

CHAPTER III

SURVEY SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Period of Significance: 1847 to 1970

The seven townships that have been intensively surveyed to date were first settled by farmers of European origin in the late 1820s and early 1830s. Settlers first came to the region of present-day Green Garden Township in 1847. Settlement accelerated with the construction of the Illinois Central Railroad across eastern Will County in 1853.

Farming would continue to be the dominant use of the land in the survey region until the recent past. Suburban development, the defining element that would alter the economic development of the region, did not begin on a large scale until the post-World War II era. As early as 1946, the village of Park Forest was established just north of Monee in Cook County. By 1970, Interstate 57 had been constructed across Monee and Peotone Townships just beyond the borders of Green Garden Township. The interstate allowed for intensive suburban development to occur, as agriculture declined 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 obviously constructed between 1950 and 1970 have been included. Horse farms in Green Garden Township generally have not been included, unless they are located on an historical agricultural site. The contemporary horse farms *not* included in the survey of Green Garden were omitted because of their apparent disconnection to the earlier agricultural economic life of the region. Additionally, agricultural support structures such as manufactured buildings or grain bins which 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 on 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 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.¹

¹ 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, 1995), 2; originally published in *Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 60*.

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 region with over 100 years of productive agricultural history. The survey region has less significance under Criterion B, except on a local level as discussed below. Under Criterion C, the survey region contains architecturally significant structures that represent the diverse range of architectural styles and building forms, as well as 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;
- 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.² It should be noted that some of

² It is useful at this point to provide general readers of this report with information on the issues surrounding the

the properties with local landmark potential could be determined, after performing additional research, to have sufficient significance for National Register designation.

The areas that have been intensively surveyed since 1999 and prior to the Green Garden survey have several properties with an appropriate degree of individual or relational significance. These properties with potential for local landmark or National Register eligibility have fallen into the following categories:

- a limestone building multiple property district in northern Will County
- a multiple property district at the Wheatland Presbyterian Church Rural Crossroads
- a rural heritage district in southwest Wheatland Township and northwest Plainfield Township (and includes the Wheatland Presbyterian Church Rural Crossroads within its boundaries)
- a rural heritage corridor along Hadley and Chicago-Bloomington Roads in southeastern Homer Township and northeastern New Lenox Township
- a multiple property district at the hamlet of Marley in New Lenox Township
- potential multiple property district with local significance within the former hamlet of Spencer in New Lenox Township
- a select number of individual structures, primarily farmhouses, in Homer and New Lenox Townships.

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.”³ 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.⁴ The sites in Green Garden Township on the following table could

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.)

³ Introduction to the Illinois Centennial Farms Program application form, Illinois Department of Agriculture.

⁴ Additional information on the form is optional, and includes from whom the farm was originally purchased; the size of the original farm; the purchase price per acre; where the first familial owner was born; if this first owner had any other farms previously; was the land farmed before it was originally purchased; did the first familial owner have any other occupations while operating the farm; if any of the original structures or portions of structure still extant; when the present farmhouse was constructed; and what the crops are on the farm at present. It is unlikely that any

be identified as having potential for centennial or sesquicentennial farm status. Additional research may locate other farms in the township that are also eligible.

Farms with Potential for Centennial Farm Status in Green Township

STREET NUMBER	STREET NAME	PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN)	HISTORIC STRUCTURES REMAINING	HISTORIC FARMING FAMILY	LIKELIHOOD OF CENTENNIAL STATUS ⁵	LOCAL LANDMARK POTENTIAL ⁶
	104th Avenue	13-08-400-001	House, barn, and outbuildings	Bettenhausen	Owned by Bettenhausen family since 1882	Potentially locally significant
24820	Joliet Road	13-14-200-001	House	Beckman	Acquired by Beckman family in early 1900s; may not be actively farmed at present	Potentially locally significant
	104th Avenue	13-20-400-003	Barn and outbuildings	Rab	Listed in 1972	Contributing structures
	104th Avenue	13-29-200-004	House, barn, and outbuildings	Beckmann	Owned by Beckmann family since before 1893	Potentially locally significant
	Manhattan-Wilton Road	13-31-400-001	Barn and crib barn	Dralle	Acquired by Dralle family in early 1900s; currently tree nursery	Potentially locally significant
9008	Manhattan-Wilton Road	13-34-400-001	House, barn, and outbuildings	Schmidt	Acquired by Schmidt family from Illinois Central Railroad prior to 1873.	Potentially locally significant



The Rab farm in Section 20 of Green Garden Township was recognized as a Centennial farm by the State of Illinois in 1972.

farmsteads in Green Garden Township qualify for sesquicentennial farm status at this time, since much of the initial settlement in the area occurred after 1854.

⁵ The likelihood of Centennial or Sesquicentennial status has been based on a brief review available plat maps.

⁶ Local landmark potential statement is based on recent rural survey report evaluations, not on current Will County Landmark status.

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.⁷

⁷ 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).

Contributing and Non-contributing Properties

Many of the farmsteads and supporting rural sites in the Green Garden survey can be considered contributing to a potential rural heritage district or simply retain the character of an agricultural development. In evaluating the sites in this survey, a contributing site is one that retains a *coherent* appearance as a farmstead or whatever its original function once was. Most of the structures on the property were observed to be in good or fair condition, although a few of the structures might be considered to be in poor condition. Non-contributing sites are listed as such because they lack integrity, such as potentially significant structures that have been significantly altered or were observed to be in poor condition. Abandoned farmsteads are also generally listed as non-contributing. Refer to Map 2A in Appendix B for survey results.

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 new document is also very realistic, recognizing that growth likely will occur and, if not regulated properly, could have a detrimental impact on the character of the county's rural areas. The *Land Resource Management Plan* focuses primarily on land use and development forms, but advocates that the preservation of rural areas should include the preservation of those elements significant to agricultural production and the agricultural landscape, such as rural structures. Therefore, the *Land Resource Management Plan* supports the goals for the preservation of rural structures.

The new *Land Resource Management Plan* also includes discussion of different forms of development in rural areas, both historically and at present. This includes preserving the character of hamlets and other small rural crossroad settlements. Contemporary development trends include Conservation Design Subdivisions, which rearrange the typical layout of streets and housing lots, setting aside a substantial amount of land as permanent open space. Conventional Suburban Residential subdivisions typically consume the entire development parcel. Historic structures and landscapes are specifically recognized in the *Land Resource Management Plan* as meriting protection when developing a Conservation Design Subdivision.⁸

A detailed review of the new *Land Resource Management Plan*, and its application to the rural survey area of Green Garden Township, 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.

⁸ 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 and Landmarks

Potential Rural Heritage District

Unlike previously surveyed townships which had localized concentrations of historic resources in towns, settlements, or groupings of farmsteads, the historic structures identified in this survey appear to be well distributed across all of Green Garden Township. However, it is clear that the settlement and development of Green Garden is closely related to adjoining townships, most especially the village and township of Monee, because of the access to the Illinois Central Railroad, and to a lesser extent the village and township of Manhattan, which together with Green Garden formed Trenton Township prior to 1853. The possibility of rural heritage districts extending from the adjoining townships into Green Garden can be reconsidered when more detailed information about these townships is available.

Individual Landmarks

There are several individual structures and sites that have potential for local landmark status. As noted above, some of these sites may have potential for National Register eligibility after additional research. The following sites in Green Garden Township listed in boldface type are recommended for possible Will County Landmark nomination. The remainder of the sites listed have somewhat less significance due to compromised integrity, typically due to artificial siding. If these features were reversed, then they could merit local landmark designation. Map 3 in Appendix B shows the sites that have potential for local landmark status.

NUMBER	STREET NAME	PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN)	SIGNIFICANCE
	Stuenkel Road	13-01-300-003	Potentially Locally Significant – House
	Steger Road	13-02-200-002	Potentially Locally Significant – House and Barn
	Stuenkel Road	13-02-400-010	Potentially Locally Significant – House and Crib Barn
10917	Steger Road	13-05-100-010	Locally Significant – House and Barn; Association with first settler in Green Garden Township, Michael F. Sanders
	Steger Road	13-06-100-005	Potentially Locally Significant – Barn
23552	U.S. Route 45	13-06-400-007	Potentially Locally Significant – House
11332	Dralle Road	13-07-400-004	Potentially Locally Significant – Barn
24538	104th Avenue	13-08-400-001	Locally Significant – House and Barn
9710	Dralle Road	13-09-400-012	Potentially Locally Significant – House
24820	Joliet Road	13-14-200-001	Potentially Locally Significant – House
9134	Manhattan-Monee Road	13-15-400-006	Potentially Locally Significant – House
24753	U.S. Route 45	13-17-100-005	Potentially Locally Significant – House and Crib Barn
24724	104th Avenue	13-17-200-001	Potentially Locally Significant – Barn
11853	Dralle Road	13-18-100-016	Potentially Locally Significant – House and Barn
25145	Scheer Road	13-18-300-005	Potentially Locally Significant – Barn
	U.S. Route 45	13-18-400-006	Potentially Locally Significant – Barn
	U.S. Route 45	13-19-400-005	Potentially Locally Significant – Church
26000	U.S. Route 45	13-19-400-009	Potentially Locally Significant – House and Barn
	Gorman Road	13-24-400-010	Potentially Locally Significant – Barn
8641	Gorman Road	13-26-100-001	Potentially Locally Significant – Barn
26605	Peotone Road	13-26-100-006	Potentially Locally Significant – Barn
26612	104th Avenue	13-29-200-004	Potentially Locally Significant – House
11715	Gorman Road	13-30-100-002	Potentially Locally Significant – House

NUMBER	STREET NAME	PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN)	SIGNIFICANCE
27561	Scheer Road	13-31-300-003	Potentially Locally Significant – House
	Manhattan-Wilton Road	13-31-400-001	Potentially Locally Significant – Barn
27132	104th Avenue	13-32-200-005	Potentially Locally Significant – House
10822	Manhattan-Wilton Road	13-32-300-002	Potentially Locally Significant – House and Barn
9912	Manhattan-Wilton Road	13-33-400-001	Potentially Locally Significant – House
9008	Manhattan-Wilton Road	13-34-400-001	Potentially Locally Significant – House
	Manhattan-Wilton Road	13-35-300-013	Locally Significant – House; Association with St. John’s Church in Peotone Township

Survey Summary

The survey of Green Garden Township documented over 850 structures, including 135 houses and 86 barns, on 149 sites. The previous survey of New Lenox Township documented 471 structures on 90 sites. The previous surveys of Lockport, Plainfield, Wheatland, DuPage, Homer, and New Lenox Townships documented a total of 1,835 structures, including 405 houses, 214 barns, and 1,216 agricultural support structures on 420 sites.⁹ The following tables include totals for the six townships intensively surveyed to date for the building types discussed in Chapter I. Since the surveys of Lockport, Plainfield, Wheatland, and DuPage Townships are several years old at this point, detailed information is not provided here, but can be found in the New Lenox Township report dated August 2003. However, these townships are included in the cumulative totals listed at right.

Farmhouses

House Type	Homer	Percent	New Lenox	Percent	Green Garden	Percent	Totals ¹⁰
I House	2	-	9	8 %	3	-	25
Hall and Parlor	5	8 %	2	-	0	-	20
New England One and a Half	0	-	5	4 %	2	-	7
German Farmhouse	0	-	0	-	0	-	2
Four over Four	6	10 %	9	8 %	11	9 %	62
Side Hallway	0	-	2	-	2	-	7
Italianate	3	5 %	2	-	0	-	7
Upright and Wing	16	27 %	26	23 %	40	32 %	127
Gabled Ell	4	7 %	16	14 %	32	26 %	96
Gable Front	11	18 %	8	7 %	3	-	39
Queen Anne	2	-	9	8 %	0	-	13
Foursquare	2	-	5	4 %	23	18 %	54
Bungalow	0	-	8	7 %	3	-	23
Cape Cod	4	7 %	4	3 %	5	4 %	22
Other	5	-	10	-	11	-	36
Totals	60		115		135		540

⁹ Wheatland Township contained 101 sites with a total of 499 structures. Plainfield Township contained 70 sites with a total of 225 structures and elements. Lockport Township contained 56 sites with a total of 166 structures and elements. Du Page Township contained 28 sites with a total of 131 structures. Homer Township contained 76 sites with a total of 343 structures and elements.

¹⁰ The three tables presented here include detailed breakdown for only the most recent surveys. However, the totals reflect the cumulative totals for all surveys performed since 1999, including Lockport, Plainfield, Wheatland, and DuPage Townships.

Barns

Barn Type	Homer	<i>Percent</i>	New Lenox	<i>Percent</i>	Green Garden	<i>Percent</i>	Totals
Three-bay Threshing	13	39 %	20	36 %	44	49 %	119
Bank	2	-	1	-	3	-	9
Raised	1	-	0	-	0	-	6
Pennsylvania German	0	-	1	-	0	-	9
Three-ended	0	-	1	-	2	-	7
Plank Frame	6	18 %	15	27 %	18	20 %	74
Feeder	1	-	2	-	3	-	13
Dairy	3	9 %	13	23 %	14	16 %	46
Round Roof	1	-	0	-	1	-	3
Other or unknown	6	18 %	3	5 %	1	6 %	14
Totals	33		56		86		300

Support Buildings

Building Type	Homer	New Lenox	Green Garden	Totals
Animal Shed/Shelter	8	4	22	66
Small Barn	0	1	4	19
Cellar	0	0	0	2
Chicken House/Coop	14	13	24	82
Corn Crib	4	0	4	13
Crib Barn	26	45	83	253
Foundation ¹¹	10	5	21	50
Garage	18	37	72	189
Horse Stable	0	4	0	4
Hog House	1	4	2	11
Implement Shed	25	22	31	175
Machine Shed	1	1	11	15
Mesh Bin	6	2	7	34
Metal Bin	22	49	94	187
Milk House	19	20	29	75
Pole Barn/Metal Building	20	25	90	151
Privy	0	0	2	6
Pump House	0	0	3	44
Shed	25	33	65	184
Silo	30	13	49	180
Smoke House	6	2	5	19
Summer Kitchen	1	2	3	13
Windmill	4	2	3	31
Other	10	16	17	54
Totals	250	300	641	1,857
Farmhouses	60	115	135	540
Barns	33	56	86	300
Total Structures	343	471	862	2,697

¹¹ Most foundations appeared to be for sheds or other small buildings. Larger foundations for barns were present at a few farmsteads.

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 Green Garden Township in 2004. The 1988 survey, conducted by Michael A. Lambert in August–October 1988, was a reconnaissance-level survey performed from the public right-of-way. The 1988 survey identified 182 farmsteads containing roughly 1,000 structures. Maps 2B and 2C in Appendix B present this information.

No historic buildings survive today at thirty-three (33) farmsteads or other historic properties identified during the 1988 survey. Three (3) of these farmsteads were considered potentially significant in 1988. Some farmsteads have been lost due to suburban development of the property. Other properties are still actively farmed, and the loss of historic structures is related to changes in the agricultural economy and the gradual increase in average farm size, which leads to smaller farms being absorbed into larger operations and the abandonment of former farmsteads.

In addition, at twenty-four (24) sites included in the present survey, contributing historic structures have been lost since 1988. This includes the loss of the original house, the original main barn, and/or all outbuildings. This must be considered an underestimate of the loss of historic structures since 1988, since this determination could only be made when the 1988 survey photograph clearly shows a historic structure that does not now exist. The loss of historic structures on a property often seems to be related to the end of active farming and a change to residential use of the property. There is also the gradual ongoing loss of older wood-framed structures due to storms and fires.

A very small number of sites were omitted in the 1988 survey but have been included in this survey.

Refer also to the sequence of maps showing increasing suburban development in Green Garden Township since 1970 (Map 4 through Map 12 in Appendix B). Since 1988, the total area of suburban development in Green Garden Township has roughly doubled. As of 2004, roughly one-fifth of the approximately 23,000 acres in Green Garden Township has been subdivided for suburban development. Additionally, large areas currently used for agricultural purposes are owned by real estate trusts and land development companies, indicating that suburban development is likely in the future.

Tables

The following series of tables list farmsteads and agriculturally-related sites and their potential for landmark designation; farmhouse types; barn types; and all other support buildings. The tables cover only Green Garden Township.



Things to Come? While contemporary suburban development is relatively less advanced in Green Garden Township than other townships previously surveyed, these images may bode for the future of the region. Suburban development could be accelerated if (and when) changes such as the extension of Interstate 355 or the proposed Peotone Airport are implemented. At top left is an abandoned farmhouse on Manhattan-Monee Road in Section 13; this house was demolished in early 2004. At top right is an abandoned farmhouse on U.S. Route 45 in Section 20. These houses are adjacent to contemporary suburban development and will likely be demolished in the near future. Below is a view of the typical scale of suburban houses constructed in this decade (2000s). These houses are in the northwest quarter of Section 10, the Valley Farm Estates subdivision, view looking south from Stuenkel Road. They are located on farmland previously associated with the Hasenjaeger-Valy farmstead, PIN no. 13-10-100-007 in the current survey. The series of maps in Appendix B (Map 4 through Map 12) shows the gradual increase in suburban development in Green Garden Township from 1970 to the present.

Recommendations for Additional Survey Work

Will County performed a rural survey in 1988 that identified approximately 4,867 structures. However, numerous changes have occurred in the 16 years since the original survey and a reassessment should be performed in the remaining townships in the county. For the most historically and architecturally significant area, this reassessment should be an intensive survey, similar to this report documenting Green Garden Township. Several areas of Will County are experiencing development that potentially threatens rural historic resources. Based on the issues identified in this report on Green Garden Township and previous intensive rural survey reports, the following areas are the immediate priorities for additional survey work: Frankfort, Monee, and Crete Townships.

Landscape Features

One overall issue to consider in performing additional surveys is to include a component that examines the rural *landscape* as well as the rural *architecture*. In performing this survey, efforts were made to comment on certain significant landscape features, although unlike the survey of the rural architecture this has not been performed in a comprehensive manner. Landscape is more than the spaces between buildings; it is what binds and defines the rural environment.

National Register Bulletin 30 “Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes” is a document meant to guide the process of assessing rural environments toward the goal of nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The document states that the examination may require using “the combined efforts of historians, landscape historians, architectural historians, architects, landscape architects, archaeologists, and anthropologists.”¹² Therefore, the Land Use Department and Will County Historic Preservation Commission should consider performing a limited landscape survey or a landscape survey component for the survey of rural architecture.



A stand of osage orange plants borders a farm field in Green Garden Township. A landscape survey would consider the way in which features such as these define the character of the rural environment.

Archaeological Features

Identification and documentation of potential archaeological elements is beyond the scope of this study. As discussed in this Chapters I and II of this report, only one site related to Native American peoples has been identified in Green Garden Township. As noted in Chapter II, other sites likely exist. Therefore, future study of the region should consider the potential for archaeological discovery.

¹² National Register Bulletin 30, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division, n.d.), 7.