



Rural Historic Structural Survey
of
Washington Township
Will County, Illinois

November 2018

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

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

Rural Historic Structural Survey
of
Washington Township
Will County, Illinois

Printed December 2, 2018

WJE ENGINEERS ARCHITECTS MATERIALS SCIENTISTS

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.
330 Pfingsten Road
Northbrook, Illinois 60062
(847) 272-7400
www.wje.com

Rural Historic Structural Survey
Washington Township
Will County, Illinois

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary

At the request of the Will County Land Use Department, acting as liaison for the Will County Historic Preservation Commission, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) has prepared this summary report of the intensive survey of existing farmsteads in Washington Township in Will County, Illinois. The survey was performed between April and August 2018 and included approximately forty-five square miles with 200 farmsteads and related sites containing more than 1,200 individual structures.

Washington Township contains three Will County landmarks, the Beecher Railroad Depot, constructed in 1881 and designated a landmark in 2001; the circa 1860 Katz–Piepenbrink–Horner Barn, designated a landmark in 2016; and the Beecher Mausoleum, designated a Will County landmark in 1998 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2013. Of the 196 farmsteads and related sites documented in the current survey, thirty-three 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 Washington Township intensive survey was performed to update the previous survey of the township performed in 1988. In the previous survey, more than 198 farmsteads and related sites were identified in the township, containing at least 1,300 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 eighteen intensive survey projects in twenty-two 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, Peotone, Will, and Crete Townships. Copies of the previous survey reports were provided to public libraries and respective governing agencies in the area. Washington Township is the penultimate township to be surveyed as part of this effort; a survey of Monee Township is funded for 2019. Cumulatively, the surveys have documented more than 10,500 structures on more than 2,000 sites over approximately 813 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 Washington 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 Washington 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:

Office of Equal Opportunity Programs
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

or

Equal Employment Opportunity Officer
1 Natural Resources Way
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 Washington 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), Wilton (September 2016), Crete (December 2017), and Will (December 2017). A survey of Monee Township is planned for 2019 to complete all townships in the county.

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, Jeff Scarpelli, Justin Palmer, Abby Valek, and Deborah Slaton. Mr. Itle served as Project Manager and developed the summary report and performed some field survey work. Mr. Scarpelli, Mr. Palmer, and Ms. Valek performed field survey work. Ms. Slaton was the reviewer of the summary report.

Background Research

Work on the rural survey began in April 2018. 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 Washington 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 in June and July 2018. 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. For a few sites where no permission was available and where no structures are visible from the public right-of-way,

photography provided by Pictometry was used for the survey.[1] 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 QGIS.[2] Baseline data showing roads, railways, streams, township boundaries, and municipal boundaries was provided by the Will County Land Use Department. Georeferenced aerial survey photographs taken between April and November 2014 was also provided by the Will County Land Use Department for mapping purposes. 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 QGIS 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 August 1, 2018. 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; QGIS 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

[1] Pictometry is a commercial service providing oblique imagery. Oblique imagery is aerial imagery captured at an angle of 40 to 45 degrees, designed to provide a more natural perspective and make objects easier to recognize and interpret. Oblique aerial images captured from the north, south, east, and west directions offer a 360-degree view of the property. Imagery is published by Eagle View, Bothell, Washington.

[2] QGIS is an open-source brand of GIS software. Version 2.18.19 was used for the mapping in this report. GIS stands for geographic information system, a computerized methodology for organizing data geographically.

such as fence rows, hedges, and earthworks; to study historic transportation infrastructure and routes in detail; or to study particular architectural themes, such as early twentieth century concrete masonry construction, in greater detail.

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

The survey documented historic houses, barns, other agricultural outbuildings, and other sites in the survey area such as churches and schoolhouses.

Left: The north side of Penfield Street in the historic downtown area of Beecher, with the Clark & Bank Block at left. Right: Looking north on Gould Street in downtown Beecher. The circa 1880 Hoffman Saloon is the three-story building at the corner. The current survey focused on the rural portions of Washington Township; historic structures within the village were not typically surveyed.

CHAPTER 2

CONTEXT HISTORY OF THE RURAL SURVEY AREA

Geologic and Topographic Background to the Illinois Region

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

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

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

Washington Township is primarily drained by two minor tributaries of the Kankakee River, generally flowing from northeast to southwest. The largest among these is Trim Creek, which arises in northern Washington Township in several unnamed branches. These branches combine in Section 11 and flow through Sections 15, 22, 21, 28, 29, and 32. Two other minor branches arise in the western half of the township, flow through the Village of Beecher, and join the main stream in the northwest quarter of Section 28. Trim Creek continues southward through Kankakee County, passing west of the Village of Grant Park, Illinois. The second tributary in Washington Township is Pike Creek, which arises from low-lying areas in the northern half of Section 13 and flows south through Sections 24, 26, and 35. Pike Creek continues southward through Kankakee County, passing east of Grant Park. The two creeks merge and then continue one-half mile south to join the Kankakee River at the Cantway Slough, upstream of Momence, Illinois.

---

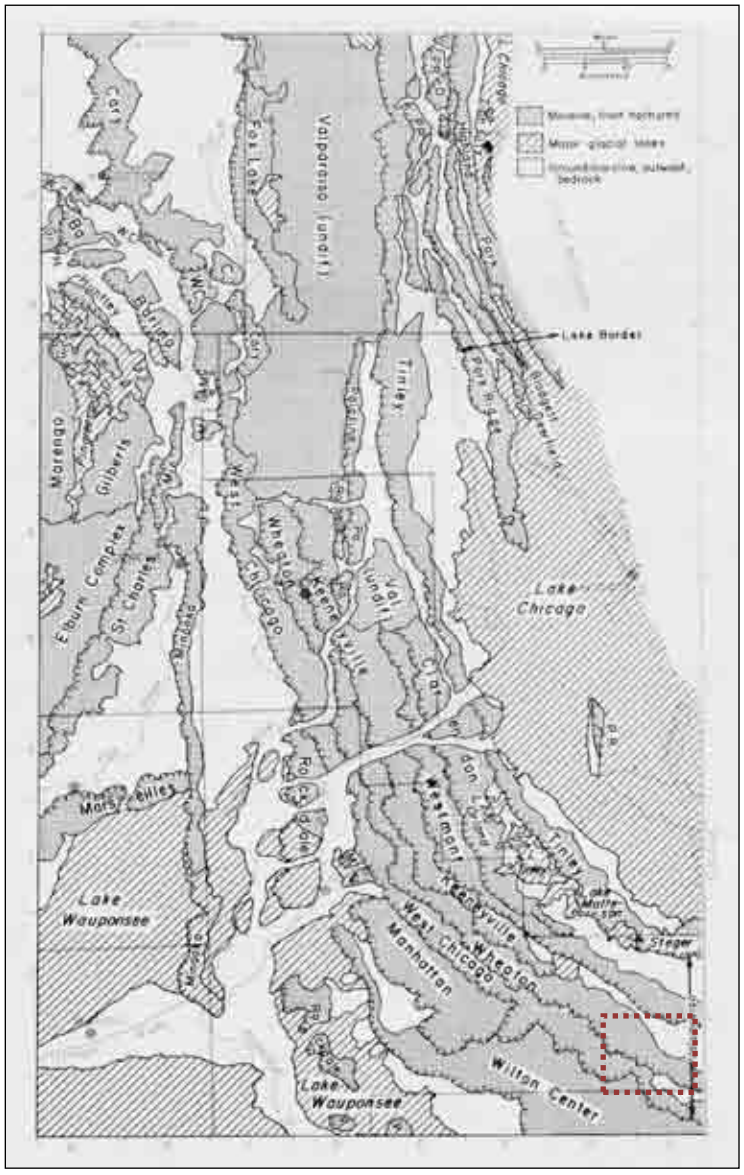
[3] *Kankakee River Basin Study: A Comprehensive Plan for Water Resource Development* (Springfield: Illinois Bureau of Water Resources, 1967), 2–8.

[4] *Soil Survey of Will County, Illinois* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, in cooperation with Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, 2004).

Approximately four square miles in northwestern Washington Township are drained by Plum Creek, which has two unnamed branches arising in Section 7 and Section 8 respectively. These two branches merge in Section 5, and Plum Creek continues to the northeast through Crete Township and ultimately joins the Little Calumet River in Lake County, Indiana. Historically, the Calumet River system drained 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 of the Calumet River system from reaching Lake Michigan.)

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. Most of Washington Township lies within the Wheaton or West Chicago moraines, with northeastern portions in 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.[5]

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

There has been relatively little in the way of professional systematic archaeological survey completed in Washington Township. There are four identified archeological sites in the township. In 1928, one unspecified prehistoric site was identified along Trim Creek in Section 11. Also, three Late Archaic or Middle Woodland habitation sites have been identified, two in Section 2 and one in Section 28. These sites were surveyed in 1980 as part of the development of the Braidwood to Crete electric power transmission line. Supplemental work in 1983 at the two Section 2 sites led the investigator to conclude that the area represented a single large Late Archaic habitation.[6]

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

[6] John Doershuk, *Plenemuk Mound and the Archaeology of Will County,* Illinois Cultural Resource Study No. 3 (Springfield, Illinois: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 1988), 67 and 76–87, citing Frances R. Knight, "Archaeological investigations along the proposed Braidwood-to-Crete power line corridor, Kankakee and Will Counties, Illinois" (1981) and "Additional archaeological investigations along the proposed Braidwood-to-Crete power line corridor, Kankakee and Will Counties, Illinois" (1983).

The Arrival of European Settlers

French Explorers and Settlers in the Illinois Territory

By the time of the French explorations of the seventeenth century, the native inhabitants of Illinois as a group belonged to the Algonquian linguistic family, closely related to the Chippewa. The specific tribes in the northeast Illinois region included the Miami (located on sites near the Calumet River, the juncture of the Des Plaines and Kankakee Rivers, and the Fox River) and the Illinois (present throughout the rest of modern-day Illinois). "Illinois" was a native word signifying "men" or "people."[7] By the early to mid-1700s, the Potawatomi moved into the area from the region of Michigan and northern Wisconsin.

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

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

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

Early settlements founded as missions and fur trading posts, such as Cahokia and Kaskaskia, developed into the core of agricultural communities.[11] French colonial farms produced wheat for human consumption and maize as feed for hogs. A staple of the settlers' diet was wheat bread. Livestock for use as dairy production, meat consumption, and draft animals were also present on the region's farms. The open field

---

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

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

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

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

[11] Ibid., 33.

agriculture system continued in use beyond the era of French domination, and ended only with the influx of settlers from the east coast after 1800.[12]

Illinois in the English Colonial Period and Revolutionary War

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

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

Land Division and Distribution in the New Nation

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

On May 20, 1785, Congress adopted this system as the Land Survey Ordinance of 1785. (Eventually, frontier settlers west of Pennsylvania and north of Texas could walk up to a plat map on the wall of a regional land office and select a one-quarter Section property for farming, which was thought to be

[12] Ibid., 173–251.

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

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

sufficient to sustain individual farmers.[15]) In 1787, after about twenty months of surveying work, the first national public land sales occurred, consisting of 72,934 acres with $117,108.22 in revenue.[16] Also in that year, the Ordinance of 1787 organized the Northwest Territory, including what would become Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

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

Development of the Northwest Territory

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

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

Cutting across the western half of the region later known as Will County was a land corridor ceded by the Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Chippewa in a treaty signed in St. Louis on August 24, 1816 (Royce Area 78).[18] 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.[19] Present-day Washington Township lies southeast of this corridor; the area was not surveyed and opened to settlement until 1834.

[15] Opie, *The Law of the Land,* 10.
[16] Ibid., 15.
[17] As quoted in A. T. Andreas, *History of Chicago, from the Earliest Period to the Present Time* (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1884), 79.
[18] Charles C. Royce and Cyrus Thomas, *Indian Land Cessions in the United States* (Washington, D.C., 1899). Online text at https://lccn.loc.gov/13023487.
[19] *Will County Property Owners, 1842* (Joliet, Illinois: Will County Historical Society, 1973), 1.

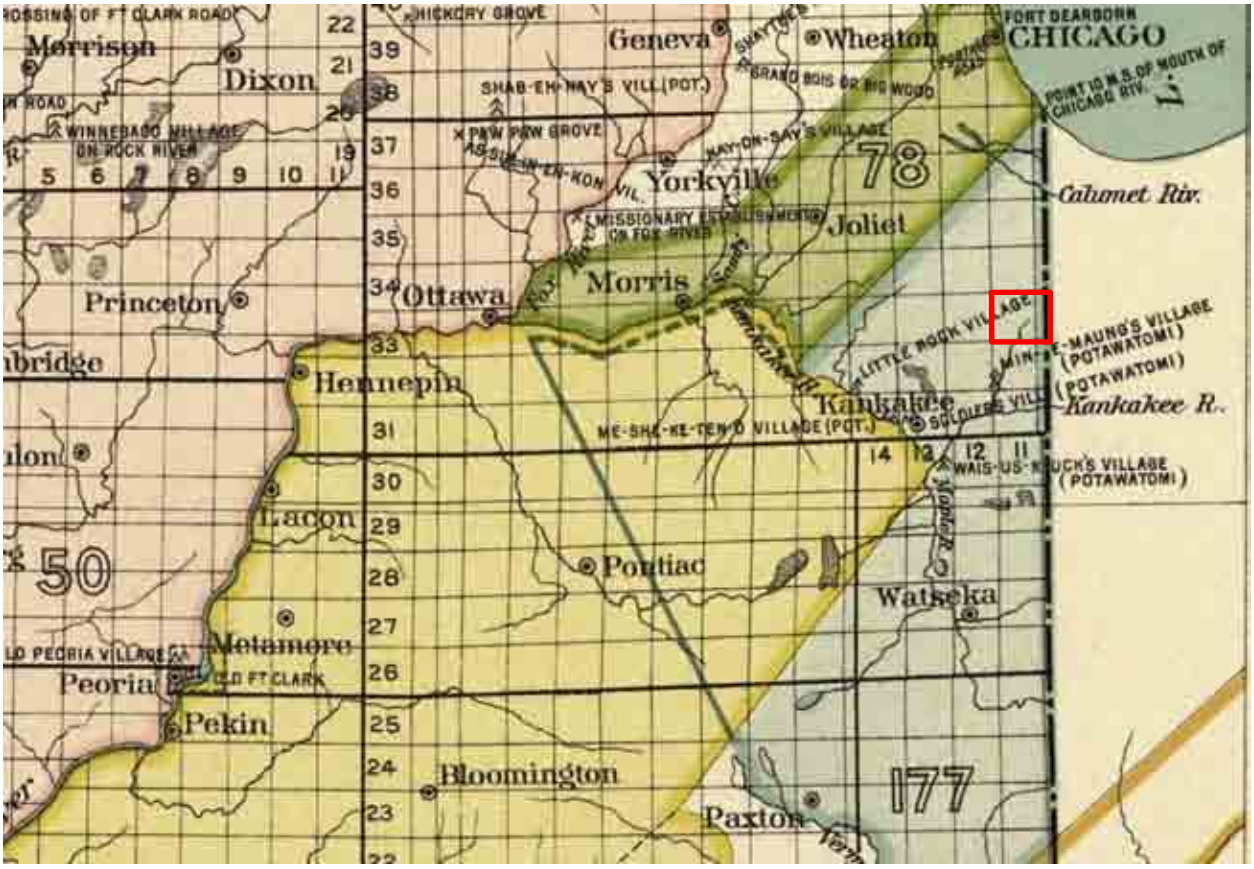
Illinois Statehood

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.[20] The statehood act was approved despite the fact that the population of the state was only 40,258 persons, less than the 60,000 persons required by the Ordinance of 1787. The state capital was established first at Kaskaskia and moved to Vandalia two years later. Much of the land in the state was the property of the United States government. Early sales offices were located at Kaskaskia, Shawneetown, and Vincennes. Until the 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.[21]

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 extensive Potawatomi lands to the federal government. The treaty of October 20, 1832 (7 Stat. 378) included all the land south of the 1819 canal corridor, west of the Indiana state line, and north of the Vermillion River (Royce Area 177). A number of individual reservations were established in present-day Kankakee County, but present-day eastern Will County, including the area of Washington Township, was ceded to the federal government.

[20] 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.

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



Map showing the land areas ceded under treaty by various native tribes to the federal government. Royce Area 78 is the 1819 canal corridor. The area ceded by the treaty of October 20, 1832, Royce Area 177 shaded blue on this map, included present-day Washington Township (red box). Source: Charles C. Royce and Cyrus Thomas, Indian Land Cessions in the United States *(Washington, D.C., 1899), plate Illinois 1.*

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.[22] 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.[23] The rate of growth in northern Illinois soon matched and then surpassed that in the southern portion of the state.

[22] Ibid., 51.

[23] 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.[24] 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.[25] 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 townships, 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.[26]

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.[27]

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.[28]

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 to the north of the 1819 canal corridor. 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."[29]

Immigration into Will County after the Black Hawk War increased so markedly that settlers began agitating for separation from Cook County. Residents of these settlements, then part of Cook County, demanded a more convenient place to record their land purchases and to pay their taxes. Accordingly, Dr. A. W. Bowen of Joliet and James Walker of Plainfield went to the state capital of Vandalia and successfully lobbied a detachment petition through the General Assembly. On January 12, 1836, an act was passed creating Will County from portions of Cook, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties. Will County also included at that time the northern part of what would later become Kankakee County. (In 1845, the boundaries of Will County

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

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.[30]

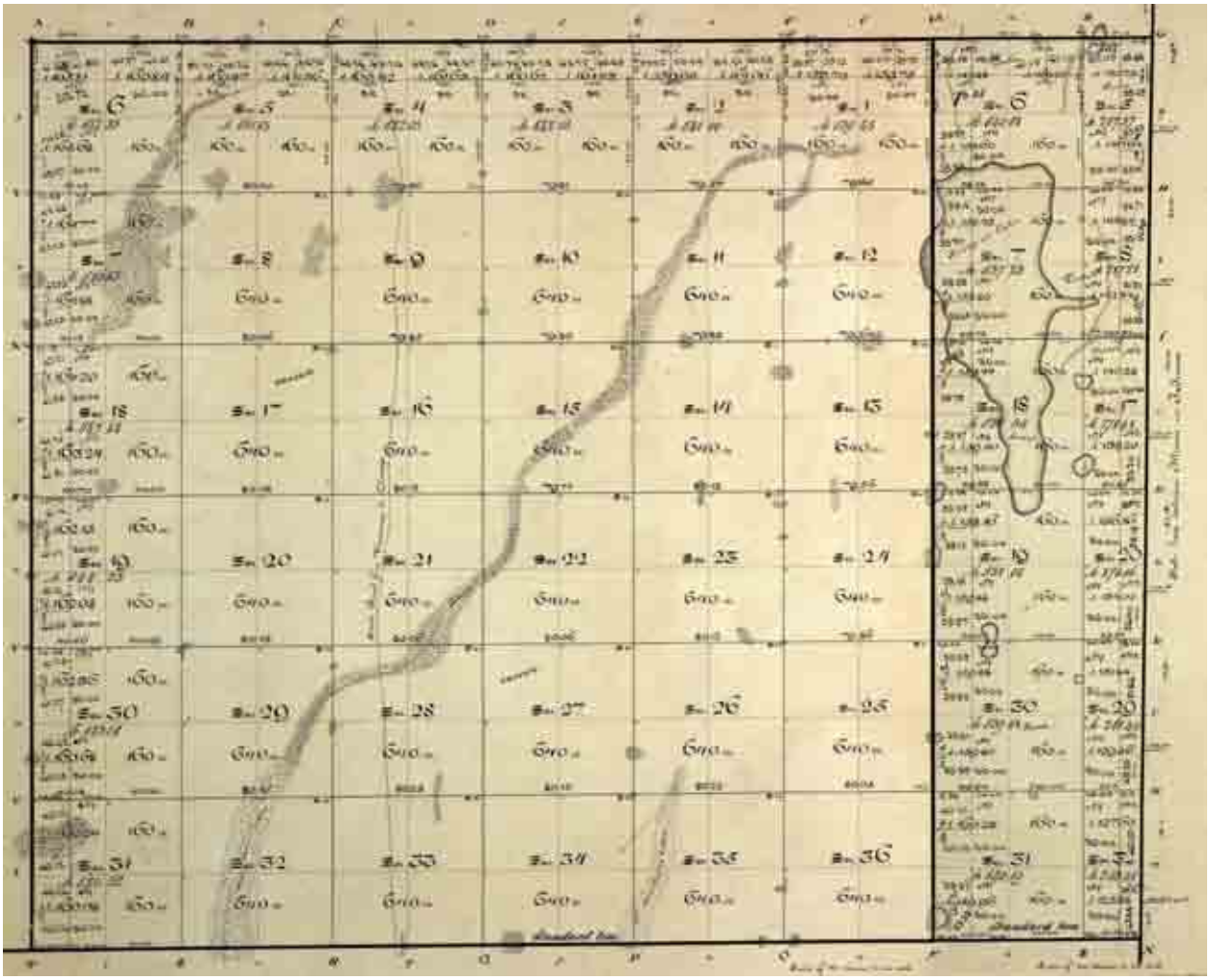
On March 7, 1836, an election was held to select Will County's first public officials. They in turn set the price of tavern licenses and created a book for recording the ear markings of livestock. Since swine, sheep, cows, and other livestock freely roamed the city streets and open fields, settlers devised 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.[31]

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.[32]

[30] 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.)

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

[32] Fayette Baldwin Shaw, *Will County Agriculture* (Will County Historical Society, 1980), 1. The site of Lane's farmstead at the northeast corner of 163rd Street and Gougar Road in Homer Township was marked with a historical marker commemorating his importance due to the invention of this plow. The marker was removed for its protection during construction of the Interstate 355 tollway extension and associated overpasses. The marker was re-erected in July 2011 about 150 feet north of its original location.



Map of the 1834 survey of Washington Township. Much of the township was open prairie. Low-lying swamp lands are indicated along Trim Creek and at the source of Plum Creek. Eagle Lake and an adjacent swamp are indicated in the northeastern portion of the township. Note Hubbard's Trail extending from Section 4 to Section 33, identified as the "State Road from Vincennes to Chicago."

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 sections within five miles of 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 sections within six miles of each side of the route granted to the Illinois Central Railroad (which passed through eastern Will County) were available for purchase from the railroad.[33]

[33] 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

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.[34] Until the twentieth century, almost all public infrastructure (such as roads) was thus maintained by each township with local tax revenue. Among the first townships established in Will County was Crete Township, which originally encompassed congressional Townships 33 and 34 North in Range 14 and 15 East, all of present-day Crete and Washington townships. Washington Township was separated from Crete in 1856.

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.[35] 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 by W. Holmes of Hickory Creek in Will County, produced at Adams' Foundry, followed by a turf and stubble plow.[36]

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.[37] 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.[38]

---

operated on a large scale, with corporations or individuals owning land in many states. Finally, East Coast capitalists invested in western lands—Samuel Allerton, a wealthy resident of New York, owned 2,000 acres in Frankfort, New Lenox, and Homer Townships in Will County and an additional 400 acres in Cook County. In time, settlers purchased the land from speculators. The Chicago Land Office was the last one opened and the last one closed, except for Springfield, which took over all the unfinished work of all offices and remained open until 1877. (Shaw, *Will County Agriculture,* 1–2.)

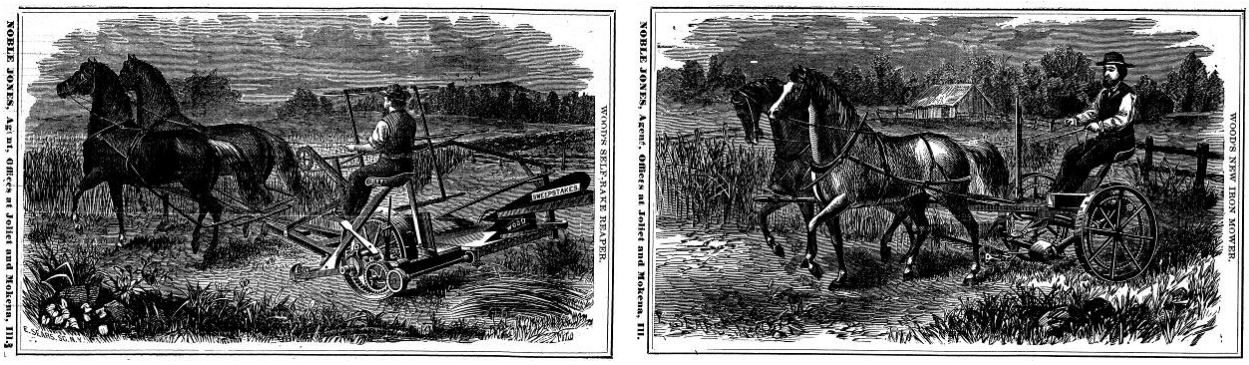
[34] Bryan Smith, "Township Government in Illinois: A Rich History, A Vibrant Future." <http://www.comptrollerconnect.ioc.state.il.us>

[35] "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.)

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

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

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



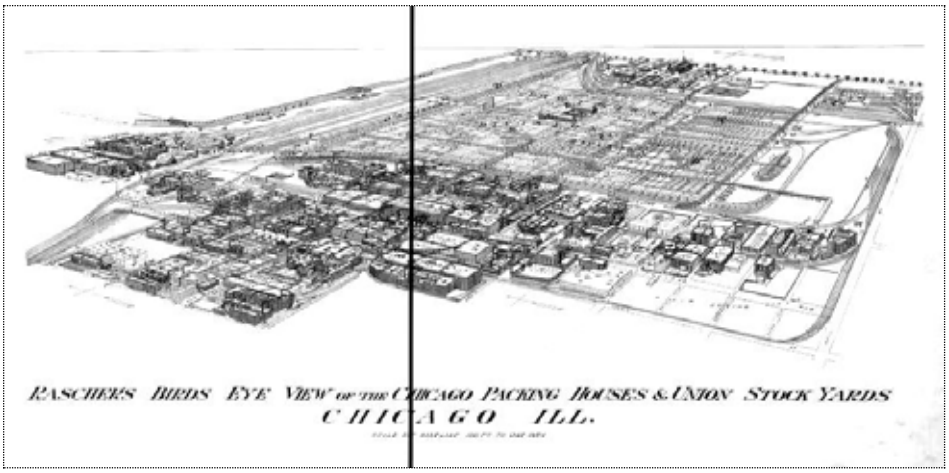
Two of the variety of mechanical farm implements that were available to Will County farmers after the Civil War. Above left: A self-raking reaper. Above right: A mower. Both of these were advertised by Noble Jones, a farm implement dealer with offices in Joliet and Mokena, in the 1872 Will County directory.

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.[39] 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.[40]

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 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.[41]

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.[42]

[39] 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.
[40] Ibid., 5.
[41] 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).
[42] 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.[43]

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.[44]

[43] 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.

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

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

Twentieth-Century Developments

Land area of farms in the Chicago area declined from 88.7 percent of total area in 1900 to 84.9 percent in 1920 and to 80 percent in 1925. In the century between 1830 and 1925, the number of farms had peaked in 1900. By 1925, the total number of farms was 5,000 less than in 1880.[45] 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.[46]

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.

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

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 soared, some people fled to rural communities, putting additional pressure on rural areas as most did not have access to welfare relief.[47] 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.[48] 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.[49]

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.[50] The farm population in Illinois declined from 1,341,104 in 1900 to 772,521 in 1950.[51]

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. 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

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

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.[52]

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.[53]

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.[54]

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."[55]

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.[56]

---

[52] Ibid.; Census of Agriculture.
[53] *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.
[54] Census of Agriculture.
[55] Charles Lockwood, "Sprawl," *Hemispheres,* United Airlines magazine (September 1999), 82–84.
[56] *The Code of Country Living* (Bloomington, Illinois: Illinois Farm Bureau, 1999), 3.

Washington Township Developmental History

In the 1820s and early 1830s, present-day Washington 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, crossing Trim Creek in the present-day northwest quarter of Section 28 of Washington Township. In present-day Cook County, the trail ran north–northwest to avoid low lying swampland along the Little Calumet River, passing through today's Blue Island, then northeast to Chicago (following current Vincennes Avenue).[57] Hubbard's Trail is shown as an existing manmade feature on the original plat of Washington Township prepared in 1834, identified as the "State Road from Vincennes to Chicago." Most early settlement of the township formed along this main route of travel.[58]

The first recorded European settler of the township was a Methodist preacher named Jessie Dutcher. He is believed to have settled in the area around 1845, occupying land in the northern part of present-day Washington Township. He built a house along the State Road and was operating it as both a tavern and a place of lodging for travelers along the road when the first permanent settlers of Washington Township arrived in 1851. By the mid-1850s, Jessie Dutcher had moved out of the township to an unknown destination. Four miles south of the Dutcher Tavern in Section 30 of present-day Washington Township, James McBein operated a similar establishment in the late 1840s.[59]

In 1851, the first permanent settlers arrived, including John Rose, a native of Ireland, who settled in the southwest quarter of Section 3, farmstead site 305 in the present survey. Though John Rose died in 1858, the Rose family remained in the township for many years after his death. Another native of Ireland, William Strain, arrived in 1852 and settled near the center of Section 16, an area now within the Village of Beecher. Other early settlers include Joseph Maxwell of Ohio, who settled a farm in the northwest quarter of Section 15, and Timothy Lathrop (T. L.) Miller, also of Ohio. Others arriving in the early 1850s included Phillip Nolan from Chicago, who settled in Section 10, site 1002 in the present survey, and Joseph White, who lived in the township from 1854 to 1858. Joseph White occupied the Dutcher Farm during his stay in the township and served as one of the first elected Justices of the Peace in the township from 1856 until 1858, when he moved to Indiana.[60]

At the same time that settlements were being formed along the State Road between Vincennes and Chicago, farms were being opened in other parts of the township. In the northeast quadrant, settlers of mostly German

---

[57] 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.

[58] In Washington Township, the route of Hubbard's trail survives as Illinois Route 1. The original trail was shifted eastward as the township developed in the 1850s and 1860s, to generally follow the centerline of Sections 9, 16, 21, 28, and 33. The diagonal portion of the highway in Section 4 closely follows the historic trail.

[59] George H. Woodruff, *History of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: Wm. Le Baron Jr., & Company, 1878), 641–642. The artful and euphemistic language used by Woodruff to describe the McBein establishment implies that it may have been a brothel.

[60] Woodruff (1878), 642.

descent occupied the hamlet of Eagle Lake, adjacent to the small body of water of the same name. First known as "The Settlement," the hamlet dated back to the earliest settlers, including Henry Bahlman, Peter Dohse, Pade Kruse and Charles Fuller. The hamlet of about two dozen homes maintained stores, shops, and a saloon, as well as a post office from 1865 to 1902.[61] Today, the Eagle Lake settlement remains as a hamlet of clustered residences in an otherwise rural portion of the township. There are eight remaining nineteenth century houses in this vicinity, as well as the farmsteads surveyed as sites 1202 and 5705 in the present survey.

Left: The nineteenth century house at 28920 S. Yates Avenue. Right: The nineteenth century house at 28822 S. Yates Avenue. This house has been significantly remodeled and expanded since the 1988 survey. Farmstead site 1202 is visible beyond. These house are on the west side of Yates Avenue in the hamlet of Eagle Lake.

This historic house (left) with outbuilding (right) is at 28832 S. Yates Avenue.

[61] Woodruff (1878), 643–644; James N. Adams, with William E. Keller, ed., *Illinois Place Names* (Springfield: Illinois State Historical Society, 1961, new edition 1989), 346.


Left: These two similar houses are at 28837 (left) and 28843 (right) S. Yates Road. Right: This building is the garage at 28853 S. Yates Road; the nineteenth century house at this property is located behind the garage.


Left: The house at 28863 S. Yates Road. Right: The house at 28903 S. Yates Road. These two houses are just north of farmstead site 5705 in the hamlet of Eagle Lake. All of these houses in the Eagle Lake hamlet were documented as sites 12-06 and 7-03 (Range 15 East) in the 1988 survey.

In 1856, approximately twenty additional families moved into the southern and western parts of the township. By 1857, the majority of the land in the township was occupied, having been sold to settlers or speculators for as little as $1.25 per acre. [62]

From 1850 to 1856, present-day Washington Township was part of Crete Township, but in April of that year, residents petitioned to organize a separate township. The first election of Washington Township was held on the first Tuesday of April 1856 at the home of Joseph White. The record indicates that thirty voters were present at the election to organize and elect township officers including a Moderator, Supervisor and Assessor, Collector, Justices of the Peace, Clerks, Overseer of the Poor, Commissioners of Highways, and Constables. Rensellaer Richards, who was chosen as Moderator, was also elected as the first Supervisor and Assessor and a relative, Edwin C. Richards, was elected the Town Clerk. [63]

The hamlet along the State Road was known as Washington Center and was the center of business and trade in the township during the 1860s. During this time period, the early population of Washington Township

[62] August Maue, *History of Will County, Illinois* (Indianapolis: Historical Publishing, 1928), 358–360.
[63] Woodruff (1878), 643–644.

grew from 578 to 1,574. Henry Langreder opened a blacksmith shop, Charles Holz operated a portion of his home as a lodging house, Samuel Loebstein owned a general store, and George M. Harnish operated a harness shop. From June 1862 to June 1870, a post office existed at "Washington Centre" on the State Road.[64]

In addition to the post offices at Washington Centre and Eagle Lake, a third post office briefly existed in the southeastern part of the township, on the farm of Lyman P. Farley in the northeast quarter of Section 35. A blacksmith shop was also nearby. This post office, called Sigel, existed from 1862 to 1868.[65] The farmstead at this site, tracked in the survey database as site 3505, was demolished in the late 1970s or early 1980s, and no historic structures remain in this vicinity.

In the early years of Washington Township, agricultural products mainly included corn, rye, oats, potatoes, and hay. The soil quality varied widely by location, and some flat areas with poor drainage hindered early settlement of the township. In the 1850s, during the initial settlement of the Eagle Lake area, hundreds of bushels of cranberries were annually gathered in the vicinity of the lake and its surrounding swampy terrain. However, in the early 1860s, the lake and surrounding marshlands were mostly drained, drastically reducing the original extent of low-lying marshland around Eagle Lake and subsequently destroying the cranberry industry.[66]

One of the most noteworthy agricultural industries to come out of Washington Township was the breeding of fine livestock. While many early settlers raised stock animals, T. L. Miller began acquiring land in Washington Township with the intention of raising Hereford beef cattle. A successful businessman from Summitt County, Ohio, Miller began his Highland Stock Farm with an initial purchase of 320 acres purchased from the government. With rumors of the Chicago, Danville and Vincennes Railroad being developed, Miller acquired land adjoining both sides of the proposed rail line with the guarantee of a railroad station within his property. He built a large residence, 204 feet in length, to provide office space, residential space for his family and guests, and 25 sleeping rooms for the farm and household help with a separate entrance. The commanding structure remained standing until January 1995 when it was razed. Equally impressive was Miller's 180-foot square stock barn, the largest in the county at the time, which was topped with a 30 foot, double-headed mill to cut hay and draw water for his stock, as well as to shell corn and grind grain.[67] By 1878, Miller's enterprise consisted of 1,000 acres to the east of Beecher with a value of $25,000 in land and improvements and $100,000 in stock. Miller employed fifteen farm hands, some purposefully brought over from the county of Hereford, England, to care for the stock. That year, Highland Stock Farm conducted approximately $30,000 in sales of Cotswold sheep, Berkshire hogs, and Hereford cattle.[68]

The Chicago, Danville, & Vincennes Railroad played a pivotal role in the development of the township after 1870. The railroad was laid out in the western part of the township in 1869 and opened in January 1870. The line ran from Chicago, 37 miles to the north of Beecher, south through Danville and across the Wabash River to Vincennes, Indiana.[69] A station was established alongside T. L. Miller's stock enterprise. The first station master appointed was Timothy Elliott Miller (son of T. L. Miller) who had been working in as a partner in the Chicago law firm L. Gould & Co. prior to his appointment.[70] Around the railroad station, a town was laid out with a business section on both sides of the railroad line and an additional

[64] Adams, *Illinois Place Names*, 538.
[65] Adams, *Illinois Place Names*, 507; *Landsmann No. 78* (March 2016), 16–17.
[66] Woodruff (1878), 641.
[67] Shirley Biery, *Beecher* (Beecher, Illinois: The Beecher Area Quasquicentennial Commission, 1995), 4.
[68] Woodruff, 648.
[69] Biery, 5.
[70] Woodruff, 648–649.

twelve blocks on each side for residential and commercial purposes. Streets in Beecher were named by T. L. Miller after close family members and business associates.[71] The new town was named Beecher, after Reverend Henry Ward Beecher, who was greatly admired by the early settlers in the area, particularly by T. L. Miller. Between 1870 and 1873, the town grew rapidly eastward, soon eclipsing the size of Washington Center and nearly enveloping it. The new village was officially recorded at the Will County Clerk's office in Joliet on December 6, 1870.[72] In 1870, the post office that existed at Washington Center was replaced by a post office in Beecher.

Another prominent local stock farmer was Thomas Clark, a native of Herefordshire, who first arrived in 1877 and drove his herd of approximately 20 Hereford cattle and a dozen Cotswold sheep from Ohio to Illinois. He purchased 80 acres of land from T. L. Miller, calling it the Evergreen Stock Farm, eventually growing it to 146 acres. This farmstead is documented as the Clark-Wille-DeMik Farrmstead, site 905 in the present survey. There he built a state-of-the-art barn for the time period, 60 foot by 90 foot in plan and 60 feet in height, suited especially for raising livestock. Hay and feed stored on the second floor was dropped directly down into a first floor feeding area. In 1882, Clark oversaw a trip to purchase Hereford cattle in England and accompanied the cattle back to America. Subsequently, he became renowned as a Hereford breeder and served on the board of Directors for the International Live Stock Exposition in Chicago for 25 years. His Hereford livestock won more prizes than any other breeder at the time and were often sold for prices reflecting the quality they were judged to have. One such bull, named Perfection, was sold for a record $9,000 in the early 1900s. Over his 50 years in Beecher, Clark helped in the organization of the First National Bank of Beecher, became a partner in the Clark & Bank Block building, served on the village board, was deacon of the Beecher Congregational Church and was active in promoting improvements for the benefit of the village.[73]

Left: The Evergreen Stock Farm, residence of Thomas Clark, as it appeared in 1890. This farm is documented as site 905 in the present survey, although none of the nineteenth century structures survive. Source: Portrait and Biographical Album of Will County, Illinois (Chicago: Chapman Bros., Chicago, 1890), 553. Right: The Clark-Wille-DeMik Farmstead, site 905 in the present survey, as it appeared in 1955. The nineteenth century house has been removed and replaced by a bungalow-type house. The large barn built by Thomas Clark still existed, at right. Unfortunately, this structure was demolished in 1985. Source: Drury, 490.

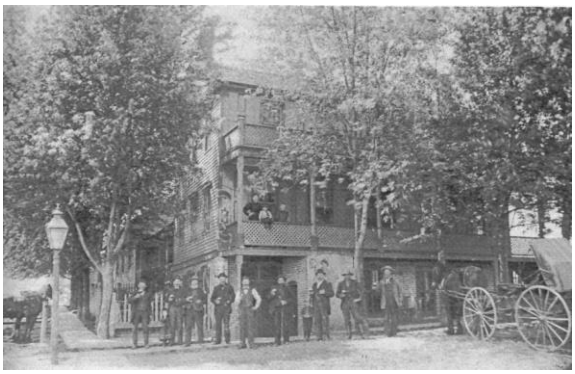
By 1878, several warehouses, five general stores, a lumber yard, a grain elevator, two hotels, a blacksmith, a furniture store, and other shops and dwellings were present in Beecher. Rudolph Pecht, justice of the peace, postmaster, and town supervisor, opened a furniture store in 1871 and, while also functioning as an undertaker, constructed caskets at the store. A railroad depot 64 feet in length by 18 feet in width was built in 1881 by the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad, which had purchased the Chicago, Danville, & Vincennes in 1877.

[71] Biery, 5–7.
[72] Ibid., 13.
[73] Virginia Churchill Bath, *T. L. Miller & the Hereford Cattle Empire at Beecher, Illinois* (Beecher, Illinois Historical Society, 1996), 30; Biery, 12–13.

The 1881 Beecher railroad depot today. After the end of passenger service, the depot was purchased and relocated to Monee Township in 1969. On December 7, 2000, the depot was again relocated, to this new site in Beecher close to its original location. The depot was designated a Will County landmark in 2001 and subsequently restored and opened as a museum.

The Bielfeldt House opened in 1871, an early lodging house with 10 rooms located on the east side of the railroad tracks and operated by Henning Bielfeldt until 1880. The hotel parlor served a variety of uses in its early years, from a space for merchandise displays and piano lessons to temporary office space for a traveling optometrist from Chicago. From 1880 until 1932, the hotel was under the ownership of the Hack family and became known as the Hack Hotel. The Hoffman Saloon, a three story lodging house and tavern with a large dance hall around back, was built in 1880.[74] Another popular stop along the road for teamsters of oxen and horses was the Old Stage Tavern, originally a home built by Charles Holz in 1870. Under the ownership of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Boltman, the tavern was renowned for its authentic German cuisine. A dance hall in the same building made the location very popular. The Old Stage Tavern has changed hands over the years and has been renovated, but it remains in business to this day under the name The Princess Cafe.[75]

[74] Biery, 6–8.
[75] *Beecher, Illinois 1870–1970: Schooners to Satellites* (Crown Point, Indiana: L.E. Laney, 1970), 3.



Left: The Bielfeldt House. Source: Beecher 1870–1970, 7. Right: The Hoffman Saloon. Source: Beecher 1870–1970, 11. This building still exists in downtown Beecher; refer to the photograph on page 4.

In Beecher in May 1882, German immigrant Louis Metterhausen began publishing *Das Volksblatt*, the only German-language newspaper then existing in Will County. He continued to publish the paper in Beecher until 1889, when he moved its operation to Joliet.[76] In association with his livestock business, T. L. Miller opened a printing office and established the *Breeders' Journal* to promote the growth of the Hereford cattle breed in America, publishing eight volumes of it in Beecher from 1880 to 1888. He also published the first two volumes of the *Hereford Herd Book* which documented the pedigree of Hereford cattle.[77]

The first recorded meeting of citizens in Beecher was on December 24, 1883, in the printing office owned by T. L. Miller. In fact, four official meetings occurred before the end of that year. An initial decision was that the town should organize a local government, with a village president and a board of trustees in charge of voting on policy decisions. A Village President, Clerk, Village Treasurer, and Constable were elected at the meetings. One of the first developments from these initial meetings was the drafting of an ordinance regarding the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the village. Saloon hours were regulated to between the hours of 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and they were ordered to remain closed on Sundays and election days. Sale of alcoholic beverages was prohibited to any persons who were intoxicated or who habitually got intoxicated. Such persons were also prohibited from frequenting locations that served alcoholic beverages. Establishments were barred from exhibiting indecent or offensive conduct for the purpose of selling liquor. The ability of the village and constable to enforce such a set of rules became questionable over the next year, however.[78]

On January 5, 1884, the village board rented an existing building for $3 per month to serve as a two-celled jail. Locks, blankets, and benches were purchased to outfit the jail. In March 1884, the board hired Claus Babler at $1.25 per day to supervise the construction and installation of a three-foot-wide wooden plank sidewalk. That same month the village board gave authority of all trustees to arrest individuals violating the alcoholic beverage ordinance. A complaint had been received against the Old Stage Tavern, but on April 5 the village president called a special meeting to dismiss the case. April 15, 1884, saw a public election to elect six village board trustees, a constable, and a police magistrate. A second constable was appointed after the first constable was fired for his reluctance to detain intoxicated subjects. In May of that year, the board decided that village meetings were to be held the first and third Mondays of each month, a schedule which has remained in effect through today. An ordinance was passed to prevent stock animals from freely wandering through the village, with a fine of $3 enacted to enforce each offense. Additional ordinances were soon passed regarding disrupting the peace, fighting, threatening display of weapons,

[76] *Portrait and Biographical Album of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: Chapman Bros., Chicago, 1890), 199–200.
[77] Biery, 8.
[78] Ibid., 14–15.

enabling or patronizing prostitution, or keeping of a house enabling gambling and idleness, due to complaints from residents.[79]

The Beecher fire department was first organized in June 1884 and outfitted with five 14-foot ladders, four 30-foot extension ladders, one 18-foot ladder, twelve fire hooks, and five dozen paper pails. The equipment was divided between five locations around the village to enable ease of access in the event of a fire.[80] In January 1887 the department became more formalized when the first fire marshal, Henry Hack, was selected to organize and lead 24 volunteers. A fire engine hand pump and hose cart with 500 feet of hose was purchased in the same month, which is now in the Washington Township Museum. A Fireman's Dance was held to help pay for this equipment. The first fire station was constructed on the east side of Gould Street between Penfield and Indiana, and a steel fire alarm bell was purchased later that year.[81]

Also in 1884, a village hall was erected for a price of $1,075 at the southeast corner of Woodward and Penfield Streets, the same location as the present village hall. A new jailhouse was constructed adjacent. Further community improvements soon followed, such as the purchase of a "road scraper" to clean the village streets and the installation of oil street lamps. The first public works department garage, constructed in June 1886 for $92.64, was a 12-foot by 16-foot structure designated for storing tools owned by the village. In July 1897, $2,500 was spent by the village for graveling sections of Gould Street and Indiana Avenue in an effort to make improvements to the streets and roads to accommodate increased traffic through the village.[82]

The first Beecher village hall, built in 1884. Source: Biery.

The first doctors to offer services in Beecher, Doctor Ruden and Doctor Meyer, both opened practices on Indiana Avenue. Doctor Fuhrsattle opened an office on Woodward Street. In 1894, Dr. D. D. Van Voorhis arrived and, within one year of moving to Beecher, installed thirteen miles of telephone lines to improve communication with his patients. Dr. M. R. Miley arrived in 1897 and installed ten miles of lines.[83] Both Dr. Van Voorhis and Dr. Miley became leaders in the community with a lasting impact on the village of Beecher. Dr. Miley served as the village mayor for a time and then as the president of the School Board in 1907.[84] Dr. Van Voorhis, married to one of Thomas Clark's daughters, purchased Miller's Highland Stock Farm, and began his own cattle operation, eventually founding the Shady Lawn Golf Course on the property.[85]

On March 5, 1900, T. L. Miller died at the age of 83. At the turn of the century, the town he founded had over 400 residents and was continuing to expand and prosper. Building additions and new construction projects were now being constructed of more durable brick. In 1901, Dr. M. R. Miley and his wife were the

[79] Ibid., 15–16.
[80] Ibid., 16.
[81] "Beecher Fire Protection District." http://www.beecherfire.org/content/history/.
[82] Biery, 17–18.
[83] *Beecher 1870–1970*, 23.
[84] Biery, 10–11.
[85] Bath, 41.

first to have their residence constructed of brick and in 1903, Myrick Meat Market became the first brick commercial structure. The Beecher Creamery and the Clark & Bank Block Building were the next businesses constructed of brick in 1905.[86] The Eastern Illinois Brick Company, located south of Indiana Avenue and west of the railroad line, was the likely source of brick for many of the buildings built during this time period. Established by local businessmen Thomas Clark, Dr. D. D. Van Voorhis, Arthur Struve and Henry Stade, the company's slogan was "Beecher for Brick," and it employed 75 skilled men at its peak of operation.[87] A second brick making company in the area was the Eagle Lake Brick & Tile Works, which operated in the 1890s and 1900s and was located at the hamlet of Eagle Lake in the northeastern part of the township.

Left: The Myrick Meat Market, the first brick masonry structure in Beecher, constructed in 1903 at the southeast corner of Reed Street and Penfield Street, east of the railroad. Source: Biery, 35. Right: The building as it appears today. A matching brick addition was added to the south side sometime after original construction.

Left: The Clark & Bank Block building is another early 1900s brick building, opposite the Myrick Meat Market on the north site of Penfield Street. Source: Biery, 36. Right: The building as it appears today.

By 1901, the original wooden sidewalks that had been constructed along the main streets of Beecher were in poor condition. A new village ordinance, adopted in November 1901, required the installation of cement sidewalks. Residents responsible for this construction would be reimbursed by the village for one-third the total cost of construction. The first motorized vehicles owned by residents began arriving in town around 1908. New village ordinances followed to regulate acceptable driving distances from property lines at 17.5 feet and establishing a speed limit throughout all village roads at 10 miles per hour. Automobiles were

[86] Biery, 33–36.
[87] *Beecher 1870–1970*, 20.

required to stop at the side of the road to accommodate passing horses in an effort to keep from frightening them. Improvements to the streets became necessary due to the increasing traffic, and the improvements led to localized flooding and a call for storm sewers in 1908. A contract for new electric lines was awarded in 1908 to provide new street lights and offer access to electrical lines for residents of the village.[88]

Dairy production in Washington Township was supported by the Beecher Creamery Company, owned by Charles Bahlman. This company would collect milk from area farms, cool it with ice, and stack it for delivery by train to the Englewood Dairy on Chicago's South Side. Later, due to the growth of the dairy industry in the area, a bottling plant was established in Beecher, the first plant south of Chicago.[89] In 1905, a separate railroad spur was constructed to facilitate shipping from a new creamery building and bottling plant built on the west side of Reed Street, just north of Hodges Street. This new plant, built at a cost of $10,000, was a modern facility with a continuous flow pasteurizing system and an automatic washer. In 1913, the Dixie Dairy was founded. The manager of the Beecher Creamery, C. B. Eskilon, eventually constructed two additional plants in Chicago Heights and Harvey, Illinois, before being bought out by the Dixie Dairy Company in 1922. In addition to his initial success in the dairy industry, C. B. Eskilon served as the fire chief, president of the school board, and village president for six terms.[90]

The Beecher Creamery, built in 1905. These buildings no longer exist. Source: Beecher 1870–1970, 19.

The Clark & Bank Block Building was occupied by First National Bank, formerly The Bank of Beecher established in 1896, and located at the northeast corner of Reed and Penfield Streets. Major investors in the building were Thomas Clark and Arthur Struve. Other sections of the first floor of the building held a pharmacy and a saloon. The upper floor, known as Clark-Struve Hall, had a large stage filling the east wall of the space and became the typical location for indoor social activities in town. Events such as dances, box socials, church bazaars, plays, school graduations, and political rallies were all held in the hall.[91]

In 1908, a concrete block manufacturing enterprise was formed by two men from Peotone, Gustav Hoff and William Wiggenhauser. By offering free architectural plans for any new building constructed of their concrete block, their business expanded and continued operation for the next 50 years. August Ehrhardt, county treasurer, postmaster in Beecher, and general store owner, was the first to have a house constructed of concrete block as an example of the potential structures that could be constructed from the material and

[88] Biery, 45–46.
[89] Biery, 34; Maue, 364–365; *Beecher 1870–1970*, 19.
[90] Biery, 33–34; *Beecher 1870–1970*, 19.
[91] Biery, 35–37.

to demonstrate its durability and strength despite the lesser expense as compared to other commonly used materials. Four other houses were also constructed from concrete block including one for the family of Gustav Hoff. Other buildings constructed by Hoff and Wiggenhauser included the Washington Township Community Hall, Reising's Garage, Village Hall, and the Post Office.[92]

D. J. Stevens from Arcadia, Wisconsin, arrived in town in 1907 and began an eight page weekly newspaper called the *Beecher Herald*. Local and national news were reported in the newspaper as well as popular serials and other feature stories of the time. D. J. Stevens died in 1933, but the newspaper survived until 2016, when it merged with other area local papers in the county.[93]

The Cloidt Elevator burned down in 1909, was rebuilt in 1910, and purchased by Fred and Charles Heldt for $8,500. In March 1915, however, a group of farmers purchased the elevator for $8,350, dividing it into 167 individual shares and thus incorporating the Farmers Grain Company of Beecher.[94] The banks in Beecher similarly experienced growth and changes in ownership. In 1906, Arthur Struve and a Mr. Hawkins founded the First National Bank. It was purchased in 1916 by Herman E. Ehlers and E. C. Curtis and became the Farmers National Bank. That same year, William Werner founded First State Bank, occupying the building that was formerly the First National Bank. It later moved to its own building in 1921.[95]

Operations in existing businesses were enhanced by acquisitions of the latest in new machinery and equipment. The Hoff & Wiggenhauser Cement Company purchased a truck with a mounted gasoline powered mixer and a stationary mixer, so hand mixing of concrete materials was no longer required. A well drilling machine was purchased by Gerhard Wehling to start a well drilling and repair business in 1913. A butter making department was added at the Beecher Creamery in 1915 as well as a $12,000 condensing plant in 1918, which permitted storage of surplus milk. Even the barber shop installed a new electric machine for massage and shampoo, a new 16-foot back mirror, and a third barber chair. An "auto hearse" service began to be offered by local undertakers Hack & Hinze in the fall of 1915 to replace the standard buggy and wagon service, while transition of the equine livery stable operated by the Hack family to chauffeur driven automobile service occurred in 1918. Resident Herman Bockelman introduced the first automobile parts store to Beecher and became a local agent for purchases of Jeffrey, Paige, Rambler, and Overland automobiles.[96]

By the 1920s, other businesses in the Village of Beecher included a general merchandise store, a dry goods store, two doctors, an apothecary, two soda fountains, and a jewelry store. A police department and a waterworks had been constructed, and plans for a community hall building had been proposed.[97]

The fire at the Cloidt elevator highlighted the importance of a village waterworks system. On June 17, 1910, an ordinance was passed to establish a village waterworks system for the primary purpose of fire protection and additionally to provide a water source for inhabitants of the village. Avery and Alpiner of Kankakee successfully bid to build a pumping station at a cost of $5,084.75. The waterworks facility was completed in May 1911 with pressure tanks to hold 28,000 gallons of water to be distributed by a network of 5,721 feet of 8-inch pipe and 10,810 feet of 6-inch diameter pipe with 34 fire hydrants located across the village. Altogether, the waterworks cost the village $25,000.[98]

[92] Biery, 37–38; *Beecher 1870–1970*, 25.
[93] Biery, 38–39.
[94] Biery, 56.
[95] *Beecher 1870–1970*, 9–13.
[96] Biery, 57–59.
[97] Biery, 34; Maue, 364–365.
[98] Biery, 61–62; *Beecher 1870–1970*, 5.

In 1908, an electrical plant was constructed though, by November 1914, the need for a second plant with more than double its capacity was required. The second plant was powered by a 50 horsepower gasoline engine and a 30 kilowatt generator. The plant was responsible for streetlights and electricity to businesses and residences in the village.[99]

The growing use of motor vehicles necessitated improvements to roadways and new ordinances in the village. Speed limits of 10 mph in the business district, 15 mph in concentrated residential areas, and 6 mph when turning corners came into effect. To improve the roadways, Camp Allen was set up to house and feed 60 men from the Joliet penitentiary for a four month duration to provide labor for road improvement activities. The Camp Allen crew aided in the completion of stone roads connecting the Indiana State Line to the Will Township Line and north–south from Crete to the southern county line.[100]

Illinois Route 1 (also known as Dixie Highway) was completed within Washington Township in 1919–1921. It was the first concrete road constructed in Illinois. The road, which travels generally north–south and connects Chicago to Hardin County at the southern edge of the state, followed the eastern edge of the Village of Beecher. One-quarter of the cost of building the road within Will County was borne by the county. Within Washington Township, the highway followed the approximate path of Hubbard's Trail as laid out in 1824, but shifted slightly east to follow the centerline of Sections 9, 16, 21, 28, and 33. Local farm products such as milk began to be typically shipped by truck rather than train in the 1910s.[101]

Dixie Highway, circa 1930s, in Beecher. Source: Beecher Historical Society.

[99] Biery, 62.
[100] Ibid.
[101] Maue, 364; Triebold and Monks, "Dixie Highway," in *Crete Remembered: Visit the Early Days of Crete, Illinois,* volume 1 (self-published, 2003), article 46.

Thirty-nine men from Washington Township served in the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I. Fortunately, all returned home safely. Back in Beecher, a local branch of the American Red Cross was formed in late 1917 to knit items such as socks and sweaters and organize Christmas boxes to be sent to the troops overseas. A parade formed on Armistice Day when news of the end of the war reached the village before sunrise that morning. A second parade celebrating the homecoming of the veterans occurred on the one year anniversary of Armistice Day to pay tribute to them. Additional festivities included several speeches, musical displays, plays, and skits followed by a cafeteria-style dinner for all those in attendance.[102]

Moving picture shows became the trend in the early 1910s. Clark-Struve Hall became the venue to go to the movies every Tuesday and Saturday night. Dances, plays, and musical events continued to be offered at Clark-Struve Hall. Excursions in motor vehicles began to be organized in good weather for large group picnics and once to an aviation field 100 miles away in Rantoul.[103]

Band music played a large part in community celebrations in Beecher thanks to Reub Wegert. A successful barber who arrived in Beecher after the turn of the century, he was also a skilled musician who was the cornet soloist in the Dellwood Band in Joliet in 1906 and 1907, a prestigious position. Wegert directed bands in Momence and Sollitt before becoming the director and cornetist for the Beecher Band. He eventually became the director of instrumental music in the Beecher Public Schools, where he served for twenty years, from 1930 to 1950.[104]

On June 29, 1915, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, northwest of Beecher, celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a large event. Special railroad cars were provided to transport people to the gala celebration and over 3,000 meals were served under a large tent following church services. Prior to the celebration, improvements to the church had included a cement sidewalk around its perimeter, repairs to the steeple and installation of a larger finial at its top, and a new front hall and floor in the vestry.[105]

In 1916, local pitcher Welton "Rube" Ehrhardt was signed by the Chicago Cubs and placed on their pitching staff, although he never played for the team in the major leagues. Though he was farmed out to the minor leagues and then joined the Navy during World War I, he was later signed by Brooklyn's National League baseball club, the Robins, where he played from 1924–1929. He finished his professional career with the Cincinnati Reds in 1930 by beating the Chicago Cubs 9-0. After his major-league career, he played semi-pro ball in Chicago Heights before moving to Crete Township, where he lived until his death in 1980.[106] (His home in Crete Township was surveyed as Site 1002, the Paul–Ehrhardt Farmstead, in the survey of that township.)

The 1920s were a period of growth in Beecher. The construction of new residential homes was on the rise, many built in the bungalow style. In 1924, eight new homes were constructed within the village limits.[107] In 1921, the Beecher Volunteer Fire Department bought a three-acre site near the center of town to act as the first public park area in Beecher. Votes had been cast in the spring election on whether the village should buy the property for the same purpose but the motion was defeated due to the potential contamination of Trim Creek running through the property, the potential for flooding on the property, and the voter's more pressing desire for a sewage system in Beecher. The fire department, however, voted unanimously to

[102] Biery, 66–67.
[103] Ibid., 68–69.
[104] *Beecher 1870–1970*, 23.
[105] Biery, 70.
[106] Ibid., 83.
[107] Ibid., 82.

purchase the site for $700 and enlisted volunteers to aid in the landscaping work, which was largely accomplished by November 1921.[108]

A second project included completion of a community hall building, which began in the summer of 1928 and was completed in February 1929. A dedication ceremony for the building attracted over 1,000 people and involved several speeches, readings, skits, and musical selections. The community building featured a 25 foot stage, a seating capacity for 850 persons, facilities for presentation of moving picture shows, several meeting rooms, a kitchen, a banquet hall, and two bowling lanes.[109]

Left: The Washington Township Community Hall in Beecher, constructed in 1928. Source: Biery, 76. Right: The community hall as it appears today.

The 1914 electric lighting plant again began to be insufficient for the growing village. A franchise was signed by the Momence Utility Company on May 24, 1920, to extend their grid and provide Beecher's electricity.[110] Due to increased automobile traffic, twenty-four foot bridges were constructed on Indiana and Penfield streets to keep pedestrians away from the traffic. Between 1920 and 1921, the Chicago Road was paved with cement from Chicago to Danville and was renamed the Dixie Highway. An official dedication event was arranged by the Illinois governor with a parade of automobiles along the route.[111]

The first chain grocery store, the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company (A&P) made its way to Beecher in 1922. General merchandise stores continued to compete with the grocery chain well into the 1950s due to their larger selection of wares. The first gas station was opened in mid-1921 to accommodate the growing collection of automobiles in the area. The gas station was first located within a repair garage and later, in 1929, a separate service station was built. Automobile service stations and sales shops featuring indoor showrooms began to open up around town. In 1929, Beecher's first 9-hole golf course, the Shady Lawn Golf Course, was opened by Dr. D. D. Van Voorhis on the former T. L. Miller property.[112]

Local resident William Paul designed and patented the Paul Air Shotgun in 1924. Over 1,000 were manufactured along with shotgun shells. The shotgun was marketed as "the ideal shot gun for all small

[108] Ibid., 76.
[109] Ibid., 77–78.
[110] *Beecher 1870–1970*, 5.
[111] Biery, 82.
[112] Ibid., 79–81; 100. The golf course remains open. A second nine-hole portion opened in 1931, and a third nine-hole course was completed in 1987. The 1929 clubhouse was demolished and replaced by a new structure in 1964, which still exists today.

game." Due to the frequent repairs required as a result of brittle valve seals failing, as well as the onset of the great Depression, the manufacture of the air shotgun was discontinued in the 1930s.[113]

Civic organizations and clubs were organized and active in the Beecher area during this time period. The first meeting of the Beecher Women's Welfare Club was held on March 7, 1922. The club was formed in order to fund and organize civic efforts, such as the installation of drinking fountains, a memorial to soldiers of the Spanish-American War and Civil War, street signs and house numbers for Beecher residents, and the first band shell in Firemen's Park.[114] The club also organized the purchase of a new piano for the public school kindergarten and the new Community Building as well as landscaping and installation of a flagpole at Boulder Park to commemorate the service of World War I veterans. The Club remains an active force for community improvement in Beecher. The Washington Township Farm Bureau was organized in January 1920 with 126 members. Girl and Boy Scout troops were both organized in Beecher around 1925 and have also aided in community events and projects.[115]

The Depression years were a difficult time for businesses and families across the country. In Beecher, the local trend was no different than the events occurring nationally. Misfortune hit businesses hard. An armed robbery at the Farmers State Bank of Beecher took a reported $2,465 in October 1930. A fire at the Hack and Reising Chevrolet Dealership, the former Hack Livery Stable and later the Hack Garage, destroyed 20 automobiles in the showroom in March 1938, and it did not reopen for over a year. Farmers formed a community group called the "F Men" to protect their property and were responsible for apprehending five chicken thieves between the ages of 16 and 23, one of whom was charged with stealing over 90 chickens from area farmers.[116]

In 1931, Dixie Dairy Company president C. B. Eskilson closed the Beecher Creamery plant, casting workers of the plant and delivery drivers out of work. Though he remained the Beecher village president and a resident of the village, it was more profitable to move the plant's operations to a newer plant facility located in Gary, Indiana. The two banks in Beecher closed in March 1933 during the national banking crisis. While the First State Bank was able to reopen a month later on a restricted basis, the Farmers State Bank took two years of negotiations with the State Auditor to reopen. Local businesses had to reduce prices in order to stay in operation, due to the limited funds available to their patrons.[117]

Despite the Depression, many businesses survived and slowly began to thrive again. The first grocery store to have a cooled meat counter and refrigerator in the store, the Beecher Cash Grocery & Market, opened in 1935. The Beecher Asparagus Farm, with 30 employees, shipped approximately two tons of asparagus daily. The Shady Lawn Golf Club also reported fairly steady business, since reportedly most of its patrons tended to be notable persons coming in by train from Chicago.[118] Dr. Homer Hiatt, who came to Beecher in 1920 and practiced until 1960, joined his son Richard C. Hiatt and two other practicing doctors to establish the Hiatt Clinic. Hiatt was able to complete an extensive renovation of the recently closed Hack Hotel into a new office space complete with the most modern of improvements. The Hiatt Medical Center remains at this location.[119] The Hack Funeral Home also upgraded into a new larger building in 1934, the former residence of H. F. Thielman, built in the early 1900s.[120]

---

[113] Ibid., 86.
[114] *Beecher 1870–1970*, 49.
[115] Biery, 84–86.
[116] Ibid., 95–96.
[117] Ibid., 91–92.
[118] Ibid., 93–95.
[119] *Beecher 1870–1970*, 21–22.
[120] Biery, 93–95.

Telephone service in Beecher had begun with the installation of the first in-town telephone at the Hack Hotel in 1900. Doctors Miley and Van Voorhis had previously installed rural telephone lines to create points of communication between themselves and their patients. By the 1930s, improvements to telephone systems were occurring nationwide, leading to the transition from switchboards to dial telephones. In 1938, Illinois Bell closed their manual switchboard in Beecher.[121]

In 1934, a new tennis court was laid out near the Dixie Highway. Matches with pairs from other nearby communities were scheduled and attended by the community. In the winter, skating was a typical pastime for children when the firemen would flood a local pond southwest of the village. Kittenball was an early form of indoor softball played by girls in the community, while boys tended to play basketball in the winter. A Beecher Boys Club was established with regular meetings. After demolition, the Beecher Creamery property was donated to the Beecher Women's Welfare club and turned into another public recreational area.[122]

Another favorite was the free movies, sponsored by local businessmen and projected on a large screen hung from an adjacent building in a vacant lot near town. This was an attempt to bring more people into the village to shop, and the idea was a successful one, as families could stay in town on a Saturday evening. Neighboring towns soon adopted the practice in order to compete.[123]

Beecher's 4th of July Celebration at Firemen's Park began small in 1937 but steadily grew over the years to an attendance of 20,000 people in 1958. Revenue from the 4th of July Fireman's Picnic benefitted the volunteer department and has become one of the most important annual events in Beecher.[124]

After the Depression, street and roadway improvements continued to be a main concern for the village. Some streets were covered in tarred gravel, others oiled, and in 1939, bituminous resurfacing work was completed on six and a half miles of the Beecher-Peotone Road for a cost of approximately $60,000. A new well was dug for the village waterworks to a depth of 230 feet and a new pump installed in 1931. Tanks and piping at the waterworks plant were replaced in 1939. An expansion of the storm sewer system occurred in 1936 through funding from the Works Progress Administration. A request for speed limit signage on the Dixie Highway and Indiana Avenue was submitted to the State of Illinois in 1936.[125]

In 1941, an additional fire truck was purchased to be used specifically for rural fires outside of the Beecher Village Limits. In the 1930s, an addition had been made to the Beecher Schoolhouse. An adjustment in the curriculum offering all four years of high school in Beecher was made in 1940 with a designated bus for the high school students. Beecher created its own school district in 1948 and consolidated small rural schools in the area into the Beecher Public School providing buses for rural children.[126]

World War II saw ninety-five men and women from Beecher serve their country. Rationing during the war was followed by a boom in business after the war ended in 1945 as industry that was developed for the war effort transitioned into the manufacture of peace-time products.[127]

On the site of the former Hack and Reising Chevrolet Sales Garage, a new two-story brick building was built. The first floor housed the Reising Chevrolet Sales office and showroom with a service department in

[121] Ibid., 93.
[122] Ibid., 96.
[123] Ibid.
[124] Biery, 98; *Beecher 1870–1970*, 55.
[125] Biery, 97–98.
[126] Ibid., 106.
[127] Ibid., 103.

the back. The second floor was occupied by Beecher Recreation consisting of six new Brunswick bowling lanes. New stores for McCormick-Deering and Case farming equipment opened in town and local grocery stores changed ownership and relocated to newly remodeled buildings. A dry cleaners store and Hopper's Nip & Sip, a new soda fountain and restaurant, opened in town.[128]

A chapter of the Amvets (American Veterans of World War II) was formed in April 1946. The Beecher Sportsmen's Club, a chapter of the Illinois Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs was formed in June 1944 and over the years has collected funds for street signs, high school band uniforms, and athletic programs for the community. The Club purchased the Eagle Lake property in May 1958 and built a clubhouse and beach facility for members.

Changes in transportation affected Beecher business over the years. Although originally centered on the railroad depot, Beecher's small businesses became more dependent on trucking, as rail traffic began to diminish with the rise in automobiles and later commercial air travel. Yet despite the closing of the rail depot, heavy traffic remained on the Dixie Highway, which kept businesses in town and population concentrated along the highway corridor. In the 1940 Census, Washington Township had 1,663 residents, with 742 of them within the village limits of Beecher. By the 1950 Census, Beecher had 949 residents within the village limits.[129]

In 1958, the original 1884 village hall was voted to be replaced and the waterworks system modernized. A new 100,000 gallon water tower was built as part of the modernization. A new village and a new post office were built in 1958 and 1960 respectively. Natural gas lines were installed in the village in 1958.[130]

Left: The new post office (left) and new village hall building (right), constructed in 1960 and 1958. Source: Beecher 1870–1970, 5. Right: The 1958 village building, now the Beecher Police Department, as it appears today. The post office building remains in use but has been modified by the addition of a gable roof.

The *Beecher Herald* was purchased in 1962 by Russell Publications, but continued to be printed in Beecher well into the 1990s. Other small businesses have changed ownership, relocated, or closed doors with additional small businesses to replace them. Business growth has mainly trended toward the highway corridor, while industrial activity has mainly moved out of the area.[131]

South of Beecher along Dixie Highway, at the southwest corner of Corning Road, a radio transmitter was built in 1964. This station, originally known by the call sign WTAS, began broadcasting on October 1,

[128] Ibid., 104–105.
[129] Ibid., 111–112.
[130] Biery, 112; *Beecher 1870–1970*, 5.
[131] Biery, 115.

1964, on FM 102.3. Originally the station simulcast the local news and community programming of its sister station, AM 1600 in Chicago Heights, Illinois. In 1992, the station changed to a gospel music format, simulcasting the programming of AM 1510 in Joliet, Illinois. In 1993, the station was sold, and the call sign was changed to WEMG, although the gospel music format continued. In 1997, the station was sold again, and the call sign changed to WYAA. In 2000, the call sign changed to WVJM, and the format changed to "urban contemporary" music, although this was short-lived. After several other changes to format, in 2003, the station call sign changed to WYCA, and the format was changed back to gospel music, as "Rejoice 102." The radio station building built in 1964 remains in use for transmitting the broadcast.

This building in Section 28 of Washington Township is the radio broadcasting station built in 1964 as WTAS, since 2003 broadcasting gospel music as WYCA.

In 1968, the Beecher Volunteer Fire Department acquired a portable generator, two smoke ejectors and portable flood lights. This was followed shortly thereafter by a Jeep fire truck for controlling grass fires.[132] In 1973, the Beecher Fire Protection District was formed in order to earn taxes from residents and businesses to fund the district. Prior to this, all monies had been collected via fundraising events and donations. A second west side fire station was built in 1972 on the site of the Holdt Iron Works, one of the oldest businesses in Beecher, which had begun as a blacksmith shop in the late 1800s. A new band shell in Firemen's Park was dedicated in October 1978 to replace the original one which was deteriorating. In 1987, a new fire station was built for a total of $385,000 including equipment and supplies, to protect the

[132] *Beecher 1870–1970*, 55.

community of Beecher and surrounding areas. Transition to the new fire station allowed the garage space in the municipal building previously used by the fire department to be remodeled into a larger area for the Police Department.[133]

Left: The Beecher Fire Department, building constructed in 1987, view from Penfield Street. Offices are in a one-story wing to the north of the equipment bays. Right: The present Beecher Municipal Building at 625 Dixie Highway.

Village employees over the years have prided themselves in maintaining and planting trees in the Beecher area. From 1989 through 1995, Beecher was named Tree City USA by The National Arbor Day Foundation in recognition of their efforts as a community.[134]

Weldon Stedt founded the Beecher Summer Recreation Council in 1950 and it has been expanded over the years into several neighboring communities. Stedt additionally helped in the formation of the Will-Kan Baseball League. Hundreds of children in the community have attended the associated programs over the years and local community clubs such as the Women's Welfare Club and the Amvets, among others, have contributed to the organization over the years. Coach Stedt was honored as "Man of the Year" in 1976 by the Beecher Chamber of Commerce for his efforts with these programs.[135]

A Beecher Chamber of commerce was established in March 1954 to promote and discuss business interests in the area. In 1963, the Beecher Community Scholarship Association was proud to award its first scholarships to Beecher high school graduates to encourage and aid their future collegiate endeavors. The Association now manages three trusts for future scholarships and collects additional monies from businesses and individuals to administer as scholarship money. Other organizations for Beecher's Senior Citizens, a Lion's Club chapter, 4-H Clubs, and a historical society have formed.[136]

In the early 1980s, a new high-voltage electric power transmission line was built across Washington Township, connecting the new generating station at Braidwood to the existing electrical grid near Crete. This line runs east–west across the southern portions of Sections 25 to 30 and Sections 29E and 30E, continuing into Indiana. At Section 26, the line splits, and a portion runs north through Sections 26, 23, 14, 11, and 2. In Section 2, the line jogs one-quarter mile east before continuing north into Crete Township.

[133] Biery (1995), 112–113.
[134] Ibid., 114.
[135] Ibid., 121.
[136] Ibid., 122.

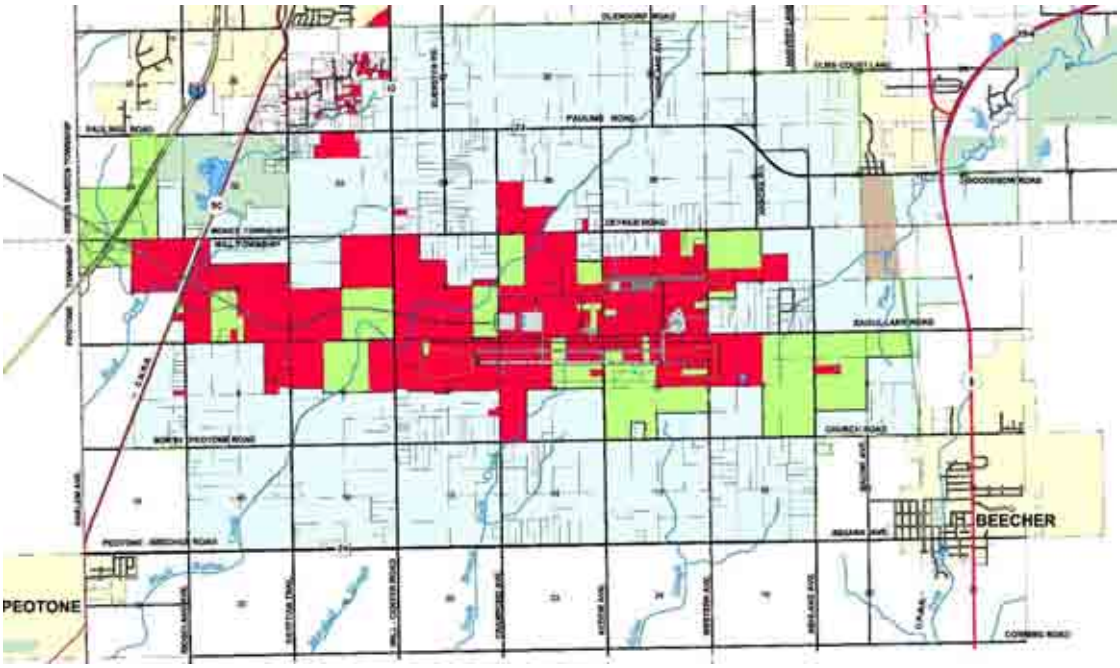
A community library was established by the Women's Club in 1987 on the second floor of the Community Building. An adjacent museum was set up by the Historical Society. In 1994, the community library officially became the Beecher Public Library.[137]

Unlike other areas of Will County, Washington Township has experienced relatively little residential or commercial development since World War II, and the township remains largely rural. In the first decade of the twenty-first century, the Village of Beecher has expanded, with new residential neighborhoods in the east half of Section 16 and in Section 9. However, growth slowed following the financial crisis of 2007–2008, and several residential subdivisions first laid out circa 2006–2007 remain partially unbuilt, with many vacant lots awaiting future home construction.

Two new proposed infrastructure projects have the potential to affect Washington Township: the South Suburban Airport and the Illiana Expressway.

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.[138] If built as proposed, the airport property would encompass a significant area in northwestern Washington Township, including portions of Sections 4 through 8 and 17 and 18. Two potential local landmark properties are located in this area, site 602, the Koelling–Wirth Farmstead, and site 804, the Lange Farmstead. The airport property would extend up to the western edge of the Village of Beecher. The northern part of the township would be in the flight path of airplanes approaching the initial runway of the airfield. (See Map 4 in Appendix B.)

[137] Ibid., 123.
[138] http://www.southsuburbanairport.com/



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

The Illiana Expressway was first proposed in 2006 as a new interstate-grade highway connecting Interstate 65 in Indiana to Interstate 55 in Illinois, five to twenty-five miles south of Interstate 80. The Tier 1 study of the project was completed in January 2013. Several alternative corridors were studied; however, the preferred alternative, identified as B3, would route the highway from Lowell, Indiana, to Wilmington, passing through the southern portion of Will Township through Sections 25 to 31. As of this writing, no funding for actual roadway design or construction has been identified, with the State of Illinois removing the project from the Illinois Department of Transportation's future plans.[139]

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

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

Schools

In 1855, an informal school began when a room of the Dutcher-White Hotel was allotted as a classroom and Sabina Graham was employed to teach the few students that were able to attend. In the spring of 1856, a shanty approximately 12 foot square was built in the vicinity of the Dutcher property to serve as a schoolroom until a better constructed schoolhouse was completed nearby in 1857. In 1858, the township was divided into two districts and a second schoolhouse was erected.[140] Data indicated in School Commissioners' reports over the years demonstrates the growth of the public school system within the township over the early years of its organization. By 1866, seven schools were in operation serving 237 students. Enrollment had increased to 264 students in eight schools by 1877. It should be noted that in this era, approximately 400 additional students were enrolled in four church-affiliated schools in the township.[141]

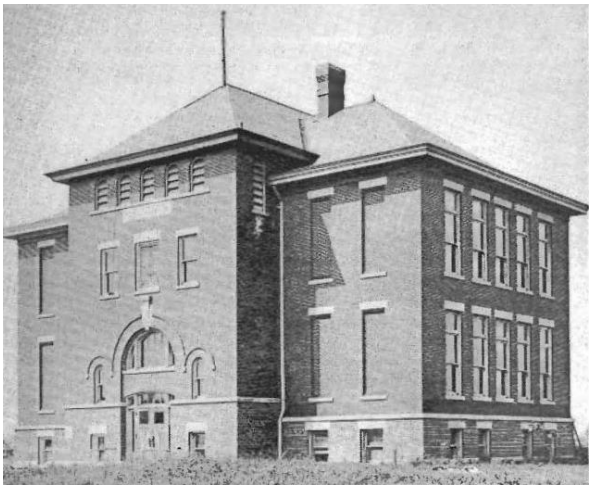
With the establishment of Beecher, a new elementary school was opened in the village. In 1902, the school in Beecher had approximately 35 students and all grades were taught by Lyda B. Smith. By 1906, this school had been divided into separate grade levels for instruction. In 1907, a new two-and-a-half story brick school building was built in time for the beginning of the school year. A stained glass window depicting a Civil War scene was donated by August Ehrhardt as a patriotic reminder to students. The window was located in the principal's office. (This window is now on display at the Washington Township Museum.) A three-year high school program began in 1913, with classes taught in the same building. The fourth year of high school had to be taken at Chicago Heights, approximately 12 miles north of Beecher. By 1920, Washington Township had seven one-room schoolhouses as well as the elementary and high school in Beecher. Total enrollment was 236 students.[142]

The 1907 elementary school building received an addition in the 1930s and remained in use until the 1950s, when increased enrollment required expansion. The one-room rural school districts were closed after the 1947–1948 school year, when the Beecher Community Unit Schools, District 200U, was established on April 24, 1948, encompassing all of Washington Township and the portion of Will Township east of Crawford Avenue. At the time of consolidation in 1948, total enrollment was only 185 students.[143]

With the consolidation of all elementary school students into the building in Beecher, one-story classroom wings were added to the 1907 school building in the late 1950s, and the original portion of the school was demolished circa 1961. Further one-story additions were completed in 1961, 1966, and the early 2000s. Enrollment increased through the 1950s and 1960s, reaching 553 students by 1965.[144]

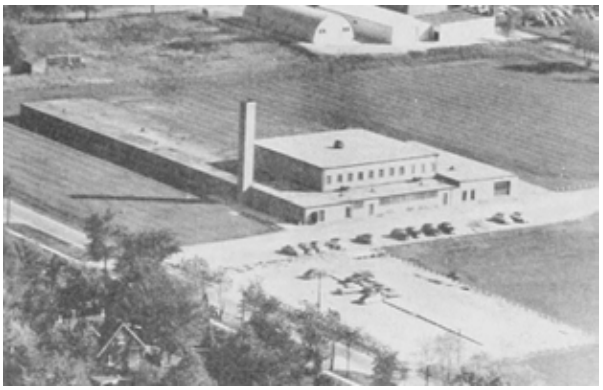
A new high school was built in 1953, with additions constructed in 1971 and the early 2000s on the south side of the original building. An entirely new junior high school was built in 2007 at the east edge of the village; after this school opened, the former elementary school housed only the lower grades.

[140] Woodruff, 644; *Beecher 1870–1970*, 31.
[141] 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), 39.
[142] Farrington, 121.
[143] Farrington, 201. The district retains the same boundaries today.
[144] Farrington, 202.




Left: The 1907 Beecher Public School. Source: Beecher 1870–1970, 31. Right: The Beecher Elementary School today. The new north wing, at center and right in this view, was completed in the early 2000s.


Left: Beecher Elementary School as it appeared in 1955. The original 1907 portion is at right, and a later flat-roof portion likely added in the 1930s is at left. One-story classroom wings were added to this building starting in the late 1950s. Right: The Beecher Elementary School today. The circa 1930s flat-roof portion survives, but the 1907 structure was demolished and replaced by a one-story classroom wing circa 1961.




Left: Beecher High School as it appeared in 1955, looking southeast. Right: Beecher High School today. Much of the 1950s character survives at the north half of the complex. New additions have been built onto the south side of the structure, with the most recent additions completed in the early 2000s.

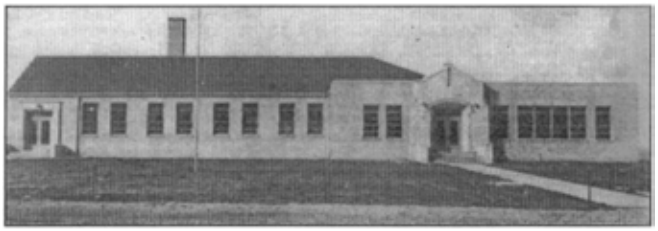

Left: The new south addition to Beecher High School, completed in the early 2000s. Right: The new junior high school, built in 2007.

Public Schools in Washington Township				
Map ID	**PIN**	**Location**	**Name**	**Status**
105		SE corner of SE 1/4, sec. 1	Eagle Lake School (District No. 185)	Possibly relocated to farmstead site 5606
306	22-03-300-014	SW corner of SW 1/4, sec. 3	Teske School (District No. 184)	Demolished, new house built at site
706		SE corner of SE 1/4, sec. 7	Meyer School (District No. 183)	Demolished
1605	22-16-309-002	Beecher	Beecher Grade School (District No. 182)	Remains in use as school
2207	22-22-300-003	SW 1/4, sec. 22	Heuck School (District No. 180)	Demolished, new house built at site
2505		Center of W side, sec. 25	Heller School (District No. 181)	Demolished
3002	22-30-400-008	Center of E side, sec. 30	Salzmann School (District No. 179)	Adapted for residential use
8003	23-30-200-003	SW corner of NE 1/4, sec. 30	Wehrmann School (District No. 192)	Demolished, new house built at site


Left: The former Salzmann School in Section 30, now adaptively reused as a residence, site 3002 in the present survey. Right: This outbuilding is now at the Tatge-Weber Farmstead, site 5606. It may be the former Eagle Lake School, relocated to a new site.

Church-Affiliated Schools in Washington Township				
Map ID	**PIN**	**Location**	**Name**	**Status**
1704	22-17-100-002	West of existing church	St. Paul Lutheran School	Demolished
1708	22-17-400-002	Beecher	Zion Lutheran School	School remains in operation. Current structure dates to 1952 with additions in 1962 and circa 2000.
2201	22-22-400-002	East of existing church	St. John German United Evangelical School	Demolished
5602	23-06-300-012	NW corner of SW 1/4, sec. 6	St. John Lutheran South School	Demolished; adjacent historic teacher's residence survives on the site.

Left: This house is located at site 5602 in the present survey. It was built circa 1870s to serve as the teacher's residence associated with the school of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church. Right: St. John's School. Note the teacher's residence in the background at left. Source: Biery, 19.



Left: The "new" Zion Lutheran School on Oak Park Avenue at the west edge of Beecher, as completed in 1952. Source: 100th anniversary booklet, page 12. Right: The school was greatly expanded in 1961–1962 and is documented as site 1708 in the present survey.

Churches

Four main churches were organized in the early years of settlement in Washington Township, one at the east side of the township near Eagle Lake and the other three near the village of Beecher in the northwest portion of the township.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran was the first organized church in the township, established in 1854 in the neighboring township of Crete and relocated in 1864 to near Eagle Lake in Washington Township. This congregation was an offshoot of the original Zion Lutheran Church established by German families in Crete Township in 1849.[145] The church erected a new sanctuary, schoolhouse, parsonage, and a dwelling for a teacher at the new site at Eagle Lake. The church was dedicated in November 1866, and the parsonage was completed in 1868. (The older schoolhouse in Section 25 of Crete Township remained active as the "North School" until 1940. The congregation also maintains a "North Cemetery" at the Crete Township location.) By 1878, 118 families belonged to the congregation, and it was led by Pastor Jacob F. Nuoffer.[146] The "south school" of this congregation in Washington Township operated until 1918. A new parsonage was built south of the church in 1970, and a cemetery is located west of the church. A community hall was added to the southwest corner of the church in 1983. Now known simply at St. John Lutheran Church, the congregation remains an active member of the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church.[147]

Left: St. John Lutheran Church, site 102 in the present survey. The 1866 church building remains in use. Right: View of the church and campus in 1954, showing the original parsonage at left, now demolished. Source: Beecher 1870–1970, 33.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran was organized in the spring of 1865 by Rev. Gustav Pollack, approximately a mile northwest of Beecher. Eleven acres of land was acquired by a combination of donation and an $80 purchase on which to build a two-story church and school with pastor's quarters on the second floor and the church/schoolhouse and a kitchen as the first floor level. Construction cost was $1,700 for a 24-foot by 30-foot main building with a 12-foot by 16-foot kitchen space. A separate parsonage was built in 1876 for $1,250 and remains in use today. Herman Lossner became the first pastor of the parish in 1865. Over the first thirteen years of its organization, the congregation grew from twenty families into eighty-five and the parish constructed a church building, a schoolhouse, a parsonage, and another multipurpose building. German and religious studies were taught to children at the school up to the age of 14 for the majority of the year.[148] Since the congregation quickly outgrew the church/schoolhouse, a 40 foot by 60 foot church was erected in 1879 for $3,375 with a seating capacity of 800. This second building remains in use today. By its 25th anniversary, over 450 members were listed in the congregation records. A cemetery was

[145] 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.
[146] Woodruff (1878), 645; *Beecher 1870–1970*, 31–33.
[147] "St. John Lutheran Church, Beecher, IL," http://www.stjohnlcbeecher.org/
[148] Woodruff (1878), 646; *Beecher 1870–1970*, 37.

established east of the church in 1903. Enrollment at the school was over 100 students between the ages of six and fourteen years of age until the congregation divided at the 1904 opening of the Zion Lutheran Church in the village.[149] The congregation remains an active member of Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church.[150]

Left: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, site 1704 in the present survey. Right: The original 1865 school and church building of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The day school was discontinued in the 1930s, but the building survived into the 1960s as a community hall. Source: Drury (1955), 483.

St. John's German United Evangelical Church, now known as St. John's United Church of Christ, was organized in 1863 two miles southeast of Beecher by Rev. Peter Lehman with a membership of forty families. Ten acres were purchased by the parish upon which they constructed a church, 30 feet by 44 feet in size, completed in October 1864 for $1,960. A parsonage was built in 1879 for $1,500. The first pastor was Rev. Phillip Albert who remained two years then was replaced by Rev. Emil Keuchen, who acted as both a minister and a teacher for the church.[151] School was offered six months of the year between 1879 until 1918, and the membership doubled to approximately 85 families within its first fourteen years. Additions such as a church bell in 1866, an organ in 1882, and new church windows in 1894 were purchased as the congregation collected funds. A new ranch-style parsonage was built in 1964.[152]

Left: St. John's United Church of Christ with its parsonage at left. Source: Beecher 1870–1970, 35. Right: The church as it appeared in 1955 with the original parsonage. Source: Drury, 484.

[149] Biery, 22.
[150] "St. Paul's Lutheran Church," https://www.saintpaulsbeecher.com/
[151] Woodruff (1878), 646; *Beecher 1870–1970*, 35.
[152] Biery, 22–23; *Beecher 1870–1970*, 37.

St. John's United Church of Christ as it appears today.

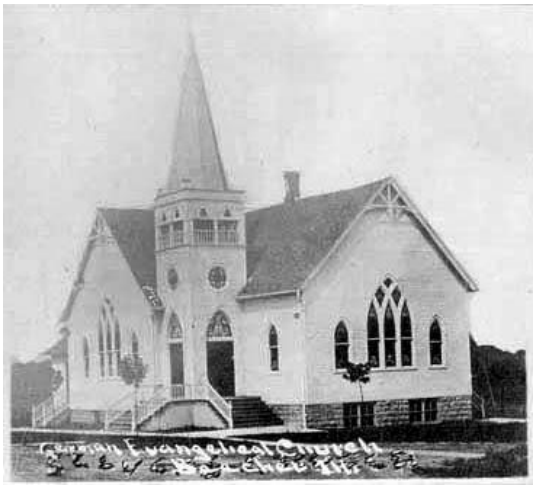
The *Congregational Church* organized in January 1872 within the village of Beecher on land donated by T. L. Miller. The eight-member church, which included including founding member T. L. Miller, grew to approximately twenty in the next six years mainly from the English residents who were not members of the German Lutheran congregations. The church was built at the corner of Elliott and Penfield Streets, 24 feet by 38 feet in size. Reverend William H. Beecher, brother of Henry Ward Beecher, attended and spoke at the dedication of the church building and two subsequent occasions. T. L. Miller was chosen as a deacon for the initial year and F. J. Smith as a preacher for the first two years.[153] Miller paid the pastor's salary and also taught Sunday school.[154] A second church building was constructed in the summer of 1904 on the same site as the original church, which was sold and moved to another location to be used as a residence.[155] In 1954, the congregation decided to disassociate itself from the Congregational denomination, and reorganized as the Beecher Community Church.[156] Today, the 1904 church building is the home of the Mighty Fortress Evangelical Lutheran Church.[157] The building is fairly well preserved, although the tall tower roof has been shortened.

Left: Beecher Congregational Church in 1905. Source: Beecher 1870–1970, 41. Right: The building today, now the home of Mighty Fortress Evangelical Lutheran Church.

[153] Biery, 23.
[154] Bath, 6.
[155] Biery, 47.
[156] *Beecher 1870–1970*, 41.
[157] "Mighty Fortress Evangelical Lutheran Church," http://amightyfortresschurch.com/

Two additional congregations were organized in the early part of the twentieth century, when village residents established churches that were offshoots of the older Evangelical and Lutheran congregations in the more rural parts of the township.

St. Luke's German Evangelical Church was organized in January 1902 in Beecher by members of St. John's German Evangelical Church. The new congregation was known as the "Deutsche Evangelische Saint Lucas Kirche," or St. Luke German Evangelical Church. Construction on the new building began in May 1902 at the northeast corner of Woodward and Penfield Streets. Reverend Daniel Bierbaum became its first pastor. A pipe organ was added to the church in 1908. Services were conducted in German, and men and women sat on opposing sides of the center aisle as was custom at the time.[158] In 1946, German-language services were discontinued. The congregation is now known as St. Luke United Church of Christ, following the merger of the Evangelical and Reformed and the Congregational Christian denominations in 1957.[159] In the 1950s, the original entrance and steeple was replaced by a new entrance facing Penfield Street with a new stepped bell tower.

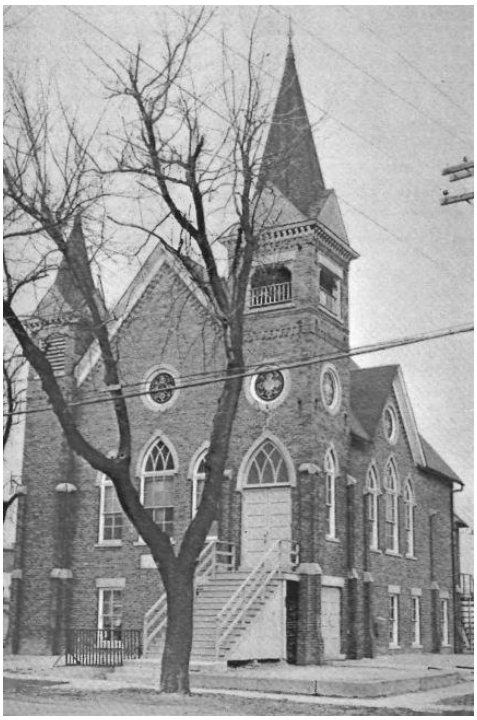


Left: Postcard view circa 1912 of the St. Luke German Evangelical Church in Beecher, as completed in September 1902. Right: Present-day view of St. Luke United Church of Christ in Beecher. The original tower and entrance has been replaced by a new entrance and bell tower set closer to Penfield Street.

Zion Lutheran Church, formed in Beecher by members of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran in 1903, dedicated their new church building in October 1904. A church bell was added and dedicated on Pentecost Sunday 1905 to signal completion of construction. The building and furnishings cost the congregation at total of $6,900. Reverend L. J. F. Going of Elmore, Ohio, was recruited to become the first pastor of the parish and was the school teacher from 1904 until 1914. All services were conducted in German until 1920, when English services began being offered. Services in German were phased out in the 1950s. A new school and social hall was built in 1951–1952 at the west edge of the village. With the completion of the new building, the schools of the Zion and St. John's congregations were merged in the fall of 1952 to form the Central Lutheran School. (The school was renamed Zion Lutheran School in 1962 when that congregation took on sole responsibility for the school.) In 1961, construction began on a new sanctuary adjacent to the school, and it was dedicated on May 20, 1962. The 1904 church building was thereafter used as a residence and for retail businesses. Today, this congregation is an active member of the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church.[160]

---

[158] Biery (1995), 46-47; *Beecher 1870–1970*, 45.
[159] "St. Luke United Church of Christ," http://www.stlukeucc.org/; *The Walk: A Journey Through 100 Years* (Beecher: St. Luke United Church of Christ, 2002).
[160] Biery, 48; *Beecher 1870–1970*, 47; "Zion Lutheran Church and School," http://www.zionbeecher.net/; *100th Anniversary of Zion Lutheran Church* (Beecher: Zion Lutheran Church, 2003).



Left: The former Zion Lutheran Church in Beecher, constructed in 1904. Source: Beecher 1870–1970, 47. Right: The building today. This church is documented as site 1707 in the present survey.

The congregation built a new sanctuary adjacent to their school on Oak Park Avenue at the west edge of the village in 1961–1962, site 1708 in the present survey.

Several additional religious congregations have been organized in Beecher in recent years. The *Beecher Fellowship Baptist Church* was formed in 1983. The congregation built a church in 1987.[161] *Faith United Reformed Church* is another relatively new congregation in Washington Township, organized in 1996. This congregation built a new church on West Corning Road in 2006. In 2010, a non-denominational congregation headquartered in Dyer, Indiana, called *Faith Church* built a new building on East Church Road to serve the Beecher area.[162]

Left: Fellowship Baptist Church, built in 1987. Right: Faith United Reformed Church, built in 2006.

Faith Church, built in 2010.

[161] Biery, 121.
[162] "Faith Church," https://ww.wearefaith.org

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,"[163] 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.[164] The materials used in the construction of a balloon frame structure consisted of milled lumber that was much lighter in weight than heavy timbers.[165]

Credit for the development of the balloon frame is usually given to George Washington Snow of Chicago,[166] 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.[167] At that time Chicago lacked a sawmill to produce the cut lumber, but mills were present in Indiana and in Plainfield in

---

[163] 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.

[164] 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).

[165] 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.

[166] 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.

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

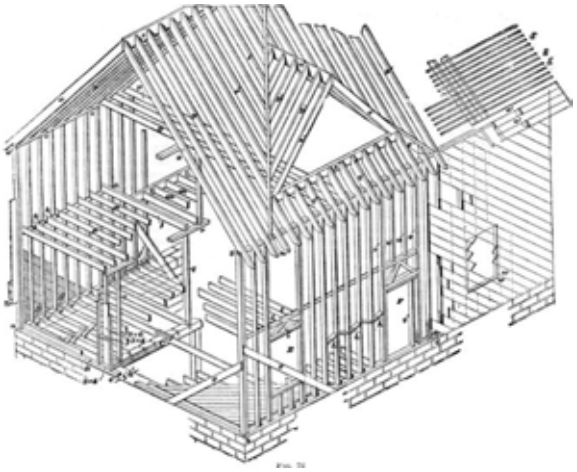
northwestern Will County.[168] However, these mills were relatively far away, and transportation of milled heavy timbers difficult and expensive. Therefore, it was necessary to develop a more economical construction system.

The classic balloon frame consists of the following elements:[169]

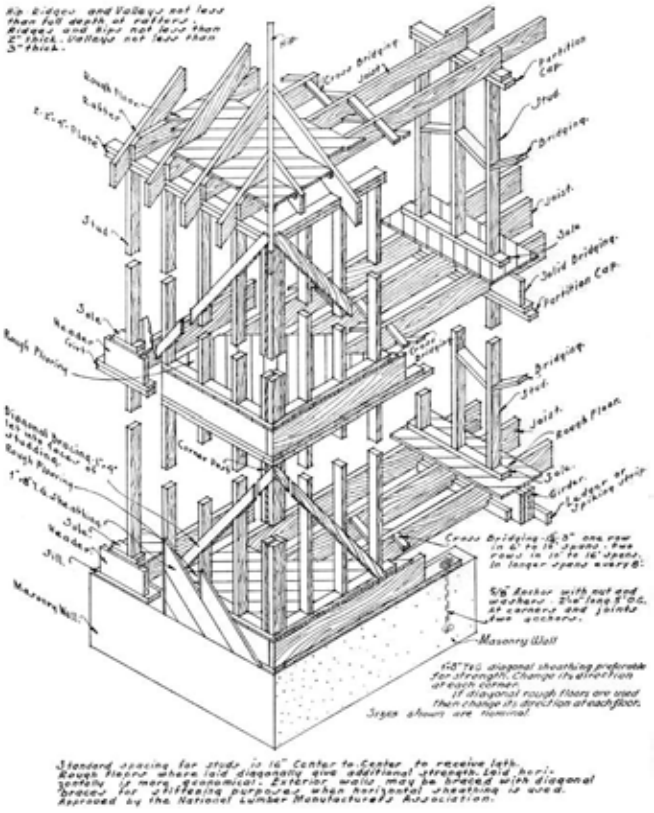
- A sill, made from a large section of milled lumber (e.g., 4x8) or two or more smaller pieces (two 2x8s), set on a masonry or concrete foundation,
- Floor joists (2x10, 2x12, etc.), typically at 16 inches on center,[170] reinforced by diagonal bridging, nailed to the sill and nailed to:
- Studs (2x4 or 2x6), also set at 16 inches on center, running the full height of the building wall, to which is nailed:
- Ledgers to support the second floor joints,
- Exterior wall sheathing, consisting of wood boards (1x8), often set at a diagonal to create a structural diaphragm,
- A top plate on the stud wall, on which are set:
- Roof rafters (2x10, 2x12, etc.) set at 16 to 24 inches on center, to which roof sheathing consisting of wood boards are nailed, followed by wood roofing shingles,
- Exterior wall siding,
- Flooring nailed to the wood joists, consisting of two layers of wood boards (a rough board subfloor followed by a finished wood strip surface),
- Interior wall finish, consisting of wood lath nailed to the wood studs, covered by two to three layers of plaster.

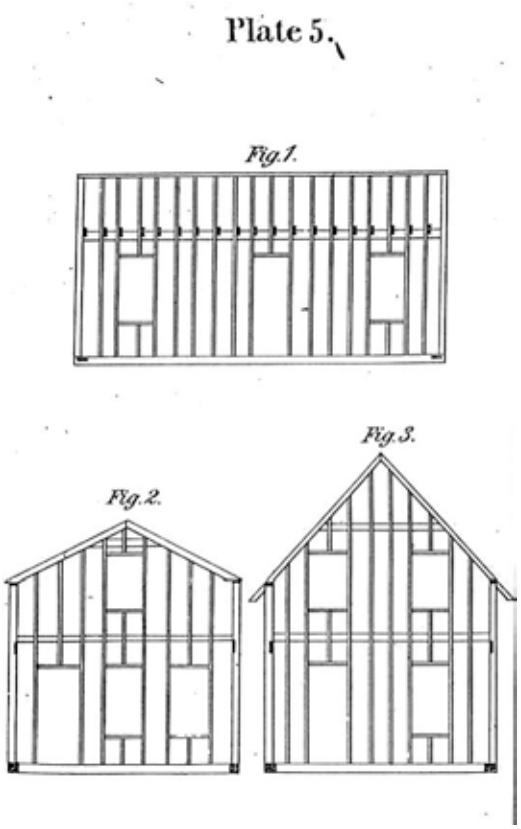
Since a carpenter with one or two helpers could frame and sheath a small one story house in one week, the balloon allowed a settler to have a dwelling on their land in a short amount of time. In addition, there was a 40 percent savings in the amount of material to enclose the same volume as compared to the braced frame.[171] 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.

[168] Sprague, "Chicago Balloon Frame," 37.
[169] 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."
[170] 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.
[171] 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)]*.





Farming trade publications touted the benefits of the balloon frame.[172] 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.[173]

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":[174]

> 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.[175]

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."[176] 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.

[172] Peterson, 15–24.
[173] 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.)
[174] Albert Britt, *An America That Was* (Barre, Massachusetts: Barre Publishers, 1964), 33.
[175] Ibid.
[176] 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. Locally manufactured brick was available in Washington Township beginning in the decade after 1900. A number of early twentieth century brick and clay masonry structures were documented in rural Washington Township, mainly residences.

The house at the Voshage-Herlitz Farmstead, site 8201, is a rare local example of historic brick masonry construction, likely dating to the first decade of the twentieth century.

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 Washington 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. Washington 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.[177]

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

[177] 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.[178]

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.[179] 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.[180]

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

> Concrete can be used on the farm for residences, barns, poultry houses, garages, piggeries, stalls and mangers, milk houses, machine sheds, ice houses, silos, all kinds of tanks and troughs, vats and wallows, manure pits, septic tanks, piers and foundations, sidewalls, steps, driveways, hen nests, pump pits, fence posts, etc. . . .
>
> Of all the buildings on the farm, which should be built of concrete, probably none is more important than the silo. Here is a structure in which it is essential to keep the silage fresh in order that the stock may be keep thrifty and growing all winter. The silo prevents a waste of corn stalks, which contain about one-third of the food value of the entire crop, and it enables a large number of animals to be maintained on a given number of acres. The concrete silo is ratproof, windproof, fireproof and will withstand cyclones. It will not dry out in the hot summer months, keeps the silage in perfect

[178] Robert E. Sterling, *Joliet: Transportation and Industry: A Pictorial History* (St. Louis, Missouri: G. Bradley Publishing, Inc., 1997), 116.
[179] Ibid.
[180] 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.[181]

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.[182] 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.[183]

The survey area includes a number of historic concrete block structures. Left: The house at the Ostermeyer-Buikema Farmstead, site 2303, is a distinctive local example of early twentieth century concrete block construction. Right: A concrete block crib barn at site 3101.

[181] "The Use of Concrete Work on the Farm," *Building Age* (February 1917), 102–103.
[182] Pamela H. Simpson, *Cheap, Quick, and Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870–1930* (Knoxville, Tennessee: University of Tennessee Press, 1999), 11.
[183] Ibid., 24.

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.[184] 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.[185]

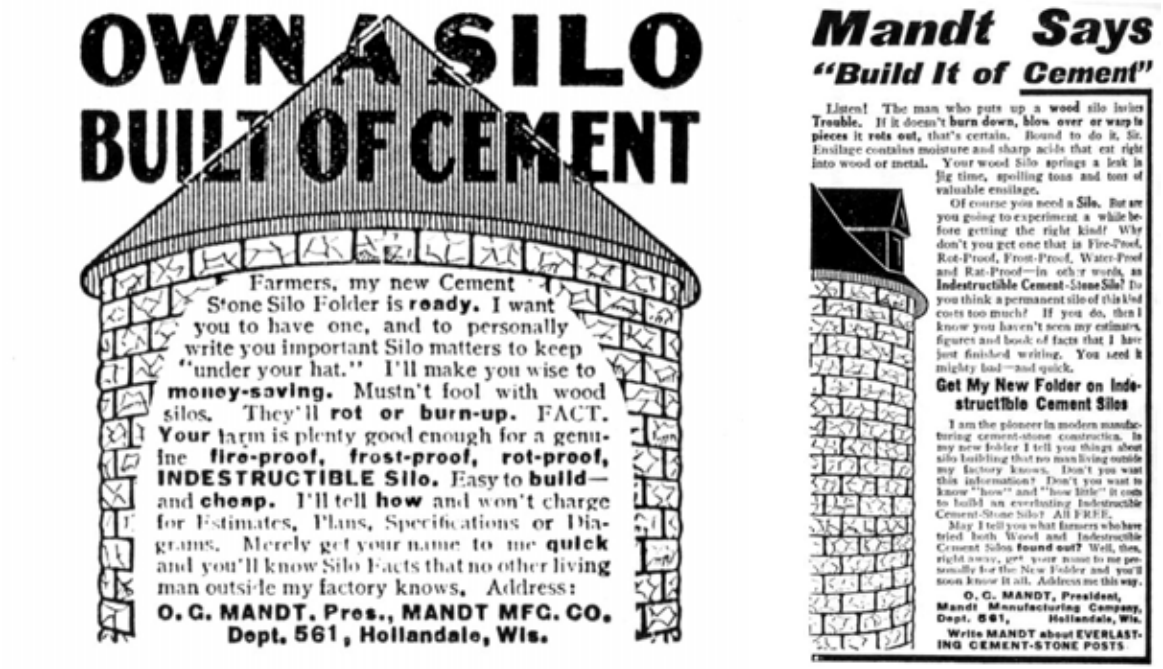
Building trade journals also promoted the use of concrete block on the farm:

> 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.

[184] Ibid., 21–22.

[185] 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.



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.[186] Another source of building ideas was agricultural journals. Although carpenters and builders rarely followed such books and journals exactly, these publications did influence the types of houses being constructed (as discussed in the next section) as well as the stylistic elements applied to those houses. Although it is unlikely that many of the buildings in the survey area were built using designs or supervision of academically trained architects, many of the farmhouses were built by carpenters and builders competent at applying fashionable architectural styles in their work.

Greek Revival

The Greek Revival style was popular in the United States beginning in the 1820s but fell out of favor after the Civil War. Inspired by archaeological excavations and measured drawings of ancient Greek temples, the style was developed by America's first trained architects and spread by pattern books that influenced carpenters and builders across the relatively young United States. American culture found an identification with the democracy in Ancient Greece. Greek Revival buildings have simple rectilinear forms, prominent classical ornament, molded cornices and window lintels, and other ornamental motifs inspired by Classical architecture. The style's simple massing and details went along with the sometimes limited materials and resources of rural areas. No true 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

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

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 houses in the survey area retain Italianate style details.

Left: The house at the Bowers-Meyer Farmstead, site 101, features a bracketed cornice that is typical of the Italianate style. Right: The house at the Hartman Farmstead, site 1006, retains a number of Italianate details, including a dentilated cornice following the eave of the roof, four-over-four wood double hung windows, and semi-circular gable windows. Original window hood trim has been lost.

Queen Anne

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


Left: The house at the Koelling-Wirth Farmstead, site 602, has a Queen Anne-style front porch. Right: The house at the Lange Farmstead, site 804, exhibits varying cladding materials exemplary of the Queen Anne style.

Colonial and Georgian Revival

After the comparative excesses of the Italianate, Second Empire, and Queen Anne styles, the Colonial and Georgian Revival styles are more restrained and utilize stricter use of ornament and proportion. Introduced on the east coast at the end of the nineteenth century, the Colonial Revival style spread to the Midwest over the next decade and became an influential style for larger homes and public buildings into the 1930s. The rectilinear forms of Colonial Revival structures are often symmetrical and have gabled roofs with dormers, classical columns and ornament, and ornamental window shutters. Georgian Revival buildings differ in that they adhere more closely to symmetrical floor plans, have strong cornice lines, Flemish bond brick coursing, watertables, and other elements of traditional Colonial period architecture. Colonial Revival architecture is not strongly present in the survey area, although a few houses have Colonial Revival-style elements.


Left: The house at the Ostermeyer-Buikema Farmstead, site 2303, has a Colonial Revival-style front porch with classical columns. Right: The house at the Smith-Claus-Morgan Farmstead, site 1005, has a non-original hood over the front entrance inspired by the Craftsman style.

Craftsman or Arts and Crafts Style

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

Prairie Style

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

Tudor Revival

From about 1910 to 1940, Tudor Revival was one of several fashionable revival styles in practice. Based on English late medieval architecture, the style was adapted to unique American building forms created by the balloon frame. Although Tudor Revival buildings were also built in stone, the use of wood and stucco to imitate a half-timbered appearance was a predominant feature. Often times only the ground or first floor was clad with stone while the upper story was clad with wood and stucco "half-timbering." The style also utilized asymmetrical floor plans and massing, narrow multi-paned windows, prominent masonry chimneys, and steeply sloped roofs. No 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 Washington Township.

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.[187] Building forms followed the movement of settlers from New England westward through the Ohio Valley to Illinois.[188] 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.[189] 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 Washington 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.[190] 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 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.

---

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

[188] 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).

[189] Kniffen, 7–8.

[190] 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.


Left: The house at the Heuck Farmstead, site 2101, is an example of the New England One and a Half type. Right: The Meyer-Stabin House, site 3403, 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.[191] No 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.

Upright and Wing

The Upright and Wing was popular in the mid to late 1800s.[192] 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.[193] The Upright and Wing type is common throughout Will County, including in Washington Township. Approximately twenty percent of the surveyed farmhouses are this type.


Left: The house at the Koelling-Stoeven Farmstead, site 401, is an unusual example of the Upright and Wing type with a 1-1/2 story "wing." Right: The house at the Busse-Manning Farmstead, site 903, is a typical example of the Upright and Wing type.

[191] Ibid., 126.

[192] 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).

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


Left: The house at the Freerking-Lichtenwalter Farmstead, site 2902, is a typical example of the Upright and Wing type. Right: The house at the Katz-Piepenbrink-Horner Farmstead, site 5603, is a later example of the type with chamfered corner windows in the two-story portion.

Gabled Ell

The Gabled Ell house type usually dates from the two decades after the Civil War.[194] 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 very common in Washington Township, representing almost half of the surveyed farmhouses.


Above left: The house at the Heller-Blomberg Farmstead, site 2503, is a typical example of the Gabled Ell type; the original porches have been removed. Right: The house at the Stadt-Heldt Farmstead, site 3502, is a typical example of the Gabled Ell type. Below left: The house at the Scheiwe Farmstead, site 1201, is an uncommon 1-1/2 story example of the Gabled Ell type. Below right: The house at the Fiene-Unruh Farmstead, site 3303, is another example of the type.


[194] 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. Five examples were identified in Washington Township.

Left: The house at the Smith-Claus-Morgan Farmstead, site 1005, is a local example of the Four-over-Four type. This unique nineteenth century house has a likely non-original Craftsman-style hood over the front door, and unusual chamfered corners at the first floor. Right: The house at the Kirchoff Farmstead, site 3405, is another local example of the Four-over-Four type.

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. Thirteen Gable Front type houses were identified in Washington Township.

Left: The house at the Klaus-Hibbing Farmstead, site 1203, is a typical nineteenth century example of the Gable Front type. The one-story front portion is a later addition. Right: The house at the Fick-Lange-Schilling Farmstead, site 3301, is a later example of the Gable Front type

American Foursquare

The American Foursquare[195] 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 not particularly common in the survey area, with ten of this type identified during the survey.

Left: The house at the Hack-Dierking-Klemme Farmstead, site 2605, includes a pyramidal roof, hipped dormer, symmetrical plan, and front entrance porch characteristic of the American Foursquare building type. Right: The Paulson-Koehn Farmstead, site 8005, although somewhat modified, is also a local example of the building type.

Bungalow

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

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


Left: The house at the Wille Farmstead, site 902, exemplifies the Dormer Front Bungalow type despite later remodeling. Right: The Deeke-Klausek House, site 2704, is a hip roof example of the bungalow type.

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.[196] The Cape Cod has a simple rectangular plan, one story in height with dormers and a gable roof. The Cape Cod type is uncommon in Washington Township.

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. Slightly more than fifteen percent of the houses documented as part of the rural survey are the ranch type.


Examples of the Ranch type in Washington Township: at left, the Theede-Seitz Farmstead, site 3003; at right, the house at the Witt-Herlitz Farmstead, site 8104.

[196] 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.[197]

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.[198]

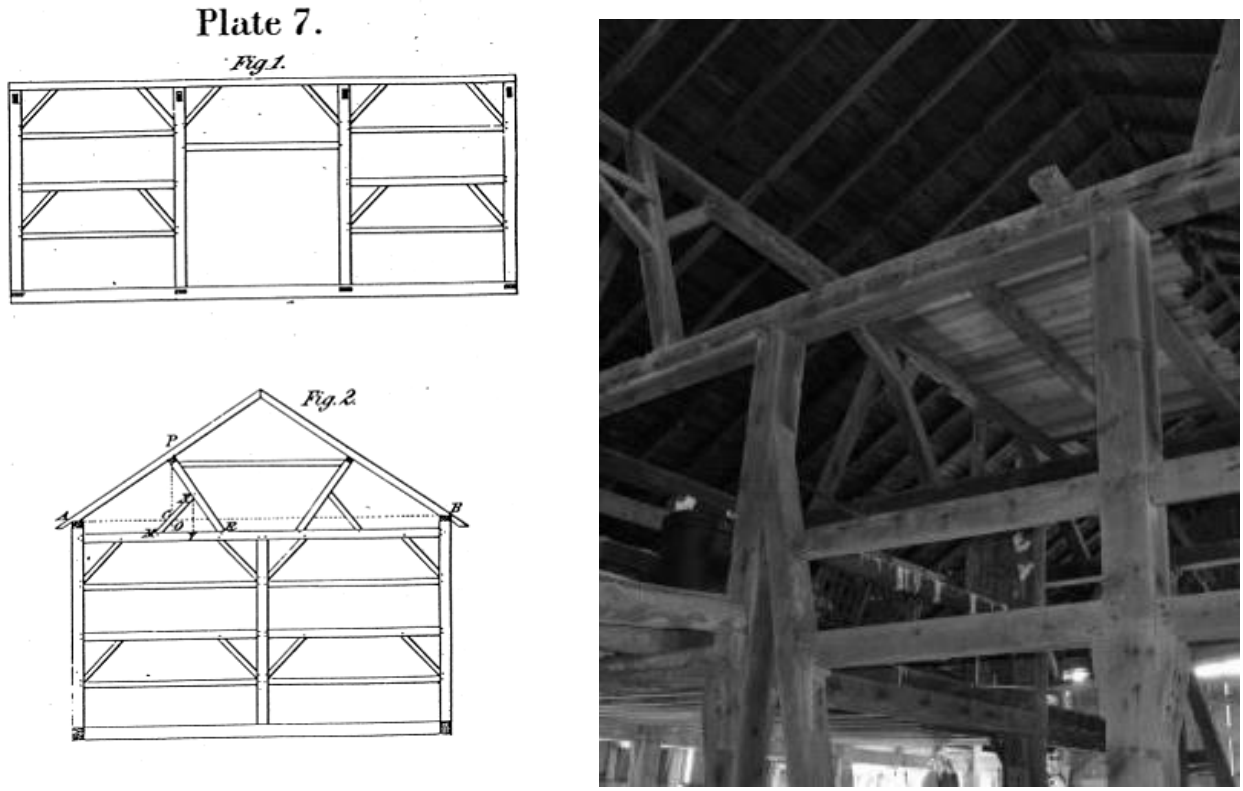
The need for large barns necessitated the development of structural systems to enclose large volumes of space. As the frontier of settlement passed into the Midwest, many early barns were constructed of logs by settlers who either possessed log-building skills or gained these techniques by association 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.[199]

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.[200]

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.[201]

---

[197] 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.
[198] Hubert G. H. Wilhelm, "Midwestern Barns and Their Germanic Connections," in *Barns of the Midwest*, 65.
[199] Ibid.
[200] Ibid., 48–50.
[201] Lowell J. Soike, "Within the Reach of All: Midwest Barns Perfected," in *Barns of the Midwest,* Allen G. Noble and Hubert G. H. Wilhelm, ed. (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1995), 147. Two major forms of plank framing developed. The first took dimension plank lumber and imitated heavy timber framing, carrying the loads through posts and beams. The second type opened up the center of the barn by using a truss for the framing bents. This was followed by an adaptation of the balloon framing for barn construction. Stud walls replaced posts and girts for handling loads; roof loads were carried by trusses made from lighter weight lumber (Ibid., 155–156).



Left: A drawing of heavy timber barn framing from 1894 [William E. Bell, Carpentry Made Easy, or the Science and Art of Framing *(Philadelphia: Ferguson Bros. & Co., 1894), plate 7]. Right: This type of braced heavy timber framing is visible in the Will County Landmark Katz-Piepenbrink-Horner Barn, site 5603 in the present survey.*

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.[202] At about this time, manufacturers and marketers of pre-cut, ready-to-assemble houses (such as the American Foursquare house type discussed above) entered the market for barn construction. Two major Iowa firms, the Louden Machinery Company of Fairfield and the Gordon-Van Tine Company of Davenport, advertised plans for their pre-cut barns along with their pre-cut homes.

Engineering research led to the development of framing for gambrel roofs, culminating in the Clyde or Iowa truss. (The shape of the gambrel roof allowed a larger loft space to store hay than the gable roof allowed.) The first step in this development was the work of John Shawver of Ohio, who developed a gambrel truss form using sawn lumber. The Iowa truss was developed by A.W. Clyde, an engineer with the Iowa State College farm extension service, around 1920. It allowed construction of a stiff frame at far lower cost than the Shawver truss, which required expensive extra-length material.[203]

---

[202] Ibid., 158.

[203] 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

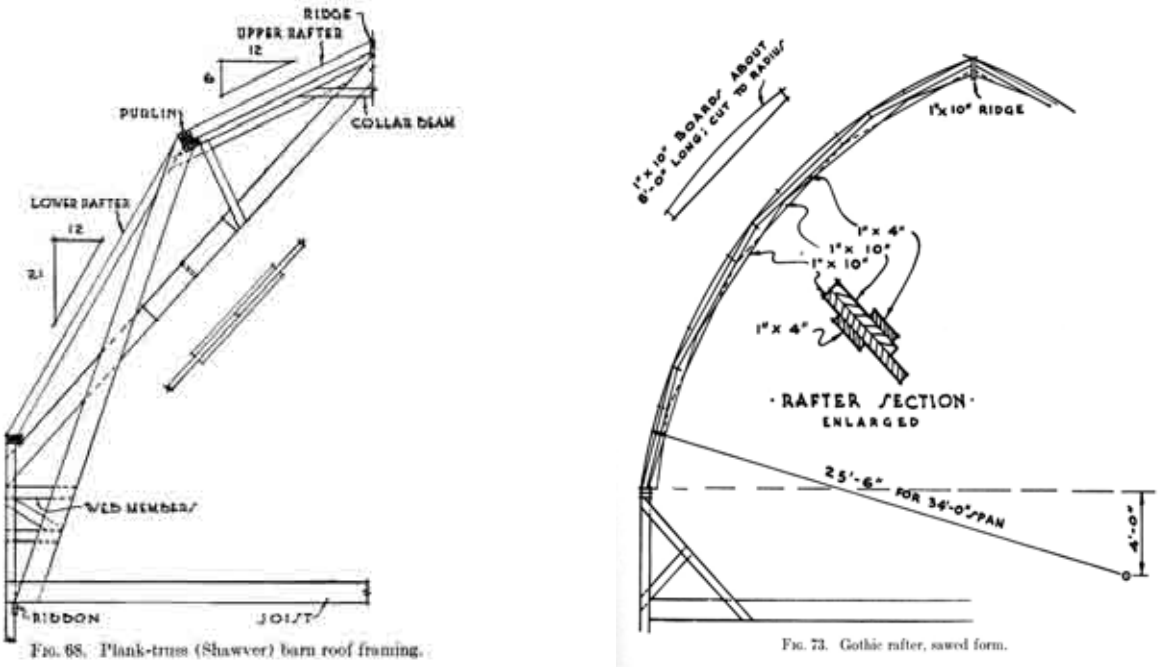


Fig. 68. Plank-truss (Shawver) barn roof framing.

Fig. 73. Gothic rafter, sawed form.

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

During the 1930s, the Gothic roof entered the last phase of its evolution. At Iowa State Agricultural College, Henry Giese tested existing types of laminated bent rafters in an attempt to solve their shortcomings. Working in collaboration with Rock Island Lumber Company, distributor of Weyerhauser Forest Products, he explored the potential of modern glues to yield a stronger bent rafter. Using Douglas fir, clear of knots and defects, glue-laminated under approximately 100 pounds per square inch of pressure and shaped to an arch form, the rafter was stronger than those laminated conventionally with nails and bolts (either the shaved- or bent-lumber techniques). Rafter performance was also improved with the use of hinge connections at the supports. Weyerhauser was marketing these factory-built rafters under the trademark of Rilco by 1938.[204] 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.[205]

The two-story loft barn ceased to be built shortly after World War II.[206] In the first half of the twentieth century, the dependence on draft animals waned as mechanical power in the form of tractors increased, and farmers no longer needed loft space.[207] Farmers began to build fewer custom wood frame structures, which

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

[204] Ibid., 162–163.

[205] Ibid., 164.

[206] Ibid., 165.

[207] 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.

were susceptible to fires, as manufactured buildings using steel became available. Early metal-barn types, such as Quonsets, developed initially in the 1930s and gained a notable measure of popularity among some Midwestern farmers immediately after World War II. One of the leading manufacturers of Quonset barns and sheds was the Great Lakes Steel Corporation of Detroit, whose structures were purported to be fireproof, rat-proof, and sag-proof. Corrugated metal was also a suggested covering for wooden barn siding, and organizations as the Asbestos Farm Service Bureau promoted the use of asbestos-based cement boards for re-siding old barns.[208]

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.[209] 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.[210] 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.*

[208] Ibid., 226.
[209] Ibid., 225.
[210] Ibid.

Barn Types

As with house types, several systems have been used to classify barns, either by function; shape and structural system; ethnic traditions and their influence; or regional characteristics and commonalties.[211] 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.[212] 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.[213] 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.[214]

Two examples of the three-bay threshing barn type in Washington Township: left, barn at the Langreder-Wieggel Farmstead, site 3406; right, barn at the Ross-Selk Farmstead, site 3203.

[211] 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.
[212] 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.
[213] 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.
[214] 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.[215] In some cases this barn type was lifted up and placed onto a raised basement, which then could house the animals, especially dairy cows.[216] Three-bay threshing barns are somewhat common in the survey area, representing about one-third of the surviving major barns documented. Many examples were subsequently modified to permit use for dairy farming.

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. Several bank barns were identified in the survey area.

Examples of the bank barn type from Washington Township. Left: barn at the Rump-Heldt Farmstead, site 2102. Right: barn at the Truback-Wieggel Farmstead, site 3602.

German Barn

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

Plank Frame Barn

This relatively small barn type originated in the eastern Midwest around 1875.[217] Plank frame barns can have gable or gambrel roofs and are typically one story in height plus a large hay loft. They are multi-

[215] 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.
[216] Calkins and Perkins, "The Three-bay Threshing Barn," *Barns of the Midwest,* 59.
[217] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book,* 117

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. Twelve examples of the plank frame barn type were documented in Washington Township.

Left: Example of the plank frame barn type from Washington Township at the Danne-Brands-Erichson Farmstead, site 2501. 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.

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. Two round roof barns were identified in the survey area.

Two examples of the round roof barn type were identified in Washington Township. Left: The barn at the Fette-Kuhlmann Farmstead, site 402. Right: the barn at the Fiene-Unruh Farmstead, site 3303.

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.[218] Dairy barns are very common in Washington Township and represent about one-third of the major barns documented in the survey. Many examples are raised on masonry walls extending all or part of the ground floor level.

Above left: Gambrel roof barn at the Wilkening-Wille-Owens Farmstead, site 302. Above right: Gable roof dairy barn at the Bernhard-Blim-Temple Farmstead, site 1305. Below left: Gambrel roof barn at the Riechers-Homan Farmstead, site 2301. Below right: Dairy barn with concrete masonry ground floor at the Selk Farmstead, site 3304.

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. Seven examples of the feeder barn type were identified in Washington Township.

[218] Noble and Cleek, 77.


Two examples of the feeder barn type in Washington Township. Left: the barn at the Meyer-Plonka Farmstead, site 2703. Right: the barn at the Hasenjager-Meyer-Wilkening Farmstead, site 802.

Pole Barn

The latest major barn type, called the pole barn, evolved in the eastern Midwest. The walls of the building are hung on poles that are driven into individual footings buried in the ground below the frost line. The floor is typically concrete slab or dirt. There is no loft. Later versions usually have metal siding, especially those erected after World War II.[219] 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 Washington Township.


Examples of pole barns in Washington Township include: left, pole barn at the Wendling-Beseke Farmstead, site 1902; right, pole barn at the Hasenjager-Meyer-Wilkening Farmstead, site 802.

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 Washington Township, with only ten examples documented as part of the present survey.

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


Two examples of the Quonset shed type in Washington Township: left, at the Wille-DeGroot Farmstead, site 1002; right, at the Heuck Farmstead, site 2101.

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.


Left: Manufactured building at the Beseke-Kampe Farmstead, site 2001. Right: Manufactured building at the Bredemeier-Vos Farmstead, site 1302.

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.[220] 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 Washington Township.

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

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.[221] Sometimes the logs were skinned to lessen the danger of infestation by worms and insect. The bin-like cribs were typically covered with thatch or cornstalks to help shed the rain; a board and shingle roof took more effort, required nails, and therefore was more expensive. Unfortunately, thatch roof corncribs were more readily infested by rodents. Log construction of corncribs remained popular through the 1800s in areas where timber resources proved readily accessible.

The invention of the circular saw in 1860 and its growing adaptation to steam power by mid-century made lumber cheap enough for general use on outbuildings such as corncribs, enabling later versions to be built of narrow lumber slats.[222] The corncrib usually rested on log or stone piers.[223] 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.[224]

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.[225] 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.[226] 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.[227] 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.[228] Wood-framed corn cribs are not common in the survey area. Crib barns, silos, and metal grain bins are much more common.

---

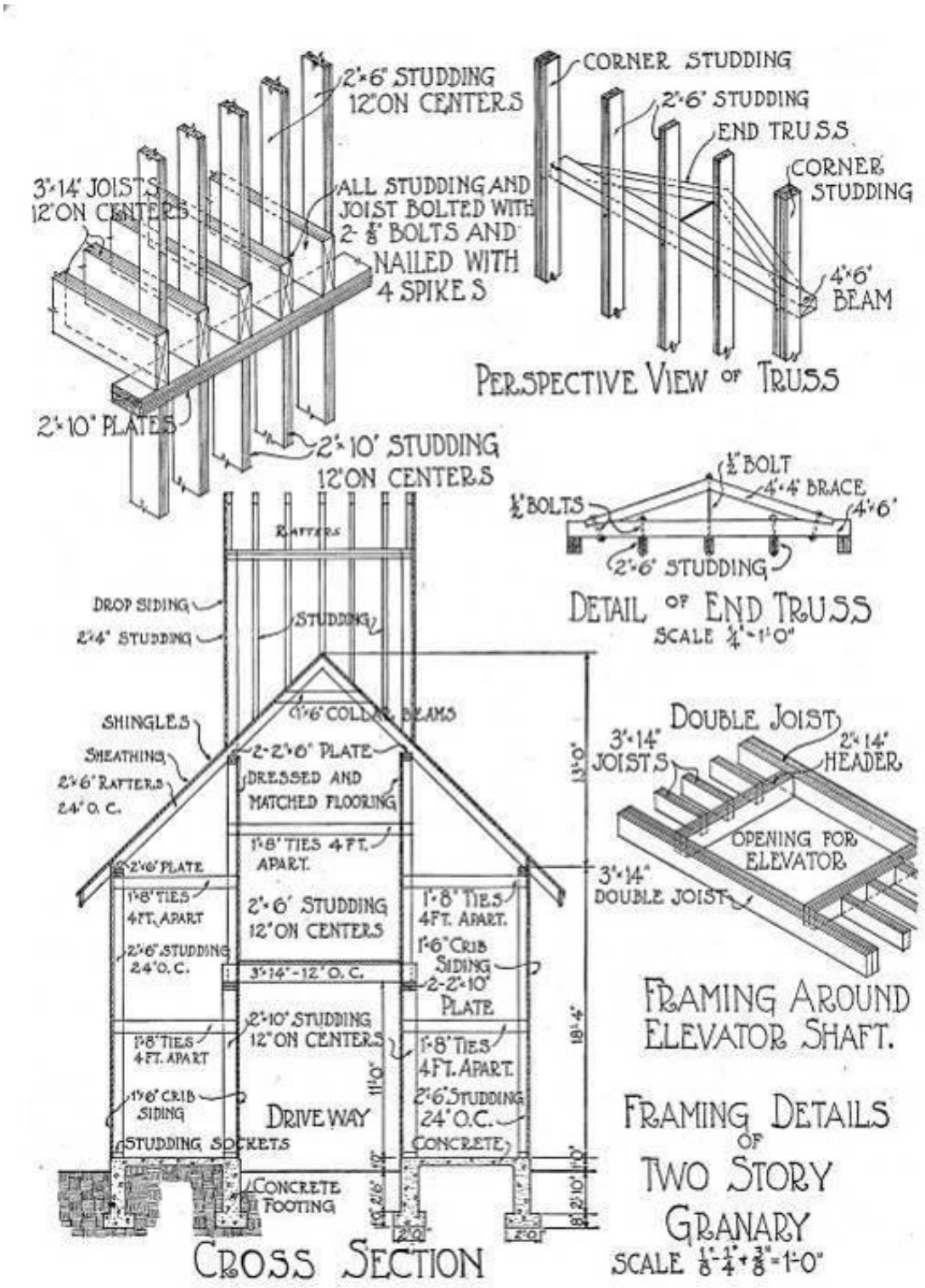
[221] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book,* 170–171.
[222] Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 26.
[223] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 155.
[224] Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 27.
[225] Keith E. Roe, "Corncribs to Grain Elevators: Extensions of the Barn, " in *Barns of the Midwest*, 170.
[226] Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 60.
[227] Ibid., 177.
[228] Ibid., 176.

Crib Barns

Crib barns are simple structures formed of pens or cribs that have a space between the cribs for implement storage. There are two basics types: crib barns with the gable or roofline parallel to the cribs, and transverse crib barns with the roofline perpendicular to the pens. The configuration of crib barns developed from practical limitations and needs, such as the height to which a scoopful of corn could be pitched from a wagon (which dictated the bin height) and the size of farm equipment (which dictated the spacing between bins). Later crib barns, including many examples in the survey area, have mechanical elevators housed in a small projecting cupola at the ridge of the crib barn roof. New crib barns were built in Will County as late as the 1950s. Crib barns are present on approximately 40 percent of the farmstead sites surveyed in Washington Township.

Left: Crib barn at the Haseman-Temme Farmstead, site 801. Right: Crib barn at the Engelking-Rademacher Farmstead, site 1406. At this structure, note the conveyor mechanism that was used to lift corn into the bins through the rooftop cupola.

Left: Crib barn at the Danne-Brands-Erichson Farmstead, site 2501. This crib barn also an exterior conveyor system which enters the side wall below the roofline. Right: Crib barn at the Lyon-Von Alven Farmstead, site 3101. This structure is a locally unique example of the use of perforated concrete blocks for crib barn construction.



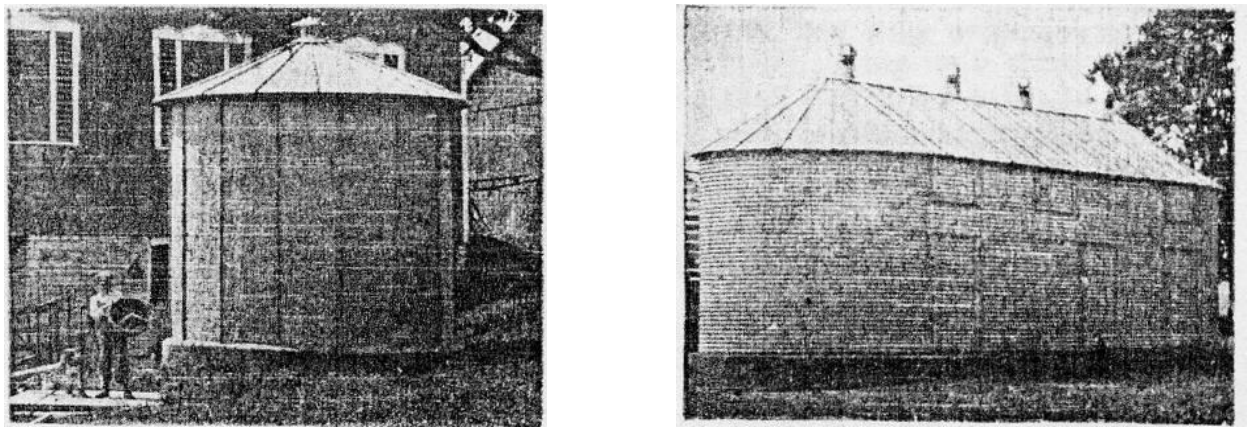
Crib barns, usually with two bins, are common in the survey area. Illustrated above are framing details of a crib barn from Smith & Betts Farm and Building Book *(Chicago: The Radford Architectural Company, 1915).*

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.[229]

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.[230]

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 less common in Washington Township than other portions of Will County.



Above: Illustrations of two types of metal corn bins from The Illinois Farmer's Guide*, August 1939.*

Left: Sheet metal grain bins at the Hack-Rohlfing-Karstensen Farmstead, site 2603. Right: Mesh grain bin at the Kirchoff-Hinze Farmstead, site 3302.

[229] Ibid.

[230] 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.[231]

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.[232] Many were constructed within the barn building.[233] 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.[234] 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.[235] 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.

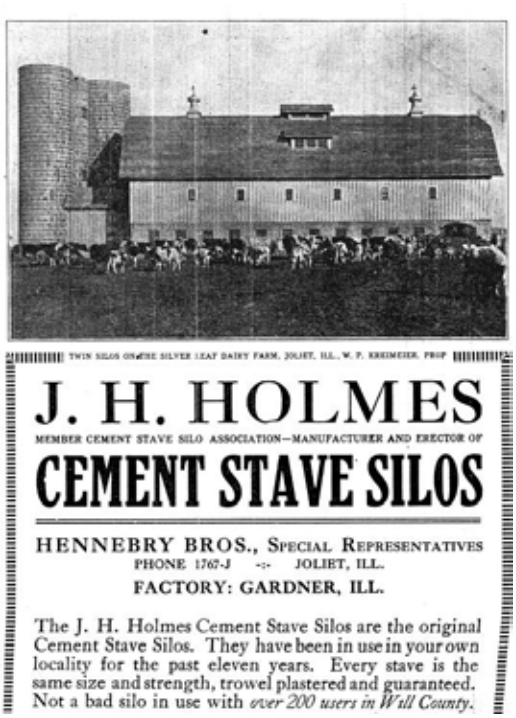
---

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

Concrete stave silos were constructed as early as 1904 in Cassopolis, Missouri, which used book-shaped staves.[236] Several patents existed for cement stave silos, including that of the Mason & Lawrence of Elgin, Illinois, dating from 1914.[237] 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.[238]

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.[239]



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.*

[236] 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.
[237] "How to Make and Sell Concrete Silo Staves," *Concrete* (October 1927): 32–35.
[238] David Mocine, "Keep Workmen Busy the Year Round," *Concrete Products* (January 1948): 161.
[239] "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.[240] 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.[241]

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.[242]

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.[243] 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.[244] 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.[245] 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.[246]

---

[240] 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.
[241] H. Colin Campbell, "Concrete Silo Construction," *Hoard's Dairyman* (February 21, 1919): 200.
[242] King, "Planning the Silo," in *Eighteenth Annual Report of the Illinois Farmers' Institute,* 64.
[243] W. A. Foster, "Silo Types and Essentials," *Hoard's Dairyman* (February 21, 1919): 201.
[244] Gambrel and domical roofs allowed for filling the silo to the top of the outer wall, maximizing the storage capacity.
[245] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 108–109.
[246] Harvestore Systems, DeKalb, Illinois, www.harvestore.com

Concrete stave silos are common in Washington Township. A few examples of Harvestore silos were also documented.



Left: The concrete stave silo at the Lucke-Garetto Farmstead, site 206 has its original domed roof. Middle: The silo at the Hasenjoeger-Tegtmeyer Farmstead, site 601, is a rare example of a clay masonry silo. Right: The Harvestore silo at the Gaines-Many-Peterson Farmstead, site 2701.

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.[247]

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: Animal shed at the Haseman-Eidam Farmstead, site 8103. Right: Hoist shed at the Wilkening Farmstead, site 201.

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


Left: Milk house at the Wilkening-Wille-Owens Farmstead, site 302. Right: Animal shed at the Hasenjager-Meyer-Wilkening Farmstead, site 802.


Left: Animal shed at the Lange Farmstead, site 804. Right: Brick masonry summer kitchen at the Langreder-Kogut Farmstead, site 3401.


Left: Shed at the Wehrman-Frobose-Scheming Farmstead, site 6903. Right: Well house at the Guritz-Kuhn Farmstead, site 7002.

CHAPTER 4

SURVEY SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Period of Significance: 1851 to 1970

Permanent settlement by settlers of European origin began in Washington Township in the early 1850s. An approximate starting date of 1851 is used for the period of significance. Washington Township was separated from Crete Township in 1856. Early settlement of the township was focused along the north–south corridor of the state road through the central portion of the township, later known as the Dixie Highway and present-day Illinois Highway 1, as well as in the vicinity of Eagle Lake in the northeastern portion of the township. Later, the Chicago, Danville, & Vincennes Railroad opened in 1870, parallel to the state road and 1/2 mile west. The Village of Beecher developed around the railroad depot, and the village government was organized at the end of 1883.

Washington 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. Quality roads in the township, including the Dixie Highway paved in 1919–1921, supported the growth of dairy farming in the early decades of the twentieth century.

In the post-World War II era, easier access to retail and commercial areas in other parts of Will and Cook Counties has led to a relative decline in the Beecher business district, although many businesses remain active along the Illinois Highway 1 corridor. Relatively little new expansion of the village occurred until the first decade of the twenty-first century, but many of the proposed residential developments stopped growing at the financial crisis of 2007–2009, and many village lots platted in the mid-2000s remain vacant at this time. 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.[248]

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 Washington 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;

[248] 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.[249] 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."[250] 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

[249] 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.)

[250] 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.[251]

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.

[251] 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.[252]

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 Washington Township, historically agricultural areas within the present-day incorporated limits of the Village of Beecher 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 Beecher 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.

[252] 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 thirty-three individual farmsteads or other sites that have clear potential for local landmark status. This includes three existing Will County landmarks in Washington Township. The Beecher Railroad Depot, constructed in 1881, was designated a landmark in 2001. (The structure had been moved to Monee in 1969 but was relocated to close to its original site in Beecher in December 2000.) Today the building is owned by the village and houses the Beecher Community Historical Society. The circa 1860 Katz–Piepenbrink–Horner Barn was designated a landmark in 2016. This farmstead site is documented as site 5603 in the present survey. One local landmark structure in the township is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places: the Beecher Mausoleum, a Classical Revival style structure constructed in 1913–1914 and containing burials of the Bahlman, Struve, Horn, and Thielman families, among others. This structure was designated a Will County landmark in 1998 and listed in the National Register in 2013 under Criteria A and C.

None of the surveyed sites were judged to be National Register eligible; in many cases, this determination was made due to reduced integrity from the addition of vinyl siding, the replacement of windows, and/or the loss of important outbuildings such as major barns or crib barns. The determination of potential eligibility for National Register or local 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 101 PIN 22-01-100-011 Bowers–Meyer Farmstead
- Site 206 PIN 22-02-400-003 Lucke–Garetto Farmstead
- Site 302 PIN 22-03-400-002 Wilkening–Wille–Owens Farmstead
- Site 305 PIN 22-03-300-013 Rose–Teske Farmstead
- Site 402 PIN 22-04-300-002 Fette–Kuhlmann Farmstead
- Site 403 PIN 22-04-400-001 Ohlendorf–Stoeven Farmstead
- Site 405 PIN 22-04-200-005 Cooper–Soucie Farmstead
- Site 602 PIN 22-06-200-004 Nieman–Koelling–Wirth Farmstead
- Site 804 PIN 22-08-300-005 Gieser–Lange Farmstead
- Site 1005 PIN 22-10-100-010 Smith–Claus–Morgan Farmstead
- Site 1006 PIN 22-10-400-005 Hartman Farmstead
- Site 1201 PIN 22-12-400-008 Scheiwe Farmstead
- Site 1203 PIN 22-12-100-009 Klaus–Hibbing Farmstead
- Site 1305 PIN 22-13-200-001 Bernhard–Blim–Temple Farmstead
- Site 1607 PIN 22-16-309-014 Washington Township Community Building
- Site 1609 PIN 22-16-506-005 Beecher Railroad Depot (*Will County landmark*)
- Site 1704 PIN 22-17-100-002 St. Paul Lutheran Church
- Site 2002 PIN 22-20-300-011 Pralle–Curbis Farmstead
- Site 2107 PIN 22-21-202-003 Beecher Mausoleum (*Will County landmark, National Register*)
- Site 2301 PIN 22-23-200-005 Riechers–Homan Farmstead
- Site 2303 PIN 22-23-300-004 Ostermeyer–Buikema Farmstead
- Site 2601 PIN 22-26-200-003 Piel Farmstead
- Site 2605 PIN 22-26-100-008 Hack–Dierking–Klemme Farmstead
- Site 2703 PIN 22-27-100-005 Meyer–Plonka Farmstead
- Site 3002 PIN 22-30-400-008 Salzmann School (District No. 179)

- Site 3304 PIN 22-33-300-005 Selk Farmstead
- Site 5602 PIN 23-06-300-012 St. John Lutheran School Teacher's Residence
- Site 5603 PIN 23-06-200-010 Katz–Piepenbrink–Horner Farmstead (*Will County landmark*)
- Site 5606 PIN 23-06-300-024 Tatge–Weber Farmstead
- Site 5702 PIN 23-07-300-003 Katz–Bredemeier–Lattz Farmstead
- Site 5801 PIN 23-08-100-003 Tatge Farmstead
- Site 6903 PIN 23-19-400-006 Frobose–Scheming Farmstead
- Site 8201 PIN 23-32-100-001 Voshage–Herlitz Farmstead

None of these properties are located within the present-day corporate limits of the Village of Beecher, except for the already designated Beecher Mausoleum and the Beecher Railroad Depot.

These properties, as well as other farmsteads associated with prominent families in Washington Township, are discussed in detail beginning on page 102.

Survey Summary

The survey of Washington Township documented more than 1,200 structures, including 200 houses and 91 major barns on 196 farmsteads and related sites. Cumulatively since 1999, the Will County Rural Historic Structural Survey has documented more than 10,500 structures on more than 2,000 sites.[253] The tables below provide a breakdown of the survey results for Washington, Will, Crete, and Peotone Townships.[254]

Farmhouses

House Type	Washington	Will	Crete	Peotone	County Totals
I House	—	6	2	1	43
Hall and Parlor	—	—	—	1	21
New England 1-1/2	2	5	1	2	28
Four over Four	5	4	5	6	114
Side Hallway	—	—	4	—	25
Upright and Wing	35	9	29	10	340
Gabled Ell	78	38	22	54	505
Gable Front	13	3	7	8	124
Foursquare	10	17	7	20	173
Bungalow	9	3	3	3	101
Cape Cod	3	8	12	5	86
Ranch	34	12	13	17	365
Other	11	7	6	3	
Totals	**200**	**112**	**111**	**130**	**1,925**

Barns

Barn Type	Washington	Will	Crete	Peotone	County Totals
Three-bay Threshing	36	13	10	9	264
Bank	3	—	2	1	45
Raised	—	—	—	—	10
Pennsylvania German	—	—	—	—	9
Three-ended	—	1	—	—	13
Plank frame	12	9	13	16	183
Feeder	7	8	2	1	70
Dairy	30	12	10	22	185
Round roof	2	1	1	—	10
Round	—	—	—	1	3
Other or Unclassified	1	1	1	—	53
Totals	**91**	**45**	**39**	**50**	**845**

[253] 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.

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

Outbuildings

Building Type	Washington	Will	Crete	Peotone	County Totals
Animal shed or shelter	61	10	18	18	272
Barn (secondary)	1	6	4	—	41
Cellar	1	—	—	—	18
Chicken coop	12	21	7	33	232
Corn crib	—	1	4	—	23
Crib barn	88	68	30	71	809
Foundation	—	1	1	23	134
Garage	129	56	54	92	1,030
Horse stable	1	8	7	7	48
Hog house	—	—	2	1	19
Implement shed	16	6	7	2	240
Machine shed	85	58	30	110	528
Mesh bin	18	2	5	4	77
Metal bin	96	63	12	94	984
Milk house	11	3	—	13	130
Pole barn / Manufactured building	163	65	66	58	1,028
Privy	3	3	2	1	24
Pump house / Well house	53	25	19	11	228
Shed	119	99	73	74	1,028
Silo	44	24	22	38	430
Smoke house	—	1	—		30
Summer kitchen	7	5	9	2	54
Windmill	—	4	1	5	65
Other	63	20	41	16	324
Totals	**971**	**549**	**414**	**673**	**7,796**
Total, including houses and barns	**1,262**	**706**	**564**	**853**	**10,566**

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 Washington Township in 2018. 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 Washington Township, approximately 1300 buildings on 198 farmstead sites were documented, as well as one historic bridge.[255] Among the farmstead sites documented in 1988, no historic structures survive at thirteen farmstead sites in Washington Township. At several other sites, major buildings such as historic barns or houses have been lost. A few farmsteads have been lost to residential and commercial development near the village of Beecher, 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 Washington 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.

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

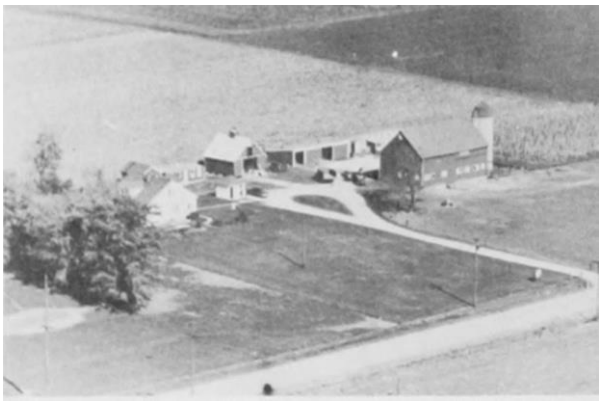
Notable Farmsteads in Washington Township

Rose–Teske Farmstead ***Site 305 (PIN 22-03-300-013)***

This farmstead was first developed by John Rose, a native of Ireland, who settled here in 1851. He and his family were the first permanent residents in Washington Township. John Rose died in 1858. The 1860 census lists Mary Rose, age 45, native of Ireland, and her children Samuel (14, born in Ireland), Charlotte (11, born in Ireland), and John E. (6, born in Illinois). Mary Rose is identified as the property owner on 1862 and 1873 maps. The 1878 directory lists Samuel Rose as a merchant in Beecher, and in the 1888 directory he is listed as the owner of this 160 acre farm.

By 1893, the farmstead had been acquired by Fred Teske. The farm remains owned by the Teske family today. The existing bungalow-style house on the site was likely built in the early decades of the twentieth century for the Teske family.

Although no nineteenth century structures remain, the farmstead is considered potentially local landmark eligible due to its association with an early pioneer family. The existing historic bungalow was built for the long-time owners, the Teske family.



Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Note the bungalow-style house at left. Source: Drury, 508. Right: The bungalow-style house on the site.

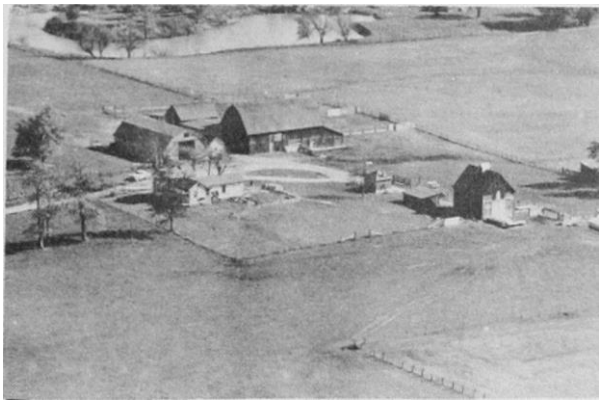
Miller–Churchill Farmstead ***Site 2003 (PIN 22-20-200-003)***

Best known as the founder of Beecher, T. L. (Timothy Lathrop) Miller began acquiring land in Washington Township in 1862, but did not settle there until 1870. He married Abigail Starr Elliot in 1842, and they had five children, Catharine, Abby, Mary, Timothy and Henry Charles. Miller's wife Abigail died in 1858. Miller married his second wife, Anna E. Hodges, in 1861. They had one child, Abby, who died shortly after birth. Miller's daring vision to breed and raise Hereford cattle on his property led to a multitude of developments to the township, including the establishment of a station along the new Chicago, Danville, and Vincennes Railroad. The future village of Beecher was laid out on both sides of the railroad. Miller's Highland Stock Farm was also known for its imposing and innovative buildings, including Miller's 204 foot long residence, as well as an 180-foot square stock barn topped by a 30-foot, double-headed mill.[256] By the 1880s, this farmstead was owned by his son, Timothy E. Miller.

Although notable due to its association with Timothy L. Miller, this farmstead has lost its major structures and retains only a few twentieth century outbuildings. It was not Miller's primary residence, which was located in the southeast quarter of Section 16. It appears that the farm was leased to others. In the 1940s, it

[256] Woodruff, 905; Biery, 4.

was acquired by the Churchill family. Due to its historic associations, this farm is considered a contributing site in the present survey, but it does not retain sufficient integrity for listing as a local landmark.




Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 489. Right: The barn on the Miller-Churchill Farmstead.

Tatge Farmstead ***Site 5801 (PIN 23-08-100-003)***

One of the earliest residents of the township, Henry Tatge was one of ten charter members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Eagle Lake. Worship services were held in Tatge's home until a church was built in 1855.[257] By 1862, Tatge had established this farmstead on South Klemme Road. The Tatge family remained in possession of the farmstead until at least 1976. The farmstead retains its historic circa 1860s house as well as several newer outbuildings. It is considered to be eligible for local landmark listing.


Left: The Tatge Farmstead as illustrated in the 1873 atlas, plate 105. The original house pictured here still exists on the site, although it has been subsequently remodeled and expanded. Right: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 507.

[257] Biery, 19–20.

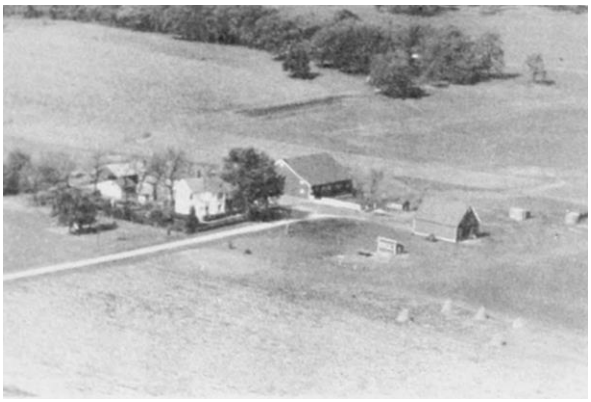

Left: The original house remains, though it has been altered. Right: An outbuilding at the Tatge Farmstead.

Katz–Piepenbrink–Horner Farmstead ***Site 5603 (PIN 23-06-200-010)***

Heinrich Christoph "Henry" Katz was one of the earliest German immigrants to arrive in Washington Township. In 1857, while still overseas, he purchased 80 acres in section 6 of Washington Township from the Illinois Central Railroad Company. Soon thereafter, Henry arrived in Washington Township accompanied by his wife and their six children. The 1860 census lists Henry Katz, aged 54, his wife Dora, age 56, and sons Otto (26), Henry Jr. (21), Frederick (11), and a 2-year-old girl Mary, possibly their granddaughter, as residing at the farmstead. In 1879, Henry Katz, Sr., died. The farm was then inherited by his sons.

By 1900, John C. Piepenbrink is listed as the owner of the former Katz farmstead. John lived there with his wife Augusta and their two children Edward (10) and William (6). Edward Piepenbrink acquired the farm from his father by the 1920s, and it subsequently passed to Edward's daughter Hilda Piepenbrink in the 1980s. The property was acquired by Raymond Meyer and his wife Irene Piepenbrink (Hilda's sister) in 1997. The farmstead was later sold to the Horner family.[258]

The property contains several outbuildings including two historic barns, a dairy barn and a crib barn. It is estimated that the dairy barn may be the oldest structure on the site. This property was listed as a Will County landmark in 2016.




Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 502. Right: The house at the Katz-Piepenbrink-Horner Farmstead.

[258] "Katz-Piepenbrink-Horner Barn Statement of Significance," Will County Landmark nomination; comments on draft by J. Farrell, D. Seggebruch, and H. Piepenbrink, citing 1900 census data.


Left: The barn at the Katz-Piepenbrink-Horner Farmstead. Right: The crib barn at the Katz-Piepenbrink-Horner Farmstead.

Hack-Rohlfing-Karstensen Farmstead ***Site 2603 (PIN 22-26-300-021)***

This farmstead was first developed by John Hack, who came to America in 1864 from Mecklenburg, Germany. Hack had married Miss Sophia Lüt in March 1852, and they had five children, Herman, Henry, Carl (Charles), Frank, and Emma.[259] John Hack opened a general store in 1878 on the southwest corner of Woodward Street and Indiana Avenue in Eagle Lake and was appointed the Postmaster of Eagle Lake Post Office in May of that year. Beginning in 1880, it was operated by his son, Frank Hack. Three of John's sons would go on to take positions in Beecher's local government, Carl as village treasurer and trustee, Frank as village clerk, and Henry as village trustee and the first fire marshal.[260]

John Hack is listed as the property owner through the 1888 directory. His son Herman Hack is shown as the owner on the 1893 atlas through the 1920s, although the 1918 directory indicates that the farm was leased to tenants at that time. The 1940 and 1948 directories indicate the farmstead was in the possession of the Hack estate. By 1953, ownership of the property had been transferred to Alvina Hack, and it remained in the Hack family until at least 1972, although it was operated by tenants, including Vernon Karstensen in the 1950s and 1960s.[261]

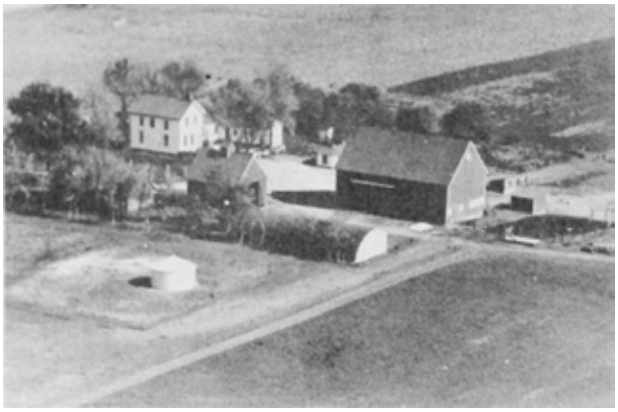
This farmstead retains the historic nineteenth century house, a large dairy barn, and a number of other newer outbuildings. It is judged to be eligible for local landmark listing.


Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 495. Right: The barn at the Hack-Rohlfing-Karstensen Farmstead.

[259] Woodruff, 905.
[260] Biery, 14–17.
[261] As indicated in Drury (1955) and the 1968 directory.

Bowers–Meyer Farmstead ***Site 101 (PIN 22-01-100-011)***

John S. Bowers is listed as the property owner in the 1862 and 1873 atlases. By 1878, the farm had apparently been acquired by Fred Lucke. As indicated on the 1909 atlas, the farm was the property of Conrad Behrens in the 1900s and 1910s, although by the 1918 directory, it was being operated by tenants. By the 1920s, the site was the property of W. C. Meyer. The property then remained in the Meyer family until about the year 2000. This site retains its historic Italianate style farmhouse, historic barn, historic crib barn, and other contributing outbuildings. It is considered to be eligible for local landmark listing.



Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 500. Right: The historic Italianate style farmhouse on the site.

Left: The barn on the site. Right: The crib barn at the Bowers-Meyer Farmstead.

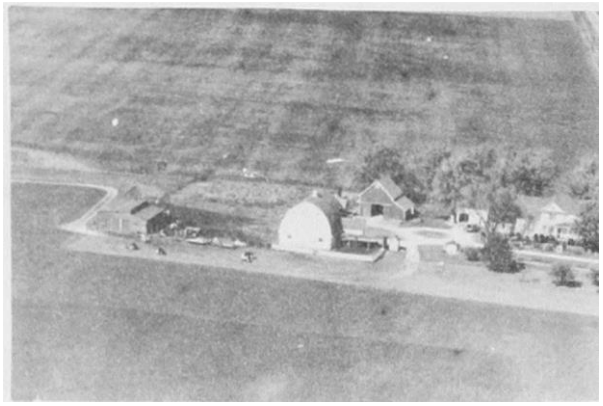
Wilkening-Wille-Owens Farmstead ***Site 302 (PIN 22-03-400-002)***

Frederick Wilkening established his farmstead on East Eagle Lake Road by 1862. It remained in the Wilkening family into the 1890s. By 1902, John Wille had acquired the property. As listed in the 1918 directory, this was the home of John and Anna Wille and their children Ruby, Donald, and Clarence. By 1948, the farm was operated by John and Anna's son Donald Wille. By 1957, John and Dorothy Owens acquired the farmstead, and it has remained in the Owens family to the present. This farmstead contains a number of historic distinctive structures, including a gabled ell type house, a large dairy barn likely built by the Wille family, and a number of smaller outbuildings. It is judged to be eligible for local landmark listing.

Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 511. Right: The dairy barn at the Wilkening-Wille-Owens Farmstead.

Fette–Kuhlmann Farmstead ***Site 402 (PIN 22-04-300-002)***

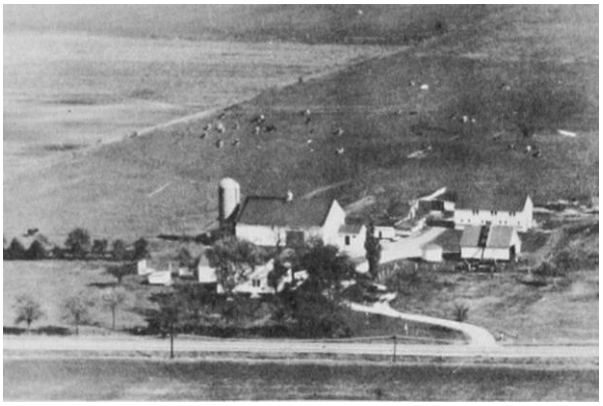
The 1893 atlas indicates that by that time, H. Fette had purchased the property from G. W. Goodenow. By 1902, J. Kuhlmann had become the owner, and the farmstead has remained in the Kuhlman family to the present day. In 1918, it was the home of Fred and Emma Kuhlmann, and by the 1950s, it had passed to their son Theodore Kuhlmann. This farmstead is notable for its historic farmhouse and for its circa 1940s round roof barn, likely built for the Kuhlmann family. It is judged to be eligible for local landmark listing.



Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 496. Right: The house at the Fette-Kuhlmann Farmstead.

Ohlendorf–Stoeven Farmstead ***Site 403 (PIN 22-04-400-001)***

The Ohlendorf family had purchased this property from the Baker family by 1888 and retained ownership through the 1920s. As noted in the 1918 directory, the farm was operated by Albert C. Ohlendorf. The 1948 plat map indicates that Walter Stoeven had acquired the homestead by that year, and it remains owned by the Stoeven family today. This farmstead has high historic integrity to the early twentieth century, including a large, well-preserved Queen Anne-style house on the site, as well as two historic barns, a crib barn, and other outbuildings. It is considered to be eligible for local landmark listing.



Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 507. The major structures visible in this view still exist at the site. Right: The house at the Ohlendorf-Stoeven Farmstead.

Cooper–Soucie Farmstead ***Site 405 (PIN 22-04-200-005)***

In the 1880s, William W. Cooper purchased this property from G. W. Goodenow. By 1918, the farm was being operated by tenants, and the farm owner is indicated in the directory as Mrs. Cooper, presumably William Cooper's widow. After several changes of ownership, by 1948, Joe Soucie had purchased the property, and the farm remains in the Soucie family today. Due to the presence of a nineteenth century farmhouse, dairy barn, and other historic outbuildings, the farm is judged to be eligible for local landmark listing.

Left: The house at the Cooper-Soucie Farmstead. Right: Outbuildings at the Cooper-Soucie Farmstead. Note the barn at left and the farmhouse at right.

Nieman–Koelling–Wirth Farmstead ***Site 602 (PIN 22-06-200-004)***

This farmstead was first developed by the Nieman family sometime after 1862. By the 1880s, it had passed to a daughter, Sophia, and her husband, Gottlieb Koelling. As listed in the 1918 directory, they resided here with their sons Henry, Albert, and William. As indicated on later plat maps, in the 1940s and 1950s, the farm was the home of Henry G. Koelling. In the mid-1960s, Richard Wirth acquired the farmstead, and it remains owned by the Wirth family today. This farmstead is notable for its Queen Anne-style house, three-bay threshing barn, and crib barn, all of which were likely built for Gottlieb and Sophia Koelling. It is considered to be eligible for local landmark listing.

Left: The Queen Anne style house at the Koelling-Wirth Farmstead. Right: The three-bay threshing barn at the Koelling-Wirth Farmstead.

Gieser–Lange Farmstead ***Site 804 (PIN 22-08-300-005)***

This farm was established by Jacob Gieser. By the 1890s, it had been acquired by Carl Lange. Lange was a charter member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. By 1940, Fred Lange was the owner, and the property has remained in the possession of the Lange family to the present day. This farmstead is notable for its Gabled Ell farmhouse and numerous historic outbuildings, including a barn, crib barn, and animal shed. Most of these structures were likely built for the Lange family. It is judged to be eligible for local landmark listing as an intact late nineteenth century farmstead.

Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 497. All of the primary structures visible in this view exist today. Right: The barn at the Lange Farmstead.

Smith–Claus–Morgan Farmstead ***Site 1005 (PIN 22-03-300-013)***

This farm was apparently established by William Smith prior to 1860.[262] By the 1890s, the farm was the property of his son, E. J. Smith. By 1918, this was the home of William and Carolina Claus and their six children. It was the home of Bob Morgan in the 1950s and 1960s, and has been owned by the Rietveld family since the late 1960s. This farmstead is notable for its distinctive and locally unique Four-over-four type house, which features diagonal corner windows at the first floor and a mansard roof. It is judged to be eligible for local landmark listing.

Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 500. Right: The farmhouse at the Smith-Claus-Morgan Farmstead.

Klaus–Hibbing Farmstead ***Site 1203 (PIN 22-12-100-009)***

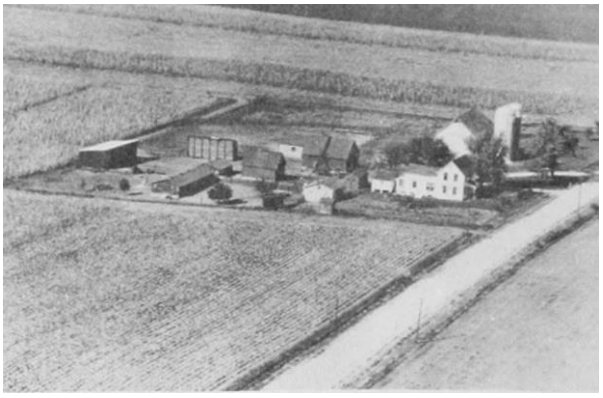
This farmstead was established by August Klaus (or Claus), a native of Germany, in the 1850s. The 1860 lists him as age 37, with his wife Ellen (age 36), and their children Caroline (15), Sophia (13), Louisa (11), August (9), and Frederick (5). It was owned by the Klaus family into the first decade of the twentieth century. By 1918, it had been acquired by the Hibbing family, and it was the longtime home of Ernest Hibbing. It was owned by the Hibbing family until the first decade of the twenty-first century. This farmstead is notable for its Italianate style Gable Front-type house, likely built for August Klaus. It also contains a number of historic outbuildings, including a barn and crib barn, which likely date to the Hibbing family period of ownership. It is judged to be eligible for local landmark listing.

Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 493. Right: The crib barn at the Klaus-Hibbing Farmstead.

[262] The 1860 census for Washington Township lists three different individuals named William Smith, who are of similar ages and apparently not related to one another. It is not clear which entry corresponds to this farmstead.

Bernhard–Blim–Temple Farmstead ***Site 1305 (PIN 22-13-200-001)***

This farmstead was acquired by Philip Bernhard in the 1880s. As listed in the 1918 directory, by that time it was the home of Fred and Amanda Bernhard. By 1948, the farm had been acquired by Dr. Spencer Blim. In the 1960s, the farm was acquired by Dr. Arvid Temple. During the 1950s and 1960s, the farm was leased to the Mueller family. The farmhouse on the site was likely built by Philip Bernhard shortly after he acquired the property. There are also notable early twentieth century outbuildings including a barn, two crib barns, and two garages. It is considered to be eligible for local landmark listing.



Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 486. Right: The circa 1880s house at the Bernhard-Blim-Temple Farmstead.

Left: The dairy barn on the site. Right: One of two crib barns at the Bernhard-Blim-Temple Farmstead.

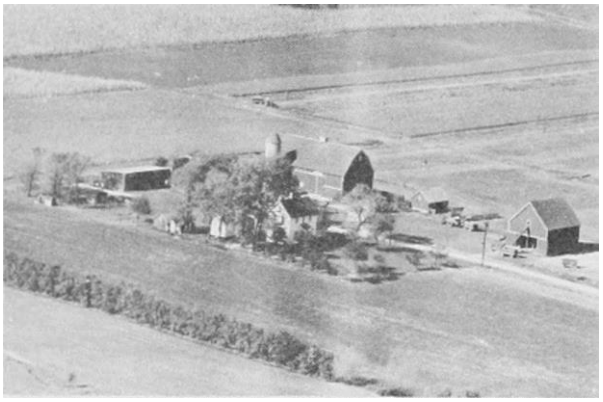
Pralle–Curbis Farmstead ***Site 2002 (PIN 22-20-300-011)***

This farm was acquired by Henry Pralle in the 1870s. By the twentieth century, the farm had passed to his son Louis Pralle, who listed as residing here in the 1918 directory with his wife Minnie. In the late 1940s, Dominick Curbis acquired the farm; he resided here until the 1970s. Although the historic house on this site has been substantially remodeled, the site is considered eligible for local landmark listing due to its large, well-preserved dairy barn.

Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 489. Right: The barn at the Pralle–Curbis Farmstead.

Riechers–Homan Farmstead ***Site 2301 (PIN 22-23-200-005)***

This farm was acquired by the Riechers family in the 1870s. By 1918, it was the home of Conrad and Matilda Riechers and their family. By 1940, the farm had been sold to Albert Homan, and the Homan family remain the owners of the farm today. This farmstead retains a number of historic structures, including the farmhouse and crib barn, but it is most noteworthy for its large, well-preserved dairy barn, likely built by the Homan family after they acquired the site. This property is considered to be eligible for local landmark listing.



Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 494. Right: The circa 1930s dairy barn at the Riechers–Homan Farmstead.

Ostermeyer–Buikema Farmstead ***Site 2303 (PIN 22-23-300-004)***

Conrad and Louise Ostermeyer arrived from Germany in 1857 and settled in Washington Township in 1859. Their farm was located in Section 30 of Range 15 East, site 8001 in the present survey. They were married in 1851 and had two sons and seven daughters. Conrad Ostermeyer died in 1914 at the age of 90, making him Beecher's oldest citizen at the time. In addition to Louise and seven of his nine children, he was survived by 89 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.[263] As noted on the 1893 atlas, the farm in Section 23 was acquired by Conrad Ostermeyer circa 1890, and was the home of their son Henry Ostermeyer. The 1918 directory lists Henry (apparently born in 1868) and his wife Dora as the owners of this farm. By the 1950s, this was the home of Arthur Buikema, and it remains owned by the Buikema family today. This farmstead is most notable for its concrete masonry farmhouse, likely built for Henry and Dora Ostermeyer in the early twentieth century. Because of this locally unique and well-preserved house, the site is considered to be eligible for local landmark listing.

Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 488. Right: The house at the Ostermeyer-Buikema Farmstead.

Piel Farmstead ***Site 2601 (PIN 22-26-200-003)***

This farmstead was acquired by Christ Piel in the 1880s. It passed to his son Herman Piel in the early twentieth century, and the 1918 directory lists Herman and Emma Piel as the residents of this site. In the 1940s, the farm was inherited by their son August Piel. In the late 1960s, the farm was sold to the Zurek family, who retain ownership today. This farmstead is notable for its well-preserved Upright and Wing type house dating to the nineteenth century. It also has a number of historic outbuildings, including a bank barn and a crib barn. It is considered to be eligible for local landmark listing.

Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 501. Right: The crib barn at the Piel Farmstead.

[263] Biery, 28–29.


Left: The bank barn at the Piel Farmstead. Right: The house at the Piel Farmstead dates to the nineteenth century. Despite a one-story addition replacing an original porch, it is largely intact.

Hack–Dierking–Klemme Farmstead ***Site 2605 (PIN 22-26-100-008)***

Son of early settler John Hack, Henry Hack was born in Mecklenburg, Germany in 1855 and came to the United States with his family when he was nine years old. He married Mary Bielfeldt in 1883 and they had two sons. A prominent citizen of the area, Hack became owner of the Bielfeldt Hotel and livery barn in 1880 and renamed it the Hack Hotel, which closed in 1932 after 61 years of operation. Hack also served as trustee of the village of Beecher, deputy sheriff of the county, constable, and in 1882 he became the local undertaker.[264] This farm became the homestead of John Hack by the 1870s, and it was inherited by Henry Hack by 1893. The farm was sold in the early 1900s. By 1918 it was the home of Emil Dierking and his wife Augusta. In the 1950s, the farm was acquired by Elmer Klemme. This farmstead is most notable for its unaltered American Foursquare type house, which was likely built for the Dierking family after they acquired the farm. There is also a historic crib barn on the site. It is considered to be eligible for local landmark listing.


Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 495. Right: The house at the Hack-Dierking-Klemme Farmstead.

[264] Stevens, 639–640; Biery, 32.

Selk Farmstead ***Site 3304 (PIN 22-33-300-005)***

This farm was first acquired by Carl Selk (or Silk), likely in the late 1860s. By the 1890s, it was the home of his son Henry Selk and his wife Katie. In the 1940s, the farm passed to Henry and Katie's son Walter Selk. It remained owned by the Selk family into the first years of the twenty-first century. This farm retains a number of intact historic structures, including a house, dairy barn, and crib barn. Most of these structures appear to date to the early part of the twentieth century and were likely built for Henry Selk. The farmstead is considered to be eligible for local landmark listing.

Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 504. Right: The house at the Selk Farmstead.

Left: The historic barn at the farmstead is in deteriorated condition. Right: The historic crib barn at the site.

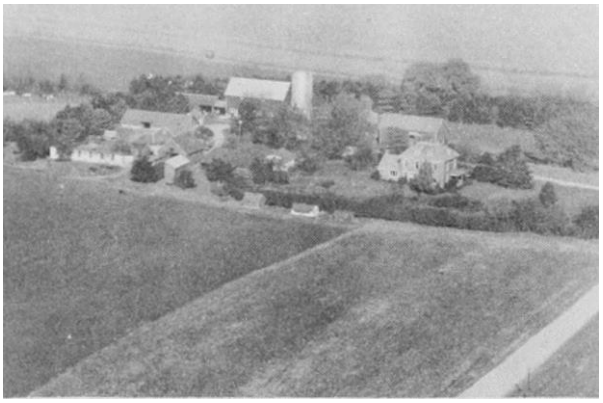
Frobose–Scheming Farmstead ***Site 6903 (PIN 23-19-400-006)***

Henry Frobose was the owner of this site in the 1880s. By 1893, it was the home of his son William Frobose and his wife Sophia. The Frobose family owned the farm into the 1920s. By 1948, it had been acquired by Fred Scheming. This farm retains its historic house, barn, and crib barn, all of which were likely built for the Frobose family. It is considered to be eligible for local landmark listing.

Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 505. Right: The house at the Frobose–Scheming Farmstead.

Voshage–Herlitz Farmstead ***Site 8201 (PIN 23-32-100-001)***

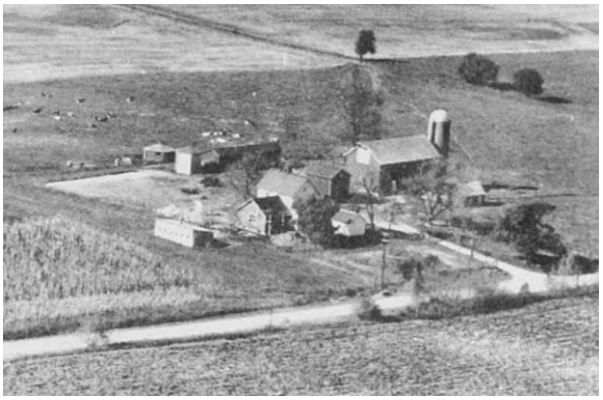
This farmstead was first established by Henry Voshage, likely in the late 1860s. By the 1890s, the farm had passed to his son, Fred Voshage. Subsequently, likely around 1914, it became the home of Fred's daughter Anna, and her husband William Herlitz, based on the 1918 directory. The Herlitz descendents own the farm today. This farmstead retains a locally distinctive early twentieth century brick masonry farmhouse. Due to its longtime association with a single extended family and the architectural character of the farmhouse, this property is judged to be eligible for local landmark listing.



Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 493. Right: The house at the Voshage-Herlitz Farmstead.

Conrad Bock Farmstead ***Site 2204 (PIN 22-22-200-002)***

Conrad Bock was born in Hanover, Germany and came to the United States with his widowed mother in 1857. During the Civil War, he served in the Union army. In 1867 he settled in Will County and established this farmstead. In 1867 Bock married Mary Wille, a native of Will County, and together they had five children: Sophia, Mary, Lena, Fred and Henry. His wife died in 1885. In 1886, Bock married Charlotte Waterman and had three additional children, Minnie, Clara, and William.[265] As listed in the 1918 directory, by that time, this farmstead was the home of William Bock and his wife Emma. After several changes of ownership, Ralph Peters acquired the farm by the mid-1950s, and it remains owned by the Peters family today. This farmstead is primarily notable for its association with a pioneer settler, and it also retains a locally distinctive dairy barn. In the present survey, it is judged to be a contributing property, due to limited integrity.



Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 501. Right: The barn at the Conrad Bock Farmstead.

[265] Stevens, 752–753.

Table. Surveyed Farmsteads and Related Sites in Washington Township

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
101	22-01-100-011	E. Offner Road	**Bowers-Meyer Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Ranch

Three-bay threshing

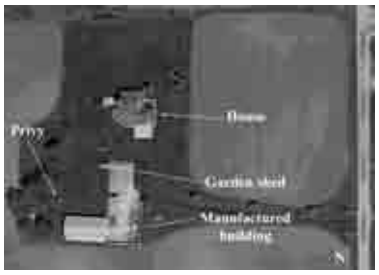
Upright and wing

102	22-01-200-008	S. Yates Avenue	**St. John Lutheran Church**	Contributing

Split Level

Church

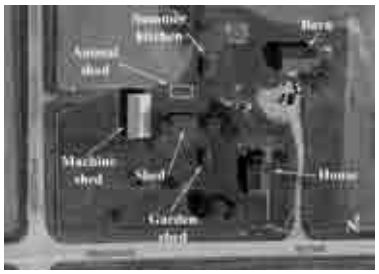
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
103	22-01-400-003	S. Yates Avenue	**Bahlmann-Hibbing Farmstead**	Non-contributing



Contemporary

See "John H. Bahlmann," Stevens (1907), 595.

104	22-01-300-001	E. Eagle Lake Road	**Oberherde-Bruns Farmstead**	Contributing



Gable Front

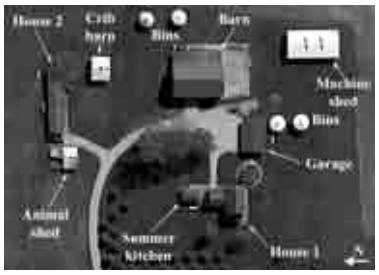
Three-bay Threshing

201	22-02-300-014	S. Cottage Grove Avenue	**Wilkening Farmstead**	Contributing

Upright and wing

Three-bay Threshing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
202	22-02-300-008	S. Cottage Grove Avenue	**Wilkening-Meier-Gramese Farmstead**	Contributing



Ranch

Three-bay Threshing

Upright and wing

203	22-02-100-012	S. Cottage Grove Avenue	**Scheiwe-Schroeder-Bruns Farmstead**	Contributing

Upright and Wing

Three-bay Threshing

Not accessible for close-up survey.

204	22-02-200-006	E. Offner Road	**Meyer-Lipe Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
205	22-02-200-009	E. Offner Road	**Harste-DeRossi Farmstead**	Contributing

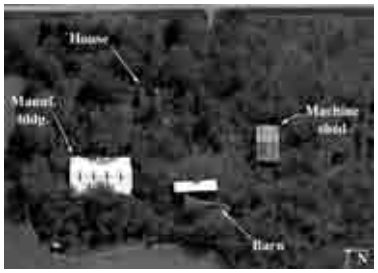
Three-bay Threshing

206	22-02-400-003	E. Eagle Lake Road	**Lucke-Garetto Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Upright and wing

Plank frame

207	22-02-400-006	S. Stoney Island Avenue	**Teske-DeRossi Farmstead**	Non-contributing

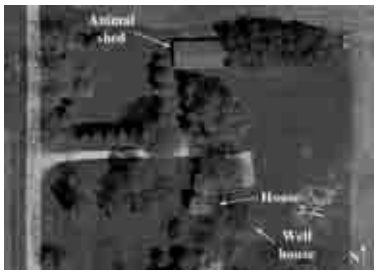


Gable Front

Three-bay Threshing

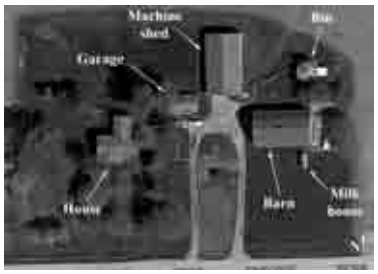
Not accessible for close-up survey.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
301	22-03-400-003	S. South Park Avenue	**Schrage-Johnson Farmstead**	Contributing



Upright and wing

302	22-03-400-002	E. Eagle Lake Road	**Wilkening-Wille-Owens Farmstead**	Local landmark potential



Gabled Ell

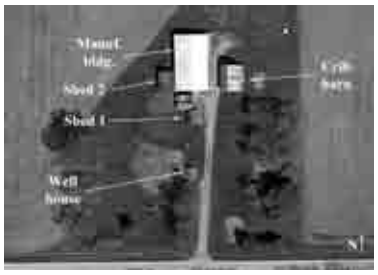
Dairy

303	22-03-200-004	S. Cottage Grove Avenue	**Bruns Farmstead**	Contributing

Contemporary

Dairy

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
304		E. Eagle Lake Road	**Teske Farmstead**	Contributing



Vacant.

305	22-03-300-013	E. Eagle Lake Road	**Rose-Teske Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Bungalow

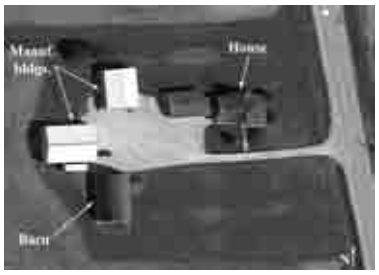
Notable as the farmstead settled by John and Mary Rose in 1851, first permanent settlers in the township, although no nineteenth century structures survive.

401	22-04-400-002	Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	**Koelling-Stoeven Farmstead**	Contributing

Upright and wing

Dairy

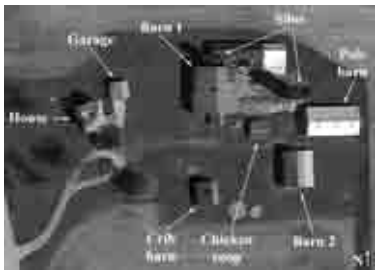
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
402	22-04-300-002	Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	**Fette-Kuhlmann Farmstead**	Local landmark potential



Gabled Ell

Round Roof

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
403	22-04-400-001	Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	**Ohlendorf-Stoeven Farmstead**	Local landmark potential



Gabled Ell

Feeder

Three-bay Threshing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
404	22-04-100-001	Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	**Baker-Bonem-Krol Farmstead**	Contributing

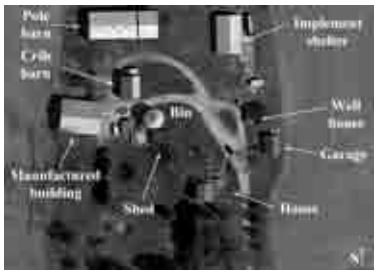
American Foursquare

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
405	22-04-200-005	Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	**Cooper-Soucie Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Gabled Ell

Dairy

501	22-05-400-001	W. Eagle Lake Road	**Scheiwe-Bruns Farmstead**	Contributing



Upright and wing

502	22-05-300-001	S. Ashland Avenue	**Robeson-Ruprecht-Stadt Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
601	22-06-100-001	W. Offner Road	**Hasenjoeger-Tegtmeyer Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell | Three-bay Threshing

---

602 22-06-200-004 S. Ashland Avenue **Nieman-Koelling-Wirth Farmstead** Local landmark potential

Gabled Ell | Three-bay Threshing

---

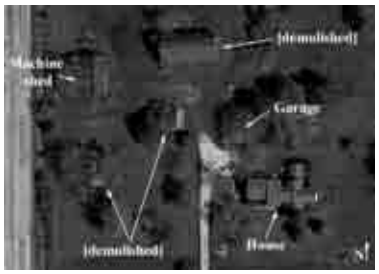
603 22-06-300-011 S. Western Avenue **Plagge-Schuldt Farmstead** Contributing

Gabled Ell

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
604	22-06-300-017	W. Eagle Lake Road	**Plagge-DeMick Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

605	22-06-400-018	W. Eagle Lake Road	**Ruprecht-Meyer Farmstead**	Non-contributing



Gabled Ell

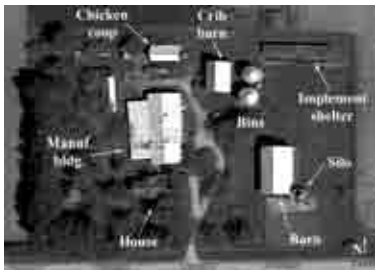
701	22-07-100-002	W. Eagle Lake Road	**Oldenburg-Lang Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
703	22-07-300-005	S. Western Avenue	**Tegtmeyer Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

705	22-07-300-003	W. Church Road	**Meyer-Peterson Farmstead**	Contributing



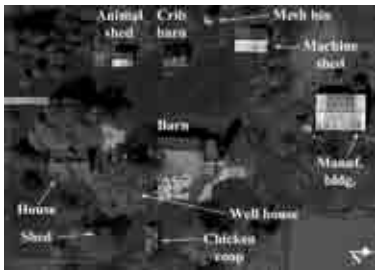
Gabled Ell — Three-bay Threshing

801	22-08-400-002	W. Church Road	**Haseman-Temme Farmstead**	Contributing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
802	22-08-100-001	W. Eagle Lake Road	**Hasenjager-Meyer-Wilkening Farmstead**	Contributing

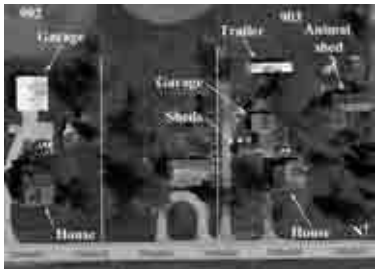
Gable Front | Feeder

804	22-08-300-005	W. Church Road	**Gieser-Lange Farmstead**	Local landmark potential



Gabled Ell | Plank frame

902	22-09-300-019	W. Church Road	**Wille Farmstead**	Contributing



Bungalow

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
903	22-09-300-004	W. Church Road	**Busse-Manning Farmstead**	Contributing

Upright and wing

904	22-09-300-037	Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	**Hasche-Kregel-Ohlendorf Farmstead**	Contributing

Gable Front

905	22-09-400-006	Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	**Clark-Wille-DeMik Farrmstead**	Non-contributing

Bungalow

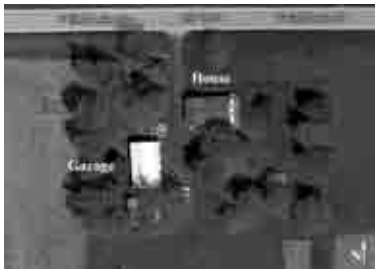
Illustrated in Chapman Bros. (1890), page 553. Historic barn was demolished in 1985.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
907	22-09-100-001	W. Eagle Lake Road	**Pauls-Schilling Farmstead**	Non-contributing

908	22-09-300-001	W. Church Road	**Juretz-Miles Farmstead**	Non-contributing

Gabled Ell

909	22-09-200-016	W. Eagle Lake Road	**Teske-Waterman House**	Non-contributing



Gable Front

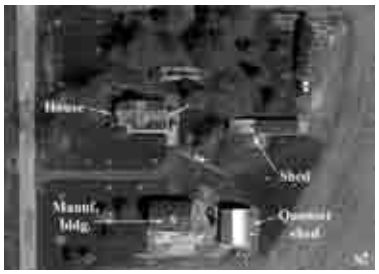
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1001	22-10-300-005	E. Church Road	**Wille-Terpstra Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

Plank frame

Not accessible for close-up survey.

1002	22-10-300-023	S. South Park Avenue	**Wille-DeGroot Farmstead**	Non-contributing



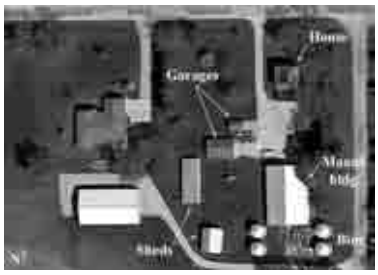
Gabled Ell

1004	22-10-100-005	S. South Park Avenue	**Hahn Farmstead**	Contributing

Upright and wing

Outbuildings were on east side of road. Documented as 1988 site no. 10-03. Demolished 1990s - early 2000s.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1005	22-10-100-010	E. Eagle Lake Road	**Smith–Claus–Morgan Farmstead**	Local landmark potential



Four-over-Four

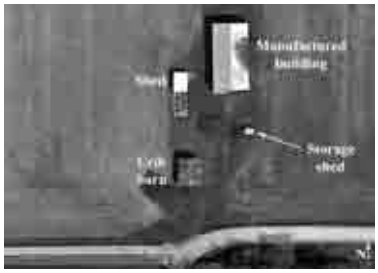
Newer house and metal building at 327 E. Eagle Lake Road is not part of this farmstead.

1006	22-10-400-005	S. South Park Avenue	**Hartmann Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Gabled Ell

Dairy

1101	22-11-300-003	E. Church Road	**Bernhard-Kreske Farmstead**	Non-contributing



ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1102	22-11-300-010	E. Church Road	**Becker-Taube Farmstead**	Contributing

Upright and wing

Three-bay threshing

1103	22-11-200-006	S. Stoney Island Avenue	**Bruns Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

Plank frame

1104	22-11-400-009	S. Stoney Island Avenue	**Piepenbrink-McConkey Farmstead**	Non-contributing

Split Level

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1201	22-12-400-008	S. Yates Avenue	**Scheiwe Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

1202 22-12-200-022 S. Yates Avenue **Steege-Rehborg Farmstead** Contributing

Gabled Ell

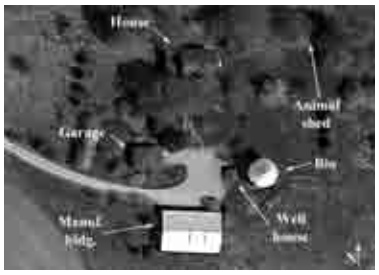
Major barn demolished after 1988. (View from 1988 survey attached.)

1203 22-12-100-009 E. Eagle Lake Road **Klaus-Hibbing Farmstead** Local landmark potential

Gable Front

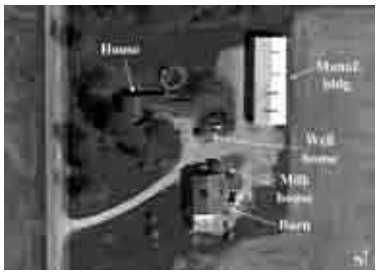
Dairy

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1204	22-12-100-007	S. Stoney Island Avenue	**Schweer-Kass Farmstead**	Contributing



Bungalow

1205	22-12-300-006	S. Stoney Island Avenue	**Erickson-Haase-Schroeder Farmstead**	Contributing



Upright and wing

Three-bay threshing

Major barn demolished after 1988.

1301	22-13-100-001	S. Stoney Island Avenue	**Brands-Groustra Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1302	22-13-300-002	E. Indiana Avenue	**Bredemeier-Vos Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

Three-ended barn seen in 1955 view has been demolished recently.

1303 22-13-400-006 S. Yates Avenue **Senholz-Meyer Farmstead** Contributing

Four-over-Four Three-bay threshing

1304 22-13-200-003 S. Yates Avenue **Senholz-Miller-Junker Farmstead** Contributing

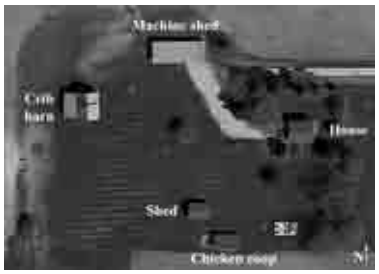
Upright and wing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1305	22-13-200-001	S. Yates Avenue	**Bernhard-Blim-Temple Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Upright and wing — Dairy

Gasoline pipeline rupture on June 11, 1971, caused a major fire on this farmstead. See Beecher Herald (June 17, 1971)

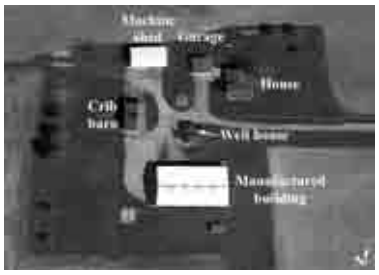
1402	22-14-100-007	S. Cottage Grove Avenue	**Scheiwer-Bernhard Farmstead**	Contributing



1403	22-14-100-014	S. Cottage Grove Avenue	**Bernhard-Bunte Farmstead**	Contributing

Upright and wing — Three-bay threshing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1405	22-14-200-005	S. Stoney Island Avenue	**Engelking-Matthias Farmstead**	Contributing



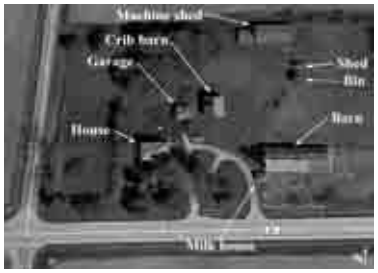
Upright and wing

1406	22-14-400-006	S. Stoney Island Avenue	**Engelking-Rademacher Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

1407	22-14-300-004	E. Indiana Avenue	**Katz-Tatge-Koehn Farmstead**	Contributing



American Foursquare

Dairy

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1501	22-15-100-012	E. Church Road	**Maxwell-Riemersma Farmstead**	Contributing

Ranch

Not accessible for close-up survey. Two westernmost outbuildings are PIN 22-16-200-003

1605 22-16-309-002 Penfield Street **Beecher Elementary School** Non-contributing

School

Original 1907 building was demolished circa 1961.

1606 22-16-306-002 Miller Street **Beecher High School** Non-contributing

School

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1607	22-16-309-014	Penfield Street	**Washington Township Community Bldg**	Local landmark potential

Community Hall

Historic photo in Biery, 76.

1609	22-16-506-005	Reed Street	**Beecher Railroad Depot**	Local landmark

Depot

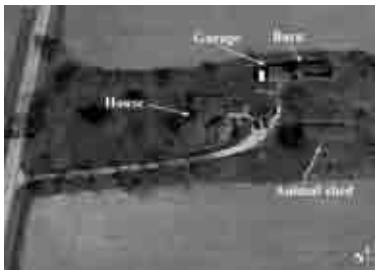
In 1969, the depot was moved to Monee. On December 7, 2000, the depot was again relocated, to a site in Beecher close to its original location. Designated a county landmark in 2001.

1610	22-16-308-012	Penfield Street	**St. Luke United Church of Christ**	Contributing

Church

Postcard view c. 1912 shows original entrance tower.

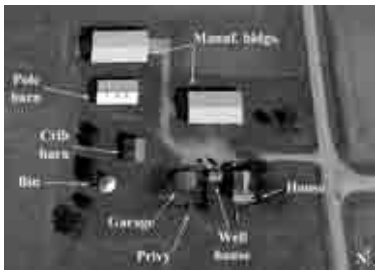
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1701	22-17-200-003	S. Racine Avenue	**Theede-Ziems-Graf Farmstead**	Contributing



Ranch

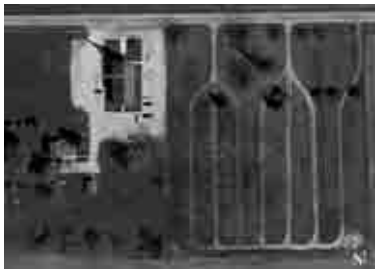
Dairy

1702	22-17-300-001	S. Racine Avenue	**Wehling-Bunte Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell

1704	22-17-100-002	W. Church Road	**St. Paul Lutheran Church**	Local landmark potential



Gabled Ell

Church

Cemetery to the east of the church

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1705	22-17-100-007	S. Ashland Avenue	**Wehling-Kurz Farmstead**	Contributing

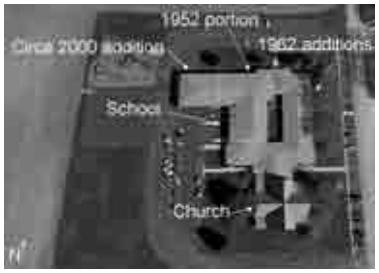
Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

1707	22-17-411-016	W. Indiana Avenue	**Zion Lutheran Church (former)**	Contributing

Church

1708	22-17-400-002	Oak Park Avenue	**Zion Lutheran Church and School**	Contributing



Church

School

1952 view of school printed in 100th Anniversary booklet (2003), page 12.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1709	22-17-411-009	Elliott Street	**Congregational Church**	Contributing

Church

1954, reorganized as Beecher Community Church.
Currently, Mighty Fortress Evangelical Lutheran Church

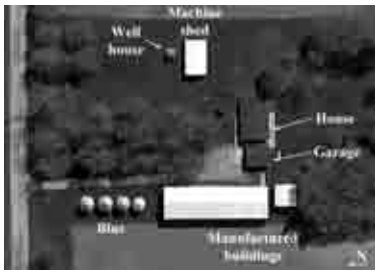
1801	22-18-400-004	W. Indiana Avenue	**Kraft-Podratz Farmstead**	Non-contributing

Upright and wing

1802	22-18-400-008	S. Ashland Avenue	**Seitz-Greer Farmstead**	Non-contributing

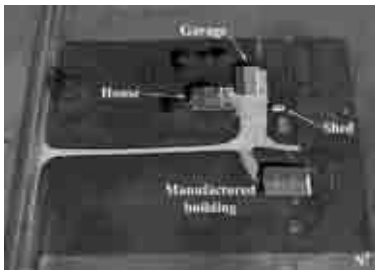
Gabled Ell

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1803	22-18-200-002	W. Church Road	**Oldenburg Farmstead**	Non-contributing



Ranch

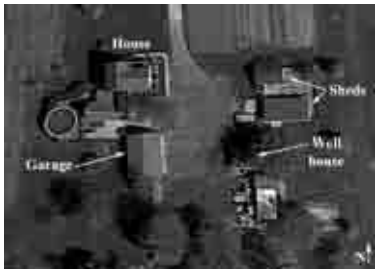
1804	22-18-300-005	S. Western Avenue	**Mathias-Stuenkel Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell

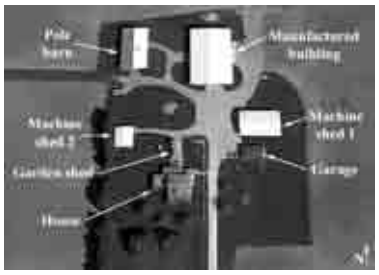
Surveyed from public right-of-way.

1901	22-19-200-004	W. Indiana Avenue	**Hinze Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1902	22-19-400-001	W. Corning Road	**Wendling-Beseke Farmstead**	Contributing



American Foursquare

2001	22-20-400-006	W. Corning Road	**Beseke-Kampe Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

Illustrated in Chapman Brothers (1890), page 423.

2002	22-20-300-011	S. Ashland Avenue	**Pralle-Curbis Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

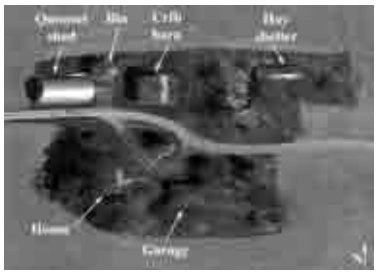
Gabled Ell

Dairy

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2003	22-20-200-003	W. Indiana Avenue	**Miller-Churchill Farmstead**	Contributing

See "Timothy L. Miller, " Woodruff (1878), 905.

2101	22-21-400-002	Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	**Heuck Farmstead**	Contributing



New England One-and-a-Half

2102	22-21-300-007	Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	**Rump-Heldt Farmstead**	Contributing

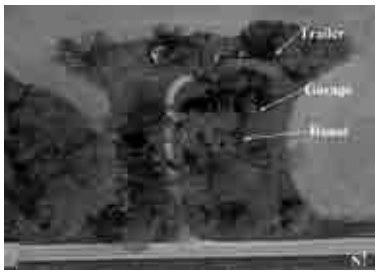
Ranch

Bank

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2103	22-21-202-004	Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	**Kappe-Piper-Wood Farmstead**	Non-contributing

Only one building remains.

2104	22-21-300-006	W. Corning Road	**Rump Farmstead**	Non-contributing



Cape Cod

2105	22-21-109-003	W. Indiana Avenue	**Kirich House**	Contributing

Gable Front

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2106	22-21-110-021	Maxwell Street	**Ehrhardt-Plagge-George Farmstead**	Contributing

American Foursquare

Former farmstead, now at the corner of a residential neighborhood.

2107	22-21-202-003	W. Horner Lane	**Beecher Mausoleum**	National Register listed

Mausoleum

Listed in the National Register, 2013. Built 1913–1914, designed by Cecil E. Bryan

---

2201	22-22-400-002	E. Corning Road	**St. John United Church of Christ**	Contributing

Church

Ranch

Per notes on 1988 survey: first addition, 1949; second addition, 1973.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2202	22-22-400-040	E. Corning Road	**Meyer-Jacobsen-Oppenlander Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

Many outbuildings demolished recently.

2203	22-22-400-034	S. Cottage Grove Avenue	**Selk-Stedt Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

2204	22-22-200-002	S. Cottage Grove Avenue	**Bock-Peters Farmstead**	Contributing

Ranch

Dairy

See "Conrad Buck," [sic] in Stevens (1907), 752.
New ranch-style house built shortly after 1988 survey.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2205	22-22-100-002	E. Indiana Avenue	**Engelking-Triezenberg Farmstead**	Contributing

Ranch

2206	22-22-100-001	E. Indiana Avenue	**Meyer-Bramlet Farmstead**	Contributing

Three-bay threshing

See "John Meier," Stevens (1907), 596.

2208	22-22-200-001	S. Cottage Grove Avenue	**Haltenhof-Kregel Farmstead**	Non-contributing

One building and one mesh bin remain.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2301	22-23-200-005	S. Stoney Island Avenue	**Riechers-Homan Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Upright and wing

Dairy

Surveyed from public right-of-way only.

2302	22-23-400-021	E. Corning Road	**Schmadeke-Stadt Farmstead**	Contributing

Ranch

Plank frame

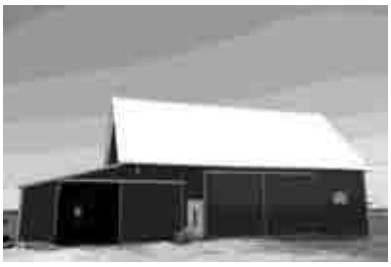
Ranch

2303	22-23-300-004	E. Corning Road	**Ostermeyer-Buikema Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

American Foursquare

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2304	22-23-100-004	S. Cottage Grove Avenue	**Tatge-Truetner-Blume Farmstead**	Contributing

Ranch

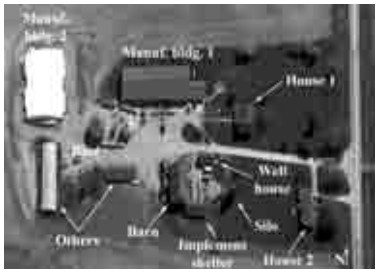


Three-bay threshing

2401	22-24-200-007	E. Indiana Avenue	**Meier-Bunte Farmstead**	Contributing

Upright and wing

2402	22-24-400-001	E. Corning Road	**Klaus-Brands Farmstead**	Contributing



Cape Cod

Dairy

Gabled Ell

Surveyed from public right-of-way only.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2403	22-24-400-002	S. Yates Avenue	**Busse-Wehrman Farmstead**	Contributing

—

2404	22-24-200-004	S. Yates Avenue	**Wehrman-Brandau Farmstead**	Non-contributing

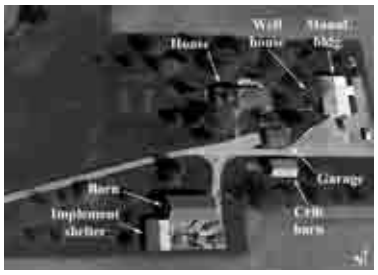
Most structures demolished, November 2011.
Only silos remain.

2405	22-24-100-007	S. Stoney Island Avenue	**Lages-Bunte Farmstead**	Contributing

Bungalow

Plank frame

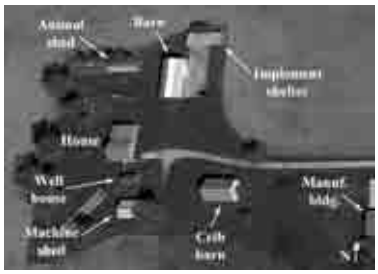
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2406	22-24-300-007	S. Stoney Island Avenue	**Brands-Wehrman Farmstead**	Contributing



Bungalow

Dairy

2501	22-25-200-007	S. Yates Avenue	**Danne-Brands-Erichson Farmstead**	Contributing



Upright and wing

Plank frame

2502	22-25-100-019	E. Kentucky Road	**Paulson-DeGraff-Harms Farmstead**	Non-contributing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2503	22-25-300-005	S. Stoney Island Avenue	**Heller-Blomberg Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

Historic photograph in Biery, page 28. See discussion of Friedrick Heller Farm on page 29.
Surveyed from public right-of-way only.

2504 22-25-100-001 E. Corning Road **Batterman-Wehrman Farmstead** Contributing

Gabled Ell

2601 22-26-200-003 E. Corning Road **Falke-Piel Farmstead** Local landmark potential

Ranch

Bank

Upright and wing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2602	22-26-200-007	E. Corning Road	**Neidert–Wahl Farmstead**	Contributing

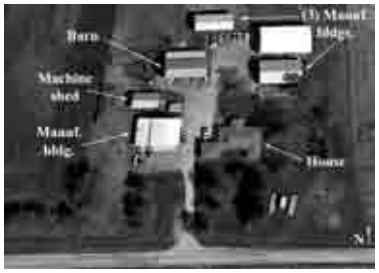
Gabled Ell | Three-bay threshing

2603	22-26-300-021	E. Kentucky Road	**Hack-Rohlfing-Karstensen Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Gabled Ell | Dairy

See "John Hack," Woodruff (1878), 905, and "Henry Hack," Stevens (1907), 639.

2604	22-26-400-002	E. Kentucky Road	**Stedt-Tucker Farmstead**	Contributing



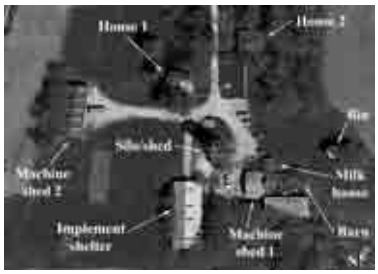
Ranch | Three-bay threshing

Surveyed from public right-of-way only.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2605	22-26-100-008	S. Cottage Grove Avenue	**Hack-Dierking-Klemme Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

American Foursquare

2701	22-27-200-010	E. Corning Road	**Gaines-Many-Peterson Farmstead**	Contributing



Ranch

Four-over-Four

2702	22-27-100-003	E. Corning Road	**Deeke-Zehr Farmstead**	Contributing

American Foursquare

Plank frame

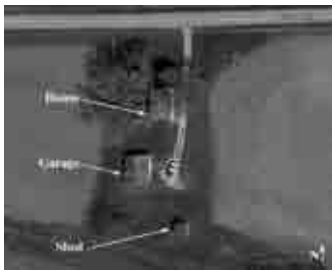
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2703	22-27-100-005	E. Corning Road	**Meyer-Plonka Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Gable Front

Feeder

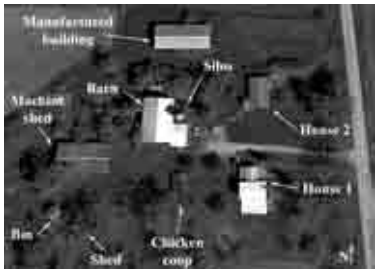
Older aerial view provided by owner shows post-1955 round-roof barn, now lost.

2704	22-27-100-001	E. Corning Road	**Deeke-Klauzek Farmstead**	Contributing



Bungalow

2705	22-27-400-002	S. Cottage Grove Avenue	**Wehling-Priebe Farmstead**	Contributing

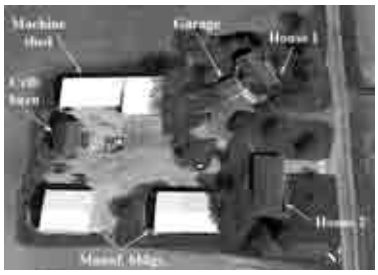


Ranch

Dairy

Upright and wing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2706	22-27-400-001	S. Cottage Grove Avenue	**Heldt-Lumsden-Surprenant Farmstead**	Contributing



Ranch

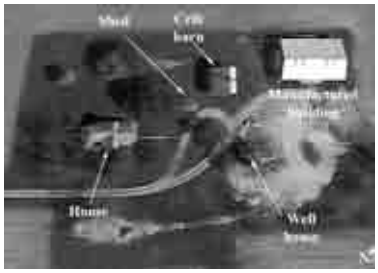
New houses since 1988 survey.

2801	22-28-200-004	W. Corning Road	**Schaeflein-Fisher Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

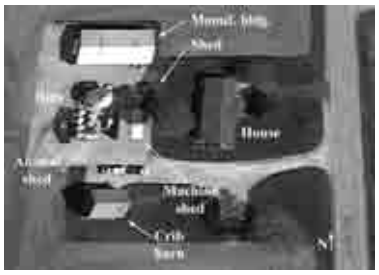
Surveyed from public right-of-way only.

2803	22-28-400-001	Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	**Fiene-Grages-Unruh Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2804	22-28-300-007	Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	**Fick-Schroeder Farmstead**	Contributing



Ranch

Major barn demolished in winter 2012.

2805	22-28-400-004	W. Kentucky Road	**Fiene-Doering-Kappe Farmstead**	Contributing

Cape Cod

Three-bay threshing

Historic photograph reproduced in "Beecher 1870-1970," page75.

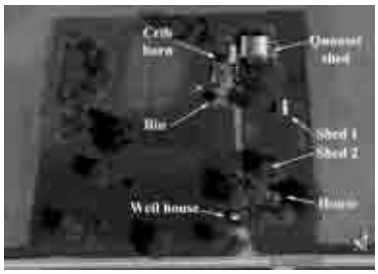
2807	22-28-200-001	Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	**WTAS Radio Transmitter**	Non-contributing

WTAS, 1964 to 1993
WEMG, 1993 to 1997
WYAA, 1997 to 2000
WVJM, 2000 to 2003
WYCA, 2003 to present

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2901	22-29-200-004	W. Corning Road	**Beseke-Kooy Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

2902	22-29-400-007	W. Kentucky Road	**Freerking-Lichtenwalter Farmstead**	Contributing



Upright and wing

2903	22-29-300-009	S. Ashland Avenue	**Sollitt–Von Alven–Ward Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

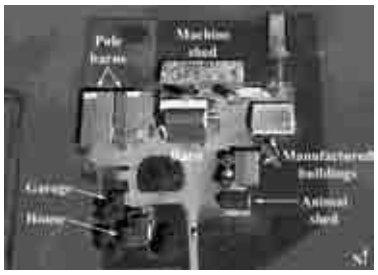
Dairy

Surveyed from public right-of-way only.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2904	22-29-100-008	S. Ashland Avenue	**Siefker-Piepenbrink Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

3001	22-30-300-008	W. Kentucky Road	**Rust-Mulderink Farmstead**	Contributing

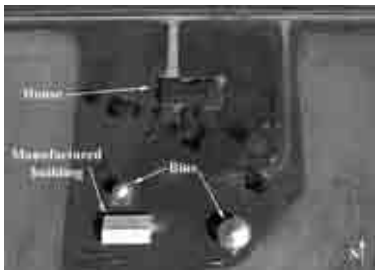


Dairy

3002	22-30-400-008	S. Ashland Avenue	**Salzmann School (District No. 179)**	Local landmark potential

Gable Front

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3003	22-30-200-003	W. Corning Road	**Theede-Seitz Farmstead**	Non-contributing



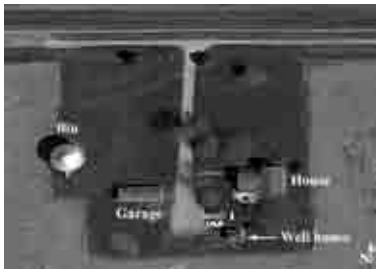
Ranch

3004	22-30-200-004	W. Corning Road	**House at 1759 W. Corning Road**	Non-contributing

Bungalow

Nothing at this site in 1961. Newly developed circa early 1980s.

3005	22-30-200-006	W. Corning Road	**Salzmann-Ensmann-Pulaski Farmstead**	Contributing



Upright and wing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3006	22-30-100-012	W. Corning Road	**Schmeckpeper Farmstead**	Non-contributing

Ranch

Established circa 1880 by Henry Schmeckpepper, Sr.

3007	22-30-400-012	S. Ashland Avenue	**Sollitt-Seitz Farmstead**	Non-contributing

Ranch

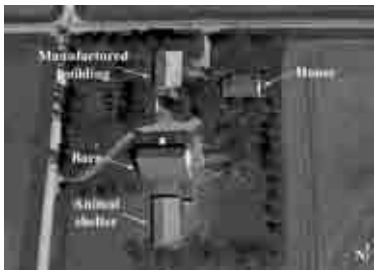
Illustrated in 1873 atlas, plate 105. No historic structures remain.

3101	22-31-400-004	W. County Line Road	**Lyon-Von Alven Farmstead**	Contributing

Gable Front

Gable Front

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3102	22-31-100-005	W. Kentucky Road	**Buhr-Simpson Farmstead**	Contributing



Ranch

Dairy

3103	22-31-200-001	W. Kentucky Road	**Knust-Oetter Farmstead**	Contributing

Upright and wing

Surveyed from public right-of-way only.

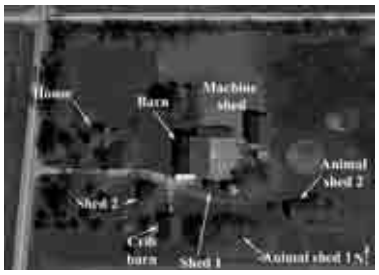
3201	22-32-200-012	W. Kentucky Road	**Kurz-Schrage Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

Ranch

Structures at north half of group are 839 W. Kentucky Road, PIN 22-32-200-011

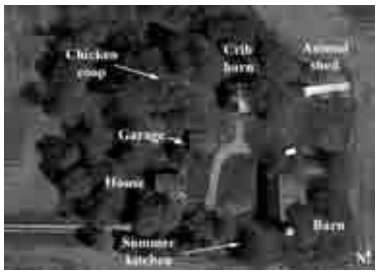
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3202	22-32-100-004	S. Ashland Avenue	**Lutterman-Lemke-Wiechen Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

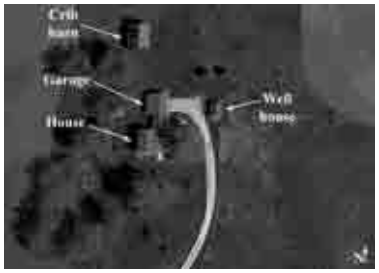
3203	22-32-100-007	S. Ashland Avenue	**Ross-Selk Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

3204	22-32-300-021	W. County Line Road	**Bockelman Farmstead**	Contributing

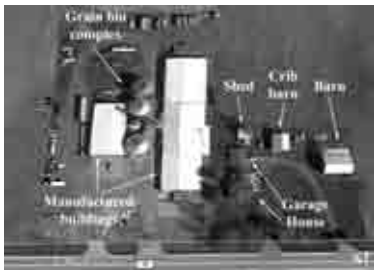


Upright and wing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3205	22-32-400-010	W. County Line Road	**Ehlers-Buhr Farmstead**	Contributing

Ranch

3206	22-32-400-004	W. County Line Road	**Kurth-Baker Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell

Plank frame

3301	22-33-400-012	W. County Line Road	**Fick-Lange-Schilling Farmstead**	Contributing

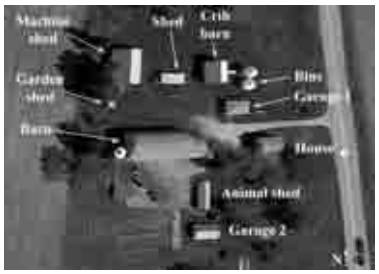
Upright and wing

Dairy

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3302	22-33-400-002	W. Delite Inn Road	**Kirchoff-Hinze Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

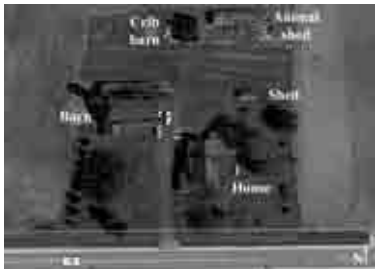
3303	22-33-100-001	Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	**Fiene-Unruh Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell

Round Roof

3304	22-33-300-005	W. County Line Road	**Selk Farmstead**	Local landmark potential



Gable Front

Dairy

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3305	22-33-400-001	W. Delite Inn Road	**Leder House**	Non-contributing

Ranch

3401	22-34-300-004	E. County Line Road	**Langreder-Kogut Farmstead**	Contributing

Four-over-Four

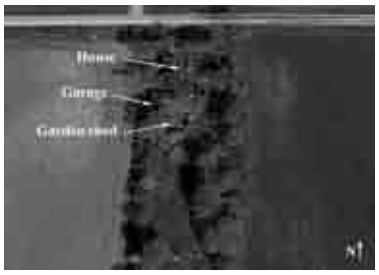
3402	22-34-200-004	S. Cottage Grove Avenue	**Bohl-Heldt Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

Dairy

Surveyed from public right-of-way only.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3403	22-34-400-002	E. Delite Inn Road	**Meyer-Stabin House**	Contributing



New England One-and-a-Half

3405	22-34-100-004	E. Delite Inn Road	**Kirchoff Farmstead**	Contributing

Four-over-Four

Three-bay threshing

Surveyed from public right-of-way only

3406	22-34-100-006	E. Delite Inn Road	**Langreder-Wieggel Farmstead**	Contributing

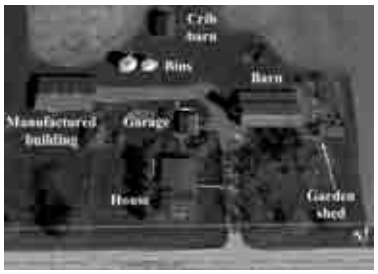
Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3501	22-35-300-004	E. County Line Road	**Heldt-Hartog Farmstead**	Contributing

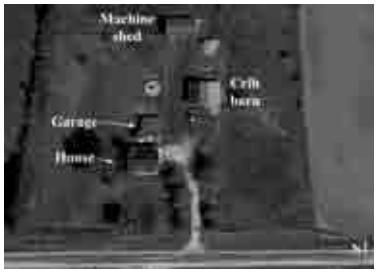
Gabled Ell

3502	22-35-400-010	E. County Line Road	**Stadt-Heldt Farmstead**	Contributing



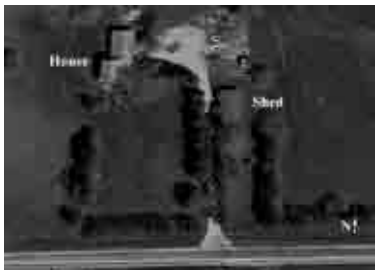
Gabled Ell | Dairy

3503	22-35-200-007	E. Delite Inn Road	**Heldt Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3504	22-35-100-008	E. Delite Inn Road	**Steben-Sapp Farmstead**	Non-contributing



Gabled Ell

3601	22-36-400-004	S. Yates Avenue	**Clarence Wieggel House**	Contributing

Bungalow

3602	22-36-400-003	S. Yates Avenue	**Truback-Wieggel Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

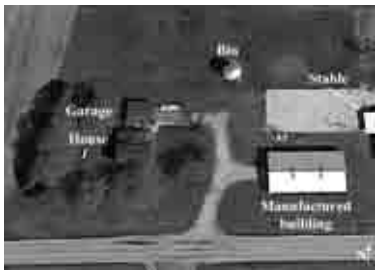
Bank

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3603	22-36-300-005	E. Delite Inn Road	**Ruge-Frohm-Christiansen Farmstead**	Contributing

American Foursquare

Historic outbuildings demolished mid-1990s.

5501	23-05-100-011	E. Brunswick Road	**Tegtmeyer Farmstead**	Contributing



Upright and wing

5502	23-05-300-007	E. Brunswick Road	**Rotermund-Meyer Farmstead**	Non-contributing

Contemporary

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
5601	23-06-100-024	S. Yates Avenue	**Sturm-Piepenbrink-Weiss Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell — Three-bay threshing

5602	23-06-300-012	S. Yates Avenue	**St. John Lutheran School Residence**	Local landmark potential

Upright and wing

This is the former house for the teacher of the schoolhouse associated with nearby St. John Lutheran Church. Schoolhouse was located just to the south of this residence but no longer exists.

5603	23-06-200-010	E. Brunswick Road	**Katz-Piepenbrink-Horner Farmstead**	Local landmark

Gabled Ell — Dairy

Barn on this property listed as a Will County Landmark in 2016.
View of farm in 1892 from nomination.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
5604	23-06-400-010	E. Brunswick Road	**Latz-Bultema Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

Two views in 1955 Drury book, from reverse angles.

5605	23-06-300-017	S. Yates Avenue	**Bruns-Hodge Farmstead**	Non-contributing

Historic house demolished, 2007.
In 1955 view, note historic schoolhouse in foreground.

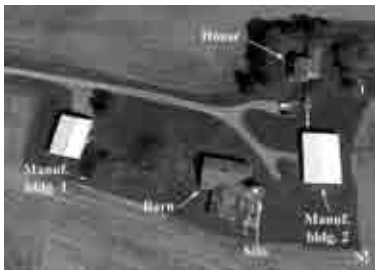
5606	23-06-300-024	S. Yates Avenue	**Tatge-Weber Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

Contains an outbuilding that may be the former schoolhouse from site 105.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
5607	23-06-200-004	E. Offner Road	**Klemme-Oldendorf Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

5701	23-07-200-007	S. Klemme Road	**Boecker-Bigale Farmstead**	Contributing

Upright and wing

5702	23-07-300-003	S. Yates Avenue	**Katz-Bredemeier-Lattz Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Gabled Ell

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
5704	23-07-100-017	S. Yates Avenue	**Bahlmann-Olthoff Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

See "John H. Bahlmann," Stevens (1907), 595.

5705	23-07-100-014	S. Yates Avenue	**Wilkening-Courtright Farmstead**	Non-contributing

Upright and wing

5706	23-07-300-001	S. Yates Avenue	**Cointin Farmstead**	Non-contributing

Ranch

Ranch

Based on 1939 aerial photography, any earlier structures on this 10-acre parcel had been demolished by that time. Existing strutures are all 1950s or later.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
5801	23-08-100-003	S. Klemme Road	**Tatge Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Gabled Ell

Illustrated in 1873 atlas, plate 105.

5802	23-08-300-009	S. Klemme Road	**Tatge-Lohman Farmstead**	Contributing

Upright and wing

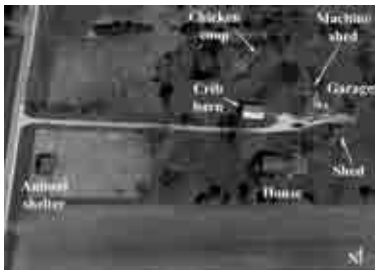
Plank frame

6701	23-17-100-023	S. Klemme Road	**Tatge-Rubright-Van Schouwen Farmstead**	Contributing

Ranch

Feeder

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
6702	23-17-300-004	S. Klemme Road	**Wilke-Schmitz Farmstead**	Contributing



Gable Front

Surveyed from public right-of-way only. Supplemented with photographs from recent real estate listing.

6703 23-17-300-005 E. Indiana Avenue **Schweppe Farmstead** Contributing

Ranch

Three-bay threshing

Gabled Ell

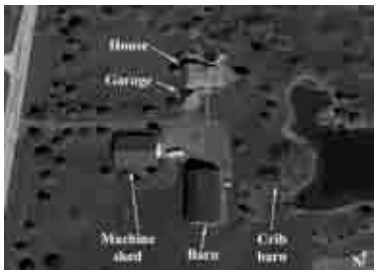
House near road appears to be newer. Historic house is near north end of site.

6801 23-18-300-001 E. Indiana Avenue **Henry Lohman Farmstead** Contributing

Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
6802	23-18-300-005	S. Yates Avenue	**John Lohman Farmstead**	Contributing



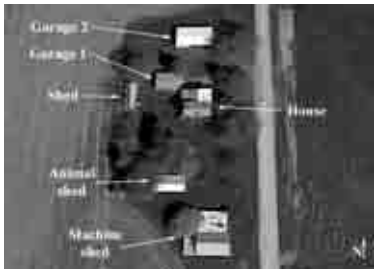
Gabled Ell

Dairy

6901 23-19-100-004 E. Indiana Avenue **Frahm-Dujardin Farmstead** Contributing

Gabled Ell

6902 23-19-200-004 S. Klemme Road **Frobose-Scheming Farmstead** Contributing



Upright and wing

Surveyed from public right-of-way only.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
6903	23-19-400-006	S. Klemme Road	**Wehrman-Frobose-Scheming Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Gabled Ell

Plank frame

6904	23-19-300-012	S. Klemme Road	**Erickson-Boicken Farmstead**	Contributing

Ranch

Dairy

Surveyed from public right-of-way only.

7001	23-20-100-012	S. State Line Road	**Guritz-Schmaedke Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

1893 and 1909 atlas identify "State Line Creamery Co." on this farmstead.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
7002	23-20-300-006	S. State Line Road	**Guritz-Kuhn Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

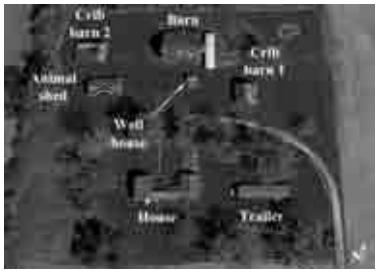
Surveyed from public right-of-way only.

7901	23-29-100-011	S. State Line Road	**Klaus-Haseman Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

Surveyed from public right-of-way only.

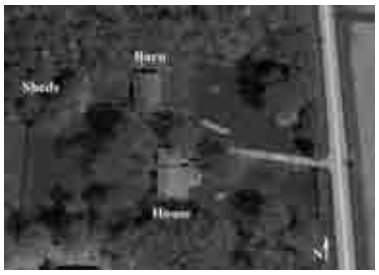
7902	23-29-300-021	E. Kentucky Road	**Sastrow-Freeking-Bauer Farmstead**	Contributing



Upright and wing

Surveyed from public right-of-way

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
7903	23-29-100-004	S. State Line Road	**Hepp-Burdick Farmstead**	Contributing



No permission for survey.

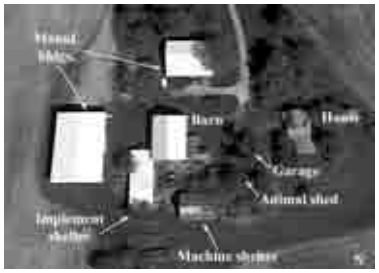
8001	23-30-400-007	E. Kentucky Road	**Ostermeyer-Curbis Farmstead**	Contributing

Upright and wing

Feeder

Historic 1885 photographs reproduced in "Beecher, 1870-1970," page 77; and Biery, pages 26-27.
Surveyed from public right-of-way only.

8002	23-30-200-002	S. Klemme Road	**Schmidt-Nissen-Becker Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell

Dairy

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
8004	23-30-100-022	S. Yates Avenue	**Wehrman-Kollman-Bettenhausen Farm stead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell | Dairy

8005	23-30-300-006	S. Yates Avenue	**Paulson-Koehn Farmstead**	Contributing

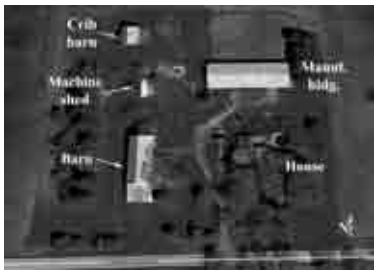
American Foursquare

No permission for survey.

8101	23-31-300-004	S. Klemme Road	**Tramm-Wieggel-Schilling Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell | Plank frame

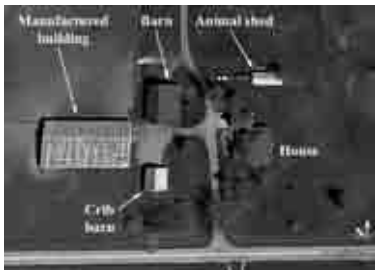
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
8102	23-31-100-004	E. Delite Inn Road	**Schilling-Wehrman Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

8103	23-31-200-009	E. Delite Inn Road	**Haseman-Eidam Farmstead**	Contributing



Contemporary

Feeder

Surveyed from public right-of-way. Supplemented with photos from recent real estate listing.

8104	23-31-400-002	E. Delite Inn Road	**Witt-Herlitz Farmstead**	Non-contributing

Ranch

Major barn and silo demolished early 2000s.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
8105	23-31-200-014	E. Kentucky Road	**Kransky-Senholtz Farmstead**	Contributing

No permission for survey. Pictometry only.

8106	23-31-100-008	E. Kentucky Road	**Wehrman-Corp Farmstead**	Contributing

Ranch

Dairy

8201	23-32-100-001	S. State Line Road	**Voshage-Herlitz Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

American Foursquare

Surveyed from public right-of-way only.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
8202	23-32-300-003	S. State Line Road	**Ohlenkamp-Haseman-Krohn Farmstead**	Contributing

Ranch

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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; Wilton Township in 2016; and Will Township and Crete Township in 2017. The resulting reports from these surveys were used as a basis for developing this report.

Books, Articles, and Other Publications

Adelmann, Gerald W. "A Preservation History of the Illinois and Michigan Canal." In *Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor: A Guide to Its History and Sources.* Edited by Michael P. Conzen and Kay J. Carr. DeKalb, Illinois: Northern Illinois University Press, 1988.

Agricultural Schedules for Illinois (7th Federal Census). 1850. Record Series 951.008, Illinois State Archives.

In comparing cumulative data for Will County from the 1850 census with later census data, it should be noted that the land of Kankakee County was part of Will County until 1851.

Agricultural Schedules for Illinois (8th Federal Census). 1860. Record Series 951.009, Illinois State Archives.

Agricultural Schedules for Illinois (9th Federal Census). 1870. Record Series 951.010, Illinois State Archives.

Agricultural Schedules for Illinois (10th Federal Census). 1880. Record Series 951.011, Illinois State Archives.

Alvord, Clarence Walworth. *The Illinois Country: 1673–1818*. The Sesquicentennial History of Illinois, Volume One. Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1920.

Andreas, A. T. *History of Chicago, from the Earliest Period to the Present Time.* Three volumes. Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1884.

Angelo, Phil, with Nancy Burgan and Glory Klasey. *The Daily Journal's Sequiscentennial Celebration, 150 Years: People, Events and Moments that Touched the Kankakee Valley.* Kankakee: The Daily Journal, 2003.

Auer, Michael J. *Preservation Brief 20. The Preservation of Barns.* National Park Service, Technical Preservation Services, October 1989.

Bale, D. Andrew, ed. *A Necrology of Will County Pioneers, 1886–1890.* Wilmington, Illinois: Will/Grundy Counties Genealogical Society, 1992.

———. *A Necrology of Will County Pioneers, 1890–1897.* Wilmington, Illinois: Will/Grundy Counties Genealogical Society, 1993.

———. *A Necrology of Will County Pioneers, 1902–1907.* Wilmington, Illinois: Will/Grundy Counties Genealogical Society, 1994.

———. *A Necrology of Will County Pioneers, 1911–1921.* Wilmington, Illinois: Will/Grundy Counties Genealogical Society, 1998.

Bath, Virginia Churchill. *T. L. Miller and the Hereford Cattle Empire at Beecher, Illinois.* Beecher Community Historical Society, 1996.

Beecher, Illinois, 1870–1970: "Schooners to Satellites." Crown Point, Indiana: L.E. Laney, 1970.

Belden, David A. *Postcard History Series: Will County.* Chicago: Arcadia Publishing, 2009.

Berg, Donald J. *American Country Building Design*. New York: Sterling Publishing Co., 1997.

Biery, Shirley. *Beecher*. Beecher, Illinois: The Beecher Area Quasquicentennial Commission, 1995.

Birnbaum, Charles A. *Preservation Brief 36. Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment and Management of Historic Landscapes.* National Park Service, Technical Preservation Services, September 1994.

Blair, Emma Helen [translator and editor]. *The Indian Tribes of the Upper Mississippi Valley and Region of the Great Lakes.* 1911. Reprint, Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1996.

Block, Daniel Ralston. "The Development of Regional Institutions in Agriculture: The Chicago Milk Marketing Order." Ph.D. diss., University of California at Los Angeles, 1997.

Brink, Lola Jean. *The Walk: A Journey Through 100 Years: St. Luke United Church of Christ, Beecher, Illinois, 1902–2002.* Beecher: St. Luke United Church of Christ, 2002.

Britt, Albert. *An America That Was: What Life Was Like on an Illinois Farm Seventy Years Ago*. Barre, Massachusetts: Barre Publishers, 1964.

Bruce, Alfred, and Harold Sandbank. *A History of Prefabrication.* Research Study 3. Raritan, New Jersey: John B. Pierce Foundation, Housing Research Division, 1945.

Calkins, Charles F. *The Barn as an Element in the Cultural Landscape of North America: A Bibliography.* Monticello, Illinois: Vance Bibliography, September 1979.

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

Carter, Deane G. and W.A. Foster. *Farm Buildings,* 3rd ed. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1941.

Chicoine, David Lyle. "Farmland Values in an Urban Fringe: An Analysis of Market Data from Will County, Illinois." Ph.D. diss., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1979.

The Code of Country Living. Bloomington, Illinois: Illinois Farm Bureau, 1999.

Colton, J. H. (Joseph Hutchins). *Colton's Railroad & Township Map, Western States Compiled from the United States Surveys.* New York, 1853.

Concrete for the Farmer. Chicago: Universal Portland Cement Co., 1914.

Concrete on the Dairy Farm. N.p.: Portland Cement Association, n.d. [circa 1920s].

Concrete Silos: A Booklet of Practical Information for the Farmer and Rural Contractor. Chicago: Universal Portland Cement Co., 1914.

Conzen, Michael P. "1848: The Birth of Modern Chicago." In *1848: Turning Point for Chicago, Turning Point for the Region.* Chicago: The Newberry Library, 1998.

Cooley, Verna. "Illinois and the Underground Railroad to Canada." *Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society* XXIII (1916).

Coppa & Avery Consultants. *Farm Architecture: A Guide to Farmhouses and Buildings*. Monticello, Illinois: Vance Bibliography, April 1982.

Cultural & Historical Preservation Plan. Will County, Illinois: Will County Regional Planning Commission, 1976.

Danckers, Ulrich, and Jane Meredith. *Early Chicago.* River Forest, Illinois: Early Chicago, Incorporated, 1999.

Davis, James E. *Frontier Illinois.* Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1998.

Doane Ideas on Farm Buildings. St. Louis: Doane Agricultural Service, 1955.

Doershuk, John. *Plenemuk Mound and the Archaeology of Will County.* Illinois Cultural Resources Study No. 3. Springfield, Illinois: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 1988.

Dotson, Michael E. *In Search of the Golden Fleece: A Study of the Fur Trade in Will County, 1673–1825.* N.p.: Will County Historical Society, 1986.

Drury, John. *This is Will County, Illinois.* The American Aerial County History Series, No. 26. Chicago: The Loree Company, 1955.

Duddy, Edward A. *Agriculture in the Chicago Region*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1929.

Ekberg, Carl J. *French Roots in the Illinois Country: The Mississippi Frontier in Colonial Times*. Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1998.

Ellis, Edward Robb. *A Nation in Torment: The Great American Depression, 1929–1939.* 1970. Reprint New York: Kodansha International, 1995.

Farm Buildings. Chicago: Sanders Publishing, 1905.

Farm Buildings. Chicago: Sanders Publishing, 1911.

Farm Buildings: How to Build Them. Charles City, Iowa: W.E. Frudden, 1916.

Farm Buildings: New and Enlarged Edition. Chicago: The Breeder's Gazette, 1913.

Farrington, Leslie Joseph. "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.

Fetherston, David. *Farm Tractor Advertising In America: 1900-1960.* Osceola, Wisconsin: Motorbooks International, 1996.

Fisher, D. J. *Geology and Mineral Resources of the Joliet Quadrangle.* Bulletin No. 51 of the Illinois State Geological Survey. Urbana, Illinois, 1925.

Fitzgerald, Deborah. "Farmers Deskilled: Hybrid Corn and Farmers' Work." In *Technology and American History: A Historical Anthology from "Technology & Culture."* Edited by Stephen H. Cutcliffe and Terry S. Reynolds. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997.

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

Gardner, Frank D. *Traditional American Farming Techniques* [*Successful Farming*]. 1916. Reprint, Guilford, Connecticut: The Lyons Press, 2001.

Gardner, John S., editor. *The Fitzpatrick Homestead: A University of Illinois Case Study in Recording Historic Buildings.* Springfield, Illinois: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, n.d.

Genealogical and Biographical Record of Will County, Illinois. Chicago: Biographical Publishing Company, 1900.

Genealogical and Biographical Record of Kendall and Will Counties, Illinois. Chicago: Biographical Publishing Company, 1901.

Goldthwait, James Walter. *Physical Features of the Des Plaines Valley.* Illinois State Geological Society Bulletin No. 11. Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois, 1909.

Gordon, Stephen C. *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory*. Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Historical Society, 1992.

Halsted, Dr. Byron D., and Edwin C. Powell, editors. *Barn Plans and Outbuildings*. New York: Orange Judd Company, 1917.

Hardick, Jane E. "Suburbanization and Annexation since 1930." *Time and Place in Joliet: Essays on the Geographical Evolution of the City*. Edited by Michael P. Conzen. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1988.

Harris, Emily J. *Prairie Passage: The Illinois and Michigan Canal Corridor*. Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1998.

Heck, R. J. *Gleanings and Biographies.* Joliet: Will County Historical Society, 1969.

History of State Departments, Illinois Government, 1787–1943. Compiled by Margaret C. Norton, Illinois State Archives.

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

Illinois Department of Public Works and Buildings, Division of State Parks. *Illinois Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Plan.* Chicago: Illinois State Planning Commission, 1938.

"Illinois-Michigan Canal Reaches Century Mark." *Illinois Public Works* 6, no. 2 (summer 1948): 14–16.

Illinois Place Names. Edited by William E. Keller and compiled by James N. Adams with an addendum by Lowell E. Volkel. Springfield, Illinois: Illinois State Historical Society, 1989.

Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database, website located at http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/genealogy/landsrch.html (State of Illinois Secretary of State).

Inventory of Historic Structures in Will County: Interim Report. Chicago: Illinois Historic Structures Survey, and Springfield: Illinois Department of Commerce, October 1972.

Jackson, Kenneth T. *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.

Jakle, John A., 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.

Jessup, Theodore. "Starved Rock and Its Neighborhood." *Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society* XI (1906).

Johnson, A. N. "Cost of a System of Durable Roads for Illinois." *The Eighteenth Annual Report of the Illinois Farmers' Institute.* Edited by H.A. McKeene. Springfield, Illinois: Illinois State Journal Company, 1913.

Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce. *1968 Directory of Manufacturers*. 1968.

Jones, Edward Richard. *Farm Structures*. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 1933.

King, M. L. "Planning the Silo." *The Eighteenth Annual Report of the Illinois Farmers' Institute.* Edited by H.A. McKeene. Springfield, Illinois: Illinois State Journal Company, 1913.

Kniffen, Fred B. "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.

Krey, Frank, and J.E. Lamar. *Limestone Resources of Illinois.* Urbana, Illinois: State of Illinois Department of Registration and Education, Division of the State Geological Survey, 1925.

Lambert, Michael A. "Rural Crossroads: Meaning and Architecture." [Master's degree student paper, University of Illinois, 1985.]

Lockwood, Charles. "Sprawl." *Hemispheres.* September 1999.

MacMillan, Thomas C. "The Scots and Their Descendants in Illinois." *Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society* XXVI (1919).

Markman, Charles. *Chicago Before History: The Prehistoric Archaeology of a Modern Metropolitan Area*. Studies in Illinois Archaeology No. 7. Springfield: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 1991.

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

Maue, August. *History of Will County, Illinois.* Indianapolis: Historical Publishing, 1928.

McKeene, H. A., editor. *The Eighteenth Annual Report of the Illinois Farmers' Institute.* Springfield, Illinois: Illinois State Journal Co., State Printers, 1914.

Meyer, Douglas K. *Making the Heartland Quilt: A Geographical History of Settlement and Migration in Early-Nineteenth Century Illinois.* Carbondale, Illinois: Southern Illinois University Press, 2000.

The Midwest Farm Handbook. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State College Press, 1957.

Moeller, Josephine F., and Marylea Souers Degler, eds. *Early German Churches (before 1900) of Illinois*. Quincy, Illinois: Illinois Chapter, Palatines to America, 1989.

Morrison, Olin Dee. *Prairie State, A History: Social, Political, Economical.* Athens, Ohio: E. M. Morrison, 1960.

Myers, John H., and revised by Gary L. Hume. *Preservation Brief 8. Aluminum Siding and Vinyl Siding on Historic Buildings: The Appropriateness of Substitute Materials for Resurfacing Historic Wood Frame Buildings.* National Park Service, Technical Preservation Services, October 1984.

National Park Service, in association with the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. *Guide to Sustainable Earthworks Management.* 90 Percent Draft. 1998.

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.

National Register Bulletin 30. *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes.* Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division, n.d.

Neth, Mary. *Preserving the Family Farm: Women, Community, and the Foundations of Agribusiness in the Midwest, 1900–1940.* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995.

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

Noble, Allen G., and G.H. Wilhelm, editors. *Barns of the Midwest*. Athens, Ohio: University of Ohio Press, 1995.

Noble, Allen G. *Wood, Brick, & Stone.* The North American Settlement Landscape, Volume 2: Barns and Farm Structures. Amherst, Massachusetts: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984.

Opie, John. *The Law of the Land: Two Hundred Years of American Farmland Policy.* Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1987.

Peck, J. M. *A Gazetteer of Illinois, in Three Parts: Containing a General View of the State, a General View of Each County, and a Particular Description of Each Town, Settlement, Stream, Prairie, Bottom, Bluff, Etc.; Alphabetically Arranged.* Philadelphia: Grigg & Elliot, 1837.

Peterson, Fred W. "Anglo-American Wooden Frame Farmhouses in the Midwest, 1830–1900: Origins of Balloon Frame Construction." In *People, Power, Places: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture VIII.* Edited by Sally McMurry and Annmarie Adams. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2000.

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

Plans for Concrete Farm Buildings. N.p.: Portland Cement Association, n.d. [circa 1920s].

Portrait and Biographical Album of Will County, Illinois. Chicago: Chapman Bros., 1890.

Prairie Farmer's Reliable Directory of Farmers and Breeders of Will and Southern Cook Counties, Illinois. Chicago: Prairie Farmer Publishing Company, 1918.

Radford, William A. *Cement Houses and How to Build Them.* Chicago: The Radford Architectural Company, n.d. [Circa 1910s.]

Ramsower, Harry C. *Farm Equipment and How to Use It.* 1917. Reprint, Guilford, Connecticut: The Lyons Press, 2001.

Rathbun, Peter. "Joliet Army Ammunition Plant: Written Historical and Descriptive Data." Historic American Engineering Record Survey No. IL-18, 1984.

Rock, Ronald D. *100th Anniversary of Zion Lutheran Church, Beecher, Illinois, 1903–2003.* Beecher: Zion Lutheran Church, 2003.

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

Roll of Property Owners in Will County, Illinois, in the Year 1842. Will County, Illinois: Will County Historical Society, 1992.

Salamon, Sonya. *Prairie Patrimony: Family, Farming, & Community in the Midwest*. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1992.

Sanders, J.H. *Practical Hints About Barn Building*. Chicago: J.H. Sanders, 1892.

Schofield, William W. *Contemporary Local History.* 2 vols. Joliet: Will County Historical Society, 1972.

Shaw, Fayette Baldwin, Ph.D. *Will County Agriculture.* Will County Historical Society, 1980. [This publication is "a selected portion of a thesis written and submitted by Dr. Shaw in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philisophy, Harvard University, 1933."]

Silos: Types and Construction. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1948.

Simpson, Pamela H. *Cheap, Quick, & Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870-1930.* Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1999.

Small Farm Buildings of Concrete: A Booklet of Practical Information for the Farmer and Rural Contractor. Chicago: Universal Portland Cement Co., 1914.

Smith & Betts Farm and Building Book. Chicago: The Radford Architectural Company, 1915.

Souvenir of Settlement and Progress of Will County, Illinois: A Review. Chicago: Historical Directory Publishing, 1884.

Souvenir Sketch of the Wheatland Plowing Match with Programme for Meeting of 1898. Joliet, Illinois: Republican Printing Co., 1898.

Sprague, Paul E. "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." *The Technology of Historic American Buildings.* Edited by H. Ward Jandl. Washington, D.C.: Foundation for Preservation Technology for the Association for Preservation Technology, 1983.

Spies, L. A. "How to Make Money Dairying on Land Worth Two Hundred Dollars per Acre." *The Eighteenth Annual Report of the Illinois Farmers' Institute.* Edited by H.A. McKeene. Springfield, Illinois: Illinois State Journal Company, 1913.

Sproat, Iva Gillett. *Heritage of Faith, Heritage of Land.* Coal City, Illinois: Bailey Printing and Publishing Company, 1983.

Sterling, Robert E. *A Pictorial History of Will County: Volume I*. Joliet, Illinois: 2H Printing, 1975.

Sterling, Robert E. *A Pictorial History of Will County: Volume II*. Joliet, Illinois: Will County Historical Publications Company, 1976.

Stevens, Darlene Gavron. "Golf course treasure trove: home of ancient Americans." *Chicago Tribune.* December 13, 1993.

Stevens, W. W. *Past and Present of Will County, Illinois*. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing, 1907.

Stewart, John T. *Engineering on the Farm: A Treatise on the Application of Engineering Principles to Agriculture.* Chicago: Rand McNally and Co., 1923.

Storm, Alice C. *Doctor Conrad Will.* Joliet, Illinois: Louis Joliet Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1917.

Tanner, Helen Hornbeck, editor. *Atlas of Great Lakes Indian History.* Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987.

Taylor, Florence Walton. "Culture in Illinois in Lincoln's Day." *Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society* 42 (1935).

Teska Associates, Inc., and Will County Land Use Department, Planning Division. *Will County Land Resource Management Plan.* October 1990, amended November 1996.

United States Department of Agriculture. *Yearbook of Agriculture.* Washington, DC: United States Government Printing Office, 1936.

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service. *Midewin Land and Resource Management Plan with Final Environmental Impact Statement.* Wilmington, Illinois, 2002.

United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Eleventh Census of the United States: 1890. Part 3: Agriculture. Washington, D.C.

Twelfth Census of the United States: 1900. Census of Agriculture. Washington, D.C.: 1901.

Thirteenth Census of the United States: 1910. Census of Agriculture. Washington, D.C.: 1914.

Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920. Agriculture: Part V: General Report and Analytical Tables. Washington, D.C.: 1922.

Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930.

Agriculture, Volume I: Farm Acreage and Farm Values by Township or Other Minor Civil Divisions. Washington, D.C.: 1931.

Agriculture, Volume II: Part I – The Northern States, Reports by States, with Statistics for Counties and a Summary for the United States. Washington, D.C.: 1931.

United States Census of Agriculture: 1935. Volume II: Reports for States with Statistics for Counties and a Summary for the United States. Washington, D.C., 1936.

Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940.

Agriculture, Volume III: General Report. Washington, D.C.: 1943.

Agriculture: Value of Farm Products by Color and Tenure of Farm Operator. A Special Study by Irvin Holmes, Principal Statistician for Income and Value. Washington, D.C.: 1944.

Agriculture: Abandoned or Idle Farms. A Special Study. Washington, D.C.: 1943.

Seventeenth Census of the United States: 1950. Volume I, Part 12: Illinois. Washington, D.C.: 1950.

United States Census of Agriculture: 1945. Volume I, Part 5: Illinois. Statistics for Counties. Washington, D.C.: 1946.

United States Census of Agriculture: 1954. Volume I: Counties and State Economic Areas; Part 5: Illinois. Washington, D.C.: 1957.

United States Census of Agriculture: 1964. Volume I, Part 12: Illinois. Washington, D.C.: 1967.

1974 Census of Agriculture. Volume I, Part 13: Illinois. Washington, D.C.: 1977.

1982 Census of Agriculture. Volume I, Geographic Area Series, Part 13: Illinois. Washington, D.C.: 1984.

1992 Census of Agriculture. Volume I, Geographic Area Series, Part 13: Illinois. Washington, D.C.: 1994.

1997 Census of Agriculture. Volume I, Geographic Area Series, Part 13: Illinois. Washington, D.C.: 1999.

2002 Census of Agriculture. Volume I, Geographic Area Series, Part 13: Illinois. Washington, D.C.: 2004.

2007 Census of Agriculture. Volume I, Geographic Area Series, Part 13: Illinois. Washington, D.C.: 2009.

2012 Census of Agriculture. Volume I, Geographic Area Series, Part 13: Illinois. Washington, D.C.: May 2014.

United States Department of Veterans Affairs. "Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery." <www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/abrahamlincoln.asp>.

Upton, Dell, and John Michael Vlach, editors. *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1986.

Upton, Dell, editor. *America's Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups that Built America*. New York: Preservation Press, John Wiley & Sons, 1986.

"The Use of Concrete Work on the Farm." *Building Age.* (February 1917): 99–105.

Village of Beecher. Village of Beecher, 1997.

Vlach, John Michael. *Barns.* New York: W.W. Norton & Company, and Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 2003.

What the Farmer Can Do with Concrete. Montreal, Quebec: Canada Cement Company Limited, n.d. [Circa 1920s.]

Will County Directory for 1859–60. Compiled by John C.W. Bailey. Chicago: William H. Rand, 1859.

Will County Gazetteer and Farmers' and Land Owners' Directory. Springfield: J. E. Fitzpatrick & Co., 1888.

Will County, Illinois: Land Resource Management Plan. April 18, 2002.

Will County Places, Old and New. Will County Historical Society, 1982.

Will County Property Owners, 1842. Reprint, Joliet, Illinois: Will County Historical Society, 1973.

Willman, H. B. *Summary of the Geology of the Chicago Area.* Illinois State Geological Survey Circular 460. Urbana, Illinois, 1971.

Winds of Fury: The Will County Tornado of 1990. Sun City West, Arizona: C. F. Boone, 1990.

Woodruff, George H. *Forty Years Ago: A Contribution to the Early History of Joliet and Will County.* Joliet, Illinois: Joliet Republican Steam Printing House, 1874.

———. *Patriotism of Will County: Designed to Preserve the Names and Memory of Will County Soldiers.* Joliet, Illinois: Joliet Republican Book and Job Steam Printing House, 1876.

———. *History of Will County, Illinois.* Chicago: Wm. Le Baron Jr., & Company, 1878.

Wooley, John C. M.S. *Farm Buildings*. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1941.

Works Progress Administration, Federal Writers Project. *Illinois: A Descriptive and Historical Guide.* Chicago: A.C. McClurg, 1939.

Worthen, A.H. *Economical Geology of Illinois.* Volume II. Springfield, Illinois, 1882.

Wright, James R. *The Dixie Highway in Illinois.* Images of America series. Chicago: Arcadia Publishing, 2009.

Ziemba, Stanley. "Bridge to Southwest around the Corner." *Chicago Tribune* May 13, 2007, sec. 14, pp. 1, 4.

Maps and Aerial Photographs

Many of the historic maps listed below were viewed on the websites of the Library of Congress at <memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>.

Atlas and Supplement: Indian Villages of the Illinois Country. Compiled by Sara Jones Tucker (1942) with supplement compiled by Wayne C. Temple (1975). Springfield, Illinois: Illinois State Museum, 1975.

Bateman, Newton, and Paul Selby, editors. *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Du Page County.* Chicago: Munsell Publishing Company, 1913.

Burhans, S. H., and J. Van Vechten. *Map of Cook County, Illinois.* 1861.

———. *Map of Cook County, Illinois.* 1862.

———. *Map of Will County, Illinois.* 1862.

Chicago & Northwestern Railroad- Land Department. *Map showing the Location of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway with its Branches & Connections through Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan.* Chicago, 1862.

Combination Atlas Map of Will County. Elgin, Illinois: Thompson Brothers & Burr, 1873.

Ensign, Bridgman & Fanning. *Railroad and County Map of Illinois Showing Its Internal Improvements 1854.* New York, 1854.

Geo. A. Ogle & Co. *Plat Book, Will County, Illinois.* Chicago, 1893.

Geo. A. Ogle & Co. *Standard Atlas of Will County, Illinois.* Chicago, 1909.

Map of the Counties of Cook, Du Page, the East Part of Kane and Kendall, the Northern Part of Will, State of Illinois. Chicago: James H. Rees, 1851.

Map of Illinois Showing State Highways. State of Illinois Department of Public Works and Buildings, Division of Highways, 1 July 1930. Contained in *Illinois Tourists Guide,* 1930.

Map of Will County, Illinois. Rockford, Illinois: Hixson Map Co., 1902.

McBean, Williams. *A Map of a part of the Southern & Western States Showing the Contemplated Route of the New Orleans & Ohio Railroad and the Central Railroad of Illinois, also the Route of the Mobile & Ohio Railroad Representing the Most Central, Direct and Practical Route for a Great National and Commercial Highway Between the Gulf of Mexico and the Great Northern Lakes, and by Various Branches and Intersections with Other Railways Connecting With All the Principal Cities of the United States.* New Orleans, 1850.

Plat Book of Will County, Illinois. Rockford, Illinois: W.W. Hixson and Co., n.d. [Circa 1928.]

Plat Book of Will County, Illinois. Rockford, Illinois, W.W. Hixson and Co., n.d. [Circa 1940.]

Rand McNally and Company. *Map of Illinois Central R.R.* Chicago: 1892.

Rand McNally and Company. *Railroad Map of Illinois Prepared Under the Direction of, and presented by, Cicero J. Lindly, Chas. S. Rannells, and Jos. E. Bidwell, Railroad and Warehouse Commissioners*. Chicago: April 1, 1898.

Snyder's Real Estate Map of Cook County, Illinois. Chicago: L.M. Snyder and Co., 1886.

Snyder's Real Estate Map of Cook, Du Page, and Part of Will Counties. Chicago: William L. Mitchell, 1898.

United States Agricultural Adjustment Agency. Aerial photographs of Will County, 1939. <www.isgs.uiuc.edu/nsdihome/webdocs/ilhap>

United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, *Soil Map – Will County, Illinois,* 1980.

Van Vechten, J. *Map of Cook and Du Page Counties.* 1870.

Will County Land Atlas & Plat Book: Will County, Illinois. (Various titles.) Rockford, Illinois: Rockford Map Publishers, Inc., 1948, 1953, 1957, 1963, 1966, 1969, 1972, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1980–1981, 1982, 1985, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016.

Will County, Illinois: Official Farm Plat Book and Directory. Joliet, Illinois: Dreher & Schorie, 1970.

Will County, Illinois: Plat Book & Index of Owners. (Various titles.) La Porte, Indiana: Town & County Publishing Co., Inc., 1960, 1974.

GLOSSARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

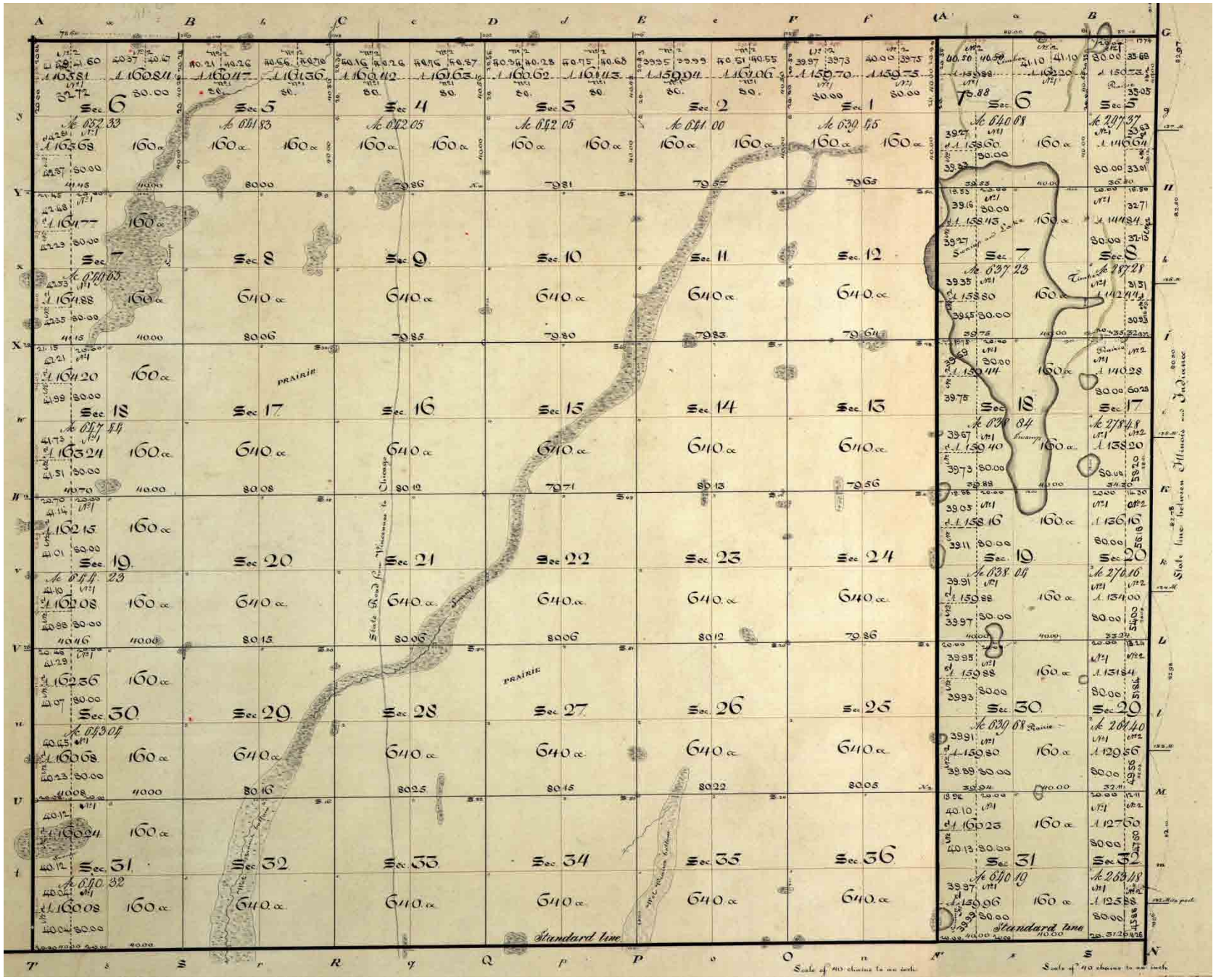
vault. A masonry covering over an area which uses the principle of the arch.

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

APPENDIX A

HISTORIC PLAT MAPS

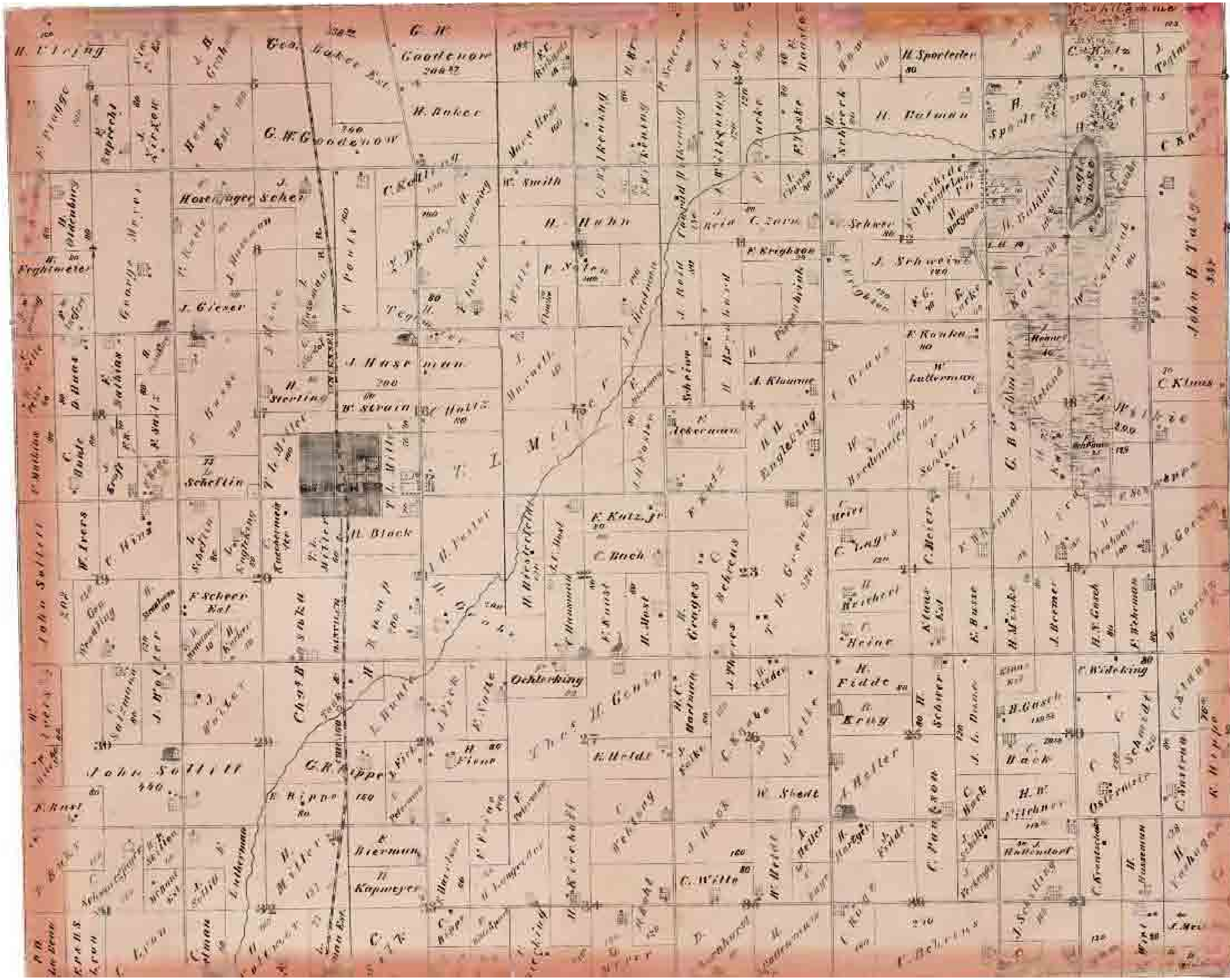
This appendix contains historic farm atlas and plat maps for Washington Township. Refer to Bibliography for map sources.


Sec 6
Sec 5
Sec 4
Sec 3
Sec 2
Sec 1
Sec 7
Sec 8
Sec 9
Sec 10
Sec 11
Sec 12
Sec 18
Sec 17
Sec 16
Sec 15
Sec 14
Sec 13
Sec 19
Sec 20
Sec 21
Sec 22
Sec 23
Sec 24
Sec 30
Sec 29
Sec 28
Sec 27
Sec 26
Sec 25
Sec 31
Sec 32
Sec 33
Sec 34
Sec 35
Sec 36
PRAIRIE
State Road from Wisconsin to Chicago
Standard line
Scale of 40 chains to an inch.
State line between Illinois and Indiana

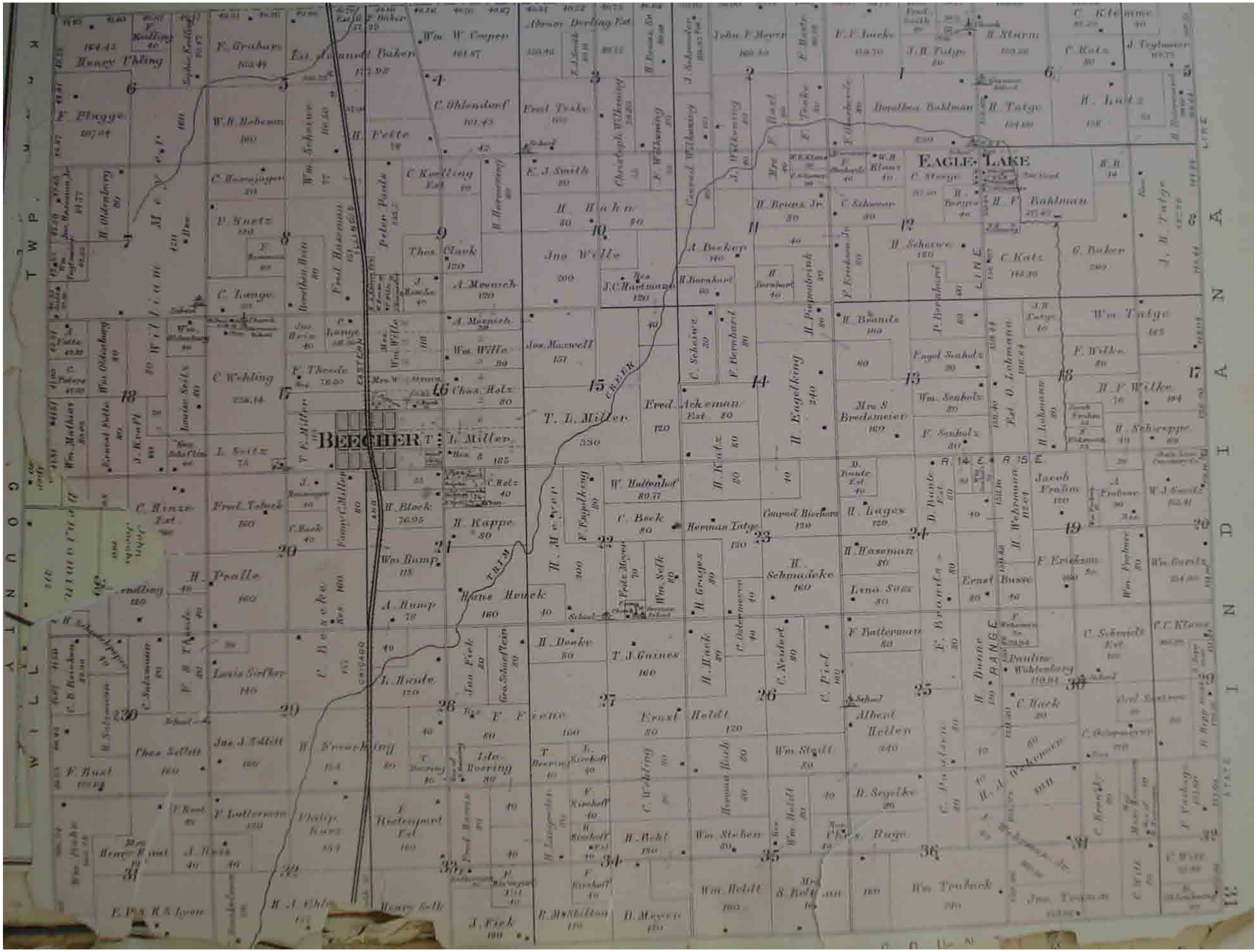
1834


WASHINGTON
EAGLE LAKE
Illinois Central R R Co
Illinois C. R R Co
J.H. Graham
Geo. Baker
Geo Goodenow
P. McGrath
E.C Richards
Mary Rose
A Darling
C Wilkening
F Wilkening
Conrad Wilkening
J.P. Shiver
P. Mier
Jno Wilkening
J.H. Malachi
I C R R Co
Jno S. Bowers
H Sporleder
W Turner
C Klamine
H.C Katz
Jno Bahlman
H. Bahlman
H Sporleder
Pomeroys
Higley
C Knobe
W. Hewes
Jno H. Foster
H.A Dean
C Kolling
John Lewis
J Smith
P Heskin
Hone
Hines
Benjamin Tibbetts
C.Totge
H Miller
Nelson Reed
C K nobe
Henry Totge
W Shwer
H Mathias
Hy. Hase
Wilkman
F.Shepper
H. Voslinge
W Wood
L.Keckmans
F Kauker
H. Housman
H.S. Marker
W. Bradmire
F.K Senhold
A. Pheifley
J.M Adsit
J.H Foster
Chas Foster
Edwin Haze
Jos Maxwell
A. Johnson
H.Stilling
W.Strain
H. Barkman
F.Crumrede
H.M.Johnson
Jas Vezey
J.H Foster
F.Mathias
Jno Rose
B Hodges
Jno H. Foster
M. M. Johnson
Benj Hedge
John Sollett
P.D.Callahan
Vezey
Chapman
Jno H Foster
John Lewis
H Crose
Lauert
J. Myer
C.Clause
H. Dosey
P. H.Doose
H.Klemme
C.Klemme
F. Klemme
A J Irish
Jno H Foster
E H Searls
G Keppe
J.Wallenberger
Jno Lewis
J.W. Adsit
H. H. Frahm
J Watkins
W. Watkins
M.T.Kimler
Myron Herbe
B J Kruse
L&C Fefferman
G.P.lumbach
H. Filsner
W.H. Filsner
J.R. Peters
Kindall
J.M. Adsit
V. L. Beau
Caleb Lyon
P.H.La Beau
Wm Sollett
Jno Sollett
A.Norrison
Caleb Hewes
H. Kershop
W.M. Watkins
Geo.Watkins
W. B Conner
D H Mitchell
W A. Bliss Sr
H. Tuttle
L. Patten
S. Moor
Z. Dow

1862

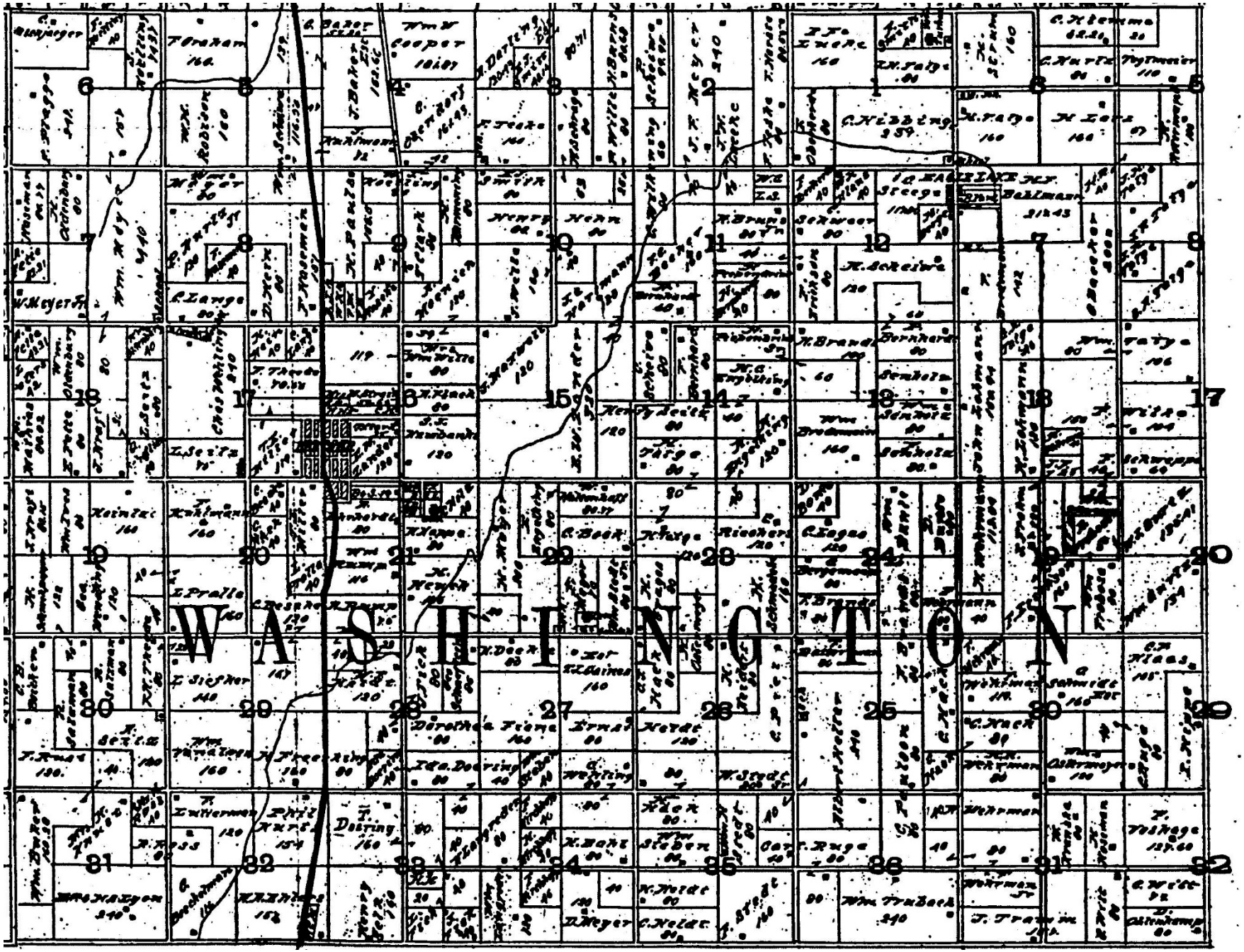

John H Talge
C. Klaus
G. Backhaus
C. Pankow
H. Sporleder
H. Hohman
J. Schwein
A. Klamme
H. Englebring
C. Bach
F. Katz, jr
Ochlerking
E. Heldt
John Sollitt
Chas. Bosaka
G. H. Goodenow
C. W. Goodenow
Geo. Baker Est.
H. Baker
W. Smith
H. Hahn
J. Hasseman
H. Sterling
W. Strain
H. Black
W. Ivers
C. Wille
H. Biermann
Kapmeyer
J. Gieser
H. Schefflin
T. L. Miller

1873

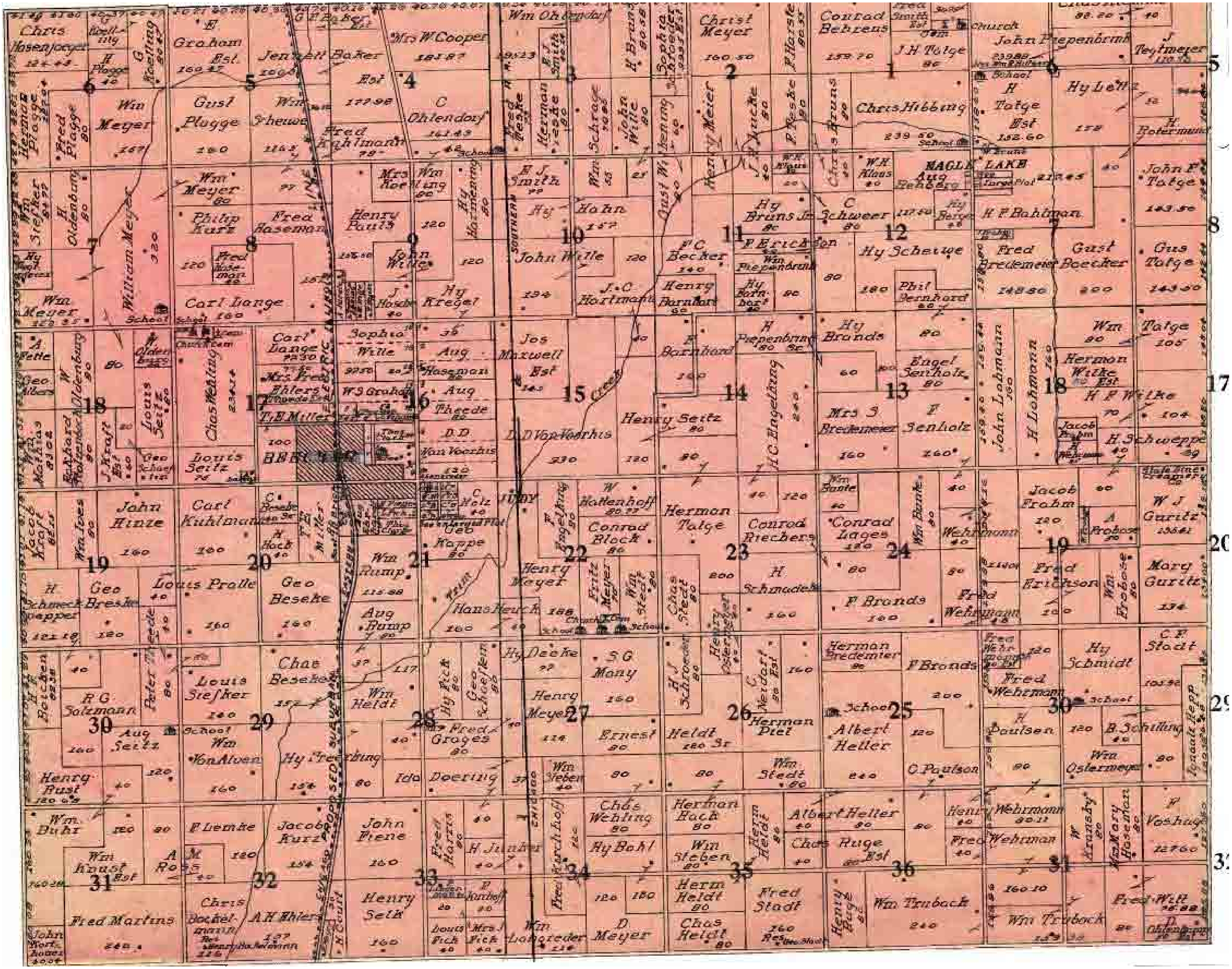


BEECHER
EAGLE LAKE
INDIANA
CREEK
RANGE
F. Pingge
Henry Uhling
F. Graham
Wm. W. Cooper
C. Ohlendorf
Abram Dorling Est.
Fred Teske
E. J. Smith
Jno Wille
Jos. Maxwell
T. L. Miller
Fred Ackeman
H. Engelking
Mrs S. Bredemeier
Dorothea Bahlman
H. Tatge
C. Katz
G. Baker
J. H. Tatge
Wm Tatge
F. Wilke
Jacob Frahm
Wm Trebuck
Hans Heuck
T. J. Gaines
Ernst Heldt
Albert Hellen
Wm Stelt
Wm Stehen
H. Schmadeke
Ernst Busse
C. Schmidt

1893

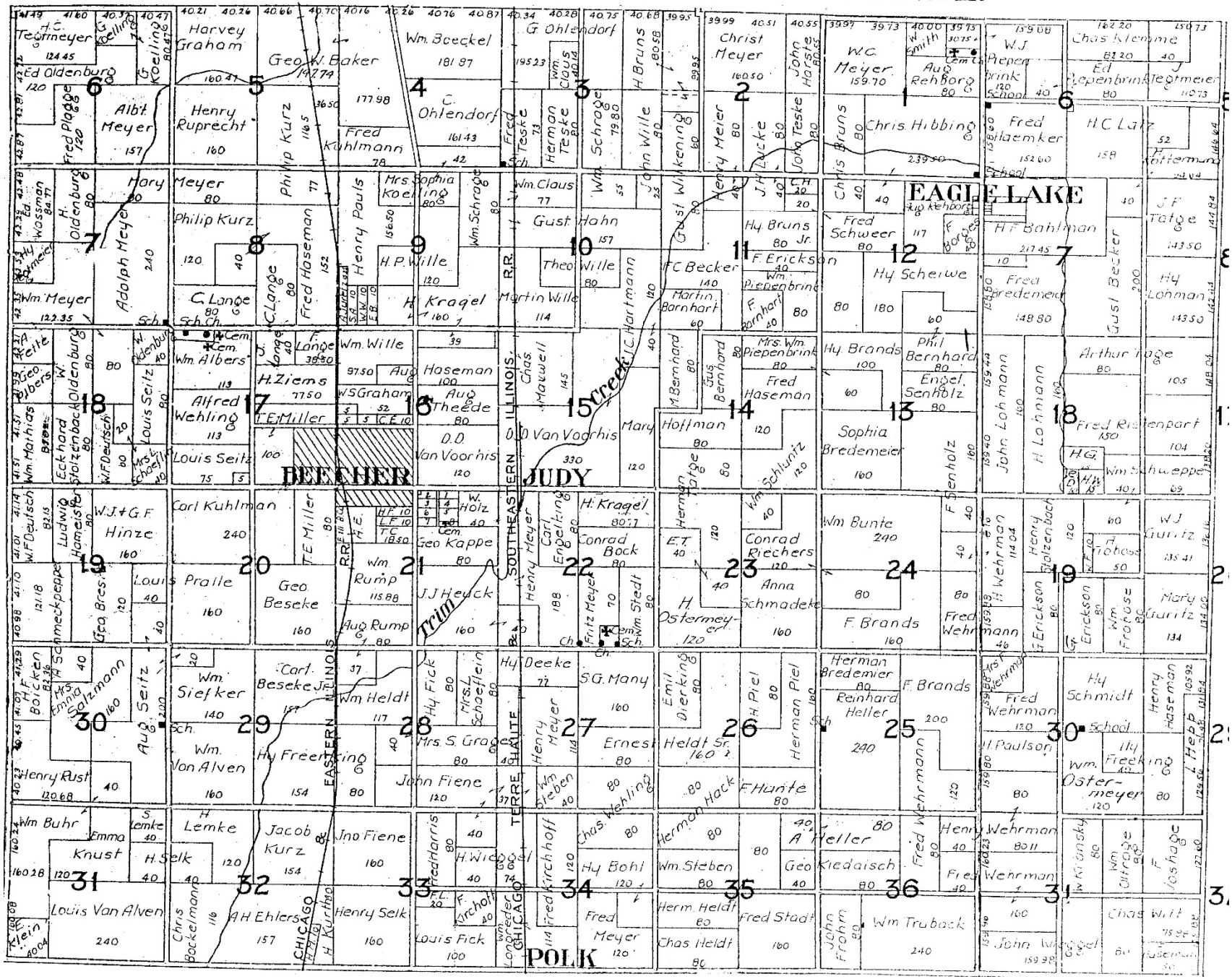


1902

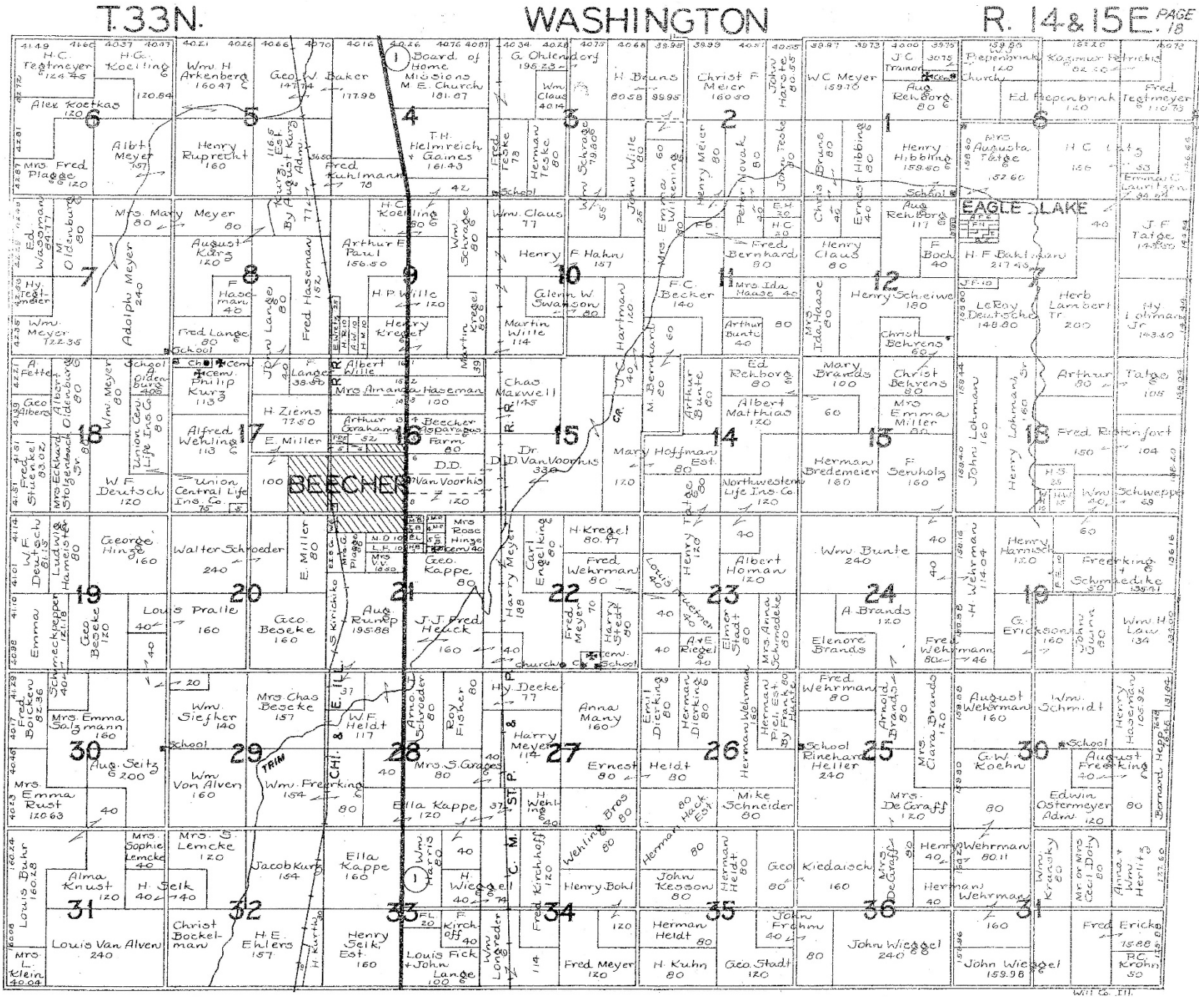

Chris Hasenjaeger
Graham Est.
Jennett Baker
Mrs W. Cooper
C Ohlendorf
Wm Ohlendorf
Christ Meyer
Conrad Behrens
J.H. Tolge
John Piepenbrink
Church
Hy Lenz
Gust Plogge
Wm Meyer
Fred Kuhlmann
Chris Hibbing
H Tolge Est
EAGLE LAKE
William Meyer
Philip Kurz
Fred Haseman
Henry Pauls
John Wille
Hy Kregel
Hohn
F.C Becker
Hy Bruns Jr
C Schweer
H F Bahlman
Gust Boecker
Gus Tolge
Carl Lange
Hy Scheiwe
Phil Bernhard
Fred Bredemeier
Jos Maxwell Est
Henry Barnhart
Hy Brands
Engel Senholz
John Lohmann
H Lohmann
Hermon Wilke
H F Wilke
Chas Wehling
Louis Seitz
T.E. Miller
D.D Van Voorhis
Henry Seitz
H.C. Engelking
Mrs S Bredemeier
F Senholz
H. Schweppe
Jacob Frohm
John Hinze
Carl Kuhlmann
Conrad Block
Herman Tolge
Conrad Riechers
Conrad Lages
Fred Erickson
W J Guritz
Mary Guritz
Louis Prolle
Geo Beseke
Wm Rump
Aug Rump
Henry Meyer
H Schmadeke
F Brands
Fred Wehrmann
C.F. Stadt
R G Solzmann
Louis Siefker
Chas Beseke
Wm Heldt
Hy Decke
S G Many
Herman Bredemeier
F Brands
Hy Schmidt
Fred Wehrmann
Aug Seitz
Wm VonAlven
Hy Freerking
Fred Grages
Ida Doering
Ernest Heldt
Herman Piel
Albert Heller
C Paulsen
B Schilling
Wm Ostermeyer
Henry Rust
Wm Buhr
F Lemke
Jacob Kurz
John Fiene
Chas Wehling
Hy Bohl
Herman Hack
Albert Heller
Chas Ruge Est
Henry Wehrmann
Fred Wehrman
F Voshug
Fred Martins
A.H. Ehlers
Henry Seitz
D Meyer
Herm Heldt
Chas Heldt
Fred Stadt
Wm Truback
Fred Witt
SOUTHERN
CHICAGO
ELECTRIC RAILROAD
PROPOSED SUBURBAN
Creek

1909

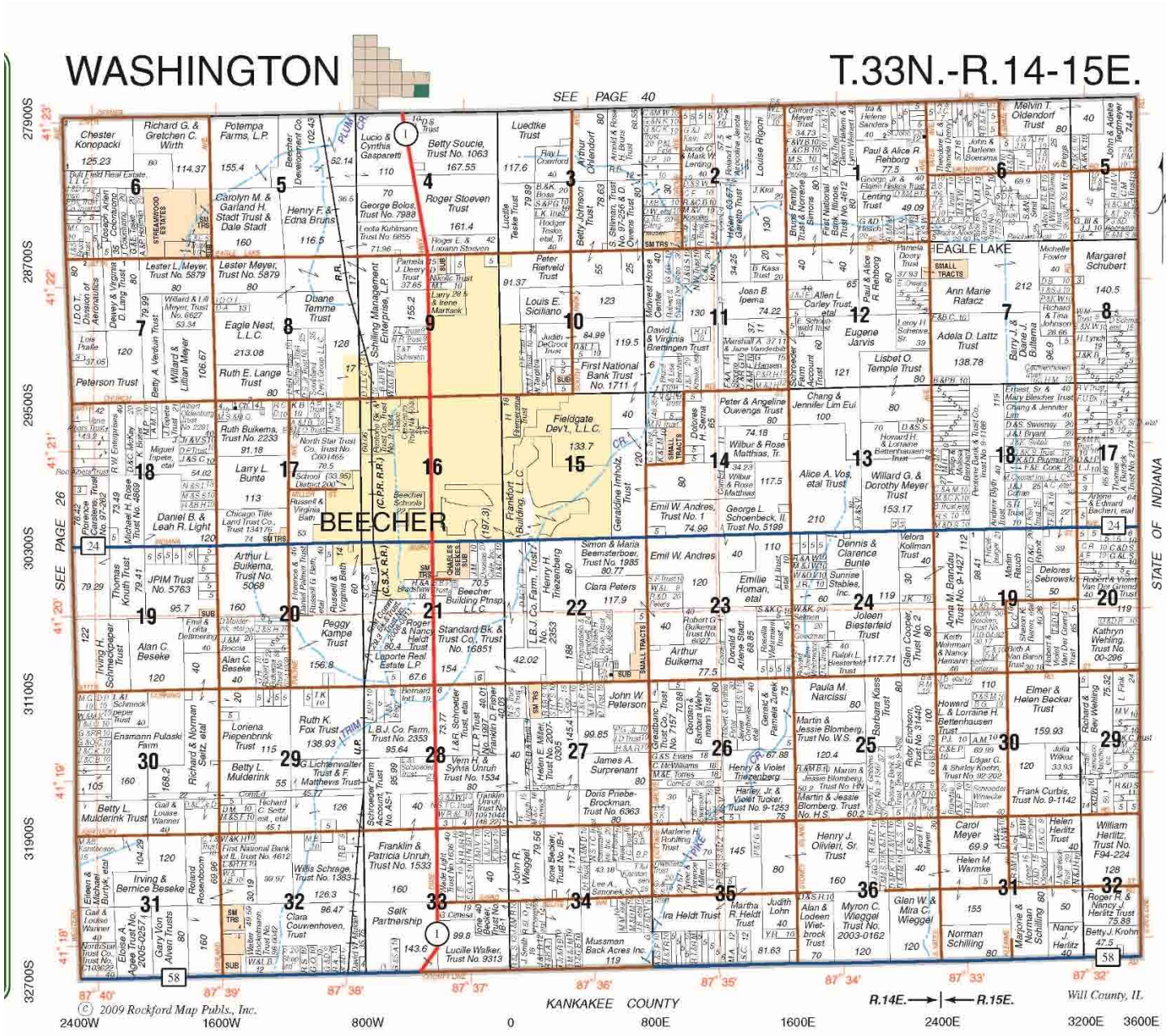
T.33N. WASHINGTON R.14-15E.



1920s

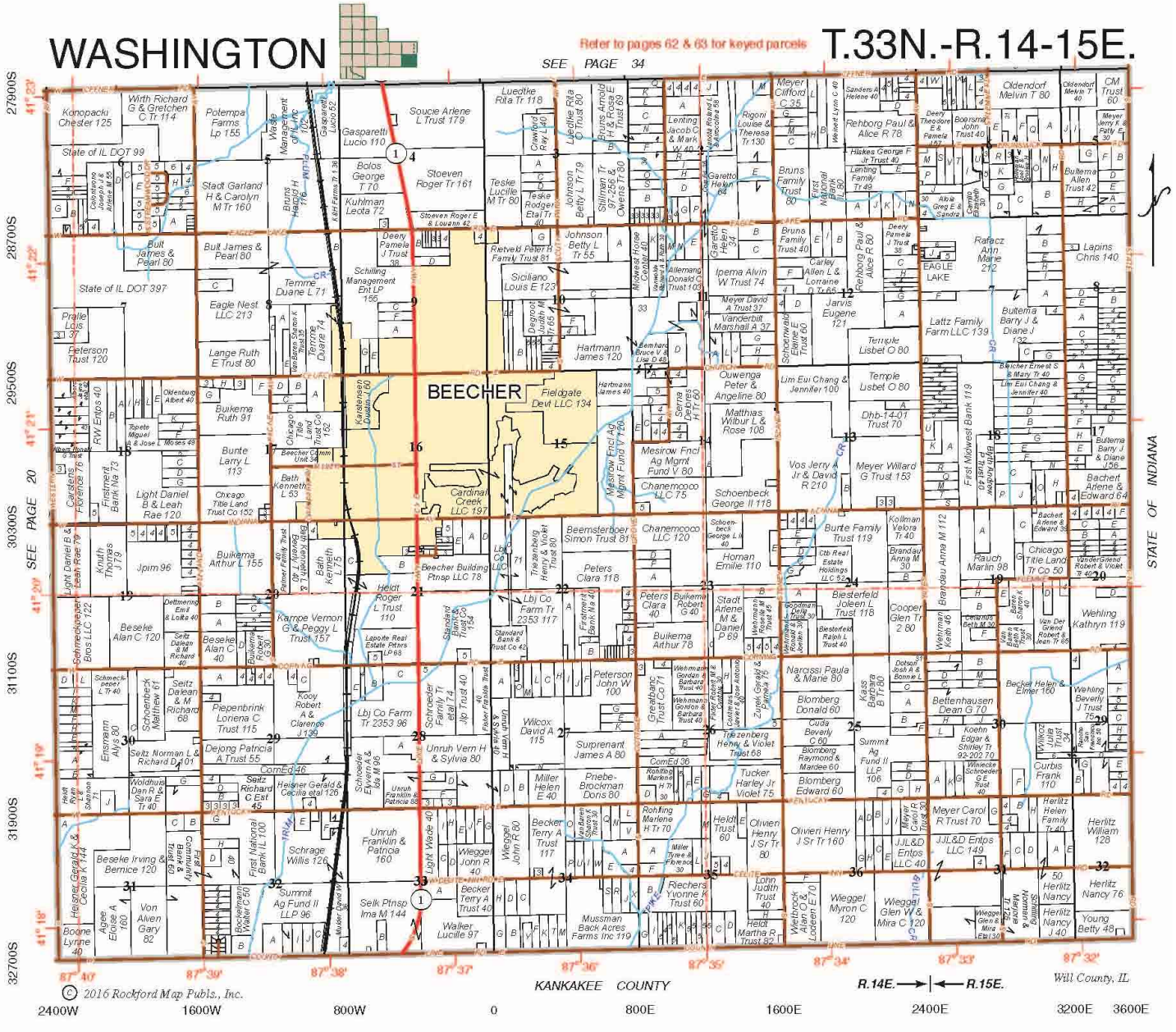

T.33N.
WASHINGTON
R. 14 & 15E.
PAGE 18
BEECHER
EAGLE LAKE
Board of Home Missions M.E. Church
Union Central Life Ins. Co.
Northwestern Life Ins. Co.
Dr. D.D. Van Voorhis
Mrs. Amanda Haseman
Arthur Beecher Graham Hospital Farm
Philip Kurz
Alfred Wehling
Walter Schroeder
Geo. Kappe
Aug. Runge
J.J. Fred. Heuck
Louis Pralle
Geo. Beseke
Geo. Hinze
Wm. Siefker
Mrs. Chas. Beseke
W.F. Heldt
Roy Fisher
Ella Kappe
Harry Meyer
Anna Many
Ernest
Mrs. S. Graves
Wm. Von Alven
Wm. Freerking
Aug. Seitz
Mrs. Emma Rust
Mrs. Emma Salzmann
Louis Van Alven
Christ Bockelman
H.E. Ehlers
Henry Selk Est.
Louis Fick & John Lange
Fred Meyer
Louis Buhr
Alma Knust
H. Selk
Mrs. Sophie Lemcke
Mrs. G. Lemcke
Jacob Kurz
Ella Kappe
Wm. Harris
H. Wiegel
Wehling Bros
Henry Bohl
Fred Kirchhoff
Herman Heldt
John Kesson
Geo. Stadt
Mike Schneider
Kiedaisch
John Wiegel
Fred Ericks
R.C. Krohn
Mrs. L. Klein
Mrs. Fred Plagge
Alex Koetkas
Albt. Meyer
Henry Ruprecht
Fred. Kuhlmann
T.H. Helmreich & Gaines
Geo. W. Baker
Wm. H. Arkenberg
H.C. Koelling
Mrs. Mary Meyer
August Kurz
Arthur Paul
Wm. Schrage
Adolph Meyer
Wm. Meyer
Fred Haseman
H.P. Wille
Henry Kregel
Martin Kregel
Martin Wille
Henry F. Hahn
Glenn W. Swanson
Chas. Maxwell
Albert Wille
Fred Lange
John Lange
H. Ziems
E. Miller
Philip Kurz
Alfred Wehling
W.F. Deutsch
Union Central Life Ins. Co.
Fred Stuenkel
Mrs. Eckhardt Stolzenbach
Albert Oldenburg
Wm. Meyer
Geo. Albers
A. Fette
Ed. Wiseman
M. Oldenburg
Hy. Treat-meyer
Wm. Meyer
Adolph Meyer
Fred Treat-meyer
Alex Koetkas
Mrs. Fred Plagge
Albt. Meyer
Henry Ruprecht
Fred. Kuhlmann
T.H. Helmreich & Gaines
Geo. W. Baker
Wm. H. Arkenberg
H.C. Koelling
Board of Home Missions M.E. Church
G. Ohlendorf
Wm. Claus
H. Bruns
Christ F. Meier
John Harke
Fred Teske
Herman Teske
John Schrage
John Wille
Henry Meier
Peter Novak
John Teske
W.C. Meyer
J.C. Trainer
Aug. Rehborg
Chris Bruns
Ernest Hibbing
Henry Hibbing
Prepenbrink Church
Ed. Prepenbrink
Kazmur Hetrick
Fred. Treat-meyer
Mrs. Augusta Tatge
H.C.
Emanuel Lauritzen
H.F. Bakhaus
J.F.
LeRoy Deutsche
Herb Lambert
Hy. Lohmann Jr.
John Lohmann Sr.
Henry Lohmann
Arthur
Tatge
Fred. Rabenfort
Wm. Schweppe
Mary Brands
Christ Behrens
Mrs. Emma Miller
Herman Bredemeier
F. Seruholz
Mrs. Ida Haase
Henry Schreiwe
Christ Behrens
Henry Claus
F. Bock
Aug. Rehborg
Ernest
Chris
Peter Novak
Fred Bernhard
F.C. Becker
Mrs. Ida Haase
Arthur Bunte
Ed. Rehborg
Albert Matthias
Mary Hoffman Est.
Arthur Bunte
M. Bernhard
Henry Tatge
Carl Engelking
H. Kregel
Fred Wehrman
Harry Meyer
Harry Stedt
Fred Meyer
Albert Homan
Elmer Stadt
Mrs. Anna Schmedeke
Wm. Bunte
A. Brands
Elenore Brands
Fred Wehrmann
H. Wehrman
Henry Harnisch
Fredrking & Schmedeke
G. Erickson
John Quirin
Wm. H. Law
Emma
Geo. Beseke
Louis Pralle
Geo. Beseke
Aug. Runge
J.J. Fred. Heuck
Harry Meyer
Fred. Meyer
Harry Stedt
Henry
Arthur
Albert Homan
Elmer Stadt
Mrs. Anna Schmedeke
A. Riegel
Wm. Bunte
A. Brands
Elenore Brands
Fred Wehrmann
Fred. Wehrmann
Schmeckpepper
Emma
Geo. Beseke
Louis Pralle
Geo. Beseke
Walter Schroeder
E. Miller
Geo. Kappe
Aug. Runge
J.J. Fred. Heuck
Harry Meyer
Carl Engelking
H. Kregel
Fred. Wehrmann
Fred. Meyer
Harry Stedt
Church
School
Henry
Albert Homan
Elmer Stadt
Mrs. Anna Schmedeke
A. Riegel
Wm. Bunte
A. Brands
Elenore Brands
Fred Wehrmann
Fred. Wehrmann
H. Wehrman
Henry Harnisch
Fredrking & Schmedeke
G. Erickson
John Quirin
Wm. H. Law
Fred Boeker
Mrs. Emma Salzmann
Wm. Siefker
Mrs. Chas. Beseke
W.F. Heldt
Arnold Schroeder
Roy Fisher
Hy. Deeke
Anna Many
Harry Meyer
Ernest
Mrs. S. Graves
Emil Dierking
Herman Dierking
Herman Wehrmann
Herman Piel Est. By Frank Hantke
Elmer Stadt
Mrs. Anna Schmedeke
Fred Wehrmann
Arnold Brands
Mrs. Clara Brands
School
Rinehart Heller
Mrs. De Graff
August Wehrmann
Wm. Schmidt
Henry Wehrmann
G.W. Koehn
August Freerking
Edwin Ostermeyer Adm.
Bernard Hegge
Wm. Von Alven
Wm. Freerking
Ella Kappe
Mrs. S. Graves
Ernest
Heldt
Mike Schneider
Mrs. De Graff
Aug. Seitz
Mrs. Emma Rust
Mrs. Emma Salzmann
Louis Van Alven
Christ Bockelman
H.E. Ehlers
Henry Selk Est.
Louis Fick & John Lange
Fred Meyer
Louis Buhr
Alma Knust
H. Selk
Mrs. Sophie Lemcke
Mrs. G. Lemcke
Jacob Kurz
Ella Kappe
Wm. Harris
H. Wiegel
Wehling Bros
Henry Bohl
Fred Kirchhoff
Herman Heldt
John Kesson
Geo. Stadt
Mike Schneider
Kiedaisch
John Wiegel
Fred Ericks
R.C. Krohn
Mrs. L. Klein
Wm. Kracsky
Mr or Mrs Cecil Doty
Arnold Herlitz
Herman Wehrmann
John Wiegel
Wm. & Ill.

c. 1940



2010

Source: Rockford Map Publishers. Used with permission.



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 historic aerial photography of Map 5 is dated 1961.

This appendix contains:

Key to Farmsteads and Related Properties by Map Reference Number

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
101	22-01-100-011	1825 E. Offner Road	Bowers-Meyer Farmstead	Local landmark potential
102	22-01-200-008	28054 S. Yates Avenue	St. John Lutheran Church	Contributing
103	22-01-400-003	28328 S. Yates Avenue	Bahlmann-Hibbing Farmstead	Non-contributing
104	22-01-300-001	1624 E. Eagle Lake Road	Oberherde-Bruns Farmstead	Contributing
201	22-02-300-014	28548 S. Cottage Grove Avenue	Wilkening Farmstead	Contributing
202	22-02-300-008	28451 S. Cottage Grove Avenue	Wilkening-Meier-Gramese Farmstead	Contributing
203	22-02-100-012	27910 S. Cottage Grove Avenue	Scheiwe-Schroeder-Bruns Farmstead	Contributing
204	22-02-200-006	1235 E. Offner Road	Meyer-Lipe Farmstead	Contributing
205	22-02-200-009	1515 E. Offner Road	Harste-DeRossi Farmstead	Contributing
206	22-02-400-003	1236 E. Eagle Lake Road	Lucke-Garetto Farmstead	Local landmark potential
207	22-02-400-006	S. Stoney Island Avenue	Teske-DeRossi Farmstead	Non-contributing
301	22-03-400-003	28515 S. South Park Avenue	Schrage-Johnson Farmstead	Contributing
302	22-03-400-002	648 E. Eagle Lake Road	Wilkening-Wille-Owens Farmstead	Local landmark potential
303	22-03-200-004	28232 S. Cottage Grove Avenue	Bruns Farmstead	Contributing
304		E. Eagle Lake Road	Teske Farmstead	Contributing
305	22-03-300-013	124 E. Eagle Lake Road	Rose-Teske Farmstead	Local landmark potential
401	22-04-400-002	28625 Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	Koelling-Stoeven Farmstead	Contributing
402	22-04-300-002	28512 Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	Fette-Kuhlmann Farmstead	Local landmark potential
403	22-04-400-001	28315 Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	Ohlendorf-Stoeven Farmstead	Local landmark potential
404	22-04-100-001	28056 Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	Baker-Bonem-Krol Farmstead	Contributing
405	22-04-200-005	28025 Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	Cooper-Soucie Farmstead	Local landmark potential
501	22-05-400-001	948 W. Eagle Lake Road	Scheiwe-Bruns Farmstead	Contributing
502	22-05-300-001	28457 S. Ashland Avenue	Robeson-Ruprecht-Stadt Farmstead	Contributing
601	22-06-100-001	2233 W. Offner Road	Hasenjoeger-Tegtmeyer Farmstead	Contributing
602	22-06-200-004	28224 S. Ashland Avenue	Koelling-Wirth Farmstead	Local landmark potential
603	22-06-300-011	28361 S. Western Avenue	Plagge-Schuldt Farmstead	Contributing
604	22-06-300-017	2140 W. Eagle Lake Road	Plagge-DeMick Farmstead	Contributing
605	22-06-400-018	1816 W. Eagle Lake Road	Ruprecht-Meyer Farmstead	Non-contributing
701	22-07-100-002	2047 W. Eagle Lake Road	Oldenburg-Lang Farmstead	Contributing
703	22-07-300-005	29221 S. Western Avenue	Tegtmeyer Farmstead	Contributing
705	22-07-300-003	2124 W. Church Road	Meyer-Peterson Farmstead	Contributing
801	22-08-400-002	924 W. Church Road	Haseman-Temme Farmstead	Contributing

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
802	22-08-100-001	1317 W. Eagle Lake Road	Hasenjager-Meyer-Wilkening Farmstea	Contributing
804	22-08-300-005	1504 W. Church Road	Lange Farmstead	Local landmark potential
902	22-09-300-019	638 W. Church Road	Wille Farmstead	Contributing
903	22-09-300-004	612 W. Church Road	Busse-Manning Farmstead	Contributing
904	22-09-300-037	29316 Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	Hasche-Kregel-Ohlendorf Farmstead	Contributing
905	22-09-400-006	29145 Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	Clark-Wille-DeMik Farrmstead	Non-contributing
907	22-09-100-001	641 W. Eagle Lake Road	Pauls-Schilling Farmstead	Non-contributing
908	22-09-300-001	744 W. Church Road	Juretz-Miles Farmstead	Non-contributing
909	22-09-200-016	17 W. Eagle Lake Road	Teske-Waterman House	Non-contributing
1001	22-10-300-005	148 E. Church Road	Wille-Terpstra Farmstead	Contributing
1002	22-10-300-023	29117 S. South Park Avenue	Wille-DeGroot Farmstead	Non-contributing
1004	22-10-100-005	28964 S. South Park Avenue	Hahn Farmstead	Contributing
1005	22-10-100-010	349 E. Eagle Lake Road	Smith–Claus–Morgan Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1006	22-10-400-005	29333 S. South Park Avenue	Hartmann Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1101	22-11-300-003	1004 E. Church Road	Bernhard-Kreske Farmstead	Non-contributing
1102	22-11-300-010	1052 E. Church Road	Becker-Taube Farmstead	Contributing
1103	22-11-200-006	28924 S. Stoney Island Avenue	Bruns Farmstead	Contributing
1104	22-11-400-009	29236 S. Stoney Island Avenue	Piepenbrink-McConkey Farmstead	Non-contributing
1201	22-12-400-008	29144 S. Yates Avenue	Scheiwe Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1202	22-12-200-022	28808 S. Yates Avenue	Steege-Rehborg Farmstead	Contributing
1203	22-12-100-009	1825 E. Eagle Lake Road	Klaus-Hibbing Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1204	22-12-100-007	28945 S. Stoney Island Avenue	Schweer-Kass Farmstead	Contributing
1205	22-12-300-006	S. Stoney Island Avenue	Erickson-Haase-Schroeder Farmstead	Contributing
1301	22-13-100-001	29511 S. Stoney Island Avenue	Brands-Groustra Farmstead	Contributing
1302	22-13-300-002	1852 E. Indiana Avenue	Bredemeier-Vos Farmstead	Contributing
1303	22-13-400-006	29924 S. Yates Avenue	Senholz-Meyer Farmstead	Contributing
1304	22-13-200-003	29836 S. Yates Avenue	Senholz-Miller-Junker Farmstead	Contributing
1305	22-13-200-001	29528 S. Yates Avenue	Bernhard-Blim-Temple Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1402	22-14-100-007	29510 S. Cottage Grove Avenue	Scheiwer-Bernhard Farmstead	Contributing
1403	22-14-100-014	29507 S. Cottage Grove Avenue	Bernhard-Bunte Farmstead	Contributing
1405	22-14-200-005	29824 S. Stoney Island Avenue	Engelking-Matthias Farmstead	Contributing
1406	22-14-400-006	30124 S. Stoney Island Avenue	Engelking-Rademacher Farmstead	Contributing
1407	22-14-300-004	826 E. Indiana Avenue	Katz-Tatge-Koehn Farmstead	Contributing

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
1501	22-15-100-012	11 E. Church Road	Maxwell-Riemersma Farmstead	Contributing
1605	22-16-309-002	629 Penfield Street	Beecher Elementary School	Non-contributing
1606	22-16-306-002	538 Miller Street	Beecher High School	Non-contributing
1607	22-16-309-014	673 Penfield Street	Washington Township Community Bld	Local landmark potential
1609	22-16-506-005	Reed Street	Beecher Railroad Depot	Local landmark
1610	22-16-308-012	725 Penfield Street	St. Luke United Church of Christ	Contributing
1701	22-17-200-003	29753 S. Racine Avenue	Theede-Ziems-Graf Farmstead	Contributing
1702	22-17-300-001	29948 S. Racine Avenue	Wehling-Bunte Farmstead	Contributing
1704	22-17-100-002	1407 W. Church Road	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Local landmark potential
1705	22-17-100-007	29604 S. Ashland Avenue	Wehling-Kurz Farmstead	Contributing
1707	22-17-411-016	903 W. Indiana Avenue	Zion Lutheran Church (former)	Contributing
1708	22-17-400-002	540 Oak Park Avenue	Zion Lutheran Church and School	Contributing
1709	22-17-411-009	546 Elliott Street	Congregational Church	Contributing
1801	22-18-400-004	1820 W. Indiana Avenue	Kraft-Podratz Farmstead	Non-contributing
1802	22-18-400-008	29932 S. Ashland Avenue	Seitz-Greer Farmstead	Non-contributing
1803	22-18-200-002	1701 W. Church Road	Oldenburg Farmstead	Non-contributing
1804	22-18-300-005	29963 S. Western Avenue	Mathias-Stuenkel Farmstead	Contributing
1901	22-19-200-004	1731 W. Indiana Avenue	Hinze Farmstead	Contributing
1902	22-19-400-001	1952 W. Corning Road	Wendling-Beseke Farmstead	Contributing
2001	22-20-400-006	1016 W. Corning Road	Beseke-Kampe Farmstead	Contributing
2002	22-20-300-011	30827 S. Ashland Avenue	Pralle-Curbis Farmstead	Local landmark potential
2003	22-20-200-003	W. Indiana Avenue	Miller-Churchill Farmstead	Contributing
2101	22-21-400-002	30913 Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	Heuck Farmstead	Contributing
2102	22-21-300-007	30812 Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	Rump-Heldt Farmstead	Contributing
2103	22-21-202-004	Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	Kappe-Piper-Wood Farmstead	Non-contributing
2104	22-21-300-006	628 W. Corning Road	Rump Farmstead	Non-contributing
2105	22-21-109-003	760 W. Indiana Avenue	Kirich House	Contributing
2106	22-21-110-021	381 Maxwell Street	Ehrhardt-Plagge-George Farmstead	Contributing
2107	22-21-202-003	301 W. Horner Lane	Beecher Mausoleum	National Register listed
2108	22-21-201-006	30459 S. Hillcrest Drive	St. Luke Cemetery	Cemetery
2201	22-22-400-002	536 E. Corning Road	St. John United Church of Christ	Contributing
2202	22-22-400-040	452 E. Corning Road	Meyer-Jacobsen-Oppenlander Farmstea	Contributing
2203	22-22-400-034	30900 S. Cottage Grove Avenue	Selk-Stedt Farmstead	Contributing

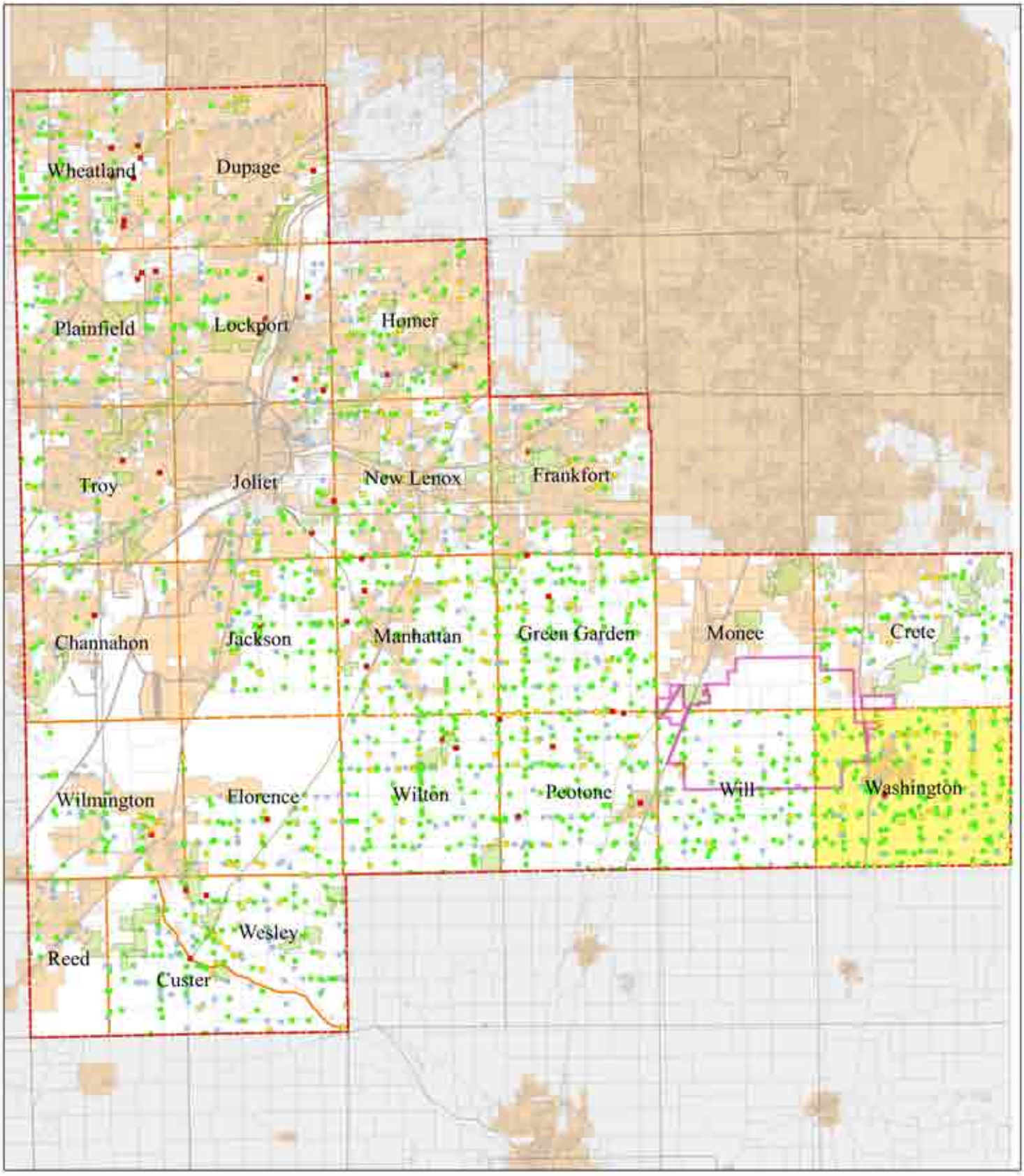
ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
2204	22-22-200-002	30540 S. Cottage Grove Avenue	Bock-Peters Farmstead	Contributing
2205	22-22-100-002	335 E. Indiana Avenue	Engelking-Triezenberg Farmstead	Contributing
2206	22-22-100-001	45 E. Indiana Avenue	Meyer-Bramlet Farmstead	Contributing
2208	22-22-200-001	S. Cottage Grove Avenue	Haltenhof-Kregel Farmstead	Non-contributing
2301	22-23-200-005	30632 S. Stoney Island Avenue	Riechers-Homan Farmstead	Local landmark potential
2302	22-23-400-021	1220 E. Corning Road	Schmadeke-Stadt Farmstead	Contributing
2303	22-23-300-004	1028 E. Corning Road	Ostermeyer-Buikema Farmstead	Local landmark potential
2304	22-23-100-004	30621 S. Cottage Grove Avenue	Tatge-Truetner-Blume Farmstead	Contributing
2401	22-24-200-007	2105 E. Indiana Avenue	Meier-Bunte Farmstead	Contributing
2402	22-24-400-001	2106 E. Corning Road	Klaus-Brands Farmstead	Contributing
2403	22-24-400-002	30860 S. Yates Avenue	Busse-Wehrman Farmstead	Contributing
2404	22-24-200-004	S. Yates Avenue	Wehrman-Brandau Farmstead	Non-contributing
2405	22-24-100-007	30545 S. Stoney Island Avenue	Lages-Bunte Farmstead	Contributing
2406	22-24-300-007	30957 S. Stoney Island Avenue	Brands-Wehrman Farmstead	Contributing
2501	22-25-200-007	31440 S. Yates Avenue	Danne-Brands-Erichson Farmstead	Contributing
2502	22-25-100-019	2140 E. Kentucky Road	Paulson-DeGraff-Harms Farmstead	Non-contributing
2503	22-25-300-005	31625 S. Stoney Island Avenue	Heller-Blomberg Farmstead	Contributing
2504	22-25-100-001	1623 E. Corning Road	Batterman-Wehrman Farmstead	Contributing
2601	22-26-200-003	1515 E. Corning Road	Falke-Piel Farmstead	Local landmark potential
2602	22-26-200-007	1305 E. Corning Road	Neidert–Wahl Farmstead	Contributing
2603	22-26-300-021	820 E. Kentucky Road	Hack-Rohlfing-Karstensen Farmstead	Local landmark potential
2604	22-26-400-002	1364 E. Kentucky Road	Stedt-Tucker Farmstead	Contributing
2605	22-26-100-008	31149 S. Cottage Grove Avenue	Hack-Dierking-Klemme Farmstead	Local landmark potential
2701	22-27-200-010	531 E. Corning Road	Gaines-Many-Peterson Farmstead	Contributing
2702	22-27-100-003	231 E. Corning Road	Deeke-Zehr Farmstead	Contributing
2703	22-27-100-005	117 E. Corning Road	Meyer-Plonka Farmstead	Local landmark potential
2704	22-27-100-001	35 E. Corning Road	Deeke-Klauzek Farmstead	Contributing
2705	22-27-400-002	31804 S. Cottage Grove Avenue	Wehling-Priebe Farmstead	Contributing
2706	22-27-400-001	31544 S. Cottage Grove Avenue	Heldt-Lumsden-Surprenant Farmstead	Contributing
2801	22-28-200-004	13 W. Corning Road	Schaeflein-Fisher Farmstead	Contributing
2802		W. Corning Road	Heuck Bridge	Bridge
2803	22-28-400-001	31545 Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	Fiene-Grages-Unruh Farmstead	Contributing
2804	22-28-300-007	31560 Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	Fick-Schroeder Farmstead	Contributing

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
2805	22-28-400-004	308 W. Kentucky Road	Fiene-Doering-Kappe Farmstead	Contributing
2807	22-28-200-001	Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	WTAS Radio Transmitter	Non-contributing
2901	22-29-200-004	1107 W. Corning Road	Beseke-Kooy Farmstead	Contributing
2902	22-29-400-007	1024 W. Kentucky Road	Freerking-Lichtenwalter Farmstead	Contributing
2903	22-29-300-009	31713 S. Ashland Avenue	Sollitt–Von Alven–Ward Farmstead	Contributing
2904	22-29-100-008	31241 S. Ashland Avenue	Siefker-Piepenbrink Farmstead	Contributing
3001	22-30-300-008	2112 W. Kentucky Road	Rust-Mulderink Farmstead	Contributing
3002	22-30-400-008	31508 S. Ashland Avenue	Salzmann School (District No. 179)	Local landmark potential
3003	22-30-200-003	1641 W. Corning Road	Theede-Seitz Farmstead	Non-contributing
3004	22-30-200-004	1759 W. Corning Road	House at 1759 W. Corning Road	Non-contributing
3005	22-30-200-006	1837 W. Corning Road	Salzmann-Ensmann-Pulaski Farmstead	Contributing
3006	22-30-100-012	2109 W. Corning Road	Schmeckpeper Farmstead	Non-contributing
3007	22-30-400-012	31720 S. Ashland Avenue	Sollitt-Seitz Farmstead	Non-contributing
3101	22-31-400-004	1830 W. County Line Road	Lyon-Von Alven Farmstead	Contributing
3102	22-31-100-005	2345 W. Kentucky Road	Buhr-Simpson Farmstead	Contributing
3103	22-31-200-001	1909 W. Kentucky Road	Knust-Oetter Farmstead	Contributing
3201	22-32-200-012	849 W. Kentucky Road	Kurz-Schrage Farmstead	Contributing
3202	22-32-100-004	31921 S. Ashland Avenue	Lutterman-Lemke-Wiechen Farmstead	Contributing
3203	22-32-100-007	32137 S. Ashland Avenue	Ross-Selk Farmstead	Contributing
3204	22-32-300-021	1416 W. County Line Road	Bockelman Farmstead	Contributing
3205	22-32-400-010	1132 W. County Line Road	Ehlers-Buhr Farmstead	Contributing
3206	22-32-400-004	820 W. County Line Road	Kurth-Baker Farmstead	Contributing
3301	22-33-400-012	44 W. County Line Road	Fick-Lange-Schilling Farmstead	Contributing
3302	22-33-400-002	253 W. Delite Inn Road	Kirchoff-Hinze Farmstead	Contributing
3303	22-33-100-001	31940 Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1)	Fiene-Unruh Farmstead	Contributing
3304	22-33-300-005	620 W. County Line Road	Selk Farmstead	Local landmark potential
3305	22-33-400-001	355 W. Delite Inn Road	Leder House	Non-contributing
3401	22-34-300-004	150 E. County Line Road	Langreder-Kogut Farmstead	Contributing
3402	22-34-200-004	32238 S. Cottage Grove Avenue	Bohl-Heldt Farmstead	Contributing
3403	22-34-400-002	563 E. Delite Inn Road	Meyer-Stabin House	Contributing
3405	22-34-100-004	252 E. Delite Inn Road	Kirchoff Farmstead	Contributing
3406	22-34-100-006	100 E. Delite Inn Road	Langreder-Wieggel Farmstead	Contributing
3501	22-35-300-004	1022 E. County Line Road	Heldt-Hartog Farmstead	Contributing

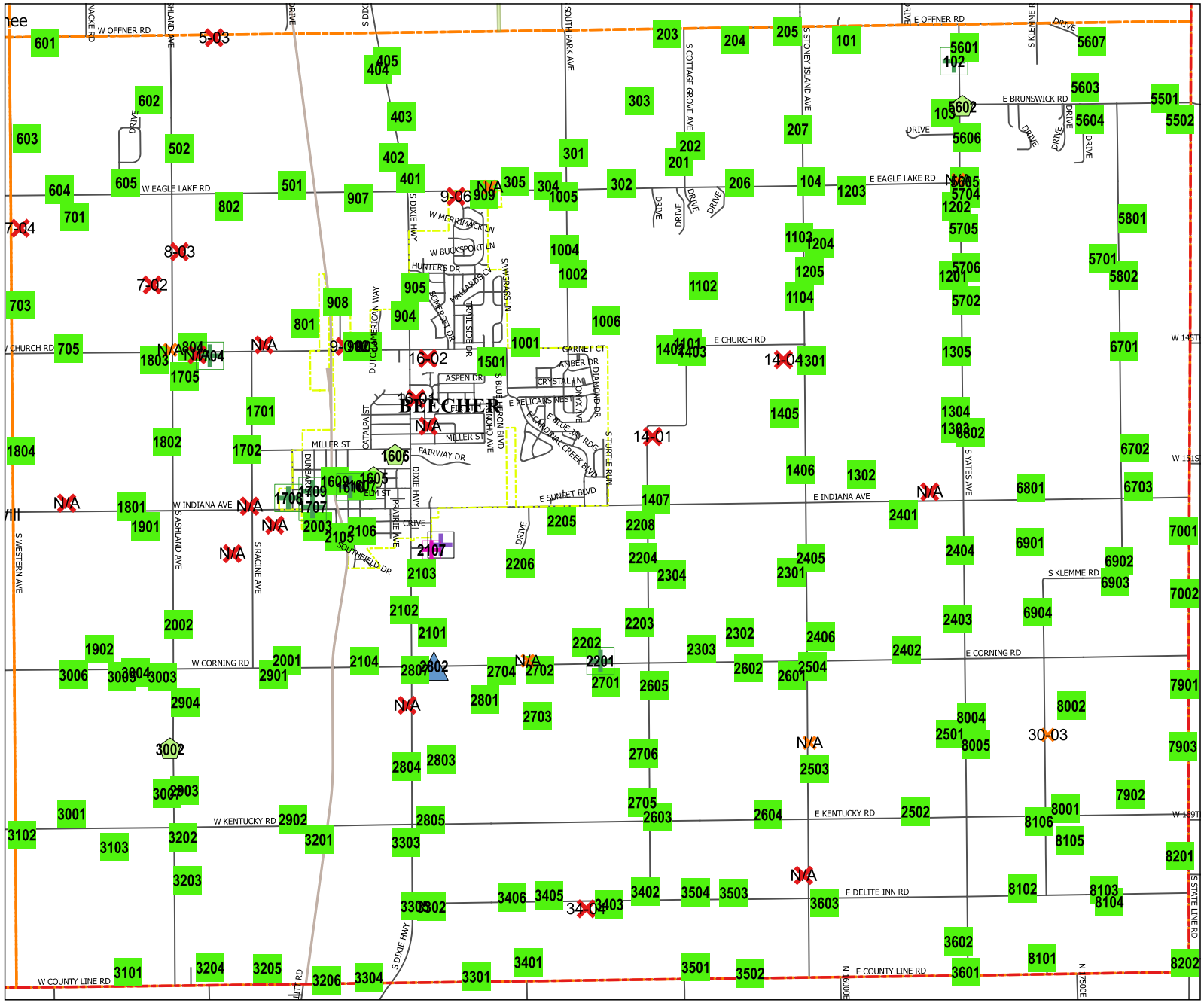
ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
3502	22-35-400-010	1300 E. County Line Road	Stadt-Heldt Farmstead	Contributing
3503	22-35-200-007	1222 E. Delite Inn Road	Heldt Farmstead	Contributing
3504	22-35-100-008	1028 E. Delite Inn Road	Steben-Sapp Farmstead	Non-contributing
3601	22-36-400-004	32658 S. Yates Avenue	Clarence Wieggel House	Contributing
3602	22-36-400-003	32500 S. Yates Avenue	Truback-Wieggel Farmstead	Contributing
3603	22-36-300-005	1655 E. Delite Inn Road	Ruge-Frohm-Christiansen Farmstead	Contributing
5501	23-05-100-011	3428 E. Brunswick Road	Tegtmeyer Farmstead	Contributing
5502	23-05-300-007	3515 E. Brunswick Road	Rotermund-Meyer Farmstead	Non-contributing
5601	23-06-100-024	28011 S. Yates Avenue	Sturm-Piepenbrink-Weiss Farmstead	Contributing
5602	23-06-300-012	28305 S. Yates Avenue	St. John Lutheran School Residence	Local landmark potential
5603	23-06-200-010	3024 E. Brunswick Road	Katz-Piepenbrink-Horner Farmstead	Local landmark
5604	23-06-400-010	3029 E. Brunswick Road	Latz-Bultema Farmstead	Contributing
5605	23-06-300-017	28657 S. Yates Avenue	Bruns-Hodge Farmstead	Non-contributing
5606	23-06-300-024	28437 S. Yates Avenue	Tatge-Weber Farmstead	Local landmark potential
5607	23-06-200-004	3041 E. Offner Road	Klemme-Oldendorf Farmstead	Contributing
5701	23-07-200-007	29048 S. Klemme Road	Boecker-Bigale Farmstead	Contributing
5702	23-07-300-003	29245 S. Yates Avenue	Katz-Bredemeier-Lattz Farmstead	Local landmark potential
5704	23-07-100-017	28737 S. Yates Avenue	Bahlmann-Olthoff Farmstead	Contributing
5705	23-07-100-014	28915 S. Yates Avenue	Wilkening-Courtright Farmstead	Non-contributing
5706	23-07-300-001	29113 S. Yates Avenue	Cointin Farmstead	Non-contributing
5801	23-08-100-003	28845 S. Klemme Road	Tatge Farmstead	Local landmark potential
5802	23-08-300-009	29153 S. Klemme Road	Tatge-Lohman Farmstead	Contributing
6701	23-17-100-023	29525 S. Klemme Road	Tatge-Rubright-Van Schouwen Farmste	Contributing
6702	23-17-300-004	30021 S. Klemme Road	Wilke-Schmitz Farmstead	Contributing
6703	23-17-300-005	3252 E. Indiana Avenue	Schweppe Farmstead	Contributing
6801	23-18-300-001	2728 E. Indiana Avenue	Henry Lohman Farmstead	Contributing
6802	23-18-300-005	29921 S. Yates Avenue	John Lohman Farmstead	Contributing
6901	23-19-100-004	2737 E. Indiana Avenue	Frahm-Dujardin Farmstead	Contributing
6902	23-19-200-004	30604 S. Klemme Road	Frobose-Scheming Farmstead	Contributing
6903	23-19-400-006	30705 S. Klemme Road	Wehrman-Frobose-Scheming Farmstea	Local landmark potential
6904	23-19-300-012	30840 S. Klemme Road	Erickson-Boicken Farmstead	Contributing
7001	23-20-100-012	30436 S. State Line Road	Guritz-Schmaedke Farmstead	Contributing
7002	23-20-300-006	30748 S. State Line Road	Guritz-Kuhn Farmstead	Contributing

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
7901	23-29-100-011	31224 S. State Line Road	Klaus-Haseman Farmstead	Contributing
7902	23-29-300-021	3224 E. Kentucky Road	Sastrow-Freeking-Bauer Farmstead	Contributing
7903	23-29-100-004	31532 S. State Line Road	Hepp-Burdick Farmstead	Contributing
8001	23-30-400-007	2860 E. Kentucky Road	Ostermeyer-Curbis Farmstead	Contributing
8002	23-30-200-002	31325 S. Klemme Road	Schmidt-Nissen-Becker Farmstead	Contributing
8004	23-30-100-022	31345 S. Yates Avenue	Wehrman-Kollman-Bettenhausen Farms	Contributing
8005	23-30-300-006	31505 S. Yates Avenue	Paulson-Koehn Farmstead	Contributing
8101	23-31-300-004	32604 S. Klemme Road	Tramm-Wieggel-Schilling Farmstead	Contributing
8102	23-31-100-004	2646 E. Delite Inn Road	Schilling-Wehrman Farmstead	Contributing
8103	23-31-200-009	3104 E. Delite Inn Road	Haseman-Eidam Farmstead	Contributing
8104	23-31-400-002	3109 E. Delite Inn Road	Witt-Herlitz Farmstead	Non-contributing
8105	23-31-200-014	2915 E. Kentucky Road	Kransky-Senholtz Farmstead	Contributing
8106	23-31-100-008	2737 E. Kentucky Road	Wehrman-Corp Farmstead	Contributing
8201	23-32-100-001	32112 S. State Line Road	Voshage-Herlitz Farmstead	Local landmark potential
8202	23-32-300-003	32628 S. State Line Road	Ohlenkamp-Haseman-Krohn Farmstead	Contributing

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
Map 1: Will County Key Map



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
Map 2: Overview of Survey

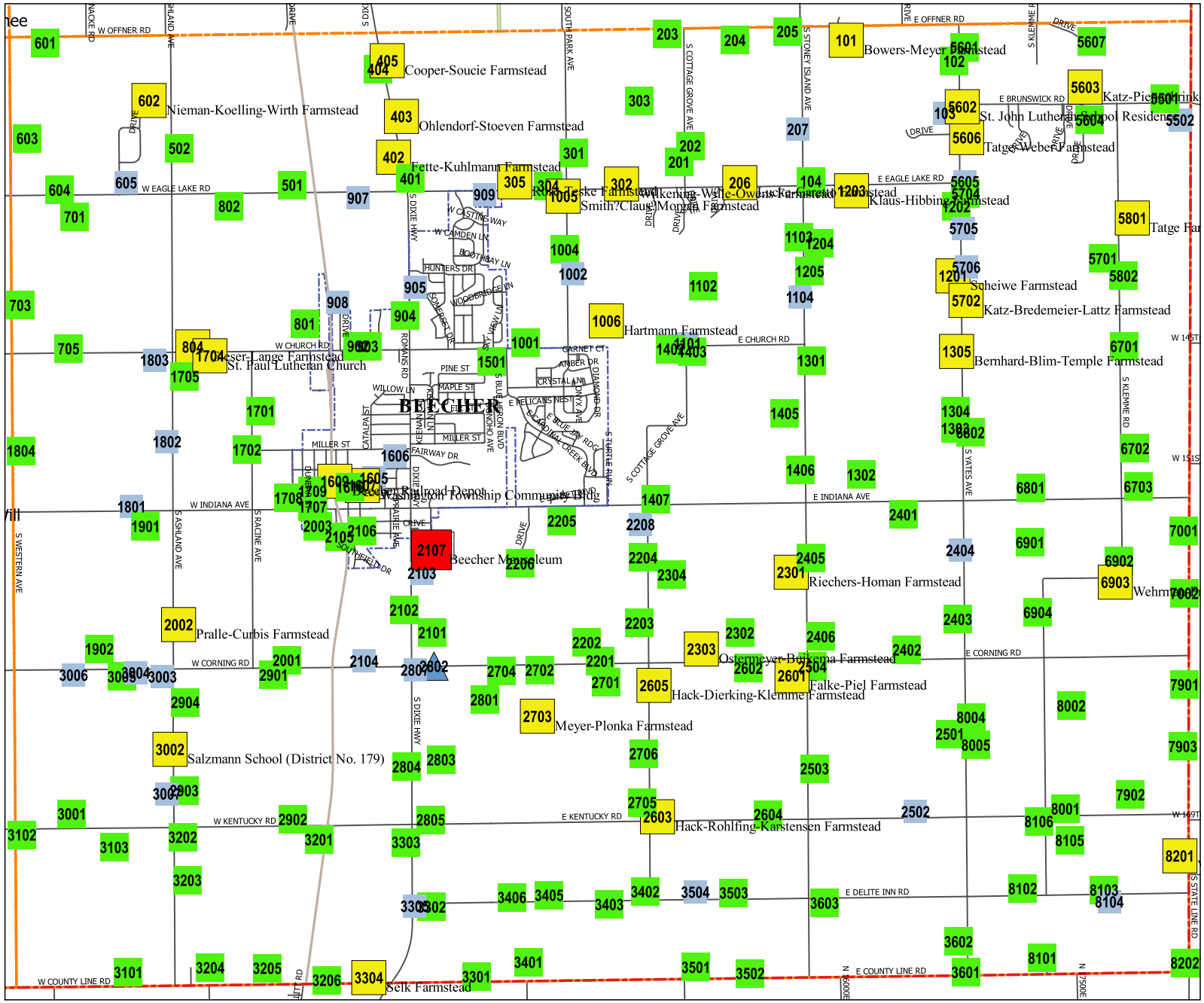


Legend

- Existing site
- Schoolhouse
- Mausoleum
- Church
- Cemetery
- Bridge
- Demolished site
- Demolished schoolhouse

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
Map 3: Significance of Sites



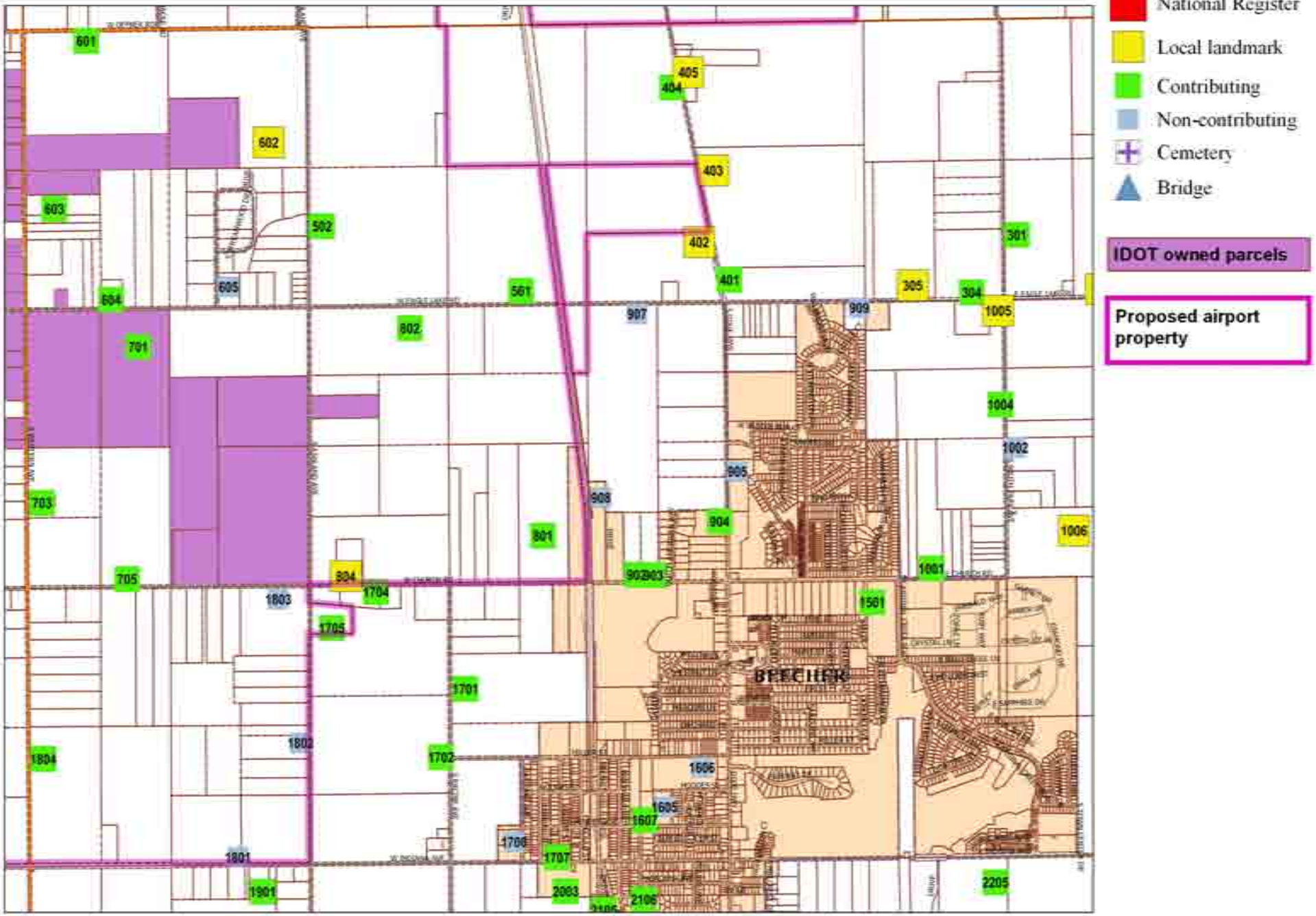
Legend

- National Register
- Local landmark
- Contributing
- Non-contributing
- Cemetery
- Bridge

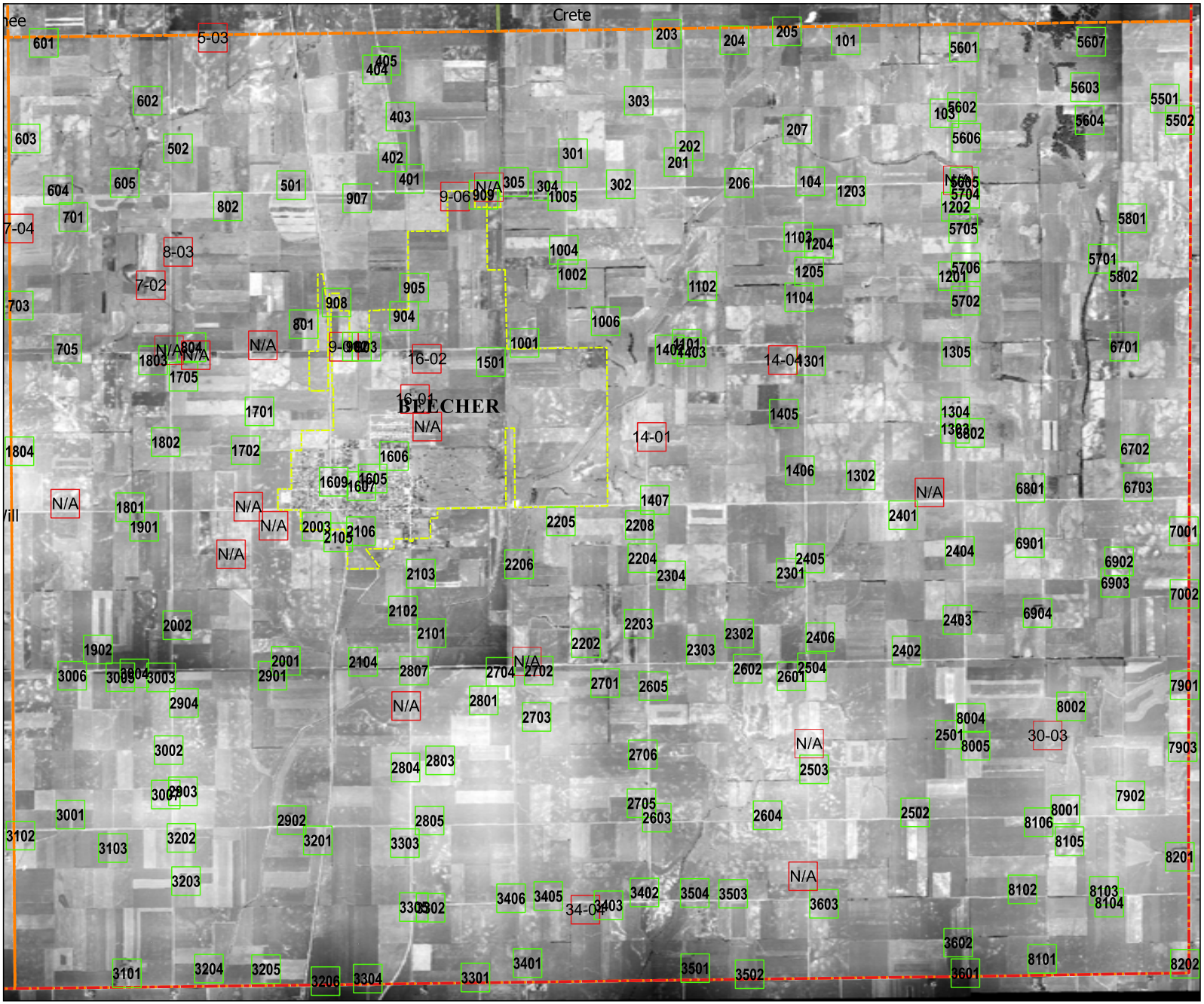
0.25 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Map 4: Proposed South Suburban Airport



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
Map 5: 1961 Aerial Photograph



Legend

- Existing site
- Demolished site

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles