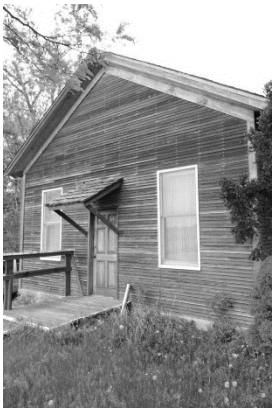
Rural Historic Structural Survey
of
Monee Township
Will County, Illinois







Rural Historic Structural Survey
of
Monee Township
Will County, Illinois

November 2019

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

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

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Executive Summary

At the request of the Will County Land Use Department, acting as liaison for the Will County Historic Preservation Commission, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) has prepared this summary report of the intensive survey of existing farmsteads in Monee Township in Will County, Illinois. The survey was performed between January and August 2019 and included thirty-six square miles with 72 farmsteads and related sites containing more than 450 individual structures.

Monee Township contains two Will County Landmarks, the Koelling–Riegel–Manilow Farmstead, which was designated a landmark in 2003, and the Monee Creamery, designated in 2016. No properties in the township are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Of the 72 farmsteads and other sites identified in the current survey, thirteen properties have the potential to be considered for Will County Historic Landmark designation. However, none of the sites are judged to be eligible for listing in the National Register. 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. No potential historic districts were identified.

The Monee Township intensive survey was performed to update the previous survey of the township performed in 1988. In the previous survey, 68 farmsteads and related sites were identified in the township, containing at least 350 structures. As a "windshield" survey, the 1988 survey excluded large portions of the township where contemporary development had occurred prior to that date. Because of the rapid pace of contemporary development in Will County in the 1990s and changes to the agricultural economy, the Will County Historic Preservation Commission recognized the need to reassess the agricultural heritage of the region. WJE has previously completed intensive survey projects in all of the other of the County's twenty-four townships; Monee Township is the last survey project of this overall effort. Copies of the previous survey reports were provided to public libraries and respective governing agencies in the area. Cumulatively, the surveys have documented more than 11,000 structures on approximately 2,080 sites throughout all of Will County. Performing a separate survey for each township has allowed more detailed information to be collected, such as individual photographs of each historic structure, an assessment of current conditions, and preparation of site sketch plans from aerial photographs. With the permission of property owners, the survey work was performed with close-up access to the buildings, which allowed for close range photography and a reliable identification of building materials. The survey data was compiled and analyzed using database software and geographic information system (GIS) software.

In this report, Chapter 1 contains a description of the project methodology. Chapters 2 and 3 provide the historical and architectural context, within which the surveyed farmsteads were established, grew, were reconfigured, and in some cases were abandoned. Chapter 2 covers the historical context of Will County agriculture, as well as the historical development of Monee Township. Chapter 3 discusses the architectural context of the rural survey area. Chapter 4 summarizes the survey results and includes a discussion of the National Register and Will County criteria for designation of historical and architectural significance. Also in Chapter 4 are several tabulations of the survey results and an overview of a select number of historically and/or architecturally significant farmsteads. A bibliography of research sources follows the text. Appendices include historic plat maps for Monee Township, and maps developed for this report to present the results of the survey and research.

Federal Assistance Acknowledgement

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

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

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Equal Employment Opportunity Officer
1 Natural Resources Way
Springfield, Illinois 62702

CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

Background

At the request of the Will County Land Use Department, acting as liaison for the Will County Historic Preservation Commission, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) has prepared this summary report of the intensive survey of farmsteads in Monee Township in Will County, Illinois. A previous survey of farmsteads in Will County was performed in 1988. Beginning in 1999, WJE has prepared intensive surveys of each individual township in Will County. Previous townships surveyed included Plainfield, Wheatland, and Lockport (completed November 2000), Du Page (November 2001), Homer (November 2002), New Lenox (August 2003), Green Garden (July 2004), Manhattan (September 2006), Frankfort (December 2007), Joliet and Troy (April 2009), Channahon (April 2009), Wilmington (December 2009), Jackson (December 2009), Reed (January 2011), Florence (August 2011), Custer (July 2012), Wesley (July 2012), Peotone (October 2014), Wilton (September 2016), Crete (December 2017), Will (December 2017), and Washington (November 2018). This report for Monee Township completes the intensive level survey project for all townships in Will County.

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

Survey Methodology

Survey Team

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

Background Research

Work on the rural survey began in January 2019. Background research was performed at the State of Illinois Library in Springfield, the Joliet Public Library, the Peotone Public Library, and Governors State University. 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 and 1961 was reviewed to identify historic and existing farmstead sites. Each site was assigned a three or four digit reference number, in which the first digit(s) indicates the section number location of the site. For example, site 1701 is located in Section 17. The reference numbers are correlated with the 1988 survey numbers, where 1988 site 17-01 is referred to as site 1701 in this report. Intensive field survey work was performed in May 2019. The survey team first approached the primary residence on the site to request permission of the homeowner/tenant to conduct the survey on the farmstead site. At sites where no one was home, or where owner permission was not provided, the site was surveyed from the public right-of-way. For a few sites where no permission was available and where no structures are visible from the public right-of-way, photography provided by Pictometry was used

for the survey.[1] Typically each structure on the site was photographed individually using a digital camera. For selected sites, an unmanned aerial vehicle ("drone") was used to provide supplementary photography from an elevated viewpoint. A sketch plan of the farmstead was prepared. Written notes for each building included a listing of exterior materials, overall condition, and estimated decade of construction based on structural type and style. Any history information provided by the owner, such as dates of construction or names of original owners, was also noted.

Database and Base Map Preparation

Mapping for the survey was prepared using QGIS.[2] Baseline data showing roads, railways, streams, township boundaries, and municipal boundaries was provided by the Will County Land Use Department. Georeferenced aerial survey photographs taken between April and November 2014 was also provided by the Will County Land Use Department for mapping purposes. Individual points were added to the baseline map at the location of each farmstead site surveyed. Each point represents a particular record in the Microsoft Access database. The database contains all field survey information; historical information specific to each property, such as names of previous owners based on historic atlases and plat maps; and the assessment of historic significance. On the database forms, the "notes" field typically contains other miscellaneous observations of the project team from the field work. Occasionally, this field contains verbal information from the resident or another source; these are so noted.

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

Presentations

A presentation of the survey results was made to the Will County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on August 7, 2019, in a special meeting held at the Monee Community Building. This final summary report incorporates comments provided by the HPC members, Will County staff, and Illinois State Historic Preservation Office staff on a draft of the report.

Report and Submittals

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

1. Pictometry is a commercial service providing oblique imagery. Oblique imagery is aerial imagery captured at an angle of 40 to 45 degrees, designed to provide a more natural perspective and make objects easier to recognize and interpret. Oblique aerial images captured from the north, south, east, and west directions offer a 360-degree view of the property. Imagery is published by Eagle View, Bothell, Washington.
2. QGIS is an open-source brand of GIS software. Version 2.18.19 was used for the mapping in this report. GIS stands for geographic information system, a computerized methodology for organizing data geographically.

Survey Gaps and Future Research

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

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

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

An unmanned aerial vehicle ("drone") was used to provide supplementary photography for the field survey. Above: The Albers–Bonem Farmstead, site 602 in the present survey. Below: The Buchmeier–Esch Farmstead, site 702 in the present survey.

CHAPTER 2

CONTEXT HISTORY OF THE RURAL SURVEY AREA

Geologic and Topographic Background to the Illinois Region

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

A significant feature left by the advance and retreat of glaciers in the northeast corner of the state are glacial moraines—low mounds several miles long left by the furthest advance of glaciers in the Wisconsinan period. The last ice sheets in this area began to retreat approximately 13,500 years ago. The retreating and melting glaciers continued to impact the area for a few more thousand years, as the outflow deposited sand and gravel. Lake Wauponsee was impounded by glacial moraines to the south but drained through a narrow gap in the moraines near the present-day city of Kankakee. The resulting Kankakee Torrent formed the Kankakee River valley and deposited sand, gravel, boulders, and rubble along the valley as well as exposing outcroppings of bedrock.[3]

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

The northern and eastern portions of the township are drained by Thorn Creek, Deer Creek, and their tributaries. Deer Creek arises just east of the Village of Monee in Section 22 of Monee Township. Thorn Creek arises nearby, also in Section 22. The two creeks flow generally parallel to each other toward the northeast. Thorn Creek exits through Section 1 of Monee Township and flows into southern Cook County. Thorn Creek joins the Little Calumet River in the Village of South Holland, Cook County. Deer Creek passes through Crete Township before joining Thorn Creek in southern Cook County.

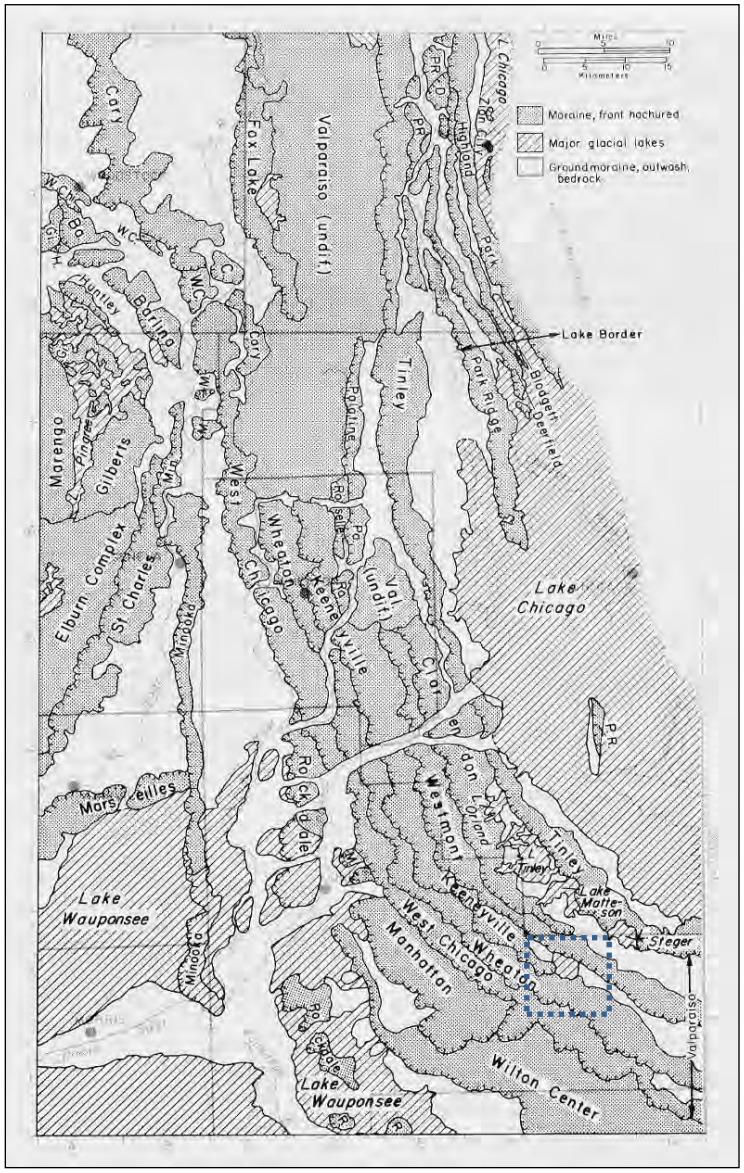
The southern portions of Monee Township are drained by several minor tributaries of the Kankakee River, generally flowing from northeast to southwest. The largest among these is Rock Creek, which arises in Section 27 of Monee Township and flows through Sections 28, 33, and 32 before entering Will Township. The Monee Reservoir is located along this portion of Rock Creek. Secondly, the southeastern quadrant of the township is drained by Black Walnut Creek, arises in Crete Township and flows through Sections 25, 36, and 35 before entering Will Township. In Will Township, these two streams flow southward into Kankakee County. Black Walnut Creek passes to the east of the village of Manteno in Kankakee County, while Rock Creek passes to its west. Southwest of Manteno, the streams combine, and the enlarged Rock Creek enters the Kankakee River within present-day Kankakee River State Park. Finally, the western portion of Monee Township is drained by several unnamed minor streams that arise within the township and flow to the west. These streams combine to form the South Branch of Forked Creek in Green Garden

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

Township. After flowing southwesterly to Ritchie in Wesley Township, Forked Creek turns to flow northwest, parallel to the Kankakee River, before joining that river just north of downtown Wilmington.

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 period 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. Monee Township lies primarily within the Westmont and Wheaton moraines. A major glacial lake was located near the middle of the township. (H.B. Willman, Summary of the Geology of the Chicago Area*, Illinois State Geological Survey Circular 460 (Urbana, Illinois, 1971), 43.)*

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

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

There has been very little in the way of professional systematic archaeological survey completed in Monee Township. Woodland-period habitation sites have been identified in Section 32 within the Raccoon Grove preserve.[5]

4. James E. Davis, *Frontier Illinois* (Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1998), 25. "The Late Woodland is a period of increasing dependence on corn agriculture, although northeastern Illinois groups appear less corn-dependent than do central and lower Illinois River valley peoples." (Doershuk, *Plenemuk Mound and the Archaeology of Will County,* 13–14.)
5. John Doershuk, *Plenemuk Mound and the Archaeology of Will County,* Illinois Cultural Resource Study No. 3 (Springfield, Illinois: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 1988), 76 and 81.

The Arrival of European Settlers

French Explorers and Settlers in the Illinois Territory

By the time of the French explorations of the seventeenth century, the native inhabitants of Illinois as a group belonged to the Algonquian linguistic family, closely related to the Chippewa. The specific tribes in the northeast Illinois region included the Miami (located on sites near the Calumet River, the juncture of the Des Plaines and Kankakee Rivers, and the Fox River) and the Illinois (present throughout the rest of modern-day Illinois). "Illinois" was a native word signifying "men" or "people."[6] By the early to mid-1700s, the Potawatomi moved into the area from the region of Michigan and northern Wisconsin.

In 1673, the expedition of Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet traveled primarily along the Mississippi River and up the Illinois River to the region of Cook and Will Counties.[7] This expedition claimed the region for France. In 1678, an expedition led by Robert de La Salle with Henry Tonti and Father Hennepin explored the region along the Mississippi River and adjacent territory on behalf of France. A Jesuit mission was established at Chicago in 1696 by Father Pierre Pinet, but it failed to last more than a year. As time progressed the French centered their principal activities in the middle Mississippi valley, focusing on Fort de Chartres near Kaskaskia and its connections with Québec via the Ohio, Maumee, and Wabash Rivers and the Great Lakes, well to the south and east of the upper Illinois Valley.

During this period, the Native Americans were undergoing migrations, often leading to conflict among the various tribes. The Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo, and Potawatomi displaced the Miami and Illinois in the Chicago region. The Potawatomi, followed by the Sauk and the Fox, were the predominant peoples in the northeastern Illinois by the later 1700s. Also present in the region were the Winnebago and the Shawnee.[8]

French colonial settlers in the southern and central portions of Illinois brought with them traditional agricultural practices from northern France, including open-field plowlands divided into longlots, and communal pasturing areas.[9] However, unlike labor practices in France, colonial settlers utilized African slaves. By the middle of the eighteenth century, enslaved persons comprised one-third of the region's population.

Early settlements founded as missions and fur trading posts, such as Cahokia and Kaskaskia, developed into the core of agricultural communities.[10] French colonial farms produced wheat for human consumption and maize as feed for hogs. A staple of the settlers' diet was wheat bread. Livestock for use as dairy

6. John R. Swanton, *The Indian Tribes of North America* (1952, Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin Number 145; reprint, Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1969), 241.
7. Louis Jolliet was born at Beauport, near Québec, in September 1645. He began to study at the Jesuit College of Québec in 1655 and in 1662 he received minor religious orders from Bishop Laval. After leaving the seminary and becoming a fur trader, he gained proficiency in surveying and mapmaking. Jolliet was chosen by the government of France to be a member of a delegation meeting with the chieftains of the Indian tribes assembled at Sault Sainte Marie in 1671. Beginning the next year, Jolliet led an expedition down the Mississippi, during which he traveled up the Illinois and Des Plaines Rivers. During this expedition he surmised that digging a canal to connect the waterways in this region would allow transportation from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico. The Illinois and Michigan Canal constructed in the 1830s and 1840s was the realization of this route.
8. Jean L. Herath, *Indians and Pioneers: A Prelude to Plainfield, Illinois* (Hinckley, Illinois: The Hinckley Review, 1975), 20–21.
9. Carl J. Ekberg, *French Roots in the Illinois Country: The Mississippi Frontier in Colonial Times* (Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1998), 2–3. "Longlots" are, as the name implies, long narrow plots of cultivated land that developed because of the difficulty for plowing teams to turn around. Forms of longlots date back to ancient Mesopotamia; French colonial forms developed from Medieval European models. The longlots in Illinois typically had length-to-width ratios of 10 to 1.
10. Ibid., 33.

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.[11]

Illinois in the English Colonial Period and Revolutionary War

Land ownership was not an original right when the Virginia Company settled Jamestown in 1607. The company owned the land and paid its employees for their labor in food and supplies out of a common storehouse, limiting their motivation to farm. After a period of starvation that nearly wiped out the settlement, the company gave each employee an incentive of a three-acre garden, which led to regular land distribution consisting of a 50 acre "headright."[12]

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

Land Division and Distribution in the New Nation

When land claims of several of the newly independent states overlapped, the United States Congress, under the Articles of Confederation, struggled to maintain control over the territory extending to the Mississippi River. After making all land west of the Pennsylvania Line to the Mississippi River common national property, a system of land division was developed based on meridians and base lines, which were subdivided further into a series of rectangular grids. In the "Rectangular System," distances and bearing were measured from two sets of lines that are at right angles to each other: the Principal Meridians, which run north and south, and the Base Lines, which run east and west. Subdividing lines called Range Lines are spaced at six mile intervals between the meridians and base lines. Range Lines defined territories known as townships. Townships were divided into thirty-six one-mile-square areas called Sections.[13]

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

11. Ibid., 173–251.
12. John Opie, *The Law of the Land: Two Hundred Years of Farm Policy* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1994), 19.
13. Townships were the largest subdivision of land platted by the United States. After the township corners were located, the section and quarter section corners were established. Each township was six miles square and contained 23,040 acres, or 36 square miles, as nearly as possible to fit specific geographic conditions such as lakes and rivers, political boundaries such as state boundaries, as well as survey errors. Each township, unless irregular in shape due to the factors cited above, was divided into 36 squares called sections. These sections were intended to be one mile, or 320 rods, square and contain 640 acres of land. Sections were numbered consecutively from 1 to 36, utilizing the same criss-cross numbering pattern on each section regardless of national location or actual township configuration. Sections were subdivided into various smaller parcels for individual farms. A half section contains 320 acres; a quarter section contains 160 acres; half of a quarter contains 80 acres, and quarter of a quarter contains 40 acres, and so on. Today, legal descriptions of real estate continue to describe parcels according to the portion of the section within which they are located.

sufficient to sustain individual farmers.[14]) 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.[15] Also in that year, the Ordinance of 1787 organized the Northwest Territory, including what would become Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

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

Development of the Northwest Territory

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

At this time, the Shawnee tribal 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, the Treaty of Greenville with the Wyandot and the Delaware included the ceding of "one piece of land, six miles square, at the mouth of the Chicago River, emptying into the southwest end of Lake Michigan, where a fort formerly stood."[16] It was on this land that Fort Dearborn was established in 1803, where a settlement of French traders and their Native American wives developed. The site grew initially from the fur trade, and despite the Fort Dearborn Massacre of 1812, more settlers came to the area.

Crossing the western half of the region later known as Will County was a land corridor ceded by the Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Chippewa in a treaty signed in St. Louis on August 24, 1816. The corridor, defined by the cartographic features now known as the Indian Boundary Lines (and still present on many maps of the area), was meant to allow European settlers access to Lake Michigan for the construction of a waterway (later developed as the Illinois and Michigan Canal). The corridor was physically surveyed by James M. Duncan and T. C. Sullivan in 1819; its southern boundary was defined by a line drawn from a point on the shore of Lake Michigan ten miles south of the Chicago River, to a point on the Kankakee River ten miles north of its mouth.[17] Monee Township lies southeast of this corridor. The township was not surveyed or opened to settlement until 1844.

Illinois Statehood

The United States Congress passed an enabling act on April 18, 1818, admitting Illinois as the twenty-first state as of December 3, 1818. A bill had passed Congress in early 1818 moving the north boundary northward to include the mouth of the Chicago River within the Illinois Territory.[18] The statehood act was

14. Opie, *The Law of the Land,* 10.
15. Ibid., 15.
16. As quoted by A. T. Andreas in his *History of Chicago, from the Earliest Period to the Present Time* (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1884), 79.
17. *Will County Property Owners, 1842* (Joliet, Illinois: Will County Historical Society, 1973), 1.
18. The northern boundary of the Illinois Territory was on an east-west line from the southern line of Lake Michigan. In order to give the future state a portage on Lake Michigan, the boundary line was moved ten miles north of the initial boundary. The Congressional legislation was amended before passage, moving the future

approved despite the fact that the population of the state was only 40,258 persons, less than the 60,000 persons required by the Ordinance of 1787. The state capital was established first at Kaskaskia and moved to Vandalia two years later. Much of the land in the state was the property of the United States government. Early sales offices were located at Kaskaskia, Shawneetown, and Vincennes. Until the financial panic of 1819, there was an initial rush of sales and settlement at the southern end of the state where navigable streams and the only road system were located.[19]

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

The early 1830s saw the greatest land boom to that date in American history. Land sales gradually came under the control of the General Land Office as the survey moved westward. In 1834 and 1835 alone, twenty-eight million acres were shifted from closed to open land for purchase. Two years later the Van Buren administration placed an enormous 56,686,000 acres on the market. These lands were located in some of the most fertile farming regions of the nation: Illinois, Iowa, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Missouri.[20] The building of the Illinois and Michigan Canal in the later 1830s and 1840s led to a land boom in Chicago, which had been platted in 1830 and incorporated in 1833.[21] The rate of growth in northern Illinois soon matched and then surpassed that in the southern portion of the state.

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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.

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

Settlement and Development of Northeast Illinois

By 1826, more European settlers began to move to the northeast Illinois region, so that by 1831 a few hamlets were present between LaSalle and Chicago. Also present in the region was a tribe of nearly 1,000 Potawatomi in the area along the Du Page River south of what would become Plainfield.[22] At the beginning of the Black Hawk War in 1832 the largest settlement north of the Illinois River (except for Chicago) was on Bureau Creek, where there were about thirty families. A few other settlers had located along the river at Peru and LaSalle, and at Ottawa. At Walker's Grove or Plainfield, there were twelve or fifteen families.[23] Along the Du Page River, partially located in the region that would become Will County in 1836, there were about twenty families. In Yankee settlements, which embraced part of the towns of Homer, Lockport and New Lenox, there were twenty or twenty-five families. Along Hickory Creek in the town of New Lenox there were approximately twenty more families, and at the Reed's and Jackson Grove there were six or eight more.[24]

In 1832, a band of Sauk Indians led by Black Sparrow Hawk resisted their deportation by European settlers from their ancestral lands. Although most of the fighting occurred in the Rock River area in Northwest Illinois and southern Wisconsin, an "Indian panic" swept through Will County settlements. The settlers in Walker's Grove together with about twenty-five fugitives from the Fox River area hurriedly constructed a stockade from the logs of Stephen Begg's pigpen, outbuildings, and fences ("Fort Beggs"). The prospect of engaging Indians in pitched battle from the confines of "Fort Beggs" prompted the settlers to leave the makeshift stockade in favor of Fort Dearborn in Chicago. Meanwhile homesteaders in the eastern Will County area gathered at the Gougar homestead and decided to flee to Indiana.[25]

Also in 1832, northwest Will County was the scene of an epidemic of smallpox among the Potawatomi, inflicting a mortality rate at least twice that of the rate among the European settlers. Approximately one-third of the Potawatomi population in the region died during the epidemic.[26]

The end of the Black Hawk War brought about the expulsion of the Sauk and Fox from lands east of the Mississippi River. Also in 1832, the Winnebago ceded their lands in Wisconsin south and east of the Wisconsin River and east of the Fox River to Green Bay. The Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Chippewa tribes still held title to land in northern Illinois outside of the Indian Boundary lines. In September 1833, a gathering of chiefs and leaders was held in Chicago to "negotiate a treaty whereby the lands might be peaceably ceded, and the Indians removed therefrom, to make way for the tide of white emigration which had begun to set irresistibly and with ever increasing volume to the coveted region."[27] A Chicago historian, A. T. Andreas, writing in the 1880s, emphasized the disadvantaged position of the tribes in this negotiation, who had seen the effects of war on other tribes and experienced the ravages of epidemic on their own peoples:

> Black Hawk's ill-starred campaign, followed by the subsequent treaty made by his tribe, showed them the inevitable result [that] must follow resistance. They knew quite well that they had no alternative. They must sell their lands for such a sum and on such terms as the Government agents might deem it politic or just or generous to grant. The result of the treaty was what might have been expected. The Indians gave up their lands and agreed for certain considerations, the most of which did not redound to their profit, to cede all their lands to the Government, and to leave forever their

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

> homes and the graves of their fathers for a land far toward the setting sun, which they had never seen and of which they knew nothing.[28]

In the resulting treaty, the three tribes ceded land "along the western shore of Lake Michigan, and between this lake and the land ceded to the United States by the Winnebago nation at the treaty of Fort Armstrong. . . ."[29] As compensation, the tribes received land on the east bank of the Missouri River and a series of monetary payments.[30]

Immigration into Will County after the Black Hawk War of 1832 increased so markedly that settlers began agitating for separation from Cook County. Residents of these settlements, then part of Cook County, demanded a more convenient place to record their land purchases and to pay their taxes. Accordingly, Dr. A. W. Bowen of Joliet and James Walker of Plainfield went to the state capital of Vandalia and successfully lobbied a detachment petition through the General Assembly. On January 12, 1836, an act was passed creating Will County from portions of Cook, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties. Will County also included at that time the northern part of what would later become Kankakee County. (In 1845, the boundaries of Will County were changed to their present extent.) The county was named in honor of Dr. Conrad Will, a member of the state legislature who lived in the southern part of Illinois.[31]

On March 7, 1836, an election was held to select Will County's first public officials. They in turn set the price of tavern licenses and created a book for recording the ear markings of livestock. Since swine, sheep, cows, and other livestock freely roamed the city streets and open fields, settlers devised special ear markings consisting of slits, crops, and holes to identify their animals. These "brands" were recorded with pen and ink drawings in the county clerk's office.[32]

The primary concern of pioneer farmers was providing food for their families and livestock. Most farmers homesteaded around wooded land to provide building materials and fuel. On cultivated land, settlers would need to grub out tree stumps before breaking the prairie sod with a walking plow. This latter activity was often difficult, since the soil tended to ball up on the plow. In 1833, John Lane of Lockport invented the breaking plow, which eliminated this problem. Lane's innovation developed from an improvised steel plow attached to the plow molding board. It successfully cut the prairie sod so that the soil could be turned over.[33]

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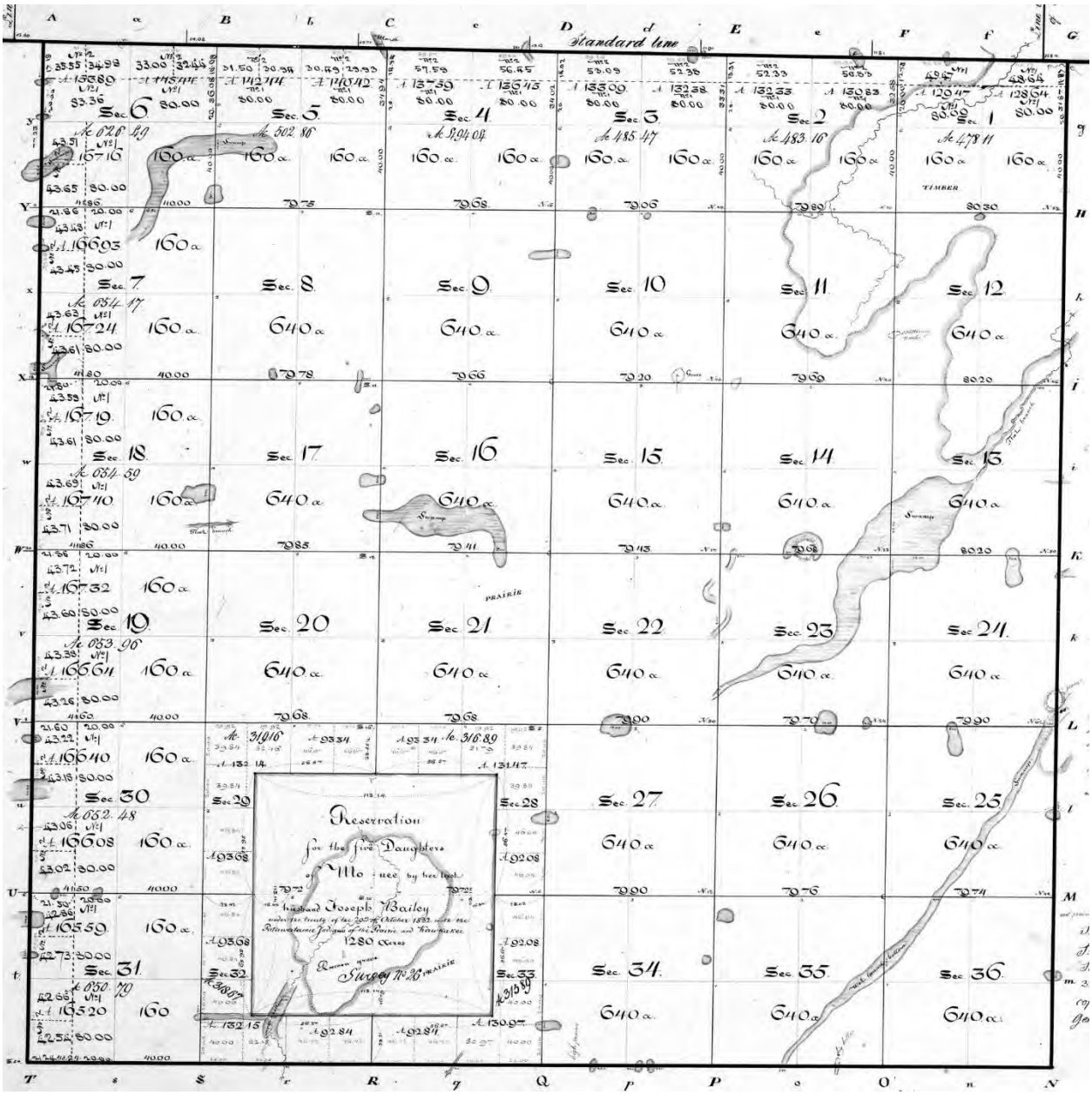
28. Ibid.
29. As quoted in Andreas, *History of Chicago,* 124.
30. It has been reported that Native Americans returned to Will County as late as 1900 on pilgrimages (Herath, 21):

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

31. Born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 3, 1779, Conrad Will migrated westward after studying medicine. He was instrumental in the formation of Jackson County from the lower half of Randolph County and part of present day Perry County. Will served first in the Illinois state Senate and later the state House of Representatives, until his death on June 11, 1835. On the following January 12, the state legislature passed an act sectioning the southern portion of Cook County in northern Illinois, naming it after Conrad Will. (Alice C. Storm, *Doctor Conrad Will* (Joliet, Illinois: Louis Joliet Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1917), 1–5.)
32. Address of George H. Woodruff, *Sixth Annual Reunion of the Will County Pioneer Association* (Joliet: The Press Company, 1886), 5–6.
33. Fayette Baldwin Shaw, *Will County Agriculture* (Will County Historical Society, 1980), 1. The site of Lane's farmstead at the northeast corner of 163rd Street and Gougar Road in Homer Township was marked with a historical marker commemorating his importance due to the invention of this plow. The marker was removed for its protection during construction of the Interstate 355 tollway extension and associated overpasses. The marker was re-erected in July 2011 about 150 feet north of its original location.



Map of the 1834 survey of Monee Township. Forested areas at the northeast quadrant of the township and in the reservation in the southwestern part of the township are indicated. Note the Raccoon Grove reservation for the five daughters of Monee, discussed under Monee Township Developmental History, below.

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

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

each side of the route granted to the Illinois Central Railroad (which passed through eastern Will County) were available for purchase from the railroad.[34]

In 1848, Illinois adopted township government as the basic level of local government, although in most locations functioning governments were not set up until 1850. By law, three services were to be provided by the townships: general assistance to the needy, property assessment for tax purposes, and maintenance of township roads and bridges. A unique feature of township government was the annual town meeting, held each April in all townships. This system continues to the present day.[35] Until the twentieth century, almost all public infrastructure (such as roads) was thus maintained by each township with local tax revenue.

Agricultural Development

By the 1850s, Illinois was a major agricultural state. Its corn production was 57.65 million bushels, which increased to 115.2 million in 1860, making it the leading corn producer in the nation.[36] Wheat was also a major crop—the state was fifth in wheat production in 1850 and first in 1860. Acreage in improved farmland increased two and one half times in the decade. Other principal farm crops were oats, rye, and barley. The average price for corn and wheat was $1.25 per bushel. In the early- to mid-1800s, agricultural implements were primitive and included reapers, iron plowshares, and hay tenders. The first McCormick reaper in the County appeared in Wheatland Township in 1846. Some local inventions that could be attached to modify the McCormick reaper included gearing produced by W. Holmes of Hickory Creek in Will County, produced at Adams' Foundry, and a turf-and-stubble plow.[37]

The major crops in Will County historically have been corn and wheat, although wheat production declined in the later 1800s after infestations of the chinch bug and the army worm. (Wheat farming revived during World War I due to incentives from the U.S. government.) As early as 1850, corn was the leading crop in the survey area, since it could be fed to livestock as well as processed into other products.[38] Other grain crops included oats, barley (used in beer production), and rye. Potatoes were also grown in the region through the late 1800s, but several seasons of wet summers led to rotting crops, followed in subsequent years by potato bugs. Strawberries and grapes were grown in limited areas by the 1870s.[39]

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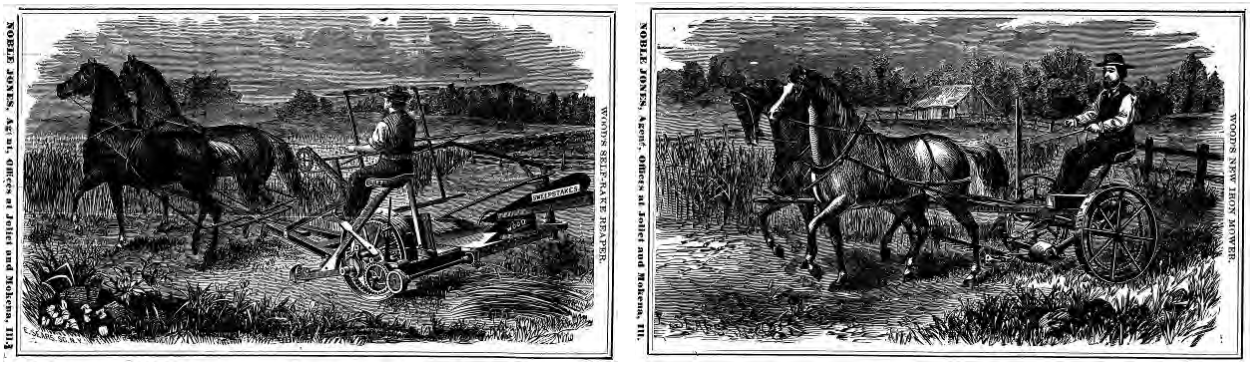
34. The lands were sold to settlers and speculators. It is estimated that six million acres passed into the hands of speculators between 1849 and 1856. There were several types of speculators. Small farmers bought the land for pasturage, timber, or simply as an investment. Small businessmen also bought land as an investment, and in this group was included practically every prominent politician in Illinois except Abraham Lincoln. Professional speculators operated on a large scale, with corporations or individuals owning land in many states. Finally, East Coast capitalists invested in western lands—Samuel Allerton, a wealthy resident of New York, owned 2,000 acres in Frankfort, New Lenox, and Homer Townships in Will County and an additional 400 acres in Cook County. In time, settlers purchased the land from speculators. The Chicago Land Office was the last one opened and the last one closed, except for Springfield which took over all the unfinished work of all offices and remained open until 1877. (Shaw, *Will County Agriculture,* 1–2.)
35. Bryan Smith, "Township Government in Illinois: A Rich History, A Vibrant Future." <http://www.comptrollerconnect.ioc.state.il.us>
36. "Corn" was the medieval term used in England for the grain known later as wheat. Settlers given "Indian corn" (maize) by the Native Americans began to sow it themselves, and corn (maize) became one of the leading grain crops in the United States by the 1800s. (United States Department of Agriculture, *Yearbook of Agriculture* (1936), 496.)
37. Shaw, *Will County Agriculture,* 13.
38. *Souvenir of Settlement and Progress of Will County Illinois* (Chicago: Historical Directory Publishing Co., 1884), 244.
39. Shaw, *Will County Agriculture,* 8.



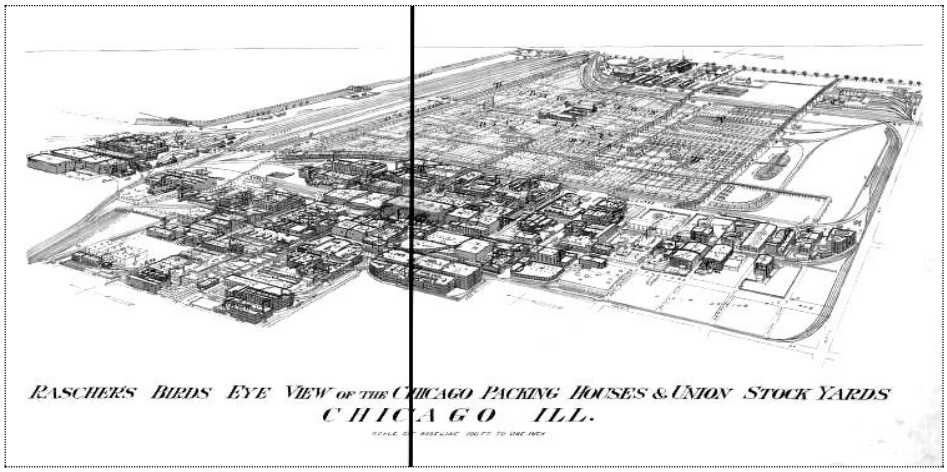
Two of the variety of mechanical farm implements that were available to Will County farmers after the Civil War. Above left: A self-raking reaper. Above right: A mower. Both of these were advertised by Noble Jones, a farm implement dealer with offices in Joliet and Mokena, in the 1872 Will County directory.

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

Cattle, hogs, and sheep were also a significant part of northeastern Illinois agriculture. The Chicago Union Stock Yards, incorporated by act of the Illinois State Legislature in 1865, was a ready market. Horses were also bred, as they were an indispensable for the operation of farm machinery; oxen were also used into the 1870s. The dairy industry also was initially a significant part of the region's agriculture.[42]

The average value of a southern Illinois farm in 1910 was $15,000; in the northern part of the state it was $20,700. The annual value of farm products measured in dollars rose from $186 million in 1896 to $277 million in 1912; this was accompanied by an increase in production of field crops by 70 percent and 76 percent respectively for those years. During this time, wheat, rye, and oat production was on the decline. Livestock production remained fairly constant in overall value but sales of animals decreased by 50 percent during this period. Vegetable production was led by root crops like potatoes, turnips, and carrots. Of orchard fruits, apples had the greatest production.[43]

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



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

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

> In particular, there is a vast field for the development of motor truck traffic, which it has not been necessary heretofore to consider in plans for road improvement. It is believed that in many Sections of the State the opportunity is big for the development of this class of traffic, and provision should be made in the future for road building on a majority of the main roads for the eight and ten ton motor truck. Already truck farmers in the vicinity of Chicago have clubbed together in the purchase of a motor truck by which a 24-hour trip has been reduced to 8 hours, while the delivery of milk from the farm to the city by motor truck is already an economic proposition.
>
> It is believed therefore that the construction to be undertaken on our main roads should be a character that can withstand the heavy motor traffic, heavy horse drawn traffic, as well as the lighter forms of traffic, and that a serious mistake will be made to put down any other than rigid, durable forms of pavement. In Illinois this reduces the choice of the road surface to brick and concrete.[44]

With the implementation of the Civil Administrative Code in 1917, which formed the departmental structure within the executive branch, the Illinois Department of Agriculture was formed as a regulatory and promotional agency.[45]

44. A. N. Johnson, "Cost of a System of Durable Roads for Illinois," in *Eighteenth Annual Report of the Illinois Farmers' Institute,* edited by H. A. McKeene (Springfield, Illinois: Illinois State Journal Company, 1913), 149.
45. Information from the website of the Illinois Department of Agriculture <www.agr.state.il.us/aghistory.html>. The department actually dated back to 1819, when the Illinois Agricultural Association was formed. Although little is known of the activities of this early group other than a collection of letters by its founders, it established an organization that became the Illinois State Agricultural Agency in 1853. This semi-public organization continued to function until replaced in 1871 by the Department of Agriculture under the supervision of the State Board of Agriculture.

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

Twentieth Century Developments

Land area of farms in the Chicago area declined from 88.7 percent of total area in 1900 to 84.9 percent in 1920 and to 80 percent in 1925. In the century between 1830 and 1925, the number of farms had peaked in 1900. By 1925, the total number of farms was 5,000 less than in 1880.[46] During that same period livestock production (including swine) peaked in 1900. For the counties within fifty miles of Chicago, the average number of dairy cows per square mile of farmland declined from 46.1 in 1900 to 42.8 in 1925. Acreage in cereal production showed a gradual increase after 1925. Sheep and wool production peaked in 1880 and horses and mules in 1920, declining as a direct result of the introduction of the tractor and motor truck. Dairy production in the Chicago region peaked in 1900 and declined markedly in the following two decades.[47]

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

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

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

soared, some people fled to rural communities, putting additional pressure on rural areas as most did not have access to welfare relief.[48] Within days of the inauguration of Franklin Roosevelt, legislation was formulated that Congress would later pass as the Agricultural Adjustment Act. The numerous adjustment programs initiated under the New Deal led to limitations in agricultural production in order to raise crop prices to acceptable levels. These included twenty percent of the land or 1,218,062 acres used in corn production being retired; over 1,000,000 acres of land in wheat production were also retired.[49] In 1934, 15,734,600 acres of land were in production, for a total crop value of $218,569,000 nationally; this grew to 17,692,100 acres and a crop value of $273,931,000 the following year.[50]

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

During World War II, farmers were encouraged by the federal government to increase their production by the use of power machinery and the latest scientific processes. When a decline in demand arose, the farmer was forced to continue his heavy production rate. Cash crop income in 1950 was $2.038 billion nationally. Of this livestock and livestock products accounted for $1.26 billion; crops, $763 million; and government pay for adaptation of production program, with $10.6 million paid to the farmers in Illinois. Principal crops were corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, hay, fruit, and greenhouse products. The average value of a farm in Illinois in 1950 was $28,400.[51] The farm population in Illinois declined from 1,341,104 in 1900 to 772,521 in 1950.[52]

The abandoning of farms and the consolidation of small farms into large ones resulted in many buildings being razed or abandoned. Moreover, changes in farming meant that many old farm buildings were too small, or unsuitable for other reasons, and were replaced by larger, more suitable and flexible structures. By the mid-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.

Recent decades have seen continued consolidation of farms in Will County and the development of formerly agricultural land for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes. 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. The total acreage of agricultural land in the county has declined steadily since the 1990s. After dipping to only 830 farms in the county in 2002, the number of farms in the county increased slightly by 2012 to 882. By 2017 only 216,593 acres remained in agricultural use among 801 farms, representing less than 40 percent of the total area of the county and a loss of more than 110,000 acres of farmland in the thirty years since 1987. In recent years almost half the farm acreage in the county remained planted in soybeans (valued at almost $50 million), with corn covering another 40 percent of the acreage (valued at more than $55 million). Raising hogs ($5 million) and poultry ($10 million) also remained significant cash products in the county. The average farm sold crops worth more than $166,000 in 2017. Between 2002 and 2017, the value of products sold directly to individual consumers by Will County farms more than doubled from less than $600,000 to over $1.3 million, reflecting

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

the increasing popularity of farmer's markets and vegetable crops in the county. During the same period (2002–2017), total farm sales in the county increased from approximately $82.2 million to $133.5 million.[53]

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

> Prime farmland, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. It could be cultivated land, pastureland, forestland, or other land, but it is not urban or built-up land or water areas. The soil qualities, growing season, and moisture supply are those needed for the soil to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when proper management, including water management, and acceptable farming methods are applied. In general, prime farmland has an adequate and dependable supply of moisture from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. It is permeable to water and air. It is not excessively erodible or saturated with water for long periods, and it either is not frequently flooded during the growing season or is protected from flooding. Slope ranges mainly from 0 to 6 percent. In the last two decades, a trend in land use in some parts of [Will County] has been the loss of some prime farmland to industrial and urban uses. The loss of prime farmland to other uses puts pressure on marginal lands, which generally are more erodible, droughty, and less productive and cannot be easily cultivated.[54]

By 2017, there were more than 72,600 Illinois farms utilizing more than 27 million acres and about 73 percent of the total land area in the state. Major farm products include corn (with more than 2 billion bushels harvested), soybeans, and hogs. 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. Reflecting recent technological trends, over 5,000 farms in Illinois had renewable energy production on site by 2017, including more than 1,200 farms with solar panels and almost 1,000 farms with wind turbines.[55]

Recent decades have seen tremendous suburban growth in formerly rural areas near Chicago, particularly in the northern portions of Will County. Along with this suburban development has come conflict between the "new" settlers and established farmers. To help prevent misunderstandings, the Illinois Farm Bureau issued a booklet in 1999 titled *The Code of County Living*, targeted at former city dwellers and suburbanites who have moved to rural areas on the metropolitan fringe. The booklet discusses the comparative limitations of rural living compared to more established suburban areas.[56]

53. Ibid.; Census of Agriculture.
54. *Soil Survey of Will County, Illinois* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, in cooperation with Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, 2004), 187.
55. Census of Agriculture, 2017.
56. *The Code of Country Living* (Bloomington, Illinois: Illinois Farm Bureau, 1999), 3.

Monee Township Developmental History

Under the Treaty of Camp Tippecanoe, signed in 1832 on the banks of the Tippecanoe River in Indiana and ratified in 1833, the Potawatomi agreed to vacate the Kankakee Valley and move to a reservation near Council Bluffs, Iowa. The tract of land the Potawatomi ceded to the United States was defined by the following boundary:

> Beginning at a point on Lake Michigan ten miles southward of the mouth of Chicago river; thence, in a direct line, to a point on the Kankakee river, ten miles above its mouth; thence, with said river and the Illinois river, to the mouth of the Fox river, being the boundary of a cession made by them in 1816; thence, with the southern boundary of the Indian Territory, to the State line between Illinois and Indiana; thence, north with said line, to Lake Michigan; thence, with the shores of Lake Michigan, to the place of beginning.[57]

This cession included all of present-day Monee Township. The treaty, in addition to paying the Potawatomi for land, also set up reservations for the chiefs or their families that ranged from 320 to 3,200 acres in size. Although mainly located in Kankakee County, one of these reservations, encompassing 1,280 acres, was located in Sections 28, 29, 32, and 33 of present-day Monee Township. This property included a wooded area known as the Raccoon Grove and was reserved for the benefit of "the five daughters of Mo-nee, by her last husband, Joseph Bailey [or Bailly]."[58] The woman Monee was the daughter of a French fur trader, Antoine Le Fevre, and a woman of mixed French and Ottawa ancestry. She was born in 1783. Her name in French was likely *Marie*, but this name was pronounced as *Mo-nee* in the Ottawa language, which had no sound corresponding to the French letter "r." Monee herself married a French fur trader, Joseph Bailly, in about 1810. Joseph and Marie Bailly were influential with the Potawatomi tribe, and the land grant in the 1832 treaty came about through their influence.[59] It does not appear that the Bailly family ever lived in Will County; their homestead was near Porter, Indiana, and Marie (Monee) died there in 1866.[60] The reservation was likely held as speculative property by the Bailly family for subsequent sale. However, the modified form of Marie/Monee's name was later given to the new township containing the reservation.

The first European settlers arrived in present-day Monee Township in 1834. The first wave of pioneer settlers included John S. Dilly, John M. Chase, Samuel Ward Cooper, Samuel W. Gaines, Nicholas Young, and Aaron Bonell, all of whom were reportedly moving west from Ohio. These first settlers located themselves in a wooded area referred to as Thorn Grove in the northeastern portion of the township. Samuel Cooper and Samuel Gaines remained in the township permanently, but many of the other original settlers moved on after a few years or died within the first few years of after settlement. (The Gaines and Cooper farmsteads were in the southeast quarter of Section 12; neither site exists today.) John M. Chase, elected as Justice of the Peace for the township, was noted to build the first house in present-day Monee Township in the vicinity of Thorn Grove, during his few years of residence before he returned to Ohio. Additional settlers trickled into the township in its early years of development including William Hollis Newton from New York State, who owned one of the more profitable farms in the township, passing it on to his son W. H. Newton, Jr., after his death.[61] (The Newton Farmstead was in the northeast quarter of Section 2 and no long exists.)

Otis Phillips established the first school in the township upon his arrival in 1835. Since state supported public education was not yet established at the time in Illinois, Mr. Phillips ran a subscription school for a

57. Treaty with the Potawatomi, 1832 (7 Stat. 378), October 20, 1832.
58. Ibid.
59. Muriel Mueller Milne, *Our Roots Are Deep: A History of Monee, Illinois* (self-published, 1973), 14–23.
60. The Bailly Homestead is preserved by the National Park Service as part of the Indiana Dunes National Park.
61. George H. Woodruff, W. H. Perrin, and H. H. Hill, *The History of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: William Le Baron, Jr. & Co., 1878), 567–568.

few years out of his own log cabin. The school was abandoned after a few years when Mr. Phillips decided to move onward to the Wisconsin Territory. In 1836, J. E. Phillips, originally from New York State, and William Kinney of Ohio also settled in Thorn Grove.[62]

In addition to farming, hunting remained a primary occupation in the early years of the township. Approximately 25 percent of the township lands were originally woodland when the first settlers arrived, concentrated mainly in the Thorn Grove area. Venison, turkey, and wild chicken and ducks were widely available in the area to be hunted throughout the first decades of settlement.

Settlement of the township continued at a slow pace through the 1830s and 1840s. A. J. Smith, arriving from Ohio before 1845, served as Justice of the Peace until his death in 1855. John S. Holland, Stephen Jacob, James Goodenow, Eugene Lashley, August Klein, Simeon Abbott, and George, Emerson, and Minet Baker were also known to have settled on township land by 1845. In 1850, with the beginning of township government, longtime resident S. W. Cooper became the first supervisor, J. E. Phillips was elected to the role of Assessor, and W. H. Newton served as Clerk. At that time, the area was known as Carey Township, encompassing all of present-day Monee and Will townships (although present-day Will Township was largely uninhabited at that time).[63]

In 1854, the Illinois Central railroad was completed.[64] The railroad bisected the township from northeast to southwest, and a depot was established in Section 21. At one point, nearly half of Monee Township (generally the even-numbered sections) was owned by Illinois Central (refer to the 1862 atlas map in Appendix A). The railroad company would subsequently sell the land to individuals for $2.50 to $5.00 an acre. With the development of the railroad, the focus of settlement shifted from Thorn Grove to the area around the nascent village of Monee. August Herbert, a veteran of the Mexican War used his entitlement, from an honorable discharge from the military, of 160 acres of unoccupied Government land to claim land in the southeast quarter of Section 21 adjacent to the new rail line in 1849. He later hired Henry M. Ward to plat out 40 acres of land, and with the completion of the railroad, this location became the village center of Monee.[65]

In 1852, Simeon Abbott reportedly brought a house overland from a location south of Monee to serve as the first place of lodging in the village of Monee, primarily for railroad company employees. August Herbert built the first house in the village of Monee in 1853 at the southeast corner of Compass Lane and Main

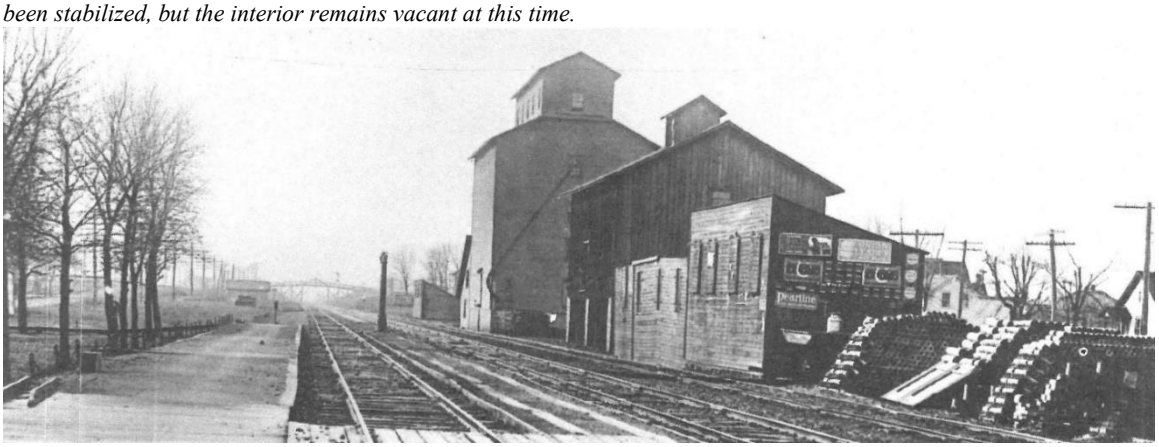
62. Woodruff (1878), 568–569.
63. Ibid., 570–571.
64. The Illinois Central Railroad is one of the earliest railroads in the United States. From the early days of statehood, the Illinois General Assembly had sought to charter a railroad linking the northern and southern parts of the state. Finally, in 1850 U.S. President Millard Fillmore signed a land grant for the construction of the railroad, making the Illinois Central the first land-grant railroad in the United States. The Illinois Central was chartered by the Illinois General Assembly on February 10, 1851. The terms of the land grant allowed the railroad to take ownership of government land in alternate sections up to 8 miles on either side of its route. With the development that the railroad would bring, the company expected to sell the land to recoup its construction costs. In Will Township, the land-grant encompassed the even-numbered sections of the township. Upon its completion in 1856, the Illinois Central was the longest railroad in the world. Its main line went from Cairo to Galena, with a branch line from Centralia to Chicago. The Chicago branch passed through Will County and greatly spurred the development of the eastern part of the county. Amtrak took over the line's passenger rail operations in 1971. Following a 1972 merger, the railroad was known as the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad. In 1987, Metra bought the company's Chicago-area commuter rail services, now known as the Metra Electric lines. After being divested by its parent company in 1988, the railroad again became known as simply the Illinois Central Railroad. In 1998, the Illinois Central was purchased by the Canadian National Railway, which continues to operate freight on the line through Will County today.
65. Woodruff (1878), 573.

Street, where he resided for a few years during the growth of Monee.[66] After he moved out, the house was later incorporated into the structure of Kettering's Hotel when it opened in 1855. In 1853, O. B. Dutton built the first store building which doubled as the post office with Mr. Dutton serving as postmaster for the town. Ownership and operation of the store later transferred to August Schiffer. August Herbert also built a general store within the same timeframe in partnership with others. In 1854, the first free public school opened at the southwest corner of Eastgate and Main Streets in Monee with Margaret Wilson as the teacher.[67] Prior to 1859, Will and Monee Townships were originally a single township, Carey. The two townships separated in 1859, after the Board of Supervisors approved the division. The northern portion of Carey Township was renamed Monee Township, to correspond to the name of the rapidly developing village.

Continued growth of the town occurred rapidly through the 1860s and 1870s. The first steam-powered grist mill in the township was actually opened in 1856 by Joseph Koenig and Oscar Kohler, but it only operated for a few years before closing due to insufficient profits. August Schiffer built the first grain storage warehouse in Monee in 1865. A second grain and general merchandise store was opened in 1867 by August Herbert in partnership with Conrad Tatge and Simon Miller. Miller bought out his partners in 1877 and continued to operate the store independently.[68] A third elevator was built in 1866 by Fred Luehrs of Green Garden Township.[69] Also in 1865, G. A. McGilvery built the first hay press in Monee which was later operated by J. I. Rice of Peotone Township. A newspaper called the *Monee Eagle* was briefly operated by J. G. Scott between 1861 and 1864.[70] On April 8, 1878, the Monee Lodge No. 660 of the International Order of Odd Fellows was organized by founding members Edo R. Freese, W. D. Cox, Adam Vatter, Charles Merz, and G. H. Luehrs. The organization grew to have approximately 35 members by 1884. A hall was built in 1887 at the southwest corner of Margaret Street and Locust Place.[71] Several creameries were established in Monee, most notably the Monee Creamery, likely established in the 1870s on the north side of Court Street (site 2113 in the present survey).[72] A windmill was also built in Monee in 1870 near the northwest corner of Margaret and Eastgate Streets. The mill was used to grind grain for flour and was operated successfully for several decades; the structure was demolished in 1914.[73]

66. moneehistoricalsociety.com
67. Woodruff (1878), 573–574.
68. Woodruff (1878), 574; *Portrait and Biographical Album of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: Chapman Bros., 1890), 540–541.
69. Mueller Milne (1973), 36.
70. Woodruff (1878), 574–575.
71. *Souvenir of Settlement and Progress of Will County Illinois* (Chicago: Historical Directory Publishing Co., 1884), 430–431; Mueller Milne (1973), 231. The Odd Fellows Hall was demolished in the mid-1940s.
72. Monee Creamery, Will County Landmark nomination, 2016. The exact date of construction of the building has not been confirmed. The building was converted to a residence in 1901. In 1950, the fire department purchased the 5-acre property (thereafter known as Firemen's Park), and in the 1980s ownership of the park was transferred to the village.
73. Mueller Milne (1973), 216–219.

Left: The Monee Creamery as it appeared in 1974. Source: HARGIS. Right: The Monee Creamery today. The building exterior has been stabilized, but the interior remains vacant at this time.



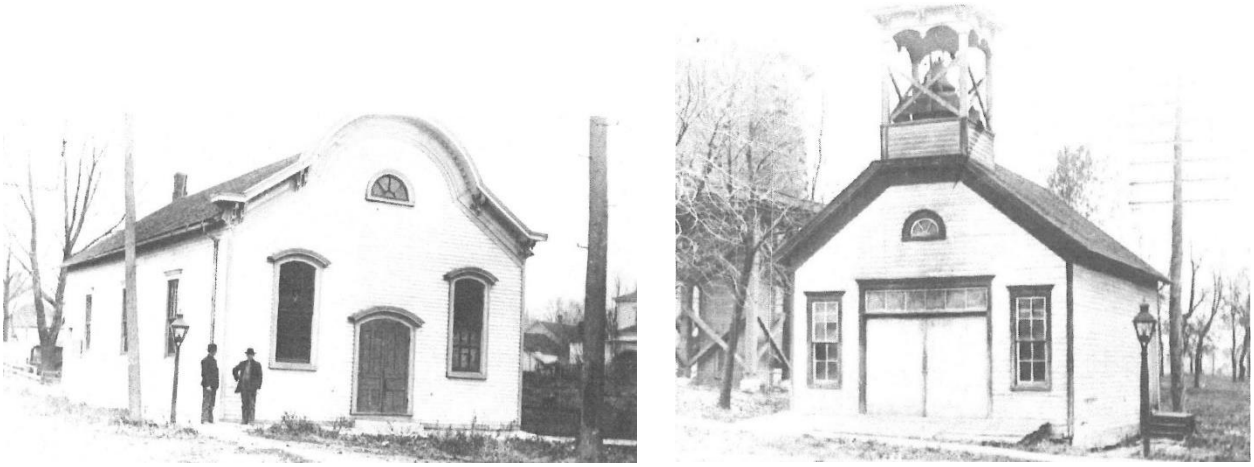
Looking south along the Illinois Central tracks at Main Street, circa 1905, with the Kolstedt Lumber Company (foreground), the elevator built by Fred H. Luehrs in 1866 (center), and the elevator built by Charles Plagge in 1888 (rear). Source: Sterling, plate 221.

Notable residents of Monee during the years of its early growth included Adam Vatter, a carpenter who built most of the regions German churches in the area of Monee, Peotone, Green Garden, and Crete Townships. Bronson Wiley was the first blacksmith located in Monee and Theodore Wernigk the first physician. Laban Easterbrooks was also a carpenter who served as a caretaker and developer for the extensive property of General Burnside, the Cashier of the Land Department for the Illinois Central Railroad.

The population of Monee Township in 1870 was reported to be 598 persons. On November 9, 1874, the Village of Monee was incorporated. Election of officers followed on December 5 including Edward Wernigk as President, B. Hayen as Treasurer, and William T. Hutchinson as Clerk. Five trustees were named to the board including Henry Hoffman, Charles Plagge, Phillip Vollmar, Christoph Schoenstedt, and August Schiffer.[74] Landon Easterbrooks, having previously become a justice of the peace for Monee Township, was elected the police magistrate after the 1874 incorporation of the village, an office which he held until his death on August 11, 1896.

The Court Hall in Monee was built in 1879 and served as the village's municipal building, as well as being used for local events such as dances and, in the 1920s, silent movies. The structure was located on Court Street on the east side of Compass Lane. It was demolished in 1958.[75]

74. Woodruff (1878), 575.
75. Mueller Milne (1973), 227–230.



Left: The Monee Court Hall, built in 1879 on Court Street. It was demolished in 1958. Source: Sterling, plate 219. Right: The Monee Fire Department. This structure stood alongside the Illinois Central Railroad on the north side of Main Street. It was demolished when the railroad was lowered in 1922. Source: Sterling, plate 217.

By 1880, the population of the Village of Monee was reported as 503 persons with an additional 1,091 persons in the township. An assessment of the Village of Monee in 1883–1884 was reported to be $435,475. Town lots were assessed to be values at $35,145 and personal property amounting to a total of $74,023. The total tax levy brought in was $8,981.55 which included a school tax of $2,881.23. An ordinance establishing the Monee fire department was passed on September 20, 1884. In 1890, the population of the Village of Monee had fallen and was reported to be 445. The first telephone in Monee was installed in the home of John Freese and the store owned by his father Edo R. Freese in 1894.[76]

By 1900, the population of the township was 1,215 persons. In the early 1900s, notable residents included Simon Miller as the leading merchant and businessman in Monee. He served several terms as President of the Township Board of Trustees before his death on July 3, 1902. John Kolstedt, another successful businessman, served as Township Supervisor for 16 years. Christoph Schoenstedt, born in Germany in 1837, came to the United States in 1854. He settled in Monee in March 1859 and operated a wagon and farm implement business. He retired from the farm implement business in 1890 and thereafter engaged in real estate.[77] Charles Plagge was likewise retired and had passed his business down to his sons. William T. Hutchinson, after several terms as the school's principal and years as a businessman and Clerk for Monee Township, had moved to Joliet to serve as the Assistant County Clerk, County Clerk, and then Probate Clerk for Will County prior to his retirement. Edo R. Freese served as Township Supervisor for several terms and a businessman in town.[78]

76. Edo R. Freese was born in Oldenburg, Germany, in 1845. As a child, he came with his parents to the United States in 1854. His parents had a farm in Manhattan Township. In 1867, Edo R. Freese came to Monee and first worked as a clerk in the store of F. H. Leuhr. After several years working as the baggage representative for the Illinois Central Railroad in Monee, in 1877 he established a store in partnership with George Sonneborn. In 1890, Freese bought out his partner and continued as an independent general merchant. W. W. Stevens, *Past and Present of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1907), 632–633.
77. *Portrait and Biographical Album of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: Chapman Bros., 1890), 192–193; Stevens (1907), 358–362.
78. Stevens (1907), 101.

Left: Chestnut Street, looking north from Main Street, circa 1905. Source: Sterling, plate 214. None of these structures exist today. The Monee Fire Department constructed in 1963 is now located at this site, with the 1960 water tower to the north. Right: The Kettering Hotel, circa 1900, at the southeast corner of Main Street and Compass Lane. The site is now a parking lot for the Monee Police Department. Source: Sterling, plate 222.

Around 1900, most of the farming in Monee Township transitioned to dairy farming, since the daily transport of products via the rail line created an opportunity for profits in selling dairy to the larger Chicago market. Dairy farming is also less reliant on soil quality, and the soil in Monee Township is a type of heavy clay loam soil which retains moisture longer into the spring, therefore delaying the planting of crops and shortening the growing season as compared to the soil quality of the adjacent townships. As agriculture developed in the township, a second freight depot was constructed along the Illinois Central Railroad in the township, in the southwest quarter of Section 3 on the Stuenkel farm. The brothers Heinrich and Friedrich Stuenkel built a store at this location in the 1890s (site 303 in the present survey). Rail service to this site was discontinued in 1920s, and the store later remodeled into residence by Heinrich's widow Dorothea Stuenkel.[79]

In 1906–1907, the Chicago & Southern Traction Company built an electric interurban train line from 63rd and Halsted on the south side of Chicago to Kankakee. In Will County, the route paralleled the Illinois Central through Monee and Peotone, before turning east just south of the Village of Monee. The line then proceeded east and northeast into Crete Township. The interurban ceased operation in 1927.[80] The Kettering Hotel closed in 1912. In 1915 electric power arrived in Monee, including the installation of electric streetlights.[81]

Left: Oak Road looking south from Court Street, circa 1912. Source: Sterling, plate 213. Right: A similar view today. Many structures have been demolished, but Sonneborn's Sons store erected in 1895 remains at the corner of Oak Road and Main Street. The building at left was built by Illinois Bell in 1971–1972 for a new electronic telephone switching system.

79. Mueller Milne (1973), 56–57.
80. August Maue, *History of Will County, Illinois* (Topeka and Indianapolis: Historical Publishing Company, 1928), 308.
81. Mueller Milne (1973), 47.

In early 1905, a group of citizens of Monee, Green Garden, and Will Townships agreed to organize a local fair to exhibit livestock, agricultural products, and craftworks. The first fair was held on September 12–14, 1905, on the property of H. H. Vehrs east of Oak Road and just south of the village. After several years holding the fair on the Vehrs property, in spring 1909 the fair association, officially named the Monee Driving Park Association, purchased a 26-acre tract to the east of the Vehrs property, to the south of Margaret Street. The site was developed with a racetrack, grandstand, and bandstand. The first fair at the new location was held September 1–3, 1909. When the nearby St. Paul Church building was sold in 1915, the fair association purchased it for use as an exhibit hall. The fairgrounds were further developed in the 1920s, with an auditorium built in 1920 and a new larger grandstand built in 1921.[82]

In 1922, the Illinois Central Railroad dug a cut through the Village of Monee to decrease the elevation of the tracks. In addition to improving safety within the village, the cut also eased railroad operations. Prior to the creation of the cut, train traffic had to travel uphill from Chicago to Monee as well as from Kankakee to Monee since Monee was the highest point of elevation along the rail line. Within the village, road bridges were built for Court Street, Main Street, and Mill Street, and a pedestrian bridge was built at Margaret Street. It was recorded that the railroad spent $1.5 million dollars in further development and maintenance of its rail lines in Will County in the years 1924 and 1925.[83]

By 1928, the town of Monee had four general merchandise stores including Sonneborn Brothers which had based their business out of Simeon Abbott's old lodging house, the original house brought overland to Monee in 1852.[84] August Plagge, George S. Miller (the son of Simon Miller, who had taken over his father's store in 1888), and Romeo Illgen were also proprietors of three other general stores. Two hardware stores were located in Monee and operated by proprietors F. D. Homan and R. Merker. John Conrad ran a farming implements sales business. A garage was run by Emery Woeltje. Monee Grain and Lumber Company was a larger firm in town running a prosperous business. Two banks had opened in Monee, The Eastern Will County State Bank in 1903 and the Mokena State Bank.[85] The Monee Fire Department purchased its first motorized vehicle in 1927 improving response time to fire events in the village and surrounding area. From December 1905 through September 1931, the *Monee Review* newspaper was published.[86]

The automobile gained popularity in the 1920s, and the railroad industry was struggling. The interurban between Chicago and Kankakee ceased passenger service in 1927, although freight traffic continued for some time thereafter. While the railroads were struggling, road infrastructure was improved. Many roads were paved and designated U.S. routes to facilitate automobile travel. U.S. Route 54, which ran parallel to the Illinois Central Railroad tracks in Monee Township, was constructed as a forty-foot wide concrete road in 1927–1928.[87]

Local businesses in Monee struggled during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The Monee State Bank closed in December 1931, and the Eastern Will County State Bank closed in July 1932.[88] Given the financial difficulties in the community, the Monee Fair was held as a single-day homecoming in 1932, instead of a three-day fair. The 1920 auditorium building was destroyed by fire in 1934 and replaced by a similar, slightly taller structure.[89]

82. Mueller Milne (1973), 194–200, 255–256.
83. Maue (1928), 307.
84. This structure may still exist, although this information could not be confirmed at the time of the development of this report.
85. Maue (1928), 308.
86. Mueller Milne (1973), 48.
87. Maue (1928), 308.
88. Mueller Milne (1973), 48.
89. Mueller Milne (1973), 255–256.

During World War II, a major new landowner reshaped the northeastern portion of Monee Township. The Mall Tool Company had been founded in 1921 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, by Arthur W. Mall. (Mall was born in Hammond, Indiana, in 1895 and had served in the Navy in World War I.) He relocated the business to Chicago in 1922, located at 7805 S. South Chicago Avenue. The company found success making power drills, circular saws, chainsaws, and other handheld power tools. During World War II, Mall acquired around 2,000 acres of farmland in Monee Township, primarily in Sections 1, 11, 12, 13, and 14. He had the idea that, after the war, returning veterans who had been his employees would become homesteaders on the land. However, the veterans had no interest in the plan, and therefore the company instead operated ten experimental farms on the land in the 1940s and 1950s. Mall also established an airfield with hangar in Section 11, and an adjacent picnic grove for employees. In the early 1950s, a new factory was also built on the land, on South Western Avenue in the northeast corner of Section 12. In 1956, Mall Tool Company was acquired by Remington Arms Corp. and renamed the Remington Power Tool Division, with a particular focus on the chainsaw product line. Arthur W. Mall died in 1959.[90] Presently, the former Mall Tool plant on South Western Avenue is owned by Continental Midland LLC, a manufacturer of bolts, nuts, and screws.

Left: The Mall Tool Company factory on South Western Avenue. Right: The Mall Tool Company airfield in Section 11, site 1102 in the present survey. Source: Drury (1955), 332.

Similar to Mall Tool, the Reliable Packing Co. and its managers the Thompson family began acquiring significant land holdings in Monee Township during World War II. The Reliable Packing Co. was organized in Chicago in the 1920s, and the farmland in Monee Township presumably was used to grow animal feed and raise livestock. Nine different tenant farms are listed as owned by the Thompson family by the 1950s, including sites 703 and 1901 in the present survey (many other related farmsteads have been subsequently demolished). John Thompson was also reportedly a commodity trader. His son, John Thompson, Jr., operated the Thompson Winery in Section 29 of Monee Townships during the 1970s and 1980s. As well as a winery, the property also featured the relocated Beecher Depot and Thompson's private railroad engine collection, with five steam locomotives and one diesel engine. After the winery closed, the railroad engines were sold to various other museums around the United States. The winery burned around the year 2000, and in December 2000 the Beecher depot was relocated back to the Village of Beecher.[91]

90. Jane Mall, "A Life Sketch of Arthur W. Mall," in Daniel Mall, Jesse M. Mall and Lydia Mall Gates, eds., *Ancestry Mall* (Hoisington, Kansas: Jesse M. Mall, 1954), 121–123; "Arthur Mall, Tool Company Founder, Dies," *Chicago Sunday Tribune*, October 4, 1959.
91. Information provided by the Monee Historical Society; "Old Depot Gets Timely Face Lift," *Chicago Tribune*, November 30, 2003.

After World War II, the Village of Monee began to grow and recover from the depression of the 1930s. The first new residential subdivision outside the limits of the original nineteenth century village, known as "Monee Manor" was platted in 1947; this small subdivision was located west of Egyptian Trail and included three blocks: Roosevelt Street, Wilson Street, and an extension of Court Street.[92] A couple dozen new homes were built in this area during the 1950s. The last Monee District Fair had been held in the late 1940s. The association was unable to revive the fair in the 1950s, and a number of the structures on the property were demolished. Ultimately, the property was sold in 1960, and the grandstand, 1934 auditorium, and other remaining structures were demolished. The former fair property was subdivided for residential lots on four streets named Fairground Court, Ribbon Court, Park Lane, and County Fair Court.[93] However, the area was slow to develop, and most of the area remained vacant until homes were built on the site in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Gas mains were installed in the city in 1955. The *Monee Monitor* newspaper opened for business in September 1958; today, all of eastern Will County is covered by the *Peotone Vedette*. The fire station and leased space from the School District and other buildings became the location for village board meetings after the demolition of the Court Hall in 1958.

The population of Monee had fallen to 395 persons in 1920 but rebounded to 647 persons by 1960. Village residents approved a bond issue in April 1959 to construct a new water system. A new water tower was built and a new well dug in 1960 near the northwest corner of Main Street and Chestnut Street.[94] In 1963 a new fire station was built at the corner of Main and Chestnut Streets. Portions of the old brick four room school building were remodeled and incorporated into the Will County Fourth Judicial Circuit Court facilities in 1968.

The construction of Interstate 57 altered the landscape of Monee Township. The interstate, which passed through the western half of the township and opened in 1968, made the area more accessible to the larger metropolitan centers. Upon its completion, the interstate provided direct access to Chicago.[95]

By 1970, the population had reached 940 persons. In the early 1970s, as the interstate network was completed, U.S. Route 54 was truncated to end at Interstate 72 in western Illinois, and the portion of the highway in Will County was renamed Illinois Highway 50. The former route is now present-day Governors Highway, designated as Illinois Highway 50 from the south edge of Monee Township until it turns due north at Cicero Avenue.

A new one story village hall was constructed in 1984 to house the Village Clerk's office, the Village President's office, and the Building Department. The police department moved into new facilities in a converted hardware store at the southeast corner of Main Street and Compass Lane in 2001.

Especially since the 1990s, new suburban industrial, commercial, and residential developments have reshaped Monee Township, with the village expanding into formerly agricultural lands. Commercial and industrial uses have been concentrated along Interstate 57 in Section 17, 18, 19, and 20. New residential neighborhoods were platted on all sides of the village, including the northeast quarter of Section 20, all of Section 21, and the northwest quarter of Section 22. The village population soared from just a little over 1,000 persons in 1990 to over 5,100 persons in 2010. Residential development continued rapidly until the Great Recession of 2007–2009. In the decade since the recession, little new development has occurred. The Eagle Fair Estates subdivision in the southeastern part of the village, which began development in 2006 just

92. Mueller Milne (1973), 49.
93. Mueller Milne (1973), 200–202.
94. Mueller Milne (1973), 50.
95. http://www.interstate-guide.com/i-057.html

before the recession, remains only partially developed, with numerous vacant lots awaiting future construction.

Branching from an initiative to save the Monee Creamery Building in Firemen's Park from demolition in 2011, the building was granted Will County landmark status in 2016. The "Save the Creamery" Foundation organizing the campaign transitioned into becoming the Monee Historical Society in 2017.

University Park

In the years following World War II, the far southern region of Cook County and adjacent areas of Will County began to experience rapid suburban development. One of the early examples of postwar suburban development in the Chicago region was the Village of Park Forest in Rich Township, Cook County. Developers Nathan Manilow, Carroll Sweet, and Philip Klutznick initiated development of the village in 1946. The design included both rental apartments and ranch-style single family homes, all arranged on a curvilinear street network. The new planned community included the first suburban shopping center in the Chicago area, Park Forest Plaza, which opened in late 1949. Many of the initial residents were young families headed by college-educated veterans of World War II. Although primarily located in Rich Township of Cook County, Park Forest extended southward into Sections 1 and 2 of Monee Township. The village developed very rapidly, and between 1940 and 1960, the population of Rich Township grew elevenfold, from only a little over 2,900 persons in 1940 to more than 35,000 persons in 1960. In the same period, Monee Township grew from a little over 1,100 persons to over 11,700 persons.[96]

With the success of Park Forest, developers began to explore other potential areas that could be developed in the vicinity. As noted above, in the 1950s, much of the farmland in Sections 12 and 13 of Monee Township was owned by the Mall family. In the late 1950s, developers began to purchase land in this area, forming Wood Hill Enterprises to develop the property. Development of the first subdivision began in 1960, and the first houses were completed in the summer of 1961 on Blackhawk Drive and Circle Drive. The Wood Hill subdivision was located in the southeast quarter of Section 12 and the northeast quarter of Section 13.[97]

Despite optimistic promises from the developer about a shopping center, school, and hundreds of homes in the area, the development struggled, and by 1967 there were only 240 homes completed. Many of the new houses were financed in part by loans from the developer to the buyer, which created instability in the community when the development company failed. By the end of 1965, Pullman Bank had taken over the remaining assets of the developer, and an earlier idea of incorporating the subdivision as a village was revived. Ultimately, a referendum in favor of incorporation passed in June 1967, with the name Park Forest South adopted. The new village had a population of 1,050 persons.[98]

At about this time, one of the developers of Park Forest, Nathan Manilow, partnered with subsidiaries of the Illinois Central Railroad and U.S. Gypsum to revive plans for suburban development in the area, taking advantage of new federal programs to re-launch the project.[99] Under the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, the federal government encouraged the development of new housing for low- and moderate-income families. In contrast to prior public housing programs, the program intended to use public funds to subsidize and leverage private developers to create new housing. Inspired by the success of the "New Town" projects in the United Kingdom, the Act included a provision (Title IV) that provided funding for the development of New Town projects in the United States. In 1970, the 1968 Act was replaced by the

96. Richard Sherman, "Park Forest: A Model for U.S. Planned Towns," *Star Newspaper*, September 11, 1988.
97. Vernon Young, "A Brief History of the Original Formation of University Park as the Village of Park Forest South," in Larry A. McClellan, *Park Forest South/University Park: A Guide to Its History and Development* (University Park: Governors State University, 1986), 41.
98. Ibid., 42–45.
99. Nory Miller, "Park Forest South: Utopia Goes Kerplunk," *Inland Architect* (December 1975), 7–15.

National Urban Policy and New Community Development Act. Title VII of the new act continued and expanded the "New Communities" program under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). From 1970 to 1982, Park Forest South was part of the Title VII New Communities program. Using $30 million in bonds guaranteed by HUD, the development company acquired land and began the installation of infrastructure. The comprehensive plan prepared by the Park Forest South Development Company in 1970 projected a population of 110,000 persons by 1990.[100]

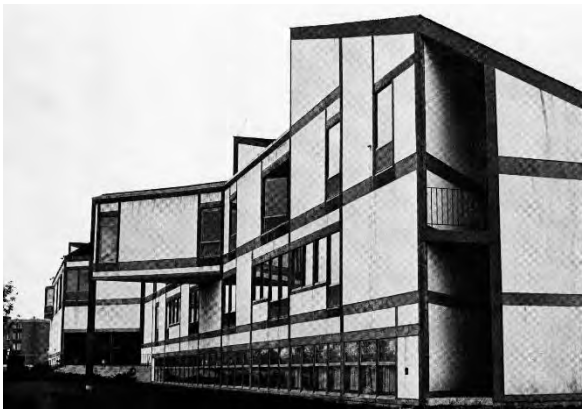
As plans for the new town took shape, Governors State University was brought to the village as a major institutional anchor. In 1966, the Illinois Board of Higher Education had produced two master plans for collegiate education in the state, leading to the creation of two new institutions, one in Springfield (Sangamon State University, now the University of Illinois at Springfield), and one in south suburban Chicago. Governors State University was chartered in 1969, with the intention to locate its campus in Monee Township. The first students were enrolled and instruction began in the fall of 1971 in a rented warehouse building in the village industrial park; this temporary facility allowed the university to begin operations sooner than the original intended date of 1973. Construction of the permanent campus building complex proceeded rapidly after breaking ground in June 1971, and the first portions of the building were occupied in January 1974. The original campus facilities were designed by the architectural firm Caudill, Rowlett and Scott as one long interconnected structure, with a central "street" running east-west through the building, and six wings of varying configurations for different departments branching off to the north or south.[101] The initial plan included:[102]

- Building A (east end): College of Environmental and Applied Sciences (including Health Sciences)
- Building B: College of Cultural Studies
- Building C: bookstore, administrative offices, classrooms, part of the University library, and the main entrance atrium, and the Hall of Governors
- Building D: offices for various student services, computer services, the remaining part of the University Library, and the College of Business and Public Service
- Building E: University Theater, Conference Center
- Building F (west end): Physical Activities Center: gymnasium, pool, and related rooms

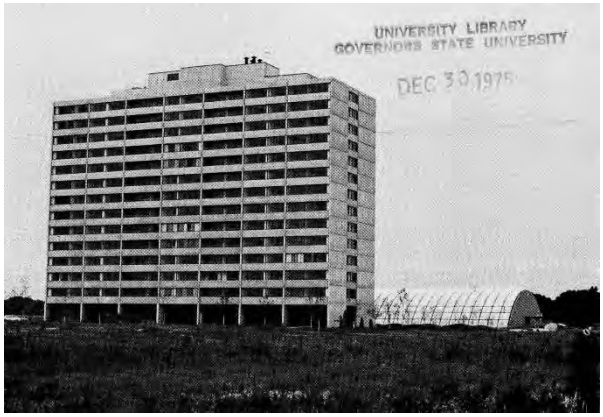
A series of parking lots were located to the south of the building. A proposed Phase II of the complex, which would have extended northwest from the north side of Building E, was never constructed.

Nathan Manilow died in 1971, and his son Lewis Manilow took over operations of the Park Forest South Development Company. Development of multi-family and single-family housing proceeded in the early 1970s. A 170-unit high-rise apartment building for the elderly (Thornwood House Apartments) was completed, financed by the Illinois Housing Development Authority.

100. Ibid.
101. Ted F. Andrews, "History of GSU 1969–79," University Anniversaries & Historical Documents, Paper 5 (1980).
102. Note that the university presently uses a reversed west to east labeling scheme, such that original Building A is now called Building F, and so forth.



Left: The offices of the Park Forest South Development Company, designed by the Chicago architect Harry Weese. This building was demolished in the 1980s. Right: A view looking southwest over the campus of Governors State University. Source: Inland Architect*, December 1975.*



Left: The residential core of Park Forest South in 1975, on the south side of University Parkway east of Burnham Drive, with the development company office in the foreground. Right: Thornwood House Apartments. Source: Inland Architect*, December 1975.*

By the end of 1974, the development seemed to be moving forward, with the university established, an industrial park in operation, and 5,000 residents, making Park Forest South the most advanced of the Title VII New Communities. However, many of the promised amenities were incomplete, plans for a hospital had been cancelled, new home building had slowed considerably, and the developers had defaulted on $1 million in interest payments. The Nixon Administration put in place a moratorium on money for subsidized housing, and little of the grant money appropriated to HUD by Congress was ever actually spent.[103] A public meeting was held on December 2, 1974, at which the developers admitted their financial problems and announced the termination of their operations. A new village president and four trustees were elected in April 1975, which marked the beginning of a more assertive role for the village government.[104] In early 1975, Lewis Manilow, the Illinois Central Railroad, and U.S. Gypsum each bought land from the Park Forest South Development Company, effectively ending their partnership while providing cash to wind down the development company.[105] In 1976, the village updated its comprehensive plan, based on a population projection of 30,000 to 45,000 persons. The long-awaited commuter rail station opened in 1977, providing service on the Illinois Central Railroad (since 1987, the Metra Electric service) to downtown Chicago. The station was located on Governor's Highway to the north of Stuenkel Road; coincidentally, this is the same location as an earlier freight depot operated by the Illinois Central from the 1890s to the

103. Nory Miller, "Park Forest South: Utopia Goes Kerplunk," *Inland Architect* (December 1975), 7–15.
104. Larry A. McClellan, *Park Forest South/University Park: A Guide to Its History and Development* (University Park: Governors State University, 1986), 13.
105. Nory Miller, "Park Forest South: Utopia Goes Kerplunk," *Inland Architect* (December 1975), 7–15.

1920s. Also in 1977, the village purchased the historic farmstead in the south half of the southeast quarter of Section 13, the Koelling-Riegel-Manilow Farmstead, for use as a public park.

By the mid-1980s, University Park had reached a population of only approximately 6,500 persons. Somewhat distinctively for suburban development in the second half of the twentieth century, Park Forest South was intended to be racially integrated from its inception in the 1960s. The Title VII New Communities program had as one of its goals the development of racially integrated communities. Although implementation of non-discriminatory real estate practices was not without controversy in the 1970s, the village was fairly integrated in the late 1970s and 1980s, with minorities comprising around 50 percent of the population in the mid-1980s.[106] In 1984, the name of the village was changed to University Park.

In the 1990s, Governors State University began to expand beyond its original early 1970s building complex. The Goodman-Malamuth Technology Building was the first free-standing educational building separate from the original complex. In 1995, the Center for Performing Arts was opened as an addition to the north side of the original complex. Building G was constructed in 2002 as a new office and classroom wing connected to the southeast part of the original complex. Also in 2002, the Family Development Center was built southwest of the original parking lots, as a care facility for the children of students, faculty, and staff. The Prairie Place residence hall was built at the west edge of the campus in 2013–2014 as the first on-campus housing for students, featuring a mixture of double-occupancy suites and two to four bedroom furnished apartments. Also in 2013–2014, Buildings E and F, the Health, Science, and Technology Wing at the east end of the original complex, was renovated. When it was originally developed, the campus included a number of former farmstead properties. Most of these older structures were demolished over the years, but one property, the former Urban–Hantack Farm, was retained (site 1002 in the present survey). The ranch-style house was used as offices, while the round roof barn with its attached silo was used for vehicle storage. The barn was a much-loved campus landmark, but it was destroyed by fire on August 7, 2015. The house remains in use as office space as of this writing; an office wing was added to the east end of the house circa 2008. Also on the campus, the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park was inaugurated in 2009.

Relatively little new development occurred in University Park after 1975 to the end of the twentieth century. In the late 1990s, new houses were built on lots that had laid vacant since the 1970s in the south part of the village, along Clover Lane, Harvest Lane, and Farmview Road, around the former Koelling-Riegel-Manilow Farmstead. Additional infill has occurred in more recent years within the core of the village: Regent Road was created, and a new block of single-family houses was built from 2005 to 2008. However, a later planned townhome development on the west side of Burnham Drive failed after construction of a few buildings was already underway. Since the year 2000, more rapid development of the village's industrial park between Interstate 57 and Governors Highway has occurred, with new warehouses and similar structures in Sections 3, 4, 8, 9, 16, and 17 of Monee Township. In 1962, the Urban Hills Country Club had opened an 18-hole golf course in the southeast quarter of Section 3. In the mid-2000s, the course was acquired by the Village of University Park and renamed the University Park Golf Club. At the time of the 2010 census, the village population was 7,129 persons. Although the village was previously racially integrated, the White population had declined to only a little more than 6 percent of the total, and the village was almost 90 percent African American. In October 2015, a new interchange with Interstate 57 for Stuenkel Road was completed, providing direct interstate highway access to the village and the industrial park.[107]

106. Larry A. McClellan, *Park Forest South/University Park: A Guide to Its History and Development* (University Park: Governors State University, 1986), 19.
107. Mike Nolan, "New Interchange a 'Rebirth' for University Park," *Daily Southtown*, November 5, 2015.

Forest Preserves

Monee Township includes a number of forest preserves that protect the natural landscape of the county. The oldest of these preserves is the Raccoon Grove Forest Preserve. This native grove of trees was the core of the 1,280 acre reserve in Sections 28, 29, 32, and 33 that was reserved for the benefit of "the five daughters of Mo-nee, by her last husband, Joseph Bailey [or Bailly]" under the 1832 Treaty of Camp Tippecanoe. The reservation was sold to William B. Ogden of Chicago in 1851, who platted it as small woodlot tracts that were sold to local residents. Many of these "woods" became popular picnic spots in the latter half of the nineteenth century.[108]

In 1908, a group of Monee residents formed the Monee Amusement Company and leased 75 acres owned by Mrs. Sophia Ziemer in Section 32. The group laid built a picnic grounds, baseball diamond, and dance pavilion. The new park, name Oakdell Park, was a popular attraction for about a decade. The company was disbanded and the structures sold to Mrs. Ziemer in 1918. The old dance pavilion was demolished in 1936.[109] The tornado of May 26, 1917, crossed Raccoon Grove and uprooted numerous trees. Fires also periodically swept through the grove. Starting in the 1940s, the northeastern portion of the historic grove was developed as residential lots.[110] Although this area remains unincorporated, several dozen homes are located on wooded lots in the vicinity of the intersection of Pauling Road and Egyptian Trail.

The former Oakdell Park property was offered for sale in 1937. The Will County Forest Preserve District decided to purchase the 57 acre site, forming the core of one of the oldest forest preserves in the county.[111] Subsequent land acquisition has increased the size of the Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve to 213 acres in Section 32. The preserve is protected in an undeveloped state, the preserve does feature a 1/4-mile hiking trail.[112] Directly adjacent to the west, the Will County Forest Preserve District has also acquired the Monee Reservoir, bringing the total to 460 acres. The reservoir parcel includes a 46-acre lake that was created by the Illinois Central Railroad to supply water for its steam engines. The reservoir property was acquired between 1982 and 2006. The property is more developed for recreation than the adjacent nature preserve, and features trails, a picnic ground, a dock for boating and fishing on the lake, and a visitor center.[113]

A group of concerned neighbors formed the Thorn Creek Preservation Association in 1969, seeking to protect the Thorn Creek Woods from planned development.[114] The group successfully convinced a number of separate agencies and local governments to acquire key parcels, including land from the Park Forest South Development Company. Since 1977, the preserve has been jointly owned and managed by the Thorn Creek Woods Management Commission members: the Forest Preserve District, the Village of Park Forest, the Village of University Park, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the Friends of Thorn Creek Woods. With additional land acquisition through 2006, the preserve currently encompasses 997 acres. Generally protected in a natural state, the preserve features 1.94 miles of trails. This preserve also includes the historic Immanuel Lutheran Church, built circa 1862 in Rich Township, Cook County, and now operated by the Village of Park Forest as a nature center. The church was relocated to Monee Township circa 1961 and is documented as site 202 in the present survey.

The Thorn Creek Headwaters Preserve in Section 15 is the newest preserve in the township, encompassing 426-acres acquired in 2007 and 2008. This site is managed to protect and enhance its natural resources and is not generally accessible to the public.[115]

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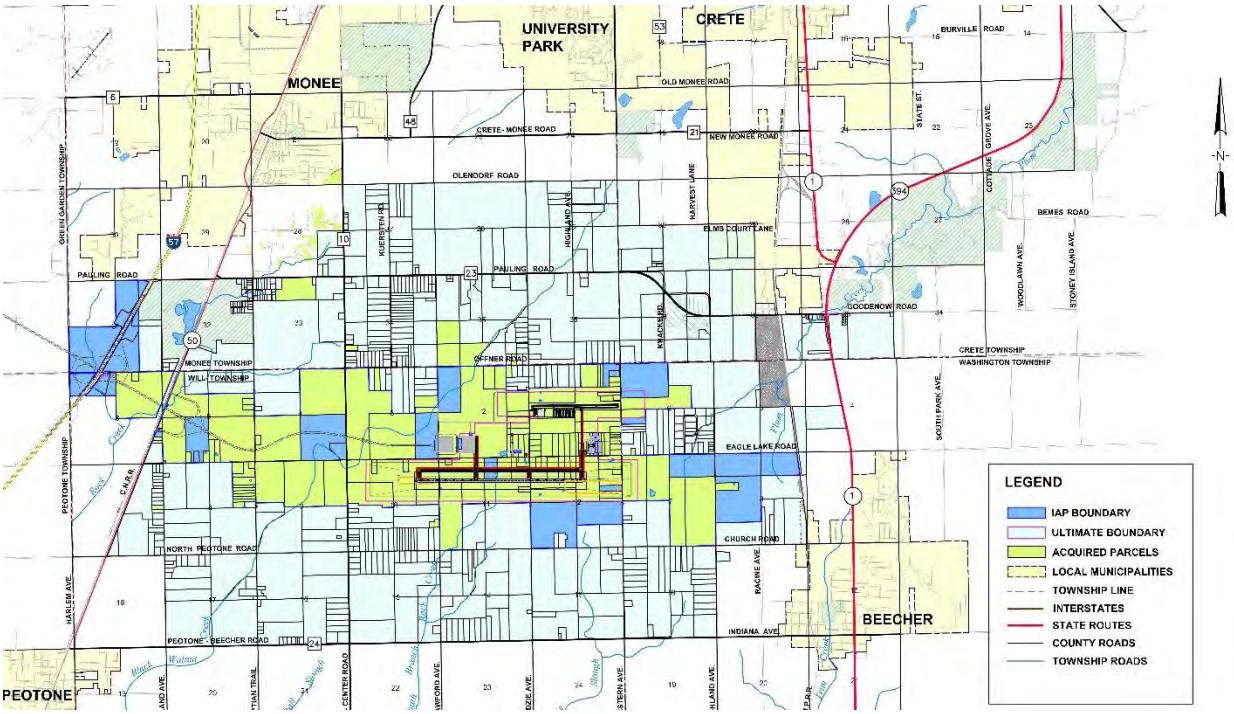
108. Mueller Milne (1973), 101–102.
109. Mueller Milne (1973), 104–108.
110. Mueller Milne (1973), 103–104.
111. Mueller Milne (1973), 108.
112. Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve, www.reconnectwithnature.org/preserves-trails/preserves/raccoon-grove
113. Monee Reservoir, www.reconnectwithnature.org/preserves-trails/preserves/monee-reservoir
114. tcwoods.org. The group was subsequently renamed the Friends of Thorn Creek Woods.
115. Thorn Creek Headwaters Preserve, www.reconnectwithnature.org/preserves-trails/unimproved-preserves/

South Suburban Airport

In addition to ongoing commercial and residential development, one new proposed infrastructure project has the potential to affect Monee Township: the South Suburban Airport. The concept of a third major airport in the Chicago area has been discussed since at least the 1980s. In the early 1990s, the Lake Calumet area on the south side of Chicago was initially considered, but rejected due to concerns about air traffic interference with O'Hare and Midway airports. Therefore, in the mid-1990s, conceptual planning for a so-called South Suburban Airport was begun. A site in eastern Will County was selected by Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and funding was allocated in 1999 to begin land acquisition. The first parcel was acquired by the state in December 2001, a 115-acre parcel in the northeast quarter of Section 11 of Will Township. An initial environmental impact study completed in 2002 confirmed the site in eastern Will County as the preferred alternative for a third major airport in metropolitan Chicago. Forecasts of air passenger, air cargo, and general aviation traffic were prepared in 2004 and updated in 2009. Also in 2009, IDOT began the condemnation process to acquire the remaining parcels needed for the inaugural airport runway under the State's eminent domain power. A study of facility requirements was prepared in 2011 based on the 2009 traffic forecasts. A report evaluating alternative airport layouts was finalized on December 16, 2011. On July 1, 2014, IDOT acquired Bult Field, a privately built general aviation airport with a 5,000 foot runway located in Section 1 of Will Township which originally opened in 1953. In 2016, updated feasibility and facilities plans were submitted by the IDOT Division of Aeronautics to the Federal Aviation Administration. As of this writing, IDOT has acquired dozens of parcels in the northern half of Will Township and extending into Sections 28, 33, 34, and 35 of Monee Township.[115] If built as proposed, the airport property would encompass much of the southern third of Monee Township. Landmark eligible sites including the Deutsche Farmstead (site 2502), the Deustche School (site 2504), the Lawler–Zirzow Farmstead (site 3101), and the Tucker–Miller–Siemsen Farmstead (site 2602) are located within the proposed airport property. The airport property would extend almost up to the southeastern edge of the Village of Monee. (See Map 4 in Appendix B.)



Land acquired by IDOT for the proposed South Suburban Airport as of 2019 is shaded green. The darker blue parcels are necessary acquisitions for the "inaugural airport" concept.

115. http://www.southsuburbanairport.com/

Schools

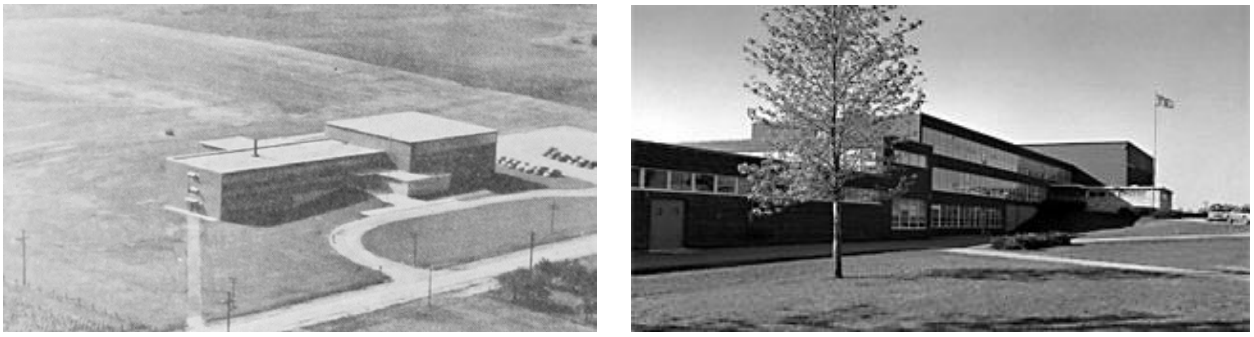
The first schoolhouse in the Village of Monee was built in 1854. This structure was expanded by a one-room addition in 1873. In 1905, a new four-room brick and stone building was built on the same site. The older nineteenth century structure was sold at auction and divided and moved to new sites on Court Street. These buildings were remodeled into residences.[116]

Left: The Monee School built in 1905. Source: Mueller Milne, Our Roots Are Deep *(1973), page 125, courtesy of Mrs. Dora (Stassen) Green. Right: The Monee School as it appeared in 1955. Source: Drury,* This Is Will County *(1955), page 320.*

The Monee School began to offer a two-year high school course in the 1923–1924 school year. After consolidation of the school district, the Monee School continued in use as an elementary school. The 1905 building was vacated in October 1965. After being vacant for a few years, the building was converted to courtroom facilities for the Will County Fourth Judicial Circuit Court.[117] This use ended in the early 1970s, and the building was purchased by the village. In the 1980s, the building was demolished.

All of Monee Township was included in the new consolidated Crete-Monee Community Unit School District 201 when it was established in 1948. One of the first actions of the newly consolidated district was to construct a new elementary school building in Monee. The new building was completed in phases from 1950 to 1958. In 1953, construction of a new high school building for the district began on a new site at 760 West Exchange Street in Crete Township; this building opened for classes in 1954. With the rapid development of the Village of Park Forest, in 1957 and 1958, the Talala School in Park Forest (northeast quarter of section 2 of Monee Township) was built in two phases. An addition to the high school was completed in 1957.[118]

116. Mueller Milne (1973), 125. Although unconfirmed, it appears that these two residences were located at 5234 and 5240 West Court Street, on the north side of the street east of Elmwood Lane. The two-story structure (5240) was demolished in 2012, and the one-story structure (5234) was demolished in 2015. The lots are currently vacant and used as overflow parking for Firemen's Park.
117. Ibid., 125–126.
118. Ibid., 127; Farrington, 208–209.



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

In 1960, Balmoral and Meadowbrook schools (both in Crete Township), each containing six classrooms, were completed. In 1961, a second addition was built onto the high school, and in 1963 a junior high school was built. At this time, enrollment was reorganized, from an eight-grade elementary plus four-grade high school system (commonly called 8-4 plan), to a six-grade elementary plus three-grade junior high school plus three-grade high school system (commonly called 6-3-3 plan). In 1965 a third addition to the high school was completed.[119] This addition was a domed physical education building connected to the school by a short corridor and became known as the "Warrior Dome." During heavy snowfall from the blizzard of January 26–27, 1967, the domed roof of the addition collapsed. A replacement dome was completed by June 1968. Further additions to the high school were completed in 1966, 1968, and 1973, and renovations and additions were made in 1985–1986.[120]

The district began to offer kindergarten classes for the first time in 1967. A new grade school was built in Park Forest South (now called University Park, in section 13 of Monee Township) in 1971, known as Hickory School, and a new junior high school, Deer Creek Junior High School, was built in 1974–1975 (in section 24 of Monee Township). Due to declining enrollment and flooding problems, this latter school closed in 1987. The school was reconstructed in 1997 and reopened in 1998 as the Crete-Monee Middle School.[121] Also, a small addition was made to the Monee Elementary school in 1970.

The former Meadowbrook Grade School on South Kings Road in Section 7 of Crete Township closed in 1981. It was purchased in 1990 by St. Liborius Catholic Church in Steger and opened as a parochial school in 1991.[122] Today it is known as Mother Teresa Catholic Academy.

Enrollment in the district grew rapidly in the 1990s and early 2000s, reaching 4,645 students in the 2004–2005 school year. In 2004, voters approved a referendum allowing the construction of a new elementary school in Monee and a new high school. The new high school was constructed directly west of the existing high school on West Exchange Street. The new high school was opened in 2007 at a cost of $160 million. The new Monee Elementary School was completed in 2006 and was located northeast of the village, on the east side of Will Center Road in Section 15. Enrollment reached 5,000 students by 2010.

119. Farrington, 209–210.
120. Crete-Monee School District 201, www.cm201u.org.
121. Triebold and Monks, "New School Houses" in *Crete Remembered: A Glimpse of the Early Days of Crete, Illinois,* volume 5 (self-published, 2010), article 157.
122. Ibid.

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

Presently, District 201 operates the following schools serving a 2018–2019 enrollment of 4,349 students from kindergarten through grade 12:

- Balmoral Elementary School, 1124 West New Monee Road, in Section 20 of Crete Township. The first portion was constructed in 1960, and a four-room addition was built in 1966.
- Crete Elementary School, occupying the 1929 village school building, with many later additions. An addition to the south front in 1984 destroyed the original Art Deco style entrance.
- Coretta Scott King Magnet School, 1009 Blackhawk Drive, in Section 13 of Monee Township. This school was originally known as Hickory Grade School and was built in 1971. This elementary school was converted to a magnet school in the 2006–2007 school year.
- Early Learning Center, 1500 Sangamon Street, in Section 17 of Crete Township. This building was originally built as the Hubbard Trail Junior High School and opened in September 1963. The junior high school closed in 1998, and district offices were relocated to this building.
- Monee Education Center, 5154 Main Street, in the Village of Monee. This building is the former Monee Elementary School constructed in the 1950s.
- Monee Elementary School, 25425 Will Center Road, Section 15 of Monee Township. This new school building was constructed in 2006.
- Talala Elementary School, 430 Talala Street, Section 2 of Monee Township. The original portions of this school were built in 1957–1958.
- Crete Monee Sixth Grade Center, 760 West Exchange Street, in Section 17 of Crete Township. Originally built in 1954 as the high school, it had many subsequent additions. With the completion of a new addition to the middle school in 2016, this building has been closed.
- Crete Monee Middle School, 635 Olmsted Lane, in Section 24 of Monee Township. Originally built in 1974–1975, it was mostly reconstructed in 1997 and reopened in 1998.
- Crete Monee High School, 1515 West Exchange Street, in Section 17 of Crete Township. The new high school was constructed in 2006–2007.

Currently, the Crete-Monee school district is considering a restructuring plan that would include demolishing the vacant Sixth Grade Center (the 1954 high school building) and replacing it with a pre-K through 2nd grade learning center on the site, expanding the 2006 Monee Elementary School building to house grades 3 through 5, and expanding the middle school with additional classrooms. Also under consideration is renovation of the Early Learning Center to house district offices and special programs, or construction of a new district administrative building. Following this construction and renovation work, Balmoral, Crete Elementary, Coretta Scott King, and Talala schools are proposed to be closed.

Of the seven schools present in Monee Township before consolidation, two historic school buildings remain. The historic Monee Grade School was demolished in the 1980s, but two former one-room schoolhouses have been adaptively reused. The Deutsche School, site 2504 in the present survey, was also built in the nineteenth century. It replaced an earlier school building, known as the Black Walnut School, that had been destroyed by fire. The Deutsche School was sold after district consolidation and adapted for residential use, and it remains used as residence today. The Schannen School, site 3202 in the present survey, was built in 1861. It remained actively used for almost 80 years, but closed after the 1938–1939 school year. After remaining vacant for ten years, the building was sold following district consolidation. In 1950, it was remodeled into a house by Glen Cripe.[123] It remains in use as a residence today.

Map ID	PIN	Location	Name	Status
506	—	South center, sec. 5	District No. 178 Pleasant School	Demolished. Site is within present-day right-of-way of Interstate 57.
1103	—	Northwest corner of University Parkway and Steger-Monee Road	District No. 177 Thorn Grove School	Demolished
1706	—	Southwest corner, sec. 17	District No. 175 Fehland School	Demolished
2108	—	Village, south side of Main Street west of Eastgate Avenue	District No. 176 Monee Grade School	Demolished
2504	14-25-100-004	Center, sec. 25	District No. 172 Deutsche School	Adaptively reused as residence.
2708	—	South center, sec. 27	District No. 173 Rabe School	Demolished
3202	14-32-100-014	Northwest corner, sec. 32	District No. 174 Schannen School	Adaptively reused as residence.

Left: Historic view of the Schannen School in 1919. Source: Our Roots are Deep *(1973), page 121. Right: The Schannen School today, adapted as a residence, documented as site 3202 in the present survey.*

123. Mueller Milne (1973), 121–122.

Churches

The first organized church congregation in Monee Township was a German Evangelical church established in 1858. Following in the 1860s, Catholic, Congregational, and Methodist congregations were organized. Religious congregations in the township have historically be located in the Village of Monee.

Congregational Church. The Congregational Church was first organized in Monee around 1861. Located on the northeast corner of Linden Avenue and Astor Place, the Congregational Church of Monee Township was built in 1866. The first reverend of the church was W. B. Atkinson, and in 1872 the membership of the congregation totaled sixteen people. Atkinson was succeeded by Rev. George Dunlap by the late 1870s.[124]

The Congregational Church congregation dwindled to only a few members, and the church apparently closed in the late 1890s. The property was sold to William Dralle in July 1900. Dralle remodeled the former church building into a residence in September 1906. In 1911, the residence was sold to Louis Buchmeier, who resided in the home until 1945.[125] The former church property has remained a residence to the present day, at 25819 South Linden Avenue, PIN 14-21-110-001.

Methodist Church. The Methodist Episcopal congregation was organized in 1868 by Reverend Ross. In the same year of 1868, a gable church structure with a steeple was built on the southwest corner of Walnut (present-day Governor's Highway) and Court Steel. Construction costs totaled $1,500.[126] In June 1914, a new bell was installed in the steeple of the church.[127] The membership began to decline in the early twentieth century, and the Methodist church closed in the early 1920s. In 1931, the property was sold to Jacob A. Stegmeyer, who tore down the old church and lumber scraps of the former church to construct a new restaurant and gas station. The business was sold to Frank Knuppel in 1938, and later to Frank Mayes. A fire devastated the restaurant in 1956, destroying all remnants of the former Methodist church.[128] The adjacent gas station structure still exists.

Left: Undated view of the Monee Methodist Church, likely early twentieth century. Source: Mueller Milne, Our Roots Are Deep *(1973), 66. Right: The gas station and restaurant that replaced the Methodist Church. Source: Drury (1955), 576. Although the cottage-style restaurant was destroyed by fire in 1956, the 1931 gas station building at left with the semicircular front still exists at 25830 South Governors Highway as the shop for JTR Heating & Air Conditioning.*

124. Mueller Milne (1973), 65; Woodruff (1878), 574.
125. Mueller Milne (1973), 65.
126. Mueller Milne (1973), 66; Woodruff (1878), 574.
127. Mueller Milne (1973), 67.
128. Ibid., 67.

St. Boniface Catholic Church. The first Catholic congregation of Monee Township was first organized by Reverend Charles Steisaberger in 1866. In 1868, the St. Boniface Catholic Church was constructed on the north side of Main Street, with construction costs totaling $1,500.[129] Father Danz served as the pastor of St. Boniface in the early 1900s. As reported in an article in the *Monee Review*, repairs were made to the church in 1907 including the installation of a new floor in the vestibule and repainting of the church. In 1915, new stained glass windows were added to the church.[130] Due to the small number of Catholic families in Monee, the church was used for Mass only a few Sundays a month. The parish closed in the mid-1920s.

Left: Photograph of St. Boniface Catholic Church circa 1960s. Source: Mueller Milne, Our Roots Are Deep *(1973), 68. Right: St. Boniface Catholic Church in 1974. Source: State of Illinois survey photograph, HARGIS.*

In 1949, the abandoned church was rehabilitated, and the parish re-opened in October 1949 with Rev. Jerald Kerrigan as pastor.[131] Foundation repairs were made and a social hall wing was added in the 1980s. St. Boniface celebrated 150 years of the parish in 2018. The original 1868 church building remains in use, although original character-defining features have been obscured by alterations made to the front entrance and steeple.

Left: St. Boniface Catholic Church, site 2106 in the present survey. Right: View of the social wing addition to St. Boniface.

129. Mueller Milne (1973), 68; Woodruff (1878), 574.
130. Mueller Milne (1973), 68.
131. Ibid., 69.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ. The congregation of the present-day St. Paul's United Church of Christ originated in the 1850s under Rev. Hartmann, who served as president of the United Evangelical Synod of the Northwest. The initial thirty-five members gathered at the Monee schoolhouse, and the local congregation was established in 1858. Some of the congregation's first officers were F. H. Luehrs as secretary, Chris Klein as treasurer, Christ Herbst and Phillip Bischmann as trustees, and Adam Offner and J. F. Klockow as elders. The first church was built in 1860, with construction costs totaling $1,045. As many members were of German descent, the first services were held in German. The congregation was known as the German Evangelical Church.[132]

Left: Photograph of St. Paul's Church circa 1880s. Source: Mueller Milne, Our Roots Are Deep *(1973), 70. Right: View of St. Paul's Church following the construction of the new bell tower in 1894. Source: Mueller Milne,* Our Roots Are Deep *(1973), 72.*

Reverend G. Loeffler was the first pastor to reside in Monee. A new combined parsonage and schoolhouse was built adjacent to the church in 1866. A new schoolhouse opened in 1877. In 1894, significant alterations were made to the church, including the addition of a new bell tower. The new belfry featured arched windows and a cross gable steeple. Inside the tower, three new bells were dedicated by parishioners. In 1898, a new pipe organ was donated to the parish by the Frauen Verein (women's guild).[133]

Wooden walkways surrounding the church were replaced with cement sidewalks in 1905. In the same year, the congregation purchased the adjacent residential property at the southeast corner of Margaret Street and Linden Avenue, located just to the west of the church and cemetery.[134] In 1911, a new church constitution was adopted, and the congregation was renamed the Evangelical St. Paul's Church (in German, the Evangelische St. Paul's Kirche). As the congregation grew, the church structure soon became inadequate for the growing needs of the congregation. A new church was designed by a Chicago-based architect and built by the Koenning brothers of Peotone, with construction costs totaling $17,275. Construction was completed in 1915. The new masonry Gothic Revival style church featured a bell tower, tracery windows,

132. Mueller Milne (1973), 70; Woodruff (1878), 574.
133. Ibid., 71.
134. Ibid., 72.

and a steeply gabled roof. It was located west of the original church and cemetery, facing Margaret Street at Linden Avenue. The bells from the old church were removed and placed in the belfry of the new church.[135]

The Evangelical St. Paul's Church shortly after completion of construction in 1915. The old church is visible behind the new structure prior to being relocated. The large stained glass windows for the sanctuary were lost in the 1930 fire. Source: Mueller Milne, Our Roots Are Deep *(1973), 75.*

With the completion of the new church, the 1860 church building and the 1877 schoolhouse were sold. The church building was purchased by the Monee Driving Park Association. The bell tower was removed, and the structure was relocated eastward 1/4 mile to the fairgrounds in August 1915. It was remodeled and used as an exhibition hall before being demolished in the 1950s. The schoolhouse was purchased by Jacob Gloor, and the structure was relocated north to Main Street and remodeled into a residence.[136]

Four years after the new church opened, a new parsonage was built adjacent to the church, facing Linden Avenue. The 1866 parsonage building was sold in 1919, and relocated to Eastgate Avenue for use as a residence.[137] On December 5, 1930, a fire devastated the interior of the church. The church was repaired and rededicated in July 1931.[138]

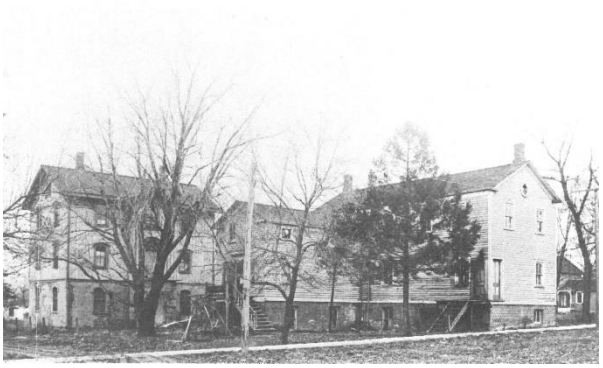
In 1958, following a merger of national denominations, the church was renamed to St. Paul's United Church of Christ.[139] As the congregation continued to expand, the basement was renovated and a two-story multi-

135. Ibid., 73–74.
136. Ibid., 75.
137. Ibid., 76. Although the exact location is unconfirmed, the old parsonage structure is likely the upright-and-wing type house at 25955 S. Eastgate Avenue, PIN 14-21-322-003.
138. Ibid., 77.
139. The United Church of Christ was formed when two Protestant churches, the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches, united in 1957. The Evangelical and Reformed Church was itself formed in an earlier merger in 1934 between the Reformed Church in the United

purpose addition was added to the southeast corner of the church in 1959.[140] The church celebrated 150 years in 2008.

Left: St. Paul's United Church of Christ, site 2105 in the present survey. Right: View of the addition built in 1959.

Baptist Academy. In 1872, Henry Stassen and Professor Edward Carl Janzen purchased property at the southeast corner of Main Street and Walnut Street (now Governors Highway) in Monee. Their intention was to establish a German-language boarding school in the Baptist denomination. A former brewery and residence that was located on the site was lifted up, and a new stone and brick basement level was built beneath it. The academy opened for students in the fall of 1872. A few years later, an additional three-story building was built, with a brick ground floor and wood frame upper levels. The highest enrollment achieved by the academy was 22 students, but it closed in 1876. Professor Janzen remained in Monee for a few more years and taught at a one-room school in Green Garden Township, before moving away in 1879. In later years, the former academy buildings were uses as a residence by the Stassen family and others as well as a number of businesses. By the 1920s, the buildings were in poor condition and were demolished.[141]



The Baptist Academy on the south side of Main Street, circa 1895. The structure at right is the former brewery and residence that the academy purchased in 1872 and remodeled, while the structure at left is the three-story building built by the academy later in the 1870s. Source: Sterling, plate 215.

States and the Evangelical Synod of North America. As of 2018, the United Church of Christ includes 824,866 members in 4,882 congregations across the United States.

140. Mueller Milne (1973), 77.
141. Mueller Milne (1973), 222–227.

Cemeteries

There are several historic cemeteries in Monee Township, in addition to other unnamed family burial grounds. Two of these cemeteries, St. Paul Cemetery and Skyline Memorial Park, remain open for new interments. Other cemeteries are mentioned in historical resources but could not be identified in the field survey for this project.[142]

Schlem Cemetery (site 2909 in the present survey) is located south of the corner of Ridgeland Avenue and Bruns Road in Section 29. The presumed location is in a heavily forested area, and no evidence of the cemetery could be located during the present survey.

Vatter Cemetery was marked on the 1873 atlas map of the township in the northwest quarter of Section 21. This area has been farmed for many decades; the 1939 aerial photograph shows the former Vatter property as an open agricultural field without trees or any structures. The property is an open field today, and no above-ground evidence of the cemetery exists.

An unnamed cemetery is reportedly located near Olendorf Road in the southeastern part of the township. The exact location of this cemetery is not known.

St. Paul Cemetery (site 2104 in the current survey) was established in the 1850s and predates the formal establishment of the church congregation. The original plot was expanded in 1870 with 3 acres purchased from Augustus Herbert. A wooden fence was built to enclose the cemetery in 1896; this was replaced by an iron fence in 1926 (removed 1961–1962).[143] As of 2019, designation of the cemetery as a Will County landmark is pending.

Two present-day views of St. Paul's Cemetery in Monee.

142. Mueller Milne (1973), 78–79.
143. Mueller Milne (1973), 79, 82.

View of St. Paul's Church and cemetery, circa 1910. Source: St. Paul's United Church of Christ (http://stpaulsmonee.org/).

Skyline Memorial Park (site 1603 in current survey) is a privately owned cemetery that was newly established in 1954. The first burials were in 1955. The site includes above-ground crypts in several mausoleum structures. A new office and chapel building was completed in January 2017.

Skyline Memorial Park on the west side of Governors Highway south of Dralle Road.

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,"[144] 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.[145] The materials used in the construction of a balloon frame structure consisted of milled lumber that was much lighter in weight than that of heavy timbers.[146]

Credit for the development of the balloon frame is usually given to George Washington Snow of Chicago,[147] 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.[148] At that time Chicago lacked a sawmill to produce the cut lumber, but mills were present in Indiana and in Plainfield in

144. 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.
145. 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).
146. 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.
147. 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.
148. Fred W. Peterson, *Homes in the Heartland: Balloon Frame Farmhouses of the Upper Midwest, 1850–1920* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1992), 14.

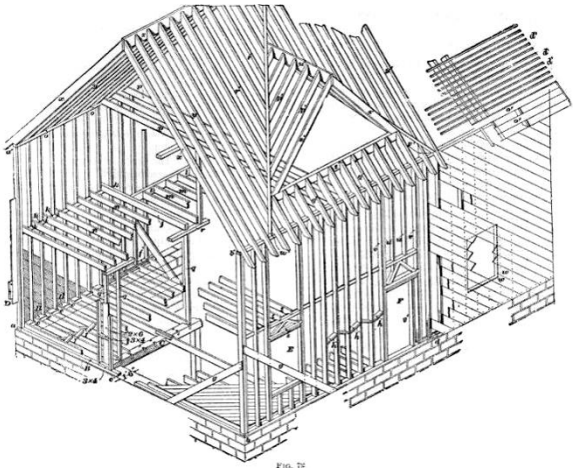
northwestern Will County.[149] However, these mills were relatively far away, and transportation of milled heavy timbers difficult and expensive. Therefore, it was necessary to develop a more economical construction system.

The classic balloon frame consists of the following elements:[150]

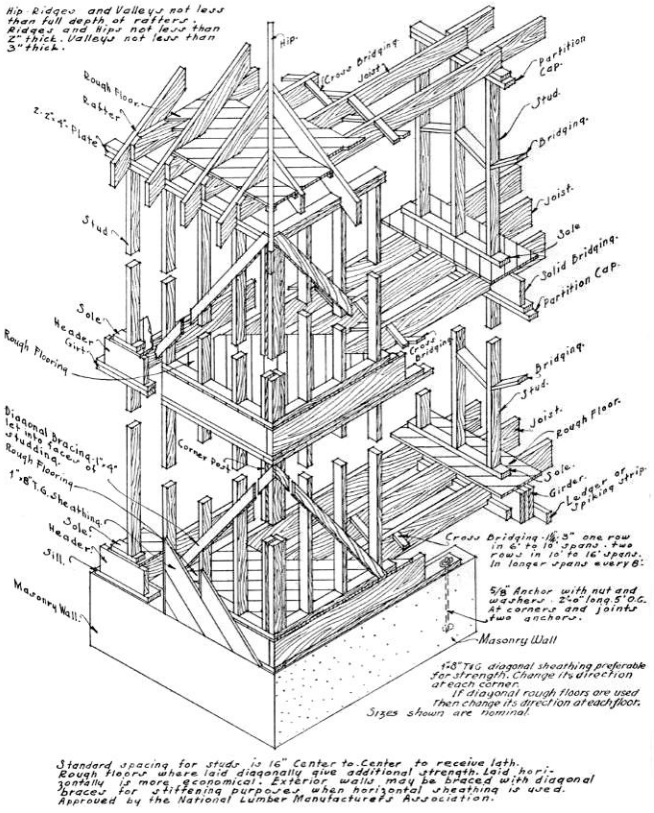
- A sill, made from a large section of milled lumber (e.g., 4x8) or two or more smaller pieces (two 2x8s), set on a masonry or concrete foundation.
- Floor joists (2x10, 2x12, etc.), typically at 16 inches on center,[151] reinforced by diagonal bridging, nailed to the sill and nailed to the studs.
- Studs (2x4 or 2x6), also set at 16 inches on center, running the full height of the building wall, to which are nailed the ledgers and sheathing.
- Ledgers to support the second floor joists.
- Exterior wall sheathing, consisting of wood boards (1x8), often set at a diagonal to create a structural diaphragm, with exterior wall siding attached to the outside face.
- A top plate on the stud wall, on which are set the rafters.
- 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.
- 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 plaster.

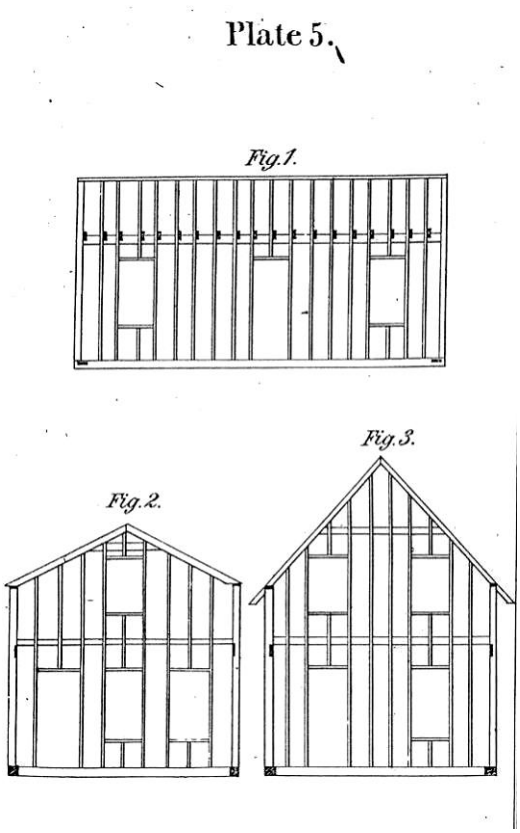
Since a carpenter with one or two helpers could frame and sheath a small one story house in one week, the balloon allowed a settler to have a dwelling on his land in a short amount of time. In addition, there was a 40 percent savings in the amount of material to enclose the same volume as compared to the braced frame.[152] Additions were as easy to construct as the original house and easier to frame into than if braced framing were 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 were needed on a property for other buildings or if additional land were obtained.

149. Sprague, "Chicago Balloon Frame," 37.
150. 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."
151. 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.
152. Peterson, 9 and 11.



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





Farming trade publications touted the benefits of the balloon frame.[153] 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.[154]

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":[155]

> 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.[156]

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."[157] 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.

153. Peterson, 15–24.
154. 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.)
155. Albert Britt, *An America That Was* (Barre, Massachusetts: Barre Publishers, 1964), 33.
156. Ibid.
157. Ibid.

Masonry Construction

Brick

Historically, brick masonry construction is relatively uncommon in rural portions of Will County. Nineteenth century examples of brick construction are very rare; typically, locally quarried limestone was used for masonry work. Brick construction was not typically observed for historic structures in Monee Township.

Joliet Limestone

One building material dating from the earliest period of European settlement in northwestern Will County was limestone quarried from the Des Plaines and Du Page River Valleys. These same regions later provided gravel for use in concrete construction in Will County and the Chicago area. The Des Plaines River Valley west of Monee 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. Monee Township was relatively remote from these quarry locations, and as a result, relatively little historic stone masonry construction is present in the township and generally limited to building foundations.

The area surrounding Joliet contains abundant supplies of limestone, derived predominantly from the Niagaran strata. Owing to oxidation of ferrous minerals contained in the stone, the color of the stone ranges from buff near the surface to gray tones at deeper levels. Its surface is a hard, compact and slightly porous, brittle dolomite. The stone has thin seams of greenish clay (chert) running through the whole mass, which upon long exposure in alternately wet and dry conditions causes the solid calcium carbonate layers to delaminate.[158]

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.[159]

The opening of the Illinois and Michigan Canal (I & M) 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 established to cater to the increased demand. For example, the Joliet Stone Company incorporated in 1872.[160] 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

158. 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.
159. Robert E. Sterling, *Joliet: Transportation and Industry: A Pictorial History* (St. Louis, Missouri: G. Bradley Publishing, Inc., 1997), 116.
160. Ibid.

raised production, while some of the old established quarries saw themselves eclipsed by newer and larger enterprises.

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

Concrete

Although concrete was used by the Romans in antiquity, its use in recent times dates from the mid-nineteenth century. In 1860, S. T. Fowler patented a type of reinforced concrete wall construction, but it was not until the 1870s and 1880s that examples had actually been constructed. By 1900 numerous systems of reinforced concrete construction had been patented.[161]

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.[162]

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

161. William B. Coney, "Preservation of Historic Concrete: Problems and General Approaches," National Park Service Preservation Brief 15, 2.
162. "The Use of Concrete Work on the Farm," *Building Age* (February 1917), 102–103.

Concrete Block

Beginning in the early 1900s, mass production of concrete block units succeeded after several earlier developments failed to lead to widespread production.[163] Harmon S. Palmer patented a cast iron machine with a removable core and adjustable sides in 1900, allowing companies and cottage industries to spring up across the country. Palmer founded the Hollow Building Block Company in 1902, selling $200 block machines. Other manufacturers who flooded the market with similar machines (without directly infringing on Palmer's patent) led to increased use of concrete block in building construction.

The blocks were produced by mixing Portland cement, water, sand, and gravel aggregate; placing the mixture in the machine and tamping it down to eliminate voids; and pulling a lever to release the block from the machine. Newly made blocks were stacked until the concrete cured, typically for one month. Blocks were made with a variety of face textures and even color, with "rock face" block being one of the most popular styles.[164]

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

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

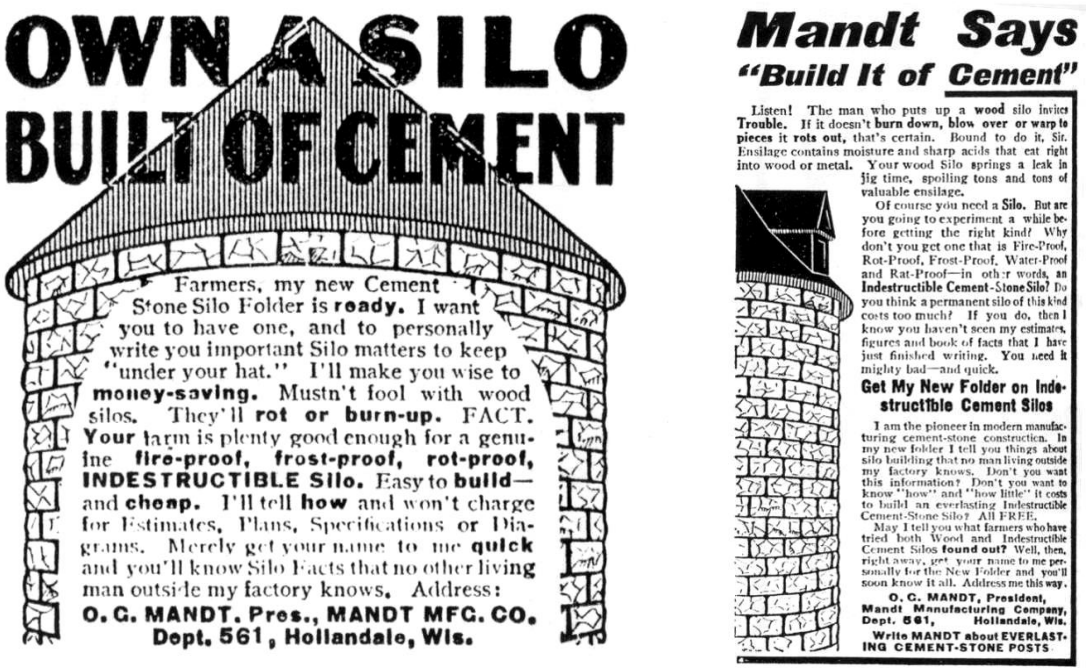
> It is clear that the cash outlay for material becomes of the first importance and cost of labor becomes second. To illustrate, a man in such circumstances might have gravel on his farm. Also, he might have lumber, which he could use temporarily for the scaffold. The cost of cement block molds is slight, and if this man were somewhat of a mechanic, he would find it advantageous to secure a mold or molds and make his own cement blocks at odd times. In this way a cement block silo could be built with less cash outlay than any other form of silo.[166]

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

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

The survey area has a numerous historic structures built of concrete blocks, including outbuildings as well as garages. Concrete block is also widely used for building foundations in the survey area.

163. Pamela H. Simpson, *Cheap, Quick, and Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870–1930* (Knoxville, Tennessee: University of Tennessee Press, 1999), 11.
164. Ibid., 24.
165. Ibid., 21–22.
166. M. L. King, "Planning the Silo," in *Eighteenth Annual Report of the Illinois Farmers' Institute,* H. A. McKeene, ed. (Springfield, Illinois: Illinois State Journal Company, 1914), 64.



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

Classification of Farmhouses

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

Architectural Style

In the second half of the nineteenth century, architectural styles were disseminated through style books promoting not only aesthetic features of houses but also the orderly qualities for a proper domestic environment.[167] 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.

Some buildings in the survey area blend architectural styles due to phased construction or later remodeling. Left: The house at the Fehland–Quanstrom Farmstead, site 2001, was likely built in the 1910s as an American Foursquare type utilizing Craftsman inspired detailing. Later, perhaps in the 1960s, it was modified with Colonial Revival style elements such as the pedimented door surround and two-story porch. Right: The nineteenth century house at the Henry Arnold Farmstead currently has "rustic" uncoated wide plank wood siding, wood shutters, and Queen Anne style porch columns. All of these elements are late twentieth century additions to this house, which had white-painted wood siding and no porch in 1955.

Greek Revival

The Greek Revival style was popular in the United States beginning in the 1820s but fell out of favor after the Civil War. Inspired by archaeological excavations and measured drawings of ancient Greek temples, the style was developed by America's first trained architects and spread by pattern books that influenced

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

carpenters and builders across the relatively young United States. American culture found an identification with the democracy in Ancient Greece. Greek Revival buildings have simple rectilinear forms, prominent classical ornament, molded cornices and window lintels, and other ornamental motifs inspired by Classical architecture. The style's simple massing and details went along with the sometimes limited materials and resources of rural areas. No true examples of Greek Revival architecture were observed in the survey area.

Gothic Revival

Gothic Revival was roughly contemporary with Greek Revival, although with very different inspiration. It utilized late Medieval Gothic forms that have vertically oriented massing with steeply sloped roofs, and detail features such as pointed arches, narrow lancet windows, decorative bargeboards and finials, battlemented parapets, and clusters of chimney stacks. Like Greek Revival, pattern books guided architects and builders. Andrew Jackson Downing's *The Architecture of Country Houses* helped popularize this style. Only a few examples of Gothic Revival architecture were observed in the survey area.

The circa 1870s house at the Bohlander Farmstead, site 1104, has many Gothic Revival Style details, including the rounded shape of the front porch framing and the decorative cornice trim and barge board.

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) as well as polygonal or rectangular bays or even towers. No examples of the Italianate style were identified in the survey area.

Queen Anne

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

The Queen Anne style home at the Rabe-Pauling-Kannberg Farmstead, site 2706.

Colonial and Georgian Revival

After the comparative excesses of the Italianate, Second Empire, and Queen Anne styles, the Colonial and Georgian Revival styles are more restrained and utilize stricter use of ornament and proportion. Introduced on the east coast at the end of the nineteenth century, the Colonial Revival style spread to the Midwest over the next decade and became an influential style for larger homes and public buildings into the 1930s. The rectilinear forms of Colonial Revival structures are often symmetrical and have gabled roofs with dormers,

classical columns and ornament, and ornamental window shutters. Georgian Revival buildings differ in that they adhere more closely to symmetrical floor plans, have strong cornice lines, Flemish bond brick coursing, watertables, and other elements of traditional Colonial period architecture. Colonial Revival architecture is not strongly present in the survey area, although some houses have Colonial Revival elements.

Craftsman or Arts and Crafts Style

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

The circa 1920s house on the Becker-Deutsche Farmstead, site 3502, is a bungalow with some Craftsman-inspired features such as the wood eave brackets.

Prairie Style

The Prairie Style was developed by several architects in the Midwest but originated chiefly from the Chicago area, where Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Burley Griffin, Marion Mahony Griffin, William Purcell, and George Elmslie (among others) formulated a set of principles uniquely suited to and inspired by the American suburban and rural landscape. In many ways this style developed from the Arts and Crafts movement, although it was a distinct style with its own characteristics. Prairie Style structures are characterized by broad, horizontal massing, hipped and gabled roofs with deep overhangs, asymmetrical floor plans, and geometric detailing based on nature motifs. Natural and earth-toned materials such as wood, stucco, and brick predominate, and windows often use 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 with sloped roofs. No examples of Prairie Style were documented in the survey area.

Tudor Revival

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

House Types

Vernacular residential dwellings are not always suited to classification by architectural style because style is not the primary organizing principle in their design. Most vernacular houses relate to a *type* that describes or classifies their massing and floor plan. This section discusses the different types of housing found specifically in the survey area. Additional types and subtypes do exist but have been excluded because they are not pertinent to the discussion of Monee 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.[168] Building forms followed the movement of settlers from New England westward through the Ohio Valley to Illinois.[169] 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.[170] 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. Only one example of the I House type was identified in Monee Township during the survey.

The house at the Schoenstedt–Gorman–Stege Farmstead, site 2201, is the only example of the I-house type identified in Monee Township during the survey.

168. Stephen C. Gordon, *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory* (Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Historic Preservation Office, 1992).
169. 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).
170. Kniffen, 7–8.

Hall and Parlor

The Hall and Parlor house is a simple rectangular plan dwelling one to one-and-a-half stories in height, with a side oriented gable roof. In plan, these types of houses have one larger room for the kitchen and daily living and a side room used as a more formal parlor or a bedroom. There is often an addition at the rear of the house extending from the parlor side. Chimneys are often placed at each end of the house. The type was used less often after the late 1800s.[171] No examples of the Hall and Parlor house type was identified in the survey area.

New England One and a Half

This house type is a rectangular plan dwelling, one to one-and-a-half stories in height and at least two bays wide. Flanking a central entrance hall and stairs are two large rooms with two or more smaller rooms across the rear of the house. Some houses of this type are not symmetrical across the front, depending upon the interior layout. New England One and a Half houses were popular from the earliest days of settlement in Will County in the 1830s up to the Civil War. They often include Greek Revival ornament, such as pilasters, architraves, cornice returns, and entablature panels. Farming settlers emigrating from New England, where this house type originated, brought this house type with them to the Midwest. 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.[172] No examples of the Side Hallway type were identified in the survey area. Some houses may have been originally constructed as Side Hallway types but have evolved to other types through subsequent additions.

Four-over-Four

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

Left: The house at the Harmening-Hamilton Farmstead, site 1403, is a typical historic example of the Four-over-Four type. Right: The house at the Deutsche Farmstead, site 2502, is the Four-over-Four type, although this house has been significantly renovated in recent years.

171. 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.
172. Ibid., 126.

Upright and Wing

The Upright and Wing was popular in the mid-to-late 1800s.[173] 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.[174] The Upright and Wing type is common throughout Will County, including in Monee Township. About ten percent of the surveyed farmhouses are this type.

Left: The house at the Deutsche-Siefker Farmstead, site 2505, shows the defining characteristics of the Upright and Wing type. Right: The house at the William Arnold Farmstead, site 2204, is an Upright and Wing type.

Gabled Ell

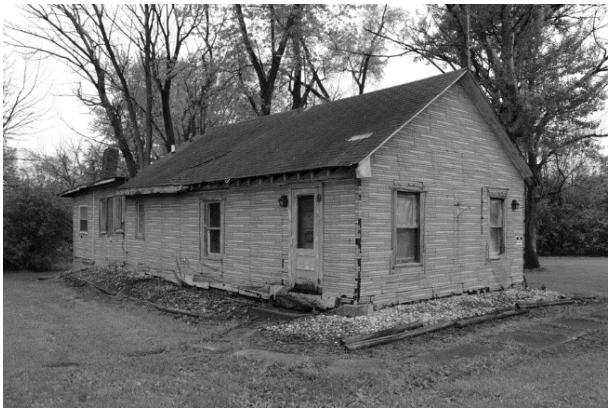
The Gabled Ell house type usually dates from the two decades after the Civil War.[175] It has an L-shaped plan, sometimes with additions to form a T-shaped plan, and usually is two stories in height with a gabled roof. Within the main "L" there is often a porch. In most arrangements, the gable end of the shorter of the two wings faces the street or main approach with the broad side of the other wing at the side. The Gabled Ell type is common in Monee Township, representing about one-third of the surveyed farmhouses.

The Gabled Ell type is common in Monee Township. Left: The house at the Henry-Arnold Farmstead, site 2203, exemplifies the type. Right: The house at the Schubbe Farmstead, 3102, is a circa 1880s example of the house type.

173. 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).
174. Gordon, *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory,* 132.
175. Ibid., 136.

Gable Front

The Gable Front house describes a variety of house types dating from the mid-1800s through the 1920s. It is similar to the Four-over-Four, except that the main entrance at the gable end facing the street or main approach. It is also similar to the Side Hallway type, and usually has a rectangular floor plan. The Gable Front type is somewhat common in Monee Township, representing about ten percent of the surveyed houses.



Left: The circa 1908 house at the Koelling-Riegel-Manilow Farmstead, site 1305, has a symmetrical massing typical of the Four-over-Four type (with later one-story additions to the sides). Right: The Davis House, site 2709, is an example of a Gable Front type structure.

American Foursquare

The American Foursquare[176] 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 designed with four rooms on each floor. Roofs are hipped or pyramidal, with dormer windows (hipped and gable) on at least the front elevation and sometimes the side and rear elevations. Foursquares usually have front porches but may also have bay windows (some extending both stories) and one story rear additions. Many Foursquares were built from plans developed by local lumber companies or mail order sources that advertised in farm journals; others were purchased whole and delivered as pre-cut, ready-to-assemble houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company or home manufacturers. American Foursquare type farmhouses are not uncommon in the survey area, representing less than ten percent of the farmhouses surveyed.

Left: The house at the Luecke–Deutsche–Ruder Farmstead, site 2503, includes a pyramidal roof, hipped dormer, and symmetrical plan characteristic of the American Foursquare building type. Right: The 1918 parsonage at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Site 2105, is also a local example of the building type.

176. 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.)

The American Foursquare house at the Becker-Deutsche Farmstead, site 3502, features a hipped dormer as well as a distinctive front porch design. This farmstead was the first property in rural Monee Township to be wired for electricity.

Bungalow

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


Left: The house at the local landmark eligible Gorman Farmstead, site 3002, is a distinctive example of the bungalow type with fairly complex massing and a hipped roof. Right: The second house at the Becker-Deutsche Farmstead, site 3502, is a representative example of the Dormer Front Bungalow type.

Cape Cod

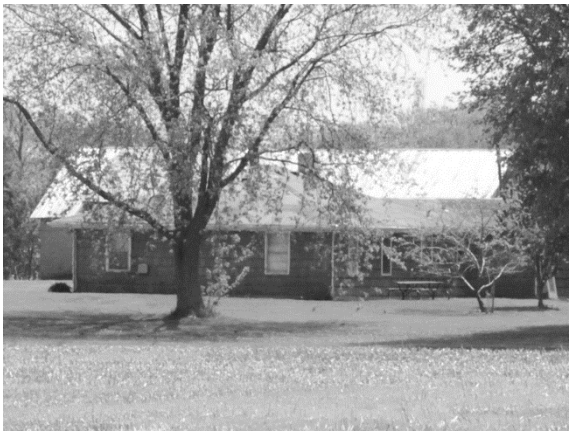
The Cape Cod was a popular house type from the 1920s to the early 1950s. The type was inspired by eighteenth century cottages in Massachusetts and Virginia.[177] The Cape Cod has a simple rectangular plan, one story in height with dormers and a gable roof. Six Cape Cod type houses in Monee Township were documented during the survey.


Left: The circa 1940s house at the Bode Farmstead, site 501, is a Cape Cod type structure without dormers. Right: The circa 1940s Bischel–Rabe–Koscher House, site 3504, is a local example of the Cape Cod type with gabled dormers.

177. Ibid., 140.

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



Two examples of the Ranch type in Monee Township: at left, the Mueller–Boedicker Farmstead Farmstead, site 3601; at right, the second house at the Albers–Maloney Farmstead, site 704.

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.[178]

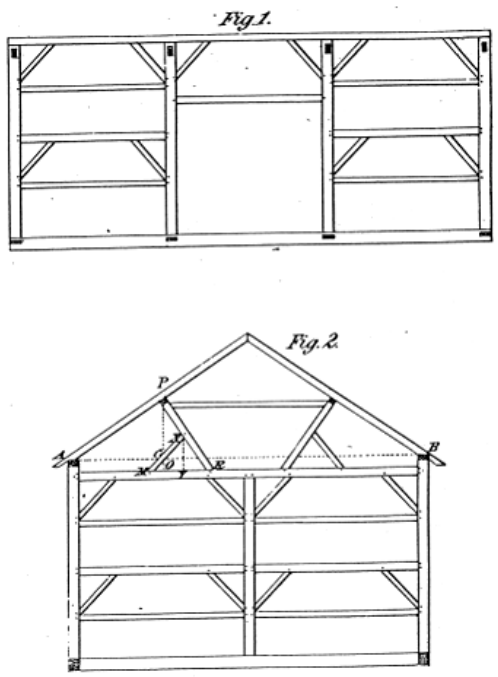
Pioneer settlers, faced with clearing virgin forest or breaking sod, usually had little time to do more than erect a rough house and perhaps a crude animal shelter in the first years of settlement. Not until after some ten years on a homestead, or perhaps not even until the second generation, did the pioneer have the means to construct a large barn.[179]

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 who 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.[180]

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.[181]

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.[182]

178. 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.
179. Hubert G. H. Wilhelm, "Midwestern Barns and Their Germanic Connections," in *Barns of the Midwest*, 65.
180. Ibid.
181. Ibid., 48–50.
182. Lowell J. Soike, "Within the Reach of All: Midwest Barns Perfected," in *Barns of the Midwest,* Allen G. Noble and Hubert G. H. Wilhelm, ed. (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1995), 147. Two major forms of plank framing developed. The first took dimension plank lumber and imitated heavy timber framing, carrying the loads through posts and beams. The second type opened up the center of the barn by using a truss for the framing bents. This was followed by an adaptation of the balloon framing for barn construction. Stud walls replaced posts and girts for handling loads; roof loads were carried by trusses made from lighter weight lumber (Ibid., 155–156).



Left: A drawing of heavy timber barn framing from 1894 [William E. Bell, Carpentry Made Easy, or the Science and Art of Framing *(Philadelphia: Ferguson Bros. & Co., 1894), plate 7]. Right: This type of braced heavy timber framing is visible in the barn at the Henry Arnold Farmstead, site 2203 in Monee Township, where the original siding has been removed.*

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.[183] 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 around 1920 by A. W. Clyde, an engineer with the Iowa State College farm extension service. It allowed construction of a stiff frame at far lower cost than the Shawver truss, which required expensive extra-length material.[184]

183. Ibid., 158.
184. Ibid. The open loft, free from interior braces like those used in the Shawver and Iowa trusses, was finally achieved with the laminated gothic arch roof. The gothic roof was developed over a two decade period, with an early system using sawn boards 12 inches wide, 1 inch thick, and 3 to 4 feet long from which the outside edge was shaved to the needed curvature. Three or four plies were laminated together with nails, with splices staggered along the curve. These rafters were placed 2 feet on center. However, due to the material wasted in shaving the lumber and the labor consumed in sawing and nailing, farmers and builders were slow to adopt this system. Bent or sprung arches were the second 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

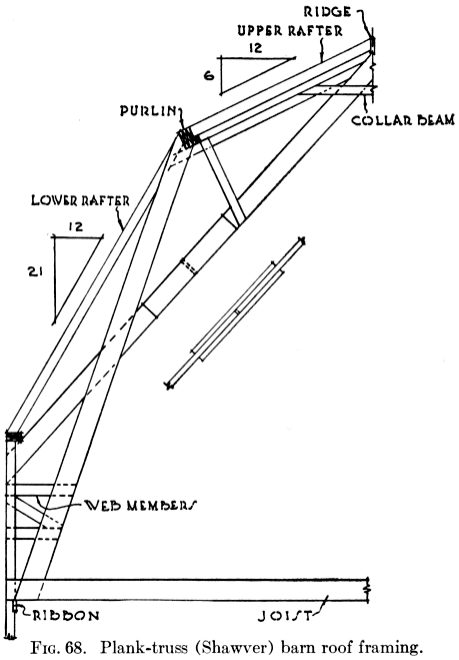


FIG. 68. Plank-truss (Shawver) barn roof framing.

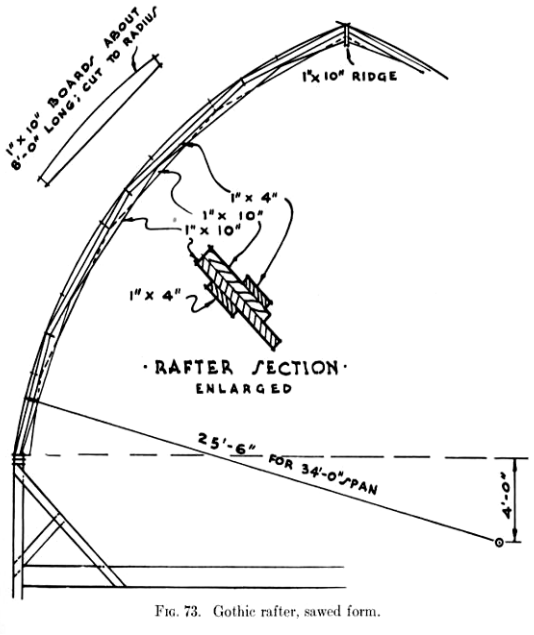


FIG. 73. Gothic rafter, sawed form.

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

During the 1930s, the Gothic roof entered the last phase of its evolution. At Iowa State Agricultural College, Henry Giese tested existing types of laminated bent rafters in an attempt to solve their shortcomings. Working in collaboration with Rock Island Lumber Company, distributor of Weyerhauser Forest Products, he explored the potential of modern glues to yield a stronger bent rafter. Using Douglas fir, clear of knots and defects, glue-laminated under approximately 100 pounds per square inch of pressure and shaped to an arch form, the rafter was stronger than those laminated conventionally with nails and bolts (either the shaved- or bent-lumber techniques). Rafter performance was also improved with the use of hinge connections at the supports. Weyerhauser was marketing these factory-built rafters under the trademark of Rilco by 1938.[185] 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.[186]

The two-story loft barn ceased to be built shortly after World War II.[187] 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.[188] Farmers began to build fewer custom wood frame structures, which were susceptible to fires, as manufactured buildings using steel became available. Early metal-barn types, such as Quonsets, developed initially in the 1930s and gained a notable measure of popularity among some Midwestern farmers immediately after World War II. One of the leading manufacturers of Quonset barns and sheds was the Great Lakes Steel Corporation of Detroit, whose structures were purported to be

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., 161–162).

185. Ibid., 162–163.
186. Ibid., 164.
187. Ibid., 165.
188. 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.

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.[189]

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.[190] 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.[191] 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.*

189. Ibid., 226.
190. Ibid., 225.
191. 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.[192] 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.[193] The English and continental European immigrants of the early 1800s introduced this barn type to the Midwest. It was originally designed as a single function barn to store or process grain and was most suitable for small-scale, subsistence farms. It is a single level, rectangular structure divided into three parts or sections, each termed a bay.

Large double doors are centered on both long sides of the structure. Hand threshing with a grain flail was done in the central bay, sometimes called the threshing bay. Following threshing, the large doors were opened to create a draft, which, during winnowing, would separate the chaff from the heavier grain, and carry it away. Flanking the central bay were the other two bays of generally equal dimensions. One was used during the fall or winter to store sheaves of harvested grain, awaiting threshing. The other bay was used for storing the threshed grain, commonly in bins, and straw, which was used as feed and bedding for horses and cattle.[194] 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.[195]

Two example of the three-bay threshing barn type in Monee Township: the Reinbach-Smith Farmstead, site 3601; right, the Miller-Oldendorf-Alm Farmstead, site 2501.

192. Often there are more conflicts than agreements among different classification systems. The types defined herein seem to best describe the structures actually present and the social and ethnic origins of their builders.
193. 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.
194. 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.
195. Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek, *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and Other Farm Structures* (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1995), 77.

Eventually, as dairying replaced wheat production in the agricultural economy, the threshing/storage function of this barn type became less important. At first animals were not housed in the structure, although interior remodeling was often made to introduce animal stalls in one of the two side bays. This effectively reduced the grain storage and processing function and only offered shelter for a modest number of animals.[196] In some cases this barn type was lifted up and placed onto a raised basement, which then could house the animals, especially dairy cows.[197] Three-bay threshing barns are common in the survey area, representing about one-third of the surviving major barns documented.

Raised, Bank, and Basement Barns

The raised or bank barn originated in central New York as a shelter for dairy cattle. It was the first multi-purpose barn to gain widespread popularity. These barns are usually larger than three-bay threshing barns and have a ground floor level for cattle and dairy cows with an upper level for hay and feed storage. This upper level is reached by an earthen ramp, bridge, or the natural slope of an embankment. Basement barns are similar to raised barns, in that the foundation walls extend up to the bottom of the second floor. However, basement barns do not have ramps nor are they sited to utilize the natural topography to access the second floor. No bank barns were identified in the survey area.

German Barn

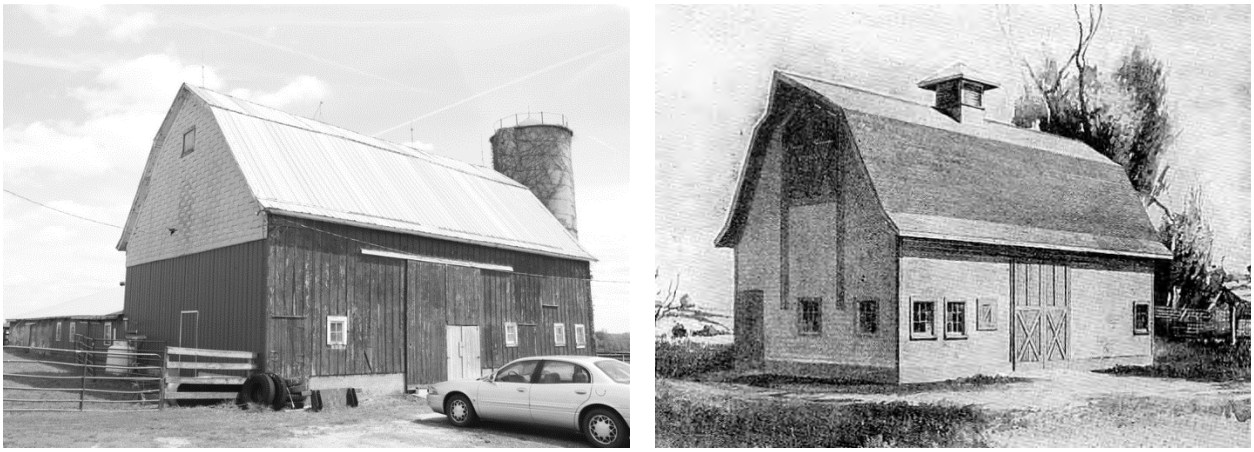
German barns, also called German/Swiss barns or Pennsylvania barns, include a group of barns introduced into the Delaware valley by German-speaking settlers. It was one of the first American barn types to combine crop storage and animal shelter. It became a structure synonymous with Pennsylvania Dutch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

Plank Frame Barn

This relatively small barn type originated in the eastern Midwest around 1875.[198] 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 somewhat common in Monee Township, representing about one-quarter of the barns surveyed.

196. 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.
197. Calkins and Perkins, "The Three-bay Threshing Barn," *Barns of the Midwest,* 59.
198. Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book,* 117.

Examples of the plank frame barn type from Monee Township. Above left: Duehlmeyer Farmstead, site 3602. Above right: The Meier-Rodewald Farmstead, site 3404. Lower left: A gambrel rood plank frame barn at the Grundberger-Cellarius-Twietmeyer Farmstead, site 3401. 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 round barns were identified in the survey area.

Round Roof Barn

Round roof barns came into existence with structural advances in the first quarter of the twentieth century. Although called round, roof shapes for this type are often gothic arch in form. The name describes the roof shape, although the configuration of their floor plans were usually based on more typical barn types such as plank frame, dairy, or raised barns. One round roof barn was identified in the survey area.

The well-preserved round roof barn above is a part of the Pape-Batterman Farmstead, site 1804.

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.[199] Dairy barns are common in Monee Township and represent about one-third of the major barns documented in the survey.

The Wisconsin Dairy Barn type is common in Monee Township. Left: A dairy barn with gambrel-roof at the Koelling-Riegel-Manilow Farmstead, site 1305. Right: The Deutsche Farmstead, site 2502.

199. Noble and Cleek, 77.

The dairy barn at the Albers-Bonem Farmstead , site 602.

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. Six examples of the feeder barn type were identified in Monee Township.

The Feeder Barn type is not uncommon in Monee Township. Left: A feeder barn with gable-roof at the Bischel-Rabe-Koscher Farmstead, site 3504. Right: The barn at the Tucker-Miller-Siemsen Farmstead, site 2602.

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.[200] The pole barn is an example of economical construction techniques applied to modern agriculture and was common into the 1960s. Pole barns are somewhat common in Monee Township.

Left: The pole barn at site 1803, the Pape–Bohnsack–Clark Farmstead. This type of structure, with a wood apron at grade and corrugated sheet metal walls and roof, was very common in the late 1950s and 1960s. Right: The pole barn at site 2502, the Deutsche Farmstead.

Quonset Shed

Sometimes referred to as Quonset "huts," this metal building type is named for the U.S. Naval Air Station at Quonset Point in Davisville, Rhode Island, where sheds of this type were built in 1942, although wood-framed examples were already common in the 1930s. Its universal use in the military during World War II made Quonset sheds seem to be an ideal economical building type in the postwar years, finding use as storage facilities, offices, homes, and commercial ventures such as movie theaters. Military Quonsets often had steel framing members to support the corrugated galvanized metal sheathing, but civilian examples used wood framing as well. Quonset sheds are not particularly common in Monee Township, with only four examples documented as part of the present survey.

Left: The Quonset shed at site 2203, the Henry Arnold Farmstead. Right: The Quonset shed at site 2201, the Schoenstedt–Gorman–Stege Farmstead.

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

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 very common for newly constructed agricultural buildings in the survey area.

Manufactured buildings are common in Monee Township: Left: the manufactured building at the Seeman-Stuenkel Farmstead site 604. Right: the manufactured building at the Pape-Bohnsack-Clark Farmstead, site 1803.

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.[201] Concrete grain elevators and silos, usually constructed in banks of two to ten or more, were constructed in the early decades of the twentieth century. No grain elevators were documented in Monee Township; the historic grain elevator in the Village of Monee was destroyed by fire on January 30, 1957.

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.[202] 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.[203] The corncrib usually rested on log or stone piers.[204] In constructing a frame

201. Keith E. Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture* (Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1988), 176.
202. Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book,* 170–171.
203. Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 26.
204. Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 155.

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.[205]

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 shucking. 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.[206] Crib width was influenced by the climate of a region; drier conditions allowed for wider cribs with no increased loss of corn due to mold. As corn production outgrew the single crib in the developing Corn Belt, double cribs were formed by extending the roof over a pair of cribs to form a gable roof. If the gap between the cribs was then lofted over, extra space was gained beneath the roof for overflow storage of ear corn. Spreading the cribs apart not only increased the loft space but created a storage area below for wagons, tools, and implements. These structures, called crib barns, became common in the Midwest by 1900.[207] 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.

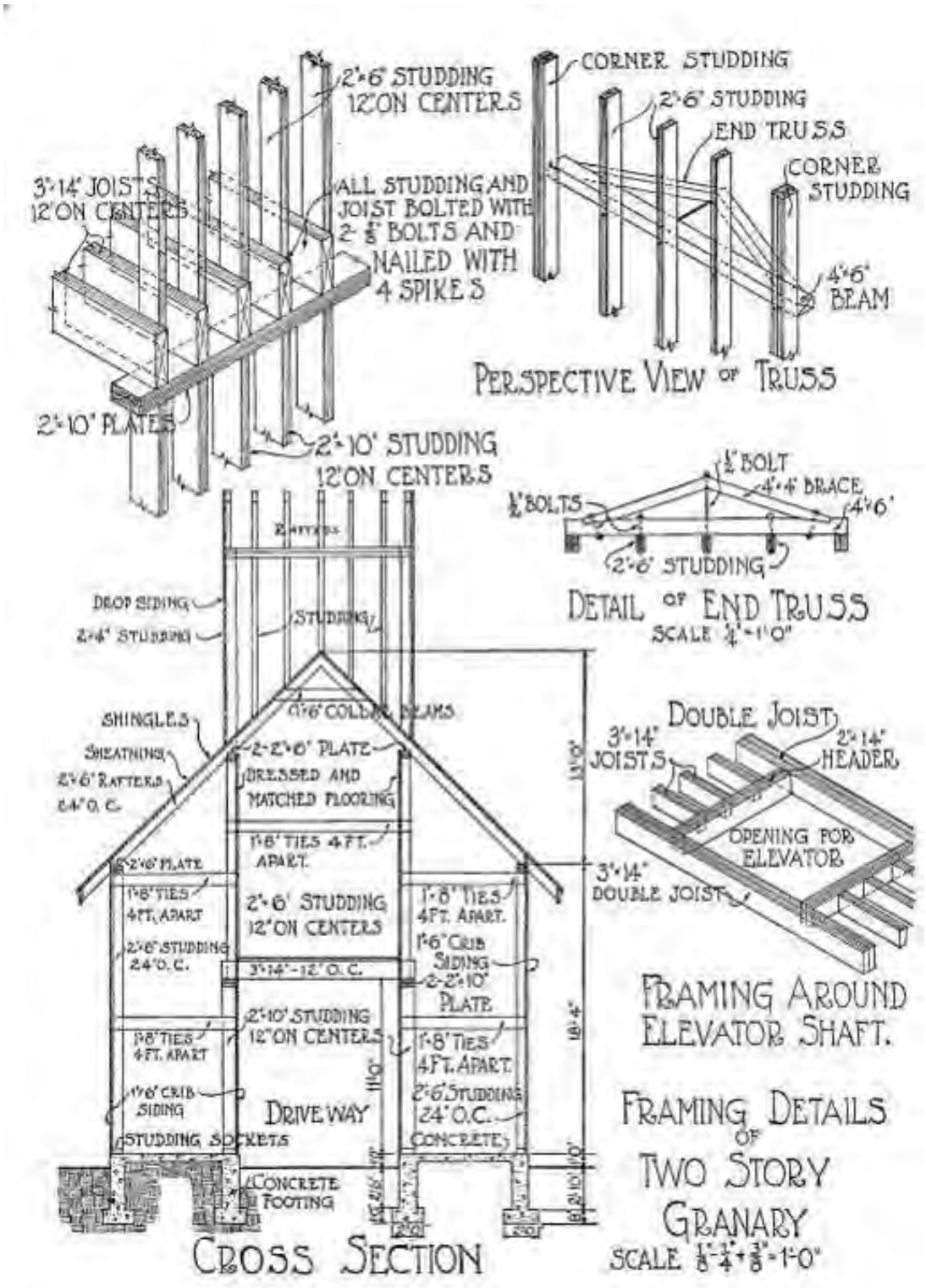
In the early decades of the twentieth century, both concrete and steel were promoted as alternative construction materials for corncribs and grain elevators. The use of hollow clay tiles was also encouraged in those parts of the Midwest where they were manufactured, notably in Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana.[208] 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.[209] Wood-framed corn cribs were not observed in the survey area. However, crib barns, silos, and metal grain bins are 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. New crib barns were built in Will County as late as the 1950s. Crib barns are present on approximately one-quarter of the farmstead sites surveyed in Monee Township.

205. Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 27.
206. Keith E. Roe, "Corncribs to Grain Elevators: Extensions of the Barn, " in *Barns of the Midwest*, 170.
207. Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 60.
208. Ibid., 177.
209. Ibid., 176.

There are many crib barns in Monee Township. Examples differ in size, roof shape, materials, and the presence of a cupola for the grain elevator equipment. Illustrated here, examples of crib barns include: top left, crib barn at the Koelling–Riegel–Manilow Farmstead, local landmark site 1305; top right, crib barn at the William Arnold Farmstead, site 2204; middle left, crib barn with cupola, site 3204; middle right, heavily altered crib barn at the Herbert–Oehlerking Farmstead, site 2205; bottom left, crib barn at the Duehlmeyer Farmstead, site 3602; bottom right, crib barn at the Mueller–Boedicker Farmstead site 3601.



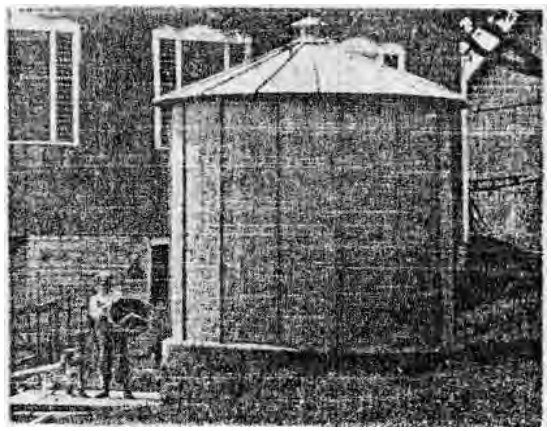
Crib barns, usually with two bins, abound in the survey area. Illustrated above are framing details of a crib barn from Smith & Betts Farm and Building Book *(Chicago: The Radford Architectural Company, 1915).*

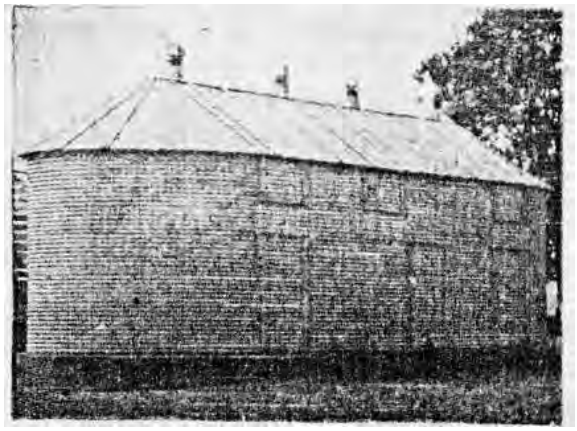
Metal Bins

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.[210]

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.[211]

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





Above: Illustrations of two types of metal corn bins from The Illinois Farmer's Guide*, August 1939. Below left: This grain bin at the Tucker–Miller–Siemsen Farmstead, site 2602, is an example of the earliest style of metal grain bin. Below right: Contemporary grain bins at the Seeman–Stuenkel Farmstead, site 604.*

210. Ibid.
211. 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.[212]

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.[213] Many were constructed within the barn building.[214] 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.[215] Concrete block silos were finished on the interior with a layer of cement mortar to seal joints that might otherwise leak air or water.

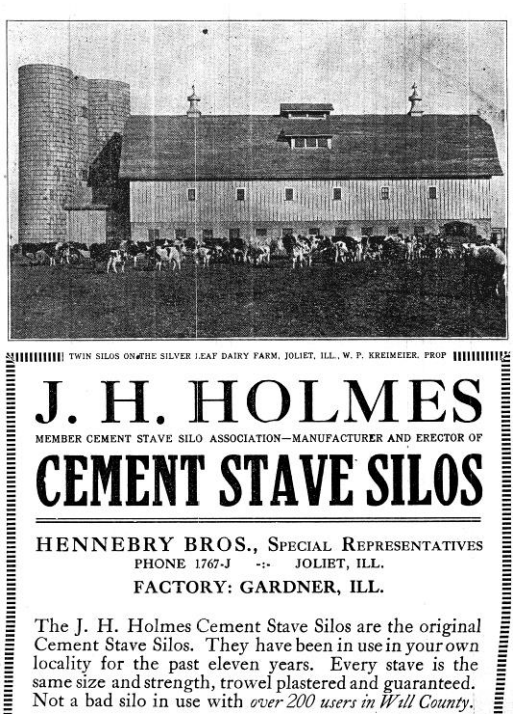
The hollow clay tile silo, generally known as the "Iowa Silo," was developed by the Experiment Station of the Iowa State College and erected during the summer of 1908 on the college farm.[216] Brick and tile companies manufactured curved blocks for silos, advertising them in farm journals. The main complaint 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.

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

Concrete stave silos were constructed as early as 1904 in Cassopolis, Michigan, which used book-shaped staves.[217] Several patents existed for cement stave silos, including that of the Mason & Lawrence of Elgin, Illinois, dating from 1914.[218] 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.[219]

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.[220]



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.*

217. C. K. Shedd and W. A. Foster, *Silo Construction*, Bulletin No. 189 (Ames, Iowa: Agricultural Experiment Station, Iowa State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, April 1919), 125. Patents were granted on this type of stave silo in 1908, and the type was known commercially as the Playford patent cement stave silo.
218. "How to Make and Sell Concrete Silo Staves," *Concrete* (October 1927): 32–35.
219. David Mocine, "Keep Workmen Busy the Year Round," *Concrete Products* (January 1948): 161.
220. "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.[221] 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.[222]

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.[223]

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.[224] 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.[225] 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.[226] In 1974 the company launched another line of products for the containment of manure called Slurrystore. By 1999, over 70,000 of Harvestore structures of various sizes (tall or short, narrow or stout) had been built.[227]

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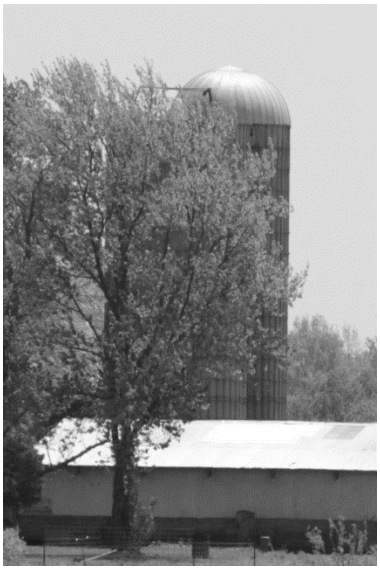
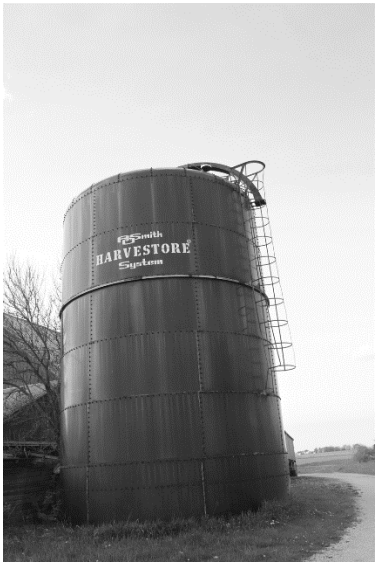
221. The presence of cold joints had the potential to allow air to enter the silo. Therefore, it was important to coat the silo interior with a layer of cement mortar. As with other silo types, this mortar layer needed to be renewed periodically.
222. H. Colin Campbell, "Concrete Silo Construction," *Hoard's Dairyman* (February 21, 1919): 200.
223. King, "Planning the Silo," in *Eighteenth Annual Report of the Illinois Farmers' Institute,* 64.
224. W. A. Foster, "Silo Types and Essentials," *Hoard's Dairyman* (February 21, 1919): 201.
225. Gambrel and domical roofs allowed for filling the silo to the top of the outer wall, maximizing the storage capacity.
226. Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 108–109.
227. Harvestore Systems, DeKalb, Illinois, www.harvestore.com

Concrete stave silos are common in Monee Township. A few examples of Harvestore silos were documented, as well as one cast concrete silo.





Left: The cast-in-place concrete silo at the Bode Farmstead, site 501, is a unique example of this type of construction in Monee Townships. Middle: The concrete stave silo at the Albers-Maloney Farmstead, site 704. Right: The Havestore silo at the Tucker–Miller–Siemsen Farmstead, site 2602.

Other Farm Structures

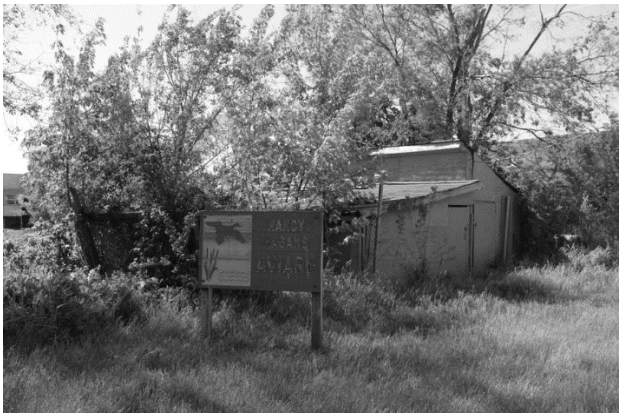
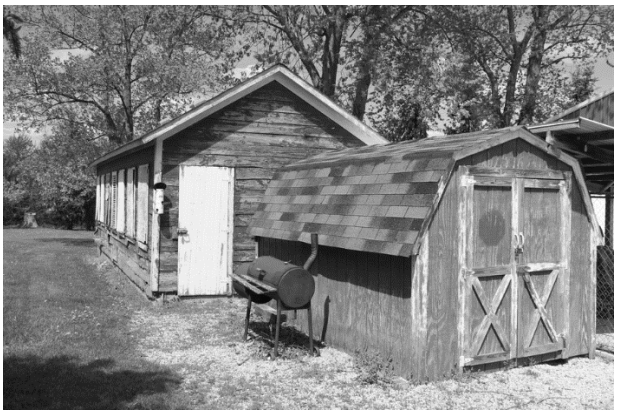
> We did much of our own carpentering as a matter of course. The farmer who couldn't build his own henhouse or woodshed wasn't much of a farmer.[228]

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

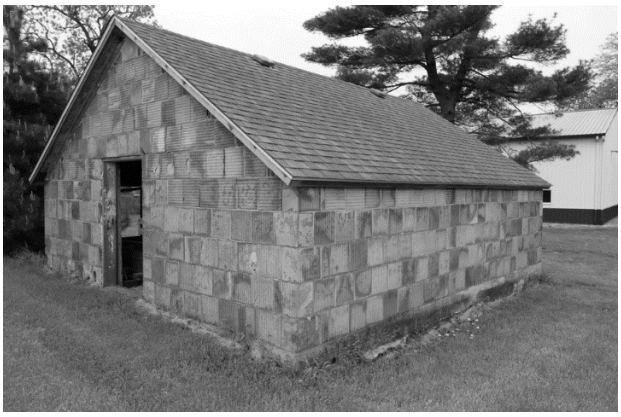
Left: Brick masonry garage at the Koelling–Riegel–Manilow Farmstead, site 1305. Right: A garage at the Deutsche Farmstead, site 2502.

Left: A well house at the Hornicek Farmstead, site 103. Right: A shed at the Beckman–Striggow Farmstead, site 603.

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

Left: Chicken coop and implement shelter at the Koelling–Riegel–Manilow Farmstead site 1305. Right: Chicken Coop at the Mueller–Boedicker Farmstead, site 3601.

Left: Animal shed at the William Arnold Farmstead, site 2204. Right: Outbuilding at the Herbert–Oehlerking Farmstead, site 2505.

CHAPTER 4

SURVEY SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Period of Significance: 1834 to 1970

The first settlement by settlers of European origin occurred in Will County and Monee Township in the 1830s, with the first settlers coming to the Thorn Grove area in the northeastern portion of the township in 1834. Permanent settlement of the township accelerated with the completion of the Illinois Central Railroad in 1853. An approximate starting date of 1834 is used for the period of significance.

Monee Township developed as a farming community in the second half of the nineteenth century. The Village of Monee served as the commercial and social center of the township, and contained religious and civic institutions as well as hosting social events and a local fair. Little growth occurred after initial settlement, and as late as 1960, the population of the Village of Monee was almost unchanged since its incorporation in 1874. The township began to experience suburban development in the 1950s, when some areas of Section 1 and Section 2 in the northeastern corner of the township were incorporated into the Village of Park Forest. Other smaller residential subdivisions were created in the 1950s and 1960s near the Village of Monee, and the Wood Hill Subdivision was established in Sections 12 and 13 in the eastern part of the township.

The township began to change more rapidly in the late 1960s. Interstate 57 was completed in Will County in 1968. In the early 1970s, the new town of Park Forest South (later renamed University Park) developed, and Governors State University was established. Commercial and industrial development began to occur along the interstate. Growth slowed in the mid-1970s after the Park Forest South Development Company failed. Starting in the 1990s, more significant new commercial and residential development has occurred adjacent to Interstate 57, as former farmland was converted to commercial and industrial uses. Limited new residential development in the township occurred in the late 1990s and early 2000s, but homebuilding in the area has stagnated since the Great Recession of 2007–2009. A closing date of 1970 is used for the period of significance, for consistency with other portions of Will County and relevant to the beginning of more intensive suburban development in the township.

The use of the closing date of 1970, however, does not mean that all elements constructed prior to that time were surveyed. Only a select number constructed between 1950 and 1970 have been included. Agricultural support structures such as manufactured buildings or grain bins that may post-date 1970 were included in the documentation of historic farmsteads.

Significance

National Register and Local Landmark Criteria

The National Register Criteria for Evaluation, as cited below, provide standards that significant historic properties are required to meet in order to be listed in the National Register:

> The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:
> A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
> B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
> C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
> D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information in prehistory or history.[229]

The three criteria that are most applicable to the rural survey area are A, B, and C. Under Criterion A, the Will County survey region has significance as a historic agricultural region with more than100 years of historical significance. The survey region has less significance under Criterion B, except on a local level as discussed below. Under Criteria A and C, the survey region contains architecturally significant structures that represent the diverse range of agricultural practices that occurred during the period of significance.

Although no properties in the survey of Crete Township were judged to meet the criteria for national listing, properties within the survey region are eligible for local Will County listing, either individually as landmarks or as a group as a preservation district. The following are the criteria for Will County landmark listing as stated in the Will County Preservation Ordinance:

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

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

j) It is suitable for preservation or restoration;
k) It is included in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the Illinois Register of Historic Places.
l) It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to pre-history, history or other areas of archaeological significance.

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

One of the differences between national and local listing is that local significance may be easier to justify than national significance. Properties that are eligible and listed as local landmarks, but may be more difficult to nominate for the National Register, receive important recognition and thereby afforded a certain measure of protection. Eventually, these properties could be listed as National Register properties if the case for their nomination improves. Additionally, local landmark designation often gives protections that National Register listing does not. The suggested properties have been researched sufficiently in performing this survey to merit consideration as Will County Landmarks.[230] 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."[231] Since 1972, the Illinois Department of Agriculture has administered the Illinois Centennial Farms Program. Illinois has been settled by farmers since the early 1800s, meaning that some farms have been in the same family for more than 100 years. To recognize the achievement of 150 years of ownership, the Illinois Sesquicentennial Farms Program was established in 2000. Application for either program requires a written legal description and the familial line of farmer owners.

Integrity

One important issue in the consideration of significance of a property or site is its historical and architectural integrity. This can be defined as the degree that a structure or group of structures retains its original configuration and materials, and that these materials are in good enough condition that measures can be taken to extend their service life. Replacement of selected elements, such as rotted wood members, may be

230. 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.)

231. Introduction to the Illinois Centennial Farms Program application form, Illinois Department of Agriculture.

necessary, but total replacement is not necessary. The issue applies primarily to the exterior of the structure, although in some cases the integrity of the interior may be a factor as well.

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

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

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

> Preservation of a building or district and its historic character is based on the assumption that the retention of historic materials and features and their craftsmanship are of primary importance. Therefore, the underlying issue in any discussion of replacement materials is whether or not the integrity of historic materials and craftsmanship has been lost. Structures are historic because the materials and craftsmanship reflected in their construction are tangible and irreplaceable evidence of our cultural heritage. To the degree that substitute materials destroy and/or conceal the historic fabric, they will always subtract from the basic integrity of historically and architecturally significant buildings.[232]

Contributing and Non-contributing Properties

Many of the farmsteads and supporting rural sites in the survey can be considered contributing to a potential rural heritage district or simply retain the character of an agricultural development. In evaluating the sites in this survey, a contributing site is one that retains a *coherent* appearance as a farmstead or whatever its original function once was. Most of the structures on the property were observed to be in good or fair condition, although a few of the structures might be considered to be in poor condition. Non-contributing sites are listed as such because they lack integrity, such as potentially significant structures that have been significantly altered or were observed to be in poor condition. Abandoned farmsteads are also generally listed as non-contributing.

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

Will County Land Use Department Planning Documents

In April 2002, Will County adopted a new *Land Resource Management Plan*. The plan addresses the importance of Will County Landmarks and National Register designated properties and sites through preservation planning. The document is also very realistic, recognizing that growth likely will occur and, if not regulated properly, could have a detrimental impact on the character of Will County's rural areas. The *Land Resource Management Plan* focuses primarily on land use and development forms. It also 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 presently. This includes preserving the character of hamlets and other small rural crossroad settlements. Contemporary development trends include Conservation Design Subdivisions, which rearrange the typical layout of streets and housing lots, setting aside a substantial amount of land as permanent open space. Conventional Suburban Residential subdivisions typically consume the entire development parcel. Historic structures and landscapes are specifically recognized in the *Land Resource Management Plan* as meriting protection when developing a Conservation Design Subdivision. On January 20, 2011, revisions to the plan included adopting a new section, the Airport Environs Element, to guide future planning near the proposed South Suburban Airport in eastern Will County.[233]

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 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 Monee Township, historically agricultural areas within the present-day incorporated limits of the Villages of Park Forest, University Park, Frankfort, and Monee were surveyed. Approximately one-third of the existing farmstead sites are located within these limits. Generally, the Will County Historic Preservation Commission does not consider landmark nominations for properties within incorporated municipalities. However, none of these villages has a local historic preservation ordinance. Through the passage of a municipal ordinance granting Will County the authority to designate landmarks, a property nominated within the village could proceed through the normal landmark designation review process. It should be noted that both existing Will County landmarks in the township, the Koelling–Riegel–Manilow Farmstead and the Monee Creamery, are within incorporated municipalities (the Village of University Park and the Village of Monee, respectively). If, in the future, any of the local municipalities 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.

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

Potential Landmarks

Throughout the survey area, there are fifteen properties that have clear potential for local landmark status. Additionally, two historic church buildings and two historic one-room schoolhouses are also considered to be eligible for local landmark designation. There are two existing Will County landmarks in Monee Township. The Koelling–Riegel–Manilow Farmstead was designated a Will County Landmark in 2003. This farmstead was likely first developed by Chris Koelling in the 1890s. It was acquired by George Riegel by 1940. The farmstead property was acquired by the Village of University Park in 1977 and is operated as a public park. The existing historic structures, including the gable front-type house, dairy barn, and crib barn, are representative examples of early twentieth century farm buildings in Will County. This property is documented as site 1305 in the present survey. The second existing local landmark is the Monee Creamery. It was designated a Will County Landmark in 2016. This structure was likely built in the 1870s as the Monee Cheese Factory. The building was converted to a private residence in 1901, and the property acquired by the Monee Fire Department in 1950 for use a public park. The village acquired the Fireman's Park site in the 1980s. Currently, the building exterior is secure and stabilized, but the interior is used primarily for storage, pending future rehabilitation. There are no properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places in the township. The determination of potential eligibility for landmark status as part of the present survey does not mean that other sites are not eligible; merely that further study is required before a determination of eligibility could be made.

Based upon the research conducted for this study, the following fifteen properties are considered to be eligible for Will County landmark designation. (The two existing county landmarks are also listed for reference.)

- Site 202 PIN 14-02-403-016 Thorn Creek Nature Center / Immanuel Lutheran Church (*Park Forest)*
- Site 1104 PIN 14-11-400-014 Bohlander Farmstead *(University Park)*
- Site 1305 PIN 14-13-411-022 Koelling–Riegel–Manilow Farmstead ***(Landmark**, University Park)*
- Site 1403 PIN 14-14-400-005 Harmening–Hamilton Farmstead
- Site 1804 PIN 14-18-200-023 Pape–Batterman Farmstead
- Site 2105 PIN 14-21-341-001 St. Paul's United Church of Christ *(Monee)*
- Site 2113 PIN 14-21-120-001 Monee Creamery ***(Landmark**, Monee)*
- Site 2204 PIN 14-22-400-013 William Arnold Farmstead *(Monee)*
- Site 2401 PIN 14-24-400-020 Siefker Farmstead
- Site 2502 PIN 14-25-200-020 Deutsche Farmstead
- Site 2504 PIN 14-25-100-004 Deutsche School (District No. 172)
- Site 2602 PIN 14-26-300-001 Tucker–Miller–Siemsen Farmstead
- Site 3002 PIN 14-30-200-008 Gorman Farmstead *(Monee)*
- Site 3101 PIN 14-31-400-002 Lawler–Zirzow Farmstead
- Site 3202 PIN 14-32-100-014 Schannen School (District No. 174)

Of these properties, two are located within the present-day corporate limits of the Village of University Park, one is located within the present-day corporate limits of the Village of Park Forest, and four are located within the present-day corporate limits of the Village of Monee, as indicated above.

These properties, as well as other farmsteads associated with prominent families in Monee Township, are discussed in detail beginning on page 97.

Survey Summary

The survey of Crete Township documented approximately 450 structures, including 69 houses and 38 major barns on 72 farmsteads and related sites. Cumulatively since 1999, the Will County Rural Historic Structural Survey has documented more than 11,000 structures on more than 2,080 sites.[234] The tables below provide a breakdown of the survey results for Monee, Will, Crete, and Washington Townships.[235]

Farmhouses

House Type	Monee	Will	Crete	Washington	County Totals
I House	1	6	2	—	44
Hall and Parlor	—	—	—	—	21
New England 1-1/2	—	5	1	2	28
Four over Four	6	4	5	5	120
Side Hallway	—	—	4	—	25
Upright and Wing	7	9	29	35	347
Gabled Ell	23	38	22	78	528
Gable Front	7	3	7	13	131
Foursquare	5	17	7	10	178
Bungalow	4	3	3	9	105
Cape Cod	3	8	12	3	89
Ranch	11	12	13	34	*
Other	2	7	6	11	378
Totals	**69**	**112**	**111**	**200**	**1,994**

*Ranch houses are totaled as part of "Other."

Barns

Barn Type	Monee	Will	Crete	Washington	County Totals
Three-bay Threshing	11	13	10	36	275
Bank	—	—	2	3	45
Raised	—	—	—	—	10
Pennsylvania German	—	—	—	—	9
Three-ended	—	1	—	—	13
Plank frame	8	9	13	12	191
Feeder	6	8	2	7	76
Dairy	12	12	10	30	197
Round roof	1	1	1	2	11
Round	—	—	—	—	3
Other or Unclassified	—	1	1	1	53
Totals	**38**	**45**	**39**	**91**	**883**

234. 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.

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

Outbuildings

Building Type	Monee	Will	Crete	Washington	County Totals
Animal shed or shelter	12	10	18	61	284
Barn (secondary)	2	6	4	1	43
Cellar	—	—	—	1	18
Chicken coop	10	21	7	12	242
Corn crib	—	1	4	—	23
Crib barn	20	68	30	88	829
Foundation	1	1	1		135
Garage	37	56	54	129	1,067
Horse stable	—	8	7	1	48
Hog house	—	—	2	—	19
Implement shed	—	6	7	16	240
Machine shed	36	58	30	85	564
Mesh bin	—	2	5	18	77
Metal bin	45	63	12	96	1,029
Milk house	2	3	—	11	132
Pole barn / Manufactured building	44	65	66	163	1,072
Privy	—	3	2	3	24
Pump house / Well house	14	25	19	53	242
Shed	62	99	73	119	1,090
Silo	28	24	22	44	458
Smoke house	—	1	—	—	30
Summer kitchen	1	5	9	7	55
Windmill	1	4	1	—	66
Other	29	20	41	63	353
Totals	**344**	**549**	**414**	**971**	**8,140**
Total, including houses and barns	**451**	**706**	**564**	**1,262**	**11,017**

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 Monee Township in 2019. 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 Monee Township, approximately 350 buildings on 68 farmstead sites were documented, as well as one historic bridge.[236] Among the farmstead sites documented in 1988, no historic structures survive at 22 farmstead sites in Monee Township, and the historic bridge documented in 1988 has also been replaced. An additional 9 farmsteads documented in the 1988 survey are currently abandoned and in poor condition. At several other sites, major buildings such as historic barns or houses have been lost. Farmsteads have been lost to residential and commercial development, and through the consolidation of farming operations and the replacement of historic buildings with new structures adapted to contemporary agricultural practices.

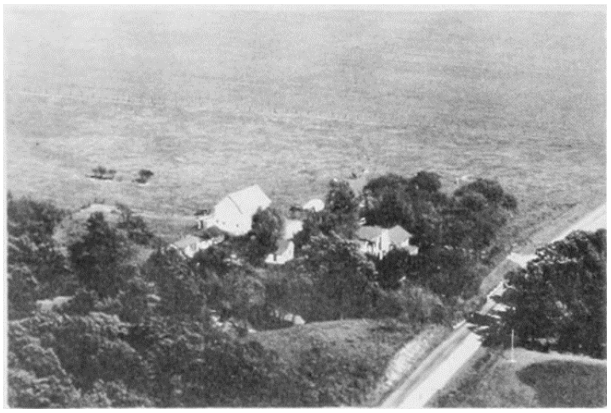
236. As a "windshield" survey, the 1988 survey excluded large portions of the township where contemporary development had occurred. Therefore, many remaining farmsteads that were surrounded by new development were omitted. Excluded from the total are 26 farmsteads in Monee Township that were not documented during the 1988 survey, but which are included in the present survey and therefore obviously existed at that time. Also documented as part of the 1988 survey was the historic Beecher Depot, which had been relocated to Section 29 of Monee Township in 1969. This structure was relocated back to the Village of Beecher in December 2000 and is therefore excluded from the Monee Township survey and data. Refer to the Washington Township report (November 2018) for additional information.

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

Notable Farmsteads in Monee Township

Bohlander Farmstead ***Site 1104 (PIN 14-11-400-014)***

The Bohlander Farmstead was established by Peter Bohlander in the early 1870s. The farmstead remained owned by the Bohlander family until circa 1920. The site is no longer a farmstead and is presently owned by the Pilgrimage Protestant Church. The Gothic Revival style house is judged to eligible for local landmark listing.



Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 332. Right: The circa 1870s Gothic Revival house at the Bohlander Farmstead.

Koelling–Riegel–Manilow Farmstead ***Site 1305 (PIN 14-13-411-022)***

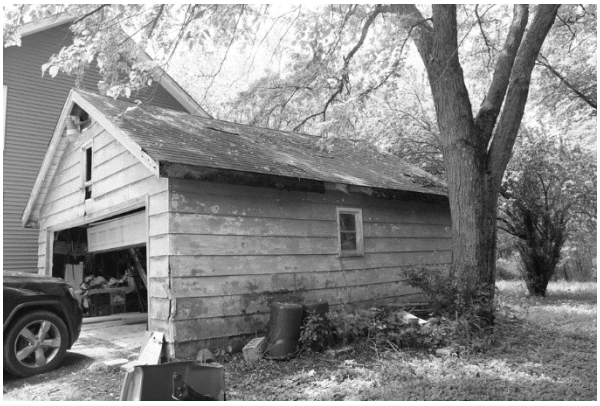
The farmstead was established in the 1890s by Chris Koelling. An early twentieth century gable front house and associated outbuildings such as a dairy barn and corn crib are still present on the farmstead. This farmstead was listed as a Will County landmark in 2003.

Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 336. Right: The circa 1908 Gable Front house present at the farmstead.


Left: A dairy barn with an asphalt shingle gambrel roof and a concrete masonry milk house attached to the structure. Right: The concrete masonry crib barn with a conical roof. This is a unique example of this type of crib barn within Monee Township

Harmening–Hamilton Farmstead ***Site 1403 (PIN 14-14-400-005)***

Heinrich Harmening (1845–1900) was a native of Germany. He and his wife Wilhelmina Koester (1853–1935) owned this farm by 1872. Their thirteen children were born in the existing house on the site. The farm was later inherited by their son, Wilhelm Friedrich Heinrich "Henry" Harmening (1867–1935). He and his wife Sophie Dralle (1877–1965) had three children: Florence, Gladys, and Milton.[237] The farm was sold after Henry's death in 1935 and was owned by the Hamilton family from the 1940s to the 1970s. A farmhouse, garage, and historic corn crib are present on the farmstead. Alterations have been made to the farmhouse but character-defining features remain intact. This farmstead is judged to be eligible for local landmark designation.

Left: The four over four house present at the farmstead. Right: A wood-sided garage adjacent to the farmhouse.

237. Information provided by Kathryn Campbell, daughter of Gladys Harmening.

Left: The circa 1920s wood sided crib barn. Right: Florence, Milton, and Gladys Harmening, circa 1930s. Source: Katherine Campbell.

Pape–Batterman Farmstead ***Site 1804 (PIN 14-18-200-023)***

This farmstead was likely first established by John H. Kolstedt in about 1869. In about 1874, it was acquired by John Pape as a tenant farm.[238]

John Pape was born in Oldenburg, Germany, on January 13, 1837. His parents, Henry and Rica Pape, emigrated with his family in 1846. The family arrived in Carey Township (present-day Monee) in 1850, and Henry Pape purchased 320 acres of Mexican War land grants. The family built a log cabin on the land, later replaced by a larger frame residence. This farmstead was located in Section 5, site 502, the Pape-Werner Farmstead in the present survey. Of the eight children of Henry and Rica, only John, the fifth child, continued to farm in Monee Township. In 1862, John Pape married Sophia Bartels and purchased 120 acres of undeveloped land in Sections 17 and 18. On this property, he developed a new farmstead, located at site 1803 in the present survey. John and Sophia Pape had twelve children, of whom six daughters survived to adulthood: Emma, Lena, Dena, Mary, Anna, and Amelia. Their daughter Lena married Henry Buchmeier, and the Buchmeiers operated the farm after John Pape retired circa 1905. At that time, John Pape owned approximately 340 acres with three developed farmsteads.[239] Based on historic plat maps, his holdings included approximately 140 acres in Section 16 (with farmstead site 1601, now demolished); and 200 acres in Sections 17 and 18 (with farmstead sites 1803 and 1804). The farmstead at site 1803, the Pape–Bohnsack–Clark Farmstead in the present survey, has only late twentieth century structures remaining and is judged non-contributing.

After several changes of ownership, the farmstead at site 1804 in the present survey was acquired by Melvin Batterman in the 1940s, and remains owned by the Batterman descendants today. This farmstead contains a bungalow house, round roof barn, grain bin, chicken coop, an animal shed and a machine shed. Most of the remaining structures were likely constructed during the Batterman family period of ownership.

238. Stevens (1907), 665. The Kolstedt family were natives of Germany. Henry Kolstedt, his wife, and five sons came to the United States and settled a farm near Bloomingdale in northern DuPage County. The five brothers (George, Charles, John, Henry Jr., and William) came to Monee Township in 1869, and each acquired an 80-acre tract in Section 18 from the Illinois Central Railroad. Of these farmsteads, only two still exist: sites 1802 and 1804 in the present survey. The farm at site 1804 was sold by John Kolstedt to John Pape in 1874, after which John Kolstedt opened a lumber and coal business in Monee. The farmstead at site 1802 is now vacant and abandoned.
239. Stevens (1907), 597–598.

The Pape–Batterman farmstead is judged to be eligible for local landmark designation due to the locally unique and well preserved round roof barn.

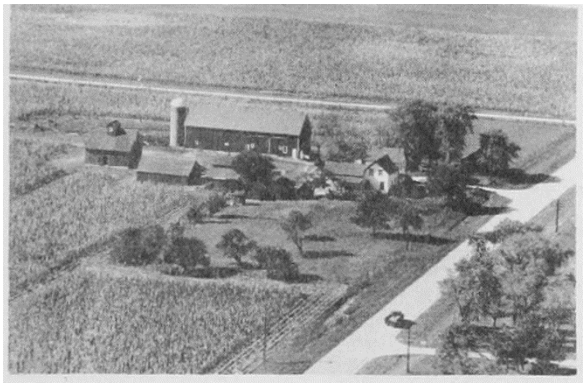
Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 322. Right: The hipped roof bungalow farmhouse.

Left: The circa 1940s round roof barn with concrete block walls. Right: Sheet metal grain bin.

Left: An adjacent garage structure. Right: Circa 1920s chicken coop and animal shed.

William Arnold Farmstead ***Site 2204 (PIN 14-22-400-013)***

This farmstead was first established by Philip Arnold in the 1870s and was later owned by his son William Arnold. The farmstead property remained in the Arnold family into the present decade. The farmstead contains a circa 1880s upright and wing farmhouse, a three-bay threshing barn, a crib barn, well house and animal shed. Due to a well preserved assemblage of nineteenth century structures, this farmstead is judged to be eligible for local landmark designation.



Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 321. Right: Circa 1880s Upright and Wing farmhouse.

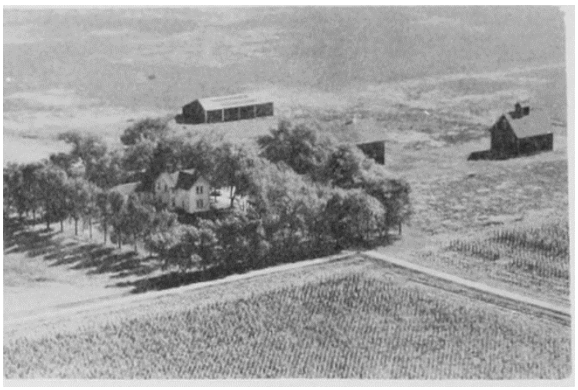
Left: Three-bay threshing sheet metal barn. Right: Wood sided crib barn with a cross gable cupola.

Siefker Farmstead ***Site 2401 (PIN 14-24-400-020)***

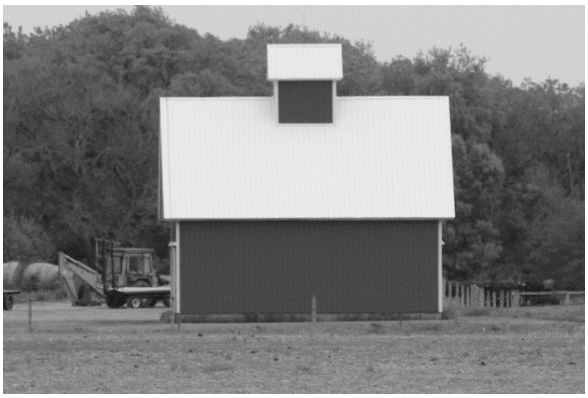
This farmstead was established by the Siefker family circa 1848, and it remains owned by the Siefker family today. The farmstead contains a farmhouse, barn, sheet metal bin and a crib barn. Due to a well-preserved assemblage of nineteenth century structures and long association with a pioneer family, this farmstead is judged to be eligible for local landmark designation.

William Siefker was born in Germany on March 25, 1825, and immigrated to Illinois in 1848. He married Mary Holder, who had been born in Russia, and had three children, Lewis, Mary, and William. He served as School Director of Monee Township.[240] The family is listed in the 1860 census as William and Mary Sepke [*sic*], ages given as 28 and 25, respectively, and children Lewey [*sic*] age 5, William age 4, and Mary age 2.

240. Woodruff (1878), 902.



Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 338. Left: Gabled Ell farmhouse.



Left: The present barn at the farmstead. Source: Drury, 338. Left: Crib barn with a cupola.

Deutsche Farmstead ***Site 2502 (PIN 14-25-200-020)***

William Deutsche (1825–1917) was a native of Germany. He came to the United States in 1847 with his wife Doris, and in 1850 they purchased this farmstead in Monee Township. He ultimately owned 500 acres. William and Doris had eight children: Doris, Minnie, Louise, Fred C., Anna, William F., Ida, and August. Two of the sons, Fred C. and William F., operated farms in Monee Township. Fred C. Deutsche's farm was located in Section 20, mapped as site 2005 in the present survey. He retired in 1900; the farm has since been demolished. William F. Deutsche (born 1870) inherited the family homestead in Section 25, site 2502 in the present survey.[241] After passing through several generations, the farm has remained in the Deutsche family to the present day. The farmstead contains a four over four farmhouse, dairy barn, gambrel roof dairy barn, and crib barn with a cross gable cupola. Due to a well preserved assemblage of historic farming structures and long association with a pioneer family, this farmstead is judged to be eligible for local landmark designation.

Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 326. Right: Four over four house, alterations have obscured character defining features.

Left: One of two dairy barns on the site. Right: Sheet metal crib barn with a cross gable cupola.

241. Maue (1928), 979–980.

Tucker–Miller–Siemsen Farmstead ***Site 2602 (PIN 14-26-300-001)***

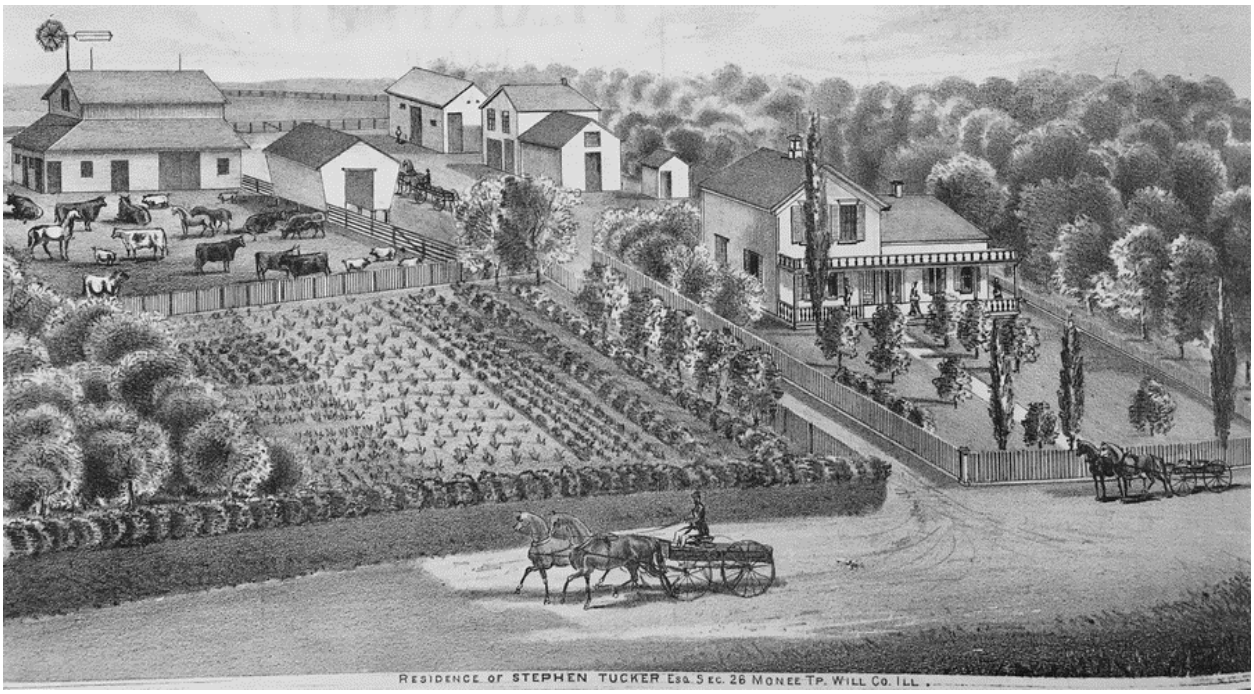
In about 1863, the Tucker brothers came to Monee Township and established three farmsteads in the south part of Section 26.[242] As seen in the 1873 atlas map, Thomas Tucker had a farm in the east half of the southeast quarter, and Israel Tucker had a farm in the west half of the southeast quarter. These two farmsteads, mapped as sites 2604 and 2605 in the present survey, have been demolished. The third brother, Stephen Tucker, had a farm in the southwest quarter, site 2602 in the present survey. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, the farm was owned by Stephen's son, Charles B. Tucker, born circa 1870. As of 1918, he lived here with his wife Ethel and their children Francis, Ethel, Isabella, and George.

Following the Tucker family, the owner by 1940 is identified on plat maps as George S. Miller. This owner is likely a grandson or other relative of the George S. Miller (born 1865) who was a prominent nineteenth century businessman in Monee. This elder George S. Miller married Fancilia Kolstedt (a daughter of John Kolstedt) in 1891, and they had one son, Harold M. Miller.[243] The younger George S. Miller who owned this farm is perhaps a son of Harold Miller. Circa 1960, the farmstead was acquired by the Siemsen family, who owned the site until the early 2000s.

The farmstead contains a circa 1870s Gabled Ell farmhouse and additional contributing structures including a board and batten-sided feeder barn. Due to the presence of a relatively well-preserved historic house and barn, this farmstead is judged to be eligible for local landmark designation.

Left: Circa 1870s Gabled Ell farmhouse with horizontal vinyl siding. Right: Board and batten sided feeder barn.

242. *Portrait and Biographical Album of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: Chapman Bros., 1890), 208–209.
243. Stevens (1907), 742–743.



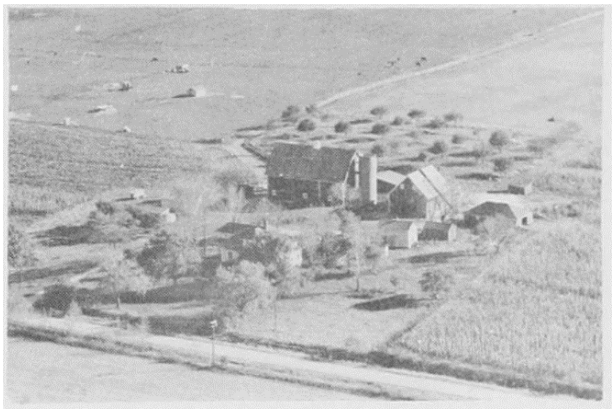
The Stephen Tucker farmstead, site 2602, as it appeared in 1873, as illustrated on plate 98 of the 1873 atlas. The upright and wing type house visible here was replaced later in the nineteenth century by the gabled ell type house now present on the site.

Gorman Farmstead ***Site 3002 (PIN 14-30-200-008)***

This farmstead was established by Adam Gorman in the mid-1850s. The John Gorman family arrived in Monee Township circa 1849 and settled a farmstead nearby in the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 30 (this farmstead is no longer extant).[244] The 1850 census lists John Gorman, age 32 and a native of Ireland, his wife Ann (32, also born in Ireland), and their children James (age 4, born in Massachusetts), Mary (age 2, born in Illinois), and Michael (age 3 months, born in Illinois). The 1860 census lists both the John Gorman family (John, wife Ann, and eight children ranging in age from 13 to 1) as well as the Adam Gorman family. The farmstead as site 3002 in the present survey was likely Adam Gorman's home. He may have been John Gorman's younger brother. The 1860 census lists Adam (age 32, born in Ireland), his wife Mary (32, born in Ireland), and five children: James (age 6, born in New York), John (age 6, born in New York and perhaps a twin to James), Mary A. (age 5, born in Illinois), Margaret J. (age 3, born in Illinois), and Michael P. (age 1, born in Illinois). Based on the children's ages and places of birth, the family likely arrived in Monee Township around 1854.

This farmstead was devastated by a tornado on May 26, 1917. The existing house and barn were built on the site the following year, circa 1918. Reportedly, the new bungalow-type house was built on the foundation of the earlier nineteenth century farmhouse. Today, the farm contains both a bungalow farmhouse and dairy barn. This property remains owned by the Gorman family today. Due to a well-preserved assemblage of historic farming structures and long association with a pioneer family, this farmstead is judged to be eligible for local landmark designation.

244. The current owners are in possession of the original land warrant dated August 10, 1850, granting the east half of the northeast quarter and the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 30, 160 acres total, to John Gorman. As is common in Will County, the property was granted to a Mexican-American War veteran, Private John Barringer, as compensation for his military service. Barringer very likely had no connection to Illinois and sold the land to Gorman.

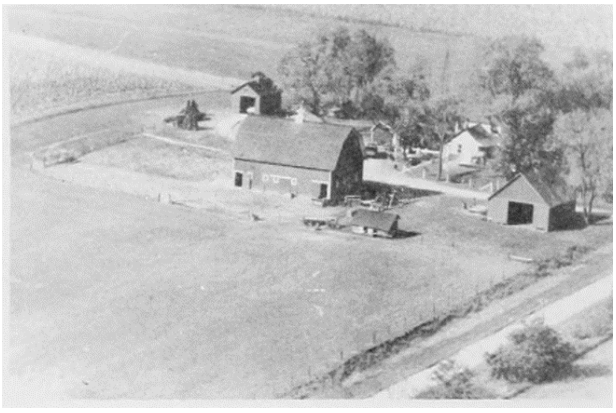


Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 327. Right: Bungalow farmhouse with a hipped roof and hip dormers.

Left: Gambrel roof dairy barn at the Gorman Farmstead.

Lawler–Zirzow Farmstead ***Site 3101 (PIN 14-31-400-002)***

This farmstead was established by James Lawler in the 1870s. It was acquired by the Zirzow family in the 1940s. Significant historic structures on the Lawler–Zirzow farmstead include an 1870s upright and wing farmhouse, dairy barn, and crib barn. Due to a well-preserved assemblage of historic farming structures, this farmstead is judged to be eligible for local landmark designation.

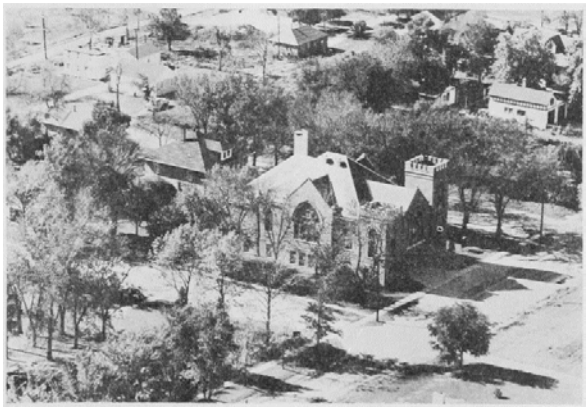


Left: The farmstead as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 342. Right: Circa 1870s upright and wing farmhouse.

Left: Circa 1920 wood-sided dairy barn with a gambrel roof. Left: Crib barn with a cupola across the gable roof.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ ***Site 2105 (PIN 14-21-341-001)***

This Gothic Revival brick masonry church was constructed in 1914–1915 and has potential to be designated a local landmark due to its architectural character. The original name is carved into stone over the main entrance: "Evangelische St. Paul's Kirche." The church was renamed in 1958 due to a merger of national denominations. The church interior was damaged by fire on December 5, 1930, and restored in 1931. A classroom wing was added to the southeast corner in 1959. The site also contains a contributing brick masonry parsonage constructed in 1918.



Left: The church as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 319. Right: Main elevation of the church.

Left: Perspective of the church showing the 1959 classroom wing. Right: The Foursquare parsonage associated with the church.

Deutsche School (District No. 172) ***Site 2504 (PIN 14-25-100-004)***

The early 1900s single-room schoolhouse is a gable roof structure with horizontal wood siding. It was adapted for residential use after school district consolidation in 1948. The last teacher was Inez Smit. It is judged to be eligible for local landmark listing, and designation of the property as a Will County landmark is pending in 2019.

Left: The former schoolhouse as it existed in 1955. Source: Drury, 342. Right: Perspective of the gable roof structure.

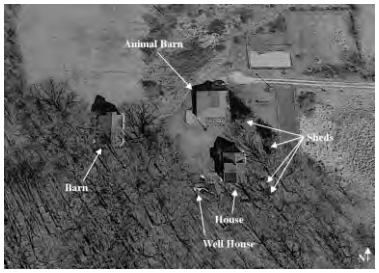
Schannen School (District No. 174) ***Site 3202 (PIN 14-32-100-014)***

The one-room schoolhouse was constructed in 1861. It closed after the 1938–1939 school year and was adapted for residential use in 1950. Alterations have obscured some character defining features, but the structure is judged to be eligible for local landmark listing.

The present appearance of the former school house.

Table. Surveyed Farmsteads and Related Sites in Monee Township

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
103	14-01-200-020	S. Western Avenue	**Hornicek Farmstead**	Contributing



Gable Front

Plank frame

Likely a newly developed site circa 1920s.

Now part of Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve

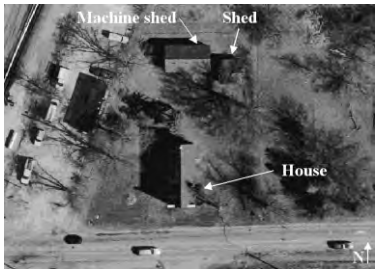
202	14-02-403-016	Monee Road	**Thorn Creek Nature Center (Immanuel Lutheran Church)**	Local landmark potential

Church

Former Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rich Township, Richton Park, Illinois. Relocated here from corner of Sauk Trail and Cicero Avenue in 1961.

The Thorn Creek Woods Nature Preserve is jointly owned by the villages of University Park and Park Forest, the Forest Preserve District of Will County, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

303	14-03-300-003	W. Stuenkel Road	**Stuenkel General Store**	Contributing



Gable Front

Built by brothers Heinrich and Friedrich Stuenkel as a store after Illinois Central Railroad added a freight delivery siding at this crossing in the 1890s. Rail service discontinued in 1920s. Store later remodeled into residence by Heinrich's widow Dorothea Stuenkel. See Mueller Milne, "Our Roots Are Deep," 56-57.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
501	14-05-200-012	S. Central Avenue	**Bode Farmstead**	Non-contributing

Cape Cod

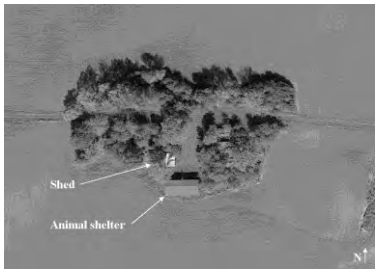
Many structures demolished, circa 2011.
Abandoned. No access. Surveyed from public right-of-way

502	14-05-200-009	W. Steger Road	**Pape-Werner Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

504	14-05-300-003	S. Ridgeland Avenue	**Pape-Holl Farmstead**	Non-contributing



Vacant and abandoned at time of 1988 survey.
Only two outbuildings remain. No access. Surveyed from public right-of-way

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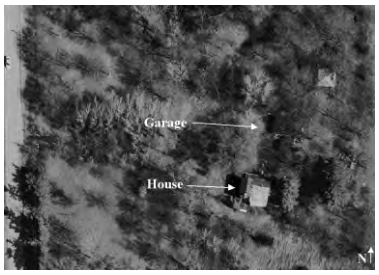
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
601	14-06-300-003	S. Harlem Avenue	**Holl-Wille Farmstead**	Non-contributing



Gabled Ell

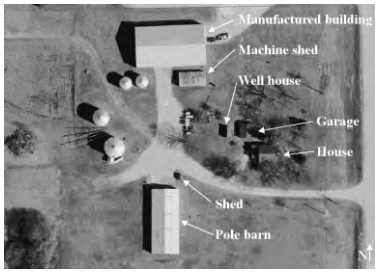
No permission for close-up survey.

602	14-06-100-026	W. Steger Road	**Albers-Bonem Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

Feeder

603	14-06-400-009	S. Ridgeland Avenue	**Beckman-Striggow Farmstead**	Contributing



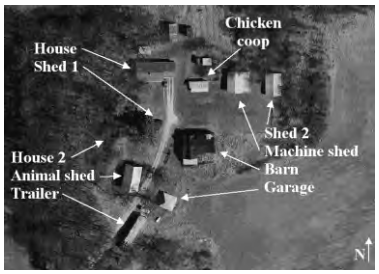
Cape Cod

Most existing structures appear to be newer than 1955.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
604	14-06-200-003	S. Ridgeland Avenue	**Seeman-Stuenkel Farmstead**	Contributing

Ranch

702	14-07-300-001	S. Harlem Avenue	**Buchmeier-Esch Farmstead**	Contributing

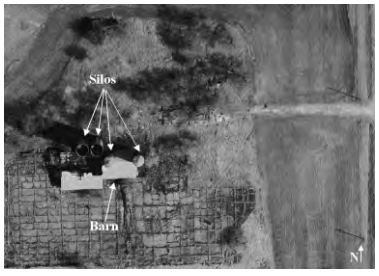


Ranch

Plank frame

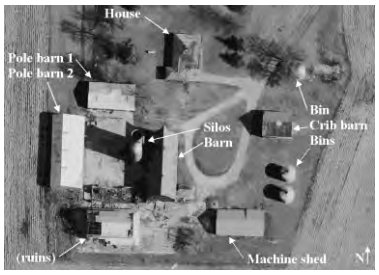
Access for close-up survey not available.

703	14-07-400-001	S. Ridgeland Avenue	**Wadow-Thompson Farmstead**	Non-contributing



1920s is first plat map to show SE 1/4 separated from NE 1/4. Likely a newly developed site in early twentieth century. Abandoned at the time of the 1988 survey. Only barn additions (in ruins) and 4 silos remain.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
704	14-07-200-002	W. Stuenkel Road	**Albers-Maloney Farmstead**	Contributing



Ranch

Dairy

No access for close-up survey. Surveyed from public right-of-way

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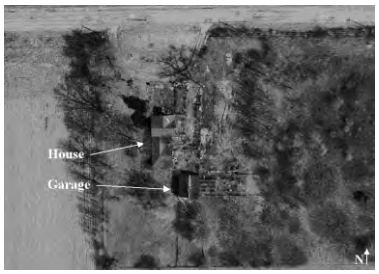
902 14-09-100-007 W. Stuenkel Road **House at 5241 W. Stuenkel Road** Non-contributing



Four over four

Assessor gives date built as 1950, which does not appear correct. Nothing existed at this site in 1961. Currently owned by the Village of University Park. 1988 survey photo copied here.

Abandoned and in very poor condition.

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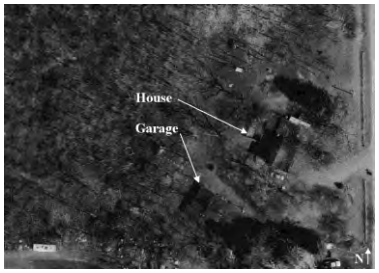
907 14-09-203-013 S. Home Avenue **Hohmann Farmstead** Contributing



Gabled Ell

Biography of Henry Hohmann (Woodruff, 1878, p. 901)
Around 1950, subdivided as the "Home Acres" development.

No access. Surveyed from public right-of-way.

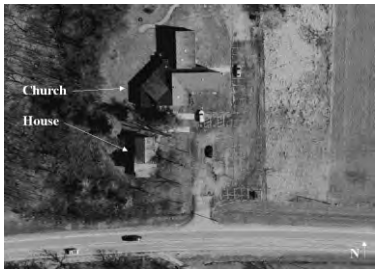
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1002	14-10-101-002	University Drive	**Urban-Hantack Farmstead**	Non-contributing

Ranch

Likely a newly developed site in early twentieth century. Now part of Governor's State University campus. Barn was destroyed by fire in 2015. Only house remains.

1102	14-11-400-018	W. Exchange Street	**Mall Tool Co. Airfield**	Contributing

1104	14-11-400-014	W. Exchange Street	**Bohlander Farmstead**	Local landmark potential



Gabled Ell

Church

Now the site of the Pilgrimage Protestant Church

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1305	14-13-411-022	Farm View Road	**Koelling-Riegel-Manilow Farmstead**	Local landmark

Gable Front

Dairy

Purchased by Village of University Park in 1977. Designated a Will County Landmark in 2003. 1860 census lists Conrad Koelling (spelled Kaerling), age 5, born in Germany, on his father's farm located in the south half of the NE 1/4 of section 24.

Historic farm structures in a public park.

1402 14-14-400-011 W. Hamilton Road **Harmening-Churchill Farmstead** Contributing

Upright and wing

No access; surveyed from public right-of-way.

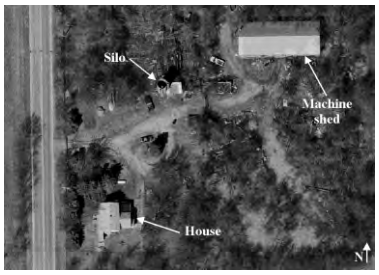
1403 14-14-400-005 W. Hamilton Road **Harmening-Hamilton Farmstead** Local landmark potential

Four over four

Home of Heinrich Harmening (1845-1900) and his wife Wilhelmina Koester (1853-1935). Their son Henry Harmening (1876-1935) was born in this house. Henry and his wife Sophia Dralle (1877-1965) had three children born in this house: Florence, Gladys, and Milton. Photo at right.

Associated with a prominent local farming family.

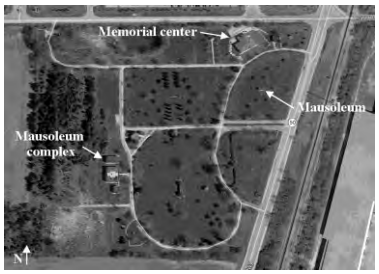
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1501	14-15-300-004	S. Will Center Road	**Hohmann-Triem-Bonem Farmstead**	Contributing



Four over four

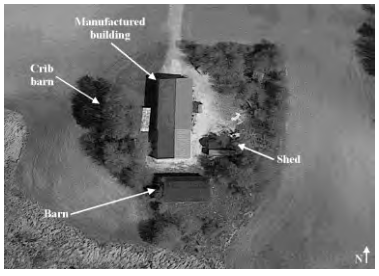
No access; surveyed from public right-of-way.

1603	14-16-200-001	S. Governors Highway	**Skyline Memorial Park**	Cemetery



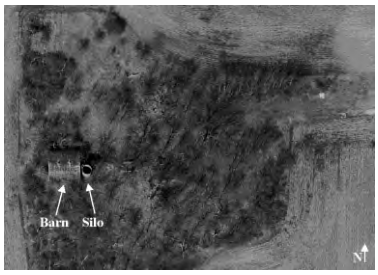
Established in 1955.
www.skylinememorialcrematory.com

1703	14-17-100-003	W. Dralle Road	**Pohler-Dralle Farmstead**	Contributing



Dairy

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1802	14-18-400-003	S. Ridgeland Avenue	**Kolstedt-Holl Farmstead**	Non-contributing



Feeder

House existed at time of 1988 survey but was abandoned; demolished shortly thereafter. (Illustrated in 1873 atlas, plate 90. No structures from that era survived by 1955.)

Vacant and abandoned. No access; surveyed from public right-of-way

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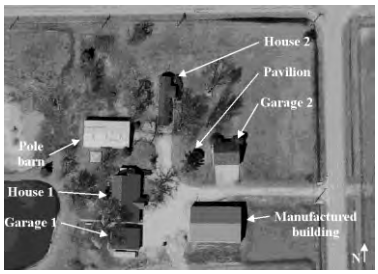
1803	14-18-200-010	S. Ridgeland Avenue	**Pape-Bohnsack-Clark Farmstead**	Non-contributing

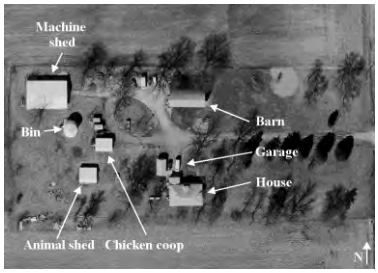


Contemporary

Manufactured house

John Pape: Stevens (1907), p. 597-598.

1804	14-18-200-023	S. Ridgeland Avenue	**Pape-Batterman Farmstead**	Local landmark potential



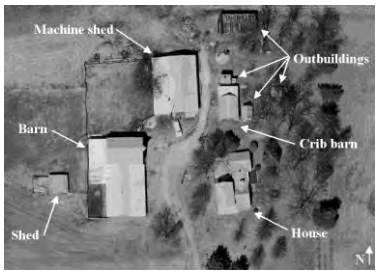
Bungalow

Round roof

John Pape: Stevens (1907), p. 597-598.

Nicely preserved historic early twentieth century round roof barn.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1901	14-19-400-003	W. Bruns Road	**Haltenhof-Phillips-Bruns Farmstead**	Contributing

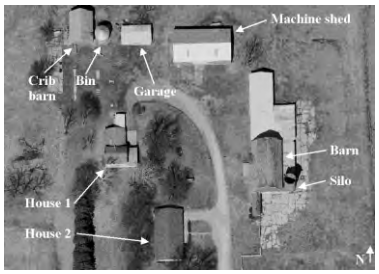


Upright and wing

Plank frame

No access; surveyed from public right-of-way

1902	14-19-300-002	W. Bruns Road	**Eichmann-Artman Farmstead**	Contributing



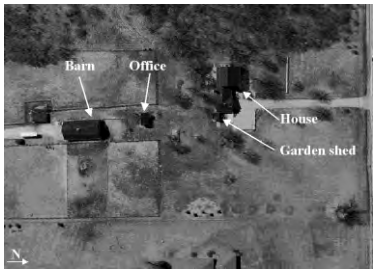
Four over four

Dairy

Ranch

No access; surveyed from public right-of-way

1904	14-19-100-011	W. Monee-Manhattan Road	**Eichmann-Twietmeyer Farmstead**	Non-contributing



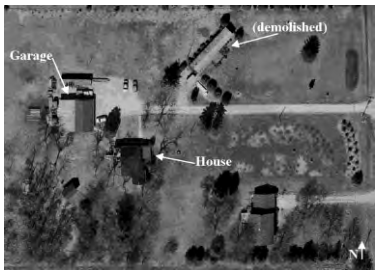
Four over four

Feeder

All existing structures are newer than 1955. Barn may date to circa 1960, but property as a whole lacks the character of a historic farmstead and is judged to be non-contributing

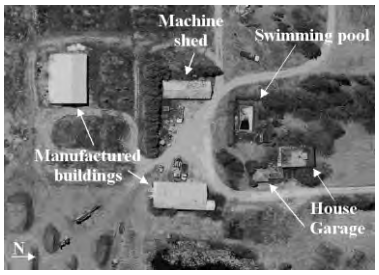
No access; surveyed from public right-of-way.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
1905	14-19-400-010	S. Ridgeland Avenue	**Vring-Knippel-Schmidt Farmstead**	Non-contributing



Gabled Ell

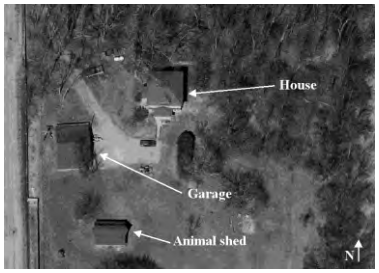
2001	14-20-100-004	W. Monee-Manhattan Road	**Fehland-Quanstrom Farmstead**	Non-contributing



American Foursquare

Abandoned and in poor condition.

2006	14-20-400-013	S. Governors Highway	**Plagge-Behrens-Hare Farmstead**	Contributing



American Foursquare

Biography of Frederick Pauling (Woodruff, 1878, p. 901)
No access, surveyed from public right-of-way

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2104	14-21-343-010	W. Margaret Street	**St. Paul's Cemetery**	Cemetery

—

View of original church from cemetery, from church's website.

2105 14-21-341-001 W. Margaret Street **St. Paul's United Church of Christ** Local landmark potential

American Foursquare

Church

Original name carved into stone over entrance: "Evangelische St. Paul's Kirche." Renamed in 1958 due to merger of denominations

---

2106 14-21-306-001 W. Main Street **St. Boniface Catholic Church** Non-contributing

Church

Parish was closed in mid-1920s but reopened in 1949.

Note: Although captioned "St. Boneface" [sic], the picture on page 319 of Drury [not copied here] is not this church, but rather a view of the Manhattan Methodist Church.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2107	14-21-400-037	W. Main Street	**Monee Education Center**	Non-contributing

School

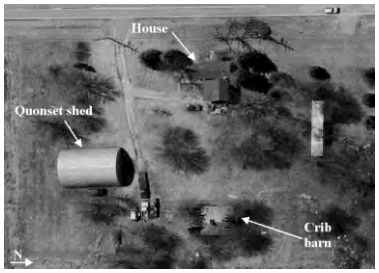
New Monee Elementary School built north of village on Will Center Road (SW 1/4 of sec. 15) in 2006.
Currently used as the Monee Education Center, for grades 6 to 12.

2112	14-21-400-035	W. Main Street	**Marti Farmstead**	Contributing

Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

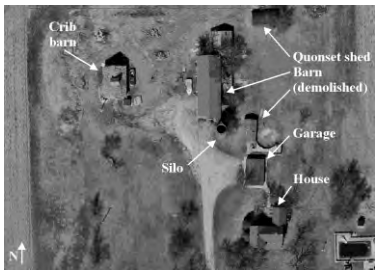
2201	14-22-300-003	S. Will Center Road	**Schoenstedt-Gorman-Stege Farmstead**	Contributing



I-House

Biography of Christoph Schoenstedt: Stevens (1907), p. 358-362. Portrait reproduced here. See also "Portrait and Biographical Album" (1890), p. 192-193.
1988 survey photo copied at bottom right.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2203	14-22-200-035	W. Crete-Monee Road	**Henry Arnold Farmstead**	Contributing

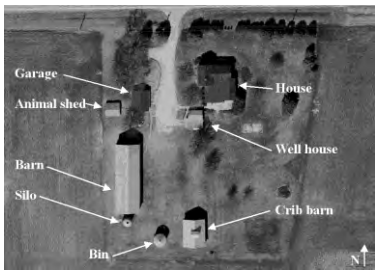


Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

Appeared to be vacant at time of survey.

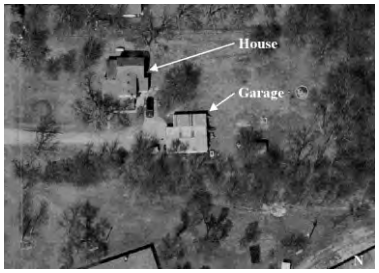
2204	14-22-400-013	W. Crete-Monee Road	**William Arnold Farmstead**	Local landmark potential



Upright and wing

Three-bay threshing

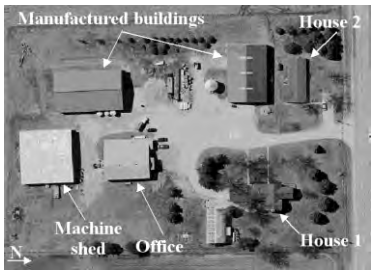
2205	14-22-200-025	S. Steger-Monee Road	**Herbert-Oehlerking Farmstead**	Non-contributing



Gabled Ell

No access; surveyed from public right-of-way

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2301	14-23-400-007	W. Crete-Monee Road	**Kuersten-Halfeldt Farmstead**	Contributing



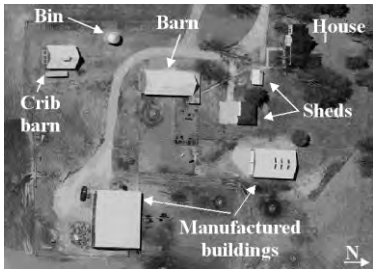
Gabled Ell

Ranch

House 1 is only remaining historic structure. All original outbuildings demolished since 1988 survey.

No access; surveyed from public right-of-way.

2401 14-24-400-020 S. Highland Avenue **Siefker Farmstead** Local landmark potential



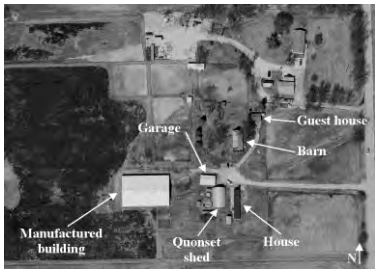
Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

Biography of William Siefker (Woodruff, 1878, p. 902). 1860 census: William (28, Germany), Mary (25, Germany), Lewey (5, Illinois), William (4, Illinois), and Mary (2, Illinois).

No access; surveyed from public right-of-way

2403 14-24-100-015 S. Highland Avenue **Halfeldt Farmstead** Contributing



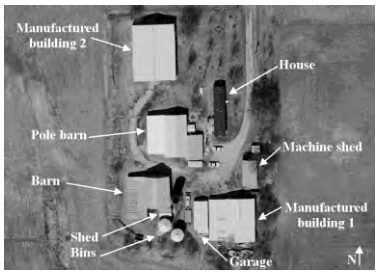
Ranch

Three-bay threshing

Barn and quonset shed are only remaining historic structures.

No access; surveyed from public right-of-way

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2501	14-25-100-001	W. Olendorf Road	**Miller-Oldendorf-Alm Farmstead**	Contributing



Trailer

Three-bay threshing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2502	14-25-200-020	W. Elms Court Lane	**Deutsche Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

Four over four

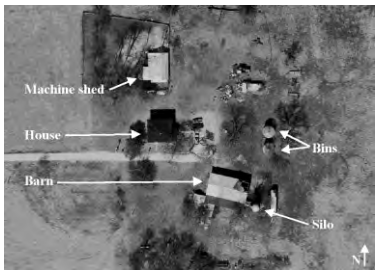
Dairy

Dairy

Refer to Maue (1928), 979-980

Some buildings are across township line in sec. 30 of Crete Township.

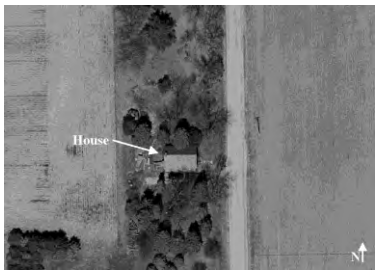
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2503	14-25-200-013	S. Highland Avenue	**Luecke-Deutsche-Ruder Farmstead**	Contributing



American Foursquare

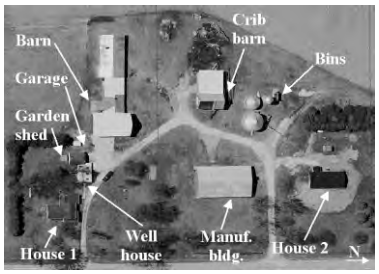
Three-bay threshing

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2504	14-25-100-004	S. Highland Avenue	**Deutsche School (District No. 172)**	Local landmark potential



Gable Front

2505 14-25-300-004 S. Highland Avenue **Deutsche-Siefker Farmstead** Contributing

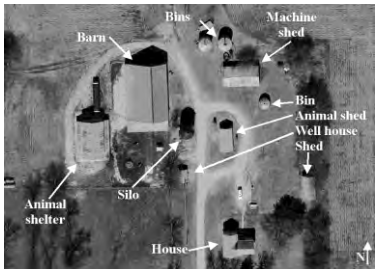


Ranch

Three-bay threshing

Upright and wing

2602 14-26-300-001 W. Pauling Road **Tucker-Miller-Siemsen Farmstead** Local landmark potential

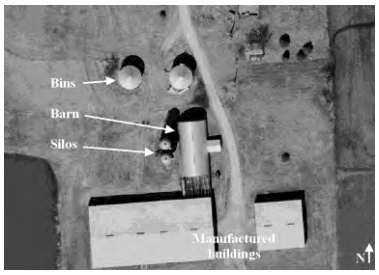


Gabled Ell

Feeder

Illustrated in 1873 atlas, plate 98. Barn survives. George S. Miller, 1940s owner of this farmstead, may be a grandson of the George S. Miller who was a nineteenth century businessman in Monee. See Stevens (1907), 742-743.

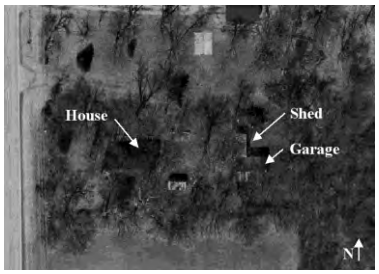
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2603	14-26-100-005	W. Olendorf Road	**Korthauer-Ehlers-Hirsch Farmstead**	Contributing



Feeder

No access; surveyed from public right-of-way

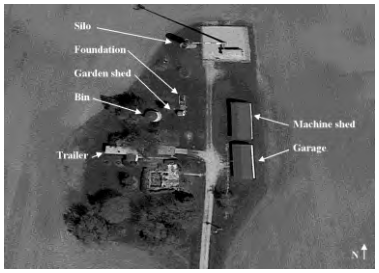
2702	14-27-100-007	S. Will Center Road	**Otten-Holmstrom Farmstead**	Non-contributing



Gable Front

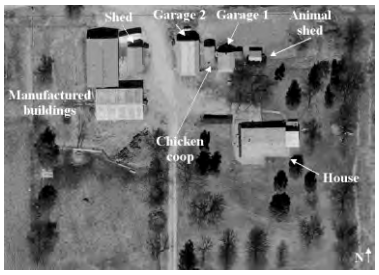
Abandoned and in very poor condition.

2703	14-27-300-003	W. Pauling Road	**Roeser-Schultz Farmstead**	Non-contributing



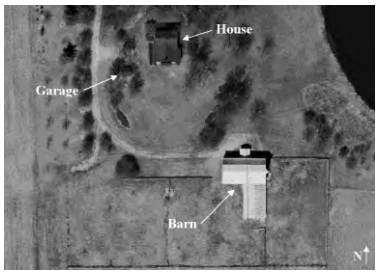
Historic house demolished circa 2017.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2704	14-27-400-004	W. Pauling Road	**Rabe Farmstead**	Contributing



Ranch

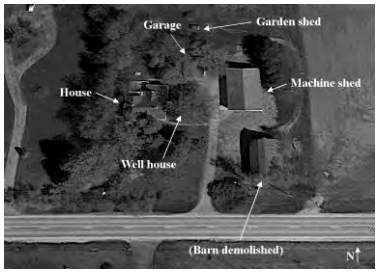
2705	14-26-100-005	W. Olendorf Road	**Bortschiller-Harmening Farmstead**	Contributing



Dairy

No access; surveyed from public right-ofoway

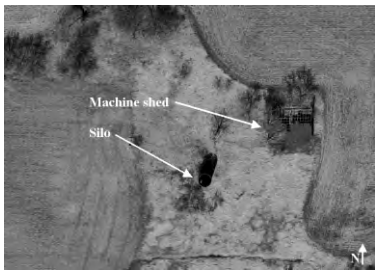
2706	14-27-401-002	W. Pauling Road	**Rabe-Pauling-Kannberg Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell

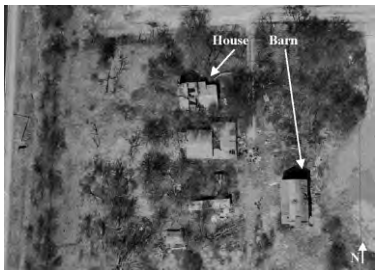
Historic barn demolished in 2017.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2802	14-28-100-002	S. Egyptian Trail	**Herbert-Tucker Farmstead**	Non-contributing



Only one outbuilding and one silo remain, both in ruins.

2903	14-29-100-027	Industrial Drive	**Ebert-Schannen-Albinger Farmstead**	Non-contributing



Upright and wing

Dairy

From 1949 to her death in 2013, this was the home of Agnes Albinger, foster parent to 40 children. See "At 100, she fights foreclosure," Chicago Tribune, April 28, 2010. Obituary, Chicago Tribune, February 17, 2013.

Not accessible, surveyed from public right-of-way. Very poor condition.

2907	14-29-402-006	S. Governors Highway	**Davis House**	Contributing

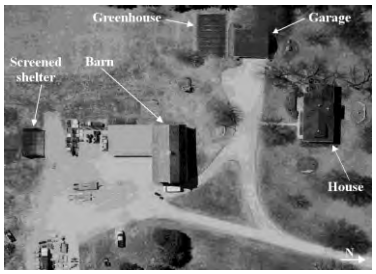
Gable Front

Not certain if this 1955 Drury view is the correct property. If correctly matched to this site, the house has been altered by raising the gable roof at the front portion of the structure.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
2909	14-29-100-029	S. Ridgeland Avenue	**Schlemme Cemetery**	Cemetery

Could not be located. Mapped location is approximate based on information provided by Monee Historical Society and description in "Our Roots Are Deep."

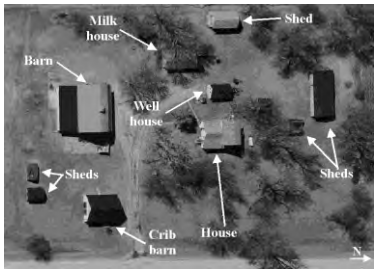
3002 14-30-200-008 W. Bruns Road **Gorman Farmstead** Local landmark potential



Bungalow Dairy

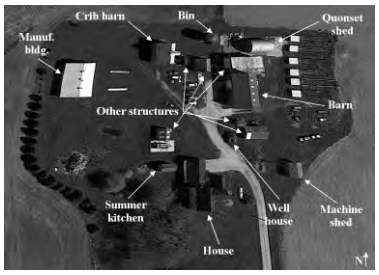
Historic aerial view provided by owner. Established by Adam Gorman in mid-1850s.
Now owned by Kevin and Molly Gorman.

3101 14-31-400-002 S. Ridgeland Avenue **Lawler-Zirzow Farmstead** Local landmark potential



Upright and wing Dairy

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3102	14-31-400-006	W. Offner Road	**Schubbe Farmstead**	Contributing

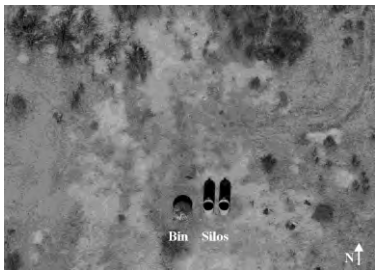


Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

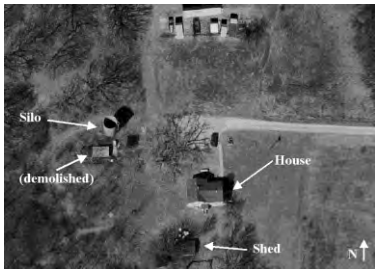
No access, surveyed from public right-of-way

3103	14-31-200-004	W. Pauling Road	**Pauling-Haag Farmstead**	Non-contributing



Biography of Frederick Pauling (Woodruff, 1878, p. 901). Illustrated in 1873 atlas, plate 139.
Only two silos and one grain bin remain on site.

3201	14-32-400-004	S. Egyptian Trail	**Offner Farmstead**	Contributing



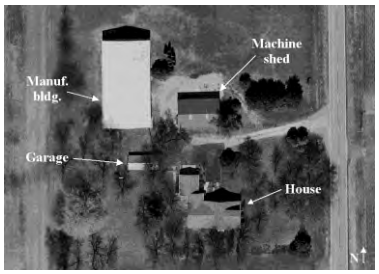
Gabled Ell

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3202	14-32-100-014	W. Pauling Road	**Schannen School (District No. 174)**	Local landmark potential

Gable Front

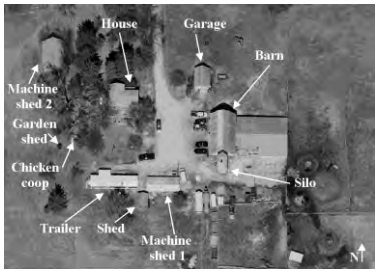
Built in 1861. Closed after 1938-1939 school year. Sold in 1950 and remodeled for residential use. Historic photo from 1919 reproduced from Mueller Milne, "Our Roots Are Deep," 121.

3302	14-33-200-006	S. Will Center Road	**Offner-Twietmeyer Farmstead**	Contributing



Bungalow

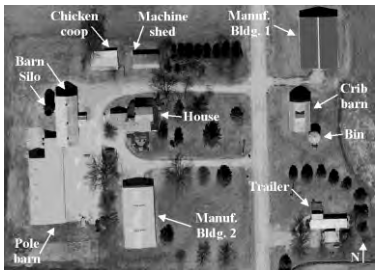
3401	14-34-100-016	W. Pauling Road	**Cellarius-Twietmeyer Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell

Plank frame

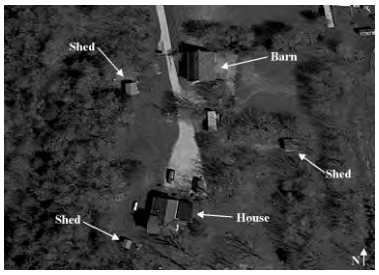
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3403	14-34-200-032	S. Crawford Avenue	**Miller-Gerloff-Twietmeyer Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell | Dairy

No access; surveyed from public right-of-way. Some outbuildings are located across road in Section 35, surveyed as 1988 Site No. 35-03

3404	14-34-200-038	W. Pauling Road	**Meier-Rodewald Farmstead**	Contributing

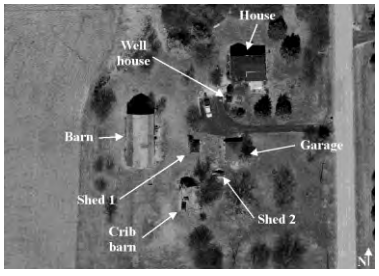


Gabled Ell | Plank frame

1988 survey photo copied at bottom right.

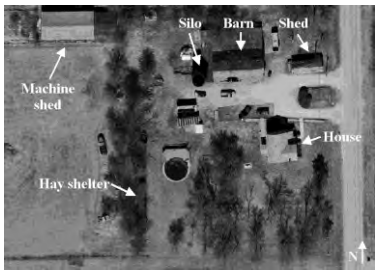
No access; surveyed from road only.

3405	14-34-100-006	S. Kuersten Road	**Cellarius Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell | Plank frame

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3501	14-35-400-009	S. Kedzie Avenue	**Reinbach-Smith Farmstead**	Contributing

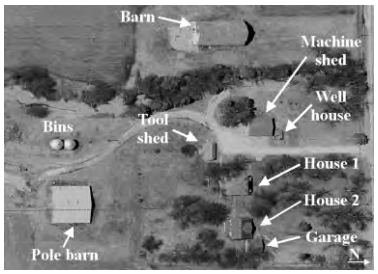


Gabled Ell

Plank frame

Illustrated in 1873 atlas, plate 139. 1988 survey photo copied at bottom right.

3502	14-35-200-009	W. Pauling Road	**Becker-Deutsche Farmstead**	Contributing



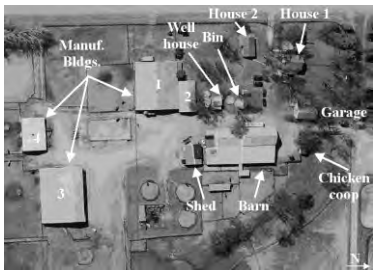
Amercian Foursquare

Dairy

Bungalow

This farmstead was the first home in rural Monee Township to be wired for electricity, as a model. As part of the demonstration, the property was open to the public on weekends.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3504	14-35-300-005	S. Crawford Avenue	**Bischel-Rabe-Koscher Farmstead**	Contributing

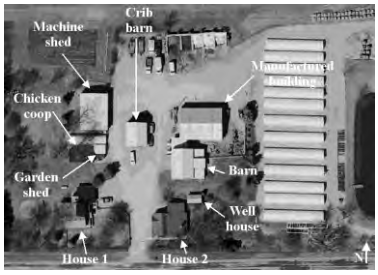


Cape Cod

Feeder

Ranch

3601	14-36-300-005	W. Offner Road	**Mueller-Boedicker Farmstead**	Contributing

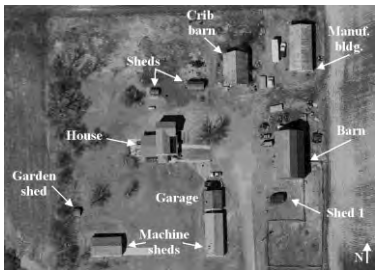


Gabled Ell

Three-bay threshing

Ranch

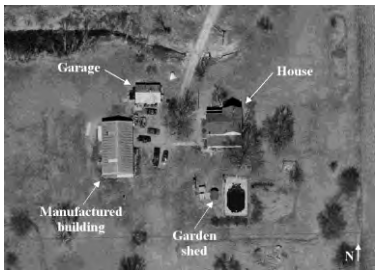
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
3602	14-36-400-004	W. Offner Road	**Duehlmeyer Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell

Plank frame

3603	14-36-200-003	W. Pauling Road	**Seggebruch-Lehman Farmstead**	Contributing



Gabled Ell

August C. Seggebruch was a son of Gotlieb Seggebruch of Crete Township; he came to the U.S. with his parents circa 1854. See "Portrait and Biographical Album" (Chapman Bros., 1890), pages 310-311.

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Previous Surveys

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

In 1999, the Will County Land Use Department, acting as liaison for the Will County Historic Preservation Commission, engaged Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. to perform an intensive survey of Wheatland, Plainfield, and Lockport Townships in northwest Will County, Illinois. In 2001, an intensive survey was performed of Du Page Township in Will County, followed by Homer Township in 2002; New Lenox Township in 2003; Green Garden Township in 2004; Manhattan Township in 2006; Frankfort Township in 2007; Joliet and Troy Townships in 2009; Channahon Township, Jackson Township, and Wilmington Township in 2009; Reed Township and Florence Township in 2011; Custer Township and Wesley Township in 2012; Peotone Township in 2014; Wilton Township in 2016; Will Township and Crete Township in 2016; and Washington Township in 2018. The resulting reports from these surveys were used as a basis for developing this report.

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GLOSSARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

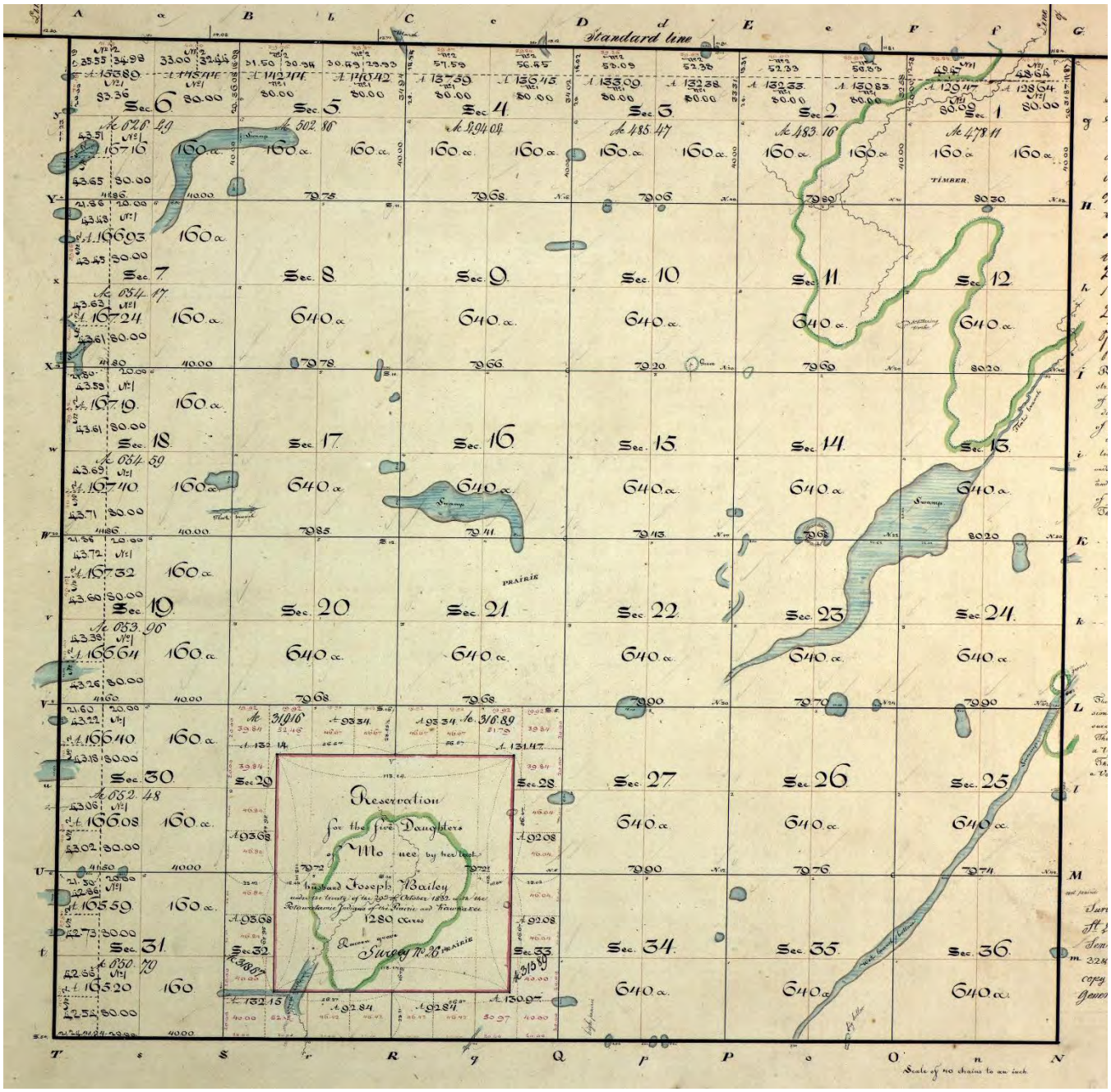
vault. A masonry covering over an area which uses the principle of the arch.

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

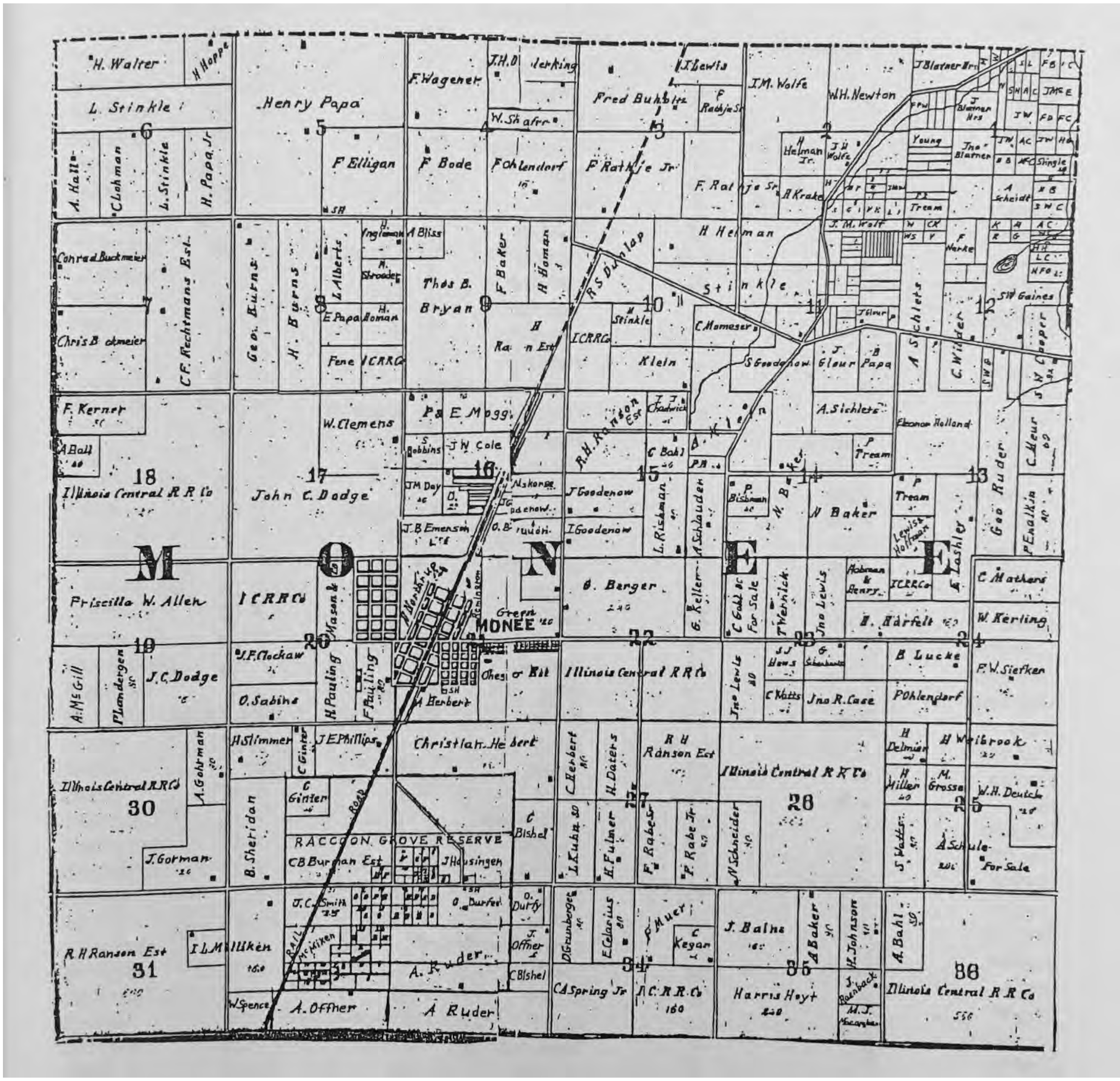
APPENDIX A

HISTORIC PLAT MAPS

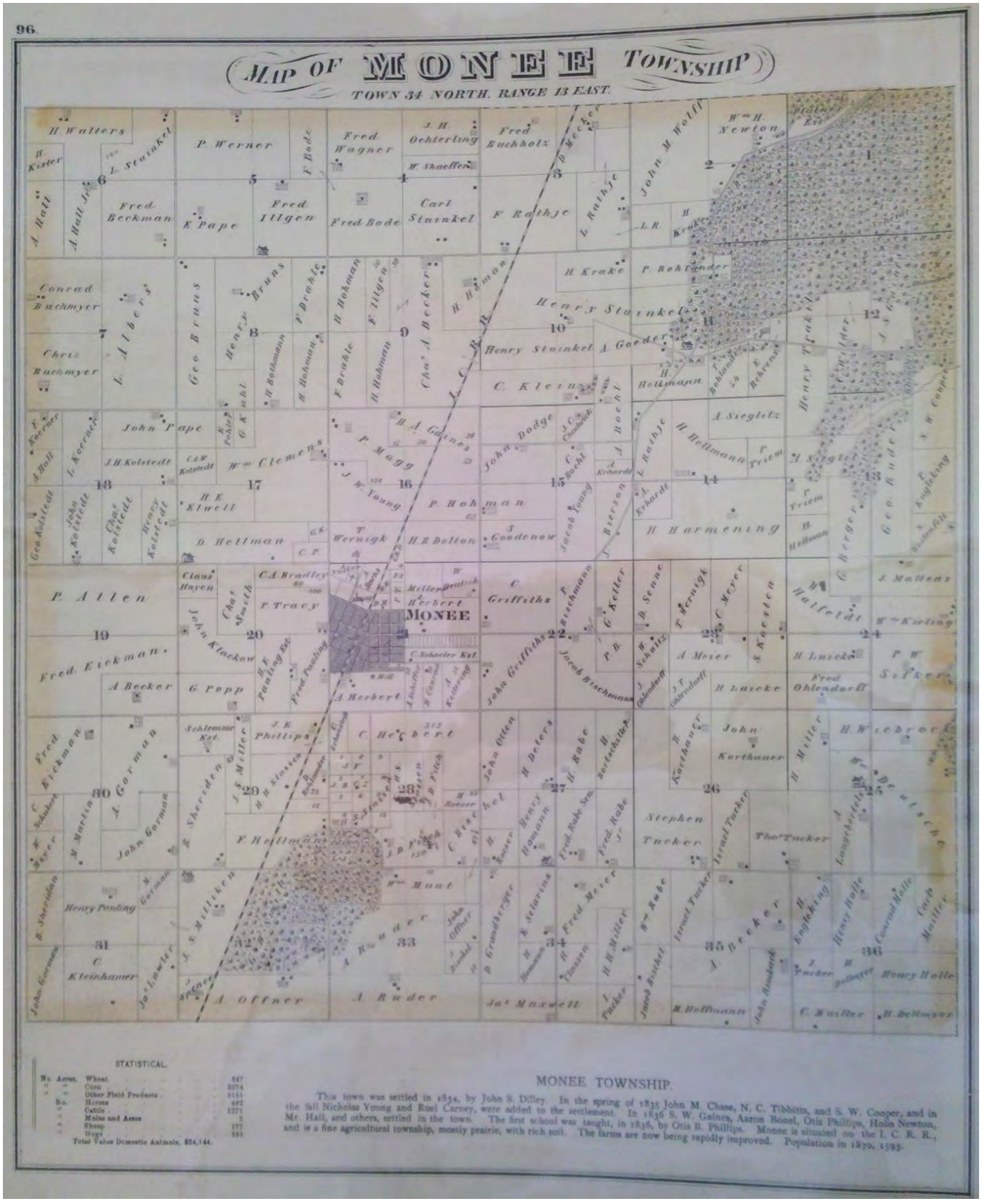
This appendix contains historic farm atlas and plat maps for Monee Township. Refer to Bibliography for map sources.


Standard line
Reservation
for the five Daughters
of Mo-nee by her last
husband Joseph Bailey
1280 acres
Survey No. 28
PRAIRIE
Swamp
TIMBER.
Scale of 80 chains to an inch.

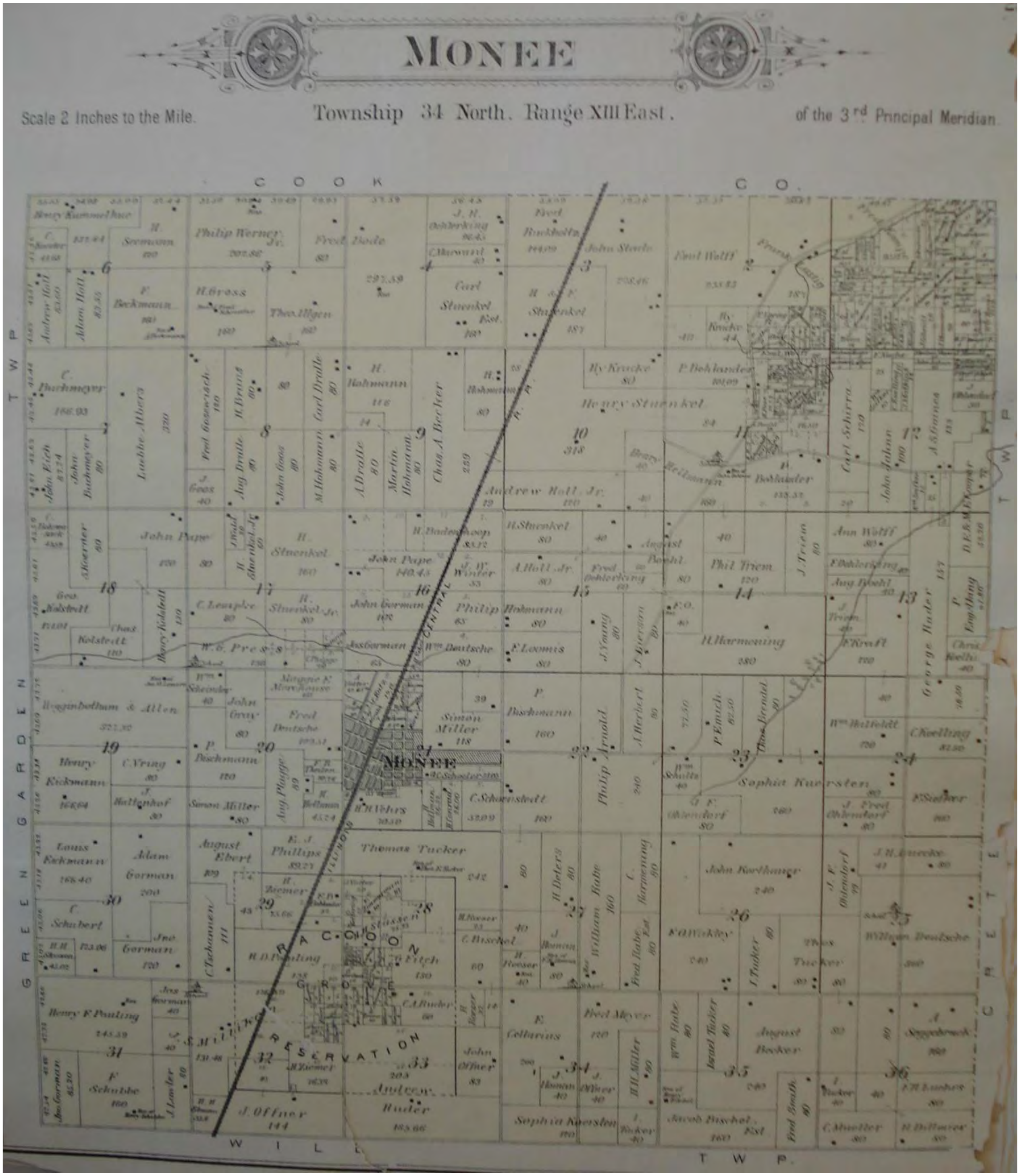
1834


H. Walter
L. Stinkle
Henry Papa
F. Wagener
Fred Buhblitz
I.M. Wolfe
W.H. Newton
F Elligan
F Bode
F Ohlendorf
F Rathje Jr
H Helman
Conrad Buckmeier
C.F. Rechtmans Est.
Geo. Burns
Thos B. Bryan
F Baker
R S Dunlap
Stinkle
Klein
F. Kerner
W. Clemens
P & E Moggs
J N Cole
A. Sichlers
18
17
16
15
14
13
Illinois Central R R Co
John C. Dodge
J Goodenow
N Baker
Tream
M
O
N
E
E
Priscilla W. Allen
I C R R Co
MONEE
G. Berger
C Mathers
W. Kerling
J.C. Dodge
O. Sabine
Illinois Central R R Co
Jno R. Case
B Lucke
F.W. Siefken
Christian Hebert
R H Ranson Est
Illinois Central R R Co
30
28
25
RACCOON GROVE RESERVE
CB Burman Est
J. Gorman
R H Ranson Est
31
A. Offner
A Ruder
C A Spring Jr
I C R R Co
J. Balne
Harris Hoyt
36
Illinois Central R R Co

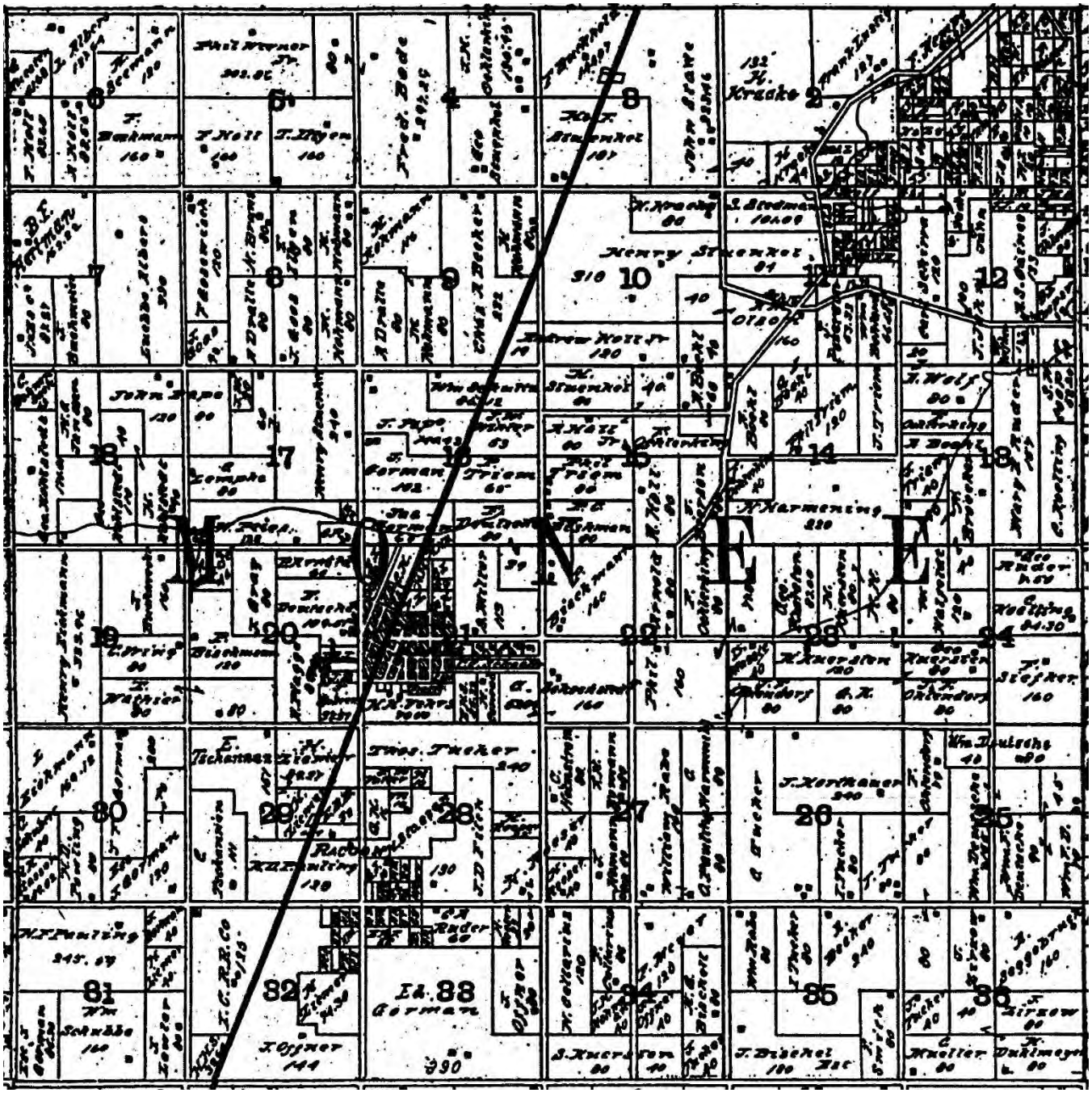
1862


96.
MAP OF MONEE TOWNSHIP
TOWN 34 NORTH, RANGE 13 EAST.
MONEE
STATISTICAL.
MONEE TOWNSHIP.
This town was settled in 1834, by John S. Dilley. In the spring of 1835 John M. Chase, N. C. Tibbitts, and S. W. Cooper, and in the fall Nicholas Young and Ruel Carney, were added to the settlement. In 1836 S. W. Gaines, Aaron Bonel, Otis Phillips, Hosea Newton, Mr. Hall, and others, settled in the town. The first school was taught, in 1836, by Otis B. Phillips. Monee is situated on the I. C. R. R., and is a fine agricultural township, mostly prairie, with rich soil. The farms are now being rapidly improved. Population in 1870, 1593.

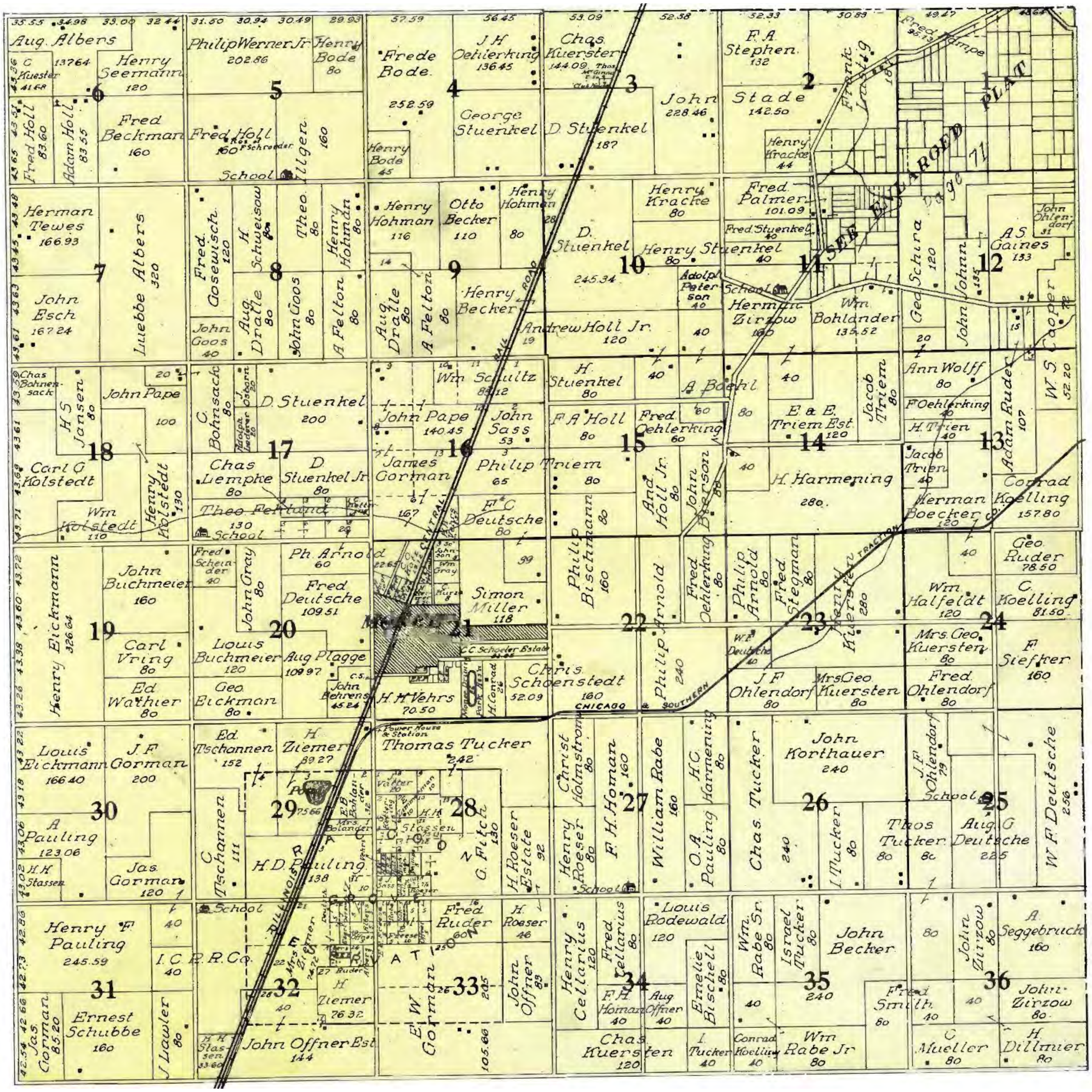
1873


MONEE
Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.
Township 34 North. Range XIII East.
of the 3rd Principal Meridian.
COOK CO.
WILL
TWP.
GREEN GARDEN TWP.
CRETE TWP.
MONEE
Philip Werner Jr.
Fred Bode
Fred Wolff
Henry Stuenkel
Andrew Holt Jr.
John Pape
Philip Hohmann
H. Harmening
Sophia Kuersten
Thomas Tucker
John Korthauer
Henry F. Pauling
J. Offner
Andrew Ruder
Sophia Kuersten
Jacob Buschel Est.
RACCOON GROVE
RESERVATION

1893

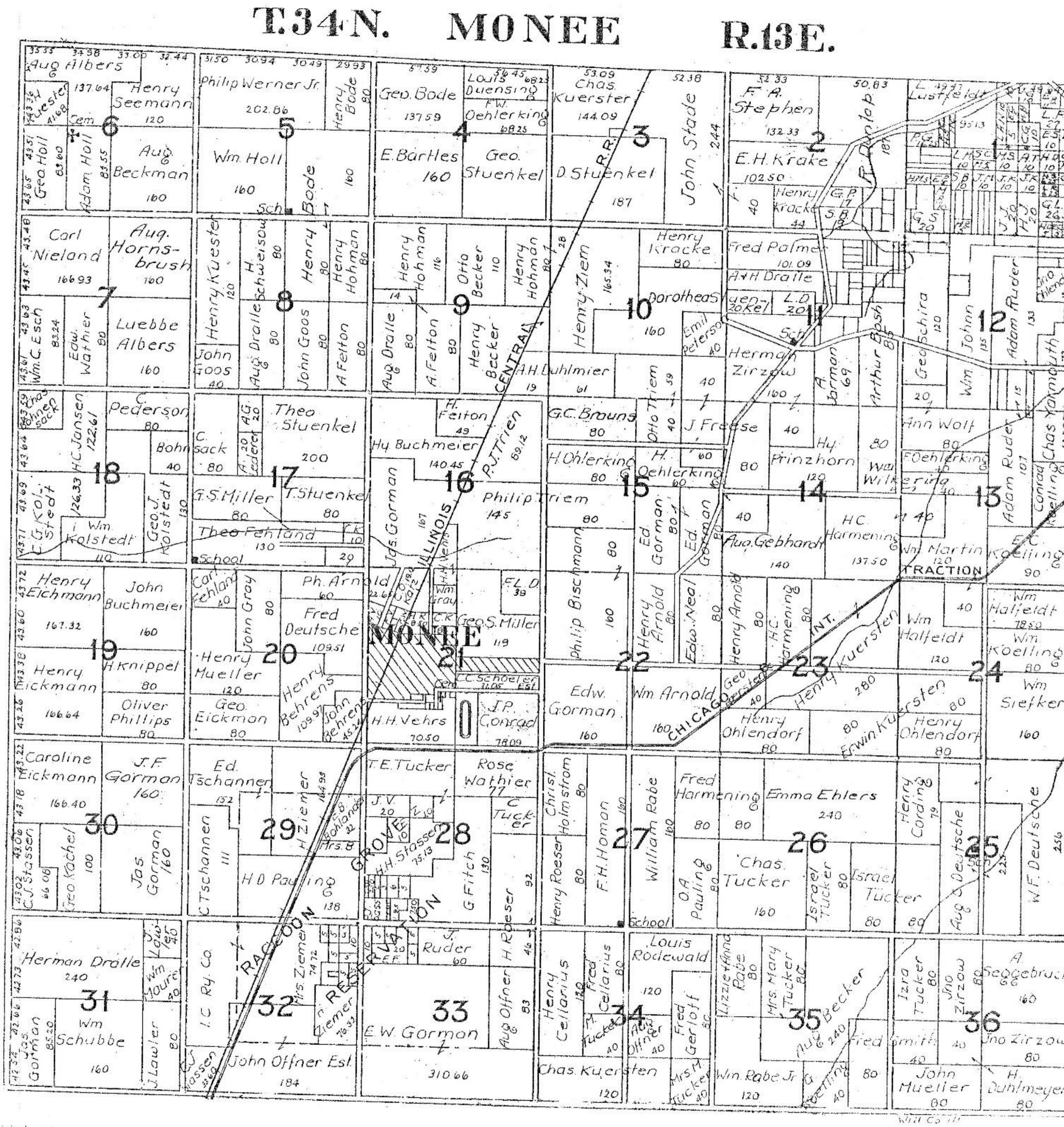


1902

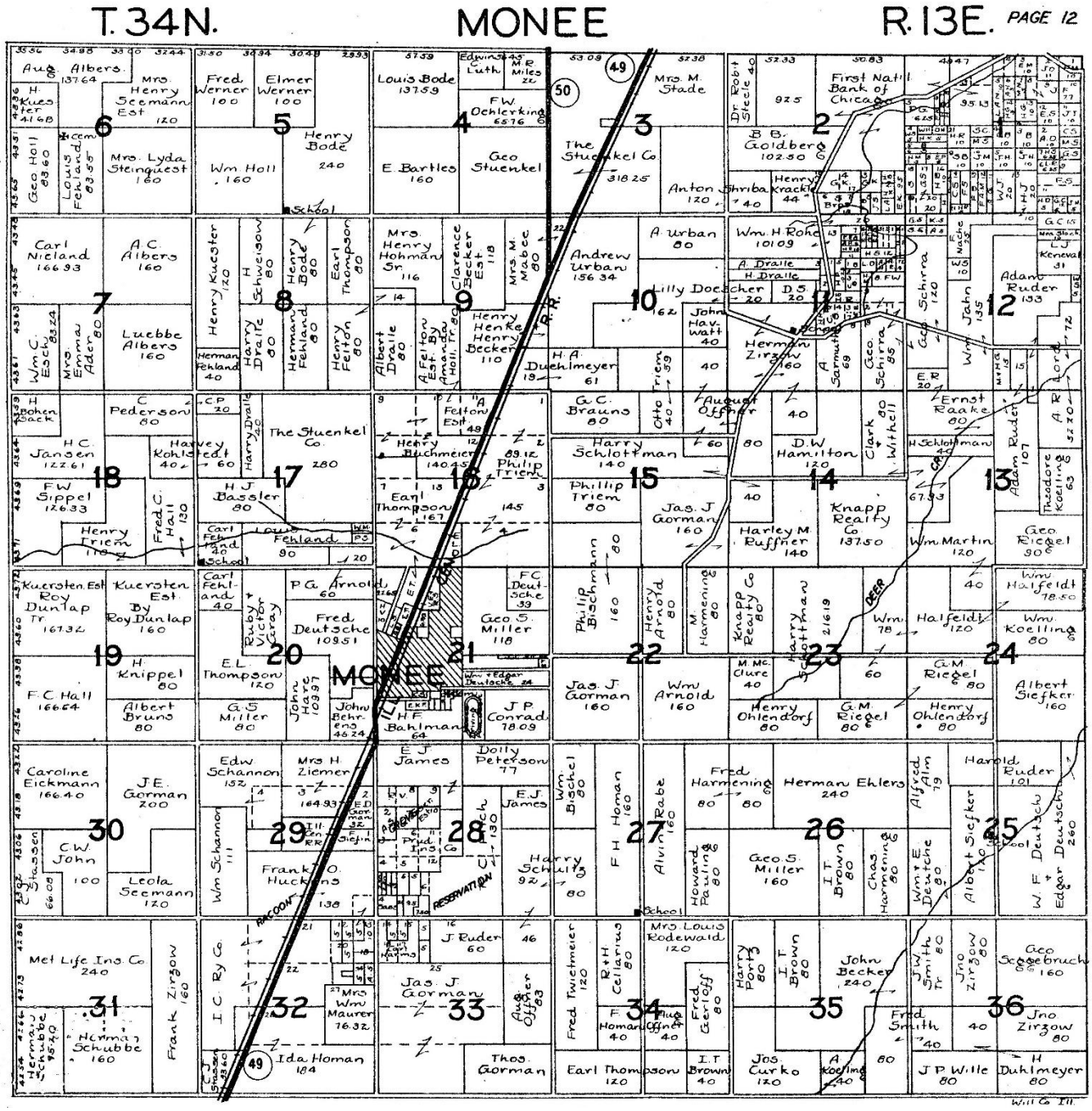


Aug. Albers
Henry Seemann
Fred Beckman
Fred Holl
Adam Holl
Philip Werner Jr
Henry Bode
Frede Bode
J.H. Oehlerking
Chas. Kuerster
George Stuenkel
D. Stuenkel
John
F.A. Stephen
Stade
Henry Kracke
ENLARGED PLAT
School
Herman Tewes
John Esch
Luebbe Albers
Fred Gosewisch
Theo
Henry Hohman
Otto Becker
Henry Becker
Andrew Holl Jr.
Fred Palmer
Fred Stuenkel
Henry Stuenkel
Herman Zirzow
Wm. Bohlander
A S Gaines
John Pape
H S Jansen
D Stuenkel
John Sass
Philip Triem
F A Holl
Fred Oehlerking
E & E Triem Est
H. Harmening
Carl G Kolstedt
Wm Kolstedt
Henry Kolstedt
Chas Lempke
James Gorman
Deutsche
Ann Wolff
Adam Ruder
Conrad Koelling
Henry Eickmann
John Buchmeier
Ph. Arnold
Fred Deutsche
Simon Miller
Philip Bischmann
Philip Arnold
Wm. Halfeldt
C. Koelling
Geo. Ruder
Carl Vring
Louis Buchmeier
Aug Plagge
Ed Wathier
Geo. Eickman
H H Vehrs
Chris Schoenstedt
J F Ohlendorf
Mrs Geo. Kuersten
Fred Ohlendorf
Louis Eickmann
J F Gorman
Ed. Tschannen
H. Ziemer
Thomas Tucker
John Korthauer
A Pauling
Jas. Gorman
H.D. Pauling
William Rabe
Chas. Tucker
Thos Tucker
Aug. G Deutsche
W F Deutsche
Henry F. Pauling
I.C.R.R.Co.
Ernest Schubbe
John Offner Est
Fred Ruder
Louis Rodewald
John Becker
A. Seggebruch
John Zirzow
Chas Kuersten
Wm Rabe Jr
C Mueller
H. Dillmier
CHICAGO & SOUTHERN

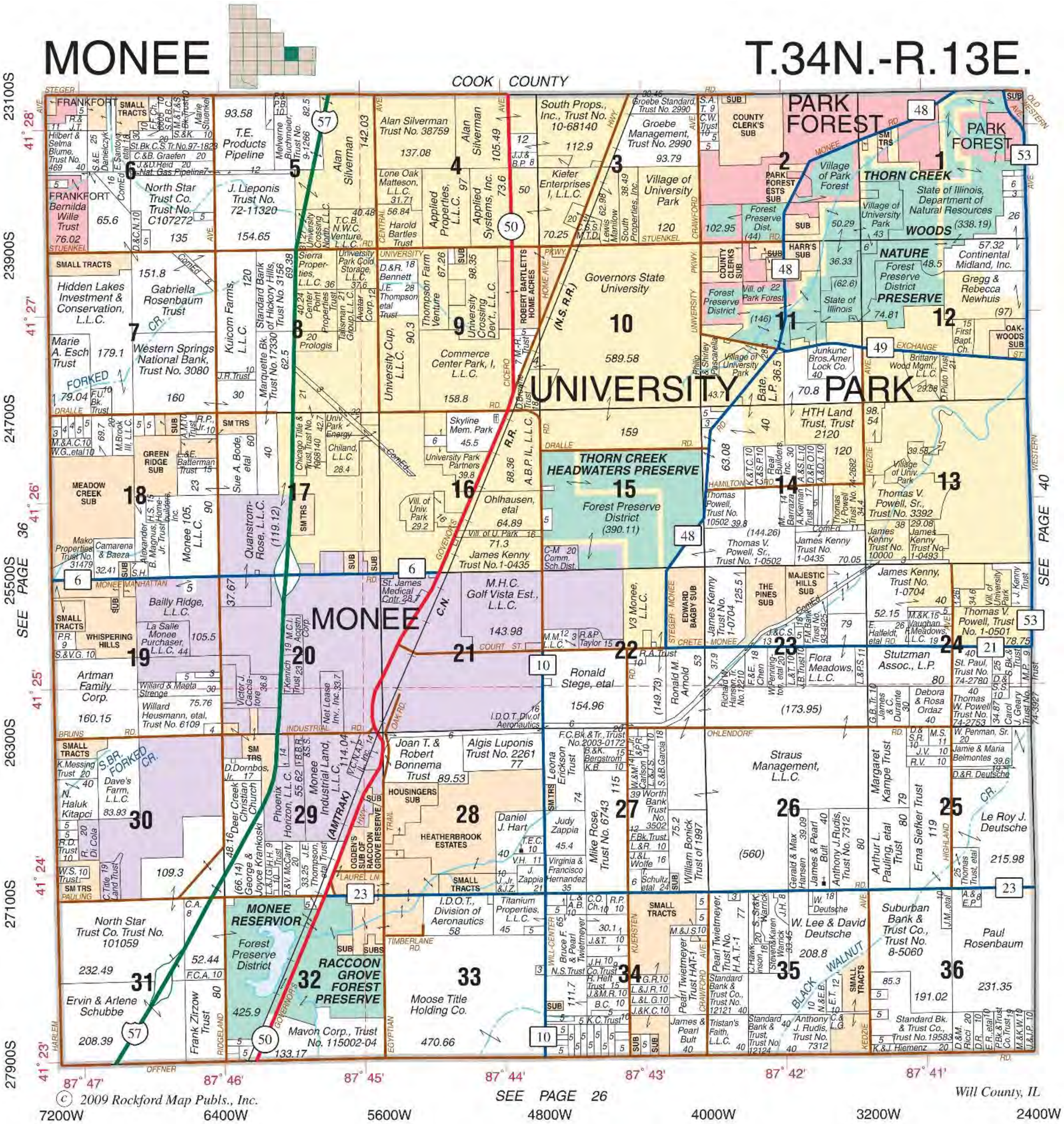
1909


T.34 N.
MONEE
R.13E.
Aug Albers
Henry Seemann
Aug Beckman
Geo. Holl
Adam Holl
Philip Werner Jr.
Henry Bode
Wm. Holl
Geo. Bode
Louis Duensing
F.W. Oehlerking
E. Bartles
Geo. Stuenkel
Chas. Kuerster
D. Stuenkel
John Stade
F. A. Stephen
E.H. Krake
Carl Nieland
Aug. Hornsbrush
Luebbe Albers
Wm. C. Esch
Edw. Wathier
Henry Kuester
H. Schweisow
Henry Hohman
Henry Becker
John Goos
Aug. Dralle
A. Felton
Otto Becker
CENTRAL
R.R.
Henry Ziem
Henry Kracke
Fred Palmer
A+H Dralle
Emil Petersen
Herman Zirzow
A. Gorman
Arthur Bosh
Geo. Schira
Adam Ruder
John Yarmouth
A.H. Duhlmier
G.C. Brauns
Otto Triem
J. Freese
H. Ohlerking
H. Oehlerking
Hy Prinzhorn
Wm. Wilkering
Ann Wolf
F. Oehlerking
Adam Ruder
Conrad Koelling
Chas. Yarmouth
Pederson
Bohnsack
HC Jansen
Theo Stuenkel
Hy Buchmeier
P.J. Triem
G.S. Miller
T. Stuenkel
Philip Triem
Wm. Kolstedt
Geo. J. Kolstedt
Theo Fehland
School
Jas. Gorman
ILLINOIS
Ed. Gorman
Aug. Gebhardt
H.C. Harmening
Wm. Martin
TRACTION
E.C. Koelling
Henry Eichmann
John Buchmeier
Carl Fehland
John Gray
Ph. Arnold
Fred Deutsche
MONEE
Geo. S. Miller
Philip Bischmann
Henry Arnold
Edw. Neal
H.C. Harmening
INT.
Henry Kuersten
Wm. Halfeldt
Wm. Koelling
Henry Eickmann
H. Knippel
Oliver Phillips
Henry Mueller
Henry Behrens
Geo. Eickman
John Behrens
H.H. Vehrs
C.C. Schoeler Est.
J.P. Conrad
Edw. Gorman
Wm. Arnold
Geo. Gerstenberg
CHICAGO
Henry Ohlendorf
Erwin Kuersten
Wm. Siefker
Caroline Eickmann
J.F. Gorman
Ed. Tschannen
H. Ziemer
T.E. Tucker
Rose Wathier
C. Tucker
Christ. Holmstrom
F.H. Homan
William Rabe
Fred Harmening
Emma Ehlers
Henry Cording
C.J. Stassen
Geo. Kachel
Jas. Gorman
C. Tschannen
H.D. Pauling
GROVE
H.H. Stassen
G. Fitch
H. Roeser
Henry Roeser
O.A. Pauling
Chas. Tucker
Israel Tucker
Aug. Deutsche
W.F. Deutsche
School
RACCOON
RESERVATION
Herman Dralle
Wm. Moure
I.C. Ry. Co.
Mrs. Ziemer
J. Ruder
E.W. Gorman
Aug. Offner
Henry Cellarius
Fred Cellarius
Louis Rodewald
Lizzie & Anna Rabe
Mrs. Mary Tucker
Aug. Becker
Izra Tucker
Jno Zirzow
A. Seggebruch
Jas. Gorman
Wm Schubbe
J. Lawler
C.J. Stassen
John Offner Est.
Chas. Kuersten
Fred Gerlott
Wm. Rabe Jr.
Fred Smith
Jno Zirzow
John Mueller
H. Duhlmeyer

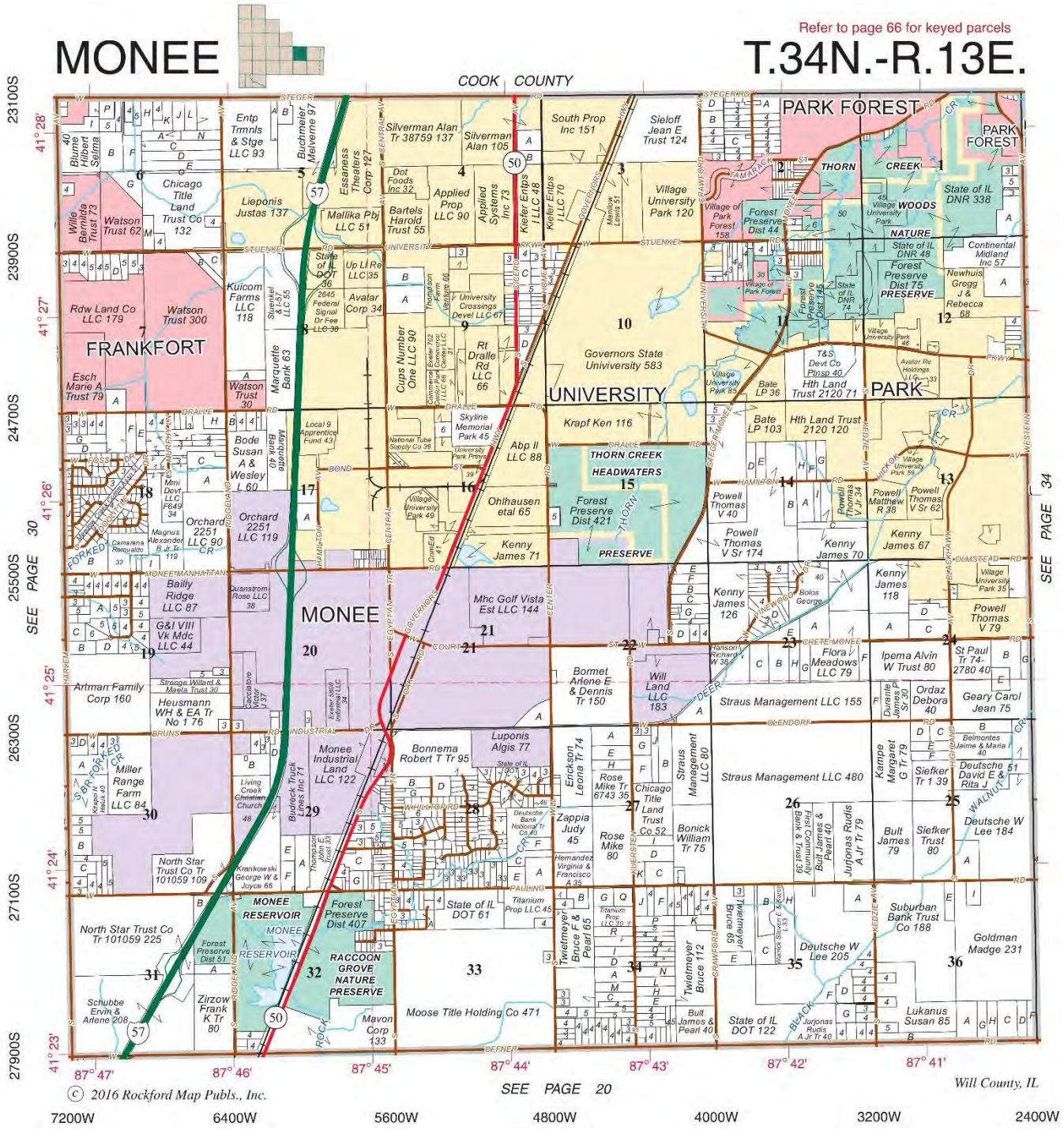
1920s



c. 1940



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



2016.
Source: Rockford Map Publishers. Used with permission.

APPENDIX B

SURVEY MAPS

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

This appendix contains:

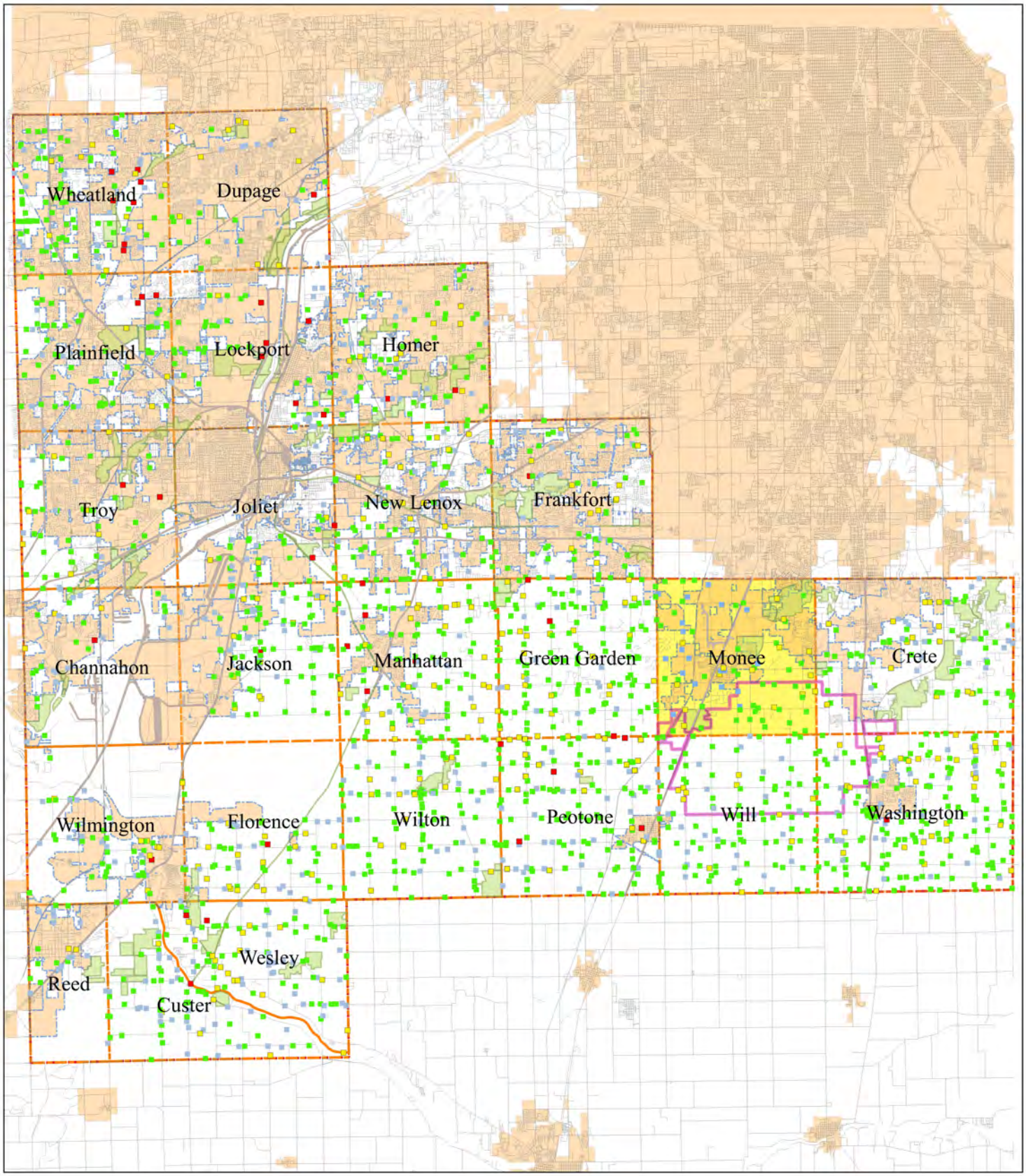
Key to Farmsteads and Related Properties by Map Reference Number

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
103	14-01-200-020	23632 S. Western Avenue	Hornicek Farmstead	Contributing
202	14-02-403-016	247 Monee Road	Thorn Creek Nature Center (Immanuel Lutheran Church)	Local landmark potential
303	14-03-300-003	4560 W. Stuenkel Road	Stuenkel General Store	Contributing
501	14-05-200-012	23257 S. Central Avenue	Bode Farmstead	Non-contributing
502	14-05-200-009	6051 W. Steger Road	Pape-Werner Farmstead	Contributing
504	14-05-300-003	S. Ridgeland Avenue	Pape-Holl Farmstead	Non-contributing
601	14-06-300-003	23515 S. Harlem Avenue	Holl-Wille Farmstead	Non-contributing
602	14-06-100-026	6931 W. Steger Road	Albers-Bonem Farmstead	Contributing
603	14-06-400-009	23804 S. Ridgeland Avenue	Beckman-Striggow Farmstead	Contributing
604	14-06-200-003	23140 S. Ridgeland Avenue	Seeman-Stuenkel Farmstead	Contributing
702	14-07-300-001	24561 S. Harlem Avenue	Buchmeier-Esch Farmstead	Contributing
703	14-07-400-001	S. Ridgeland Avenue	Wadow-Thompson Farmstead	Non-contributing
704	14-07-200-002	6625 W. Stuenkel Road	Albers-Maloney Farmstead	Contributing
902	14-09-100-007	5241 W. Stuenkel Road	House at 5241 W. Stuenkel Road	Non-contributing
907	14-09-203-013	23942 S. Home Avenue	Hohmann Farmstead	Contributing
1002	14-10-101-002	University Drive	Urban-Hantack Farmstead	Non-contributing
1102	14-11-400-018	3325 W. Exchange Street	Mall Tool Co. Airfield	Contributing
1104	14-11-400-014	1100 W. Exchange Street	Bohlander Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1305	14-13-411-022	580 Farm View Road	Koelling-Riegel-Manilow Farmstead	Local landmark
1402	14-14-400-011	3505 W. Hamilton Road	Harmening-Churchill Farmstead	Contributing
1403	14-14-400-005	3457 W. Hamilton Road	Harmening-Hamilton Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1501	14-15-300-004	25241 S. Will Center Road	Hohmann-Triem-Bonem Farmstead	Contributing
1603	14-16-200-001	24800 S. Governors Highway	Skyline Memorial Park	Cemetery
1703	14-17-100-003	6133 W. Dralle Road	Pohler-Dralle Farmstead	Contributing
1802	14-18-400-003	S. Ridgeland Avenue	Kolstedt-Holl Farmstead	Non-contributing
1803	14-18-200-010	24724 S. Ridgeland Avenue	Pape-Bohnsack-Clark Farmstead	Non-contributing
1804	14-18-200-023	25048 S. Ridgeland Avenue	Pape-Batterman Farmstead	Local landmark potential
1901	14-19-400-003	6556 W. Bruns Road	Haltenhof-Phillips-Bruns Farmstead	Contributing
1902	14-19-300-002	6952 W. Bruns Road	Eichmann-Artman Farmstead	Contributing
1904	14-19-100-011	6937 W. Monee-Manhattan Road	Eichmann-Twietmeyer Farmstead	Non-contributing
1905	14-19-400-010	25960 S. Ridgeland Avenue	Vring-Knippel-Schmidt Farmstead	Non-contributing

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
2001	14-20-100-004	6237 W. Monee-Manhattan Road	Fehland-Quanstrom Farmstead	Non-contributing
2006	14-20-400-013	25964 S. Governors Highway	Plagge-Behrens-Hare Farmstead	Contributing
2104	14-21-343-010	W. Margaret Street	St. Paul's Cemetery	Cemetery
2105	14-21-341-001	5323 W. Margaret Street	St. Paul's United Church of Christ	Local landmark potential
2106	14-21-306-001	5304 W. Main Street	St. Boniface Catholic Church	Non-contributing
2107	14-21-400-037	5154 W. Main Street	Monee Education Center	Non-contributing
2112	14-21-400-035	4900 W. Main Street	Marti Farmstead	Contributing
2201	14-22-300-003	26037 S. Will Center Road	Schoenstedt-Gorman-Stege Farmstead	Contributing
2203	14-22-200-035	4252 W. Crete-Monee Road	Henry Arnold Farmstead	Contributing
2204	14-22-400-013	4333 W. Crete-Monee Road	William Arnold Farmstead	Local landmark potential
2205	14-22-200-025	25729 S. Steger-Monee Road	Herbert-Oehlerking Farmstead	Non-contributing
2301	14-23-400-007	3221 W. Crete-Monee Road	Kuersten-Halfeldt Farmstead	Contributing
2401	14-24-400-020	26055 S. Highland Avenue	Siefker Farmstead	Local landmark potential
2403	14-24-100-015	25730 S. Highland Avenue	Halfeldt Farmstead	Contributing
2501	14-25-100-001	3005 W. Olendorf Road	Miller-Oldendorf-Alm Farmstead	Contributing
2502	14-25-200-020	2404 W. Elms Court Lane	Deutsche Farmstead	Local landmark potential
2503	14-25-200-013	26439 S. Highland Avenue	Luecke-Deutsche-Ruder Farmstead	Contributing
2504	14-25-100-004	26656 S. Highland Avenue	Deutsche School (District No. 172)	Local landmark potential
2505	14-25-300-004	26746 S. Highland Avenue	Deutsche-Siefker Farmstead	Contributing
2602	14-26-300-001	3664 W. Pauling Road	Tucker-Miller-Siemsen Farmstead	Local landmark potential
2603	14-26-100-005	3651 W. Olendorf Road	Korthauer-Ehlers-Hirsch Farmstead	Contributing
2702	14-27-100-007	26545 S. Will Center Road	Otten-Holmstrom Farmstead	Non-contributing
2703	14-27-300-003	4728 W. Pauling Road	Roeser-Schultz Farmstead	Non-contributing
2704	14-27-400-004	4314 W. Pauling Road	Rabe Farmstead	Contributing
2705	14-26-100-005	4001 W. Olendorf Road	Bortschiller-Harmening Farmstead	Contributing
2706	14-27-401-002	4140 W. Pauling Road	Rabe-Pauling-Kannberg Farmstead	Contributing
2802	14-28-100-002	S. Egyptian Trail	Herbert-Tucker Farmstead	Non-contributing
2903	14-29-100-027	6053 Industrial Drive	Ebert-Schannen-Albinger Farmstead	Non-contributing
2907	14-29-402-006	27007 S. Governors Highway	Davis House	Contributing
2909	14-29-100-029	S. Ridgeland Avenue	Schlemme Cemetery	Cemetery
3002	14-30-200-008	6607 W. Bruns Road	Gorman Farmstead	Local landmark potential
3101	14-31-400-002	27604 S. Ridgeland Avenue	Lawler-Zirzow Farmstead	Local landmark potential
3102	14-31-400-006	6728 W. Offner Road	Schubbe Farmstead	Contributing

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
3103	14-31-200-004	W. Pauling Road	Pauling-Haag Farmstead	Non-contributing
3201	14-32-400-004	27640 S. Egyptian Trail	Offner Farmstead	Contributing
3202	14-32-100-014	6357 W. Pauling Road	Schannen School (District No. 174)	Local landmark potential
3302	14-33-200-006	27444 S. Will Center Road	Offner-Twietmeyer Farmstead	Contributing
3401	14-34-100-016	4715 W. Pauling Road	Cellarius-Twietmeyer Farmstead	Contributing
3403	14-34-200-032	27460 S. Crawford Avenue	Miller-Gerloff-Twietmeyer Farmstead	Contributing
3404	14-34-200-038	4237 W. Pauling Road	Meier-Rodewald Farmstead	Contributing
3405	14-34-100-006	27412 S. Kuersten Road	Cellarius Farmstead	Contributing
3501	14-35-400-009	27528 S. Kedzie Avenue	Reinbach-Smith Farmstead	Contributing
3502	14-35-200-009	3537 W. Pauling Road	Becker-Deutsche Farmstead	Contributing
3504	14-35-300-005	27649 S. Crawford Avenue	Bischel-Rabe-Koscher Farmstead	Contributing
3601	14-36-300-005	3044 W. Offner Road	Mueller-Boedicker Farmstead	Contributing
3602	14-36-400-004	2724 W. Offner Road	Duehlmeyer Farmstead	Contributing
3603	14-36-200-003	2661 W. Pauling Road	Seggebruch-Lehman Farmstead	Contributing

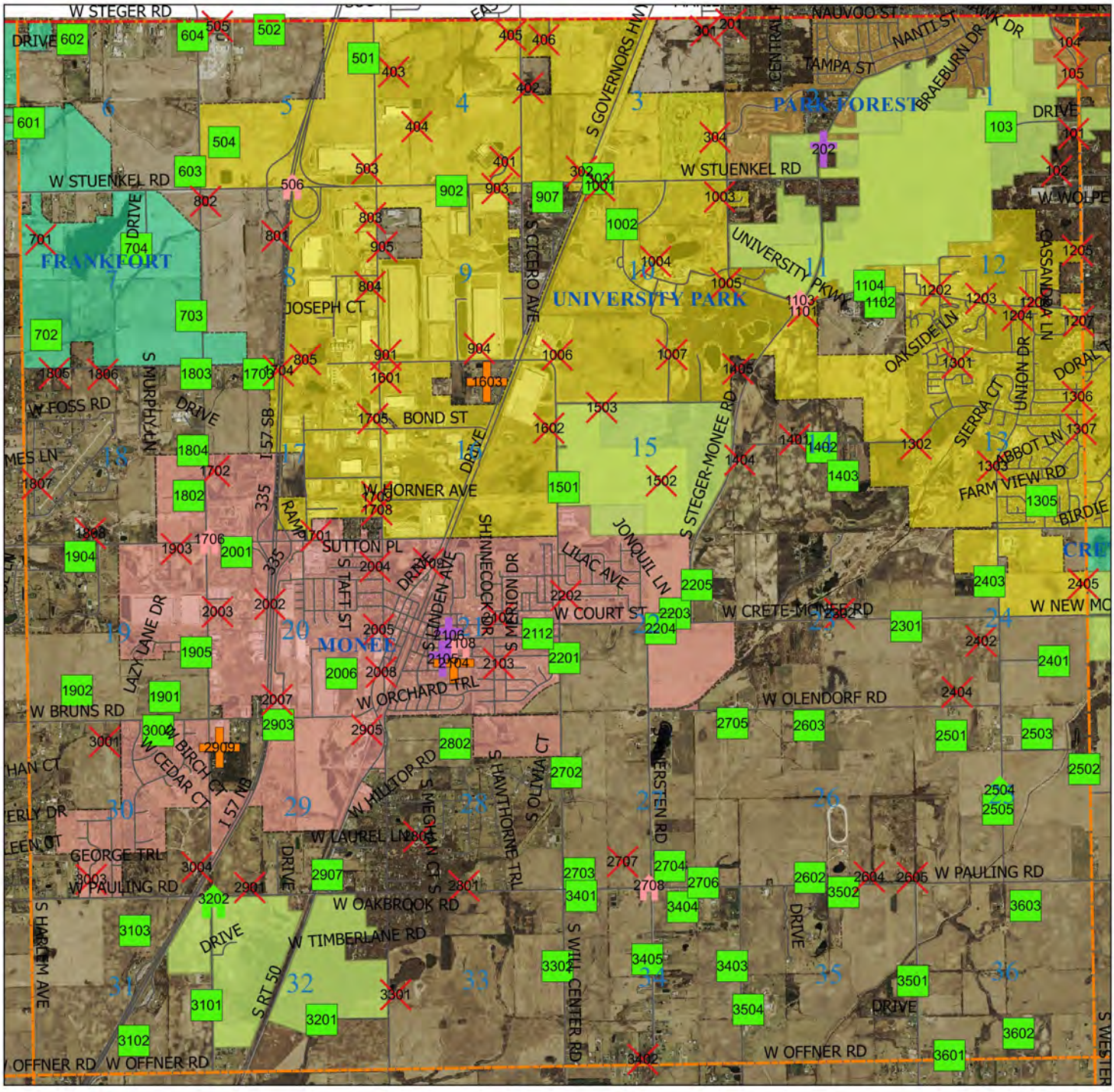
MONEE TOWNSHIP
Map 1: Will County Key Map



MONEE TOWNSHIP
Map 2: Overview of Survey

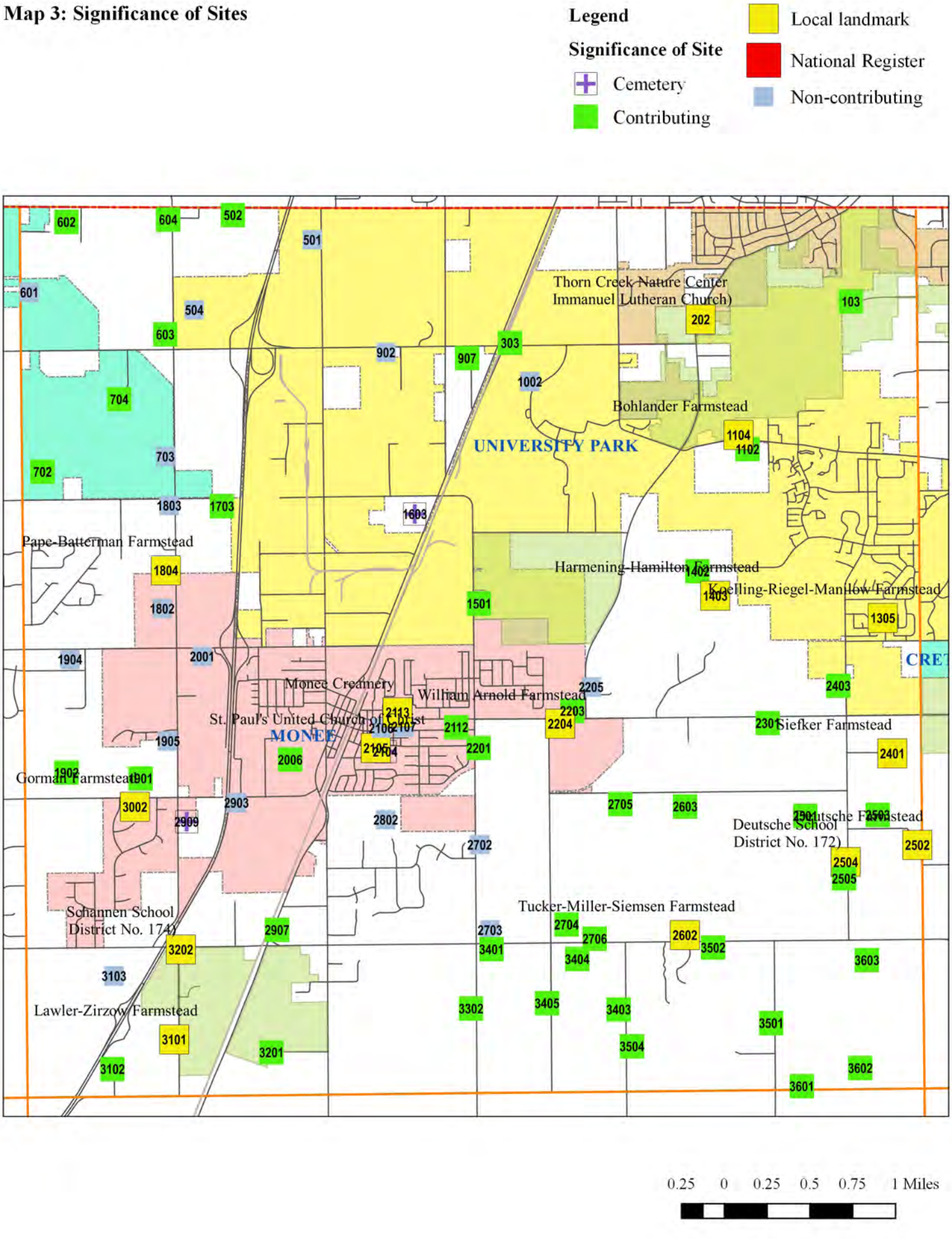
Legend

- Demolished Site
- Demolished Schoolhouse
- Cemetery
- One-room Schoolhouse
- Church
- Surveyed Site



0.25 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

MONEE TOWNSHIP
Map 3: Significance of Sites

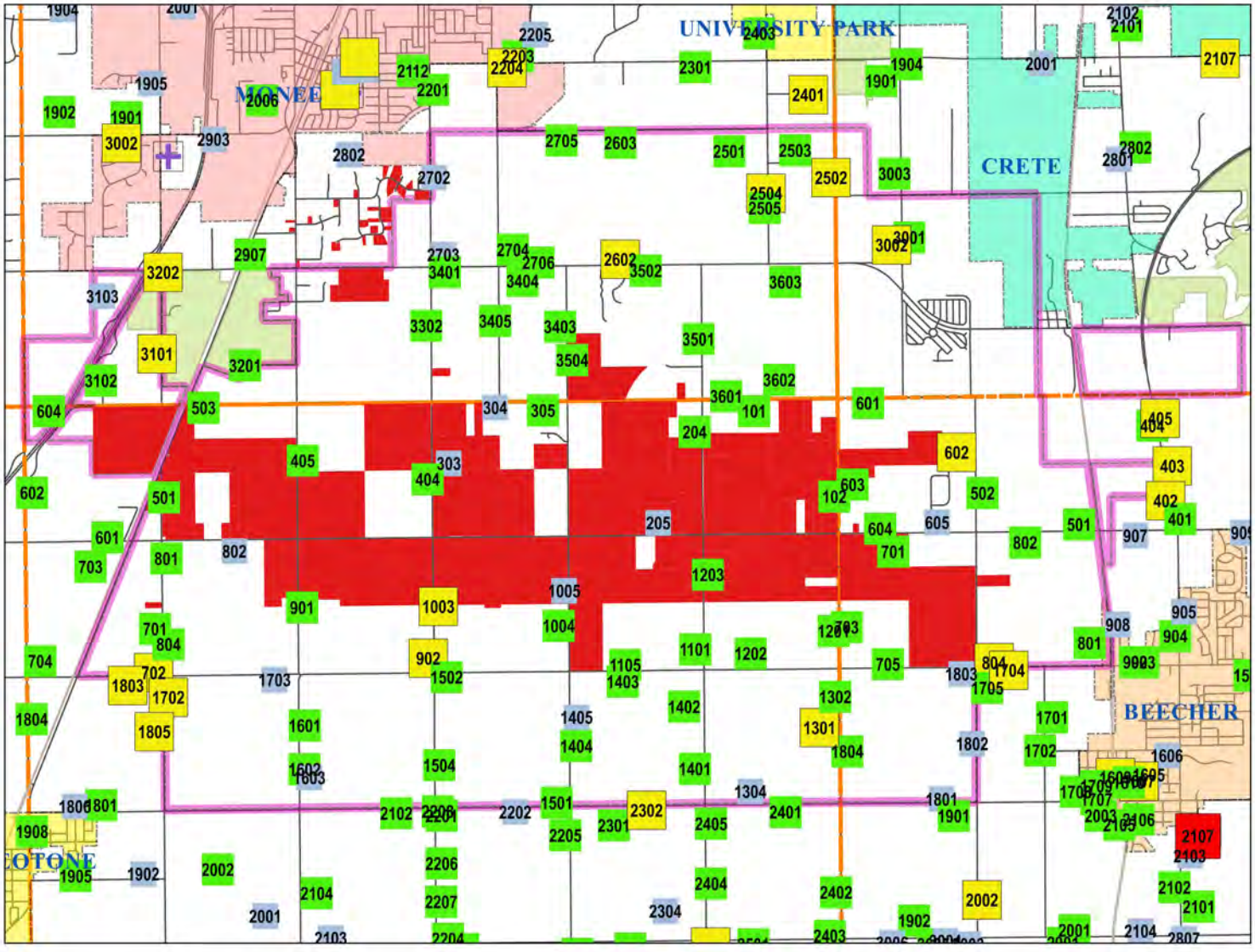


MONEE TOWNSHIP
Map 4: Proposed South Suburban Airport

Legend

IDOT owned parcels

Proposed airport property



MONEE TOWNSHIP
Map 5: 1939 Aerial Photograph