

KENDALL COUNTY
Historic Preservation Commission
Little White School Museum
72 Polk Street, Oswego, Illinois
6:00 p.m.
February 16, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jeff Wehrli called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Eric Bernacki (Secretary), Elizabeth Flowers (Vice-Chairwoman), Kristine Heiman, Marty Shanahan, and Jeff Wehrli (Chairman)

Absent: None

Also Present: Matt Asselmeier (Senior Planner), Lisa Wolancevich, Johanna Byram, Mike Bortal, Scott Gryder, Jeff Nakaerts, Subash George, Ed Hatteberg, Sarah Skilton, Jane Burke, Philip Buchanan, Ken Wolf, Ken Donart, Marilyn Thompson, Scott Gengler, Ruben Rodriguez, Mark Harrington, Ted Clauser, Kenneth Itle, Annie Jordan, and Jon Pressley (Attended Remotely)

WELCOMING REMARKS

Chairman Wehrli welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for attending.

Attendees introduced themselves.

Kendall County Board Chairman Scott Gryder thanked everyone for attending.

Chairman Wehrli thanked the Little White School Museum for hosting.

Chairman Wehrli discussed the history of Kendall County, importance of historic preservation, and the story of the creation of the Historic Preservation Commission.

UPDATE FROM ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY

Jon Pressley, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, discussed the effort of making Kendall County a Certified Local Government. He also discussed the Certified Local Government Grant Program and the Amplifund Program. All of the grants have been graded; there will be a meeting between the State and County on February 17, 2022. He noted an extension to complete the historic structure survey timeline. He also discussed the Historic Preservation Fund. He discussed future grant cycles.

Chairman Wehrli asked if extra money would be available next year. Mr. Pressley said there would be an extra year for completion, possibly June 30, 2022. Extra money might be available. Mr. Pressley said a new grant window would open around September.

Mr. Pressley explained the types of projects funded by Certified Local Government Grants. These projects included surveys, brochures, other public relations documents, camps for historic preservation commissions. He discussed cultural resource management hazard mitigation planning.

PRESENTATION BY LITTLE WHITE SCHOOL MUSEUM

Annie Jordan, Museum Manager of the Little White School Museum, provided a history of the building and the Oswegoland Heritage Association. She also discussed historic preservation efforts in the Oswego area. Discussion also occurred regarding the windows of the building. Discussion occurred regarding Museum's

collection, how the Museum acquired items, and efforts to preserve items in the collection. There are over thirty-four thousand (34,000) items in the Museum's collection. Discussion also occurred regarding the bell that used to be in the building when the structure was a church. The church may have been moved to this location.

Chairman Wehrli asked if the Museum had an additional location to display their collection. Ms. Jordan responded the Oswego Heritage Association owns the Stewart House, but there were not any plans to use that property for displaying artifacts. The Museum was doing more programs in Downtown Oswego. Discussion occurred regarding doing a traveling show and engaging youth.

PRESENTATION ON HISTORIC STRUCTURE SURVEY

Kenneth Itle, of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., discussed historic structure surveys, how they occur, and the deliverables of such surveys. He also discussed the importance and roles of volunteers when doing a survey. The focus of the project would be unincorporated Kendall and Bristol Townships. The maximum number of volunteers would be around eight to ten (8-10) and the minimum number of volunteers needed would be around three to four (3-4). The work would probably occur simultaneously in Kendall and Bristol Townships. Discussion occurred regarding where the finished reports would be located.

Mr. Asselmeier explained that each township would be surveyed. The results of the surveys would be used to create a Preservation Plan for the County. He also explained the Commission's reasons for selecting Kendall and Bristol Townships.

Few counties in Illinois have undertaken rural surveys.

Mike Bortal, Plainfield Historic Preservation Commission, discussed surveys in the Plainfield area. He also offered to write a landmark nomination for the Stewart Farmstead if the Oswego Heritage Association was interested.

DISCUSSION OF VOLUNTEERS FOR STRUCTURE SURVEY

Chairman Wehrli said the Commission would reach out to the network to ask for volunteers when the project reaches that point.

DISCUSSION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

Mr. Asselmeier explained the historic preservation awards, including past award winners. The application deadline is February 28th. He also explained the process of selecting awards. Awards may be granted to buildings, groups, and individuals. Structures must be over fifty (50) years of age.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Ken Donart, Chapel on the Green, discussed the Chapel on the Green structure. He noted that the Chapel received a COVID grant from the County. There will be a memorial bench dedication for the Mantheis later this year.

Subash George, Oswego Preservation Commission, discussed filling vacancies on the Oswego Preservation Commission. He discussed engaging children in historic preservation.

Ed Hatteberg, Norsk Museum, said funding was a problem. He also said several board members have passed and there has been difficulty getting younger board members. There will be a breakfast for the grand opening in June. The Sons of Norway Polar Star Lodge will be hosting the Norwegian Dancers on March 6, 2022, at Cross Lutheran Church in Yorkville; the event is free.

Sarah Skilton, Oswego Library District, discussed their partnership with the Oswegoland Heritage Association.

Mark Harrington discussed his background and the Sandwich Historical Society. He discussed the possibility of doing a Museum Minute on WSPY Radio. He discussed engaging children in historic preservation. He discussed changes at museums; people seem to be more interested in history from the 1940s to 1980s.

Marty Shanahan discussed the Grand Army of the Republic Museum.

Lisa Wolancevich, Yorkville Historic Preservation and Kendall County Historical Society, discussed the Save the Kendall County Jail. She discussed their library and assisting people with genealogical research. They will have events April 14th. Discussion occurred about Abraham Lincoln's connections with Kendall County. There will be an Easter egg hunt at Lyons Farm on April 16th. She also discussed the car show at the Lyons Farm in 2021.

Johanna Byram, Yorkville Historic Preservation and Kendall County Historic Society, discussed the challenge of engaging people and working with students in need of service hours. She also discussed their digitizing project.

Marilyn Thompson, Ferndell, said they were busy during COVID because people wanted to get out and do things when other places were closed. She discussed the importance of having people sign the attendance sheets at events so that they can be contacted for future activities. She discussed the collections in their museum. She noted their blacksmith's shop was operating and that people love watching him work. She noted the renovations to their buildings. She also discussed their fundraising dinners. She discussed children touring the museum and what the children like at the museum. She discussed using social media for dialogue.

Jane Burke, Naperville Historical Society, discussed historic preservation in Naperville and the need to preserve other structures outside of Naper's Settlement. She and Philip Buchanan were at the meeting to learn.

Jeff Nakaerts, Dickson Murst Farm, explained the history of the organization. He also explained farming activities and other related activities that occur on the property.

Eric Bernacki discussed a Facebook group related to Mokena history. He discussed historic cemeteries. He also discussed development pressure at the Bronk farm.

Mr. Asselmeier read an email from Tina Beaird, Plainfield Historical Society. The Plainfield Historical Society will reopen February 12, 2022, with new exhibits. Discussion occurred regarding the Great Race which will be stopping in Plainfield on June 22, 2022. The Plainfield Public Library will be adding historic newspapers to their website.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Chairman Wehrli said the Commission hopes to have another group meeting this summer. He hoped collaboration will increase. He discussed finding the tombstone of Peter Minkler. He also discussed witnessing youth talking with a Native American and the Hoover Forest Preserve.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion occurred regarding the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026 and having a museum pass featuring each museum. Discussion also occurred regarding museums adapting to new technology.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Bernacki, to adjourn. With a voice vote of five (5) ayes, the motion carried.

The Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew H. Asselmeier, AICP, CFM
Senior Planner

Encs.

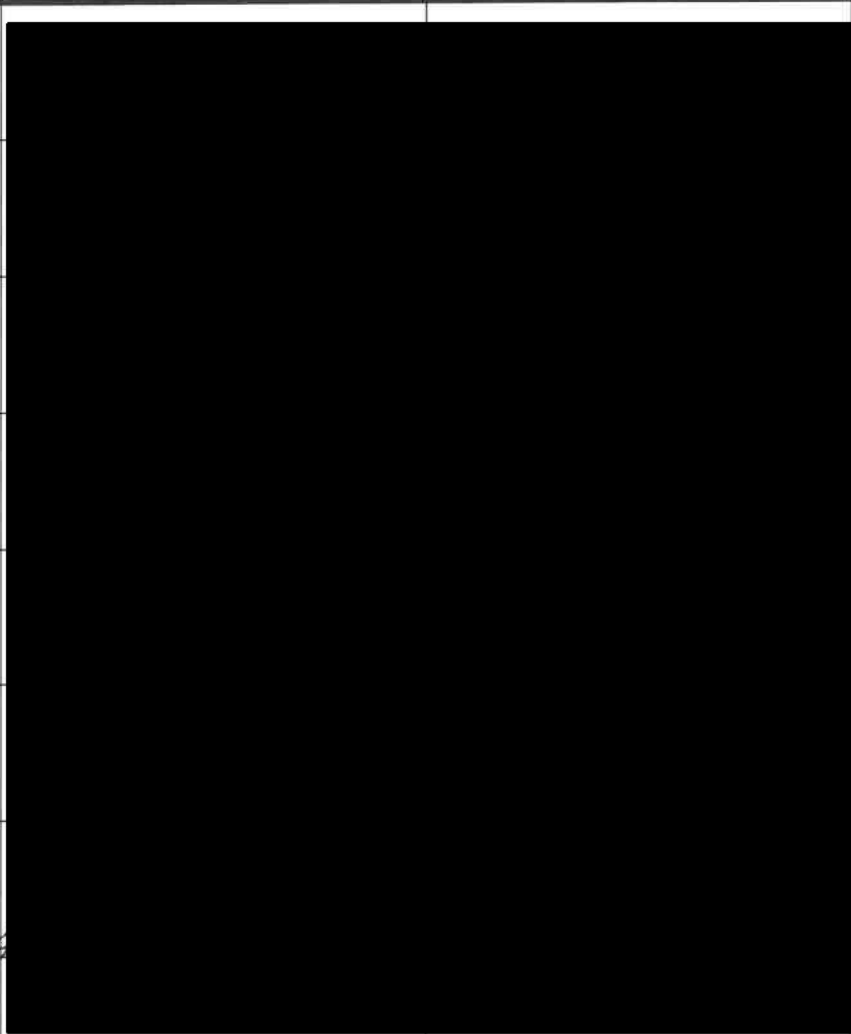
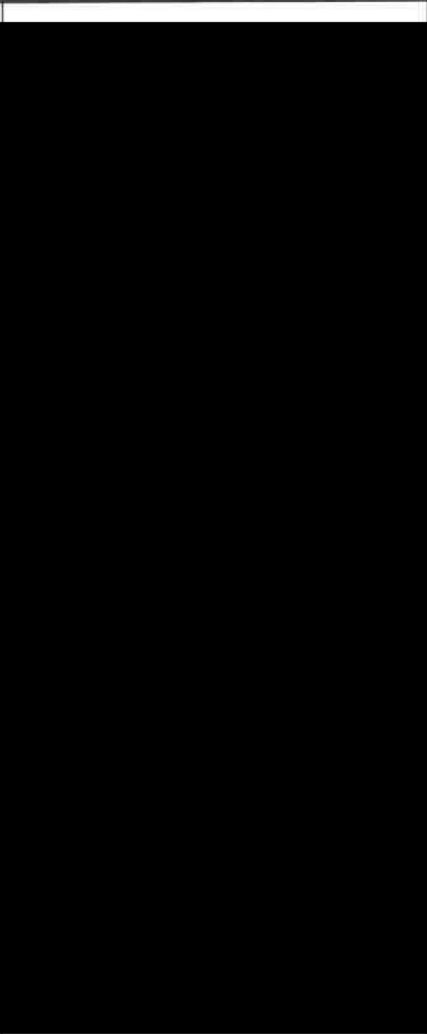
**KENDALL COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 16, 2022**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONTACTED ON FUTURE MEETINGS REGARDING THIS TOPIC, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR ADDRESS OR EMAIL ADDRESS

NAME	ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)	EMAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)
Kristine Heiman		
Lisa Wolancevich		
Johanna Byram		
Mike Bortel		
Scott Gaylor		
JEFF NAKAERTS		
Subash George .		

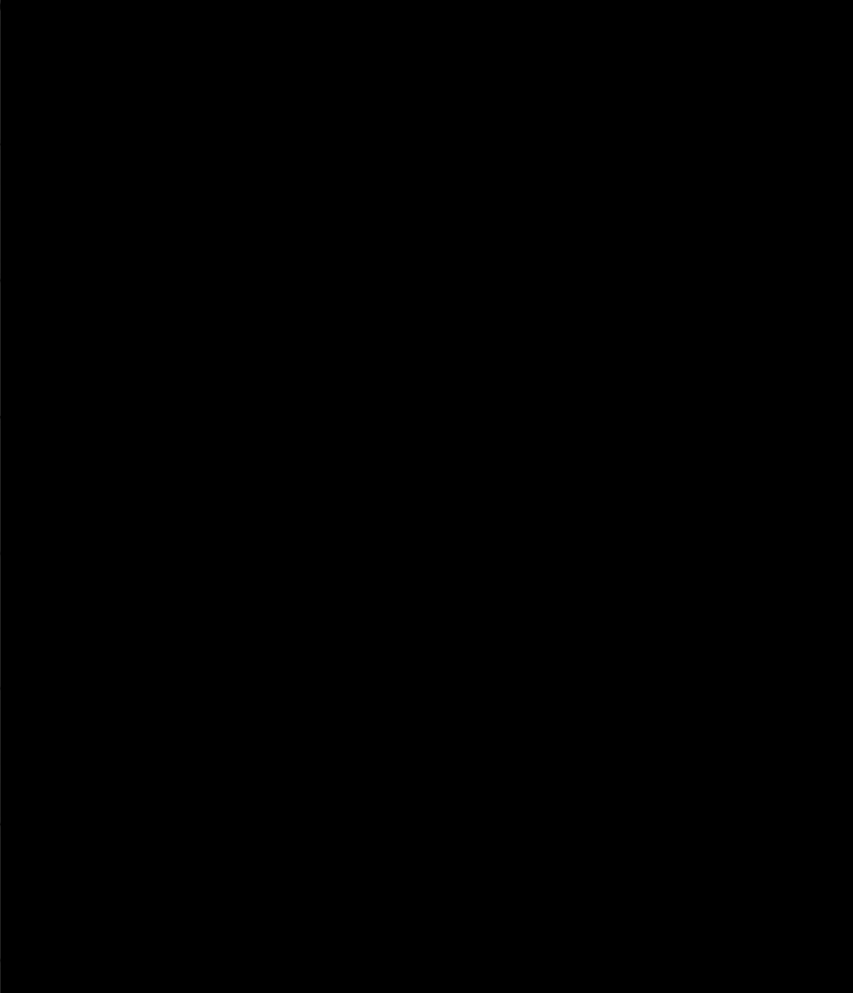
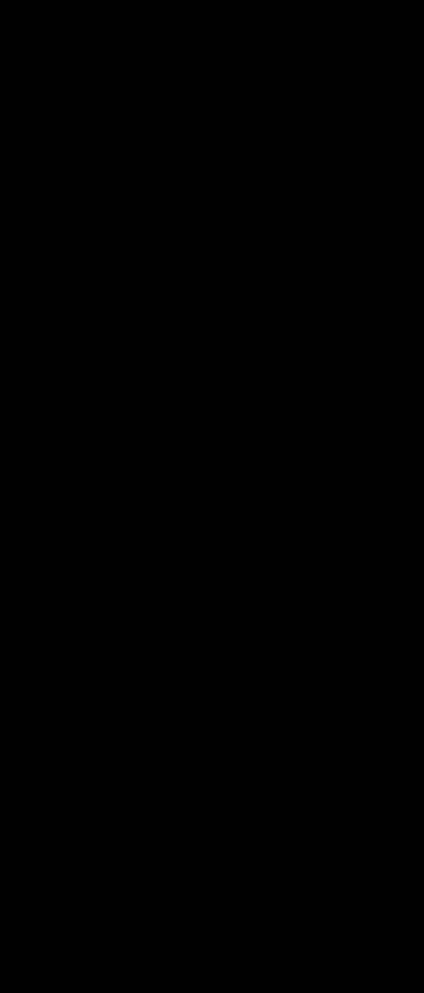
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NAME	ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)	EMAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)
ED HATTEBERG		
SARAH SKINN		
JANE BURKE		
PHILIP BUCHANAN		
KEN WOLF		
KEN DONANT		
Marilyn Kemp		

**KENDALL COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 16, 2022**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONTACTED ON FUTURE MEETINGS REGARDING THIS TOPIC, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR ADDRESS OR EMAIL ADDRESS

NAME	ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)	EMAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)
Scott Gensler		
Marty Shanahan		
Mark Harrington		
Ted Clouser		
KENNETH TUE		
Annie Jordan		
JEFF WARRU		

**Norwegian Dancers Perform Live
Cross Lutheran Church Gymnasium
8609 Rt. 47, Yorkville, IL
Sunday, March 6, 2022
1:30 p.m.**



The Sons of Norway Polar Star Lodge 4-472 will host a live performance of the Stoughton, Wisconsin, Norwegian Dance troupe on Sunday March 6, 2022. The traveling troupe consists of high school students who perform traditional Norwegian folk dances in authentic Norwegian folk costumes (*bunader*) throughout the Midwest.

The performance is open to all vaccinated members of the community. Doors will open at 1:00 and the performance will begin at 1:30 p.m. Polar Star Lodge members will all sell traditional Norwegian pre-packaged baked goods following the performance.

For more information contact Polar Star Cultural Director, Barb Johnson, at 630-553-7389 or barbjjohnsonb@aol.com

Matt Asselmeier

From: Tina Beard [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 8:10 PM
To: Matt Asselmeier
Subject: [External]Re: February 16th Kendall County Historic Preservation Group Meeting

Hi Matt,

Sorry, I can't be there, I have another commitment for that night. I know Roger was looking for another LWSM board member to be present to talk to the group. I think it was going to be Ted Clauser. Have a great meeting! Here are are a few updates:

The Plainfield Historical Society will reopen on February 12th with two new exhibits for 2022. One exhibit is on cameras and photography and another on the Plainfield fire of December 1891.

The historical society is hosting participants in the "Great Race", a road rally type race with classic cars that takes drivers from Rhode Island to North Dakota. They will be stopping in Plainfield on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, from 5-8 p.m. The village and society are planning a village-wide celebration, everyone is welcome! We'll provide details as the event draws closer. [The Great Race » 2022 Great Race Announced: Warwick, Rhode Island to Fargo, North Dakota](#)



**The Great Race » 2022 Great Race Announced:
Warwick, Rhode Island to Far...**

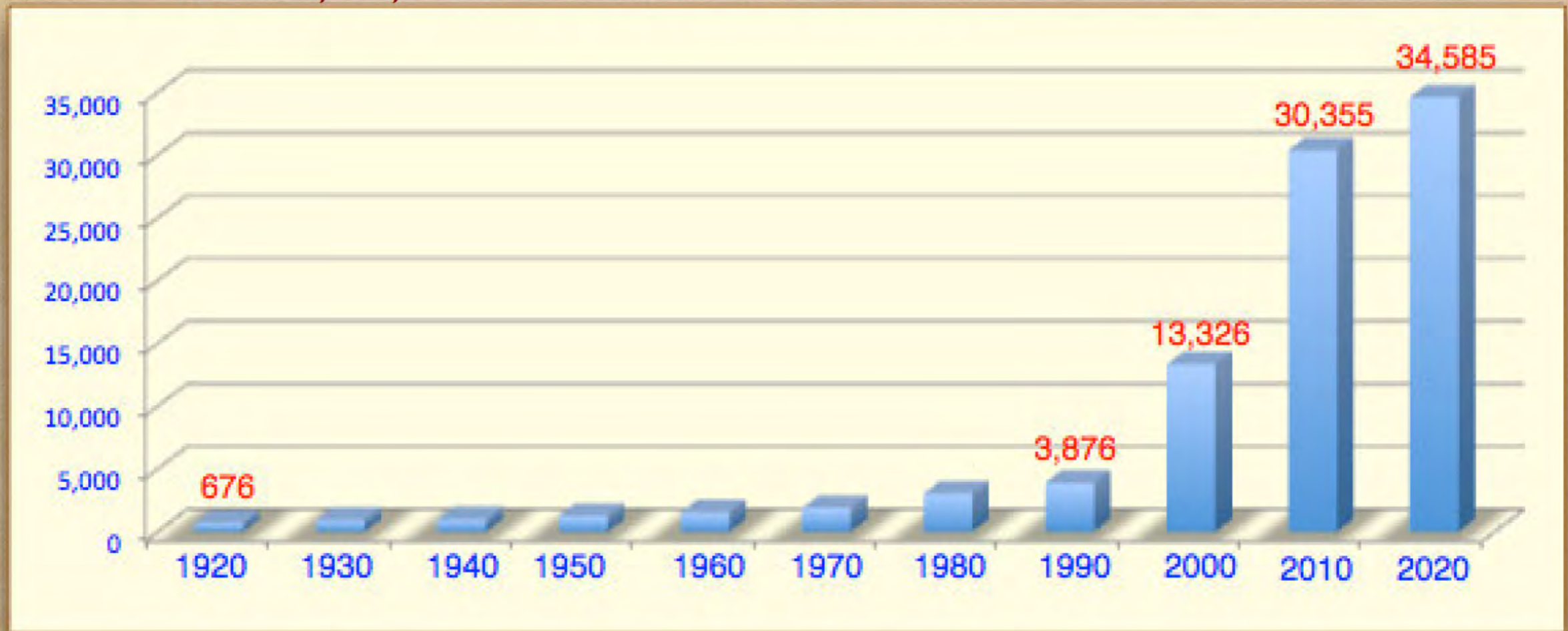
Plainfield Public Library has just revamped its website. The local history page will be adding additional Plainfield Enterprises from June 2001-December 2007 in the next couple of months. Currently, the digitized paper spans 1956-2001. [Plainfield History - Plainfield Public Library](#)

A brief history of
Little White School Museum

Oswegoland Park District
Oswegoland Heritage Association
2022

Between 2010 and 2020, Kendall County was, in percentage terms, the fastest growing county in Illinois...

Oswego's population, 1920 - 2020



With population growing, both local landmarks and local history were disappearing quickly.



One landmark lost to the wrecking ball in 1965, just a block away from the Little White School Museum, was the iconic Red Brick School.



A few years later, the Oswego Jaycees announced they were working with the CB&Q Railroad to obtain title to and open a community history museum in the old Oswego Depot...



But without informing the Jaycees, the railroad suddenly had the depot demolished, and the community lost a second landmark within just a few years.



As the nation began preparations to celebrate its Bicentennial in the mid-1970s, the Oswego School District Board announced plans to either sell or demolish yet another landmark, the Little White School.





Built in 1850 as a Methodist-Episcopal Church, the building was turned into a one-room school in 1915, undergoing several modifications through the years. Classes were held in the building until 1965, after which it was allowed to deteriorate.



Unwilling to see another landmark fall, a grassroots non-profit organization, the Oswegoland Heritage Association, was established to save and restore the building and open a community museum and historical archives in it.



A three-way partnership was hammered out between the school district, the Oswegoland Park District, and the heritage association to save the building, with the heritage association responsible for coordinating and funding restoration efforts.

Exterior restoration priorities were set as 1) replacing the roof, 2) painting the building, 3) restoring the bell tower, with work starting in 1977.



Roof Replacement
1977



Painting, 1978



Bell Tower, 1980



Bell Tower, 1980



Bell Tower, 1980



Bell Tower, 1983

While exterior work was going on, the building's 1936 classroom addition was being remodeled into a museum gallery.



By the time work on turning it into a museum gallery began, the room was in bad shape.

Instead of restoring the room, it was decided to completely renovate it with new lighting, electrical service, and a drop ceiling





After the room's renovation, heritage association volunteers worked to put on exhibit some of the hundreds of donated items that had accumulated. The gallery opened in April 1983, in time for the celebration of Oswego's 150th birthday party.



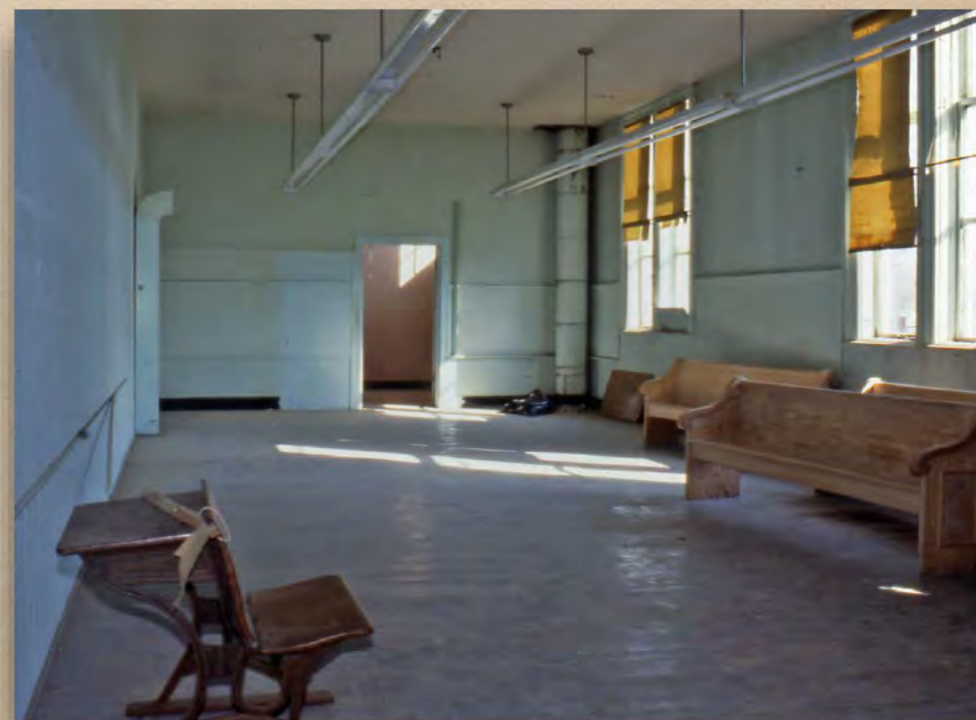
In the autumn of 1983, work on restoring the museum's main meeting room got underway.



North Classroom

That meant the 1930 wall that divided the room into two classrooms, the drop ceiling, and the vestibule had to be removed.

After much discussion, it was decided to restore the main portion of the building to its appearance during its transition from a church to a school.



South Classroom



By the early winter of 1983, demolition was completed and restoration was ready to begin.



Starting in 1977, community residents had begun dropping off artifacts and archival materials at the museum with little or no accounting.



By the early 1990s, the museum basement was cluttered with a mixture of priceless artifacts and archival materials. In 1994 heritage association volunteers drew up an action plan to organize, classify, take legal ownership of, and safely store the growing collection.



In 1995, volunteers Keith Coryell and Stephenie Todd conducted a macro sort of the collection.





Archival storage was built by museum volunteers and acid-free folders and boxes obtained for safe storage.



Museum staff developed their own database using Filemaker Pro software, and the process of cataloging began. Given the steady stream of donations that kept arriving over the years, the cataloging backlog was not eliminated until 2017.

Meanwhile...

The original vestibule was reproduced using evidence uncovered during restoration work...



The original patterned window glass was recreated by glue-chipping



The sashes were restored and the window trim was reproduced by an Aurora millwork firm



Antique kerosene store lamp fonts were purchased and restored, and Aurora tinsmith Lee Winckler reproduced the lampshades. The hanging fixtures were placed at the same locations as the building's original hanging lights



In 2002, 25 years after restoration began, the final project, flooring the pulpit platform, was completed.





Although occasionally upgraded, the museum gallery's exhibits remained based around the same layout established in 1983. Then in 2016, the heritage association decided to upgrade.



Thanks to a bequest from an estate, funds were available to hire museum consultant Lace Tawzer, who redesigned the gallery and the core exhibit...



Today, the fully restored Little White School Museum has nearly 34,000 items in its database from archival materials to artifacts, while also offering a variety of special exhibits and historical programming, all aimed at protecting, preserving, and interpreting the rich history and heritage of the Oswego area.





That's important
because history matters...

History connects people to something larger than themselves. People need history to understand the world around them and develop solutions for the future.

The End

© 2022 Oswegoland Heritage Association



SOLUTIONS FOR THE BUILT WORLD

Rural Historic Structures Survey



www.wje.com

WJE | ENGINEERS
ARCHITECTS
MATERIAL SCIENTISTS

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

February 16, 2022



Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

Kenneth Itle

Rural historic structures survey

- Historical research
- Database development
- Mapping
- Field survey
- Report preparation

Historical research



Research materials

HISTORY
—OF—
KENDALL COUNTY

ILLINOIS.

FROM 1783

Earliest Discoveries to the Present Time.

REV. E. W. HICKS.

Author of "Life of Jesus, for Young People."

AURORA, ILL.:

KUTCHENBOKER & HOONES, Steam Printers and Blank Book Makers,
Nos. 24, 26 & 28 Broadway,
1877.
F. J. G.

GENEALOGICAL
AND
BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD
OF
KENDALL AND WILL COUNTIES
ILLINOIS

Containing Biographies of Well Known Citizens of the
Past and Present

BIOGRAPHICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHICAGO

1901

Prairie Farmer's Director
of
Grundy and Kendall Counties
Illinois

Complete Directory of the Farmers of Grundy and Kendall Counties, with valuable information about each family.

Breeders' Directory, giving full classified list of breeders of purebred livestock and poultry.

Business Directory, giving list of all business houses in Grundy and Kendall Counties.

Valuable statistics and general information.

Copyright, 1917

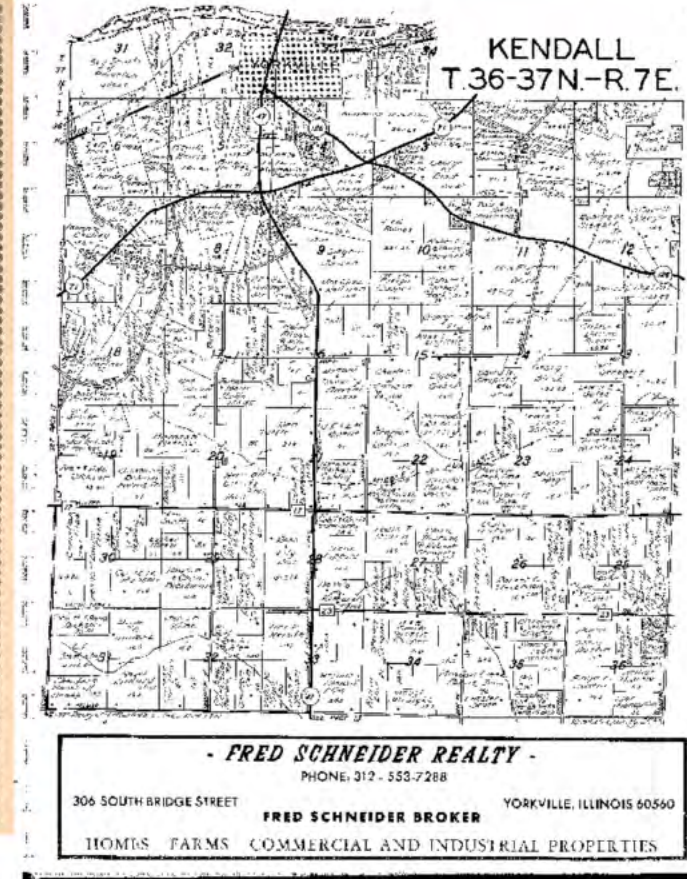
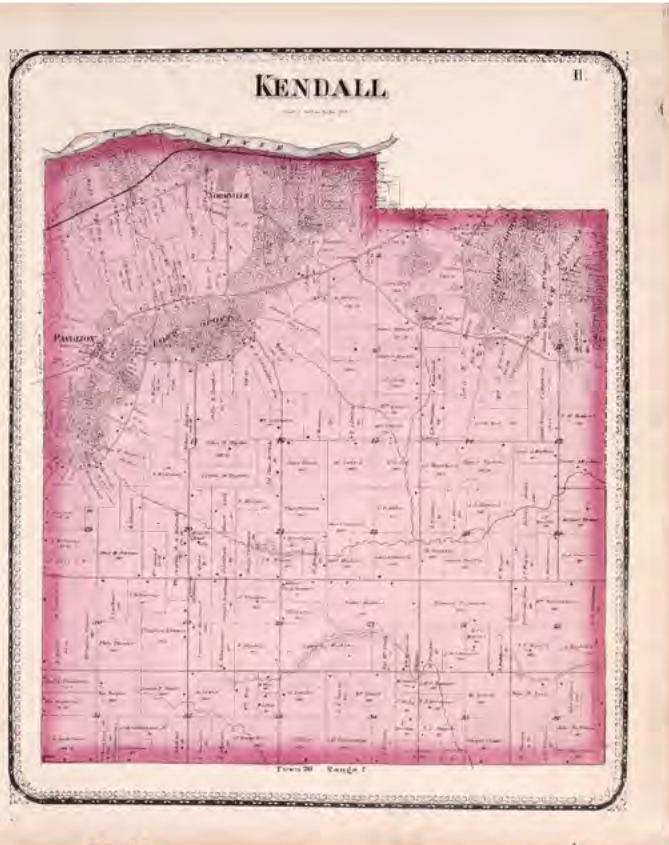
By PRAIRIE FARMER PUBLISHING COMPANY

1917

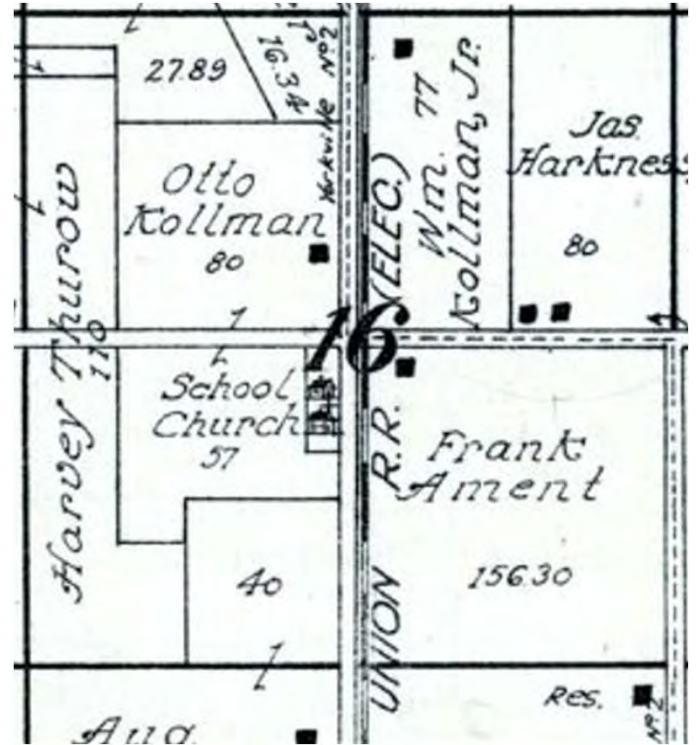
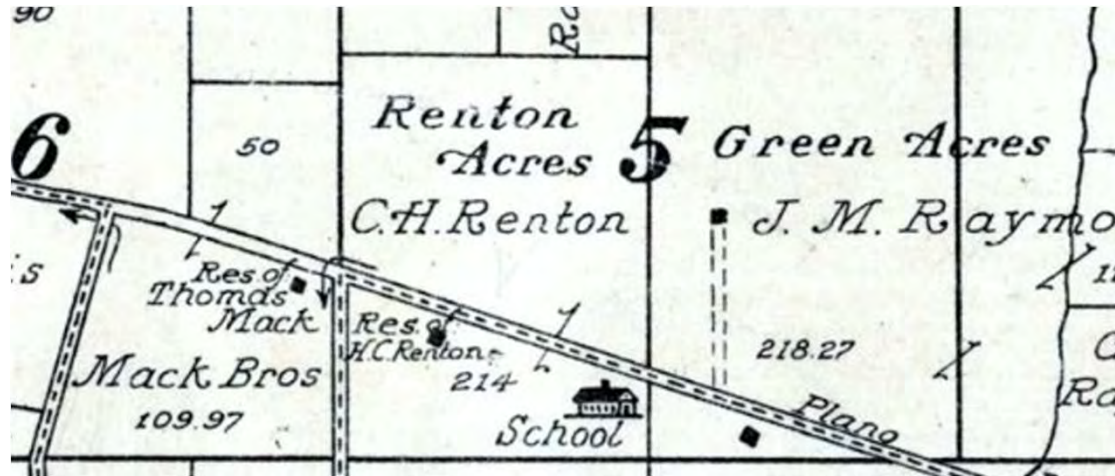
Compiled and Published by

Prairie Farmer Publishing Co.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Atlases and Plat Maps



Atlases and Plat Maps



Research materials



KENDALL COUNTY COURT HOUSE, YORKVILLE, ILLINOIS.



"ORCHARD HOME,"
Residence of Peter J. Schlapp, Five Miles Southeast
of Oswego.



RESIDENCE OF O. C. KNUDSON,
YORKVILLE, ILLINOIS.

Database development



Microsoft Access database

Property Basic Data Entry Form 304

214

Sketchplan:

PIN Number: 02-03-400-005
 Street Number: 522
 Street Name: Dickson Road
 Congress_twp: T37N
 Congress_range: R7E
 Section_num: 3
 Parcel: NW 1/4 of SE 1/4
 Surveyor_initial:
 Survey_date:
 Name:
 Hist_func:
 Cur_func:
 Orientation:
 History_notes: House: 1939
 fieldnotes:
 add_structures:
 significance:

Extra Photo 1

Extra Photo 2

Record: 11 of 16 of 126

PIN Number	Street No.	Street Name	Secti	Parcel	History_notes	Name
				1 E 1/2 of NW 1/4		
				1 NE part NE 1/4		
02-01-200-005	6136	Galena Road		1 part SE 1/4 NE 1/4	House: 1918	
				1 middle part S 1/2		
02-01-300-016		Orchard Road		1 NW part SW 1/4	May be relatively recent construction.	
				1 NW part SW 1/4		
02-01-300-006	6920	Galena Road		1 part SW 1/4 SW 1/4	House: 1880	
02-01-200-001		U.S. Route 30		1		Jacob Keck Memorial Cemetery
02-02-101-004				2 W 1/2 of NW 1/4		
				2 W part of NE 1/4		
				2 E part NE 1/4		
02-02-476-006	7027	Galena Road		2 small part SE 1/4	House: 1979	
02-03-100-001	8822	U.S. Route 30		3 N 1/2 of NW 1/4	House: 1933	
02-03-200-001	8218	U.S. Route 30		3 NE 1/4	House: 1940	
02-03-300-002	421	Dickson Road		3 NE 1/4 of SW 1/4	House: 1928	
02-03-400-005	522	Dickson Road		3 NW 1/4 of SE 1/4	House: 1939	
02-03-481-006	1004	Dickson Road		3 SW 1/4 of SE 1/4	House: 1862	
				3 SE 1/4 of SW 1/4		
02-04-100-007	9338	U.S. Route 30		4 W 1/2 of NE 1/4	House: 1880	
02-04-200-001	9124	U.S. Route 30		4 E 1/2 of NE 1/4	House: 1875	
02-05-200-004	10034	Baseline Road		5 NE 1/4 of NE 1/4	House: 1960	
				5 SE 1/4		
02-05-300-005	10724	Galena Road		5 SW 1/4	House: 1890	
02-05-300-002	10502	Galena Road		5 small parcel	House: 1959	
02-05-400-012	10318	Galena Road		5 S part SE 1/4	House: 1963	
02-06-100-010	11843	Galena Road		6 part NW 1/4	House: 1850	
				6 part SE 1/4		
02-06-300-009	790	Eldamain Road		6 part SW 1/4	House: 1910	
02-07-100-011	1414	Eldamain Road		7 SW 1/4 of NW 1/4	House: 1900	
02-07-100-008	1327	Beecher Road West		7 SE 1/4 of NW 1/4	House: 1880	
02-07-200-001	1128	Beecher Road West		7 W 1/2 of NE 1/4	House: 1967	
				7 S 1/2 of SW 1/4		
02-08-100-005	1410	Beecher Road East		8 NW 1/4	House: 1900	
02-08-300-008	10791	Cornells Road		8 W part SW 1/4	House: 2000	
02-08-400-002	10417	Cornells Road		8 SW 1/4 of SE 1/4	House: 1960	
				9 W part NW 1/4		
02-09-100-013	9525	Galena Road		9 N part NW 1/4	House: 1890	
02-09-200-003	9274	Galena Road		9 NE 1/4	House: 1890	
02-09-300-003	9619	Cornells Road		9 SE 1/4 of SW 1/4	House: 1940	

Unfiltered Search

Mapping



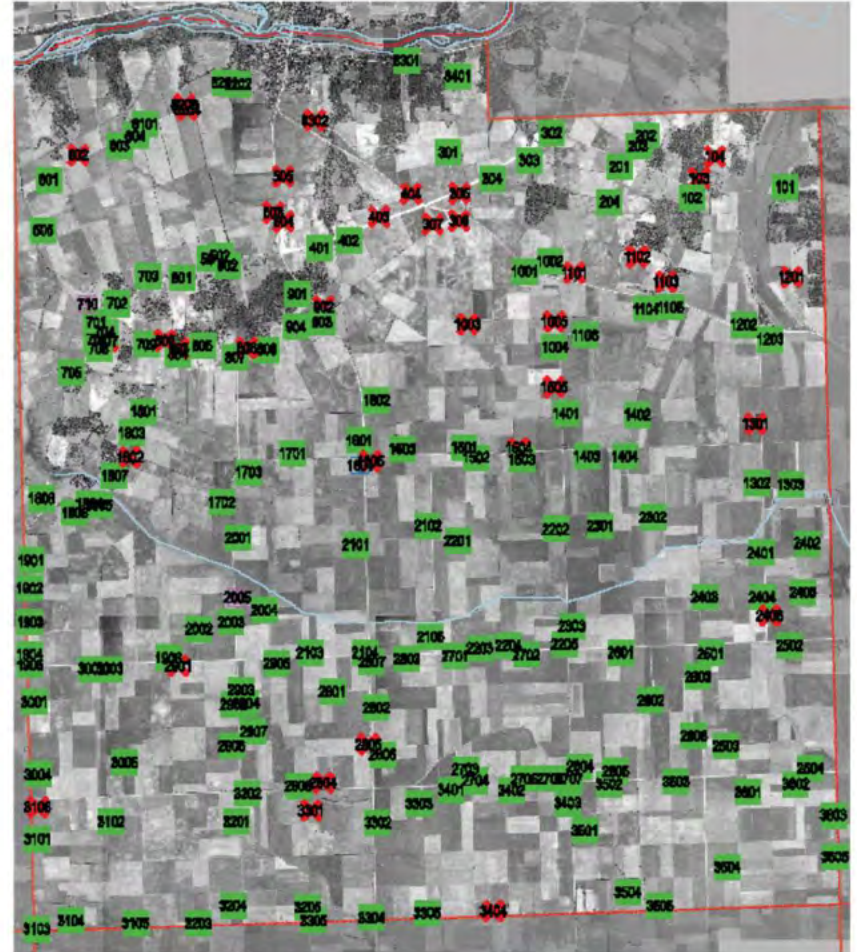
GIS

- GIS stands for geographic information system, a computerized methodology for organizing data geographically.
- Combines database-like organization of information with coordinate information (latitude and longitude)

Aerial photographs (1939 to present)



Survey maps



Field survey



Momence Township Rural Historic Structures Survey

Address Property Name

ID No. PIN No. Survey Date Surveyor(s)

T31N R14E
 Section
 Parcel



photo
0737-40

History Notes
 [Walter Brown (1934) refers to this as the old home of Dr. David Lynds, an early settler, now owned by Mr. Peterson.]



Fieldnotes

List Each Structure List Materials of Foundation, Walls, Roof, Porches, and Trim

- ① Garage
 conc. perg. found. walls, wood trim, mtl windows
 asp sh hip roof

- ② ~~mach~~ outbuilding
 vertical mtl siding, mtl roof
 wood post found.

- ③ outbuilding / machine storage
 conc. post found, mtl siding + roof



Report preparation



Report preparation

- Correlate historical research and field survey information
- Finalize database and mapping
- Assess significance: Potential National Register-eligible, potential local landmark, contributing, non-contributing
- Compile narrative summary report

Typical report contents

- Background and methodology
- Historic context
 - History of local area in general
- Architectural context
 - Styles and construction types, building types
- Survey summary
 - Listing of potential landmarks
 - Description of notable properties
 - Tabulated survey results

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY OF MOMENCE TOWNSHIP, KANKAKEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

September 2020



MOMENCE TOWNSHIP HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY

5967 East 5000N Road	Property Name	Novack Farmstead	
PIN No. 11-02-100-005	201	Survey Date	8/26/2020
		Surveyor(s)	TMP

Township	E31N	Range	R14E	Orientation	West
Section	2	Parcel	NW 1/4 of NW 1/4		
Historic Use	Agricultural				
Current Use	Agricultural				
Significance	Local landmark potential				

Fieldnotes

A small portion of this farmstead extends into Yellowhead Township, PIN 04-35-300-027



House

House Type	Bungalow
House Style	
Number of stories	1
Roof Type	Hip
Window Type(s)	Vinyl double-hung
Dormer Type	Hipped
Date or Approx. Decade of Construction	1930s
Foundation	Concrete masonry
Wall Material(s)	Vinyl siding
Trim Material(s)	Vinyl
Porch Material(s)	None
Roof Material(s)	Asphalt shingle
Significance	Contributing

Notes

Original front porch enclosed.



Outcomes

- Record of existing conditions
- Overview of history and historic themes
- Identification of potential landmarks or districts

Questions?

