

**Rural Historic Structural Survey
of
Crete Township
Will County, Illinois**



Rural Historic Structural Survey of Crete Township Will County, Illinois

December 2017

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

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

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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 Crete Township in Will County, Illinois. The survey was performed between May 2017 and September 2017 and included approximately forty-five square miles with 114 farmsteads and related sites containing more than 564 individual structures.

Crete Township contains two Will County Landmarks, the Friedrich Gottlieb Seggebruch Homestead designated in 2004, and the Wayfarer Farm, also known as the Carl Wilhelm Steiber House, designated in 2000. There are no National Register listed properties in the township. Of the 114 farmsteads identified in the current survey, seventeen individual farmstead sites have the potential to be considered for Will County Historic Landmark designation. 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 Crete Township intensive survey was performed to update the previous survey of the township performed in 1988. In the previous survey, 113 farmsteads and related sites were identified in the township, containing at least 550 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 9,300 structures on approximately 1,800 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 Crete 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 Crete 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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Springfield, Illinois 62702



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 Crete 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 Will 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, 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, and Mr. Palmer 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 and the Joliet 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 1701 is located in Section 17. The reference numbers are correlated with the 1988 survey numbers, where 1988 site 17-01 is referred to as site 1701 in this report. For sites in Range 15 East, at the eastern edge of Crete Township, the reference number was defined as the 1988 site number plus 5000. Thus, 1988 site 17-01 in Range 15 East is identified in the present survey as site 6701. Intensive field survey work was performed from May 2017 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 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

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/>

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.



Crete Township. The new Crete Monee High School completed in 2006–2007 is visible at left, with the older high school campus, first opened in 1954 and now closed, beyond. The Harmening–Parke Farmstead, site 1802 in the present survey, is in the foreground at right. Compared to other areas of eastern Will County, much of Crete Township is wooded, especially along the path of Plum Creek.

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 Wisconsin 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 Waubesa 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

Historically, Crete Township drained primarily to the north through the Calumet River system and into Lake Michigan. Due to industrial development and the creation of manmade channels, today the Little Calumet River drains primarily through the Cal-Sag Channel into the Mississippi River basin. (The Thomas J. O'Brien Lock and Dam, completed in 1960 at 134th Street west of Torrence Avenue in the City of Chicago, prevents most water from the Calumet River system from reaching Lake Michigan.)

The northwestern portion of the township is drained by Deer Creek and its tributaries. Deer Creek arises in Monee Township. It enters Crete Township in the southwest corner of Section 7, and generally flows to the northeast through Sections 8, 5, 4, 9, and 10. A small tributary arises in Section 20 of Crete Township, flowing northward through Section 17 and the historic core of the Village of Crete before joining the main creek at the northeast corner of Section 9. A second tributary arises in Section 15 and flows north before joining the main creek in Section 10. After leaving the township and Will County, Deer Creek flows north-northeast through Steger and Ford Heights before joining Thorn Creek in southern Cook County. Thorn Creek joins the Little Calumet River in the Village of South Holland, Cook County.

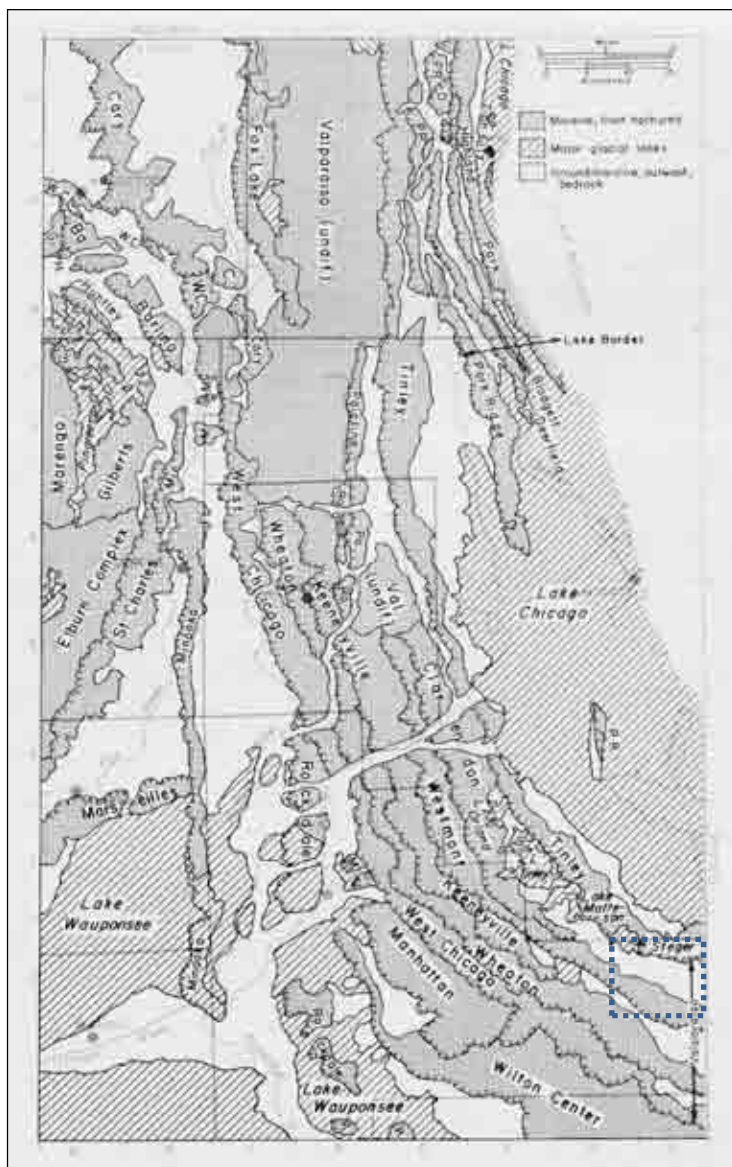
The southern and eastern portions of Crete Township are drained by Plum Creek and its tributaries. Plum Creek arises in Washington Township. The main branch of the creek enters Crete Township in Section 32 and flows northeast, passing through Sections 33, 27, 26, 23, 24, 13, 12, 7, 6, and leaving the township at Section 5. Plum Creek passes through the Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve in Section 27. Several small unnamed tributaries of Plum Creek also drain the township. A small unnamed stream arises in Section 31 and flows east and then south, joining Plum Creek in northern Washington Townships just before the main stream enters the township. A western branch of Plum Creek arises from low-lying areas and a pond in Section 30 of Crete Township, and flows southeast, passing to the north of Goodenow, joining the main stream just west of the intersection of Goodenow Road and Illinois Route 1. Other unnamed branches drain the southeastern quadrant of Crete Township, flowing north and joining the main creek in Section 13. After

³ *Kankakee River Basin Study: A Comprehensive Plan for Water Resource Development* (Springfield: Illinois Bureau of Water Resources, 1967), 2–8.

exiting Crete Township and Will County, Plum Creek flows northward approximately two miles before turning east and entering the State of Indiana. In Lake County, Indiana, the creek is channelized and flows northward to the Little Calumet River.

First Nations in the Illinois Region

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



Illustrated above are the moraine systems in northeastern Illinois. Southern Crete Township lies within the Orland moraine, with northern portions in the Steger moraine. The central portion of the township is an interglacial basin (H.B. Willman, Summary of the Geology of the Chicago Area, Illinois State Geological Survey Circular 460 (Urbana, Illinois, 1971), 43.)

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

The time span between A.D. 1000 and the coming of European explorers and settlers is known as the Mississippian Period. Northeast Illinois was at the fringe of the larger Middle Mississippi culture present in central and southern Illinois. At the beginning of this period, the communities of large fortified towns and ceremonial platform mounds reached their zenith.

There has been very little in the way of professional systematic archaeological survey completed in Crete Township. There are identified three archeological sites in Crete Township. One unspecified prehistoric site less than one acre was identified at a blufftop site in Section 7. A camp site associated with the Mississippian culture one acre in size was identified at an upland site in Section 17. The last site, an unspecified prehistoric of unknown size was identified at a sloped site in Section 6.⁵

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

⁵ John Doershuk, *Plenemuk Mound and the Archaeology of Will County*, Illinois Cultural Resource Study No. 3 (Springfield, Illinois: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 1988), 67 and 85, citing Ted Koelickamp, “The Zorica site”, *Central States Archeological Journal* (1974), 128-135.

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.”⁶ 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.⁷ 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.⁸

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.⁹ 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.¹⁰ 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

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

⁸ Jean L. Herath, *Indians and Pioneers: A Prelude to Plainfield, Illinois* (Hinckley, Illinois: The Hinckley Review, 1975), 20–21.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ *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 1800.¹¹

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.”¹²

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.¹³

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.¹⁴) In 1787, after about twenty months of surveying work, the first national

¹¹ Ibid., 173–251.

¹² John Opie, *The Law of the Land: Two Hundred Years of Farm Policy* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1994), 19.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ Opie, *The Law of the Land*, 10.

public land sales occurred, consisting of 72,934 acres with \$117,108.22 in revenue.¹⁵ 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.”¹⁶ 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.¹⁷ Crete Township lies southeast of this corridor. The township was not surveyed or opened to settlement until 1844.

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.¹⁸ The statehood act was

¹⁵ Ibid., 15.

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ *Will County Property Owners, 1842* (Joliet, Illinois: Will County Historical Society, 1973), 1.

¹⁸ 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.

approved despite the fact that the population of the state was only 40,258 persons, less than the 60,000 persons required by the Ordinance of 1787. The state capital was established first at Kaskaskia and moved to Vandalia two years later. Much of the land in the state was the property of the United States government. Early sales offices were located at Kaskaskia, Shawneetown, and Vincennes. Until the 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.¹⁹

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.²⁰ 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 1833.²¹ The rate of growth in northern Illinois soon matched and then surpassed that in the southern portion of the state.

¹⁹ Olin Dee Morrison, *Prairie State, A History: Social, Political, Economical* (Athens, Ohio: E. M. Morrison, 1960), 24–25.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 51.

²¹ 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.²² 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.²³ 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.²⁴

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.²⁵

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.²⁶

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."²⁷ 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

²² Herath, 21.

²³ 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.)

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Robert E. Sterling, *A Pictorial History of Will County*, Volume 1 (Joliet: Will County Historical Publications, 1975).

²⁶ Tanner, ed., *Atlas of Great Lakes Indian History*, 173.

²⁷ 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.²⁸

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. . . .”²⁹ As compensation, the tribes received land on the east bank of the Missouri River and a series of monetary payments.³⁰

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 12 January 1836, an act was passed creating Will County from portions of Cook, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties. Will County also included at that time the northern part of what would later become Kankakee County. (In 1845, the boundaries of Will County were changed to their present extent.) The county was named in honor of Dr. Conrad Will, a member of the state legislature who lived in the southern part of Illinois.³¹

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.³²

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.³³

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ As quoted in Andreas, *History of Chicago*, 124.

³⁰ 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.

³¹ 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.)

³² Address of George H. Woodruff, *Sixth Annual Reunion of the Will County Pioneer Association* (Joliet: The Press Company, 1886), 5–6.

³³ 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 1844 survey of Crete Township. The forested areas of the Plum Creek and Deer Creek valleys are marked, as are a number of low lying, swampy areas, particularly in the eastern half of the township. Note Hubbard's Trail extending from Section 5 to Section 33. Torrance Avenue is shown as an "Indian Trace" in fractional Section 6.

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.³⁴

³⁴ 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

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.³⁵ 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.³⁶ 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.³⁷

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.³⁸ 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.³⁹

Springfield which took over all the unfinished work of all offices and remained open until 1877. (Shaw, *Will County Agriculture*, 1–2.)

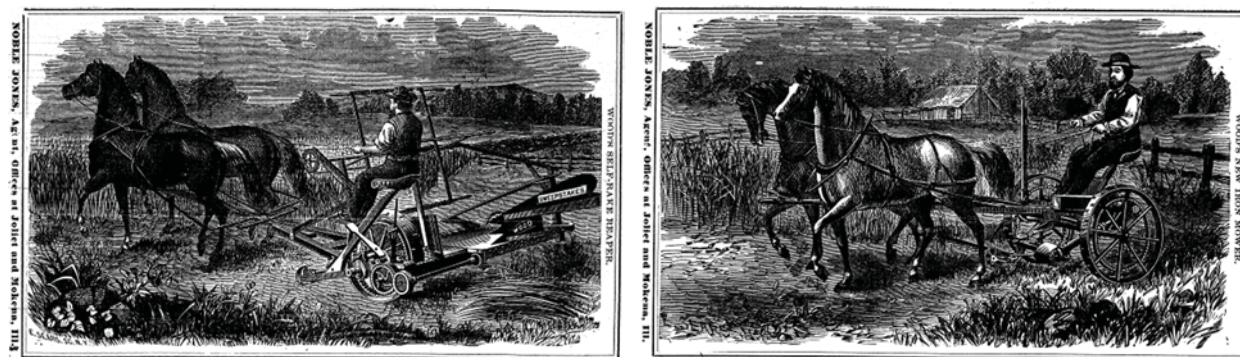
³⁵ Bryan Smith, "Township Government in Illinois: A Rich History, A Vibrant Future." <<http://www.comptrollerconnect.ioc.state.il.us>>

³⁶ "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.)

³⁷ Shaw, *Will County Agriculture*, 13.

³⁸ *Souvenir of Settlement and Progress of Will County Illinois* (Chicago: Historical Directory Publishing Co., 1884), 244.

³⁹ 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.⁴⁰ 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.⁴¹

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.⁴²

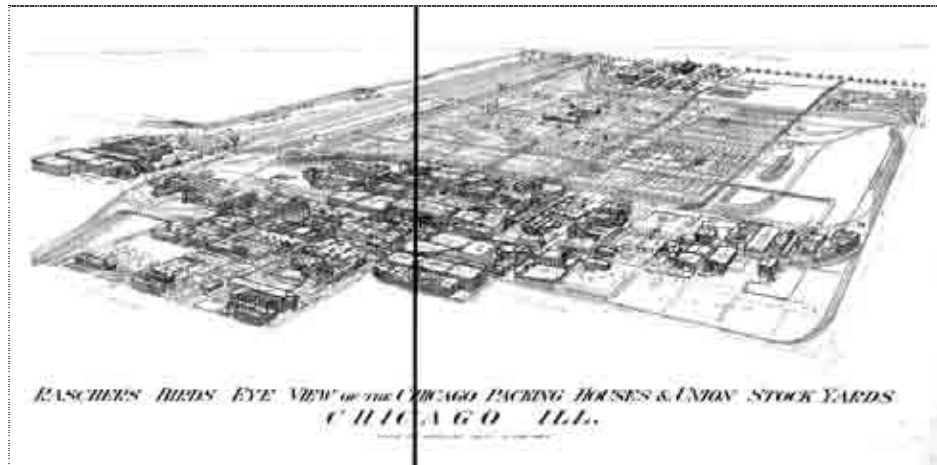
The average value of a southern Illinois farm in 1910 was \$15,000; in the northern part of the state it was \$20,700. The annual value of farm products measured in dollars rose from \$186 million in 1896 to \$277 million in 1912; this was accompanied by an increase in production of field crops by 70 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.⁴³

⁴⁰ 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.

⁴¹ Ibid., 5.

⁴² 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).

⁴³ 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.⁴⁴

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.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ 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.

⁴⁵ Information from the website of the Illinois Department of Agriculture <www.agr.state.il.us/aghhistory.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.

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*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 1880.⁴⁶ 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.⁴⁷

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

⁴⁶ Edward A. Duddy, *Agriculture in the Chicago Region* (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1929), 3.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 4.

soared, some people fled to rural communities, putting additional pressure on rural areas as most did not have access to welfare relief.⁴⁸ 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.⁴⁹ 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.⁵⁰

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 \$28,400.⁵¹ The farm population in Illinois declined from 1,341,104 in 1900 to 772,521 in 1950.⁵²

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.⁵³

⁴⁸ Morrison, *Prairie State, A History*, 108.

⁴⁹ United States Department of Agriculture, *Yearbook of Agriculture* (1936), 1155–1156.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, 1146.

⁵¹ Morrison, *Prairie State, A History*, 116.

⁵² Salamon, 35.

⁵³ *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.⁵⁴

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.⁵⁵

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

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

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

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

⁵⁴ *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.

⁵⁵ Census of Agriculture.

⁵⁶ Charles Lockwood, "Sprawl," *Hemispheres*, United Airlines magazine (September 1999), 82–84.

⁵⁷ *The Code of Country Living* (Bloomington, Illinois: Illinois Farm Bureau, 1999), 3.

Crete Township Developmental History

In the 1820s and early 1830s, present-day Crete Township was uninhabited. However, fur traders regularly moved through the area, traveling between Chicago (then known as Fort Dearborn) and Danville, Illinois. One such trader was Gurdon S. Hubbard. Hubbard laid out a new, more direct overland route in 1824. His trail was an offshoot of the old Chicago-Danville-Vincennes trail in eastern Illinois. Starting at a point several miles north of present-day Milford, Iroquois County, Illinois, he laid out a trail northeast to the trading post at Bunkum on the Iroquois River (present-day Iroquois, Illinois), then proceeded due north toward Chicago, crossing the Kankakee River about one mile east of present-day Momence, Illinois (following the route of present-day Vincennes Trail, where Illinois Route 1 turns west at Grant Park, Illinois). In Will County, this trail ran north-south through open prairie, skirting the western edge of woodlands along Plum Creek and Deer Creek. In present-day Cook County, the trail ran north-northwest to avoid low lying swampland along the Little Calumet River, passing through present-day Blue Island, then northeast to Chicago (following present-day Vincennes Avenue).⁵⁸ Hubbard's Trail is shown as an existing manmade feature on the original plat of the township prepared in 1844.

The presence of Hubbard's Trail attracted settlers to the area. Early settlement was concentrated in four distinct areas of present-day Crete Township:

- *Thorn Grove.* The first settler in Crete Township arrived in 1834, when David Haner, originally from New York, moved to the township, settling in the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 4. James Rice and William Brooks and their families settled along Hubbard's Trail in Thorn Grove in Sections 4 and 5 in the northwestern portion of the township in the 1830s. James Rice, Jr., was born in Thorn Grove after his family settled in the area from Indiana.⁵⁹
- *Beebe's Grove.* Minoris Beebe settled in the eastern portion of Crete Township in 1835. He purchased 80 acres in the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 7 (Range 15 East) in November 1838. Beebe's Grove, situated in portions of Sections 1 and 12 of Range 14 East and Sections 6 and 7 of Range 15 East, was named after Beebe. Shortly after Beebe's arrival to the area, the Quartus Marsh family settled in the area, likely in 1834 or 1835, and Beebe's uncle Hardin Beebe and his wife Susan settled in 1836.⁶⁰
- *Wood's Corners.* Willard Wood was born in Vermont in 1808. In May 1836, Wood and his wife Dyantha Boardman Wood left Vermont and traveled west, arriving in Chicago on June 12, 1836. Abandoning plans to continue further west, the family instead came to present-day Crete Township, and purchased 160 acres of land in Sections 8 and 9. Wood named the area Wood's Corners. Wood taught at the first school in the area beginning in the winter of 1837–1838. Other early settlers to Wood's Corners include Luman and Lucy Hewes, also from Vermont, his wife and five children; Enoch Dodge, who arrived with his family from New Hampshire in 1838; and Joseph Warren and Dyantha Safford, who along with their family arrived in Crete Township in 1838. Safford's son, Anson, would later serve

⁵⁸ Vic Johnson, ed. *Burt E. Burroughs Annotated: The Story of Kankakee's Earliest Pioneer Settlers* (Bradley, Illinois: Lindsay Publications, 1986), 17, citing *The Autobiography of Gurdon S. Hubbard* (Chicago: Lakeside, 1901); Carol Triebold and Phyllis Monks, "Early Settlements" in *Crete Remembered: Visit the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 1 (self-published, 2003), article 1.

⁵⁹ George H. Woodruff, *History of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: Wm. Le Baron Jr., & Company, 1878), 554.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, 555–556.

as Governor of the Arizona Territory.⁶¹ A post office was established in Wood's Corners in 1836, and given the name Crete.⁶²

- *Hewesburg.* In 1835, Luman and Lucy Hewes moved from Vermont to a log cabin in the Illinois wilderness near present-day Blue Island. In spring 1837, they moved south to a farm along Hubbard's Trail in present-day Crete Township, in Sections 20 and 21. The area became known as Hewesburg. Luman and Lucy's sons Benjamin F. (born in Vermont in 1828) and Daniel E. (born in Vermont in 1830) established a mercantile business and the Hewes House hotel in the village in 1853. The Hewes homestead was located within the track infield of the Lincoln Fields Racetrack developed in the 1920s.⁶³
- *Endor.* The Endor settlement was established in 1838. This settlement, at the crossroads of Exchange and Burville Roads in Section 18 of Range 15 East, was anchored by a large sawmill built by Nathaniel Frank. With the rapid development of the Village of Crete, the mill was relocated to the village in 1899. The post office, opened at Endor in 1861, closed in 1901.⁶⁴

A number of persons in Crete Township were active in the Underground Railroad in the 1840s and 1850s. Samuel "Deacon" Cushing and his wife Elizabeth arrived in Crete Township in 1839 from New York with his wife and two children. Initially, Cushing settled in DuPage County, before moving to Crete Township. Cushing was an ardent abolitionist, who served as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, helping enslaved people to freedom. The Cushing Farmstead was located in Section 1, listed as site 103 in the present survey, now demolished. Cushing was indicted in 1843 for harboring slaves. The charges were dismissed after an immediate trial could not be held.⁶⁵ Another Underground Railroad site was the farm of Moses H. and Hannah Cook, site 1102 in the present survey (the local landmark eligible Spence-Muirhead Farmstead). A third site was the farm of Joseph and Dyantha Safford, site 901 in the present survey (the local landmark eligible Triebold Farmstead).⁶⁶

German settlers began to arrive in Crete Township in the latter half of the 1840s. William (or Wilhelm) Rinne was one of these early German immigrants to settle in the area, in 1848 or 1849. His son-in-law, John (or Johann) O. Meier, who would later serve as Crete Township Supervisor, arrived at the same time. John O. Piepenbrink, who would build a successful butter and cheese manufacturing business, and in turn become one of the wealthiest men in the township, arrived in 1849. (There was also a German settlement in Bloom Township immediately to the north, in the area called Strassburg.) The German population in the township rapidly grew from 1848 through 1856.⁶⁷

In 1849, Willard Wood platted a village at the Wood's Corners settlement, named Crete. The original village was laid out on both sides of Hubbard's Trail in Section 9. The original plan extended two blocks east and west of the trail (Main Street) and one or two blocks north and south of an east-west township road

⁶¹ Ibid., 555 and 895; Carol Triebold and Phyllis Monks, "Willard Wood" in *Crete Remembered: Visit the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 1 (self-published, 2003), 7–8.

⁶² W. W. Stevens, *Past and Present of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing, 1907), 73. The name is from the Greek island of Crete, known to the settlers from the story of the journey of St. Paul to Rome as told in the Acts of the Apostles: "And because the haven was not commodious to winter in, the more part advised to depart thence also, if by any means they might attain to Phenice, and there to winter; which is an haven of Crete. . . ." (Acts 27:12).

⁶³ Monks and Triebold, "Hewesburg, Crete Township," in *Crete Remembered: Visit the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 1 (self-published, 2003), article 31; Woodruff (1878), 892; 1860 census.

⁶⁴ Triebold and Monks, "Eastern Crete Township," in *Crete Remembered: Journey Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 2 (self-published, 2004), article 67.

⁶⁵ Woodruff (1878), 557.

⁶⁶ Triebold, "New Underground Railroad Station Documented in Crete," in *Crete Remembered: A Glimpse of the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 5 (self-published, 2010), article 178.

⁶⁷ Woodruff (1878), 559. The dates given in this paragraph are from personal communication to the author from Phyllis Monks, referencing original research by Howard Piepenbrink.

(Exchange Street). In 1848, Wood established a hotel at the southeast corner of Main and Exchange Streets, known as Wood's Hotel; the establishment was later known as the Hewes House hotel. A blacksmith shop operated in the area by George Gridley, prior to the town being laid out. The first store in town was opened in 1849 by H. H. Huntley.⁶⁸

With the organization of township government in 1850, the name Crete was also selected for the township. Nicholas Brown was elected the first supervisor of the new Crete Township.⁶⁹ In 1856, the original Crete Township was divided in half, forming present-day Crete and Washington Townships. These two townships are somewhat distinctive in that they include additional fractional townships along the Indiana State Line. The majority of the State of Indiana, and a small portion of eastern Illinois (south of present-day Kankakee, Illinois), was surveyed and platted from the Second Principal Meridian, longitude 86° 27' 21" west, as laid out in 1805. The Illinois-Indiana state line follows this survey. The majority of Illinois, including all of Will County, was surveyed and platted from the Third Principal Meridian, longitude 89° 08' 54" west, also laid out in 1805. Where the surveys for the Third Principal Meridian met up with the already established Illinois-Indiana state line, a tapering strip of land up to two miles wide remained, Range 15 East. (The width of this strip of land is not a consistent distance from east to west, due to the survey meridians being true north-south lines and thus converging as they run towards the north pole.) This strip was surveyed as fractional townships, with the same numbering of sections as if it were a complete township. Thus, the fractional township in eastern Crete Township has sections numbered 5 through 8, 17 through 20, and 29 through 32. Due to the small area of these fractional townships, they were typically combined with the adjacent 36-square-mile township when civil townships were established. This larger-than-typical size township is seen for Crete and Washington Townships in Will County; Yellowhead and Momence Townships in Kankakee County to the south; and Thornton and Bloom Townships in Cook County to the north. For purposes of this report, sites are numbered according to section number; to avoid duplication, sites in the fractional township have their numbers increased by 5000; thus, site 5601 is the first surveyed farmstead site in section 6 of the fractional township, and site 8001 is the first surveyed farmstead site in section 30 of the fractional township.

In 1869, the Chicago & Eastern Illinois (Danville & Vincennes) Railroad was completed through the western portion of Crete Township, passing just to the west of the village. The railroad was laid out to run generally parallel to Hubbard's Trail. In Section 5, the railroad crossed from the east side of the trail to the west side.⁷⁰ (In 1876, the railroad was reorganized as the Chicago and Nashville Railroad, and in 1877 it was consolidated with other lines as the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad.) The railroad led to further development in the village, including commercial and industrial enterprises. Among these were the Crete Manufacturing Company, maker of wood millwork, doors, sashes and blinds (shutters), established in 1869 by Conrad Tatge, Christopher Knabe, William Hahnlein, and Fred Sennholz.⁷¹ Grain began to be shipped on the railroad in 1870, and milk products soon followed.

In the late 1860s, a brickyard was established in Crete Township.⁷² As shown on the 1873 atlas map, one was located on the Ernst Rinne farm, site 2301 in the present survey. This brickyard likely supplied the

⁶⁸ Ibid., 566.

⁶⁹ Ibid., 565–566.

⁷⁰ In 1967, the railroad became part of the Missouri Pacific, renamed the Louisville Nashville in 1969. The line remains active for freight today, jointly operated by CSX and Union Pacific. A revival of passenger service on the line, as the proposed Metra "Southeast Service" has been discussed since the 1980s and was endorsed by the Metra Board in 2015; however, no funding to begin the project has been confirmed.

⁷¹ Phyllis Monks and Carol Triebold, "Crete Manufacturing Company," in *Crete Remembered: Visit the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 1 (self-published, 2003), article 6. The factory was destroyed by fire on November 14, 1895, and never reopened.

⁷² Triebold and Monks, "The Brickyards," in *Crete Remembered: Travel Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 3 (self-published, 2006), article 102.

bricks used in the construction of historic brick masonry buildings in the Village of Crete constructed in the 1870s and later, as well as rural structures such as the historic barns at the Spence–Muirhead Farmstead, site 1102 in the present survey, and Meier Farmstead, site 1504, and historic farmhouses at the Triebold Farmstead, site 901, and Orr–Blim Farmstead, site 1402.



The Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad depot in Crete, in the early twentieth century. The initial depot was destroyed by fire and replaced by this structure in about 1880. Source: Triebold and Monks, article 28.

In 1880, the Village of Crete was officially incorporated. In 1893, a large hotel was constructed east of the railroad depot on First Street. Known as the Hattendorf Hotel, it was intended to serve visitors to the Columbian Exposition to Chicago. Since the Village of Crete was too remote from the fair to really attract visitors, the hotel failed and closed by the end of 1893. It was later used by Charles Waldeck for a carpentry and cabinet-making business, and after 1909 by Myron J. Adams as a machine shop, his residence, and a community hall on the second floor known as Adams Hall. (Abandoned after Adams's death, the building was finally demolished in 1965, and public tennis courts were built on the site.)⁷³

⁷³ Monks and Triebold, "Hattendorf Hotel," in *Crete Remembered: Visit the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 1 (self-published, 2003), article 18.



Looking south on Main Street at Exchange Street in the Village of Crete, circa 1890s. Wood's Hotel at left was built in 1865 but demolished in 1970. Source: Triebold and Monks, article 64.

By the 1880s, a large portion of Crete Township was devoted to the raising of beef cattle. One of the largest cattle farms was the Baker farm located south of Goodenow in the southern portion of Sections 32 and 33. Much of the eastern portion of the township was owned by individuals from Chicago who operated stock farms in Crete Township. The industry slowed at the turn of the century when beef prices began to fall.⁷⁴ Dairy farming was also prevalent throughout Crete Township, with the quality of roads in the area making it easy for milk products to be transported.

A second railroad, operated exclusively for freight, was built through Crete Township in 1907. Known as the Chicago and Southern Railroad and later the Chicago, Terre Haute & Southeastern Railway, the company built a major freight yard in Crete Township, known as the Faithorn Yards. From 1913, specific crews were assigned to the yard, and a number of houses were built for the railroad employees and their families. The line was purchased by the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific in 1948. Rail traffic declined in the 1960s, and by 1970 most railroad activity at the Faithorn yard had ceased. The line was abandoned in 1980. Most of the homes and businesses at Faithorn had been demolished by the 1980s.⁷⁵ From Richton Road south to Deer Creek, the former rail line has been converted to a walking and bicycle path, and another portion of the right-of-way north of Goodenow Road is part of the Plum Creek Greenway Trail.

⁷⁴ August Maue, *History of Will County, Illinois* (Indianapolis: Historical Publishing, 1928), 180–181.

⁷⁵ Triebold and Monks, “Faithorn: A Railroad & Town,” in *Crete Remembered: Journey Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 2 (self-published, 2004), article 77.



Two views of the railroad facilities at Faithorn, circa 1920s. Source: *A Pictorial History of Crete (1986)*, pictures 355 and 356. Although still in existence in the mid-1950s, as seen in historical aerial photography, these structures had been demolished by 1961.

Illinois Route 1 (also known as Dixie Highway), was the first concrete road constructed in Illinois. It was completed within Crete Township in 1919–1921. The road, which travels generally north-south and connects Chicago to Hardin County at the southern edge of the state, extends through the Village of Crete. One-quarter of the cost of building the road within Will County was borne by the county. Within Crete Township, the highway followed the original path of Hubbard's Trail as laid out in 1824. Development in and around Crete accelerated following the completion of the road. Local farm products such as milk began to be typically shipped by truck rather than train in the 1910s. The dangerous railroad crossing on the highway north of the Village of Crete near Richton Road was reconstructed with an overpass in about 1922.⁷⁶



Left: Dixie Highway, circa 1920s, near Goodenow Road in Crete Township. Source: James R. Wright, *The Dixie Highway in Illinois* (Chicago: Arcadia Publishing, 2009), 66.

Improved highway access made Crete Township an attractive area for suburban residential development. An early example was the Lincolnshire Country Club, constructed in 1927–1928 east of the Village of Crete in Sections 9 and 10. For the development, 2300 acres were annexed to the Village of Crete. The clubhouse overlooked a manmade lake known as Deer Lake, created by damming Goose Creek and Deer Creek in

⁷⁶ Maue (1928), 179; Triebold and Monks, "Dixie Highway," in *Crete Remembered: Visit the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 1 (self-published, 2003), article 46.

1927. Three golf courses were constructed, opening in August 1927, May 1929, and July 1929, respectively. Elaborate plans for a residential village around the golf courses were developed in 1928, but only a few homes were built before the onset of the Great Depression slowed construction. (The syndicate that had formed to develop the golf courses and club defaulted on their debts in 1942. The golf courses were consolidated and portions sold for development, and a local association purchased the club facilities in 1952. In 1987 Lincolnshire converted one of the two remaining 18-hole golf courses to a public course, while the other remained private for the club members. In 2006 Lincolnshire Country Club sold the public course to a new owner, who renamed that course Lincoln Oaks. The dam was removed in 1986–1987, and Deer Lake was drained. Most of the remaining residential lots in the area were developed in the 1970s to the 1990s.)⁷⁷

Planning for a village sewer system began in the mid-1920s, and the system was operational by 1927. (The village was connected to the Thorn Creek Basin Sanitary District in the 1970s.)⁷⁸

In 1936, local farmers organized a volunteer crime prevention group affiliated with the Will County Sheriff known as the Crete F-Men Association of Crete Township (with “F” standing for “farmers” or “farm protectors”). At the time, gangs of thieves were known to steal livestock from area farms. Many townships had similar groups, but most were disbanded during World War II due to a loss of manpower for the military draft. The organization in Crete Township continued, thanks to a large membership of older and retired farmers. In 1954, the F-Men purchased the former Union (Schrage) School at the northeast corner of Exchange Street and Kings Road in Section 7, site 702 in the present survey.⁷⁹ The building was expanded by the addition of the former Zion Lutheran School, which was purchased by the F-Men and relocated to the Union School site in 1961.

With the continued improvement of road infrastructure in the 1920s and 1930s, the railroad began to lose passenger traffic, and passenger service to Crete ended in 1947. In January 1948, the Crete depot was severely damaged by fire and was later demolished. To serve the continuing freight service on the line, the depot from Goodenow was relocated to the Village of Crete in 1949. Freight service ended in 1957, and in 1969, the station was relocated across the street and attached to the former Congregational Church, by that time in use for commercial purposes.⁸⁰ The former railroad depot remains at that site today.

⁷⁷ Maue (1928), 179–180; Triebold and Monks, “Lincolnshire: Building a Country Club & Village,” in *Crete Remembered: Journey Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 2 (self-published, 2004), articles 60 and 62; Triebold and Monks, “Golfing in Crete, Then and Now,” in *Crete Remembered: A Glimpse of the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 5 (self-published, 2010), article 168.

⁷⁸ Monks and Triebold, “Privies,” in *Crete Remembered: Visit the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 1 (self-published, 2003), article 19.

⁷⁹ Triebold and Monks, “The Last Posse,” in *Crete Remembered: Visit the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 1 (self-published, 2003), article 24.

⁸⁰ Triebold and Monks, “Railroad Roundhouse,” in *Crete Remembered: Visit the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 1 (self-published, 2003), article 29.



Left: The former Goodenow depot after its relocation to Crete for use as a freight office, circa 1949. Source: Triebold and Monks, article 29.

In 1957, a new Illinois Route 1 was constructed east of the Village of Crete. The new road alignment went through Sections 2, 11, 14, 22, 23, 27, and 28 before reconnecting with the original alignment of the road in Section 33. At first, the portion of the new highway in Crete Township was a two-lane road, but it was widened to a four-lane divided highway in the early 1960s. The new alignment began at Interstate 80 to the north in Cook County. The old alignment was renamed Alternate Illinois Route 1. In 1964, the name of the original alignment reverted to Illinois Route 1, while the new alignment was now called Illinois Route 394.

Starting in the late 1950s, Crete Township has experienced new suburban residential and commercial development as urban growth extended southward from Cook County, particularly along Illinois Route 394. The incorporated limits of Crete have expanded south and east, and western portions of the township have been incorporated into Park Forest and University Park as those communities have expanded eastward. From only about 2,300 persons in 1950, the population of the Village of Crete more than doubled to 5,000 persons by 1977 and by the 2010 census had grown to 8,259. Continued contemporary development has resulted in the loss of historic farmstead properties, especially in the northern and western portions of the township. Conversely, the natural woodland along the Plum Creek valley has been protected by the gradual expansion of forest preserves east of Illinois Route 394. Today, large portions of Sections 6 and 7 (Range 15 East), 12, 13, 23, 24, 26, 27, 33, and 34 are protected land owned by the Forest Preserve District of Will County.

In addition to ongoing commercial and residential development, one new proposed infrastructure project has the potential to affect Crete Township: the South Suburban Airport. 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.⁸¹ If built as proposed, the airport property would encompass large portions of Sections 29 to 34 in southwestern Crete Township, including the Will County landmark Seggebruch Farmstead (Site 3002 in the present survey) and four other contributing farmstead sites, as well as the large mobile home community Pheasant Lake Estates along West Goodenow Road in Section 31. The airport property would extend up to the western edge of the hamlet of Goodenow. The southern third of the township would be in the flight path of airplanes approaching the northern runways of the airfield. (See Map 4 in Appendix B.)

⁸¹ <http://www.southsuburbanairport.com/>

Goodenow

Franklin and Betsy Goodenow came with their children to Will County in 1838 and settled on a farm in Monee Township. In 1853, their son George W. Goodenow (born in Oneida County, New York, in 1824) purchased a sizable farm in the southern part of Crete Township. An adjacent farm was owned by his brother-in-law George and Jeanette (Goodenow) Baker. Together, the families owned most of Section 33 and the east half of Section 32.⁸²

When the Chicago & Eastern Railroad through Crete Township in 1869, it bisected the Goodenow farm. A depot was built on the farm, and a village was laid out in the southeast quadrant of Section 32 to take advantage of the commercial opportunities presented by the railroad. George's son Frank J. Goodenow (born in Crete Township in 1848) became station master and postmaster of the new settlement in 1870. George Goodenow constructed a storehouse in the town, while William Kophmeir erected a hotel and saloon. A wagon-shop was constructed by Herman Brinker.⁸³ Around 1870 or 1871, the former Hewesburg School was relocated to a new site closer to the new village; thereafter it was known as the Goodenow School. A number of other commercial enterprises were founded in the growing village in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The Goodenow area was struck by a severe tornado on Saturday, May 26, 1917, destroying many of the residential and commercial structures in the village as well as the Goodenow family farm, but miraculously without loss of life. A further setback was two disastrous fires within a week that destroyed several businesses in May 1930. These disasters, along with improved roads that allowed residents to reach larger markets in Crete and other nearby villages, stunted the commercial development and growth of Goodenow, which remained a small hamlet.⁸⁴ The former Baker farm in the southeast quarter of Section 32 west of the railroad was operated as a landfill in the 1970s and 1980s, but is now closed.

A few commercial buildings, including a grain elevator, still remained in Goodenow by the mid-1950s. Although the hamlet has never expanded beyond the blocks platted in 1869, Goodenow remains a distinctive residential settlement today. A few businesses are active in the hamlet, and a few dozen historic houses remain, many of which are significantly remodeled.



Left: Business district of Goodenow, prior to the May 1930 fire. Right: The grain elevator at Goodenow circa 1961. Source: Triebold and Monks.

⁸² Triebold and Monks, "The Settlement of Goodenow," in *Looking Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 4 (self-published, 2008), article 116; Woodruff (1878), 891–892.

⁸³ Woodruff (1878), 567.

⁸⁴ Monks and Triebold, "Goodenow Struck by Tornado, May 26, 1917," in *Crete Remembered: Journey Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 2 (self-published, 2004), article 59.



The hamlet of Goodenow in the mid-1950s. Source: Drury (1955), 35.

Schools

The first school in the township was taught by Willard Wood in a log-cabin type schoolhouse built in 1837.⁸⁵ In addition to the village school, the first public schools in the township were established in 1840. At this time, the township was divided into three school districts. The school districts were School District No. 1 (Beebe's Grove), which comprised the six northeast sections; School District No. 2 (Thorn Grove), which was made up of the northwest twelve sections, and School District No. 3 (Hewesburg), which comprised the south half of the township. By 1841, all three of these districts had built schoolhouses. By 1850, there were six rural districts in the township, which increased to seven by the 1860s.⁸⁶ The original rural schools in Crete Township included the following:

- District No. 1 School, opened in 1840. This school was known as the Beebe's Grove School and later the Piepenbrink School or the Muirhead School. The building was located at the northwest corner of Richton Road and Volbrecht Road in Section 2. This school is mapped as site 204 in the present survey. In 1920, this school was closed, and the children were bused to the village grade school. A new building was built in 1940. After consolidation in the late 1940s, the schoolhouse was adapted for residential purposes. This school was demolished in 2008.
- District No. 2 School, opened in 1840. This school was known as the Thorn Grove School and also the Wilder School. It was north of the Village of Crete, at the southwest corner of Richton Road and present-day Illinois Route 1 in Section 5. This school closed in 1872 when the new village school was built.
- District No. 3 School, opened in 1841. This school was known as the Hewesburg School and was located on the east side of present-day Illinois Route 1 in Section 28. In 1869 when the Chicago, Danville and Vincennes Railroad was built, the village of Goodenow began to develop. In about 1870 or 1871, George Goodenow, Sr., donated land for a school on his farm, and the Hewesburg School was relocated to that site. Thereafter, it was known as the Goodenow School. The original building was later moved across the road to the Baker Farm and replaced by a new Goodenow School at the same site. This second school building was destroyed by the May 26, 1917, tornado and was replaced by a brick building. The third school building was then destroyed by fire on March 20, 1922. The fourth Goodenow School was built in 1922.⁸⁷ At first this building remained open after district consolidation, but closed after the 1951–1952 school year. It was sold in 1955 and adapted to function as a residence. It still exists and is documented as site 3201 in the present survey.
- Scheiwe School, opened by 1850. This school is mapped as site 2509 in the present survey. It appears to have had relatively low enrollment and was periodically closed, but was reopened in 1940 after the nearby St. John Lutheran Church North School closed. The Scheiwe School closed in 1946, and the building was sold in 1949.
- Schrage School, also known as the Union School, was opened by 1850. The old school building at this site was destroyed by fire in April 1934, and a new school was built on the same site. At first this

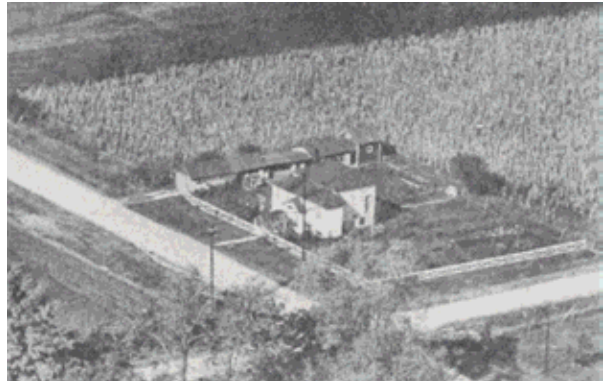
⁸⁵ Mrs. George Myrick, "The Schools of Crete," in Miss Mabel E. Dodge, Mrs. George Myrick, and Mrs. Carrie King, eds., *Crete's Early History: Papers Read at the Local History Day Meeting of the Crete Woman's Club, January 19, 1922* (Momence: Momence-Press Reporter, 1922), 39.

⁸⁶ Triebold and Monks, "First School" in *Crete Remembered: Journey Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 2 (self-published, 2004), article 54; Leslie Joseph Farrington, "Development of Public School Administration in the Public Schools of Will County, Illinois, As Shown in a Comparison of Three Selected Years: 1877, 1920, and 1965" (Ph.D. diss., Northern Illinois University, 1967), 204.

⁸⁷ Mrs. George Myrick, "The Schools of Crete," in Miss Mabel E. Dodge, Mrs. George Myrick, and Mrs. Carrie King, eds., *Crete's Early History: Papers Read at the Local History Day Meeting of the Crete Woman's Club, January 19, 1922* (Momence: Momence-Press Reporter, 1922), 40.

building remained open after district consolidation, but it was closed in 1954. It was purchased by the Crete F-Men in 1955. This building still exists and is documented as site 702 in the present survey.

- Diersen School, also known as the Burville School or Faithorn School. This school was established by 1850 and is mapped as site 1405 in the present survey. This rural district received a boost in enrollment after the Southern Indiana Railroad was built and the railroad town of Faithorn developed. But, when the railroad declined, so did the town and this school. It closed in about 1940. The building was sold in 1949 and converted to a residence. It has subsequently been demolished.
- The last rural school to be established was the Endor School, also known as the Batterman or Klemme School. It opened around 1862, and the first building was located in the southwest quarter of Section 19 (Range 15 East). The first building was destroyed by fire in 1879. For reconstruction, it was decided to move to a new site at the center of Section 19. The new school was located one-half mile north of the original location. The school was closed in 1954 and sold and remodeled for residential use. The building still exists and is documented as site 6906 in the present survey.



Left: The old Piepenbrink School, circa 1910. Source: *A Pictorial History of Crete* (1986), picture 322. Right: The new Piepenbrink School built in 1940, after it was renovated to create a residence. Source: *Drury, This Is Will County* (1955), plate 47.



Left: Diersen School, circa 1905. Source: *A Pictorial History of Crete* (1986), picture 320. Right: The Diersen School in 1955, after it was renovated to create a residence. Source: *Drury, This Is Will County* (1955), plate 50.

In addition to the public schools, there were also three Lutheran schools in the township:

- The original Zion Lutheran congregation, established in 1849, built a school in Section 15 on the north side of Burville Road. (The cemetery mapped as site 1508 is at this location.) In 1911, when the new Zion Evangelical Lutheran congregation built a new church south of the village, this schoolhouse was relocated to a new site behind the church. After a new school was completed in 1958, the old

schoolhouse was sold to the Crete F-Men, who in 1961 relocated it to Section 7 and attached it to the back of the former Union (Schrage) School as an addition, where it still exists, documented as part of site 702 in the present survey.

- The Immanuel Lutheran congregation, established in 1855, built a school in Section 19. Due to its location near Black Walnut Creek, this school was sometimes known as the Black Walnut School. It seems likely that this schoolhouse closed circa 1911 (if not earlier), when the Trinity congregation completed a small schoolhouse in the village, and the new Zion congregation split off from the Trinity congregation. It is possible that the historic schoolhouse still exists, remodeled to serve as a residence. The house at this site is documented as site 1904 in the present survey.
- St. John Lutheran Church was originally established in 1850 in Crete Township, and the congregation built a church and school in Section 25. In 1864, a new church was built in the Eagle Lake area of northeast Washington Township; however, the original school in Crete Township remained open. The North School of St. John Lutheran Church, as it was thereafter known, closed in July 1940. As visible in 1939 aerial photographs, this school was very close to the adjacent Batterman Farmstead, site 2501 in the present survey. It had been demolished by 1955, as it does not appear in the aerial photograph of the farmstead published at that time.
- Apart from these rural schoolhouses, the Trinity Lutheran congregation completed a new brick schoolhouse in the village in 1923. Although much renovated and expanded subsequently, this site is the present-day location of the Illinois Lutheran Elementary School on Cass Street.



Left: *The North School of St. John Lutheran Church. Source: A Pictorial History of Crete (1986), picture 321.* Right: *The Zion Evangelical Lutheran School being relocated circa 1911 from its original site in Section 15 to a new site behind the recently constructed church. Source: A Pictorial History of Crete (1986), picture 54.*

A new two-story schoolhouse with four classrooms was built in the Village of Crete in 1872. At this time, the former Wilder School north of the village was joined with the village schools.⁸⁸ In the 1920s, modernization of the 1872 school building in the village was undertaken, and in early 1928, plans for an addition were prepared. But on June 11, 1928, the Crete Grade School building was completely destroyed by fire. A new one-story brick masonry building with six classrooms and a gymnasium-auditorium was

⁸⁸ Mrs. George Myrick, "The Schools of Crete," in Miss Mabel E. Dodge, Mrs. George Myrick, and Mrs. Carrie King, eds., *Crete's Early History: Papers Read at the Local History Day Meeting of the Crete Woman's Club, January 19, 1922* (Momence: Momence-Press Reporter, 1922), 39.

constructed on the site at 435 North Street in the Village of Crete, at a cost of \$100,000.⁸⁹ The building was dedicated on April 19, 1929.⁹⁰ An addition was made to the northeast corner of this building in 1933.



Left: The Crete School built in 1872. Source: A Pictorial History of Crete (1986). Right: Entrance to the Crete Public School as completed in 1929. Source: A Pictorial History of Crete (1986), picture 290.

In 1932, residents of Crete Township voted to establish a High School in the area. Prior to the establishment of the high school, students were sent to high schools in nearby Chicago Heights or Peotone. After receiving approval to establish a high school, a two-year high school program was within the existing grade school in the village. In 1936, voters approved the issuance of \$12,000 in bonds, which in conjunction with \$22,400 from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) was used to construct an addition at the east end of the grade school, allowing for the school to provide a third year of high school. The school addition was opened in November 1937 and included additional classroom space, a library, and a study hall.⁹¹

⁸⁹ Triebold and Monk, "Public School Fire" in *Crete Remembered: Journey Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 2 (self-published, 2004), article 55; Farrington, 204.

⁹⁰ Crete-Monee School District 201, www.cm201u.org

⁹¹ Ibid.

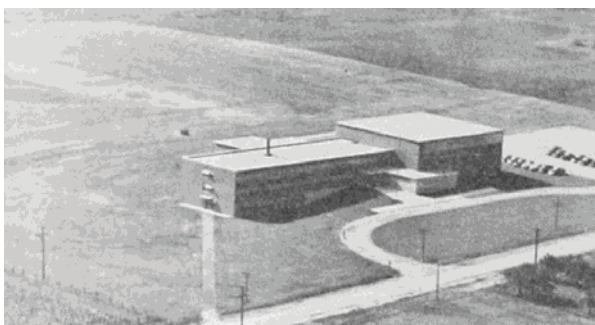


Left: The Crete Grade School after the 1937 addition. Source: A Pictorial History of Crete (1986), picture 289. Right: The Crete Grade School as it appeared in 1955. The original 1929 building is at the center, while the additions completed in 1937, 1947–1948, and 1951 extend to the east and west. Source: Drury, 38.

The high school began to offer a four year education beginning in 1940, after voters supported a referendum to create a separate high school district. The high school was known as Crete Community High School and had a total of 136 students the first year it served as a four year school. In 1946–1947, a new wing with six classrooms was added to the west end of the grade school building.

Almost all of Crete Township was included in the new consolidated Crete-Monee Community Unit School District 201 when it was established in 1948. (The incorporated portion of the Village of Steger was excluded.) At that time, six one-room schoolhouses were in operation in the rural portions of the township, as well as the combined grade school and high school in the Village of Crete.⁹²

To accommodate growing enrollment as well as the transfer of students as the former one-room schoolhouses were closed, six more classrooms were added to the Crete Grade School in 1951. In 1953, construction of a new high school building at 760 West Exchange Street began; this building opened for classes in 1954. Also in 1954, a new grade school building in Monee was begun, at 5154 West Main Street on the eastern edge of the village. With the rapid development of the Village of Park Forest, in 1957 and 1958, the Talala School in Park Forest (Monee Township) was built in two phases. An addition to the high school was completed in 1957, and additions to the Monee Grade School were completed in 1957 and 1958.⁹³



Left: The new Crete High School as completed in 1954. Source: Drury, 38. Right: Crete High School after several additions in the 1960s. Source: Crete-Monee School District 201, www.cm201u.org.

In 1960, Balmoral and Meadowbrook, each containing six classrooms, were completed. In 1961, a second addition was built onto the high school, and in 1963 a junior high school was built. At this time, enrollment was reorganized, from an eight-grade elementary plus four-grade high school system, to a six-grade

⁹² Ibid.

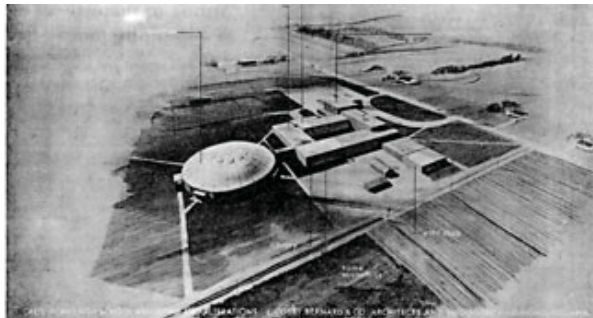
⁹³ Farrington, 208–209.

elementary plus three-grade junior high school plus three-grade high school system. In 1964, the old Monee Grade School building was vacated.⁹⁴ In 1965 a third addition to the high school was completed.⁹⁵ This addition was a domed physical education building connected to the school by a short corridor and became known as the “Warrior Dome.” During heavy snowfall from the January 26–27, 1967, blizzard, the domed roof of the addition collapsed. A replacement dome was completed by June 1968. Further additions to the high school were completed in 1966, 1968, and 1973, and renovations and additions were made in 1985–1986.⁹⁶

The district began to offer kindergarten classes for the first time in 1967. A new grade school was built in Park Forest South (now called University Park, in Monee Township) in 1971, known as Hickory School, and a new junior high school, Deer Creek Junior High School, was built in 1974–1975. Due to declining enrollment and flooding problems, this latter school closed in 1987. The school was reconstructed in 1997 and reopened in 1998 as the Crete-Monee Middle School.⁹⁷

The former Meadowbrook Grade School on South Kings Road in Section 7 of Crete Township closed in 1981. It was purchased in 1990 by St. Liborius Catholic Church in Steger and opened as a parochial school in 1991.⁹⁸ Today it is known as Mother Teresa Catholic Academy.

Enrollment in the district grew rapidly in the 1990s and early 2000s. In 2004, voters approved a referendum allowing the construction of a new elementary school in Monee and a new high school. The new high school was constructed directly west of the existing high school on West Exchange Street. The new school was opened in 2007 at a cost of \$160 million.



Left: Illustration of the Crete High School showing the domed physical education building constructed in 1965. Right: The new high school constructed in 2006–2007. Source: Crete-Monee School District 201, www.cm201u.org.

Presently, District 201 operates the following schools:

- Balmoral Elementary School, 1124 West New Monee Road, in Section 20 of Crete Township. The first portion was constructed in 1960, and a four-room addition was built in 1966.
- Crete Elementary School, occupying the 1929 village school building, with many later additions. An addition to the south front in 1984 destroyed the original Art Deco style entrance.

⁹⁴ This 1905 school building was located southwest of the 1950s school building, at the southwest corner of Main Street and Eastgate Avenue. In 1968, it was rented by the Village of Monee for village offices, and in 1973, it was purchased by the village. The building was demolished in the 1980s after a new village hall and police station was built.

⁹⁵ Farrington, 209–210.

⁹⁶ Crete-Monee School District 201, www.cm201u.org.

⁹⁷ Triebold and Monks, “New School Houses” in *Crete Remembered: A Glimpse of the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 5 (self-published, 2010), article 157.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

- Coretta Scott King Magnet School, 1009 Blackhawk Drive, in Section 13 of Monee Township. This school was originally known as Hickory Grade School and was built in 1971. This elementary school was converted to a magnet school in the 2006–2007 school year.
- Early Learning Center, 1500 Sangamon Street, in Section 17 of Crete Township. This building was originally built as the Hubbard Trail Junior High School and opened in September 1963. The junior high school closed in 1998, and district offices were relocated to this building.
- Monee Education Center, 5154 Main Street, in the Village of Monee. This building is the former Monee Elementary School constructed in 1954 and 1958.
- Monee Elementary School, 25425 Will Center Road, Section 15 of Monee Township. This new school building was constructed in 2006.
- Talala Elementary School, 430 Talala Street, Section 2 of Monee Township. The original portions of this school were built in 1957–1958.
- Crete Monee Sixth Grade Center, 760 West Exchange Street, in Section 17 of Crete Township. Originally built in 1954 as the high school, with many subsequent additions. With the completion of a new addition to the middle school in 2016, this building has been closed.
- Crete Monee Middle School, 635 Olmsted Lane, in Section 13 of Monee Township. Originally built in 1974–1975, it was mostly reconstructed in 1997 and reopened in 1998.
- Crete Monee High School, 1515 West Exchange Street, in Section 17 of Crete Township. The new high school was constructed in 2006–2007.

Of the seven schools present in Crete Township before consolidation, four historic school buildings remain. The Crete Grade School remains in use by the school district, while three former one-room schoolhouses have been adaptively reused.

Map ID	PIN	Location	Name	Status
204		Section 2, SE corner	Old District No. 1 District No. 191 Piepenbrink School	Demolished in 2008
702	15-07-401-006	Section 7, south center	District No. 188 Union (Schrage) School	Adaptively reused. Back portion is the former Zion Lutheran School, relocated to this site by the Crete F-Men.
921	15-09-317-007	Section 9, city parcel	Crete Grade School (District No. 189)	Remains in use as Crete Elementary School
1405		Section 14, southwest corner of northwest quarter	District No. 190 Diersen (Burville or Faithorn) School	Demolished
2509		Section 25, west center	District No. 186 Scheiwe School	Demolished
3201	15-32-220-002	Section 32, east center	Old District No. 3 District No. 187 Goodenow School	Adapted for residential use
6906	16-19-100-004	Section 19E, center	District No. 193 Endor (Batterman or Klemme) School	Adapted for residential use



Left: Historic view of the Goodenow School, likely prior to the 1922 fire. Source: A Pictorial History of Crete (1986), picture 385. Right: The Goodenow School today, adapted as a residence, documented as site 3201 in the present survey.



Left: Historic view of the Endor (Klemme) School, circa 1905. Source: A Pictorial History of Crete (1986), picture 323. Right: The Endor School today, adapted as a residence, documented as site 6906 in the present survey.



Left: The Crete F-Men Hall, site 702 in the present survey. The front half of the building is the former Union (Schrage) School, constructed in 1934. The back half of the building is the former Zion Evangelical Lutheran School, built in the nineteenth century in Section 15, relocated in 1911 to be adjacent to the new church, and relocated again, to this site, in 1961. Right: The house at site 1904. It is likely that a portion of this structure is the former Immanuel Lutheran (Black Walnut) School at the site.

Of the three historic Lutheran schools in Crete Township, two historic school buildings remain (one of which has been relocated). Additionally, the Illinois Lutheran Elementary School remains active adjacent to the Trinity Lutheran Church, and the Illinois Lutheran High School remains active adjacent to the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Map ID	PIN	Location	Name	Status
702	15-07-401-006	1850s: Section 15, center 1911: Section 16, adjacent to new Zion Ev. Lutheran Church 1961: Site 702	Zion Evangelical Lutheran School	Relocated in 1911 by the “new” Zion Lutheran congregation Relocated to site 702 by the Crete F-Men and attached as an addition to the former Union (Schrage) School
1904	15-19-400-013	Section 19, center	Immanuel Lutheran (Black Walnut) School	Likely remodeled and adapted for residential use
n/a	n/a	Section 25, near sites 2501 and 2508	North School of St. John Lutheran Church	Demolished after 1940.

Churches

Congregational and Baptist Churches. The first religious congregation in Crete Township was established in the spring of 1839. The Congregational congregation was established in Beebe's Grove by Rev. David Ripley, who relocated to Crete Township from Connecticut. Prior to the establishment of the First Congregational Church of Crete in 1839, a religious class was organized by S. R. Beggs, a noted Methodist preacher, in 1836. Services were held at the Beebe's Grove School (later known as the Piepenbrink School). A second Congregational Church was organized in 1845 by Rev. E. C. Brige in the western part of the township, known as the Thorn Grove Congregational Society. This society held services at the Thorn Grove School, also known as the Wilder School. One member of the Beebe's Grove congregation, Samuel Cushing, was arrested in 1843 for assisting fugitive slaves in escaping to the north. The case was dismissed.⁹⁹

The two congregations merged circa 1853, forming the First Congregational Church of Crete. At this time, a new church building was constructed in the Village of Crete on the south side of Exchange Street. In 1869, the building was shifted slightly to the west to make way for the construction of the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad. The original steeple was destroyed in a windstorm in February 1900.¹⁰⁰

The congregation struggled to survive, and at times shared a minister with the Methodist congregation. The congregations considered merging in 1913–1914, but the merger did not go through. Finally, in June 1958, the congregation decided to disband, and most remaining members joined the St. Paul United Church of Christ in Monee. The building was purchased by the First Missionary Baptist Church. After it was damaged by fire in 1962, the Baptist congregation relocated to a new building, and the property was sold for business use. The building still exists today as an antique store. The former Crete railroad depot has also been relocated to this property.



Left: First Congregational Church of Crete, constructed in the 1850s, photo after the loss of the original steeple in 1900.

Lutheran Churches. The original Zion Lutheran Church was first established by the German families in the area in 1849, with Rev. C. Weil (or Weyel) serving as the first pastor. A small two-story structure was built east of the village in Section 15 to serve as the parsonage and the first church. A cemetery (mapped as site 1508 in the present survey) and schoolhouse were also established at this site. Reverend Weil left in the spring of 1850, having served only six months, and Rev. C. A. T. Selle moved from Chicago to take up the role of pastor to the congregation.¹⁰¹

⁹⁹ Woodruff (1878), 560–561; Triebold and Monks, “Congregational Church,” in *Crete Remembered: Travel Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 3 (self-published, 2006), article 83.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Woodruff (1878), 561; Triebold and Monks, “The Early Lutheran Church of Crete,” in *Crete Remembered: Travel Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 3 (self-published, 2006), article 85.

Several members left and organized a new church, St. John, in the Eagle Lake areas of northeastern Washington Township in 1854. Twenty-six members of the congregation organized the a new church in Section 19 of Crete Township in 1855, remaining affiliated but desiring a closer place to worship. This congregation was known as the Immanuel Lutheran Church. This congregation built a church and school and established a cemetery (mapped as sites 1904 and 1906 in the present survey). The two Crete Township congregations, Zion and Immanuel, were served by Rev. Selle on alternating Sundays.¹⁰²

After a few years of this arrangement, the two Crete Township churches decided to re-consolidate as one congregation. Accordingly, the congregation was reestablished as Trinity Lutheran Church in 1858. (The full name of this German-speaking congregation was the *Deutsche Evangelische Lutherische Dreieinigkeits Gemeinde U.A.C. in und um Crete, Illinois*, the German Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Congregation of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, in and around Crete, Illinois.) The congregation constructed a church building in 1860, approximately one mile south of the Village of Crete in the southwest quarter of Section 16 on the west side of present-day Illinois Route 1. A parsonage was built in 1867 adjacent to the church.¹⁰³ The congregation maintained both older schoolhouses, one in Section 15 and one in Section 19, even after the new church was built in 1860.



Trinity Lutheran Church at its original site south of the village. Source: Triebold and Monks.

¹⁰² Triebold and Monks, "The Early Lutheran Church of Crete," in *Crete Remembered: Travel Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 3 (self-published, 2006), article 85.

¹⁰³ Ibid.; and Triebold and Monks, "Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church," in *Crete Remembered: Travel Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 3 (self-published, 2006), article 101.

There was a schism in this congregation in 1881, resulting from a doctrinal dispute between the Missouri and Ohio Synods of the Lutheran Church. While most congregants stayed with the Missouri Synod, a small group followed the Ohio Synod and established their own church, constructing a building in the village on Benton Street south of Exchange Street, known as St. Paul Lutheran Church of Crete. This small congregation did not survive and had disbanded by 1893. Much remodeled and relocated to a new site, the church building still exists as a private residence.¹⁰⁴

The 1860 church building was enlarged in 1900, but with more and more families residing in the village, the congregation began to consider relocating there. In 1908, the 1860 building was relocated to the village, at the southeast corner of Cass Street and Elizabeth Street. The Trinity congregation built a parsonage adjacent to the church in 1911, and a small schoolhouse diagonally across the street to the northwest. In 1923, a new two-story brick masonry school was built on the southwest corner of Cass Street and Elizabeth Street.

The move into the village was controversial, and some of the rural congregants broke off and established a new church, reviving the original mid-nineteenth century name Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. In 1911, a new church was built about a half-mile north of the 1860 building, on the west side of present-day Illinois Route 1, just north of the Burville Road intersection. The schoolhouse in Section 15 was moved to a new site just behind the new church. The congregation also established a cemetery about one-quarter mile south of the new church on the east side of the highway (mapped as site 1605 in the present survey). A parsonage was built in 1912.¹⁰⁵



Left: Trinity Lutheran Church, constructed in 1860, seen after its relocation to the village in 1908. Right: The new Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, constructed in 1911. Note the relocated schoolhouse behind the church. Source: A Pictorial History of Crete (1986), pictures 55 and 265.

¹⁰⁴ Triebold and Howard Piepenbrink, “A German Church?” in *Crete Remembered: A Glimpse of the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 5 (self-published, 2010), article 151. Following a series of denominational mergers, the former Ohio Synod is now part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

¹⁰⁵ Triebold and Monks, “The Early Lutheran Church of Crete,” in *Crete Remembered: Travel Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 3 (self-published, 2006), article 85; and “Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church,” article 101.

By the 1940s, the differences between the Trinity and Zion congregations were resolved, and the first joint service was held in 1946. In 1949, the Trinity congregation demolished the relocated 1860 building, and in 1950–1951 a new church was built on the village site. The church was later expanded to the south with a new Ministry Center, constructed in 2003–2004. Several additions to the school were also completed in the 1950s. Further additions were built in 1968 and 1978.¹⁰⁶

In 1958, the Zion congregation built a new school building behind the church; the historic school building was sold in 1961 to the Crete F-Men, who moved it to the northeast corner of Kings Road and Exchange Street and attached it to the back of the Union (Schrage) School as an addition. This building still exists and is documented as site 702 in the present survey. The 1958 school building received an addition in 1977–1978.¹⁰⁷

In the 1980s, the two Lutheran congregations began to merge their educational efforts. The Illinois Lutheran High School was established in 1986, and in 1994 the grade schools were merged to form the Illinois Lutheran Elementary School. Both schools were governed by Crete Lutheran Schools, Inc., established as a joint venture of the congregations in 1994. An addition to the school building behind the Zion church was completed in 2004. Since that time, the Zion campus has served grades 6 through 12, and the Trinity campus has served grades kindergarten through 5. Both church congregations remain active, and since the 1960s both have been affiliated with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.¹⁰⁸



Left: The new Trinity Lutheran Church, constructed 1950–1951. Source: *Triebold and Monks*.

St. John Lutheran Church. This Lutheran congregation was first organized in southern Crete Township in 1850. A church and school building were built in Section 25, with a cemetery adjacent. In 1864, the congregation decided to build a new church in the Eagle Lake area of Washington Township, 2-1/2 miles to the south.¹⁰⁹ Until 1940, the original school in Crete Township was kept open as the “north” school of the congregation. The cemetery was also maintained and still exists today, site 2508 in the present survey.

Albright Evangelical Church. The Albright Evangelical Church was established by Rev. George Feters in the southeast portion of the township in about 1856. The congregation erected a church building in 1862 on land owned by Friedrich Hecht at the southwest quarter of Section 31 in Range 15 East.¹¹⁰ A small

¹⁰⁶ Triebold and Monks, “Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,” in *Crete Remembered: Travel Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 3 (self-published, 2006), article 110.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.; and Triebold and Monks, “Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church,” in *Crete Remembered: Travel Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 3 (self-published, 2006), article 101.

¹⁰⁹ Woodruff (1878), 645.

¹¹⁰ Woodruff (1878), 561. Similar information appears in *Souvenir of Settlement and Progress of Will County, Illinois*:

cemetery was located adjacent to the church. This congregation was part of the “Albright” movement. Jacob Albright (originally spelled Albrecht) was a clergyman of German descent born in Pennsylvania in 1759. Raised and educated as a Lutheran, in 1790 he joined the Methodist church. In 1800 he established an independent church organization, with himself as presiding elder. The church was officially known as the Evangelical Association but was often called the “Albrights” or “Albright Brethren.”¹¹¹ Although still active as of 1884 (as noted in the county directory that year), this congregation was defunct by the 1890s. A farmstead was developed on the approximate site of the church after World War II. This farm was documented as site 36-04 in the 1988 survey but has since been demolished.

Methodist Church. The first Methodist religious service in the Crete area was conducted by circuit rider Rev. White in 1836. After several years of services in houses conducted by circuit rider ministers, an organized Methodist congregation was established in 1841. The Methodist Episcopal church building was constructed in 1851–1852 on the east side of present-day Illinois Route 1 and north of Exchange Street. The tall steeple was destroyed by fire circa 1905, and the building was shifted northward to a corner lot in 1906 and renovated, including the addition of a new corner entrance tower. The church was damaged by fire in 1928, and in 1939 the sanctuary was remodeled. The congregation began to grow in the 1950s, and a new Fellowship Hall was built in 1952–1953 to the east of the old church. A classroom wing was added in 1958 to the south of the old church. Following a merger of denominations in 1968, the church was known as the Crete United Methodist Church. The congregation constructed a new sanctuary in 1997–1999, but the 1852 building was retained as part of the church complex.¹¹²



Left: The Crete Methodist Episcopal Church constructed in 1851–1852. Right: The same building circa 1906 after it was relocated to a new site slightly farther north, and a new entrance tower was built. Source: *A Pictorial History of Crete* (1986), pictures 130 and 133.

A Review (Chicago: Historical Directory Publishing, 1884), 390–391, but the name of the farm owner is given as Conrad Hecht. Per the 1862 plat map, Friedrich Hecht appears to be correct.

¹¹¹ Triebold and Monks, “The Mystery Church,” in *Crete Remembered: Visit the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 1 (self-published, 2003), article 33; and “Crete United Methodist Church,” in *Crete Remembered: Travel Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 3 (self-published, 2006), article 98.

¹¹² Phyllis Monks and Carol Triebold, “From Circuit Rider to Historical Church,” in *Crete Remembered: Visit the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 1 (self-published, 2003), article 15.



Left: The 1851–1852 church today, with the adjacent classroom wing built in 1958. Right: The new sanctuary constructed in the 1990s. Source: Triebold and Monks.

Cemeteries

There are at least nine cemeteries in Crete Township, as well as other family burial grounds. Many of the cemeteries are associated with the Lutheran churches in the Crete area.

Trinity Lutheran Church–Beebe’s Grove Cemetery (site 1508 in current survey) was likely established around 1850 when the original Zion Lutheran Church was built at this location. The cemetery, which is not accessible by car, is set well back from East Burville Road. The small cemetery is situated in an opening within a wooded area and adjacent to a small pond.

Trinity Lutheran Church–Black Walnut Cemetery (site 1906 in current survey) was likely established circa 1855 when the Immanuel Lutheran congregation split off from the original Zion Lutheran Church. The small cemetery is situated in an opening within a wooded area.



Left: Trinity Lutheran Church Beebe’s Grove Cemetery. Right: The Trinity Lutheran Church Black Walnut Cemetery.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery/Trinity Lutheran Cemetery (site 1605 in current survey) are twin cemeteries located on the east side of Main Street south of Crete. The cemetery dates to the nineteenth century and sits adjacent to an industrial development to the south and farmland to the north and east. The two parcels are separated only by a row of trees, giving the feeling of one large cemetery.

St. John Lutheran Church–North Cemetery (site 2508 in current survey) was established circa 1850 when the original St. John Lutheran Church was built at this site. Although the congregation relocated to Washington Township in 1864, this cemetery was retained. The cemetery is situated on the south side of East Bemis Road.



Left: Zion Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery. Right: St. John Lutheran North Cemetery.

Albright Evangelical Cemetery (site 8109 in the current survey) was established in 1862 when the Albright Evangelical Church was built at this site in Section 31 Range 15 East. By the 1890s, this congregation was defunct, and the cemetery was apparently forgotten. The 1939 aerial survey photography shows that no structures existed and that this area was being cultivated. After World War II, a new farmstead was developed in this vicinity by Mauritz Carlson; this farmstead was documented as site 36-04 in the 1988 survey but has been subsequently demolished. The Albright Evangelical Cemetery has been recorded as an archaeological site.

Evergreen Hills Cemetery (site 504 in current survey) is located on the south side of the Village of Steger. This cemetery was apparently established after 1900. A number of large monuments and family mausoleums are present in the cemetery.

Old Beebe's Grove Cemetery. This small cemetery (site 105 in current survey, at the corner of Richton Road and Torrence Avenue) could not be located during the field survey work. This cemetery dates to the earliest days of settlement in the Beebe Grove area in the 1830s, when it was a family burial ground on the Kile Farmstead.

Hewes Family Cemetery. This family cemetery was located on the Hewes farm in Section 28. When Balmoral Park was developed in the 1920s, all but one of the burials were moved to Crete Cemetery in the village.

Finally, there are two historic cemeteries in the Village of Crete: Adams Cemetery, established in 1844 and located at the northeast corner of Exchange Street and Lincoln Avenue, and Crete Cemetery, established in 1848 Willard Wood and located to the west of the former Congregational Church on the south side of Exchange Street.



Left: Evergreen Hills Cemetery. Right: The Steger Mausoleum in Evergreen Hills Cemetery.

Balmoral Park

In 1925–1926, Lincoln Fields (later Balmoral Park) horse racing track was constructed south of the Village of Crete in Sections 21 and 28 along Illinois Route 1. It was built by Col. Matt Wynn, a racing impresario known as “Father of the Kentucky Derby.” The track, which cost more than \$200,000 to construct, proved to be popular, and access to the park was part of the rationale for the widening of Illinois Route 1. The track opened on August 9, 1926, drawing almost 300,000 people.¹¹³ The initial buildings at the site were united by their use of red brick masonry and clay tile roofs, in the Colonial Revival style.

Lincoln Fields ceased operations at the end of the 1942 season due to the United States involvement in World War II. By 1950, plans were being made to reopen the park, but before races could begin, the grandstands were destroyed by fire on January 30, 1952. Although the grandstands were completely destroyed, the other buildings at the park were saved. A new grandstand and stables were constructed in 1952–1953, and the track finally reopened on May 20, 1954.¹¹⁴

In 1955, the track was purchased by new owners, who renamed the venue Balmoral Park. It was sold again in 1967. The new owners undertook a major renovation, including enclosing the entire grandstand with a glass wall and building a new limestone half-mile track for harness racing, within the circumference of the original track. Thoroughbred horse racing returned to the park from 1978 to 1990, but harness racing continued until 2015. Improved outdoor lighting for nighttime races was installed in 1995. The horse barns and paddock were renovated and expanded in 1996. The grandstand was again renovated in 2001, when the park celebrated its 75th anniversary.¹¹⁵

¹¹³ Maue (1928), 179; Triebold and Monks, “Lincoln Fields,” in *Crete Remembered: Visit the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 1 (self-published, 2003), article 38.

¹¹⁴ Monks and Triebold, “Racing Returns to Lincoln Fields,” in *Crete Remembered: Visit the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 1 (self-published, 2003), article 41.

¹¹⁵ Monks and Triebold, “Balmoral Park,” in *Crete Remembered: Visit the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 1 (self-published, 2003), article 42; “Storyed history for Balmoral.” *The Daily Southtown*. December 27, 2015.



Left: Lincoln Fields club and grandstand under construction in 1925. Right: The completed park, mid-1930s. Source: A Pictorial History of Crete, Volume I: Early Years (Crete Area Historical Society, 1986), plates 364 and 370.

The racetrack was converted to an equestrian show jumping venue in 2017 by Horses in the Sun (HITS) organization. Many of the historic buildings on the site remain, including the following:

- Clubhouse (1925–1926): Contributing
- Grandstand (1952–1953): Non-Contributing, due to major alterations in 1968 and 2001.
- Pavilion (1925–1926): Contributing
- Office (1925–1926): Contributing
- Maintenance Building (1925–1926): Contributing
- Infield Stable (1996): Non-contributing
- Horse Barns, 9 north of the track and 9 southeast of the track (1925–1926): Contributing. Four additional similar barns have been demolished or destroyed by fire over the years.
- Horse Barns, 2 north of the track (1996): Non-contributing
- Several other small-scale outbuildings and entrance kiosks: Non-contributing
- Water tower and pump building on west side of Illinois Route 1: Non-contributing



Contributing historic structures at Balmoral Park. Left: The club house. Right: The pavilion.

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,”¹¹⁶ 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.¹¹⁷ The materials used in the construction of a balloon frame structure consisted of milled lumber that was much lighter in weight than heavy timbers.¹¹⁸

Credit for the development of the balloon frame is usually given to George Washington Snow of Chicago,¹¹⁹ 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 1833.¹²⁰ 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.¹²¹ However, these mills were relatively far away, and transportation of milled

¹¹⁶ 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.

¹¹⁷ 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).

¹¹⁸ 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.

¹¹⁹ 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.

¹²⁰ Fred W. Peterson, *Homes in the Heartland: Balloon Frame Farmhouses of the Upper Midwest, 1850–1920* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1992), 14.

¹²¹ 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:¹²²

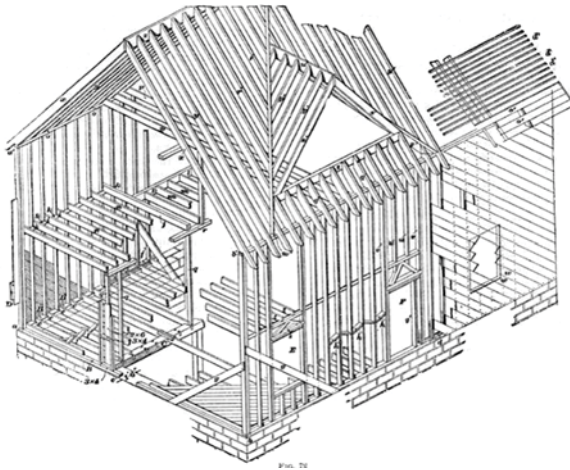
- A sill, made from a large section of milled lumber (e.g., 4x8) or two or more smaller pieces (two 2x8s), set on a masonry or concrete foundation,
- Floor joists (2x10, 2x12, etc.), typically at 16 inches on center,¹²³ reinforced by diagonal bridging, nailed to the sill and nailed to:
- Studs (2x4 or 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 joists,
- 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.¹²⁴ 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.

¹²² 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."

¹²³ 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.

¹²⁴ 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 Peotone Township shows the use of balloon framing for agricultural buildings in the survey area. 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)].

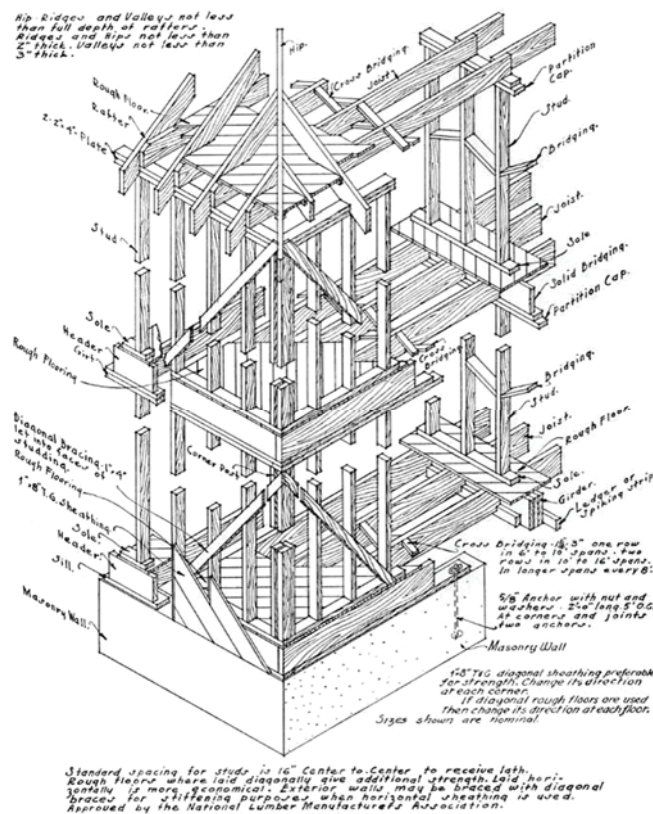


Plate 5.

Fig. 1.

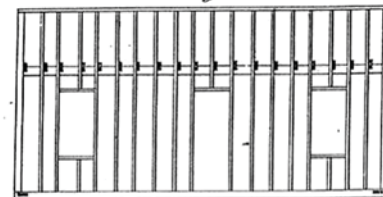
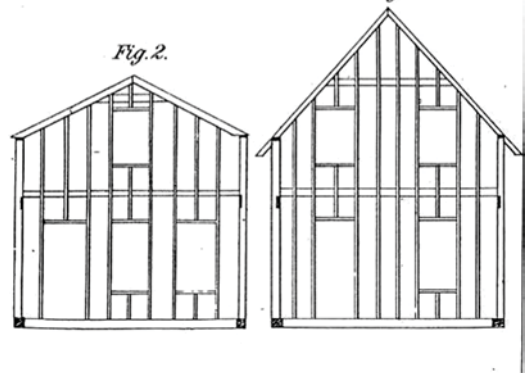


Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.



Farming trade publications touted the benefits of the balloon frame.¹²⁵ 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.¹²⁶

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".¹²⁷

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.¹²⁸

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."¹²⁹ 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.

¹²⁵ Peterson, 15–24.

¹²⁶ 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.)

¹²⁷ Albert Britt, *An America That Was* (Barre, Massachusetts: Barre Publishers, 1964), 33.

¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

Masonry Construction

Brick

Historically, brick masonry construction is relatively uncommon in rural portions of Will County. Nineteenth century examples of brick construction are very rare; typically, locally quarried limestone was used for masonry work. However, Crete Township is unusual in that a brick yard was developed in the late 1860s, providing a local source for bricks for commercial buildings in the village as well as structures in the rural survey area. A number of late nineteenth and early twentieth century brick and clay masonry structures were documented in rural Crete Township, including barns and residences.



Left: The barn at the Spence–Muirhead Farmstead, site 1102, is constructed of brick masonry. Right: The barn at the Meier Farmstead, site 1504, is a local example of a brick masonry barn.

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 west of Crete 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. Crete Township was relatively remote from these quarry locations, and as a result, relatively little historic stone masonry construction is present in the township, generally limited to building foundations.

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.¹³⁰

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

¹³⁰ 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.

their quarries in 1845, one mile south of Joliet at a point where the canal turns west-southwest with the curve of the river.¹³¹

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 1872.¹³² 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.

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.¹³³

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 kept 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

¹³¹ Robert E. Sterling, *Joliet: Transportation and Industry: A Pictorial History* (St. Louis, Missouri: G. Bradley Publishing, Inc., 1997), 116.

¹³² Ibid.

¹³³ William B. Coney, “Preservation of Historic Concrete: Problems and General Approaches,” National Park Service Preservation Brief 15, 2.

condition and can be constructed at a moderate first cost. There are four types of silos: Monolithic, cement block, stave and cement plaster construction.

... Concrete buildings contain no crevices in which to harbor vermin, and this freedom from lice makes it possible for the birds to retain more flesh at the end of the setting period and therefore more strength. Poultry can withstand dry cold when housed, but cannot endure dampness or drafts from below, and a concrete floor will also keep out rats. Instances are known where concrete is used successfully for nests, dropping platforms and roosts, thus greatly simplifying the problem of cleaning. The first requirement of a milk house is that it is scrupulously clean, and the construction should be such as to eliminate breeding places for germs and cracks or crevices for dirt to collect, making cleaning difficult or impossible. A milk house properly constructed of concrete fulfills these requirements, and concrete floors are recommended for sanitary reasons, with proper provisions for draining. The milk house should be located with reference to other buildings, such as stables and manure pits.¹³⁴

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

Concrete Block

Beginning in the early 1900s, mass production of concrete block units succeeded after several earlier developments failed to lead to widespread production.¹³⁵ 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. Blocks were made with a variety of face textures and even color, with "rock face" block being one of the most popular styles.¹³⁶



¹³⁴ "The Use of Concrete Work on the Farm," *Building Age* (February 1917), 102–103.

¹³⁵ Pamela H. Simpson, *Cheap, Quick, and Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870–1930* (Knoxville, Tennessee: University of Tennessee Press, 1999), 11.

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*, 24.

The survey area includes a number of concrete block structures. Left: A concrete block outbuilding at the Piepenbrink-Haemker Farmstead, site 102. Right: A concrete block structure at the Wehmhoefer-Wassmann Farmstead, site 1502.

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.¹³⁷ However, concrete block began to fall out of favor as a building facing material during this same period. During the 1930s, smooth-faced block began to dominate the industry as architectural styles changed. Also by the later 1930s, mass production of block units began to supplant the use of earlier concrete block machines.

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

It is clear that the cash outlay for material becomes of the first importance and cost of labor becomes second. To illustrate, a man in such circumstances might have gravel on his farm. Also, he might have lumber, which he could use temporarily for the scaffold. The cost of cement block molds is slight, and if this man were somewhat of a mechanic, he would find it advantageous to secure a mold or molds and make his own cement blocks at odd times. In this way a cement block silo could be built with less cash outlay than any other form of silo.¹³⁸

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 numerous 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.

¹³⁷ Ibid., 21–22.

¹³⁸ 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.

OWN A SILO BUILT OF CEMENT



Farmers, my new Cement Stone Silo Folder is ready. I want you to have one, and to personally write you important Silo matters to keep "under your hat." I'll make you wise to **money-saving**. Mustn't fool with wood silos. They'll rot or burn-up. FACT. Your farm is plenty good enough for a genuine **fire-proof, frost-proof, rot-proof, INDESTRUCTIBLE Silo**. Easy to build—and cheap. I'll tell how and won't charge for Estimates, Plans, Specifications or Diagrams. Merely get your name to me quick and you'll know Silo Facts that no other living man outside my factory knows. Address: **O. G. MANDT, Pres., MANDT MFG. CO., Dept. 561, Hollandale, Wis.**

Mandt Says "Build It of Cement"

Listen! The man who puts up a wood silo invites Trouble. If it doesn't burn down, blow over or warp to pieces it rots out, that's certain. Bound to do it, Sir. Ensilage contains moisture and sharp acids that eat right into wood or metal.

Your wood Silo springs a leak in big time, spoiling tons and tons of valuable ensilage.

Of course you need a Silo. But are you going to experiment a while before getting the right kind? Why don't you get one that is Fire-Proof, Rot-Proof, Frost-Proof, Water-Proof and Rat-Proof—in other words, an **Indestructible Cement-Stone Silo**? Do you think a permanent silo of this kind costs too much? If you do, then I know you haven't seen my estimates, figures and book of facts that I have just finished writing. You need it mighty bad—and quick.

Get My New Folder on Indestructible Cement Silos

I am the pioneer in modern manufacturing cement-stone construction. In my new folder I tell you things about silo building that no man living outside my factory knows. Don't you want this information? Don't you want to know "how" and "how little" it costs to build an everlasting Indestructible Cement-Stone Silo? All FREE.

May I tell you what farmers who have tried both Wood and Indestructible Cement Silos found out? Well, then, right away, get your name to me personally for the New Folder and you'll soon know it all. Address me this way.

**O. G. MANDT, President,
Mandt Manufacturing Company,
Dept. 561, Hollandale, Wis.**

Write MANDT about EVERLASTING CEMENT-STONE POSTS.

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

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.¹³⁹ 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.



Left: The W. C. Adams House, site 401, was built in the Greek Revival style, although later remodeling has obscured some stylistic details. Right: The house at the Pearson–Peck Farmstead, site 2101, was built as the Gabled Ell type but has been altered over the years and does not represent a distinct architectural style.

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

¹³⁹ Peterson, *Homes in the Heartland*, 68.

with the democracy in Ancient Greece. Greek Revival buildings have simple rectilinear forms, prominent classical ornament, molded cornices and window lintels, and other ornamental motifs inspired by Classical architecture. The style's simple massing and details went along with the sometimes limited materials and resources of rural areas. Only a few examples of Greek Revival architecture were observed in the survey area.

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.

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. Several examples of Italianate style designs were identified within the survey area.



Left: The house at the Phelps–Piepenbrink–Meier Farmstead, site 1101, features arched window hoods typical of the Italianate style. Right: Arched window hoods and quatrefoil attic window at the house at the Diersen–Koelling Farmstead, site 1503.



Left: The house at the Heller-Krol Farmstead, site 3301, features a low pitched hip roof with overhanging eaves and a bracketed Italianate style cornice. Right: A detail of the overhanging eaves and bracket cornice at the house at the Heller-Krol Farmstead.

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 Queen Anne style home at the Gaines Farmstead, site 801. Right: The house at the Rinne-Piepenbrink-Sperti Farmstead, site 1606, exhibits ornamental Queen Anne style brackets.

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 some houses have Colonial Revival elements.

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.

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.



Left: The post-World War II house at the Meier-Crawford Farmstead, site 3404, has some characteristics derived from the Prairie Style, including horizontal massing and its low-sloped roof.

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 examples of Tudor Revival were documented in the survey area.

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 Crete 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.¹⁴⁰ Building forms followed the movement of settlers from New England westward through the Ohio Valley to Illinois.¹⁴¹ 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.¹⁴² The form consists of a two story, one room deep plan that is at least two rooms wide. Chimneys were often placed at each end of the floor plan. No examples of the I House type were identified in Crete Township during the survey.

Hall and Parlor

The Hall and Parlor house is a simple rectangular plan dwelling one to one-and-a-half stories in height, with a side oriented gable roof. In plan, these types of houses have one larger room for the kitchen and daily living and a side room used as a more formal parlor or a bedroom. There is often an addition at the rear of the house extending from the parlor side. Chimneys are often placed at each end of the house. The type was used less often after the late 1800s.¹⁴³ No examples of the Hall and Parlor house type was 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

¹⁴⁰ Stephen C. Gordon, *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory* (Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Historic Preservation Office, 1992).

¹⁴¹ 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).

¹⁴² Kniffen, 7–8.

¹⁴³ 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.

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. Two examples of the New England One and a Half type were identified in the survey area.



Left: The secondary house at the Phelps-Piepenbrink-Meier Farmstead, site 1101, is an example of the New England One and a Half type. Right: The circa 1865 house at the Schlin Farmstead, site 2502, is another example of this 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.¹⁴⁴ A few examples of the Side Hallway type 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.



Left: The house at the Meier-Rehborg Farmstead, site 1603, exemplifies the Side Hallway type. Right: The local landmark-eligible brick masonry house at the Orr-Blim Farmstead, site 1402, is another example of the Side Hallway type, with later one-story additions.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid., 126.

Upright and Wing

The Upright and Wing was popular in the mid to late 1800s.¹⁴⁵ 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.¹⁴⁶ The Upright and Wing type is common throughout Will County, including in Crete Township. About twenty percent of the surveyed farmhouses are this type.



Left: The house at the Meier Farmstead, site 1504, shows the defining characteristics of the Upright and Wing type. Right: The house at the Spence–Muirhead Farmstead, site 1102, is an Upright and Wing type.

Gabled Ell

The Gabled Ell house type usually dates from the two decades after the Civil War.¹⁴⁷ It has an L-shaped plan, sometimes with additions to form a T-shaped plan, and usually is two stories in height with a gabled roof. Within the main “L” there is often a porch. In most arrangements, the gable end of the shorter of the two wings faces the street or main approach with the broad side of the other wing at the side. The Gabled Ell type is common in Crete Township, representing about twenty percent of the surveyed farmhouses. Many of the distinctive Italianate-style farmhouses in the township are classified as this type.



The Gabled Ell type is common in Crete Township. Left: The house at the Themer–Hantak Farmstead, site 1103, exemplifies the type. Right: The house at the Schweer Farmstead, site 2503, is a Queen Anne-style example of the type.

¹⁴⁵ 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).

¹⁴⁶ Gordon, *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory*, 132.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid., 136.

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. Only a few examples were identified in Crete 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 Crete Township.



Left: The circa 1889 house at the Harmening–Parke Farmstead, site 1802, has a symmetrical massing typical of the Four-over-Four type (with later one-story additions to the sides). Right: The house at the Bremer–Meyer–Wolf Farmstead, site 5802, is an example of a Gable Front type structure.

American Foursquare

The American Foursquare¹⁴⁸ 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.

¹⁴⁸ 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.)



Above left: The house at the Gustave Ohlendorf Farmstead, site 3402, includes a pyramidal roof, hipped dormer, symmetrical plan, and front entrance porch characteristic of the American Foursquare building type. Above right: The Kraegel–Langebartels Farmstead, site 3205, is also a local example of the building type. Below: The American Foursquare house at the Hartman–Koelling Farmstead, site 2504, features a hipped dormer as well as a distinctive front porch design.



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 the rural portions of Crete Township than other areas of Will County, with only two examples identified outside the boundaries of the Village of Crete.

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.¹⁴⁹ The Cape Cod has a simple rectangular plan, one story in height with dormers and a gable roof. Six Cape Cod type houses in Crete Township were documented during the survey.



Left: The circa 1934 Dowdell House, site 1907, is a local example of the Cape Cod type with gabled dormers . Right: The circa 1945 house at the Hassberg-Rietveld Farmstead, site 3403, is a Cape Cod type structure without dormers.

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. Thirteen ranch-type houses were documented as part of the rural survey.



Two examples of the Ranch type in Crete Township: at left, the Seeberger-Benkel Farmstead, site 5801; at right, the second house at the Gustave Ohlendorf Farmstead, site 3402.

¹⁴⁹ 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.¹⁵⁰

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.¹⁵¹

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.¹⁵²

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.¹⁵³

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.¹⁵⁴

¹⁵⁰ 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.

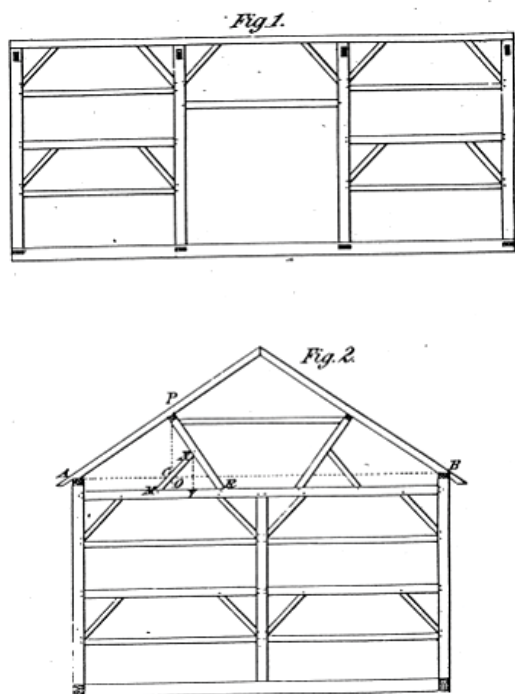
¹⁵¹ Hubert G. H. Wilhelm, “Midwestern Barns and Their Germanic Connections,” in *Barns of the Midwest*, 65.

¹⁵² Ibid.

¹⁵³ Ibid., 48–50.

¹⁵⁴ 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).

Plate 7.



*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 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.¹⁵⁵ 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 Loudon 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.¹⁵⁶

¹⁵⁵ Ibid., 158.

¹⁵⁶ 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

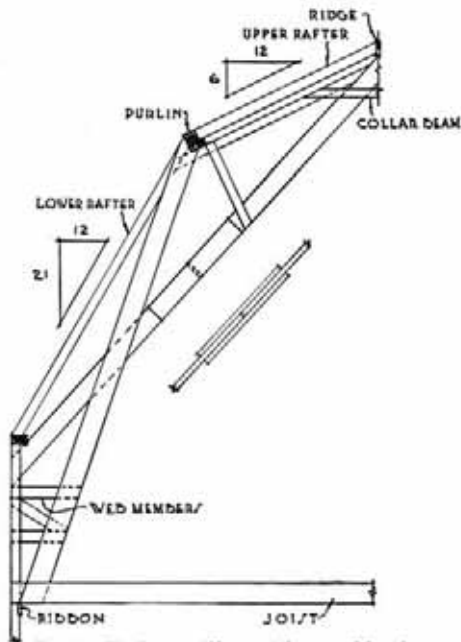


FIG. 68. Plank-truss (Shawver) barn roof framing.

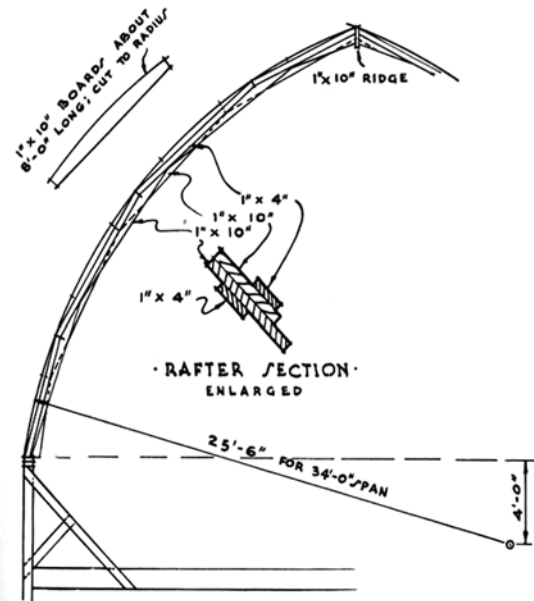


FIG. 73. Gothic rafter, sawed form.

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 Weyerhaeuser 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. Weyerhaeuser was marketing these factory-built rafters under the trademark of Rilco by 1938.¹⁵⁷ 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.¹⁵⁸

The two-story loft barn ceased to be built shortly after World War II.¹⁵⁹ 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.¹⁶⁰ 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 than 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).

¹⁵⁷ Ibid., 162–163.

¹⁵⁸ Ibid., 164.

¹⁵⁹ Ibid., 165.

¹⁶⁰ 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.¹⁶¹

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.¹⁶² 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.¹⁶³ 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.

¹⁶¹ Ibid., 226.

¹⁶² Ibid., 225.

¹⁶³ 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 commonalities.¹⁶⁴ 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.¹⁶⁵ The English and continental European immigrants of the early 1800s introduced this barn type to the Midwest. It was originally designed as a single function barn to store or process grain and was most suitable for small-scale, subsistence farms. It is a single level, rectangular structure divided into three parts or sections, each termed a bay.

Large double doors are centered on both long sides of the structure. Hand threshing with a grain flail was done in the central bay, sometimes called the threshing bay. Following threshing, the large doors were opened to create a draft, which, during winnowing, would separate the chaff from the heavier grain, and carry it away. Flanking the central bay were the other two bays of generally equal dimensions. One was used during the fall or winter to store sheaves of harvested grain, awaiting threshing. The other bay was used for storing the threshed grain, commonly in bins, and straw, which was used as feed and bedding for horses and cattle.¹⁶⁶ 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.¹⁶⁷



Two example of the three-bay threshing barn type in Crete Township: the Bremer–Meyer–Wolf Farmstead, site 5802; right, the Piepenbrink–Haemker Farmstead, site 102.

¹⁶⁴ 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.

¹⁶⁵ 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.

¹⁶⁶ 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.

¹⁶⁷ 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.

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.¹⁶⁸ In some cases this barn type was lifted up and placed onto a raised basement, which then could house the animals, especially dairy cows.¹⁶⁹ Three-bay threshing barns are somewhat common in the survey area, representing about one-quarter of the surviving major barns documented.

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. Only two bank barns were identified in the survey area.



An example of the bank barn type from Crete Township. Left: The barn built circa 1930 at the Gaines Farmstead, site 801. Right: The barn built in the early twentieth century at the Batterman Farmstead, site 8001.

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.

¹⁶⁸ 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.

¹⁶⁹ Calkins and Perkins, “The Three-bay Threshing Barn,” *Barns of the Midwest*, 59.

Plank Frame Barn

This relatively small barn type originated in the eastern Midwest around 1875.¹⁷⁰ 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 lumber rather than the heavy timber framing of earlier barn types. The plank frame barn type is common in Crete Township, representing about one-third of the barns surveyed.



Examples of the plank frame barn type from Crete Township. Above left: Bruns Farmstead, site 7902. Above right: The Bruns–Rehborg Farmstead, site 7901. Lower left: A gambrel rood plank frame barn at the Hartman–Koelling Farmstead, site 2504. 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. No three-ended barns were identified in the survey area.

¹⁷⁰ Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, ¹¹⁷

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. One round roof barn was identified in the survey area.

Wisconsin Dairy Barn

A barn associated with dairying is the Wisconsin dairy barn, which originated at the Wisconsin's Agricultural Experiment Station at Madison around 1915. It was specially designed to provide a structure for efficient dairy farming. This large barn was typically 36 by 100 feet or larger. It had a gambrel roof or occasionally a round roof, although early versions were often gable-roofed with horizontal boarding. Rows of small windows and gable-end doors were typical. There was usually a large gable-end loft opening and a triangular hay hood. Frequently there are roof ventilators.¹⁷¹ Dairy barns are common in Crete Township and represent about one-quarter of the major barns documented in the survey.



The Wisconsin Dairy Barn type is common in Crete Township. Left: A dairy barn with gambrel-roof at the Meier Farmstead, site 1504. Right: The Orr-Blim Farmstead, site 1402.

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. Only a few examples of the feeder barn type were identified in Crete Township.

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

¹⁷¹ Noble and Cleek, 77.

those erected after World War II.¹⁷² The pole barn is an example of economical construction techniques applied to modern agriculture and was common into the 1960s. Pole barns are somewhat common in Crete Township.



Examples of pole barns in Crete Township include: above left, pole barn at the Diersen Farmstead, site 1404; above right, Biesterfeld Farmstead, site 1501; below left, Bruns-Rehborg Farmstead, site 7901. Below right: Two pole barns at the Winzenburg-Dralle Farmstead, site 2002.



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 not particularly common in Crete Township, with only four examples documented as part of the present survey.

¹⁷² Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 120.



Four examples of the Quonset shed type in Crete Township: above left, the Gustave Ohlendorf Farmstead Quonset shed, site 3402; above right, Quonset shed at the Kraegel-Langebartels Farmstead, site 3205; below left, the Saller-Most Farmstead, site 1403; below right, an example at the Meier-Crawford Farmstead, site 3404.



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 Crete Township: above left, the manufactured building at the Wassman–Batterman Farmstead, site 7905; above right, manufactured building at the Meier–Crawford Farmstead, site 3404; below left, manufactured building at the Kracke–Halfeldt Farmstead, site 1902; below right, manufactured building at the Meier–Rehborg Farmstead, site 1603.



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.¹⁷³ 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. No grain elevators were documented in Crete Township.

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.¹⁷⁴ 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

¹⁷³ Keith E. Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture* (Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1988), 176.

¹⁷⁴ Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 170–171.

construction of corncribs remained popular through the 1800s in areas where timber resources proved readily accessible.

The invention of the circular saw in 1860 and its growing adaptation to steam power by mid-century made lumber cheap enough for general use on outbuildings such as corncribs, enabling later versions to be built of narrow lumber slats.¹⁷⁵ The corncrib usually rested on log or stone piers.¹⁷⁶ 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 1900.¹⁷⁷

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.¹⁷⁸ 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 1900.¹⁷⁹ 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.¹⁸⁰ 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.¹⁸¹ Wood-framed corn cribs are not common in the survey area. Crib barns, silos, and metal grain bins are much more common.

Crib Barns

Crib barns are simple structures formed of pens or cribs that have a space between the cribs for implement storage. There are two basic 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

¹⁷⁵ Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 26.

¹⁷⁶ Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 155.

¹⁷⁷ Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 27.

¹⁷⁸ Keith E. Roe, “Corncribs to Grain Elevators: Extensions of the Barn,” in *Barns of the Midwest*, 170.

¹⁷⁹ Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 60.

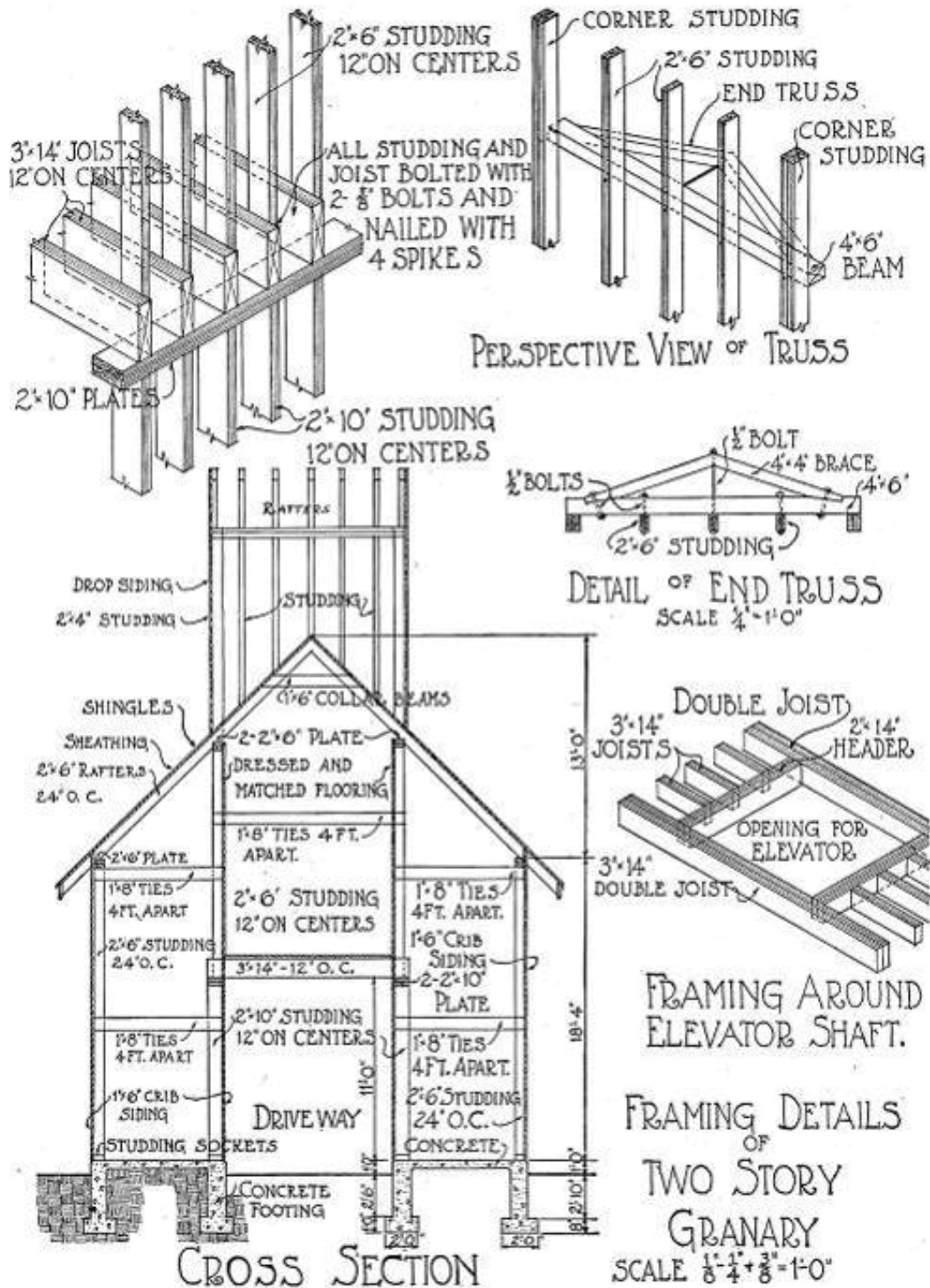
¹⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, 177.

¹⁸¹ *Ibid.*, 176.

as the 1950s. Crib barns are present on approximately half of the farmstead sites surveyed in Crete Township.



There are many wood crib barns in Crete 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: top left, crib barn at the Saller–Most Farmstead, site 1403; top right, crib barn at the Diersen–Koelling Farmstead, site 1503; middle left, crib barn with dormer at the Arkenberg Tenant Farmstead, site 3204; middle right, gambrel roof crib barn at the Bruns–Rehborg Farmstead, site 7901; bottom left, a heavily altered crib barn at the Baker–Krygsheld Farmstead, site 3304; bottom right, crib barn with cupola at the Gustave Ohlendorf Farmstead, site 3402.



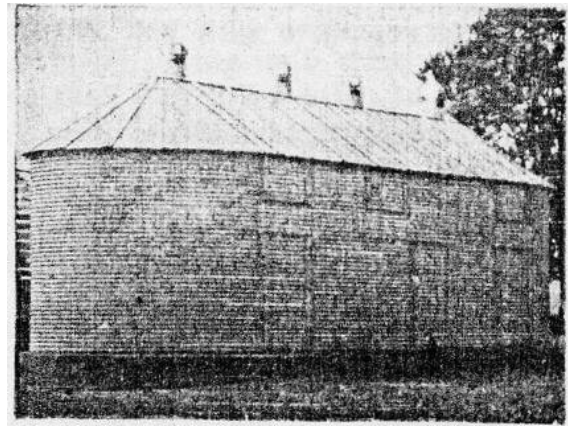
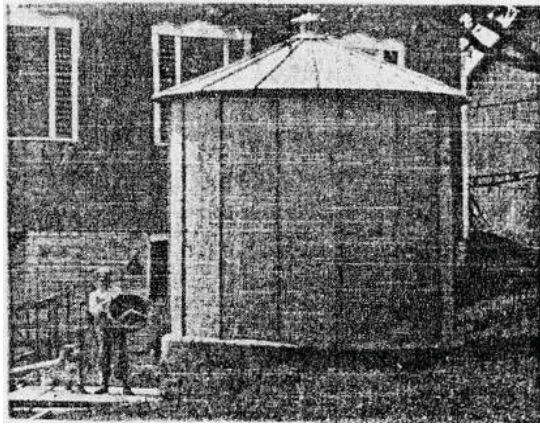
Crib barns, usually with two bins, abound in the survey area. Illustrated above are framing details of a crib barn from Smith & Betts Farm and Building Book (Chicago: The Radford Architectural Company, 1915).

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.¹⁸²

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.¹⁸³

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 Crete Township.



Above: Illustrations of two types of metal corn bins from *The Illinois Farmer's Guide*, August 1939. Below left: Grain bins at the Hassberg–Rietveld Farmstead, site 3403. Below right: A grain bin with metal slats at the Wehmhoefer–Tatge Farmstead, site 2505.



¹⁸² Ibid.

¹⁸³ 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.¹⁸⁴

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.¹⁸⁵ Many were constructed within the barn building.¹⁸⁶ 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.¹⁸⁷ 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.¹⁸⁸ 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.

¹⁸⁴ Noble, *Wood, Brick and Stone*, 71–72.

¹⁸⁵ Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 158.

¹⁸⁶ Ingolf Vogeler, "Dairying and Dairy Barns in the Northern Midwest," *Barns of the Midwest* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1995), 108.

¹⁸⁷ W. A. Foster, "Silo Types and Essentials," *Hoard's Dairyman* (February 21, 1919) 201, 216, 217, and 232.

¹⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

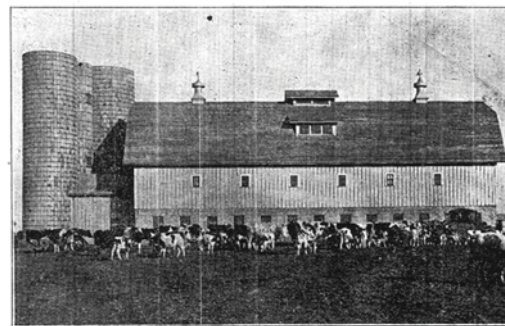
Concrete stave silos were constructed as early as 1904 in Cassopolis, Missouri, which used book-shaped staves.¹⁸⁹ Several patents existed for cement stave silos, including that of the Mason & Lawrence of Elgin, Illinois, dating from 1914.¹⁹⁰ Farmers also could make their own concrete staves or blocks 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.¹⁹¹

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 groove 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.¹⁹²



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.



TWIN SILOS ON THE SILVER LEAF DAIRY FARM, JOLIET, ILL., W. P. KREIMEIER, PROP.

J. H. HOLMES

MEMBER CEMENT STAVE SILO ASSOCIATION—MANUFACTURER AND ERECTOR OF

CEMENT STAVE SILOS

HENNEBRY BROS., SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES
PHONE 1767-J JOLIET, ILL.
FACTORY: GARDNER, ILL.

The J. H. Holmes Cement Stave Silos are the original Cement Stave Silos. They have been in use in your own locality for the past eleven years. Every stave is the same size and strength, trowel plastered and guaranteed. Not a bad silo in use with over 200 users in Will County.

¹⁸⁹ 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.

¹⁹⁰ "How to Make and Sell Concrete Silo Staves," *Concrete* (October 1927): 32–35.

¹⁹¹ David Mocine, "Keep Workmen Busy the Year Round," *Concrete Products* (January 1948): 161.

¹⁹² "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.¹⁹³ 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.¹⁹⁴

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.¹⁹⁵

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.¹⁹⁶ 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.¹⁹⁷ 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.¹⁹⁸ 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.¹⁹⁹

¹⁹³ 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.

¹⁹⁴ H. Colin Campbell, “Concrete Silo Construction,” *Hoard's Dairyman* (February 21, 1919): 200.

¹⁹⁵ King, “Planning the Silo,” in *Eighteenth Annual Report of the Illinois Farmers' Institute*, 64.

¹⁹⁶ W. A. Foster, “Silo Types and Essentials,” *Hoard's Dairyman* (February 21, 1919): 201.

¹⁹⁷ Gambrel and domical roofs allowed for filling the silo to the top of the outer wall, maximizing the storage capacity.

¹⁹⁸ Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 108–109.

¹⁹⁹ Harvestore Systems, DeKalb, Illinois, www.harvestore.com

Concrete stave silos are common in Crete Township, but unlike other areas of Will County, no Harvestore silos were seen.



Left: The abandoned silo at the Vocke–Kelly–Bartholomew Farmstead, site 1201. Middle: The concrete stave silo at the Winzenburg–Dralle Farmstead, site 2002. Right: The silo at the Hassberg–Rietveld Farmstead, site 3403, retains its domed roof.

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.²⁰⁰

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.



Left: Brick masonry garage at the Phelps–Piepenbrink–Meier Farmstead, site 1101. Right: A corn crib at the Gaines Farmstead, site 801.



Left: A shed at the Koelling–Legerski Farmstead, site 1804. Right: A shed at the Batterman Farmstead, site 2501.

²⁰⁰ Britt, *An America That Was*, 127.



Left: Chicken coop and implement shelter at the Phelps–Piepenbrink–Meier Farmstead, site 1101. Right: Shed at the Rinne–Triebold Tenant Farmstead, site 1105.



Left: A shed with an ornate four-panel door possibly salvaged from another structure, at the Diersen–Koelling Farmstead, site 1503. Right: Outbuildings at the Schweer Farmstead, site 2503.



Left: Well house at the Gustave Ohlendorf Farmstead, site 3402. Right: Privy at the Kuhlmann–Weidenheft Farmstead, site 3601.

CHAPTER 4

SURVEY SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Period of Significance: 1834 to 1970

The first settlement by settlers of European origin occurred in Will County and Crete Township in the 1830s, with the first settlers coming to the eastern portion of the township. Permanent settlement of the township accelerated with the construction of a state road through the central portion of the township. The presence of the state road attracted numerous settlers to area, particularly adjacent to the road. The first settlers arrived in Thorn Grove in the western part of the township in 1834. Beebe Grove was settled in 1835. Willard and Dyantha Wood settled in the area that became Wood's Corners (and later the Village of Crete) in 1836. An approximate starting date of 1834 is used for the period of significance.

Crete Township developed as a farming community in the second half of the nineteenth century, and by the 1880s, a large portion of the area was devoted to the raising of beef cattle. The quality roads in the township during the early twentieth century led to the rise of dairy farming.

The presence of the state road (later Illinois Route 1) through Crete Township led to the growth of the Village of Crete. In 1918, Illinois Route 1 became the first concrete road constructed in Illinois. The completion of the road caused a boom in the development in and around the Village of Crete. The new road provided easier connection to Chicago, leading some to envision Crete as a bustling suburb. New residential developments in the area during this time included the construction of the Lincolnshire Country Club and associated homes. Despite the new development near the Village of Crete, farming continued on much of the remaining portions of the township.

Post-war developments in the area combined with the completion of the new Illinois Route 1 (later Illinois Route 394) in 1957 further changed the face of the township, while also providing residents easier access to the more developed southern Cook County.

In recent years, new commercial and residential development has occurred adjacent to Illinois Route 394, as former farmland is converted to commercial centers and subdivisions. 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.²⁰¹

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 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 Crete 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;

²⁰¹ 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.²⁰² 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.”²⁰³ 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

²⁰² 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.)

²⁰³ 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.²⁰⁴

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.

²⁰⁴ 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.²⁰⁵

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

Municipal and County Government Coordination

As part of the survey of Crete Township, historically agricultural areas within the present-day incorporated limits of the Villages of Crete and Steger were surveyed. Several existing farmstead sites are located within these limits. Generally, the Will County Historic Preservation Commission does not consider landmark nominations for properties within incorporated municipalities. However, neither village has 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 Crete or Steger 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.

²⁰⁵ 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

Throughout the survey, there are seventeen individual farmstead sites that have clear potential for local landmark status. There are two existing Will County landmarks in Crete Township. The Friedrich Gottlieb Seggebruch Homestead was designated a Will County Landmark in 2004. Five generations of the Seggebruch Family have lived on the property. The house was constructed in approximately 1860 and was renovated in 1930, at which time it was transformed from an Upright and Wing farmhouse into an American Foursquare. This property is documented as site 3002 in the present survey and referred to simply as the Seggebruch Farmstead. The second existing local landmark is the Wayfarer Farm, also known as the Carl Wilhelm Steiber House. It was designated a Will County Landmark in 2000. It is believed that the house was built in the early 1870s, but was remodeled in 1910 and 1926. The house is locally significant due to its association with local farmer Carl Wilhelm Steiber. The house is documented as site 2107 in the present survey.²⁰⁶ There are no properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places in the township. The determination of potential eligibility for landmark status as part of the present survey does not mean that other sites are not eligible; merely that further study is required before a determination of eligibility could be made.

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

- Site 702 PIN 15-07-401-006 Union (Schrage) School (page 32)
- Site 801 PIN 15-08-400-007 Gaines Farmstead (page 98) *Village of Crete*
- Site 901 PIN 15-09-404-009 Triebold Farmstead (page 99)
- Site 1101 PIN 15-11-200-001 Phelps–Piepenbrink–Meier Farmstead (page 100) *Village of Crete*
- Site 1102 PIN 15-11-100-003 Spence–Muirhead Farmstead (page 101)
- Site 1103 PIN 15-11-100-005 Themer–Hantak Farmstead (page 103)
- Site 1105 PIN 15-11-400-002 Rinne–Triebold Tenant Farmstead (page 103)
- Site 1402 PIN 15-14-400-005 Orr–Blim Farmstead (page 104)
- Site 1503 PIN 15-15-200-008 Diersen–Koelling Farmstead (page 106)
- Site 1504 PIN 15-15-300-010 Meier Farmstead (page 107)
- Site 2107 PIN 15-21-400-008 Carl Wilhelm Steiber House (Will County Landmark)
- Site 2502 PIN 15-25-400-002 Schlin Farmstead (page 108)
- Site 2503 PIN 15-25-200-005 Schweer Farmstead (page 108)
- Site 2601 PIN 15-26-400-005 Scheiwe–Ohlendorf Farmstead (page 109)
- Site 3605 PIN 15-36-400-001 Schmidt–Trainor–Janota Farmstead (page 110)
- Site 3002 PIN 15-30-300-011 Seggebruch Farmstead (Will County Landmark)
- Site 6906 PIN 16-19-100-004 Endor (Klemme) School (page 32)

Of these properties, two are located within the present-day corporate limits of the Village of Crete, as indicated above.

These properties, as well as other farmsteads associated with prominent families in Crete Township, are discussed in detail beginning on page 98.

²⁰⁶ The property was incorrectly assigned to Section 22 and surveyed as site 22-01 in the 1988 survey.

Survey Summary

The survey of Crete Township documented approximately 564 structures, including 111 houses and 39 major barns on 114 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.²⁰⁷ The tables below provide a breakdown of the survey results for Will, Crete, Wilton, and Peotone Townships.²⁰⁸

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

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

²⁰⁷ 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.

²⁰⁸ These townships have been selected since they are geographically close to Crete 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 Crete 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 Crete Township, approximately 550 buildings on 113 farmstead sites were documented, as well as two historic bridges.²⁰⁹ Among the farmstead sites documented in 1988, no historic structures survive at twenty-two farmstead sites in Crete Township. One of the two bridges documented in 1988 has also been replaced. At several other sites, major buildings such as historic barns or houses have been lost. Farmsteads have been lost to residential and commercial development, and through the consolidation of farming operations and the replacement of historic buildings with new structures adapted to contemporary agricultural practices.

The table at the end of this chapter lists all farmsteads and sites included in the survey area of Crete 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.

²⁰⁹ Excluded from this total are thirty farmsteads and related sites in Crete 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 Crete Township

Gaines Farmstead

Site 801 (PIN 15-08-400-007)

Horatio N. Gaines, originally from Vermont, worked the David Haner farm in the north half of the northeast quarter of Section 8 after his arrival in Crete Township. Gaines purchased this farm in 1877. Horatio Gaines died in 1887, at the age of 47. Following his death, Mr. Gaines' widow, the former Martha Ann Adams, continued to reside in the home with her two sons, Ferris E. Gaines and Walter L. Gaines. The owner of the property is listed as the Estate of H. N. Gaines in 1893.

In 1904, Ferris Gaines acquired the adjacent farmstead to the south, site 801 in the present survey, while his brother Walter Gaines owned the original family farm to the north. Ferris E. Gaines was born in 1873 in Crete. Gaines would marry the former Lillie D. Cook in June 1906. He was elected Crete Township Clerk the same year.²¹⁰ The Gaines brothers continued to own property in Section 8 throughout the twentieth century, with Walter owning 67.44 acres and Ferris 128.58 acres of land in Section 8 by the early 1950s. The original parcel that Walter Gaines owned was sold to the Faso Coal Co. in the mid-1950s. Ferris E. and Lillie Gaines are listed as owners of a portion of land in the Section 8 as late as 1978. The Gaines family continues to own the property, which is an active farm, as of 2017.

The farmstead features a farmhouse, with a stone foundation, as well as a historic barn. There are also a number of historic outbuildings, including a garage and a shed. Most of these structures date to the ownership of Ferris and Lillie Gaines. A number of non-historic structures including a manufactured building are present on the property. Based on the current survey, this farmstead is judged to have local landmark potential. This property is located within the Village of Crete.



Left: The historic farmhouse built in 1907 on the Gaines Farmstead. Right: The barn at the Gaines Farmstead was built circa 1930 to replace an earlier barn on the site that had been destroyed by fire.

²¹⁰ Stevens (1907), 833; Monks and Triebold, "The Gaines Family and Fairview Farm," in *A Glimpse of the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 5 (self-published, 2010), article 177; personal communication to the author from Ryan Martin (great-great-grandson of Ferris Gaines).



Left: A corn crib at the Gaines Farmstead. Right: The garage at the Gaines Farmstead.

Triebold Farmstead

Site 901 (PIN 15-09-404-009)

This farm was initially settled by Joseph B. and Dyantha Safford, and in the 1840s and 1850s, was a site on the Underground Railroad. No structures exist from that era, and it appears that the farm buildings at that time may have been closer to the south branch of Deer Creek than the present-day farmstead.

Heinrich Triebold immigrated to Crete Township in 1882 from Germany, joining his aunt's family, Heinrich and Maria (Triebold) Behrens. In 1889, Heinrich Triebold married Emilie Ohlendorf, and they moved to this farm.²¹¹ It remains owned by Triebold descendants today. The farm features a brick masonry house built in 1904 and a variety of twentieth century outbuildings, including a large dairy barn. Due to its association with the Underground Railroad, its longtime association with a prominent local family, and the quality of the surviving historic buildings, the farmstead is considered local landmark eligible.



Left: The historic brick masonry house at the Triebold Farmstead. Right: The dairy barn at the farmstead.

²¹¹ Carol Triebold and Howard Piepenbrink, "Crete's German Heritage," in *Looking Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 4 (self-published, 2008), article 126.

Phelps–Piepenbrink–Meier Farmstead

Site 1101 (PIN 5-11-200-001)

This farmstead was originally developed by Norman and Eliza Northrup, who purchased the land in 1838 in the government land sale. (The Northrups may have resided elsewhere in the township, as Norman became the postmaster of Endor in 1844. Sometime after 1855, the property was sold to Wilson and Margarite Phelps. The original house on the property was built by the Phelps in the latter part of the 1850s. The larger main house was built by John O. Piepenbrink and his wife Sophia about 1870, after they purchased the property from the Phelps in November 1869.²¹²

John (or Johann) O. Piepenbrink was born in Rodenburg, Germany in 1826, and immigrated to Crete Township with his wife Sophia and son John O. Piepenbrink, Jr., in 1849.²¹³ The 1860 census lists John Pipinbrink [*sic*], age 34, his wife Sophia, also 34, and children John O., Jr., (age 13), Henry (10), Conrad (9), William (6), John (4), and Philip (1), with all the children but John Jr. born in Illinois. John and Sophia eventually had eight children. Piepenbrink purchased 135 acres of land in the northwest quadrant of Section 1 shortly after arriving in the area. He would go on to own more than 700 acres of land within Crete Township, including the 160 acres of land in the northeast quadrant of Section 11, which he appears to have purchased from W. Phelps circa 1870. He is said to have had over 100 head of Holstein dairy cattle. Piepenbrink would develop a cheese factory on the site.

The site was sold to William H. Meier shortly after the death of John Piepenbrink in 1900. William H. Meier was born in Crete Township in 1856 on land his father, John O. Meier, owned in the southern part of Section 15 (see discussion of the Meier Farmstead, site 1504, below). At the age of thirty, Meier inherited the land from his father.²¹⁴ The Meier Family continued to own site 1101 through the twentieth century. The property was divided in 1957 with the construction of the new Illinois Route 1 (Illinois Route 394). The western half of the northwest quadrant continued to be owned by the Meier family into the twenty-first century.

The owner of the property is now listed as 1357 Richton Road LLC. The 80-acre property is abandoned and currently for sale. This property is located within the Village of Crete. The farmstead features an Italianate farmhouse, as well as a historic barn and several historic outbuildings, including the old Phelps house, and sheds. Based on the current survey, this farmstead is judged to have local landmark potential.



Left: The historic Italianate farmhouse on the Phelps–Piepenbrink–Meier Farmstead, built circa 1870 by John Piepenbrink. Right: The barn at the farmstead.

²¹² Personal communication to the author from Phyllis Monks, citing information provided by Howard Piepenbrink.

²¹³ Woodruff (1878), 892–893; Carol Triebold and Howard Piepenbrink, “Crete’s German Heritage,” in *Looking Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 4 (self-published, 2008), article 126.

²¹⁴ Stevens (1907), 725.



Left: The farmstead as pictured in the 1873 atlas, plate 111. Right: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 51.

Spence–Muirhead Farmstead

Site 1102 (PIN 15-11-100-003)

This farmstead site was initially developed by Moses H. Cook. He was born in Lenox, New York in 1801. In 1838 with his wife, Hannah, and their first son, Joseph, the family moved to Crete Township and started this farmstead. They built a small log cabin on the farm. In the 1840s and 1850s, the Cooks hid escaped enslaved persons fleeing north in their home and barn, as one of the stops on the Underground Railroad. The 1860 census lists Moses H. Cook, age 59, a native of New York, his wife Hannah (age 43), and three children, Myron (17), Alice (14), and Francelia (7). Joseph and Myron Cook both served in the 8th Illinois Cavalry during the Civil War, with Myron dying from disease in 1863. In 1865, Moses Cook retired from farming and moved to the village of Crete.²¹⁵

Francis Spence (1832–1920) and his wife Elizabeth Dawson (1828–1887) were natives of Scotland who married in 1865 and immediately left for America. They arrived in Crete Township in 1868, and their daughter Catherine Spence was born there June 1, 1868. In 1870, the Spence family purchased this farmstead. The Spences built the Upright and Wing type home that still exists today.²¹⁶

The farm was inherited by the Spences daughter Catherine and her husband James Muirhead. The Muirheads were also of Scottish heritage. James Muirhead, born in 1865, immigrated to the United States in 1883. He moved to Crete and married Catherine in 1888. The younger couple moved to this farm in 1898 to live with Catherine’s father. The large brick masonry barn on the site was built in the early twentieth century while James Muirhead was managing the farm.²¹⁷

The property remains in the Muirhead family today, and is presently owned by William J. Muirhead. A Commonwealth Edison right-of-way has reduced the size of the property to 69 acres. The farmstead features a farmhouse with stone foundation as well as a historic brick masonry barn. There are also a number of historic outbuildings, including two brick masonry outbuildings. Based on its association with the Underground Railroad, the quality of the surviving historic structures, and its longtime association with a prominent local farming family, this farmstead is judged to have local landmark potential.

²¹⁵ Woodruff (1878), 890.

²¹⁶ Karen and William James (Bill) Muirhead, “The Muirhead Farm,” in Triebold and Monks, *A Glimpse of the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 5 (self-published, 2010), article 175.

²¹⁷ Ibid.



Left: Historic view of the farmhouse on the Spence-Muirhead Farmstead. Source: Monks and Triebold. Right: The house today.



Left: Historic view of the barn on the Spence-Muirhead Farmstead. Source: Monks and Triebold. Right: The brick masonry barn today.



Left: A brick masonry shed at the Spence-Muirhead Farmstead. Right: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 52.

Themer–Hantak Farmstead

Site 1103 (PIN 15-11-100-005)

This farmstead was originally developed by John C. Rohe.²¹⁸ It was subsequently acquired by the J. Themer family by the late 1860s. The later passed to his son, William J. Themer. By the late 1940s, it was acquired by Philip Hantak. It remains owned by Hantak descendants today. The farm has a noteworthy Italianate style farmhouse likely built during the Themer family period of ownership.



Left: The gabled ell house at the Themer–Hantak Farmstead likely dates to the 1870s or 1880s. Right: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. The threshing barn visible in this view has been demolished. Source: Drury, 46.

Rinne–Triebold Tenant Farmstead

Site 1105 (PIN 15-11-400-002)

The farmstead site appears to have been initially settled by William (or Wilhelm) Rinne. He was married to Sophia Harsty. Rinne is said to have owned 80 acres of land when he first settled in the township.²¹⁹ By 1873, the farmstead covered 160 acres, the entire southeast quadrant of Section 11. William and Sophia's son Ernest Rinne, born in Germany in 1836, took ownership of the farmstead after William's death in 1874. Ernest was married to Mary Engelkenng. After 1869, Ernest and Mary had moved to the village of Crete, and Ernest focused on brick manufacturing and a hay-press business. It appears that the family farmstead was leased to renters in the latter part of the nineteenth century. By 1940, Adolph Rinne, the son of Ernest, was listed as administrator of the property.

The Triebold Family acquired the farmstead by 1953. Fred Triebold is listed as owner from 1953 through 1974. The 1955 book *This is Will County, Illinois*, indicates that the farm was rented at that time to Lawrence Most. The property was bisected by Illinois Route 394 when it was constructed in the late 1950s. Wehlan and Carol Triebold are listed as owners beginning in 1976. The portion of the property east of Illinois Route 394 was subdivided as early as 1970.

The farmstead features a historic farmhouse as well as historic outbuildings including a historic crib barn and a historic three-bay threshing barn.

²¹⁸ John C. Rohe, age 35 and a native of Germany, is listed in the 1860 census, along with his wife Mary (also 35 and from Germany) and six children ranging in age from 4 to 14, all born in Illinois, implying that John and Mary had immigrated to Illinois circa 1846.

²¹⁹ Carol Triebold and Howard Piepenbrink, "Crete's German Heritage," in *Looking Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 4 (self-published, 2008), article 126; Woodruff (1878), 894. As noted in Woodruff, the Rinne family first immigrated in 1844 and lived in Chicago for about six years, before coming to Crete Township circa 1850.



Left: The historic farmhouse on the Rinne–Triebold Tenant Farmstead, is an example of an upright and wing house. Right: The crib barn at the Rinne–Triebold Tenant Farmstead.



Left: The barn at the Rinne–Triebold Tenant Farmstead. Right: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 52.

Orr–Blim Farmstead

Site 1402 (PIN 15-14-400-005)

The farmstead site appears to have been initially developed by James Orr, Jr., who owned the property in the southeast quadrant of Section 14 as early as 1873. Orr, who owned property on the north half of the section, purchased the property from H. Shelhorn by 1873. The Orr family retain ownership of the property until the early 1900s, as Charles Blim owned 160 acres on the west halves of the north and south quadrants of Section 14 by 1909. Charles Blim was a prominent physician in the Village of Crete.²²⁰

The Blim Family retained ownership of the farmstead through at least 1970. Warren Blim, the oldest son of Charles, and also a doctor, was listed as owner of the property in 1940.²²¹ The younger Blim owned several hundred acres in Section 14 and Section 23. By 1972, Clarence and Mary Smit are listed as owners of the 75 acre farmstead. The Smit family appears to have owned the property into the 2010s. The Shagbark Land Group LLC is the current owner of the land.

²²⁰ Maue, 761.

²²¹ Ibid.

The farmstead features a historic brick masonry farmhouse as well as a historic barn. There are a number of non-historic outbuildings on site, including manufactured buildings. Based on the current survey, this farmstead is judged to have local landmark potential.



Left: The historic farmhouse on the Orr–Blim Farmstead, is a rare example of a brick masonry structure in the survey area. Right: The barn at the Orr–Blim Farmstead.



Left: An outbuilding at the Orr–Blim Farmstead. Right: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 45.

Diersen–Koelling Farmstead

Site 1503 (PIN 15-15-200-008)

The farmstead site was initially developed by John (or Johann) W. Diersen, who immigrated to Will County from Feggendorf, Hannover, Germany, in 1846.²²² The 81-acre property sat in southwest and northeast portions of the northeast quadrant of Section 15. Diersen owned the property into the twentieth century. By 1909, C. W. Koelling owned the farmstead. The Koelling family retained ownership of the property as well as 80 adjacent acres in the northwest quadrant of Section 14. The Rubin Family Trust is listed as the current owner of the property.

The farmstead features a well-preserved Italianate-style farmhouse as well as a historic barn and crib barn. Both barns appear to have been reclad in recent years. There are a number of outbuildings on site, including manufactured buildings. Based on the current survey, this farmstead is judged to have local landmark potential.



Left: The historic farmhouse on the Diersen–Koelling Farmstead. Right: The barn at the Diersen–Koelling Farmstead.



Left: the crib barn at the Diersen–Koelling Farmstead. Right: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 71.

²²² “Crete’s German Heritage.”

Meier Farmstead

Site 1504 (PIN 15-15-300-010)

The farmstead site appears to have been initially developed by John (or Johann) O. Meier, a native of Germany who was born in 1824 and immigrated to the United States in 1844. Meier settled in Chicago before moving to a rented farmstead in Crete Township in 1848. Meier acquired this property in the southern half of Section 15 in 1850. Meier later served as township Supervisor from 1869 into the 1870s. Meier was married twice, first to Annie Rinne and then after her death to Ellen Scheiwe; he had ten children who lived to adulthood. John Meier owned the property through the early twentieth century. By 1909, his son William H. Meier owned the property. William H. Meier would eventually move to the Phelps–Piepenbrink–Meier Farmstead (Site 1101 in the current survey).²²³

The Meier Family owned the property into the 1970s. By 1974, Robert Smith was listed as owner. The property is currently owned by a trust.

The farmstead features a historic farmhouse as well as a historic masonry barn and a number of historic outbuildings. Based on the current survey, this farmstead is judged to have local landmark potential.



Left: The historic farmhouse on the Meier Farmstead. Right: The crib barn at the Meier Farmstead.



Left: The brick masonry barn at the Meier Farmstead. Right: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 51.

²²³ Woodruff (1878), 893; Stevens, 725; Carol Triebold and Howard Piepenbrink, “Crete’s German Heritage,” in *Looking Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 4 (self-published, 2008), article 126. The 1850 census lists John Myers [*sic*], age 27; Ann, age 28 [*sic*]; and John, age 1, born Illinois. The 1860 census lists John O. Myer [*sic*], age 36; Annie, age 32; and their children John (age 11), Sophia (age 6), William (age 4), and Mary (age 2).

Schlin Farmstead

Site 2502 (PIN 15-25-400-002)

This site was historically a small parcel developed as early as 1862. The owner of the five acre property in 1893 is listed as A. Duensing. The Schlin family owned the property beginning in the 1950s and into the 1970s, at which time Claude Kramer was listed as the owner. The current owner of the property is the Doris Roesner Trust.

The farmstead features a historic New England One and a Half farmhouse as well as a historic masonry outbuilding. Based on the current survey, this farmstead is judged to have local landmark potential.



Left: The historic farmhouse on the Schlin Farmstead. Right: A brick masonry outbuilding at the Schlin Farmstead.

Schweer Farmstead

Site 2503 (PIN 15-25-200-005)

This farmstead was initially developed as early as 1862, when I. D. Keller is listed as the owner of the 80 acre property on the east half of the northeast quadrant of Section 25. J. Wilkening owned the property by 1873, with Henry Triebold listed as the owner by 1893. The W.H. Schweer family were listed as owners by 1909. By 1970, the Scheiwe Family owned the property. The 80 acre property was subdivided by 1980, at which time H. and H. Hase owned the 12 acre propoerty on which the farmstead was located.

The farmstead features a historic Queen Anne style gabled ell farmhouse possibly dating to the 1890s. A historic three-bay threshing barn, historic crib barn, and a number of other historic outbuildings are also present on the farmstead.



Left: The historic farmhouse on the Schweer Farmstead. Right: The barn at the Schweer Farmstead.



Left: The crib barn at the Schweer Farmstead. Right: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 57.

Scheiwe–Ohlendorf Farmstead

Site 2601 (PIN 15-26-400-005)

Brothers John S. (born in 1822) and Christopher (or Christoph, born in 1827) Scheiwe immigrated from Helsinghausen, Germany, in 1847. Christopher Scheiwe worked in Chicago and Lockport, and later in Michigan, before purchasing a farm in Crete Township.²²⁴ This farm, site 26-03 in the 1988 survey, was demolished in 2009; he also later owned an adjacent farm, site 2602 in the present survey.

John S. Scheiwe and his wife Mary settled in Crete Township in 1851. The Scheiwe family owned the parcel in the southeast quadrant of Section 26 by 1873, site 2601 in the present survey. Their son John, Jr., was born in Crete Township in 1860 and owned the farm into the twentieth century, known for raising thoroughbred shorthorn cattle.²²⁵ Henry Ohlendorf was listed as owner of the property by 1948.

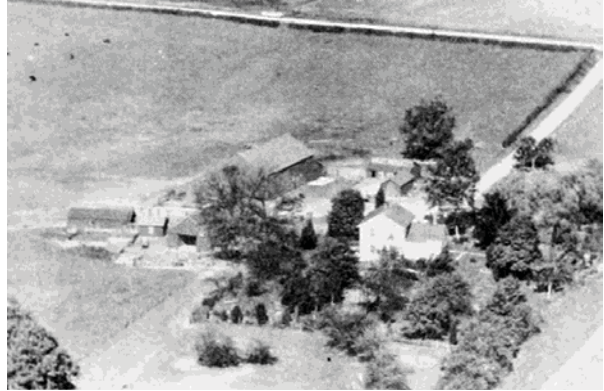
The farmstead features an Italianate styled upright and wing farm house constructed in 1875. Crib barns dating to the early twentieth century are also present on site.



Left: The historic farmhouse on the Scheiwe–Ohlendorf Farmstead. Right: A crib barn at the Scheiwe–Ohlendorf Farmstead..

²²⁴ Woodruff (1878), 894.

²²⁵ Woodruff (1878), 894; Stevens, 725; “Crete’s German Heritage.”



Left: A crib barn at the Scheiwe-Ohlendorf Farmstead. Right: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 53.

Schmidt-Trainor-Janota Farmstead

Site 3605 (PIN 15-36-400-001)

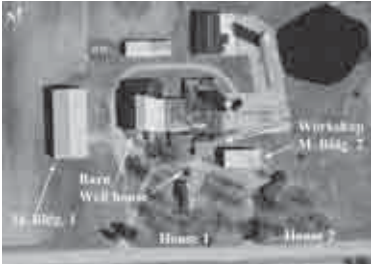
The farmstead was initially developed by 1862, when F. Smith was listed as the owner. By 1893, P. Schmidt owned the 120 acre property which took up most of the southeast quadrant of Section 36. The farmstead remained in the Schmidt family through the early part of the twentieth century, with J.C. Trainor listed as owner by 1940. As of 1953, the farmstead was owned by B. R. Janota. The property remained in the Janota family through the early twenty-first century.

The farmstead features an abandoned Italianate upright and wing farmhouse dating to 1899. Other non-historic structures also remain on the site.



Left: The farmhouse at the Schmidt-Trainor-Janota Farmstead. Right: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 48.

Table 1. Surveyed Farmsteads and Related Sites in Crete Township

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
102	15-01-300-004	East Richton Road	Piepenbrink-Haemker Farmstead	Contributing
				
				
				
				
104	15-01-200-025	South Torrence Avenue	Pansa–Moeller Farmstead	Non-contributing
				
401	15-04-307-001	West Richton Road	W. C. Adams House	Contributing
				
				
Historic farmhouse in residential area within Village of Steger. Also PIN -002				

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
501	15-05-300-011	West Richton Road	Julian Adams House	Contributing
				
		Upright and wing		
		All outbuildings had been demolished by 1961. Historic farmhouse, now in residential subdivision within Village of Steger.		
502	15-05-301-018	West Richton Road	Motlong House	Contributing
				
		Gabled Ell		
		Historic farmhouse in residential subdivision within Village of Steger.		
702	15-07-401-006	West Exchange Street	Union (Schrage) School (District No. 188)	Local landmark potential
				
		Schoolhouse		

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
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704 15-07-302-004 West Exchange Street

Schirra Farmstead

Contributing



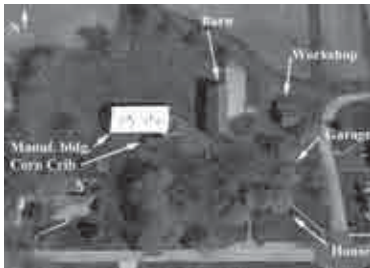
Ranch

This farmstead was the original John Meyer homestead founded in 1851 and reportedly has the original log cabin still intact. With more detailed survey, significance of site should be re-evaluated.
Surveyed from road only, not accessible for detailed survey.

801 15-08-400-007 Lincoln Avenue

Gaines Farmstead

Local landmark potential



American Foursquare



Bank

Outbuildings are PIN 15-08-400-009. Within Village of Crete.

901 15-09-404-009 West Exchange Street

Triebold Farmstead

Local landmark potential



Gabled Ell



Dairy

Historic photo published in "A Pictorial History of Crete" (1986), picture 298. As the Joseph and Dyantha Safford farm in the 1840s and 1850s, was a site on the Underground Railroad.
Surveyed from road only.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
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1001	15-10-305-005	East Old Exchange Street	Paul-Jones Farmstead	Non-contributing
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Historic photo published in "A Pictorial History of Crete" (1986), picture 299.
Only a crib barn remains.

1002	15-10-400-005	East Old Exchange Street	Paul-Ehrhardt Farmstead	Non-contributing
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Four over Four

Historic photo published in "A Pictorial History of Crete" (1986), picture 301.

1003	15-10-302-004	East Exchange Street	Schoonmaker-Triebold Farmstead	Non-contributing
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Cape Cod

Historic photo published in "A Pictorial History of Crete" (1986), picture 300.
Contemporary house to the north is a separate parcel. Within Village of Crete.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
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1011 15-01-400-006 South Torrence Avenue

Seehausen–Bartholomew Farmstead

Contributing



H. Phillip Schrage and Heinrich Seehausen: see Carol Triebold and Howard Piepenbrink, “Crete’s German Heritage,” in Looking Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois, volume 4 (self-published, 2008), article 126.

1101 15-11-200-001 East Richton Road

Phelps–Piepenbrink–Meier Farmstead

Local landmark potential



Gabled Ell



Three-bay threshing

1873 atlas indicates "Cheese Factory" next to this farmstead. Illustrated in atlas, plate 103.
Vacant and listed for sale; threatened with demolition. Within Village of Crete.

1102 15-11-100-003 East Richton Road

Spence–Muirhead Farmstead

Local landmark potential



Upright and wing



Dairy

See Carol Triebold and Phyllis Monks, “Alky ‘Cookers’” in Crete Remembered: Travel Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois, volume 3 (self-published, 2006), article 88, with photo.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
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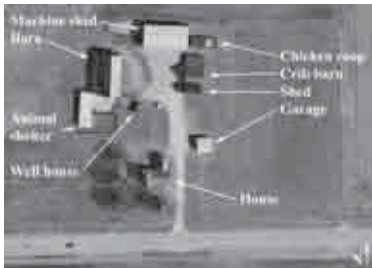
1103	15-11-100-005	East Richton Road	Themer–Hantak Farmstead	Local landmark potential
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Gabled Ell

Historic photo published in "A Pictorial History of Crete" (1986), picture 317. This farm was originally developed by John C. Rohe.

1105	15-11-400-002	East Exchange Street	Rinne–Triebold Tenant Farmstead	Local landmark potential
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Upright and wing



Three-bay threshing

Historic photos published in "A Pictorial History of Crete" (1986), pictures 308 and 344.

1201	15-12-200-020	East Richton Road	Vocke–Kelly–Bartholomew Farmstead	Contributing
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American Foursquare

Originally owned by John Burritt, then the Mulliken family, before being sold to the Vocke family in the 1890s. Circa 1992, a significant portion of the original farmstead was sold to the Forest Preserve District

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential		
1202	15-12-100-014	South Volbrecht Road	Sporleder–Paul Farmstead	Contributing		
						
		Gabled Ell				
Farmstead originally owned by Minoris Beebe, and subsequently Ebenezer Beach by 1859. This location was used as a polling place and post office (Endor) during the 1840s and 1850s.						
Historic house, plus large non-historic outbuildings. Surveyed from road only.						
1301	15-13-100-020	East Exchange Street	Pope Farmstead	Contributing		
						
		Cape Cod		Round Roof		
1302	15-13-202-028	East Exchange Street	Hendricks–Bakker Farmstead	Contributing		
						
		Upright and wing				

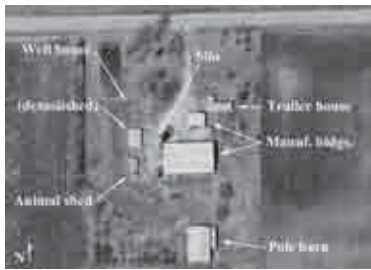
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1303	15-13-300-040	South Stoney Island Avenue	Becker Farmstead	Non-contributing
				
			Gabled Ell	
Surveyed from road only.				
1402	15-14-400-005	East Burville Road	Orr-Blim Farmstead	Local landmark potential
				
			Side Hallway	Dairy
Historic photo published in "A Pictorial History of Crete" (1986), picture 330.				
1403	15-14-300-009	East Burville Road	Saller-Most Farmstead	Contributing
				
			Upright and wing	Three-bay threshing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
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1404 15-14-300-003 East Burville Road

Diersen Farmstead

Non-contributing



1501 15-15-100-013 East Old Exchange Street

Biesterfeld Farmstead

Contributing



Gabled Ell



Plank frame

Originally developed by the Wilhelm family before being acquired by the Biesterfeld family in the 1870s.
Gated property. Surveyed from road only.

1502 15-15-400-012 East Burville Road

Wehmhoefer–Wassmann Farmstead

Non-contributing



Crib barn demolished, 2014. Barn demolished, 2016. House demolished, 2017.
Much recent demolition at this site.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
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1503	15-15-200-008	East Burville Road	Diersen–Koelling Farmstead	Local landmark potential
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Upright and wing



Three-bay threshing

Historic photo published in "A Pictorial History of Crete" (1986), picture 331. John Diersen was a native of Hannover, Germany, who immigrated in 1846.

1504	15-15-300-010	East Burville Road	Meier Farmstead	Local landmark potential
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Upright and wing



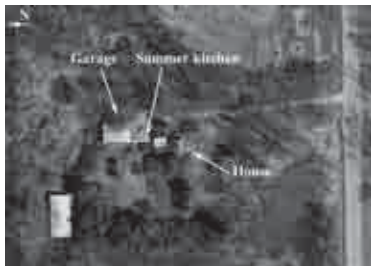
Dairy



Dairy

Outbuildings at east part of site are in SE 1/4, PIN 15-15-400-001

1506	15-15-100-005	East Burville Road	Becker–Stolte Farmstead	Contributing
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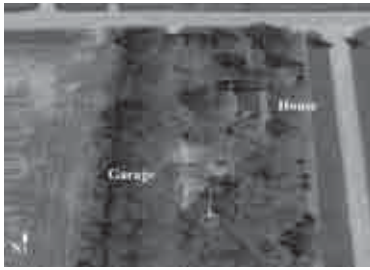
Upright and wing

In the nineteenth century, the original Zion Lutheran Church was located at this vicinity. Farmstead structures all post-date the church and school use of the site.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1507	15-15-100-003	East Burville Road	Waterman–Van Sickle Farmstead	Non-contributing
				Ranch
1602	15-16-200-003	West Burville Road	Burville–Triebold Farmstead	Contributing
				Dairy
1603	15-16-400-034	West Burville Road	Meier–Rehborg Farmstead	Contributing
				Side Hallway
Corner of Hartman and Burville. Within Village of Crete. Contemporary ranch house to east is a separate parcel.				

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
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1604	15-16-400-021	West Burville Road	Wille Farmstead	Contributing
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Gabled Ell

1606	15-16-301-001	Main Street	Rinne–Piepenbrink–Sperti Farmstead	Contributing
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Gabled Ell

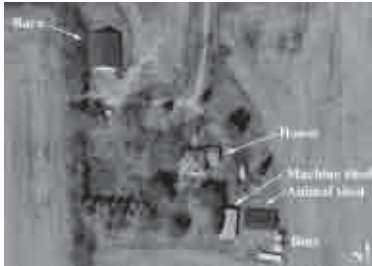
Originally developed by William Cook before being sold to Henry Rinne in the 1890s.

1701	15-17-402-017	West Old Monee Road	Homeier-Schuman Farmstead	Contributing
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Gabled Ell

Adjacent Sangamon Street and suburban houses along it was built in mid-1950s.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1702	15-17-300-011	West Old Monee Road	Winzenburg Tenant Farmstead	Contributing
				Contributing
		Bungalow		
1802	15-07-402-019	West Exchange Street	Harmening–Parke Farmstead	Contributing
				Contributing
		Four over Four		
1804	15-18-300-008	West Old Monee Road	Koelling–Legerski Farmstead	Contributing
				Contributing
		Cape Cod		
Witihin Village of Crete.				

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
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1901	15-19-300-017	South Nackle Road	Behrens-Ricketts Farmstead	Contributing
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Gabled Ell

No permission from Owner. Photos shall not be made publicly available.

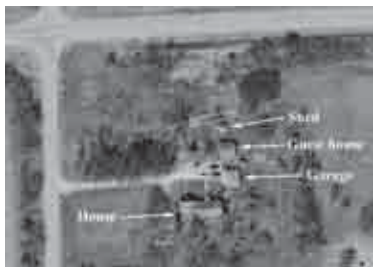
1902	15-19-200-005	West Old Monnee Road	Kracke-Halfeldt Farmstead	Contributing
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Four over Four

Originally developed by S. L. Scott before being sold to the Valrath family and subsequently the Kracke family in the 1880s. Some outbuildings are PIN 15-19-200-004. Within Village of Crete.

1904	15-19-400-013	South Nackle Road	Immanuel Ev. Luth. (Black Walnut) School	Contributing
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Gable Front

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
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1907	15-19-300-007	South Nacke Road	Dowdell House	Non-contributing
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Cape Cod

Adjacent house visible on 1955 aerial view was demolished in 1990s.

2001	15-20-400-004	West New Monee Road	Werner Farmstead	Non-contributing
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Many structures demolished, 2007–2008.
Only two outbuildings remain at site. Within Village of Crete.

2002	15-20-100-010	West Old Monee Road	Winzenburg–Dralle Farmstead	Contributing
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Upright and wing

Outbuildings at south part of site are PIN 15-20-100-007 - attached to house at address 1333, dating to 1964.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
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2003 15-20-201-008 West Old Monree Road

Middleton Farmstead

Contributing



Cape Cod



Plank frame

Dietrich Seehausen: see Carol Triebold and Howard Piepenbrink, "Crete's German Heritage," in Looking Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois, volume 4 (self-published, 2008), article 126.

2101 15-21-101-003 South Dixie Highway

Muehring–Moeller Farmstead

Contributing



Upright and wing



Plank frame

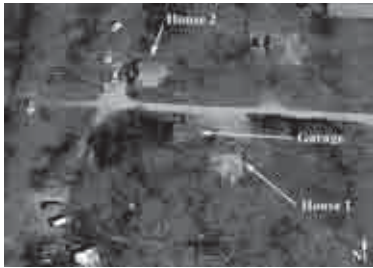
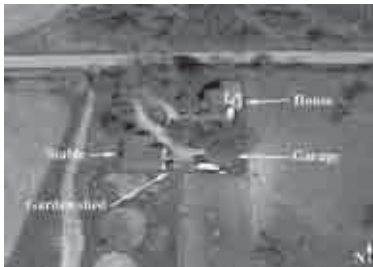
2102 15-21-101-019 South Dixie Highway

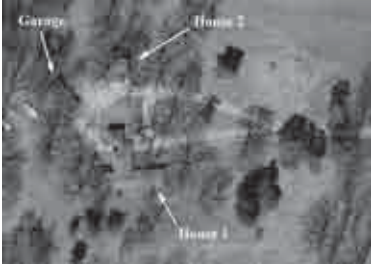
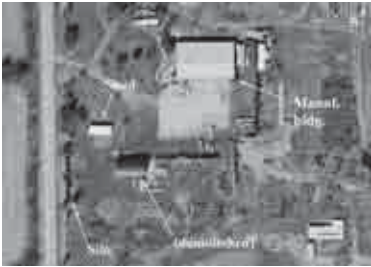
Vogt–Stuenkel Farmstead

Non-contributing



House demolished, c. 2012. Two older outbuildings at front, then 1990s metal buildings beyond to the east.

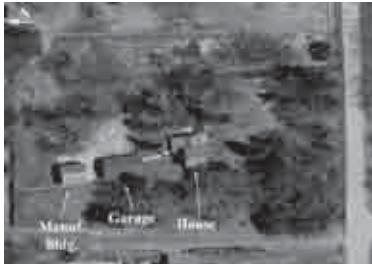
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2106	15-21-100-019	South Dixie Highway	Koelling–Seggebruch Farmstead	Contributing
				
			Cape Cod	
				
			Upright and wing	
2107	15-21-400-008	West New Monee Road	Carl Wilhelm Steiber House	Local landmark
				
			Gabled Ell	
2202	15-22-200-003	East Munz Road	Wehmhoefer–Munz Farmstead	Contributing
				
			Upright and wing	
		New recetrack development replaced all historic outbuildings, 2003–2004. Historic farmhouse in front of newer development (racetrack)		

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2203	15-22-400-010	South Cottage Grove Avenue	McCoy Farmstead	Non-contributing
				
			Bungalow	
				
			Ranch	
2301	15-23-100-004	South Cottage Grove Avenue	Rinne-Brands Farmstead	Non-contributing
				
1873 atlas indicates a "brick yard" on this property. House and most historic outbuildings demolished in 1990s. Barn demolished within last few years.				
2401	15-24-300-013	South Rincker Road	Rademacher Farmstead	Contributing
				
			plank frame	
Historic photo published in "A Pictorial History of Crete" (1986), picture 345. Surveyed from road only. Multiple parcels/PINs.				

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2402	15-24-300-033	South Stoney Island Avenue	Tatge–Koelling Farmstead	Contributing
				
		American Foursquare		
Heinrich Tatge: see Carol Triebold and Howard Piepenbrink, “Crete’s German Heritage,” in Looking Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois, volume 4 (self-published, 2008), article 126.				
2403	15-24-100-026	South Stoney Island Avenue	Tatge–Nielsen Farmstead	Contributing
				
		Bungalow		
		Plank frame		
Heinrich Tatge: see Carol Triebold and Howard Piepenbrink, “Crete’s German Heritage,” in Looking Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois, volume 4 (self-published, 2008), article 126.				
2404	15-24-200-002	South Stoney Island Avenue	Tatge–Drolet Farmstead	Non-contributing
				
Heinrich Tatge: see Carol Triebold and Howard Piepenbrink, “Crete’s German Heritage,” in Looking Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois, volume 4 (self-published, 2008), article 126.				
Only one outbuilding remains. Surveyed from road only.				

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2501	15-25-400-003	East Bemis Road	Albert Batterman Farmstead	Contributing
				
				
		Gabled Ell Plank frame		
Cemetery directly adjacent. There was also a schoolhouse in this vicinity.				
2502	15-25-400-002	East Bemis Road	Schlin Farmstead	Local landmark potential
				
		New England One-and-a-half		
House and one small shed remain.				
2503	15-25-200-005	East Bemis Road	Schweer Farmstead	Local landmark potential
				
				
		Gabled Ell Three-bay threshing		

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2504	15-25-101-013	East Bemis Road	Hartman–Koelling Farmstead	Contributing
				
		American Foursquare		Plank frame
2505	15-25-300-003	East Bemis Road	Wehmhoefer–Tatge Farmstead	Contributing
				
		Upright and wing		
Historic photo published in "A Pictorial History of Crete" (1986), picture 348.				
2601	15-26-400-005	East Bemis Road	Scheiwe–Ohlendorf Farmstead	Local landmark potential
				
		Upright and Wing		
Historic photo of house published in "A Pictorial History of Crete" (1986), picture 346. (Printed mirror-image in book.) Historic aerial view provided by current caretaker.				

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2602	15-26-200-023	East Bemis Road	Scheiwe Farmstead	Contributing
				
		Upright and wing		
Barn demolished, c. 2012.				
2604	15-26-200-017	East Bemis Road	Joerdening–Ellinghausen Farmstead	Contributing
				
		Upright and wing		
2605	15-26-100-013	East Bemis Road	Koschmeider–Froehling Farmstead	Non-contributing
				
		Four over Four		

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
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2801 15-28-100-009 South Dixie Highway

Balmoral Park Water Tower

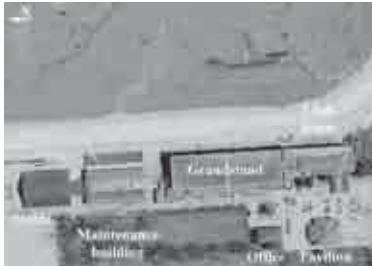
Non-contributing



2802 15-28-100-005 South Dixie Highway

Balmoral Park

Contributing



2803 15-28-304-009 West Elms Court Lane

David Wallace Farmstead

Contributing



Gabled Ell

Illustrated in 1873 atlas, plate 107. No structures remain from that time period.
Adjacent residential subdivision built in 1969.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3001	15-30-400-001	South Nackle Road	Arkenberg–Hartmann Farmstead	Contributing
				
		Gabled Ell		
Wilhelm Arkenburg: see Carol Triebold and Howard Piepenbrink, “Crete’s German Heritage,” in Looking Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois, volume 4 (self-published, 2008), article 126. Surveyed from road only.				
3002	15-30-300-011	South Nackle Road	Seggebruch Farmstead	Local landmark
				
		American Foursquare		
Some historic outbuildings demolished. Contemporary house at 27026 is not part of this farmstead.				
3003	15-30-100-007	South Nackle Road	Hardekopf–Deutsche Farmstead	Contributing
				
		Upright and wing		Dairy

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
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3201	15-32-220-002	Goodenow Road	Goodenow School (District No. 187)	Contributing
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Schoolhouse

Photograph published in "A Pictorial History of Crete" (1986), picture 385.
 Surveyed from road only. Obscured by landscaping.

3204	15-32-300-003	West Goodenow Road	Arkenberg Tenant Farmstead	Contributing
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Upright and wing

Located within boundaries of proposed South Suburban Airport

3205	15-32-300-001	West Goodenow Road	Kraegel-Langebartels Farmstead	Contributing
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American Foursquare

Located within boundaries of proposed South Suburban Airport

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3301	15-33-400-001	West Goodenow Road	Heller–Krol Farmstead	Contributing
				
		Side Hallway		
		All buildings at site except house have been demolished. Located within boundaries of proposed South Suburban Airport.		
3303	15-33-109-005	West Goodenow Road	Jeney House	Contributing
				
		Gabled Ell		
		Historic house along stream bank		
3304	15-33-300-019	South Dixie Highway	Baker–Krygsheld Farmstead	Non-contributing
				
		Contemporary		
		Located within boundaries of proposed South Suburban Airport.		

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3402	15-34-400-003	South Park Avenue	Gustave Ohlendorf Farmstead	Contributing
				
		American Foursquare		
Illustrated in 1873 atlas, plate 107. Historic barn demolished c. 2004.				
3403	15-34-100-019	South Dutton Road	Hassberg–Rietveld Farmstead	Contributing
				
		Cape Cod		
Historic barn demolished, 2007.				
3404	15-34-300-001	East Goodenow Road	Meier–Crawford Farmstead	Contributing
				
		Ranch		Dairy
				
		Contemporary		

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
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3501 15-35-400-012 East Goodenow Road

Harste Farmstead

Contributing



Gabled Ell

3502 15-35-200-004 East Goodenow Road

Ohlendorf-Brucer Farmstead

Contributing



Ranch



Plank frame



Cape cod

Surveyed from road only.

3503 15-35-300-006 East Goodenow Road

Ohlendorf-Blume Farmstead

Contributing



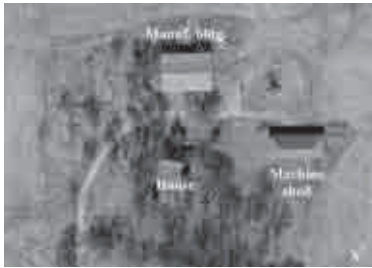
Gabled Ell



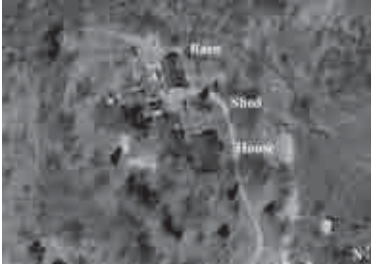
Three-bay threshing

Johann Heinrich Ohlendorf: see Carol Triebold and Howard Piepenbrink, "Crete's German Heritage," in Looking Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois, volume 4 (self-published, 2008), article 126.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3601	15-36-100-006	South Stoney Island Avenue	Kuhlmann-Weidenheft Farmstead	Contributing
				
		Ranch		Plank frame
				
		Ranch		
				
		Ranch		
3602	15-36-100-002	South Stoney Island Avenue	Kuhlmann-Polaskey Farmstead	Non-contributing
				
				Three-bay threshing
Surveyed from road only. Abandoned and in poor condition.				

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3605	15-36-400-001	East Offner Road	Schmidt–Trainor–Janota Farmstead	Local landmark potential
				Upright and wing
Straddles two parcels; northern half is PIN -001				
5601	16-06-100-002	East Steger Road	Schutz Farmstead	Non-contributing
				Cape Cod
5801	16-08-300-010	East Burville Road	Seeberger–Benkel Farmstead	Non-contributing
				Feeder
New farmstead, mid-1950s				

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
5802	16-08-300-018	East Burville Road	Bremer–Meyer–Wolf Farmstead	Contributing
				
		Gable Front Three-bay threshing		
6701	16-17-300-022	East Exchange Street	Meier Farmstead	Non-contributing
				
		Upright and wing		
		Historically accessed via a long private drive from State Line Road. Surveyed from road only.		
6702	16-17-300-008	South State Line Road	Lukoeik House	Non-contributing
				
		Cape Cod		
		Large outbuilding seen in 1955 view demolished circa 2003.		

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
6704	16-17-300-044	East Danne Road	Oberloh Farmstead	Non-contributing
				
			Contemporary	Feeder
6705	16-17-100-016	East Burville Road	Walkerly Farmstead	Contributing
				
			Upright and wing	
6801	16-18-100-034	East Exchange Street	Northrup Houses	Contributing
				
			I-house	Plank frame
				
			Ranch	
Surveyed from road only.				

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
6802	16-18-400-002	South Klemme Road	Walkerly-Oldendorf Farmstead	Contributing
				
			Four over Four	Dairy
6804	16-18-100-015	South Klemme Road	Bohlman Brothers Farmstead	Contributing
				
			I-House	Plank Frame
6806	16-18-300-009	South Klemme Road	Fred Klemme Farmstead	Contributing
				
			Trailer	Dairy

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
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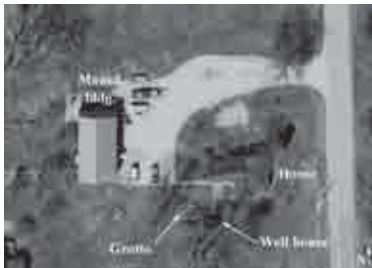
6807	16-18-100-007	East Exchange Street	Doescher–Moeller Farmstead	Non-contributing
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Ranch

Herman Doescher sawmill: see Carol Triebold and Howard Piepenbrink, "Crete's German Heritage," in *Looking Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois*, volume 4 (self-published, 2008), article 126. Originally owned by Shipman Frank, first Endor postmaster.

6901	16-19-100-016	South Klemme Road	Horn–Klemme Farmstead	Non-contributing
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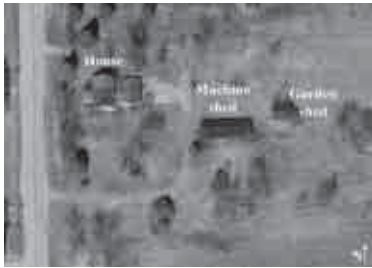
Upright and Wing

Farmhouse, now in a subdivision

6903	16-19-300-009	South Klemme Road	Behrens–Gitersonke Farmstead	Non-contributing
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Upright and Wing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
6904	16-19-204-006	South Klemme Road	Klemme–Bonick Farmstead	Contributing
				
		Upright and wing		
6906	16-19-100-004	South Klemme Road	Endor (Klemme) School (District No. 193)	Local landmark potential
				
		Gable Front		
Photograph published in "A Pictorial History of Crete" (1986), picture 323.				
Surveyed from road only.				
7901	16-29-303-016	South State Line Road	Bruns–Rehborg Farmstead	Contributing
				
		Ranch	Plank frame	

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
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7902	16-29-303-006	South State Line Road
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Bruns Farmstead

Contributing



Side Hallway



Plank frame

7903	16-29-100-002	South State Line Road
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Oldendorf Farmstead

Contributing



Conrad Oldendorf: see Carol Triebold and Howard Piepenbrink, "Crete's German Heritage," in Looking Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois, volume 4 (self-published, 2008), article 126.

These outbuildings are associated with a farmhouse across State Line Road in Indiana, 11721 Stateline Road, Dyer, Indiana

7904	16-29-301-008	East Bemis Road
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Wassman–Oldendorf Farmstead

Contributing



Gable Front

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
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7905 16-29-301-002 East Bemis Road **Wassman-Batterman Farmstead**

Contributing



Gable Front

Christoph Wassmann: see Carol Triebold and Howard Piepenbrink, "Crete's German Heritage," in Looking Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois, volume 4 (self-published, 2008), article 126.

7906 16-29-100-003 East Bemis Road

Oldendorf Farmstead

Contributing



Upright and Wing

Surveyed from road only.

8001 16-30-200-009 East Bemis Road

Henry Batterman Farmstead

Contributing



Gabled Ell

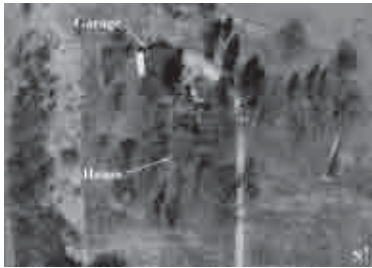


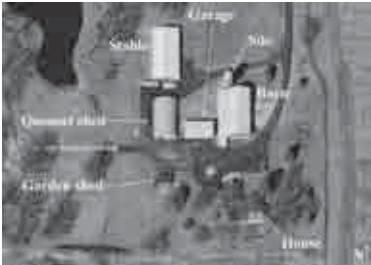
Bank



Animal

Buildings on north side of road were documented as 1988 Site No. 30-02

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
8004	16-30-100-022	East Bemis Road	Behrens–Boeman Farmstead	Contributing
				
		Upright and wing		
Heinrich Behrens: see Carol Triebold and Howard Piepenbrink, “Crete’s German Heritage,” in Looking Back to the Early Days of Crete, Illinois, volume 4 (self-published, 2008), article 126.				
8006	16-30-300-006	South Klemme Road	Rotermund–Schaffroth Farmstead	Contributing
				
		Cape Cod		
				
		Cape Cod		

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
8105	16-31-400-001	South Klemme Road	Ohlendorf Farmstead	Contributing
				
			Gable Front	Three-bay threshing
			Upright and Wing	
8106	16-31-400-015	East Goodenow Road	Meyer-Kollman Farmstead	Contributing
				
			Gabled Ell	

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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 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.

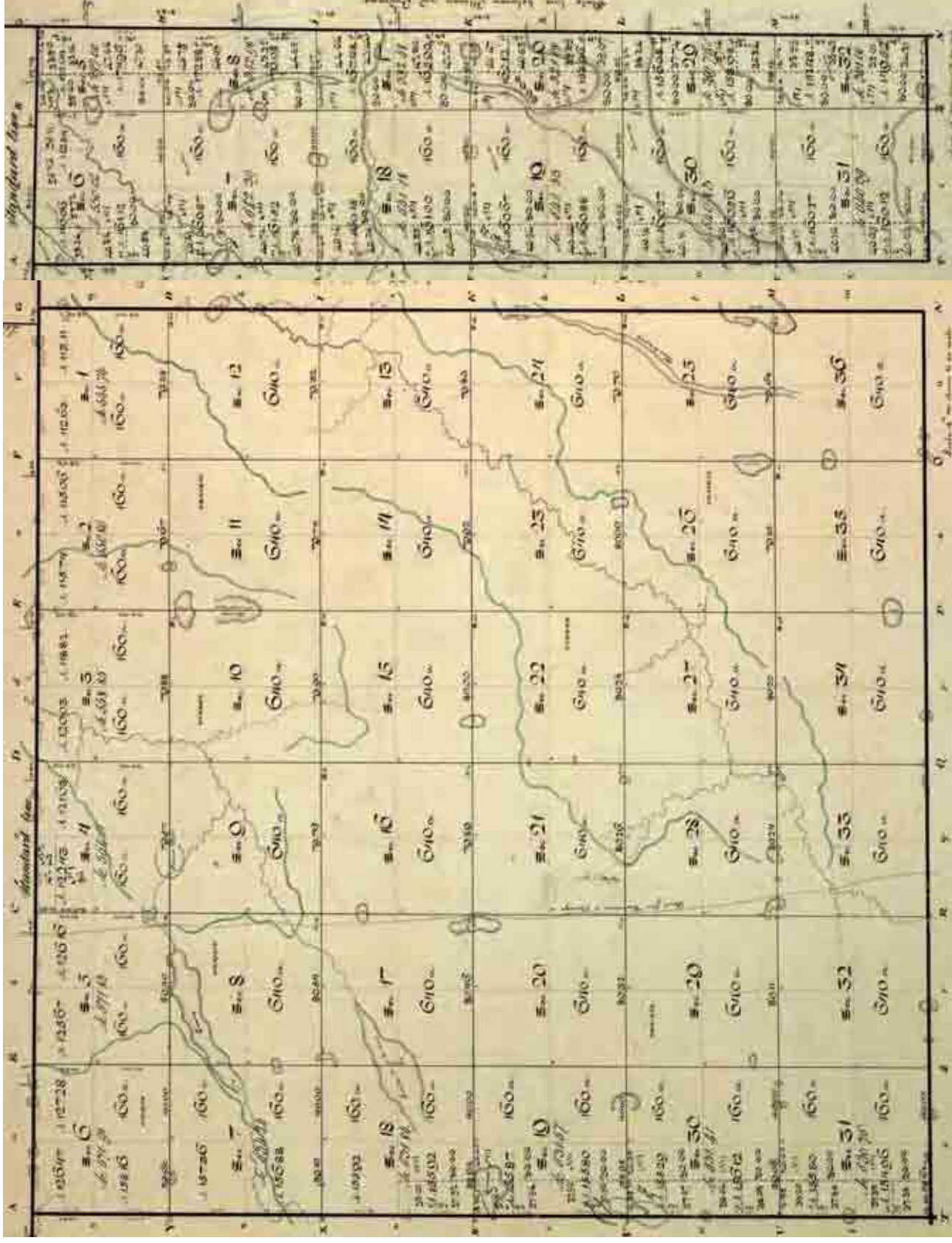
vault. A masonry covering over an area which uses the principle of the arch.

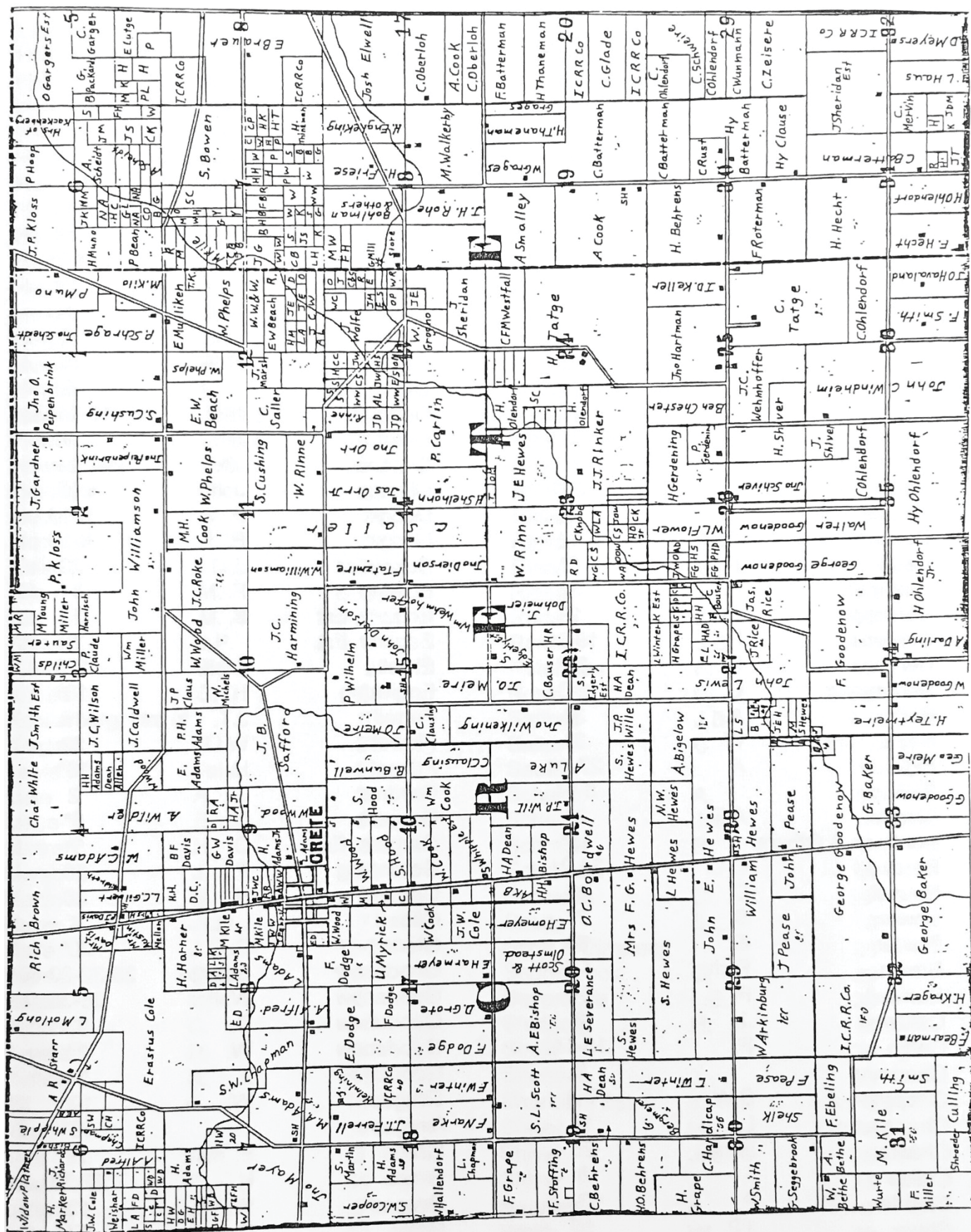
wythe. One thickness of brick or other masonry material in a wall, commonly about 4 inches.

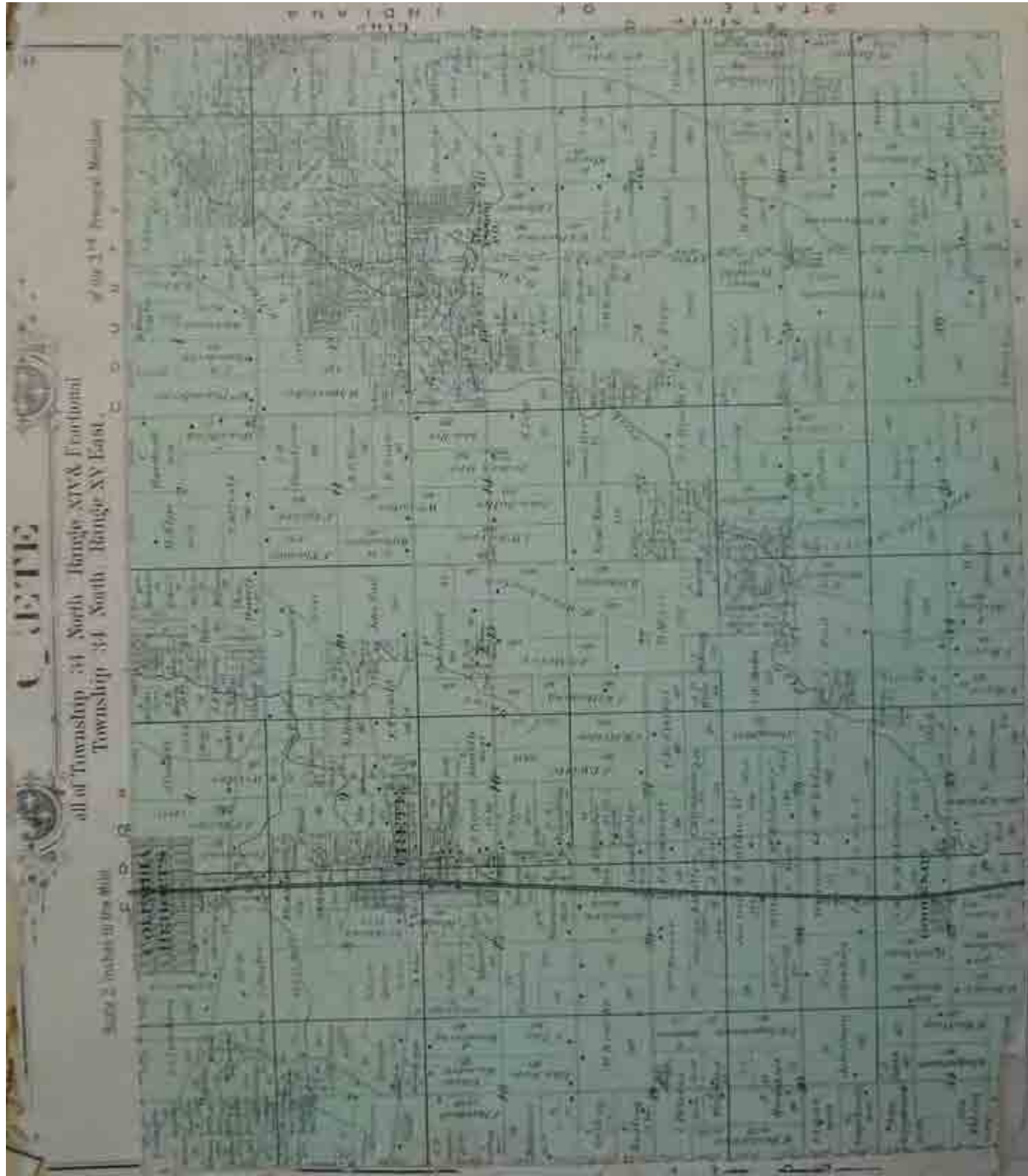
APPENDIX A

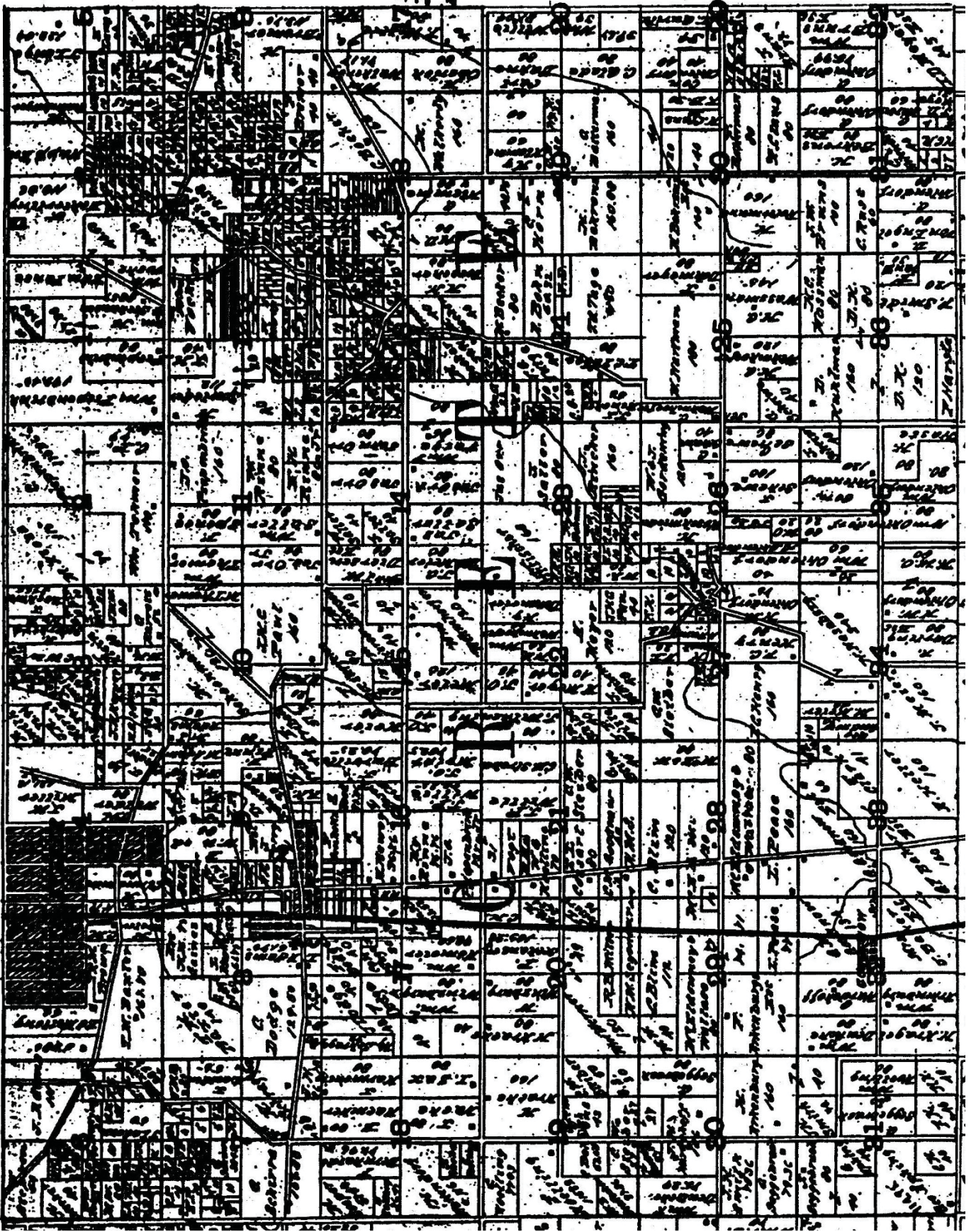
HISTORIC PLAT MAPS

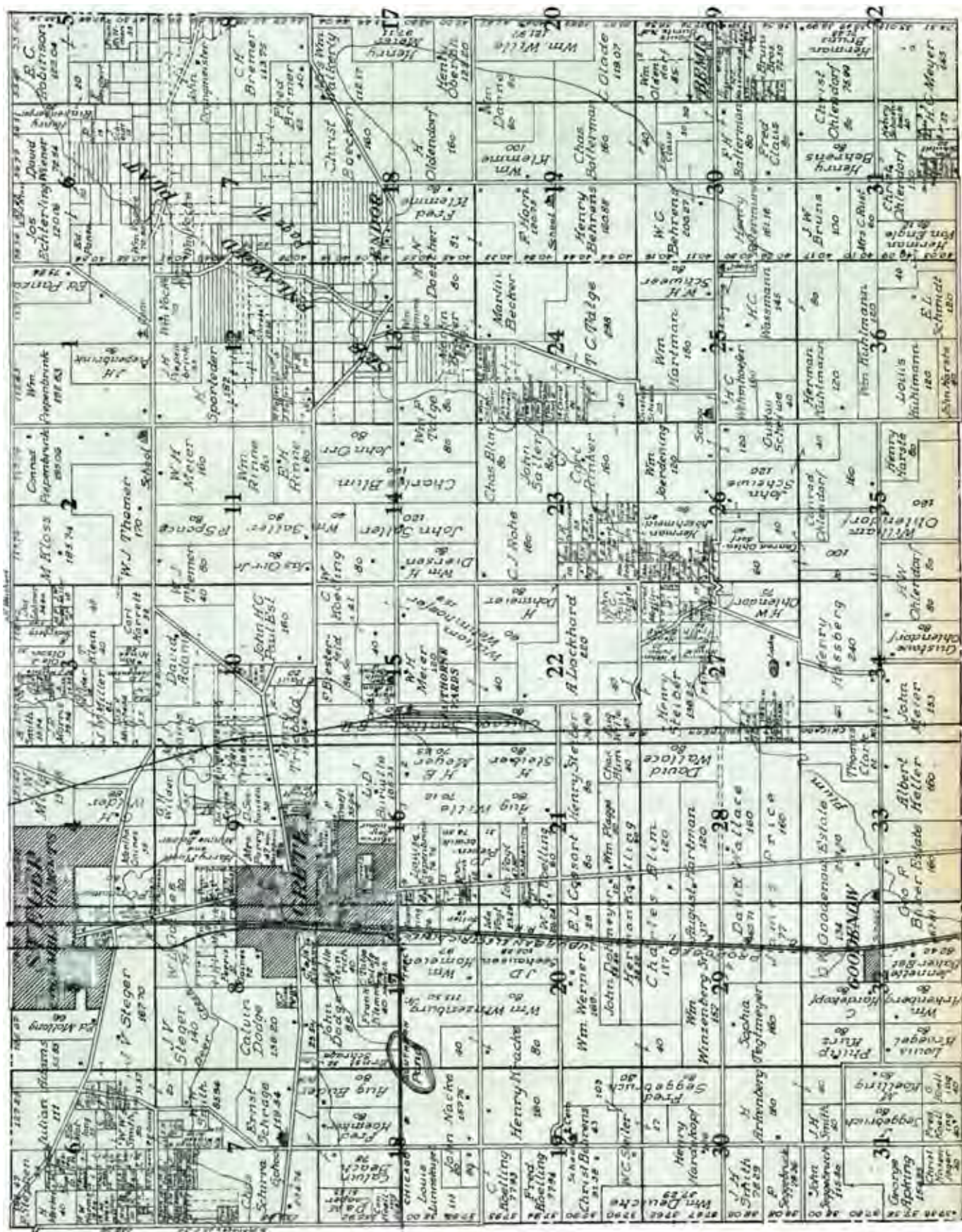
This appendix contains historic farm atlas and plat maps for Crete Township. Refer to Bibliography for map sources.



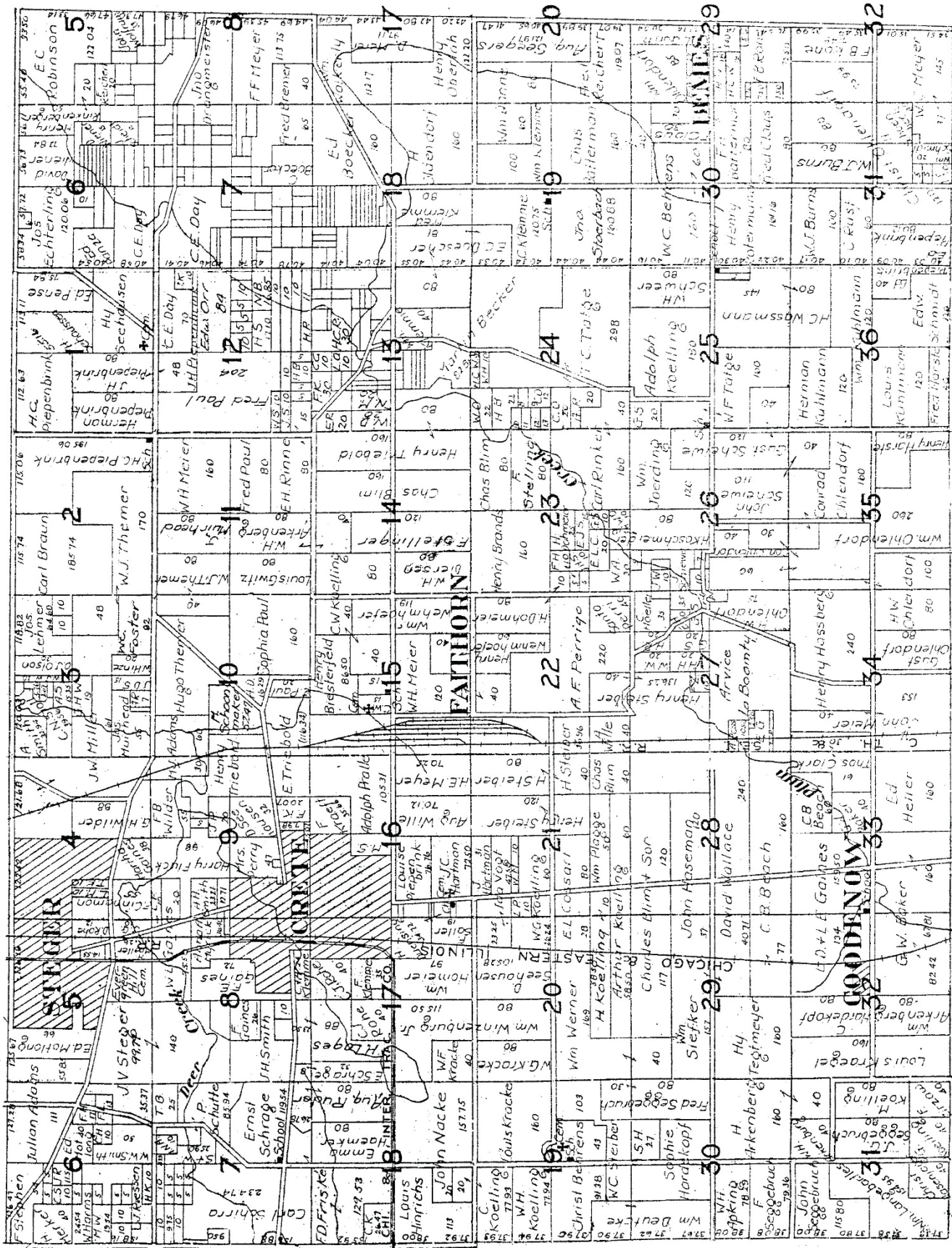








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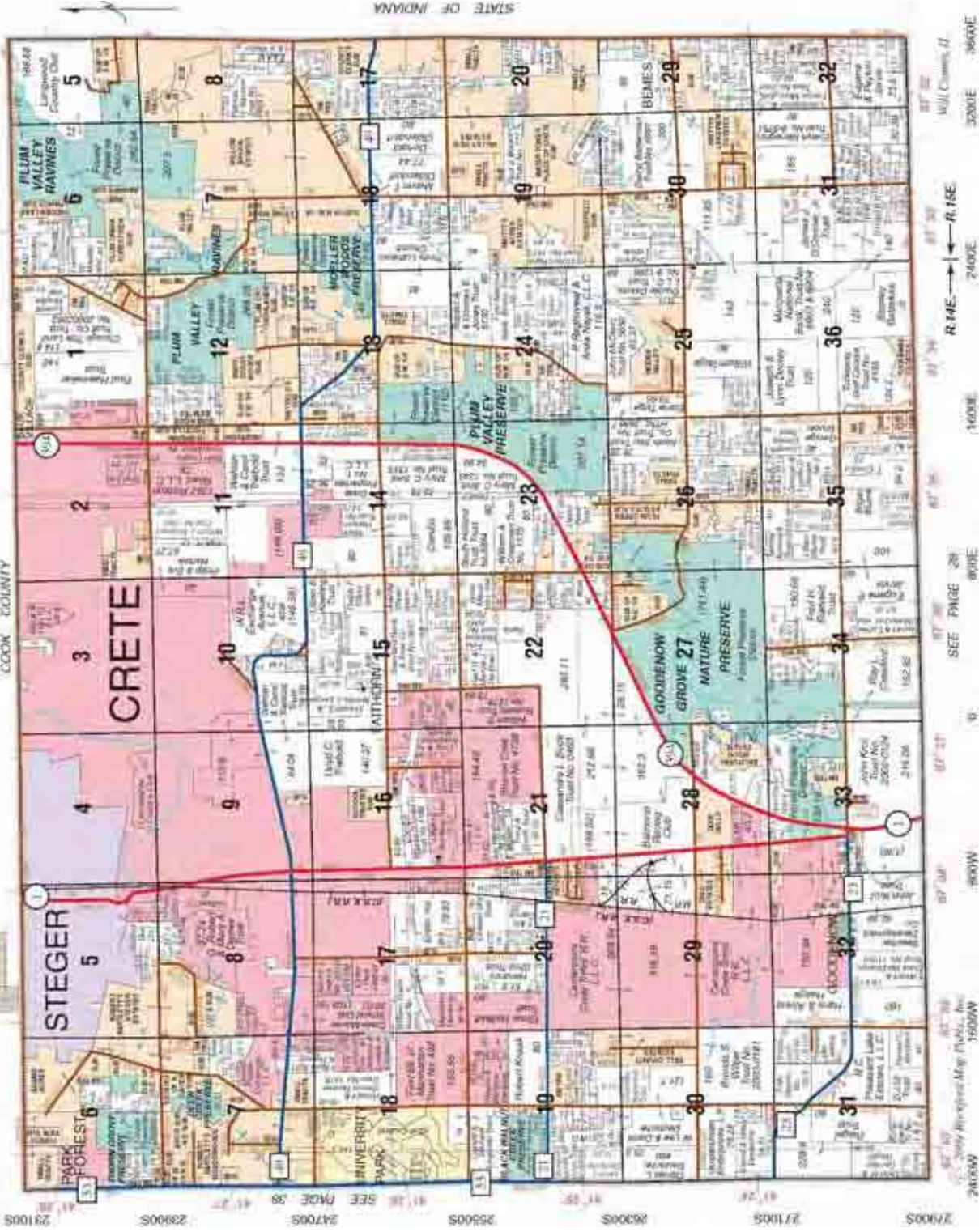


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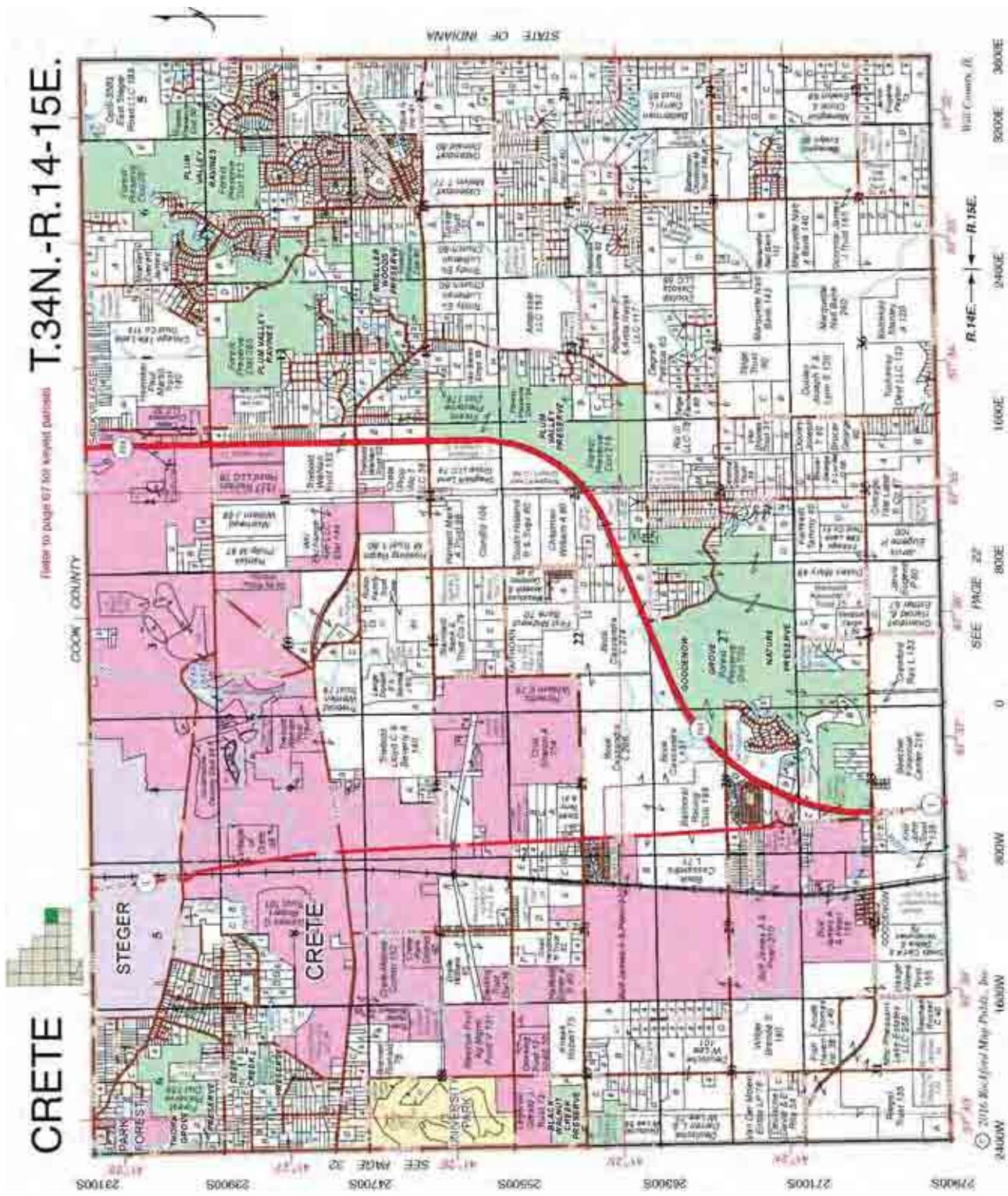
Will Co. Ill.

CRETE

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Source: Rockford Map Publishers. Used with permission.
2010.



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 Properties by Map ID number
- Map 1 – Will County Key Map
- Map 2 – Crete Township: Overview of Survey
- Map 3 – Crete Township: Significance of Sites
- Map 4 – Crete Township: Proposed South Suburban Airport
- Map 5 – Crete Township: 1939 Aerial Photography

Key to Farmsteads and Related Properties by Map Reference Number

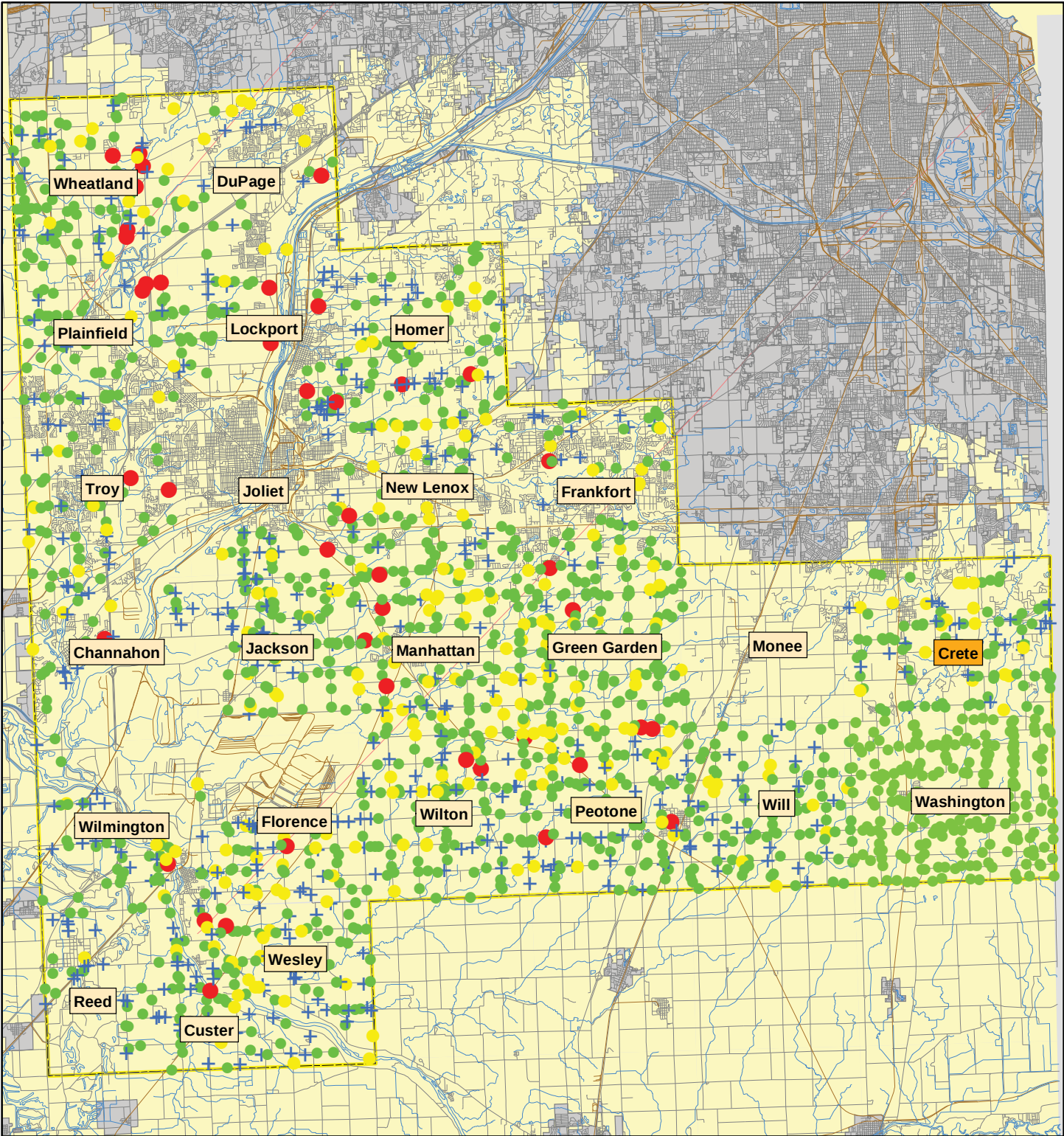
ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
102	15-01-300-004	1842 East Richton Road	Piepenbrink-Haemker Farmstead	Contributing
104	15-01-200-025	23300 South Torrence Avenue	Pansa–Moeller Farmstead	Non-contributing
401	15-04-307-001	275 West Richton Road	W. C. Adams House	Contributing
501	15-05-300-011	401 West Richton Road	Julian Adams House	Contributing
502	15-05-301-018	201 West Richton Road	Motlong House	Contributing
702	15-07-401-006	1962 West Exchange Street	Union (Schrage) School (District No. 188)	Local landmark potential
704	15-07-302-004	2309 West Exchange Street	Schirra Farmstead	Contributing
801	15-08-400-007	1262 Lincoln Avenue	Gaines Farmstead	Local landmark potential
901	15-09-404-009	117 West Exchange Street	Triebold Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1001	15-10-305-005	325 East Old Exchange Street	Paul–Jones Farmstead	Non-contributing
1002	15-10-400-005	410 East Old Exchange Street	Paul–Ehrhardt Farmstead	Non-contributing
1003	15-10-302-004	137 East Exchange Street	Schoonmaker–Triebold Farmstead	Non-contributing
1011	15-01-400-006	23894 South Torrence Avenue	Seehausen–Bartholomew Farmstead	Contributing
1101	15-11-200-001	1357 East Richton Road	Phelps–Piepenbrink–Meier Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1102	15-11-100-003	1065 East Richton Road	Spence–Muirhead Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1103	15-11-100-005	935 East Richton Road	Themer–Hantak Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1105	15-11-400-002	1336 East Exchange Street	Rinne–Triebold Tenant Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1201	15-12-200-020	2121 East Richton Road	Vocke–Kelly–Bartholomew Farmstead	Contributing
1202	15-12-100-014	23915 South Volbrecht Road	Sporleder–Paul Farmstead	Contributing
1301	15-13-100-020	1755 East Exchange Street	Pope Farmstead	Contributing
1302	15-13-202-028	2056 East Exchange Street	Hendricks–Bakker Farmstead	Contributing
1303	15-13-300-040	25450 South Stoney Island Avenue	Becker Farmstead	Non-contributing
1402	15-14-400-005	1376 East Burville Road	Orr–Blim Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1403	15-14-300-009	1027 East Burville Road	Saller–Most Farmstead	Contributing
1404	15-14-300-003	907 East Burville Road	Diersen Farmstead	Non-contributing
1501	15-15-100-013	455 East Old Exchange Street	Biesterfeld Farmstead	Contributing
1502	15-15-400-012	631 East Burville Road	Wehmhoefer–Wassmann Farmstead	Non-contributing
1503	15-15-200-008	536 East Burville Road	Diersen–Koelling Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1504	15-15-300-010	365 East Burville Road	Meier Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1506	15-15-100-005	332 East Burville Road	Becker–Stolte Farmstead	Contributing
1507	15-15-100-003	226 East Burville Road	Waterman–Van Sickle Farmstead	Non-contributing
1602	15-16-200-003	140 West Burville Road	Burville–Triebold Farmstead	Contributing

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
1603	15-16-400-034	145 West Burville Road	Meier–Rehborg Farmstead	Contributing
1604	15-16-400-021	325 West Burville Road	Wille Farmstead	Contributing
1606	15-16-301-001	1639 Main Street	Rinne–Piepenbrink–Sperti Farmstead	Contributing
1701	15-17-402-017	1124 West Old Monee Road	Homeier–Schuman Farmstead	Contributing
1702	15-17-300-011	1342 West Old Monee Road	Winzenburg Tenant Farmstead	Contributing
1802	15-07-402-019	1735 West Exchange Street	Harmening–Parke Farmstead	Contributing
1804	15-18-300-008	2036 West Old Monee Road	Koelling–Legerski Farmstead	Contributing
1901	15-19-300-017	26012 South Nacke Road	Behrens–Ricketts Farmstead	Contributing
1902	15-19-200-005	1765 West Old Monee Road	Kracke–Halfeldt Farmstead	Contributing
1904	15-19-400-013	25915 South Nacke Road	Immanuel Ev. Luth. (Black Walnut) School	Contributing
1907	15-19-300-007	26264 South Nacke Road	Dowdell House	Non-contributing
2001	15-20-400-004	1145 West New Monee Road	Werner Farmstead	Non-contributing
2002	15-20-100-010	1313 West Old Monee Road	Winzenburg–Dralle Farmstead	Contributing
2003	15-20-201-008	1001 West Old Monee Road	Middleton Farmstead	Contributing
2101	15-21-101-003	25705 South Dixie Highway	Muehring–Moeller Farmstead	Contributing
2102	15-21-101-019	25633 South Dixie Highway	Vogt–Stuenkel Farmstead	Non-contributing
2106	15-21-100-019	25828 South Dixie Highway	Koelling–Seggebruch Farmstead	Contributing
2107	15-21-400-008	109 West New Monee Road	Carl Wilhelm Steiber House	Local landmark
2202	15-22-200-003	501 East Munz Road	Wehmhoefer–Munz Farmstead	Contributing
2203	15-22-400-010	26010 South Cottage Grove Avenue	McCoy Farmstead	Non-contributing
2301	15-23-100-004	25555 South Cottage Grove Avenue	Rinne–Brands Farmstead	Non-contributing
2401	15-24-300-013	26114 South Rincker Road	Rademacher Farmstead	Contributing
2402	15-24-300-033	26020 South Stoney Island Avenue	Tatge–Koelling Farmstead	Contributing
2403	15-24-100-026	25760 South Stoney Island Avenue	Tatge–Nielsen Farmstead	Contributing
2404	15-24-200-002	25815 South Stoney Island Avenue	Tatge–Drolet Farmstead	Non-contributing
2501	15-25-400-003	2349 East Bemes Road	Albert Batterman Farmstead	Contributing
2502	15-25-400-002	2315 East Bemes Road	Schlin Farmstead	Local landmark potential
2503	15-25-200-005	2210 East Bemes Road	Schweer Farmstead	Local landmark potential
2504	15-25-101-013	1916 East Bemes Road	Hartman–Koelling Farmstead	Contributing
2505	15-25-300-003	1855 East Bemes Road	Wehmhoefer–Tatge Farmstead	Contributing
2601	15-26-400-005	1225 East Bemes Road	Scheiwe–Ohlendorf Farmstead	Local landmark potential
2602	15-26-200-023	1420 East Bemes Road	Scheiwe Farmstead	Contributing
2604	15-26-200-017	1248 East Bemes Road	Joerdening–Ellinghausen Farmstead	Contributing

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
2605	15-26-100-013	1112 East Bemis Road	Koschmeider–Froehling Farmstead	Non-contributing
2801	15-28-100-009	South Dixie Highway	Balmoral Park Water Tower	Non-contributing
2802	15-28-100-005	26435 South Dixie Highway	Balmoral Park	Contributing
2803	15-28-304-009	525 West Elms Court Lane	David Wallace Farmstead	Contributing
3001	15-30-400-001	26925 South Nacke Road	Arkenberg–Hartmann Farmstead	Contributing
3002	15-30-300-011	27020 South Nacke Road	Seggebruch Farmstead	Local landmark
3003	15-30-100-007	26534 South Nacke Road	Hardekopf–Deutsche Farmstead	Contributing
3201	15-32-220-002	Goodenow Road	Goodenow School (District No. 187)	Contributing
3204	15-32-300-003	1335 West Goodenow Road	Arkenberg Tenant Farmstead	Contributing
3205	15-32-300-001	1455 West Goodenow Road	Kraegel–Langebartels Farmstead	Contributing
3301	15-33-400-001	141 West Goodenow Road	Heller–Krol Farmstead	Contributing
3303	15-33-109-005	624 West Goodenow Road	Jeney House	Contributing
3304	15-33-300-019	27512 South Dixie Highway	Baker–Krygsheld Farmstead	Non-contributing
3402	15-34-400-003	27553 South Park Avenue	Gustave Ohlendorf Farmstead	Contributing
3403	15-34-100-019	27414 South Dutton Road	Hassberg–Rietveld Farmstead	Contributing
3404	15-34-300-001	155 East Goodenow Road	Meier–Crawford Farmstead	Contributing
3501	15-35-400-012	1435 East Goodenow Road	Harste Farmstead	Contributing
3502	15-35-200-004	1236 East Goodenow Road	Ohlendorf–Brucer Farmstead	Contributing
3503	15-35-300-006	1125 East Goodenow Road	Ohlendorf–Blume Farmstead	Contributing
3601	15-36-100-006	27249 South Stoney Island Avenue	Kuhlmann–Weidenheft Farmstead	Contributing
3602	15-36-100-002	27437 South Stoney Island Avenue	Kuhlmann–Polaskey Farmstead	Non-contributing
3605	15-36-400-001	2134 East Offner Road	Schmidt–Trainor–Janota Farmstead	Local landmark potential
5601	16-06-100-002	2820 East Steger Road	Schutz Farmstead	Non-contributing
5801	16-08-300-010	3550 East Burville Road	Seeberger–Benkel Farmstead	Non-contributing
5802	16-08-300-018	3444 East Burville Road	Bremer–Meyer–Wolf Farmstead	Contributing
6701	16-17-300-022	3427 East Exchange Street	Meier Farmstead	Non-contributing
6702	16-17-300-008	25210 South State Line Road	Lukoeik House	Non-contributing
6704	16-17-300-044	3320 East Danne Road	Oberloh Farmstead	Non-contributing
6705	16-17-100-016	3250 East Burville Road	Walkerly Farmstead	Contributing
6801	16-18-100-034	2624 East Exchange Street	Northrup Houses	Contributing
6802	16-18-400-002	25151 South Klemme Road	Walkerly–Oldendorf Farmstead	Contributing
6804	16-18-100-015	24860 South Klemme Road	Bohlman Brothers Farmstead	Contributing
6806	16-18-300-009	25330 South Klemme Road	Fred Klemme Farmstead	Contributing

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
6807	16-18-100-007	2418 East Exchange Street	Doescher–Moeller Farmstead	Non-contributing
6901	16-19-100-016	25708 South Klemme Road	Horn–Klemme Farmstead	Non-contributing
6903	16-19-300-009	25946 South Klemme Road	Behrens–Gitersonke Farmstead	Non-contributing
6904	16-19-204-006	25749 South Klemme Road	Klemme–Bonick Farmstead	Contributing
6906	16-19-100-004	25860 South Klemme Road	Endor (Klemme) School (District No. 193)	Local landmark potential
7901	16-29-303-016	27110 South State Line Road	Bruns–Rehborg Farmstead	Contributing
7902	16-29-303-006	26830 South State Line Road	Bruns Farmstead	Contributing
7903	16-29-100-002	11721 South State Line Road	Oldendorf Farmstead	Contributing
7904	16-29-301-008	3455 East Bemes Road	Wassman–Oldendorf Farmstead	Contributing
7905	16-29-301-002	3447 East Bemes Road	Wassman–Batterman Farmstead	Contributing
7906	16-29-100-003	3448 East Bemes Road	Oldendorf Farmstead	Contributing
8001	16-30-200-009	3059 East Bemes Road	Henry Batterman Farmstead	Contributing
8004	16-30-100-022	2564 East Bemes Road	Behrens–Boeman Farmstead	Contributing
8006	16-30-300-006	26940 South Klemme Road	Rotermund–Schaffroth Farmstead	Contributing
8105	16-31-400-001	27563 South Klemme Road	Ohlendorf Farmstead	Contributing
8106	16-31-400-015	3161 East Goodenow Road	Meyer–Kollman Farmstead	Contributing

CRETE TOWNSHIP
Map 1: Will County Key Map



0 1.5 3 6 9 12 Miles

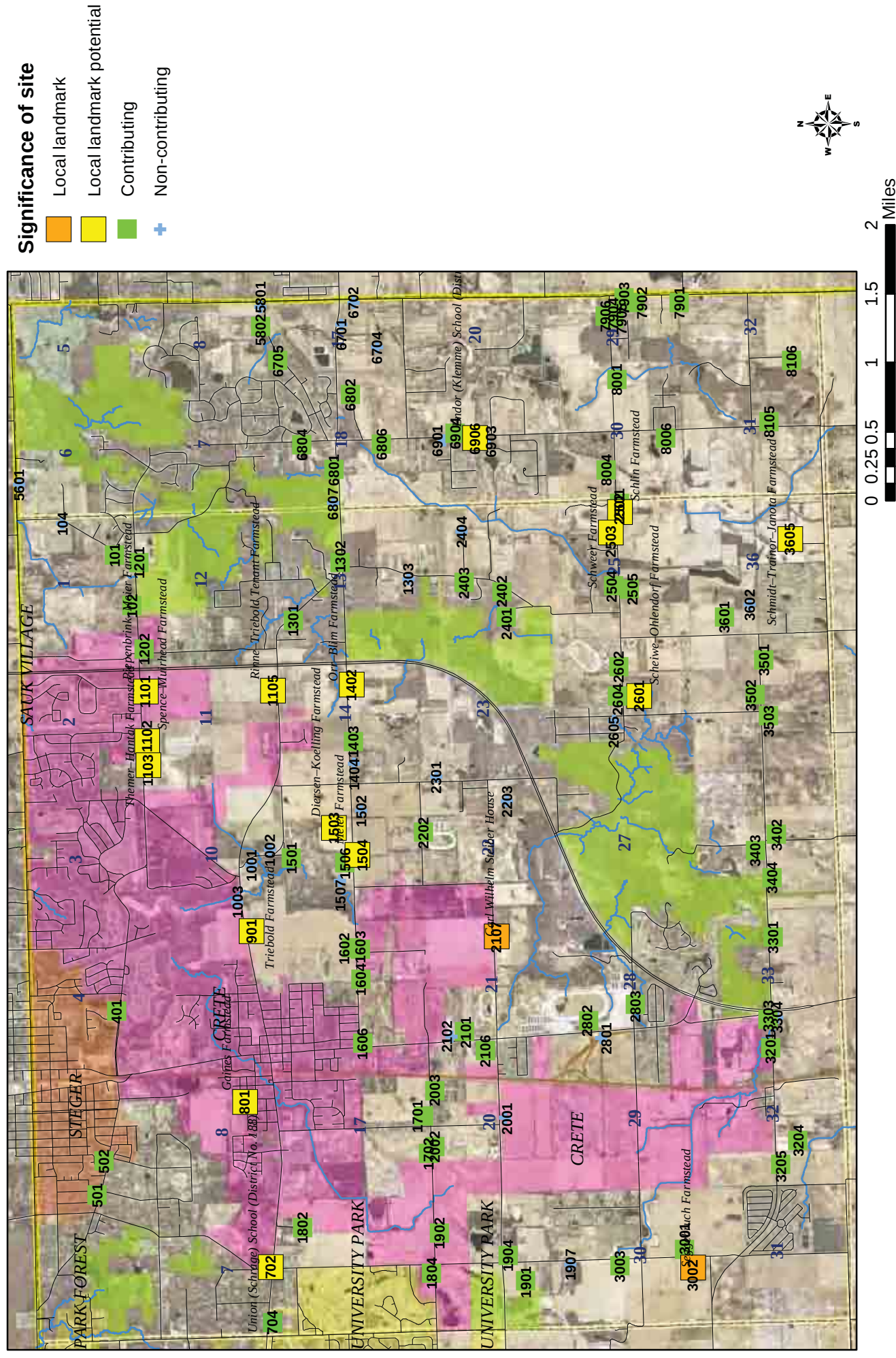


Demolished site (1988 survey)

Demolished schoolhouse

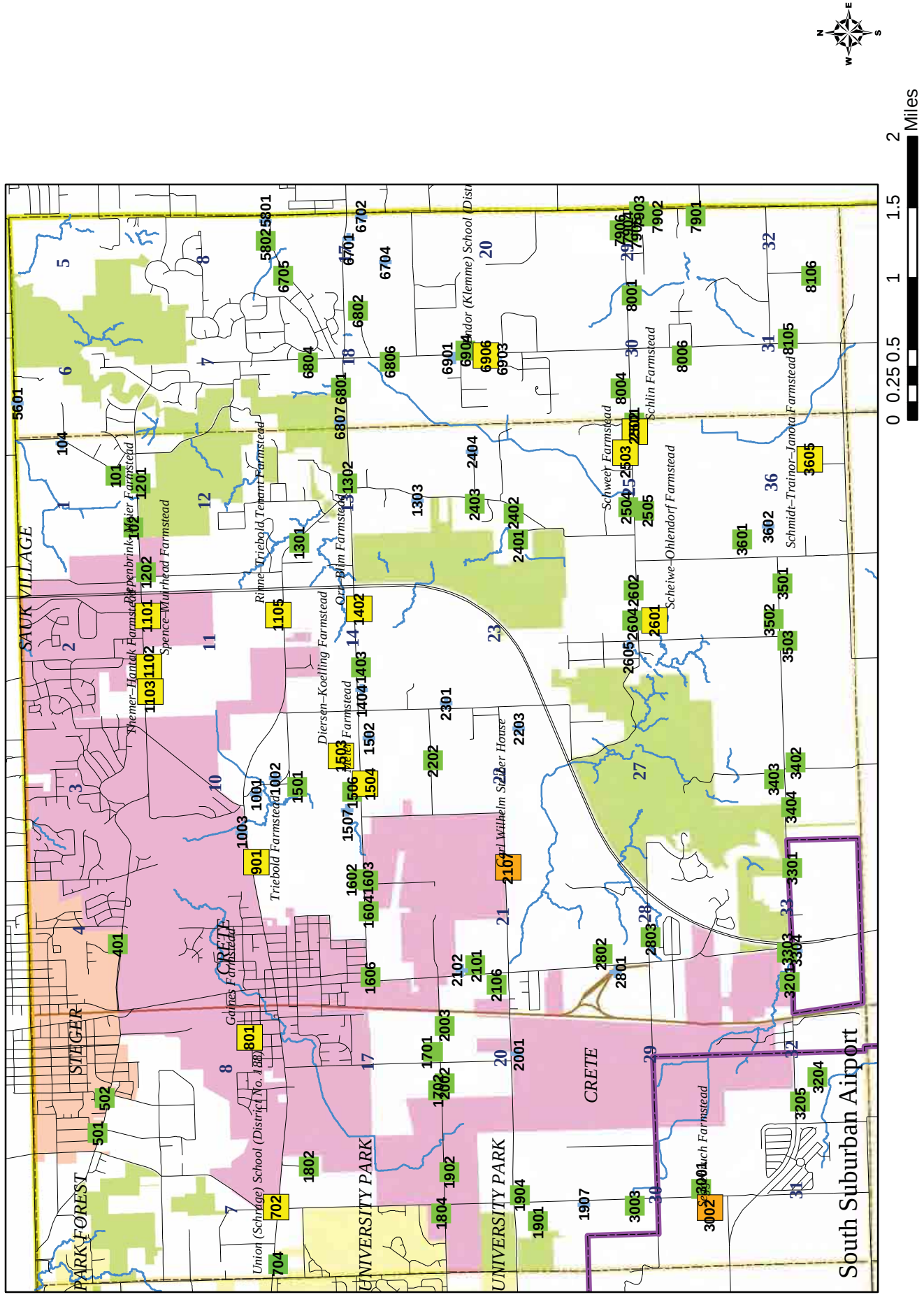


Map 3: Significance of Sites



CRETE TOWNSHIP

Map 4: Proposed South Suburban Airport



CRETE TOWNSHIP

Map 5: 1939 Aerial Photography

