Rural Historic Structural Survey
of
Will Township
Will County, Illinois





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December 2017

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

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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 intensive survey of existing farmsteads in Will Township in Will County, Illinois. The survey was performed between May and September 2017 and included thirty-six square miles with 118 farmsteads and related sites containing more than 706 individual structures.

Will Township contains one Will County Landmark, the Krohn–Westenfeld–Kwiatkowski Farmstead, designated in 2011. Of the 118 farmsteads identified in the current survey, 10 additional individual farmstead sites have the potential to be considered for Will County Historic Landmark designation. Based on the present survey, no properties are judged to be National Register eligible. 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.

The Will Township intensive survey was performed to update the previous survey of the township performed in 1988. In the previous survey, 142 farmsteads and related sites were identified in the township, containing at least 750 structures. Because of the rapid pace of contemporary development in Will County in the 1990s and changes to the agricultural economy, the Will County Historic Preservation Commission recognized the need to reassess the agricultural heritage of the region. WJE has previously completed seventeen intensive survey projects in twenty of the County's twenty-four townships covering Wheatland–Plainfield–Lockport, Du Page, Homer, New Lenox, Green Garden, Manhattan, Frankfort, Joliet–Troy, Channahon, Wilmington, Jackson, Florence, Reed, Custer, Wesley, Wilton, and Peotone 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 8,600 structures on approximately 1,760 sites over approximately 765 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 from aerial photographs. 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 Will 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 plat maps for Will Township, and maps developed for this report to present the results of the survey and research.

Federal Assistance Acknowledgement

The activity, which is the subject of the Will County Rural Historic Structural Survey, has been financed in part with federal funds from the Department of the Interior, administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior or the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended. The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to:

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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 Will 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 each individual township 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), Frankfort (December 2007), Joliet and Troy (April 2009), Channahon (April 2009), Wilmington (December 2009), Jackson (December 2009), Reed (January 2011), Florence (August 2011), Custer (July 2012), Wesley (July 2012), Peotone (October 2014), and Wilton (September 2016). A survey for Crete Township was completed at the same time as this survey of Will Township, and surveys for Washington and Monee Townships are planned.

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, Gregory Dowell, Richard Pearson, Justin Palmer, Carlie Wallin, Gloria Frank, and Deborah Slaton. Mr. Itle served as Project Manager and developed the summary report and performed some field survey work. Mr. Ford, Mr. Penich, Mr. Dowell, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Palmer, Ms. Wallin, and Ms. Frank performed field survey work. Ms. Slaton was the reviewer of the summary report.

Background Research

Work on the rural survey began in May 2017. Background research was performed at the State of Illinois Library in Springfield, the Joliet Public Library, and the Peotone Public Library. 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. The previous 1988 survey and historic aerial photography of the township dating to 1939 was reviewed to identify historic and existing farmstead sites. Each site was assigned a three or four digit reference number, in which the first digit(s) indicates the section number location of the site. For example, site 2701 is located in Section 27. The reference numbers are correlated with the 1988 survey numbers, where 1988 site 27-01 is referred to as site 2701 in this report. Intensive field survey work was performed from May through September 2017. 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 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] Additional baseline data showing roads and municipal boundaries was provided by the Will County Land Use Department. Updated aerial photography published in March 2015 using photographs taken between April and November 2014 was also provided by the Will County Land Use Department for reference during the project. 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 from 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 November 1, 2017. This final summary report incorporates comments provided by the HPC members, Will County staff, and IHPA staff on a draft of the report.

Report and Submittals

The summary report was prepared using Microsoft Word. Will County was 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 early twentieth century concrete masonry construction, in greater detail. The present study also is focused on built structures of the historic period. Throughout Will County 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.

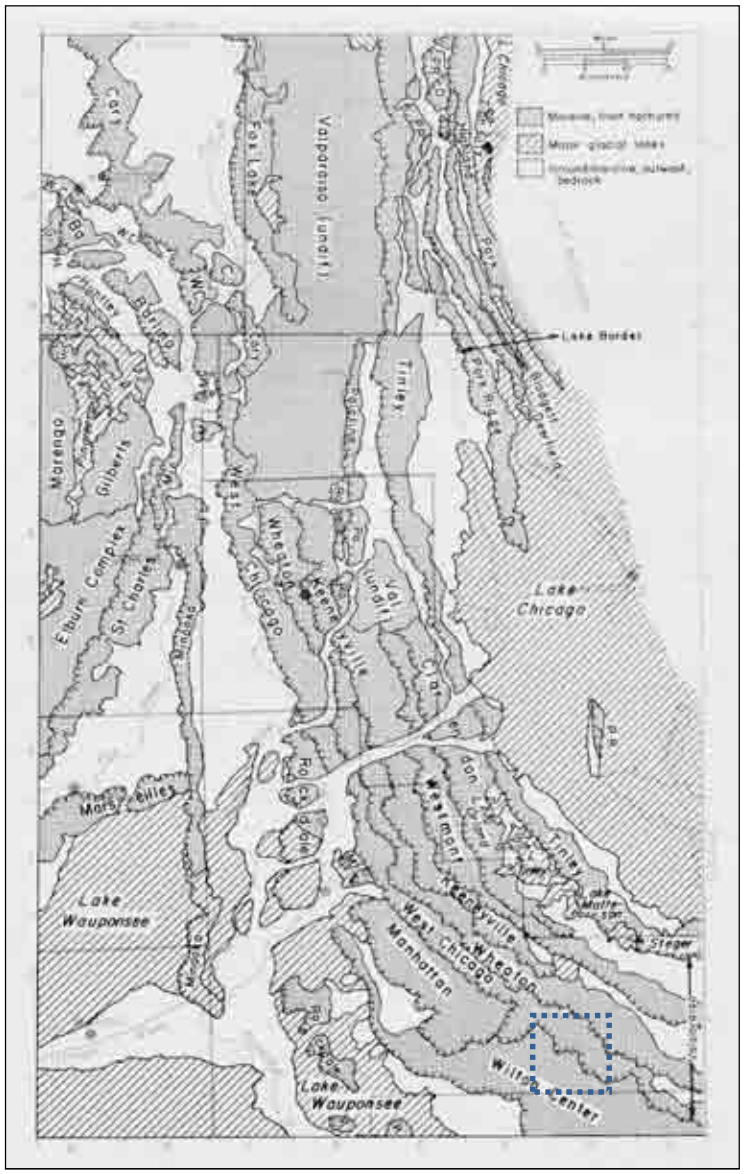
A significant feature left by the advance and retreat of glaciers in the northeast corner of the state are glacial moraines—low mounds several miles long left by the furthest advance of glaciers in the Wisconsinan period. The last ice sheets in this area began to retreat approximately 13,500 years ago. The retreating and melting glaciers continued to impact the area for a few more thousand years, as the outflow deposited sand and gravel. Lake Wauponsee was impounded by glacial moraines to the south but drained through a narrow gap in the moraines near the present-day city of Kankakee. The resulting Kankakee Torrent formed the Kankakee River valley and deposited sand, gravel, boulders, and rubble along the valley as well as exposing outcroppings of bedrock.[3] The soils in Will Township are predominantly silt loam in upland areas and silty clay loam in lower lying areas and stream corridors, consisting generally of a thin layer of loess and other silty material over the underlying glacial till. Much of the upland area is considered prime farmland, while the lower lying areas are considered prime farmland when well drained.[4]

Will Township lies within the watershed of the Kankakee River. The Kankakee River arises near South Bend, Indiana, and flows 130 miles, heading southwest to Aroma Park, Illinois, and then turning abruptly northwest, ultimately reaching the Illinois River. The Kankakee River basin includes 3,125 square miles in Indiana and 2,155 square miles in Illinois, encompassing most of Iroquois and Kankakee Counties as well as the southern half of Will County. Its largest tributary, the Iroquois River, joins the Kankakee at Aroma Park in Kankakee County. The Kankakee River lies almost entirely on bedrock, with a major bedrock outcropping creating a sharp fall at Momence, Illinois.

Will Township is drained by several minor tributaries of the Kankakee River, generally flowing from northeast to southwest. The largest among these is Rock Creek, which arises in Monee Township and flows through Sections 5, 6, and 7 of Will Township. Most of the township is drained by minor branches of Rock Creek. The central portion of the township is drained by the South Branch of Rock Creek, which arises in Section 2 near farmstead site 205, and flows south-southwest toward Kankakee County, exiting the township in Section 32. Secondly, a small area of the southwest portion of the township is drained by the Marshall Slough, which arises in Section 21 and flows southwest, exiting Will County in Section 31 of the township. Thirdly, the northwest portion of the township is drained by Black Walnut Creek, which arises in Crete Township and flows from Section 2 to Section 30 of Will Township. These three streams—South Branch, Marshall Slough, and Black Walnut Creek—join about one mile south of the county line. The enlarged Black Walnut Creek/South Branch passes to the east of the village of Manteno in Kankakee County. Rock Creek passes to its west. Southwest of Manteno, the streams combine, and the enlarged Rock

[3] *Kankakee River Basin Study: A Comprehensive Plan for Water Resource Development* (Springfield: Illinois Bureau of Water Resources, 1967), 2–8.
[4] *Soil Survey of Will County, Illinois* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, in cooperation with Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, 2004).

Creek enters the Kankakee River within present-day Kankakee River State Park. Apart from the Rock Creek drainage system, the southeastern portion of the township, approximately sections 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 34, 35, and 36, are drained by the Exline Slough, which arises in Section 13, and its east branch, arising in Section 30 of Washington Township. The Exline Slough flows southwest through Kankakee County, joining the Kankakee River at the south edge of the city of that name, just upstream of the Interstate 57 bridge.



Illustrated above are the moraine systems in northeastern Illinois. Most of Will Township lies within the Wilton Center moraine, with northern portions in the Manhattan and West Chicago moraines. (H.B. Willman, Summary of the Geology of the Chicago Area*, Illinois State Geological Survey Circular 460 (Urbana, Illinois, 1971), 43.)*

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.

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. 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.[5]

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.

There has been very little in the way of professional systematic archaeological survey completed in Will Township. One unspecified prehistoric habitation site of less than one acre was identified at an upland site in Section 29.[6]

[5] 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.)

[6] John Doershuk, *Plenemuk Mound and the Archaeology of Will County,* Illinois Cultural Resource Study No. 3 (Springfield, Illinois: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 1988), 80 and 85, citing Frances R. Knight, *Archaeological Investigations along the Proposed Braidwood-to-Crete Power Line Corridor, Kankakee and Will Counties, Illinois* (Illinois State Museum Society, 1981).

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 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

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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.

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]

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 May 20, 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

[12] Ibid., 173–251.

[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.

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.

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 August 24, 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] Will Township lies southeast of this corridor.

Illinois Statehood

The United States Congress passed an enabling act on April 18, 1818, admitting Illinois as the twenty-first state as of December 3, 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

[16] Ibid., 15.

[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.

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 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 July 30, 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 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.

[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).

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 which did not redound to their profit, to cede all their lands to the Government, and to leave forever their

[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.

> 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] Present-day Will Township was among the lands ceded by the tribes. It was surveyed by the U.S. government in 1834.

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 Joliet and James Walker of Plainfield went to the state capital of Vandalia and successfully lobbied a detachment petition through the General Assembly. On January 12, 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 March 7, 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.

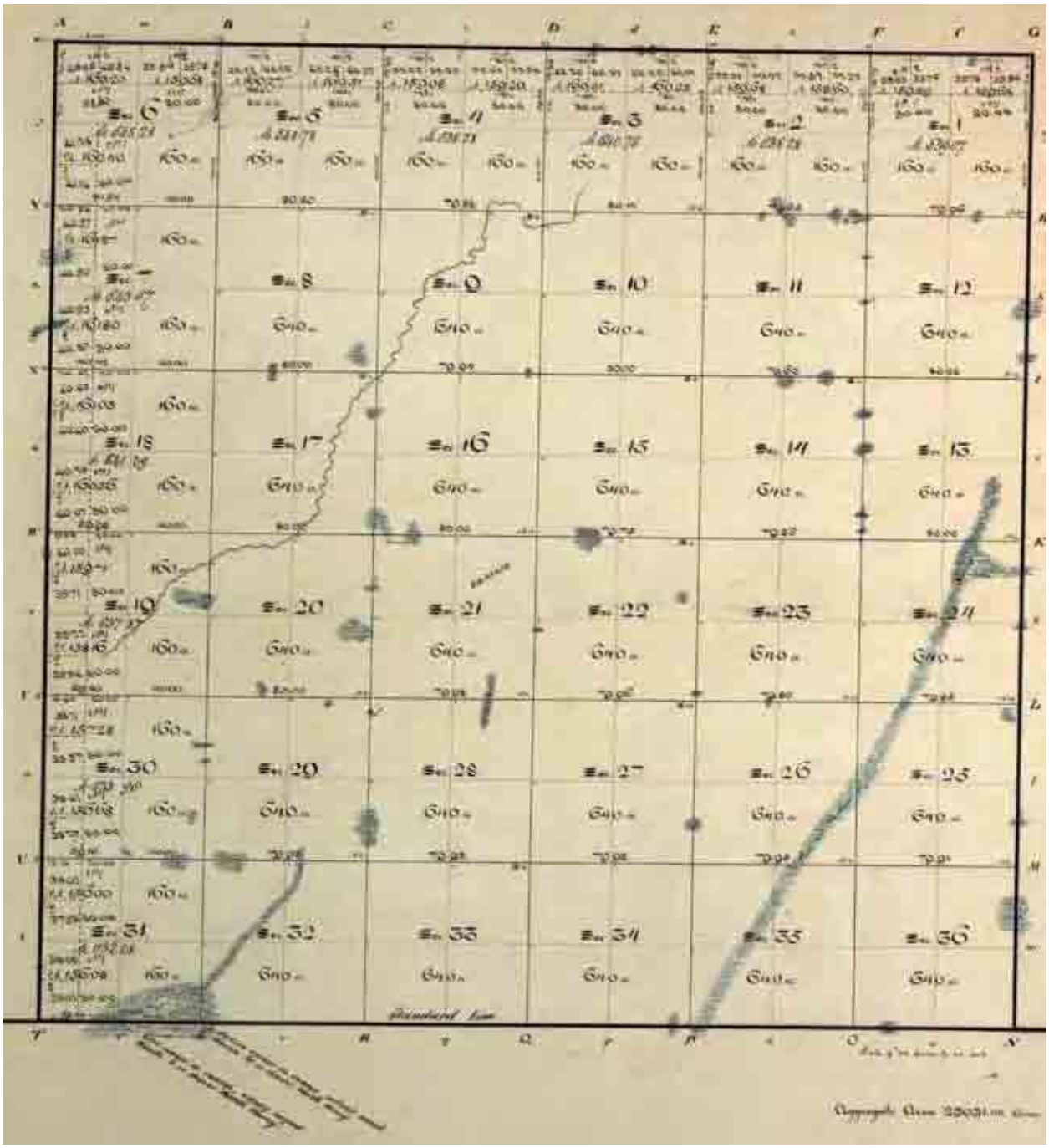
[31] It has been reported that Native Americans returned to Will County as late as 1900 on pilgrimages (Herath, 21):

> 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 June 3, 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 June 11, 1835. On the following January 12, 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 at the northeast corner of 163rd Street and Gougar Road in Homer Township was marked with a historical marker commemorating his importance due to the invention of this plow. The marker was removed for its protection during construction of the Interstate 355 tollway extension and associated overpasses. The marker was re-erected in July 2011 about 150 feet north of its original location.



Map of the 1834 survey of Will Township. This entire area is indicated as open prairie. Swampy low-lying areas are shown along present-day Exline Slough, while the path of Black Walnut Creek from Section 3 to Section 19 is relatively well defined.

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 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]

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[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.)

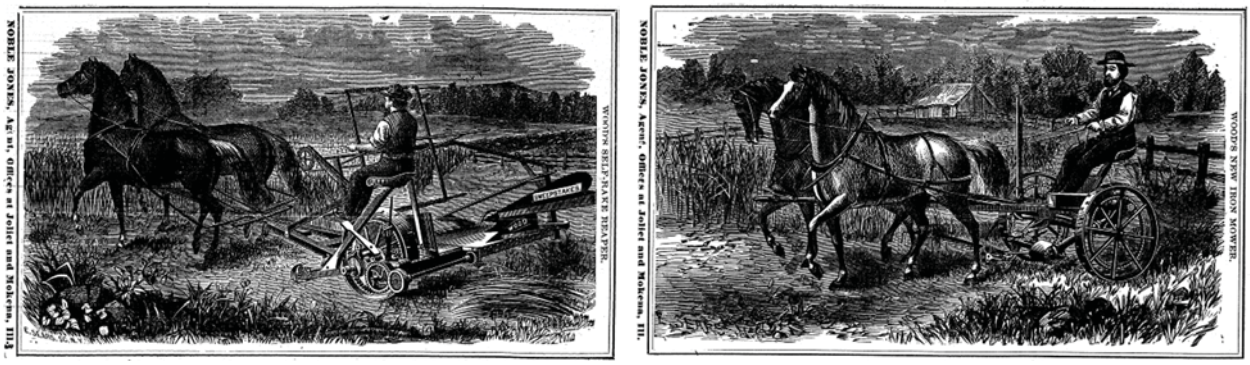
[36] Bryan Smith, "Township Government in Illinois: A Rich History, A Vibrant Future." <http://www.comptrollerconnect.ioc.state.il.us>

[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.

[39] *Souvenir of Settlement and Progress of Will County Illinois* (Chicago: Historical Directory Publishing Co., 1884), 244.

[40] Shaw, *Will County Agriculture,* 8.



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]

[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 centers

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

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 2012 to 882. The total acreage of agricultural land in the county declined steadily through the 1990s and early 2000s before stabilizing in the 2010s. By 2012 only 234,249 acres remained in agricultural use, representing less than half the total area of the county and a loss of slightly less than 100,000 acres in the twenty-five years since 1987. 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 $191,700 in 2012. Between 2002 and 2012, the value of products sold directly to individual consumers by Will County farms more than quadrupled from less than $600,000 to over $2.6 million, reflecting the increasing popularity of farmer's markets and vegetable crops in the county. During the same period (2002–2012), total farm sales in the county more than doubled from approximately $82.2 million to $169.1 million.[54]

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[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.

The continuing importance of Will County's agriculture is recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which considers nearly 75 percent of the county, or more than 400,000 acres, to be prime farmland:

> Prime farmland, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. It could be cultivated land, pastureland, forestland, or other land, but it is not urban or built-up land or water areas. The soil qualities, growing season, and moisture supply are those needed for the soil to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when proper management, including water management, and acceptable farming methods are applied. In general, prime farmland has an adequate and dependable supply of moisture from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. It is permeable to water and air. It is not excessively erodible or saturated with water for long periods, and it either is not frequently flooded during the growing season or is protected from flooding. Slope ranges mainly from 0 to 6 percent. In the last two decades, a trend in land use in some parts of [Will County] has been the loss of some prime farmland to industrial and urban uses. The loss of prime farmland to other uses puts pressure on marginal lands, which generally are more erodible, droughty, and less productive and cannot be easily cultivated.[55]

By 2012, there were 75,000 Illinois farms utilizing almost 27 million acres and about 73 percent of the total land area in the state. Illinois was the leading state in agricultural-related industries such as soybean processing, meat packing, dairy manufacturing, feed milling, vegetable processing, machinery manufacturing, foreign exports, and service industries.[56]

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."[57]

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.[58]

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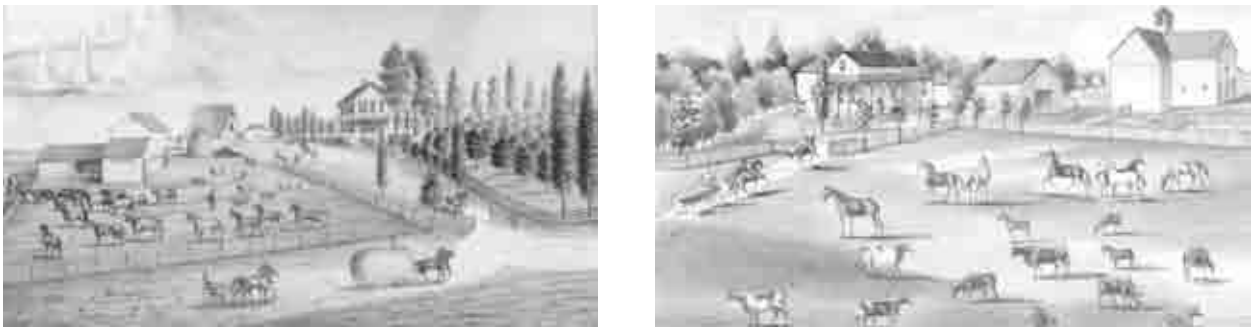
[55] *Soil Survey of Will County, Illinois* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, in cooperation with Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, 2004), 187.
[56] Census of Agriculture.
[57] Charles Lockwood, "Sprawl," *Hemispheres,* United Airlines magazine (September 1999), 82–84.
[58] *The Code of Country Living* (Bloomington, Illinois: Illinois Farm Bureau, 1999), 3.

Will Township Developmental History

Will Township was one of the last townships in Will County to have permanent settlement. Almost entirely empty of timber, and not near a waterway, the open prairie of the township was not attractive to early settlers. The first recorded European settler of the township, John McKenzie, arrived in what would become Will Township in 1852. McKenzie remained in the area for six or seven years before relocating to Missouri. In 1853, the second European settler arrived, when James M. Gridley moved into the township from nearby Crete. Gridley, a native of New York, would become a prominent citizen in the early years of the township and owned property in the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 3 (this farmstead was abandoned and demolished in the early decades of the twentieth century). Also in 1853, James Maxwell bought property and settled in Will Township, moving to the area from New Jersey. Upon arriving in the area, Maxwell noted that there was only one little shanty in the entire township, that may or may not have been occupied. Maxwell owned land in the north half of Section 3 (site 304 in the present survey).[59]

Several new families settled in the area in 1854, including F. P. Lilley and H. N. Ingersoll, who purchased property when he moved to Will Township in the spring of 1854. Ingersoll resided in Will Township through 1875, on land in the south half of Section 3 (site 301, demolished), while Lilley owned land in the northwest quarter of Section 3 (site 303, historic structures demolished). Robert Patterson, R. O. Hutchins, and their families settled in Will Township in 1855. Patterson would go on to serve as township supervisor, while Hutchins was appointed the first School Treasurer of Will Township in 1856. The first supervisor of Will Township, Samuel Storer, arrived in Will Township in 1856 from New Hampshire. Storer, who owned the land in Section 17 (site 1701, demolished), was elected Supervisor in 1859, and to the state legislature in 1860.[60]



Left: The farm of H. N. Ingersoll as it appeared in 1873. This farm was surveyed as site 3-01 in the 1988 survey but has been demolished. Right: The farm of F. P. Lilley as it appeared in 1873. This farm was surveyed as site 3-03 in the 1988 survey. Most of the buildings at the site have been demolished subsequently.

In 1854, the Illinois Central railroad was completed.[61] The railroad extended across the northwest portion of present-day Will Township through sections 5, 6, 7, and 18. While no rail station was ever established

[59] George H. Woodruff. *History of Will County, Illinois.* (Chicago: Wm. Le Baron Jr., & Company, 1878), 650–651.
[60] Ibid., 651–652.
[61] The Illinois Central Railroad is one of the earliest railroads in the United States. From the early days of statehood, the Illinois General Assembly had sought to charter a railroad linking the northern and southern parts of the state. Finally, in 1850 U.S. President Millard Fillmore signed a land grant for the construction of the railroad, making the Illinois Central the first land-grant railroad in the United States. The Illinois Central was chartered by the Illinois General Assembly on February 10, 1851. The terms of the land grant allowed the railroad to take ownership of government land in alternate sections up to 8 miles on either side of its route. With the development that the railroad would bring, the company expected to sell the land to recoup its construction costs. In Will Township, the land-grant encompassed the even-numbered sections of the township. Upon its completion in 1856, the Illinois Central was the longest railroad in the world. Its main line went from Cairo to Galena, with a branch line from Centralia to Chicago. The Chicago branch passed through Will County and greatly spurred the development of the eastern part of the county.

in Will Township, a depot was established on the east edge of nearby Peotone Township. At one point, nearly half of Will Township was owned by Illinois Central. The railroad company would subsequently sell the land to individuals for $2.50 to $5.00 an acre. As of 1862, Illinois Central owned the following property: most of Section 2 except for the 120-acre E. C. Jones farm in the southwest quarter, Section 6, Section 10 except for the 40-acre R. Warwick farm in the northeast quarter, Section 12, Section 14, the north half of Section 18, Section 22, Section 24, Section 26, Section 28, Section 32, Section 34, and Section 36.

Prior to 1859, Will and Monee Townships were originally a single township, Carey. The two townships separated in 1859, after the Board of Supervisors approved the division. The first election of new township officers occurred on April 5, 1859. Samuel Storer was elected the first Supervisor of Will Township.[62] The population of Will Township began to grow significantly in the 1860s, reaching a population of 911 by 1870. As of 1900, the population of Will Township was 860.[63]

In 1906–1907, the Chicago & Southern Traction Company built an electric interurban train line from 63rd & Halsted on the south side of Chicago to Kankakee. In Will County, the route paralleled the Illinois Central through Monee and Peotone, also passing through the northwest portion of Will Township.[64]

After World War I, the automobile gained popularity, and the railroad industry was struggling. The interurban between Chicago and Kankakee ceased passenger service in 1927, although freight traffic continued for some time thereafter.[65] While the railroads were struggling, road infrastructure was improved. Many roads were paved and designated U.S. routes to facilitate automobile travel. U.S. Route 54, which ran parallel to the Illinois Central Railroad tracks in Will Township, was constructed between 1940 and 1948.

The construction of Interstate 57 altered the landscape of Will and nearby Peotone Township. The interstate, which passed through the northwest corner of Section 6, made the area more accessible to the larger metropolitan centers. Interstate 57 is the major thoroughfare that extends from Sisketon, Missouri, to Chicago. Upon its completion, the interstate provided direct access to Chicago.[66] In the early 1970s, as the interstate network was completed, U.S. Route 54 was truncated to end at Interstate 72 in western Illinois, and the portion of the highway in Will County was renamed Illinois Highway 50.

In the mid-1980s, the rural landscape of Will Township was affected by the construction of two parallel 345-kilovolt electrical transmission lines, placed in a single right-of-way crossing the southern half of Sections 25 to 30. This transmission lines connected the newly built Braidwood Generating Station to an electrical distribution substation in Crete.

Will Township has remained largely rural and agricultural from the 1860s to the present day. Although scattered residential development has occurred, no major suburban influx has affected the township. The commercial and social activities for residents of the township are focused on the Village of Peotone to the west and the Village of Beecher to the east. However, two new proposed infrastructure projects have the potential to radically transform the township: the South Suburban Airport and the Illiana Expressway.

Amtrak took over the line's passenger rail operations in 1971. Following a 1972 merger, the railroad was known as the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad. In 1987, Metra bought the company's Chicago-area commuter rail services, now known as the Metra Electric lines. After being divested by its parent company in 1988, the railroad again became known as simply the Illinois Central Railroad. In 1998, the Illinois Central was purchased by the Canadian National Railway, which continues to operate freight on the line through Will County today.

[62] Woodruff, 652.

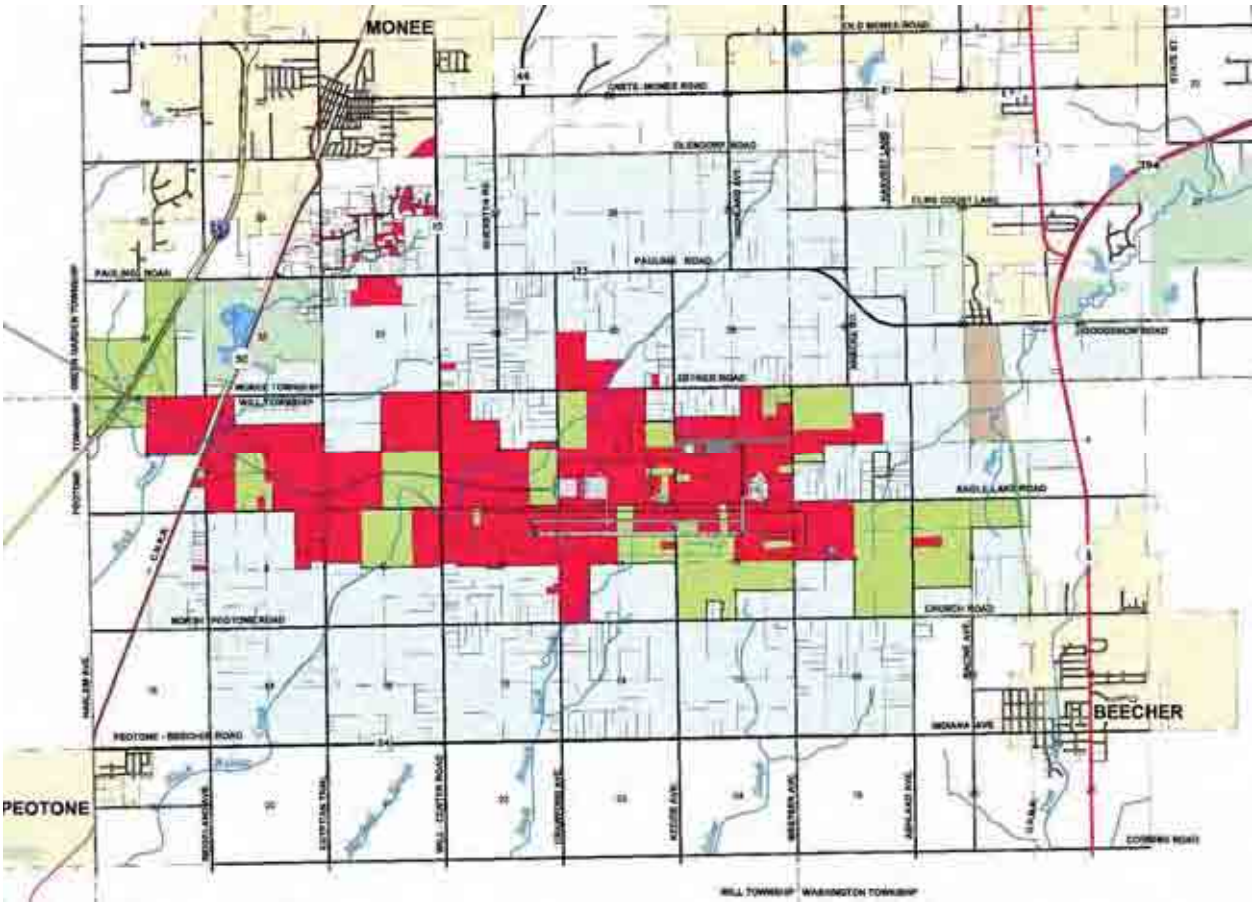
[63] W. W. Stevens. *Past and Present of Will County, Illinois*. (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing, 1907), 121.

[64] Parade, 28.

[65] Parade, 28.

[66] http://www.interstate-guide.com/i-057.html

The concept of a third major airport in the Chicago area has been discussed since at least the 1980s. In the early 1990s, the Lake Calumet area on the south side of Chicago was initially considered, but rejected due to concerns about air traffic interference with O'Hare and Midway airports. Therefore, in the mid-1990s, conceptual planning for a so-called South Suburban Airport was begun. A site in eastern Will County was selected by Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and funding was allocated in 1999 to begin land acquisition. The first parcel was acquired by the state in December 2001, a 115-acre parcel in the northeast quarter of Section 11 of Will Township. An initial environmental impact study completed in 2002 confirmed the site in eastern Will County as the preferred alternative for a third major airport in metropolitan Chicago. Forecasts of air passenger, air cargo, and general aviation traffic were prepared in 2004 and updated in 2009. Also in 2009, IDOT began the condemnation process to acquire the remaining parcels needed for the inaugural airport runway under the State's eminent domain power. A study of facility requirements was prepared in 2011 based on the 2009 traffic forecasts. A report evaluating alternative airport layouts was finalized on December 16, 2011. On July 1, 2014, IDOT acquired Bult Field, a privately built general aviation airport with a 5,000 foot runway located in Section 1 of Will Township which originally opened in 1953. In 2016, updated feasibility and facilities plans were submitted by the IDOT Division of Aeronautics to the Federal Aviation Administration. As of this writing, IDOT has acquired dozens of parcels in the northern half of Will Township and extending into northeastern Washington Township.[67] If built as proposed, the airport property would encompass almost all of the north half of Will Township.



Land acquired by IDOT for the proposed South Suburban Airport as of 2014 is shaded red. The green parcels are necessary acquisitions for the "inaugural airport" concept. The existing runway at Bult Field is shaded gray.

[67] http://www.southsuburbanairport.com/

The Illiana Expressway was first proposed in 2006 as a new interstate-grade highway connecting Interstate 65 in Indiana to Interstate 55 in Illinois, five to twenty-five miles south of Interstate 80. The Tier 1 study of the project was completed in January 2013. Several alternative corridors were studied; however, the preferred alternative, identified as B3, would route the highway from Lowell, Indiana, to Wilmington, passing through the southern portion of Will Township through Sections 25 to 31. As of this writing, no funding for actual roadway design or construction has been identified, with the State of Illinois removing the project from the Illinois Department of Transportation's future plans.[68]

The preferred corridor for the proposed Illiana Expressway through eastern Will County.

Detail map of Will Township, showing Illiana Corridor relative to the locations of significant sites. Although the corridor avoids most farmsteads in the township, contributing sites 2505, 2601, and 2905 would potentially be impacted by the construction of the proposed highway.

[68] http://www.illianacorridor.org/

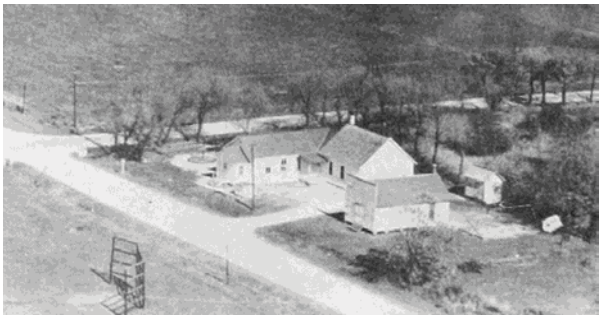
Schools

The first school in Will Township was established in February 1856, when legal voters of the township met at the home of F. P. Lilley and organized Congressional Town 33, Range 13 into a school township. H. N. Ingersoll, James M. Gridley, and R. O. Hutchins were elected trustees, with R. O. Hutchins appointed treasurer by the board of trustees. A schoolhouse was constructed and ready for use in fall 1856. The township remained a single school district until 1859, when it was divided into three. Two additional buildings had been completed by 1866. The township was further divided to create a total of nine districts for the 1871–1872 school year. There were nine schools serving 270 children in the township by 1878. As of 1906, 192 pupils were enrolled in nine schools.

The nine one-room schoolhouse districts continued to serve the township until 1948, when four of the nine schools were closed. In 1950, the consolidated Peotone Community District 207U was established that included all of Peotone, Green Garden, and Wilton Townships and the western two-thirds of Will Township (portions west of Crawford Avenue). At that time, younger students attended local grade schools and students in grades eight through twelve attended a central high school in the Village of Peotone.[69] In Will Township, only the Will Center School remained open at this time. A new high school was constructed starting in 1954 on the south side of the Village of Peotone; the high school opened in September 1956. The older school building completed in 1928 in the Village of Peotone was from that point in time used for grades 1 through 8; the Will Center School closed at this time.[70]

Between 1957 and 1965, a new elementary school building was also constructed in the Village of Peotone. The 1928 building became the Peotone Junior High School. With the consolidation, thirty-four schools and independent school districts were reorganized into one school district with five school buildings.[71] In addition, enrollment for the unified district nearly doubled between 1948 and 1965.

In the early twenty-first century, the school district continued to expand. In fall 2001, a new Peotone High School opened on the west side of the village. The previous high school was adapted for use as the Peotone Junior High School. Since peaking at more than 2,000 students in the 2007–2008 school year, total enrollment in the district has steadily declined. Currently, the Peotone Community Unit School District has just under 1,600 students and operates Peotone Elementary School at the north side of the village of Peotone for kindergarten through third grade; Peotone Intermediate Center in Green Garden Township for fourth and fifth grades; Peotone Junior High School and Peotone High School, both in the village of Peotone; and the Connor Shaw Center, housing the district offices and preschool program.



Left: The Will Center School as it appeared in 1955. In this view, the previous township hall (with false front) is visible to the right of the school. Source: John Drury, This is Will County, Illinois *(The American Aerial County History Series, No. 26. Chicago: The Loree Company, 1955), 578. Right: The new Peotone High School in 1956. Source:* Peotone on Parade: 1856–1956 *(Peotone: Centennial General Committee, Historical Program Committee, 1956), 16.*

[69] Farrington, 223.
[70] Farrington, 223.
[71] Farrington, 225

Since 1950, the eastern one-third of Will Township (portions east of Crawford Avenue) has been included within the Beecher Community Unit District 200U. With growing enrollment in the 1990s and early twenty-first century, additions to Beecher Elementary School and Beecher High School were completed in 2001, and a new Beecher Junior High School was completed in 2007. Over the last ten years, enrollment has been fairly stable, and the district serves slightly more than 1,000 students in three schools: Beecher Elementary School for early childhood and kindergarten through grade 5, Beecher Junior High School for grades 6 through 8, and Beecher High School, all located within the Village of Beecher.

Of the nine former one-room schoolhouses in Will Township, eight have been demolished. Only one school remains and has been heavily remodeled for use as the Will Township Hall. The former Peterson School (site 502) apparently still existed at the time of the 1988 survey, remodeled for use as a residence, but a newer house is present at that site today.

Map ID	PIN	Location	Name	Status
104	—	Section 1, SW corner	Smith School	Demolished
406	21-04-400-003	Section 4, SE quarter	Lilley School	Demolished. Single-family residence built on site.
502	21-05-300-002	Section 5, SW corner	Peterson School	Demolished. Single-family residence built on site.
1906	—	Section 19, NE corner	Barton School	Demolished. Single-family residence built on site.
2208	21-22-100-006	Section 22, NW corner	Will Center School	Adapted for use as Township Hall
2306	—	Section 23, NE corner	Matthias School	Demolished
2506	—	Section 25, SW corner	Budda School	Demolished
3003	21-30-400-002	Section 30, SE corner	Denby School	Demolished. The Gorman Family Crib Barn is on parcel, see Site 3001 in survey
3304	—	Section 33, NE corner	Westenfeld School	Demolished

Above: Two views of the former Will Center School in Section 22, now used as the Will Township Hall. The middle portion with the steep gable roof is the historic schoolhouse, while the wind with the shallower-sloped gable roof at the north end is a more recent addition. The crib barn visible beyond is part of the Thiesfeldt Farmstead, Site 2201 in the present survey.

Churches

The first religious congregation organized in Will Township was the Presbyterian Church of Will Township. Organized in 1865, the church building was also erected at that time. The church was founded by both Presbyterian and Methodist residents of the area who felt the fledgling township could only support a single congregation. The church was constructed in the southeast quarter of Section 9 on land owned by George W. Smith. Little is known about this congregation, which had disbanded by the end of the nineteenth century. The church building has been demolished. The Robert Norman Farmstead, Site 902 in the present survey, is currently located at the approximate location where the church existed. This farmstead appears to have been developed in the late 1890s or early 1900s.

Cemeteries

There are two cemeteries in Will Township that date back to the early decades of settlement. In Section 9, there is a small cemetery located adjacent to the Robert Norman Farmstead, Site 902 in the present survey. This cemetery, Site 904 in the present survey, was established in the mid-1860s in conjunction with the Presbyterian and Methodist church congregation. This cemetery is overgrown and in disrepair, with many grave markers broken or toppled. There is also a wood-framed storage shed on the cemetery property.

Left: Overgrown grave markers in the Presbyterian-Methodist church cemetery, site 904 in the present survey. Right: Toppled grave markers in the Presbyterian-Methodist church cemetery.

In Section 19 of Will Township just east of the Village of Peotone is the Peotone Cemetery, site 1904 in the present survey. This cemetery was organized in 1867. At the center of the cemetery is a historically significant Civil War memorial incorporating a cast-iron cannon tube. The cemetery also has brick masonry entrance piers and an early twentieth century brick masonry maintenance garage at its southwest corner.

Above left: The entrance to Peotone Cemetery, site 1904 in the present survey, features brick masonry piers and iron fencing. Above right: Civil War memorial at the center of the cemetery, including a cast-iron cannon tube. Below left: View of the cemetery. Below right: The brick masonry maintenance garage in the cemetery.

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,"[72] 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.[73] The materials used in the construction of a balloon frame structure consisted of milled lumber that was much lighter in weight than heavy timbers.[74]

Credit for the development of the balloon frame is usually given to George Washington Snow of Chicago,[75] 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.[76] At that time Chicago lacked a sawmill to produce the cut lumber, but mills were present in Indiana and in Plainfield in northwestern Will County.[77] However, these mills were relatively far away, and transportation of milled

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[72] 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.

[73] 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).

[74] 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.

[75] 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.

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

[77] Sprague, "Chicago Balloon Frame," 37.

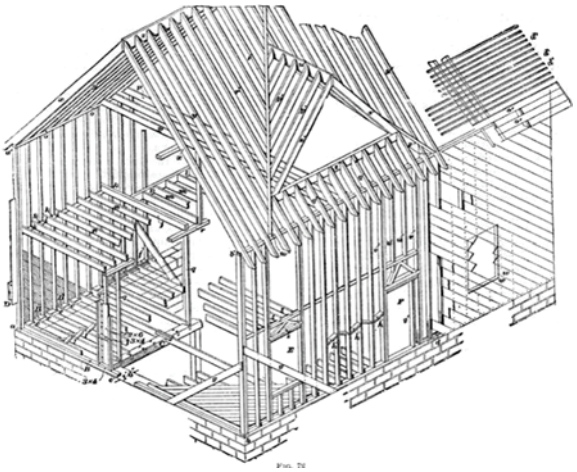
heavy timbers difficult and expensive. Therefore, it was necessary to develop a more economical construction system.

The classic balloon frame consists of the following elements:[78]

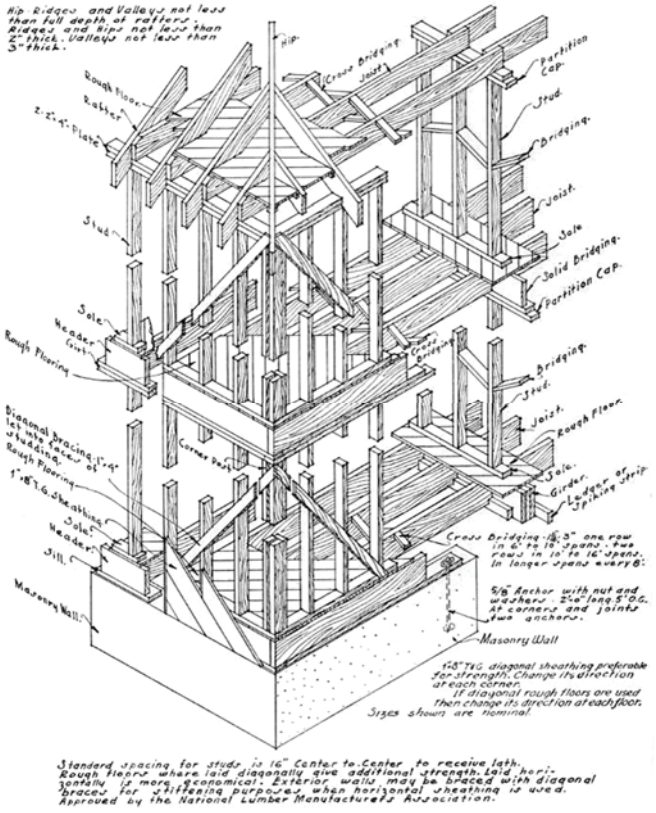
- A sill, made from a large section of milled lumber (e.g., 4x8) or two or more smaller pieces (two 2x8s), set on a masonry or concrete foundation,
- Floor joists (2x10, 2x12, etc.), typically at 16 inches on center,[79] reinforced by diagonal bridging, nailed to the sill and nailed to:
- Studs (2x4 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.

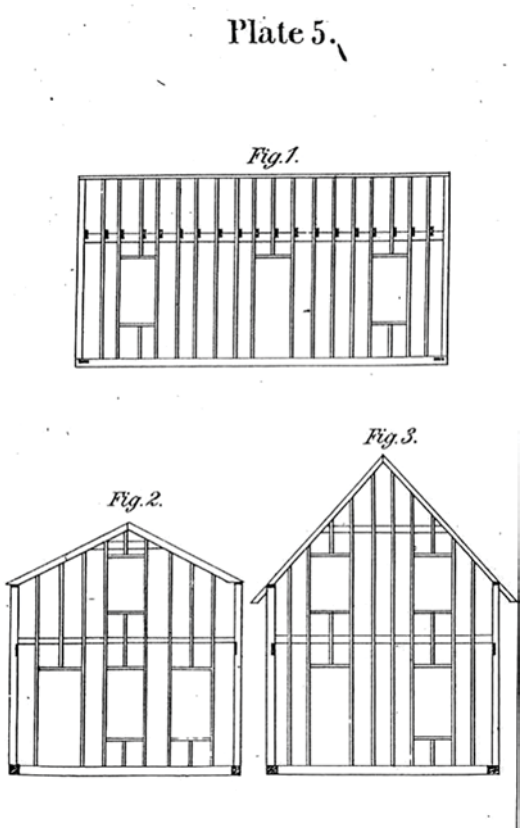
Since a carpenter with one or two helpers could frame and sheath a small one story house in one week, the balloon allowed a settler to have a dwelling on their land in a short amount of time. In addition, there was a 40 percent savings in the amount of material to enclose the same volume as compared to the braced frame.[80] 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.

[78] 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."
[79] 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.
[80] 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]. Above right: This crib barn on the Genens–Schmaedeke Farmstead, in Section 21 of Peotone Township, shows the use of balloon framing for agricultural buildings in Will County. 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.[81] 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.[82]

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":[83]

> 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.[84]

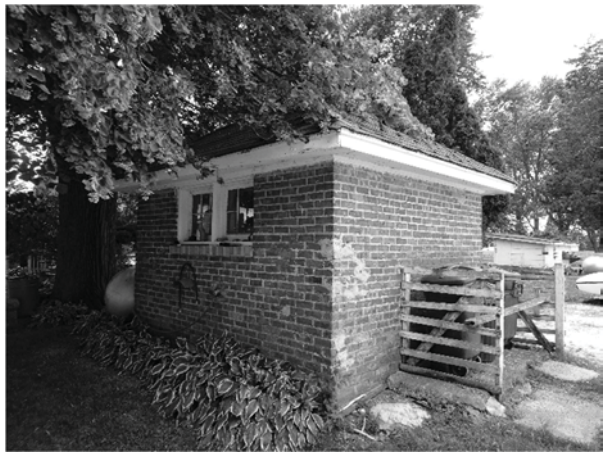
With the completion of the new farmhouse, Britt goes on to describe how the older farm structures were adapted for new functions: "with the building of a new home the little old one became a stable for horses, and the lean-to kitchen the family smokehouse."[85] This shows the flexibility that the framing system allowed, since these new functions required new or larger openings, relocating the structure, or construction of additions.

[81] Peterson, 15–24.
[82] 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.)
[83] Albert Britt, *An America That Was* (Barre, Massachusetts: Barre Publishers, 1964), 33.
[84] Ibid.
[85] 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. A few early twentieth century brick and clay masonry structures were documented in Will Township, including a few houses and outbuildings.



Left: The Cape Cod-type house at the Mittag Tenant Farm, site 2002, is constructed of brick masonry. Right: The well house at the Tong–Bate Farmstead, site 1801, is another local example of brick masonry construction.

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 northwest of Will 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.[86]

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.[87]

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[86] 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.
[87] 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.[88] 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.

In the survey area, locally quarried stone was commonly used for foundations of buildings in the nineteenth century.

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.[89]

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.

[88] Ibid.

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

> . . . 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.[90]

The survey area contains a few examples of cast-in-place concrete structures, these generally consist of outbuildings, silos, and building foundations.

This cast-in-place concrete storage building, likely dating to the 1940s, is at the Havens–Krumwiede Farmstead, site 602.

Concrete Block

Beginning in the early 1900s, mass production of concrete block units succeeded after several earlier developments failed to lead to widespread production.[91] 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.

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.

[90] "The Use of Concrete Work on the Farm," *Building Age* (February 1917), 102–103.
[91] Pamela H. Simpson, *Cheap, Quick, and Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870–1930* (Knoxville, Tennessee: University of Tennessee Press, 1999), 11.

Blocks were made with a variety of face textures and even color, with "rock face" block being one of the most popular styles.[92]

The survey area includes a number of concrete block structures. Above left: The historic concrete masonry farmhouse at the Clarence Cann Farmstead, site 1702, is built of concrete masonry. Above right: A detail of the rock-face concrete masonry units. Below left: The dairy barn at the Schroeder Farmstead, site 2206, has concrete block walls at the ground floor. Below right: The barn at the Smith–Von Alven Farmstead, site 3602, also uses concrete masonry for the first level.

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 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.[93] 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

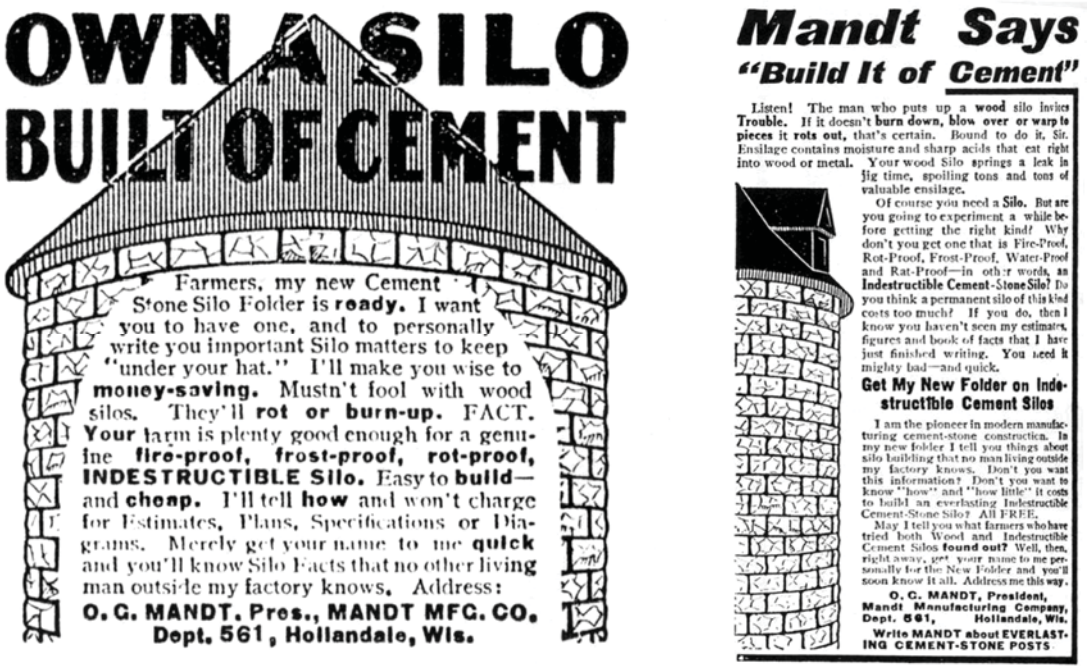
[92] Ibid., 24.
[93] Ibid., 21–22.

> 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.[94]

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.

The survey area has a number of historic structures built of concrete blocks, including outbuildings as well as garages. Concrete block is also widely used for building foundations in the survey area. Concrete blocks and related items were manufactured in the Village of Peotone in the early twentieth century, making this material readily available to local builders in Will Township.



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

[94] 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.[95] 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.

What style is it? The house at the Hagenow Farmstead, site 703, retains some Queen Anne style details, but the original character of this nineteenth century house has been obscured by the closing up of most of the street-facing windows.

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

Greek Revival

The Greek Revival style was popular in the United States beginning in the 1820s but fell out of favor after the Civil War. 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. Greek Revival architecture was not observed in the survey area, likely due to the late date at which settlement began in Will Township, with few surviving structures that predate the Civil War.

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.

The house at the D. J. Board farm (located at site 404 in the present survey) was Gothic Revival in style, as illustrated in the 1873 atlas. This mid-nineteenth century house was later demolished and replaced by and Upright and Wing type house at the site. Source: 1873 atlas, plate 111.

Second Empire

The Second Empire style 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.

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. A few examples of Italianate style designs were identified in the survey area.


Left: The Will County landmark house at the Krohn–Westenfeld–Kwiatkowski Farmstead, site 3402, has an elaborate Italianate style cornice, window trim, and front porch. Right: A detail of the cornice trim.

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 number of Queen Anne style houses were documented in the survey area.


Left: The ornamentation at the gable and front porch of the house at the Fred Matthias Farmstead, site 1403, is characteristic of the Queen Anne style. Right: The ornamentation and massing of the house at the Bunte Farmstead, site 3603, is also typical of the Queen Anne style.


Left: Although much remodeled, the Queen Anne style of the house at the Robert Norman Farmstead, site 902, is apparent at the corner turret. Right: Although now clad with vinyl siding and trim, the original Queen Anne style corner brackets are still present on the house at the Wilke Farmstead, site 704.

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. Colonial Revival architecture is not strongly present in the survey area, although a few houses have Colonial Revival elements.

The house at the Felton–Mundt Farmstead, site 1804, has a front-facing gambrel-roof shape and leaded art glass windows, referencing the Dutch Colonial Revival style.

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 a few of the houses in the survey include Craftsman-inspired features.

The bungalow at the Tong–Bate Farmstead, site 1801, shows Craftsman-inspired details such as three-over-one double-hung windows and Craftsman-style eave brackets.

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. No Tudor Revival style houses were noted during the field survey.

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 Will Township.

During the survey, very 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.[96] Building forms followed the movement of settlers from New England westward through the Ohio Valley to Illinois.[97] 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.[98] 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. Six examples of the I House type were identified in Will Township during the survey.

Left: The one-room deep original portion of the house at the Schroeder Farmstead, site 2206, is an example of the I House type. Right: The original two-story portion of the house at the Meyer–Sova Farmstead, site 2503, embodies the characteristics of the typical I House. (The one-story wings at right and left and the front porch are later additions.)

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

[97] 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).

[98] Kniffen, 7–8.

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.[99] No examples of the Hall and Parlor house type were identified in the survey area.

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. Five examples of the New England One and a Half type were identified in the survey area; these houses are likely among the oldest surviving structures in the township.

Left: The house at the Bunte Farmstead, site 1404, is a typical example of the New England One and a Half type in the survey area. Right: The house at the Stahlhuth–Seitz–Rauch Farmstead, site 2404, is another example; the later additions (to the right in this view) somewhat obscure the original house type.

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.[100] No Side Hallway type houses were identified in the survey area. Some houses may have been originally constructed as Side Hallway types but have evolved to other types through subsequent additions.

[99] 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.
[100] Ibid., 126.

Upright and Wing

The Upright and Wing was popular in the mid to late 1800s.[101] 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.[102] The Upright and Wing type is common throughout Will County and is somewhat common in Will Township. About eight percent of the surveyed farmhouses are this type.

Above left: The house at the Ruder–Ogalla Farmstead, site 404, shows the defining characteristics of the Upright and Wing type. Above right: Although somewhat remodeled, the house at the Siefker–Keirsten–Taglioli Farmstead, site 1504, is an Upright and Wing type. Below left: The house at the Welch–Krohn Farmstead, site 3401, is another typical example. Below right: The house at the Wiechen–Lattz Farmstead, site 2604, is a less common example of the type, where the wing has a partial second story.

Gabled Ell

The Gabled Ell house type usually dates from the two decades after the Civil War.[103] 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

[101] 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).

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

[103] Ibid., 136.

two wings faces the street or main approach with the broad side of the other wing at the side. The Gabled Ell type is common in Will Township, representing more than one-third of the surveyed farmhouses.

The Gabled Ell type is common in Will Township. Above left: the house at the Shear–Palso Farmstead, site 2102, is a 1-3/4 story tall example of the house type. Above right: the house at the Louis Seifker Farmstead, site 2401, has a wrap-around porch. Below left: The house at the Buhr–Hameister Farmstead, site 2402, is a larger and more elaborate example. Below right: The house at the Westenfeldt–Guritz Farmstead, site 3303, is another example of the type, with the original front porch enclosed.

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. Several Four-over-Four type farmhouses were identified in Will Township.

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. Several Gable Front type houses were identified in Will Township.


Left: The house at the Smith Farmstead, site 1203, has a square, symmetrical two-story mass and is classified as a Four-over-Four type. Right: The house at the Adams–Radtke Farmstead, site 2103, is considered a Gable Front type.

American Foursquare

The American Foursquare[104] 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. American Foursquare type farmhouses are common in the survey area, representing approximately fifteen percent of the farmhouses surveyed.


The American Foursquare type is common in Will Township. Left: The house at the Maves Farmstead, site 1601, includes a pyramidal roof, hipped dormer, symmetrical plan, and front entrance porch characteristic of the American Foursquare building type. Right: The house at the Conrad–Cann Farmstead, site 1803, is also a local example of the building type.

[104] 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.)


Left: The house at the Bowe–Cann Farmstead, site 1805, is a similar example of the American Foursquare type. Right: The house at the Drecksler Farmstead, site 3102, is another example of this type.

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. The bungalow type house is less common in Will Township than other areas of Will County, with only three examples identified.


Two examples of the bungalow type in Will Township: at left, the house at the Tong–Bate Farmstead, site 1801; at right, the house at the Dopp–Fritz Farmstead, site 3204. The portion with the bay window at left is a later addition.

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.[105] The Cape Cod has a simple rectangular plan, one story in height with dormers and a gable roof. Eight Cape Cod type houses in Will Township were documented during the survey.

Left: The house at the Mittag Tenant Farm, site 2002, is a local example of the Cape Cod type. Right: The house at the Barton–Asbrand–Lattz Farmstead, site 1806, is another example.

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. Approximately ten percent of the houses documented at rural farmstead sites are ranch type houses.

Two examples of the Ranch type in Will Township: at left, the Loitz–Hoverman Farmstead, site 1405; at right, the Williams–Loitz Farmstead, site 3002.

[105] 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.[106]

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.[107]

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.[108]

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.[109]

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.[110]

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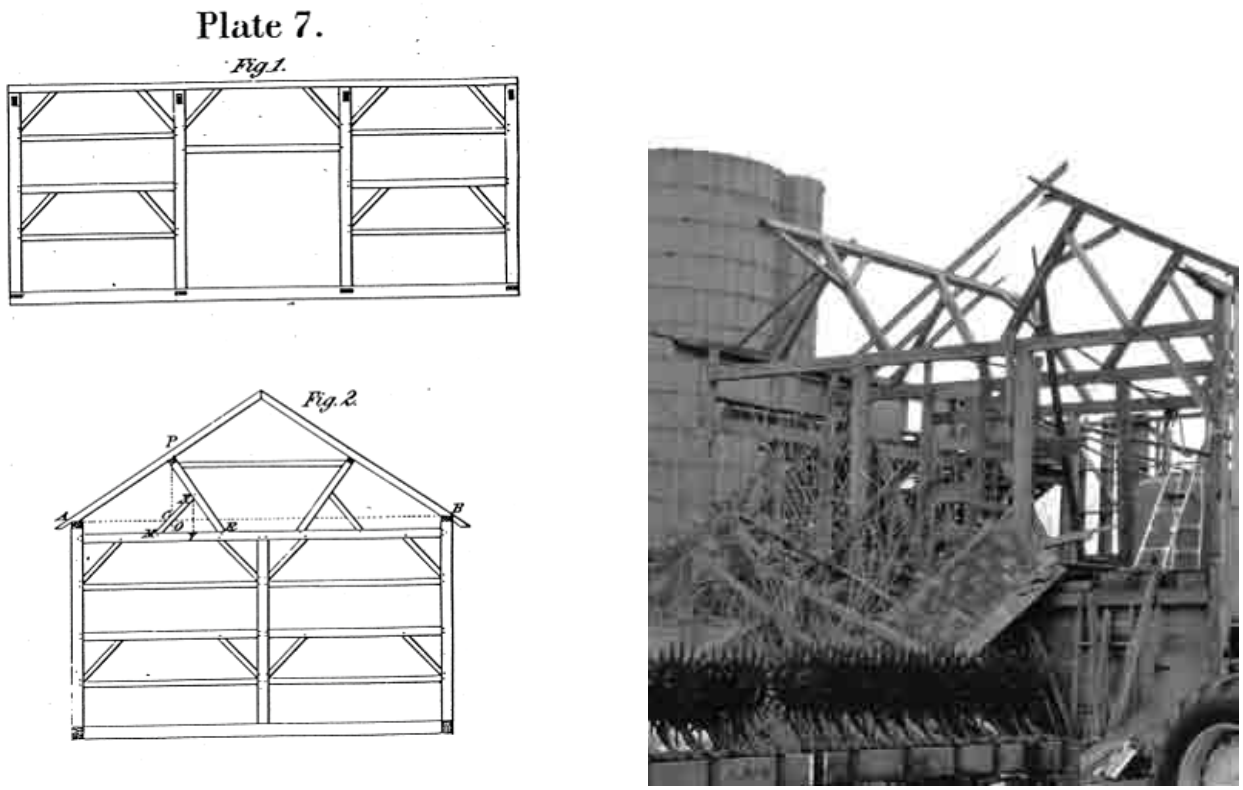
[106] Allen G. Noble and Hubert G. H. Wilhelm, "The Farm Barns of the American Midwest," in *Barns of the Midwest,* Allen G. Noble and Hubert G. H. Wilhelm, ed. (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1995), 9.
[107] Hubert G.H. Wilhelm, "Midwestern Barns and Their Germanic Connections," in *Barns of the Midwest*, 65.
[108] Ibid.
[109] Ibid., 48–50.
[110] 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: This type of braced heavy timber framing is visible in the partially dismantled barn at the Rogers–Denning Farmstead in Section 18 of Peotone Township.*

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.[111] 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.[112]

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[111] Ibid., 158.

[112] 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 labor consumed in sawing and nailing, farmers and builders were slow to adopt this system. Bent or sprung arches were the second

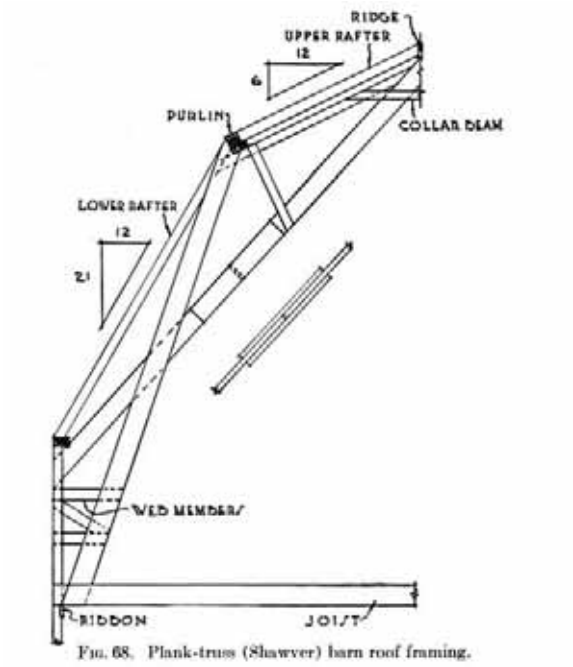


Fig. 68. Plank-truss (Shawver) barn roof framing.

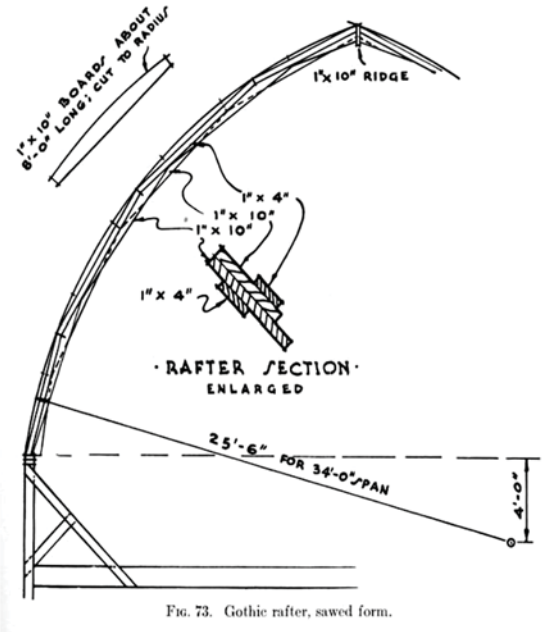


Fig. 73. Gothic rafter, sawed form.

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.[113] 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.[114]

The two-story loft barn ceased to be built shortly after World War II.[115] 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.[116] Farmers began to build fewer custom wood frame structures, which were susceptible to fires, as manufactured buildings using steel became available. Early metal-barn

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).

[113] Ibid., 162–163.

[114] Ibid., 164.

[115] Ibid., 165.

[116] 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.

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.[117]

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.[118] 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.[119] 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.*

[117] Ibid., 226.
[118] Ibid., 225.
[119] 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.[120] 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.[121] 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. About one-third of the existing barns in Will Township are of this type.

Examples of the three-bay threshing barn type in Will Township: above left, the Lloyd Norman Farmstead, site 1003; above right, the Thiesfeldt Farmstead, site 2201; below left, the Matthias Farmstead, site 2302; below right, the Stender–Patula Farmstead, site 3202.

[120] 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.

[121] 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.

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.[122] 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.[123]

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.[124] In some cases this barn type was lifted up and placed onto a raised basement, which then could house the animals, especially dairy cows.[125]

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. However, basement barns do not have ramps nor are they sited to utilize the natural topography to access the second floor. No raised or bank barns were identified in the survey area.

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.[126] Plank frame barns can have gable or gambrel 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

[122] 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.
[123] 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.
[124] 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.
[125] Calkins and Perkins, "The Three-bay Threshing Barn," *Barns of the Midwest,* 59.
[126] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book,* 117

lumber rather than the heavy timber framing of earlier barn types. Nine examples of the plank frame barn type were observed in Will Township.

Examples of the plank frame barn type from Will Township. Above left: A very typical example at the Kurtz–Hauert–Barton Farmstead, site 2904. Above right: the Fred Matthias Farmstead, site 1403. Lower left: A gable-roofed example at the Thiesfeldt Tenant Farmstead, site 2801. Lower right: An example of the plank frame barn type illustrated in Smith & Betts Farm and Building Book *(Chicago: The Radford Architectural Company, 1915).*

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. One three-ended barn was identified in the survey area.

One three-ended barn was documented in Will Township, at the Meyer Farmstead, site 1905.

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 round barns were identified in the survey area.

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. Only one round roof barn was identified in the survey area, and this barn was demolished in 2017.

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.[127] Dairy barns are somewhat common in Will Township, with twelve examples documented in the survey.

[127] Noble and Cleek, 77.

The Wisconsin Dairy Barn type is somewhat common in Will Township. Above left: The barn at the Nurberry–Szudarski Farmstead, site 405. This barn has an attached milk house. Above right: The barn at the Havens–Krumwiede Farmstead, site 602, is a typical example with ground floor stalls and an upper level hayloft. Below left: The barn at the Schroeder Farmstead, site 2206, is a later example with a ground floor of concrete masonry and an upper level constructed of wood framing. Below right: The barn at the Matthias–Koehn Farmstead, site 3605, is a particularly large and elaborate example.

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. Eight examples of the feeder barn type were identified in Will Township.


The barns at the Hagenow Farmstead, site 703 (left) and the Smith–Von Alven Farmstead, site 3602 (right) are examples of the Feeder Barn type.

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.[128] The pole barn is an example of economical construction techniques applied to modern agriculture and was common from the 1940s into the 1960s.


Examples of pole barns in Will Township include: left, pole barn at the Robert Norman Farmstead, site 902; and right, pole barn at the Offner–Ginder Farmstead, site 3103.

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. Quonset sheds are somewhat common in Will Township, with fifteen examples documented as part of the present survey.

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

Four examples of the Quonset shed type in Will Township: above left, a shed at the Schuldt & Jochum Tenant Farm, site 501; above right, a shed at the Williams–Loitz Farmstead, site 3002; below left, a shed with wood-clad end walls at the Conrad–Cann Farmstead, site 1803; below right, a wood-clad, asphalt shingle roofed shed at the Buhr–Hameister Farmstead, site 2402.

Manufactured Building

While pole barn structures use manufactured materials assembled by a local builder or the farmer himself, manufactured buildings originated in the early decades of the twentieth century but were offered as a complete system from the 1940s. Companies including Butler, Bryant, and Morton have produced manufactured buildings that are present in Will County. 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.

Manufactured buildings are common in Will Township: above left, the manufactured building at the Seehausen–Mayer Farmstead, site 1401; above right, manufactured building at the Havens–Krumwiede Farmstead, site 602; below left, manufactured building at the George Albers Farmstead, site 1301; below right, manufactured building by the Morton Buildings company at the Knickrehm–Kaack Farmstead, site 3405.

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.[129] 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.[130] 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.

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

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.[131] The corncrib usually rested on log or stone piers.[132] In constructing a frame corncrib, two methods of attaching the slat siding or cribbing were used. The slats were attached either horizontally or vertically; cribbing attached diagonally for extra strength seems to have come into practice about 1900.[133]

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.[134] 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.[135] 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.[136] 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.[137] Wood-framed corn cribs are not common in the survey area. Crib barns, silos, and metal grain bins are much more common.

[131] Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 26.
[132] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 155.
[133] Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 27.
[134] Keith E. Roe, "Corncribs to Grain Elevators: Extensions of the Barn, " in *Barns of the Midwest*, 170.
[135] Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 60.
[136] Ibid., 177.
[137] Ibid., 176.

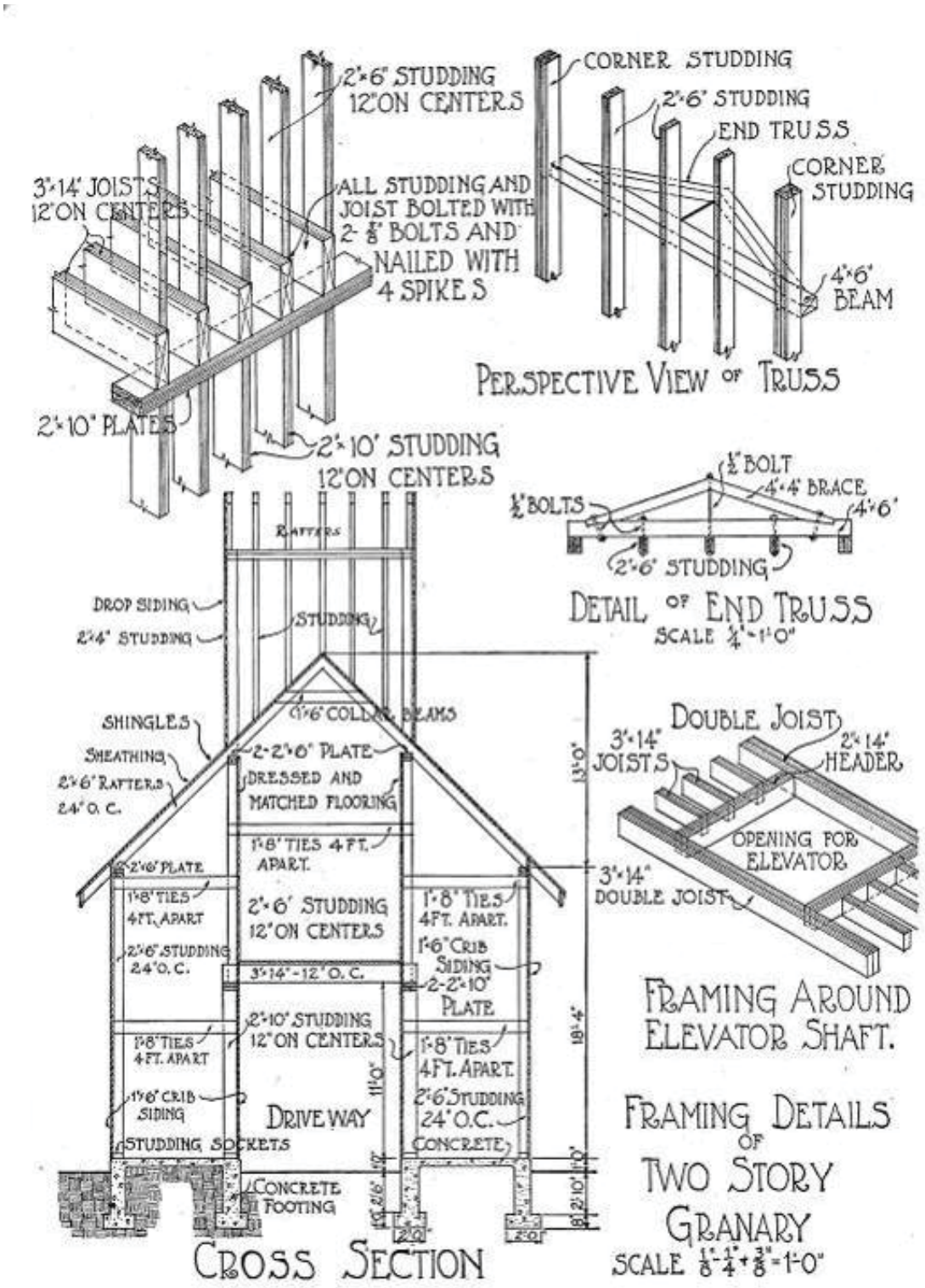
Crib Barns

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. New crib barns were built in Will County as late as the 1950s. Crib barns are present on approximately half of the farmstead sites surveyed in Will Township.

There are many wood crib barns in Will Township. Examples differ in size, roof shape, materials, and the presence of a cupola for the grain elevator equipment. Illustrated here, examples of crib barns include: above left, early crib barn at the Hagenow Farmstead, site 703; above right, early crib barn at the Matthias Farmstead, site 2302; below left, crib barn with elaborate elevator housing and cupola at the Bunte Farmstead, site 3603; and below right, a typical gambrel roof crib barn from the 1920s–1940s era, at the Thiede–Bunte Farmstead, site 2205.

Later examples of crib barns in Will Township include (left) a circa 1930s–1940s crib barn at the Meyer Farmstead, site 1905; and (right) a late 1950s crib barn with perforated metal siding at the Schroeder Farmstead, site 2206.

There are several distinctive perforated masonry crib barns in Will Township. Left: the circular crib barn at the Williams–Loitz Farmstead, site 3002. Right: The oblong crib barn at the Smith–Von Alven Farmstead, site 3602.



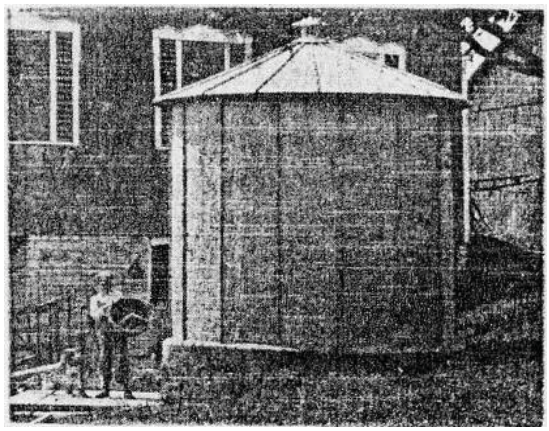
Crib barns, usually with two bins, abound in the survey area. Illustrated above are framing details of a crib barn from Smith & Betts Farm and Building Book *(Chicago: The Radford Architectural Company, 1915).*

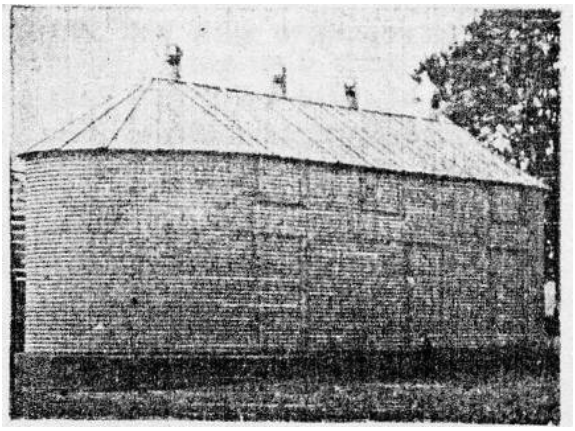
Metal Bins

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.[138]

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.[139]

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. Grain bins are common in Will Township.





Above: Illustrations of two types of metal corn bins from The Illinois Farmer's Guide*, August 1939. Below left: The grain bin at the Wilke Farmstead, site 704, is a typical early example of grain bin construction. Below middle: The mesh grain bin at the Stahlhuth–Seitz–Rauch Farmstead, site 2404, is a typical example of this 1950s type of construction. Below right: The three bins at the Loitz–Heisner Farmstead, site 1501, were built in the 1980s and are typical of new grain bin construction in the survey area.*

[138] Ibid.

[139] 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.[140]

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.[141] Many were constructed within the barn building.[142] 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.[143] 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.[144] 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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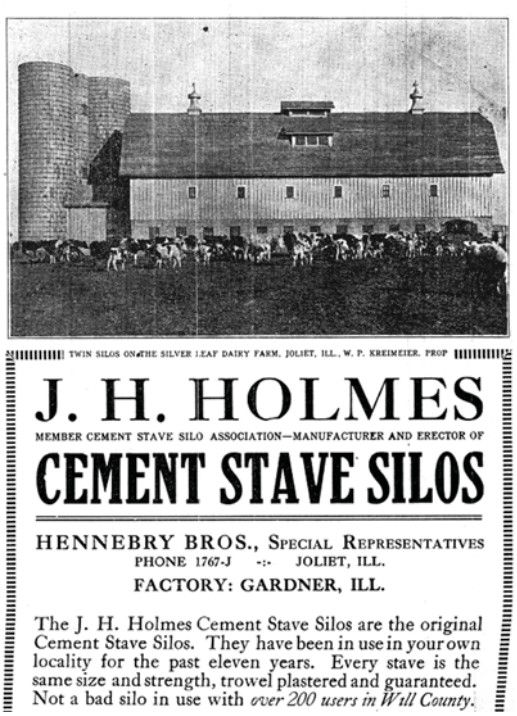
[140] Noble, *Wood, Brick and Stone*, 71–72.
[141] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 158.
[142] Ingolf Vogeler, "Dairying and Dairy Barns in the Northern Midwest," *Barns of the Midwest* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1995), 108.
[143] W.A. Foster, "Silo Types and Essentials," *Hoard's Dairyman* (21 February 1919) 201, 216, 217, and 232.
[144] Ibid.

Concrete stave silos were constructed as early as 1904 in Cassopolis, Missouri, which used book-shaped staves.[145] Several patents existed for cement stave silos, including that of the Mason & Lawrence of Elgin, Illinois, dating from 1914.[146] 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.[147]

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.[148]



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.*

[145] 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.
[146] "How to Make and Sell Concrete Silo Staves," *Concrete* (October 1927): 32–35.
[147] David Mocine, "Keep Workmen Busy the Year Round," *Concrete Products* (January 1948): 161.
[148] "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.[149] 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.[150]

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.[151]

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.[152] 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.[153] 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.[154] In 1974 the company launched another line of products for the containment of manure called Slurrystore. By 1999, over 70,000 of Harvestore structures of various sizes (tall or short, narrow or stout) had been built.[155]

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[149] 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.
[150] H. Colin Campbell, "Concrete Silo Construction," *Hoard's Dairyman* (21 February 1919): 200.
[151] King, "Planning the Silo," in *Eighteenth Annual Report of the Illinois Farmers' Institute,* 64.
[152] W.A. Foster, "Silo Types and Essentials," *Hoard's Dairyman* (21 February 1919): 201.
[153] Gambrel and domical roofs allowed for filling the silo to the top of the outer wall, maximizing the storage capacity.
[154] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 108–9.
[155] Harvestore Systems, DeKalb, Illinois, www.harvestore.com

Twenty-four silos were documented in Will Township, but unlike other areas of Will County, no Harvestore silos were seen.



Left: The silo at the Bruns–Arnold Farmstead, site 101, is a typical example of a concrete stave silo in the survey area. Middle: The silo at the Kopman–DeYoung Farmstead, site 204, is a larger concrete stave example. Right: The silo at the Tong–Bate Farmstead, site 1801, is a relatively uncommon example of a cast-in-place concrete silo.

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.[156]

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.

Many farmsteads have stand-alone well houses containing water pumping equipment. Left: The concrete masonry well house at the Clarence Cann Farmstead, site 1702. Right: The wood-framed well house at the Buhr–Hameister Farmstead, site 2402, is adjacent to an abandoned windmill.

Examples of small storage sheds in the rural survey area. Left: A shed at the Schroeder Farmstead, site 3301. Right: A shed at the Knickrehm–Kaack Farmstead, site 3405.

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


Left: A garden shed and equipment building at the Havens–Krumwiede Farmstead, site 602. Right: A possible former summer kitchen at the Matthias Farmstead, site 2302.


Many of the smaller outbuildings in the rural survey area were used for housing animals. Left: An animal shed at the Conrad–Cann Farmstead, site 1803. Right: A chicken coop at the Tong–Bate Farmstead, site 1801.


Left: An animal shed at the Chamberlain–Seitz Farmstead, site 2602. Right: This clay masonry milk house was likely attached to a dairy barn at the site, now demolished, at the Schroeder Farmstead, site 3201.

CHAPTER 4

SURVEY SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Period of Significance: 1855 to 1970

The first settlement by settlers of European origin occurred in Will County in the 1830s; however, settlement of present-day Will Township was among the last areas in the county to be settled. Significant permanent settlement of the township began only after the construction of the Illinois Central Railroad in 1854. An approximate starting date of 1855 is used for the period of significance.

Will Township began its development as a farming community. The farming economy of the township began with grazing animals; early settlers thought that the open prairie of the township, almost devoid of trees, meant that the soil was poor. After the Civil War, improvements in farm implements such as the steel plow allowed intensive agriculture to take hold, and grain crops became important, sufficient to support multiple grain elevators in the village and a flour mill. In the 1910s and 1920s, improved transportation including paved highways provided easier access to the urban area of Chicago, and dairy farming became more common in the township.

No village ever developed in Will Township. The commercial and social needs of the farmers in Will Township were met by the village of Peotone to the west, the village of Monee to the north, and the village of Beecher to the east. The completion of Interstate 57 allowed local residents easier access to commercial and retail areas in southern Cook and Kankakee Counties.

Since the 1960s, a very small amount of newer residential development has occurred in the township; however, compared to western and northern portions of Will County, these new developments are isolated, small in scale, and have not altered the completely rural character of the township. The future impacts on the township in the twenty-first century, if and when the South Suburban Airport and Illiana Expressway are built, are difficult to foresee. Land acquisition by the State of Illinois for the proposed airport has already resulted in the demolition of a number of historic farmstead sites. A closing date of 1970 is used for the period of significance, for consistency with other portions of Will County.

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. 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

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.[157]

The three criteria that are most applicable to the rural survey area are A, B, and C. Under Criterion A, the Will County 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 Will County survey region contains architecturally significant structures that represent the diverse range of agricultural practices that occurred during the period of significance.

Although no properties in the survey of Will Township were judged to meet the criteria for national listing, properties within the survey region are 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;
> 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;

[157] 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*.

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.[158] 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."[159] 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.

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

[158] 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.)

[159] Introduction to the Illinois Centennial Farms Program application form, Illinois Department of Agriculture.

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.[160]

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 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.

[160] 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).

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 Plan* 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. On January 20, 2011, revisions to the plan included adopting a new section, the Airport Environs Element, to guide future planning near the proposed commercial airport in eastern Will County.[161]

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

Although largely unincorporated, a small portion of Will Township in Section 19 is within the present-day corporate limits of the Village of Peotone. As part of the survey of Will Township, one historically agricultural site within the Village of Peotone was surveyed: the Houghton–Hauert Farmstead, site 1908 in the present survey. Generally, the Will County Historic Preservation Commission does not consider landmark nominations for properties within incorporated municipalities. However, the Village of Peotone 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 village could proceed through the normal landmark designation review process. If, in the future, the Village of Peotone 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.

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

Potential Landmarks

No potential historic districts were identified in the present survey. However, based on the results of the present survey, there are ten individual farmstead sites that have clear potential for local landmark status. There is one existing Will County landmark in Will Township, the Krohn–Westenfeld–Kwiatkowski Farmstead (PIN 21-34-300-005, listed as the Krohn–Kwiatkowski House and documented as site 3402 in the present survey, refer to page 84). This farmstead contains an elaborate and well-preserved Italianate style farmhouse built in 1888 for Christian Krohn. The site also contains a historic crib barn and a number of smaller agricultural outbuildings.

Based on the limited integrity of most farmstead sites documented in the present survey, it is not clear that any sites would be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This does not mean that no sites are eligible; merely that further study is required before a determination of eligibility could be made. No properties within the township are currently listed in the National Register.

Based upon the research conducted for this study, the following properties are considered to be eligible for Will County landmark designation.

- Site 702 PIN 21-07-400-008 Cann–Mudro Farmstead (page 79)
- Site 902 PIN 21-09-400-005 Robert Norman Farmstead (page 86)
- Site 1003 PIN 21-10-300-034 Lloyd Norman Farmstead (page 86)
- Site 1301 PIN 21-13-200-003 George Albers Farmstead (page 88)
- Site 1702 PIN 21-17-100-027 Clarence Cann Farmstead (page 79)
- Site 1803 PIN 21-18-200-003 Conrad–Cann Farmstead (page 80)
- Site 1805 PIN 21-18-200-002 Bowe–Cann Farmstead (page 80)
- Site 2302 PIN 21-23-200-021 Matthias Farmstead (page 82)
- Site 2502 PIN 21-25-100-004 Constable–Siemson Farmstead (page 83)
- Site 3202 PIN 21-32-200-005 Stender–Patula Farmstead (page 83)
- Site 3402 PIN 21-34-300-005 Krohn–Westenfeld–Kwiatkowski Farmstead (page 84)*

  * Will County Landmark

These properties, as well as other farmsteads associated with prominent families in Will Township, are discussed in detail beginning on page 79.

Survey Summary

The survey of Will Township documented approximately 706 structures, including 112 houses and 45 major barns on 118 farmsteads and related sites. Cumulatively since 1999, the Will County Rural Historic Structural Survey has documented more than 9,300 structures on approximately 1,800 sites.[162] The tables below provide a breakdown of the survey results for Will, Crete, Wilton, and Peotone Townships.[163]

Farmhouses

House Type	Will	Crete	Wilton	Peotone	County Totals
I House	6	2	1	1	43
Hall and Parlor	—	—	—	1	21
New England 1-1/2	5	1	7	2	26
Four over Four	4	5	3	6	111
Side Hallway	—	4	2	—	24
Upright and Wing	9	29	28	10	305
Gabled Ell	38	22	32	54	427
Gable Front	3	7	3	8	111
Foursquare	17	7	11	20	163
Bungalow	3	3	7	3	92
Cape Cod	8	12	10	5	83
Ranch	12	13	17	17	*
Other	7	6	5	3	319
Totals	**112**	**111**	**126**	**130**	**1,725**

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

Barns

Barn Type	Will	Crete	Wilton	Peotone	County Totals
Three-bay Threshing	13	10	8	9	228
Bank	—	2	3	1	42
Raised	—	—	1	—	10
Pennsylvania German	—	—	—	—	9
Three-ended	1	—	—	—	13
Plank frame	9	13	13	16	171
Feeder	8	2	1	1	63
Dairy	12	10	7	22	155
Round roof	1	1	—	—	8
Round	—	—	—	1	3
Other or Unclassified	1	1	—	—	52
Totals	**45**	**39**	**33**	**50**	**754**

[162] 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.

[163] These townships have been selected since they are geographically close to Will Township and have been surveyed recently. The county totals include all buildings documented in all surveys since 1999.

Outbuildings

Building Type	Will	Crete	Wilton	Peotone	County Totals
Animal shed or shelter	10	18	17	18	211
Barn (secondary)	6	4	3	—	40
Cellar	—	—	—	—	17
Chicken coop	21	7	12	33	220
Corn crib	1	4	2	—	23
Crib barn	68	30	57	71	721
Foundation	1	1	2	23	134
Garage	56	54	71	92	901
Horse stable	8	7	1	7	47
Hog house	—	2	—	1	19
Implement shed	6	7	5	2	224
Machine shed	58	30	41	110	443
Mesh bin	2	5	—	4	59
Metal bin	63	12	93	94	888
Milk house	3	—	4	13	119
Pole barn / Manufactured building	65	66	87	58	865
Privy	3	2	1	1	21
Pump house / Well house	25	19	12	11	175
Shed	99	73	40	74	909
Silo	24	22	15	38	386
Smoke house	1	—	—	—	30
Summer kitchen	5	9	1	2	47
Windmill	4	1	2	5	65
Other	20	41	12	16	261
Totals	**549**	**414**	**478**	**673**	**6,825**
Total, including houses and barns	**706**	**564**	**637**	**853**	**9,304**

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 Will Township in 2017. The 1988 survey, conducted by Michael A. Lambert in September–October 1988 for the State of Illinois, was a reconnaissance-level survey performed from the public right-of-way. In the 1988 survey of Will Township, approximately 750 buildings on 142 farmstead sites were documented.[164] Among the farmstead sites documented in 1988, no historic structures survive at twenty-six farmstead sites in Will Township. At several other sites, major buildings such as historic barns or houses have been lost. Although relatively little contemporary residential or industrial development has occurred in the township, farmsteads have been lost through the consolidation of farming operations and the replacement of historic buildings with new structures adapted to contemporary agricultural practices. In addition, all seven historic bridges documented as part of the 1988 survey have subsequently been replaced with new structures.

The table at the end of this chapter lists all farmsteads and sites included in the survey area of Will Township and each site's potential for landmark designation. The table also includes photographs of the house and barn on each site and other noteworthy information as available. The ID numbers listed on the table correlate to the maps included in Appendix B.

[164] Excluded from this total are six farmsteads and related sites in Will Township that were not documented during the 1988 survey, but which are included in the present survey and therefore obviously existed at that time.

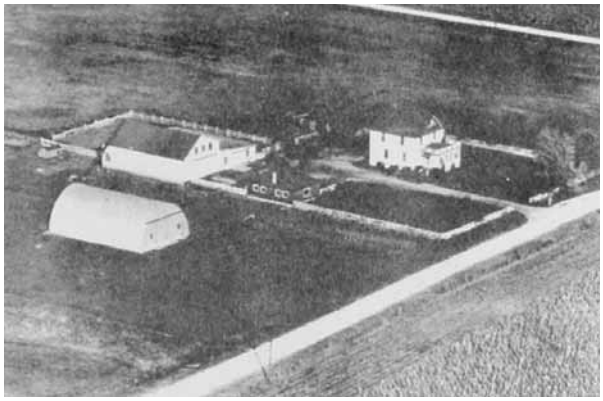
Notable Farmsteads in Will Township

Cann–Mudro Farmstead ***Site 702 (PIN 21-07-400-008)***

This farmstead site appears to have been newly developed by John Cann and his sons in the first decade of the twentieth century. In 1918, it was occupied by John's son Thomas Cann and his wife Alice Forsman. In remained owned by the Cann family into the 1940s. By the early 1960s, it had been acquired by Joseph and Pat Mudro.

The farmstead features an early twentieth century concrete masonry farmhouse built for the Cann family. There are also a number of historic outbuildings, including two Quonset sheds. Based on the current survey, this farmstead is judged to have local landmark potential.

Left: The historic farmhouse on the Cann–Mudro Farmstead. Right: The circa 1940s Quonset shed on the site.



Left: The existing circa 1940s chicken coop. This structure was originally built as a lean-to addition to a barn, which was subsequently demolished. Right: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Note the Quonset shed and the original barn. Source: Drury, 565.

Clarence Cann Farmstead ***Site 1702 (PIN 21-17-100-027)***

Similar to site 702, this farmstead site appears to have been newly developed by John Cann and his sons in the first decade of the twentieth century. In 1918, it was occupied by John's son Clarence Cann and his wife Grace Younker. It was later owned by Clarence and Grace's son Clyde Cann. In remained owned by the Cann family into the first decade of the twenty-first century.

The farmstead features an early twentieth century concrete masonry farmhouse built for the Cann family, as well as a few small historic outbuildings (although the original major barn has been demolished). Based on the current survey, this farmstead is judged to have local landmark potential.


Left: The historic concrete masonry farmhouse at the Clarence Cann Farmstead. Right: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 564.

Conrad–Cann Farmstead ***Site 1803 (PIN 21-18-200-003)***

This farm was first settled by Peter Conrad in the 1860s. Similar to sites 702 and 1702, this site was acquired and redeveloped by John Cann and his sons in the early twentieth century. By 1918 it was occupied by John's son William Cann. It was later inherited by William's son Ray Cann. It remained in the Cann family into the first decade of the twenty-first century.

This farmstead contains an American Foursquare type house, and a few of early twentieth century outbuildings. Based on the current survey and based on its association with a prominent local farming family, this farmstead is judged to have local landmark potential.


Left: The historic farmhouse at the Conrad–Cann Farmstead. Right: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 564.

Bowe–Cann Farmstead ***Site 1805 (PIN 21-18-200-002)***

This farm was first settled by Moses Bowe in the 1860s. Similar to sites 702, 1702, and 1803, this site was acquired and redeveloped by John Cann and his sons in the early twentieth century. By 1918 it was occupied by John's son Herbert Cann. It remained in the Cann family into the 1970s.

This farmstead contains an American Foursquare type house, and a number of early twentieth century outbuildings, including a crib barn and a clay masonry silo. Based on the current survey and based on its association with a prominent local farming family, this farmstead is judged to have local landmark potential.


Left: The historic farmhouse at the Bowe–Cann Farmstead. Right: The historic crib barn at the site.


Left: The abandoned clay masonry silo on the site. Right: The Bowe–Cann Farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 564.

Other Cann Family Farmsteads

A number of other sites in the present survey are associated with the Cann family:

- George Cann Farmstead, Site 701 (PIN 21-07-200-004). Similar to the sites described above, this site was acquired by John Cann and his sons in the early twentieth century. By 1918 it was occupied by John's son George Cann. This Contributing site has a heavily remodeled early twentieth century Gabled Ell type house as well as two non-historic outbuildings.
- Robert Cann Farmstead, Site 803 (PIN 21-08-400-005). Similar to the sites described above, this site was acquired by John Cann and his sons in the early twentieth century. By 1918 it was occupied by John's son Robert Cann. The historic house at the site was documented in the 1988 survey, but it has been subsequently demolished.
- Tobias–Cann Farmstead, Site 1902 (PIN 21-19-200-012). This farm was developed by the Tobias family in the nineteenth century. By 1940, it had been acquired by Richard Cann, who may have been a grandson of John Cann. The property remains owned by the Cann family. This non-contributing site has been abandoned, and the remaining historic structures are partially collapsed and in ruinous condition.

Matthias Farmstead ***Site 2302 (PIN 21-23-200-021)***

This farmstead was first settled circa 1863 by Conrad Matthias. By 1918, it was the home of John Matthias, son of Conrad. In the 1960s, it was owned by John's son George Matthias, and descendants of the Matthias family continue to own the farm today.

This farmstead contains a number of late nineteenth and early twentieth century structures, including a Gabled Ell type house, a three-bay threshing barn, a crib barn, and a number of smaller outbuildings. Based on the current survey and considering its long association with a locally prominent family, this farmstead is judged to have local landmark potential.

Left: The well-preserved Gabled Ell farmhouse at the site. Note the front porch featuring concrete masonry piers supporting Classical columns. Right: The three-bay threshing barn at the farm.

Left: The historic crib barn remains, albeit in somewhat deteriorated condition.. Right: One of the smaller historic outbuildings at the site.

Left: The historic chicken coop at the site. Right: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Most of the structures visible in this view survive today. Source: Drury, 569.

Constable–Siemson Farmstead ***Site 2502 (PIN 21-25-100-004)***

This farm was first settled by William Constable in the 1850s. The 1860 census lists William Constable, age 36 (implying a date of birth circa 1824), a native of England, and his wife Mary, also 36. The Constable family owned the property through the rest of the nineteenth century. By about 1900, the farm had been acquired by Jacob Siemsen. The 1918 directory list Jacob and his children Harvey, Jake, Laura, Anna, Frieda, John; he had been a resident of Will County since 1859, likely the year of his birth. After 1948, the farm was acquired by Leonard Giroux.

This farmstead features a historic Gabled Ell style house. Based on the illustration of the farm presented in the 1873 atlas, the front-gable portion of the house was likely built by William Constable in the 1850s as part of an Upright-and-Wing type house. The two-story side gable wing was likely added by the Constable family later in the nineteenth century, perhaps in the late 1870s or 1880s. The farm also has a large dairy barn, likely built by the Siemson family. Based on the current survey, this farmstead is judged to have local landmark potential.

Left: The historic farmhouse on the Constable–Siemson–Giroux Farmstead Right: The dairy barn on the site.

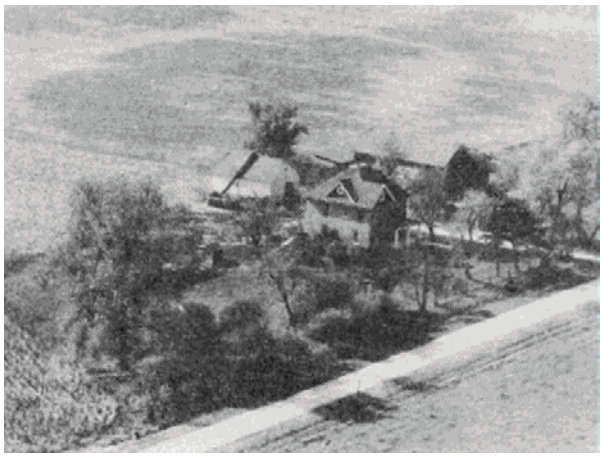
Left: The farmstead as pictured in the 1873 atlas, plate 111. Right: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 566.

Stender–Patula Farmstead ***Site 3202 (PIN 21-32-200-005)***

This farmstead was initially settled by O. Jorgason in the late 1860s. By 1893, it had been acquired by Joachim Stender. As listed in the 1918 directory, Joachim Stender and his wife Sophia Seeman owned 80 acres. He had been a resident of the county since 1867, which may be when he was born. Their children included Esther, Walter, John, Mary, and William. By 1948, the farm was owned by Mary Patula. Although uncertain, this may be the Stender's daughter Mary. By the 1950s, the farm was operated by Charles Patula.

The farmstead has a locally distinctive concrete masonry farmhouse, likely built in the first decades of the twentieth century for the Joachim Stender family. The site also features a three-bay threshing barn and crib barn. Based on the current survey, this farmstead is judged to have local landmark potential.


Left: The historic early twentieth century concrete masonry farmhouse at the Stender–Patula Farmstead. Right: The three-bay threshing barn on the site.

Left: The crib barn at the Stender–Patula Farmstead. Right: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 572.

Krohn–Westenfeld–Kwiatkowski Farmstead ***Site 3402 (PIN 21-34-300-005)***

This farmstead was first settled by Christian Krohn in the late 1860s. After Christian's death, the farm passed to his son, William Krohn. His wife was Minnie Westenfeld. By 1940, the farm was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Westenfeld, who likely were related by marriage to the Krohn family. The farm appears to have been rented to tenants in the 1950s. After Herman Westenfeld's death in the early 1960s, the farm passed to other owners, currently the Kwiatkowski family.

This farmstead contains an elaborate and well-preserved Italianate style farmhouse built in 1888 for Christian Krohn. The site also contains a historic crib barn and a number of smaller agricultural outbuildings. It was listed as a Will County Landmark (Krohn–Kwiatkowski House) in 2011.


Left: The Krohn–Westenfeld–Kwiatkowski Farmstead as it appeared in 1955. Source: Drury, 578. Right: Historic view of the farmstead, provided by the current owner.


Above: Two views of the 1888 house at the farmstead.


Left: The historic crib barn at the farmstead. Right: The historic barn on the site has been demolished since 1988, but the concrete stave silo remains.

Robert Norman Farmstead ***Site 902 (PIN 21-09-400-005)***
Lloyd Norman Farmstead ***Site 1003 (PIN 21-10-300-034)***

Robert Norman was born in Devonshire, England, in 1854. He immigrated to the United States in 1874 at the age of twenty, together with his brother Fred. In 1875, he bought this farm in Section 9. In 1880 he married Mary Woodward, a native of Canada who came to Monee Township with her parents in 1865. Robert and Mary's children included George, Edith, Lulu, Lloyd, Hope, and Frank.[165] After Robert's death, the farm was inherited by his children, later being operated by his youngest son, Frank A. Norman. It remains owned by the Norman family today. The farm contains a historic late nineteenth century house as well as some twentieth century outbuildings. Based on its association with a prominent local farming family, the Robert Norman Farmstead is considered to be potentially local landmark eligible.

An adjacent farm in Section 10 is also associated with the Norman family. This farm was acquired by Robert Norman from his father-in-law William Woodward circa 1896. By 1918, this was the home of Robert and Mary Norman's son Lloyd Norman. It remained in the Norman family until the 1970s. The farm contains a gabled Queen Anne style house, a three-bay threshing barn, and a crib barn, as well as other non-contributing outbuildings. Based on its association with a prominent local farming family, the Lloyd Norman Farmstead is considered to be potentially local landmark eligible.


Left: The historic house, somewhat remodeled, at the Robert Norman Farmstead, site 902. Right: The Robert Norman Farmstead as it appeared in 1955. Source: Drury, 572.


Left: The historic three-bay threshing barn at the Lloyd Norman Farmstead, site 1003. Right: The Lloyd Norman Farmstead as it appeared in 1955. The house, barn, and crib barn visible here still exist at the site. Source: Drury, 572.

[165] Stevens (1907), 627–628; 1918 directory

Boicken–Zummallen Farmstead ***Site 2403 (PIN 21-24-400-011)***
Boicken–Bunte Farmstead ***Site 2501 (PIN 21-25-100-002)***

Charles Boicken was born in Germany and at age 4 came with his family to the United States. The Boicken family settled on a farm in Monee Township. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Civil War, Charles Boicken settled on a farm in Section 25 of Will Township, site 2501 in the present survey. He served the local community in various roles, including township supervisor, road commissioner, school trustee, and school director. He and his wife Dorothea Matthias had five children, Henry (born 1870), Emma, William, Mary, and Dorothea. In 1899 he retired and moved to a house in Beecher.[166] The youngest of Charles and Dorothea's sons, William Boicken, inherited the old homestead in Section 25. By 1940, this farm had passed to the Bunte family.

In 1894, Henry F. Boicken, the oldest son, married Louisa Wiechen, who was born in Will Township in 1872, a daughter of German immigrants Henry and Sophia Wiechen. (The Wiechen farmstead, surveyed in 1988 as site 34-04, has been demolished.) Shortly after their marriage, Henry and Louisa Boicken acquired a farm in Section 24, site 2403 in the present survey. They had four children, Alma, Malinda, Albert, and Martha.[167] The farm was acquired by Fred Zummallen in the 1940s.

The Boicken–Bunte Farmstead, site 2501, has no structures remaining from the Boicken family period of ownership. It is judged to be Non-contributing. The Boicken–Zummallen Farmstead, site 2403, has a historic house, somewhat remodeled, and a number of non-historic outbuildings. It is judged to be a Contributing site.

Left: The Boicken–Zummallen Farmstead, site 2403, as it appeared in 1955. The historic house remains but has been significantly altered. Source: Drury, 579. Right: The Boicken–Bunte Farmstead, site 2501, as it appeared in 1955. The 1940s Cape Cod style house remains, but the historic outbuildings have been demolished.

[166] Stevens (1907), 789–790.
[167] Ibid.; 1918 directory.

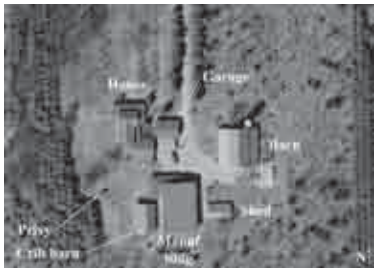
George Albers Farmstead ***Site 1301 (PIN 21-13-200-003)***

This farmstead was established circa 1869 by Luebbe Albers. It remains owned by the Albers family today. The existing Gabled Ell farmhouse at the site was likely built in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The historic outbuildings, including a three-bay threshing barn and a crib barn, were likely built in the early twentieth century, when the farm was operated by Luebbe's son George Albers. Based on its long time association with a pioneer family and the presence of representative well-preserved farm structures, the George Albers Farmstead is considered to be eligible for Will County landmark designation.

Left: Overall view of the George Albers Farmstead, site 1301. Right: The well-preserved three-bay threshing barn at the property, constructed in 1915.

Table 1. Surveyed Farmsteads and Related Sites in Will Township

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
101	21-01-100-004	West Offner Road	**Bruns–Arnold Farmstead**	Contributing

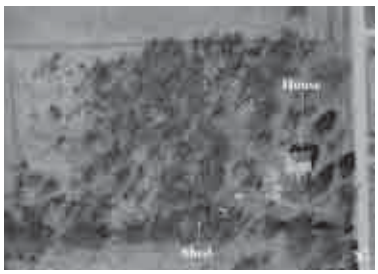


☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Three-bay Threshing

102	21-01-400-016	South Western Avenue	**Hasemann–Anderson Farmstead**	Contributing

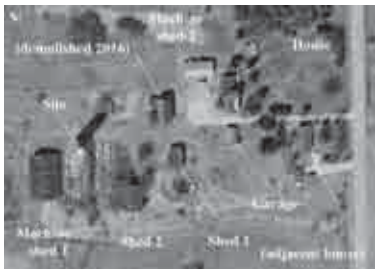


☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

American Foursquare

Most outbuildings had already been demolished by 1988 survey.
Surveyed from road only.

204	21-02-200-005	South Kedzie Avenue	**Kopman–DeYoung Farmstead**	Contributing

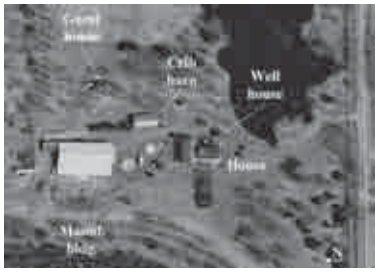


☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Upright and Wing

Newer house closer to road and its garage are a separate parcel, PIN -004, 28104 South Kedzie Avenue.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
205	21-02-400-001	West Eagle Lake Road	**Smith–Jach Farmstead**	Non-contributing



☑ Within South Suburban Airport site? Barn

(2) grain bins removed circa 2009; concrete foundations remain.
Now used by portable toilet rental company.

303	21-03-100-003	South Will Center Road	**Kuersten–Kolstedt Farmstead**	Non-contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Settled by F. P. Lilley in 1854. Pictured in 1873 atlas, plate 113.
House demolished shortly after 1988 survey.
Other remaining outbuildings demolished in 2014–2015.
Only one non-historic outbuilding remains.

304	21-03-100-005	West Offner Road	**Maxwell–Kuersten Farmstead**	Non-contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

This property was settled by James Maxwell in 1853, one of the earliest settlers in the township. Pictured in 1873 atlas, plate 113.
Mostly demolished by 2005. Abandoned concrete stave silos remain on site.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
305	21-03-200-007	West Offner Road	**Tucker–Hultenschmidt Farmstead**	Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site? Ranch Plank Frame

House demolished and replaced, 2014. Historic barn is intact.

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404 21-04-400-002 South Will Center Road **Ruder–Ogalla Farmstead** Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site? Upright and Wing

Pictured in 1873 atlas, plate 111.
Surveyed from road only at Owner's request.

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405 21-04-100-004 South Egyptian Trail **Nurberry–Szudarski Farmstead** Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site? Gabled Ell Dairy

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
501	21-05-300-001	South Ridgeland Avenue	**Schuldt & Jochum Tenant Farm**	Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

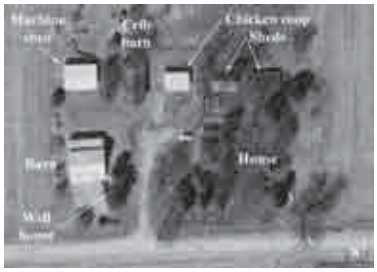
Only crib barn and shed remain.

503	21-05-100-003	West Offner Road	**Ruder Farmstead**	Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site? Ranch

Only house remains. Other structures demolished in 2015.

601	21-06-400-016	West Eagle Lake Road	**Peterson–Reiter Farmstead**	Contributing



☐ Within South Suburban Airport site? American Foursquare Plank Frame

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ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
602	21-06-300-008	South Harlem Avenue	**Havens–Krumwiede Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Four-over-Four

Feeder

Dairy

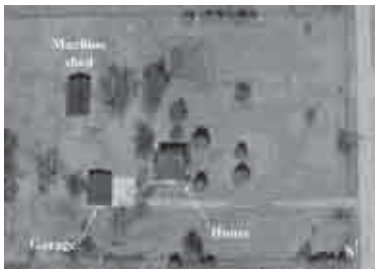
604	21-06-100-010	West Offner Road	**Peter Johnson Farmstead**	Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Plank Frame

This is the only farmstead in this township west of I-57.

701	21-07-200-004	South Ridgeland Avenue	**George Cann Farmstead**	Contributing



☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Surveyed from road only at Owner's request.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
702	21-07-400-008	West North Peotone Road	**Cann–Mudro Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

American Foursquare

Notable as an example of construction using locally produced concrete masonry.

703	21-07-200-026	West Eagle Lake Road	**Hagenow Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Feeder

704	21-07-300-009	West North Peotone Road	**Wilke Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Three-bay Threshing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
801	21-08-100-004	South Ridgeland Avenue	**Ed Meier Farmstead**	Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site? American Foursquare Three-bay Threshing

Pictured in 1873 atlas, plate 111; no buildings from that era survive.
Surveyed from road only at Owner's request

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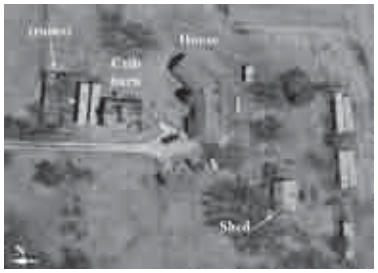
802 21-08-200-001 West Eagle Lake Road **Settles–Stumbris Farmstead** Non-contributing



☑ Within South Suburban Airport site? Ranch

1 shed has collapsed; debris remains on site.

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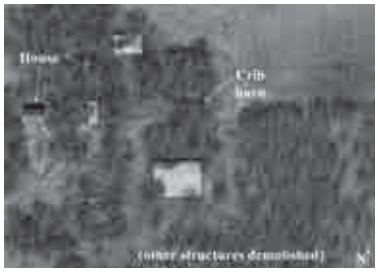
804 21-08-300-006 South Ridgeland Avenue **Meier Farmstead** Contributing



☑ Within South Suburban Airport site? Gabled Ell

Other outbuildings demolished/collapsed.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
901	21-09-300-010	South Egyptian Trail	**John Wiktor Farmstead**	Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Bungalow

Due to construction, surveyed from road only.

902	21-09-400-009	South Will Center Road	**Robert Norman Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Northern outbuildings are PIN 21-09-400-004.

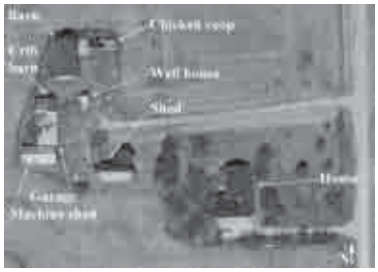
1003	21-10-300-034	South Will Center Road	**Lloyd Norman Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Three-bay Threshing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1004	21-10-400-019	South Crawford Avenue	**Zirzow Farmstead**	Contributing



☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

New England One-and-a-half

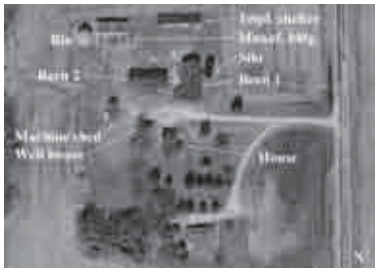
Plank Frame

1005	21-10-200-003	South Crawford Avenue	**Langbartels–Bunte Farmstead**	Non-contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Per historic imagery, most structures were demolished between 2002 and 2005. Everything but one grain bin has been demolished.

1101	21-11-400-001	South Kedzie Avenue	**Clausing–Bramstaedt Farmstead**	Contributing



☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

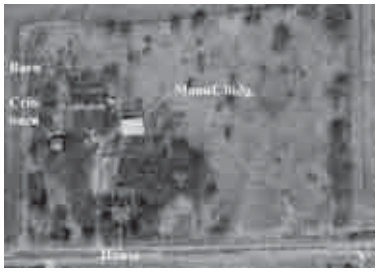
Upright and Wing

Dairy

Round Roof

Crib barn on property demolished circa 2008. Two barns documented in survey were subsequently demolished in 2017.

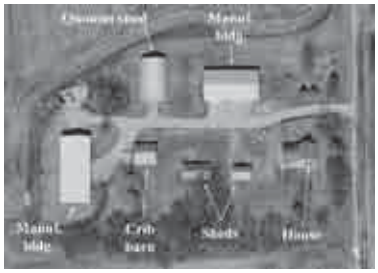
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1105	21-11-300-005	West Church Road	**Rust Farmstead**	Contributing



☑ Within South Suburban Airport site? Four-over-Four Plank Frame

Surveyed from road only at Owner's request.

1201 21-12-400-007 South Western Avenue **Paul Farmstead** Contributing



☑ Within South Suburban Airport site? I House

Family connection to a farm in Crete Township, sec. 10-11 [Fred Paul, 1918 directory]
Surveyed from road only at Owner's request.

1202 21-12-300-008 West Church Road **William Seifker Farmstead** Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site? Gabled Ell Feeder

Surveyed from road only.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1203	21-12-100-003	South Kedzie Avenue	**Smith Farmstead**	Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Four-over-Four

Dairy

1301	21-13-200-003	South Western Avenue	**George Albers Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

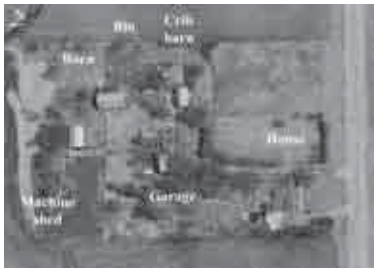
Centennial Farm, established circa 1869 by the Luebbe Albers family.

1302	21-13-200-006	South Western Avenue	**Fette Farmstead**	Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

American Foursquare

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1304	21-13-300-005	West Peotone-Beecher Road	**Matthias–Busse Farmstead**	Non-contributing



☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Three-bay Threshing

Not accessible, surveyed from road only.
Newer house close to road is a separate parcel, not part of farmstead.

1401	21-14-400-005	South Kedzie Avenue	**Seehausen–Mayer Farmstead**	Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

New England One-and-a-half

1402	21-14-200-003	South Kedzie Avenue	**Schultz–Minger–Kolar Farmstead**	Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Three-bay threshing

Surveyed from road only.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1403	21-14-100-013	West Church Road	**Fred Matthias Farmstead**	Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Plank Frame

1404	21-14-300-004	South Crawford Avenue	**Bunte Farmstead**	Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

New England One-and-a-half

Surveyed from road only.

1405	21-14-100-002	South Crawford Avenue	**Hoverman Farmstead**	Non-contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Ranch

1961 aerial view: historic house appears to have been demolished.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1501	21-15-400-007	West Peotone-Beecher Road	**Loitz–Heisner Farmstead**	Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Upright and Wing

Surveyed from road only.

1502	21-15-100-005	West Church Road	**Schlemme–Miller–De Young Farmstead**	Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

New England One-and-a-half

Feeder

Inaccessible, surveyed from road only.

1504	21-15-100-002	South Will Center Road	**Siefker–Keirsten–Taglioli Farmstead**	Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Upright and Wing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1601	21-16-100-002	South Egyptian Trail	**Maves Farmstead**	Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

American Foursquare

Cape Cod

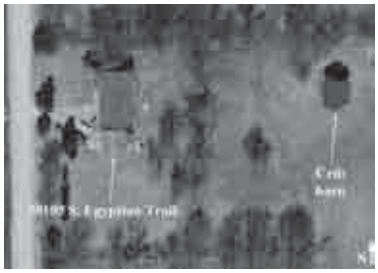
1602	21-16-300-002	South Egyptian Trail	**Schneeweisz–Fabian Farmstead**	Contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Upright and Wing

Three-bay Threshing

1603	21-16-300-017	South Egyptian Trail	**Buck Family Crib Barn**	Non-contributing



☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Isolated crib barn in field behind c. 1960 house at 30105 South Egyptian Trail. Crib barn likely built late 1950s.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1702	21-17-100-027	South Ridgeland Avenue	**Clarence Cann Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

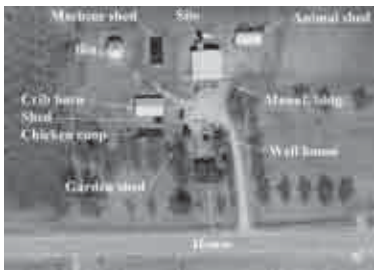
☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

American Foursquare

1703	21-17-200-001	West North Peotone Road	**Gullickson Farmstead**	Non-contributing

☑ Within South Suburban Airport site?

1801	21-18-400-008	West Peotone-Beecher Road	**Tong–Bate Farmstead**	Contributing



☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Bungalow

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1803	21-18-200-003	West North Peotone Road	**Conrad–Cann Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

American Foursquare

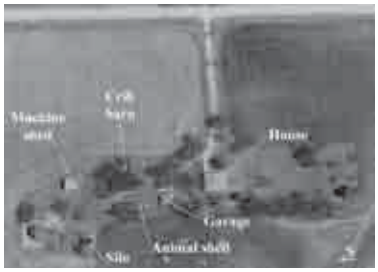
Main barn demolished before 1988 survey.

1804	21-18-100-011	South Harlem Avenue	**Felton–Mundt Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gable Front

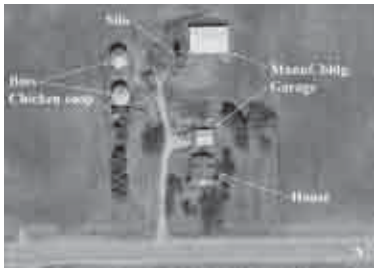
1805	21-18-200-002	South Ridgeland Avenue	**Bowe–Cann Farmstead**	Local landmark potential



☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

American Foursquare

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1806	21-18-300-003	West Peotone-Beecher Road	**Barton–Asbrand–Lattz Farmstead**	Non-contributing



☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Cape Cod

Surveyed from road only.

1902	21-19-200-012	West Corning Avenue	**Tobias–Cann Farmstead**	Non-contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled ell

1905	21-19-100-030	West Corning Avenue	**Meyer Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Three-Ended

Outbuildings are on south side of road. Documented as 1988 site 19-03. PIN 21-19-300-005.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1908	21-19-100-002	North Harlem Avenue	**Houghton–Hauert Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gable Front

2001	21-20-400-003	West Corning Avenue	**Ernest Mittag Farmstead**	Non-contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Most buildings demolished; one quonset shed remains.

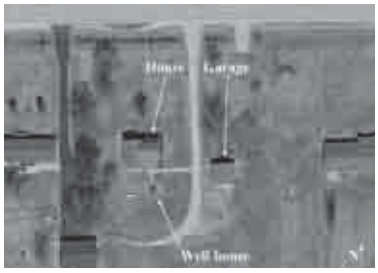
2002	21-20-100-006	South Ridgeland Avenue	**Mittag Tenant Farm**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Cape Cod

Plank Frame

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2102	21-21-200-009	West Peotone-Beecher Road	**Shear–Palso Farmstead**	Contributing



☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

2103	21-21-300-003	West Corning Road	**Adams–Radtke Farmstead**	Non-contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gable Front

2104	21-21-300-010	South Egyptian Trail	**Rosenbrock–Koop Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Historic view circa 1980s provided by Owner.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2201	21-22-100-007	West Peotone-Beecher Road	**Thiesfeldt Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Ranch

Three-bay Threshing

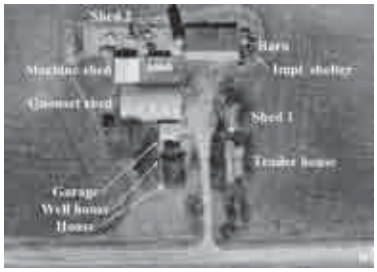
2202	21-22-200-006	West Peotone-Beecher Road	**Thiesfeldt–Bunte Tenant Farmstead**	Non-contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Contemporary

No historic structures remain.

2204	21-22-300-005	West Corning Road	**Hauer–Schultz Farmstead**	Contributing



☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Dairy

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2205	21-22-200-005	South Crawford Avenue	**Thiede–Bunte Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Current owner is Roger Bunte. First owned by Henry Bunte, his grandfather, in 1910s.

2206	21-22-100-009	South Will Center Road	**Schroeder Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

I House

Dairy

2207	21-22-300-007	South Will Center Road	**Schmidt–Schroeder Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2208	21-22-100-006	South Will Center Road	**Will Center School**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site? —

Previous Will Township Hall was adjacent to historic schoolhouse at site of current garage; see 1955 aerial view.

2301 21-23-100-015 West Peotone-Beecher Road **Matthias–Jacobson Farmstead** Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site? Gabled Ell Three-bay Threshing

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2302 21-23-200-021 West Peotone-Beecher Road **Matthias Farmstead** Local landmark potential

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site? Gabled Ell Three-bay Threshing

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ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2304	21-23-400-006	West Corning Road	**Esson–Matthias Farmstead**	Non-contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Pictured in 1873 atlas, plate 113. At 1961 aerial view, no house was present at this site.

2401	21-24-200-006	West Peotone-Beecher Road	**Louis Seifker Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Outbuildings are PIN 21-24-200-005

2402	21-24-400-005	South Western Avenue	**Buhr–Hameister Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Unknown

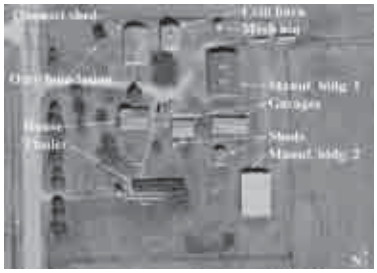
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2403	21-24-400-011	West Corning Road	**Boicken–Zummallen Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

American Foursquare

Surveyed from road only.

2404	21-24-300-001	South Kedzie Avenue	**Stahlhuth–Seitz–Rauch Farmstead**	Contributing



☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

New England One-and-a-half

2405	21-24-100-005	South Kedzie Avenue	**Thomas–Seitz Farmstead**	Contributing

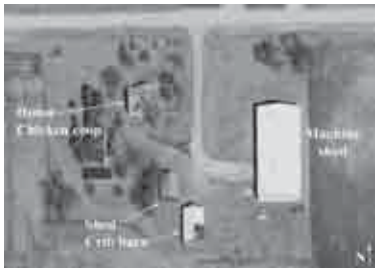
☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

I House

Most historic outbuildings were demolished circa 2000.

Surveyed from road only at owner's request.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2501	21-25-100-002	West Corning Road	**Boicken–Bunte Farmstead**	Contributing



☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Cape Cod

Surveyed from road only at Owner's request.

2502	21-25-100-004	South Kedzie Avenue	**Constable–Siemson Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Dairy

1860 census lists William Constable (age 36) and wife Mary (age 36), both native of England. Pictured in 1873 atlas, plate 111. Two views in 1955 Drury.

Farthest south outbuildings are PIN 21-25-100-003

2503	21-25-300-014	South Kedzie Avenue	**Meyer–Sova Farmstead**	Non-contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

I House

Only house remains. Significantly remodeled. Surveyed from road only at Owner's request.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2505	21-25-200-003	South Western Avenue	**Arfmann Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Pictured in 1873 atlas, plate 110; no structures from that era survive.
Existing historic Gabled Ell-type house is mostly intact.

2601	21-26-200-002	South Kedzie Avenue	**Henry Albers Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Ranch

Feeder

1918 directory lists son Edward Albers individually, owner 80 acres, resident since 1887.

2602	21-26-300-011	West Kennedy Road	**Chamberlain–Seitz Farmstead**	Contributing

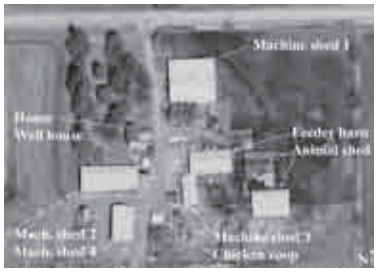
☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Dairy

Pictured in 1873 atlas, plate 110.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2604	21-26-100-007	West Corning Road	**Wiechen–Lattz Farmstead**	Contributing



☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Upright and Wing

2605	21-26-100-004	South Crawford Avenue	**Wiechen Farmstead**	Contributing

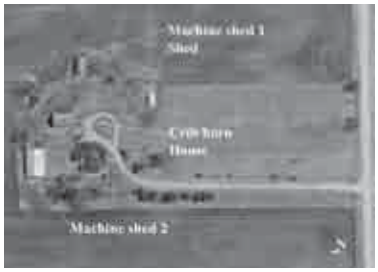
☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Pictured in 1873 atlas, plate 113. Current owner (Dale Waldvogel) reports that historic barn was destroyed by fire in 1997. Surveyed from road only at owner's request

Surveyd from road only.

2701	21-27-300-004	West Kennedy Road	**Craig–Kaiser Farmstead**	Contributing



☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Upright and Wing

Outbuilding at east edge is PIN 21-27-300-003

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2704	21-27-100-008	West Corning Road	**Adams–Schultz Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Ranch

2801	21-28-300-011	West Kennedy Road	**Thiesfeldt Tenant Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

American Foursquare

Plank Frame

2803	21-28-200-002	West Corning Road	**Koop–Schubbe Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Cape Cod

Pictured in 1873 atlas, plate 110. (4) outbuildings demolished circa 2011–2012.
Property is abandoned and in poor condition.

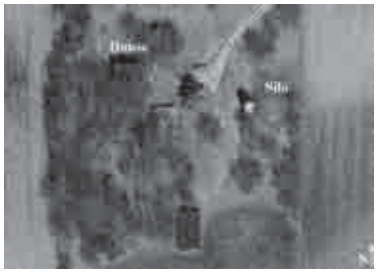
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2804	21-28-100-008	West Corning Road	**Esson–Vallow Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Surveyed from road only.

2805	21-28-100-004	West Corning Road	**Wichtendahl–Vallow Farmstead**	Contributing



☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

American Foursquare

2806	21-28-400-019	South Will Center Road	**Voight–Vallow Farmstead**	Non-contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Ranch

Surveyed from road only.

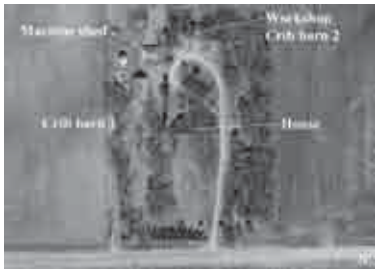
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2901	21-29-300-006	South Ridgeland Avenue	**Denby–Thiesfeldt Farmstead**	Non-contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Ranch

Historic outbuildings documented in 1988 survey have been demolished.
Surveyed from road only.

2902	21-29-400-007	West Kennedy Road	**Arnold Tenant Farmstead**	Contributing



☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

I House

2903	21-29-200-009	West Corning Road	**Walle–Schroeder–Niemeyer Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2904	21-29-100-006	West Corning Road	**Kurtz–Hauert–Barton Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Ranch

Plank Frame

2905	21-29-100-003	South Ridgeland Avenue	**Denby–Loitz Farmstead**	Non-contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

American Foursquare

3001	21-30-400-002	West Kennedy Road	**Gorman Crib Barn**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Isolated crib barn. Aerial photographs suggest that this structure was relocated from another site.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3002	21-30-200-002	South Ridgeland Avenue	**Williams–Loitz Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Ranch

3101	21-31-300-007	West County Line Road	**Harken–Plaskett Tenant Farm**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

I House

3102	21-31-300-004	South Drecksler Road	**Drecksler Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

American Foursquare

Surveyed from road only.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3103	21-31-100-005	South Drecksler Road	**Offner–Ginder Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

American Foursquare

Feeder

3105	21-31-200-006	South Ridgeland Avenue	**Goodwin Farmstead**	Non-contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Cape Cod

Newly built farmstead, circa 1940s.
House is significantly altered. No historic outbuildings.

3201	21-32-100-017	West Kennedy Road	**Schroeder Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

American Foursquare

Cape Cod

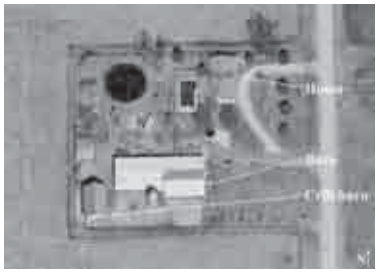
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3202	21-32-200-005	West Kennedy Road	**Stender–Patula Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Three-bay Threshing

3203	21-32-200-007	South Egyptian Trail	**Schroeder–Munsterman Farmstead**	Contributing



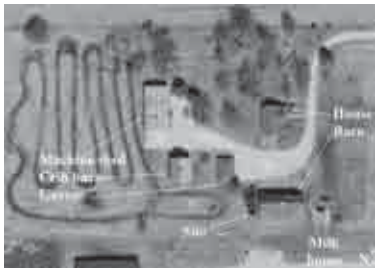
☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

Surveyed from road only.

3204	21-32-400-008	South Egyptian Trail	**Dopp-Fritz Farmstead**	Contributing



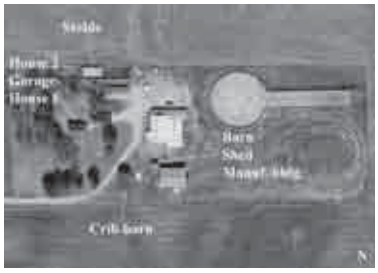
☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Bungalow

Dairy

Surveyed from road only at owner's request.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3301	21-33-100-002	South Egyptian Trail	**Schroeder Farmstead**	Contributing



☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Feeder

Ranch

3302	21-33-200-005	West Kennedy Road	**Westenfeldt–DeGraff Farmstead**	Non-contributing

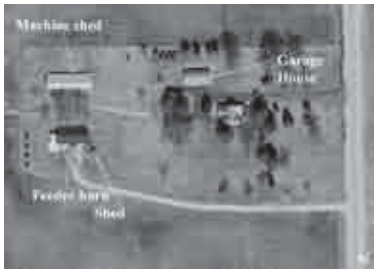
☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Contemporary

Dairy

Surveyed from road only at owner's request.

3303	21-33-400-005	South Will Center Road	**Westenfeldt–Guritz Farmstead**	Contributing



☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3401	21-34-400-005	West County Line Road	**Welch–Krohn Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Upright and Wing

3402	21-34-300-005	West County Line Road	**Krohn–Westenfeld–Kwiatkowski Farm**	Local landmark

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Cape Cod

Four-over-Four

Current owner: Paul Kwiatkowski. House was reportedly built in 1888 by Christian Krohn. Designated a Will County Landmark in 2011.

House is a locally distinctive example of Italianate residential design. Also retains historic crib barn.

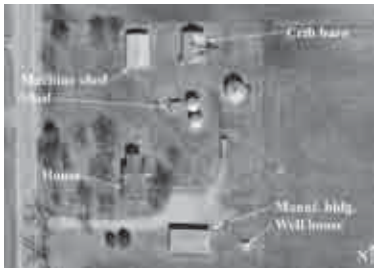
3403	21-34-200-004	South Crawford Avenue	**Schmidt–Siekman Farmstead**	Non-contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Surveyed from road only at Owner's request.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3405	21-34-300-007	South Will Center Road	**Knickrehm–Kaack Farmstead**	Contributing



☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

3501	21-35-300-005	West County Line Road	**Fred Albers Farmstead**	Non-contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

House demolished in 2017.

Surveyed from road only; inaccessible. Only non-historic outbuildings remain at site.

3503	21-35-200-006	West Kennedy Road	**Angus–Most Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3601	21-36-200-003	South Western Avenue	**Stade–Matthias Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

American Foursquare

Some outbuildings are PIN 21-36-200-004. Surveyed from raod only.

3602	21-36-400-001	West County Line Road	**Smith–Von Alven Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Feeder

3603	21-36-300-001	West County Line Road	**Bunte Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Dairy

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3605	21-36-100-002	West Kennedy Road	**Matthias–Koehn Farmstead**	Contributing

☐ Within South Suburban Airport site?

Gabled Ell

Dairy

Pictured in 1873 atlas, plate 110.

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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; Frankfort Township in 2007; Joliet and Troy Townships in 2009; Channahon Township, Jackson Township, and Wilmington Township in 2009; Reed Township and Florence Township in 2011; Custer Township and Wesley Township in 2012; Peotone Township in 2014; and Wilton Township in 2016. 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.

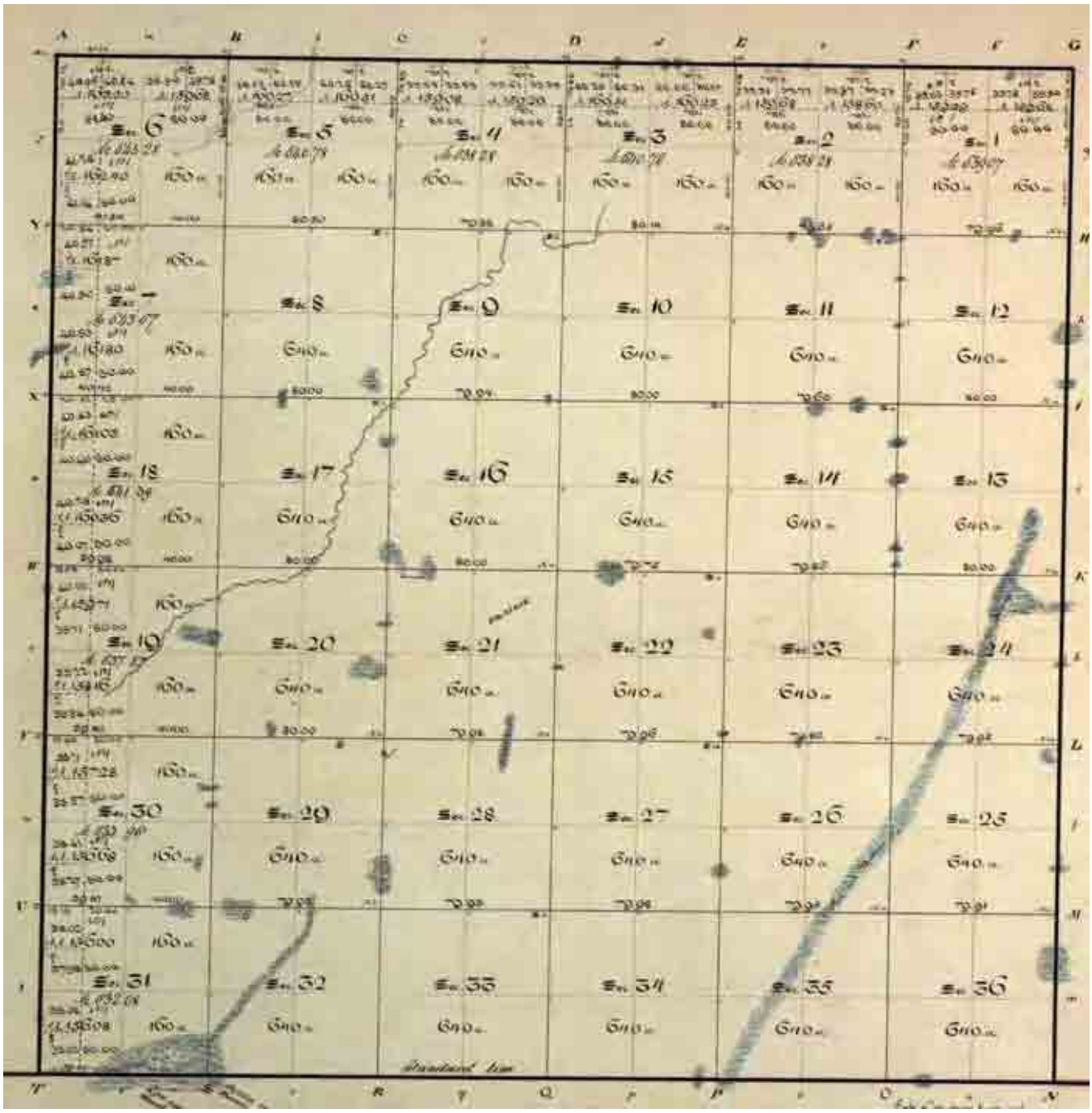
vault. A masonry covering over an area which uses the principle of the arch.

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

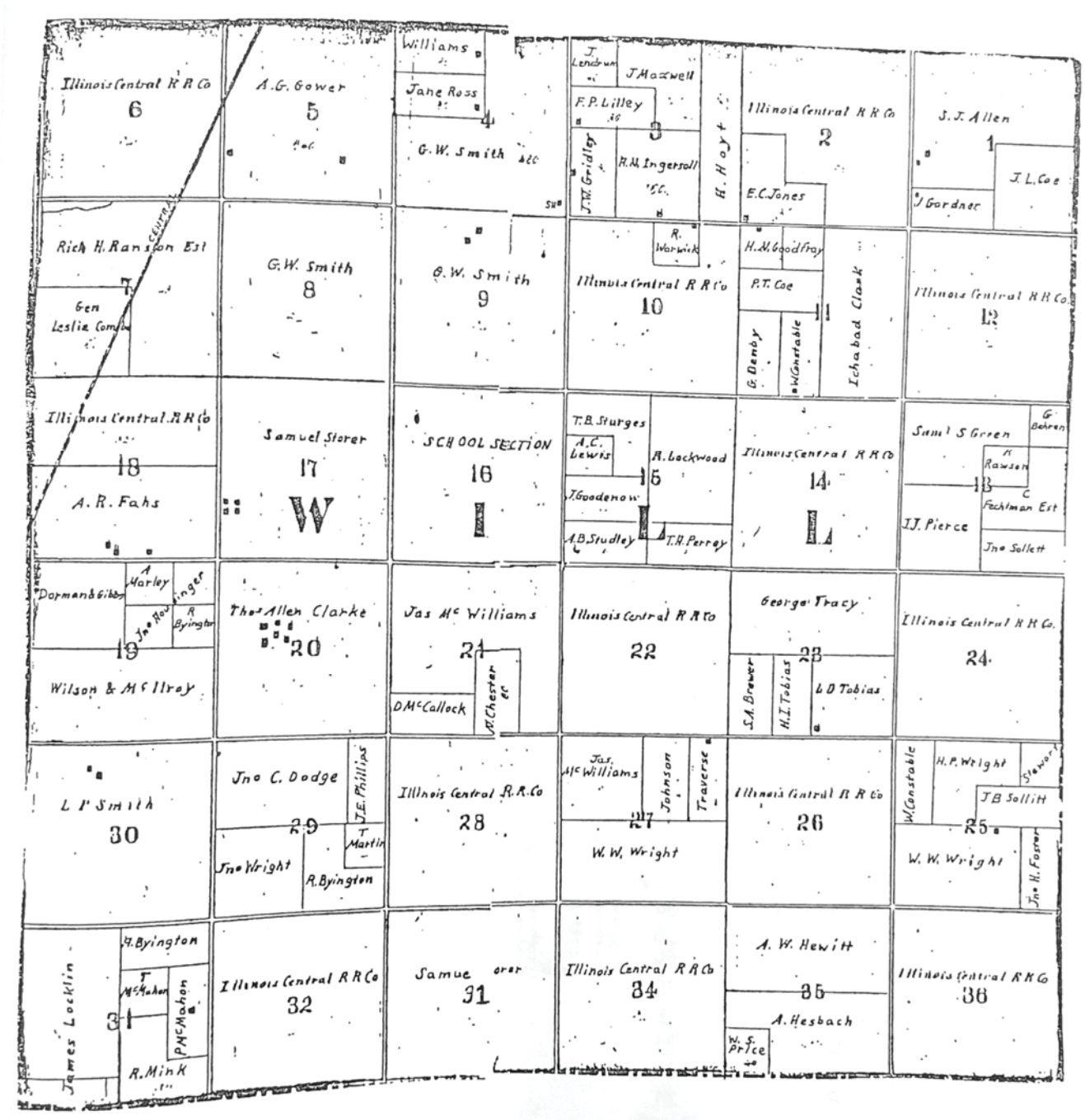
APPENDIX A

HISTORIC PLAT MAPS

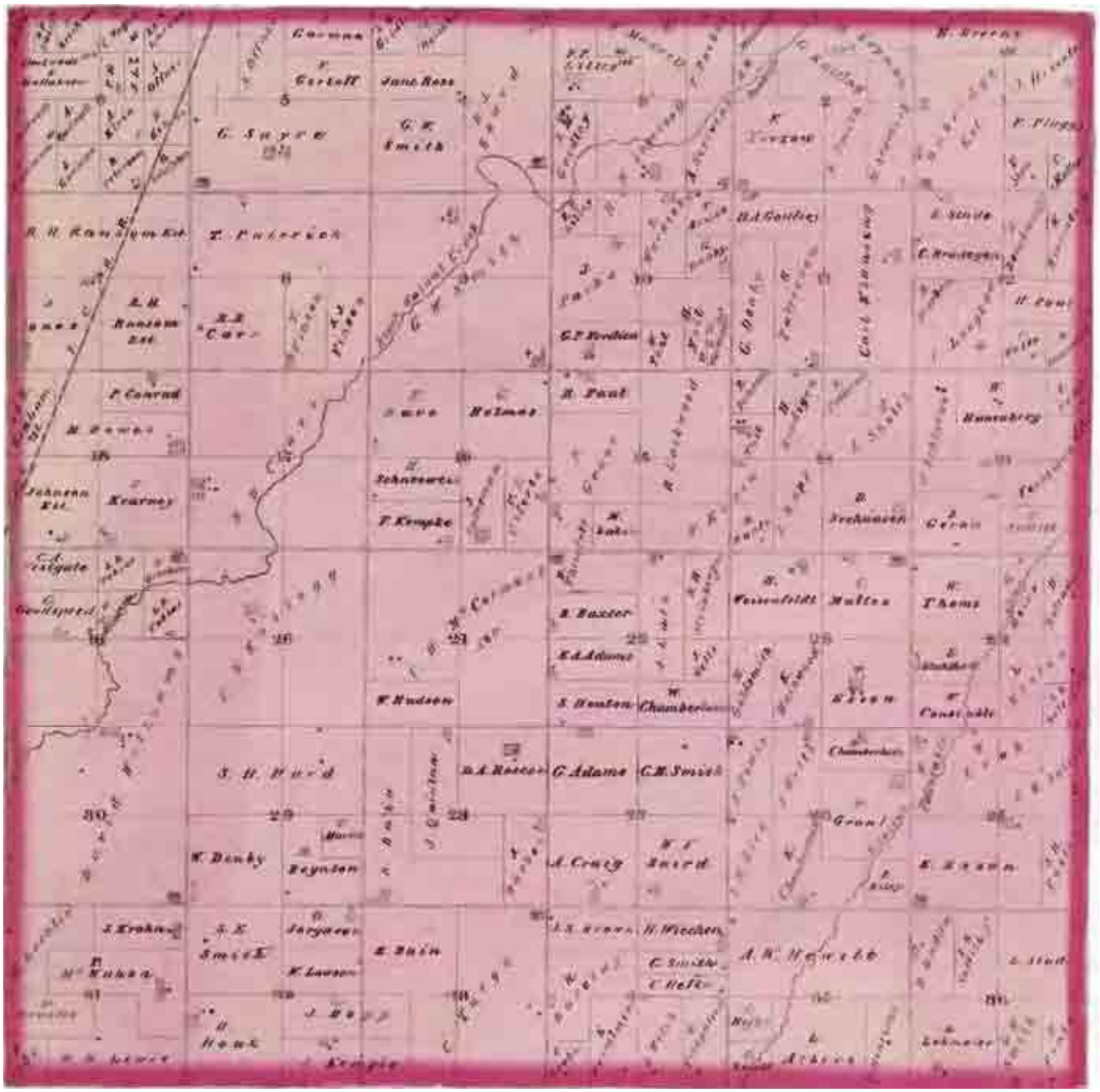
This appendix contains historic farm atlas and plat maps for Will Township. Refer to Bibliography for map sources.



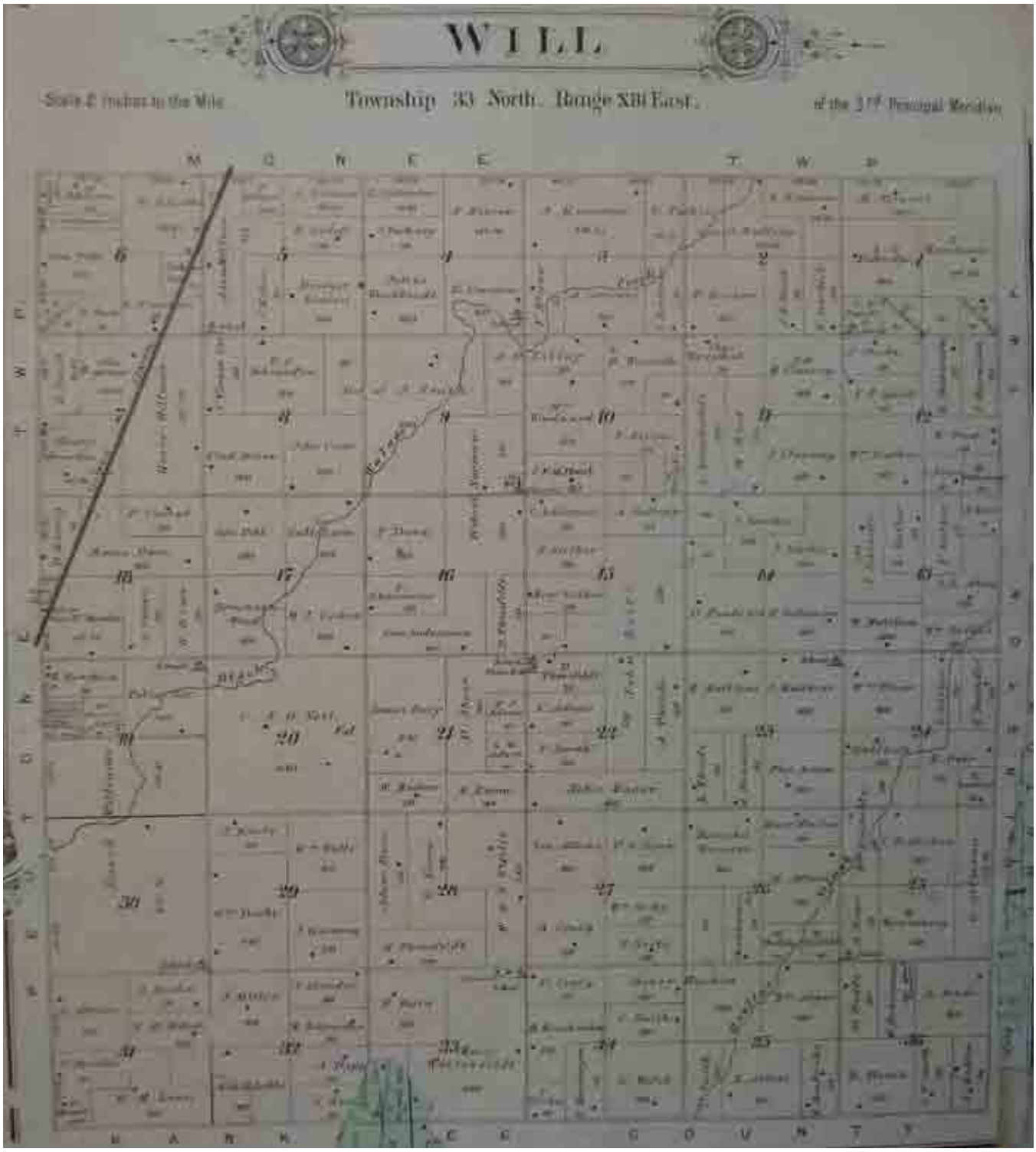
Will Township 1834



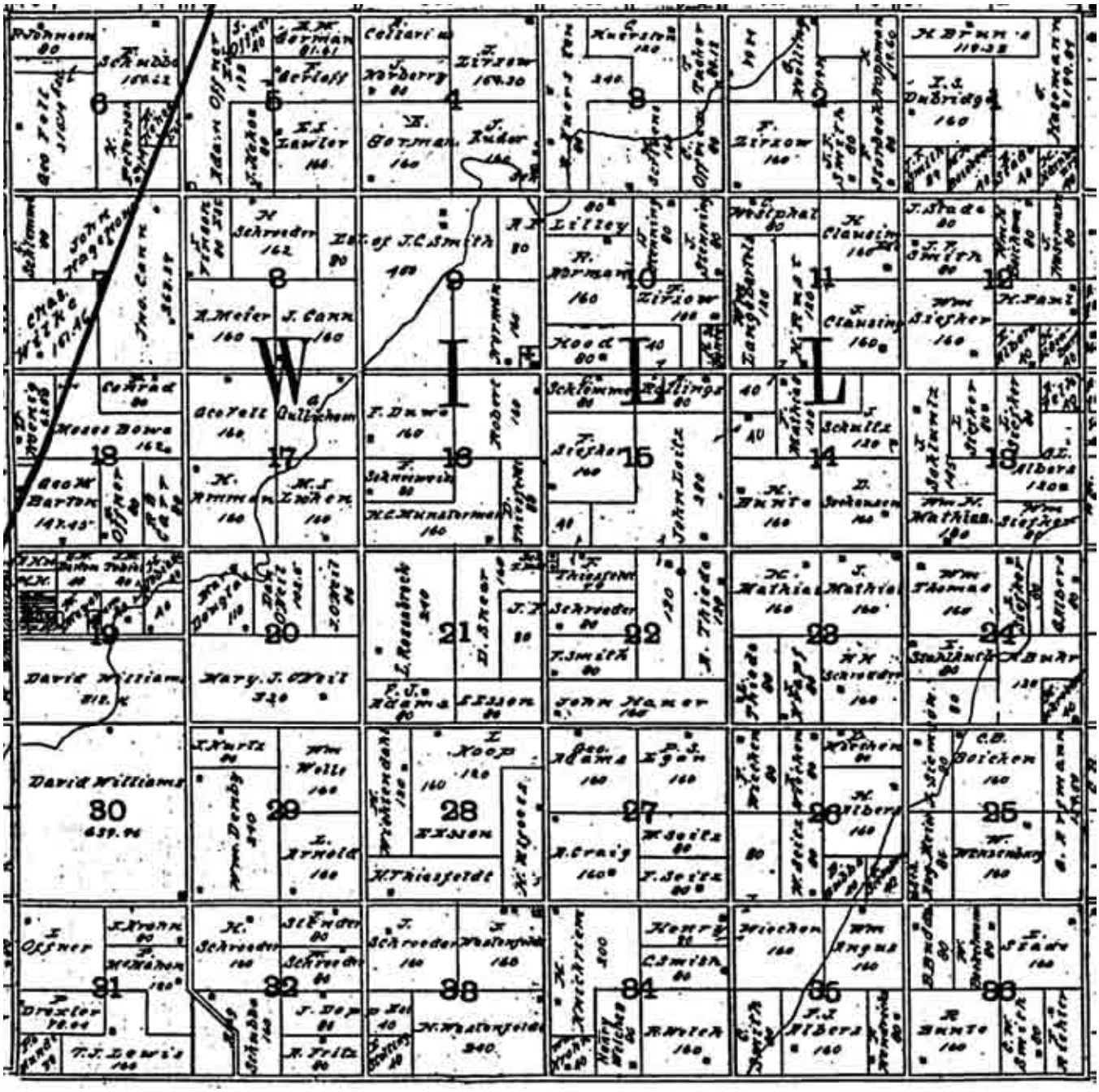
Will Township 1862



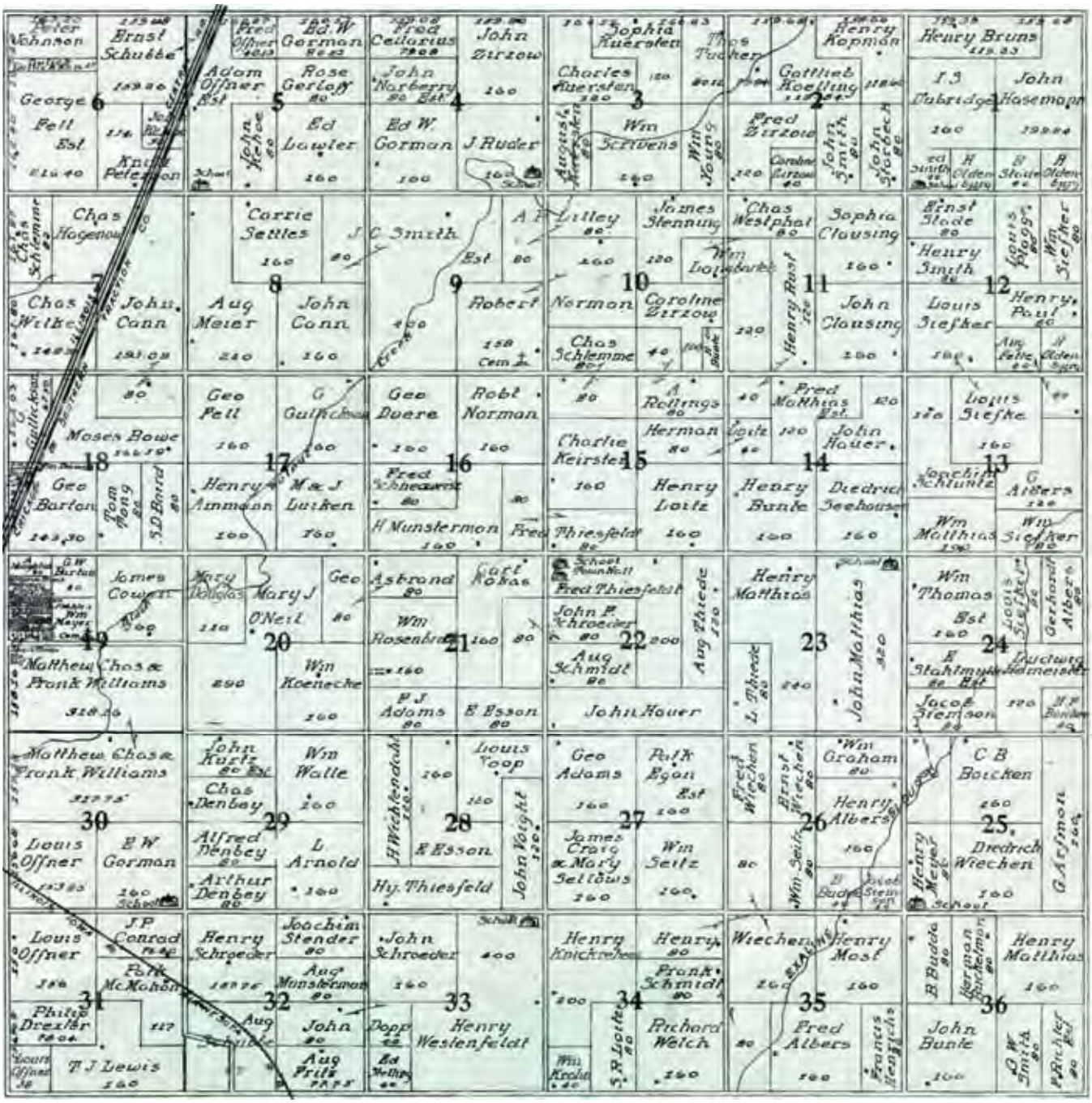
Will Township 1873



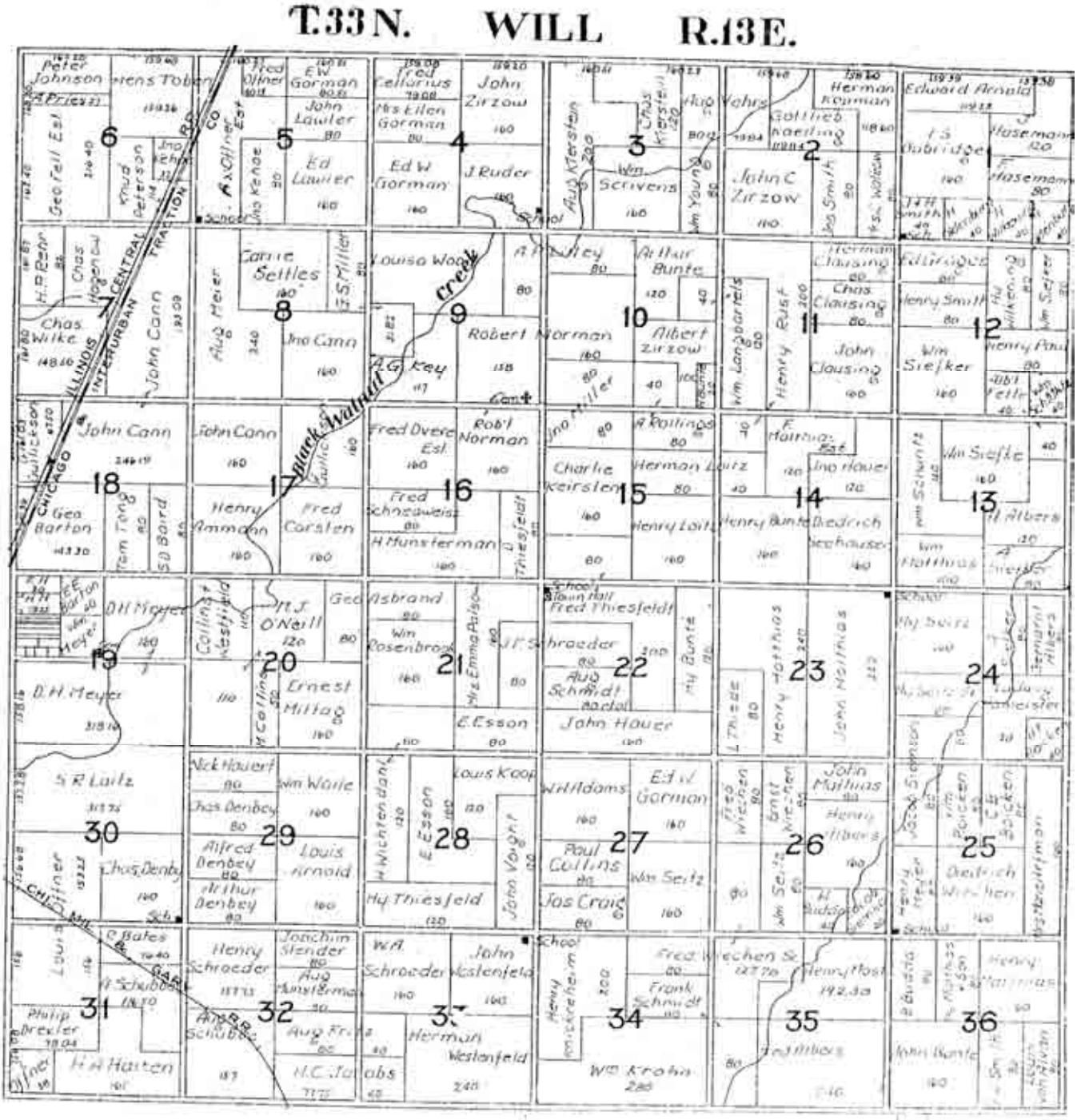
Will Township 1893



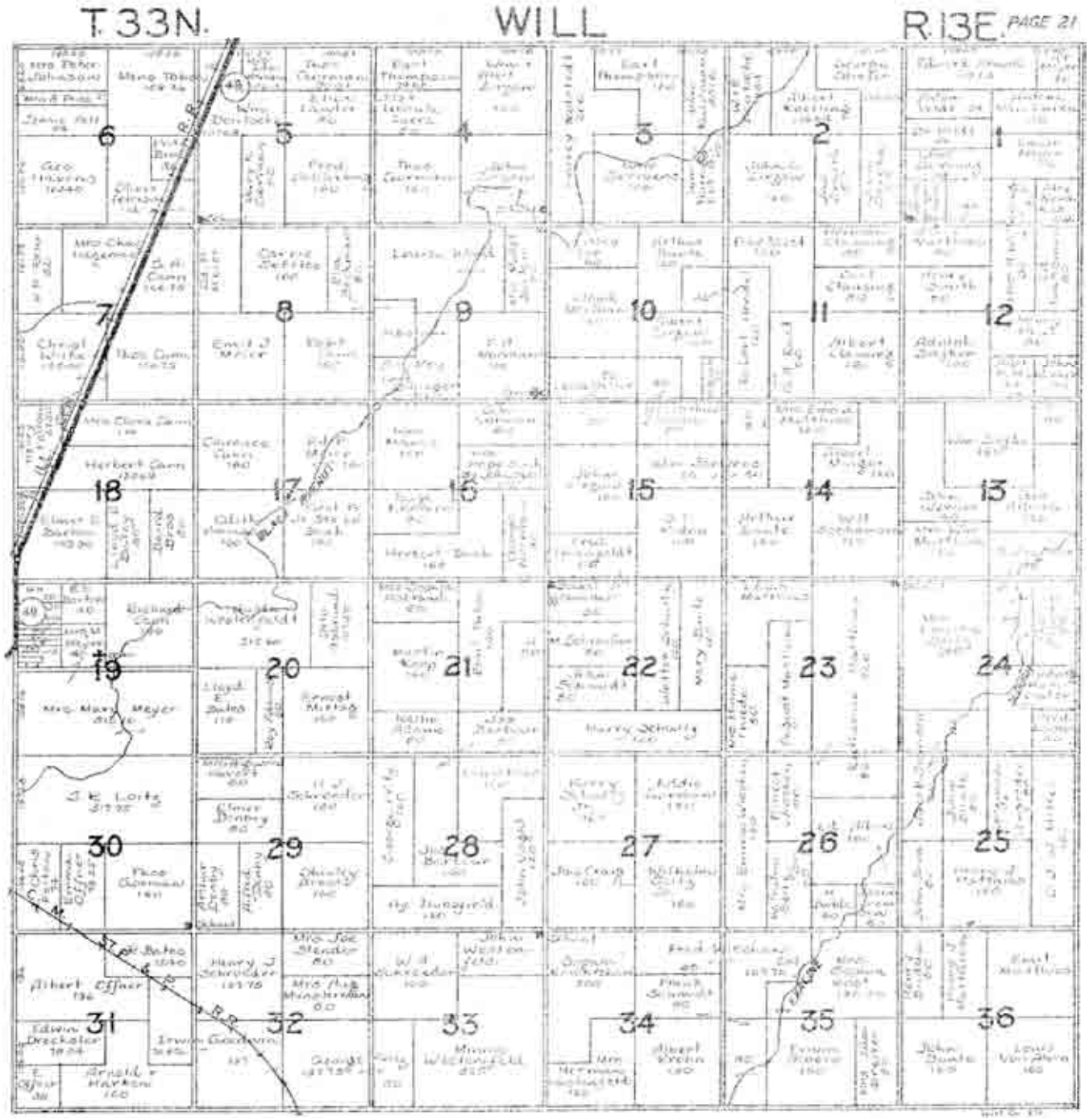
Will Township 1902



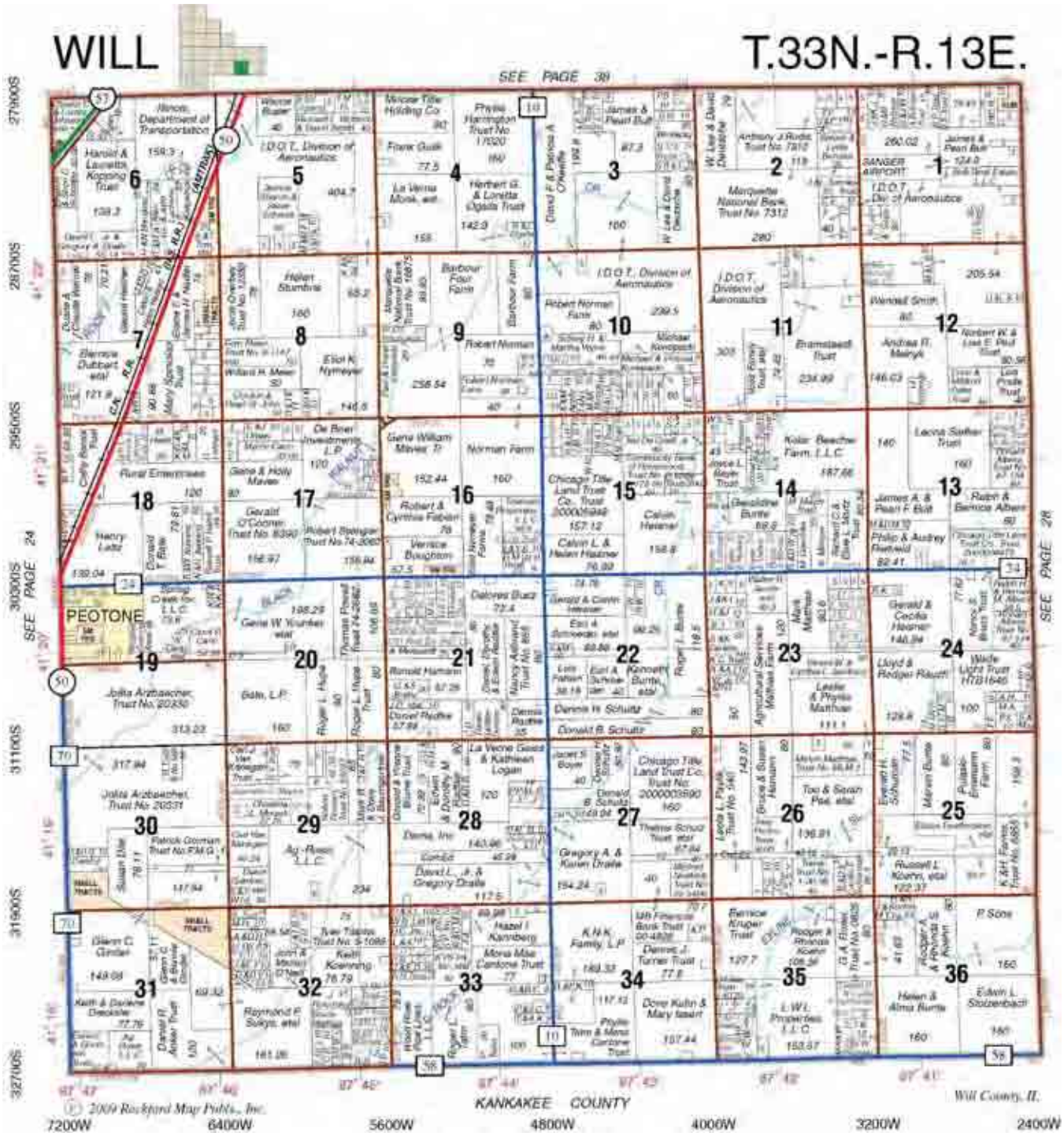
Will Township 1909



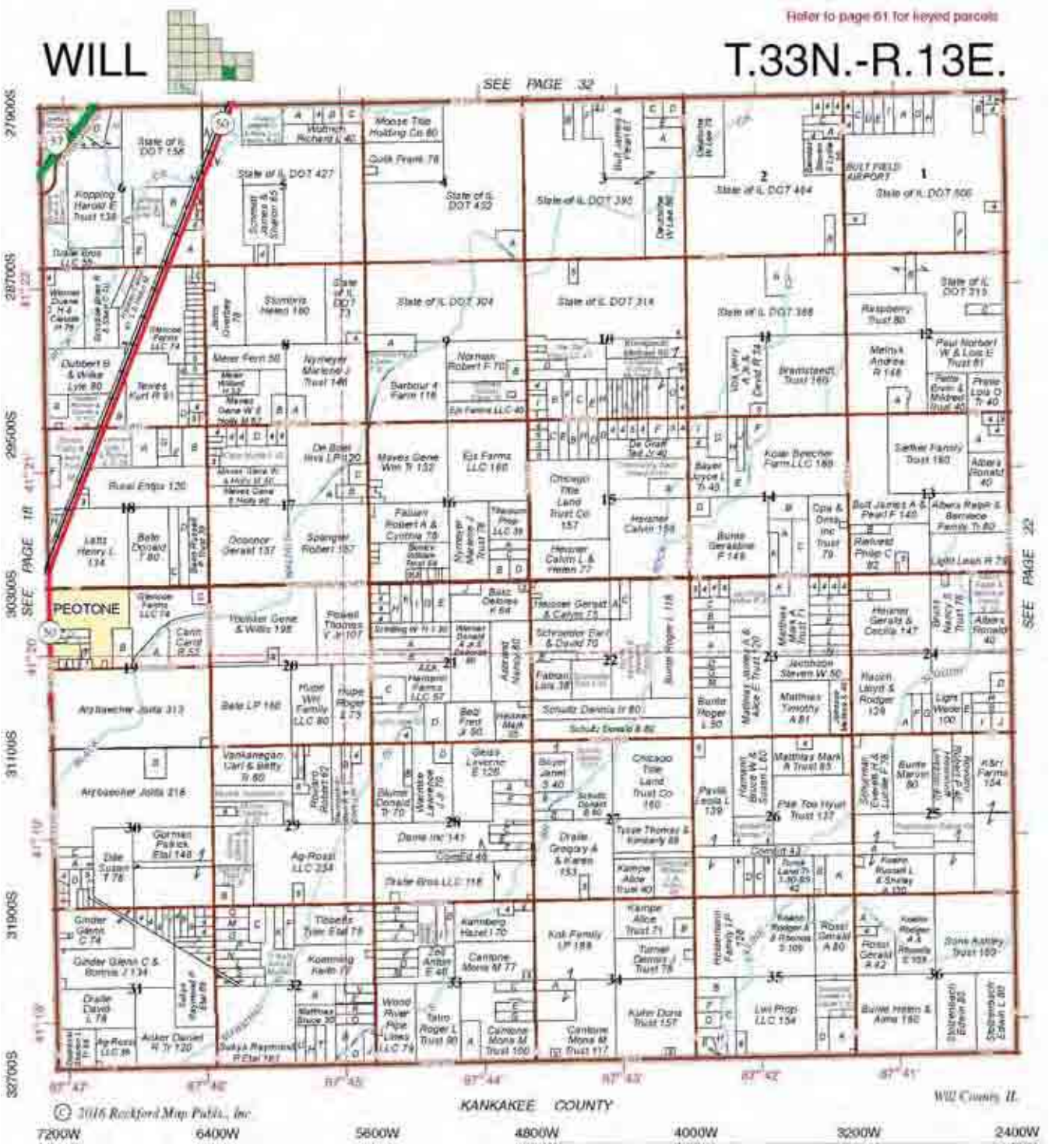
Will Township 1920s



Will Township circa 1940



Will Township, 2010. Source: Rockford Map Publishers. Used with permission.



Will Township, 2016. Source: Rockford Map Publishers. Used with permission.

APPENDIX B

SURVEY MAPS

The following maps were generated as part of this study using ArcGIS software. The background baseline mapping data were provided by the Will County Land Use Department. The contemporary aerial photography that forms the background for the maps is dated 2014. The historic aerial photography of Map 5 is dated 1939.

This appendix contains:

Key to Farmsteads and Related Properties by Map Reference Number

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
101	21-01-100-004	2857 West Offner Road	Bruns–Arnold Farmstead	Contributing
102	21-01-400-016	28460 South Western Avenue	Hasemann–Anderson Farmstead	Contributing
204	21-02-200-005	28046 South Kedzie Avenue	Kopman–DeYoung Farmstead	Contributing
205	21-02-400-001	3444 West Eagle Lake Road	Smith–Jach Farmstead	Non-contributing
303	21-03-100-003	28245 South Will Center Road	Kuersten–Kolstedt Farmstead	Non-contributing
304	21-03-100-005	4461 West Offner Road	Maxwell–Kuersten Farmstead	Non-contributing
305	21-03-200-007	4117 West Offner Road	Tucker–Hultenschmidt Farmstead	Contributing
404	21-04-400-002	28330 South Will Center Road	Ruder–Ogalla Farmstead	Contributing
405	21-04-100-004	28221 South Egyptian Trail	Nurberry–Szudarski Farmstead	Contributing
501	21-05-300-001	South Ridgeland Avenue	Schuldt & Jochum Tenant Farm	Contributing
503	21-05-100-003	6131 West Offner Road	Ruder Farmstead	Contributing
601	21-06-400-016	6706 West Eagle Lake Road	Peterson–Reiter Farmstead	Contributing
602	21-06-300-008	28415 South Harlem Avenue	Havens–Krumwiede Farmstead	Contributing
604	21-06-100-010	7023 West Offner Road	Peter Johnson Farmstead	Contributing
701	21-07-200-004	29212 South Ridgeland Avenue	George Cann Farmstead	Contributing
702	21-07-400-008	6434 West North Peotone Road	Cann–Mudro Farmstead	Local landmark potential
703	21-07-200-026	6815 West Eagle Lake Road	Hagenow Farmstead	Contributing
704	21-07-300-009	7112 West North Peotone Road	Wilke Farmstead	Contributing
801	21-08-100-004	28809 South Ridgeland Avenue	Ed Meier Farmstead	Contributing
802	21-08-200-001	5949 West Eagle Lake Road	Settles–Stumbris Farmstead	Non-contributing
804	21-08-300-006	29303 South Ridgeland Avenue	Meier Farmstead	Contributing
901	21-09-300-010	29115 South Egyptian Trail	John Wiktor Farmstead	Contributing
902	21-09-400-009	29410 South Will Center Road	Robert Norman Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1003	21-10-300-034	29101 South Will Center Road	Lloyd Norman Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1004	21-10-400-019	29226 South Crawford Avenue	Zirzow Farmstead	Contributing
1005	21-10-200-003	South Crawford Avenue	Langbartels–Bunte Farmstead	Non-contributing
1101	21-11-400-001	29334 South Kedzie Avenue	Clausing–Bramstaedt Farmstead	Contributing
1105	21-11-300-005	3656 West Church Road	Rust Farmstead	Contributing
1201	21-12-400-007	29244 South Western Avenue	Paul Farmstead	Contributing
1202	21-12-300-008	2908 West Church Road	William Seifker Farmstead	Contributing
1203	21-12-100-003	28909 South Kedzie Avenue	Smith Farmstead	Contributing
1301	21-13-200-003	29828 South Western Avenue	George Albers Farmstead	Local landmark potential

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
1302	21-13-200-006	29626 South Western Avenue	Fette Farmstead	Contributing
1304	21-13-300-005	2928 West Peotone-Beecher Road	Matthias–Busse Farmstead	Non-contributing
1401	21-14-400-005	30036 South Kedzie Avenue	Seehausen–Mayer Farmstead	Contributing
1402	21-14-200-003	29710 South Kedzie Avenue	Schultz–Minger–Kolar Farmstead	Contributing
1403	21-14-100-013	3663 West Church Road	Fred Matthias Farmstead	Contributing
1404	21-14-300-004	29915 South Crawford Avenue	Bunte Farmstead	Contributing
1405	21-14-100-002	29749 South Crawford Avenue	Hoverman Farmstead	Non-contributing
1501	21-15-400-007	4048 West Peotone-Beecher Road	Loitz–Heisner Farmstead	Contributing
1502	21-15-100-005	4715 West Church Road	Schlemme–Miller–De Young Farmstead	Contributing
1504	21-15-100-002	30031 South Will Center Road	Siefker–Keirsten–Taglioli Farmstead	Contributing
1601	21-16-100-002	29757 South Egyptian Trail	Maves Farmstead	Contributing
1602	21-16-300-002	30043 South Egyptian Trail	Schneeweisz–Fabian Farmstead	Contributing
1603	21-16-300-017	South Egyptian Trail	Buck Family Crib Barn	Non-contributing
1702	21-17-100-027	29617 South Ridgeland Avenue	Clarence Cann Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1703	21-17-200-001	5733 West North Peotone Road	Gullickson Farmstead	Non-contributing
1801	21-18-400-008	6744 West Peotone-Beecher Road	Tong–Bate Farmstead	Contributing
1803	21-18-200-003	6615 West North Peotone Road	Conrad–Cann Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1804	21-18-100-011	29741 South Harlem Avenue	Felton–Mundt Farmstead	Contributing
1805	21-18-200-002	29828 South Ridgeland Avenue	Bowe–Cann Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1806	21-18-300-003	6916 West Peotone-Beecher Road	Barton–Asbrand–Lattz Farmstead	Non-contributing
1902	21-19-200-012	6514 West Corning Avenue	Tobias–Cann Farmstead	Non-contributing
1905	21-19-100-030	6918 West Corning Avenue	Meyer Farmstead	Contributing
1908	21-19-100-002	339 North Harlem Avenue	Houghton–Hauert Farmstead	Contributing
2001	21-20-400-003	West Corning Avenue	Ernest Mittag Farmstead	Non-contributing
2002	21-20-100-006	30661 South Ridgeland Avenue	Mittag Tenant Farm	Contributing
2102	21-21-200-009	5025 West Peotone-Beecher Road	Shear–Palso Farmstead	Contributing
2103	21-21-300-003	5412 West Corning Road	Adams–Radtke Farmstead	Non-contributing
2104	21-21-300-010	30801 South Egyptian Trail	Rosenbrock–Koop Farmstead	Contributing
2201	21-22-100-007	4741 West Peotone-Beecher Road	Thiesfeldt Farmstead	Contributing
2202	21-22-200-006	4305 West Peotone-Beecher Road	Thiesfeldt–Bunte Tenant Farmstead	Non-contributing
2204	21-22-300-005	4720 West Corning Road	Hauer–Schultz Farmstead	Contributing
2205	21-22-200-005	30434 South Crawford Avenue	Thiede–Bunte Farmstead	Contributing
2206	21-22-100-009	30625 South Will Center Road	Schroeder Farmstead	Contributing

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
2207	21-22-300-007	30831 South Will Center Road	Schmidt–Schroeder Farmstead	Contributing
2208	21-22-100-006	30317 South Will Center Road	Will Center School	Contributing
2301	21-23-100-015	3715 West Peotone-Beecher Road	Matthias–Jacobson Farmstead	Contributing
2302	21-23-200-021	3535 West Peotone-Beecher Road	Matthias Farmstead	Local landmark potential
2304	21-23-400-006	3430 West Corning Road	Esson–Matthias Farmstead	Non-contributing
2401	21-24-200-006	2715 West Peotone-Beecher Road	Louis Seifker Farmstead	Contributing
2402	21-24-400-005	30812 South Western Avenue	Buhr–Hameister Farmstead	Contributing
2403	21-24-400-011	2444 West Corning Road	Boicken–Zummallen Farmstead	Contributing
2404	21-24-300-001	30743 South Kedzie Avenue	Stahlhuth–Seitz–Rauch Farmstead	Contributing
2405	21-24-100-005	30411 South Kedzie Avenue	Thomas–Seitz Farmstead	Contributing
2501	21-25-100-002	2919 West Corning Road	Boicken–Bunte Farmstead	Contributing
2502	21-25-100-004	31131 South Kedzie Avenue	Constable–Siemson Farmstead	Local landmark potential
2503	21-25-300-014	31733 South Kedzie Avenue	Meyer–Sova Farmstead	Non-contributing
2505	21-25-200-003	31414 South Western Avenue	Arfmann Farmstead	Contributing
2601	21-26-200-002	31318 South Kedzie Avenue	Henry Albers Farmstead	Contributing
2602	21-26-300-011	3660 West Kennedy Road	Chamberlain–Seitz Farmstead	Contributing
2604	21-26-100-007	3637 West Corning Road	Wiechen–Lattz Farmstead	Contributing
2605	21-26-100-004	31147 South Crawford Avenue	Wiechen Farmstead	Contributing
2701	21-27-300-004	4534 West Kennedy Road	Craig–Kaiser Farmstead	Contributing
2704	21-27-100-008	4625 West Corning Road	Adams–Schultz Farmstead	Contributing
2801	21-28-300-011	5504 West Kennedy Road	Thiesfeldt Tenant Farmstead	Contributing
2803	21-28-200-002	4931 West Corning Road	Koop–Schubbe Farmstead	Contributing
2804	21-28-100-008	5233 West Corning Road	Esson–Vallow Farmstead	Contributing
2805	21-28-100-004	5423 West Corning Road	Wichtendahl–Vallow Farmstead	Contributing
2806	21-28-400-019	31526 South Will Center Road	Voight–Vallow Farmstead	Non-contributing
2901	21-29-300-006	31805 South Ridgeland Avenue	Denby–Thiesfeldt Farmstead	Non-contributing
2902	21-29-400-007	5952 West Kennedy Road	Arnold Tenant Farmstead	Contributing
2903	21-29-200-009	5927 West Corning Road	Walle–Schroeder–Niemeyer Farmstead	Contributing
2904	21-29-100-006	6157 West Corning Road	Kurtz–Hauert–Barton Farmstead	Contributing
2905	21-29-100-003	31421 South Ridgeland Avenue	Denby–Loitz Farmstead	Non-contributing
3001	21-30-400-002	West Kennedy Road	Gorman Crib Barn	Contributing
3002	21-30-200-002	3110 South Ridgeland Avenue	Williams–Loitz Farmstead	Contributing
3101	21-31-300-007	6960 West County Line Road	Harken–Plaskett Tenant Farm	Contributing

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
3102	21-31-300-004	32433 South Drecksler Road	Drecksler Farmstead	Contributing
3103	21-31-100-005	32037 South Drecksler Road	Offner–Ginder Farmstead	Contributing
3105	21-31-200-006	32154 South Ridgeland Avenue	Goodwin Farmstead	Non-contributing
3201	21-32-100-017	6107 West Kennedy Road	Schroeder Farmstead	Contributing
3202	21-32-200-005	5649 West Kennedy Road	Stender–Patula Farmstead	Local landmark potential
3203	21-32-200-007	32132 South Egyptian Trail	Schroeder–Munsterman Farmstead	Contributing
3204	21-32-400-008	32314 South Egyptian Trail	Dopp-Fritz Farmstead	Contributing
3301	21-33-100-002	32049 South Egyptian Trail	Schroeder Farmstead	Contributing
3302	21-33-200-005	4919 West Kennedy Road	Westenfeldt–DeGraff Farmstead	Non-contributing
3303	21-33-400-005	32362 South Will Center Road	Westenfeldt–Guritz Farmstead	Contributing
3401	21-34-400-005	4118 West County Line Road	Welch–Krohn Farmstead	Contributing
3402	21-34-300-005	4708 West County Line Road	Krohn–Westenfeld–Kwiatkowski Farm	Local landmark
3403	21-34-200-004	32160 South Crawford Avenue	Schmidt–Siekman Farmstead	Non-contributing
3405	21-34-300-007	32323 South Will Center Road	Knickrehm–Kaack Farmstead	Contributing
3501	21-35-300-005	3760 West County Line Road	Fred Albers Farmstead	Non-contributing
3503	21-35-200-006	3441 West Kennedy Road	Angus–Most Farmstead	Contributing
3601	21-36-200-003	32020 South Western Avenue	Stade–Matthias Farmstead	Contributing
3602	21-36-400-001	2708 West County Line Road	Smith–Von Alven Farmstead	Contributing
3603	21-36-300-001	3018 West County Line Road	Bunte Farmstead	Contributing
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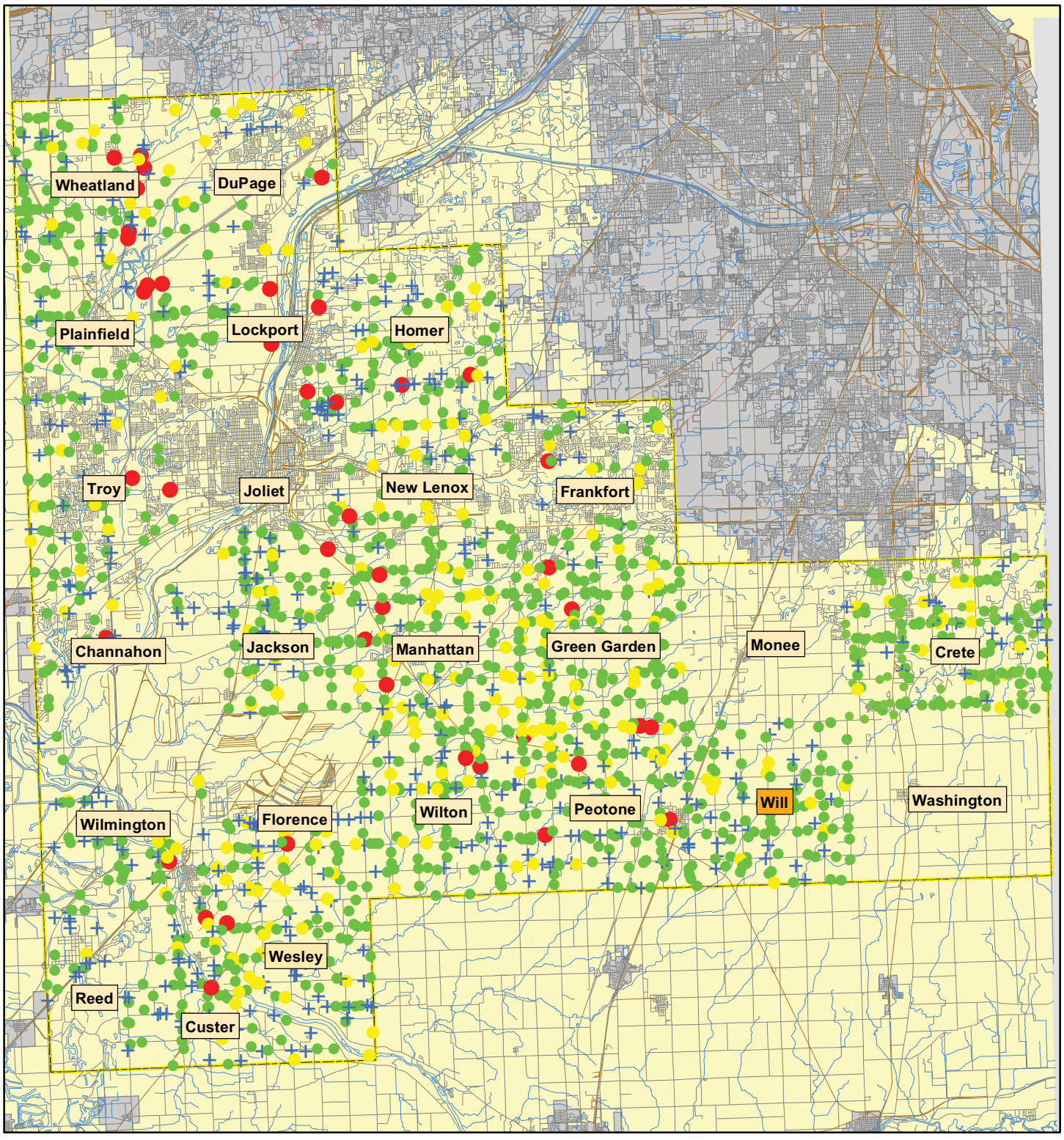
WILL TOWNSHIP
Map 1: Will County Key Map



WILL TOWNSHIP
Map 2: Overview of Survey

Existing site

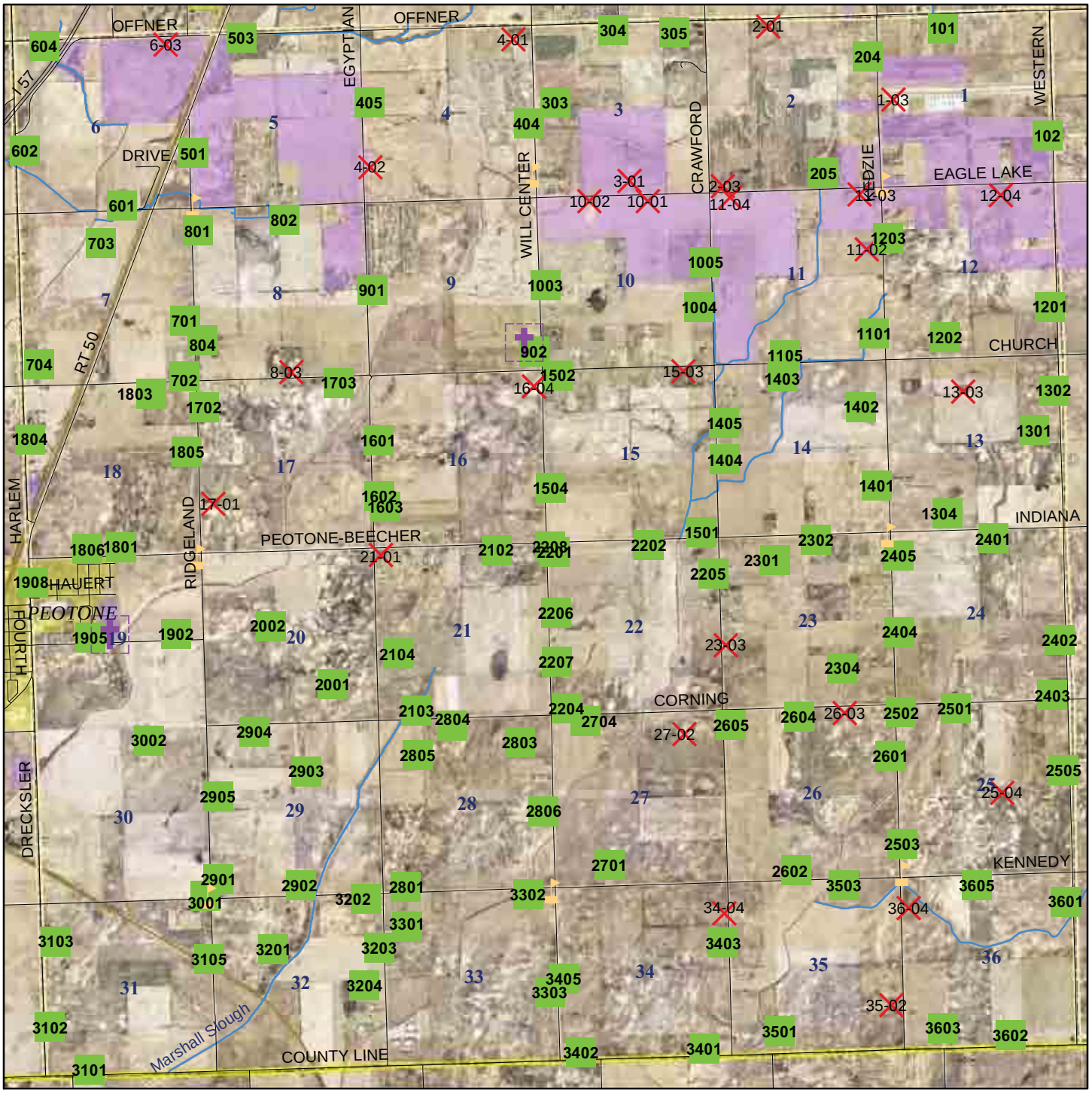
Historic schoolhouse

Historic cemetery

Demolished site (1988 survey)

Demolished schoolhouse

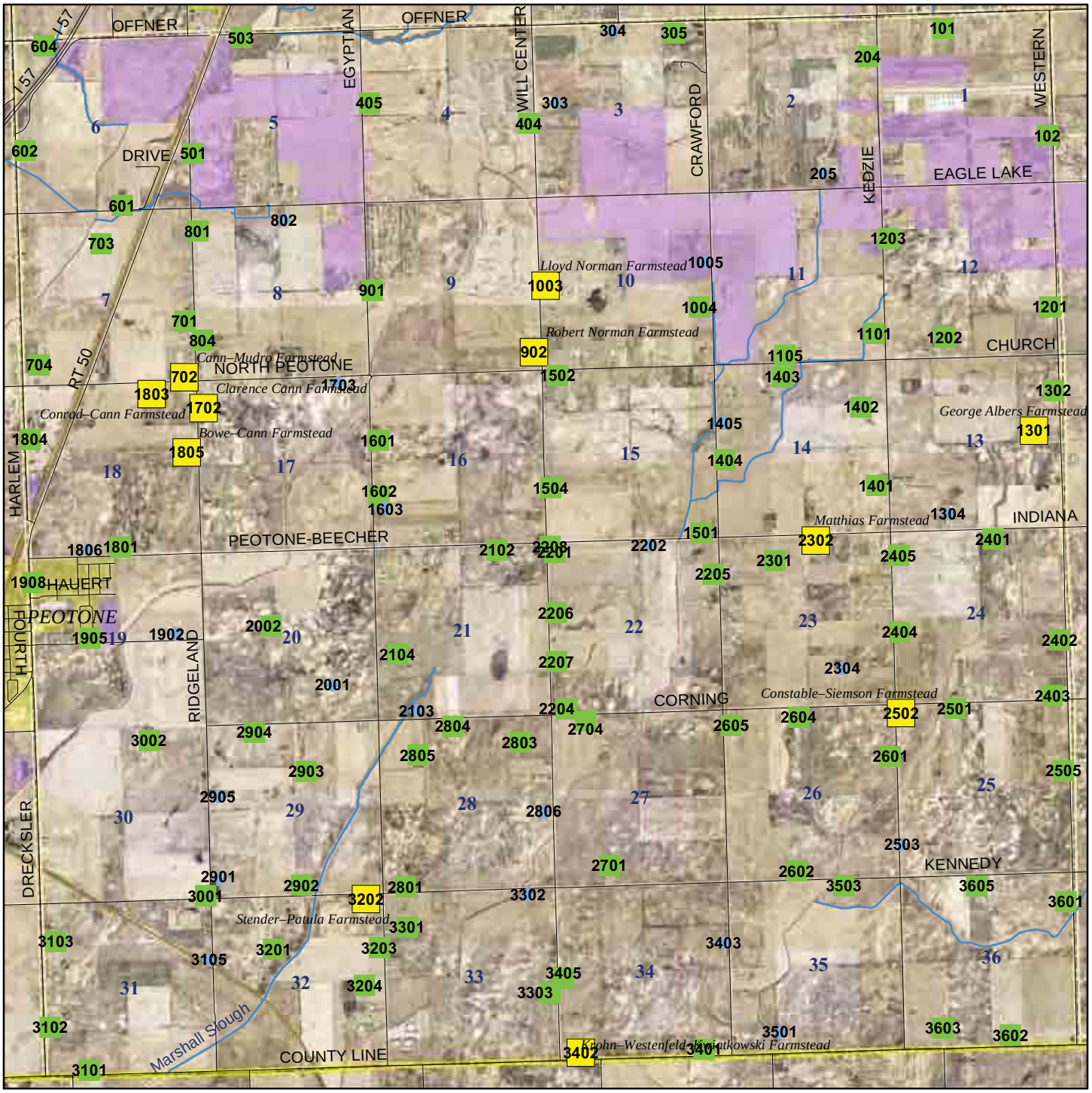
Land owned by the State of Illinois for the future South Suburban Airport is shaded purple.



WILL TOWNSHIP
Map 3: Significance of Sites

Significance of site

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



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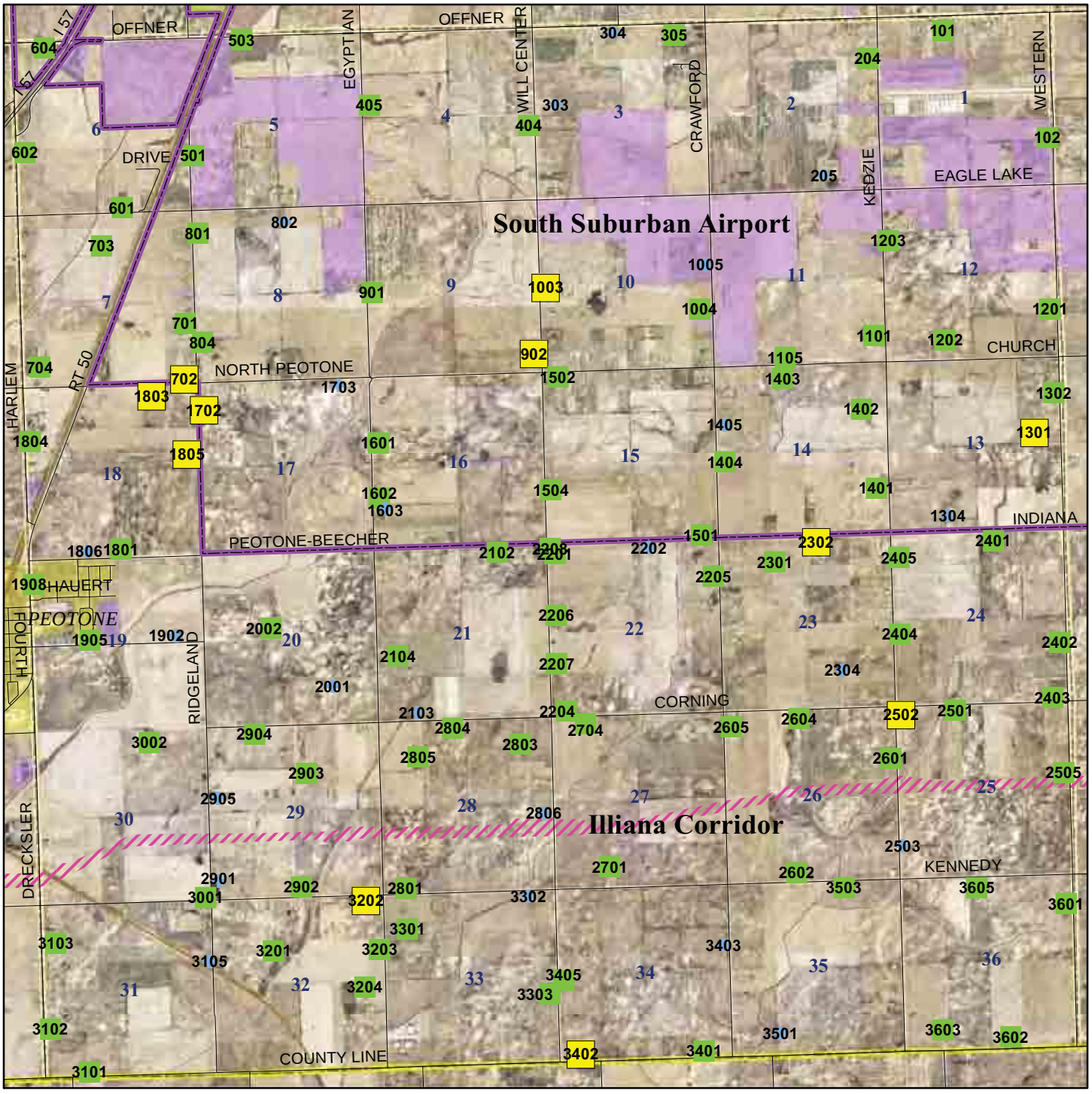
N W E S

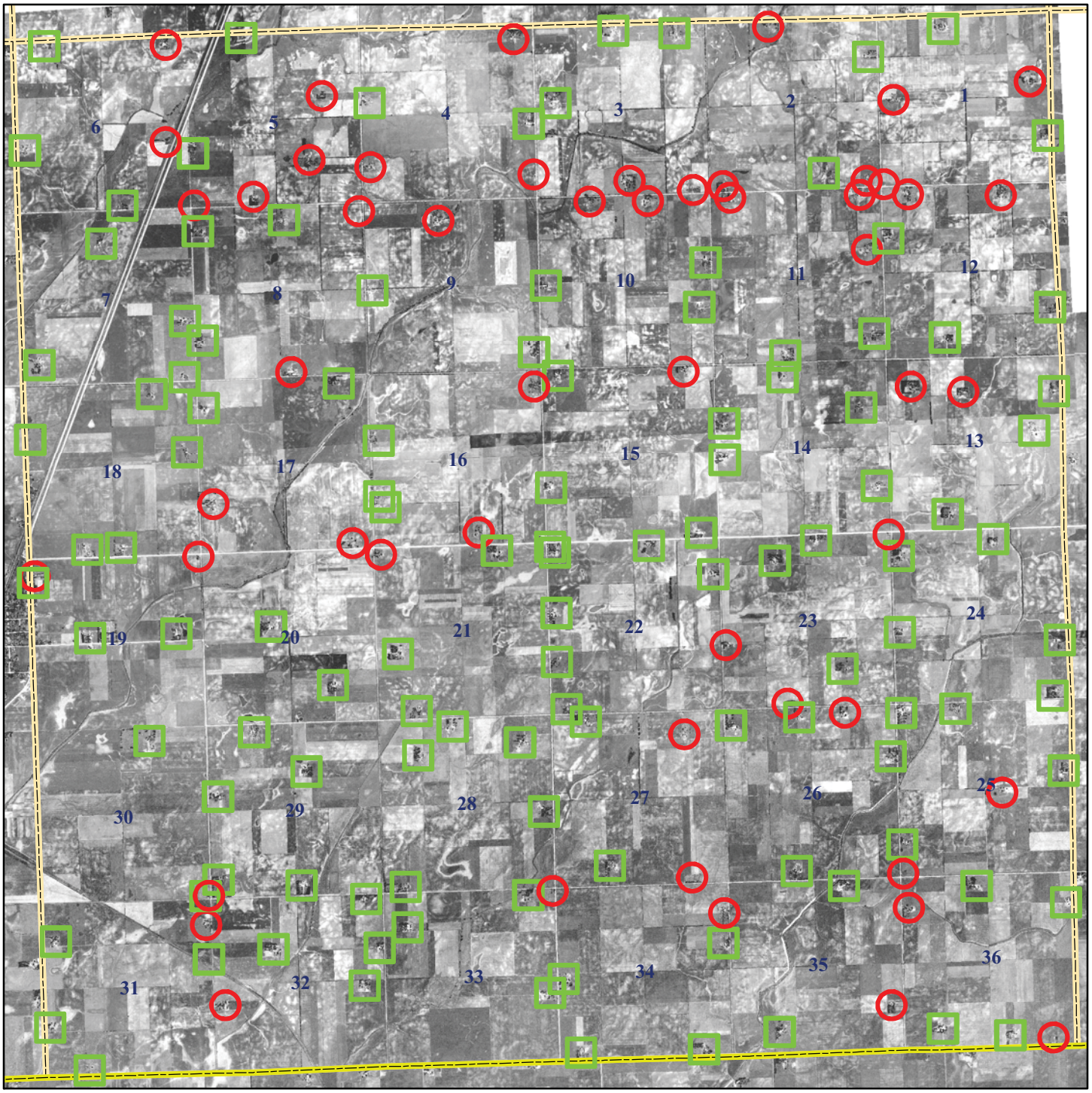
WILL TOWNSHIP
Map 4: Proposed Illiana Corridor and South Suburban Airport



WILL TOWNSHIP
Map 5: 1939 Aerial Photography

Existing site

Demolished site



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