

**KENDALL COUNTY
Historic Preservation Commission
Historic Preservation Organization Meeting
Kendall County Historic Courthouse
110 W. Madison Street
Yorkville, IL 60560
5:30 p.m.
February 18, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jeff Wehrli called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Eric Bernacki, and Jeff Wehrli (Chairman)

Absent: Kristine Heiman, Elizabeth Flowers, and Marty Shanahan

Also, Present: Matt Asselmeier, Wanda A. Rolf, Ken Itle, Johanna Byram, Sharon Lowy, Ken Donart, Lisa Wolancivich, Roger Matile, Natalie Borowska, Jeane Valentine, Susan Kreitzberg, Krista Katzen, Jeff Lind, Thian Dim, Michele Houchens, Mike Webster, Linda Chomiak, Martha Larson, Calvin Johnson, and Nancy Herkes

No quorum was present.

WELCOMING REMARKS

Jeff Wehrli, Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission Chairman, welcomed the attendants to the meeting. Chairman Wehrli stated that the meeting included attendees from surrounding areas. Discussion highlighted that Historic Preservation is an all-encompassing practice involving the protection of historic structures, the preservation of cultural heritage, and shared history.

PRESENTATION ON AMERICA 250 EVENTS IN KENDALL COUNTY

Natalia Borowska, Management Analyst from the Kendall County Administration Office, spoke about the semi quincentennial, the two hundred fiftieth (250) birthday of the United States of America. Ms. Borowska stated Kendall County will celebrate this milestone birthday throughout the year. The County met with some of the municipalities working on ideas on how the milestone birthday will be celebrated. A website will be launched called Kendall250.com and it will contain information about what the County and municipalities will be doing to celebrate the semi quincentennial.

Ms. Borowska stated the website contains an online calendar that provides dates of events in the County. Ms. Borowska spoke about a Veteran's Ball and Wall display, which is a special event honoring the sacrifice of veterans. This event will take place from May 18, 2026, to May 20, 2026, at the Administration Building. This will be to honor two (2) Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Kendall County.

Ms. Borowska stated that Kendall County partnered with Oswegoland Heritage Foundation and the Little White School Museum, offering a rotating exhibit. On the Fourth of July, events will include parades and historical exhibits. Local celebrations are expected to honor this historic milestone alongside the County's own history. Kendall County will also celebrate it's one hundred eighty-fifth (185th) anniversary.

Chairman Wehrli stated he would like to see Kendall County partner with local school districts.

One (1) of the attendees asked if the time capsule that was put in place in 1976 will be opened. The capsule will be opened in 2076 Ms. Borowska stated.

PRESENTATION ON THE HISTORIC STRUCTURE SURVEY OF NA-AU-SAY AND SEWARD TOWNSHIPS

Kenneth M. Itle, Associate Principal with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE), discussed the structure survey. This current structure survey was to provide background history of the County and survey area including architectural context of building types, document historic rural structures, and assess and identify potential landmarks. There are no national register-listed properties in these townships.

Member Bernacki mentioned that there was recently a case where someone wanted to apply for local landmark status. The structure survey was conducted in Bristol Township, but the property in question was not surveyed. Member Bernacki was pleased to be able to have an expert opinion on the matter because the Commission needs all the information it can obtain in order to make an informed decision.

Mr. Itle stated that, in 2005, he prepared a structure survey in portions of Na-Au-Say and Oswego Townships on behalf of Plainfield. At that time, forty-one (41) farmsteads were surveyed in Na-Au-Say and seven (7) have since been demolished. Na-Au-Say Township has one hundred twenty-two (122) farmsteads to be surveyed. Seward has one hundred twenty-two (122) farmstead sites to be surveyed.

The survey project process includes historical research, database development, mapping, field survey, and preparing reports.

Research materials include 1820's, 30's, and 40's maps. These maps are online. The information is placed in a database collects information. The field survey documents and photographs each structure, including written notes, materials, and other features.

The next steps include correlating historical research and field information, finalizing database and mapping, and assessing significance for potential national register eligibility. A final narrative summary report is compiled.

An image was shown of how a structure survey appeared in Seward Township. The address, pin number, property name, survey date, surveyor, description of the structure, design, and the construction materials were included in the information for each property.

Outcomes include record of existing conditions, overview of history and historic themes, and identification of potential landmarks or districts.

Chairman Wehrli noted that one (1) of the historic structures in Kendall County will be demolished because a data center purchased the land. The only structure that will be left on the property will be one (1) of the barns.

Roger Matile, Little White School Museum, asked if the surveys from Bristol and Kendall Townships were available. Mr. Asselmeier stated the surveys for Bristol and Kendall Townships were on the County's website and on the GIS system.

The question was asked if all the townships will have a structure survey completed. Mr. Asselmeier stated that structure surveys are grant funded. Kendall County is a certified local government which means the County is eligible to apply for certified local government grants. At this time, the grants are seventy percent (70%) and thirty percent (30%) which means the County will receive funding for seventy percent (70%) and will have to

pay for thirty percent (30%) of the cost. The grants are reimbursable. Mr. Asselmeier stated the plan is to have all nine (9) townships surveyed using grant funding from the State. Once the funding is finalized, the County would like to create a Countywide historic preservation plan, also using certified local government grant funds.

Mr. Asselmeier stated that, at the time the structure surveys began, the Commission selected Bristol and Kendall Townships as initial test locations. These two (2) townships were selected as initial test locations because they offered a balanced mix of rural and developed conditions. The next townships selected to be surveyed were Na-Au-Say and Seward townships. These were chosen because of development pressures. Seward Township is the fastest growing township in Kendall County and Na-Au-Say is a close second (2nd).

Chairman Wehrli stated that these surveys can tell us what structures are in these townships at this time. There will be a six (6) to ten (10) year gap between the first and last townships to be surveyed.

DISCUSSION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

Mr. Asselmeier stated that the application deadline for the Historic Preservation Awards is on March 2, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Applications should be submitted by mail to 504 S. Main Street or to email them to Mr. Asselmeier. Applications will be reviewed in March and April. Awards would likely be presented to the winners in May. May is historic preservation month; the County Board will announce winners at their second meeting in May..

DISCUSSION OF MUSEUM PASSPORT PROGRAM

Natalie Borowska stated that it is a program consisting of local museums that residents in Kendall County can visit for discounted or free admission. Ms. Borowska is working with the local museums and plans to have a meeting to discuss the Museum Passport Program.

DISCUSSION OF CEMETERIES

Chairman Wehrli stated that some historic farmhouses have burial plots and many of these cemeteries were no longer marked. There are other cemeteries that are well preserved. Mr. Wehrli said that they reached out to the federal government and received a lengthy document regarding cemetery preservation.

Chairman Wehrli stated that, last year, construction crews working on a water main project in Yorkville, discovered human skeletal remains, which were identified as a mid-1800's resident of the Bristol Burying Ground.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Chairman Wehrli asked each guest to speak about themselves and which historical organization they represented. Each attendee introduced himself or herself and briefly spoke about their historic organization.

Roger Matile, Little White School Museum and Kendall County Historian, spoke about a new exhibit at the newly renovated Kendall County Office Building at 504 S Main Street. The exhibit tells the story of Kendall County from geological times until the County was established. The general assembly created Kendall County exactly sixty-five (65) years after 1776. Residents can also celebrate the County's one hundred eighty-fifth (185th) year anniversary as well as the two hundred fiftieth (250th) anniversary of The United States of America.

Mr. Matile asked if anyone had a photograph of Nelson Messenger's Gopher. Messenger's Gopher was a cultivator invented by Nelson Messenger in the Millbrook/Millington area. Mr. Matile has a copy of the patent for Messenger's Gopher.

Mr. Matile stated they have a new exhibit at the Little White School Museum called the lost village of Troy and other towns. These towns were started with high hopes and then disappeared. Coleman was another lost village in Kendall County.

Mr. Matile spoke about the presidential memorabilia exhibit with Oswego's 250 celebration. An application was activated on the phone, called Goose Chase, it is basically a treasure hunt in which someone can visit different places, and the app will tell you if you have been there or not and prizes can be won. Museums are one of the stops on Goose Chase. The Little White School Museum created a presidential memorabilia exhibit with hundreds of campaign buttons and bumper stickers as well as other memorabilia.

Mr. Matile stated there are updated online newspaper transcription files available from 1970-1985 which can be downloaded from the Little White School Museum's website. Transcriptions are available from 1845-1985. These transcriptions are very useful when researching genealogical data. Kendall County historic data is also available on their website.

Mr. Matile will be offering The History of Kendall County in two (2) parts. The first (1st) part will be on April 18, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., at the Little White School Museum. The second (2nd) part will be on June 6, 2026, at Noon, at the Little White School Museum.

Mike Webster, Montgomery Historical Preservation Committee, spoke about Settler's Cottage, an 1840s home in downtown Montgomery used as a local archive and museum. The house, Settler's Cottage, is located at 198 N. River St. (in front of the Village Hall). Initially owned by Daniel S. Gray, the founder of Montgomery, this house is the oldest remaining structure in the Village.

Martha Larson, Montgomery Historical Preservation Committee, stated the windows at Settler's Cottage are currently being repaired.

Calvin Johnson, Resident of Newark, spoke about his involvement with The Ferndell Museum. Mr. Johnson spoke about traveling to Sweden to visit family homes.

Nancy Herkes, Chapel on the Green, stated this is her second (2nd) year with the historical group and has learned a great deal.

Krista Katzen, Director of Oswego Public Library, stated the library is participating with the Village of Oswego in planning the Village's celebration of the two hundred fiftieth (250th) anniversary of the United States. There will be a cannon demonstration and historic crafts. Ms. Katzen stated the library is in the process of digitizing newspapers.

Jeff Lind, Planner for the Village of Oswego, introduced himself.

Glen, Board Member of Ferndell Historical Society, also owns a centennial farm in Kendall County.

Thian Dim, Planner at the United City of Yorkville, stated she is new with Yorkville and is looking forward to working with the people in Kendall County.

Lisa Wolancivich and Johanna Byram, Yorkville Historical Preservation, are working with an intern from Grace Academy teaching the intern to perform historic research on a building. Currently the intern is working on finding the oldest house in Yorkville. Thus far, the oldest house is from 1858.

Ms. Wolancivich is on the advisory committee for senior services education program. Ms. Wolancevich will visit seniors to listen to them provide their life's history. It will be a discussion with seniors reflecting on their personal histories.

In addition to that Ms. Wolancivich will have a table set up at the Yorkville Public Library in which the Red Book from Yorkville was chosen to have for their table setting on April 11, 2026.

Johanna Byram, Yorkville Historic Preservation, stated, at the Yorkville Public Library, when someone picks up a book, it creates table space around that book. Ms. Byram asked if anyone knew where to find cups or glassware with local historic business names.

Chairman Wehrli stated that it is an excellent idea to have senior citizens share their history with other residents.

Member Bernacki discussed the historic locations that have hosted Historic Preservation meetings. The Historic Preservation Commission had meetings at several historic churches in the area, with beautiful architecture and fascinating stories from church members.

A representative from Chapel on the Green, stated that the historic chapel applied for a grant and expects to hear back quickly. The grant is a fifty (50) fifty (50) match, and provides up Twenty Thousand (\$20,000) Dollars.

Member Bernacki noted that there were two (2) new planners attending this meeting. Mr. Bernacki was walking on a path and noticed certain trees were tagged. The trees were discovered to be some of the oldest trees in the area. Member Bernacki stated that this is something to keep in mind when municipalities were conducting planning activities.

Michele Houchens, Three Rivers Library District, stated the District is celebrating its fiftieth (50th) anniversary. The American Library Association is also celebrating their one hundred fifty (150) year anniversary. The Village of Channahon is celebrating its sixty-five (65) year anniversary. Route 66 is one hundred (100) years old.

Suzy Kritzberg, Chapel on the Green, was very proud to introduce the speakers for the Illinois State Historic Marker dedication last October. Members in attendance were State Representative. Jed Davis, President of the Chapel Susan Kritzberg, descendants of abolitionist Holly Wheeler Brady, U.S. Rep. Lauren Underwood, the Executive Director of the Illinois Historical Society Bill Furry, Yorkville Mayor John Purcell, and Chairman of the Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission Jeff Wehrli. Ms. Kritzberg spoke about Holly Wheeler Brady, one of the decedents of Dr. Calvin Wheeler. Dr. Wheeler and his wife helped in the effort of the Underground Railroad. They kept the name Calvin in the family for six (6) generations. Ms. Kritzberg stated there were two (2) little boys, a five (5) year old and a six (6) year old both named Calvin who helped unveil the historic marker. Going forward, Chapel on the Green will focus on a project to repair the windows in the church and potential grant funding for air conditioning for the sanctuary. Exterior paint is needed for the project. Bids have come in for interior painting, and repairs are needed for an 1899 pipe organ.

Jean Valentine, Plano Historic Society, museum in downtown Plano is currently closed except by appointment because of the high cost of heating the building. The museum has been receiving many research requests. Some requests are for ancestors or genealogy research and others are for historic buildings. Ms. Valentine

spoke about their two hundred fiftieth (250th) celebration that includes milestones in Plano. The harvester is in process of being restored.

Chairman Wehrli stated these meetings are helping preserve the County's heritage. He noted the work by Chapel on the Green to honor the things residents did to make sure that people were able to get to freedom was remarkable.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETING(S)

Chairman Wehrli spoke about the group meetings held by the Historic Preservation Commission with one (1) taking place in the winter and one (1) taking place in the summer. Chairman Wehrli requested emails from the attendees.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

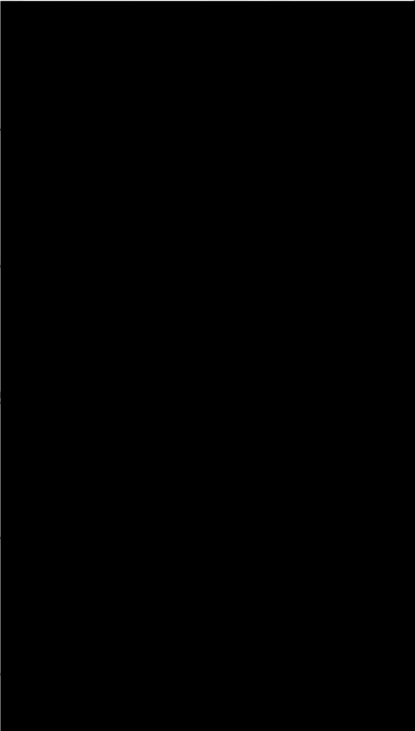
The gathering adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda A. Rolf
Administrative Assistant

Encs.

**KENDALL COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

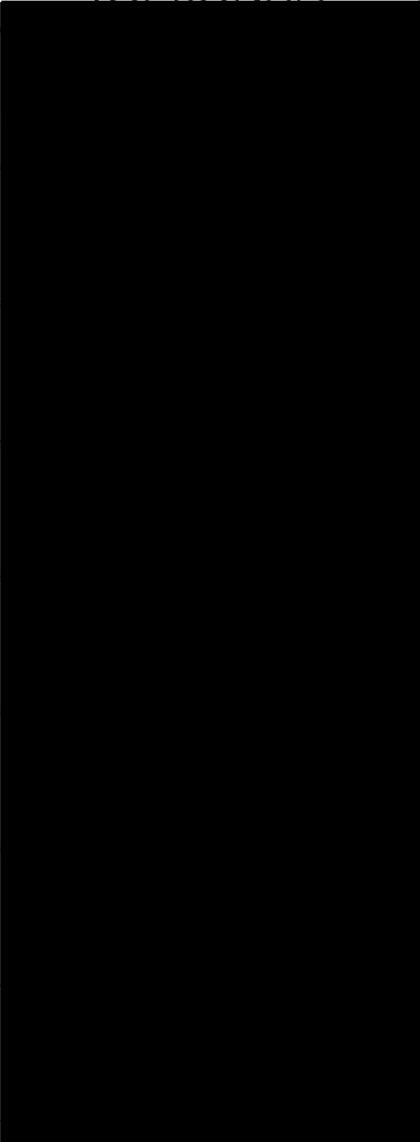
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONTACTED ON FUTURE MEETINGS REGARDING THIS TOPIC, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR ADDRESS OR EMAIL ADDRESS

NAME	ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)	EMAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)
Jeff Lind		
Nichele Houchens		
Trish DeBeter		
Linda Chomiak	Village of Montgomery Historic Pres.	
Martha Larson		

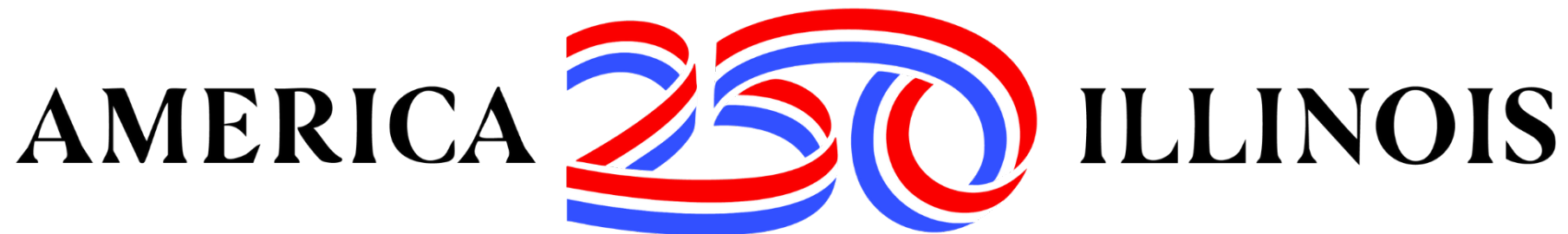
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**KENDALL COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

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)
Jehenne Byram	Yorkville	
Roger Matile	Oswego	
Natalia Borovske	Kendall County	
Sharon Lowy	Yorkville	
Ken Donard	63 Riverwood Dr Oswego IL	
Jeanne Valentine	Plano	
Susan Krabbes	Yorkville	
Krista Katzen	Oswego Public Library District	

Kendall County Semiquincentennial



K E N D A L L C O U N T Y

IL America250

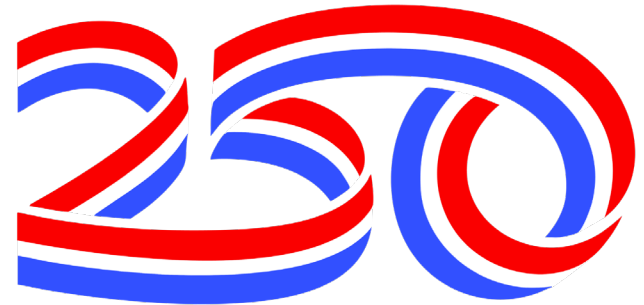
- State-wide commission of local governments and community organizations to plan semiquincentennial celebrations
- Over 130 community partners



Kendall250

- Kendall250 commission serves as an opportunity to exchange ideas and identify opportunities for partnership
- Kendall250 Website
 - Resources
 - Online Calendar

AMERICA



KENDALL COUNTY

ILLINOIS

Community Partners





KENDALL COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Rural Historic Structures Survey



www.wje.com

WJE | ENGINEERS
ARCHITECTS
MATERIALS SCIENTISTS

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

February 18, 2026

WJE

Na-Au-Say and Seward Townships Survey

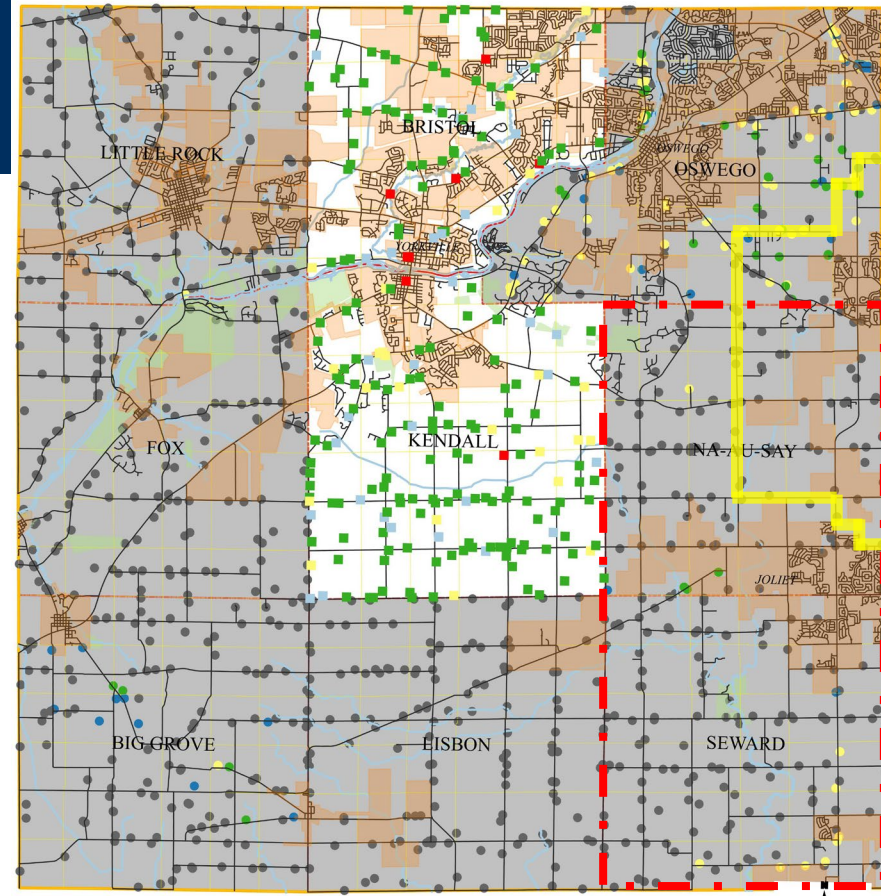


Kendall County Survey Project Goals

- Provide background history of the county and survey area
- Provide architectural context of building types
- Document historic rural structures
- Assess and identify potential landmark properties
 - No designated county landmarks in these townships
 - No National Register-listed properties in these townships

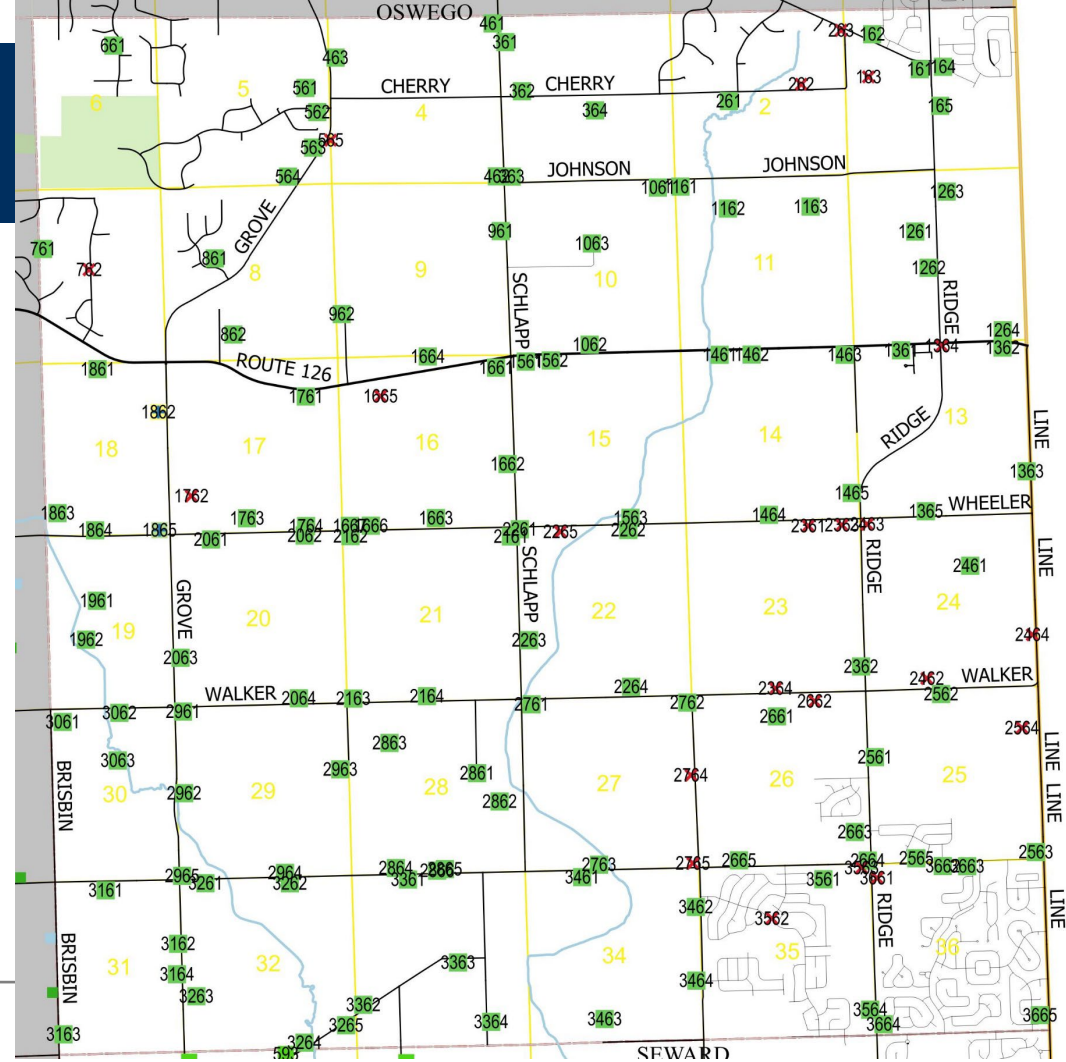
Previous Projects

- County-wide field documentation compiled by Stephenie Todd
- 2023: WJE survey of Bristol and Kendall Townships
- 2005: WJE survey of selected portions of Na-Au-Say and Oswego Townships on behalf of the Village of Plainfield
 - 41 farmsteads surveyed in Na-Au-Say
 - 7 have been subsequently demolished



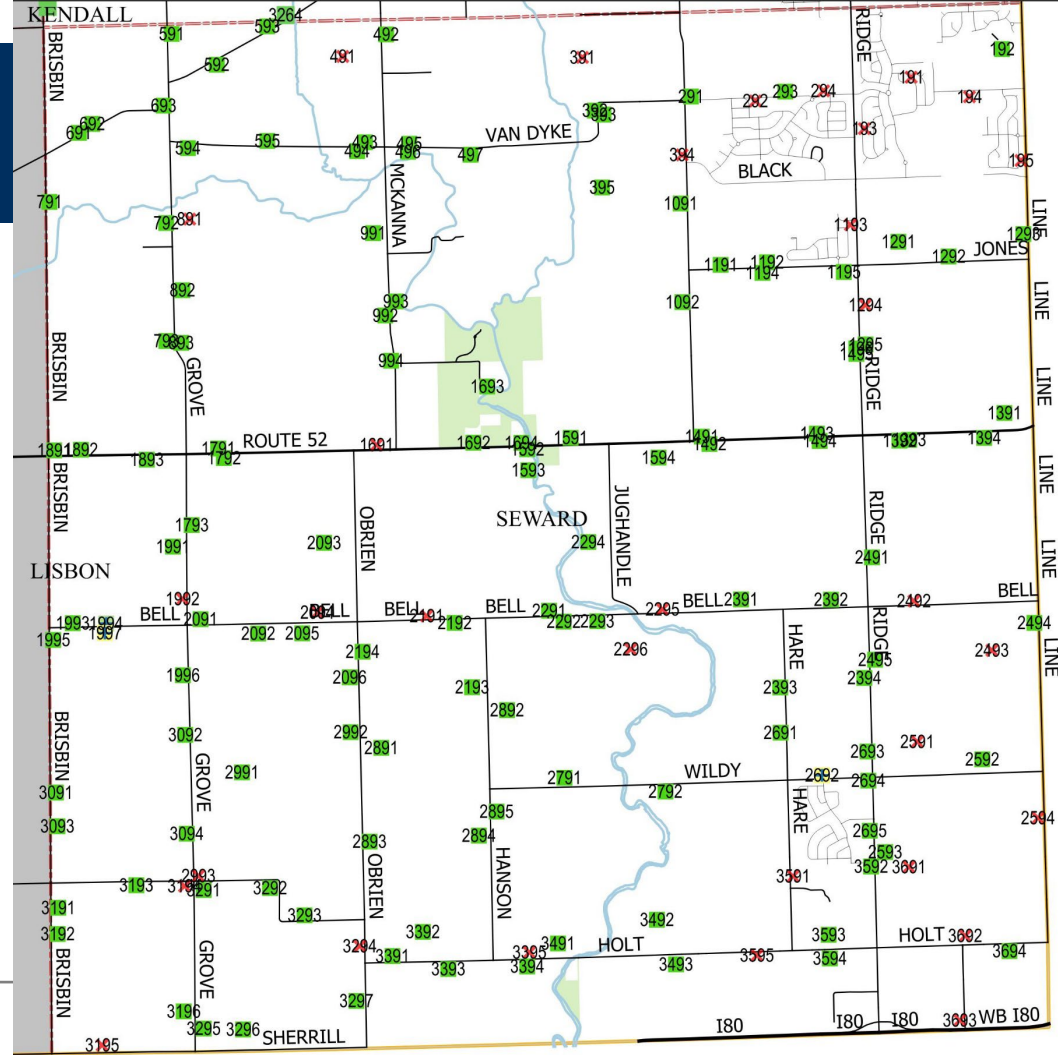
Project Scope

- Na-Au-Say Township
120 potential farmstead sites to be surveyed



Project Scope

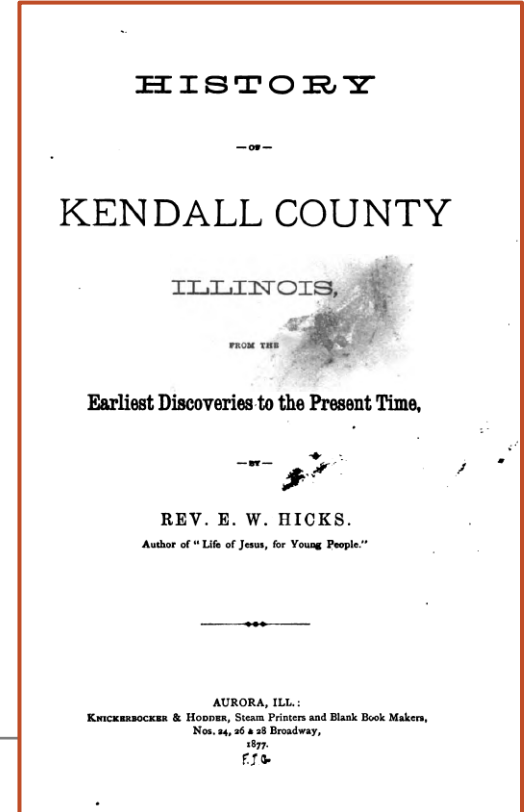
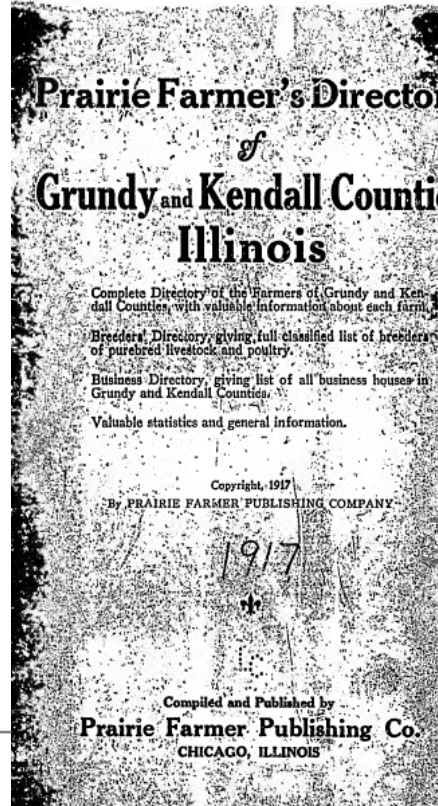
- Na-Au-Say Township
122 potential farmstead sites to be surveyed
- Seward Township
122 potential farmstead sites to be surveyed



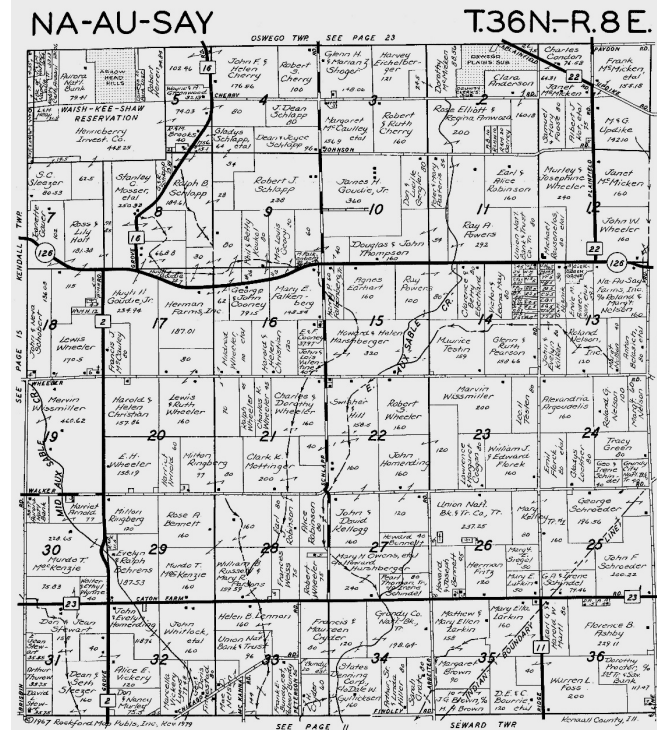
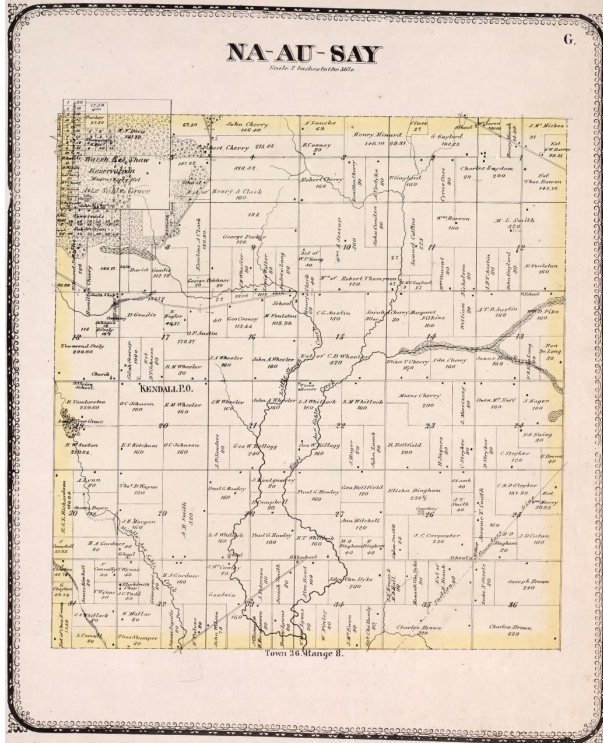
Survey Project Process

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

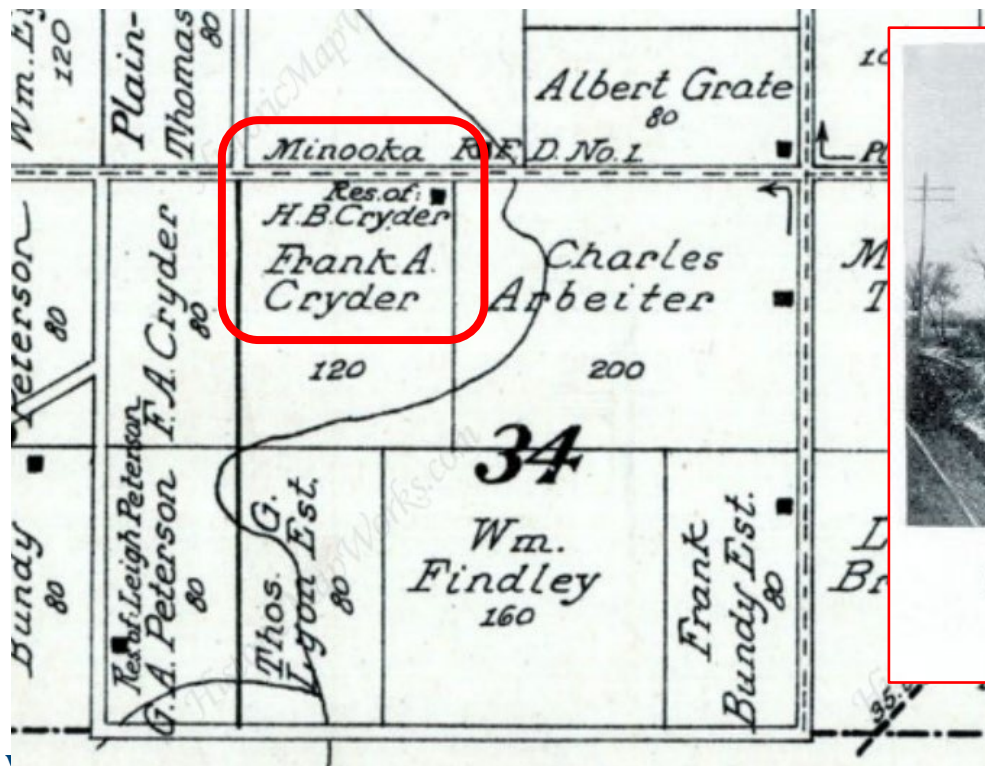
Research materials



Research materials



Research materials



RESIDENCE OF HENRY B. CRYDER,
MINOOKA, ILLINOIS.

Microsoft Access database

Property Basic Data Entry Form

374

Y-2005 1261

Sketchplan:

2005 Sketchplan

Surveyor 2005
KMI
Survey date 2005
8/23/2005

Extra Photo 1

Extra Photo 2

fieldnotes

PIN Number: 06-12-100-006

Secondary PIN:

Street Number:

Street Name: Ridge Road

Congress_twp: T37N

Congress_range: R8E

Section_num: 12

Parcel: NW 1/4

Surveyor_initial:

Survey_date:



Name: Campbell farm

Hist_func: Agricultural

Cur_func: Vacant

Orientation: E

History_notes: Large and historically distinctive round roof barn on the property was likely built by the Campbell family in the early 1900s.

Site ID	House Type	House Style	Number of st	Roof Type	Window Type(s)
162 House	American Foursquare		2	Hip	Casement
164 House	Gabled Ell		2	Gable	Double hung, casement
161 House	American Foursquare		2	Hipped	Double hung
165 House	Four over Four	Colonial Revival	2	Gable	Double hung
163 House	Gabled Ell		2	Gable	None
261 House	Gabled Ell		2	Gable	Double hung, vinyl
364 House	Gabled Ell		2	Gable	Double hung, 8 over 8
362 House	Upright and Wing		2	Gable	Double hung
361 House	Gabled Ell		2	Gable	Double hung
363 House	American Foursquare		2	Hip	Double hung
2263 House	Four over Four		2	Truncated hip	Casement
1561 House	Upright and Wing		2	Gable	Double hung
2362 House	Ranch		1	Hip	Casement
2361 House	Four over Four		2	Gable	Double hung
1562 House	I-House		2	Gable	Double hung
2262 House	American Foursquare		2	Hip	Double hung
1563 House	Gabled Ell		2	Gable	Double hung
1161 House	Contemporary		2	Gable	Double hung
1162 House	Gabled Ell		2	Gable	Double hung 6 over 6
2461 House	American Foursquare		2	Hip	Double hung
1363 House	Upright and Wing		2	Gable	Double hung
2563 House	Contemporary		1	Hip	Double hung
1263 House	Upright and Wing		2	Gable	Double hung
1262 House	Gabled Ell	Craftsman	2	Gable	Casement and double hung
1264 House	Gable Front	Greek Revival	2	Gable	Double hung
1061 House	Upright and Wing		2	Gable	Double hung
2264 House	Upright and Wing		2	Gable	Double hung
1464 House	Ranch		1	Hip	Double hung
1465 House	Gabled Ell		2	Gable	Double hung
2462 House	Four over Four		2	Gable	Double hung
2562 House	Four over Four	Queen Anne	2	Pyramid	Double hung
2561 House	Gabled Ell	Italianate	2	Hip	Double hung
1163 House	Upright and Wing		2	Gable	Double hung
1362 House	Contemporary		2	Hipped gable	Double hung
1361 House	Four over Four		2	Gable	Double hung

Field Survey


- *Now in progress*
- Document each structure
- Photographs
- Written notes: materials and other features

Seward Township Rural Historic Structures Survey

Address Property Name

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

T35N R8E
 Section
 Parcel



History Notes

Fieldnotes

List Each Structure	List Materials of Foundation, Walls, Roof, Porches, and Trim	
<u>House</u>	Partial CMU & Stone Foundation Ptd. Alum. siding wood Porch (front) wood Porch w/ carpet (Side)	Cellar door Asphalt Shingles Addition conc. Foundation
<u>Crib Barn</u>	Conc. Foundation Vented metal Siding Corrugated metal Roof	
<u>Metal Building (i)</u>	No Foundation metal siding & Roof	

Report and survey form 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

SEWARD TOWNSHIP HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY

Address Property Name

PIN No. Survey Date Surveyor(s)

Township Range Orientation

Section Parcel

Historic Use

Current Use

Significance

Fieldnotes

Additional Structures



House

House Type

House Style

Number of stories

Roof Type

Window Type(s)

Dormer Type

Date or Approx. Decade of Construction

Foundation

Wall Material(s)

Trim Material(s)

Porch Material(s)

Roof Material(s)

Significance

Notes



Historic and Architectural Survey of Bristol and Kendall Townships Kendall County, Illinois

August 2023

for
Kendall County Planning, Building, and Zoning Department
and
Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

Outcomes

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

