Rural Historic Structural Survey
of
Wilmington Township
Will County, Illinois







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December 2009

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

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Executive Summary

At the request of the Will County Land Use Department, acting as liaison for the Will County Historic Preservation Commission, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) has prepared this summary report of the 2009 intensive survey of farmsteads in Wilmington Township in Will County, Illinois. The survey included approximately thirty-six square miles with 71 farmsteads and related sites containing more than 241 individual structures.

Of the 71 farmsteads identified in the current survey, eleven sites have the potential to be considered for Will County Historic Landmark designation or listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The present study also identified additional noteworthy sites that are excluded from consideration as county landmarks since they are located within the incorporated limits of the City of Wilmington. 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. Due to the extent of suburban development in these two townships, no potential historic districts have been identified as part of the present survey.

The Wilmington Township intensive survey was performed to update the previous survey of the township performed in 1988. In the previous survey, 71 farmsteads and related sites were identified in the township, containing at least 235 structures. Because of the rapid pace of contemporary development in Will County since 1988, the Will County Historic Preservation Commission recognized the need to reassess the agricultural heritage of the region. WJE has previously completed nine intensive survey projects in twelve of the County's twenty-four townships covering Wheatland–Plainfield–Lockport, Du Page, Homer, New Lenox, Green Garden, Manhattan, Frankfort, Joliet–Troy, and Channahon Townships. Copies of the previous survey reports were provided to public libraries and respective governing agencies in the area. Concurrently with the work in Wilmington Township, Jackson Township was also surveyed. Cumulatively, the surveys have documented more than 5,000 structures on more than 1150 sites over approximately 500 square miles of Will County. Performing a separate survey for each township has allowed more detailed information to be collected, such as individual photographs of each historic structure, an assessment of current conditions, and preparation of site sketch plans. With the permission of property owners, the survey work was performed with close-up access to the buildings, which allowed for close range photography and a reliable identification of building materials. The survey data was compiled and analyzed using database software and geographic information system (GIS) software.

In this report, Chapter 1 contains a description of the project methodology. Chapters 2 and 3 provide the historical and architectural context within which the surveyed farmsteads were established, grew, were reconfigured, and in some cases were abandoned. Chapter 2 covers the historical context of Will County agriculture, as well as the historical development of Wilmington Township. Chapter 3 discusses the architectural context of the rural survey area. Chapter 4 summarizes the survey results and includes a discussion of the National Register and Will County criteria for designation of historical and architectural significance. Also in Chapter 4 are several tabulations of the survey results and an overview of a select number of historically and/or architecturally significant farmsteads. A bibliography of research sources follows the text. Appendices include historic and contemporary plat maps for Wilmington 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 survey project has been financed in part with federal funds from the Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior. 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
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
One Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701



CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

Background

At the request of the Will County Land Use Department, acting as liaison for the Will County Historic Preservation Commission, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) has prepared this summary report of the intensive survey of farmsteads in Wilmington Township in Will County, Illinois. A previous survey of farmsteads in Will County was performed in 1988. Beginning in 1999, WJE has prepared intensive surveys of individual townships in Will County. Previous townships surveyed included Plainfield, Wheatland, and Lockport (completed November 2000), Du Page (November 2001), Homer (November 2002), New Lenox (August 2003), Green Garden (July 2004), Manhattan (September 2006), Frankfort (December 2007), Joliet and Troy (April 2009), and Channahon (April 2009). Concurrently with this study, the survey of Jackson Township was completed.

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

Survey Methodology

Survey Team

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

Background Research

Work on the rural survey began in May 2009. Background research was performed at the State of Illinois Library in Springfield, the University of Illinois Libraries, the Joliet Public Library, and the Wilmington Public Library. In addition, extensive historic research materials compiled for previous Will County rural survey reports were available.

Field Survey

A project initiation meeting was held to discuss the project approach and scope. An initial reconnaissance survey was performed in May 2009 to identify existing farmstead sites. At that time, abandoned farmsteads or farmsteads where demolition was threatened were surveyed to an intensive level. Intensive field survey work was performed from May through August 2009. The survey team first approached the primary residence on the site to request permission of the homeowner/tenant to conduct the survey on the farmstead site. At sites where no one was home, or where owner permission was not provided, the site was surveyed from the public right-of-way. Typically each structure on the site was photographed individually using a digital camera. A sketch plan of the farmstead was prepared. Written notes for each building included a listing of exterior materials, overall condition, and estimated decade of construction based on structural type and style. Any history information provided by the owner, such as dates of construction or names of original owners, was also noted.

The field survey also included the documentation of 1940s-era structures on the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant property, as well as documentation of pre-1940 foundations and other ruins in this area of Wilmington Township.

Database and Base Map Preparation

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

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

Presentations

A presentation of the survey results was made to the Will County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on December 2, 2009, in Wilmington. This final summary report incorporated comments provided by the HPC members and Will County staff on a draft of the report.

Report and Submittals

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

Survey Gaps and Future Research

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

A detailed survey of the historic urbanized core of the City of Wilmington was beyond the scope of this rural historic structures survey. The city contains numerous historically distinctive structures dating to as early as the 1830s, and existing documentation of the historic resources of the city is limited.

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

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

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

The present study also is focused on built structures of the historic period. Throughout Will County, and particularly in Wilmington Township, 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. In particular, the Plenemuk Mound and adjacent archeological sites in section 15 appear likely to be eligible for listing in the National Register.[3]

[3] The Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie website mentions a circa 1997 effort to list the site in the National Register; however, for unknown reasons Plenemuk Mound was not listed at that time.

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. Wilmington Township lies to the west of the Valparaiso Morainic System in the valley of Lake Wauponsee. The last ice sheets in this area began to retreat approximately 13,500 years ago. During the glacial period, much of Wilmington Township was inundated by meltwater collected into Lake Wauponsee. 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. Unlike much of Will County, which has soils derived from glacial till, the soils in Wilmington Township are formed primarily from the glacial outwash. Some of these outwash soil types have limitations for agriculture. Thin, stony soils on near-surface bedrock can be difficult to work, and sandy soils may be over-drained and drought-prone.[4]

Wilmington Township is primarily in the watershed of the Kankakee River, which crosses the township from southeast to northwest, from section 35 to section 6. The township lies just upstream of the junction of the Kankakee River with the Des Plaines River to form the Illinois River, in Grundy County. The Kankakee River arises near South Bend, Indiana, and flows southwest for 130 miles before reaching the Illinois River. The Kankakee River basin includes 3,125 square miles in Indiana and 2,155 square miles in Illinois, encompassing most of Iroquois and Kankakee Counties as well as the southern half of Will County. Its largest tributary, the Iroquois River, joins the Kankakee at Aroma Park in Kankakee County. The Kankakee River lies almost entirely on bedrock, with a major bedrock outcropping creating a sharp fall at Momence, Illinois. One of two existing dams on the river is in Wilmington, near the south end of Island Park.

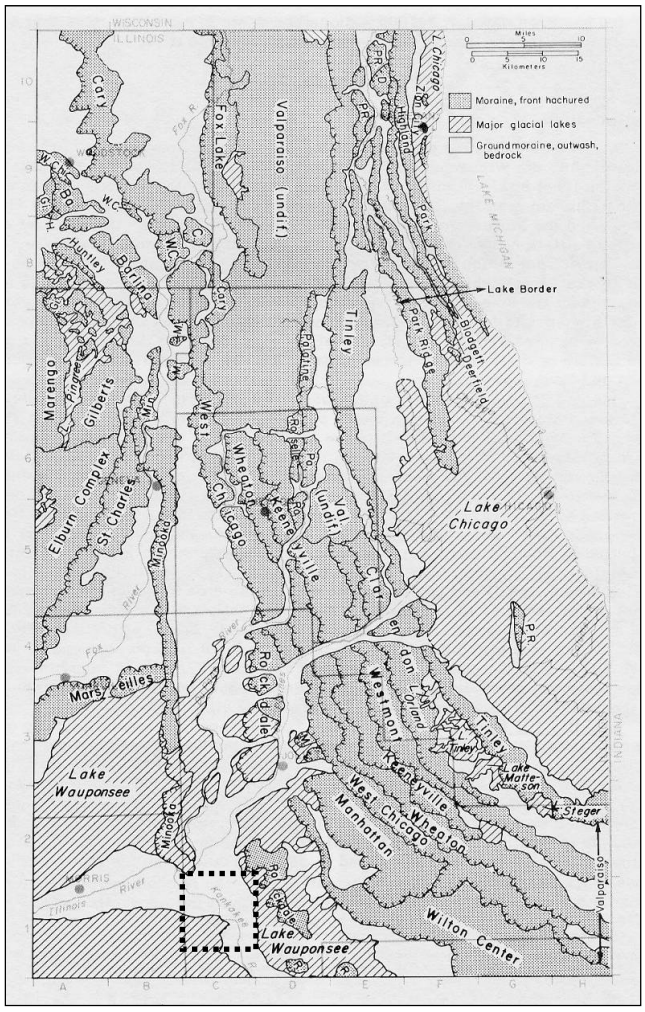
Several smaller streams join the Kankakee River in the township. One tributary, Forked Creek, joins the Kankakee River in section 25 just north of downtown Wilmington. Prairie Creek enters the township from the east in section 12 and joins the Kankakee River in section 15. Other unnamed tributaries drain the left bank of the Kankakee River in this township. Historic coal mining activities in the southwestern part of the township have disrupted the natural drainage; much of this land is now a wetland area. The northernmost portion of the township is drained by Grant Creek; this stream now flows into a manmade connection between the Kankakee River and Des Plaines River in section 5 of Wilmington Township and adjacent section 32 of Channahon Township. A large portion of sections 7 and 8 in Wilmington Township was dredged circa 1970 to form the cooling lake for the Dresden Generating Station in Grundy County.[5]

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

[5] The Dresden Generating Station includes the nation's first full-scale, privately-financed nuclear power plant,

First Nations in the Illinois Region

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



Illustrated above are the moraine systems in northeastern Illinois. Wilmington Township lies west of the Valparaiso Morainic System in the Lake Wauponsee outwash area. (H.B. Willman, Summary of the Geology of the Chicago Area*, Illinois State Geological Survey Circular 460 (Urbana, Illinois, 1971), 43.)*

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which began operation in 1960. Capable of generating 210 megawatts of electricity before its retirement in 1978, Dresden Unit 1 was designated a Nuclear Historic Landmark by the American Nuclear Society. Dresden Units 2 and 3 began commercial operation in June 1970 and November 1971, respectively. The expansion of the cooling lake into Wilmington Township was needed to support these units. In October 2004, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission renewed the operating licenses for both units for an additional 20 years, extending them to 2029 and 2031. <www.exeloncorp.com/ourcompanies/powergen/nuclear/dresden_generating_station.htm>, accessed September 2009.

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.[6] 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.[7]

The time span between A.D. 1000 and the coming of European explorers and settlers is known as the Mississippian Period. Northeast Illinois was at the fringe of the larger Middle Mississippi culture present in central and southern Illinois. At the beginning of this period, the communities of large fortified towns and ceremonial platform mounds reached their zenith. As a township near a major river, Wilmington Township contains a relatively large number of identified prehistoric sites. The known sites are almost exclusively within a short distance of the Kankakee River.

Prehistoric sites were identified in Wilmington Township in the 1920s by researchers from the University of Chicago, who focused their efforts in Will County on the Kankakee and Des Plaines River valleys upstream of their confluence at the Illinois River. Early identified sites are located in sections 9, 15, and 22 of Wilmington Township and consist of unspecified prehistoric camp and habitation mounds. Other camps sites have been identified in sections 9, 23, and 25. The best-studied archeological site in Wilmington Township is the Plenemuk Mound, a Woodland and/or Mississippian culture mound 0.16 acres in size in section 15, on the north side of Prairie Creek where it meets the Kankakee River.[8] Approximately 210 acres in this vicinity were surveyed in 1986–1987 by a team led by Dr. James Brown, Dr. Robert Jeske, and Mr. John Doershuk of the Northwestern University Department of Anthropology. The site had first been identified in 1985. Stone artifacts including arrowheads and prehistoric ceramic fragments were recovered near the mound. Although the mound itself was not tested, the archeologists assume it is a late prehistoric mortuary facility, perhaps associated with the Upper Mississippian culture. Plenemuk Mound and related adjacent archaic and prehistoric sites were judged to be a highly significant archeological resource. Unlike other known archeological sites in Will County, Plenemuk Mound appears undisturbed by historic-era agricultural and other activities.

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

[7] 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.)

[8] Doershuk, 113–159.

The Arrival of European Settlers

French Explorers and Settlers in the Illinois Territory

By the time of the French explorations of the seventeenth century, the native inhabitants of Illinois as a group belonged to the Algonquian linguistic family, closely related to the Chippewa. The specific tribes in the northeast Illinois region included the Miami (located on sites near the Calumet River, the juncture of the Des Plaines and Kankakee Rivers, and the Fox River) and the Illinois (present throughout the rest of modern-day Illinois). "Illinois" was a native word signifying "men" or "people."[9] By the early to mid-1700s, the Potawatomi moved into the area from the region of Michigan and northern Wisconsin.

In 1673, the expedition of Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet traveled primarily along the Mississippi River and up the Illinois River to the region of Cook and Will Counties.[10] This expedition claimed the region for France. In 1678, an expedition led by Robert de La Salle with Henry Tonti and Father Hennepin explored the region along the Mississippi River and adjacent territory on behalf of France. A Jesuit mission was established at Chicago in 1696 by Father Pierre Pinet, but it failed to last more than a year. As time progressed the French centered their principal activities in the middle Mississippi valley, focusing on Fort de Chartres near Kaskaskia and its connections with Québec via the Ohio, Maumee, and Wabash Rivers and the Great Lakes, well to the south and east of the upper Illinois Valley.

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

French colonial settlers in the southern and central portions of Illinois brought with them traditional agricultural practices from northern France, including open-field plowlands divided into longlots, and communal pasturing areas.[12] However, unlike labor practices in France, colonial settlers utilized African slaves. By the middle of the eighteenth century, black slaves comprised one-third of the region's population.

Early settlements founded as missions and fur trading posts, such as Cahokia and Kaskaskia, developed into the core of agricultural communities.[13] French colonial farms produced wheat for human

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

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

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

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

[13] Ibid., 33.

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

Illinois in the English Colonial Period and Revolutionary War

Land ownership was not an original right when the Virginia Company settled Jamestown in 1607. The company owned the land and paid its employees for their labor in food and supplies out of a common storehouse, limiting their motivation to farm. After a period of starvation that nearly wiped out the settlement, the company gave each employee an incentive of a three-acre garden, which led to regular land distribution consisting of a 50 acre "headright."[15]

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

Land Division and Distribution in the New Nation

When land claims of several of the newly independent states overlapped, the United States Congress, under the Articles of Confederation, struggled to maintain control over the territory extending to the Mississippi River. After making all land west of the Pennsylvania Line to the Mississippi River common national property, a system of land division was developed based on meridians and base lines, which were subdivided further into a series of rectangular grids. In the "Rectangular System," distances and bearing were measured from two sets of lines that are at right angles to each other: the Principal Meridians, which run north and south, and the Base Lines, which run east and west. Subdividing lines called Range Lines are spaced at six mile intervals between the meridians and base lines. Range Lines defined territories known as townships.[16]

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

[14] Ibid., 173–251.

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

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

sufficient to sustain individual farmers.[17]) In 1787, after about twenty months of surveying work, the first national public land sales occurred, consisting of 72,934 acres with $117,108.22 in revenue.[18] Also in that year, the Ordinance of 1787 organized the Northwest Territory, including what would become Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

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

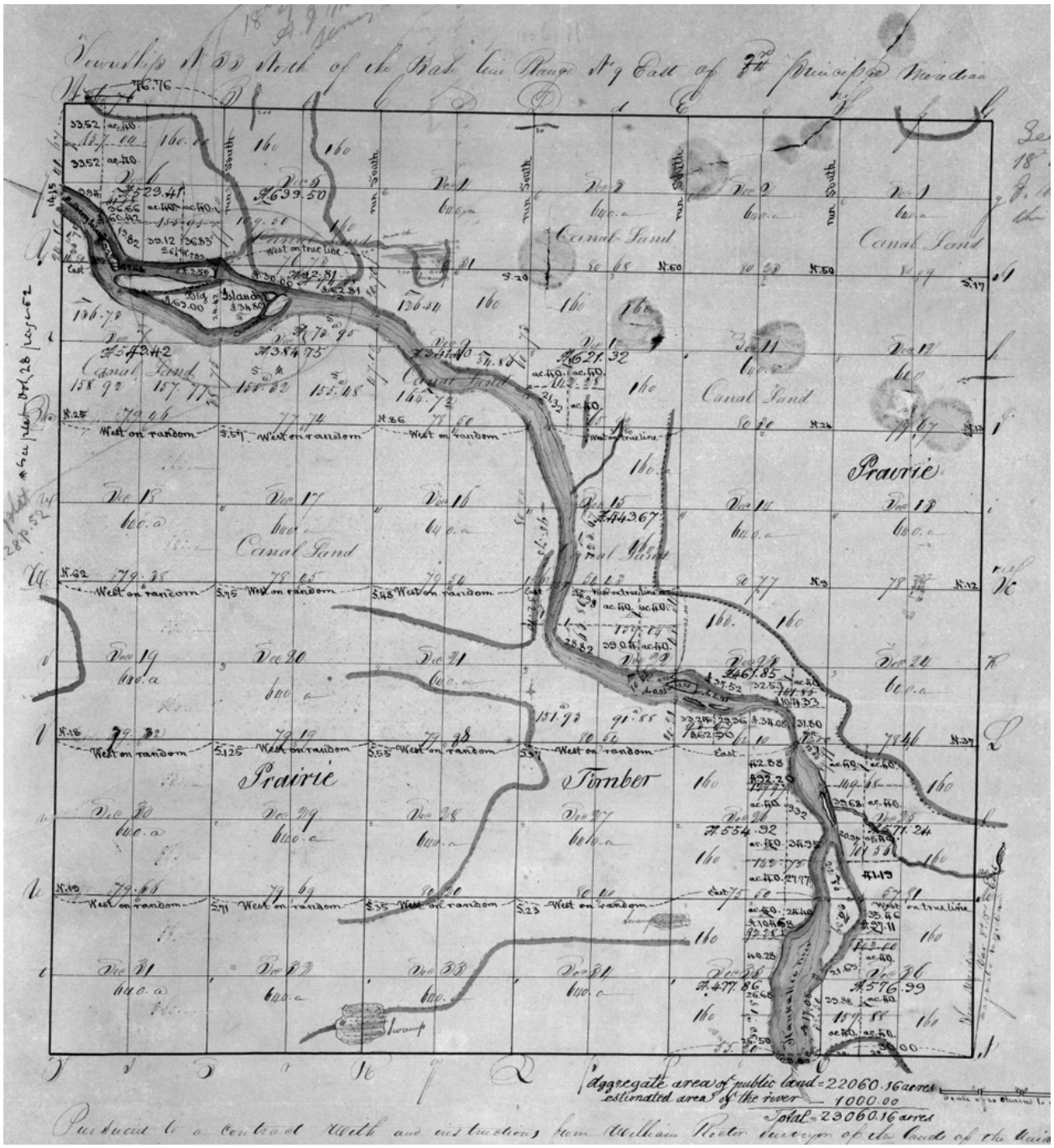
Development of the Northwest Territory

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

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

Cutting across the western half of the region later known as Will County was a land corridor ceded by the Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Chippewa in a treaty signed in St. Louis on 24 August 1816. The corridor, defined by the cartographic features now known as the Indian Boundary Lines (and still present on many maps of the area), was meant to allow European settlers access to Lake Michigan for the construction of a waterway (later developed as the Illinois and Michigan Canal). The corridor was physically surveyed by James M. Duncan and T.C. Sullivan in 1819; its southern boundary was defined by a line drawn from a point on the shore of Lake Michigan ten miles south of the Chicago River, to a point on the Kankakee River ten miles north of its mouth.[20] The portion of Wilmington Township east of the Kankakee River lies entirely within this corridor. Wilmington Township was first surveyed in 1822. Odd-numbered sections in the north half of the township were reserved to help finance the construction of the proposed canal.

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



The original plat map of Wilmington Township, prepared in 1822. Stands of timber follow the Kankakee River. The northeast and southwest portions of the township are open prairie. Note that selected odd-numbered sections are labeled "Canal Land."

Illinois Statehood

The United States Congress passed an enabling act on 18 April 1818 admitting Illinois as the twenty-first state as of 3 December 1818. A bill had passed Congress in early 1818 moving the northern boundary northward to include the mouth of the Chicago River within the Illinois Territory.[21] The statehood act was approved despite the fact that the population of the state was only 40,258 persons, less than the 60,000 persons required by the Ordinance of 1787. The state capital was established first at Kaskaskia and moved to Vandalia two years later. Much of the land in the state was the property of the United States government. Early sales offices were located at Kaskaskia, Shawneetown, and Vincennes. Until the financial panic of 1819, there was an initial rush of sales and settlement at the southern end of the state where navigable streams and the only road system were located.[22]

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

The early 1830s saw the greatest land boom to that date in American history. Land sales gradually came under the control of the General Land Office as the survey moved westward. In 1834 and 1835 alone, twenty-eight million acres were shifted from closed to open land for purchase. Two years later the Van Buren administration placed an enormous 56,686,000 acres on the market. These lands were located in some of the most fertile farming regions of the nation: Illinois, Iowa, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Missouri.[23] The building of the Illinois and Michigan Canal in the later 1830s and 1840s (discussed in Chapter 2) led to a land boom in Chicago, which had been platted in 1830 and incorporated in 1833.[24] The rate of growth in northern Illinois soon matched and then surpassed that in the southern portion of the state.

[21] The northern boundary of the Illinois Territory was on an east-west line from the southern line of Lake Michigan. In order to give the future state a portage on Lake Michigan, the boundary line was moved ten miles north of the initial boundary. The Congressional legislation was amended before passage, moving the future state's northern boundary a total of fifty-one miles north. This gave the region more potential economic security as well as less potential for the area to align politically with the slave states of the South.

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

[23] Ibid., 51.

[24] Between 1840 and 1860 the population of Chicago increased from 4,470 to nearly 100,000, growth tied to the economic boom resulting from the opening of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. By 1890, Chicago's population was more than 1,000,000 persons (Harry Hansen, ed., *Illinois: A Descriptive and Historical Guide* (New York: Hastings House Publishers, 1974), 176–83).

Settlement and Development of Northeast Illinois

By 1826, more European settlers began to move to the northeast Illinois region, so that by 1831 a few hamlets were present between LaSalle and Chicago. Also present in the region was a tribe of nearly 1,000 Potawatomi in the area along the Du Page River south of what would become Plainfield.[25] At the beginning of the Black Hawk War in 1832 the largest settlement north of the Illinois River (except for Chicago) was on Bureau Creek, where there were about thirty families. A few other settlers had located along the river at Peru and LaSalle, and at Ottawa. At Walker's Grove or Plainfield, there were twelve or fifteen families.[26] Along the Du Page River, partially located in the region that would become Will County in 1836, there were about twenty families. In Yankee settlements, which embraced part of the towns of Homer, Lockport and New Lenox, there were twenty or twenty-five families. Along the Hickory in the town of New Lenox there were approximately twenty more families, and at the Reed's and Jackson Grove there were six or eight more.[27]

In 1832, a band of Sauk Indians led by Black Sparrow Hawk resisted their deportation by European settlers from their ancestral lands. Although most of the fighting occurred in the Rock River area in Northwest Illinois and southern Wisconsin, an Indian panic swept through Will County settlements. The settlers in Walker's Grove together with about twenty-five fugitives from the Fox River area hurriedly constructed a stockade from the logs of Stephen Begg's pigpen, outbuildings, and fences ("Fort Beggs"). The prospect of engaging Indians in pitched battle from the confines of "Fort Beggs" prompted the settlers to leave the makeshift stockade in favor of Fort Dearborn in Chicago. Meanwhile homesteaders in the eastern Will County area gathered at the Gougar homestead and decided to flee to Indiana.[28]

Also in 1832, northwest Will County was the scene of an epidemic of smallpox among the Potawatomi, inflicting a mortality rate at least twice that of European settlers. Approximately one-third of the Native American population in the region died during the epidemic.[29]

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

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

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

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

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

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

On 7 March 1836, an election was held to select Will County's first public officials. They in turn set the price of tavern licenses and created a book for recording the ear markings of livestock. Since swine, sheep, cows, and other livestock freely roamed the city streets and open fields, settlers devised special ear markings consisting of slits, crops, and holes to identify their animals. These "brands" were recorded with pen and ink drawings in the county clerk's office.[35]

The primary concern of pioneer farmers was providing food for their families and livestock. Most farmers homesteaded around wooded land to provide building materials and fuel. On cultivated land, settlers would need to grub out tree stumps before breaking the prairie sod with a walking plow. This latter activity was often difficult, since the soil tended to ball up on the plow. In 1833, John Lane of Lockport invented the breaking plow, which eliminated this problem. Lane's innovation developed from an improvised steel plow attached to the plow molding board. It successfully cut the prairie sod so that the soil could be turned over.[36]

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.

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[31] Ibid.

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

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

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

[34] Born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 3 June 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 11 June 1835. On the following 12 January, the state legislature passed an act sectioning the southern portion of Cook County in northern Illinois, naming it after Conrad Will. (Alice C. Storm, *Doctor Conrad Will* (Joliet, Illinois: Louis Joliet Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1917), 1–5.)

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

[36] Fayette Baldwin Shaw, *Will County Agriculture* (Will County Historical Society, 1980), 1.

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

In 1848, Illinois adopted township government as the basic level of local government, although in most locations functioning governments were not set up until 1850. By law, three services were to be provided by the townships: general assistance to the needy, property assessment for tax purposes, and maintenance of township roads and bridges. A unique feature of township government was the annual town meeting, held each April in all townships. This system continues to the present day.[38] Until the twentieth century, almost all public infrastructure (such as roads) was thus maintained by each township with local tax revenue.

Agricultural Development

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

The major crops in Will County historically have been corn and wheat, although wheat production declined in the later 1800s after infestations of the chinch bug and the army worm. (Wheat farming revived during World War I due to incentives from the U.S. government.) As early as 1850, corn was the leading crop in the survey area, since it could be fed to livestock as well as processed into other products.[41] Other grain crops included oats, barley (used in beer production), and rye. Potatoes were also grown in the region through the late 1800s, but several seasons of wet summers led to rotting crops,

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

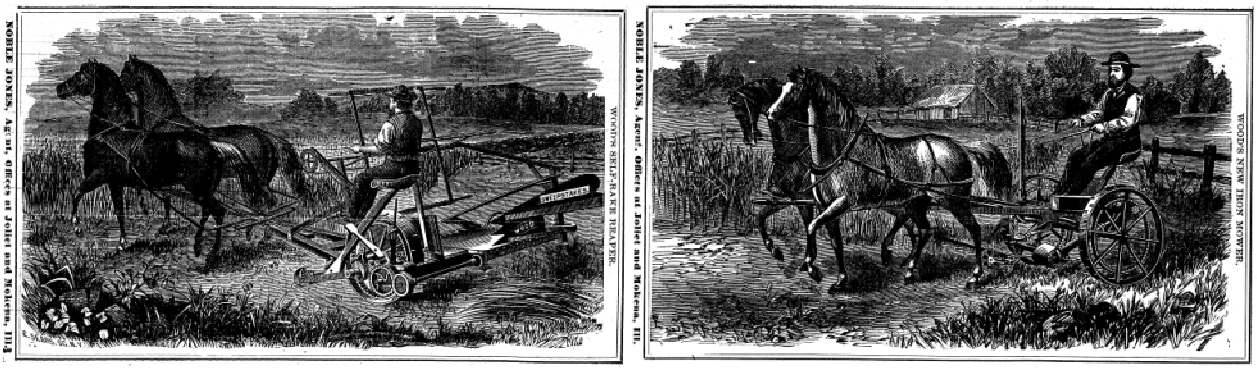
[38] Bryan Smith, "Township Government in Illinois: A Rich History, A Vibrant Future." <http://www.comptrollerconnect.ioc.state.il.us>

[39] "Corn" was the medieval term used in England for the grain known later as wheat. Settlers given "Indian corn" (maize) by the Native Americans began to sow it themselves, and corn (maize) became one of the leading grain crops in the United States by the 1800s. (United States Department of Agriculture, *Yearbook of Agriculture* (1936), 496.)

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

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

followed in subsequent years by potato bugs. Strawberries and grapes were grown in limited areas by the 1870s.[42]



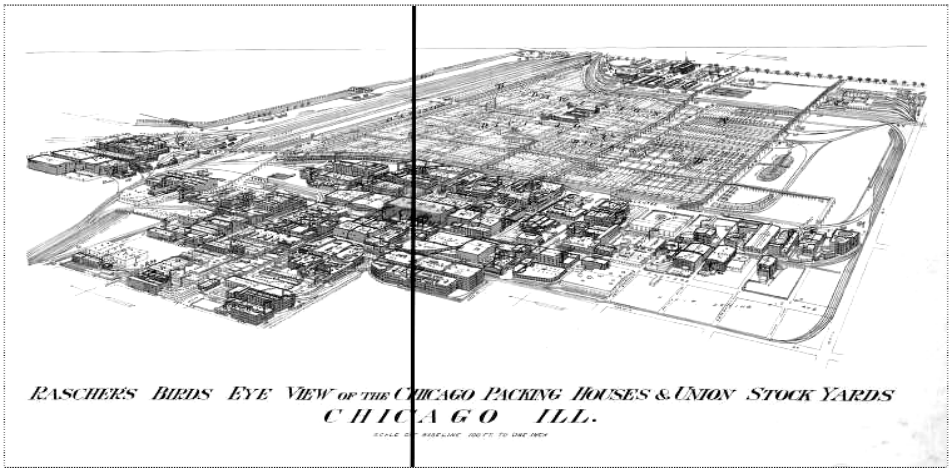
Two of the variety of mechanical farm implements that were available to Will County farmers after the Civil War. Above left: A self-raking reaper. Above right: A mower. Both of these were advertised by Noble Jones, a farm implement dealer with offices in Joliet and Mokena, in the 1872 Will County directory.

The change from self-sufficient farming to cash crop farming occurred during the mid-nineteenth century. Prior to that time, a farmstead typically had less than ten acres. Most farms were 80 acres in size by the end of the century, sometimes with additional parcels of 40 and 80 acres.[43] However, a few individuals in Will County owned larger parcels of land. In order to divide their parcels of land and enclosure pasturage, farmers used split-rail fencing and vegetation such as osage hedges. Other means included wire fencing, available after 1860, and barbed wire, introduced in the 1880s.[44]

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

The average value of a southern Illinois farm in 1910 was $15,000; in the northern part of the state it was $20,700. The annual value of farm products measured in dollars rose from $186 million in 1896 to $277 million in 1912; this was accompanied by an increase in production of field crops by 70 percent and 76 percent respectively for those years. During this time, wheat, rye, and oat production was on the decline. Livestock production remained fairly constant in overall value but sales of animals decreased by 50 percent during this period. Vegetable production was led by root crops like potatoes, turnips, and carrots. Of orchard fruits, apples had the greatest production.[46]

[42] Shaw, *Will County Agriculture,* 8.
[43] It should be noted that plat maps from the period reflect land ownership, not tilled land or the extent (through land leasing or barter) of a farmstead.
[44] Ibid., 5.
[45] The dairy industry in the Midwest was centered on Elgin, Illinois, and the western counties around Chicago until the beginning of World War I, after which Wisconsin came to be known as "America's Dairyland." (Daniel Ralston Block, "The Development of Regional Institutions of Agriculture: The Chicago Milk Marketing Order" (Ph.D. diss., University of California at Los Angeles, 1997), 49–52).
[46] 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.[47]

With the implementation of the Civil Administrative Code in 1917, which formed the departmental structure within the executive branch, the Illinois Department of Agriculture was formed as a regulatory and promotional agency.[48]

[47] A.N. Johnson, "Cost of a System of Durable Roads for Illinois," in *Eighteenth Annual Report of the Illinois Farmers' Institute,* edited by H.A. McKeene (Springfield, Illinois: Illinois State Journal Company, 1913), 149.

[48] Information from the website of the Illinois Department of Agriculture <www.agr.state.il.us/aghistory.html>. The department actually dated back to 1819, when the Illinois Agricultural Association was formed. Although little is known of the activities of this early group other than a collection of letters by its founders, it established an 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.[49] During that same period livestock production (including swine) peaked in 1900. For the counties within fifty miles of Chicago, the average number of dairy cows per square mile of farmland declined from 46.1 in 1900 to 42.8 in 1925. Acreage in cereal production showed a gradual increase after 1925. Sheep and wool production peaked in 1880 and horses and mules in 1920, declining as a direct result of the introduction of the tractor and motor truck. Dairy production in the Chicago region peaked in 1900 and declined markedly in the following two decades.[50]

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

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

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

centers soared, some people fled to rural communities, putting additional pressure on rural areas as most did not have access to welfare relief.[51] Within days of the inauguration of Franklin Roosevelt, legislation was formulated that Congress would later pass as the Agricultural Adjustment Act. The numerous adjustment programs initiated under the New Deal led to limitations in agricultural production in order to raise crop prices to acceptable levels. These included twenty percent of the land or 1,218,062 acres used in corn production being retired; over 1,000,000 acres of land in wheat production were also retired.[52] In 1934, 15,734,600 acres of land were in production, for a total crop value of $218,569,000 nationally; this grew to 17,692,100 acres and a crop value of $273,931,000 the following year.[53]

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

During World War II, farmers were encouraged by the federal government to increase their production by the use of power machinery and the latest scientific processes. When a decline in demand arose, the farmer was forced to continue his heavy production rate. Cash crop income in 1950 was $2.038 billion nationally. Of this livestock and livestock products accounted for $1.26 billion; crops, $763 million; and government pay for adaptation of production program, with $10.6 million paid to the farmers in Illinois. Principal crops were corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, hay, fruit, and greenhouse products. The average value of a farm in Illinois in 1950 was $28,400.[54] The farm population in Illinois declined from 1,341,104 in 1900 to 772,521 in 1950.[55]

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

By 1997, there were 79,000 Illinois farms utilizing 28 million acres and about 80 percent of the total land area in the state. Illinois was the leading state in agricultural-related industries such as soybean

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

processing, meat packing, dairy manufacturing, feed milling, vegetable processing, machinery manufacturing, foreign exports, and service industries.[57]

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

> A while back, farmer Ray Dettmering was arrested for plowing his fields late at night in Matteson, Illinois, a rural community 30 miles southwest of Chicago. The 28-year-old farmer told police officers that he needed to prepare his fields for spring planting after days of rain had put him behind schedule. The real problem? A few years earlier, subdivisions had been built near Dettmering's corn and soy bean fields. The new residents claimed they couldn't hear their TVs above the tractor noise. Others were having trouble sleeping. Two neighbors complained to the police, and Dettmering was booked and fingerprinted. "What were these people thinking when they moved to the country?" he asked. "It's not like these farms snuck up on them."[58]

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

> In rural Illinois, you'll find working farms. You'll also find a level of infrastructure and services generally below that provided through the collective wealth of an urban community. Many other factors, too, make the country living experience very different from what may be found in the city.[59]

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

Wilmington Township Developmental History

Wilmington Township is bounded by Channahon Township on the north, Florence Township on the east, Custer, Reed and Wesley Townships on the south, and Grundy County on the west. The township includes the City of Wilmington. The Kankakee River bisects the township from the southeast to the northwest. Early accounts described the landscape as being heavily forested along the river and having generally fertile soil except the poor soil in the southwest portion of the township where coal is present.[60]

In 1836, Thomas Cox was the first permanent settler of European decent in Wilmington Township. Cox came to the township with his son Joseph and five son-in-laws. Upon his arrival Cox laid out the town of Winchester on the banks of the Kankakee River in sections 25 and 36 of the township, built a house and constructed a saw mill.[61] Two years later it was discovered that there already was a town named Winchester in Scott County, Illinois, so the new settlement was renamed Wilmington.[62] Cox soon added a corn-cracker to his sawmill and as a result individuals travelled from areas as many as fifty miles to Wilmington Township to utilize the mill.[63]

In the spring of 1836, shortly after the arrival of Thomas Cox, Peter Stewart, a native of Scotland, settled in Wilmington Township. Stewart first came to the area in 1835 to find land near the proposed Illinois and Michigan Canal. Stewart would later go on to inspect masonry during the construction of the canal.[64] James L. Young, a blacksmith, came to Wilmington Township in 1837. Originally settling near the intersection of the Kankakee and Des Plaines Rivers, Young eventually moved to the Village of Wilmington. Young served as Justice of the Peace for the township for many years and was elected clerk when the Village of Wilmington was incorporated.[65] The first merchant in Wilmington Township was Archibald McIntyre. McIntyre came to the region in 1837 from New York. Besides running a store, McIntyre also represented the area in the state legislature.[66]

In 1837, the first post office was established in Wilmington Township.[67] The first church in Wilmington Township was organized in 1838. The Presbyterian congregation, led by Reverend J.G. Porter, initially held services in a barn owned by Peter Stewart. In 1840, a permanent church building was erected. A Methodist church was founded in the township not long after the Presbyterians began holding services. A Catholic church was established in Wilmington Township in 1855 and, by 1865, a 500 person church was constructed to serve their needs.[68]

The Wilmington Township government was organized in 1850. Initially, Wilmington Township was double its present size as it also included present-day Florence Township. John Frazier was elected the first township supervisor.[69]

In 1854 it was decided to incorporate the Village of Wilmington. The first election was held in July of that year and D. W. Smead was elected town president. After eleven years as a village, Wilmington received a charter from the state legislature declaring the municipality the City of Wilmington. In March

[60] George H. Woodruff, *History of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: Wm. Le Baron Jr., & Company, 1878), 452.
[61] Ibid, 444; W.W. Stevens, *Past and Present of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing, 1907), 126.
[62] Woodruff (1878), 447.
[63] Ibid, 444.
[64] Ibid, 445
[65] Ibid, 447.
[66] Ibid.
[67] City of Wilmington, < http://wilmington-il.com/history/>
[68] Woodruff (1878), 454; Stevens (1907), 126.
[69] Ibid, 449-450.

of 1865 John H. Daniels was elected the first mayor of the City of Wilmington.[70] The Chicago and Alton Railroad was constructed through Wilmington Township in 1854.[71] The line ran diagonally through the township entering from the north in section 12 and leaving the township in the south at section 34. A station was established in what was then the Village of Wilmington.[72]





Left: The Chicago and Alton Railroad depot in Wilmington. This late 1860s depot replaced an 1854 depot on the same site. Right: A circa 1900 view of North Water Street, looking north from Baltimore Street. The National Register property Eagle Hotel is at the left edge of this view.

The Soldiers' Widows' Home was established by the State of Illinois in an act approved June 13, 1895. The home was intended to house the disabled mothers, widows, wives, and daughters of deceased or disabled Civil War veterans. The commission created by this act purchased a large house in Wilmington Township that was capable of housing thirty "inmates," as the residents were called. This house was apparently the former H. Jones residence, as identified on historic plat maps. As demand for housing soon exceeded this capacity, a large addition to the original residence was constructed in 1898. The property included a number of ancillary structures, which were intended to provide opportunities for the able-bodied women to work and partially support the home. Among these buildings was the laundry. The home closed in 1963, when the remaining residents were moved to Quincy, Illinois. The main building was destroyed by fire on September 2, 1972. The laundry building, as the only surviving historic structure on the site, was designated a Will County landmark in 2004.

Native Americans and early settlers had long known that coal was present in the vicinity of Wilmington, but it was not until the 1860s that economically feasible coal seams began to be developed. In October 1861, the *Wilmington Advocate* reported:

> The existence of immense beds of bituminous coal, which are known to underlie this whole region of country, is now about to be tested at a point nearer this village [Wilmington], than any heretofore sought.
>
> Wm. Hurry, Esq. of the city of New York, a gentleman of wealth and enterprise, and the owner of a large tract of land contiguous to the railroad station at Stewart's Grove five miles southwest of this village, has recently visited these lands, with the view of satisfying himself of the expediency of making the preliminary explorations, and in case of their proving satisfactory, to proceed at once to open and quarry the coal at that point.

[70] Ibid, 453.
[71] The Chicago and Alton Railroad was later known as the Alton Railroad. The Alton Railroad was purchased by the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad in 1947. After a 1972 merger, this line was part of the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad (Illinois Central Gulf was merged into the Canadian National Railway in 1999).
[72] Stevens (1907), 127.

> We understand that Mr. Hurry's examination resulted in his deciding to commence the work, and that he has instructed Mr. Morgan to make the necessary arrangements without delay. Should coal of a quality equal to that already opened and quarried two miles southwest of that point, be found, he will then sink a shaft, and open the mine on a scale requisite to supply the demand of this and other markets. Hence we may confidently look for a supply of coal here of the first quality, and at prices, too, not above those now paid for inferior surface coal.
>
> With Mr. Hurry's known ability to carry out an enterprise of this kind, and Mr. Morgan's skill in the judicious management of such an undertaking, we have every reason to believe that the work will be promptly undertaken and prosecuted with energy and efficiency.[73]

For unknown reasons, Hurry and Morgan were unsuccessful in establishing their mine. Mining of coal became a significant industrial activity in the township after a substantial coal deposit was located in 1864 by William Hennebry, who was contracted to dig a water well on the Thomas Byron farm in the northeast quarter of section 5 of Reed Township. The coal seam averaged only 3-1/2 feet in thickness and was located from 60 to 100 feet below the surface. By the 1870s, over fifty mine shafts were in operation in the vicinity. By the early 1880s, seven companies employing 2,180 workmen were producing 700,00 tons of coal annually. As the coal seam in Will County was mined out, the companies shifted their interests to new fields in southern Illinois, and most production in Will County had mainly ceased by 1900. A smaller local company, the Murphy, Linskey & Kasher Coal Company, continued to mine coal here until about 1916, and various other firms attempted to develop profitable underground mining ventures as late as the 1920s. In the 1920s and 1930s, a new method of extracting the coal in Will County, strip mining, began. The Northern Illinois Coal Corporation and the Wilmington Coal Mining Company would remove the topsoil and overlying bedrock to reach the coal stratum. The soil and rock debris was dumped aside, forming ridges and mounds of rock and clay and many small lakes. Strip mining continued in Will County as late as 1974.[74] These strip mining activities in the township have permanently altered the topography of the land, and much of the former mine region in the southwest portion of the township has become a wetland area, unsuitable for agriculture or urban development.





Left: The 1937 Mar Theatre on South Main Street in Wilmington. Right: The former Commercial National Bank on North Water Street.

In the twentieth century, the development of highway infrastructure in Wilmington Township made transport of agricultural goods affordable and efficient. The farmsteads were linked directly to the markets of Joliet and Chicago. In 1926, U.S. Route 66 was constructed as paved road linking Chicago to

[73] *Wilmington Advocate* (October 1861), quote provided by Sandy Vasko, personal communication to the author.
[74] Modesto Joseph Donna, *The Braidwood Story* (Braidwood: Braidwood History Bureau, 1957), 57–85; *Directory of Coal Mines in Illinois: Will County* (Champaign: Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability, Illinois State Geological Survey, July 2009).

Santa Monica, California. The original route passed through Wilmington Township, following the east township line and curving west to join an extension of Baltimore Street. After crossing through the center of the City of Wilmington, the highway turned southwest and proceeded parallel to the Chicago and Alton Railroad. In the late 1930s, a new route for the highway to bypass the City of Joliet was proposed. The new U.S. Route 66 was completed in 1938 and ran north-south at the centerline of Wilmington Township. The old route was re-designated U.S. Route 66 Alternate. Despite the change in designation, U.S. Route 66 Alternate continued to be a well-traveled road serving both local drivers and tourists. This road is currently designated as Illinois Route 53. In the 1950s, U.S. Route 66 in Wilmington Township was upgraded to a four-lane divided highway, including a new bypass that curved west in section 28 and continued southwest, built to re-route the highway away from downtown Braidwood. U.S. Route 66 was designated Interstate 55 by the 1960s.

In later half of the twentieth century and the first decade of the twenty-first century population growth in the township began to accelerate. In 2009, the population of Wilmington Township is 7,161 persons, a 19 percent increase since 2000.[75] New residential, commercial and industrial developments are beginning to alter the formerly agricultural landscape of Wilmington Township.

Wilmington Township Schools

The first school in Wilmington Township was established in 1838 as a private school in the Peter Stewart Home in Section 25. In 1841, a wood-framed structure was constructed to serve as the Township's first public school. The building housed fifty-three students in its first session. A formal school district was organized in the fall of 1841 for the combined Townships of Wilmington and Reed's Grove. The district held classes in Reed's Grove Township and existed until 1848 when the district split along Township lines.

The independent Wilmington public school district constructed a two hundred student, two-story brick school in 1849. However, by 1869, the school district outgrew the facility. A $30,000 appropriation was made for the construction of a three-story structure on the site of a park in the center of the Village of Wilmington. The building housed first through twelfth grades and accommodated up to seven hundred students. A second school building for primary grades was located on the west side of the Kankakee River. By 1877, there were eight school buildings in Wilmington Township, seven of which were wood-framed and five of which were located in the rural areas of the township. The Wilmington public school was successful in opening one of the first high schools in the state and to achieve accreditation by 1892.

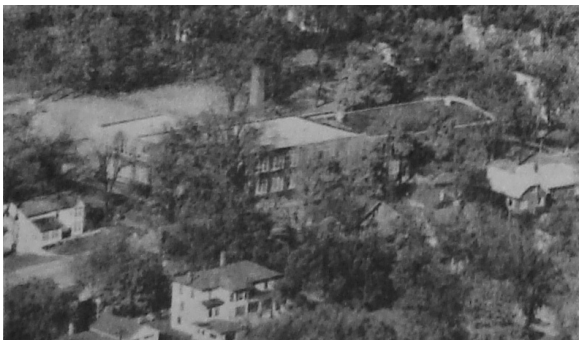
By the 1920s, there were six districts and six schools in Wilmington Township. The 1869 three-story school building was no longer able to meet the needs of the district, and was expanded with an addition in the 1920s. In 1936, a large new building wing was added to the Central High School site, and the 1869 portions of the building were razed. Two other school buildings, Northcrest and Brookside Schools, were built in 1941 along with the development of the Joliet Arsenal.

In accordance with the Will County School Survey Committee, Wilmington Unit Schools and Lorenzo Consolidated schools were merged to form the Wilmington-Lorenzo 209U District in 1949. A short time later, the schools of Florence and Wesley Townships were consolidated into the Wilmington-Lorenzo 209U District. By the mid-1950s, therefore, the Wilmington school district covered an area once divided among twenty-six rural school districts. Central High School served as the consolidated district's high school until 1953 when it was replaced by a new school building to the south of the City of Wilmington to house junior and high school programs.[76] The Bruning Elementary School was built in 1961, and the Lorenzo School was built circa 1950s.

[75] <www.bestplaces.net/city/Wilmington_township-Illinois.aspx>.

[76] Dissertation by Leslie Joseph Farrington*, Development of Public School Administration in the Public Schools of*





Left: The 1869 Wilmington Public School, illustrated in the 1873 atlas, plate 127. This building stood on the block bounded by Jackson, Kankakee, Van Buren, and Joliet Streets and was demolished in the 1930s. Right: The Central Grade School in 1955.





Left: The Wilmington-Lorenzo School on Lorenzo Road in section 8 as it appeared in 1955. Right: The building today. It is currently abandoned.

As of 2009, the Wilmington School District consisted of four school buildings: Bruning Elementary (constructed in 1961), Stevens Intermediate School (constructed in 1971), Wilmington Middle School (constructed as the Wilmington-Lorenzo High School and Junior High in 1953), and Wilmington High School (constructed in 2008). The former Central High School on North Kankakee Street operated as an elementary school after the completion of the high school in 1953 and was known recently as Booth Elementary School. With the completion of the new high school in 2008 and the reorganization of the district, this building is now closed.

Bridges

Joliet Arsenal Railroad Bridges

There are numerous road and railroad bridges, constructed 1940–1942 as part of the development of the Joliet Arsenal, spanning Prairie and Grant Creeks in Wilmington Township. The bridges are associated with a gridded rail and road system established by the arsenal to facilitate the transport of raw materials and finished products. The iron-framed railroad bridges are supported on concrete piers and have wood railroad ties.

Chicago and Alton Bridge

The Chicago and Alton Railroad Bridge is located between Sections 25 and 26 and crosses the Kankakee River, at the north end of the City of Wilmington. The railroad was first constructed in 1854 and linked Wilmington to Joliet. A train station, located approximately a half mile east of the bridge, was constructed at the same time, although the existing building dates to the late 1860s. The Chicago and Alton Bridge is

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Will County, Illinois as Shown in a Comparison of Three Selected Years, 1877, 1920, and 1965 (DeKalb, Illinois: Northern Illinois University, August 1967).

currently used by Amtrak. The iron-framed cantilever structure is supported on four stone foundation piers. The stone piers could be a part of the original structure.





Left: A typical arsenal railroad bridge over Prairie Creek in section 11 of Wilmington Township. Right: The Chicago and Alton Railroad Bridge in Wilmington.

Locks and Dams

Wilmington Township has a variety of historic structures related to dams and locks that were constructed to improve navigation along the Kankakee River. The Illinois and Michigan Canal was completed in 1848. Shortly after completion it was realized that there was less water than necessary on the lower portion of the canal. As a result, a dam was constructed across the Kankakee River in section 9 of Wilmington Township. A diversionary canal, called the Kankakee Feeder Canal, was created to send water from the Kankakee River into the lower part of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. The feeder canal ran northwest into Channahon Township and crossed the Des Plaines River in a stone viaduct in section 31 of Channahon Township. With the completion of the feeder canal, interest shifted to improving navigation on the Kankakee River.

The Kankakee River merged with the Iroquois River near the City of Kankakee, southeast of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. The waterway extended into markets in western Indiana. Wilmington was located mid-way between the City of Kankakee and its confluence with the Des Plaines River. In 1847, a series of locks and dams were planned by the Kankakee and Iroquois Navigation and Manufacturing Company under the direction of Peter Stewart, a prominent figure in the development of Wilmington. Funding difficulties prevented the plan from being immediately implemented.

Dam No. 2 was built where the Kankakee River forks around Island Park (historically referred to as Alden's Island) in the early 1850s. The dam was constructed on the east branch of the waterway to provide water power for the Wilmington mills, rather than to support navigation on the river. This dam was converted into a roadway in the 1860s. (In 1872, a lock was constructed adjacent to this dam to provide for navigation.) Hiram Alden provided funding and direction for the stalled Kankakee and Iroquois Navigation and Manufacturing Company project in the 1860s. In 1861, the Lock No. 2/Dam No. 1 structure was built just north of the convergence of Prairie Creek in section 15 of Wilmington Township. Portions of the stone structure are still in existence, although the dam has been removed.

In 1871, a new company, the Kankakee Navigation Company, bought out the river rights from the old Kankakee and Iroquois Navigation and Manufacturing Company. The new company had Massachusetts Governor William Claflin as the President and was backed several large investors from the eastern United States. The existing condition of the Kankakee River improvements and the new company's plans for development were summarized in a letter published in the *Wilmington Advocate* in August 1871:

The works are designed to give five feet depth of water for navigation with locks 105 feet long and eighteen feet wide; a capacity sufficient for boats of about 180 tons burden.

The lower dam on the river [in section 9 of Wilmington Township] was originally built by the State to supply the Kankakee Feeder of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. This feeder will form part of the Kankakee Company's line of navigation, and they have raised its banks two feet in order to give the required depth of five feet of water. A timber lock of two feed left has been constructed by the Company at the lower end of the feeder to connect it with the Illinois and Michigan Canal. A timber flume has also been constructed around the lock by the Company, to afford constant feed to the Illinois and Michigan Canal. The dam supplying the feeder has also been thoroughly repaired by them, and raised two feet to conform to the increased depth of the feeder.

The State Dam as now raised, creates slack water navigation for three-fourths of a mile, to Dam No. 1, requiring only a small amount of dredging, which will be completed in a few days, to give the full five feet of water.

Dam No. 1 constructed by the old Kankakee Company in 1861, was materially damaged in 1865. It is now about 812 feet long and ten to fifteen feet in height from the bedrock. Last year it was thoroughly repaired strengthened by an apron, and raised one foot by the new Company. The lock, with eight feet lift, has been entirely rebuilt in masonry by the new Company. This Dam creates slack water navigation, with five feet depth of water, to the foot of Alden's Island, in the City of Wilmington, which is continued with the same level and depth of water, to Dam No. 2 by a cut or canal trough rock, 2,000 feet in length and 42 feet in width at bottom.

Dam No. 2 is across the east branch of the river, which at this point is divided by Alden's Island. It was originally built about twenty years ago, solely for mill purposes. Ten or twelve years since it was converted into a public highway, and the entire flow of the river, except the water required for milling purposed, diverted into the main channel on the west side of the Island. A lock, in masonry, with ten and a half feet lift, through this dam, is now nearly completed. The Canal just below this lock will be spanned by a bridge forty feet in width, carrying the highway, at a sufficient elevation not to interfere with the navigation.

The water, heretofore, has been turned into the East Branch, for milling purposes, by a temporary riprap dam, three or four feet high, built every Spring across the main channel at the head of the Island. Dam No. 3 is now being constructed across the main channel to take the place of this temporary dam. This dam is about six hundred and fifty feet long, and five feet high and gives five feet or more depth of water in the East Branch, down to the lock at Dam No. 2. The east branch will be protected from freshets by an Embankment and Guard Dam at the head of the Island. The Guard Dam will contain ten gates; five feet square each to supply the mills on Dam No. 2. Over the embankment there will be a roadway connecting the Island with the East bank of the river.

At the head of East Branch there will be a lock (the excavation for which is now in progress) with fifteen feet lift, constructed of masonry, connecting with a cut or canal 3,000 feet in length, 7 feet deep, 78 feet at bottom, 100 feet wide at surface of the water line. This is intended to be used both as a millrace and navigation canal, and is now nearly completed. At the upper end of this canal there will be a Guard Lock, of masonry 105 feet long, 20 feet wide with seven feet depth of water on the mitre sill; also a Guard Dam of masonry, with four openings, each ten feet wide and nine feet high, furnished with gates to admit water for milling purposes.

Dam No. 4 is now being constructed across the main river in connection with the lock and Guard Dam last mentioned. It will leave an overall nine hundred and ninety six feet long and be about sixteen feet high above the bedrock on which it is built. It will raise the head of water for the lock and canal last mentioned, and will create slack water navigation for a distant of about ten miles above, and form a millpond of the length, and about eight hundred feet in width, having an area of about nine hundred and seventy acres.

The locks now constructing are of substantial masonry. Dam No 1, 3, and 4 are of large squared timber, substantially framed, and resting directly on the bedrock of the river. Dam No. 2, in connection with the lock and highway above described, I understand will be mainly of masonry.

Above Dam No. 4, I am informed that the following works are projected in order to extend the navigation to the Indiana State line, both on the Kankakee and Iroquois Rivers, which fork five miles above Kankakee City, or twenty seven miles above Wilmington City.

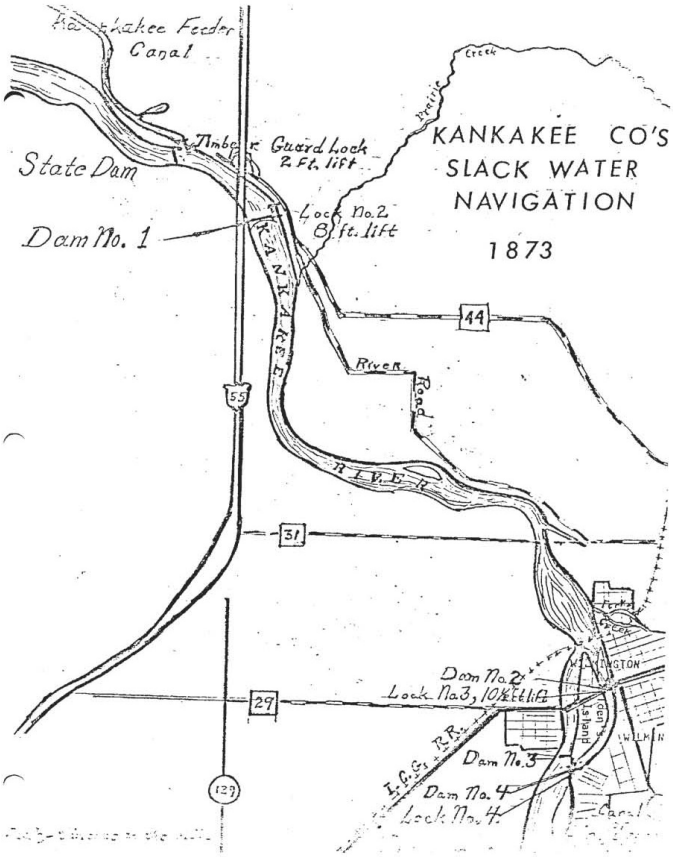
At Rockville, about eleven miles above Wilmington City, a dam about six hundred feet long and fourteen feet high, creating slack water navigation to Altorf, about three miles above.

At Altorf there is now a dam, built about twelve years since, for milling purposes. This dam is about nine feet high and will be passed by a lock. Above this dam there is slack water navigation for about one mile, at which point another dam will be built eight or nine feet in height, with a lock. This dam will give slack water navigation to Kankakee City, a distant of about six miles.

At Kankakee City there is now a dam eight or nine feet in height, which with a lock and a little excavation, will give navigation to Aroma, five miles above, where the Iroquois joins the Kankakee.

At Aroma there is also a dam, which gives slack water navigation, although of less than five feet in depth, for thirty or forty miles into the State of Indiana. It is said there are no ripples for a long distance and that the bars can all be removed by dredging.

On the Iroquois, which is a much smaller stream than the Kankakee above the junction of the two rivers, I am informed that two dams and locks will be required to extend the navigation to the State line, but I do not learn that any exact survey has been made.[77]



Plan of locks and dams on the Kankakee River in Wilmington Township during the late nineteenth-century. Source: John M Lamb, Kankakee and Iroquois River Improvement by the Kankakee Company*, 94.*

[77] "Reports of the Water Power of the Kankakee Company," by James B. Francis, agent of land and canals, Lowell, Massachusetts, July 5, 1871, to William Claflin, President of the Kankakee Company, quoted in *Wilmington Advocate* (August 19, 1871), quote provided by Sandy Vasko, personal communication to the author.

In 1871, construction began on Dam No. 3 at the south end of Island Park under the management of the Kankakee Navigation Company. Together with other improvements to the downstream dams and locks, the new dam improved navigation of boats carrying coal or agricultural produce along the river en route to the Illinois and Michigan Canal. Unfortunately for the investors, the new company went bankrupt in 1874. After this time, local business concerns took over the maintenance of the locks and dams. The heavy currents of the Kankakee River were responsible for undermining the structures and washing out Dam No. 3 in the early 1900s. In October 1904, a new concrete dam was completed in the same location as the original. This concrete dam still exists.



The new concrete Dam No. 3 at the south end of Island Park, circa 1904.

Lock and Dam No. 4 were constructed at the south end of Island Park on the east branch of the Kankakee River as a stone structure. The lock and dam were completed circa 1872 by the Kankakee Navigation Company. An iron-framed truss bridge was erected at a later date and spans the river branch between Island Park and mainland. The stone lock and bridge remain in existence. Stone retaining walls are still visible although portions of them have been covered by a concrete slab with buttressed piers.[78]





Left: Stone walls at the inlet to the Kankakee Feeder Canal, part of the Illinois and Michigan Canal system, in section 9 of Wilmington Township. Right: View north into the basin of the Kankakee Feeder Canal, section 9.

[78] John M. Lamb, *Kankakee and Iroquois River Improvements by the Kankakee* Company (Lockport, Illinois: Illinois Canal Society Publications, 1979).




Left: Stone wall forming the west side of Lock No. 2 as well as part of Dam No. 1. Right: The channel of Lock No.2, looking north. The Interstate 55 bridge is visible in the distance. A lock was originally built at this location in 1861, but the existing masonry walls date to a reconstruction of the lock in 1870 by the Kankakee Navigation Company.




Left: Remnant of Dam No. 1 on the left bank of the Kankakee River in section 15. Right: Remnant of stone retaining wall of Lock No. 3/Dam No. 2 at the north end of Island Park in Wilmington.





Left: A view of the steel truss bridge at the south end of Island Park in Wilmington. Right: The stone walls of Lock No. 4 and steel truss bridge at the south end of Island Park in Wilmington. The masonry lock structure was constructed by the Kankakee Navigation Company in 1871–1872.

Cemeteries

Old Catholic Cemetery

The Old Catholic Cemetery (also known as Section A of Mt. Olivet Cemetery) is located in Section 36 in the City of Wilmington along Route 102 and Oak Street. The cemetery consists of 281 plots and is maintained by St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. The cemetery can be divided into two periods of burial. The majority of the property consists of marble headstones and monuments dating from the mid-nineteenth-century, the earliest marked 1848. Sixty granite headstones are located on the northeast edge of the cemetery and were added after the 1880s.

Dwyer Cemetery

The Dwyer Cemetery is located in Section 27 on the south side of Soldier's Widows' Home Road, two miles from the intersection with Baltimore Street. The area is heavily wooded and the soil is especially sandy, compromising the accessibility and condition of the marble headstones. Three headstones and associated footstones were identified in a catalog of the cemetery initiated by the Will/Grundy County Genealogical Society in October 1988.[79]

Oakwood Cemetery

The Oakwood Cemetery is located in Section 36 in the City of Wilmington and is adjacent to the Old Catholic Cemetery near the intersection of Route 102 and Oak Street. The cemetery consists of granite headstones and markers commemorating families from the late nineteen and early twentieth-century, although the markers themselves are more recent.[80]

Newton Cemetery

The Newton Cemetery is located in Section 12 in the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The cemetery consisted of a single gravestone commemorating George C. Newton, a beekeeper from Vermont who passed away on December 17, 1865.[81] Newton resided with his mother, Caroline, and stepfather, Peter Corbin, who maintained a farmstead in the vicinity of the existing cemetery. It is unknown if George Newton was buried at the Newton Cemetery or whether the tombstone was erected on the family farmstead as a memorial.



The Newton Cemetery in section 12 of Wilmington Township.

[79] D. Andrew Bale, editor, *The Cemeteries of Will County, Illinois: Old Catholic, Wilmington* (Wilmington: Will/Grundy Counties Genealogical Society, 1994).
[80] <will.ilgenweb.net/cem/oakwood-wilm.htm>
[81] *Wilmington Independent*, December 20, 1865.

Joliet Arsenal

The Joliet Arsenal was established by the U.S. Army in 1940, one of the first such plants established after the start of World War II in Europe.[82] Ultimately sixty plants were established nationwide from June 1940 to December 1942. The plant was owned by the United States government but was operated by a private contractor. Production activities included the manufacturing of explosives and other chemicals and the loading, assembling, and packaging of ammunition. The site contained 1,391 buildings, 1,138 dating to the World War II era. These utilitarian buildings were constructed for temporary use. Of particular historic interest are six buildings comprising the TNT Line 7; this group represents the first example of a later widely used industrial process for the manufacturing TNT.

The 37,000-acre Joliet Arsenal complex was constructed from 1940 to 1942. Prior to the 1940s, the site was used for farming. The site included six cemeteries, which were preserved. (These cemeteries are now within the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie) Most of the agricultural buildings on the site were demolished, but ten farmhouses were relocated to serve as staff housing. Eight of the houses were wood framed structures and were relocated to the administrative area of the Elwood Unit (in section 17 of Florence Township). Additionally, two brick farmhouses were retained on their original sites on Illinois Highway 53 near the southwest corner of the Elwood Unit (in Florence Township). Throughout the arsenal site, streams were straightened, ditches and drain tiles were constructed, and a complex road and rail system was created. Farm families in the area were given just thirty days to pack their belongings and sell their land to the government.[83]

Originally, the complex was built and administered as two separate plants. The Kankakee Ordnance Works, to the western part of the site, produced and stored explosives including trinitrotoluene (TNT), dinitrotoluene (DNT), lead azide, and tetryl. The Elwood Ordnance Plant, to the eastern part of the site, loaded, assembled, and packed bombs and artillery ammunition. The complex was actively used from September 1941 to August 1945, when it was placed on standby status. The Kankakee and Elwood Units were merged under one administration as the Joliet Arsenal in 1946, renamed the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant in 1963. Production resumed during the Korean War and continued from 1952 to 1957, and again during the Vietnam War, from 1965 to 1976. Major rehabilitation and modernization of the facilities on the site occurred in the early 1970s.

In Wilmington Township, the Kankakee Ordnance Works originally included much of the township north of the Des Plaines River, on sections 1 through 5, 9 through 15, and parts of 22 through 24. No built structures dating prior to the 1940s are known to survive in this area. However, when the arsenal was developed, most pre-existing structures were demolished only to their foundations. On many former farmstead sites, stone and concrete foundations and paving still survive. In the 1960s, the portion of the arsenal lying west of Interstate Highway 55 was transferred to the State of Illinois and became the Des Plaines Public Shooting Grounds, today known as the Des Plaines Conservation Area. New River Road was built across arsenal land in the early 1970s. Portions of the arsenal site south of New River Road in sections 22 through 24 were added to the state conservation area by the 1980s. Even with these transfers of land, by 1990 the U.S. Army still owned 23,500 acres in Will County.

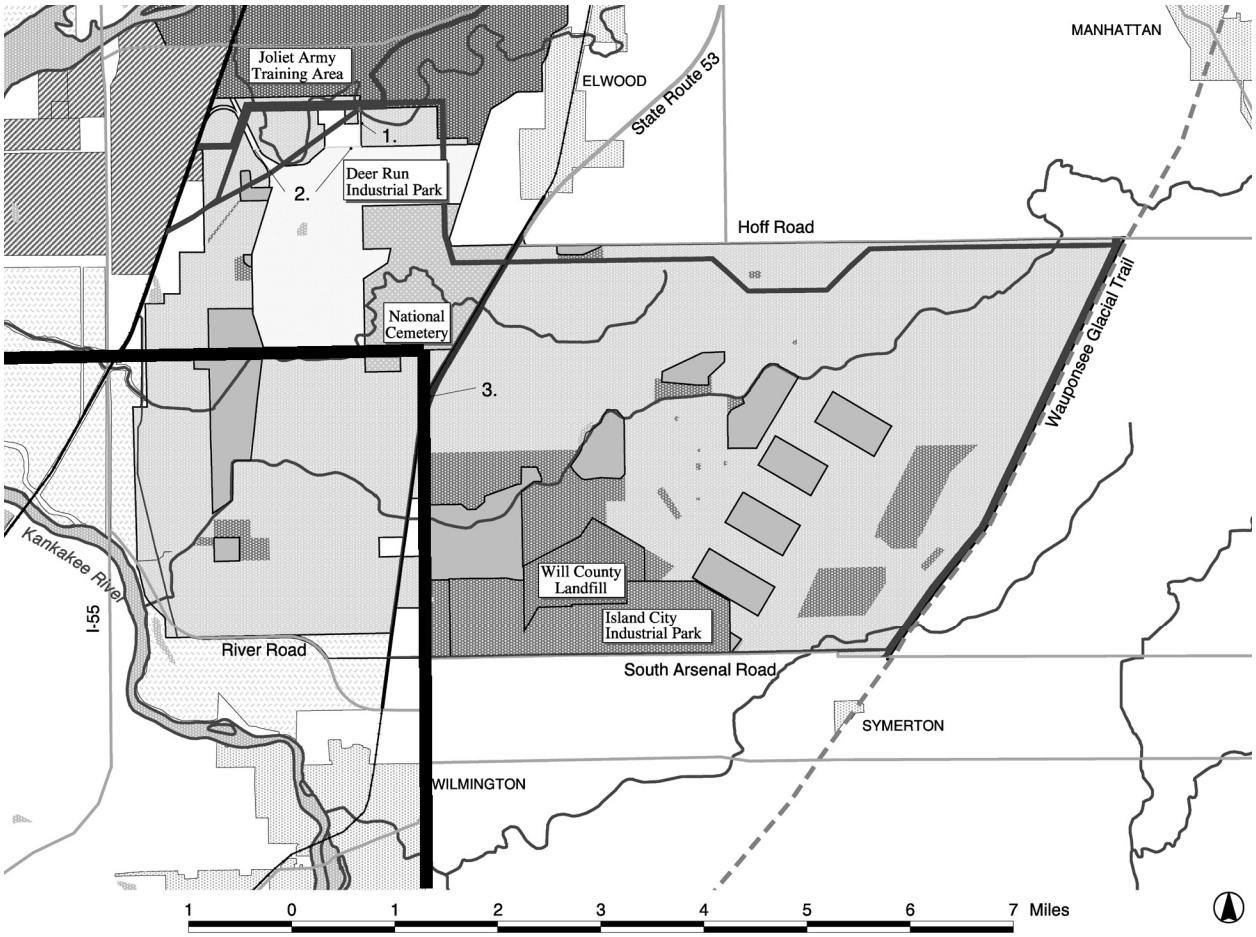
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[82] This section is based on the following sources: Peter Rathbun, "Joliet Army Ammunition Plant: Written Historical and Descriptive Data" Historic American Engineering Record Survey No. IL-18 (1984); USDA National Forest Service, *Midewin Land and Resource Management Plan* with *Final Environmental Impact Statement* (2002); and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, "Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery," <www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/abrahamlincoln.asp>.

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

In June 1992, the army announced its intention to decommission the site. In 1997, 15,080 acres of the former Joliet Arsenal were transferred to the USDA Forest Service, creating Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The remaining arsenal property in Wilmington Township in sections 1 through 3 and 10 through 15 became part of Midewin. Pending clean up of industrial wastes on additional portions of the site by the army, Midewin Tallgrass Prairie will eventually expand to include 19,000 acres. A portion of the arsenal located in Channahon and Jackson Townships was retained by the army as the Joliet Army Training Area. Also, a new national cemetery, Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, was dedicated on October 3, 1999, at the northeast corner of Wilmington Township and adjacent areas of Jackson, Channahon, and Florence Townships, on 982 acres of the former arsenal. Other portions of the arsenal site were zoned for private industrial and commercial uses, including a large intermodal freight transportation facility which began operation in 2002 in Channahon Township.

Within Wilmington Township, built arsenal-era structures survive in some portions of Midewin. These structures include primarily earthen-covered concrete bunkers. A description of arsenal-era structures in Wilmington Township follows. Refer also to Map 7 in Appendix B.



Above: The current status of land ownership in the former Joliet Arsenal and vicinity. Isolated pockets of land within Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Florence and Wilmington Townships are parcels that have been retained by the army, pending the cleanup of industrial wastes or other hazardous items. Heavy black lines added to the lower left corner of the plan show the limits of Wilmington Township. Source: Figure 7, USDA National Forest Service, Midewin Land and Resource Management Plan *(2002).*

Kankakee Ordnance Works Magazine Area

A distinctive feature of the arsenal construction is the use of earthen-covered concrete bunkers for storing completed ammunition or volatile substances. The bunker sizes and spacing were adjusted depending upon the risks associated with particular types of stored items. The Kankakee Ordnance Works was located primarily in southeastern Channahon Township and northeastern Wilmington Township. The chemical processing lines were mainly at the north half of the site in Channahon Township, while the expansive bunker field for storing completed chemicals, called the Magazine Area, was mainly at the south half of the site in Wilmington Township. The bunker field extended across most of sections 1, 2, 11, and 12 of Wilmington Township and is the primary built feature of the arsenal era in the township today. Due to the difficulty and cost associated with demolition of these robust structures, the bunkers are likely to be retained indefinitely as part of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie landscape.





Above: The built structures remaining on the former arsenal site in Wilmington Township consist primarily of a large bunker field where explosive materials were stored. Earth-covered concrete structures of this type are spread across two thousand acres of sections 1, 2, 11, and 12. The bunker field extended across both sides of Prairie Creek, necessitating numerous road and rail bridges in section 11, some of which remain today.

Former Farmsteads on the Arsenal Site

As part of the intensive rural survey of Wilmington Township, 1939 aerial photography of the township was compared to present-day aerial photography. The 1939 aerial photography was used to identify farmstead sites that existed just prior to the establishment of the arsenal in 1940–1941. Comparing to the present-day photography, it was clear that some former farmstead sites were obliterated completely by arsenal-era construction. However, other sites were located in wooded, undeveloped areas of the arsenal site. Field survey work was conducted to determine if above ground evidence of these former sites still exists. Unfortunately, some potential sites were inaccessible during the field work due to restrictions on access or physical constraints such as flooded trails or missing bridges. At twenty-four former farmstead sites in Wilmington Township, ruins of concrete or stone foundations were identified. These sites may also have archaeological potential. Refer to Map 7 in Appendix B. The confirmed sites are listed on the table on the following page.

Site ID	Section	1940 Owner	Identified ruins
533	1	Alice Morgan	Circular concrete foundation, 6 feet in diameter, used as fire pit; contemporary picnic tables and benches
535	1	Peter Caretto	Multiple concrete foundation walls and slabs
542	3	Harlow Nicholson	Multiple concrete foundation walls and slabs; fieldstone boundary walls
543	3	B. A. Pinneo estate	Concrete foundation approximately 30 feet by 60 feet; concrete foundation approximately 10 feet by 8 feet; stone foundation approximately 60 feet by 30 feet
548	3	Harry Lamping	Multiple stone and concrete walls, including tall stone masonry barn foundation wall
549	3	Harry Lamping; possibly a one-room schoolhouse	Approximate 30-foot-long stone walls, parallel and 10 feet apart; stone outcropping approximately 10 feet long; concrete slab approximately 10 feet by 8 feet; fieldstone boundary wall
559	4	Louis Foley	Concrete wall; stone foundations; circular stone well
560	4	Daniel Smith	Stone and concrete rubble
561	9	George Nail estate	Adjacent to contemporary comfort station, stone and concrete outcroppings are present
515	10	John Tierney estate	Piles of stone material; rectangular depression approximately 20 feet by 30 feet
518	10	Jacob Testin	Stone outcropping, possibly a foundation
550	10	Mary Tierney	Fieldstone boundary wall; concrete foundation, approximately 8 feet square
551	10	Mrs. Mary Howard	Raised area with stone rubble
516	11	H. F. Teter	Concrete slab approximately 10 feet square, surrounded by stone foundation wall approximately 15 feet by 50 feet by 30 inches tall
517	11	James L. McGinnis	Parallel stone foundation walls for crib barn; rectangular stone foundation
523	12	William Roderick	Stone rubble fencing
527	13	Walter States	Stone foundation, approximately 15 feet by 25 feet
528	13	R. C. Maley	Stone foundation, approximately 15 feet by 25 feet; concrete foundation, approximately 15 feet by 25 feet
519	14	James Collins	Parallel concrete foundation walls for crib barn
520	14	J. P. Kelley	Concrete and stone foundation walls; concrete slabs
511	15	Arthur States	Multiple concrete and stone foundations obscured by contemporary debris
521	15	James and John Tierney	Not accessible for survey, but DNR staff indicated that a house survived at the site until recently; now demolished, but foundation remains
529	24	James and Mary Kelly	Concrete and stone foundations for five buildings, including house and crib barn; stone-lined circular pit and concrete pad for privy or well house
530	24	Frank Craterfield	Fieldstone wall 2 feet thick, approximately 200 feet long





Above left: This well-preserved stone masonry foundation exists at the former Harry Lamping Farmstead, site 548 in section 3. Above right: Stone foundation walls exist at the former Louis Foley Farmstead, site 559 in section 4. Below left: This rectangular stone foundation wall exists at the former James L. McGinnis Farmstead, site 517 in section 11. Below right: Concrete foundations and slabs are visible at the former J. P. Kelley Farmstead, site 520 in section 14.









Above: These concrete foundations exist at the former James and Mary Kelly Farmstead, site 529 in section 24.

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,"[84] 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.[85] The materials used in the construction of a balloon frame structure consisted of milled lumber that was much lighter in weight than heavy timbers.[86]

Credit for the development of the balloon frame is usually given to George Washington Snow of Chicago,[87] 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.[88] At that time Chicago lacked a sawmill to produce the cut lumber, but mills were present in Indiana and in

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[84] 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.

[85] 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).

[86] 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.

[87] 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.

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

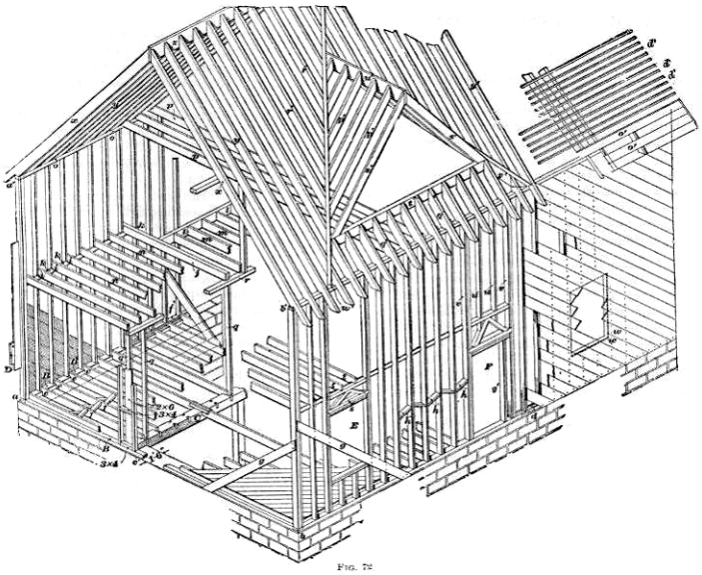
Plainfield in northwestern Will County.[89] However, these mills were relatively far away, and transportation of milled heavy timbers difficult and expensive. Therefore, it was necessary to develop a more economical construction system.

The classic balloon frame consists of the following elements:[90]

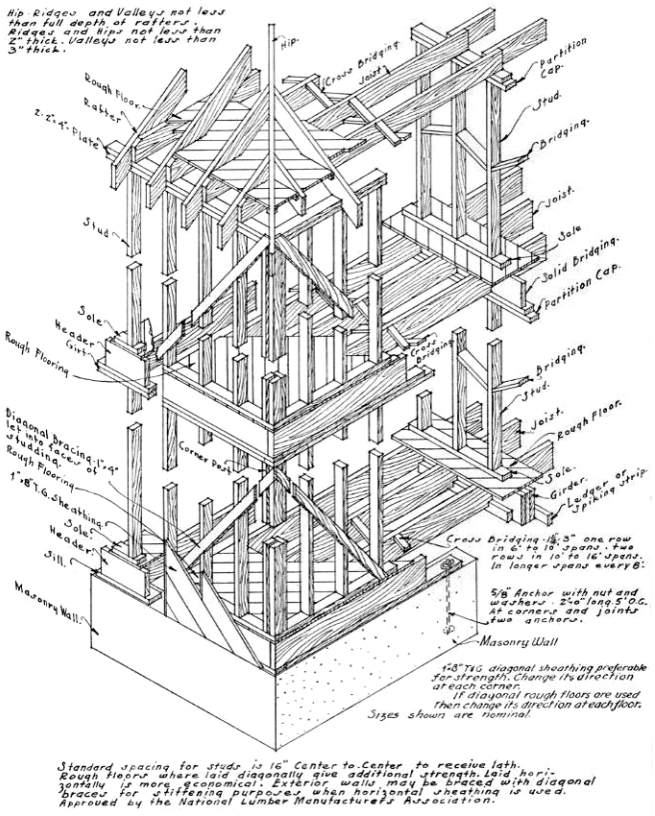
- A sill, made from a large section of milled lumber (e.g., 4x8) or two or more smaller pieces (two 2x8s), set on a masonry or concrete foundation,
- Floor joists (2x10, 2x12, etc.), typically at 16 inches on center,[91] reinforced by diagonal bridging, nailed to the sill and nailed to:
- Studs (2x4 or 2x6), also set at 16 inches on center, running the full height of the building wall, to which is nailed:
- Ledgers to support the second floor joints,
- Exterior wall sheathing, consisting of wood boards (1x8), often set at a diagonal to create a structural diaphragm,
- A top plate on the stud wall, on which are set:
- Roof rafters (2x10, 2x12, etc.) set at 16 to 24 inches on center, to which roof sheathing consisting of wood boards are nailed, followed by wood roofing shingles,
- Exterior wall siding,
- Flooring nailed to the wood joists, consisting of two layers of wood boards (a rough board subfloor followed by a finished wood strip surface),
- Interior wall finish, consisting of wood lath nailed to the wood studs, covered by two to three layers of plaster.

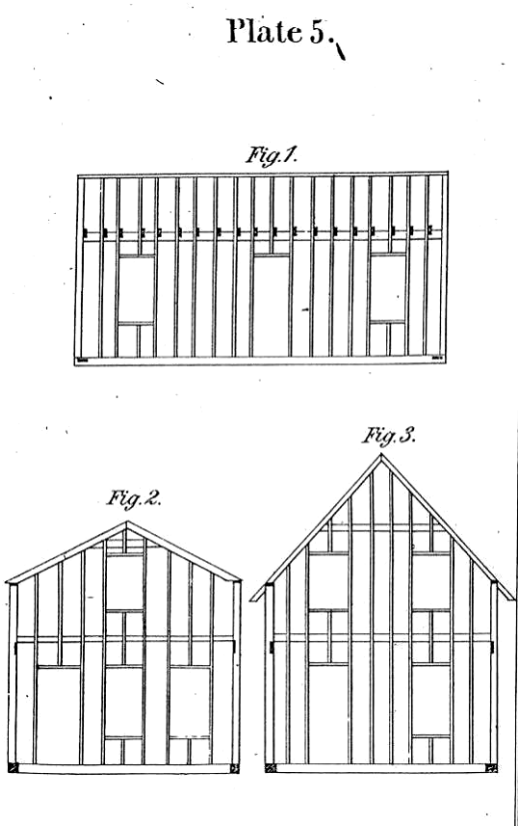
Since a carpenter with one or two helpers could frame and sheath a small one story house in one week, the balloon allowed a settler to have a dwelling on their land in a short amount of time. In addition, there was a 40 percent savings in the amount of material to enclose the same volume as compared to the braced frame.[92] Additions were as easy to construct as the original house, and easier to frame into than if braced framing was used. Another benefit of the balloon frame's light weight was that it allowed a structure to be moved more easily to a new site, if more room was needed on a property for other buildings or if additional land was obtained.

[89] Sprague, "Chicago Balloon Frame," 37.
[90] 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."
[91] 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.
[92] 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]. 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.[93] 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.[94]

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":[95]

> 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.[96]

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."[97] 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.

[93] Peterson, 15–24.
[94] 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.)
[95] Albert Britt, *An America That Was* (Barre, Massachusetts: Barre Publishers, 1964), 33.
[96] Ibid.
[97] Ibid.

Masonry Construction

Brick

Historically, brick masonry construction is relatively uncommon in the survey region. Nineteenth century examples of brick construction are very rare; typically, the locally abundant limestone was used for masonry work. A few brick farmhouses were identified during the survey, illustrated below.

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 just to the north of Channahon Township contains numerous quarries of limestone, referred to as Joliet Limestone. These quarries were utilized first for limestone for masonry construction but are primarily used today as sources of gravel.

The area surrounding Joliet contains abundant supplies of limestone, derived predominantly from the Niagaran strata. Owing to oxidation of ferrous minerals contained in the stone, the color of the stone ranges from buff near the surface to gray tones at deeper levels. Its surface is a hard, compact and slightly porous, brittle dolomite. The stone has thin seams of greenish clay (chert) running through the whole mass, which upon long exposure in alternately wet and dry conditions causes the solid calcium carbonate layers to delaminate.[98]

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.[99]

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

The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 provided enormous stimulation to the stone quarrying industry. Not only was stone needed at once to replace destroyed buildings, especially in the city center, but new building ordinances created a "fire" zone in which wood construction was (in theory) prohibited. Many new quarries were started to cater to the increased demand. For example, the Joliet Stone Company incorporated in 1872.[100] As the quarry industry peaked in the 1880s, many smaller businesses were bought out by much larger operations or forced by competition to abandon their sites. The consolidation of established quarries changed the methods of the business. Tools to crush, cut, rub, and saw stone became more advanced and raised production, while some of the old established quarries saw themselves eclipsed by newer and larger enterprises.

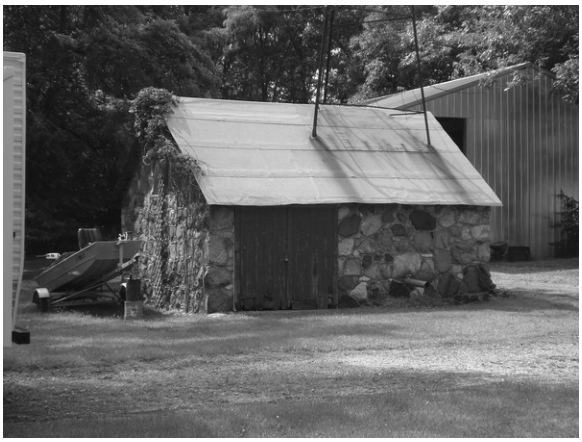
[98] Linda Ponte, "The Celebrated Joliet Marble Field," in *An Historical Geography of the Lower Des Plaines Valley Limestone Industry, Time and Place in Joliet,* Michael Conzen, ed. (Chicago: The University of Chicago, 1988), 15.
[99] Robert E. Sterling, *Joliet: Transportation and Industry: A Pictorial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

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.









Wilmington Township contains a wealth of historic local stone masonry structures. Above left: The Elius N. Clark House, site 402 in section 8. Above right: The Stone Family Farmstead, site 567 in section 23. Below left: A historic outbuilding on the Stone Family Farmstead. Below right: A historic fieldstone well house (with a steel-framed windmill supported on the roof) at the Barnes–Brodie Farmstead, site 435 in section 26.

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.[101]

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

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.[102]

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

Concrete Block

Beginning in the early 1900s, mass production of concrete block units succeeded after several earlier developments failed to lead to widespread production.[103] 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 "rockface" block being one of the most popular styles.[104]

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




The survey area has a number of historic concrete block structures, including these mid-twentieth century dairy barns. Left: The dairy barn at the Webber–Todd–Jenks Farmstead, site 438 in section 26. Right: The dairy barn at the Readman Farmstead, site 512 in section 15.

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.[105] 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.

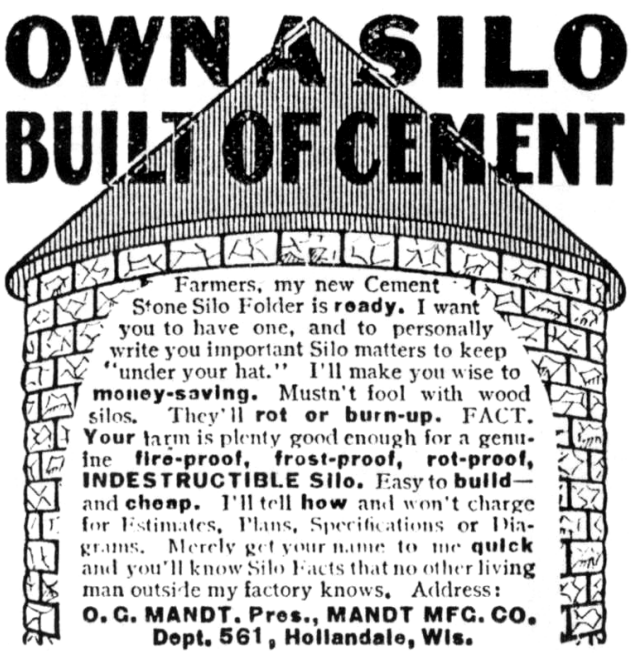
Just as with concrete, farmers were encouraged to use concrete block for their structures. At the annual meeting of the Illinois Farmers' Institute in 1913, one lecturer discussed concrete block for silos:

> 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.[106]

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.

[105] Ibid., 21–22.
[106] 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.[107] Another source of building ideas was agricultural journals. Although carpenters and builders rarely followed such books and journals exactly, these publications did influence the types of houses being constructed (as discussed in the next section) as well as the stylistic elements applied to those houses. Although it is unlikely that many of the buildings in the survey area were built using designs or supervision of academically trained architects, many of the farmhouses were built by carpenters and builders competent at applying fashionable architectural styles in their work.

Greek Revival

The Greek Revival style was popular in the United States beginning in the 1820s and continued in some regions until the 1870s. Inspired by archaeological excavations and measured drawings of ancient Greek temples, the style was developed by America's first trained architects and spread by pattern books that influenced carpenters and builders across the relatively young United States. American culture found an identification with the democracy in Ancient Greece. Greek Revival buildings have simple rectilinear forms, prominent classical ornament, molded cornices and window lintels, and other ornamental motifs inspired by Classical architecture. The style's simple massing and details went along with the sometimes limited materials and resources of rural areas. Several houses with Greek Revival details were identified during the survey of Wilmington Township.

Gothic Revival

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

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

Italianate

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







Above left: The historic house at the Stone Family Farmstead, site 567 in section 23, shows Greek Revival detailing such as cornice returns. Above middle and right: The house at Osborne Farmstead, site 571 in section 24, includes the overall massing of the Italianate style and includes distinctive features such as a side bay window. Below: The house at Bowen Farmstead, site 478 in section 26, retains distinctive Italianate details including brackets at the eave.





Second Empire

Roughly contemporary with Italianate was the Second Empire style, which 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.

Queen Anne

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

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





Above: The George Markert house, site 464 in section 23, exemplifies the Queen Anne style with details such as the decorative porch brackets and complex massing.

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. No examples of the Colonial Revival were identified in the survey area.

Craftsman or Arts and Crafts Style

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

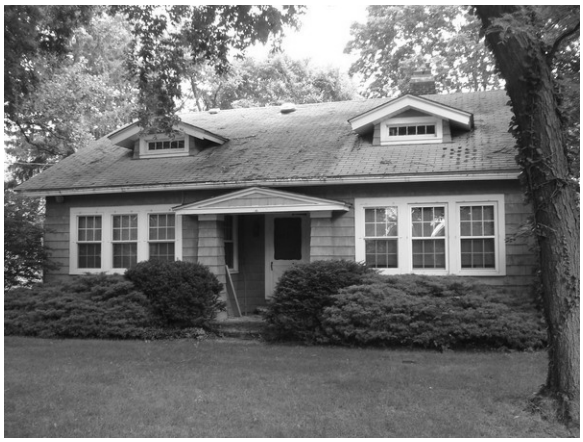
Prairie Style

The Prairie Style was developed by several architects in the Midwest but originated chiefly from the Chicago area, where Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Burley Griffin, Marion Mahony Griffin, William Purcell, and George Elmslie (among others) formulated a set of principles uniquely suited to and inspired by the American suburban and rural landscape. In many ways this style developed from the Arts and Crafts movement, although it was a distinct style with its own characteristics. Prairie Style structures are characterized by broad, horizontal massing, hipped and gabled roofs with deep overhangs, asymmetrical floor plans, and geometric detailing based on nature motifs. Natural and earth-toned materials such as wood, stucco, and brick predominate, and windows often have leaded glass windows that repeat and

develop nature motifs. The style was fashionable from around 1895 to 1920. The survey area does not have any "high style" Prairie Style houses.

Tudor Revival

From about 1910 to 1940, Tudor Revival was one of several fashionable revival styles in practice. Based on English late medieval architecture, the style was adapted to unique American building forms created by the balloon frame. Although Tudor Revival buildings were also built in stone, the use of wood and stucco to imitate a half-timbered appearance was a predominant feature. Often times only the ground or first floor was clad with stone while the upper story was clad with wood and stucco "half-timbering." The style also utilized asymmetrical floor plans and massing, narrow multi-paned windows, prominent masonry chimneys, and steeply sloped roofs. The survey area has one Tudor Revival style house.





Left: The John P. Lynott summer house, site 568 in section 23, shows Craftsman style detailing including low sloped roof form with broad overhangs, the wood shingle exterior siding, and divided light windows. Right: The house at the McNiff–Florian Farmstead, site 436 in section 26, shows the influence of the Tudor Revival style, with features such as the round-arch head door and side wall extensions.

House Types

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

During the survey, 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.[108] Building forms followed the movement of settlers from New England westward through the Ohio Valley to Illinois.[109] 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.[110] The form consists of a two story, one room deep plan that is at least two rooms wide. Chimneys were often placed at each end of the floor plan. No examples of the I House type were identified in Wilmington Township during the survey.

Hall and Parlor

The Hall and Parlor house is a simple rectangular plan dwelling one to one-and-a-half stories in height, with a side oriented gable roof. In plan, these types of houses have one larger room for the kitchen and daily living and a side room used as a more formal parlor or a bedroom. There is often an addition at the rear of the house extending from the parlor side. Chimneys are often placed at each end of the house. The type was used less often after the late 1800s.[111] No Hall and Parlor houses were identified in the survey area. Some houses in the survey may have started as Hall and Parlor types, but through renovations and additions have evolved into other forms.

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

[109] 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).

[110] Kniffen, 7–8.

[111] 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.

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 New England One and a Half type houses 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.[112] Several examples of Side Hallway type houses were identified in Wilmington Township during the survey, including several large Italianate style houses illustrated above on page 46.

Upright and Wing

The Upright and Wing was popular in the mid to late 1800s.[113] 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.[114] The Upright and Wing type is common in Wilmington Township, representing approximately one quarter of the surviving historic farmhouses.





Left: This simple house at the Webber–Todd–Jenks Farmstead, site 438 in section 26, is categorized as a Side Hallway type; note the off-center placement of the front entrance, a defining feature of this type. Right: The Upright and Wing form of the house at the Cooper Farmstead, site 420 in section 20, is sill apparent despite various one-story additions.

[112] Ibid., 126.

[113] 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).

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

Gabled Ell

The Gabled Ell house type usually dates from the two decades after the Civil War.[115] 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 less common in Wilmington Township, representing about one-third of the surviving historic farmhouses.

Four-over-Four

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









Examples of Gabled Ell type houses in Wilmington Township. Above left: The house at site 407 in section 12. Above right: The house at the Magner–Bardwell Farmstead, site 415 in section 18. Below left: The house at site 569 in section 23 is a twentieth-century example of the Four-over-four type. Below right: The house at the Allen Farmstead, site 405 in section 12, is an example of the Gable Front type.

[115] 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. Several examples of the Gable Front type were identified in Wilmington Township during the survey.

American Foursquare

The American Foursquare[116] was introduced around 1900 and continued to be popular until the 1920s. It consists of a two to two-and-a-half story block with a roughly square floor plan with four rooms on each floor. Roofs are hipped or pyramidal, with dormer windows (hipped and gable) on at least the front elevation and sometimes the side and rear elevations. Foursquares usually have front porches but may also have bay windows (some extending both stories) and one story rear additions. Many Foursquares were built from plans developed by local lumber companies or mail order sources that advertised in farm journals; others were purchased whole and delivered as pre-cut, ready-to-assemble houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company or home manufacturers. Compared to other townships previously surveyed, American Foursquare type farmhouses were uncommon in Wilmington Township, with only one example identified.





Above: The house at the Carl E. Johnson Farmstead, site 471 in section 35 is the one example of the American Foursquare type identified in the rural survey area. Right: The house at site 514 in section 22 is an example of the bungalow type.

Bungalow

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

[116] 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.)

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.[117] The Cape Cod has a simple rectangular plan, one story in height with dormers and a gable roof. Only one Cape Cod style farmhouse was identified during the survey of Wilmington Township, and this house had significant contemporary modifications, obscuring the original form and massing.

Ranch

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

[117] Ibid., 140.

Development of the Barn

The barns of the Midwest have several typical functions: animal shelter, crop storage, crop processing, equipment storage, and machinery repair. However, barns also have specialized functions designated by adjectives such as "sheep" barn or "dairy" barn. In some instances a substitute term was used such as hog house or implement shed, especially if a larger multipurpose "barn" is also on the farm. Nonetheless, these structures shared some similar forms and structural systems.[118]

Pioneer settlers, faced with clearing virgin forest or breaking sod, usually had little time to do more than erect a roughhouse and perhaps a crude animal shelter in the first years of settlement. Not until after some ten years on a homestead, or perhaps not even until the second generation, did the pioneer have the means to construct a large barn.[119]

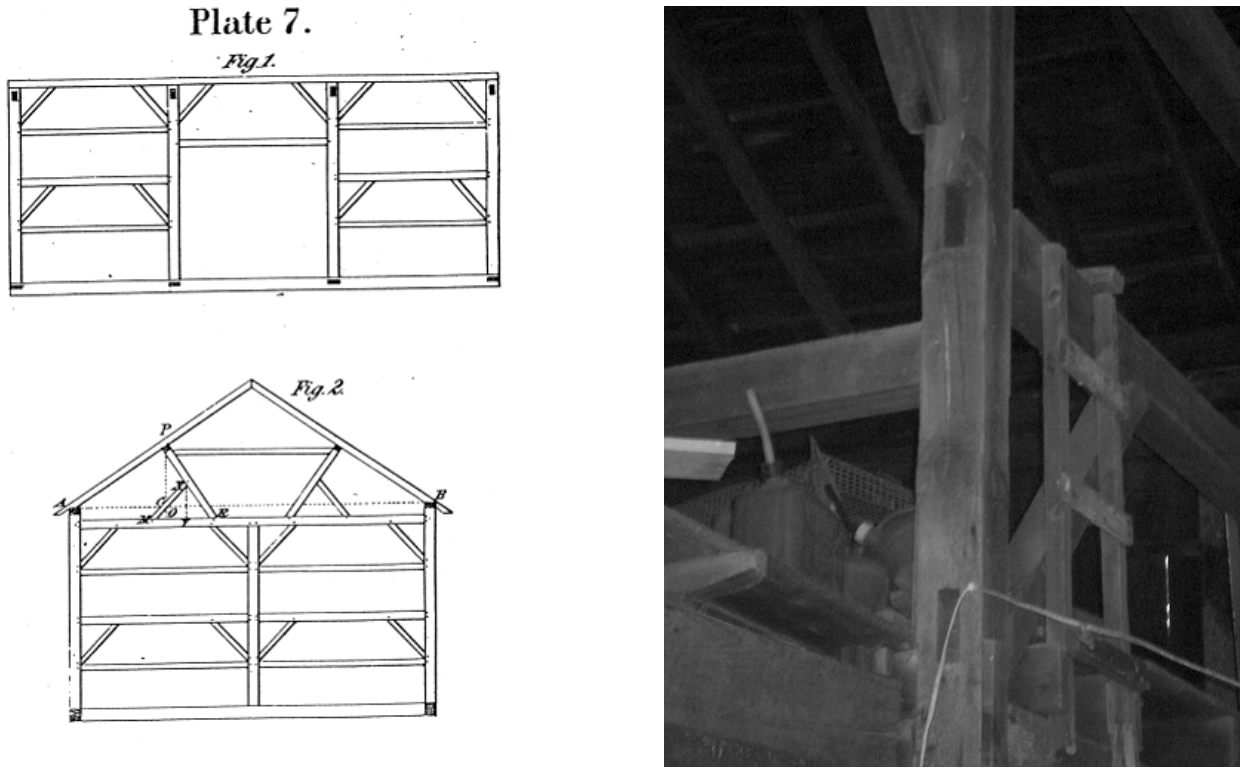
The need for large barns necessitated the development of structural systems to enclose large volumes of space. As the frontier of settlement passed into the Midwest, many early barns were constructed of logs by settlers who either possessed log-building skills or gained these techniques by association with other ethnic or cultural groups. Although the eastern Midwest was well forested, providing sufficient log materials, the prairies of the central Midwest (including Illinois) had less forested land to supply log construction. Therefore, other solutions were required.[120]

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.[121]

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.[122]

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[118] 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.
[119] Hubert G.H. Wilhelm, "Midwestern Barns and Their Germanic Connections," in *Barns of the Midwest*, 65.
[120] Ibid.
[121] Ibid., 48–50.
[122] 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: The framing of the barn at the Alden Farmstead, site 454 in section 35, shows the use of mortise-and-tenon joinery of heavy timbers, typical of braced frame construction.*

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

Engineering research led to the development of framing for gambrel roofs, culminating in the Clyde or Iowa truss. (The shape of the gambrel roof allowed a larger loft space to store hay than the gable roof allowed.) The first step in this development was the work of John Shawver of Ohio, who developed a gambrel truss form using sawn lumber. The Iowa truss was developed by A.W. Clyde, an engineer with the Iowa State College farm extension service, around 1920. It allowed construction of a stiff frame at far lower cost than the Shawver truss, which required expensive extra-length material.[124]

[123] Ibid., 158.

[124] 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.

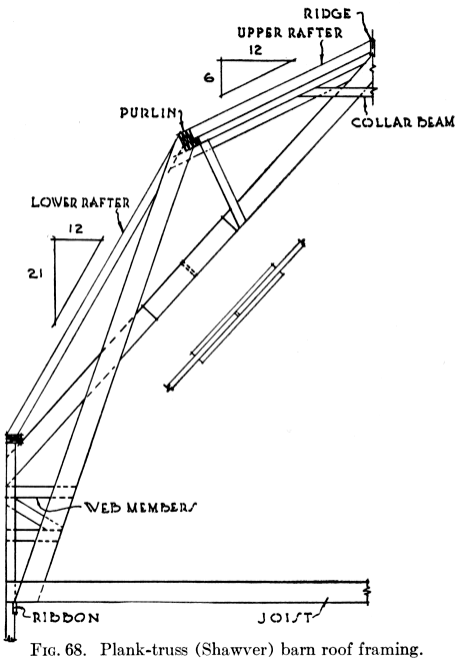


FIG. 68. Plank-truss (Shawver) barn roof framing.

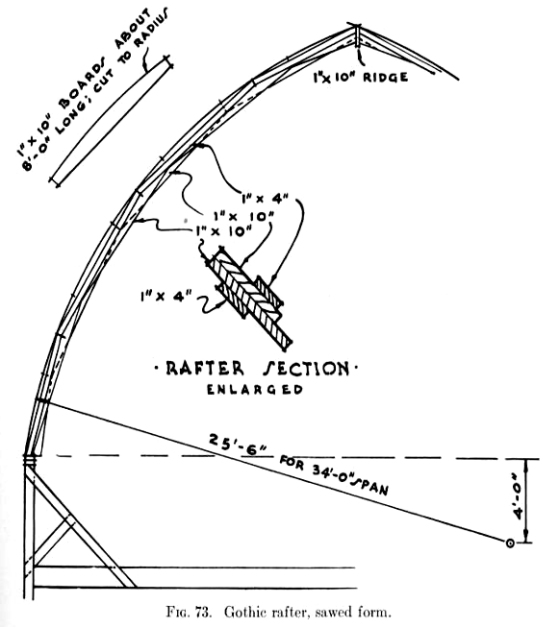


FIG. 73. Gothic rafter, sawed form.

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.[125] 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.[126]

The two-story loft barn ceased to be built shortly after World War II.[127] 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.[128] Farmers began to build fewer custom wood frame structures, which were susceptible to fires, as manufactured buildings using steel became available. Early metal-barn

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

[125] Ibid., 162–163.

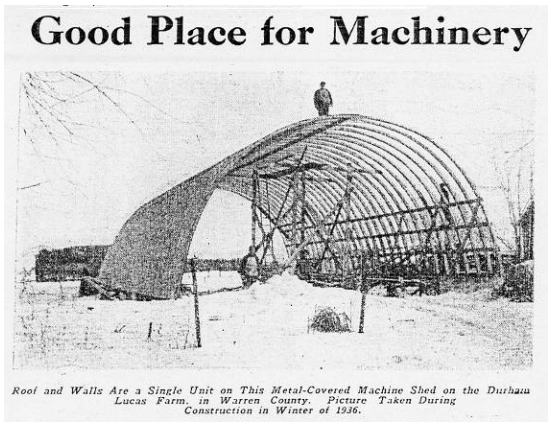
[126] Ibid., 164.

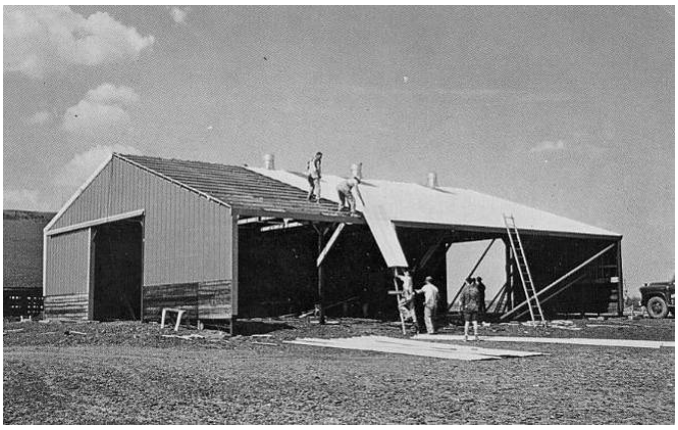
[127] Ibid., 165.

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

types, such as Quonsets, developed initially in the 1930s and gained a notable measure of popularity among some Midwestern farmers immediately after World War II. One of the leading manufacturers of Quonset barns and sheds was the Great Lakes Steel Corporation of Detroit, whose structures were purported to be fireproof, rat-proof, and sag-proof. Corrugated metal was also a suggested covering for wooden barn siding, and organizations as the Asbestos Farm Service Bureau promoted the use of asbestos-based cement boards for re-siding old barns.[129]

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.[130] 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.[131] 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.*

[129] Ibid., 226.
[130] Ibid., 225.
[131] 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.[132] 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.[133] 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.[134] 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.[135]

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.[136] In some cases this barn type was lifted up and placed onto a raised basement, which then could house the animals, especially dairy cows.[137]

Given the relatively poor soil conditions of Wilmington Township, it is perhaps unsurprising that only a few examples of the Three-bay Threshing type were identified during the rural survey.

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[132] Often there are more conflicts than agreements between different classification systems. The types defined herein seem to best describe the structures actually present and the social and ethnic origins of their builders.

[133] 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.

[134] 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.

[135] 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.

[136] 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.

[137] Calkins and Perkins, "The Three-bay Threshing Barn," *Barns of the Midwest,* 59.




Left: The barn at the McCabe Farmstead, site 412 in section 17, is an example of the Three-bay Threshing type identified during the rural survey. Right: The barn at the Alden Farmstead, site 454 in section 35, is a small example of the Three-bay Threshing type.

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 or Raised 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.[138] Plank frame barns can have gable or gambled 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. Several examples of plank frame barns were identified in the survey area.





Left: The plank frame barn at the Johnsen Farmstead, site 417 in section 18, has been covered with sheet metal cladding. Right: This small barn on the Maloney–Glenney Farmstead, site 470 in section 34, is also categorized as a plank frame barn.

Three-ended Barn

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

Round Barn

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

Round Roof Barn

Round Roof Barns came into existence with structural advances in the first quarter of the twentieth century. Although called round, roof shapes for this type are often gothic arch in form. The name describes the roof shape, although the configuration of their floor plans were usually based on more typical barn types such as Plank frame, Dairy, or Raised barns. No Round Roof barns were identified in the survey area.

[138] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book,* [117]

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.[139] Several dairy barns were identified in the survey area.





Left: The circa 1930s dairy barn at the Readman Farmstead, site 512 in section 15. Right: The dairy barn at the Kurth Farmstead, site 442 in section 27.

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. A few examples of the feeder barn type were identified in the survey area.





Left: The barn at Magner–Bardwell Farmstead, site 415 in section 18, is an example of a feeder barn in Wilmington Township. Right: The barn at the Butler Farmstead, site 423 in section 20, is also categorized as a feeder barn.

[139] Noble and Cleek, 77.

Pole Barn

The latest major barn type, called the pole barn, evolved in the eastern Midwest. The walls of the building are hung on poles that are driven into individual footings buried in the ground below the frost line. The floor is typically concrete slab or dirt. There is no loft. Later versions usually have metal siding, especially those erected after World War II.[140] The pole barn is an example of economical construction techniques applied to modern agriculture. Pole barns are not common in Wilmington Township, in contrast to other areas of Will County.

Quonset Shed

Sometime referred to as Quonset "huts," this metal building type is named for the U.S. Naval Air Station at Quonset Point in Davisville, Rhode Island, where sheds of this type were built in 1942, although wood-framed examples were already common in the 1930s. Its universal use in the military during World War II made Quonset sheds seem to be an ideal economical building type in the postwar years, finding use as storage facilities, offices, homes, and commercial ventures such as movie theaters. Military Quonsets often had steel framing members to support the corrugated galvanized metal sheathing, but civilian examples used wood framing as well. Where observable, the examples present in Will County usually have wood framing. Their use includes implement sheds, animal shelters, and other types of storage.





Above left: This whimsically painted quonset shed is located at the Kavanaugh Farmstead, site 426 in section 21. Right and below: Examples of contemporary manufactured buildings on farmsteads in Wilmington Township.





[140] 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 were developed as a complete system in the 1940s. Such buildings offer quick construction time and potentially lower cost because of the use of standardized components. The buildings also allow for large floor areas, giving farmers flexibility of usage. This building type remains common for newly constructed agricultural buildings in the survey area.

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.[141] Concrete grain elevators and silos, usually constructed in banks of two to ten or more, were constructed in the early decades of the twentieth century.

Corncribs
Pioneer farmers frequently built log corncribs during their two centuries of migration into and settlement of the Midwest. Most crude frontier log cribs were little more than bins, loosely constructed of saplings or split rails and laid up with saddle notching to hold them together.[142] 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.[143] The corncrib usually rested on log or stone piers.[144] In constructing a frame corncrib, two methods of attaching the slat siding or cribbing were used. The slats were attached either horizontally or vertically; cribbing attached diagonally for extra strength seems to have come into practice about 1900.[145]

The size of the corncribs remained small, even as corn production rose during much of the nineteenth century, in part due to the practice of corn shocking. Corn could be gradually "shucked out" as needed and hauled to the crib or barn for milling and feeding to livestock. Large corncribs were unnecessary since farmers could leave much of their corn in the field until spring.[146] 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.[147] The creation of larger corncribs and their overhead grain bins depended upon the invention of new methods to raise the grain

[141] Keith E. Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture* (Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1988), 176.
[142] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book,* 170–171.
[143] Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 26.
[144] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 155.
[145] Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 27.
[146] Keith E. Roe, "Corncribs to Grain Elevators: Extensions of the Barn, " in *Barns of the Midwest*, 170.
[147] Roe, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, 60.

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.[148] 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.[149]

No wood frame corn cribs were observed during the survey. Crib barns, silos, and metal grain bins are more common.

Crib Barns

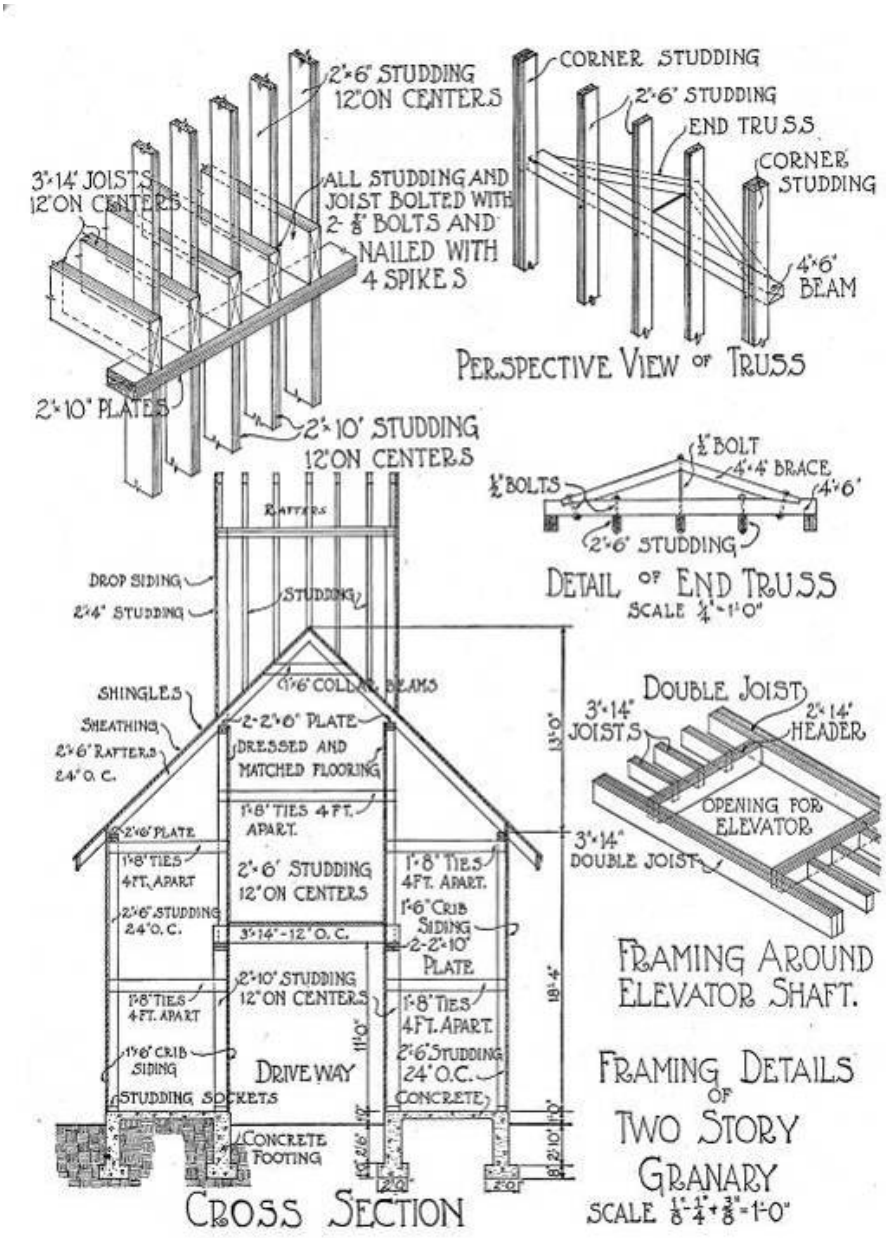
Crib barns are simple structures formed of pens or cribs that have a space between the cribs for implement storage. There are two basics types: crib barns with the gable or roofline parallel to the cribs, and transverse crib barns with the roofline perpendicular to the pens. The configuration of crib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





Wood crib barns are less common in Wilmington Township than other areas of Will County. Examples include the circa 1920s crib barn at the Magner–Bardwell Farmstead, site 415 in section 18 (left) and the unusual crib barn with two elevator cupolas at the Cairns–Lardi Farmstead, site 428 in section 21.

[148] Ibid., 177.
[149] Ibid., 176.

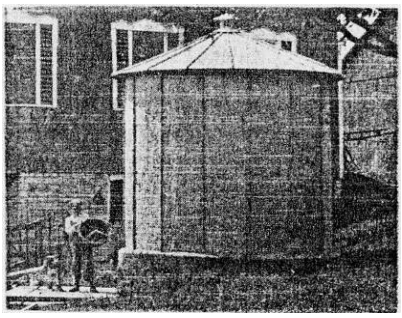


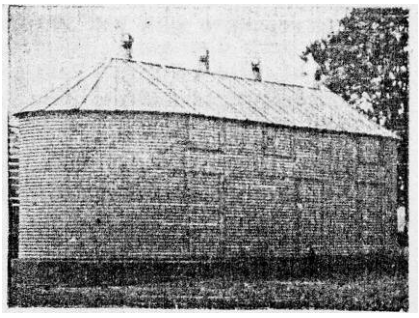
Crib barns, usually with two bins, abound in the survey area. Illustrated above are framing details of a crib barn from Smith & Betts Farm and Building Book *(Chicago: The Radford Architectural Company, 1915).*

Metal Bins

Metal construction for corn storage came into use early in the twentieth century and was promoted by the steel industry during World War I as a crop saver for the patriotic farmer. Rectangular or hexagonal corncribs were constructed from flat, galvanized-steel sheet metal with ventilating perforations. Corrugated, curved sheets created the more common cylindrical bin type, which was usually topped with a conical roof. The steel corncrib had wall ventilation slits and, most times, a roof ventilator at its peak.[150] 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.[151]

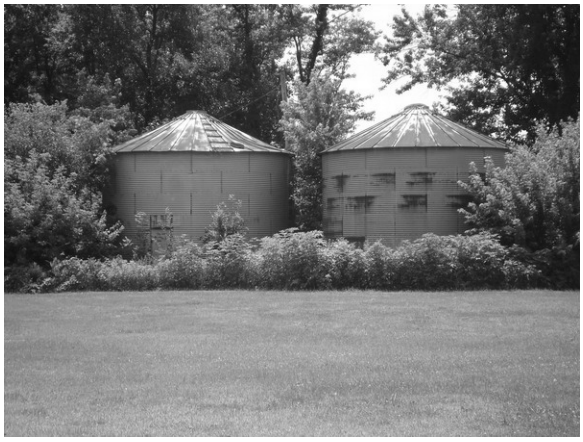
Corn bins made of steel rods or heavy wire mesh also became available in the 1930s. The wire mesh type was particularly popular after World War II because of its low cost, ease of filling, and low maintenance. Wire mesh-type bins have fallen out of use since the 1980s, but the solid metal bins are still commonly used today. Compared to other areas of Will County, grain bins are not common in Wilmington Township.







Above left and center: Illustrations of two types of metal corn bins from The Illinois Farmer's Guide, August 1939. Above right: A 1930s era grain bin survives at the Barnes–Brodie Farmstead, site 435 in section 26. Below left: Other older style grain bins are present at the Carl E. Johnson Farmstead, site 471 in section 35. Below right: An example of a contemporary grain bin at the Readman Farmstead, site 512 in section 15.





[150] Ibid.

[151] 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.[152]

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.[153] Many were constructed within the barn building.[154] 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.[155] 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.[156] Brick and tile companies manufactured curved blocks for silos, advertising them in farm journals. The main complaint regarding the hollow block silo was that the masonry units were porous and leaked water. The mortar joints on both inside and outside of wall needed to be properly pointed as a precaution against leakage. Some silo builders washed the interior of the wall with cement mortar as a further precaution. Steel reinforcing consisted of heavy wire embedded in the mortar joints.

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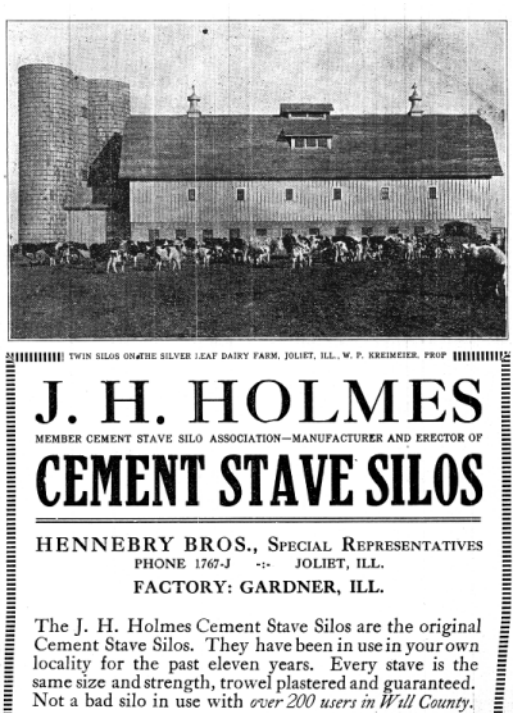
[152] Noble, *Wood, Brick and Stone*, 71–72.
[153] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 158.
[154] Ingolf Vogeler, "Dairying and Dairy Barns in the Northern Midwest," *Barns of the Midwest* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1995), 108.
[155] W.A. Foster, "Silo Types and Essentials," *Hoard's Dairyman*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

Concrete stave silos were constructed as early as 1904 in Cassopolis, Missouri, which used book-shaped staves.[157] Several patents existed for cement stave silos, including that of the Mason & Lawrence of Elgin, Illinois, dating from 1914.[158] 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.[159]

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.[160]





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.*

[157] Foster, "Silo Types and Essentials." Patents were granted on this type of stave silo in 1908, and the type was known commercially as the Playford patent cement stave silo.
[158] "How to Make and Sell Concrete Silo Staves," *Concrete* (October 1927): 32–35.
[159] David Mocine, "Keep Workmen Busy the Year Round," *Concrete Products* (January 1948): 161.
[160] "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.[161] 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.[162]

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.[163]

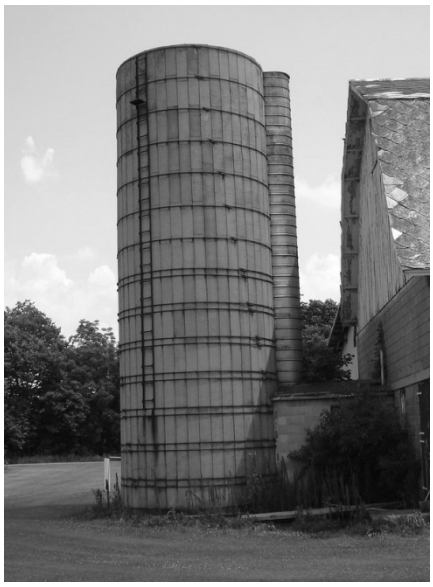
Farm journals gave their readers information for constructing a silo with the "essential features . . . necessary to secure good, sweet silage," focusing primarily on the silo walls.[164] Wall strength, smoothness of interior wall surfaces, and air and water tightness were considered essential features. 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.[165] 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.[166] In 1974 the company launched another line of products for the containment of manure called Slurrystore. By

[161] 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.
[162] H. Colin Campbell, "Concrete Silo Construction," *Hoard's Dairyman* (21 February 1919): 200.
[163] King, "Planning the Silo," in *Eighteenth Annual Report of the Illinois Farmers' Institute,* 64.
[164] W.A. Foster, "Silo Types and Essentials," *Hoard's Dairyman* (21 February 1919): 201.
[165] Gambrel and domical roofs allowed for filling the silo to the top of the outer wall, maximizing the storage capacity.
[166] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, 108–9.

1999, over 70,000 of Harvestore structures of various sizes (tall or short, narrow or stout) had been built.[167]

Silos are not particularly common in Wilmington Township. Concrete stave and Harvestore silos were identified during the survey.





Left: An abandoned concrete stave silo at the Readman Farmstead, site 512 in section 15. Middle and right: The Rink Farmstead, site 429 in section 21, has both a concrete stave silo and a Harvestore silo.




Left: The chicken coop at the Butler Farmstead, site 423 in section 20. Right: The former Schreier Filling Station/Lodge, site 444 in section 28 facing former U.S. Route 66, has several small outbuildings that formerly served as guest cottages.

[167] Harvestore Systems, DeKalb, Illinois, www.harvestore.com

CHAPTER 4

SURVEY SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Period of Significance: 1830 to 1970

The first settlement by settlers of European origin occurred in Will County in the 1830s. Settlers first came to the region of present-day Wilmington Township in the 1830s, and most areas of the township had been settled by 1840. An approximate starting date of 1830 is used for the period of significance.

Wilmington Township developed as both a farming community as well as an industrial and commercial center, benefitting from its location on the Kankakee River and its proximity to the Illinois and Michigan Canal and the Chicago and Alton Railroad. Due to its relatively poor soils compared to other areas of Will County, commercial, industrial, and mining activities predominated. In 1940, the United States government purchased a large expanse of land in the township north of the Kankakee River and developed it for use as an Ordnance Plant. All of the farmland was cleared and only ruined foundations remain of the farmsteads and rural settlements that once occupied the territory.

U.S. Route 66 as developed in the 1920s and 1930s passed through Wilmington Township. The road was re-designated Interstate 55 and upgraded to a limited-access highway in the late 1950s. The development of the interstate system in Wilmington Township spurred further industrialization along the highway corridors which altered the rural landscape.

Incorporated as a village in 1854 and a city in 1865, Wilmington has long been the center of public and commercial activity in the township. The city grew slowly, and had fewer than 2,000 residents as late as 1940. By the 2000 census, the population had increased to 5,134 persons and was estimated to have reached 6,122 persons by 2008. Since the 1960s, a few subdivisions have been constructed on former farmsteads to the north, east, and west of the city, although Wilmington has not expanded as quickly as other municipalities in Will County. With the advent of the interstate system came intensive industrialization and suburbanization and the decline of agriculture as a major social and economic force in Will County. Therefore, a closing date for the period of agricultural significance would fall approximately around 1970.

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

Significance

National Register and Local Landmark Criteria

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

> The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:
> A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
> B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
> C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
> D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information in prehistory or history.[168]

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

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

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

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

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

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

One of the differences between national and local listing is that local significance may be easier to justify than national significance. Properties that are eligible and listed as local landmarks, but may be more difficult to nominate for the National Register, receive important recognition and thereby afforded a certain measure of protection. Eventually, these properties could be listed as National Register properties if the case for their nomination improves. Additionally, local landmark designation often gives protections that National Register listing does not. The suggested properties have been researched sufficiently in performing this survey to merit consideration as Will County Landmarks.[169] 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."[170] 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.

[169] 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.)
[170] Introduction to the Illinois Centennial Farms Program application form, Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Integrity

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

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

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

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

> Preservation of a building or district and its historic character is based on the assumption that the retention of historic materials and features and their craftsmanship are of primary importance. Therefore, the underlying issue in any discussion of replacement materials is whether or not the integrity of historic materials and craftsmanship has been lost. Structures are historic because the materials and craftsmanship reflected in their construction are tangible and irreplaceable evidence of our cultural heritage. To the degree that substitute materials destroy and/or conceal the historic fabric, they will always subtract from the basic integrity of historically and architecturally significant buildings.[171]

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

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

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

Will County Land Use Department Planning Documents

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

The new *Land Resource Management Plan* also includes discussion of different forms of development in rural areas, both historically and at present. This includes preserving the character of hamlets and other small rural crossroad settlements. Contemporary development trends include Conservation Design Subdivisions, which rearrange the typical layout of streets and housing lots, setting aside a substantial amount of land as permanent open space. Conventional Suburban Residential subdivisions typically consume the entire development parcel. Historic structures and landscapes are specifically recognized in the *Land Resource Management Plan* as meriting protection when developing a Conservation Design Subdivision.[172]

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

Municipal and County Government Coordination

As part of the survey of Wilmington Township, some significant farmstead and related sites that lie within the incorporated limits of the City of Wilmington were identified. Generally, the Will County Historic Preservation Commission does not consider landmark nominations for properties within incorporated municipalities. However, the City of Wilmington does not have a local historic preservation ordinance. The City of Wilmington has allowed the Will County Historic Preservation Commission to designated properties within the city as landmarks, and there are two existing Will County landmarks within the city, the Small-Towle House on County Road and the Soldiers' Widows' Laundry House on Widows Road, site 482 in the present survey. If, in the future, the City of Wilmington were to adopt a local historic preservation ordinance, jurisdiction of county landmarks within the municipality would be transferred to local from county jurisdiction. If a municipality without a local historic preservation ordinance were to annex a property that is already designated as a county landmark, the Will County preservation ordinance would continue to govern protection of the property.

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

Potential Historic Districts, Thematic Designations, and Landmarks

No potential historic districts have been identified as part of the present survey. Evaluation of the potential for historic districts within the City of Wilmington was beyond the scope of this study.

Individual Landmarks

Throughout the survey, there are several individual sites that have clear potential for local landmark status. These sites and other notable farmsteads are discussed individually in the section beginning on page 46. Wilmington Township has two existing Will County landmarks. The Small-Towle House on County Road was designated a county landmark on October 21, 2004. It was also listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2004. This house lies within the historically urbanized area of the City of Wilmington and therefore was not included in the present survey. The Soldiers' Widows' Laundry House on Widows Road is owned by the City of Wilmington and was designated a county landmark on June 17, 2004. This structure is documented as site 482 in the present survey (page 120).

Some of the surveyed sites may also have the potential for National Register nomination after additional research. It is clear from the limited research performed for this survey that the Bowen Farmstead in section 26 would likely be considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This does not mean that other sites are not eligible; merely that further study is required before a determination of eligibility could be made. In addition to the Small-Towle House, one other structure in Wilmington Township is currently individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the circa 1837–1843 Eagle Hotel at the corner of Water and Baltimore Streets at the center of the City of Wilmington. Also, the route of former Alternate U.S. Route 66 from Joliet to Wilmington, present-day Illinois Route 53, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2006.





Left: The Small-Towle House in Wilmington is a Will County landmark as well as listed in the National Register. Right: The Eagle Hotel in Wilmington is listed in the National Register.

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

- Site 402 PIN 17-08-300-005 Elius N. Clark House (Page 118)
- Site 405 PIN 17-12-200-002 Allen Farmstead (Page 113)
- Site 459 PIN 17-12-200-005 Jukes Farmstead (Page 112)
- Site 415 PIN 17-18-200-004 Magner–Bardwell Farmstead (Page 119)
- Site 464 PIN 17-23-200-001 George Markert House (Page 116)
- Site 570 PIN 17-23-300-036 Luther Farmstead (Page 109)
- Site 465 PIN 17-23-400-009 Andrew Markert House (Page 116)
- Site 567 PIN 17-23-400-012 Stone Farmstead (Page 117)
- Site 571 PIN 17-24-300-027 Osborne Farmstead (Page 114)
- Site 478 PIN 17-26-202-017 Bowen Farmstead* (National Register eligible, page 111)
- Site 454 PIN 17-35-400-005 Alden Farmstead* (Page 110)

  * Located in the City of Wilmington

As noted above, the Bowen Farmstead is additionally considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Two of the properties listed above are located within the incorporated limits of the City of Wilmington; however, since the city does not currently have a local historic preservation ordinance, it is included on this list for consideration by the Will County Historic Preservation Commission.[173] Refer to the discussion of Municipal and County Government Coordination on the previous page.

These properties, as well as other farmsteads associated with prominent families in Wilmington Township, are discussed in detail beginning on page 109.

A detailed survey of the historic urbanized core of the City of Wilmington was beyond the scope of this rural historic structures survey. Within the City of Wilmington, there are likely numerous individual structures that would be eligible for designation as Will County landmarks and/or listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Also, the Eagle Hotel, currently listed in the National Register, would certainly be eligible for designation as a Will County landmark, and it may be desirable to pursue local designation for this structure due to the added protection afforded by local landmark designation. A 1972 reconnaissance survey of Will County identified and documented three individually noteworthy buildings in the City of Wilmington: 214 South Kankakee Street (W-62/13), 603 South Main Street (W-62/12), and 600 South Water Street (W-62/10,11). All of these structures still exist and appear likely to be eligible for Will County landmark designation and potentially listing in the National Register. Consideration could also be given to designating historic commercial publics in the City of Wilmington as well as buildings such as the former Chicago and Alton Railroad depot.

[173] Also, one property in the present survey, site 451 in section 31, is located within the municipal limits of Coal City. This property is designated "Contributing."





Above left: 214 South Kankakee Street in Wilmington. Above right: 603 South Main Street in Wilmington. Below left: 600 South Water Street in Wilmington, a rare local example of a mid-nineteenth century octagon house. Below right: The former Chicago and Alton Railroad depot at North Kankakee Street and Chicago Street in Wilmington.





Survey Summary

The survey of Wilmington Township documented 265 structures, including 70 houses and 11 main barns on 61 sites. Cumulatively since 1999, the Will County Rural Historic Structural Survey has documented more than 5,000 structures on more than 1,150 sites.[174] The tables below provide a breakdown of the survey results for Channahon, Jackson, and Wilmington Townships.

Farmhouses

House Type	Channahon	Jackson	Wilmington	Totals
I House	–	1	–	30
Hall and Parlor	–	–	–	20
New England 1-1/2	–	1	–	9
Four over Four	1	6	4	84
Side Hallway	–	–	4	13
Upright and Wing	4	7	12	195
Gabled Ell	6	25	13	223
Gable Front	1	11	3	69
Foursquare	2	12	1	96
Bungalow	3	7	6	57
Cape Cod	–	11	1	39
Ranch	3	16	13	*
Other	1	10	13	177
Totals	**21**	**107**	**70**	**1,012**

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

Barns

Barn Type	Channahon	Jackson	Wilmington	Totals
Three-bay Threshing	1	11	2	181
Bank	3	2	–	23
Raised	1	2	–	9
Pennsylvania German	–	–	–	9
Three-ended	–	1	–	12
Plank frame	4	6	2	107
Feeder	6	3	4	37
Dairy	1	10	3	94
Round roof	–	1	–	6
Round	–	–	–	2
Other or Unclassified	–	2	–	16
Totals	**16**	**36**	**11**	**494**

[174] 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.

Outbuildings

Building Type	Channahon	Jackson	Wilmington	Totals
Animal shed or shelter	2	6	4	98
Barn (secondary)	—	—	—	26
Cellar	1	3	—	10
Chicken coop	1	6	5	125
Corn crib	—	2	—	15
Crib barn	11	24	5	422
Foundation	5	1	2	80
Garage	21	78	47	458
Horse stable	—	3	—	16
Hog house	—	—	1	15
Implement shed	—	2	1	186
Machine shed	15	14	19	120
Mesh bin	—	—	—	43
Metal bin	3	26	20	443
Milk house	—	1	—	90
Pole barn / Manufactured building	19	79	20	437
Privy	—	2	1	12
Pump house / Well house	4	6	2	86
Shed	21	53	39	448
Silo	10	5	6	260
Smoke house	1	2	1	27
Summer kitchen	—	2	1	29
Windmill	1	3	1	46
Other	2	19	9	122
Totals	**117**	**347**	**184**	**3,614**
Total, including houses and barns	**154**	**490**	**265**	**5,120**

Comparison to 1988 Survey Results

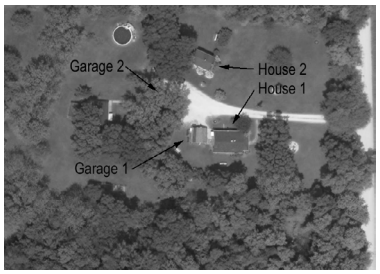
As part of the data compilation, a limited comparison was made between the results of the 1988 reconnaissance survey of Will County and the existing conditions in Wilmington Township in 2009. The 1988 survey, conducted by Michael A. Lambert in August–October 1988 for the State of Illinois, was a reconnaissance-level survey performed from the public right-of-way. In the 1988 survey of Wilmington Township, approximately 235 buildings on 71 farmstead sites were documented.[175] Among the farmstead sites documented in 1988, no historic structures survive at 21 sites in Wilmington Township. Virtually all of these farmsteads have been lost to contemporary residential or industrial development. In addition, at three sites in the township included in the present survey, most of the contributing historic structures have been lost since 1988. This includes the loss of the original house or major historic outbuildings such as barns or crib barns.

The following table lists all farmsteads and sites included in the survey area of Wilmington Township and each site's potential for landmark designation. The table also includes photographs of the house and barn on each site and other noteworthy information as available. Two other tables list farmhouses with type and major barns with type. The ID numbers listed on the tables correlate to the maps included in Appendix B.

[175] Excluded from this total are twenty-one sites that were not documented during the 1988 survey, but which are included in the present survey and therefore obviously existed at that time.

Table 1. Surveyed Farmsteads and Related Sites in Wilmington Township

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
562	17-06-200-008	Kelly Road	**Flynn Farmstead**	Contributing







402	17-08-300-005	Lorenzo Road	**E. N. Clark House**	Local landmark potential

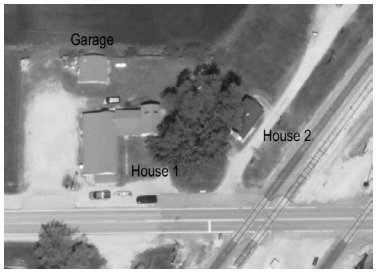




1918 directory lists Hennebry Brothers as residing in Wesley Township.
In early 1970s, farmland associated with farmstead purchased by ComEd for cooling pond.

Crib barn demolished since 2005.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
457	17-08-400-009	Lorenzo Road	**Lorenzo Depot**	Contributing

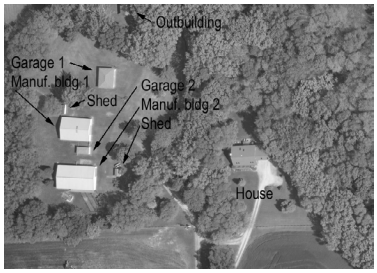






Also includes PIN 17-08-400-005

404	17-09-300-019	Lorenzo Road	**Gavican Farmstead**	Non-contributing

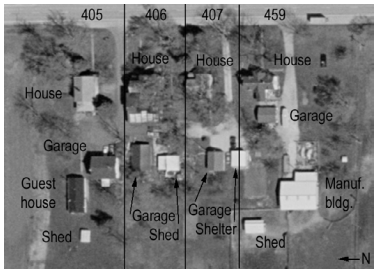




1918 directory lists Thomas J. Gavican, child Thomas M., resident in county since 1882, tenant on 157-3/4 acres owned by Anna Gavican

Limited access for survey.

405	17-12-200-002	Illinois Route 53	**Allen Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

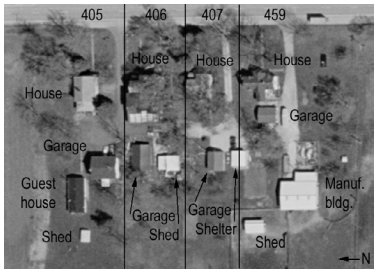




1873 atlas patron's directory lists Louisa E. Allen, residence in sec. 12, resident of county since 1851, native of Massachusetts.

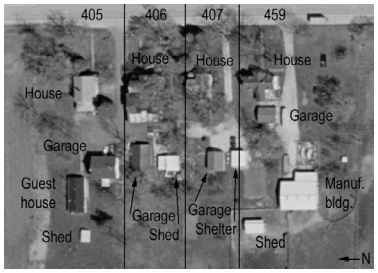
Try to determine which section 12 house should be associated with Allen.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
406	17-12-200-003	Illinois Route 53	—	Contributing



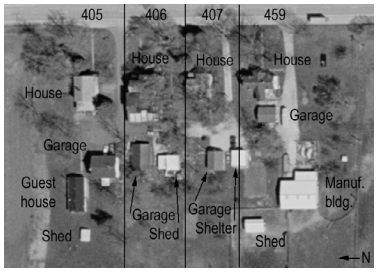


407	17-12-200-004	Illinois Route 53	—	Contributing



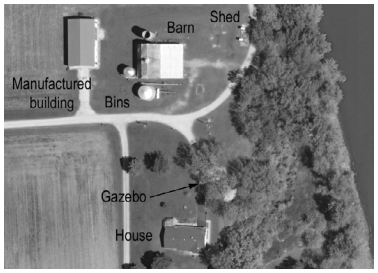


459	17-12-200-005	Illinois Route 53	—	Local landmark potential





ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
512	17-15-300-025	Readman Lane	**Readman Farmstead**	Contributing







408	17-16-200-005	Lorenzo Road	**Donahue tenant Farmstead**	Non-contributing





Unchanged since 1988 survey.

412	17-17-100-006	Lorenzo Road	**McCabe Farmstead**	Contributing







Existing house and barn likely were built for Patrick McCabe, farmstead owner in 1870s and 1880s.
1918 directory: Martin Underwood, owner 117-1/2 acres in sec. 17, resident in county since 1914

In foreground of 1955 view, note gambrel roof dairy barn at site 402.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
458	17-17-200-004	Lorenzo Road	**Houses of Lorenzo**	Non-contributing

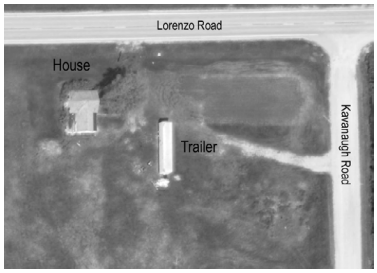






Two small houses. 25023, PIN -004 to east; 25031, PINs -002 and -003 to west.

413	17-17-200-014	Lorenzo Road	**Magner–Hayes Farmstead**	Non-contributing





Main barn demolished and trailer added since 2005.

Demolition imminent

411	17-17-400-002	Kavanaugh Road	**Kavanaugh tenant Farmstead**	Contributing

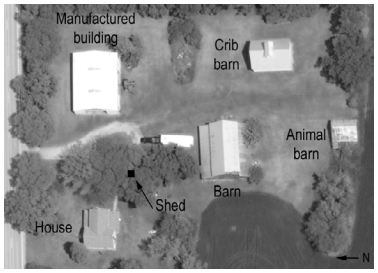




Existing structures date to early part of twentieth century, after farmstead was acquired by the Kavanaugh family.

1918 directory: James T. Kavanaugh, wife Annie, children James, Helen, Michael, Bernard, Loretta, owns 600 acres in sections 17, 20, 21, and 28, resident in county since 1860

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
415	17-18-200-004	Lorenzo Road	**Magner–Bardwell Farmstead**	Contributing






1918 directory: Charles W. Bardwell, children Edwin, Raymond, Mary, owner 720 acres in sections 7, 17, 18, resident in county since 1868

417	17-18-200-007	Lorenzo Road	**Johnsen Farmstead**	Non-contributing





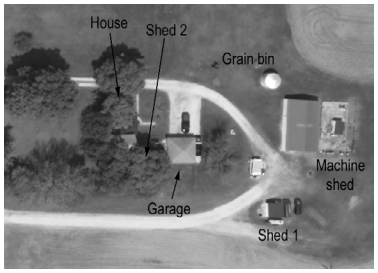

Existing structures date to the early twentieth century, after the property was acquired by the Johnsen family.

421	17-19-300-004	Murphy Road	—	Non-contributing



Closer access for detailed survey not possible. No historic buildings visible.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
420	17-20-100-004	Cooper Road	**Cooper Farmstead**	Contributing





1918 directory: Patrick Cooper, wife Annie, children Thomas, Elizabeth, James, Frank, Christ., Julia, Hanna, Katherine, owner 160 acres in sec. 20, resident in county since 1848.

425	17-20-200-005	Murphy Road	—	Non-contributing

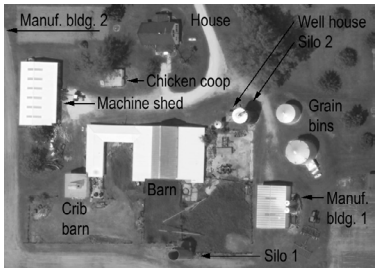




1918 directory lists several Woods family members, residences in sec. 3 and 4 of Wilmington Township.

All existing structures post-date 1955 aerial view.

423	17-20-300-003	Murphy Road	**Butler Farmstead**	Contributing







1918 directory lists Christ. Cooper as still residing with his father, Patrick Cooper, at site 420.

Site includes one additional manufactured building on a separate site to the west (southwest of road intersection).

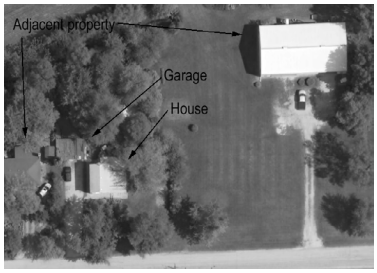
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
460	17-21-100-025	Murphy Road	**Babcock Farmstead**	Non-contributing





House and outbuilding likely constructed mid-1960s. Historic barn on site demolished since 1988 survey. Other historic buildings seen in 1955 view also demolished.

430	17-21-200-011	Murphy Road	—	Contributing





This may be an older house relocated to this site in the mid-1960s.

Appears abandoned

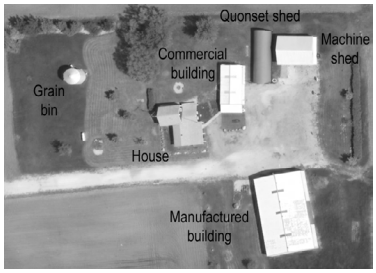
428	17-21-200-012	Frontage Road	**Cairns–Lardi Farmstead**	Contributing



Many structures demolished or relocated when Interstate 55 constructed.

Animal barn appears to be in original location compared to 1955 aerial view.

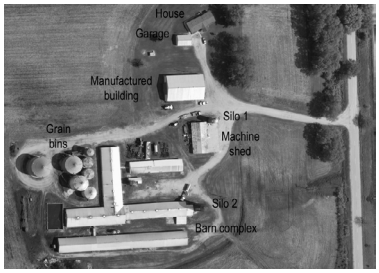
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
426	17-21-300-007	Kavanaugh Road	**Kavanaugh Farmstead**	Contributing





1918 directory: James T. Kavanaugh, wife Annie, children James, Helen, Michael, Bernard, Loretta, owns 600 acres in sections 17, 20, 21, and 28, resident in county since 1860.

429	17-21-400-001	Frontage Road	**Rink Farmstead**	Non-contributing

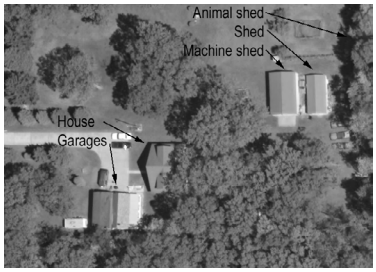






1918 directory lists James Mollie, wife Elizabeth, children Edward, May, and Frank, owner of 160 acres in sec. 21, resident in county since 1868.

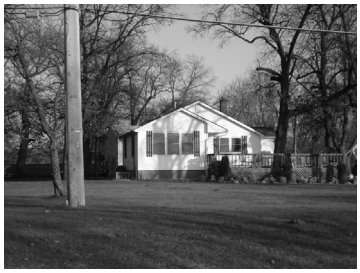
514	17-22-300-001	East Frontage Road	—	Contributing





ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
494	17-22-300-021	East Frontage Road	**Gartke Farmstead**	Non-contributing





Limited access; surveyed from road right-of-way only

464	17-23-200-001	Kankakee River Drive	**George Markert house**	Local landmark potential

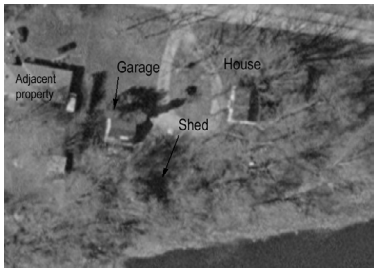




1860 census lists John A. Ford, aged 63, native of Ohio, wife Eliza, sons Eugene and Cyrus.
Existing house likely built after Markert family acquired property.

Owned by USDA as part of Midewin

569	17-23-300-012	Kankakee River Drive	—	Contributing





Circa 1940s house on portion of former Markert Farmstead, see site 464.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
570	17-23-300-036	Kankakee River Drive	**Luther Farmstead**	Local landmark potential

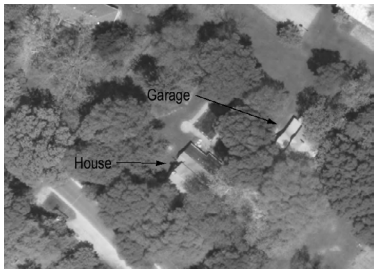


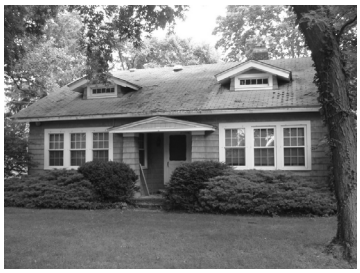


Illustrated in 1873 atlas as residence of Charles Luther. 1918 directory lists Frederick A. Luther (resident since 1861) and his son Charles J. (resident since 1879); Charles' children include Mary and Julius.

Original outbuildings were on north side of road.

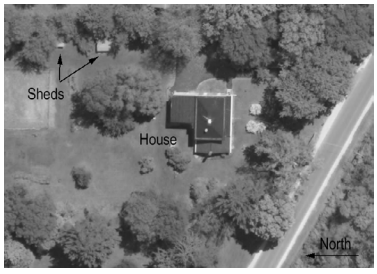
568	17-23-400-003	Kankakee River Drive	**John P. Lynott summer house**	Contributing





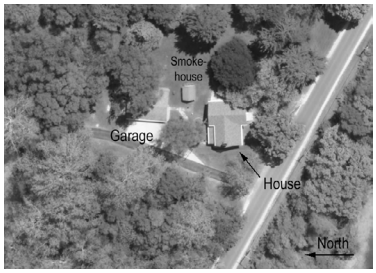
July 8, 1904, Wilmington Advocate states: "John P. Lynott, of the Chicago Water Works Department, who some months ago purchased the George Markert farm . . . will soon build a fine summer home on the premises."

465	17-23-400-009	Kankakee River Drive	**Andrew Markert House ?**	Local landmark potential





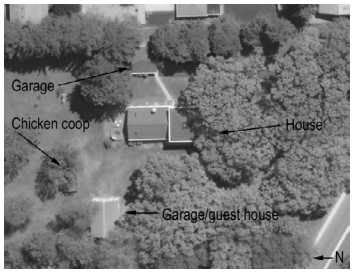
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
567	17-23-400-012	Kankakee River Drive	**Stone Farmstead**	Local landmark potential





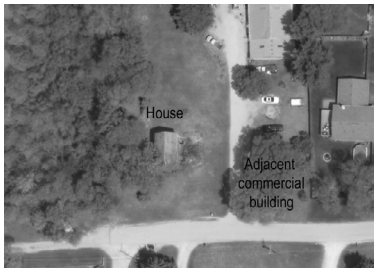
1860 census lists Francis Stone, native of New Hampshire, wife Bell, children Hattie and Lewis.

571	17-24-300-027	Kankakee River Drive	**Osborne Farmstead**	Local landmark potential





477	17-25-411-001	County Road	**McIntosh–White Farmstead**	Contributing

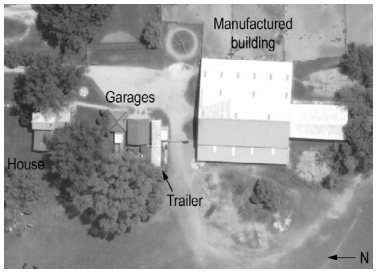




1918 directory: Frances P. Kangley, tenant on 80 acres owned by her mother, Mary J. Kangley.

Adjacent commercial building is on PIN 17-25-411-002

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
476	17-25-427-001	County Road	**Singleton–Dude Farmstead**	Contributing





1918 directory: John Singleton, wife Sarah Dixson, owner of 15 acres in section 25, resident of county since 1855. Children include Rosie Singleton (see 1948).

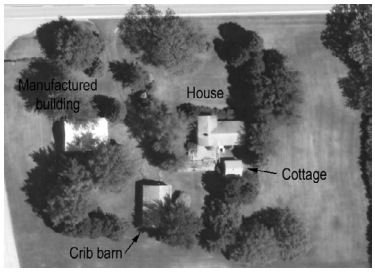
436	17-26-100-003	Widows Road	**McNiff–Florian Farmstead**	Contributing





Includes PIN 17-26-100-002

434	17-26-100-010	Widows Road	**Henry Hudson Farmstead**	Contributing





Owned by city of Wilmington since mid-1990s.

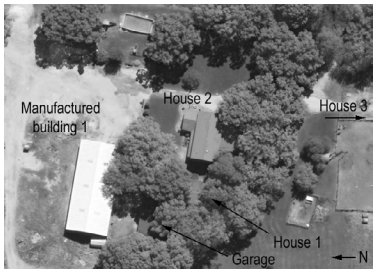
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
435	17-26-100-013	Stevens Lane	**Barnes–Brodie Farmstead**	Contributing





1918 directory: William T. Brodie, wife Mary Hughes, owner of 170 acres in sections 26 and 27. Resident of county since 1865. "Hillcrest Dairy Farm"

479	17-26-100-020	Widows Road	**Brodie–Sikora Farmstead**	Non-contributing









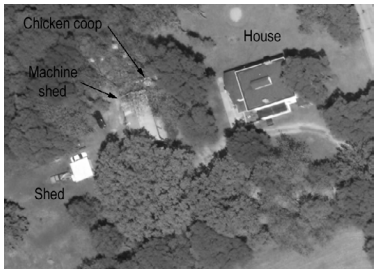
Subdivided circa 2004

PIN for new house: 17-26-100-020. PIN for older house and outbuildings: 17-26-100-019

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
482	17-26-202-015	Widows Road	**Soldiers' Widows' Home Laundry**	Local landmark



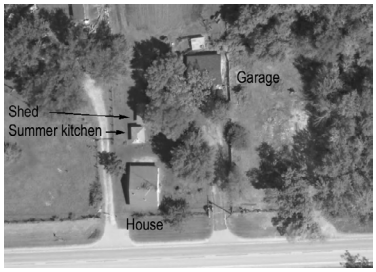
478	17-26-202-017	Widows Road	**Bowen Farmstead**	National Register potential





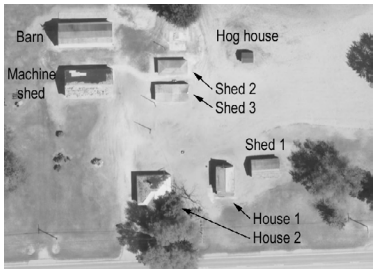
1918 directory: William J. Davy, wife Christena Bates, owner of 109 acres, resident of county since 1903.

437	17-26-300-005	Strip Mine Road	—	Non-contributing





ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
438	17-26-300-007	Strip Mine Road	**Webber–Todd–Jenks Farmstead**	Contributing



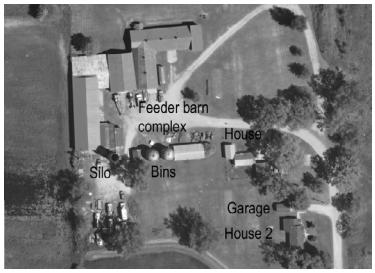






Recently subdivided

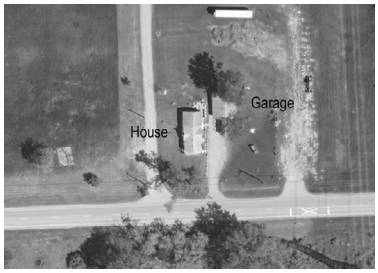
484	17-26-300-012	Strip Mine Road	**Gurney Farmstead**	Contributing





Limited access to perform survey. Surveyed from right-of-way only

483	17-26-300-017	Strip Mine Road	—	Contributing





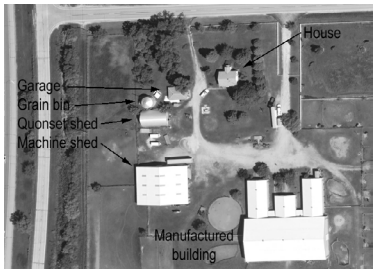
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
439	17-26-400-005	W. Strip Mine Road	—	Non-contributing





1918 directory: William T. Brodie, wife Mary Hughes, owner of 170 acres in sections 26 and 27. Resident of county since 1865. "Hillcrest Dairy Farm"

448	17-27-100-001	Widows Road	**Frank Gartke House**	Contributing





Newly developed site, early 1950s.

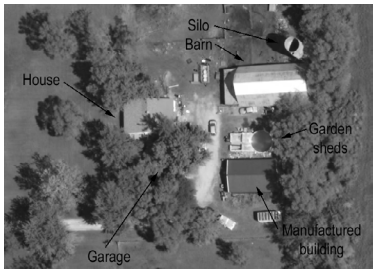
441	17-27-100-007	Frontage Road	**Schneider–Florian–Cerveny Farmstead**	Non-contributing



1873 atlas patron's directory lists R. Schneider, residence in section 27, residing in county since 1855, native of Germany.
1918 directory: James Cerveny, wife Antoinette, children Mary, James, Frank, Anna, and Antoinette. Owner of 240 acres in sec. 27, resident in county since 1904.

Abandoned, only outbuildings survive. Inaccessible for detailed survey.

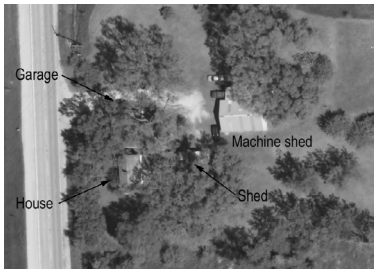
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
442	17-27-300-014	Frontage Road	**Kurth Farmstead**	Contributing






Newly developed farmstead site by Glen Kurth, Sr., circa 1930s.

443	17-27-300-018	Illinois Route 129	**Lamping–Pelton Farmstead**	Contributing





1873 atlas patron's directory lists W. Lamping, residence in section 27, residing in county since 1853, native of New York.
1918 directory lists Osby Pelton, wife Mary, son George, owner of 40 acres in sec. 27, resident in county since 1888.

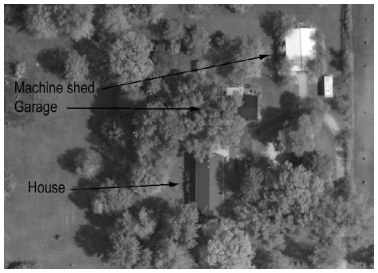
565	17-28-200-003	Illinois Route 129	**Holman Farmstead**	Contributing



1918 directory: William H. Holman, wife Martha Prater, owner of 80 acres, resident in county since 1880. Much of this former farmstead was taken as part of the new Interstate 55–Illinois Route 129 interchange in the 1960s.

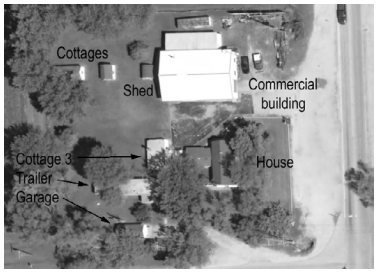
Access not available for close-up survey.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
446	17-28-300-004	Strip Mine Road	**Mallon tenant Farmstead**	Contributing





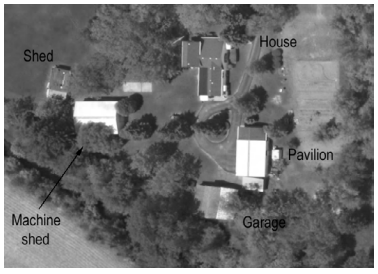
444	17-28-400-007	Illinois Route 129	**Schreier Filling Station/Lodge**	Contributing





In 1950s, used as gasoline filling station and as a carpentry trade school. Student lodging facilties were located on site and constructed by the students. See Drury photograph.

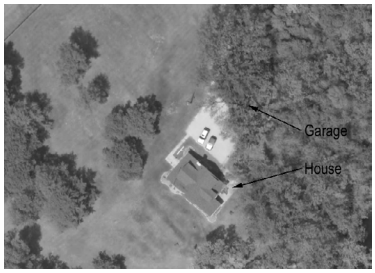
451	17-31-300-001	Valerio Road	**Busaytis Farmstead**	Contributing





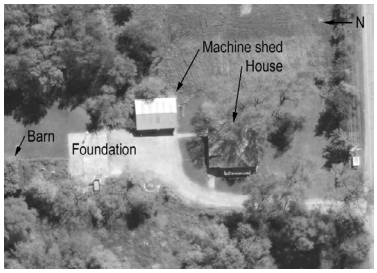
1918 directory lists Matthew Busaytis, wife Josephine, owner of 40 acres in sec. 31, resident in county since 1884.

ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
468	17-32-100-003	I-55 Frontage Road	**A. Skinner House**	Contributing





470	17-34-300-010	Coal City Road	**Maloney–Glenney Farmstead**	Contributing

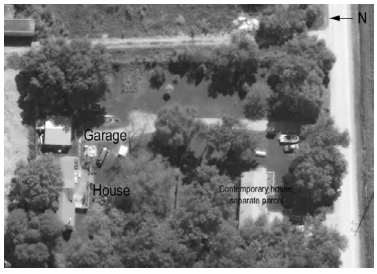






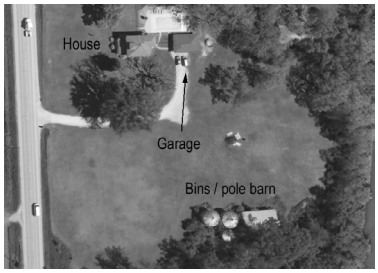
1918 directory lists Richard Glenney, wife Mary O'Mara, tenant on 154 acres owned by F. Rodgers and W. Fogerty.

488	17-34-400-011	Coal City Road	**Hunter–Glenney Farmstead**	Contributing





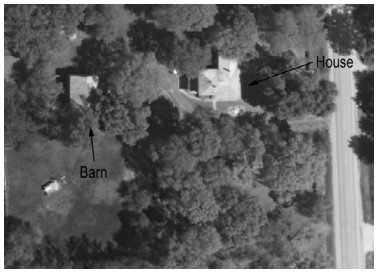
ID	PIN	Street Name	Name	Landmark Potential
471	17-35-400-002	West River Road	**Carl E. Johnson Farmstead**	Contributing





1873 atlas patron's directory lists John H. Daniels, residence in the city of Wilmington, residing in county since 1855, native of New York. 1918 directory: Carl E. Johnson, owner of 374 acres in section 35, resident of county since 1913. "Clover Dale Farm"

454	17-35-400-005	West River Road	**Alden Farmstead [?]**	Local landmark potential







1873 atlas patron's directory lists John H. Daniels, residence in the city of Wilmington, residing in county since 1855, native of New York. 1918 directory lists Charles S. Osborn, wife Della Schneider, owner 10 acres in sec. 35, resident in county since 1909.

473	17-36-400-067	S. Water Street	—	Non-contributing





Table 2. Farmhouses in Wilmington Township

ID		House Type	Style	Materials	
	Date	*Significance*			
402		Gabled Ell	--	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1850s	*Local landmark potential*		**Walls:**	Stone
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
404		Contemporary	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1990s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Brick
				Roof:	Asphalt Shingle
405		Gable Front	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1890s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Stucco
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
406		Gabled Ell	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1900s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
407		Gabled Ell	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1900s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
408		Ranch		**Foundation:**	Unknown
	1940s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Wood siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
411		Bungalow	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1930s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Cement board/ Wood siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
412		Upright and wing	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete block/ Brick
	1890s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
413		Upright and wing	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1900s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
415		Gabled Ell	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1900s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asbestos shingle
416		Trailer house	--	**Foundation:**	None
	1980s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Sheet metal
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
417		Cape Cod	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle

ID		House Type	Style	Materials	
	Date	*Significance*			
420		Upright and wing	--	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1860s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Aluminum siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
423		Bungalow	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
425		Contemporary	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	2000s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Brick/Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
426		Upright and wing	--	**Foundation:**	Unknown
	1900s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Wood siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
429		Ranch	--	**Foundation:**	None
	1980s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
430		Upright and wing	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1900	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
431		Ranch	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1960s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Brick
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
434		Upright and wing	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1860s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
435		Gabled Ell	—	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1860s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
436		Gabled Ell	Tudor Revival	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
437		Ranch	--	**Foundation:**	Unknown
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
439		Four over four	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1940s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Textured brick
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle

ID		House Type	Style	Materials	
	Date	*Significance*			
442		Ranch	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1930s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
443		Upright and wing	--	**Foundation:**	Stone\Concrete block
	1880s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Wood\Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
444		Cottage	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
445		Ranch	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1970s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Brick
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
446		Gable Front	--	**Foundation:**	Unknown
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
448		Cottage	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1950s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphaly shingle
451		Upright and wing	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1880s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
454		Side Hallway	Italianate	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1870s	*Local landmark potential*		**Walls:**	Brick, wood siding
				Roof:	Standing seam metal
459		Gabled Ell	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1900s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
460		Contemporary	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1960s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding/ Brick
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
463		Contemporary	--	**Foundation:**	Unknown
	1960s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
464		Gabled Ell	Queen Anne	**Foundation:**	Stone/ Concrete block
	1880s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle

ID		House Type	Style	Materials	
	Date	***Significance***			
465		Four over four	Italianate	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1860s	*Local landmark potential*		**Walls:**	Brick
				Roof:	Asphalt sheeting; asphalt shingle
468		Bungalow	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
470		Ranch	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1950s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Wood
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
471		American Foursquare	Craftsman	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	circa 1913	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Cement asbestos shingle
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
473		Gabled Ell	--	**Foundation:**	Stone/Concrete
	1880s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Wood
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
476		Gabled Ell	Greek Revival	**Foundation:**	Stone/Concrete
	1900s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding/ Stone veneer
				Roof:	Standing-seam metal
477		Four over four	--	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1860s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Stone
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
478		Side Hallway	Italianate	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1880s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Brick
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
483		Cottage	--	**Foundation:**	Stone/ Concrete block
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Weather board
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
484		Gabled Ell	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Wood siding
				Roof:	Cement asbestos shinge, asphalt shingle
485		Ranch	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1980s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
488		Upright and wing	--	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1880s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle

ID		House Type	Style	Materials	
	Date	*Significance*			
491		Contemporary		**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1980s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
494		Ranch	—	**Foundation:**	Unknown
	1940s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
512		Ranch	—	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1970s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
514		Bungalow	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
567		Gabled Ell	Greek Revival	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1850s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Stone
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
568		Bungalow	--	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Wood
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
569		Four over four	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1900s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Aluminum siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
570		Upright and wing	Greek Revival	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1860s	*Local landmark potential*		**Walls:**	Brick
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
571		Side Hallway	Italianate	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1910s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
438		Side Hallway	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1890s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Asphalt shingle
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
457		Upright and wing	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete block\concrete
	1910s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
458		Ranch	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1960s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle

ID		House Type	Style	Materials	
	Date	*Significance*			
479		Contemporary	--	**Foundation:**	Stone/ Concrete
	1890s/ 1960s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
562		Cottage	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Wood
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
438		Bungalow	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1920s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Wood shingle
				Roof:	Asphaly shingle
457		Gabled Ell	--	**Foundation:**	Stone
	1880s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
458		Ranch	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
	1960s	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
479		Contemporary	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	circa 2004	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
562		Gable Front	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	1940s	*Contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyl siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle
479		Ranch	--	**Foundation:**	Concrete
	2009	*Non-contributing*		**Walls:**	Vinyle siding
				Roof:	Asphalt shingle

Table 3. Barns in Wilmington Township

ID	Barn Type	Materials	
Date	*Significance*		
512	Dairy barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
1930s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Concrete block; wood siding
		Roof:	Cement asbestos shingle
442	Dairy barn	**Foundation:**	None
1930s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Terra Cotta tile\Board and batten
		Roof:	Corrugated sheet metal
438	Dairy barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete block
1940s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Concrete block/Wood shingle
		Roof:	Asphalt shingle
423	Feeder barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
1920s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Board and batten
		Roof:	Sheet metal
415	Feeder barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood siding
		Roof:	Sheet metal
429	Feeder barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
1960s	*Non-contributing*	**Walls:**	Sheet metal
		Roof:	Sheet metal
470	Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
1920s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood
		Roof:	Corrugated sheet metal
417	Plank frame barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
1920s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Sheetl metal
		Roof:	Sheet metal
454	Three-bay threshing barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
1920s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Board and batten
		Roof:	Sheet metal
412	Three-bay threshing barn	**Foundation:**	Concrete
1900s	*Contributing*	**Walls:**	Wood siding
		Roof:	Corrugated sheet metal

Notable Farmsteads in Wilmington Township

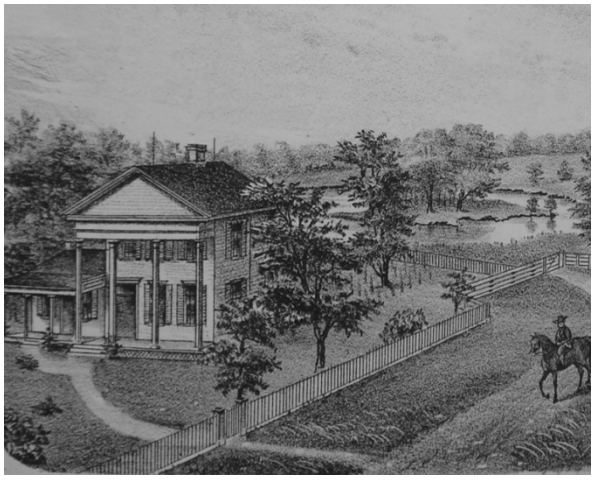
Luther Farmstead ***Site 570 (PIN 17-23-300-036)***

According to historic plat maps, the property along the Kankakee River was owned by John Monteith in 1862. John emigrated with his family from New York in the 1840s. His father, George, was a carpenter.

The Luther family was descended from an influential and affluent New England family. Charles Luther and his wife, Lucy, moved to Kankakee County, Illinois in 1849 where their three children Julius, Charles W., and Frederick were born. In 1865, the family relocated to Wilmington where they purchased land along the north bank of the Kankakee River, a property historically referred to as Bonnie View Farm. Charles Luther and his oldest son, Julius, owned adjacent eighty acre parcels where they managed a farm and raised horses.

The youngest son, Frederick, married Mary Thomas, a Wilmington resident who immigrated with her family from England as a child, in 1877. By 1890, Frederick Luther and his family had inherited the farm.[176] Frederick managed the 160 acre property until his death in 1921 when control of the land was passed to his oldest son Charles J. The farmstead retains the historic house constructed during the Charles Luther, Sr., period of occupancy. A sketch of the structure appears in the 1873 county atlas.





Left: The Luther family house at site 570. The original "wing" portion has been replaced by a contemporary two-story addition. Right: Sketch of the Luther family farmstead from the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(Elgin: Thompson Brothers & Burr, 1873). Note the original Upright and Wing form of the house.*

[176] *Portrait and Biographical Album of Will County* (Chicago: Chapman Brothers, 1890).

Alden Farmstead ***Site 454 (PIN 17-35-400-005)***

The Alden family farmstead was located south of the Village of Wilmington. The Alden family was instrumental in the development of Wilmington Township. In 1847, Thomas Cox, the first permanent resident of Wilmington Township, sold his land in Will County, which comprised much of the Village of Wilmington. James F Alden and his family arrived in Wilmington from Maine. The Alden family bought the southern half of Cox's land including the island in the Kankakee River, dubbed Alden's Island, and the Oakwood Cemetery. By 1862, Hiram O. Alden, the eldest son of John F., retained ownership of the Section 35 property in Wilmington Township.

Hiram Alden was a prominent real estate investor who played an important part in the development of river front property. Alden was a key financier in the Kankakee and Iroquois Navigation and Manufacturing Company which was initiated the construction of locks and dams along the Kankakee River. The improvements were most successful in providing water power and access to property along the riverfront.

By the 1920s, Carl E. Johnson, along with his wife, Anna Markus, and seven kids, owned the farmstead which they referred to as Clover Dale Farm. The family had moved to Wilmington Township in 1913 and was successful at raising purebred chickens on the 374 acre property.

The property retains a historic house and barn which likely date to the Alden family period of ownership.[177]





Left: The Alden family home as illustrated in the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(Elgin: Thompson Brothers & Burr, 1873). Right: The historic house has had some alterations since 1873 but retains much of its historic character. The wrap-around porch is of relatively recent construction*

[177] The 1873 atlas indicates a structure located in the approximate location of the house and barn.

Bowen Farmstead ***Site 478 (PIN 17-26-202-017)***

Albert W. Bowen was born in Massachusetts in 1803 but raised in New York. Bowen was trained as a surgeon and married Mary Shoemaker in 1831 before moving to Joliet in 1834. Bowen was instrumental in the early history of Will County and Joliet. He was a part of the citizen group that petitioned Illinois State legislature for the incorporation of Will County with the county seat located in Joliet.

Bowen partially retired from the medical profession and opened the A.W. Bowen and Company mercantile. His success as a merchant allowed him to purchase the northern portion of Thomas Cox's claim in Wilmington Township in 1847. Although he continued to reside in Joliet, Bowen was responsible for the construction of the Wilmington Mill, the first flour mill in the Township. In1849, Bowen and his family relocated to Wilmington.[178]

In 1862, the Bowen family owned considerable farmland along the south bank of the Kankakee River. By 1873, the family made claim to only the 115 acre farmstead on which the historic house still exists. In 1881, Albert W. and his wife died, the property was inherited by his grandchildren.[179] William Davy owned the land by 1902. The horse barn and chicken coop were most likely constructed in the early twentieth century. Due to its association with a prominent citizen in the early history of Will County and its architectural character as an exemplary Italianate style residence, the Bowen Farmstead is considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.



Above: The Italianate style house at the site dates to Bowen period of ownership.

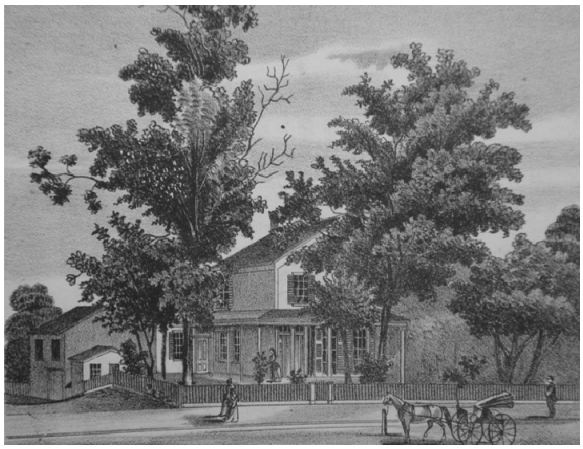
[178] Woodruff (1878), 802.
[179] A.W. Bowen obituary from the Wilmington Advocate, November, 1881.

Jukes Farmstead ***Site 459 (PIN 17-12-200-005)***

The Jukes family moved to Wilmington Township in 1853 and made claim to the farmstead by 1862. Charles Jukes was a prominent businessman who, along with his business partner Chapman, erected a factory manufacturing nuts and bolts. The business was closed during the 1872 financial crisis.[180]

Benjamin Morgan came to Wilmington Township in 1840 at the age of twenty-nine with his wife, Elizabeth. The Morgan family purchased land along the Wilmington and Wesley Township border (Section 13). By 1873, the farmstead had extended north to include property formerly owned by the Jukes family. The Morgan family retained ownership of the land until 1940. At that time, the United States Government acquired the land for use as the Joliet Arsenal. In 1953, Prairie Creek Farmers, inc. purchased the house and surrounding lot for commercial use.

Portions of the house date to the mid-nineteenth-century. An 1873 county atlas depicts the property owned by Charles Jukes. It is likely that the existing historic house dates to the Jukes period of occupancy.





Left: The Jukes home as illustrated in the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(Elgin: Thompson Brothers & Burr, 1873). Right: The existing historic house surviving on the Jukes Farmstead. The flanking side wing in the foreground is a later addition.*

[180] Woodruff (1878), 460.

McIntosh Farmstead ***Site 477 (PIN 17-25-411-001)***

According to census data, Daniel McIntosh was a Scottish immigrant who settled in Wilmington Township in 1837, becoming one of its first residents. Daniel McIntosh was a farmer and laborer and for a short time engaged in the lumber business. He lived with his sister, Catherine, on the farmstead until his death in 1887.[181] His son, Thomas S. McIntosh, was born here in 1841. After serving in the 138th Illinois Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War, Thomas McIntosh worked as a dealer in paints and varnishes from a shop in Wilmington.[182]

The 1862 atlas indicates a large development on the property at the site of the existing structure. Archival and physical evidence suggest that the existing stone building dates to the McIntosh period. After the death of William McIntosh in 1887, the farm was acquired by the White family. Although notable as an example of a nineteenth century stone farmhouse, the McIntosh Farmstead is not considered eligible for Will County landmark designation at this time due to its severely deteriorated condition.

Allen Farmstead ***Site 405 (PIN 17-12-200-002)***

Edmund Allen was born in New York and moved to Joliet, Illinois in 1835. Allen was successful as a merchant and married Elizabeth Shoemaker, also from New York, in 1842. The couple relocated to Wilmington Township in 1844. Allen was an entrepreneur who maintained a milling company, was partner in a general store, and developed a specialty in butter and cheese production. In 1856, Allen focused his attention on butter and cheese production. He erected a large factory in Wilmington Township devoted to the commodity in 1875.[183] The Allen family owned the property until Edmund's death in 1892.[184]

By 1902, the property was owned by the Corbin family who subdivide parts of their farmstead into small lots. The land was incorporated into the Joliet arsenal in 1940. Currently, the land is managed by the United States Dairy Association. The property retains a historic house which dates to the Allen family period of occupancy.





Left: This stone house remains at the McIntosh Farmstead, but it is abandoned and severely deteriorated. Right: This historic house exists at the Allen Farmstead.

[181] Obituary from the Wilmington Advocate, February, 1887.
[182] Woodruff (1878), 807.
[183] Woodruff (1878), 801–802.
[184] 1892 Will County Necrology Report

Osborne Farmstead ***Site 571 (PIN 17-24-300-027)***

In the 1873 county atlas, N. N. Osborne is identified as the owner of this farmstead. Nial Nye Osborne was born in Athens, Ohio, in 1819. Early in life, his pioneer travels took him to Oregon by horseback in 1843 and the California gold rush in 1849, returning east by way of the isthmus of Panama, Havana, and New Orleans. He finally settled in Florence Township in spring 1850, purchasing 432 acres in sections 28 and 29. He later acquired 720 acres near Star Grove in northwestern Florence Township and 3900 acres in Grundy County. Ultimately, forty buildings were erected on his various farms. He farmed primarily wheat, producing 15,000 bushels in 1860. Osborne married Sarah E. Steadman in 1853. After living on the farms in Grundy County until 1870, the Osborne family lived for five years in Lawrence, Kansas. Around 1875, they returned to Will County and settled this farmstead in Wilmington Township.[185] Much of the other farmland was passed to his sons William, Samuel, and Charles, but Nial Nye Osborne continued to own this property into the first decade of the twentieth century. Most likely, the existing Italianate style house on the site was constructed circa 1875 when the Osbornes returned to Will County to retire.



Above: The Osborne house, likely constructed circa 1875.

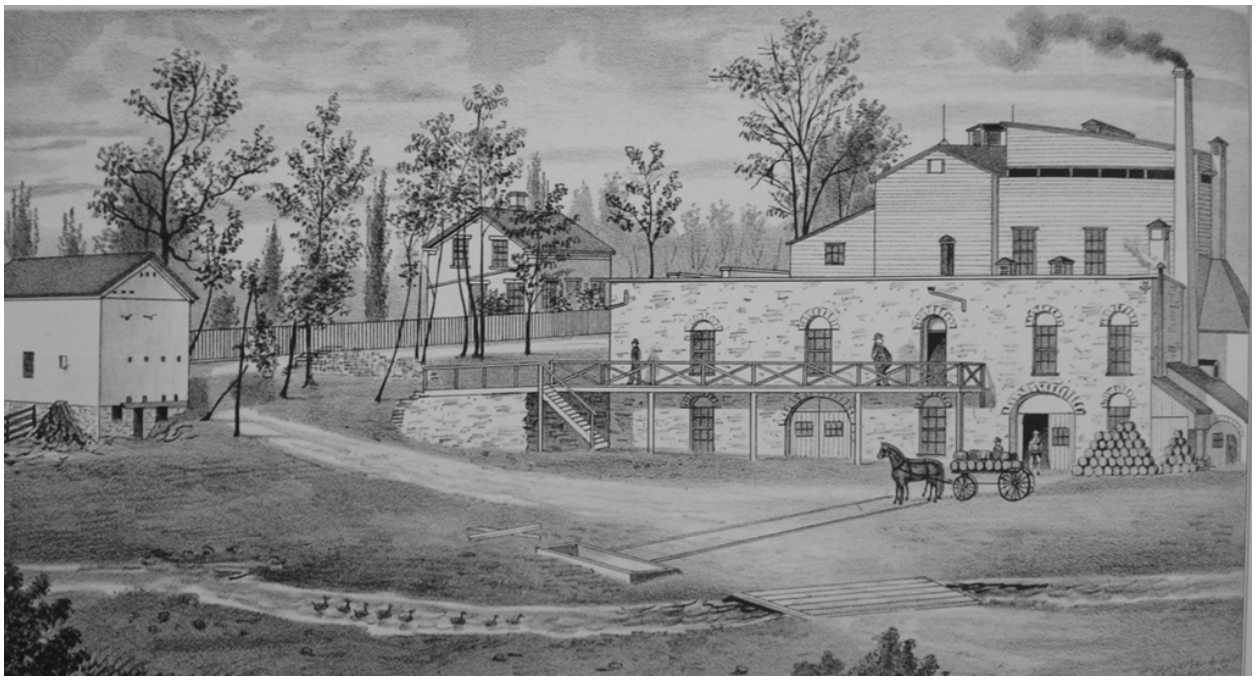
[185] Stevens (1907), 457–458.

Markert and Company Brewery ***Section 23***

Andrew Markert was born in Bavaria in 1819.[186] He immigrated to the United States with his wife, Elizabeth, and eventually settled in Illinois in the early 1850s. In the 1860s, Andrew Markert worked with business partner George Bez, a fellow Bavarian emigrant, to establish a brewery on the banks of the Kankakee River.[187] The company was supplying quality ale by 1868.

In 1871, the brewery was described as a three-story building with basement. Barley was cultivated on the first floor. Once it sprouted, the hops were taken to the second floor and dried. The kiln dried sprouts were then ground into malt. The ale was brewed on the third floor in large pans. The upper floor was fitted with latticed window shutters to allow for the free flow of air to help cool the brew.

Starting in 1873, extensive improvements were made to expand the brewery. The Market and Company Brewing continued to thrive, employing a small staff of brewers and managed by George Bez and Andrew's son, George Markert. The financial crisis of the 1890s, the death of founders Andrew Markert (circa 1890) and George Bez (1903) and a 1901 fire which destroyed the brewery building signified the end of the Markert Brewery.



Above: The "Market [sic] and Company Brewery" as illustrated in the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(Elgin: Thompson Brothers & Burr, 1873).*

The site of the Markert and Company Brewery was originally owned by Augustus Garrett who purchased the land in 1835. The Markert family obtained full ownership of the farmstead by1902. Upon George Bez's death, the property was subdivided among Andrew Markert's children; George Markert and Mrs. J. L. Lins of Joliet.[188] By 1940, a county atlas identified the Mueller and Koehler families as the owners.

Two residences related to the Markert family were identified in the present survey.

[186] Historic plat maps also list the family name as Merkert, Murkert, and Marker.
[187] Historic information also lists the family name as Betz.
[188] Will County Genealogical Society website, <http://will.ilgenweb.net/Families/Markert.htm>

Andrew Markert House ***Site 465 (PIN 17-23-400-009)***

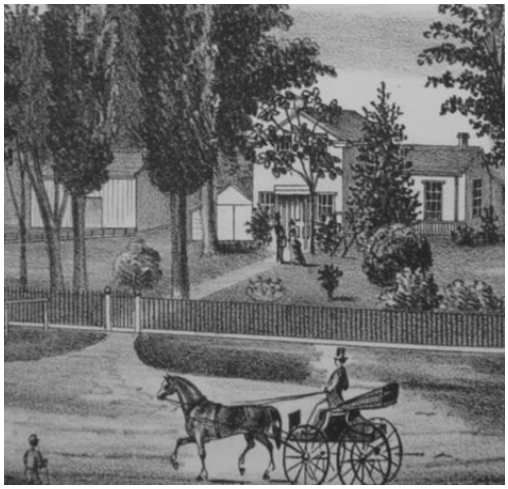
The existing brick house likely dates to the 1873 expansion of the brewery and may have served as the residence of Andrew Markert. Wood-framed, multi-light windows that extend to grade are a character defining feature.



Above: The brick residential structure believed to be Andrew Markert's home, site 465 in the present survey.

George Markert House ***Site 464 (PIN 17-23-200-001)***

C. C. Ford and his family arrived in Wilmington Township in 1860 and purchased this farmstead in Section 23. By 1873, ownership of the property had been passed to his brother, James Ford. A sketch of the C. C. Ford residence from the 1873 plat map indicates that the first house on the site was a Greek Revival style Upright and Wing building. By 1893, this farmstead was owned by George Markert. The existing Queen Anne style house likely dates to the late nineteenth century when Markert owned the site.





Left: Sketch of the Ford Farmstead from the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(Elgin: Thompson Brothers & Burr, 1873). Right: The existing Queen Anne style house likely dates to the George Markert ownership of the site.*

Stone Farmstead ***Site 567 (PIN 17-23-400-012)***

The 1862 map of Will County identifies F. Stone as the owner of this farmstead. According to the 1860 census, the owner was Francis Stone, age 35, a native of New Hampshire. He resided here with his wife Bell and their young children, Hattie and Lewis. The existing stone house on the site likely was built for the Stone family in the 1860s. The 1873 atlas identifies the owner as P. P. Stone, and by the 1890s it had been acquired by the Markert family.



Above: The masonry Greek Revival style Gabled Ell house is the Stone family residence.

Elius N. Clark House ***Site 402 (PIN 17-08-300-005)***

John Reynolds purchased the land, located in the southwest corner of Section 8, in 1835. By 1862, historic plat maps indicate that the property, along with a structure, was owned by Elius Clark. In the 1840s, Elius and his wife, Anna, moved to Wilmington Township where he found work as a laborer. By 1873, John Hennebry had purchased the land and managed it as a farmstead.[189] The Hennebry family resided on the farmstead until the 1930s. Currently, the land is owned by the Exelon Generation Company. The stone house likely dates to the Clark period of ownership.



Above: The existing stone house at this farmstead likely dates to the occupancy of the site by Elius Clark in the 1850s and 1860s.

[189] 1850 and 1880 Census.

Magner–Bardwell Farmstead ***Site 415 (PIN 17-18-200-004)***

The first recorded owner of the land was John Russell who purchased the property in 1836. According to historic plat maps and county atlases, Thomas Magner, a farmer, owned the property in 1862 and 1873. By 1893, ownership of the farm had passed to R. Magner. By 1902, the property was owned by Charles W. Bardwell.[190] The land remained in the Bardwell family until the 1980s.

The Gabled Ell house most likely dates to the Magner family ownership of the farmstead in the nineteenth century. The existing main barn and crib barn likely date to the Bardwell family period of ownership.



Above: The Gabled Ell house on the site most likely dates to the Magner family period of occupancy.





Left: The barn is most likely of early twentieth century construction. Right: The crib barn appears to date to the 1910s or 1920s.

[190] 1850 and 1880 Census; historic atlas maps.

Soldiers' Widows' Home ***Site 482 (PIN 17-26-202-015)***

The Soldiers' Widows' Home was established by the State of Illinois in an act approved June 13, 1895. The home was intended to house the disabled mothers, widows, wives, and daughters of deceased or disabled Civil War veterans. The commission created by this act purchased a large house in Wilmington Township that was capable of housing thirty "inmates," as the residents were called. This house was apparently the former H. Jones residence, as identified on historic plat maps. As demand for housing soon exceeded this capacity, large additions to the original residence were constructed in 1898. The property included a number of ancillary structures, which were intended to provide opportunities for the able-bodied women to work and partially support the home. Among these buildings was the laundry. The home closed in 1963, when the remaining residents were moved to Quincy, Illinois. The main building was destroyed by fire on September 2, 1972. The laundry building, as the only surviving historic structure on the site, was designated a Will County landmark in 2004.





Above left: The former H. Jones residence, purchased to serve as the Soldiers' Widows' Home circa 1895. The laundry is visible behind the house at the left. Above right: The Soldiers' Widows' Home after completion of large additions in 1898. Below: A view of the front porch of the Soldiers' Widows' Home, 1915. Below right: The former laundry building is the only surviving historic structure on the site.





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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; and Channahon Township in 2009. 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.

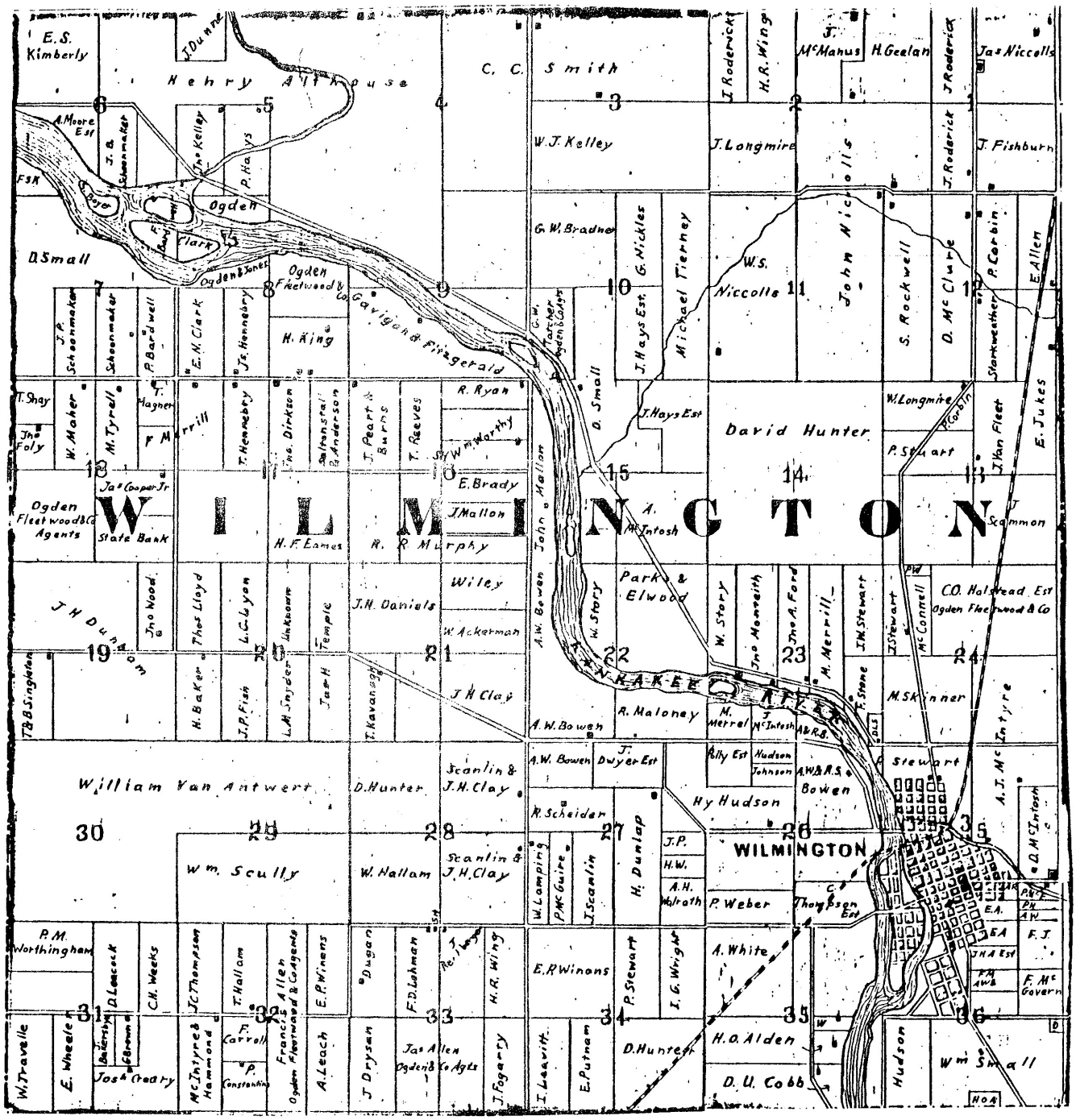
vault. A masonry covering over an area which uses the principle of the arch.

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

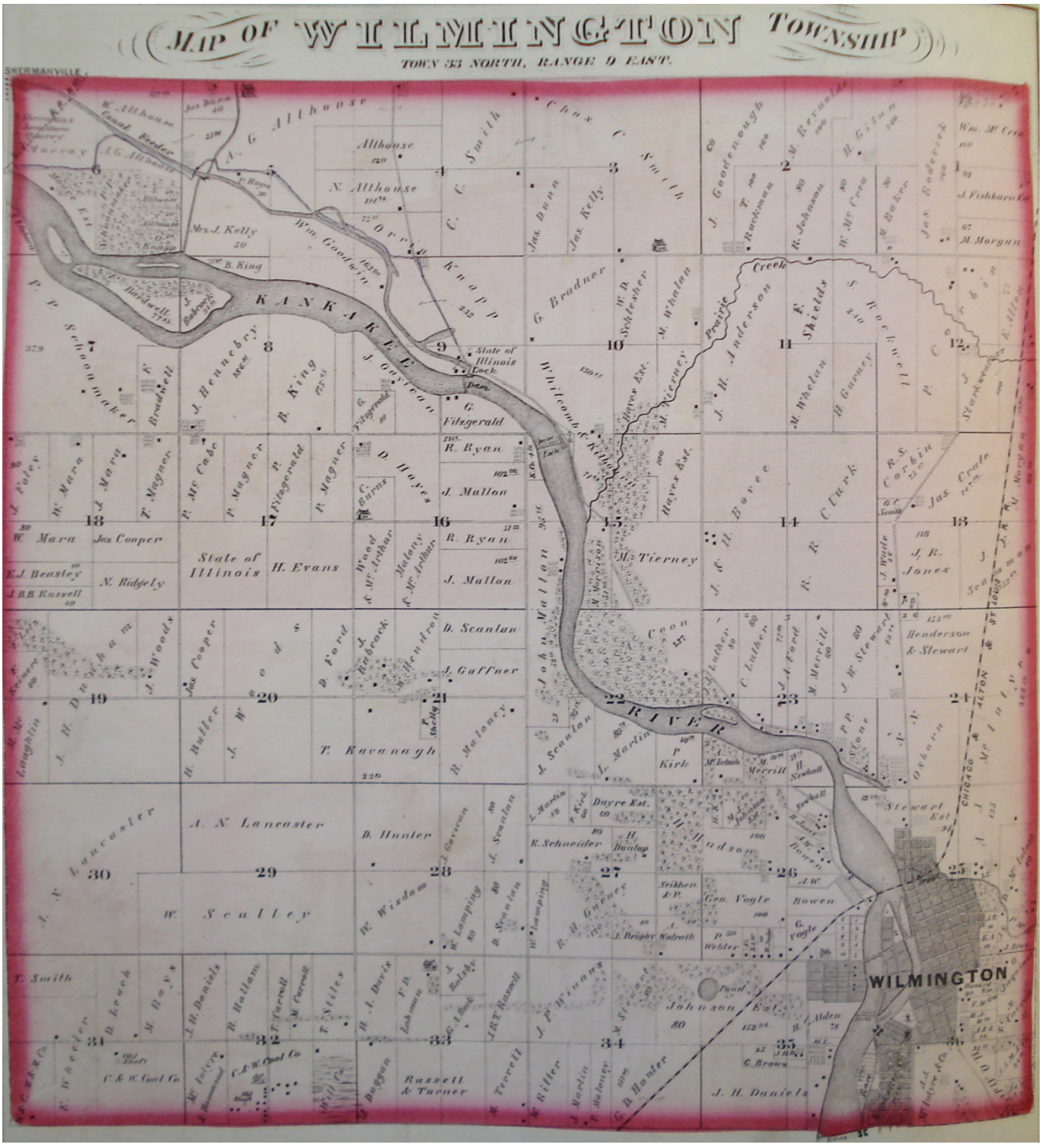
APPENDIX A

HISTORIC PLAT MAPS

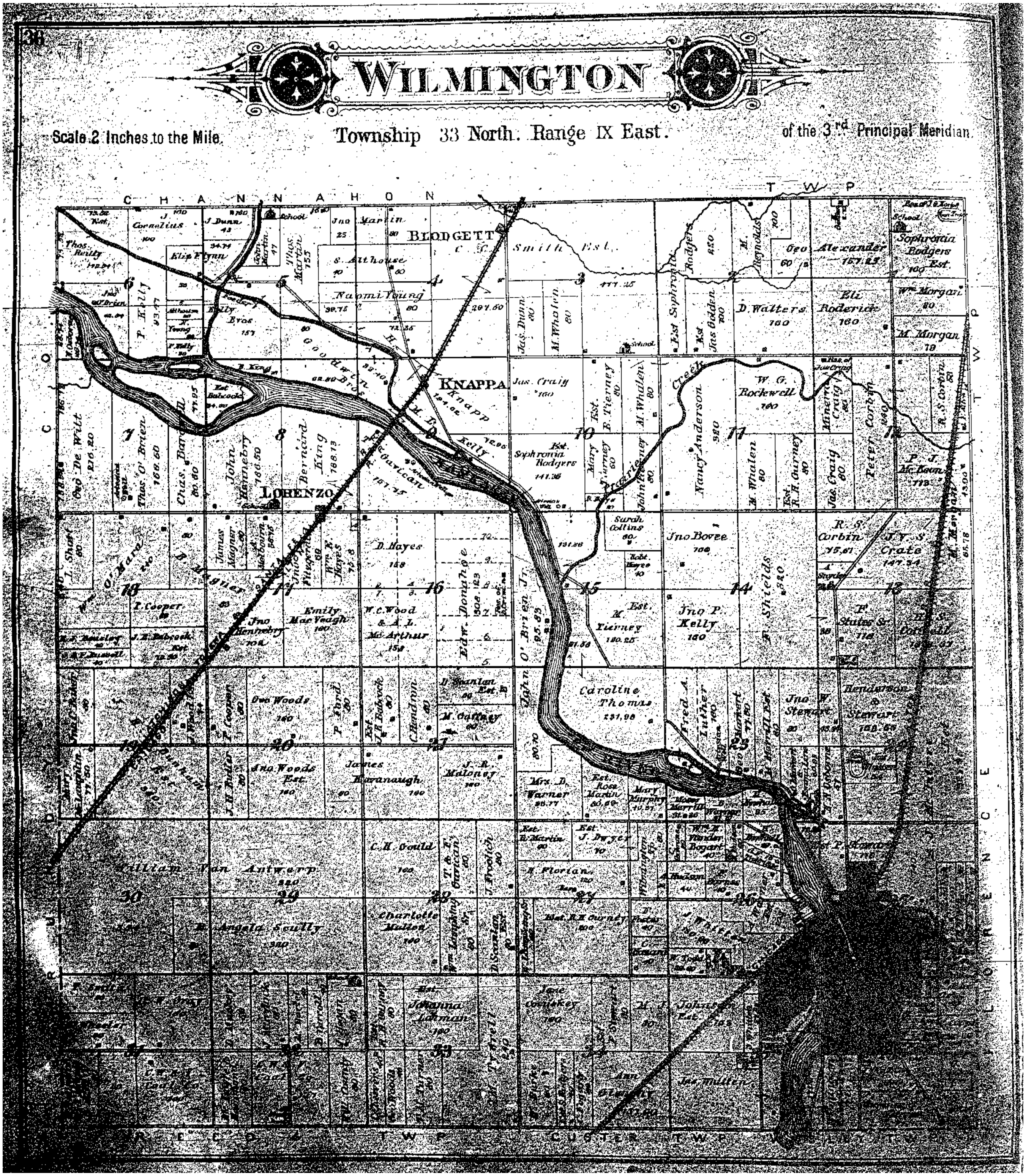
This appendix contains historic farm atlas and plat maps for Wilmington Township. Refer to Bibliography for map sources.



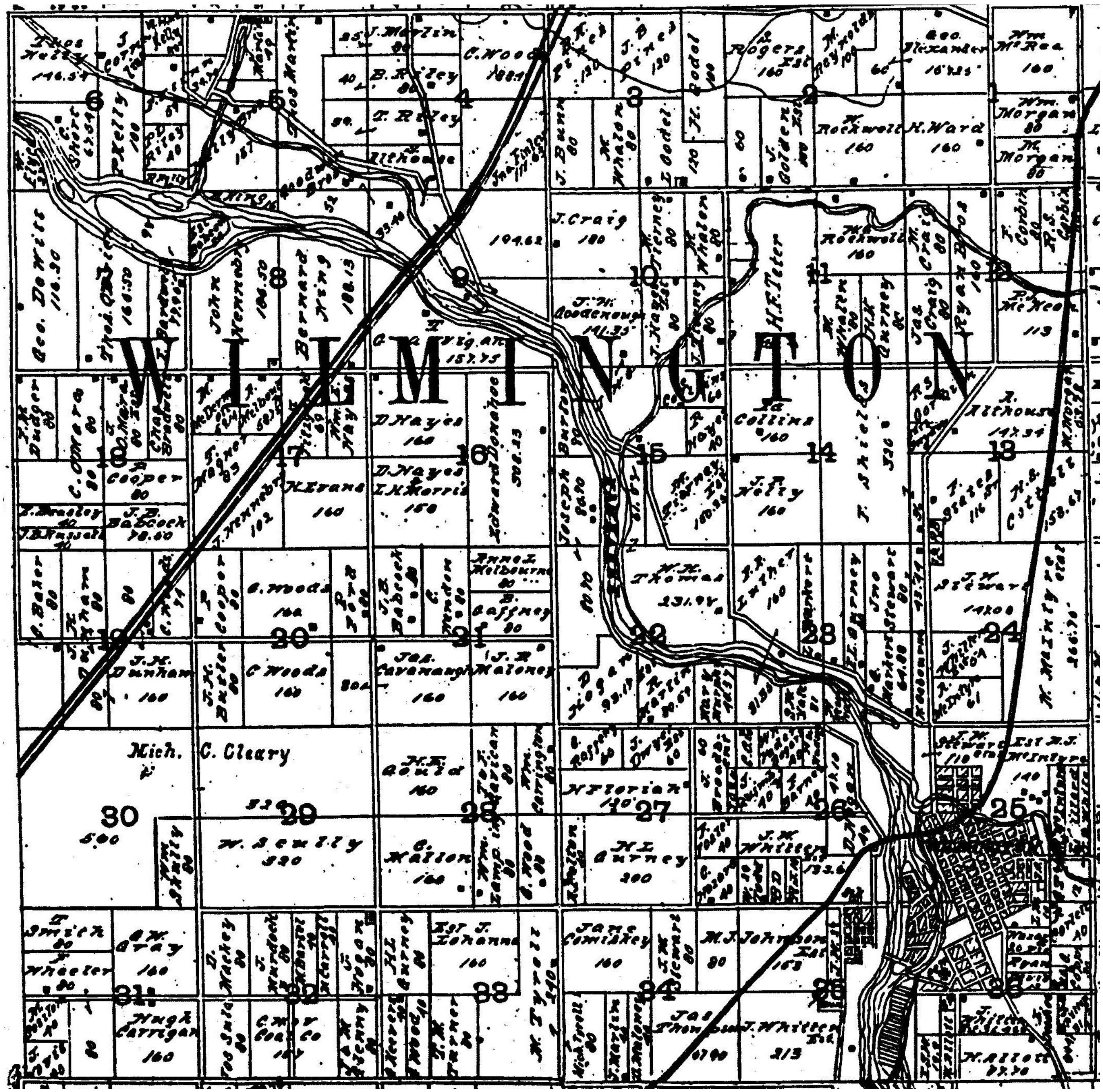
Wilmington Township 1862



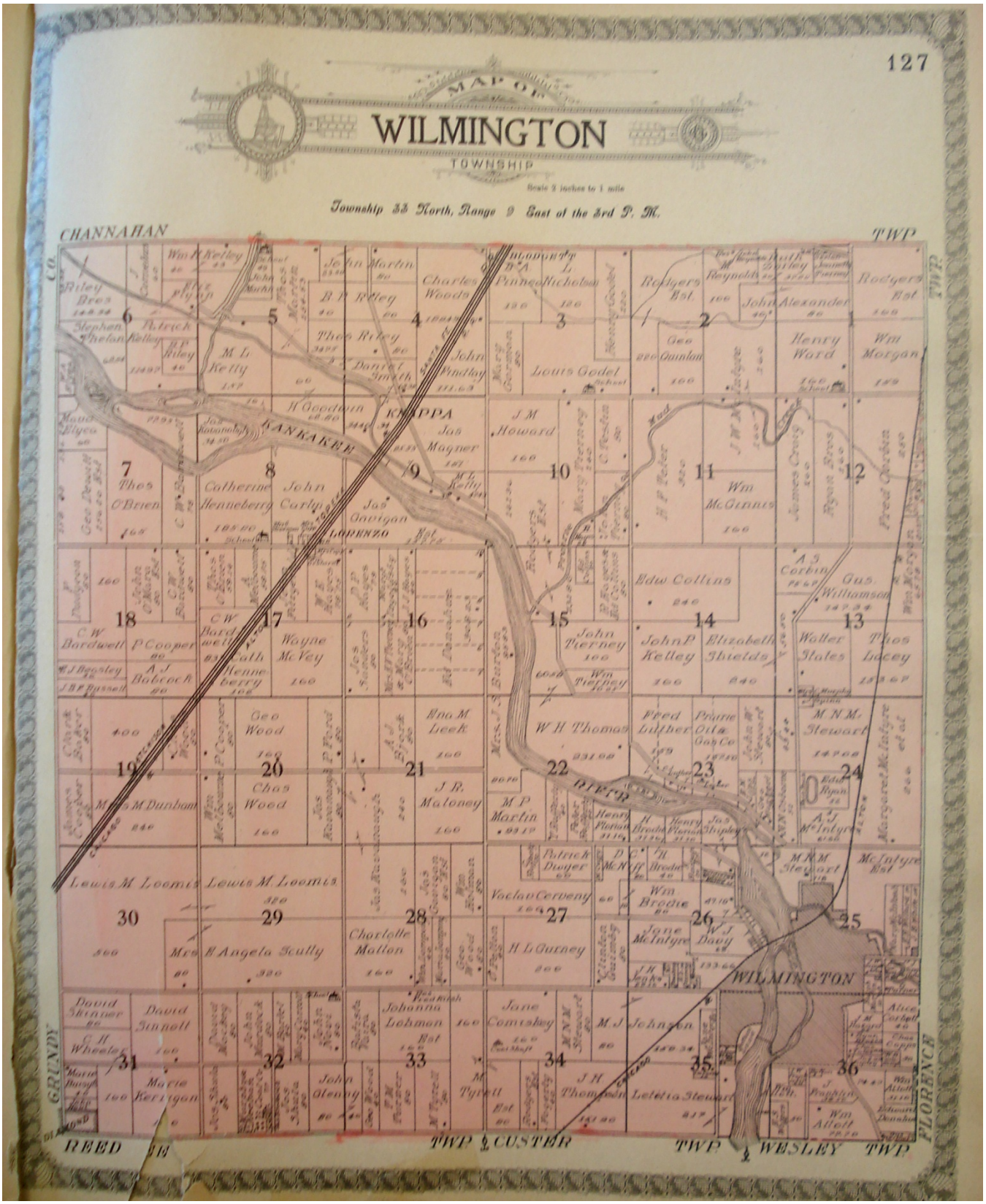
Wilmington Township 1873



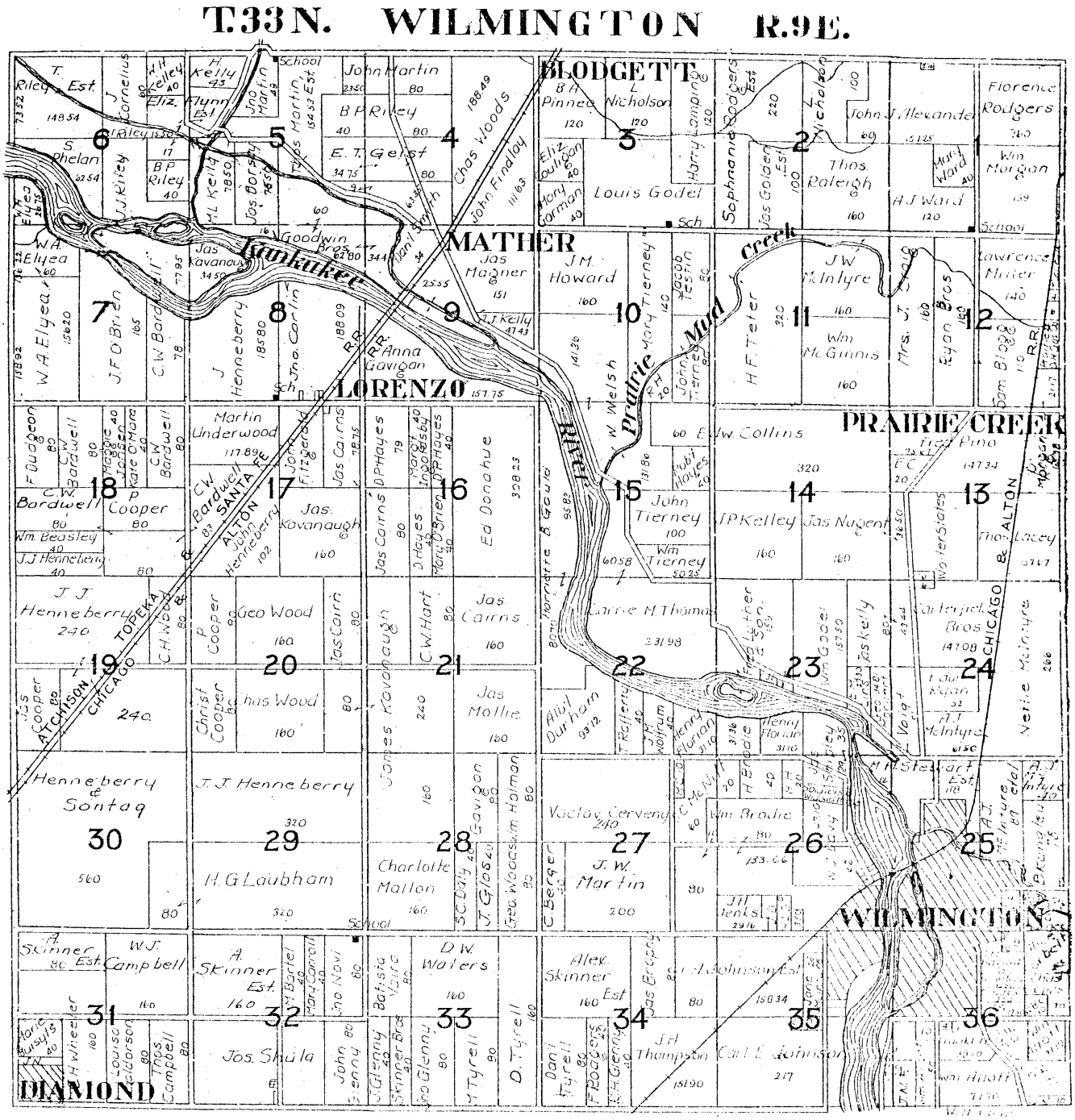
Wilmington Township 1893



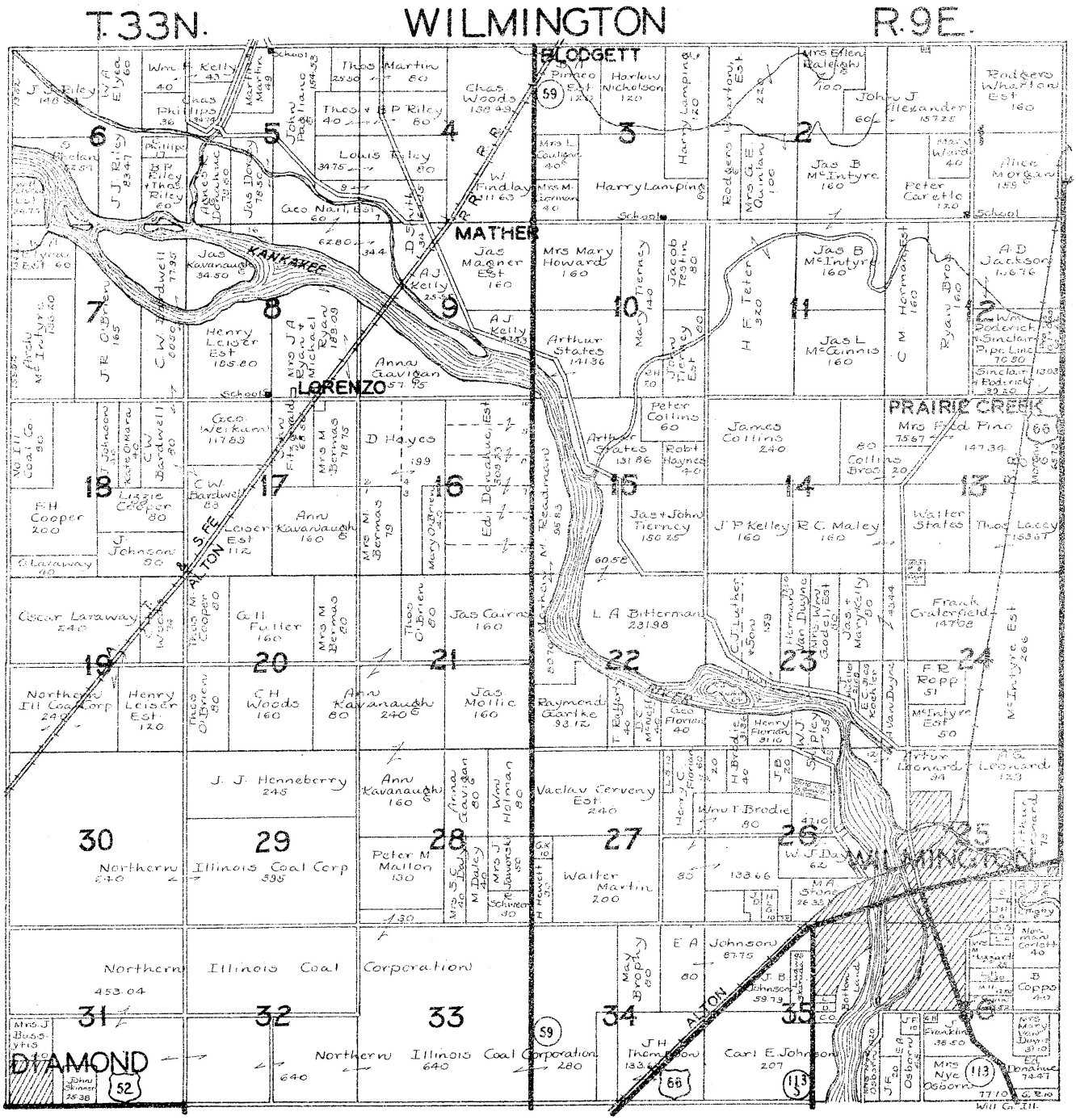
Wilmington Township 1902



Wilmington Township 1909



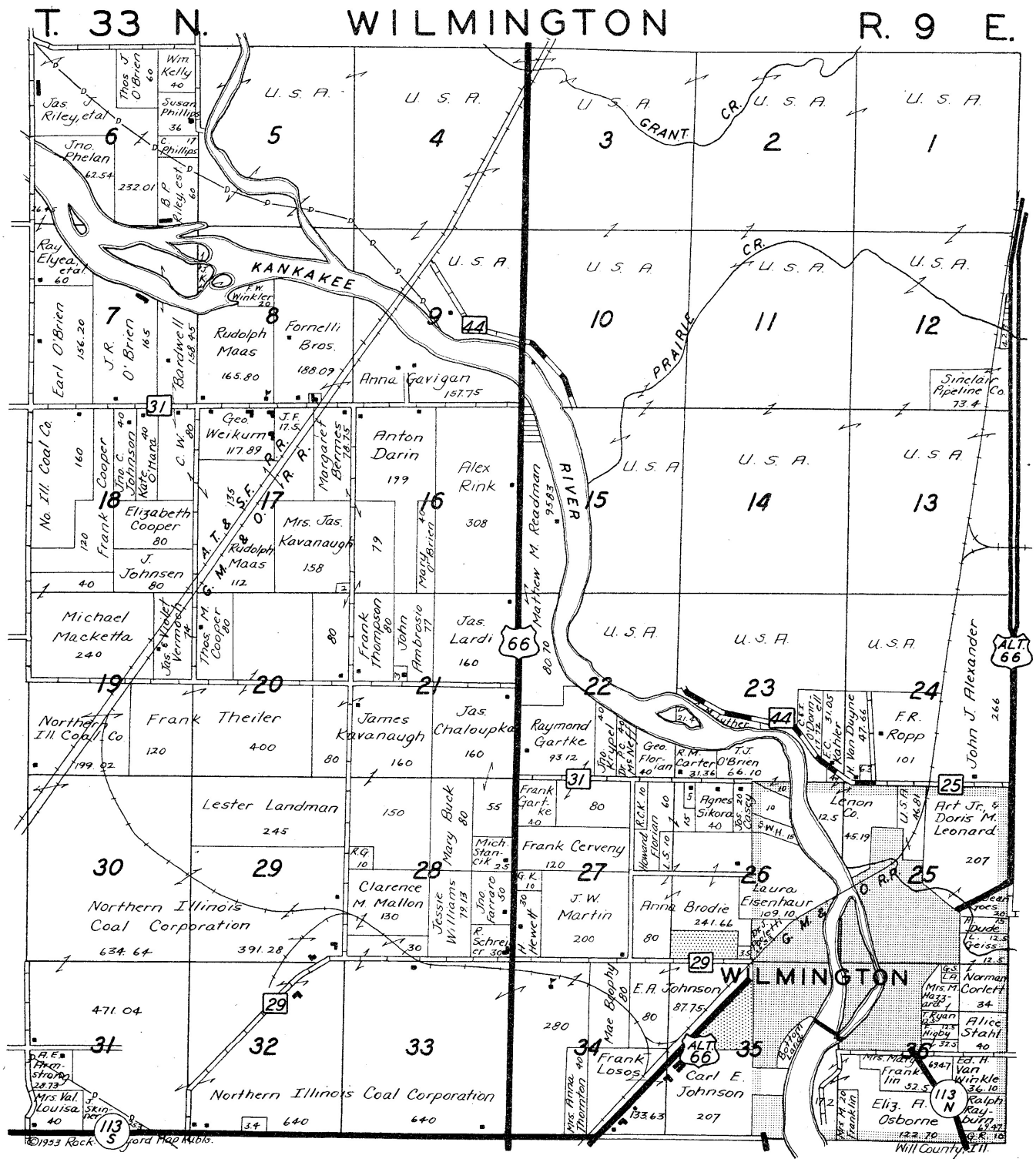
Wilmington Township 1920s



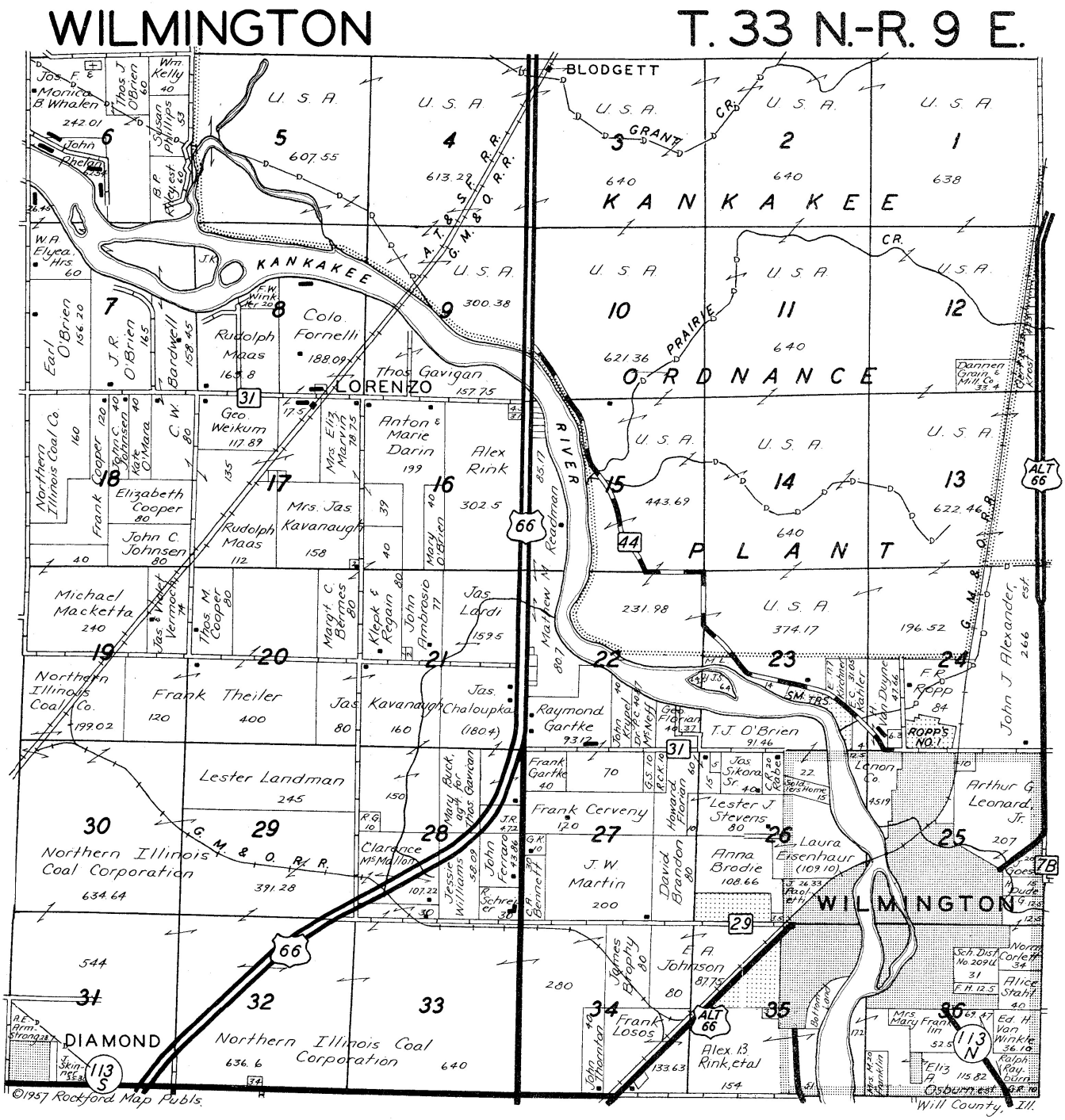
Wilmington Township circa 1940



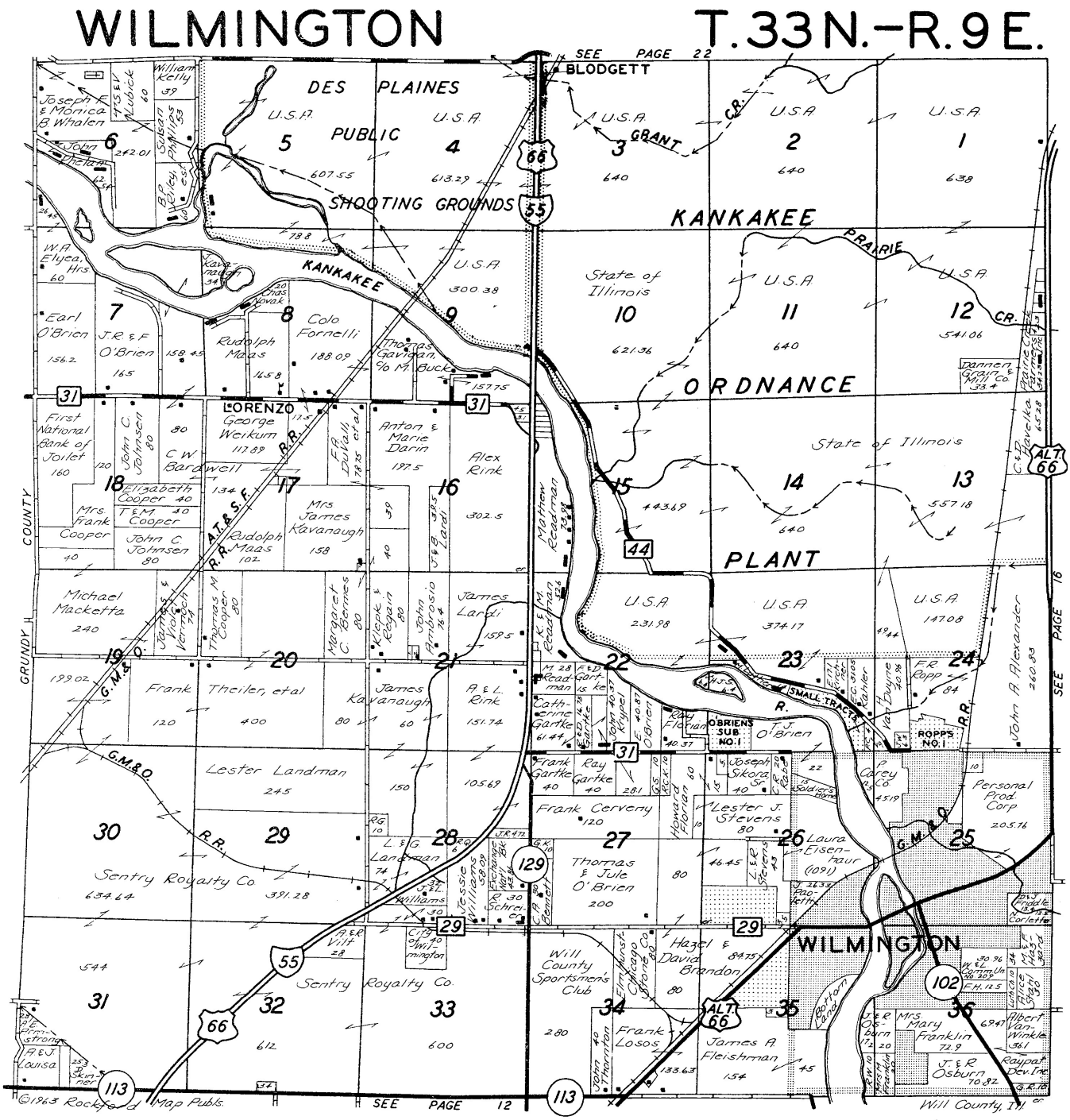
Wilmington Township 1948



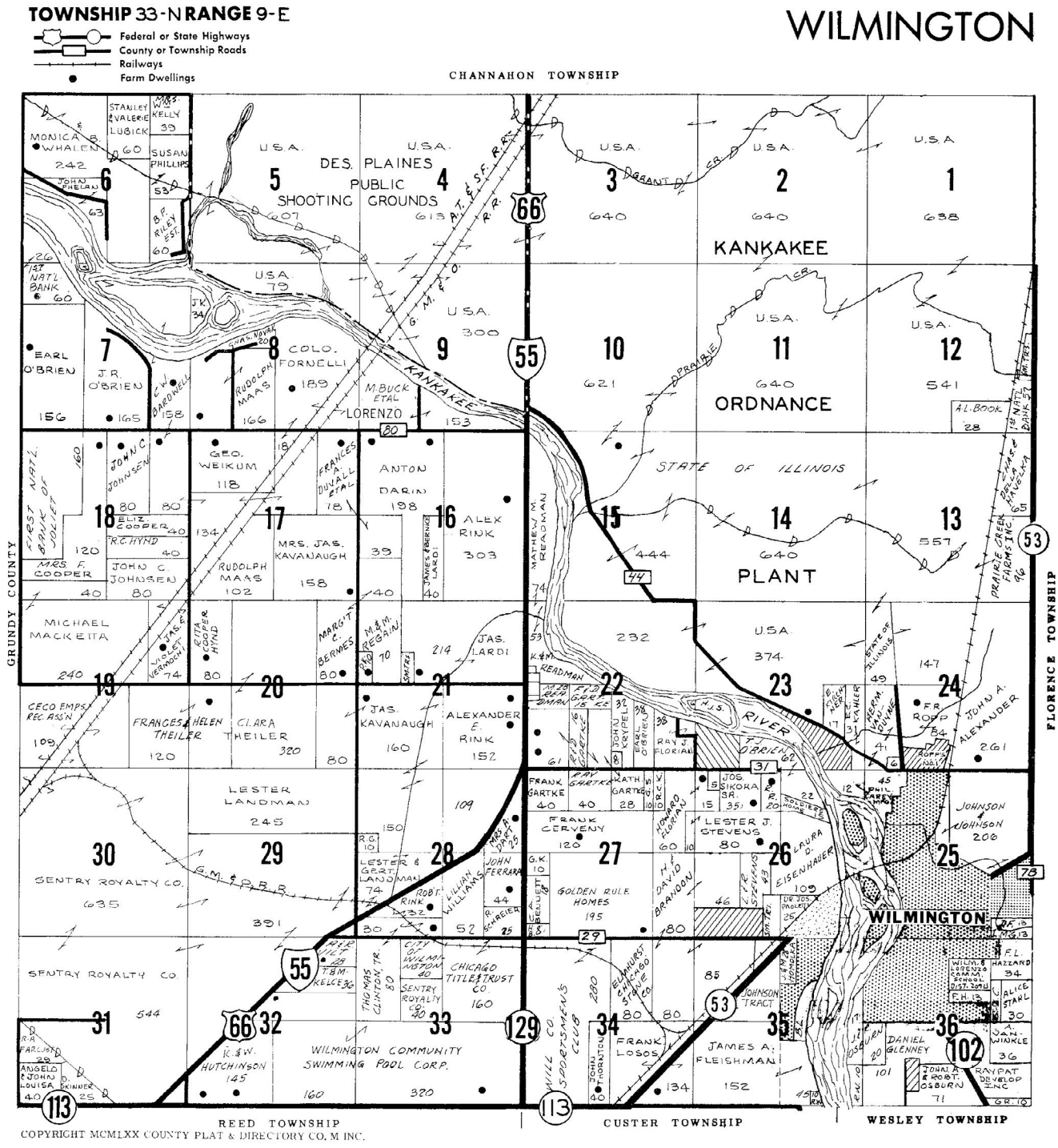
Wilmington Township 1953



Wilmington Township 1957

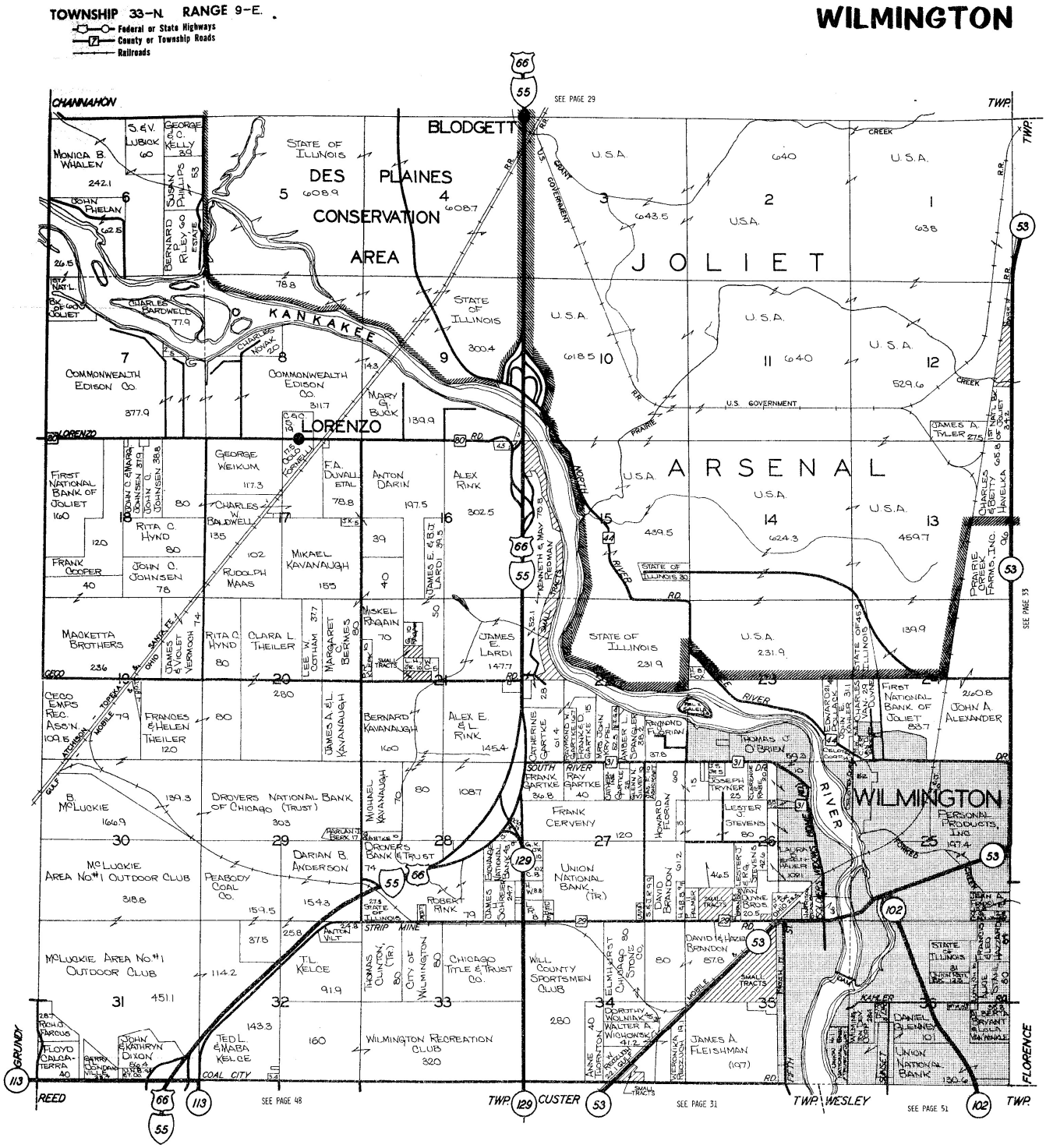


Wilmington Township 1963

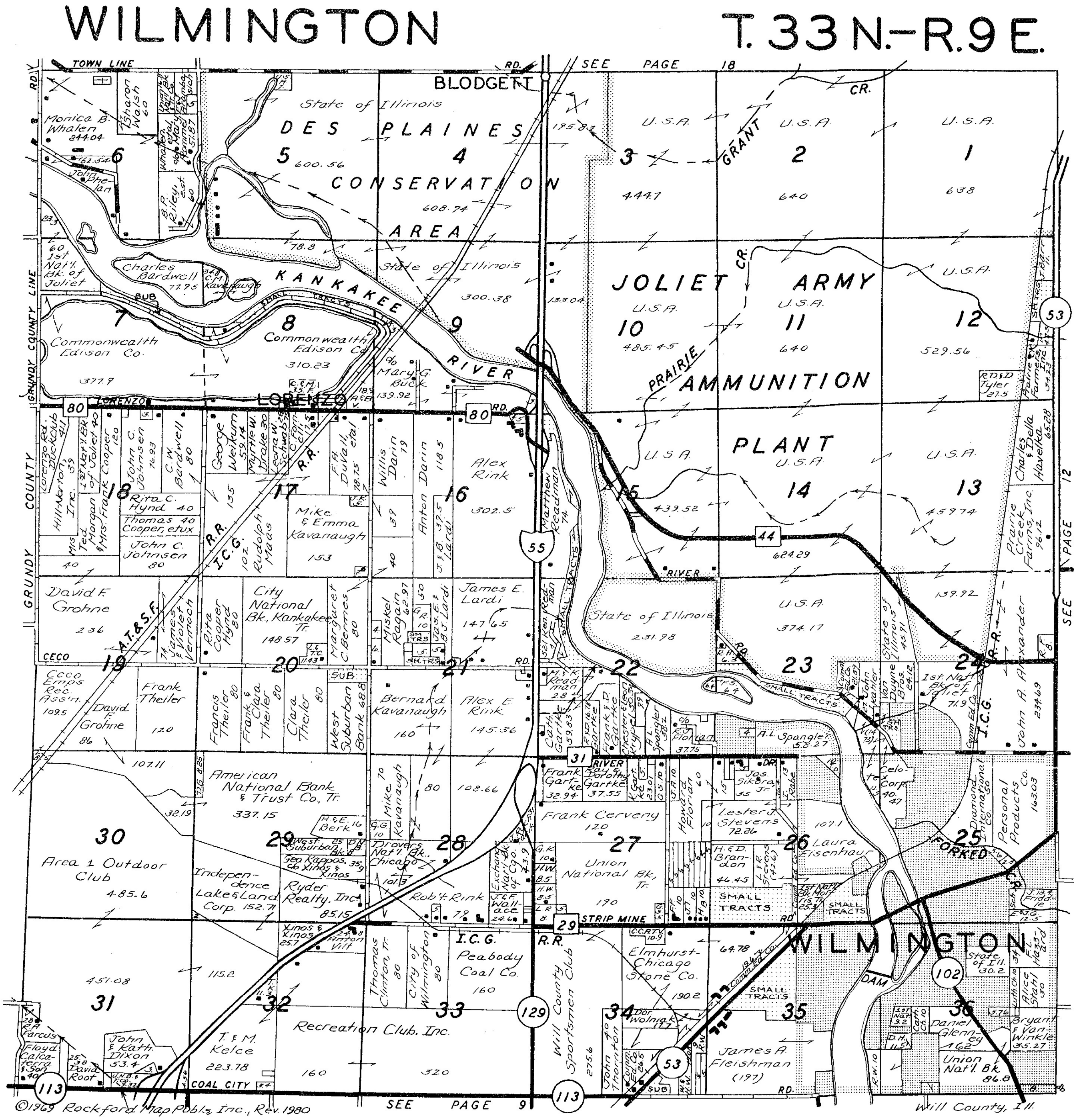


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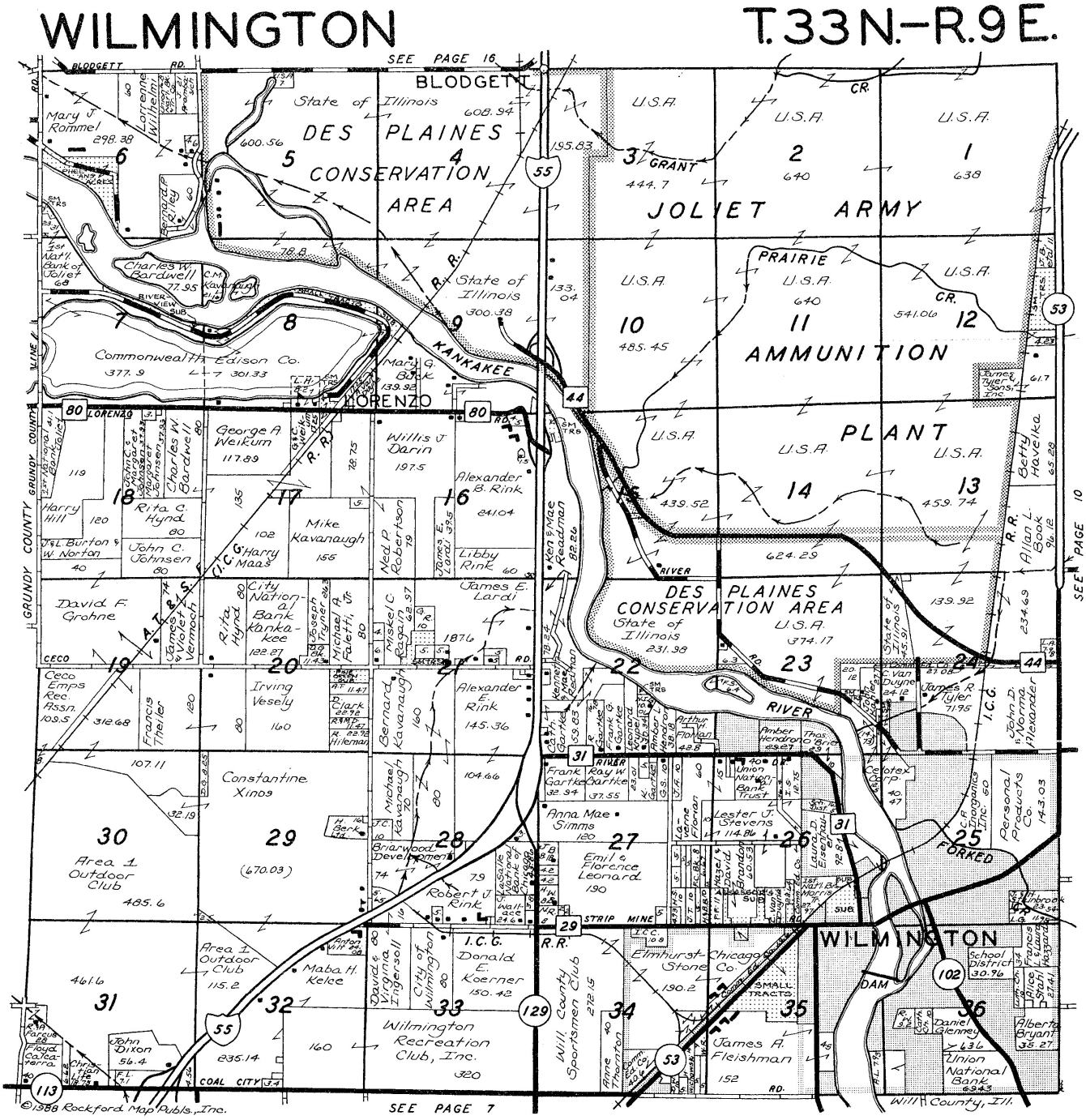
Wilmington Township 1970



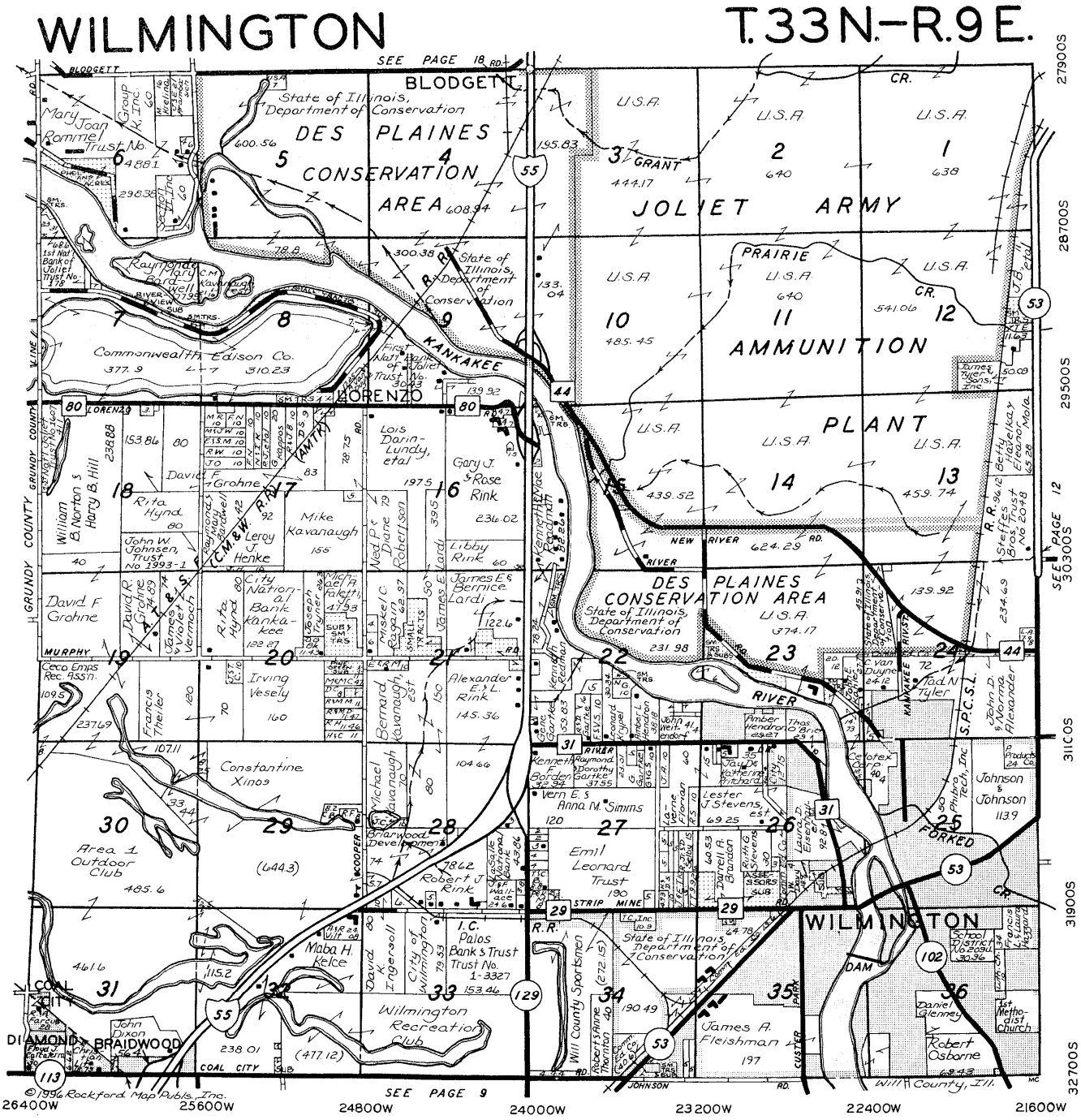
Wilmington Township 1974



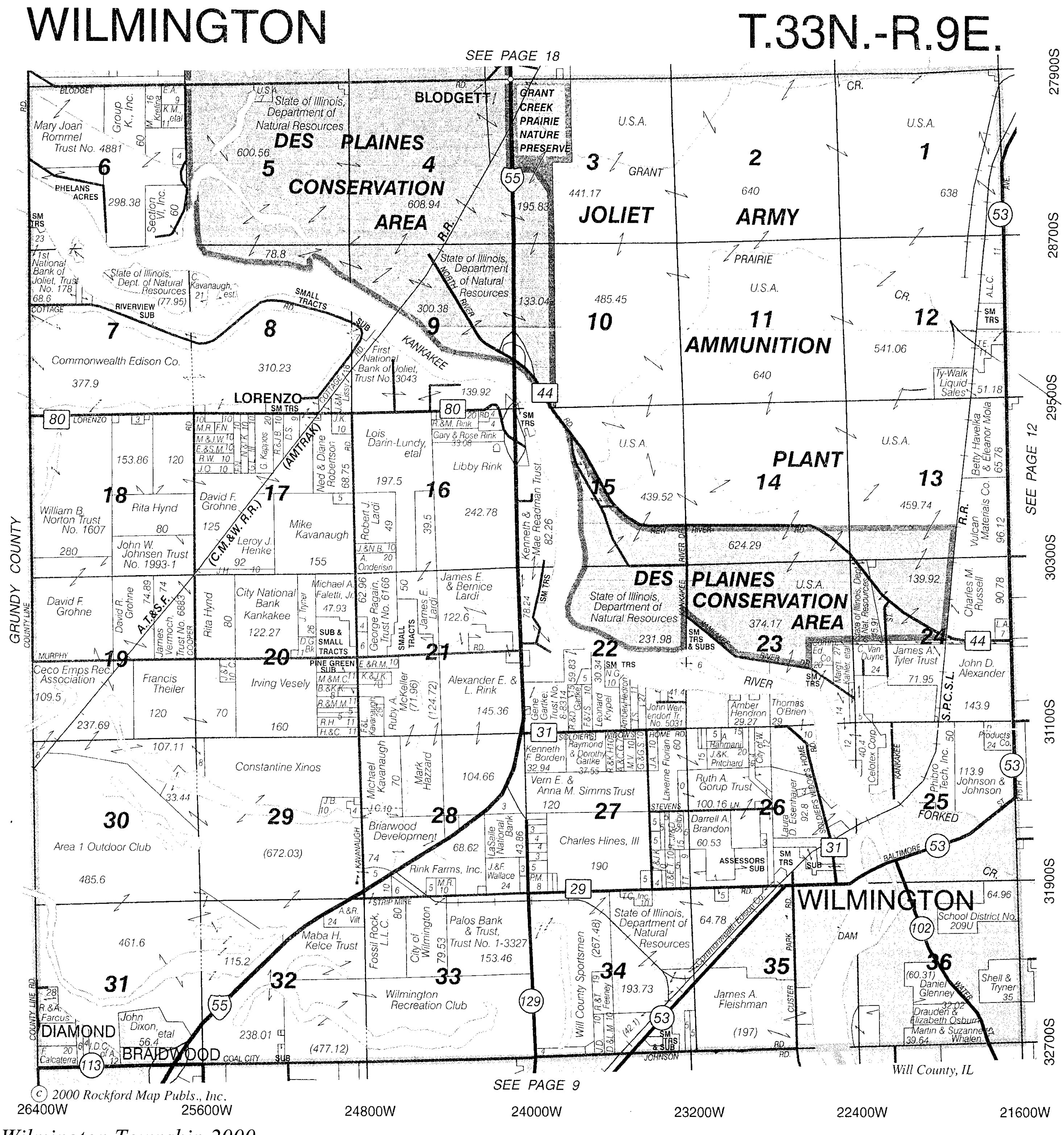
Wilmington Township 1980



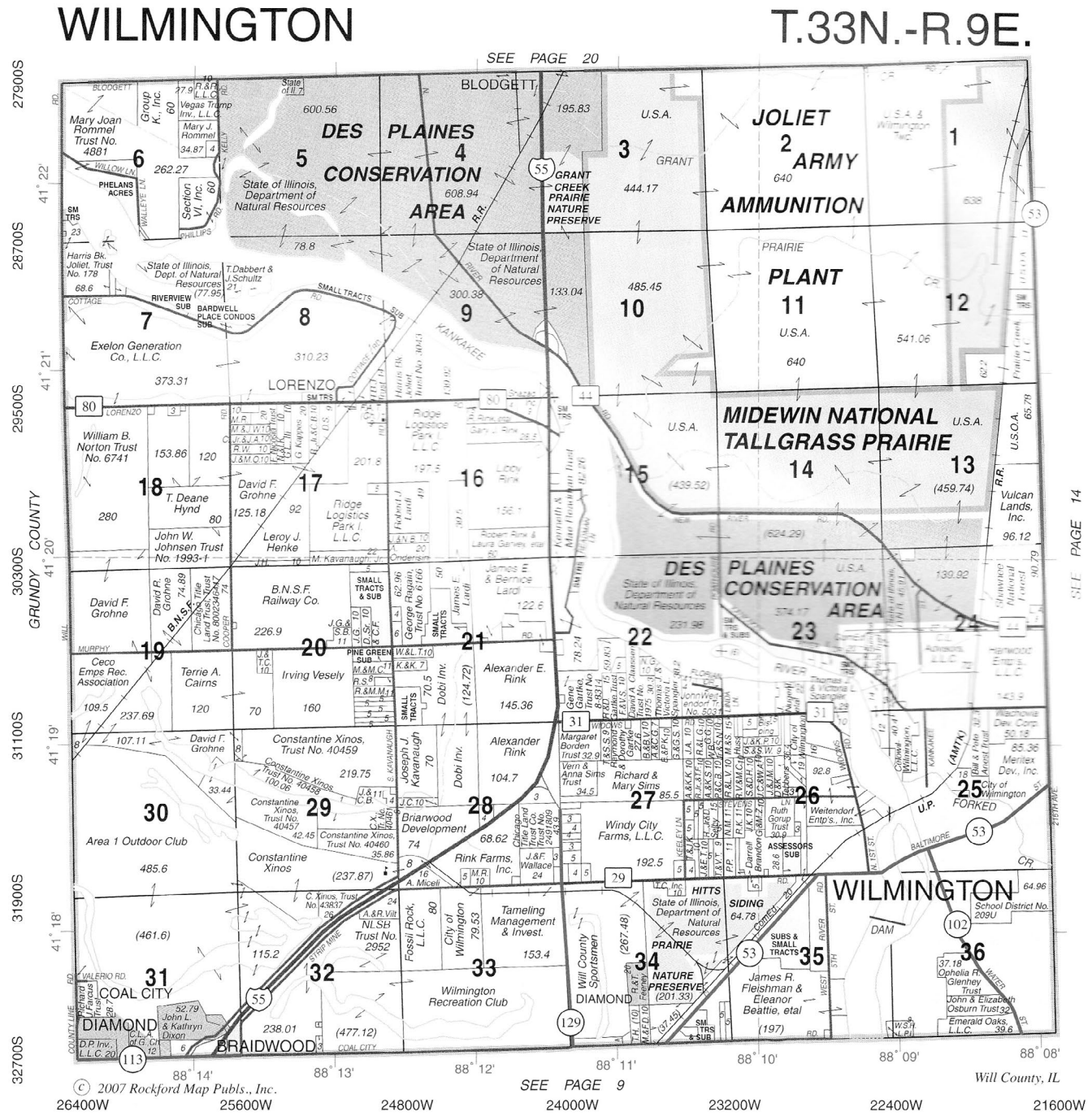
Wilmington Township 1988



Wilmington Township 1996



Wilmington Township 2000



Wilmington Township 2007

APPENDIX B

SURVEY MAPS

The following maps were generated as part of this study using ArcGIS software. The background aerial photography and baseline maps were downloaded from the Illinois Natural Resources Geospatial Data Clearinghouse internet site <http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/nsdihome/>. The contemporary aerial photography that forms the background for the maps is dated March–May 2005. The historic aerial photography of Map 4 is dated 1939.

This appendix contains:

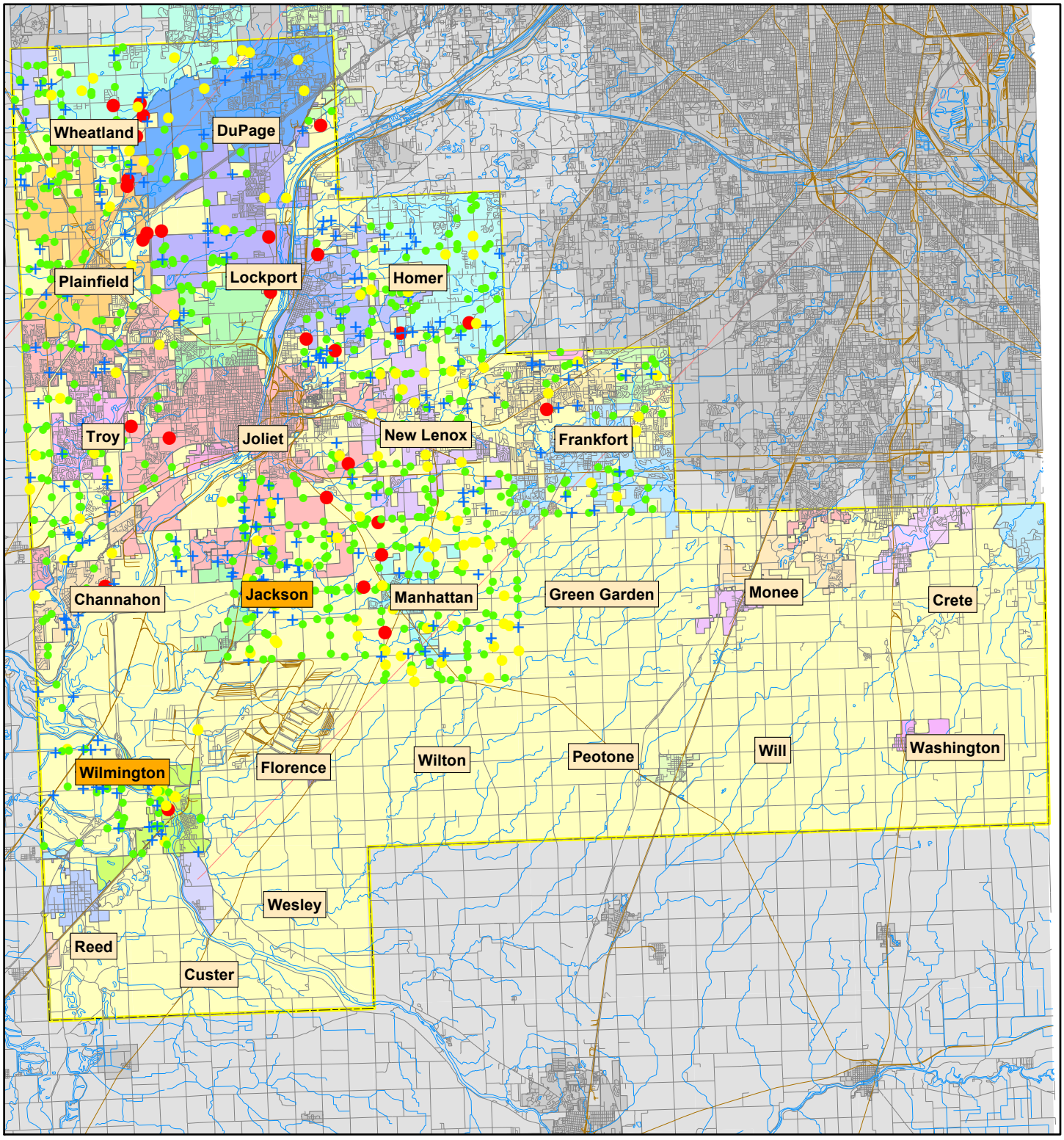
Key to Properties by Map ID number
Map 1 – Will County Key Map
Map 2 – Wilmington Township: Overview of Survey
Map 3 – Wilmington Township: Detail of Southeast Quarter of Township
Map 4 – Wilmington Township: Historic Significance of Sites
Map 5 – Wilmington Township: 1939 Aerial Photography
Map 6 – Wilmington Township: Kankakee River Corridor
Map 7– Wilmington Township: Joliet Arsenal Area

Key to Properties by Map ID Number

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
402	17-08-300-005	Lorenzo Road	E. N. Clark House	Local landmark potential
404	17-09-300-019	Lorenzo Road	Gavican Farmstead	Non-contributing
405	17-12-200-002	29040 Illinois Route 53	Allen Farmstead	Local landmark potential
406	17-12-200-003	29050 Illinois Route 53	—	Contributing
407	17-12-200-004	29060 Illinois Route 53	—	Contributing
408	17-16-200-005	24361 Lorenzo Road	Donahue tenant Farmstead	Non-contributing
411	17-17-400-002	Kavanaugh Road	Kavanaugh tenant Farmstead	Contributing
412	17-17-100-006	25501 Lorenzo Road	McCabe Farmstead	Contributing
413	17-17-200-014	24827 Lorenzo Road	Magner–Hayes Farmstead	Non-contributing
415	17-18-200-004	Lorenzo Road	Magner–Bardwell Farmstead	Contributing
417	17-18-200-007	25905 Lorenzo Road	Johnsen Farmstead	Non-contributing
420	17-20-100-004	30549 Cooper Road	Cooper Farmstead	Contributing
421	17-19-300-004	25907 Murphy Road	—	Non-contributing
423	17-20-300-003	25511 Murphy Road	Butler Farmstead	Contributing
425	17-20-200-005	25100 Murphy Road	—	Non-contributing
426	17-21-300-007	30757 Kavanaugh Road	Kavanaugh Farmstead	Contributing
428	17-21-200-012	Frontage Road	Cairns–Lardi Farmstead	Contributing
429	17-21-400-001	Frontage Road	Rink Farmstead	Non-contributing
430	17-21-200-011	24304 Murphy Road	—	Contributing
434	17-26-100-010	1161 Widows Road	Henry Hudson Farmstead	Contributing
435	17-26-100-013	22848 Stevens Lane	Barnes–Brodie Farmstead	Contributing
436	17-26-100-003	1501 Widows Road	McNiff–Florian Farmstead	Contributing
437	17-26-300-005	23114 Strip Mine Road	—	Non-contributing
438	17-26-300-007	23006 Strip Mine Road	Webber–Todd–Jenks Farmstea	Contributing
439	17-26-400-005	800 W. Strip Mine Road	—	Non-contributing
441	17-27-100-007	31425 Frontage Road	Schneider–Florian–Cerveny F	Non-contributing
442	17-27-300-014	31563 Frontage Road	Kurth Farmstead	Contributing
443	17-27-300-018	31725 Illinois Route 129	Lamping–Pelton Farmstead	Contributing
444	17-28-400-007	31850 Illinois Route 129	Schreier Filling Station/Lodge	Contributing
446	17-28-300-004	24424 Strip Mine Road	Mallon tenant Farmstead	Contributing
448	17-27-100-001	23963 Widows Road	Frank Gartke House	Contributing
451	17-31-300-001	26325 Valerio Road	Busaytis Farmstead	Contributing

ID	PIN Number	Address	Name	Significance of Site
454	17-35-400-005	32328 West River Road	Alden Farmstead [?]	Local landmark potential
457	17-08-400-009	25010 Lorenzo Road	Lorenzo Depot	Contributing
458	17-17-200-004	25023 Lorenzo Road	Houses of Lorenzo	Non-contributing
459	17-12-200-005	29070 Illinois Route 53	—	Local landmark potential
460	17-21-100-025	24700 Murphy Road	Babcock Farmstead	Non-contributing
464	17-23-200-001	Kankakee River Drive	George Markert house	Local landmark potential
465	17-23-400-009	22400 Kankakee River Drive	Andrew Markert House ?	Local landmark potential
468	17-32-100-003	I-55 Frontage Road	A. Skinner House	Contributing
470	17-34-300-010	23700 Coal City Road	Maloney–Glenney Farmstead	Contributing
471	17-35-400-002	West River Road	Carl E. Johnson Farmstead	Contributing
473	17-36-400-067	1565 S. Water Street	—	Non-contributing
476	17-25-427-001	21631 County Road	Singleton–Dude Farmstead	Contributing
477	17-25-411-001	21620 County Road	McIntosh–White Farmstead	Contributing
478	17-26-202-017	725 Widows Road	Bowen Farmstead	National Register potential
479	17-26-100-020	1305 Widows Road	Brodie–Sikora Farmstead	Non-contributing
482	17-26-202-015	747 Widows Road	Soldiers' Widows' Home Laun	Local landmark
483	17-26-300-017	22830 Strip Mine Road	—	Contributing
484	17-26-300-012	22832 Strip Mine Road	Gurney Farmstead	Contributing
488	17-34-400-011	23424 Coal City Road	Hunter–Glenney Farmstead	Contributing
494	17-22-300-021	30859 East Frontage Road	Gartke Farmstead	Non-contributing
512	17-15-300-025	30115 Readman Lane	Readman Farmstead	Contributing
514	17-22-300-001	30707 East Frontage Road	—	Contributing
562	17-06-200-008	28240 Kelly Road	Flynn Farmstead	Contributing
565	17-28-200-003	21450 Illinois Route 129	Holman Farmstead	Contributing
567	17-23-400-012	22432 Kankakee River Drive	Stone Farmstead	Local landmark potential
568	17-23-400-003	22574 Kankakee River Drive	John P. Lynott summer house	Contributing
569	17-23-300-012	22845 Kankakee River Drive	—	Contributing
570	17-23-300-036	22911 Kankakee River Drive	Luther Farmstead	Local landmark potential
571	17-24-300-027	22328 Kankakee River Drive	Osborne Farmstead	Local landmark potential

JACKSON AND WILMINGTON TOWNSHIPS
Map 1: Will County Key Map

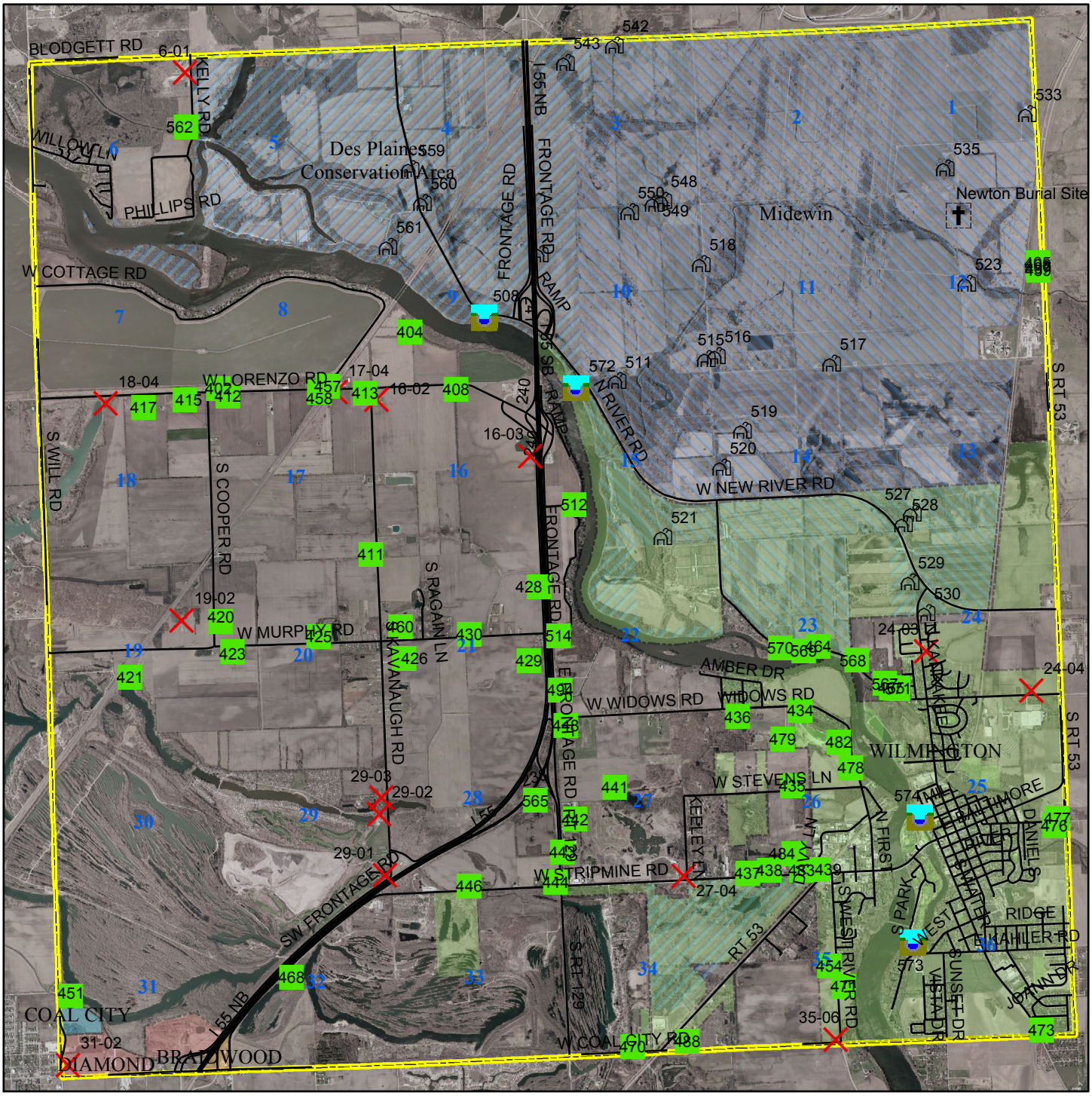


WILMINGTON TOWNSHIP
Map 2: Overview of Survey

- Existing site (I.D. number)
- Ruins of farmstead demolished circa 1940
- Site demolished since 1988 (1988 survey number)
- Former canal feature
- Historic cemetery

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

N W E S



WILMINGTON TOWNSHIP
Map 3: Detail of Southeast Quarter of Township

Existing site (I.D. number)

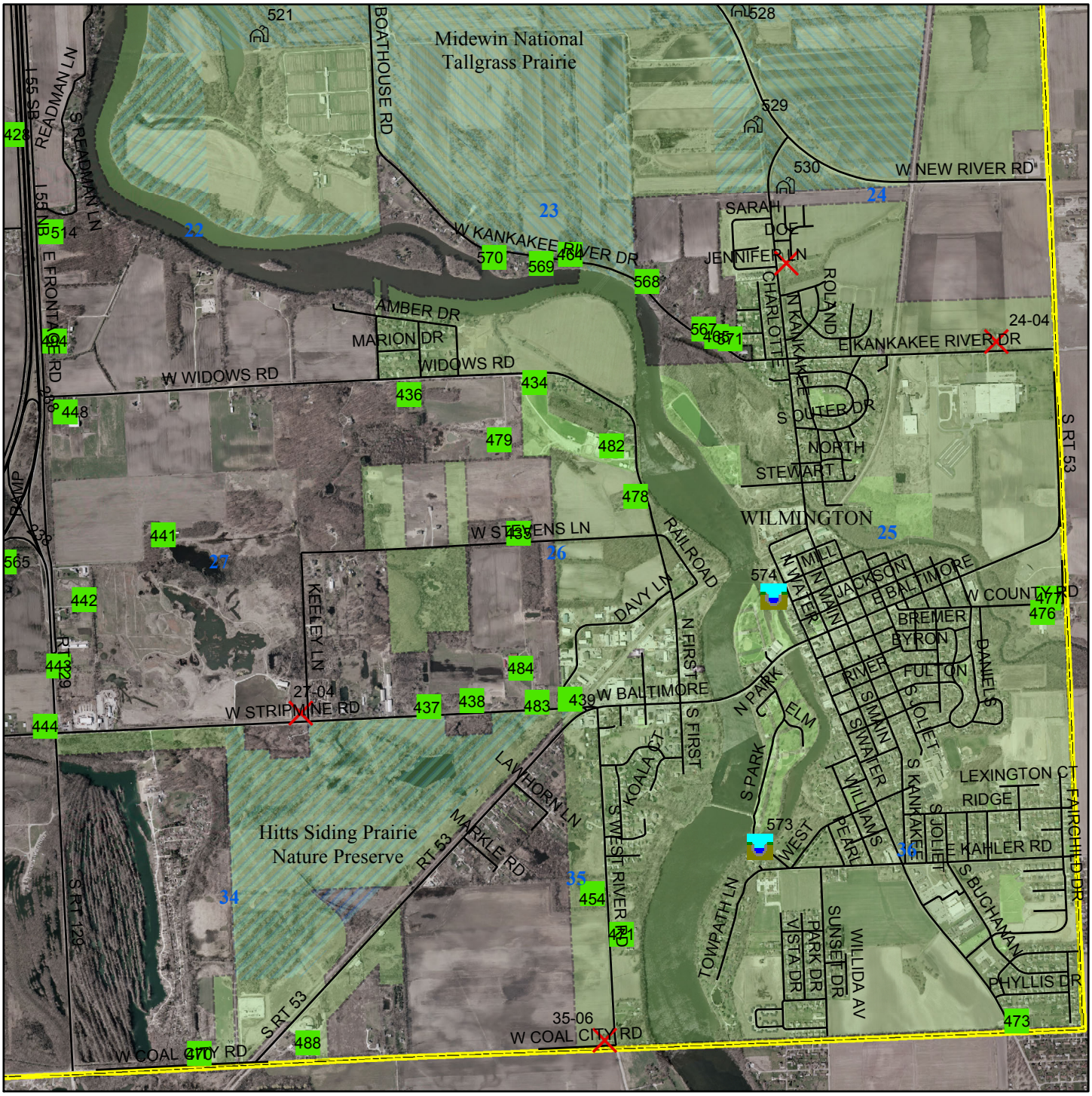
Ruins of farmstead demolished circa 1940

Site demolished since 1988 (1988 survey number)

Former canal feature

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

N W E S

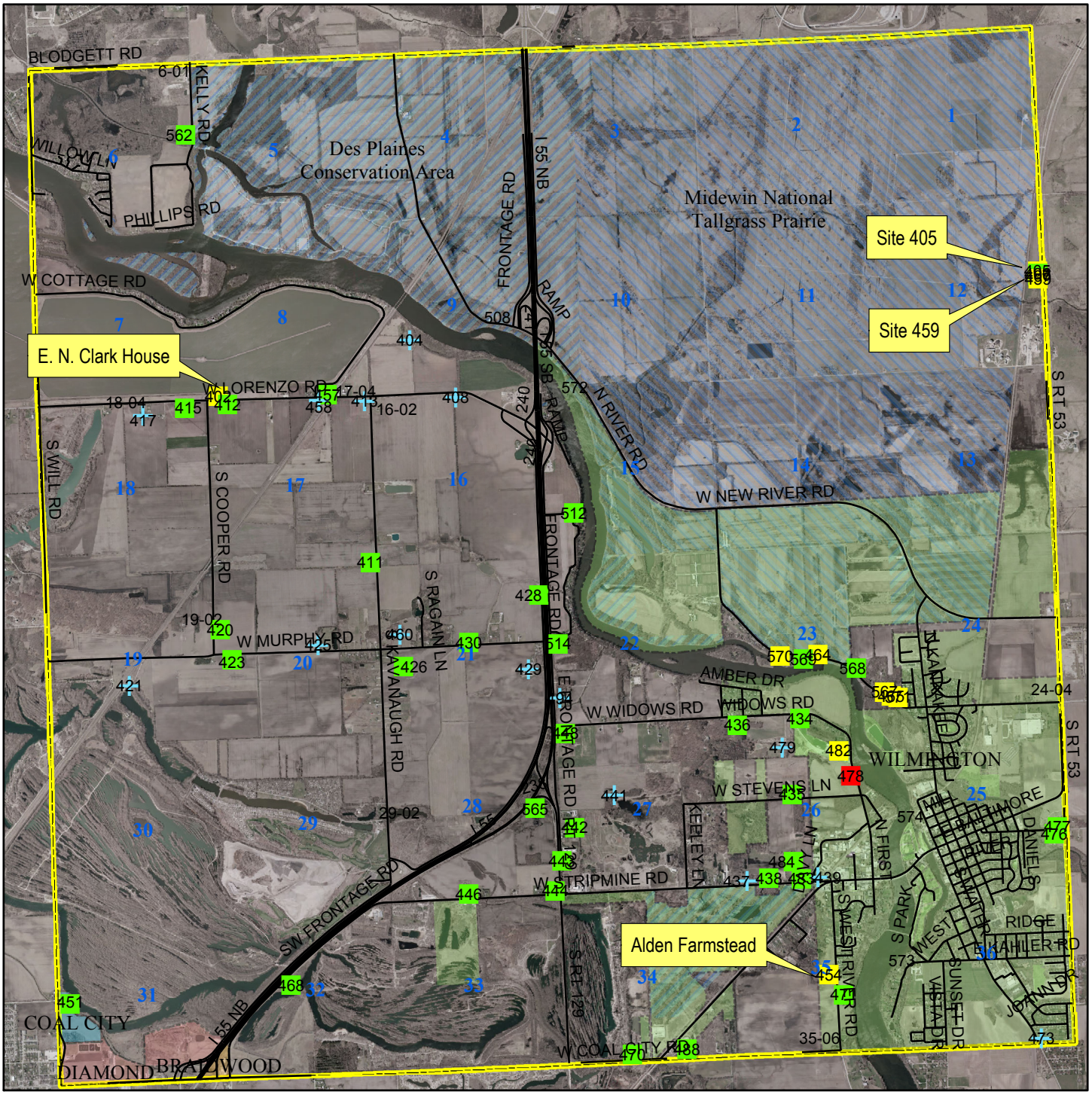


WILMINGTON TOWNSHIP
Map 4: Significance of Sites

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

Also refer to Map 6 for identification of potential landmarks in the Kankakee River corridor.

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

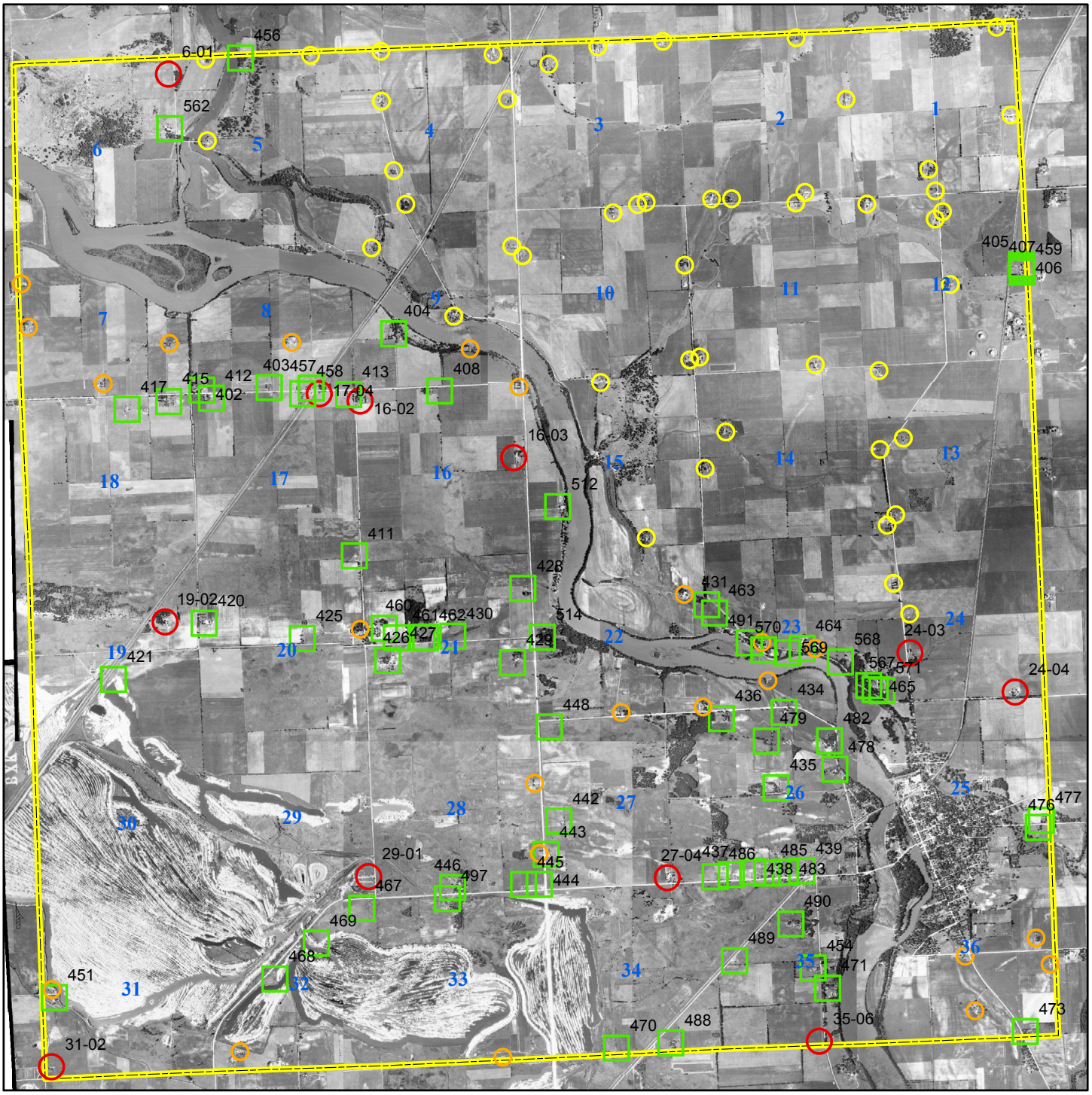


WILMINGTON TOWNSHIP
Map 5: 1939 Aerial Photography

- Existing site (I.D. number)
- Site demolished since 1988 survey (1988 survey number)
- Other demolished site
- Site demolished in 1940 for Joliet Arsenal

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

N W E S

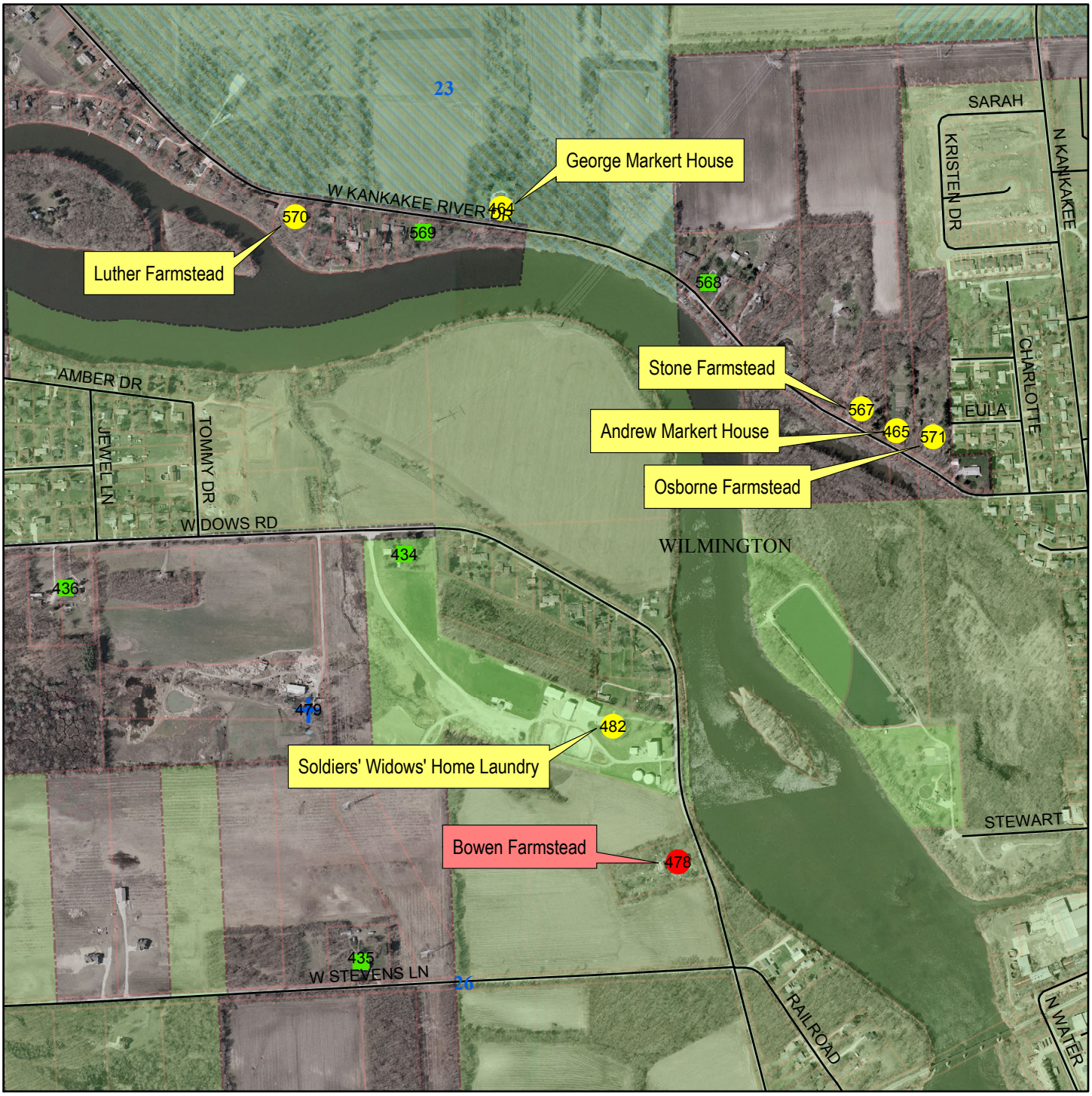


WILMINGTON TOWNSHIP
Map 6: Kankakee River Corridor

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

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles

N W E S



WILMINGTON TOWNSHIP
Map 7: Joliet Arsenal Area

- Site demolished circa 1940, no evidence remains
- Site demolished circa 1940, foundation ruins exist
- ? Site demolished circa 1940, inaccessible for survey

When the Joliet Arsenal site was developed in 1940-1942, the existing farmsteads on the site were typically demolished to grade. Foundations were abandoned in place. Except where the site was redeveloped subsequently, many of the farmstead sites in the arsenal area still have evidence of older foundations. Farmstead sites in the arsenal area were identified based upon 1939 aerial photograph. Sites in the present-day Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie were surveyed in the field.

