Rural Historic Structural Survey
of
Florence Township
Will County, Illinois





Rural Historic Structural Survey
of
Florence Township
Will County, Illinois

August 2011

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

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

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
Florence 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 Florence Township in Will County, Illinois. The survey was performed between October 2010 and April 2011 and included approximately twenty square miles with 70 farmsteads and related sites containing more than 360 individual structures.

Florence Township contains one Will County Landmark, the Lovell Farmstead, which was designated a landmark in 2009. Of the 70 farmsteads identified in the current survey, 18 additional sites have the potential to be considered for Will County Historic Landmark designation or listing in the National Register of Historic Places. 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. One potential historic district encompassing portions of Florence Township has been identified as part of the survey work: a Midewin Buffer District. Building upon a recommendation previously developed as part of the survey of Manhattan Township in 2006, the proposed district would encompass portions of Florence, Jackson, and Manhattan Townships adjacent to the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. For continuity, future consideration of extending the district into Wilton Township should await survey of that township.

The Florence Township intensive survey was performed to update the previous survey of the township performed in 1988. In the previous survey, 76 farmsteads and related sites were identified in the township, containing at least 360 structures. Because of the rapid pace of contemporary development in Will County in the 1990s, the Will County Historic Preservation Commission recognized the need to reassess the agricultural heritage of the region. WJE has previously completed eleven intensive survey projects in fifteen 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, and Reed Townships as well as field survey work in Custer Township. Copies of the previous survey reports were provided to public libraries and respective governing agencies in the area. Cumulatively, the surveys have documented almost 6,000 structures on more than 1,350 sites over approximately 575 square miles of Will County. Performing a separate survey for each township has allowed more detailed information to be collected, such as individual photographs of each historic structure, an assessment of current conditions, and preparation of site sketch plans. With the permission of property owners, the survey work was performed with close-up access to the buildings, which allowed for close range photography and a reliable identification of building materials. The survey data was compiled and analyzed using database software and geographic information system (GIS) software.

In this report, Chapter 1 contains a description of the project methodology. Chapters 2 and 3 provide the historical and architectural context, within which the surveyed farmsteads were established, grew, were reconfigured, and in some cases were abandoned. Chapter 2 covers the historical context of Will County agriculture, as well as the historical development of Florence Township. Chapter 3 discusses the architectural context of the rural survey area. Chapter 4 summarizes the survey results and includes a discussion of the National Register and Will County criteria for designation of historical and architectural significance. Also in Chapter 4 are several tabulations of the survey results and an overview of a select number of historically and/or architecturally significant farmsteads. A bibliography of research sources follows the text. Appendices include historic and contemporary plat maps for Florence 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 Historic Preservation Agency. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior nor 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 nor 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 for Equal Opportunity
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

or

Equal Employment Opportunity Officer
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
One Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701

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 Florence Township in Will County, Illinois. A previous survey of farmsteads in Will County was performed in 1988. Beginning in 1999, WJE has prepared intensive surveys of individual townships in Will County. Previous townships surveyed included Plainfield, Wheatland, and Lockport (completed November 2000), Du Page (November 2001), Homer (November 2002), New Lenox (August 2003), Green Garden (July 2004), Manhattan (September 2006), Frankfort (December 2007), Joliet and Troy (April 2009), Channahon (April 2009), Wilmington (December 2009), Jackson (December 2009), and Reed (January 2011). In 2010, field survey work was also undertaken in Custer Township.

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

Survey Methodology

Survey Team

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

Background Research

Work on the rural survey began in September 2010. Background research was performed at the State of Illinois Library in Springfield, the University of Illinois Libraries, the Joliet Public Library, and the Wilmington 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. Intensive field survey work was performed from October 2010 through April 2011. The survey team first approached the primary residence on the site to request permission of the homeowner/tenant to conduct the survey on the farmstead site. At sites where no one was home, or where owner permission was not provided, the site was surveyed from the public right-of-way. Typically each structure on the site was photographed individually using a digital camera. A sketch plan of the farmstead was prepared. Written notes for each building included a listing of exterior materials, overall condition, and estimated decade of construction based on structural type and style. Any history information provided by the owner, such as dates of construction or names of original owners, was also noted.

The field survey also included the documentation of 1940s-era structures on the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant property, as well as documentation of pre-1940 foundations and other ruins in this area of Florence Township. Based on the historic 1939 aerial photography and a plat map from circa 1940 indicating property owners, locations of interest within the arsenal property were identified. The locations were then compared to contemporary aerial photography. In some cases, the locations of interest overlapped arsenal-era construction or infrastructure. At these sites, no pre-arsenal features could survive. Other locations of interest corresponded to undeveloped or wooded portions of the site. Field survey teams attempted to reach these locations in late fall to search for above-ground evidence of construction. If observed, surviving foundations and similar elements were documented, and adapted versions of the survey form were prepared to compile the photographs and field sketches.

Database and Base Map Preparation

Mapping for the survey was prepared using ArcGIS.[1] Baseline mapping showing railways, streams, township boundaries, etc., as well as 2005 aerial photography of the survey area, was downloaded from the Illinois Natural Resources Geospatial Data Clearinghouse internet site.[2] Additional baseline data showing roads and municipal boundaries was provided by the Will County Land Use Department. Updated 2008 aerial photography was also provided by the Will County Land Use Department for reference during the project. Individual points were added to the baseline map at the location of each farmstead site surveyed. Each point represents a particular record in the Microsoft Access database. The database contains all field survey information; historical information specific to each property, such as names of previous owners based on historic atlases and plat maps; and the assessment of historic significance. On the database forms, the "notes" field typically contains other miscellaneous observations of the project team from the field work. Occasionally, this field contains verbal information from the resident or another source; these are so noted.

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

Presentations

A presentation of the survey results was made to the Will County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on April 6, 2011. This final summary report incorporated comments provided by the HPC members and Will County staff on a draft of the report.

Report and Submittals

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

Survey Gaps and Future Research

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

[1] ArcGIS is one brand of GIS software. GIS stands for geographic information system, a computerized methodology for organizing data geographically.

[2] <www.isgs.uiuc.edu/nsdihome/>

significance of the particular property should be researched in detail, using the present survey as a starting point.

A detailed survey of the village of Symerton was beyond the scope of this rural historic structures survey. The village contains numerous historic houses as well as former commercial and public buildings now converted to residential purposes. Existing documentation of these structures is limited to photography taken as part of the 1988 survey.

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

The present study also is focused on built structures of the historic period. Throughout Will County 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.

A detailed historical, architectural, and archeological survey of the former Joliet Arsenal, now Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, was beyond the scope of this study. As part of the ongoing redevelopment of the site, the U.S. Forest Service interprets both the historic agricultural activities as well as the twentieth century military and industrial uses while focusing on the restoration of a natural prairie habitat. More detailed documentation of surviving built features or archeological resources may be appropriate, in particular if these features will be affected by proposed habitat restoration.

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. Florence Township lies primarily to the west of the Valparaiso Morainic System in the valley of the former glacial Lake Wauponsee. The isolated Rockdale Moraine crosses the township from northwest to southeast. 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 Florence Township are primarily silt loams and silty clay loams and are considered prime farmland, particularly where well drained. Soils on steeper slopes (more than 4 or 5 percent slope) are oftentimes eroded.[4]

Florence 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.

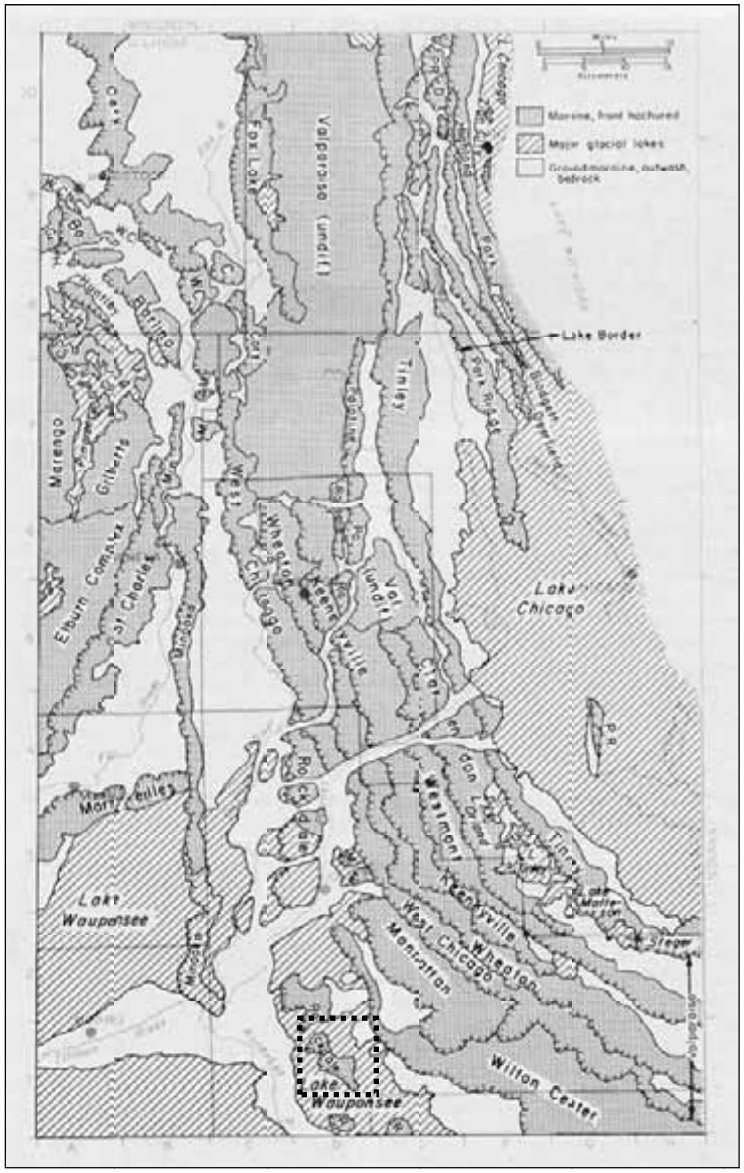
The southern two-thirds of Florence Township is drained primarily by Jordan Creek and its minor tributaries, running east to west across the township from Sections 12 and 13 to Section 31. Jordan Creek continues west, defining the northern edge of downtown Wilmington, before entering the Kankakee River just downstream of the Union Pacific railroad bridge in Section 25. A small area at the southeastern corner of the township, primarily Sections 35 and 36, is drained by a minor branch of Forked Creek, which flows through Wesley Township, then enters Florence Township at the western edge of Section 31 and joins with Jordan Creek before the latter stream enters Wilmington Township. The northern third of Florence Township is drained by Prairie Creek and its tributaries, although the development of the Joliet Arsenal resulted in substantial alteration to the natural drainage patterns. Prairie Creek flows generally east to west across the township, from Section 3 to Section 7, before meeting the Kankakee River in

[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).

Section 15 of Wilmington Township. Although much of the township has gently rolling terrain, the creeks have defined low valleys, particularly in the western part of the township.

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 Florence Township lies west of the Valparaiso Morainic System in the Lake Wauponsee outwash area; the Rockdale moraine crosses the center of the township from northwest to southeast. (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.[5] 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.[6]

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. Compared to other townships in the southwestern portion of Will County, Florence Township contains relatively few known pre-European settlement archeological sites. Only one known site has been documented, called the Jackson site in Section 22, an early archaic upland brief habitation site identified in 1977 as part of the survey for the East Frankfort electrical transmission line corridor.[7]

Recent archaeological surveys of the former Joliet Arsenal site have identified a greater variety and extent of prehistoric resources in the township. For example, a Phase 1 Archeological Investigation of 1698 acres in the Jordan Creek watershed and bunker field 66A, covering portions of Sections 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, and 16 in the township identified 15 historic farmstead or related sites (sites also surveyed as part of this rural survey project) and 13 prehistoric archaeological sites, covering the Paleoindian, Archaic Woodland, and Middle Woodland periods. Two prehistoric sites (identified as 11-Wi-3351 in the northeast quarter of Section 14 and 11-Wi-3357 in the southwest quarter of Section 14) were determined to be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion D for their archaeological information potential.[8]

---

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

[6] 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.)

[7] Doershuk, 64–65, 76–87, citing Ann L. Koski and Kenneth B. Farnsworth, *An archaeological survey and test excavation study of the Plano and east Frankfort transmission line corridors, LaSalle, Grundy, Kendall, and Will County, Illinois* (Foundation for Illinois Archaeology Contract, Archaeology Program, Reports of Investigations, 1977), 41. This site is IAS no. Wi-136.

[8] *Historic Resource Inventory Survey for the Jordan Creek Watershed and Group 66A Bunker Field, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Will County, Illinois: Report of Investigations Number 628* (Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center, circa 2007), 40. The Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie U.S. Forest Service office retains copies of this report as well as other, more recent draft reports.

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."[9] 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.[10] This expedition claimed the region for France. In 1678, an expedition led by Robert de La Salle with Henry Tonti and Father Hennepin explored the region along the Mississippi River and adjacent territory on behalf of France. A Jesuit mission was established at Chicago in 1696 by Father Pierre Pinet, but it failed to last more than a year. As time progressed the French centered their principal activities in the middle Mississippi valley, focusing on Fort de Chartres near Kaskaskia and its connections with Québec via the Ohio, Maumee, and Wabash Rivers and the Great Lakes, well to the south and east of the upper Illinois Valley.

During this period, the Native Americans were undergoing migrations, often leading to conflict among the various tribes. The Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo, and Potawatomi displaced the Miami and Illinois in the Chicago region. The Potawatomi, followed by the Sauk and the Fox, were the predominant peoples in the northeastern Illinois by the later 1700s. Also present in the region were the Winnebago and the Shawnee.[11]

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.[12] 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.[13] French colonial farms produced wheat for human

---

[9] 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.

[10] 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.

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

[12] 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.

[13] Ibid., 33.

consumption and maize as feed for hogs. A staple of the settlers' diet was wheat bread. Livestock for use as dairy production, meat consumption, and draft animals were also present on the region's farms. The open field agriculture system continued in use beyond the era of French domination, and ended only with the influx of settlers from the east coast after 1800.[14]

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."[15]

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.[16]

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

[14] Ibid., 173–251.

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

[16] 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.[17]) 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.[18] Also in that year, the Ordinance of 1787 organized the Northwest Territory, including what would become Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

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

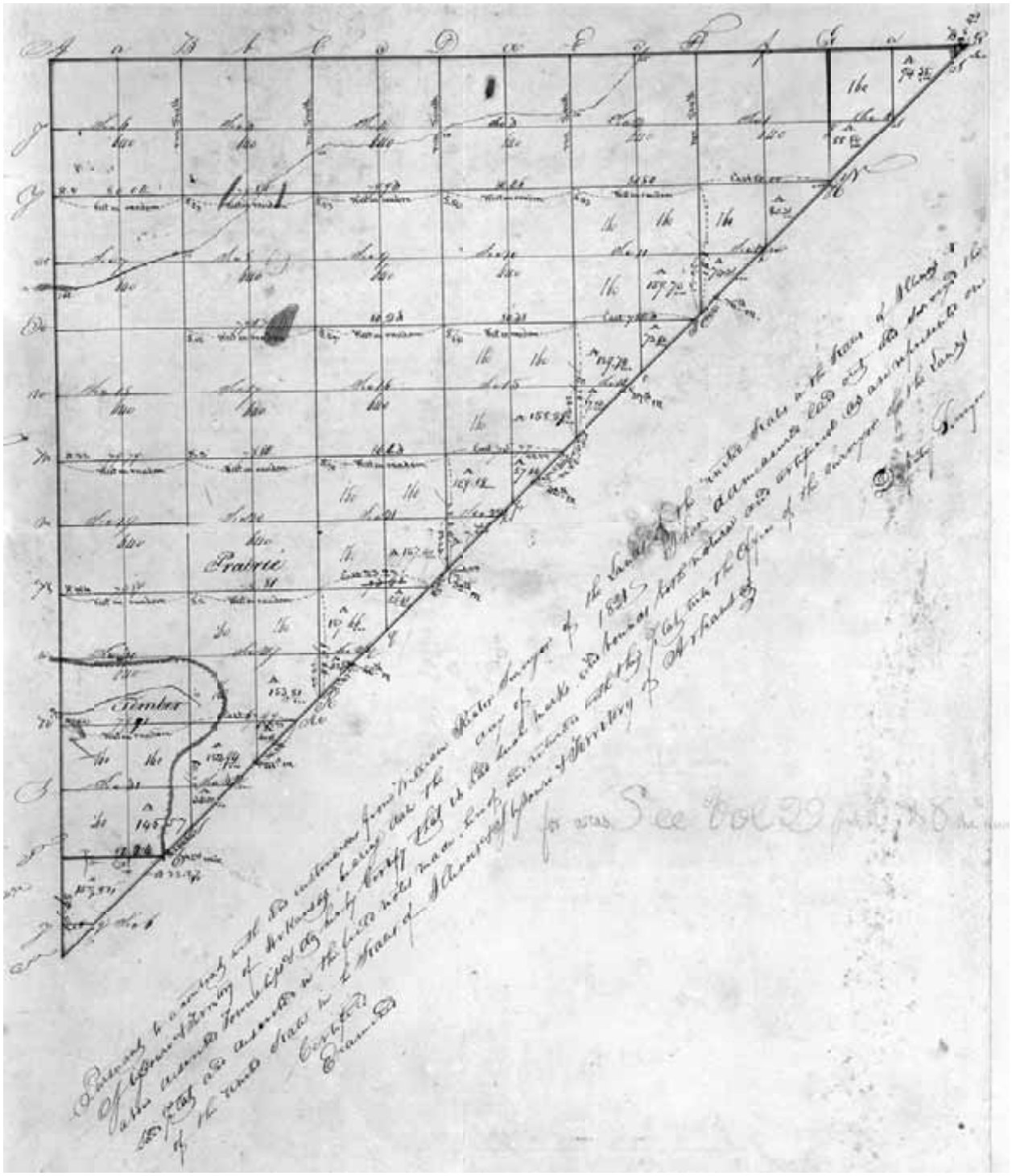
Development of the Northwest Territory

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

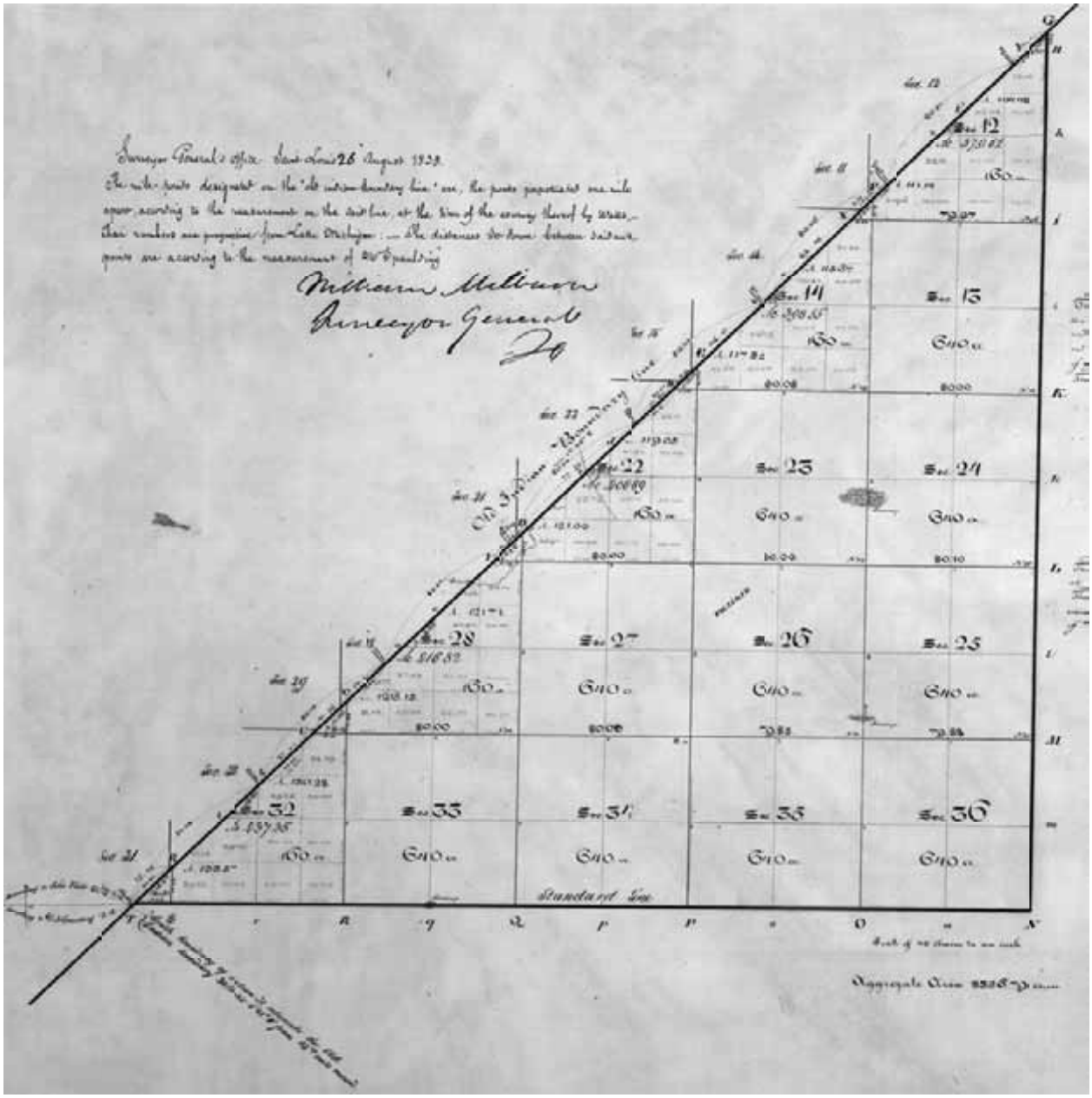
At this time, the Native American tribe leader Tecumseh organized the tribes of the Northwest Territory against European settlers. Although defeated in the Battle of Tippecanoe of 1811, Tecumseh remained active throughout the War of 1812 and aided British forces in capturing many European-settled areas. These reverted to American control at the end of the war. A series of treaties with Native American populations influenced the future of northeast Illinois. In 1795, a peace treaty with Native Americans included the ceding of "one piece of land, six miles square, at the mouth of the Chicago River, emptying into the southwest end of Lake Michigan, where a fort formerly stood."[19] It was on this land that Fort Dearborn was established in 1803, where a settlement of French traders and their Native American wives developed. The site grew initially from the fur trade, and despite the Fort Dearborn Massacre of 1812, more settlers came to the area.

Cutting across the western half of the region later known as Will County was a land corridor ceded by the Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Chippewa in a treaty signed in St. Louis on August 24, 1816. The corridor, defined by the cartographic features now known as the Indian Boundary Lines (and still present on many maps of the area), was meant to allow European settlers access to Lake Michigan for the construction of a waterway (later developed as the Illinois and Michigan Canal). The corridor was physically surveyed by James M. Duncan and T.C. Sullivan in 1819; its southern boundary was defined by a line drawn from a point on the shore of Lake Michigan ten miles south of the Chicago River, to a point on the Kankakee River ten miles north of its mouth.[20] Florence Township is bisected by the southern boundary of this corridor, which runs from Section 12 southwest to Section 31. Portions of Florence Township to the north of the line were surveyed in 1821, while portions to the south of the boundary line were not surveyed until 1834.

[17] Opie, *The Law of the Land*, 10.
[18] Ibid., 15.
[19] As quoted by A.T. Andreas in his *History of Chicago, from the Earliest Period to the Present Time* (Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1884), 79.
[20] *Will County Property Owners, 1842* (Joliet, Illinois: Will County Historical Society, 1973), 1.



Original 1821 survey plat of Florence Township north of the Indian boundary line. Most of the township was open prairie, although timber was indicated in Sections 30 and 31. Prairie Creek is shown in the northern part of the township, as well as a short portion of Jordan Creek in Section 30.



Map of the 1834 survey of Florence Township south of the Indian boundary line. This entire area is indicated as open prairie, and no watercourses are indicated.

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.[21] 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.[22]

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

The early 1830s saw the greatest land boom to that date in American history. Land sales gradually came under the control of the General Land Office as the survey moved westward. In 1834 and 1835 alone, twenty-eight million acres were shifted from closed to open land for purchase. Two years later the Van Buren administration placed an enormous 56,686,000 acres on the market. These lands were located in some of the most fertile farming regions of the nation: Illinois, Iowa, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Missouri.[23] 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.[24] The rate of growth in northern Illinois soon matched and then surpassed that in the southern portion of the state.

[21] 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.

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

[23] Ibid., 51.

[24] 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.[25] 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.[26] Along the Du Page River, partially located in the region that would become Will County in 1836, there were about twenty families. In Yankee settlements, which embraced part of the towns of Homer, Lockport and New Lenox, there were twenty or twenty-five families. Along the Hickory in the town of New Lenox there were approximately twenty more families, and at the Reed's and Jackson Grove there were six or eight more.[27]

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.[28]

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.[29]

The end of the Black Hawk War brought about the expulsion of the Sauk and Fox from lands east of the Mississippi River. Also in 1832, the Winnebago ceded their lands in Wisconsin south and east of the Wisconsin River and east of the Fox River to Green Bay. The Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Chippewa tribes still held title to land in northern Illinois outside of the Indian Boundary lines. In September 1833, a gathering of Native American chiefs and leaders was held in Chicago to "negotiate a treaty whereby the lands might be peaceably ceded, and the Indians removed therefrom, to make way for the tide of white emigration which had begun to set irresistibly and with ever increasing volume to the coveted region."[30] A Chicago historian, A.T. Andreas, writing in the 1880s, emphasized the disadvantaged position of the Native Americans, who had seen the effects of war on other Native Americans and experienced the ravages of epidemic on their own peoples:

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

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

> which did not redound to their profit, to cede all their lands to the Government, and to leave forever their homes and the graves of their fathers for a land far toward the setting sun, which they had never seen and of which they knew nothing.[31]

In the resulting treaty, the three tribes ceded land "along the western shore of Lake Michigan, and between this lake and the land ceded to the United States by the Winnebago nation at the treaty of Fort Armstrong. . . ."[32] As compensation, the tribes received land on the east bank of the Missouri River and a series of monetary payments.[33]

Immigration into Will County after the Black Hawk War increased so markedly that settlers began agitating for separation from Cook County. Residents of these settlements, then part of Cook County, demanded a more convenient place to record their land purchases and to pay their taxes. Accordingly, Dr. A. W. Bowen of Juliet and James Walker of Plainfield went to the state capital of Vandalia and successfully lobbied a detachment petition through the General Assembly. On 12 January 1836, an act was passed creating Will County from portions of Cook, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties. Will County also included at that time the northern part of what would later become Kankakee County. (In 1845, the boundaries of Will County were changed to their present extent.) The county was named in honor of Dr. Conrad Will, a member of the state legislature who lived in the southern part of Illinois.[34]

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.[35]

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.[36]

---

[31] Ibid.

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

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

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

[34] 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.)

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

[36] 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

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

In the late 1840s, the United States still owned 14,060,308 acres of land in Illinois. Between 1848 and 1857, much of this land passed into private hands. In addition to land that could be purchased from the government, alternate five mile Sections each side of the route planned for the Illinois and Michigan Canal in western Will County were offered for sale by the canal authority. Later, alternate six mile Sections on each side of the route granted to the Illinois Central Railroad (which passed through eastern Will County) were available for purchase from the railroad.[37]

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.[38] Until the twentieth century, almost all public infrastructure (such as roads) was thus maintained by each township with local tax revenue.

Agricultural Development

By the 1850s, Illinois was a major agricultural state. Its corn production was 57.65 million bushels, which increased to 115.2 million in 1860, making it the leading corn producer in the nation.[39] Wheat was also a major crop—the state was fifth in wheat production in 1850 and first in 1860. Acreage in improved farmland increased two and one half times in the decade. Other principal farm crops were oats, rye, and barley. The average price for corn and wheat was $1.25 per bushel. In the early- to mid-1800s, agricultural implements were primitive and included reapers, iron plowshares, and hay tenders. The first McCormick reaper in the County appeared in Wheatland Township in 1846. Some local inventions that could be attached to modify the McCormick included gearing produced by W. Holmes of Hickory Creek in Will County, produced at Adams' Foundry, followed by a turf and stubble plow.[40]

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

---

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.

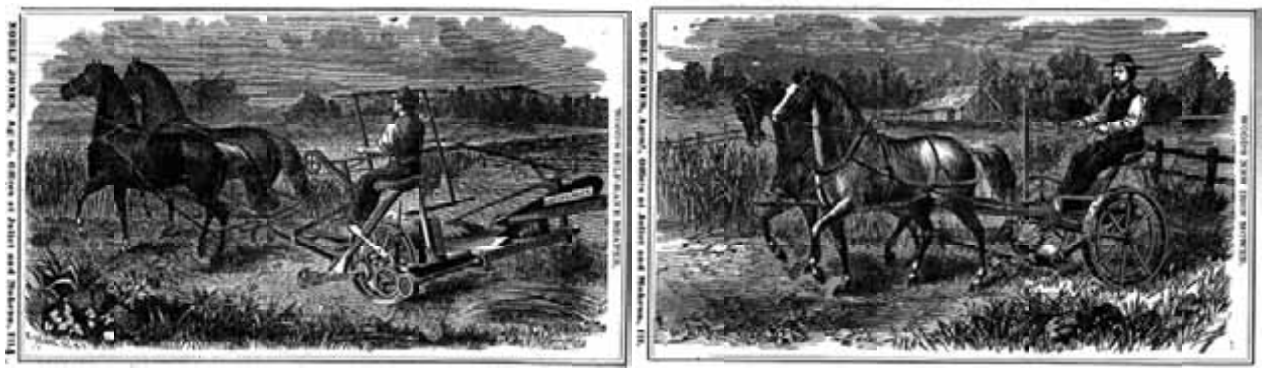
[37] The lands were sold to settlers and speculators. It is estimated that six million acres passed into the hands of speculators between 1849 and 1856. There were several types of speculators. Small farmers bought the land for pasturage, timber, or simply as an investment. Small businessmen also bought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

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

[39] "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.)

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

leading crop in the survey area, since it could be fed to livestock as well as processed into other products.[41] 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.[42]



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.[43] 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.[44]

Cattle, hogs, and sheep were also a significant part of northeastern Illinois agriculture. The Chicago Union Stock Yards, incorporated by act of the Illinois State Legislature in 1865, was a ready market. Horses were also bred, as they were an indispensable for the operation of farm machinery; oxen were also used into the 1870s. The dairy industry also was initially a significant part of the region's agriculture.[45]

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

[41] *Souvenir of Settlement and Progress of Will County Illinois* (Chicago: Historical Directory Publishing Co., 1884), 244.
[42] Shaw, *Will County Agriculture*, 8.
[43] 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.
[44] Ibid., 5.
[45] 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).

percent during this period. Vegetable production was led by root crops like potatoes, turnips, and carrots. Of orchard fruits, apples had the greatest production.[46]

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.[47]

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.[48]

---

[46] Morrison, *Prairie State, A History,* 98.

[47] 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.

[48] 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

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.[49] 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.[50]

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.

---

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.

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

[50] 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.[51] 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.[52] 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.[53]

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.[54] The farm population in Illinois declined from 1,341,104 in 1900 to 772,521 in 1950.[55]

The abandoning of farms and the consolidation of small farms into large ones resulted in many buildings being razed or abandoned. Moreover, changes in farming meant that many old farm buildings were too small, or unsuitable for other reasons, and were replaced by larger, more suitable and flexible structures. By the twentieth century many barns were constructed by professional builders following plans influenced by farm journals and using mass-produced lumber from a nearby yard or sawmill. In 1987, there were 1,239 farms in Will County covering 328,729 acres. Ten years later, the continued decline in agricultural production in northeastern Illinois was apparent, as farmland was lost to suburban development. By 1997, there were only 910 farms in Will County, and though the average farm was larger, the total acreage devoted to agriculture had declined by more than 10 percent to 293,526 acres. After dipping to only 830 farms in the county in 2002, the number of farms in the county increased slightly by 2007 to 877. The total acreage in the county continued to decline steadily, however, and by 2007 only 220,851 acres remained in agricultural use, representing less than half the total area of the county and a loss of more than 100,000 acres in the twenty years since 1987. In recent years almost half the farm acreage in the county remained planted in corn, with soybeans covering another quarter of the acreage. Raising beef cattle, dairy, and hogs also remained significant cash products in the county. The average farm sold crops worth more than $145,000 in 2007. Between 2002 and 2007, the value of products sold directly to individual consumers by Will County farms more than doubled to $1.3 million, reflecting the increasing popularity of farmer's markets and vegetable crops in the county.[56]

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

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

> Prime farmland, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. It could be cultivated land, pastureland, forestland, or other land, but it is not urban or built-up land or water areas. The soil qualities, growing season, and moisture supply are those needed for the soil to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when proper management, including water management, and acceptable farming methods are applied. In general, prime farmland has an adequate and dependable supply of moisture from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. It is permeable to water and air. It is not excessively erodible or saturated with water for long periods, and it either is not frequently flooded during the growing season or is protected from flooding. Slope ranges mainly from 0 to 6 percent. In the last two decades, a trend in land use in some parts of [Will County] has been the loss of some prime farmland to industrial and urban uses. The loss of prime farmland to other uses puts pressure on marginal lands, which generally are more erodible, droughty, and less productive and cannot be easily cultivated.[57]

By 1997, there were 79,000 Illinois farms utilizing 28 million acres and about 80 percent of the total land area in the state. Illinois was the leading state in agricultural-related industries such as soybean processing, meat packing, dairy manufacturing, feed milling, vegetable processing, machinery manufacturing, foreign exports, and service industries.[58]

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."[59]

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

> In rural Illinois, you'll find working farms. You'll also find a level of infrastructure and services generally below that provided through the collective wealth of an urban community. Many other factors, too, make the country living experience very different from what may be found in the city.[60]

---

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

Florence Township Developmental History

Although sometimes mistakenly listed as residing in Jackson Township, Lewis Linebarger is considered the first settler of Florence Township. Lewis and other family members arrived in 1832 and originally settled in Starr's Grove (the northeast quarter of Section 8 of the township) where he constructed the first log cabin in the township and made other improvements. Linebarger eventually sold to Arthur Potts and moved to Oregon.[61] Arthur Potts, originally from Indiana, moved to Florence Township circa 1836. He lived on the original Linebarger settlement until he moved from the township in 1854.[62]

Settlers arriving in 1835 included Henry Althouse, a native of Prussia who immigrated to Baltimore in 1819. He worked as a baker until he moved to the southwest portion of Florence Township and became a farmer. At one point he owned 1,500 acres of land. He subsequently subdivided the land among his nine children and moved to Wilmington. John Kahler also arrived in Florence Township in 1835.[63]

James Martin immigrated from Ireland and settled in Section 28 of Florence Township in 1836. Martin was one of first School Trustees serving in 1842. Martin had two sons, William and James. James Martin served as the County Treasurer.

Also in 1836, Walter and Thomas Monteith from New York settled in Florence Township on adjoining farms in Sections 22 and 27. David Bell, also from New York, first moved to Wilmington where he worked as a carpenter; he later bought land and settled in Florence Township.[64]

Notable settlers in 1837 include Duncan McIntyre and Daniel Stewart, both from New York. McIntire had a claim on Section 28 and built a cabin. He later married Joseph Hadsel's daughter. The couple returned to New York in 1843, and then returned to Florence Township again prior to McIntyre's death.[65] Daniel Stewart was a well-respected citizen of Florence Township. He accumulated extensive land holdings prior to his death.[66]

These early settlers in the township congregated on wooded land adjacent to the streams crossing the township, primarily in Sections 7 and 8 in the northwest portion of the township and Sections 28 through 32 in the southwest portion of the township. Due to the settlement of the timbered areas, a saw mill was one of the first improvements within the township. However, the mill did not operate for very long, as it was recognized that wood from Michigan and Wisconsin was more easily worked for construction purposes.[67] As the population increased, settlement expanded into the upland prairie portions of the township, which proved to be superior for agriculture.

Walter W. Monteith (cousin of Thomas Monteith) arrived in 1841 and became one of the most popular citizens of the township. He was the first supervisor of Florence Township and held numerous other positions within the local government.[68]

Charles Starr native of Nova Scotia and father of Judge C. R. Starr of Kankakee arrived in Florence Township in 1842. Also in 1842, William Van der Bogert arrived from New York he became one of the first three school trustees. Isaac Jackson, also a Nova Scotia native, settled in Starr's grove in 1842. He

[61] Woodruff (1878), 576.
[62] Woodruff (1878), 576.
[63] Woodruff (1878), 577.
[64] Woodruff (1878), 577.
[65] Woodruff (1878), 577–578.
[66] Woodruff (1878), 577.
[67] George H. Woodruff, *History of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: Wm. Le Baron Jr., & Company, 1878), 575.
[68] Woodruff (1878), 578.

was a Quaker preacher noted to be very inventive and handy. His son Enoch Jackson served for 18 years as justice of the peace.[69]

By 1848, the population of Florence Township was nearly 100. Settlers arriving from 1842 to 1848 include John Jordan, Rufus Corbett, George A Gray, Adam White, Edward Gurney, the Baskerville family, Selah and Leonard Morey, William Barrett, Dr. E. H. Strong, Adam White and sons, C. G. Jewell, R. H. Nott, Andrew Layton, Henry Hand, and Hezekiah Warner.[70] By 1900 the population of the township was 760.[71]

In 1850, the first year township governments were organized in Illinois, Florence Township was combined with present-day Wesley and Wilmington Townships under one administration. John Frazier of Wesley was first supervisor of the large township. In 1851, residents of Florence Township began to organize a government of their own. The first officers of the new township were W. W. Monteith as Supervisor, William Van der Bogert as Assessor, and Leonard Morey as Clerk. C. G. Jewell, R. H. Nott, and G. A. Gray were elected Highway Commissioners, and Charles Starr and Hezekiah Warner as Justices of the Peace. Henry Hand and Andrew Layton served as Constables, Rufus Corbett as Overseer of the Poor, and Henry Hand as Collector.[72]

During the Civil War (1861–1865) Florence Township residents were represented in the Union Army. Walter Van der Bogart, Charles Morey, Henry Ohlhues, Daniel Linebarger, Norman Kahler, Thomas Martin, Charles Jackson, Thomas Stewart, William and John Shoemaker, Albert Wilkins, and Almon Merrill all died of war related causes.[73]

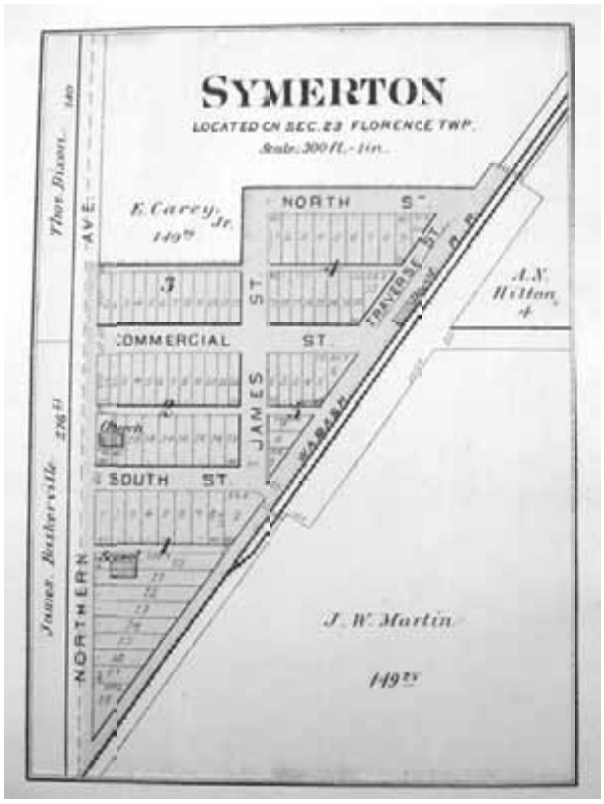
In addition to farming, other interests in Florence Township include dairying, stock-raising, and quarrying. In the nineteenth century, typical stock included swine and crops included corn, oats, and rye. Dairy products include butter and cheese.[74]

In 1880, the Wabash Railroad was completed across Florence Township.[75] A depot was built in Section 23 of Florence Township, and a small village, named Symerton, was platted. A post office was established in the village in 1881, and a grain elevator was built alongside the tracks. A few commercial enterprises were opened in the village, but with the City of Wilmington already established as the nearby commercial center for residents of Florence Township, the village did not expand beyond a few commercial and residential buildings.[76] One of the one-room schoolhouses, formerly located in the southeast quarter of Section 22, was replaced by a school in the village prior to 1900, and the German Evangelical Church congregation in Section 10 had also moved to the village by the 1920s. Symerton was incorporated as a village in 1904.[77]

[69] Woodruff (1878), 578.
[70] Woodruff (1878), 579.
[71] Stevens (1907), 83.
[72] Woodruff (1878), 580.
[73] Woodruff (1878), 580–583.
[74] Woodruff (1878), 575–576.
[75] The rail line was initially begun by the Chicago and Strawn Railroad Company but was soon sold to the Wabash Railroad. The portion of the line in Florence Township has been inactive for decades and has now been adapted as part of the Wauponsee Glacial Trail.
[76] W. W. Stevens, *Past and Present of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing, 1907), 81.
[77] *Illinois Counties & Incorporated Municipalities* (Springfield: Illinois Secretary of State, May 2006), 23.

Postcard views of Symerton, likely in the first decade of the twentieth century. Left: the elevator built by A. N. Hilton was located just to the east of the railroad and north of Commercial Street in the village. Right: A view looking west down Commercial Street with the depot in the foreground, likely taken from inside the elevator. Note the church steeple visible beyond the trees at left and the open agricultural fields beyond the one-street of the village.

Views of Symerton today. Above left: The former Wabash Railroad in the township is now the Wauponsee Glacial Trail. Above right: A view looking west down Commercial Street today. Neither the grain elevator nor the depot survive. There has been almost no new construction in the village, and many of the existing structures are visible in the earlier view. Below left: The Florence Township Hall in the village. Below right: A former commercial building in Symerton.



Plat map of the village of Symerton, 1893. Although five blocks were platted, many of the lots shown remained vacant. "North Street" depicted at the top of the plan was apparently never graded or laid out, although the one block defined by "South Street" and "James Street" still exists today. Commercial Street extended east across the centerline of Section 23, while "Northern Avenue" was a pre-existing Section-line road in the township.

After World War I, wheat began to be cultivated on the farms in Florence Township.[78] Roads that existed in 1928 included U.S. Route 66, which was designated a federal route in 1926. In Florence Township, the highway was a concrete road running south from Joliet which entered the township at the northwest corner of Section 6 and followed the western township line of Sections 18 and 19 and half way across Section 30 before turning west toward Wilmington. The north-south centerline of the township was a stone-surfaced road, today's Old Chicago Road / Will County Highway 7. Another stone-surface road ran east-west to the south of Sections 19 through 24, today's Wilmington-Peotone Road / Will County Highway 25. A third stone-surfaced road ran north through Symerton and continued north to the township centerline, today's Symerton Road. The remainder of the roads in the township were graded dirt roads.[79]

With even better connections via automobile in the twentieth century, the small village of Symerton could not compete with the more established commercial center of Wilmington, and little public activity remained in the village. The post office closed in 1931, and the school closed with district consolidation in the 1950s. The church merged with a congregation in Wilmington in the same era. Today, Symerton has a population of a little more than 100 persons.

Florence Township was greatly affected by the construction of the Elwood Ordnance Plant unit of the Joliet Arsenal in 1940–1941. Almost half the area of the township came under federal ownership, and farm families living in the area were forced to relocate. Today, only ruins of building foundations and two cemeteries remain as physical evidence of the pre-1940 development of the area.

[78] August Maue, *History of Will County, Illinois* (Indianapolis: Historical Publishing, 1928), 204.
[79] Maue (1928), 205.

Schools

The first school in Florence Township was established in Henry Althouse's house in the southwest portion of the township. Classes were taught by a young lady employed by Althouse. Those enrolled included Althouse's children and a few neighbors' children. A public school was officially established in the winter of 1842–1843. There were six attendees of the so-called Florence Academy, of which Sarah Fisher was the principal. In 1845, the attendance was up to twenty-four students, although classes were still held in rooms of private homes.[80]

The first permanent school building was constructed in Section 8 by Selah Morey in 1849 at a cost of $250. As the population of the township grew during the 1850s and 1860s, the number of schools increased to eight by 1877, with fourteen teachers serving 342 pupils.[81]

By 1907, all eight schools remained open, but the population had declined, and there were only 171 pupils.[82] The township maintained eight separate one-room school districts as late as the 1920s.[83] There was some discussion of consolidation in the 1920s, but residents feared increased costs as well as difficult logistics of transportation, so consolidation did not occur.[84] The eight one-room schools included the Symerton school in the village; the Oak Grove school in Section 29; the White school in Section 34; the Union school in Section 25; the Starr's Grove school in Section 8; the Forsythe school in Section 4; the Hayden School in Section 1, and Center School in Section 16.[85]

The establishment of the Joliet Arsenal in 1940 greatly affected the schools of Florence Township. Four of the one-room schools were located within the arsenal site (in Sections 1, 4, 8, and 16) and were closed immediately and demolished. However, as part of the influx of population in the local area related to the development of the arsenal, two new schools were constructed in summer 1943 with federal funding, Brookside school and Northcrest school.

One of the remaining one-room schoolhouses, the Union school, closed in 1948, leaving only the Symerton school in the village and the Oak Grove and White schools in operation, to serve a total enrollment of 51 elementary students and 16 high school students.

In the 1950s, the three remaining Florence Township schools were consolidated into the Wilmington-Lorenzo District 209U. This unified district covers an expansive geographic area that was served by twenty-six separate school districts in the 1920s. By the 1960s, the district operated five elementary schools (Central, Bruning, Brookside, Northcrest, and Lorenzo, all in Wilmington or Wesley townships) and a combined middle school-high school.[86]

[80] Woodruff (1878), 579.
[81] Farrington, 70–71; Woodruff (1878), 579.
[82] Stevens (1907), 82.
[83] Farrington, 134–135.
[84] Maue (1928), 205.
[85] Farrington, 231. The name of the school in Section 1 was provided by Mr. Merle Jones, who attended this school from 1917 to 1925, during an interview by Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie on September 18, 2001. The name of the Section 16 school was provided by Denise Issert of the Will County Historic Preservation Commission.
[86] Farrington, 232–235.

This duplex residence at 30789–30791 Symerton Road is likely the former village school, closed in the 1950s. The original schoolhouse character has been obscured by subsequent remodeling.

Currently, the district maintains four schools: Bruning Elementary School for kindergarten and first grade built in 1961 in Lakewood Shores south of Wilmington; Stevens Intermediate School for students in second through fifth grades at 221 Ryan Street in Wilmington, built in 1971; Wilmington Middle School for sixth through eighth grades at 715 South Joliet Street in Wilmington, built in 1953; and Wilmington High School, constructed in 2008. The intermediate and middle schools share the same campus at the south end of Wilmington. The present-day intermediate school was formerly the high school, until the opening of the new high school one-half mile east. The historic Central School in the block bounded by Jackson, Kankakee, Van Buren, and Joliet streets in downtown Wilmington, recently known as Booth Elementary School, has been closed since 2008.

Table 1 Former One Room Schoolhouses in Florence Township

Site ID	37	PIN		1988 Survey Number		Current status	Demolished
Address				Section	34	Parcel	small parcel, SW 1/4
Name	White School			Significance of site		N/A	

Notes

Per Farrington, closed during consolidation in early 1950s.

Site ID	48	PIN		1988 Survey Number		Current status	Demolished
Address				Section	29	Parcel	small parcel, SW 1/4
Name	Oak Grove School			Significance of site		N/A	

Notes

Per Farrington, closed during consolidation in early 1950s.

Site ID	85	PIN	18-25-200-003	1988 Survey Number	25-02	Current status	Residential
Address	16801 Warner Bridge Road			Section	25	Parcel	small parcel
Name	Union School			Significance of site		Non-contributing	

Notes

A former one-room schoolhouse. Per Farrington, this school had closed by 1948.

Site ID	137	PIN		1988 Survey Number		Current status	Demolished
Address				Section	16	Parcel	small parcel, SE 1/4
Name	Center School			Significance of site		N/A	

Notes

Closed and demolished in 1940–1941

Site ID	151	PIN		1988 Survey Number		Current status	Demolished
Address				Section	8	Parcel	small parcel, NW 1/4
Name	Starr s Grove School			Significance of site		N/A	

Notes

Closed and demolished in 1940–1941

Site ID	178	PIN		1988 Survey Number		Current status	Demolished
Address				Section	1	Parcel	small parcel, SW 1/4
Name	Hayden School			Significance of site	N/A		

Notes Name provided by Merle Jones, who attended this school from 1917 to 1925 (Telephone interview with Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, 9/18/2001)
Closed and demolished in 1940–1941

Site ID	187	PIN		1988 Survey Number		Current status	Demolished
Address				Section	4	Parcel	small part of SE 1/4
Name	Forsythe School			Significance of site	N/A		

Notes
Closed and demolished in 1940–1941

Churches and Cemeteries

The first church in Florence Township was the German Evangelical Church, constructed in 1874 at the southwest corner of Section 10. As described in published sources, the building was of wood frame construction, 32 feet in width and 43 feet in length. The congregation had been organized in 1866 and at first met in various schoolhouses and private homes.[87] This church catered primarily to families in the eastern part of the township; many residents in the northwestern or southwestern parts of the township attended churches in Elwood or Wilmington.[88] A township hall was built soon afterwards adjacent to the church to the east.[89] This church apparently had been abandoned by the early twentieth century. A resident of a nearby farm, who knew the building as the "Dunker Church," stated that it had been abandoned as long as he could remember.[90] It seems likely that the congregation relocated to Symerton, where the Symerton Evangelical Church had been built prior to 1910. The church eventually merged with a Methodist congregation in Wilmington. By 1928, no churches were maintained in the township. Residents worship in nearby communities such as Wilmington.[91]

This building at the corner of South Street and Symerton Road is likely the former Symerton Evangelical Church, much remodeled.

[87] Stevens (1907), 82.
[88] Woodruff (1878), 583.
[89] Stevens (1907), 83.
[90] Telephone interview of Merle Jones (257 North Raynor Street, Joliet, Illinois) by staff of Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, September 18, 2001. Mr. Jones was born in 1911 and left the township in 1927. His father was a tenant on a farm owned by Sarah Carey in the northeast quarter of section 14.
[91] Maue (1928), 205.

The German Evangelical Cemetery, presumably associated with this church and congregation, is located three-quarters mile south of the former site of the church, in the southwest quarter of Section 15. This cemetery also contains several burials from prior to 1900 of members of the Zion Congregation of the Evangelical Association, a small church congregation located in Jackson Township, now disbanded.[92] The cemetery remained active into the twentieth century, with burials as late as 1990. Currently, the cemetery is surrounded by a post-and-rail wood fence and landscaped with turf grass.


Above: Two views of the German Evangelical Cemetery in Section 10 of Florence Township.

The Starr Grove Cemetery is located in the northeast quarter of Section 8. The cemetery is set in a grove of oak trees and contains burials dating to as early as 1845. Although surrounded by the Joliet Arsenal, it remained an active cemetery until circa 1960, although most of the existing grave markers date to the mid-nineteenth century.[93]


Above: Two views of the Starr Grove Cemetery in Section 8 of Florence Township.

[92] D. Andrew Bale, ed., *The Cemeteries of Will County, Illinois, No. 6: The Arsenal Cemeteries* (Wilmington: Will/Grundy Counties Genealogical Society, 2002), 1.
[93] Bale, ed., *The Arsenal Cemeteries*, 35.

Bridges

Two 1920s–1930s era concrete bridges survive in Florence Township, where Wilton Center Road and Warner Bridge Road cross Prairie Creek near the southeast corner of Section 12. In addition to these two historic concrete bridges, limestone abutments remain intact within Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie at the location where Symerton Road crossed

Above left: The Wilton Center Road bridge over Prairie Creek. Above right: The Warner Bridge Road bridge over Prairie Creek. Below: One of two surviving limestone bridge abutments where Symerton Road crossed Jordan Creek in sections 14-15, now part of Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

Joliet Arsenal

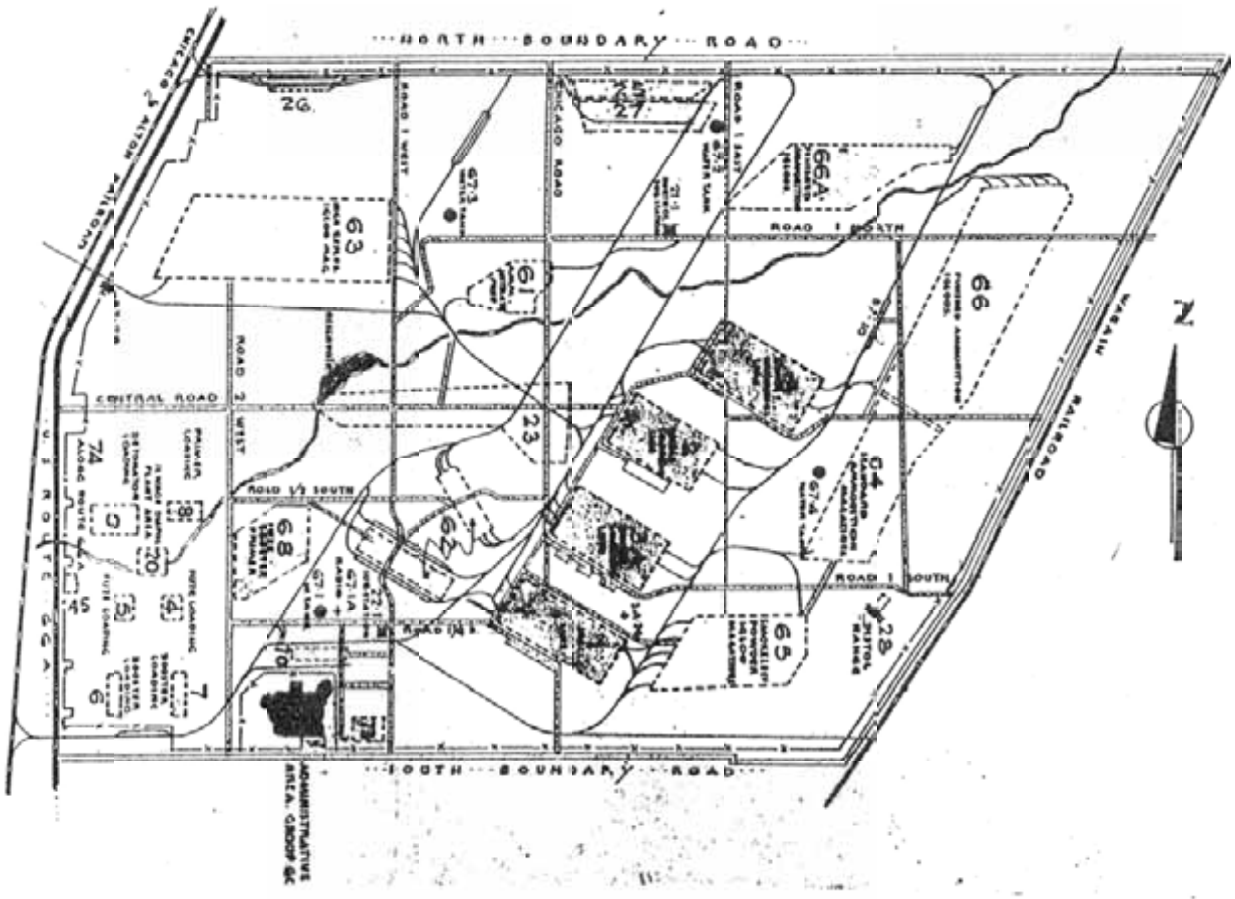
The Joliet Arsenal was authorized by the U.S. Army in September 1940, one of the first such plants established after the start of World War II in Europe.[94] Ultimately sixty plants were established nationwide from June 1940 to December 1942. The plant was owned by the United States government but was operated by a private contractor. Production activities included the manufacturing of explosives and other chemicals and the loading, assembling, and packaging of ammunition. The site contained 1,391 buildings, 1,138 dating to the World War II era. These utilitarian buildings were constructed for temporary use. Of particular historic interest are six buildings comprising the TNT Line 7; this group represents the first example of a later widely used industrial process for the manufacturing TNT.

Prior to the 1940s, the site was used for farming. The site included six cemeteries, which were preserved. (These cemeteries are now within the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie; two cemeteries, German Evangelical Cemetery and Starr Grove Cemetery, are located in Florence Township; refer to "Churches and Cemeteries," above.) When the arsenal was developed, most of the agricultural buildings on the site were demolished, but ten farmhouses were relocated to serve as staff housing. Eight of the houses were wood framed structures and were relocated to the Administrative Area of the Elwood Unit, located in Section 17 of Florence Township. A gatehouse for the Administrative Area still exists and is documented as site 195 in the present survey. Additionally, two brick farmhouses were retained on their original sites on Illinois Highway 53 in Florence Township, near the southwest corner of the Elwood Unit. One of these two houses still exists and is documented as site 43 in the present survey. Throughout the arsenal site, streams were straightened, ditches and drain tiles were constructed, and a complex road and rail system was created. Farm families in the area were given as little as thirty days to pack their belongings and sell their land to the government.[95] The government began the process of condemnation of the property owned by farmers who were reluctant to sell in November 1940; letters were sent informing the remaining residents that they must vacate the area by March 1, 1941.

Left: The former gatehouse to the Administrative Area (Group 60) in Section 17, site 195 in the present survey. Right: The former Oscar Morgan house in Section 7, retained on the arsenal site for residential use as part of Group 74 and documented in the present survey as site 43.

[94] This section is based on the following sources: Peter Rathbun, "Joliet Army Ammunition Plant: Written Historical and Descriptive Data" Historic American Engineering Record Survey No. IL-18 (1984); Rita Walsh and Patricia Wango, *The World War II Ordnance Department's Government-Owned Contractor-Operated (GOCO) Industrial Facilities: Joliet Army Ammunition Plant Historic* Investigation (Cincinnati, Ohio: Gray & Pape, Inc., under contract to Geo-Marine, Inc., and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1995); USDA National Forest Service, *Midewin Land and Resource Management Plan* with *Final Environmental Impact Statement* (2002); and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, "Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery," <www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/abrahamlincoln.asp>.

[95] <willcountynews.blogspot.com/2009/11/joliet-arsenal-oral-history-interview.html>, posted November 11, 2009.



World War II-era plan of the Elwood Ordnance Plant. The road labeled "Road 1 North" corresponds to the northern boundary of Florence Township.

The 37,000-acre Joliet Arsenal complex was constructed beginning in mid-November 1940. The site appealed to army planners due to its location outside of major population centers (due to the potentially hazardous nature of production); its location near to Joliet and Chicago (for easy access to a labor force and industrial supplies); the level character of the land; and the proximity of the Santa Fe, Chicago & Alton, and Wabash Railroads. One of the first tasks the builders of the plant had to accomplish was to harvest the crops of corn and other grains, which had been planted by the farmers on the site in the spring.

Originally, the complex was built and administered as two separate plants. The Kankakee Ordnance Works, to the western part of the site, produced and stored explosives including trinitrotoluene (TNT), dinitrotoluene (DNT), lead azide, and tetryl. The Elwood Ordnance Plant, also known as the Load, Assembly, and Pack (LAP) unit, to the eastern part of the site, loaded, assembled, and packed bombs and artillery ammunition. Within the Elwood Ordnance Plant were 36 building groups. Groups 1 through 9 in Florence Township were used for shell bomb loading and component parts such as Fuses, boosters, detonators, and primers. Other building groups were storage bunkers and warehouses. Manufacturing processes began even before construction was complete, with operations at Group 2 in Florence Township, a medium caliber loading line, beginning on July 12, 1941.

Ironically, by 1942, the army realized that the ordnance plant encompassed more land than was necessary. Therefore, an agricultural lease program was initiated in 1943. Approximately 10,866 acres in the Elwood plant were leased for soybeans, hay, oats, corn, wheat, and pasture land.

Elwood Ordnance Plant: Major Building Groups

Major Production Lines

- Group 1: fixed ammunition production line; Sections 15 and 16 of Florence
- Group 3A: demolition bomb loading line; Section 10 of Florence
- Group 2: medium and major caliber loading line; Section 10 of Florence
- Group 3: demolition bomb loading line; Sections 2 and 3 of Florence

Other Production Lines

- Groups 4 and 5: fuse loading lines; north part of Section 18 of Florence
- Groups 6 and 7: booster loading lines; south part of Section 18 of Florence
- Group 8: primer loading line; east part of Section 7 of Florence
- Group 9: detonator loading line; west part of Section 7 of Florence
- Group 61: ammonia nitrate preparation area; Section 4 of Florence

Storage Bunkers

- Group 62: bunkers in Sections 8 and 9 of Florence
- Group 63: explosive magazines; Section 5 and 6 of Florence and Section 32 of Jackson
- Group 64: ammunition magazines; Sections 11 and 12 of Florence
- Group 65: smokeless powder magazines; Sections 14 and 15 of Florence
- Group 66: finished ammunition; Section 1 of Florence and Section 36 of Jackson
- Group 66A: finished ammunition; Sections 35 and 36 of Jackson
- Group 68: fuses, boosters, primers; adjacent to Groups 4 through 9, in Section 8 of Florence

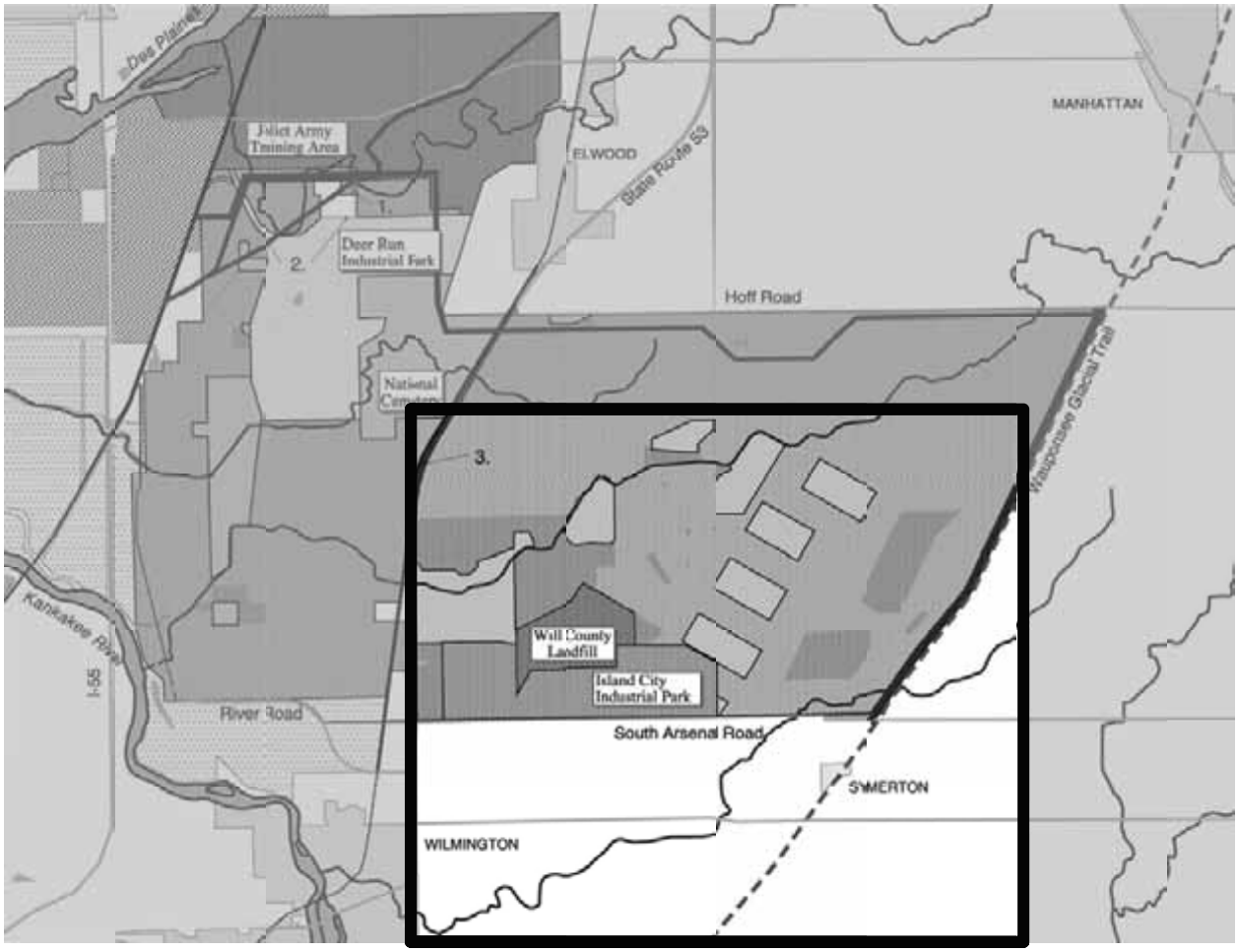
Support and Other Facilities

- Group 60: Administrative Area, Section 17 of Florence
- Group 74: residential buildings along U.S. Route 66A (present-day Highway 53)
- Group 20: sewage treatment plant, between Groups 8 and 9, in Section 7 of Florence Township along Prairie Creek
- Group 22: electrical substations, located throughout site
- Group 23: unknown
- Groups 24 and 26: rail yard and salvage yard; Section 32 of Jackson
- Groups 25 and 27: rail yard and storage warehouses; Section 34 of Jackson
- Group 28: pistol range; Section 14 of Florence
- Group 45: miscellaneous buildings along U.S Route 66A (present-day Highway 53) in Section 7 of Florence Township
- Group 67: water tanks and radio antennas, located throughout site
- Group 70: unknown; north of Administrative Area in Section 17
- Group 73: unknown; east of Administrative Area in Section 17

The complex was placed on standby status in September 1945. The Kankakee and Elwood Units were merged under one administration as the Joliet Arsenal in 1946. In the years following World War II, the chemical plants of the Kankakee Ordnance Works were used to produce fertilizer, while the Elwood Ordnance Plant continued work in ammunition reclamation and experimental bomb loading. Due to the Korean War, Elwood resumed active production from 1951 to 1955, and Kankakee from 1951 to 1957.

The facility was renamed the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant in August 1964. Production resumed again during the Vietnam War, from 1965 to 1976. Major rehabilitation and modernization of the facilities on the site occurred in the early 1970s.

The southern part of the Elwood Ordnance Plant originally included almost half of Florence Township, covering Sections 1 to 18 west of the Wabash Railroad. Except for one former farmhouse, no built structures dating prior to the 1940s are known to survive in this area of the township. However, when the arsenal was developed, most pre-existing structures were demolished only to their foundations. On many former farmstead sites, stone and concrete foundations and paving still survive. Shortly after World War II, western portions of the government site were sold to private industrial users or turned over to the State of Illinois. Even with these sales of land, by 1990 the U.S. Army still owned 23,500 acres in Will County, including all of the land originally acquired in Florence Township.



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

In June 1992, the army announced its intention to decommission the site. In 1997, 15,080 acres of the former Joliet Arsenal were transferred to the USDA Forest Service, creating Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The majority of the former arsenal lands in Florence Township are included in Midewin. Pending cleanup of industrial wastes on additional portions of the site by the army, Midewin Tallgrass Prairie will eventually expand to include 19,000 acres. A portion of the arsenal, located in Jackson and Channahon Townships, was retained by the army as the Joliet Army Training Area, used by the Army National Guard. Also, a new national cemetery, Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, was dedicated on October 3, 1999, including parcels in Channahon, Wilmington, and Jackson Townships, on 982 acres of the former arsenal. Other portions of the arsenal site were zoned for private industrial and commercial uses, including a large intermodal freight transportation facility which began operation in 2002 in Channahon Township, a new Will County landfill in Sections 8 and 17 of Florence Township, and a new industrial park in Sections 16, 17, and 18 of Florence Township along Arsenal Road. Some land within the former arsenal continues to be leased for farming or as pasture land. Within Florence Township, an extensive number of abandoned arsenal-era structures still exist. The long term restoration of Midewin calls for the removal of many of these above-ground structures.

Above left: Cattle graze in section 1 of Florence Township near a bunker field, Group 66 of the former arsenal. Above right: The new Will County Landfill developed in Sections 8 and 17 on former arsenal land.

Above: Buildings of Group 1, the fixed ammunition production line.


Above: Buildings of Group 2, the medium and major caliber loading line.




Above: Buildings of Group 3, demolition bomb loading line.

Above: Buildings of Group 3A, demolition bomb loading line.

Above: Buildings of Groups 4 and 5, fuse loading lines, in Section 18 of Florence Township.


Above: Buildings of Group 6, booster loading line, in Section 18 of Florence Township.


Above: Buildings of Group 9, detonator loading line, in Section 7 of Florence Township.


Above: Utility shelter and bunker at Group 23.


Above: Buildings of Group 23.


Above: Buildings of Group 61, the ammonia nitrate preparation area, in Section 4 of Florence Township.


Above: Warehouses of Group 62 in Section 9 of Florence Township.


Above: Storage bunkers of Group 63 in Section 5 of Florence Township.


Above: Arsenal-era road infrastructure in Section 5 of Florence Township. Note the wooden electrical poles with streetlights, part of the 1940s construction of the arsenal.


Above: Masonry warehouses of Group 64 for storage of ammunition magazines, in Section 11 of Florence Township.

Above left: Typical earth-covered bunker, Group 65 in Section 14 of Florence Township. Above right: A typical bunker, Group 68, Section 8 in Florence Township. Below: A row of bunkers in Group 68 in Section 8 of Florence Township.

Former Farmsteads on the Arsenal Site

As part of the intensive rural survey of Florence Township, 1939 aerial photography of the township was compared to present-day aerial photography. The 1939 aerial photography was used to identify farmstead sites that existed just prior to the establishment of the arsenal in 1940–1941. Comparing to the present-day photography, it was clear that some former farmstead sites were obliterated completely by arsenal-era construction. However, other sites were located in wooded, undeveloped areas of the arsenal site. Field survey work was conducted to determine if above ground evidence of these former sites still exists. Unfortunately, some potential sites were inaccessible during the field work due to restrictions on access or physical constraints such as flooded trails or missing bridges. The following table lists the sites with identified surviving above-ground features. In the table, Y-RUINS indicates that the former farmstead site was located in the field and that some above-ground evidence of built structures was observed; X-1940 indicates that the farmstead site either could not be located in the field or that no above-ground evidence survives.

Refer also to Map 3 in Appendix B.

Ta le 2 Florence Township Farmsteads in the oliet Arsenal

Site I	127	**Section**	14	**arcel**	NE 1/4
Name	Carey tenant Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	Sarah Carey
Identified ruins	-RUINS				

Notes In the 1910s and 1920s, the John H. Jones family was a tenant on this farm. His son, Merle, born 1911, lived here until 1927. (Telephone interview with Merle Jones on 9/18/2001 by Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.) See also site 177.

Site I	128	**Section**	14	**arcel**	NW 1/4
Name	unker Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	Equitable Life Insurance Co.
Identified ruins	-RUINS				

Notes

Site I	129	**Section**	15	**arcel**	S 1/2 of NW 1/4
Name				**1 4 Owner**	Arthur Rauworth
Identified ruins	-RUINS				

Notes Illustrated in 1873 atlas, plate 125.

Documented in 2007 survey by Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center. Could not be located in 2010.

Site I	130	**Section**	15	**arcel**	N 1/2 of NE 1/4
Name	Hoffman–Jackson Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	Mrs. Una Jackson
Identified ruins	-RUINS				

Notes Documented in 2007 survey by Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center.

2010: seven features identified: concrete foundation 3 x 3 ; stone outcropping/depression 15 x 15 ; concrete foundation 10 x 20 ; concrete slab 5 x 8 ; concrete foundation 15 x 30 ; stone concrete foundation 15 x 15 ; large depression 50 x 50

Table 2 Florence Township Farmsteads in the oliet Arsenal

Site ID	131	Section	15	Parcel	N 1/2 of SE 1/4
Name	Rathke Farmstead			1940 Owner	Frank Deutschman
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes					

Site ID	133	Section	15	Parcel	S 1/2 of SW 1/4
Name	Nelson Farmstead			1940 Owner	J. L. Nelson
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes	Illustrated in 1873 atlas, plate 125. Surveyed on 11/08/2001 by Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, listed as site 091500004. Documented in 2007 survey by Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center. See Woodruff (1878), 794. 2010 identified features: concrete foundation 5 x 5 ; crib barn foundation 5 x 20 ; concrete foundation 10 x 20 ; well/slab 5 x 5 ; concrete foundation 10 x 20				

Site ID	135	Section	16	Parcel	NW 1/4 of SW 1/4
Name	T. L. Baskerville Farmstead			1940 Owner	T. L. Baskerville
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes	Refer to summary report, Baskervillle family farmsteads.				

Site ID	140	Section	17	Parcel	S 1/2 of NE 1/4
Name	Hansen Farmstead			1940 Owner	Michael Hayden
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes					

Ta le 2 Florence Township Farmsteads in the oliet Arsenal

Site I	145	**Section**	18	**arcel**	part of SW 1/4
Name	Harland–Bell Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	Thomas Bell
Identified ruins	-RUINS				
Notes					

Site I	146	**Section**	18	**arcel**	E 1/4
Name	Dixon–Mc ueen Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	Geo. Mc ueen
Identified ruins	-RUINS				
Notes					

Site I	147	**Section**	7	**arcel**	E 1/2 of SE 1/4
Name	Reed Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	Willard White
Identified ruins	-RUINS				
Notes	William H. H. Reed: Stevens (1907), 653–654. Reed was a Civil War veteran and purchased this farm circa 1869.				

Site I	148	**Section**	7	**arcel**	NW 1/4
Name	Royal Corbin Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	Royal Corbin
Identified ruins	-RUINS				
Notes	Illustrated in 1873 atlas, plate 125. Royal D. Corbin: Stevens (1907), 708–709.				

Table 2 Florence Township Farmsteads in the oliet Arsenal

Site ID	149	Section	7	Parcel	NE 1/4
Name	Ward–Jackson Farmstead			1940 Owner	A. D. Jackson
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes	Henry Ward: Woodruff (1878), 799. Charles Jackson: Woodruff (1878), 793. Delancy M. Jackson: Woodruff (1878), 792–793 Arthur D. Jackson: Stevens (1907), 743–744.				

Site ID	150	Section	7	Parcel	N part, SW 1/4
Name	Morgan Farmstead			1940 Owner	Royal Corbin
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes	Royal D. Corbin: Stevens (1907), 708–709.				

Site ID	155	Section	8	Parcel	N 1/2 of NW 1/4
Name	Isaac Jackson Farmstead			1940 Owner	A. D. Jackson
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes	Isaac Jackson was a pioneer settler of Will County in the 1830s. Jackson Township is named for him. See: Charles Jackson: Woodruff (1878), 793. Delancy M. Jackson: Woodruff (1878), 792–793 Arthur D. Jackson: Stevens (1907), 743–744.				

Site ID	158	Section	9	Parcel	NW 1/4
Name	Elmer C. Buss Farmstead			1940 Owner	Henry E. Buss
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes	Illustrated in 1873 atlas, plate 125. Henry E. Buss: Stevens (1907), 770–771.				

Ta le 2 Florence Township Farmsteads in the oliet Arsenal

Site I	161	**Section**	9	**arcel**	part of SE 1/4
Name	Fridley– ounker Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	Mrs. Mary ounker
Identified ruins	-RUINS				

Notes Documented in 2007 survey by Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center.

2010
F1. stone foundation, 5 x 5
F2. depression
F3. stone foundation, concrete slab, 20 x 50
F4. clay tile, brick, concrete fragments
F5. stone foundation, 20 x 50
F6. concrete foundation wall, 75 x 25
F7. concrete crib barn foundation, 40 x 60
F8. not located
F9. concrete foundation wall, 20 x 30 x 18 high
F10. concrete slab and foundation, 15 x 20

Site I	162	**Section**	16	**arcel**	NE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of NE 1/4
Name	Rausch Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	A. R.
Identified ruins	-RUINS				

Notes

Surveyed on 11/08/2001 by Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Documented in 2007 survey by Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center. Could not be located in 2010.

Site I	163	**Section**	10	**arcel**	small part, SW 1/4
Name	German Evangelical Church			**1 4 Owner**	
Identified ruins	-RUINS				

Notes Constructed in 1874. Described as a wood frame building, 32 x 43 . Apparently abandoned by early 20th century; demolished 1940–1941.

Documented in 2007 survey by Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center. Could not be located in 2010.

Table 2 Florence Township Farmsteads in the oliet Arsenal

Site ID	164	Section	10	Parcel	E 1/2 of SW 1/4
Name	Yates Farmstead			1940 Owner	Arthur Rauworth
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes	Documented in 2007 survey by Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center. 2010: Concrete foundation 5 x 8 ; concrete foundation wall/slab 20 x 30 ; stone and concrete fragments; 5 high paving debris pile; electrical transformer box				

Site ID	165	Section	10	Parcel	SE 1/4
Name	Fridley Farmstead			1940 Owner	C. H. Moser agent
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes	John Fridley: Woodruff (1878), 792. Documented in 2007 survey by Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center. 2010 located only a 10 long stone wall; milk bottle Bowman Dairy Company and other glass fragments				

Site ID	167	Section	10	Parcel	NE 1/4
Name	John Hayden, Jr., Farmstead			1940 Owner	Rev. M. G. & Julia Hayden
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes	Documented in 2007 survey by Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center. John Hayden: Woodruff (1878), 792; Stevens (1907), 623. Daniel Hayden: Stevens (1907), 550. 2010 F2. Stone foundation, 30 x 30 F3. Wood framed pen with boards across top. Features 1 and 4 not located.				

Site ID	168	Section	10	Parcel	S 1/2 of NW 1/4
Name	Witschi Farmstead			1940 Owner	Howard Kirkham
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes					

Ta le 2 Florence Township Farmsteads in the oliet Arsenal

Site I	170	**Section**	11	**arcel**	W 1/2 of SE 1/4
Name	Geiss–Miller Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	F. Miller
Identified ruins	-RUINS				
Notes					

Site I	171	**Section**	11	**arcel**	E 1/2 of SE 1/4
Name	Geiss Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	Mrs. Nettie Geise
Identified ruins	-RUINS				
Notes					

Site I	172	**Section**	12	**arcel**	NW 1/4
Name	John Hayden Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	Edmund Hayden
Identified ruins	-RUINS				
Notes	John Hayden: Woodruff (1878), 792; Stevens (1907), 623. Daniel Hayden: Stevens (1907), 550.				

Site I	174	**Section**	12	**arcel**	NE 1/4
Name	Daniel Hayden Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	John Hayden, estate
Identified ruins	-RUINS				
Notes	John Hayden: Woodruff (1878), 792; Stevens (1907), 623. Daniel Hayden: Stevens (1907), 550.				

Table 2 Florence Township Farmsteads in the oliet Arsenal

Site ID	175	Section	1	Parcel	NE 1/4
Name	Lichtenwalter Farmstead			1940 Owner	A. A. Lichtenwalter
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes					

Site ID	178	Section	1	Parcel	small parcel, SW 1/4
Name	Hayden School			1940 Owner	[schoolhouse]
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes	Closed and demolished in 1940–1941 Name provided by Merle Jones, who attended this school from 1917 to 1925 (Telephone interview with Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, 9/18/2001)				

Site ID	179	Section	2	Parcel	SW 1/4 of SW 1/4
Name				1940 Owner	Gotfred Arnstrom
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes	Documented in 2007 survey by Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center. 2010: Rubble pile with broken concrete, terra cotta, corrugated fiberglass panel, asphalt paving				

Site ID	181	Section	3	Parcel	S 1/2 of SE 1/4
Name	Kirk Farmstead			1940 Owner	Gotfred Arnstrom
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes	Documented in 2007 survey by Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center. 2010 F1. Stone foundation, 25 x 25 F2. Concrete foundation 5 x 5 F3. Concrete foundation, 15 x 15 F4. not located One stone circular foundation 5 diameter				

Ta le 2 Florence Township Farmsteads in the oliet Arsenal

Site I	183	**Section**	3	**arcel**	SW 1/4
Name	Forsythe Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	David Forsythe
Identified ruins	-RUINS				
Notes					

Site I	185	**Section**	4	**arcel**	NE 1/4
Name	Alex–Fridley Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	J. F. Fridley
Identified ruins	-RUINS				
Notes					

Site I	186	**Section**	4	**arcel**	SE 1/4
Name	Forsythe Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	Mrs. Mary Forsythe
Identified ruins	-RUINS				
Notes					

Site I	187	**Section**	4	**arcel**	small part of SE 1/4
Name	Forsythe School			**1 4 Owner**	school
Identified ruins	-RUINS				
Notes	Closed and demolished in 1940–1941				

Table 2 Florence Township Farmsteads in the oliet Arsenal

Site ID	188	Section	5	Parcel	E 1/2 of NW 1/4
Name	Cavanaugh Farmstead			1940 Owner	J. A. Cavanaugh
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes					

Site ID	191	Section	5	Parcel	W 1/2 of SE 1/4
Name	McIntyre Farmstead			1940 Owner	Kenneth Roderick
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes	Lucinda McIntyre: Woodruff (1878), 794. James W. McIntyre: Stevens (1907), 432–435.				

Site ID	192	Section	6	Parcel	SE 1/4
Name	Henry E. Buss Farmstead			1940 Owner	Henry Buss
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes	Henry E. Buss: Stevens (1907), 770–771. Buss purchased 100 acres in 1899 and 160 acres in 1902, establishing his home here.				

Site ID	193	Section	6	Parcel	NE 1/4
Name	Rodgers Farmstead			1940 Owner	Arthur States
Identified ruins	Y-RUINS				
Notes					

Ta le 2 Florence Township Farmsteads in the oliet Arsenal

Site I	194	**Section**	6	**arcel**	SW 1/4
Name	Lacey Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	George Freis
Identified ruins	-RUINS				

Notes Thomas Lacey: Woodruff (1878), 793; Stevens (1907), 687–688.
Thomas Lacey married Mary A. Baskerville, daughter of James Baskerville. Stevens (1907), 253

Site I	196	**Section**	14	**arcel**	W 1/2 of SW 1/4
Name	Ohlhues–Reiles Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	Charles Reiles
Identified ruins	-RUINS				

Notes Documented in 2007 survey by Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center. Refer to summary report for detailed information on the related Ohlhues and Reiles family. See also Woodruff (1878), 794–795.
2010
F1. 12 x 10 depression, possible stone foundation
F2. 12 x 12 concrete foundation
F3. 12 x 20 concrete foundation
F4. not located
one other concrete pier

Site I	197	**Section**	14	**arcel**	E 1/2 of SW 1/4
Name	Reiles Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	Charles Reiles
Identified ruins	-RUINS				

Notes John Reils: Woodruff (1878), 795.
Documented in 2007 survey by Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center.
2010
F1. not located
F2. concrete foundation 15 x 15 x 30 tall
F3. depression 20 x 20 x 8 deep
F4. depression/stone foundation 5 x 5

Ta le 2 Florence Township Farmsteads in the oliet Arsenal

Site I	198	**Section**	15	**arcel**	S 1/2 of SE 1/4
Name	Ohlhues–Rathke Farmstead			**1 4 Owner**	G. K.
Identified ruins	-RUINS				

Notes Documented in 2007 survey by Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center.
2010
F1. crib barn foundation, 20 x 45 x 30 tall
F2. concrete foundation, 20 x 45
F3. concrete foundation 18 x 24
F4. 25 x 35 x 36 deep depression/ concrete and stone foundation
F5. capped well/septic tank

CHAPTER 3

AMERICAN RURAL ARCHITECTURE

Farmstead Planning

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

Development of Balloon Framing

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

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

---

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

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

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

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

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


Traditional heavy timber braced framing is used at the historic bank barn on the Swival–Stewart Farmstead, site 22 in Section 32 of Florence Township.

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

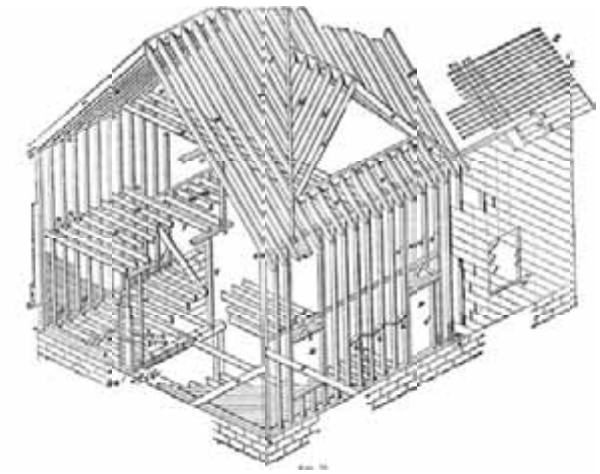
The classic balloon frame consists of the following elements:[102]

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

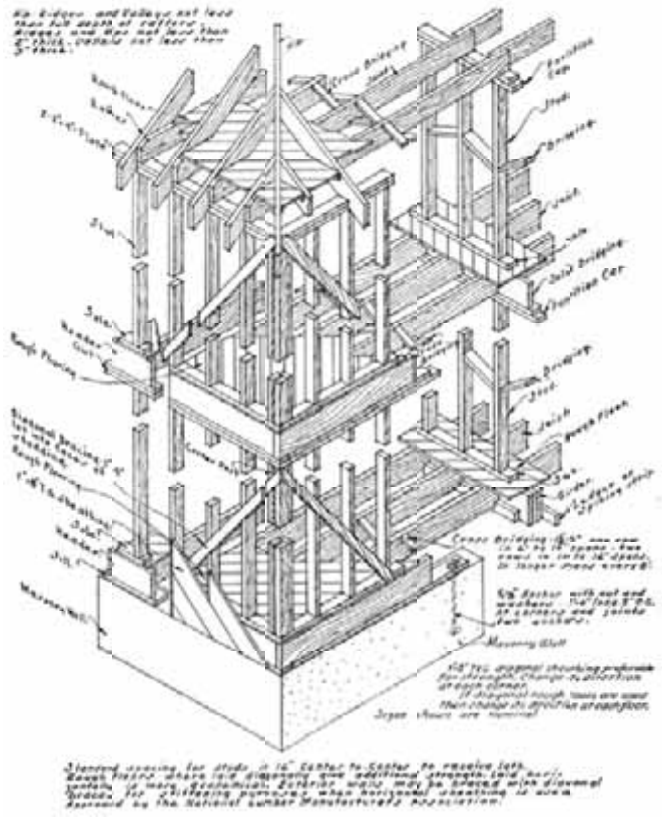
Since a carpenter with one or two helpers could frame and sheath a small one story house in one week, the balloon allowed a settler to have a dwelling on their land in a short amount of time. In addition, there was a 40 percent savings in the amount of material to enclose the same volume as compared to the braced frame.[104] Additions were as easy to construct as the original house, and easier to frame into than if braced

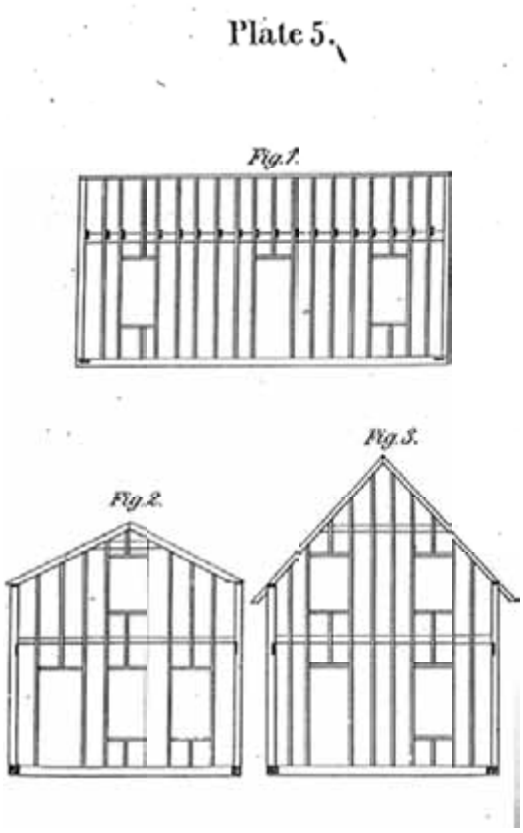
[101] Sprague, "Chicago Balloon Frame," 37.
[102] As with any new system or technique, there was a period of transition in which older framing methods were used alongside balloon framing. This is discussed in Sprague, "Chicago Balloon Frame."
[103] Platform framing, also called Western framing, developed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

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.



*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 outbuilding on the Whitten–McDowell Farmstead, site 107 in Section 21 of Florence 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.[105] Its inherent advantages led American farmers to adopt the balloon frame as the standard structural framing system for houses by the end of the century. Although many ethnic groups brought their own techniques of constructing farmhouses and farm buildings with them to the United States, they often adopted balloon framing techniques in whole or in part and adapted it to their traditions.[106]

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

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

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

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

Masonry Construction

Brick

Historically, brick masonry construction is relatively uncommon in the survey region. Nineteenth century examples of brick construction are very rare; typically, the locally abundant limestone was used for masonry work. A number of early to late twentieth century brick and clay masonry structures were documented in Florence Township, primarily including residences.

Left: The bungalow-type house at the John R. Baskerville Farmstead, site 99 in Section 22, is constructed of brick masonry.
Right: The Oscar Morgan house, site 43 in Section 7, is another local example of a brick masonry farmhouse.

Joliet Limestone

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

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

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

---

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

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

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

Surviving examples of local limestone construction identified in Florence Township often include foundations for residential and agricultural structures. These examples are from the James Kennedy Farmstead, site 8 in Section 35 (above left); the Edward Long Farmstead, site 13 in Section 34 (above right); the landmark Lovell Farmstead , site 21 in Section 32 (below left); and the Swival–Stewart Farmstead, site 22 in Section 32 (below right).

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

[112] Ibid.

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.[113]

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

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

The survey area contains relatively few examples of cast-in-place concrete structures, which were generally observed only for building foundations.

Concrete Block

Beginning in the early 1900s, mass production of concrete block units succeeded after several earlier developments failed to lead to widespread production.[115] Harmon S. Palmer patented a cast iron machine with a removable core and adjustable sides in 1900, allowing companies and cottage industries to spring up across the country. Palmer founded the Hollow Building Block Company in 1902, selling $200 block

---

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

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

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

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 "rockface" block being one of the most popular styles.[116]

The survey area includes a number of concrete block structures. Above left: An outbuilding at the Morey Farmstead, site 57 in Section 29, is built of concrete masonry. Above right: The well house at Baxter–Heck Farmstead, site 114 in Section 20, is also built of concrete masonry. Below: Larger structures built of concrete masonry in the survey area include the garage at the Mahoney–Phelan Farmstead, site 82 in Section 26, and the rock-faced concrete masonry garage at the Rink Farmstead, site 91 in Section 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.[117] However, concrete block began to fall out of favor as a building facing material during this same period. During the 1930s, smooth-faced block began to dominate the industry as architectural styles changed. Also by the later 1930s, mass production of block units began to supplant the use of earlier concrete block machines.

[116] Ibid., 24.
[117] Ibid., 21–22.

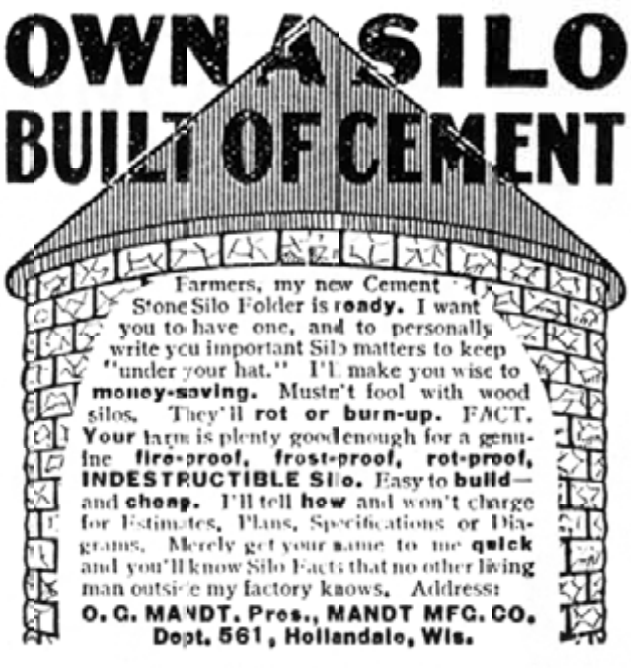
Just as with concrete, farmers were encouraged to use concrete block for their structures. At the annual meeting of the Illinois Farmers' Institute in 1913, one lecturer discussed concrete block for silos:

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

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

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

The survey area has a few 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.



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

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

Classification of Farmhouses

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

Architectural Style

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

Left: The house at the Morey Farmstead, site 65 in Section 28, was built in the 1860s using the Greek Revival style, although later remodeling has obscured some stylistic details.

Greek Revival

The Greek Revival style was popular in the United States beginning in the 1820s and continued in some regions until the 1870s. Inspired by archaeological excavations and measured drawings of ancient Greek temples, the style was developed by America's first trained architects and spread by pattern books that

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

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.

Gothic Revival

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

Second Empire

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

Italianate

Italianate, or Italianate Victorian, was one of the most popular and fashionable building styles in the mid-1800s, popular from about 1850 to 1880. Inspired by Italian Renaissance architecture, Italianate style houses feature rectilinear massing, low pitched roofs, overhanging eaves with bracketed cornice, and tall rectangular windows. Other features often present are moldings or hoods around window lintels (which are sometimes arched) and polygonal or rectangular bays or towers. Examples of Italianate style designs were only identified on select porch elements within the survey area.

Left: The house at the Bell–Hazzard Farmstead, site 53 in Section 30, was built in 1904 displays the irregular massing typical of the Queen Anne style. Right: The house at the O'Brien Farmstead, site 92 in Section 24, is a locally rare example of the use of Queen Anne style detailing on a house.

Queen Anne

Popular in the last two decades of the nineteenth century, this building style in its purest form utilized irregular, asymmetrical massing and floor plans, several types of building materials, and extensive ornament to create an eclectic architectural tapestry that was often picturesque and entertaining. None of the farmhouses in the survey region reflect all of the primary elements of Queen Anne, although the

massing and details of some of them show Queen Anne influence, likely due to the influence of the style on builders and carpenters. The name "Queen Anne" for this style of design was popularized by nineteenth century English architects led by Richard Norman Shaw, although the architectural precedents from the reign of Queen Anne (1702–1714) have little connection to this heavily ornamented style. A few Queen Anne style houses were documented in the survey area.

Colonial and Georgian Revival

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

Left: The house at the James Kennedy Farmstead, site 8 in Section 35, was built in 1883 and is an early example of the use of Colonial Revival details such as the classical porch columns. Right: This Howard Hyde House, site 110 in Section 20 shows some Colonial Revival style details applied to an American Foursquare type house.

Craftsman or Arts and Crafts Style

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

Left: The bungalow at the Barr Brothers Farmstead, site 26 in Section 31, shows Craftsman-inspired details such as the eave brackets. Right: The house at James White Farmstead, site 17 in Section 33, has a Craftsman-style porch that was likely added to an older mid-nineteenth century house in the early twentieth century.

Prairie Style

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

Left: The Oscar Morgan House, site 43 in Section 7, is a typical local example of the Tudor Revival style.

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. One Tudor Revival style house was noted during the field survey.

House Types

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

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

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

I House

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

Hall and Parlor

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

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

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

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

[122] Kniffen, 7–8.

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

across the rear of the house. Some houses of this type are not symmetrical across the front, depending upon the interior layout. New England One and a Half houses were popular from the earliest days of settlement in Will County in the 1830s up to the Civil War. They often include Greek Revival ornament, such as pilasters, architraves, cornice returns, and entablature panels. Farming settlers emigrating from New England, where this house type originated, brought this house type with them to the Midwest. No examples of the New England One and a Half type were identified in the survey area.

Side Hallway

Side Hallway houses are typically simple rectilinear volumes, two stories in height, and often with gable roofs oriented to the front or the side. In plan the entry is at the end bay of the front elevation, opening into the main stair hall. Adjacent to the hall is the main parlor with additional rooms at the rear of the house. The form was popular until the 1880s.[124] Several Side Hallway type houses were identified in the survey area. Some houses may have been originally constructed as Side Hallway types but have evolved to other types through subsequent additions.

Upright and Wing

The Upright and Wing was popular in the mid to late 1800s.[125] The type consists of an upright portion with a gable end, usually one-and-a-half to two stories, and a one to one-and-a-half story wing. The gable end of the wing is usually at or below the eave of the upright. Upright and Wing type houses have T- or L-shaped floor plans. Inside, the wing contains a kitchen and one or two bedrooms and the upright a parlor and additional bedrooms.[126] The Upright and Wing type is common throughout Will County and is prevalent in Florence Township. About twenty percent of the surveyed farmhouses are this type.

Upright and wing type houses common in Florence Township. Left: The house at the James J. Kennedy Farmstead, site 7 in Section 35, shows the defining characteristics of the upright and wing type. Right: The house at the Swival–Stewart Farmstead, site 22 in Section 32, is an upright and wing type.

Gabled Ell

The Gabled Ell house type usually dates from the two decades after the Civil War.[127] It has an L-shaped plan, sometimes with additions to form a T-shaped plan, and usually is two stories in height with a gabled roof. Within the main "L" there is often a porch. In most arrangements, the gable end of the shorter of the

[124] Ibid., 126.
[125] Peterson groups the Upright and Wing with the Gabled Ell type (both being forms of L- or T-plan houses), making it "the most numerous and familiar farmhouse type in the Upper Midwest…" (Peterson, *Homes in the Heartland,* 96.) Peterson also notes that many L- and T-plan houses are the result of additions being constructed to existing rectangular house forms (Ibid., 99).
[126] Gordon, *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory,* 132.
[127] Ibid., 136.

two wings faces the street or main approach with the broad side of the other wing at the side. The Gabled Ell type is common in Florence Township, representing about twenty percent of the surveyed farmhouses.

The Gabled Ell type is common in Florence Township. Left: the house at the Martin–Baskerville Farmstead, site 94 in Section 23, Right: the house at the Dixon–Jackson Farmstead, site 98 in Section 22.

Four-over-Four

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

Gable Front

The Gable Front house describes a variety of house types dating from the mid-1800s through the 1920s. It is similar to the Four-over-Four, except that the main entrance at the gable end facing the street or main approach. It is also similar to the Side Hallway type, and usually has a rectangular floor plan. Several Gable Front type houses were identified in Florence Township. Most examples are one-and-a-half stories in height.

Two examples of the Gable Front type in Florence Township: at left, the Ohlhues-Watling Farmstead, site 69 in Section 28; at right, site 103 in Section 21.

American Foursquare

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

Two examples of the Four Square type in Florence Township: at left, the house at the James Kennedy Farmstead, site 8 in Section 35; at right, the house at the Clarence E. White Farmstead, site 20 in Section 32.

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. Several bungalow type houses were identified in the survey area.

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


Two examples of the bungalow type in Florence Township: at left, the Barr Brothers Farmstead, site 26 in Section 31; at right, the John R. Baskerville Farmstead, site 99 in Section 22.

Cape Cod

The Cape Cod was a popular house type from the 1920s to the early 1950s. The type was inspired by eighteenth century cottages in Massachusetts and Virginia.[129] The Cape Cod has a simple rectangular plan, one story in height with dormers and a gable roof. Several Cape Cod type houses in Florence Township were documented during the survey.


Two examples of the Cape Cod type in Florence Township: at left, the Skehan Tenant Farmstead, site 18 in Section 32; at right, the Rink Farmstead, site 91 in Section 24.

Ranch

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

[129] Ibid., 140.

Two examples of the Ranch type in Florence Township: at left, site 101 in Section 21; at right, the Gibbons–Quigley Farmstead, site 121 in Section 13.

Development of the Barn

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

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

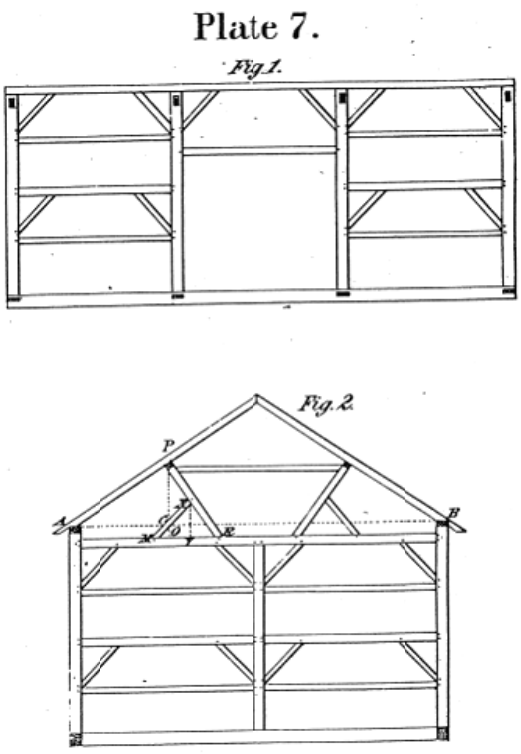
The need for large barns necessitated the development of structural systems to enclose large volumes of space. As the frontier of settlement passed into the Midwest, many early barns were constructed of logs by settlers who either possessed log-building skills or gained these techniques by association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

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

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

---

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



Left: A drawing of heavy timber barn framing from 1894 [William E. Bell, Carpentry Made Easy, or the Science and Art of Framing *(Philadelphia: Ferguson Bros. & Co., 1894), plate 7]. Right: This type of braced framing is evident at the historic bank barn on the Swival–Stewart Farmstead, site 22 in Section 32 of Florence Township.*

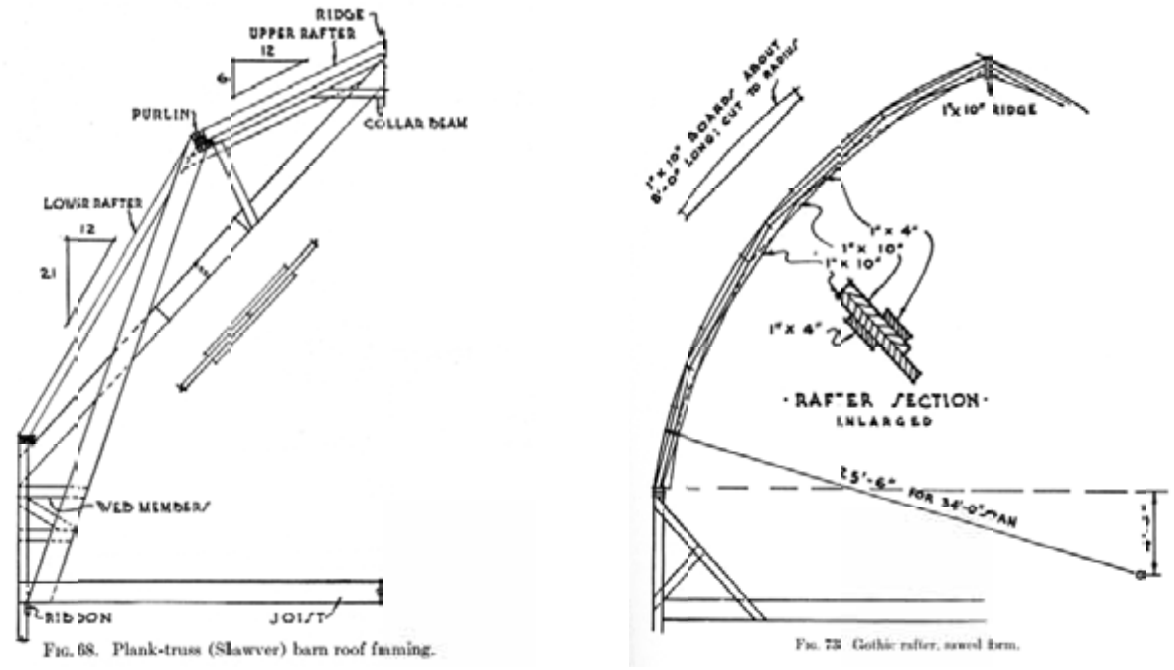
At the beginning of the twentieth century, new barn building ideas emerged from a growing field of experts: agricultural engineers, experiment station researchers, and commercial farm planning services. The American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) soon contained a committee on farm structures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

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

---

[135] Ibid., 158.

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



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

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

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

---

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

[137] Ibid., 162–163.

[138] Ibid., 164.

[139] Ibid., 165.

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

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

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

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

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

Barn Types

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

Three-bay Threshing Barn

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

Two examples of the three-bay threshing barn type in Florence Township: left, the local landmark Lovell Farmstead, site 21 in Section 32; right, the Martin–Baskerville Farmstead, site 94 in Section 23.

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

Eventually, as dairying replaced wheat production in the agricultural economy, the threshing/storage function of this barn type became less important. At first animals were not housed in the structure, although interior remodeling was often made to introduce animal stalls in one of the two side bays. This

[144] Often there are more conflicts than agreements between different classification systems. The types defined herein seem to best describe the structures actually present and the social and ethnic origins of their builders.
[145] Fred B. Kniffen, "Folk-Housing: Key to Diffusion," in *Common Places, Readings in American Vernacular Architecture,* Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, ed. (Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1986), 11.
[146] Charles Calkins and Martin Perkins, "The Three-bay Threshing Barn," in *Barns of the Midwest,* Allen G. Noble and Hubert G.H. Wilhelm, ed. (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1995), 40–41.
[147] Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek, *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and Other Farm Structures* (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1995), 77.

effectively reduced the grain storage and processing function and only offered shelter for a modest number of animals.[148] In some cases this barn type was lifted up and placed onto a raised basement, which then could house the animals, especially dairy cows.[149]

Raised, Bank, and Basement Barns

The raised or bank barn originated in central New York as a shelter for dairy cattle. It was the first multi-purpose barn to gain widespread popularity. These barns are usually larger than three-bay threshing barns and have a ground floor level for cattle and dairy cows with an upper level for hay and feed storage. This upper level is reached by an earthen ramp, bridge, or the natural slope of an embankment. Basement barns are similar to raised barns, in that the foundation walls extend up to the bottom of the second floor. However, basement barns do not have ramps nor are they sited to utilize the natural topography to access the second floor. Two bank barns were identified in the survey area.

Two examples of bank barns were identified in Florence Township: at left, the Swival–Stewart Farmstead, site 22 in Section 32; at right, the John R. Baskerville Farmstead, site 99 in Section 22.

German Barn

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

Plank Frame Barn

This relatively small barn type originated in the eastern Midwest around 1875.[150] Plank frame barns can have gable or gambrel roofs and are typically one story in height plus a large hay loft. They are multi-purpose, with small ground floor windows for animal stalls and a large sliding door for equipment. Their floor plans are usually small, approximately 30 by 40 feet. Plank frame barns use small dimension milled lumber rather than the heavy timber framing of earlier barn types. The plank frame barn type is very common in Florence Township, representing more than half of the barns surveyed.

---

[148] Allen G. Noble, *Wood, Brick and Stone,* The North American Settlement Landscape, Volume 2: Barns and Farm Structures (Amherst, Massachusetts: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984), 56–58.
[149] Calkins and Perkins, "The Three-bay Threshing Barn," *Barns of the Midwest,* 59.
[150] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book,* 117

Examples of the plank frame barn type from Florence Township. Above left: Baxter–Heck Farmstead, site 114 in Section 20. Above right: the Bell–Hazzard Farmstead, site 53 in Section 30. Lower left: The gambrel-roof plank frame barn at the Clarence E. White Farmstead, site 20 in Section 32, is an unusual example incorporating a corn crib at one end of the bar. Lower right: An example of the plank frame barn type illustrated in Smith & Betts Farm and Building Book *(Chicago: The Radford Architectural Company, 1915).*

Three-ended Barn

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

Round Barn

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

Round Roof Barn

Round roof barns came into existence with structural advances in the first quarter of the twentieth century. Although called round, roof shapes for this type are often gothic arch in form. The name describes the roof shape, although the configuration of their floor plans were usually based on more

typical barn types such as plank frame, dairy, or raised barns. No round roof barns were identified in the survey area.

Wisconsin Dairy Barn

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

Examples of the Wisconsin Dairy Barn type in Florence Township: at left, the Hill–White Farmstead, site 15 in Section 33; at right, the Barr Brothers Farmstead, site 26 in Section 31.

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. Several examples of the feeder barn type were identified in Florence Township.

Two examples of the Feeder Barn type in Florence Township: at left, the Kahler–Hunt Farmstead, site 30 in Section 31; at right, the Bell–Hazzard Farmstead, site 53 in Section 30.

[151] Noble and Cleek, 77.

Pole Barn

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

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. Only a few examples were identified in Florence Township.

Two examples of the Quonset Shed type in Florence Township: at left, the John A. Long, Jr., Farmstead, site 1 in Section 36; at right, site 103 in Section 21.

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.

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


Pole barns and manufactured buildings are common in Florence Township: at left, the pole barn at the James Kennedy Farmstead, site 8 in Section 35; at right, a manufactured building at the Barrett Farmstead, site 6 in Section 35.

Grain Elevators

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

Corncribs

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

The invention of the circular saw in 1860 and its growing adaptation to steam power by mid-century made lumber cheap enough for general use on outbuildings such as corncribs, enabling later versions to be built of narrow lumber slats.[155] The corncrib usually rested on log or stone piers.[156] In constructing a frame corncrib, two methods of attaching the slat siding or cribbing were used. The slats were attached either horizontally or vertically; cribbing attached diagonally for extra strength seems to have come into practice about 1900.[157]

The size of the corncribs remained small, even as corn production rose during much of the nineteenth century, in part due to the practice of corn shocking. Corn could be gradually "shucked out" as needed and hauled to the crib or barn for milling and feeding to livestock. Large corncribs were unnecessary since farmers could leave much of their corn in the field until spring.[158] Crib width was influenced by the

[153] Keith E. Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture* (Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1988), 176.
[154] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 170–171.
[155] Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 26.
[156] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 155.
[157] Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 27.
[158] Keith E. Roe, "Corncribs to Grain Elevators: Extensions of the Barn, " in *Barns of the Midwest*, 170.

climate of a region; drier conditions allowed for wider cribs with no increased loss of corn due to mold. As corn production outgrew the single crib in the developing Corn Belt, double cribs were formed by extending the roof over a pair of cribs to form a gable roof. If the gap between the cribs was then lofted over, extra space was gained beneath the roof for overflow storage of ear corn. Spreading the cribs apart not only increased the loft space but created a storage area below for wagons, tools, and implements. These structures, called crib barns, became common in the Midwest by 1900.[159] The creation of larger corncribs and their overhead grain bins depended upon the invention of new methods to raise the grain and ear corn higher than a farmer could scoop it. High cribs were made possible by the commercial adaptation of continuous belt and cup elevators from grain mills and by the portable grain elevator grain.

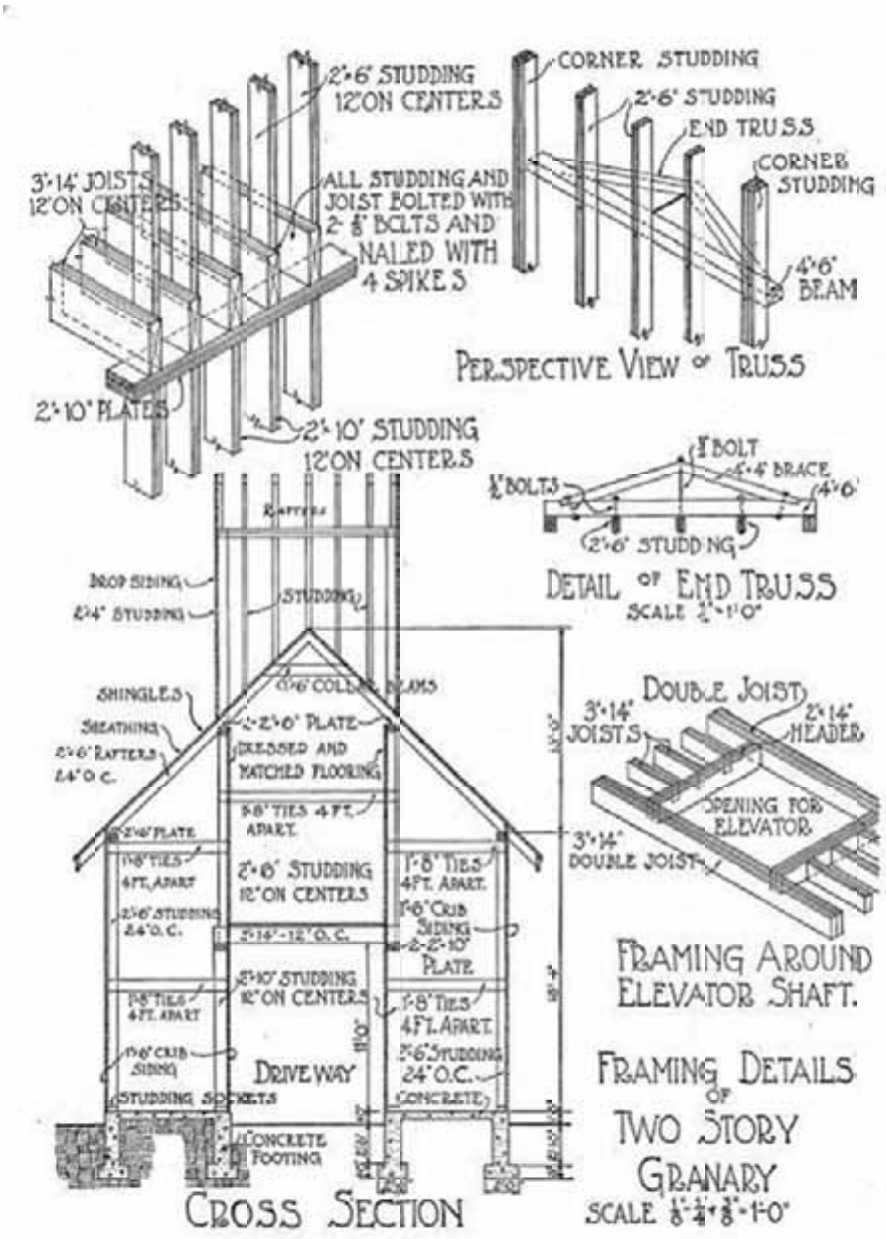
In the early decades of the twentieth century, both concrete and steel were promoted as alternative construction materials for corncribs and grain elevators. The use of hollow clay tiles was also encouraged in those parts of the Midwest where they were manufactured, notably in Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana.[160]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

Crib Barns

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

Wood crib barns are common in the survey area. At left, the John A. Long, Jr., Farmstead, site 1 in Section 36; at right, the James White Farmstead, site 17 in Section 33.

[159] Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 60.
[160] Ibid., 177.
[161] Ibid., 176.



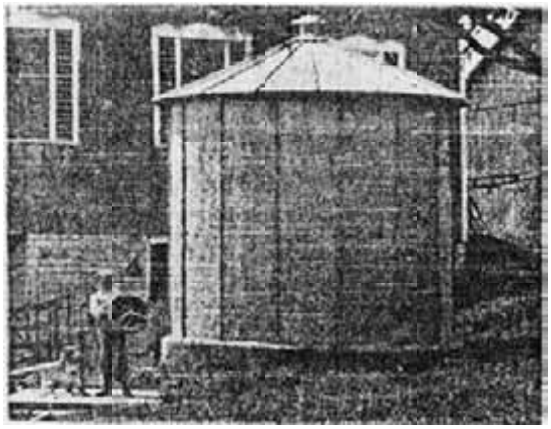
Crib barns, usually with two bins, abound in the survey area. Illustrated above are framing details of a crib barn from Smith & Betts Farm and Building Book *(Chicago: The Radford Architectural Company, 1915).*

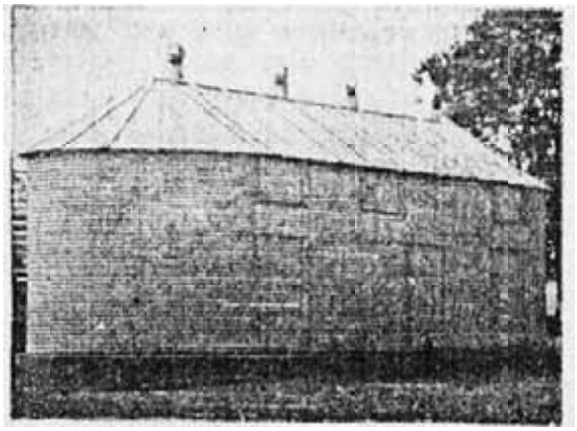
Metal Bins

Metal construction for corn storage came into use early in the twentieth century and was promoted by the steel industry during World War I as a crop saver for the patriotic farmer. Rectangular or hexagonal corncribs were constructed from flat, galvanized-steel sheet metal with ventilating perforations. Corrugated, curved sheets created the more common cylindrical bin type, which was usually topped with a conical roof. The steel corncrib had wall ventilation slits and, most times, a roof ventilator at its peak.[162]

Steel was ideal for fabricating standard parts, as well as being vermin-proof. Proper design of metal bins included such factors as ventilation, consideration of structural loads from the feed to be contained, and use of a concrete or heavy timber foundation with the exterior walls anchored to the foundation. Roofs usually consisted of overlapping sheets to form a conical form.[163]

Corn bins made of steel rods or heavy wire mesh also became available in the 1930s. The wire mesh type was particularly popular after World War II because of its low cost, ease of filling, and low maintenance. Wire mesh-type bins have fallen out of use since the 1980s, but the solid metal bins are still commonly used today. Grain bins are fairly common in Florence Township.





Above: Illustrations of two types of metal corn bins from The Illinois Farmer's Guide, *August 1939. Below: Grain bins at the Wilson–Nugent–Holschuh Farmstead, site 5 in Section 36 (left) and the James Kennedy Farmstead, site 8 in Section 35.*

[162] Ibid.

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

Silos

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

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

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

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

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

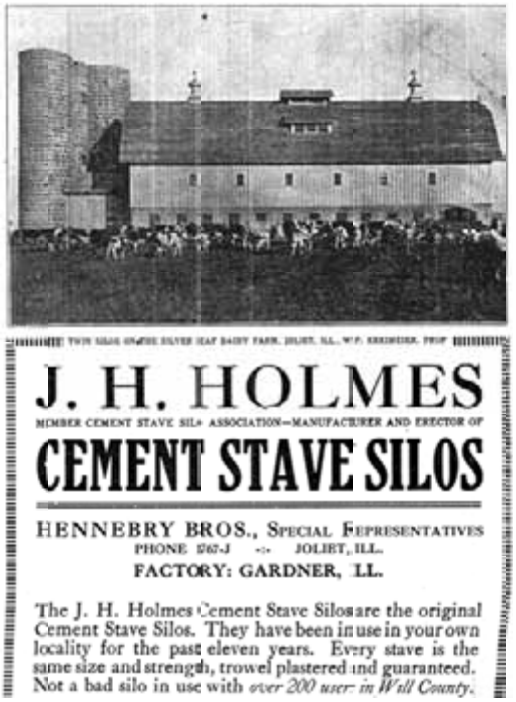
---

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Silos are not particularly common in Florence Township; this relates to the lesser importance of dairy farming and stock raising in the agricultural economy of the township. The observed examples typically use concrete stave construction.

Disused concrete stave silos are present at the Barr Brothers Farmstead, site 26 in Section 31; and the Bell–Hazzard Farmstead, site 53 in Section 30.

Other Farm Structures

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

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

Left: A small cellar. Right: A chicken coop.

[179] Harvestore Systems, DeKalb, Illinois, www.harvestore.com
[180] Britt, *An America That Was*, 127.

CHAPTER 4

SURVEY SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Period of Significance: 1835 to 1970

The first settlement by settlers of European origin occurred in Will County in the 1830s. Settlers first came to the Starr's Grove area of present-day Florence Township in 1832–1835, although large portions of the township were sold to private owners only in the late 1840s or 1850s. An approximate starting date of 1835 is used for the period of significance.

Florence Township began its development as a farming community, with the nearby city of Wilmington serving as the primary market and commercial town for the residents of the township. Following construction of the Wabash Railroad in 1880, the village of Symerton was established in the township, but this new village never developed into a major commercial center, and Florence Township remained an entirely rural community up to 1940.

In 1940–1941, the United States government purchased almost half of the land in the township for construction of the Elwood Ordnance Plant. All of the farmland was cleared, and little physical evidence remains of the farmsteads and rural settlements that once occupied this territory. The development of the arsenal greatly impacted the surrounding communities, leading to a rapid increase in population in Wilmington but a significant reduction in the population of Florence Township. When school consolidation proceeded in the 1950s, the historic connections that had always made Florence Township socially and economically joined to the City of Wilmington were reinforced.

In the last twenty years, the final decommissioning of the arsenal has brought new commercial, industrial, and residential development to the western portions of the township; these new developments are typically annexed to the City of Wilmington. The largest portion of the former arsenal in Florence Township has been retained by the federal government as the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Integrity

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing and Non-contributing Properties

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

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

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

Will County Land Use Department Planning Documents

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

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

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

Municipal and County Government Coordination

As part of the survey of Florence Township, historically agricultural areas within the present-day incorporated limits of the City of Wilmington and the Village of Symerton were surveyed. No existing farmstead sites were identified within these limits. Generally, the Will County Historic Preservation Commission does not consider landmark nominations for properties within incorporated municipalities. However, the City of Wilmington does not have a local historic preservation ordinance. Through the passage of a municipal ordinance granting Will County the authority to designate a property, a property nominated within the municipality could proceed through the normal landmark designation review process. If, in the future, the City of Wilmington were to adopt a local historic preservation ordinance, jurisdiction of county landmarks within the municipality would be transferred to local from county jurisdiction. If a municipality without a local historic preservation ordinance were to annex a property that is already designated as a county landmark, the Will County preservation ordinance would continue to govern protection of the property.

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

Potential Historic Districts, Thematic Designations, and Landmarks

Midewin Buffer District
One potential historic district was identified as part of the survey project. Building upon a recommendation previously developed as part of the survey of Manhattan Township in 2006, the proposed district would encompass portions of Florence, Jackson, and Manhattan Townships adjacent to the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. For continuity, future consideration of extending the district into Wilton Township should await survey of that township. The intent of the buffer district is to provide a transitional area around the restored tallgrass prairie, where agricultural uses could continue to exist. Intensive contemporary suburban residential or industrial development adjacent to the restored natural areas would be avoided.

Within Florence Township, the buffer district is proposed to include Sections 12, 13, and 14 outside of the boundaries of Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Extending south, the district is proposed to encompass Sections 22, 23, and 24, as well as a portion of Section 21. Farther west, contemporary residential development annexed to the City of Wilmington has occurred, and to the north, industrial development on former arsenal land has been proposed. The Village of Symerton is excluded from the proposed historic district. Consideration could be given to extending the district farther south; however, in keeping with the buffer concept, the district as suggested is limited to those areas closest to the former arsenal. Furthermore, the Wilmington-Peotone Road is heavily traveled and forms a natural dividing line. Refer to Map 8 in Appendix B for suggested district boundaries.

Individual Landmarks
Throughout the survey, there are eighteen individual sites that have clear potential for local landmark status. There is one existing Will County landmark in Florence Township, the Lovell Farmstead, PIN 18-32-400-011, included as site 21 in the present survey. Some of these sites may also have the potential for National Register nomination after additional research.

It is clear from the limited research performed for this survey that at least the John R. Baskerville Farmstead, site 99 in the present survey, would likely be considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This does not mean that other sites are not eligible; merely that further study is required before a determination of eligibility could be made. The route of former Alternate U.S. Route 66 from Joliet to Wilmington, present-day Illinois Route 53 through the northwest corner of Florence Township, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2006. There are no other National Register-listed properties in the township.

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

- Site 7 PIN 18-35-200-003 James J. Kennedy Farmstead (page 135)
- Site 8 PIN 18-35-400-003 James Kennedy Farmstead (page 135)
- Site 15 PIN 18-33-200-001 Hill–White Farmstead (page 136)
- Site 17 PIN 18-33-400-007 James White Farmstead (page 136)
- Site 20 PIN 18-32-400-006 Clarence E. White Farmstead (page 136)
- Site 21 PIN 18-32-400-011 Lovell Farmstead (page 138) *Will County landmark*
- Site 22 PIN 18-32-200-001 Swival–Stewart Farmstead (page 139)
- Site 26 PIN 18-31-200-003 Barr Brothers Farmstead (page 139)
- Site 53 PIN 18-30-300-033 Bell–Hazzard Farmstead
- Site 65 PIN 18-28-100-003 Morey Farmstead (page 140)

- Site 68 PIN 18-28-400-004 Martin–Ohlhues Farmstead (page 141)
- Site 82 PIN 18-26-400-004 Mahoney–Phelan Farmstead
- Site 91 PIN 18-24-400-002 Rink Farmstead
- Site 93 PIN 18-23-200-004 Andrew J. Baskerville Farmstead (page 142)
- Site 94 PIN 18-23-304-006 Martin–Baskerville Farmstead (page 142)
- Site 98 PIN 18-22-100-009 Dixon–Jackson Farmstead (page 145)
- Site 99 PIN 18-22-300-003 John R. Baskerville Farmstead (page 142) *NR eligible*
- Site 110 PIN 18-20-200-026 Howard Hyde House (page 146)
- Site 118 PIN 18-19-400-002 Burton–Gould–Myers Farmstead

As noted above, the John R. Baskerville Farmstead is additionally considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. None of the identified properties are located within the incorporated limits of the City of Wilmington or the Village of Symerton.

These properties, as well as other farmsteads associated with prominent families in Florence Township, are discussed in detail beginning on page 135.

Survey Summary

The survey of Florence Township documented approximately 364 structures, including 61 houses and 30 major barns on 70 farmsteads and related sites. Cumulatively since 1999, the Will County Rural Historic Structural Survey has documented almost 6,000 structures on more than 1,350 sites.[186] The tables below provide a breakdown of the survey results for Reed, Custer, Florence, and Wilmington Townships.[187] Note that these tabulations do not include any structures located on the former Joliet Arsenal site.

Farmhouses

House Type	Reed	Custer	Florence	Wilmington	Totals
I House	—	2	—	—	32
Hall and Parlor	—	—	—	—	20
New England 1-1/2	—	1	—	—	10
Four over Four	—	1	3	4	88
Side Hallway	—	—	3	4	16
Upright and Wing	3	5	12	12	215
Gabled Ell	—	11	13	13	247
Gable Front	3	12	3	3	87
Foursquare	—	—	8	1	104
Bungalow	3	6	3	6	69
Cape Cod	—	1	3	1	43
Ranch	9	17	9	13	*
Other	—	10	4	13	226
Totals	18	66	61	70	1,157

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

Barns

Barn Type	Reed	Custer	Florence	Wilmington	Totals
Three-bay Threshing	—	1	4	2	186
Bank	—	2	2	—	27
Raised	—	—	—	—	9
Pennsylvania German	—	—	—	—	9
Three-ended	—	—	—	—	12
Plank frame	3	10	16	2	136
Feeder	—	6	4	4	47
Dairy	1	2	3	3	100
Round roof	—	—	—	—	6
Round	—	—	—	—	2
Other or Unclassified	2	—	1	—	21
Totals	6	21	30	11	551

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

[187] These townships have been selected since they are geographically close to Florence Township and have been surveyed recently.

Outbuildings

Building Type	Reed	Custer	Florence	Wilmington	Totals
Animal shed or shelter	4	7	18	4	127
Barn (secondary)	—	1	—	—	27
Cellar	1	2	4	—	17
Chicken coop	1	6	7	5	139
Corn crib	—	—	—	—	15
Crib barn	—	16	31	5	469
Foundation	—	9	6	2	95
Garage	13	47	40	47	558
Horse stable	—	5	1	—	22
Hog house	1	—	—	1	16
Implement shed	—	6	3	1	195
Machine shed	9	26	21	19	176
Mesh bin	—	3	2	—	48
Metal bin	18	69	38	20	568
Milk house		2	2	—	94
Pole barn / Manufactured building	14	38	44	20	533
Privy	—	—	1	1	13
Pump house / Well house	3	9	4	2	102
Shed	12	51	34	39	545
Silo	3	8	6	6	277
Smoke house	—	—	1	1	28
Summer kitchen	—	—	1	1	30
Windmill	—	2	4	1	52
Other	6	5	5	9	138
Totals	85	312	273	184	4,284
Total, including houses and barns	109	399	364	265	5,992

Comparison to 1988 Survey Results

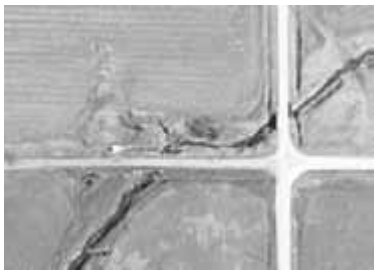
As part of the data compilation, a limited comparison was made between the results of the 1988 reconnaissance survey of Will County and the existing conditions in Florence Township in 2009. The 1988 survey, conducted by Michael A. Lambert in September–October 1988 for the State of Illinois, was a reconnaissance-level survey performed from the public right-of-way. In the 1988 survey of Florence Township, approximately 360 buildings on 76 farmstead sites were documented.[188]

Among the farmstead sites documented in 1988, no historic structures survive at 12 farmstead sites in Florence Township. At several other sites, major buildings such as historic barns or houses have been lost. Although relatively little contemporary residential or industrial development has occurred in the township, farmsteads have been lost through the consolidation of farming operations and the replacement of historic buildings with new structures adapted to contemporary agricultural practices.

The following table lists all farmsteads and sites included in the survey area of Florence 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. Two other tables list farmhouses with type and major barns with type. The ID numbers listed on the tables correlate to the maps included in Appendix B.

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

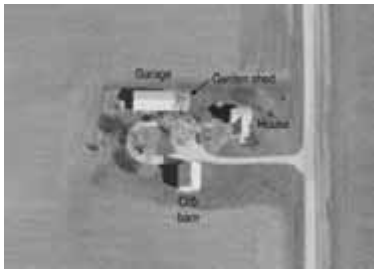
Table 3. Surveyed Farmsteads and Related Sites in Florence Township

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
40		Wilton Center Road	**Wilton Center Road Bridge**	Contributing
				
42	—	Warner Bridge Road	**Warner Bridge Road Bridge**	Contributing
				
43	—	Illinois Highway 53	**Oscar Morgan House**	Contributing
				

Royal D. Corbin: Stevens (1907), 708–709.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
195	—	Arsenal Road	**Joliet Arsenal Gatehouse**	Not assessed

123	18-12-400-001	Warner Bridge Road	**Hayden–Hartley Farmstead**	Contributing



Daniel Hayden: Stevens (1907), 550.
John Hayden: Woodruff (1878), 792; Stevens (1907), 623

121	18-13-400-007	Arsenal Road	**Gibbons–Quigley Farmstead**	Non-contributing

Tornado in 1962 destroyed farmstead. All existing structures are 1960s (or later).

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
119	18-14-400-002	Arsenal Road	**Riorden–Quigley Farmstead**	Contributing

Denis Riorden: Woodruff (1878), 795.

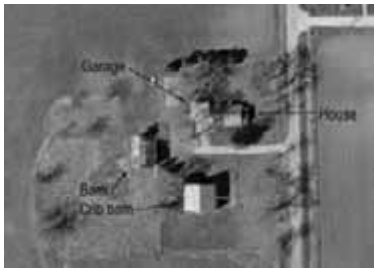
Prior to 1940 arsenal development, farm included entire SE 1/4 of section 14.

116	18-19-100-002	Illinois Highway 53	**Gurney–Collins–Gorman Farmstead**	Non-contributing

1860 census: Daniel Bell (46)
John Bell: Stevens (1907), 547–548.

"Jim Gorman's Vegetables"

117	18-19-200-001	Riley Road	**Gurney–Riley Farmstead**	Contributing



ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
118	18-19-400-002	Wilmington-Peotone Road	**Burton–Gould–Myers Tenant Farmstead**	Local landmark potential



109	18-20-100-003	Riley Road	**Martin–Fridley–Doyle Farmstead**	Contributing



112	18-20-200-006	Indian Trail Road	**Gurney–Hyde Farmstead**	Non-contributing


ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
111	18-20-200-012	Arsenal Road	—	Non-contributing

Nothing at this site in 1939. Newly constructed following subdivision of farmland in late 1970s.

41	18-20-200-018	Indian Trail Road	**Hyde Farmstead**	Contributing

Nothing on this site in 1939. House possibly relocated from arsenal area to this site in 1940–1941.

110	18-20-200-026	Arsenal Road	**Howard Hyde House**	Local landmark potential

Nothing at this site in 1939.
Refer to summary report.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
114	18-20-300-005	Wilmington-Peotone Road	**Baxter–Heck Farmstead**	Contributing

1860 census: Ann Baxter (54); sons William (21), Andrew (18), John (15)

Property owned by L&L Farms - commercial

101	18-21-100-003	Indian Trail Road	—	Non-contributing

102	18-21-200-004	Old Chicago Road	**Kavanaugh Farmstead**	Contributing

Crib barn demolished since 1988.

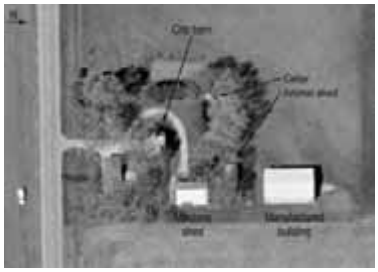
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
103	18-21-200-007	Old Chicago Road	**Kavanaugh Tenant House**	Contributing

Nothing at this site in 1939.

104	18-21-300-008	Wilmington-Peotone Road	**Whitten–Phillips Farmstead**	Non-contributing

Barn demolished since 1988.

106	18-21-400-001	Wilmington-Peotone Road	**McDowell Farmstead**	Non-contributing



Nothing at this site in 1939.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
107	18-21-400-012	Old Chicago Road	**Whitten–McDowell Farmstead**	Contributing


House has been highly altered but has historic core. Numerous historic structures. Nice.

98	18-22-100-009	Old Chicago Road	**Dixon–Jackson Farmstead**	Local landmark potential


1860 census: Francis Pauling (40)
Refer to summary report for Dixon–Jackson Farmstead information.

Judged potential local landmark due to outbuildings and private bridge, even though house has lost integrity.

99	18-22-300-003	Wilmington-Peotone Road	**John R. Baskerville Farmstead**	National Register potential

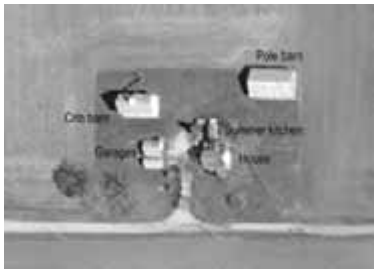


Refer to summary report, Baskervillle family farmsteads.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
96	18-23-100-004	Commercial Street	**Miller–Neilson Farmstead**	Contributing

Indication of Carey family ownership on historic plats may be a map-making error.

93	18-23-200-004	Commercial Street	**Andrew J. Baskerville Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

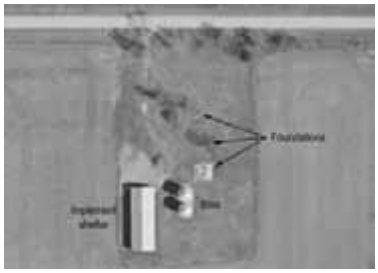


Refer to summary report, Baskervillle family farmsteads.

94	18-23-304-006	Wilmington-Peotone Road	**Martin–Baskerville Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Refer to summary report, Baskervillle family farmsteads.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
90	18-24-100-002	Arsenal Road	—	Non-contributing



Crib barn demolished since 1988.

89	18-24-100-004	Arsenal Road	**Roach–Waddell Farmstead**	Non-contributing

91	18-24-400-002	Wilmington-Peotone Road	**Donahue–Rink Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Until 1960s, this 40-acre parcel was joined with a 40-acre parcel at NW 1/4 of NE 1/4 of section 25.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
92	18-24-400-005	Warner Bridge Road	**Donahue–O'Brien Farmstead**	Contributing

Mary O'Brien was previous historic owner. Jack Nugent sold house to current owner. Rubble stone foundation of house was replaced with concrete block. Lake located nearby before land was filled 20 years ago.

83	18-25-100-013	Martin Long Road	**John Long Farmstead**	Contributing

Also includes PIN 18-25-100-014. House is only remaining historic structure.

85	18-25-200-003	Warner Bridge Road	**Union School**	Non-contributing

A former one-room schoolhouse. Per Farrington, this school had closed by 1948.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
77	18-26-100-002	Wilmington-Peotone Road	**Baskerville–Connor Farmstead**	Non-contributing

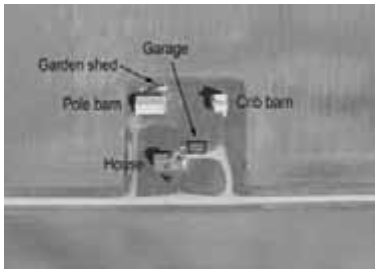
78	18-26-200-001	Wilmington-Peotone Road	**Long Farmstead**	Contributing

1860 census: Walter Monteith (27)

82	18-26-400-004	Martin Long Road	**Mahoney–Barry–Phelan Farmstead**	Contributing

1860 census: Daniel Mahony (50)

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
81	18-26-400-006	Kennedy Road	**Barrett–Baskerville–Spangler Tenant F**	Contributing



Daniel Barrett: Stevens (1907), 437–438.
Refer to summary report for Baskerville family.

Outbuildings are a separate parcel, PIN 18-26-400-005

73	18-27-200-003	Symerton Road	**Thompson Farmstead**	Contributing

Illustrated in 1873 atlas, plate 125.

75	18-27-300-008	Old Chicago Road	**Murphy–Long Tenant Farmstead**	Contributing

Traditionally, this approx. 40-acre farm parcel was associated with an approx. 80-acre parcel, E 1/2 of NE 1/4 of section 33

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
76	18-27-400-003	Symerton Road	**Maher–Fridley Farmstead**	Contributing


65	18-28-100-003	Indian Trail Road	**Selah R. Morey Farmstead**	Local landmark potential


1860 census: Selah Morey (54)
Selah R. Morey, born Pennsylvania 1830; came to Will County with parents, 1847; married Louisa Smith, 1861; children, Emeline, Grace, Horace, Selah. Refer to summary report.

Survey from road only per owner request.
Illustrated in 1873 atlas, plate 124.

66	18-28-300-003	Indian Trail Road	**Strong Farmstead**	Non-contributing

1860 census: Erwin H. Strong (29), wife Lucy (36), children Warner (14), Caroline (12), Sarah (9), and Mary (7).
Warner P. Strong: Stevens (1907), 628–631.

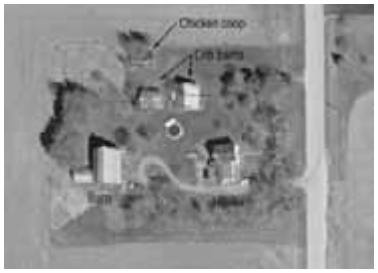
Original house demolished since 1988 survey. No historic buildings remain. Survey performed from road due to dogs.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
70	18-28-300-005	Indian Trail Road	**Nelson–Strong Farmstead**	Non-contributing

1860 census: William T. Nelson (41)
Illustrated in 1873 atlas, plate 123.
Warner P. Strong acquired this site in 1900. See Stevens (1907), 628–631.

Also includes PIN 18-28-300-004. Gated drive, surveyed from road only.

68	18-28-400-004	Old Chicago Road	**Martin–Ohlhues Farmstead**	Local landmark potential



Refer to summary report for detailed information on Martin and Ohlhues families. See also Woodruff (1878), 793, 794–795.

69	18-28-400-012	Old Chicago Road	**Ohlhues–Watling Farmstead**	Contributing

Likely a newly established site, circa 1920s–1930s. Unique crib barn.

No access; viewed from right of way.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
57	18-29-200-005	Wilmington-Peotone Road	**Horace E. Morey Farmstead**	Contributing



1860 census: Rufus Corbett (49)
Rufus Corbett: Woodruff (1878), 791.

58	18-29-200-007	Wilmington-Peotone Road	**Willard–Smith Farmstead**	Contributing


1860 census: Milton Tuttle (54)

61	18-29-300-016	County Road	**McGinnis Farmstead**	Contributing


William McG. born in Rochester, New York, 1826. Moved to Joliet, Will County, in 1837. Settled in Florence Township circa 1875. [Woodruff (1878), 794]
Refer to summary report.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
60	18-29-300-029	Smith Road	**Skehan Farmstead**	Contributing

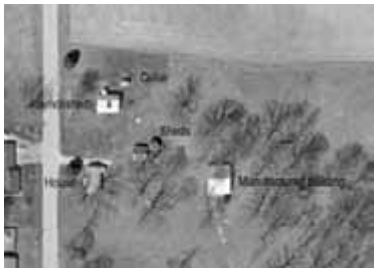
1873: Quarry indicated on atlas map near this site.

59	18-29-400-014	County Road	**Shirk–Stewart Tenant Farmstead**	Contributing

1860 census: Joseph Shirk (43)
Woodruff (1878), 796
Illustrated in 1873 atlas, plate 123.

All historic outbuildings demolished prior to current owner moving in.

51	18-30-300-017	216th Avenue	**Stewart–Kremarik Farmstead**	Non-contributing



1860 census: Daniel Stuart [sic] (45), son Peter

Additional group of buildings associated with this property (illustrated in 1955 book) has been demolished.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
52	18-30-300-021	County Road	**Allott Farmstead**	Contributing



1860 census: Charles E. Jewel (44)

53	18-30-300-033	County Road	**Bell–Hazzard Farmstead**	Local landmark potential





1860 census: Daniel Bell
John Bell: Stevens (1907), 547–548.
Hazzard Brothers farm, established 1947. 1999, designated Conservation Farm Family.

54	18-30-400-014	County Road	**Site 54**	Non-contributing



See summary report for White family information.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
26	18-31-200-003	Barr Road	**Barr Brothers Farmstead**	Local landmark potential



1860 census: John Linebarger (48)
Refer to summary report for Barr family information.

28	18-31-300-010	Kahler Road	**Whitten–Kahler–Beckwith Farmstead**	Contributing


1980s aerial view provided by Denise Issert. Farmstead was divided in 1976, when Issert family purchased house and Robertson family purchased outbuildings and land.

Historic farmhouse is PIN 18-31-300-010. All outbuildings are PIN 18-31-300-023.Two historic main barns and crib barn have been de molished.

30	18-31-300-017	Kahler Road	**Kahler–Hunt Farmstead**	Non-contributing



John Kahler arrived in township in 1835. [Woodruff (1878), 577].

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
22	18-32-200-001	Kahler Road	**Swival–Stewart Farmstead**	Local landmark potential



1860 census: Henry Swivel (19)
Refer to summary report for Swival family information.

18	18-32-200-005	Kahler Road	**Skehan Tenant Farmstead**	Contributing

John Kahler arrived in township in 1835. [Woodruff (1878), 577].

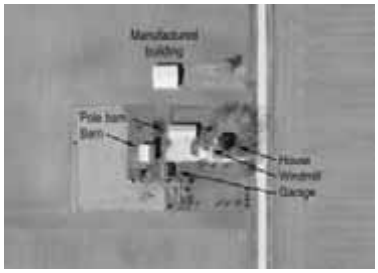
Crib barn demolished since 1988.

23	18-32-300-003	Kahler Road	**Lovell–Olivetti Farmstead**	Non-contributing


Refer to summary report for Lovell family information. Purchased by Ralph Lovell after his mother Olive Jane Lovell's death in 1919, then sold to Peter Olivetti, Sr., in 1939.

Only historic barn survives.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
20	18-32-400-006	Indian Trail Road	**Clarence E. White Farmstead**	Local landmark potential




See summary report for White family information

Judged to be potential local landmark due to unique local example of barn/crib barn combination.

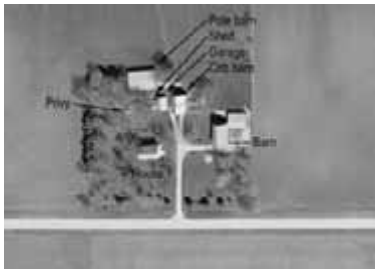
21	18-32-400-011	Kahler Road	**Lovell Farmstead**	Local landmark



Refer to summary report for Lovell Farmstead information. 1918 directory lists George W., Sr., wife Esther, resident since 1872. Ralph E., wife Tessie, resident since 1877. George W., Jr., wife Louise, resident since 1897.

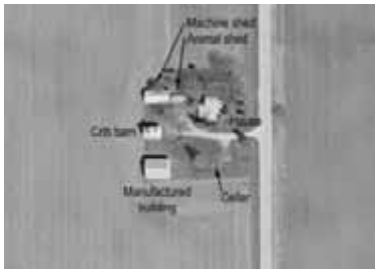
Joan Alexander resides here. All structures historic, except machine shed and maybe garage.

15	18-33-200-001	Kahler Road	**Hill–White Farmstead**	Local landmark potential




See summary report for White family information

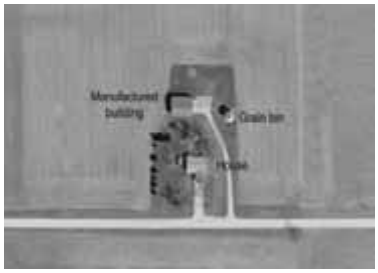
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
17	18-33-400-007	Old Chicago Road	**James White Farmstead**	Local landmark potential



See summary report for White family information

Main barn demolished since 1988.

10	18-34-200-005	Kahler Road	**Naughton–Carey Farmstead**	Non-contributing



1860 census lists Patrick Norton (28).

Crib barn demolished since 1988 survey; no historic buildings remain on site.

12	18-34-400-001	Kahler Road	**Murphy–Kennedy Farmstead**	Non-contributing

1860 census lists Thomas Murphy (40) and Cornelius Murphy (32)
Thomas Kennedy, son of James Kennedy (site 8). Refer to summary report for Kennedy family information.

Since 2005, house and major barn demolished. Only grain bin remains.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
13	18-34-400-002	Symerton Road	**Edward Long Farmstead**	Non-contributing

Cornelius Norton married Catherine Kennedy, daughter of James Kennedy (site 8). Cornelius had died by 1907. Refer to summary report for Kennedy family information. [Stevens (1907), 355]

No historic outbuildings remain.

6	18-35-100-002	Kahler Road	**Barrett Tenant Farmstead**	Non-contributing

1860 census lists William Barrett (78) and John Barrett (55).
Daniel Barrett: Stevens (1907), 437–438.
William Barrett's daughter Margaret married James Kennedy (see site 8).

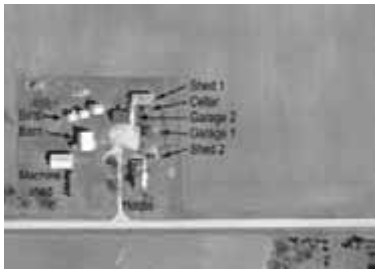
No house; used for storage.

7	18-35-200-003	Kennedy Road	**James Kennedy Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Refer to summary report for Kennedy family information.

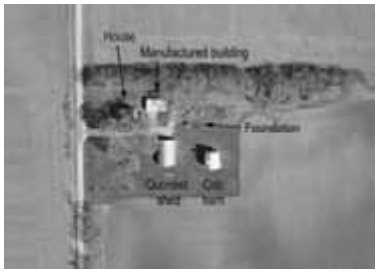
Outbuildings seem to have been abandoned since 1988.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
8	18-35-400-003	Town Line Road	**Michael Kennedy Farmstead**	Local landmark potential




Refer to summary report for Kennedy family information.

1	18-36-100-007	Martin Long Road	**John A. Long, Jr., Farmstead**	Contributing



1899 directory lists John Long and John Long, Jr., owners of 480 acres.

Basically unchanged since 1988 survey.

5	18-36-400-003	Kahler Road	**Wilson–Nugent–Holschuh Farmstead**	Contributing


Largely unchanged since 1955 aerial view. Several outbuildings removed since 1988; one outbuilding demolished since 2005.

Table 4. Farmhouses in FlorenceTownship

ID		House Type	Style	Materials	
	Date	*Significance*			
195		—	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1941	*Not assessed*		**Walls:**	Concrete block, wood siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
1		American Foursquare	Colonial Revival	**Foundation:**	Concrete, parging
	1900s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
5		Gabled Ell	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete block, parging
	1900s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
7		Upright and Wing	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1870s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
8		Side Hallway	Colonial Revival	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1883	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
10		Ranch	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1960s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Brick
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
13		Upright and Wing	—	**Foundation:**	Stone, concrete block, brick, concrete
	1890s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding, brick
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
15		Four over Four	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1860s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Stucco, asphalt composition siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
17		Upright and Wing	Craftsman	**Foundation:**	Stone, concrete
	1860s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Aluminum siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
18		Cape Cod	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1930s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
20		American Foursquare	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1900s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Aluminum siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
21		Upright and Wing	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	c. 1880	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Asphalt composition siding
				Roof:	Sheet metal

ID		House Type	Style	Materials	
	Date	*Significance*			
22		Upright and Wing	—	**Foundation:**	Stone, concrete
	1870s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
23		Ranch	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1990s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Brick, wood siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
26		Bungalow	Craftsman	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
28		Side Hallway	Queen Anne	**Foundation:**	Stone, concrete block
	1860s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
30		Upright and Wing	—	**Foundation:**	Stone, concrete
	1870s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
41		American Foursquare	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1910s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Wood siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
43		Gabled Ell	Tudor Revival	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Brick
				Roof:	Cement asbestos shingle
51		Cape Cod	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1930s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
52		American Foursquare	—	**Foundation:**	Unknown
	1880s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Stone, stucco
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
54		Four over Four	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1980s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
57		Gable Front	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1890s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
58		Upright and Wing	—	**Foundation:**	Stone, concrete block
	1880s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Aluminum siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle

ID	Date	House Type Significance	Style	Materials	
59		Gabled Ell	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1900s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
60		Ranch	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	c. 2010	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Brick
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
61		Side Hallway	Italianate	**Foundation:**	Stone
	c. 1875	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
65		Gabled Ell	Greek Revival	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1860s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
68		Upright and Wing	Queen Anne	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1860s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Stucco
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
69		Ranch	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
73		Upright and Wing	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1860s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
75		Upright and Wing	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1860s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Cement siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
76		Upright and Wing	—	**Foundation:**	Stone, concrete block
	1860s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
78		Gabled Ell	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1870s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
81		Upright and Wing	—	**Foundation:**	Stone, concrete
	1860s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
82		Gabled Ell	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1870s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle

ID	Date	House Type *Significance*	Style	Materials	
83		American Foursquare	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1900s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
85		Gable Front	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1900s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Brick, aluminum siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
89		Split Level	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1970s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Brick, wood siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
91		Cape Cod	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1940s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Cement asbestos shingle
92		Gabled Ell	Queen Anne	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1900s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
93		Four over Four	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1870s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Aluminum siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
94		Gabled Ell	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1870s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Asphalt composition siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
96		Gabled Ell	Queen Anne	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1890s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
98		Gabled Ell	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete, brick
	1870s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding, brick
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
99		Bungalow	Craftsman	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Brick
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
101		Ranch	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1960s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
102		American Foursquare	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1900s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle

ID		House Type	Style	Materials	
	Date	*Significance*			
103		Gable Front	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1900s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
104		Upright and Wing	Greek Revival	**Foundation:**	Stone, concrete block
	1860s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
106		Split Level	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1960s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Aluminum siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
107		Side Hallway	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1860s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
109		Gabled Ell		**Foundation:**	Stone; concrete
	1870s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
110		American Foursquare	Colonial Revival	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1940s	*Local landmark potential*		**Walls:**	Stucco
				Roof:	Clay tile
111		Ranch	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	c. 1978	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
112		American Fourtsquare	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1890s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
116		American Foursquare		**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1900s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Cement siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
117		Bungalow	Craftsman	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Wood siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
118		American Foursquare	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1910s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
119		Gabled Ell	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1870s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle

ID		House Type	Style	Materials	
	Date	*Significance*			
121		Ranch	—	**Foundation:**	Brick
	1960s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Brick
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
123		Gabled Ell	—	**Foundation:**	Stone, concrete
	1870s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Wood siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
53		Gabled Ell	Queen Anne	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1904	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
53		Ranch	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	2000s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Brick
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle

Table 5. Barns in Florence Township

ID	Barn Type	Materials	
	Date	***Significance***	
99		Bank barn	**Foundation:** Stone
	1870s	*Contributing*	**Walls:** Sheet metal siding
			Roof: Sheet metal
22		Bank barn	**Foundation:** Stone
	1870s	*Contributing*	**Walls:** Sheet metal
			Roof: Sheet metal
68		Dairy barn	**Foundation:** Stone
	1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:** Wood siding
			Roof: Sheet metal
15		Dairy barn	**Foundation:** Concrete
	1920s	*Contributing*	**Walls:** Vertical board & batten siding
			Roof: Asphalt shingle
26		Dairy barn	**Foundation:** Concrete
	1920s	*Contributing*	**Walls:** Vertical wood siding
			Roof: Sheet metal
5		Feeder barn	**Foundation:** Concrete
	1940s	*Contributing*	**Walls:** Vertical board siding
			Roof: Asphalt shingle
53		Feeder barn	**Foundation:** Concrete block
	1940s	*Contributing*	**Walls:** Board & batten siding
			Roof: Sheet metal
30		Feeder barn	**Foundation:** Concrete
	1960s	*Non-contributing*	**Walls:** Sheet metal
			Roof: Sheet metal, asphalt shingle
20		Plank farme barn	**Foundation:** Concrete
	1900s	*Local landmark potential*	**Walls:** Board & batten vertical siding
			Roof: Sheet metal
91		Plank farme barn	**Foundation:** Concrete
	1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:** Board & batten
			Roof: Cement asbestos shingle
116		Plank frame	**Foundation:** Unknown
	1900s	*Non-contributing*	**Walls:** Board and batten
			Roof: Sheet metal
114		Plank frame barn	**Foundation:** Concrete
	1910s	*Contributing*	**Walls:** Wood siding
			Roof: Sheet metal

ID		Barn Type	Materials	
	Date	*Significance*		
23		Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Sheet metal
			Roof:	Sheet metal
107		Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Horizontal wood siding
			Roof:	Asphalt shingle
8		Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	None
	1910s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Corrugated metal siding
			Roof:	Sheet metal
7		Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Unknown
	1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood siding
			Roof:	Sheet metal
117		Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1920s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood siding
			Roof:	Sheet metal
82		Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Unknown
	1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood siding
			Roof:	Sheet metal
99		Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1910s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood siding
			Roof:	Sheet metal
53		Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Vertical wood siding
			Roof:	Asphalt shingle
118		Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Unknown
	1910s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood siding
			Roof:	Sheet metal
57		Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Unknownd
	1910s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Board & batten
			Roof:	Sheet metal
98		Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Metal and wood siding
			Roof:	Sheet metal
82		Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Unknown
	1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood siding
			Roof:	Sheet metal
76		Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Sheet metal
			Roof:	Sheet metal

ID		Barn Type	Materials	
	Date	***Significance***		
21		Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood siding
			Roof:	Asphalt shingle
54		Stable	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1980s	*Non-contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood siding
			Roof:	Asphalt shingle
109		Three-bay Threshing	**Foundation:**	Unknown
	1870s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Sheet metal
			Roof:	Sheet metal
94		Three-bay threshing barn	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1870s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Sheet metal
			Roof:	Sheet metal
21		Three-bay threshing barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1860s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Horizontal wood siding
			Roof:	Asphalt shingle
52		Three-bay threshing barn	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1880s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood siding
			Roof:	Sheet metal
65		Three-bay threshing barn	**Foundation:**	Unknown
	1860s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Asphalt siding
			Roof:	Sheet metal

Notable Farmsteads in Florence Township

enned amil armsteads ite I ite I
ite I ite I

John Kennedy and his wife Catherine were natives of Tipperary County, Ireland, and immigrated to the United States in 1856. They lived in New York City prior to settling in Florence Township circa 1858. Catherine died on August 23, 1863, and James died in 1890 at the age of ninety. They had three sons and a daughter, Thomas (1835–November 1894), James (born in 1837), Margaret (later residing in Wilton Township), and John (who later moved to Iowa).

James Kennedy was born in Ireland in 1837 and left home to come to New York in 1855. He also moved to Florence Township in 1858. In 1864, James Kennedy married Margaret Barrett (her father William Barrett had a farm in Section 35, site 6 in the present survey) and together they had sixteen children. After working as a tenant farmer, by 1873 he had acquired land in Sections 35 and 36 of Florence Township. In 1883, he built a new house for his family at a farmstead in Section 35, site 8 in the present survey. He worked primarily at raising beef cattle, hogs, and horses, and by 1907 had acquired a total of 440 acres. James Kennedy served as school director for the township for eighteen years.[189]

Among the sixteen children of James and Margaret Kennedy, several remained in the area as adults:

- Catherine married Cornelius Norton and resided in Section 34, site 13 in the present survey.
- Thomas, born in 1870, married Julia Long and resided in Section 34, site 12 in the present survey.
- James J., born circa 1869, married Ellen McGovern and resided in Section 35, site 7 in the present survey.
- Michael, born circa 1876, married Margaret O'Connor and inherited the family homestead, site 8.
- William married Margaret Barry and resided in Symerton.
- Daniel, born in 1879, married Margaret Klover and resided in Section 3 of Wesley Township.
- Andrew, born in 1884, married Mary Barry and also resided in Section 3 of Wesley Township.

Due to its association with a prominent local farm family and its intact 1883 farmhouse, the James Kennedy Farmstead (site 8 in the present survey) is considered to be local landmark eligible. The farmstead of his son, James J. Kennedy (site 7 in the present survey) may also be considered to be local landmark eligible, pending further consideration of the integrity of the site. Sites 12 and 13 are considered non-contributing due to a loss of historic integrity.

Views of the James Kennedy Farmstead. Left: the farmhouse built by Kennedy in 1883. Right: One of the nineteenth century agricultural outbuildings on the site.

[189] Stevens (1907), 355–356.

ite amil armsteads *ite I*
ite I
ite I
ite I

Adam and Margaret White, natives of Scotland, immigrated to the United States in 1837 with their children. In 1845, Adam White moved to Wilmington. After working for a time in a factory, he built a log house on unbroken land in Section 12 of Wilmington Township. Circa 1848, the log house was relocated to a new farmstead in the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 33 of Florence Township (this farmstead no longer exists). Adam and Margaret had twelve children, including John M., Mary, Adam J., Robert, and James.[190] The 1860 census lists Adam (age 64) and Margaret (age 58) and their sons Adam (age 22), Robert (age 19), James (age 17); by 1860, John M. was married and living at his own farm.

The 1862 atlas map shows Adam White's farm in Section 33, as well as a farm owned by his son John M. White in Section 28. By 1873, the farmsteads had passed to the next generation: John M. had the same farm in Section 28 (site 67, no longer existing); Adam J. had the family homestead in Section 33 (no longer existing); Robert White had a farm in Section 32 (site 20 in the present survey); and James White had a farm in Section 33 (site 17 in the present survey).

Adam and Margaret's son John M. White was born in Bridgeton, Scotland, in 1823. He immigrated to the United States in 1833 and went to live with an uncle in New York state until his parents arrived in 1837. He began to work his own farm in Florence Township in the 1840s. In spring 1850, he and his brother William journeyed west to California. After two years spent prospecting during the gold rush, John returned to Florence Township in summer 1852, establishing a farmstead in Section 28. He married Marjorie McIntosh in 1853, and they had six children, including William W. (born 1853), Daniel M. (born 1855), John B. (born 1859), Frank E. (born 1861), and Arthur R. (born 1867).[191]

Another of Adam and Margaret's sons, James White, was born in 1842 in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and moved to Wilmington with his parents in 1845. He married Sarah Hazard in 1865, and they had four children Clarence E. (born 1868), Fannie E., Florence A., and Charles A. White (born 1874).[192] James and Sarah resided at a farm in Section 33, site 17 in the present survey. He later acquired the original family homestead from his brother, Adam J. White.

By the early twentieth century, the White family farms had passed to a younger generation. Two of James and Sarah's sons were farming in Florence Township in 1918. Clarence E. White had a farm in Section 32 (formerly owned by his uncle, Robert White; site 20 in the present survey). Charley A. White had taken over the farm in Section 33 (site 17 in the present survey). Another property in the northeast quarter of Section 33, site 15 in the present survey, had also been acquired by James White in the early twentieth century.

One other property in the present survey is associated with the White family. Site 54 in Section 30 was owned by John B. White, the son of John M. and Marjorie White. He likely did not reside at this site, but used the farm to breed horses to support his livery business in Wilmington.[193]

[190] Woodruff (1878), 796; Stevens (1907), 372.
[191] Woodruff (1878), 796; Stevens (1907), 372–374.
[192] Woodruff (1878), 796. Sarah Hazard was the daughter of local farmer Charles Hazard. See Woodruff (1878), 792.
[193] See Stevens (1907), 357. John B. White was born in Florence Township on December 2, 1859. He received a business degree from a college in Springfield and began farming in Florence Township in 1883, working primarily to breed Norman horses. In 1884, he married Florence Hart. In 1892, he sold his farm and moved to Wilmington, buying the livery business established by his brother, Daniel, and in 1895 also acquired his uncle's livery business.

Among the farmsteads associated with the White family, sites 15, 17, and 20 have sufficient integrity to be considered for local landmark listing.


Views of the James White Farmstead, site 17 in Section 33. Left: the 1860s upright and wing type house has a Craftsman-style front porch likely added in the early twentieth century. Right: there is a large crib barn at the farm.


Views of the Clarence E. White Farmstead, site 20 in Section 32. The plank frame barn (left) and American foursquare house (right) were likely built after Clarence acquired this site from his uncle Robert White around 1900.


Views of the Hill–White Farmstead, site 15 in Section 33. The house on the site (left) was likely built by A. Hill, a nineteenth century owner of the site. The existing group of outbuildings including the dairy barn (right) were likely added to the site after it was acquired by the White family in the first decade of the twentieth century.

L vell armstead ite I

The Lovell Farmstead was designated a Will County landmark on July 16, 2009. As noted when the nomination was accepted:

> Located in Florence Township, this farmstead contributes to the rural character of the area. The actual farmstead property was purchased in 1864. . . . The farmstead enjoys unique status as farm that has been in the Lovell Family for five generations: Oliver Lovell, George Lovell, Archie Lovell, Francis Lovell, and currently, Joan Lovell. The exact date for the construction for buildings on this designated property is unknown. . . .

The nomination information does not correlate with the owners indicated on historic atlases; the 1873 atlas lists William Kerr as owner, and Kerr is also listed in the 1878 county history as a property owner in the township.[194] Oliver Lovell is first indicated as the owner of a farm in Section 32 in the 1884 county history.[195] This suggests that he likely acquired the farm between 1878 and 1884, although he may have worked the land as tenant prior to this date. The two oldest existing structures on the site are likely the upright and wing type house and the three-bay threshing barn. The remaining outbuildings are likely newer, dating to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Views of the Lovell Farmstead. The two oldest structures on the site are likely the house (above left) and three-bay threshing barn (above right). If not built by Kerr, these two structures were likely built by Oliver Lovell shortly after he acquired the site circa 1880. The other outbuildings on the site (like the plank frame barn, left, and crib barn, right) were likely built later.

[194] Woodruff (1878), 964.

[195] *Souvenir of Settlement and Progress of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: Historical Directory Publishing Co., 1884), 403.

wival tewart armstead ite

Henry Swival is listed in the 1860 census in Florence Township. He was 19 years old in 1860 and working as a hired laborer at a farm owned by Torrey and Ann Avery in the northwest quarter of Section 12. By 1873, he acquired his own farmstead in Section 32, site 22 of the present survey. By 1888, the county directory lists him as the owner of 220 acres. Henry had apparently died by 1918, when the directory lists Mrs. Mary Swival, likely his widow, as the owner of the "Swival Homestead" in Section 32, along with their children Roy V., Clara F., John, Nellie, Minnie, and William T.

By 1940, W. J. Stewart had acquired the site. This farmstead is notable primarily for its large and very well preserved bank barn, which likely dates to the late 1860s or 1870s and was built for Swival.

Two views of the exemplary and well preserved bank barn at the Swival–Stewart Farmstead, site 22 in Section 32.

Barr Br t ers armstead ite

According to historic plat maps and atlases and based on the 1918 directory, this farmstead was apparently acquired by the Barr family circa 1912. All of the existing buildings on the site have been built since that time. The 1918 directory lists Mrs. John Barr, a resident of the county since 1912, and the owner of 268 acres in Section 31 and the tenant of additional farmland in Section 30. Her children included John, William, Catherine, Robert, Elizabeth, and George. Her son Robert is listed as the operator of the farm in Section 31. Another son George, his wife Mabel and their daughter Ruth were operating a farm as tenants in Section 19 of Florence Township. The Barr Brothers Farmstead, site 26 in Section 31, is considered to be local landmark eligible as a locally representative example of a farmstead developed in the 1910s.

The Barr Brothers farmstead includes a bungalow (left) and a dairy barn (right) as well as numerous other outbuildings, all dating to the 1910s.

M re armstead ite

Selah R. Morey was born in Pennsylvania in 1830 and came to Will County with his parents in 1847. (His father, also named Selah Morey, is listed in the 1860 census as 54 years old.) He married Louisa Smith in 1861, and they had four children, Emeline, Grace, Horace, and Selah. He held many public offices in the township, including Township Clerk, School Treasurer, and Road Overseer. By 1878, he owned 80 acres in Section 28 of Florence Township.[196] His farm was illustrated in the 1873 atlas. The large Greek Revival style house, which still exists on the site, was likely built by Morey in the early 1860s, shortly after his marriage. After Selah Morey died circa 1890, the farm passed to his son, Selah Morey [III]. By the early twentieth century, atlas maps indicate that the farm was owned by another relative, Eugene E. Morey, who with his wife Lucy owned 313-1/2 acres in Section 28. By 1940, the farm had passed to the Horace E. Morey family.

Views of the Morey Farmstead. Top left: the barn on the site dates to the 1860s. Top right: the Greek Revival style house was likely built for Selah Morey shortly after his marriage in 1861. Bottom left: the crib barn was likely added to the site during the period when Eugene Morey owned the site. Bottom right: View of the farm from the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(Elgin: Thompson Brothers & Burr, 1873), plate 124. The main house and the barn at far left still exist on the site.*

[196] Woodruff (1878), 794.

Martin l ues armstead ite

James Martin was born in Ireland in 1809. He married Catherine Graham (or Garrihand), also a native of Ireland, in 1836 in Rochester, New York. The young family settled in Will County in 1837. They acquired this farm in Section 28 of Florence Township at a public land sale in 1838. Martin was one of the first School Trustees serving in 1842. James Martin went to California overland in the spring of 1850 with hopes of prospecting for gold but died in August 1851.[197]

The 1860 census lists John Martin, aged 26 and born in New York; Catherine, aged 43 and born in Ireland (his mother); Edward (aged 22, born in Illinois), Thomas (18, born in Illinois), James W. (14, born in Illinois), and William (12, born in Illinois). Altogether, James and Catherine Martin had eight children, of whom only three survived by the 1870s, Mary, James W., and William. Of the other sons of James and Catherine listed in the 1860 census, Thomas Martin enlisted during the Civil War in Company A of the 100th Illinois Volunteer Infantry and died of disease at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in 1862. John, the oldest, died in 1870, and Edward died in 1864. Catherine long outlived her husband and many of her sons, dying in November 1898.[198]

The two youngest sons, James W. Martin and William, continued to farm in Will County. James W. Martin was elected County Treasurer in 1873 and reelected two years later, serving until 1877. He married Viola Linton on January 13, 1875, and they had four sons, Charles H., Robert W., James Walter, and John L. Martin. Charles H. Martin served as a first lieutenant in the signal service in Cuba during the Spanish-American War in 1898. In 1887, James W. Martin moved to Joliet, where he resided for the remainder of his life.[199] He is indicated as the owner of this farmstead on the 1893 and 1902 maps, which was likely rented out at this time.

By 1909, the farm had been acquired by the Ohlhues family. John J. Ohlhues was born in Holstein, Germany, in 1837 and immigrated to the United States in 1859. John and his wife Mary had five children: Magdalena, Henry, Edward (born in 1874 per the 1918 directory), Emma, and Mary. The Ohlhues family owned a farm in the southwest quarter of Section 14 of Florence Township (site 196 in the present survey).[200] As noted in the 1918 directory, the farm in Section 28 was managed by Edward P. Ohlhues and his wife Alma, listed as a tenant on 200 acres owned by John Ohlhues. The farm remained in the Ohlhues family into the 1980s. Due to its association with two long-time farm families and the well-preserved stucco-clad upright-and-wing type house, the Martin–Ohlhues Farmstead is considered to be eligible for local landmark listing.

Views of the Martin–Ohlhues Farmstead. Left: the stucco-clad house likely dates to the late 1860s or early 1870s, after James W. Martin took over the farm. Right: the dairy barn on the site likely dates to the Ohlhues family period of ownership.

[197] Woodruff (1878), 793; Stevens (1907), 396.
[198] Ibid..
[199] Ibid.
[200] Woodruff (1878), 794–795.

Baskerville armsteads *ite* *I*
ite *I*
ite *I*

Three farmsteads in the present survey are associated with the Baskerville family. James Baskerville was born in 1833 in Tipperary, Ireland. He was orphaned at the age of twelve. In 1847, James, his two sisters and his six brothers immigrated to the United States. He lived in Oneida County, New York, for three years prior to moving to Florence Township in 1850. On February 26, 1860, James married Jane Fogarty. By 1878 they had seven children, Mary A., Andrew J. (born 1863 per 1918 directory), Charlotte J., Anna M., George, John (born 1875), and Helen R. Baskerville. James ultimately owned 680 acres in the township and retired from farming in 1902.[201]

Farmstead site 99 in the southwest quarter of Section 22 was likely Baskerville's original homestead. By 1918, it was worked by his son John R. Baskerville. Later, the farm was owned by his daughter, Charlotte J. Baskerville. By 1948, it had been acquired by George Freis. Due to its intact grouping of historic agricultural outbuildings and association with a prominent local farm family, this site is considered to be National Register eligible.

Views of farmstead site 99. Above left: the existing house is a brick masonry bungalow, perhaps built after George Freis acquired the site. Above right: The crib barn, which likely dates to the John R. Baskerville period of ownership. Below: Two historic barns are present on the site; both likely date to the nineteenth century.

[201] Woodruff (1878), 791; Stevens (1907), 252–253.

Farmstead site 93 in the northeast quarter of Section 23 had been acquired by James Baskerville by the early 1870s. This farm was later worked by his son Andrew J. Baskerville. He is listed in the 1918 directory along with his wife Mary Whalen and their children Angela, Ruth, and Rachel. At that time, the farm was called the "Mountain Ash Farm." The farm is apparently still owned by Baskerville descendants today. Due to its association with a locally prominent farm family and the integrity of its historic structures, this site is considered to be local landmark eligible.


Above: The crib barn and house at site 93, the Andrew J. Baskerville Farmstead.

Farmstead site 94 in the southwest quarter of Section 23 was owned in the nineteenth century by James W. Martin (refer to Martin–Ohlhues Farmstead, above). By 1902, it had been acquired by James Baskerville, although it was likely rented to tenants in the early part of the twentieth century. By the middle of the twentieth century, it had been acquired by the Kennedy family. Due its association with a locally prominent farm family and the integrity of its historic structures, this site is considered to be local landmark eligible.

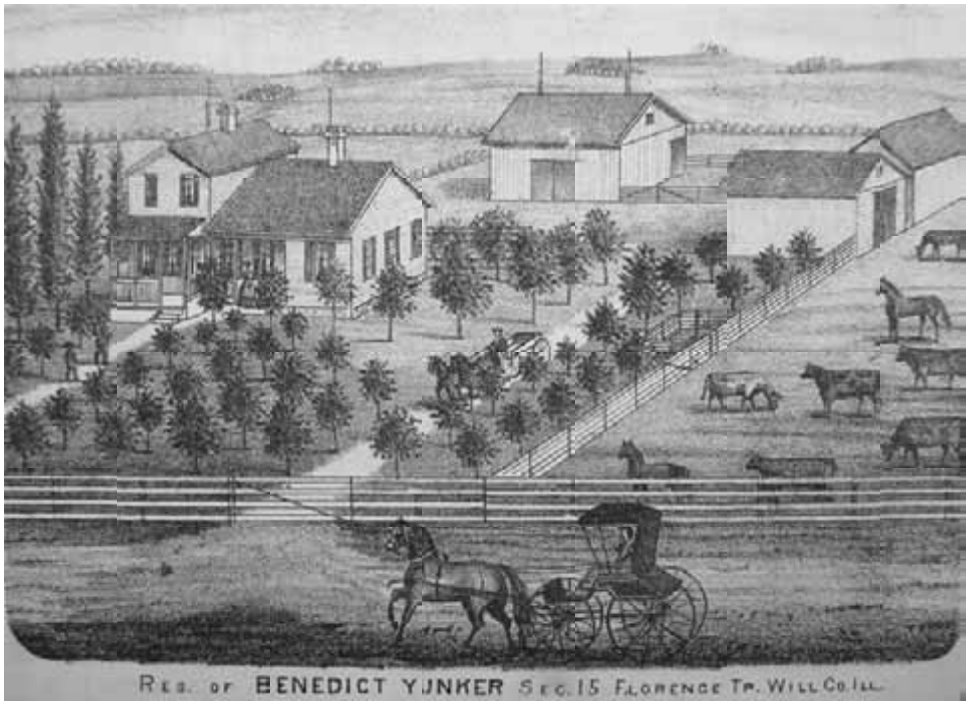

Above: The historic house and three-bay threshing barn at site 94, both of which date to the nineteenth century, at the Martin–Baskerville Farmstead.

Three other farmstead sites associated with the Baskerville family were located in the area of the township acquired for the arsenal:

- Site 132, north half of the southwest quarter of Section 15. This farm was illustrated in the 1873 atlas, when it was the home of Benedict Yunker. It had been acquired by the Baskerville family by 1902. In 1918, it was the home of Harry R. Baskerville, his wife Gertrude, and their son Durwood. No evidence of this site could be located.

- Site 135 in the southwest quarter of Section 16. This farm had been acquired by the Baskerville family by 1902. By 1918, it was the home of Thomas L. Baskerville (born in 1871), his wife Margaret, and their children. Foundation remnants have been identified at this site.
- Site 136 in the southeast quarter of Section 16. This farm had been acquired by the Baskerville family by 1893. In 1918, it was the home of J. Arthur Baskerville (born in 1881), his wife Grace, and their children. No evidence of this site could be located.

Other Baskerville relatives owned farms in Manhattan Township (refer to the *Rural Historic Structural Survey of Manhattan Township*, September 2006).



Farmstead site 132 as illustrated in the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(Elgin: Thompson Brothers & Burr, 1873), plate 125. This farm was demolished in 1940–1941.*

Di n acks n armstead ite

As shown on historic plat maps, in the nineteenth century, this farmstead was owned by John Dixon. The 1888 directory indicated that he owned 300 acres in Sections 16, 18, and 22 of the township.

In the first decade of the twentieth century, the farm was acquired by Lancelot Jackson. He resided here at the "Jordan Creek Farm" with his wife Sara Jane Parson and their children Charles E., Bernice, William, Rosie, Mary, Martha, Mabel, and Maud. By 1940, the farm had passed to their son Charles, who owned the farm into the 1980s.

The farmstead contains a number of historic agricultural outbuildings, and is considered to be local landmark eligible. Of particular interest is the privately-owned iron-truss bridge crossing Jordan Creek and leading to Old Chicago Road.

The Dixon–Jackson Farmstead contains a number of historic structures including an iron truss bridge (above left) and a plank frame barn and silo (above right).

Lancelot Jackson was descended from one of the earliest pioneer families in Will County. Isaac Jackson was a native of Nova Scotia, born circa 1785. He and his wife Hannah settled on government land in Jackson Township in the 1830s, and they later divided their holdings among four of their sons (Charles, Delancy, Enoch, and Samuel). Jackson Township was named in his honor. Hannah died in 1856, and Isaac lived until 1875.[202]

Charles Jackson, son of Isaac and Hannah, was born in Nova Scotia on March 18, 1815. He left Canada in 1850, finally rejoining his father's family in Will County in 1851. He married Martha Cating in 1851, and they purchased a farm in Section 9 of Florence Township in 1856. Their children included Fannie, Malcolm, Estella, Margaret, and Josephine. (Lancelot Jackson, who had a son named Charles, may be Charles and Martha's grandson.)

Delancy M. Jackson, another son of Issac and Hannah, was born in Nova Scotia on September 3, 1823, and came with his parents to Will County. He married Harriet Gould of Wesley Township in 1849. When his father's holdings were divided, he received a farm in Section 8 of Florence Township. He eventually owned 400 acres. Upon his death in 1879, each of his five sons (Andrew, Aaron, Albert, Arthur, and James) received an 80-acre tract.[203]

[202] For Jackson family, see Woodruff (1878), 792–793, and Stevens (1907), 743–744.

[203] Ibid. One of Delancy and Harriet Jackson's sons was Arthur D. Jackson, born on November 2, 1857. After living for a time in South Dakota, he returned to Will County in 1887 and opened a meat market in Wilmington. In 1889

Mc innis armstead ite

William was born in Rochester, New York, in 1826 and soon after moved to Boston with his family. He moved to Will County in 1837 and lived in Joliet with his mother until 1849. William lived in California between 1849 and 1851 and then returned to Joliet, where he lived briefly before moving to Reed Township. He remained in Reed Township until 1870, then lived in Livingston County for four years before finally settling in Florence Township circa 1875. William and his wife Eliza Palmer had six children, four living in 1878. William McGinnis owned a total of 670 acres. Of those, 270 were located in Florence Township and 400 acres in Livingston County. This farmstead remained in the McGinnis family into the 1920s. The property is notable for the Italianate detailing of the house.[204]

The house at the McGinnis Farmstead, site 61 in Section 29, was likely built by William McGinnis shortly after he settled in Florence Township circa 1875.

ward de use ite

Historic plat maps and aerial photography indicated that this house was built for Howard Hyde after 1939. Its distinctive architecture blends the American Foursquare type with Craftsman-derived detailing.

The Howard Hyde House, site 110 in Section 20.

---

he returned to the 80-acre farm in section 5 of Florence Township inherited from his father. He eventually acquired 356 acres and specialized in breeding and raising cattle, Norman horses, Shropshire sheep, and hogs, working with his brother-in-law, Royal D. Corbin. He married Bernice Corbin in 1875, and they had only one daughter, who died as a young child. See Stevens (1907), 743–744.

[204] Woodruff (1878), 794.

els n and tr n amil armsteads *ite* *I*
ite *I*

William Nelson was born in Sterlingshire, Scotland, on November 8, 1816. He immigrate to Canada in 1830 before coming to the United States in 1833. He was one of the earliest inhabitants in Manhattan Township in Will County in the late 1830s. While living in New Lenox Township in 1846, he married Mary A. Rudd. Among their children were Mary, William W., Nettie, Olive Z., and Leonard. In March 1860, the Nelson family moved to Florence Township to a house in Section 15 (owned by Nelson descendants until it was demolished for the arsenal in 1940–1941).[205] The family also owned a nursery in Section 28, site 70 in the present survey. Both of these properties were illustrated in the 1873 atlas.

In the twentieth century, site 70 was owned by the Strong family. Erwin and Lucy Strong were natives of Pennsylvania who came to Florence Township around 1850 and settled a farm in Section 28, site 66 in the present survey. Erwin Strong studied at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and was one of the earliest physicians in the Wilmington area. Erwin and Lucy's children included Warner P., Caroline, Sarah E., and Mary. The daughters Caroline and Mary remained at the old homestead, and Warner P. Strong and his wife Anna acquired the former Nelson family nursery (site 70 in Section 28) in 1900.[206] Both Strong family properties were eventually inherited by Warner Strong's son Marcus A. Strong. Currently, site 70 contains only a crib barn (likely built by Strong after 1900) and is considered non-contributing due to a loss of integrity. Site 66, the Strong family homestead, contains no historic structures and is considered non-contributing.

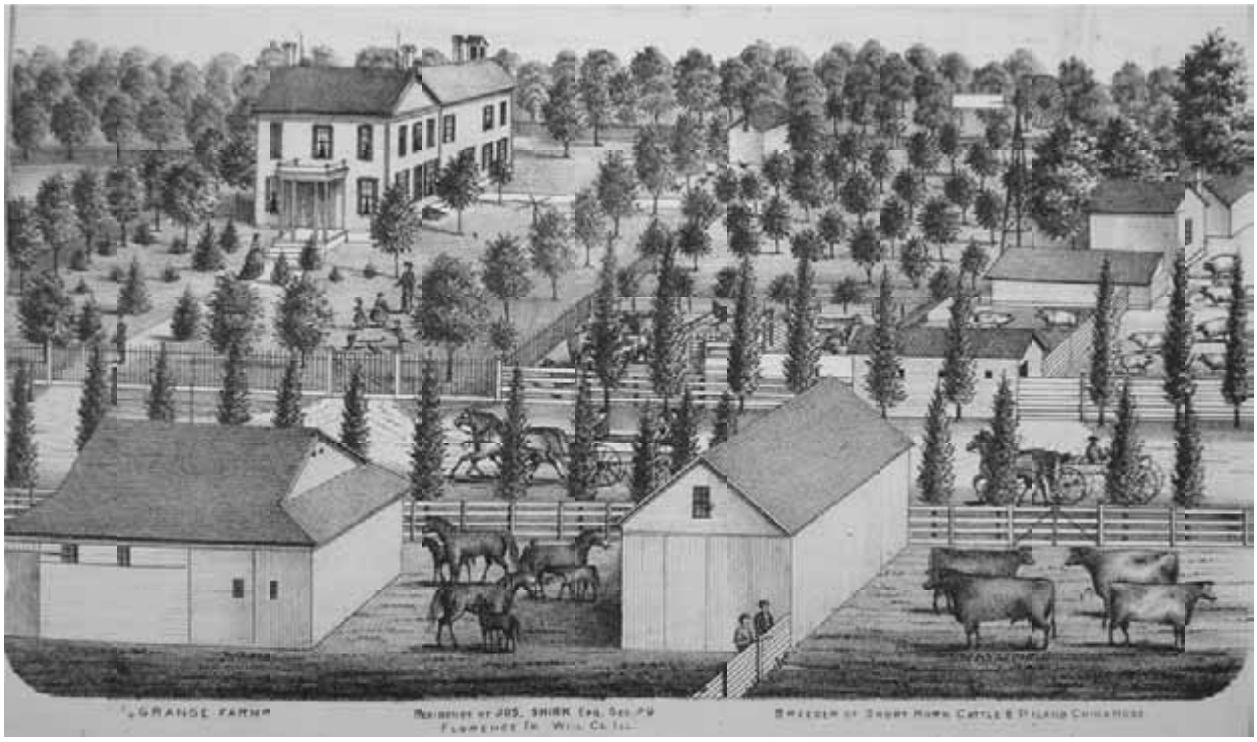
Above: the residence of William Nelson in Section 15 of Florence Township, as illustrated in the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(Elgin: Thompson Brothers & Burr, 1873), plate 125. This farm was demolished in 1940–1941. Below left: the nursery owned by William Nelson in Section 28, site 70 in the present survey, 1873 atlas plate 123. Below right: today, the site contains only a later crib barn.*

[205] Woodruff (1878), 794.
[206] Stevens (1907), 628–631.

irk tewart armstead ite I

Joseph Shirk was born August 17, 1819, in Washington, Pennsylvania, and moved with his father's family to Indiana in 1824. His grandfather came from Switzerland and fought in the Revolutionary War, participating in battles at Trenton and Yorktown. In 1841 he married his first wife, Margaret Linton. They had five children and moved to Will County in 1854, where Mrs. Shirk died. Joseph Shirk remarried, to Mary A. Brown in December 1854, and they had four children.[207]

The Shirk family residence was illustrated in the 1873 atlas. It remained under the ownership of Joseph Shirk until the 1880s. By 1893, it had been acquired by George Stewart. It remained in the Stewart family into the 1940s. Currently, a historic house (built after 1873) survives at the site, but all of the historic outbuildings have been demolished.

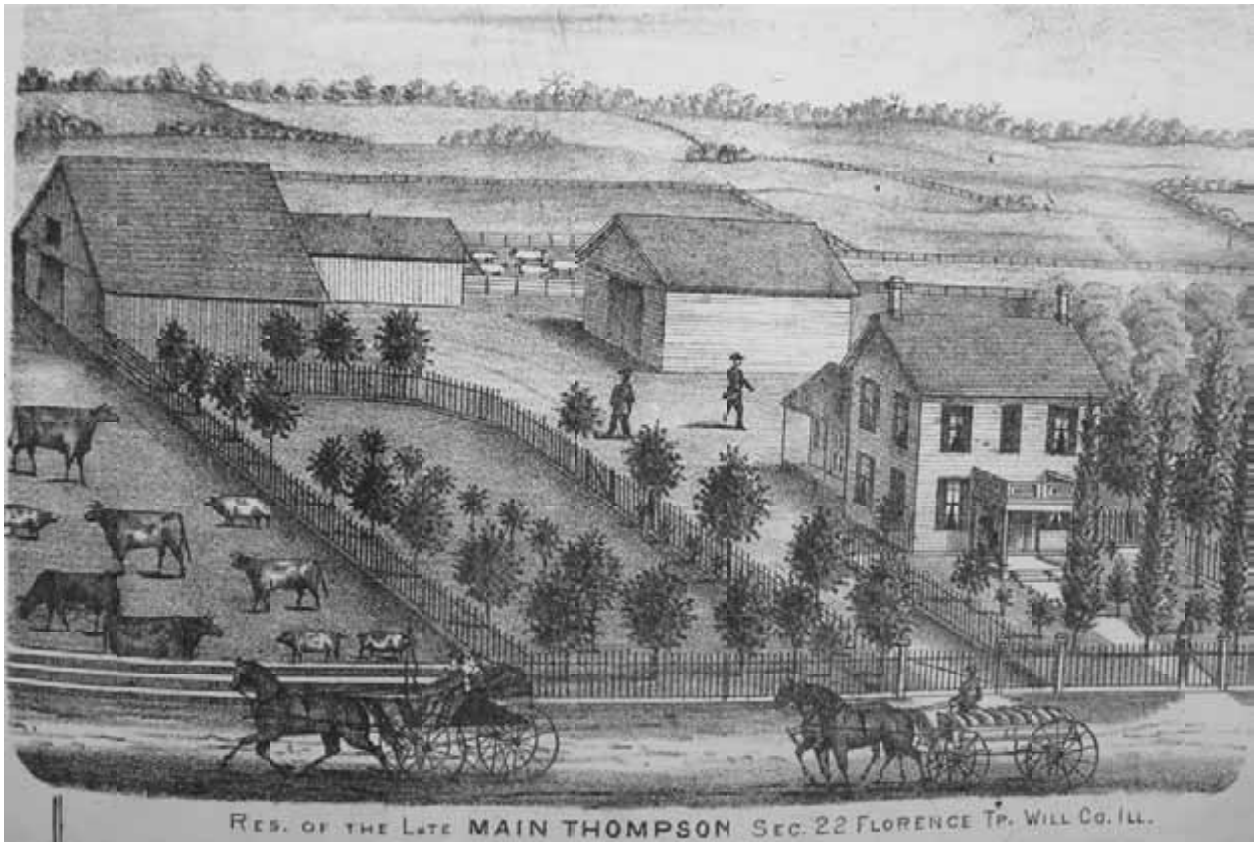


The residence of Joseph Shirk in Section 29 of Florence Township, as illustrated in the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(Elgin: Thompson Brothers & Burr, 1873), plate 123. None of the buildings seen here still exist.*

[207] Woodruff (1878), 796.

m s n armstead ite I

As indicated on historic maps and atlases, the original owner of this farmstead was Main Thompson. According to the 1860 census, Main Thompson was born circa 1825 in Scotland. His wife Marie, also a native of Scotland, was 33 years old at the time of the census. Their children included Jeannette, John, and Elizabeth, all born in New York. After Main Thompson's death in the early 1870s, the farm passed to his son, John O. Thompson. It was owned by Thompson descendants to at least the 1970s. The house illustrated in the 1873 atlas still exists at this site.



Above: the Thompson family residence in Section 22 of Florence Township, as illustrated in the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(Elgin: Thompson Brothers & Burr, 1873), plate 125. Below, left: The house illustrated in 1873 still exists at the site (photographed here from the reverse angle). Below right: The site also contains a number of early twentieth century outbuildings, including this crib barn.*

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; and Reed Township in 2011. 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.

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

Bale, D. Andrew, editor. *The Cemeteries of Will County, Illinois: Oakwood: Wilmington, Part 1.* Wilmington, Illinois: Will/Grundy Counties Genealogical Society, 1993.

———. *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.

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

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.

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.

Early German churches (before 1900) of Illinois. Illinois Chapter, Palatines to America, 1989.

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).

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.

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.

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.

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.

Vlach, John Michael. *Barns.* New York: W.W. Norton & Company, and Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 2003.

Vierling, Philip E. *Early Powered Mills of the Des Plaines River and Its Tributaries, Illinois.* Volume I. Chicago: Illinois Country Outdoor Guides, 1995.

———. *Early Powered Mills of the Des Plaines River and Its Tributaries, Illinois*. Volume II. Chicago: Illinois Country Outdoor Guides, 1998.

Walsh, Rita, and Patricia Wingo, Gray & Pape, Inc. *The World War II Ordnance Department's Government-Owned Contractor-Operated (GOCO) Industrial Facilities: Joliet Army Ammunition Plant Historic Investigation.* December 1995.

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.

Wysocki, Gina. *Digging Up the Dirt, the History and Mysteries of the Will County Poor Farm and Potter's Field.* iUniverse Inc., 2008.

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, 1985, 1988, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2007.

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.

stabili ation 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.

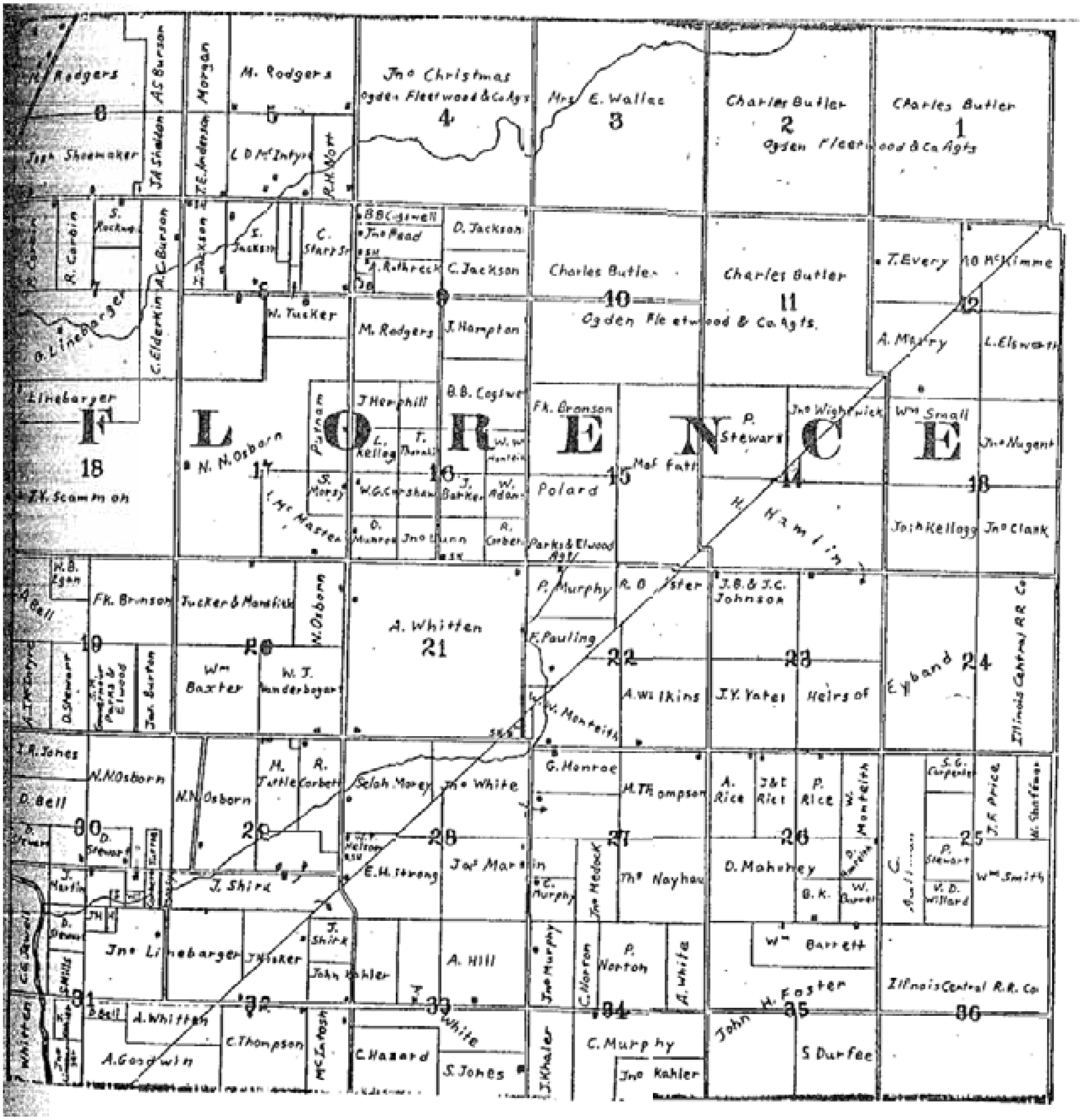
vault A masonry covering over an area which uses the principle of the arch.

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

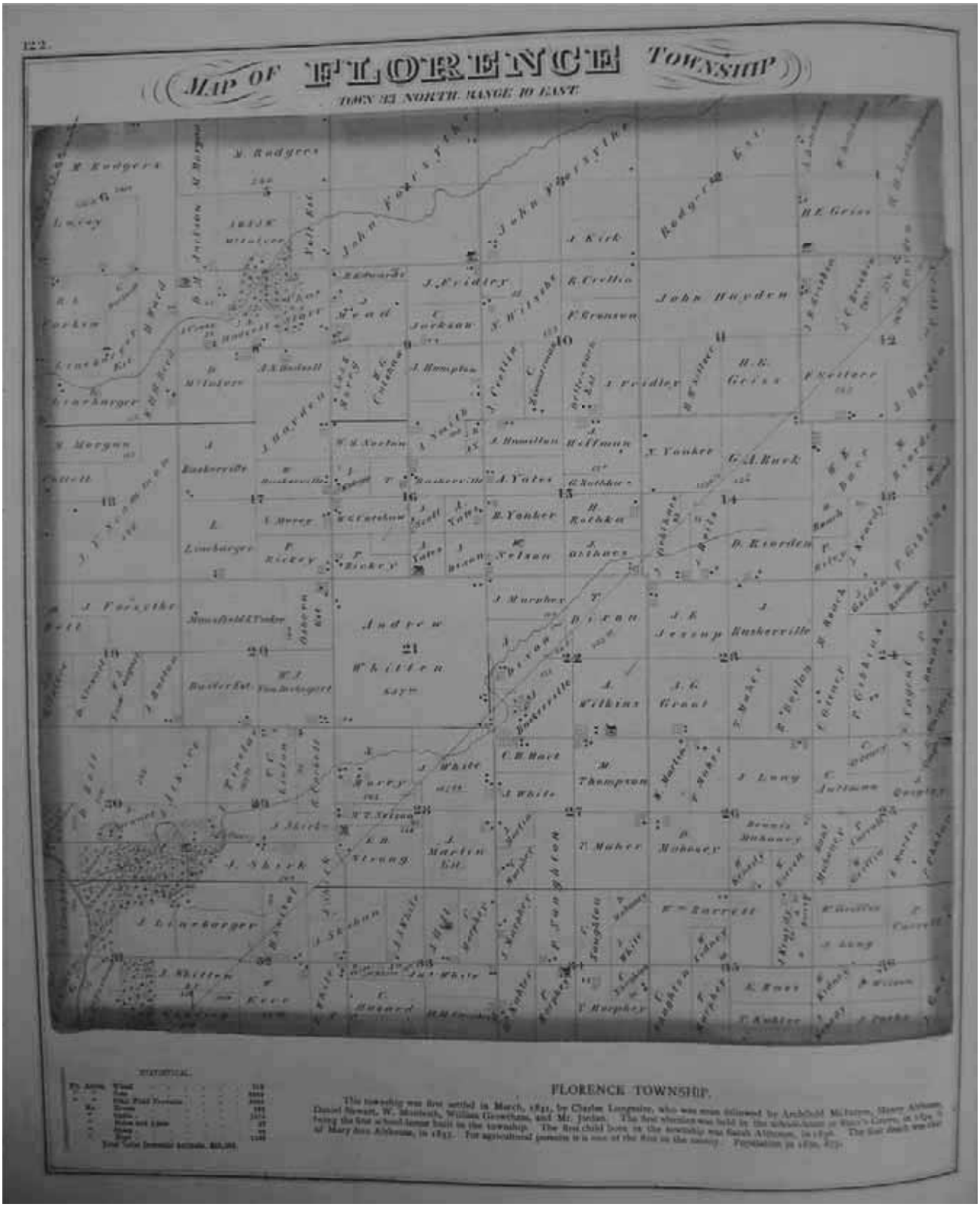
APPENDIX A

HISTORIC PLAT MAPS

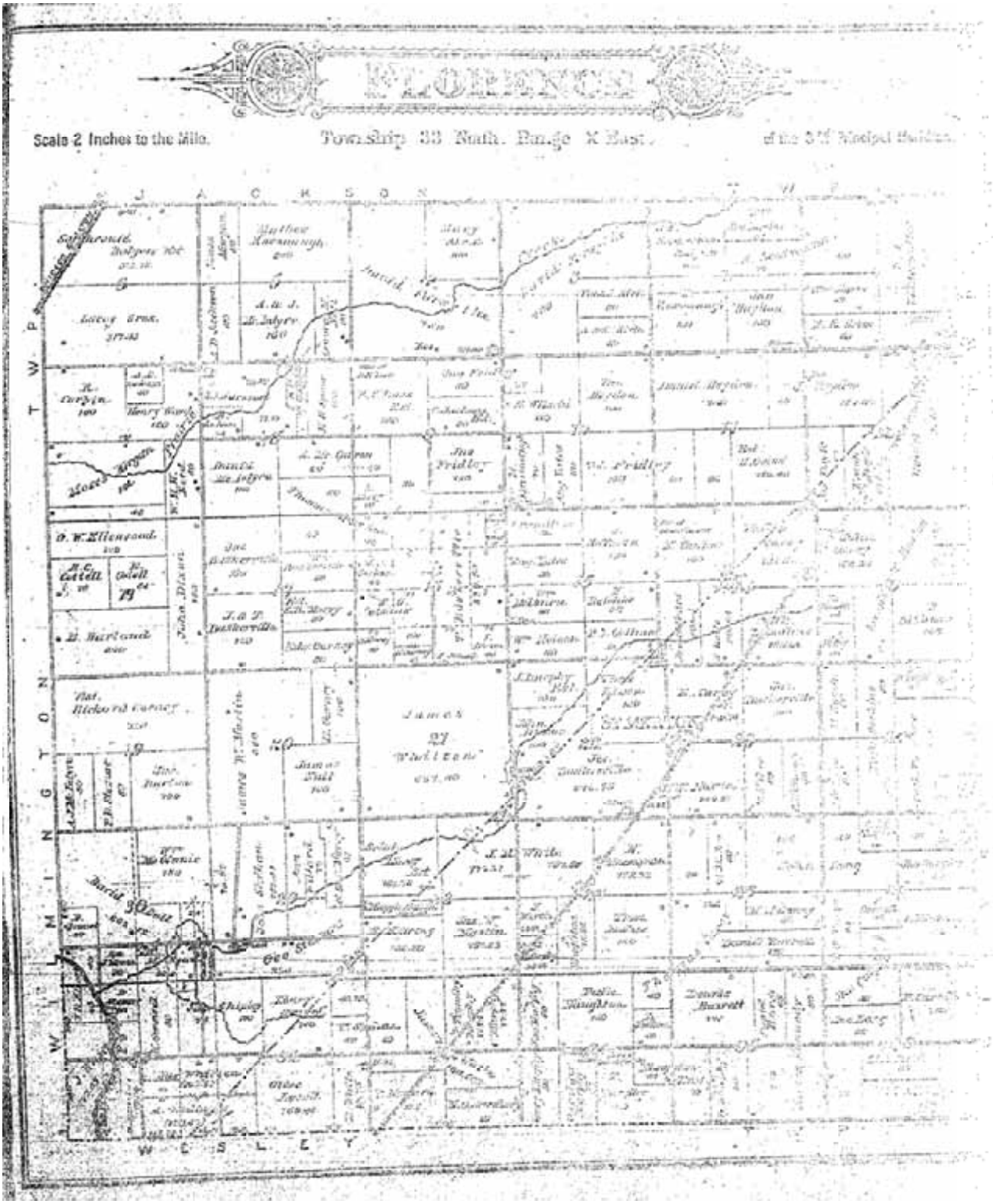
This appendix contains historic farm atlas and plat maps for Florence Township. Refer to Bibliography for map sources.



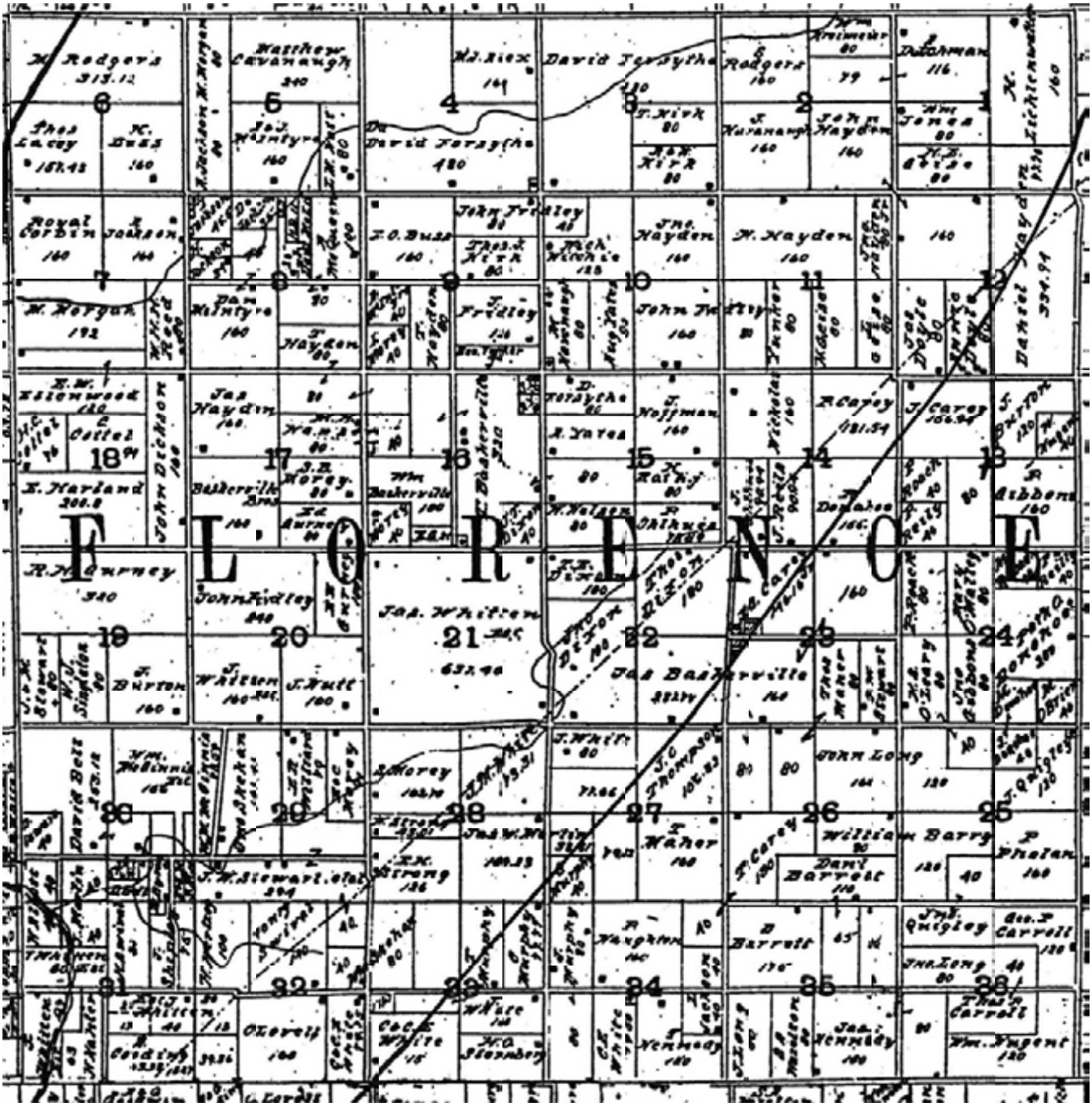
Florence Township 1862



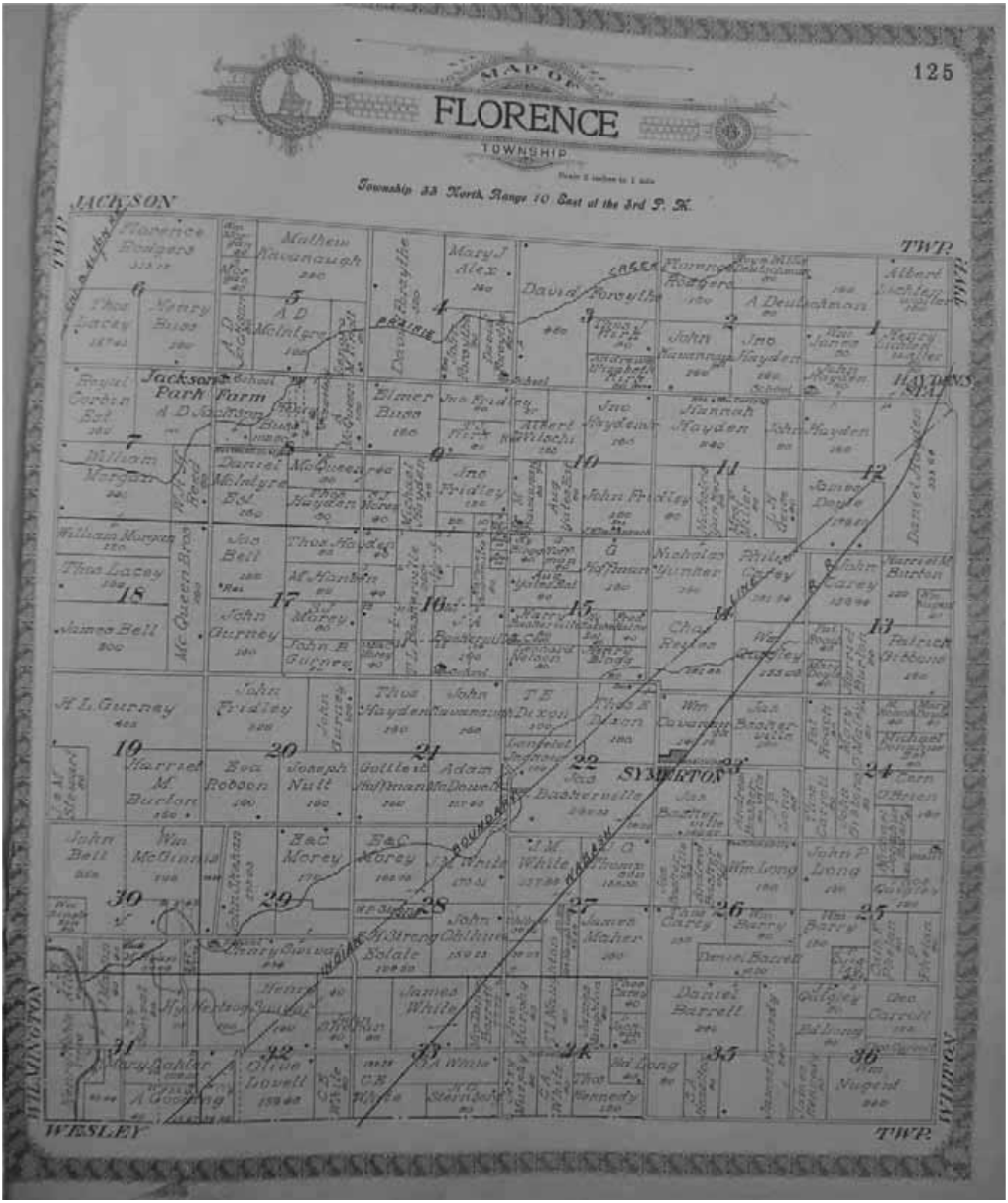
Florence Township 1873



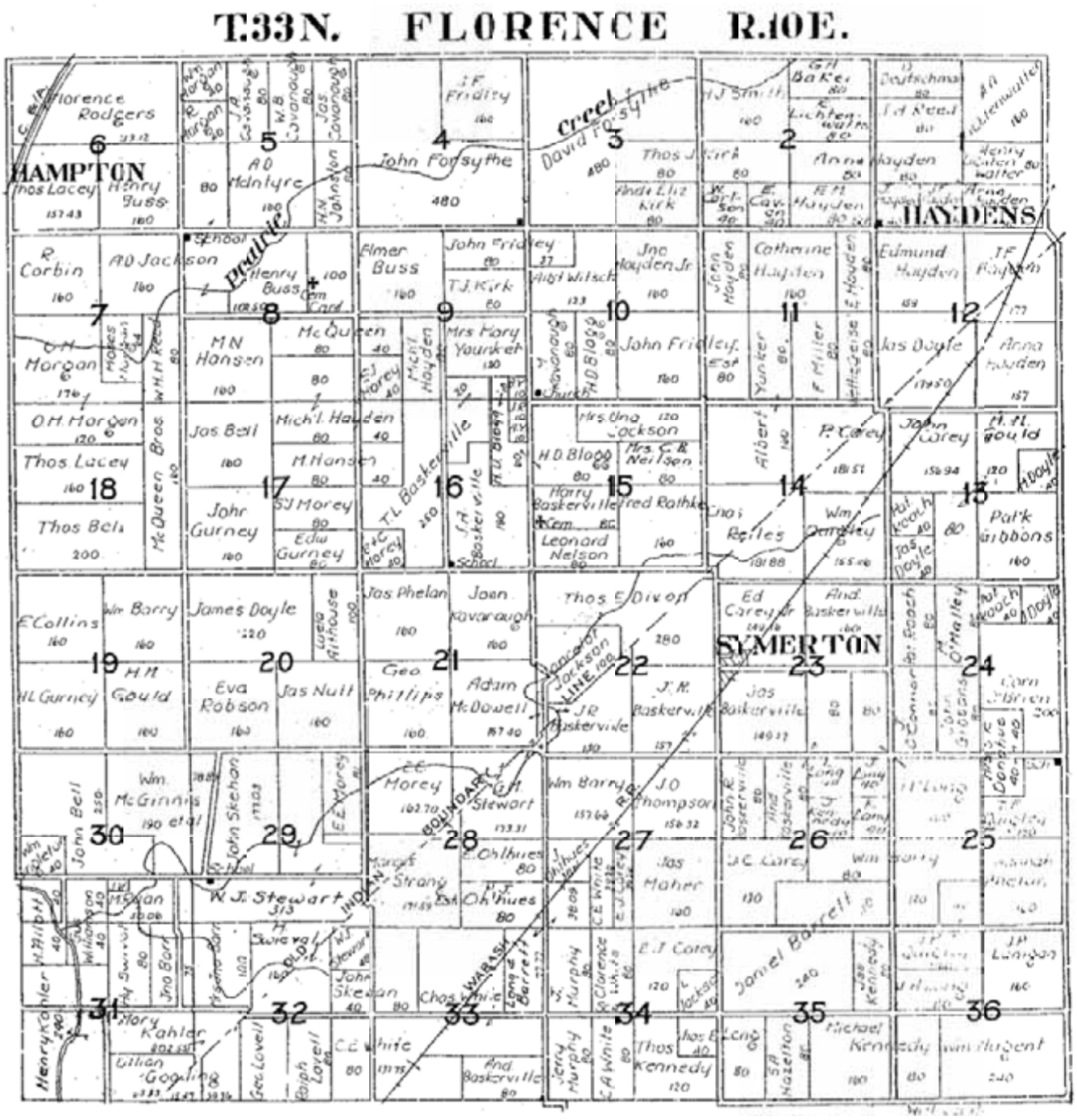
Florence Township 1893



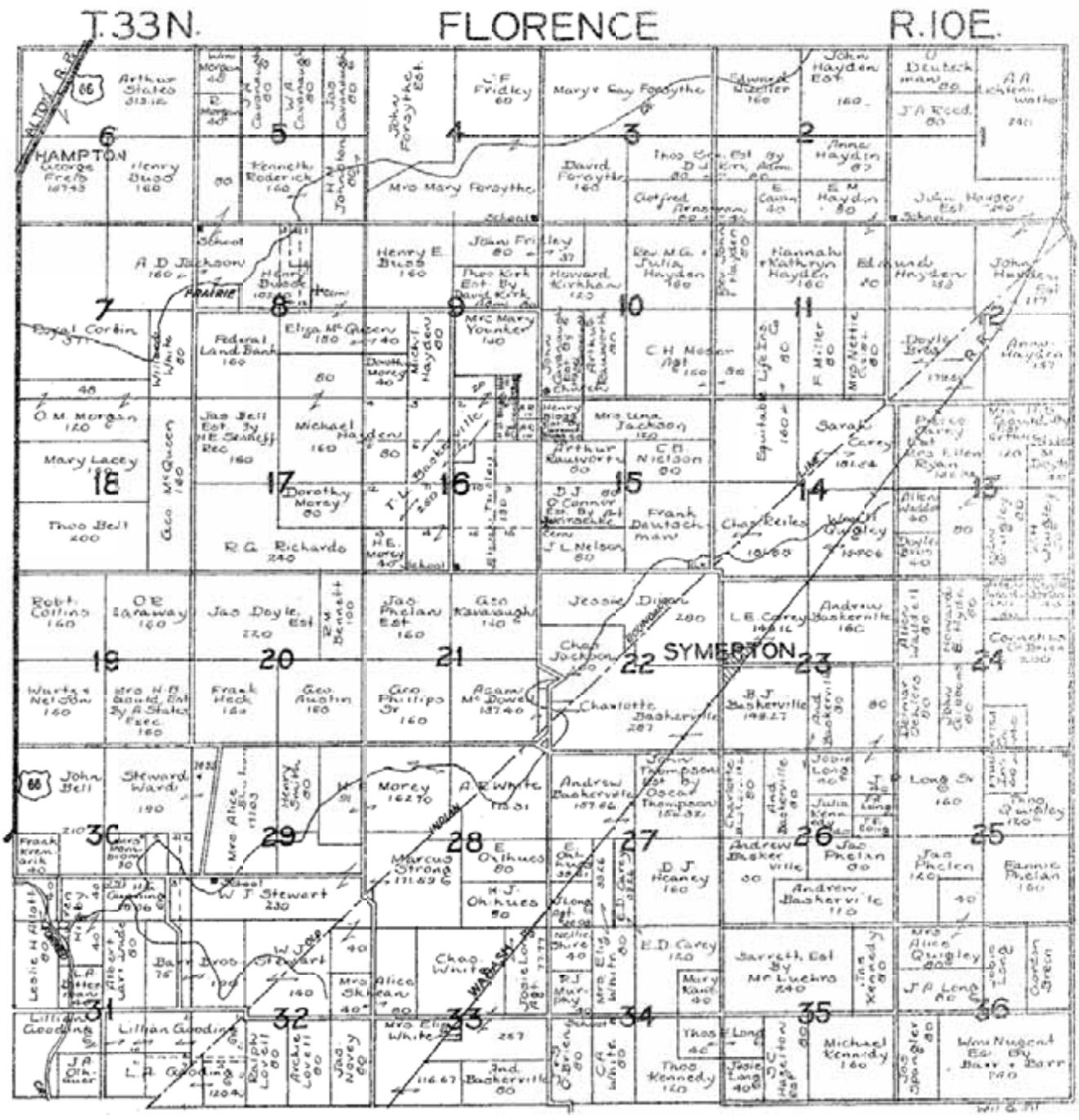
Florence Township 1902



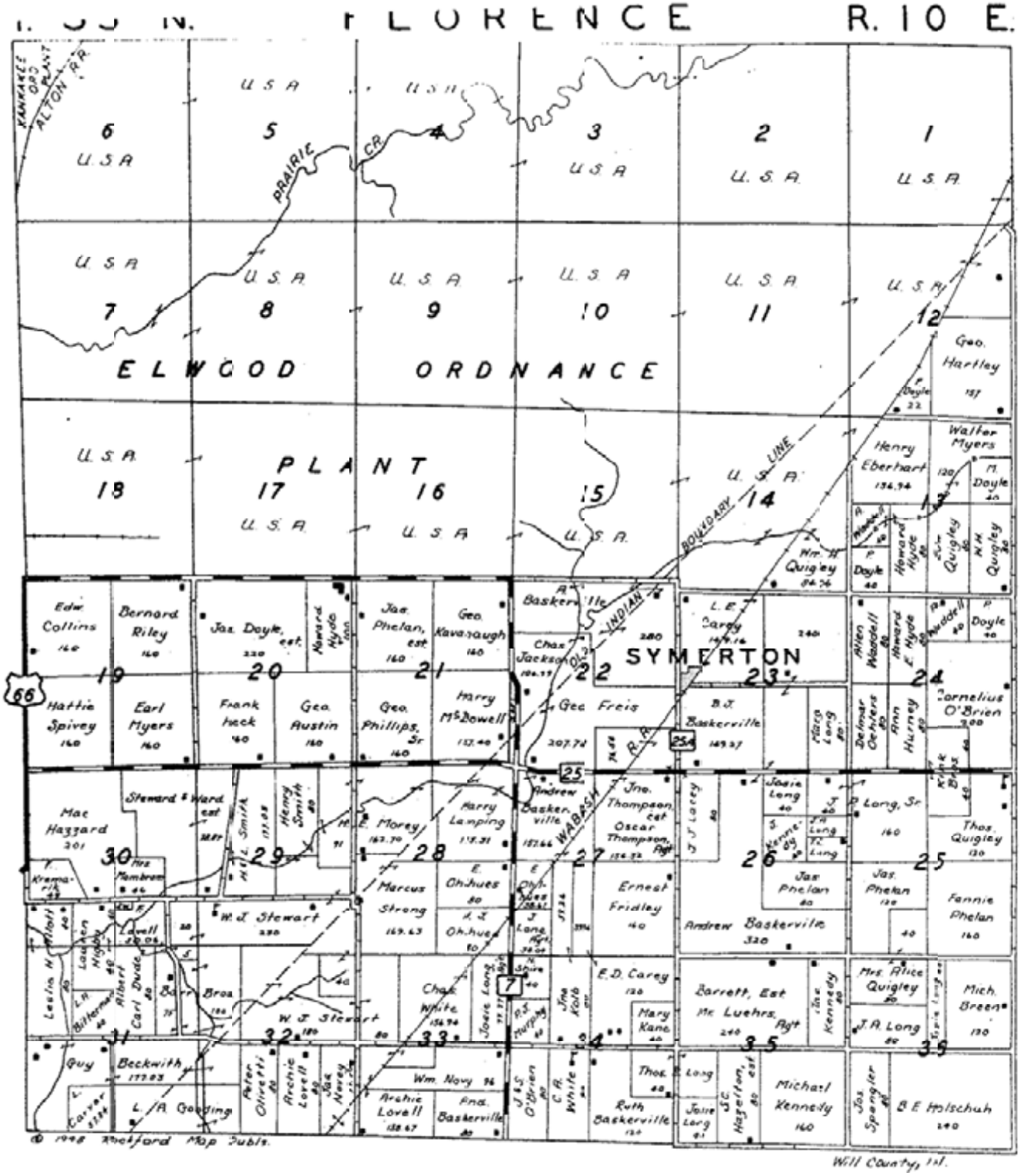
Florence Township 1909



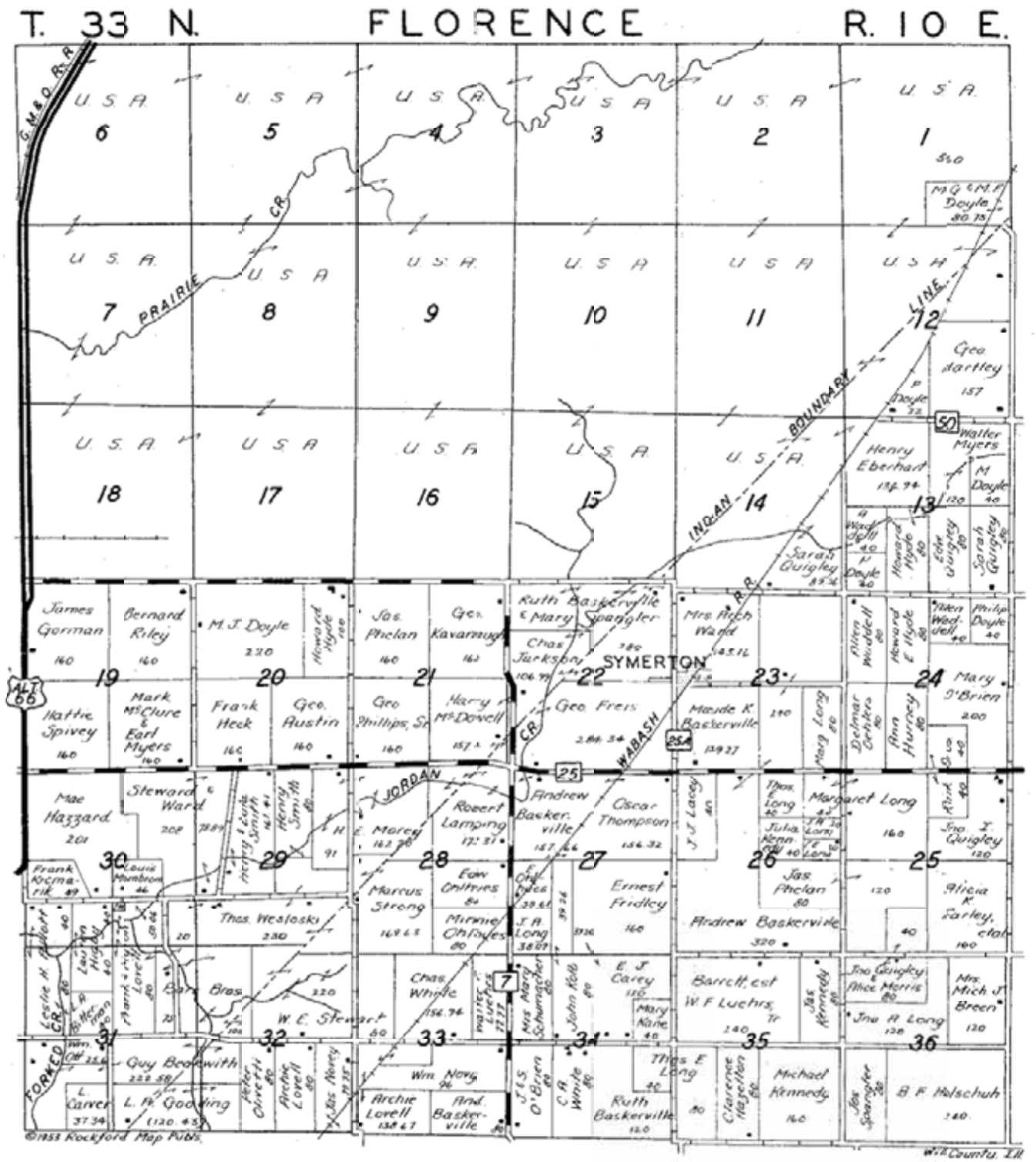
Florence Township 1920s



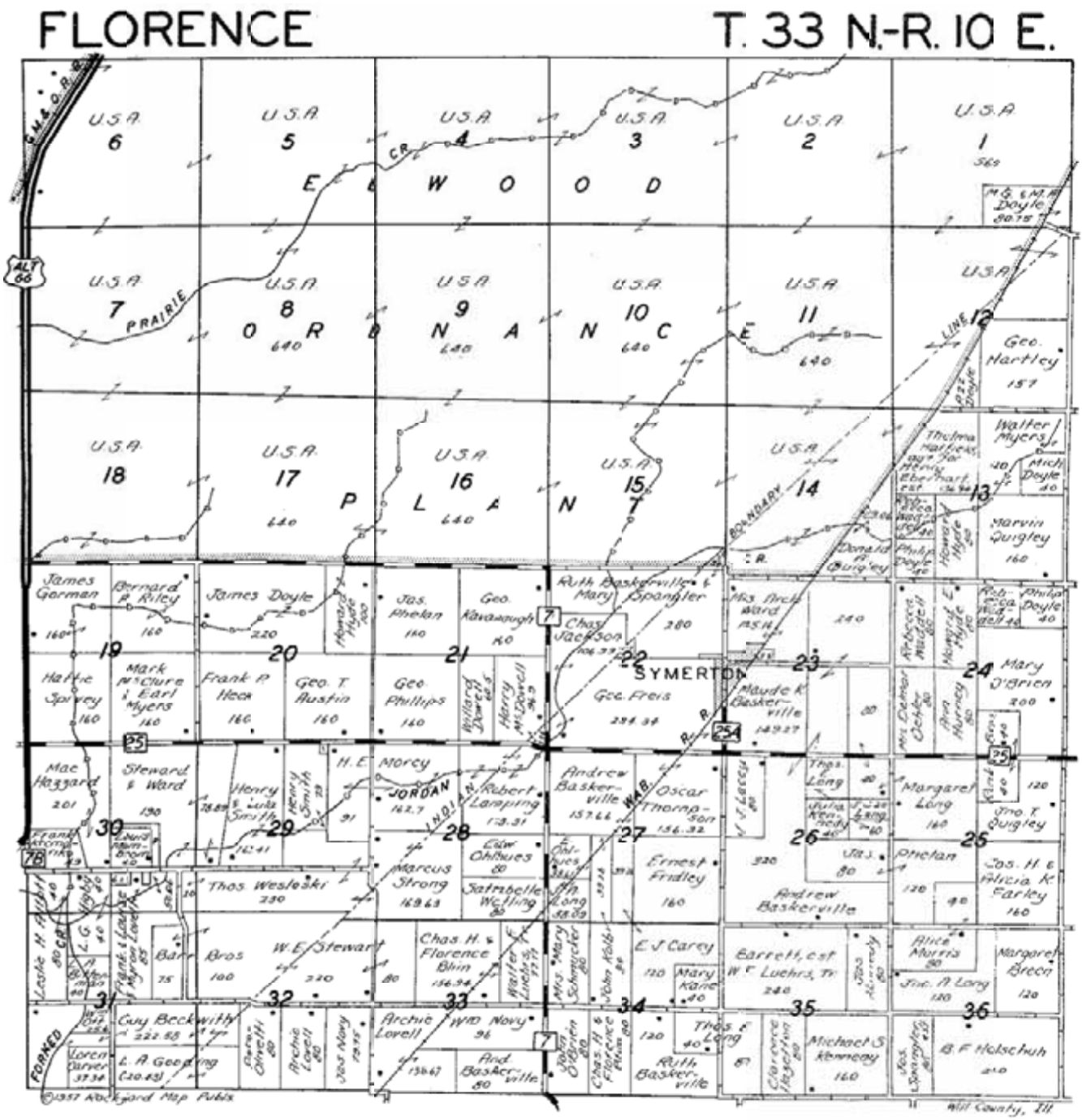
Florence Township circa 1940



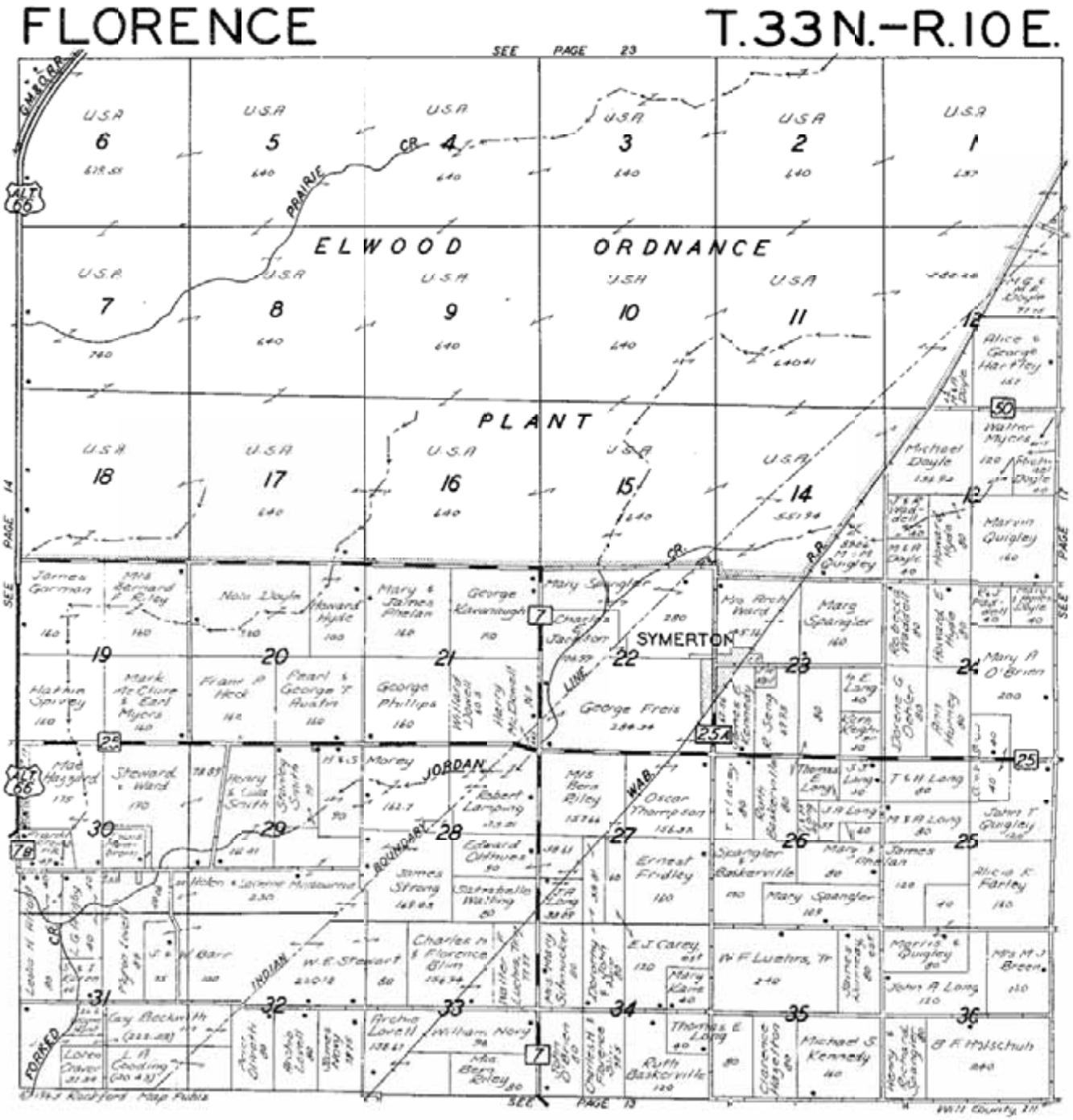
Florence Township 1948



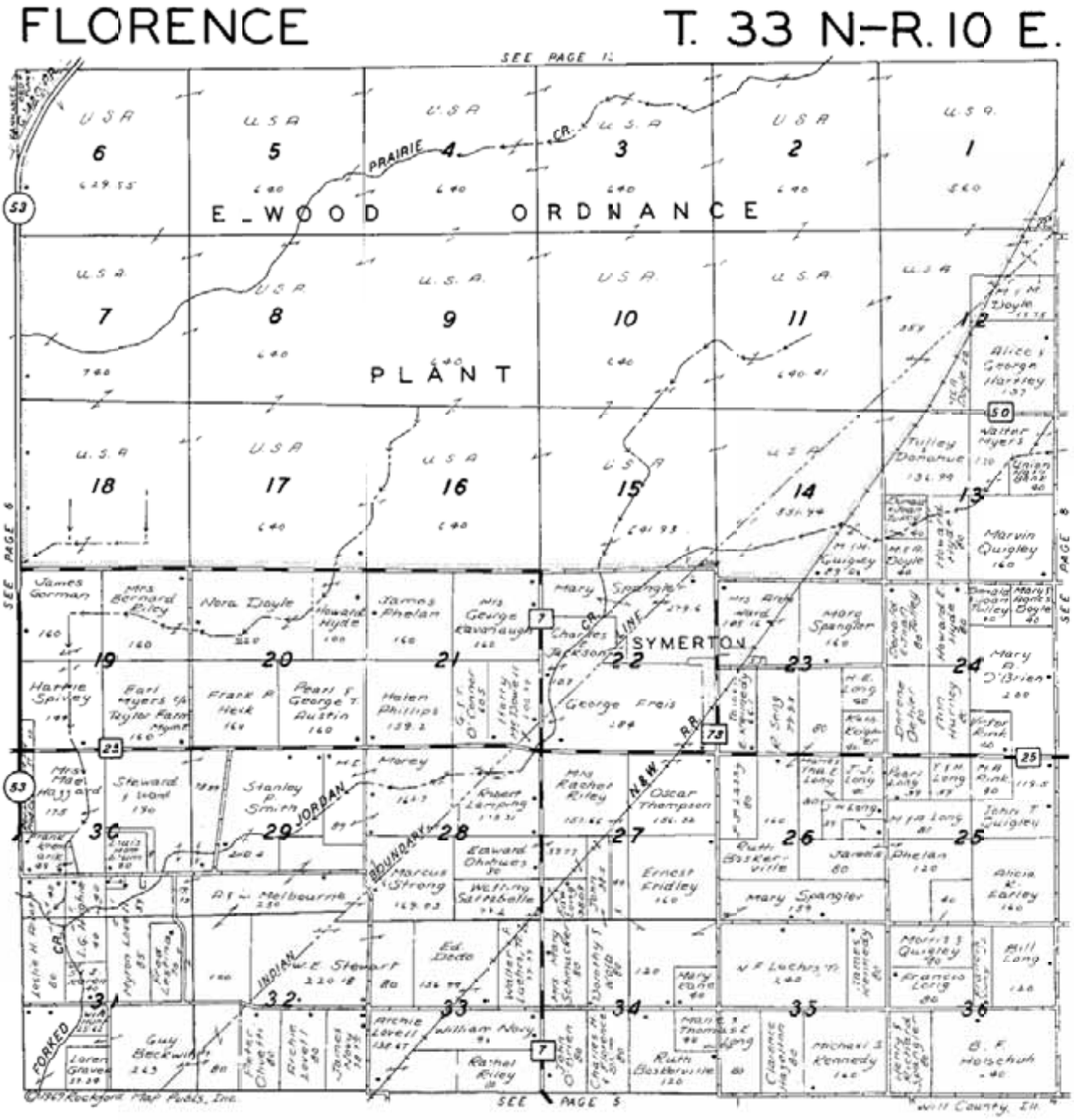
Florence Township 1953



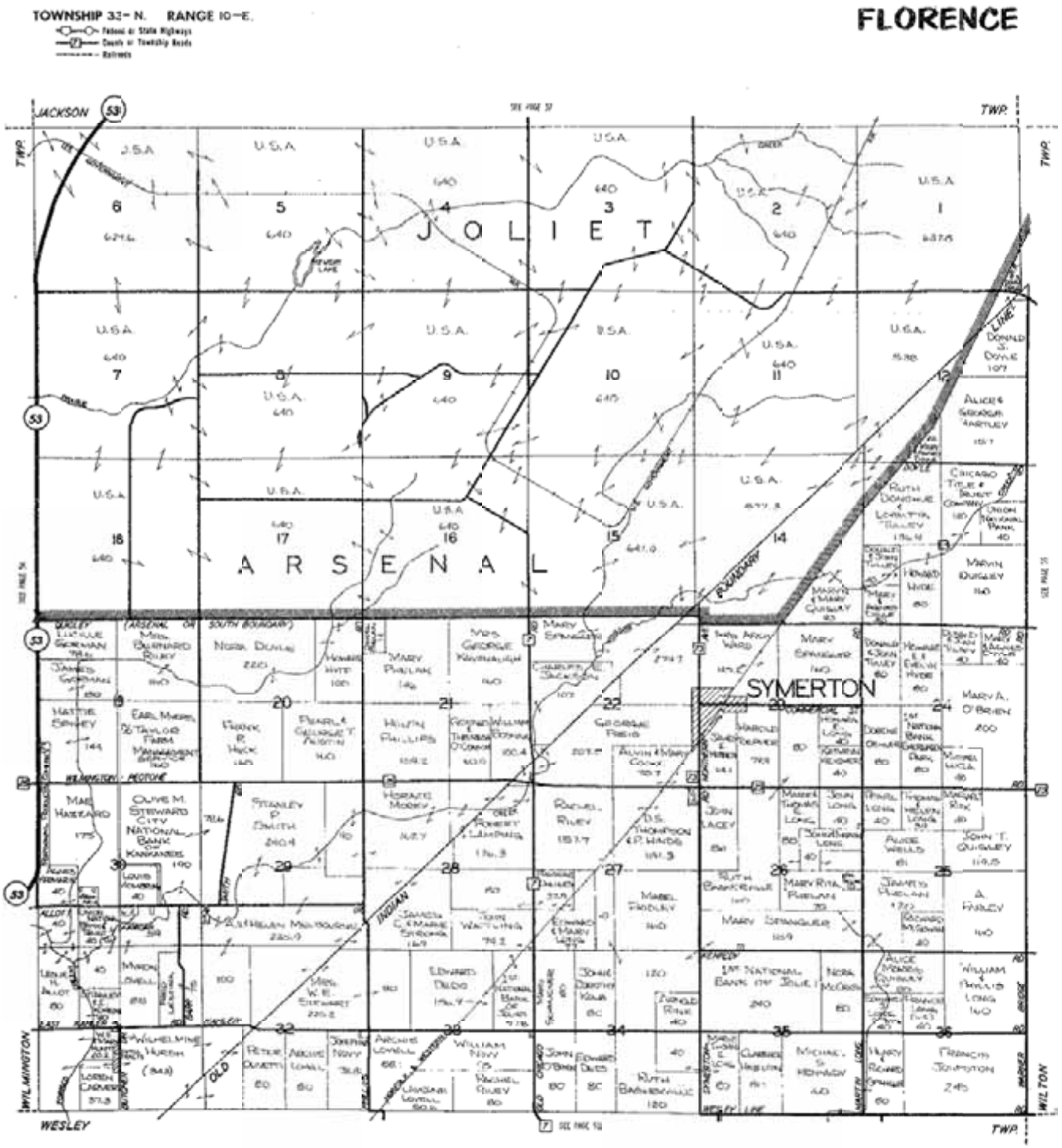
Florence Township 1957



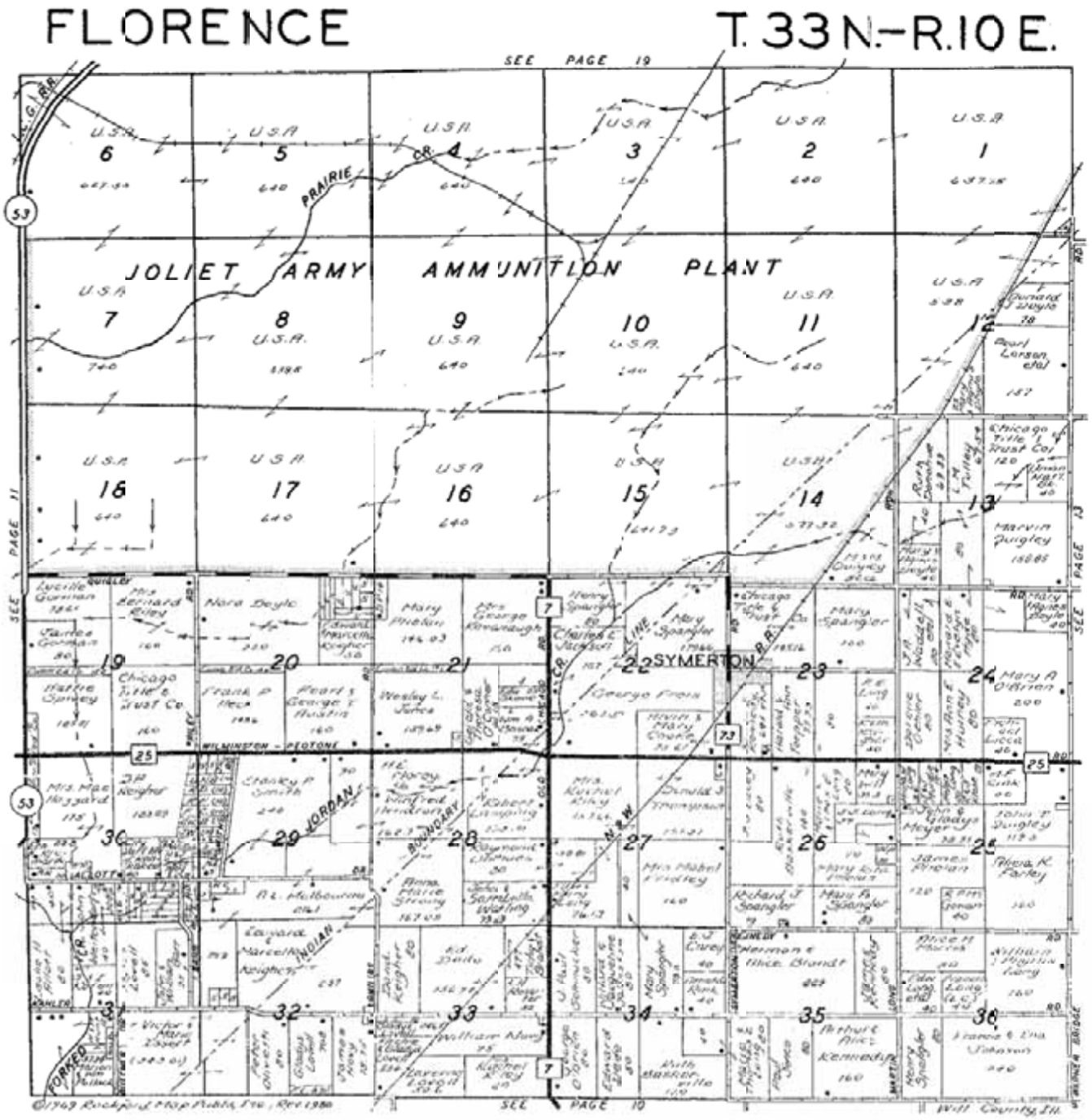
Florence Township 1963



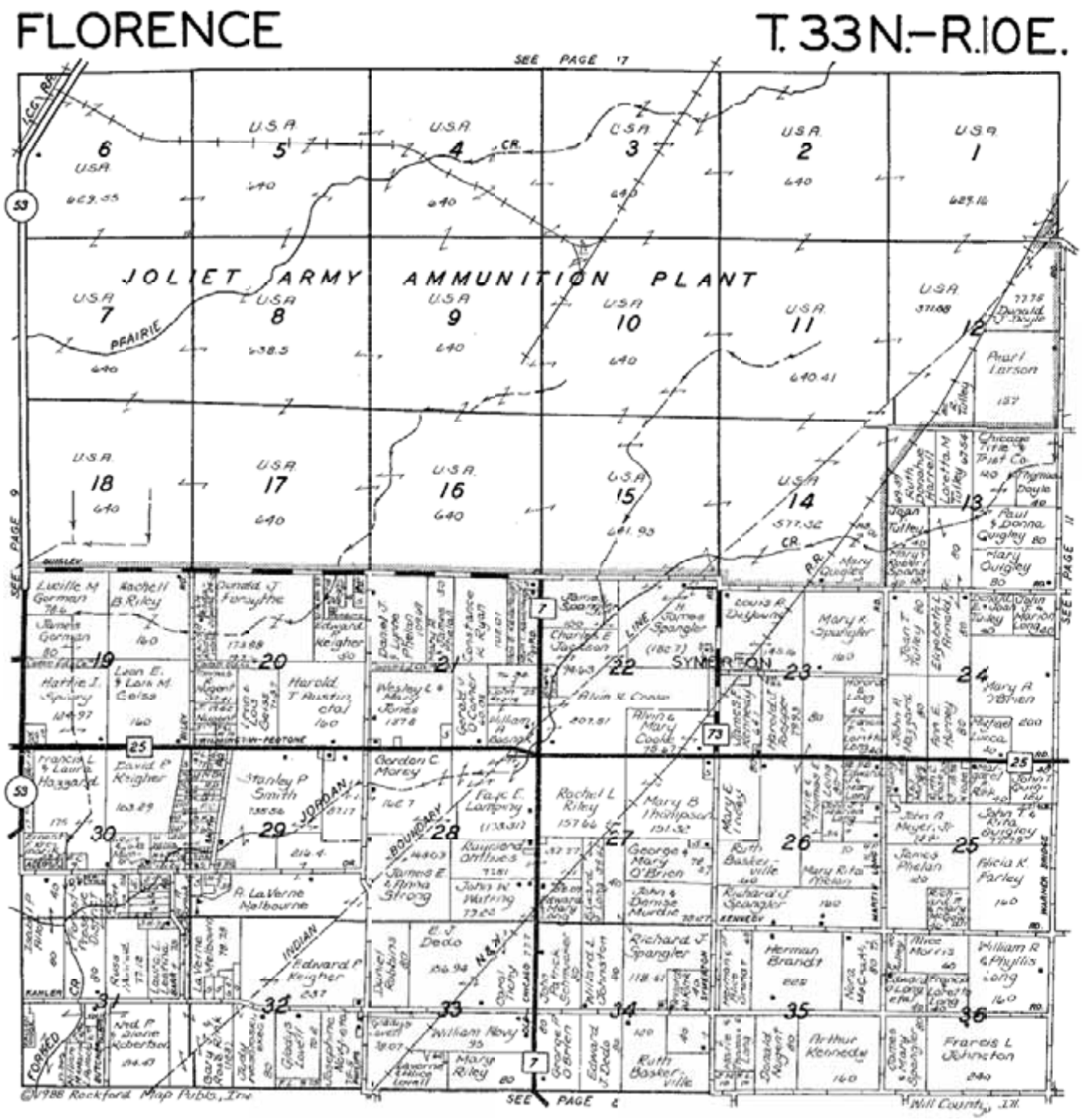
Florence Township 1969



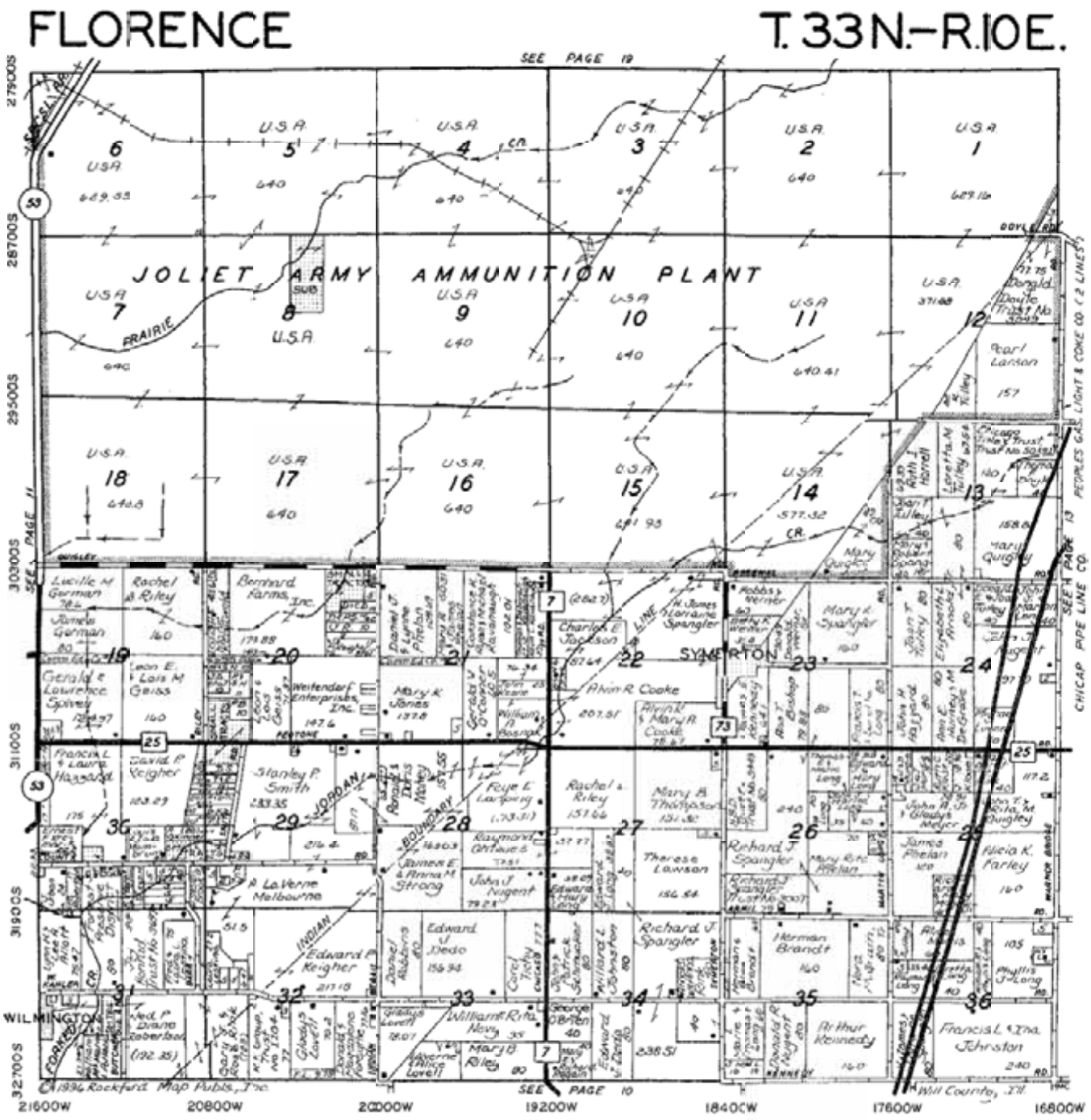
Florence Township 1974



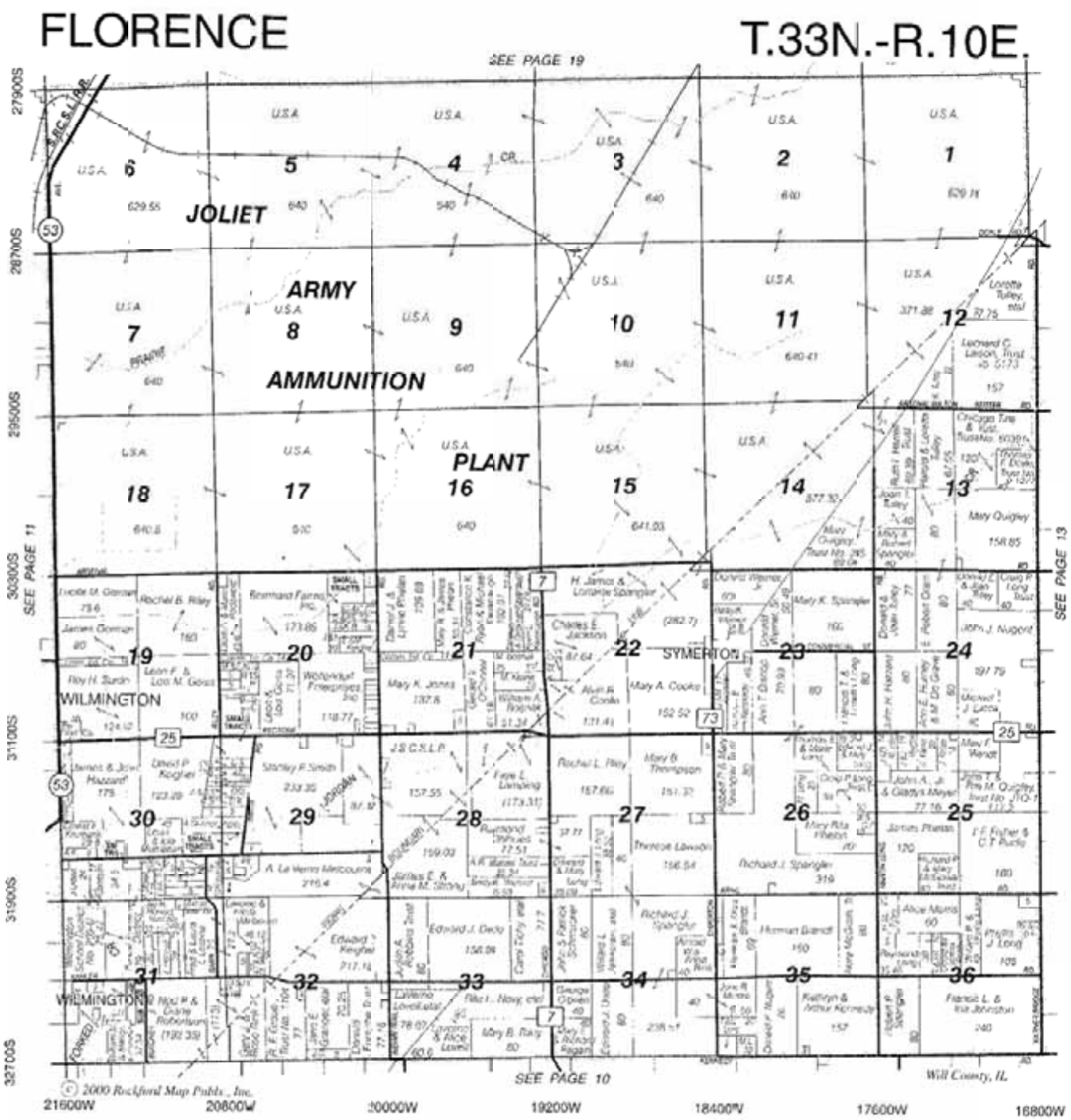
Florence Township 1980



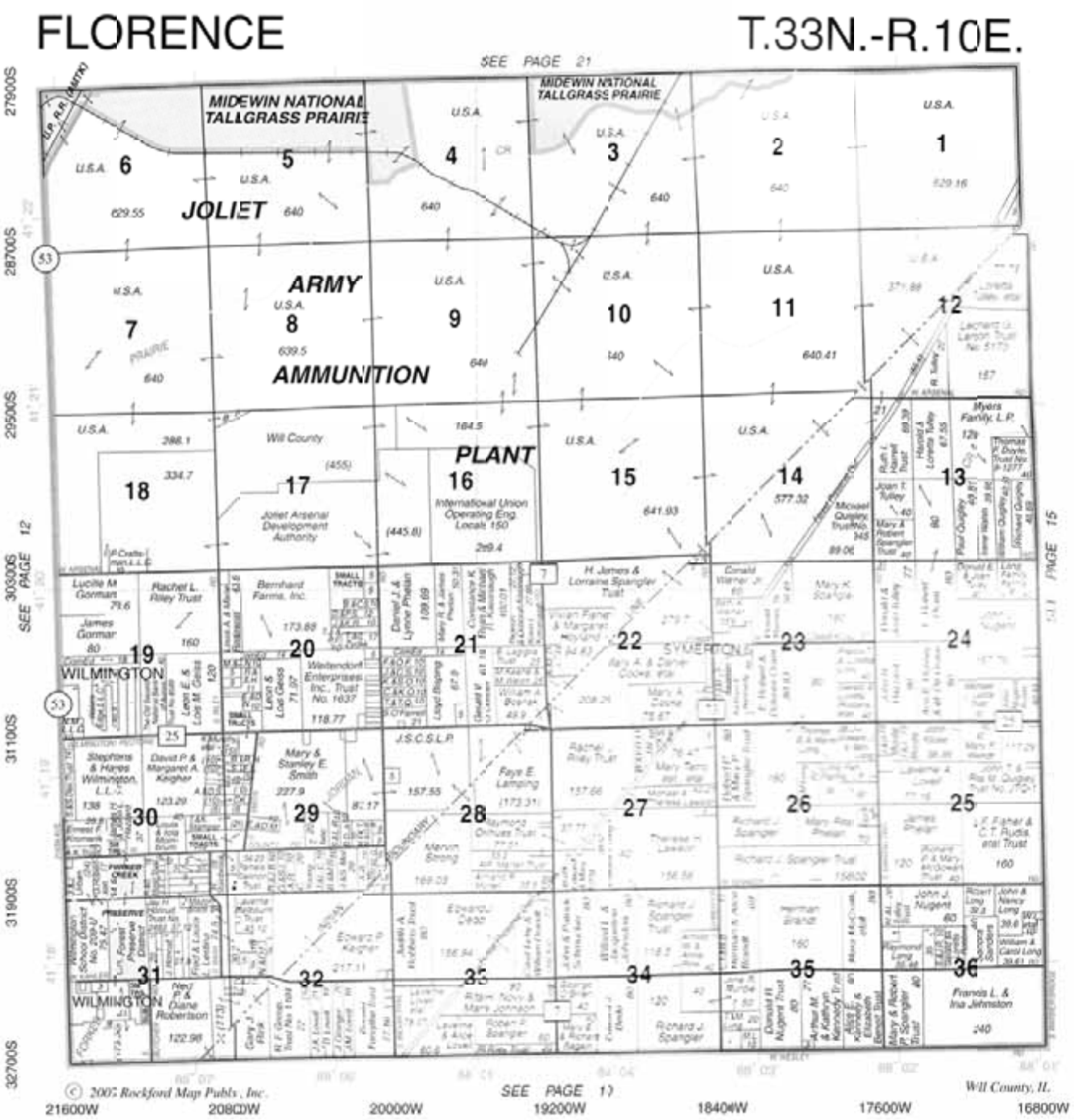
Florence Township 1988



Florence Township 1996



Florence Township 2000



Florence Township 2007

APPENDIX B

SURVEY MAPS

The following maps were generated as part of this study using ArcGIS software. The background baseline mapping data were provided by the Will County Land Use Department. The contemporary aerial photography that forms the background for the maps is dated 2009. The historic aerial photography of Maps 6 and 7 is dated August 3–4, 1939.

This appendix contains:

Key to Properties by Map ID Number

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
1	18-36-100-007	32121 Martin Long Road	John A. Long, Jr., Farmstead	Contributing
5	18-36-400-003	17221 Kahler Road	Wilson–Nugent–Holschuh Far	Contributing
6	18-35-100-002	Kahler Road	Barrett Tenant Farmstead	Non-contributing
7	18-35-200-003	17757 Kennedy Road	James Kennedy Farmstead	Local landmark potential
8	18-35-400-003	17960 Town Line Road	Michael Kennedy Farmstead	Local landmark potential
10	18-34-200-005	18634 Kahler Road	Naughton–Carey Farmstead	Non-contributing
12	18-34-400-001	Kahler Road	Murphy–Kennedy Farmstead	Non-contributing
13	18-34-400-002	32418 Symerton Road	Edward Long Farmstead	Non-contributing
15	18-33-200-001	19422 Kahler Road	Hill–White Farmstead	Local landmark potential
17	18-33-400-007	32386 Old Chicago Road	James White Farmstead	Local landmark potential
18	18-32-200-005	20024 Kahler Road	Skehan Tenant Farmstead	Contributing
20	18-32-400-006	32384 Indian Trail Road	Clarence E. White Farmstead	Local landmark potential
21	18-32-400-011	20219 Kahler Road	Lovell Farmstead	Local landmark
22	18-32-200-001	20252 Kahler Road	Swival–Stewart Farmstead	Local landmark potential
23	18-32-300-003	20395 Kahler Road	Lovell–Olivetti Farmstead	Non-contributing
26	18-31-200-003	32030 Barr Road	Barr Brothers Farmstead	Local landmark potential
28	18-31-300-010	21527 Kahler Road	Whitten–Kahler–Beckwith Far	Contributing
30	18-31-300-017	21247 Kahler Road	Kahler–Hunt Farmstead	Non-contributing
40		Wilton Center Road	Wilton Center Road Bridge	Contributing
41	18-20-200-018	30466 Indian Trail Road	Hyde Farmstead	Contributing
42	—	Warner Bridge Road	Warner Bridge Road Bridge	Contributing
43	—	Illinois Highway 53	Oscar Morgan House	Contributing
51	18-30-300-017	31641 216th Avenue	Stewart–Kremarik Farmstead	Non-contributing
52	18-30-300-021	21551 County Road	Allott Farmstead	Contributing
53	18-30-300-033	21220 County Road	Bell–Hazzard Farmstead	Local landmark potential
54	18-30-400-014	21159 County Road	Site 54	Non-contributing
57	18-29-200-005	20161 Wilmington-Peotone Road	Horace E. Morey Farmstead	Contributing
58	18-29-200-007	20369 Wilmington-Peotone Road	Willard–Smith Farmstead	Contributing
59	18-29-400-014	20269 County Road	Shirk–Stewart Tenant Farmste	Contributing
60	18-29-300-029	31689 Smith Road	Skehan Farmstead	Contributing
61	18-29-300-016	20730 County Road	McGinnis Farmstead	Contributing
65	18-28-100-003	31319 Indian Trail Road	Selah R. Morey Farmstead	Local landmark potential

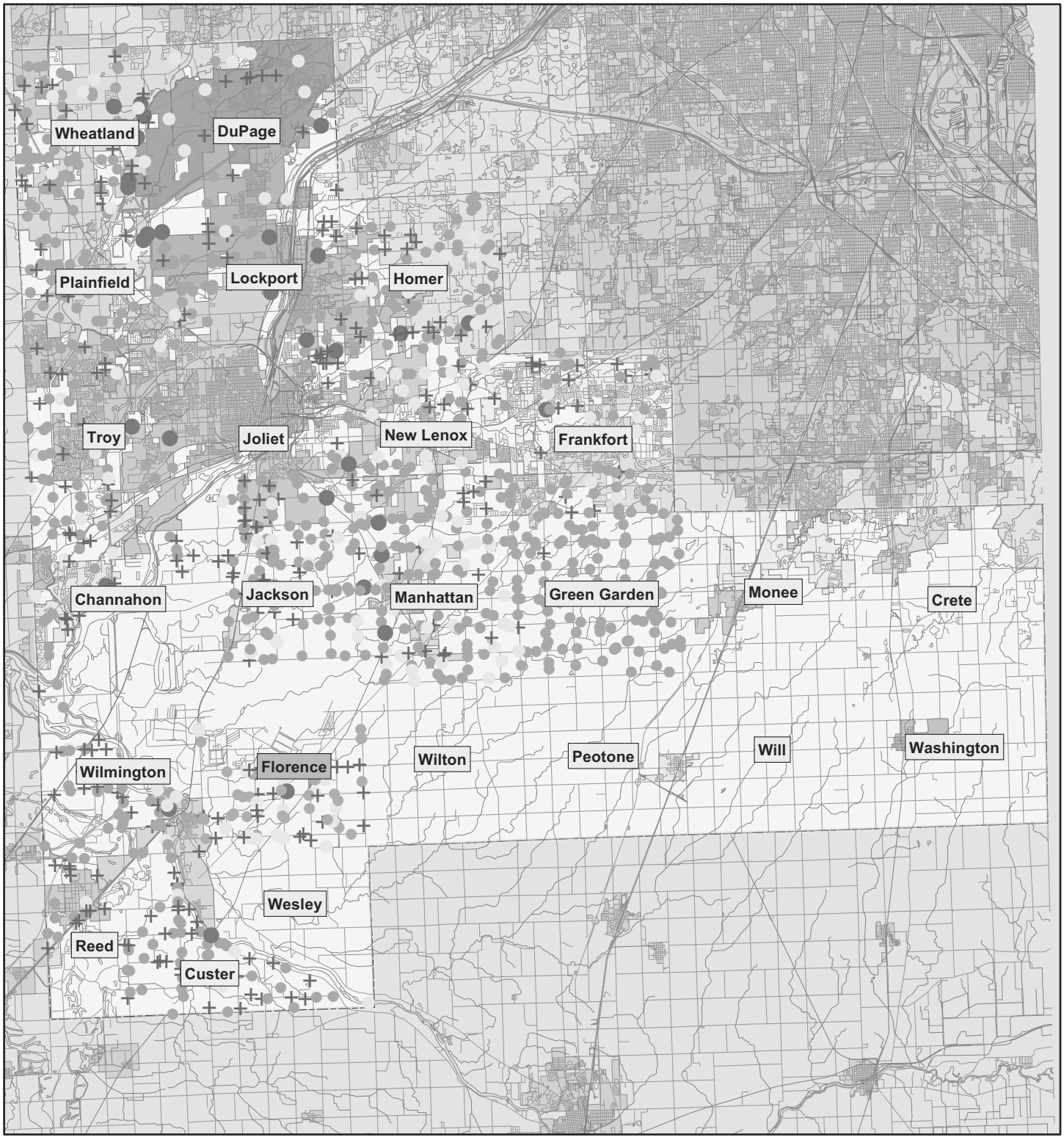
ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
66	18-28-300-003	31703 Indian Trail Road	Strong Farmstead	Non-contributing
68	18-28-400-004	31622 Old Chicago Road	Martin–Ohlhues Farmstead	Local landmark potential
69	18-28-400-012	31700 Old Chicago Road	Ohlhues–Watling Farmstead	Contributing
70	18-28-300-005	Indian Trail Road	Nelson–Strong Farmstead	Non-contributing
73	18-27-200-003	31142 Symerton Road	Thompson Farmstead	Contributing
75	18-27-300-008	31781 Old Chicago Road	Murphy–Long Tenant Farmste	Contributing
76	18-27-400-003	31542 Symerton Road	Maher–Fridley Farmstead	Contributing
77	18-26-100-002	Wilmington-Peotone Road	Baskerville–Connor Farmstea	Non-contributing
78	18-26-200-001	17655 Wilmington-Peotone Road	Long Farmstead	Contributing
81	18-26-400-006	17880 Kennedy Road	Barrett–Baskerville–Spangler	Contributing
82	18-26-400-004	31536 Martin Long Road	Mahoney–Barry–Phelan Farm	Contributing
83	18-25-100-013	31303 Martin Long Road	John Long Farmstead	Contributing
85	18-25-200-003	16801 Warner Bridge Road	Union School	Non-contributing
89	18-24-100-004	17551 Arsenal Road	Roach–Waddell Farmstead	Non-contributing
90	18-24-100-002	Arsenal Road	—	Non-contributing
91	18-24-400-002	17070 Wilmington-Peotone Road	Donahue–Rink Farmstead	Local landmark potential
92	18-24-400-005	30776 Warner Bridge Road	Donahue–O Brien Farmstead	Contributing
93	18-23-200-004	Commercial Street	Andrew J. Baskerville Farmste	Local landmark potential
94	18-23-304-006	18216 Wilmington-Peotone Road	Martin–Baskerville Farmstead	Local landmark potential
96	18-23-100-004	18220 Commercial Street	Miller–Neilson Farmstead	Contributing
98	18-22-100-009	30725 Old Chicago Road	Dixon–Jackson Farmstead	Local landmark potential
99	18-22-300-003	19076 Wilmington-Peotone Road	John R. Baskerville Farmstead	National Register potential
101	18-21-100-003	30459 Indian Trail Road	—	Non-contributing
102	18-21-200-004	30362 Old Chicago Road	Kavanaugh Farmstead	Contributing
103	18-21-200-007	30300 Old Chicago Road	Kavanaugh Tenant House	Contributing
104	18-21-300-008	19920 Wilmington-Peotone Road	Whitten–Phillips Farmstead	Non-contributing
106	18-21-400-001	19464 Wilmington-Peotone Road	McDowell Farmstead	Non-contributing
107	18-21-400-012	30980 Old Chicago Road	Whitten–McDowell Farmstead	Contributing
109	18-20-100-003	30533 Riley Road	Martin–Fridley–Doyle Farmst	Contributing
110	18-20-200-026	20221 Arsenal Road	Howard Hyde House	Local landmark potential
111	18-20-200-012	20191 Arsenal Road	—	Non-contributing
112	18-20-200-006	30400 Indian Trail Road	Gurney–Hyde Farmstead	Non-contributing
114	18-20-300-005	Wilmington-Peotone Road	Baxter–Heck Farmstead	Contributing

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
116	18-19-100-002	30643 Illinois Highway 53	Gurney–Collins–Gorman Far	Non-contributing
117	18-19-200-001	30378 Riley Road	Gurney–Riley Farmstead	Contributing
118	18-19-400-002	20862 Wilmington-Peotone Road	Burton–Gould–Myers Tenant	Local landmark potential
119	18-14-400-002	17938 Arsenal Road	Riorden–Quigley Farmstead	Contributing
121	18-13-400-007	16882 Arsenal Road	Gibbons–Quigley Farmstead	Non-contributing
123	18-12-400-001	29212 Warner Bridge Road	Hayden–Hartley Farmstead	Contributing
126			John Carey Farmstead	
127			Carey tenant Farmstead	
128			Yunker Farmstead	
129				
130			Hoffman–Jackson Farmstead	
131			Rathke Farmstead	
132				
133			Nelson Farmstead	
134			German Evangelical Cemetery	Cemetery
135			T. L. Baskerville Farmstead	
136				
137			Center School	N/A
138			William Bell Farmstead	
139			Hayden Farmstead	
140			Hansen Farmstead	
141			Morey Farmstead	
142			Gurney–Richards Farmstead	
145			Harland–Bell Farmstead	
146			Dixon–McQueen Farmstead	
147			Reed Farmstead	
148			Royal Corbin Farmstead	
149			Ward–Jackson Farmstead	
150			Morgan Farmstead	
151			Starr s Grove School	N/A
152				
153			McQueen Farmstead	
154				

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
155			Isaac Jackson Farmstead	
156			Starr s Grove Cemetery	Cemetery
157				
158			Elmer C. Buss Farmstead	
159				
160				
161			Fridley–Younker Farmstead	
162			Rausch Farmstead	
163			German Evangelical Church	
164			Yates Farmstead	
165			Fridley Farmstead	
166				
167			John Hayden, Jr., Farmstead	
168			Witschi Farmstead	
169				
170			Geiss–Miller Farmstead	
171			Geiss Farmstead	
172			John Hayden Farmstead	
173				
174			Daniel Hayden Farmstead	
175			Lichtenwalter Farmstead	
176			Deutschman–Reed Farmstead	
177			Jones–Hayden Farmstead	
178			Hayden School	N/A
179				
180				
181			Kirk Farmstead	
182				
183			Forsythe Farmstead	
184				
185			Alex–Fridley Farmstead	
186			Forsythe Farmstead	
187			Forsythe School	N/A

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
188			Cavanaugh Farmstead	
189				
190				
191			McIntyre Farmstead	
192			Henry E. Buss Farmstead	
193			Rodgers Farmstead	
194			Lacey Farmstead	
195	—	Arsenal Road	Joliet Arsenal Gatehouse	Not assessed
196			Ohlhues–Reiles Farmstead	
197			Reiles Farmstead	
198			Ohlhues–Rathke Farmstead	

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
Map Will County Key Map



FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
Map 2: Surveyed Sites South Half of Township

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
Map 3: Surveyed Sites North Half of Township

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
Map 4 Signi icance o Sites South Hal o Township

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
Map 5: Significance of Sites North Half of Township

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP

Map 6: 1939 Aerial Photography South Half of Township

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP

Map 7: 1939 Aerial Photography North Half of Township

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
Map 8: Potential Midewin Buffer District

Mide in uffer Distri t

N tion l Register potenti l

o ll ndm r potenti l

Contributing

Non- ontributing

This district should include adjacent areas of Wilton Township.
A final determination of boundaries should await survey of that township.

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

N W E S