the Illinois Natural Resources Geospatial Data Clearinghouse internet site <http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/nsdihome/>. The contemporary aerial photography that forms the background for Map 2 and Map 3 is dated March–May 2005. The historic aerial photography of Map 4 is dated July 13, August 4, and September 6, 1939.

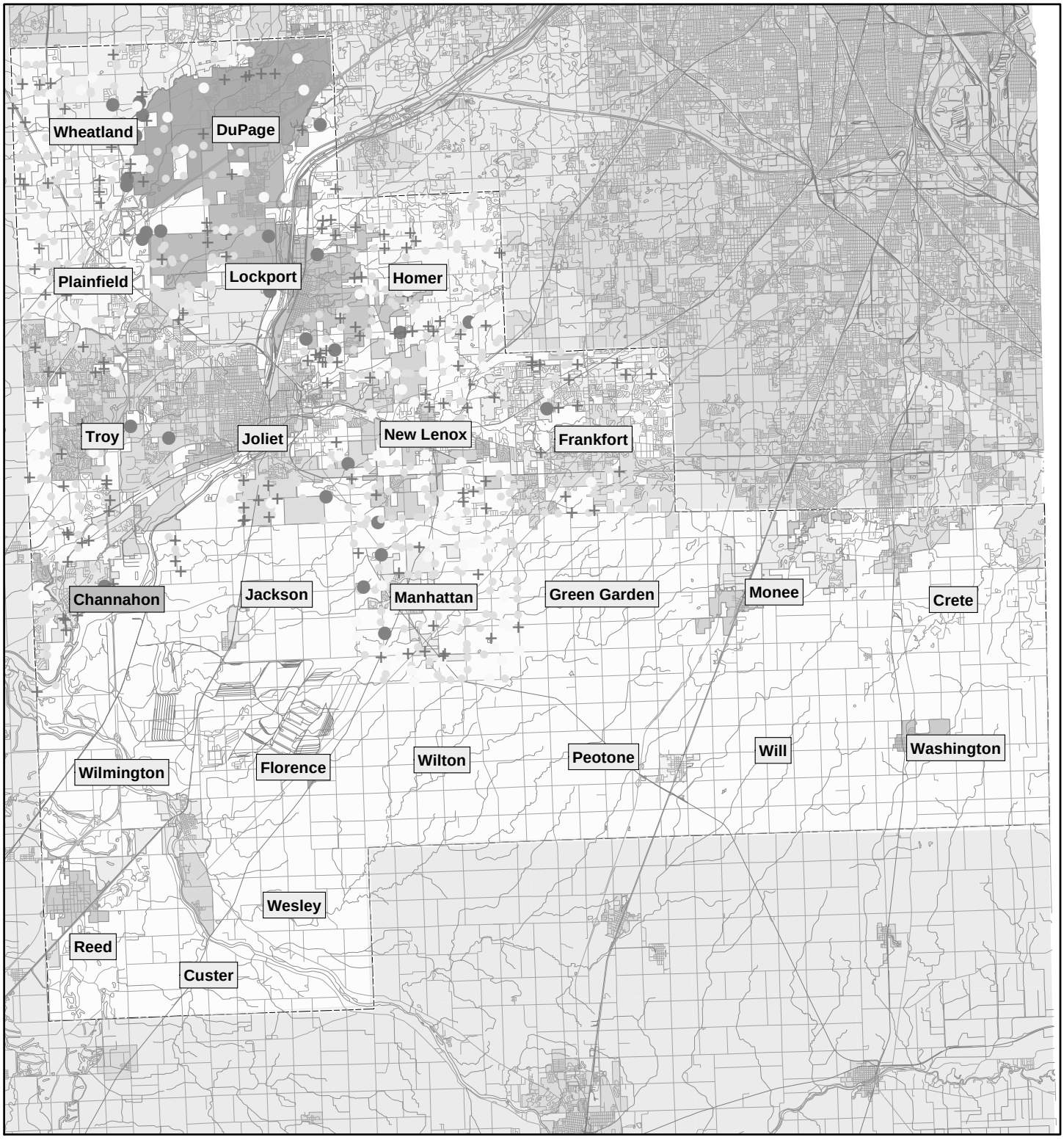
This appendix contains:

Key to Properties by Map ID Number

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
61	10-01-100-004	22201 Schweitzer Road	Nickel Farmstead	Contributing
62	10-01-100-007	23414 Vetter Road	Riess House	Non-contributing
63	10-01-300-014	23828 Vetter Road		Contributing
64	10-01-300-013	23656 Vetter Road		Contributing
66	10-03-300-001	23711 Frontage Road	Porter–Lewis Farmstead	Local landmark potential
71	10-04-100-007	24560 South Canal Road	Fries–Kunke Farmstead	Non-contributing
73	10-04-100-007	24740 South Canal Road		Non-contributing
74	10-05-200-030	24901 North Canal Road	Limacher Farmstead	Contributing
75	10-05-400-005	23515 South Canal Road	Dixon Farmstead	Contributing
76	10-05-200-001	25157 North Canal Road	Julian Duval House	Non-contributing
78	10-05-300-008	23825 Ford Road	McCowan Farmstead	Local landmark potential
79	10-06-400-030	25900 Minooka Road	Dirst Farmstead	Contributing
85	10-08-100-022	23903 Tryon Street		Non-contributing
96	10-09-400-030	24150 Bluff Road	Randall Farmstead	National Register potential
98	10-09-106-006	24533 U.S. Route 6 (Eames Street)	Varley Farmstead	Contributing
100	10-10-300-003	24624 Frontage Road	Glidden-Beith Farmstead	Non-contributing
101	10-12-100-004	23960 Vetter Road		Non-contributing
102	10-12-300-002	21833 Millsdale Road		Non-contributing
107	10-16-101-001	24721 Bluff Road	Davis Farmstead	Contributing
109	10-16-100-016	24355 Bluff Road	Connell Farmstead	Contributing
110	10-20-200-002	Front Street		Non-contributing
111	10-19-100-010	26055 Hansel Road	Feeney Farmstead	Contributing
112	10-19-200-018	25953 Hansel Road	John M. McDonald Farmstead	Contributing
113	10-18-100-008	24855 Bell Road	Bell Farmstead	Local landmark potential
114	10-20-300-013	Blackberry Lane		Non-contributing
115	10-30-200-008	24609 McKinley Woods Road	Michael McDonald Farmstead	Contributing
116	10-30-200-006	26641 McKinley Woods Road		Contributing
118	10-31-400-011	25765 Des Plaines River Road		Contributing
120	10-20-100-029	25552 Blackberry Lane		Non-contributing
122	10-31-303-006	27725 County Line Road		Non-contributing
147	10-18-401-008	25806 Bridge Street		Contributing
157	10-20-101-013	25809 Blackberry Lane	Rittof Farm	Non-contributing

CHANNAHON TOWNSHIP

Map 1: Will County Key Map



CHANNAHON TOWNSHIP
Map 2: Overview of Survey

Demolished since 1988 survey (1988 survey number)

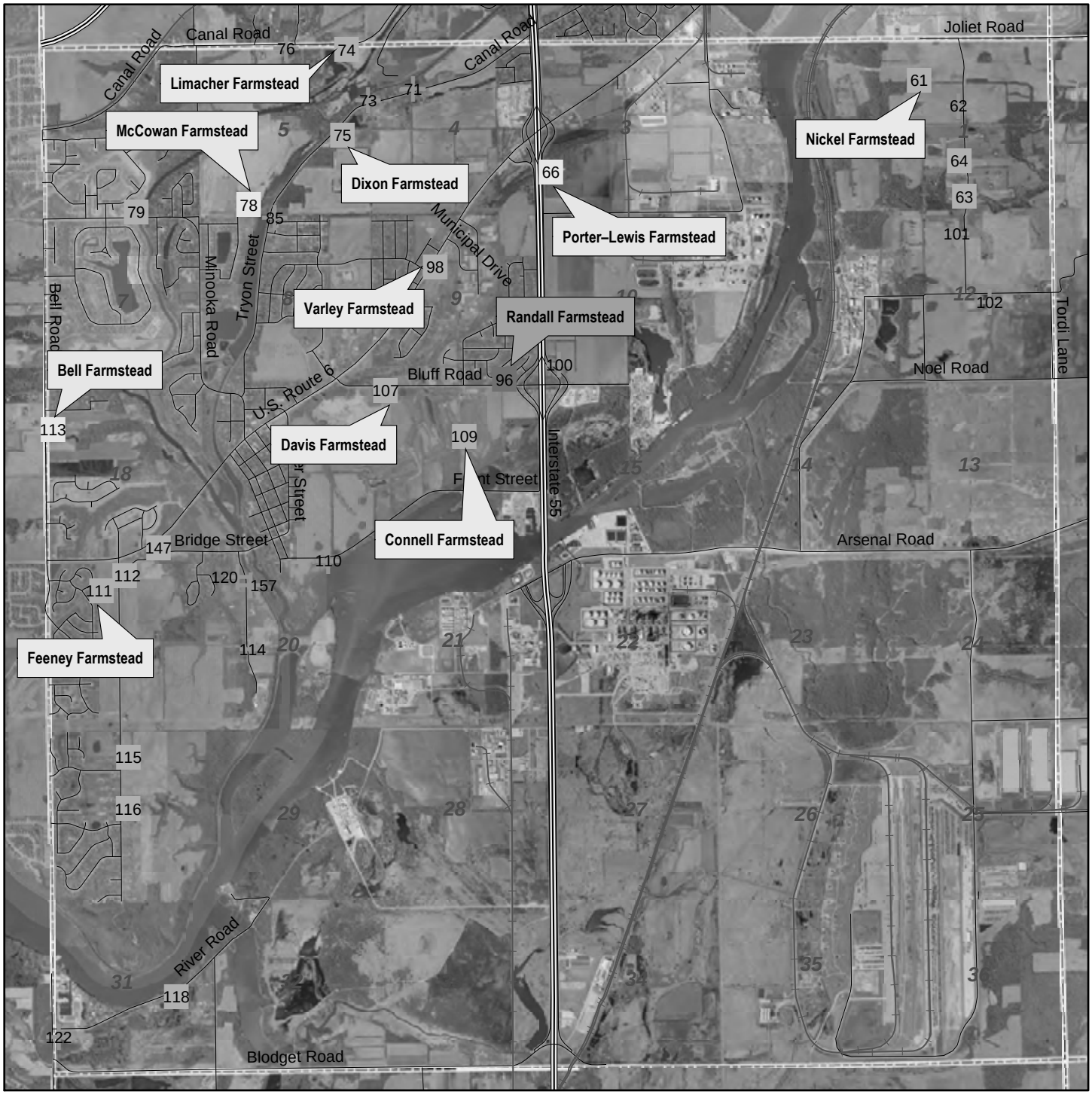
Existing Sites (I.D. number)

CHANNAHON TOWNSHIP
Map 3: Significance of Site

- Contributing
- Local landmark potential
- National Register potential
- Non-contributing

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

N W E S



CHANNAHON TOWNSHIP
Map 4: 1939 Aerial Photography

Demolished since 1988 survey (1988 survey number)

Site demolished in 1940 for Joliet Arsenal

Existing Sites (I.D. number)

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6 Miles

N W E S