

**KENDALL COUNTY
Historic Preservation Commission
Historic Preservation Organization Meeting
Ellis House and Equestrian Center
13986 McKanna Road
Minooka, IL 6047
5:30 p.m.
July 21, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jeff Wehrli called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present Kristine Heiman (Secretary), Marty Shanahan (arrived at 6:06 p.m.), and Jeff Wehrli (Chairman)

Absent: Eric Bernacki and Elizabeth Flowers

Also Present: Matt Asselmeier, Lily I. Smogor, Jane Burke, Tim O'Brien, Sarah Skilton, Mike Hoffman, Eric Gray, Kathy Vorbau, Sharleen Smith, Susan Kritzberg, Nancy Herkes, Joe Noce, Johanna Byram, and Lisa Wolancevich

WELCOMING REMARKS

Jeff Wehrli, Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission Chairman, welcomed the attendees to the semiannual Historic Preservation Meeting. Chairman Wehrli stated that upon receipt of a grant from the State, research has begun to identify areas of historic significance within Seward and Na-Au-Say Townships.

PRESENTATION ON THE HISTORY OF THE ELLIS HOUSE

David Guritz, Executive Director of the Kendall County Forest Preserve District, delivered a presentation on the history of the Ellis House and the surrounding Baker Woods. He discussed the naming history and prehistoric character of the preserve. Director Guritz further discussed the settlement and migration history of the Indigenous and European inhabitants of Kendall County. He also reviewed the history of land acquisitions for the Baker Woods Forest Preserve.

Sharleen Smith clarified that the Seward Town Hall, formerly located within one of the Preserve's land acquisitions, had been relocated to Lyon Farm, where it is undergoing restoration.

Director Guritz mentioned the restoration and protection of a rare oak savanna ecosystem as a goal of Baker Woods and the ongoing work of Ellis House to maintain its equestrian program.

Chairman Wehrli asked if Director Guritz knew when the Ellis House was built. Director Guritz stated that the house was built in the 1990s but made to look as if it was older.

Chairman Wehrli discussed the importance of the presentation for showcasing the total history of the land in addition to that of the Ellis House and Baker Woods. He then relayed the story of the mastodon bones found in the area near Baker Woods.

Sharleen Smith asked if Director Guritz was working with the County to preserve the open green spaces on either side of the Aux Sable Creek and expressed concern about the direction of warehouse and solar farm development within the County. Director Guritz clarified that the County Board and the Forest Preserve Board of Commissioners were comprised of the same officials, and that the County Board members valued both open

space and economic development and sought to obtain a balance between the two (2). He stated that Kendall County had similar rates of green space preservation to the surrounding regions of Kane, Will, and DuPage Counties. Director Guritz discussed current and future tax practices and potentials for the Forest Preserve District.

An audience member asked about an Economic Opportunity Grant received in 2008. Director Guritz stated that the County often pursued grants to enable land acquisitions.

Member Shanahan arrived at the close of the presentation, at 6:06 pm.

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

Kenneth Itle, Associate Principal with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., delivered a presentation on the rural historic structure survey of Na-Au-Say and Seward Townships. He discussed the goals of the project for surveying settlement history and architectural context, as well as documentation and recommendation of sites for historic landmarking. Mr. Itle briefly discussed previous rural structure surveys in other parts of Kendall County. He outlined the process of the structure surveys, including research, the creation of a database, map development, and field surveys. Mr. Itle then expressed the need for local volunteers for the field surveys and provided an overview of work done during a survey. He also explained the landmark designation process for historic sites.

Chairman Wehrli asked about the timeframe for the structure surveys. Mr. Itle responded that the field work is scheduled to begin in August and may last until around Christmas.

Susan Kritzberg expressed concern about earlier field surveys conducted in the winter months, as the weather conditions made work difficult and property owners expressed greater caution upon seeing volunteers on their property. She also recommended the creation of lanyards for volunteers so as to make their purpose easily identifiable to property owners. Mr. Itle agreed.

Lisa Wolancevich stated that the Kendall County Historical Society received calls from concerned property owners due to the presence of volunteers on their land. Mr. Itle mentioned the difficulty in publicizing the presence of volunteers.

An audience member asked if any buildings from the previous surveys had been landmarked. Mr. Itle stated that there were none to his knowledge.

Mr. Asselmeier stated that the County plan was to conduct structure surveys in all nine (9) townships, followed by a preservation plan dependent on grant funding. Chairman Wehrli mentioned that the current pace of survey was two (2) townships per year, which Mr. Itle stated would result in completion significantly faster than nearby Will County.

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

Chairman Wehrli introduced the presentation with discussion of the recent rediscovery of a historic cemetery within Yorkville. He asked whether the townships were responsible for their cemeteries, to which Matt Asselmeier clarified that townships were responsible for the burial of paupers, which necessitates access to cemeteries for that purpose.

Mr. Itle delivered a presentation on the landmarking of historic cemeteries during the historic structure survey of Na-Au-Say and Seward Townships. He noted that cemeteries can be landmarked for their historic, artistic

and cultural significance. Mr. Itle discussed the criteria for landmark cemeteries, such as design, social and community history, development history, and other factors not including religion. He explained the reluctance to landmark the graves of individual famous people unless the gravesites have a specific artistic quality or have taken on a greater cultural meaning separate from the legacy of the interred individual. He further explained the importance of historic integrity in landmarking sites and cemeteries before moving into examples of landmarked cemeteries.

An audience member asked if an archaeological site listed on the National Historic Register (the Evelyn Site) within Kendall County was a Native American gravesite. Mr. Itle stated that it likely was a Native American site and noted that the lack of public information was intended to prevent tampering with the gravesite.

Chairman Wehrli discussed the importance of recovering and maintaining historic family cemeteries within the county.

An audience member discussed a visit taken by a Daughters of the American Revolution chapter to a nearby historic cemetery and expressed her desire to repair and maintain historic gravesites.

An audience member asked if the county had or could have local historic designation for cemeteries that may not qualify for the National Register. Matt Asselmeier stated that the Historic Preservation Ordinance allow for local landmarking.

Chairman Wehrli discussed the use of 1939 aerial photography by the County to identify historic sites. Mr. Asselmeier added that historical photography, plat surveys, and other maps were all available for public reference on the County's GIS webpage.

An audience member described a cemetery within Seward Township, asking if that cemetery would be a potential survey location. Mr. Itle stated that it would and that the survey aimed to include other structures of rural character, such as churches, one-room schoolhouses, and town halls.

An audience member asked if two buildings located on Lyon Farm, relocated from the area of survey, would be included as they were sited within the survey scope. Mr. Itle stated that he would likely include such structures in his summary report but not in the survey itself.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Susan Kritzberg, representative of the Chapel on the Green, along with Chapel board member Nancy Herkes, discussed a recent designation as a site member of the Underground Railroad by the National Parks Service in 2023, as well as a grant application for an Illinois State Historic Marker celebrating the history of the Chapel. Ms. Kritzberg discussed the inclusion of the historic Bristol Baptist Church in the Underground Railroad recognition project. She stated that the Chapel on the Green has received its historic marker, which will be unveiled and dedicated in October. Representative Lauren Underwood and Bill Furry of the Illinois State Historical Society will speak at the event. Ms. Kritzberg stated that she would welcome a speaker from the County for the event as well. Ms. Kritzberg then moved into discussion of preservation work within the Chapel on the Green itself. She stated that the stained glass windows, a unique feature of the chapel, are overdue for restoration. She then discussed future fundraising for the restoration of the windows. Ms. Kritzberg discussed the importance of keeping the Chapel on the Green relevant for the current community.

Chairman Wehrli explained the process of uneven thickening undergone by old glass to provide context for the window restoration. Ms. Kritzberg stated that the smaller, south-facing windows of the Chapel had undergone that process. She highlighted the unique art nouveau styling of the windows and reiterated the historic marker dedication event.

Sharleen Smith, Seward Township, stated that the Township would be doing well if they could get its comprehensive plan passed. She reiterated community fears of losing open space and trees, especially along the Aux Sable Creek.

Lisa Wolancevich and Johanna Byram, Yorkville Historical Preservation and Kendall County Historical Society, stated that they are trying to revitalize the Yorkville Preservation Society. Chairman Wehrli asked how the road construction along Route 71 was doing, and both members stated that they had decided not to seek re-election to the Historical Society's board. They further discussed pending mural projects within Yorkville as well as preservation work at the Stone Church and another church within Mission Township. Ms. Byram discussed documentation of Bristol Station and the McCain Hotel.

Eric Gray and Kathy Vorbau, recent owners of the Gaylord House and Gardens, discussed their restoration practices and expressed gratitude for the help of local historical organizations.

Mike Hoffman, Teska Associates, discussed the Kendall County Comprehensive Plan effort and highlighted his organization's resident surveys. He stated that he had heard similar concerns of protecting green space at other meetings within the County and encouraged attendants to fill out his survey indicating important places within the County. Mr. Asselmeier directed attendants to both the paper and online surveys at www.visionkendall.org.

Joe Noce, Little White School Museum and Oswegoland Park District, discussed his effort to understand what drove visitors to the museum by hosting various low-cost programs, noting that the results were largely inconclusive. He highlighted an upcoming history hike at Saw-Wee-Kee Park, a downtown Oswego history walk and trivia night, and a history book club meeting as important future events for the museum. He also discussed the recent unveiling of the 75th Anniversary of the Park history exhibit.

Sarah Skilton, Oswego Public Library District, discussed the digitization of microfilm copies of local newspapers. She discussed a new mural project and urban barn tours. She also stated that the Oswego Library possessed cemetery records and historic plat books. Chairman Wehrli mentioned an earlier attempt to hold a meeting in the urban barn that was prohibited by a lack of ADA-compliant accessibility. Ms. Skilton responded that the library was working on making the barn accessible.

Jane Burke, Naperville Preservation Society, discussed her efforts to raise awareness of historic preservation in Naperville. She advocated for Oak Cottage, located in the Greene Valley Forest Preserve and constructed in 1851. She stated that the cottage and associated barn could be demolished by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, if an adaptive reuse is not established. She asked attendants to tell any entrepreneurs interested in the space that they had until October to express a statement of interest in the cottage to prevent its demolition. Ms. Burke and other attendants briefly discussed local individuals and stakeholders related to the Greene Valley Forest Preserve.

David Guritz, Executive Director of the Kendall County Forest Preserve District, discussed the final steps of the Subat Nature Center project and expressed his thanks to the Little White School Museum for their contributions to the project. He stated that a trail project to connect Subat Forest Preserve and the Fox River Bluffs was underway, and a grant application for the removal of the Little Rock Dam had been submitted.

Matt Asselmeier stated that Michelle from the Three Rivers Library District had been unable to attend the meeting, but that she wanted to publicize her library's museum in Minooka. She also wanted to go on record expressing concern that the widening of Ridge Road in Minooka would result in the destruction of a number of historic homes.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETING(S)

Chairman Wehrli spoke about future meetings; Mr. Asselmeier asked for information on a speaker for the Evelyn Site. Another audience member stated that the information for the site was housed at Northwestern University, but did not identify a speaker.

Susan Kritzberg mentioned the former Blackberry Mill millstones, which are now distributed across the County. She discussed the recent donation of a millstone to the Chapel on the Green, as well as the other locations of historic millstones.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Member Heiman made a motion, seconded by Member Shanahan to adjourn. With a voice vote of three (3) ayes, the motion carried. The Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lily I. Smogor
PBZ Intern

Encs.

**KENDALL COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
JULY 21, 2025**

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)
June Burke Naperville Preservation, Inc.		
Wg. Swo PBZ intem		
Jim O'Brien		
Sandra Skier		
Mike Hoffman		
ERIC GRAY Kathy Verbaan		
SHARLEEN SMITH		
Susan Kretzberg		

Q

**KENDALL COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
JULY 21, 2025**

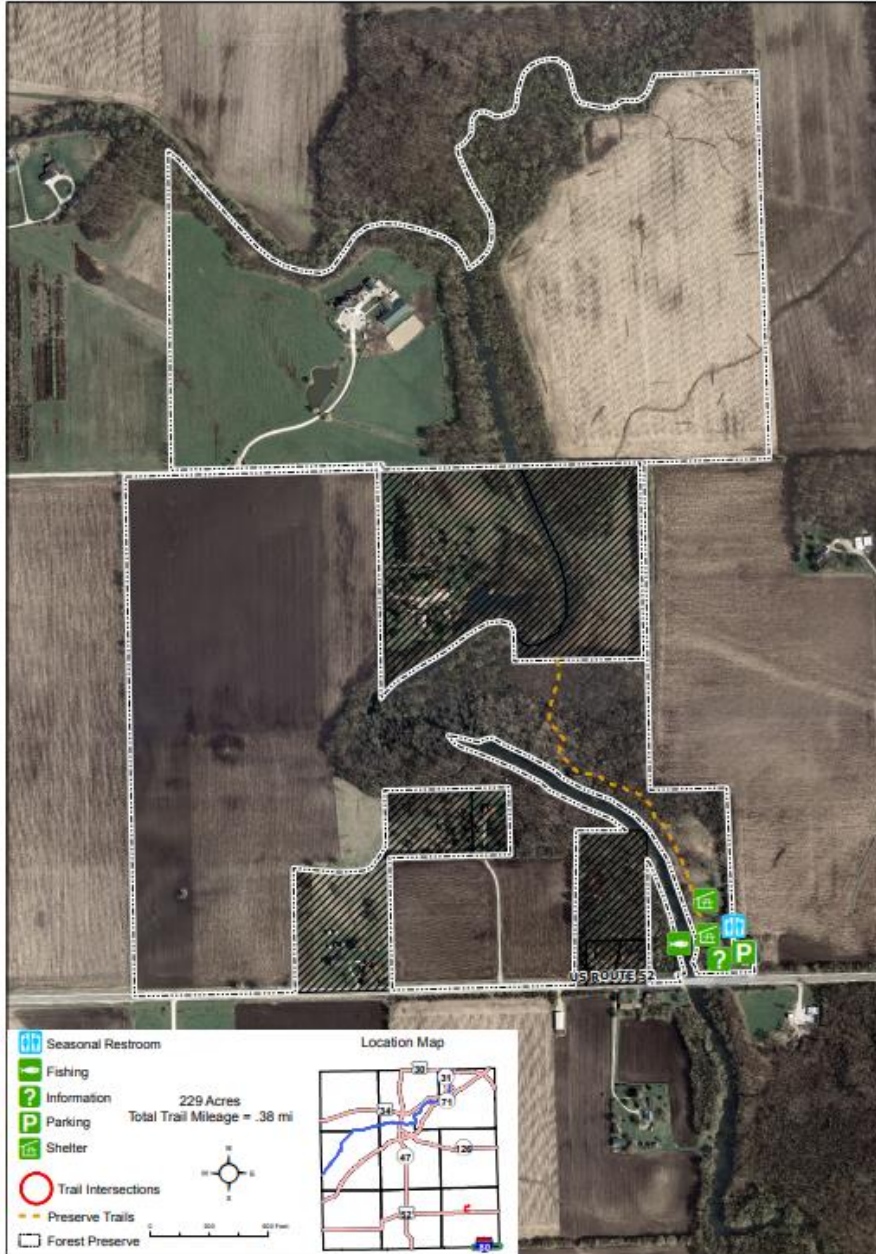
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONTACTED ON FUTURE
MEETINGS REGARDING THIS TOPIC, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR
ADDRESS OR EMAIL ADDRESS

NAME	ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)	EMAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)
Nancy Henley		
Joe Noce		
Johanne Byran		
Lisa Wolancuch		
JEFF GERRI		



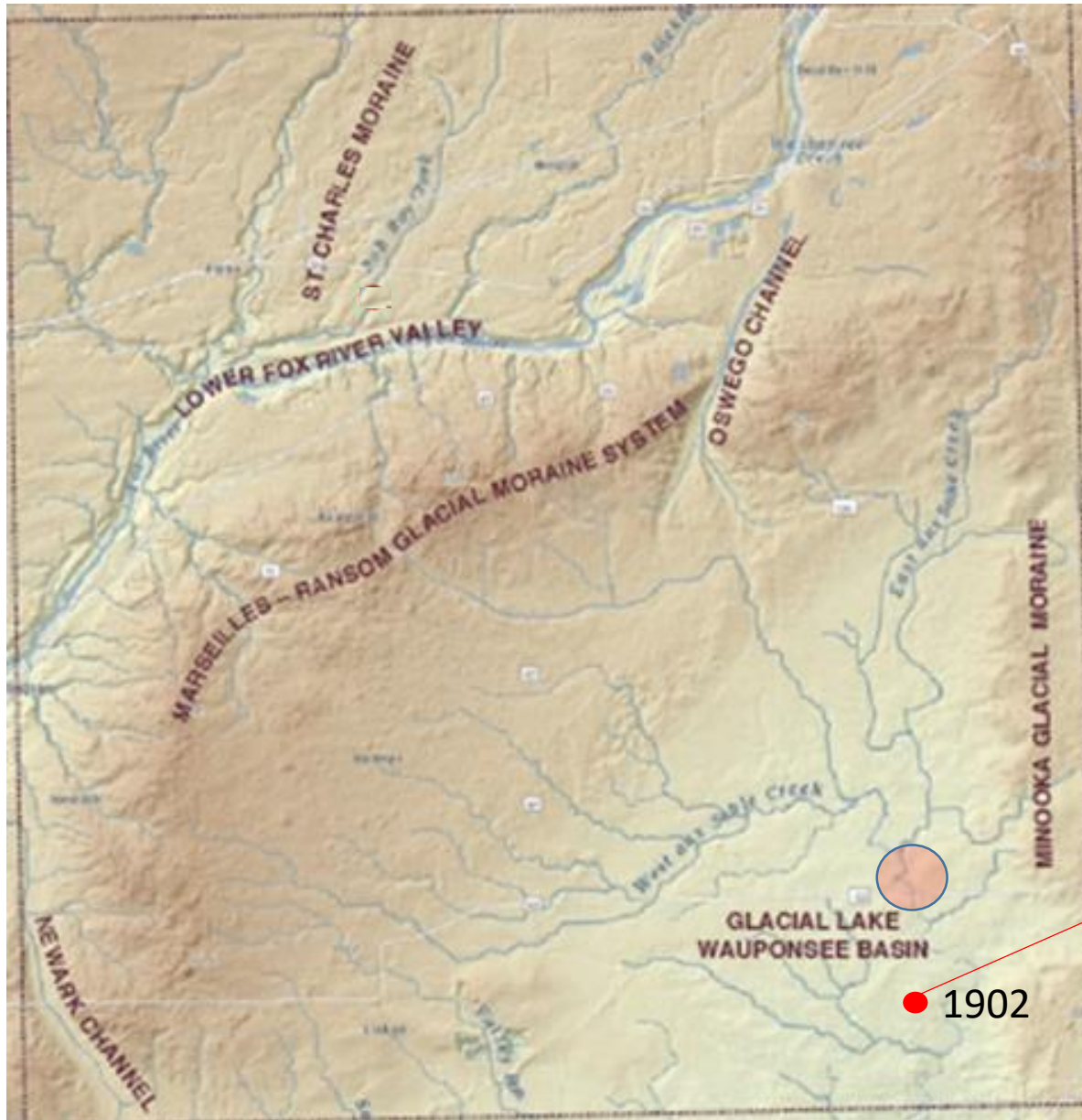
Kendall County GIS
411 West Fox Street, Suite 100
Lawrence, Illinois 62550-1000
618.681.2000

Baker Woods Forest Preserve



Baker's Woods Forest Preserve Overview of Natural and Cultural History

Kendall County Glacial Topography



1936

Illinois State Academy of Science

had formed the mire. Masked by rank vegetation in summer and lightly frozen over in winter, this bog, with its tempting spring at center, had formed a trap which tempted animals to come into it to drink, and from time to time had ensnared numbers of them. Common humus acids developed by decaying vegetation had preserved the bones while the flesh was carried away in the usual processes of decay.

A cross-section of the spring had been constructed from data furnished by Judge Bedford.

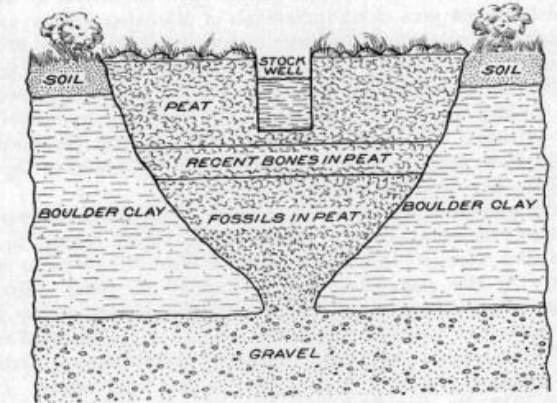
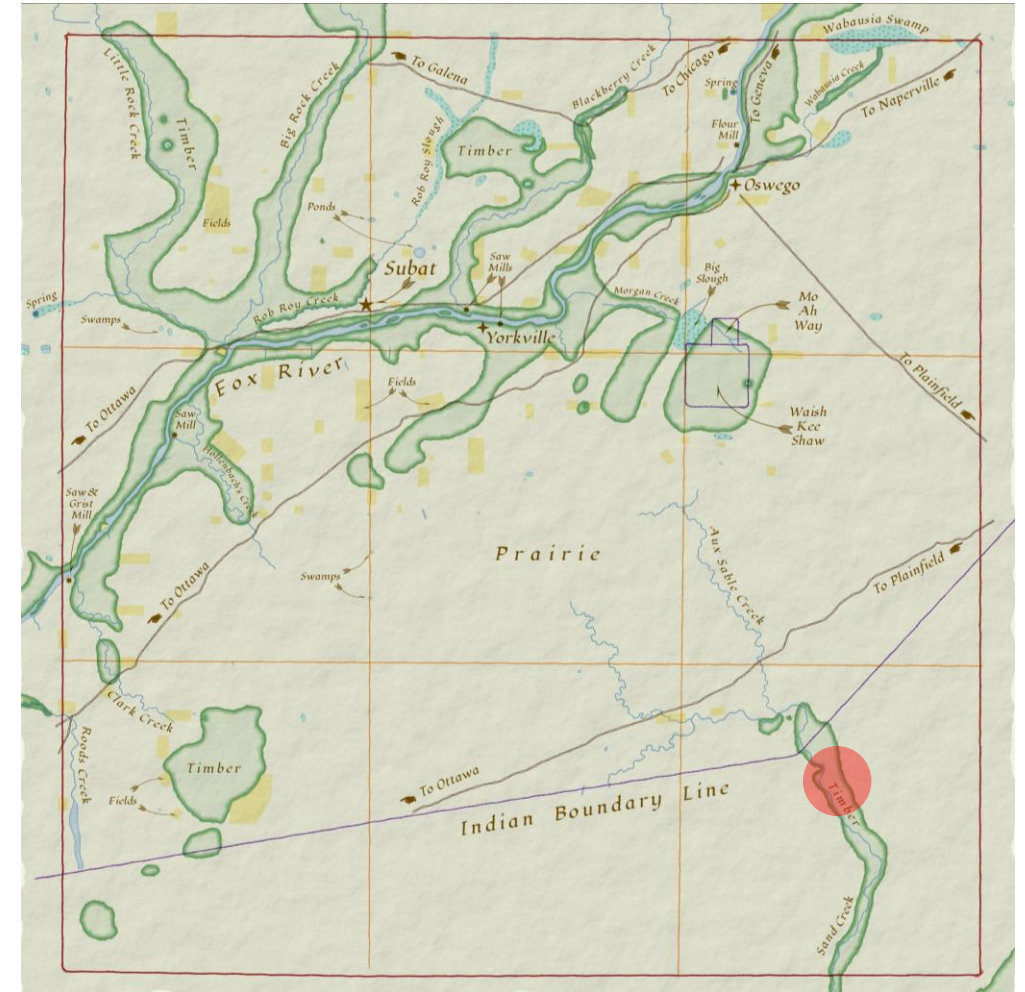
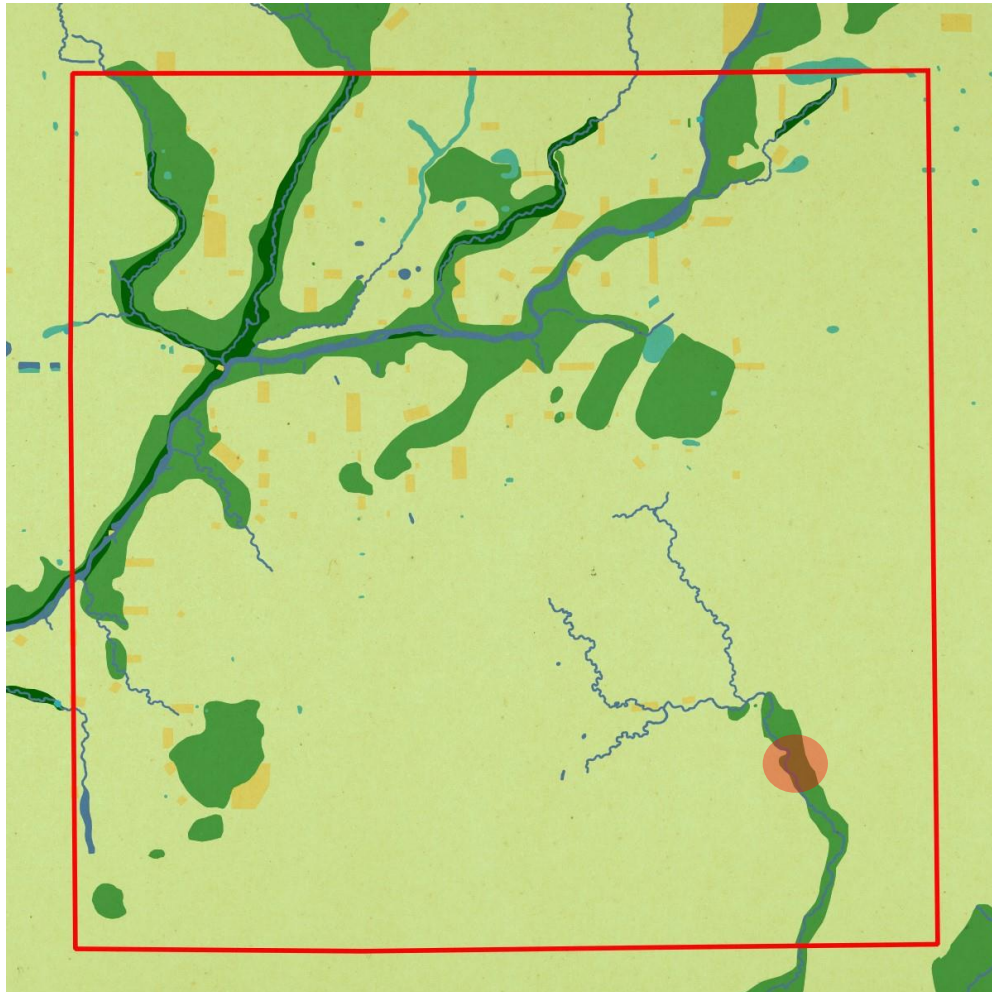


Fig. 1.—SECTION THROUGH PEAT BOG ON THE BAMFORD FARM NEAR MINOOKA, ILLINOIS, as explored in 1902 and in 1929, showing basin eroded by spring in boulder clay, and filled with peaty matter; stratum of water-bearing gravel and layers of recent and fossil bones. Width of basin at surface 20 feet; depth from surface to gravel stratum, 14 feet; width of opening into basin below, 3 feet; layer of recent bones, 20 inches; of fossil bones, 7 feet.

LIST OF ANIMALS DETERMINED

- MASTODON AMERICANUM**
Parts of nine individuals. One skull, two pairs lower jaws and various bones of two mature adults.
Two pairs humeri and femora of young adults, mandibles and maxillaries of five young individuals.
- ELEPHAS COLUMBI**
One mandible, tusk and other bones, apparently a female.
- CELVACES SPECIES**
One craneum with half beams of antlers.
One entire beam of antler with part of palm.
One metacarpal bone.
- ALCES SP.**
One broken antler.
- CERVUS SP.**
One broken antler.
- BISON BISON**
Miscellaneous bones of many individuals.

Survey Map
of
KENDALL COUNTY
ILLINOIS
1820 - 1840



1820's-30's Land Survey – Original Land Cover - Indian Boundary Line



Indian Boundary Line

The line was a significant feature in the area, with lands south of the line surveyed in 1821 and lands north surveyed later. The Indian Boundary Line was a result of the need for traders to travel safely between Chicago and Ottawa.

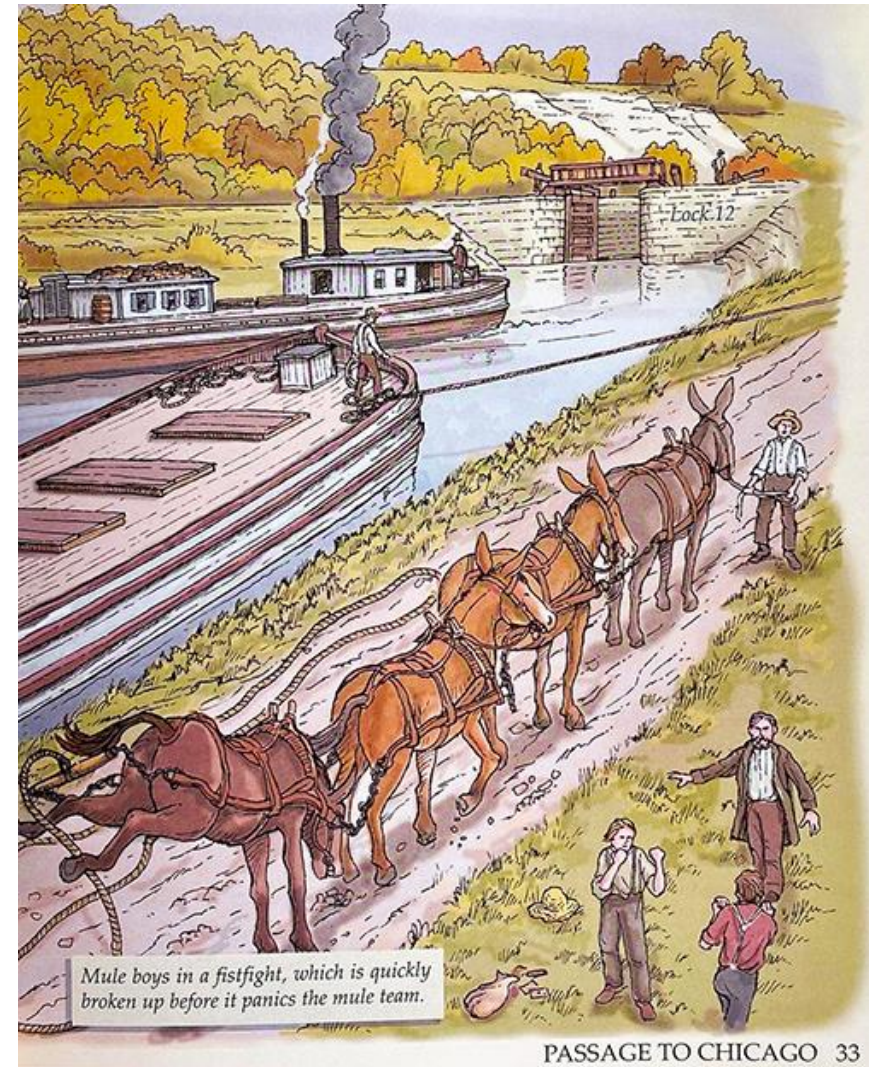
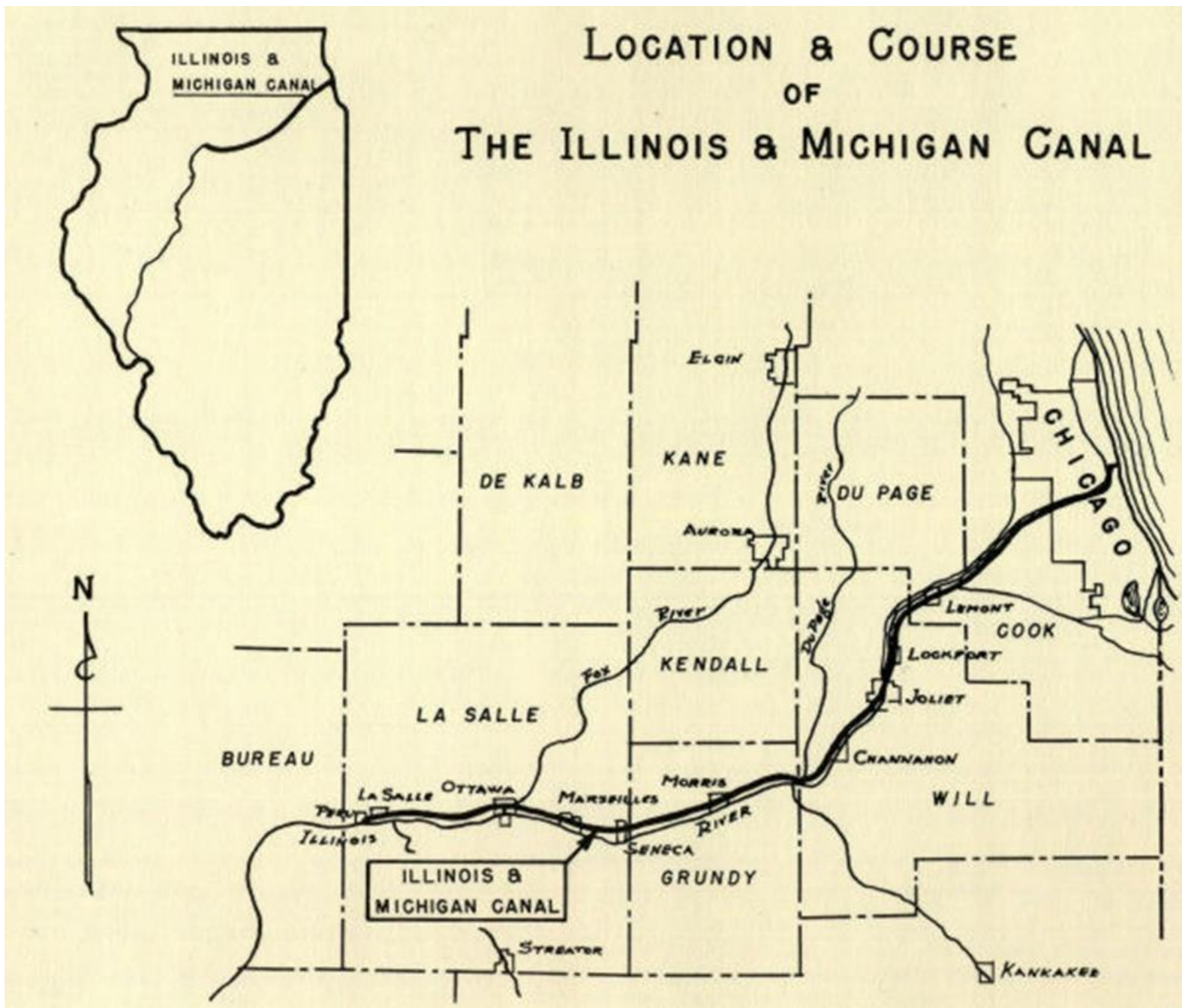
<https://historyonthefox.wordpress.com/2014/03/31/a-historical-survey-of-surveying/>

The Indian Boundary Line impacting Kendall County, Illinois, was established by the Treaty of St. Louis of 1816.

This treaty was negotiated between the United States government and the Ojibwe, Ottawa, and Potawatomi tribes (the Council of Three Fires).

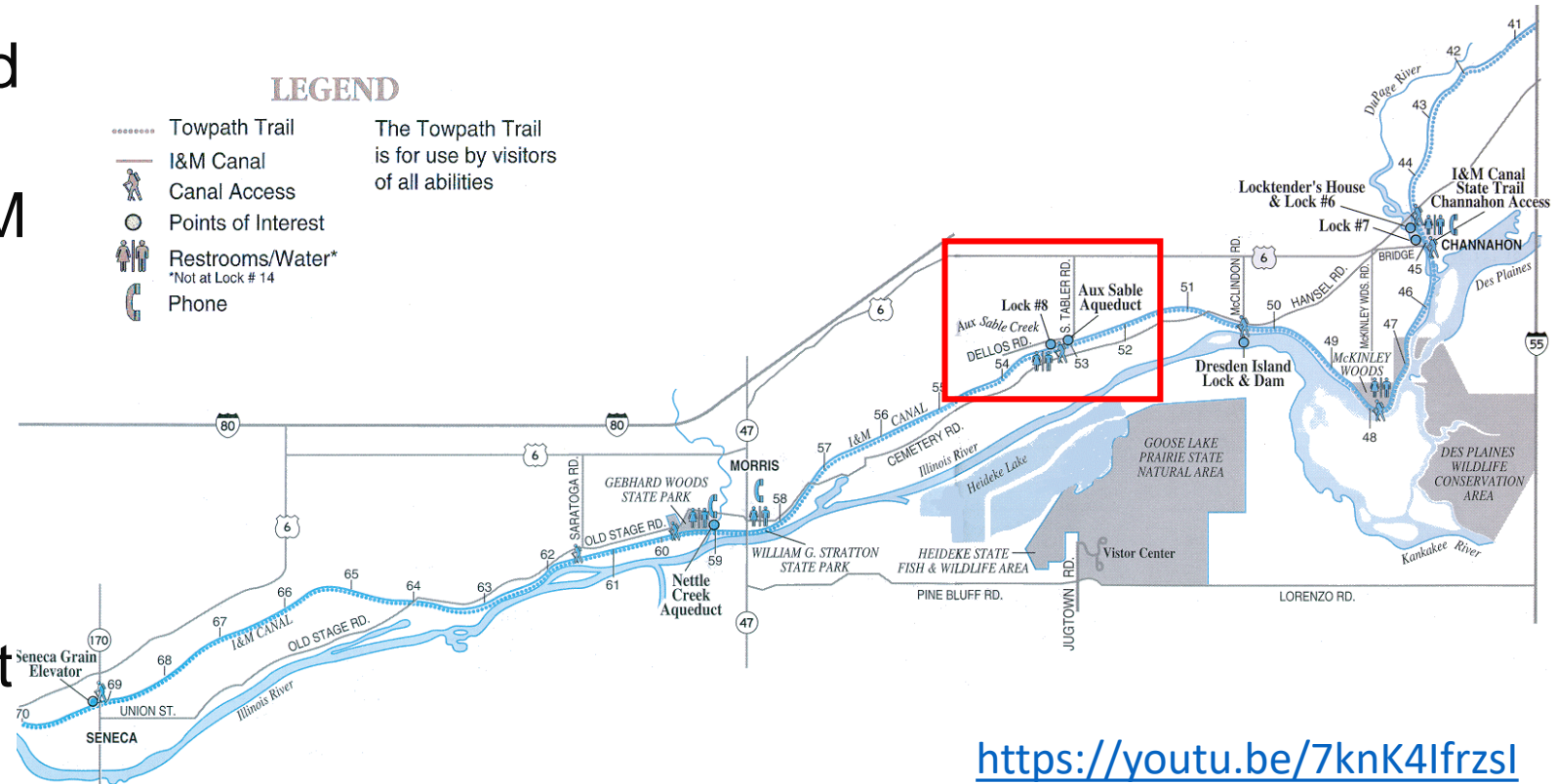
Under the terms of this treaty, a twenty-mile wide strip of land was ceded to the United States. This area extended from the western shore of Lake Michigan, 10 miles north and 10 miles south of the Chicago River, and westward to the Fox River. This strip is what became known as the Indian Boundary Line.

The purpose of this land cession was to create a corridor for safe passage for traders and settlers between the important Chicago Portage and the Illinois River at Ottawa. The tribes retained the right to hunt and fish on the ceded lands.





The Aux Sable Creek watershed supported industries and agriculture that relied on the I&M Canal for transportation. Goods did not travel directly down the creek into the canal. They were likely transported to a canal access point like Minooka, and loaded onto barges for transport along the I&M Canal.



<https://youtu.be/7knK4lfrzsl>

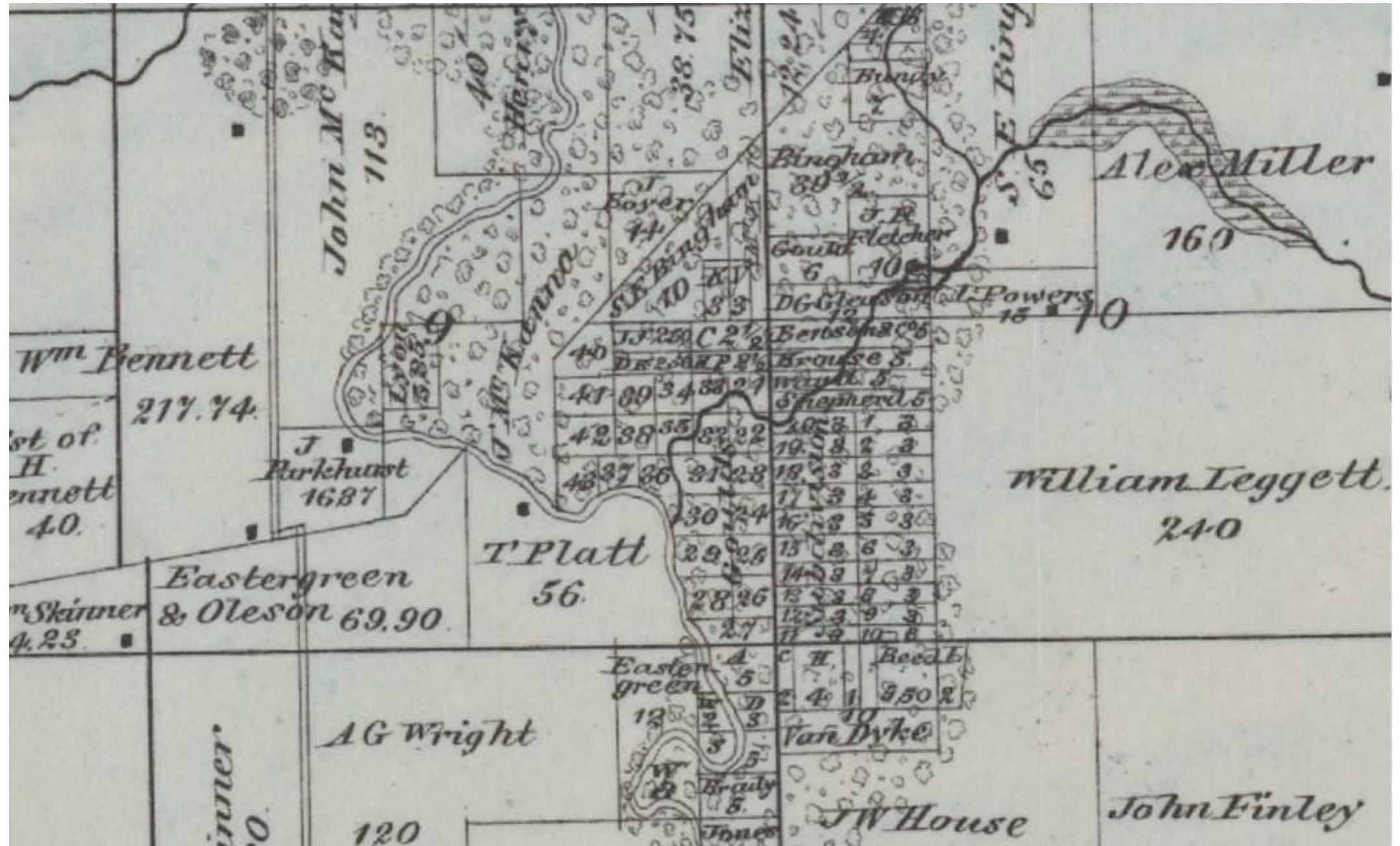


The earliest Aqueduct at Aux Sable Creek, built as part of the I & M canal project, was a timber structure completed in 1847. This structure was replaced with the present riveted steel trough in 1927.

Aux Sable, near Morris, Ill.



1871 – “Houses Grove” and “McKanna Road” Namesakes



Notes on House's Grove near Baker Woods FP

While a part of House's Grove is now part of Baker Woods, the southwest portion of section 15 described below is not.

<https://kendallkin.org/county-history/place-names.html#HousesGrove>

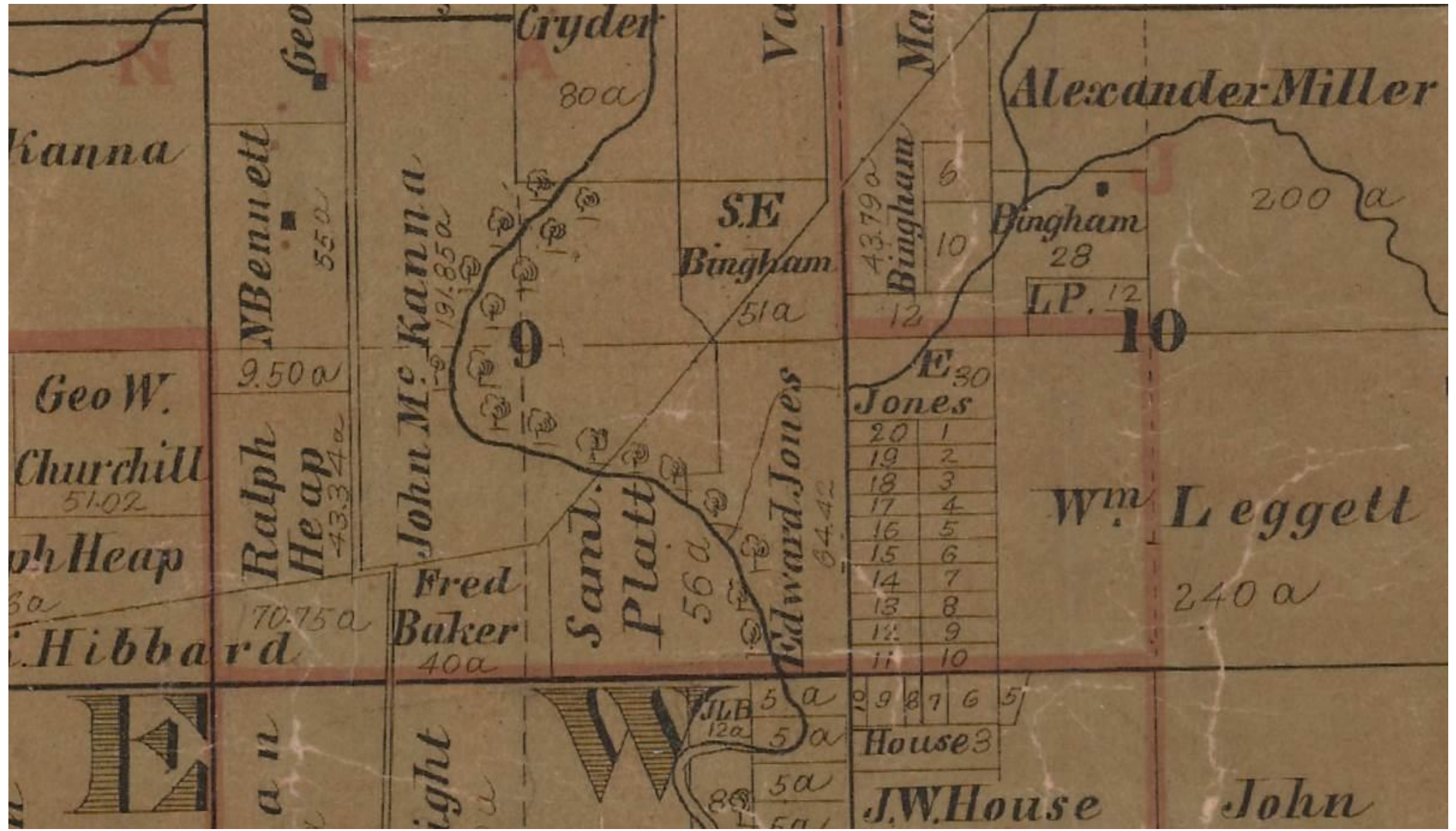
Sulphur Springs

(historical) Sulphur springs are located in a number of places in Seward Township. One of the largest and best known sulphur springs was located in House's Grove a little southwest of the center of section 15. The area around the springs was a popular picnic spot. See House's Grove.

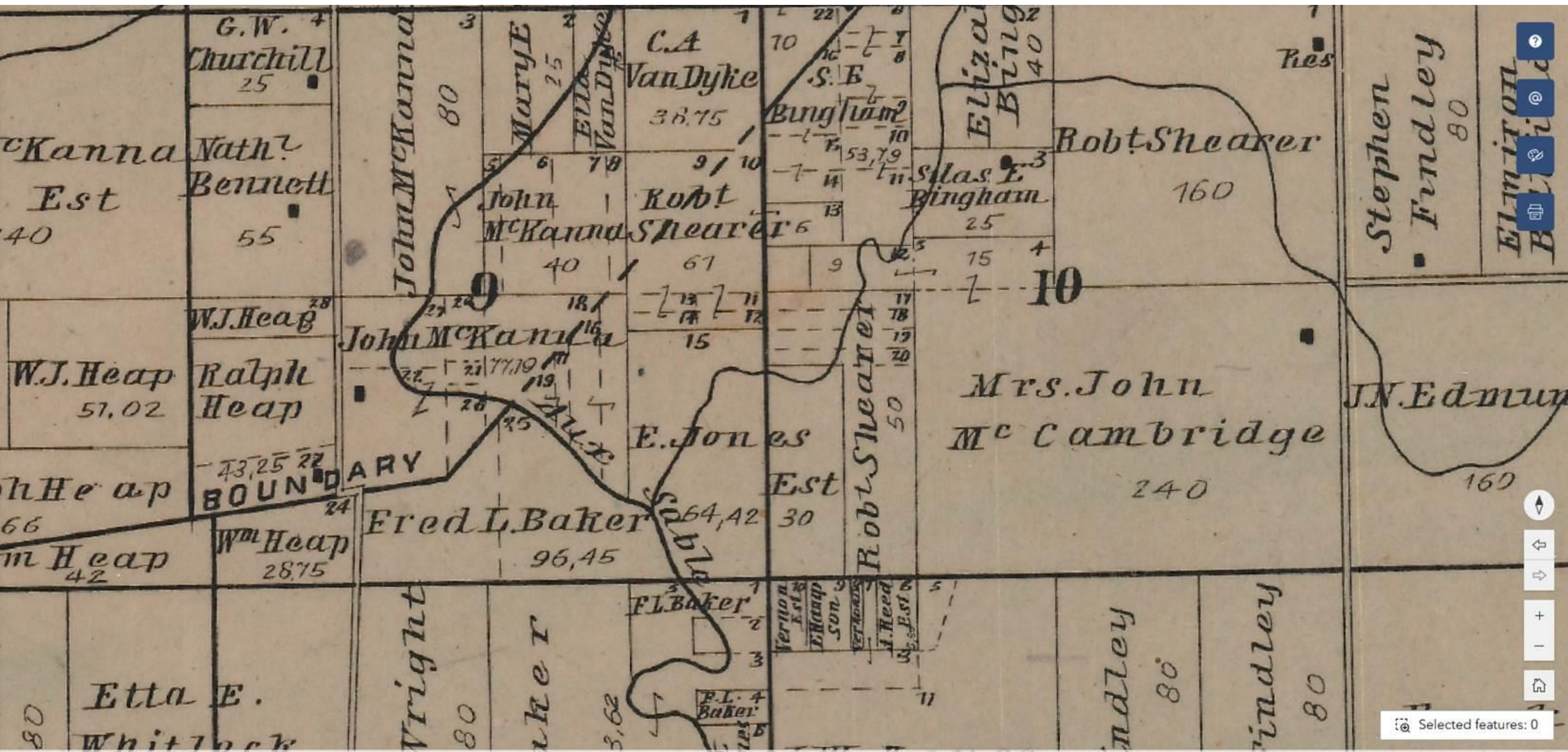
The spring was a clear, constant spring which, gave off the odor of sulfuretted hydrogen (hydrogen sulphide.) The odor was perceptible from several yards away but the sulphurous taste of the water was not sufficiently strong to make it disagreeable to most people. For some people, the reverse was the case and the water prized.

Other sulphur springs were found a mile or mile and a quarter farther west along the banks of the Aux Sable Creek and still others were found in section 23, and the northern part of section 16, Seward Township. Geological Report of Kendall County, 1871.

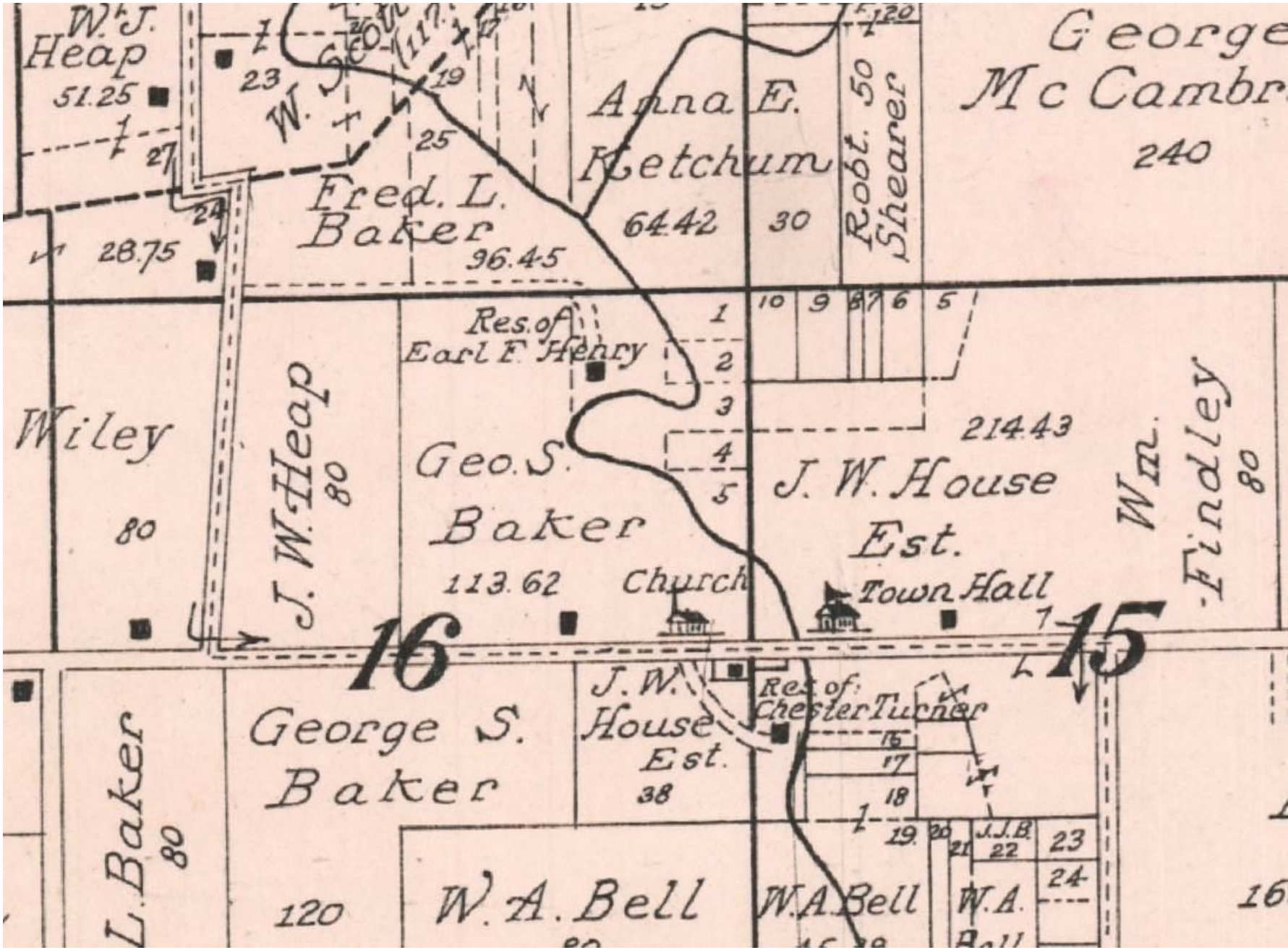
1875 – Fred Baker (Baker Woods)



1908 – “Baker” Family Property Additions



1908 – Route 52 – Residences, Church & Township Hall (Rt. 52 Rest Stop)



1939 Aerial Photos – “The Good Stuff”
Aux Sable Oak Ecosystem Corridor



1997 – Still largely rural character
Ellis House, Stable & Indoor Arena Constructed
Fox Township Rt. 52 Facilities



2003




Baker Woods / Ellis Acquisitions

Total Preserve Acreage – 167 +/- acres

09-16-200-003

Acquired 1967 - 17.74-acres - Donation

 **KENDALL COUNTY GIS**
Map Viewer

Parcels, Boundaries, and History ▾

Assessment Information ▾

Planning, Building, & Zoning

Voting ▾

Parcel Information

Parcel: 09-16-200-003

Alternate PIN	
Brief Legal	SEC 16-35-8

Taxing Information

All taxing information comes from assessment records and a parcel's tax code

Tax Code	SE001
Property Class	0090
Township	Seward Township
Municipality	UNINCORPORATED
Drainage District	
SSA	

Property Area

Deeded acreage reflects a parcel's area as given in the legal record, and is only provided when given. Calculated acreage and square footage are based on the parcel's shape, and do not have any legal or assessment implications.

Deeded Acreage	17.74
Homesite Acres	17.74
Farm Acres	0.00
Calculated	17.65

CAMA Information

Select a parcel with associated structures to view CAMA data.

Search

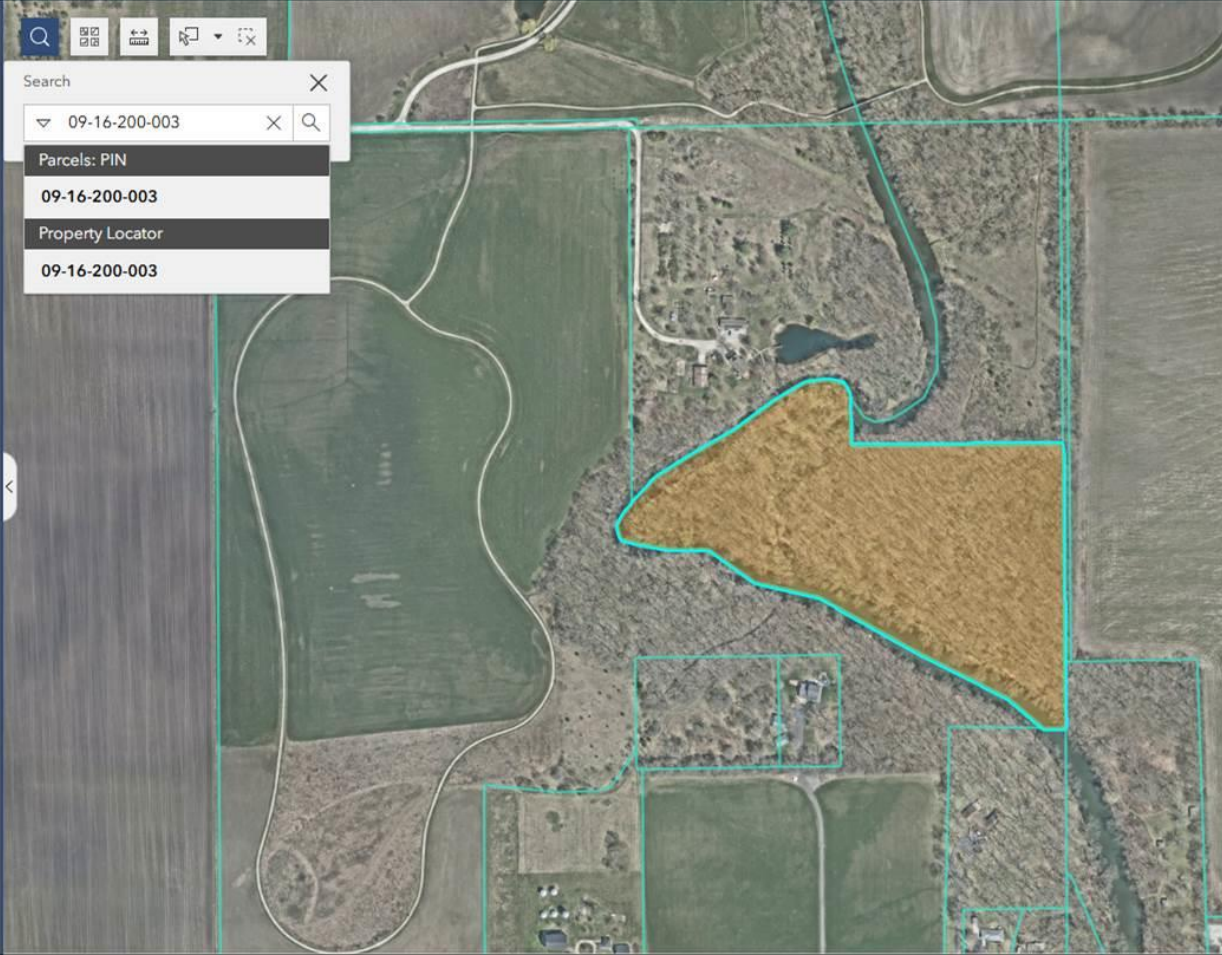
09-16-200-003

Parcels: PIN

09-16-200-003

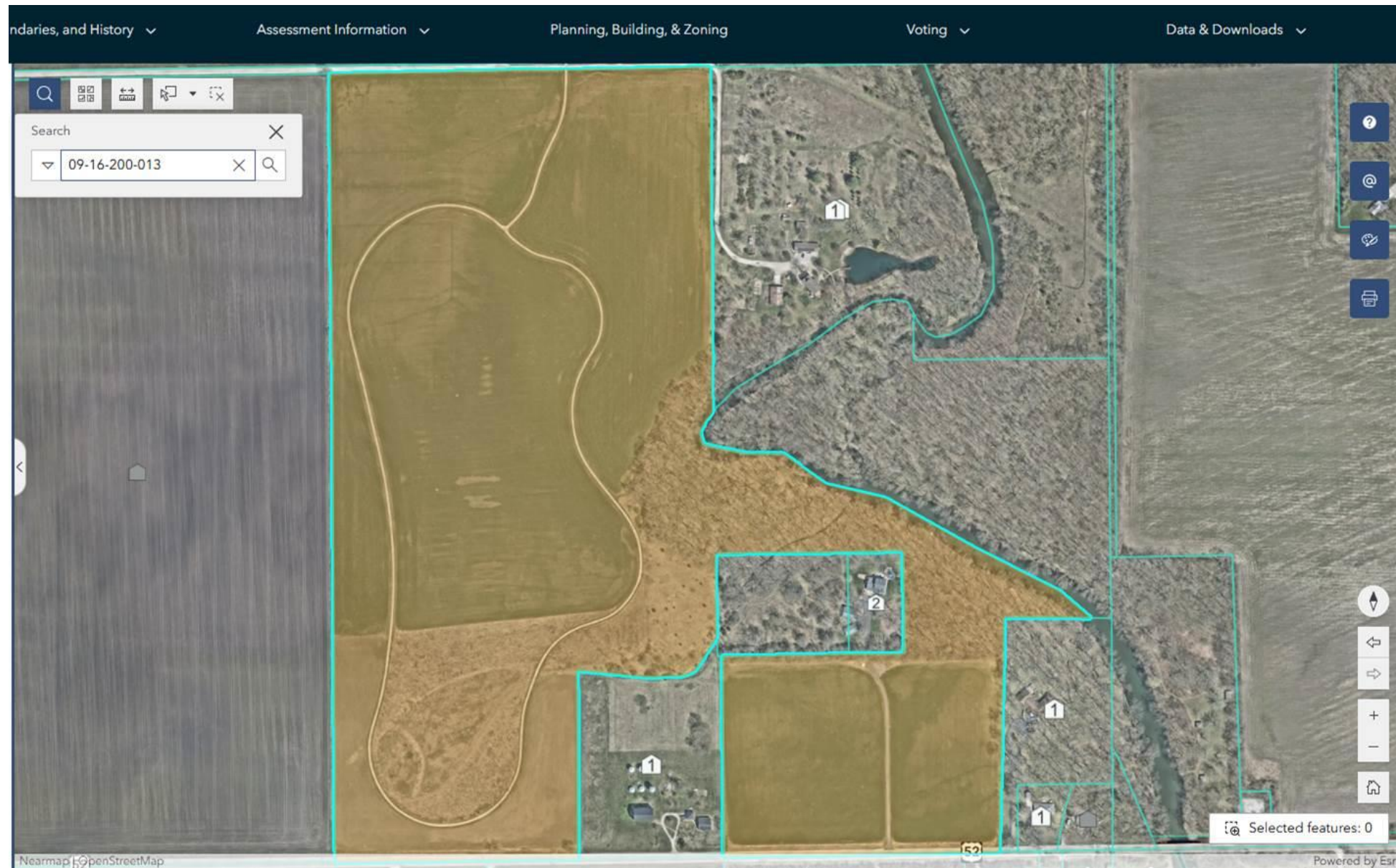
Property Locator

09-16-200-003




09-16-200-013

Acquired March 2008 - \$250K DCEO Grant - \$1.883M 95.45 AC (\$20K per acre)
Carolyn Baker and Deborah Smith



09-09-400-004

Ellis Equestrian Center Parcel Acquired May 2008 – \$2.440M (44.90 acres)
William Stephen and Cynthia Ellis

**KENDALL COUNTY GIS**
Map Viewer

Parcels, Boundaries, and History ▾Assessment Information ▾Planning, Building, & ZoningVoting ▾Data & Downloads ▾

Parcel Information

Parcel: 09-09-400-004

Alternate PIN	
Brief Legal	SEC 9 35 8 IRREG 46.68 AC TR LYG SE 1/4

Taxing Information

All taxing information comes from assessment records and a parcel's tax code

Tax Code	SE001
Property Class	0090
Township	Seward Township
Municipality	UNINCORPORATED
Drainage District	
SSA	

Property Area

Deeded acreage reflects a parcel's area as given in the legal record, and is only available when a parcel is selected.

CAMA Information

Select a parcel with associated structures to view CAMA data.

Search
09-09-400-004




Table 1. Baker's Woods plant list (1999).

SITE: BAKER'S WOODS
 LOCALE: KENDALL COUNTY
 DATE: 1999 FIELD SEASON
 BY: SCOTT KOBAL
 BAKERF99.WB2

CONSERVATISM 57.84%

FLORISTIC QUALITY DATA


185 NATIVE SPECIES

231 Total Species
 3.90 NATIVE MEAN C
 3.13 W/Adventives
 53.08 NATIVE FQI
 47.50 W/Adventives
 0.5 NATIVE MEAN W
 0.8 W/Adventives
 AVG: FACULTATIVE (-)

NATIVE	80.1%	ADVENTIVE	19.9%
32 Tree	13.9%	3 Tree	1.3%
16 Shrub	6.9%	6 Shrub	2.6%
6 W-Vine	2.6%	1 W-Vine	0.4%
2 H-Vine	0.9%	0 H-Vine	0.0%
80 P-Forb	34.6%	11 P-Forb	4.8%
3 B-Forb	1.3%	5 B-Forb	2.2%
25 A-Forb	10.8%	10 A-Forb	4.3%
9 P-Grass	3.9%	5 P-Grass	2.2%
2 A-Grass	0.9%	5 A-Grass	2.2%
9 P-Sedge	3.9%	0 P-Sedge	0.0%
0 A-Sedge	0.0%	0 A-Sedge	0.0%
1 Cryptogam	0.4%		



09-09-400-004
Acquired September 2009
Seward Township - \$200,850
10-acres (Theodore House – 1939)

**KENDALL COUNTY GIS**
Map Viewer

Parcels, Boundaries, and History ▾

Assessment Information ▾

Planning, Building, & Zoning

Voting ▾

Parcel Information

Parcel: 09-09-400-004

Alternate PIN	
Brief Legal	SEC 9-35-8 IRREG 46.68 AC TR LYG SE 1/4

Taxing Information

All taxing information comes from assessment records and a parcel's tax code

Tax Code	SE001
Property Class	0090
Township	Seward Township
Municipality	UNINCORPORATED
Drainage District	
SSA	

Property Area

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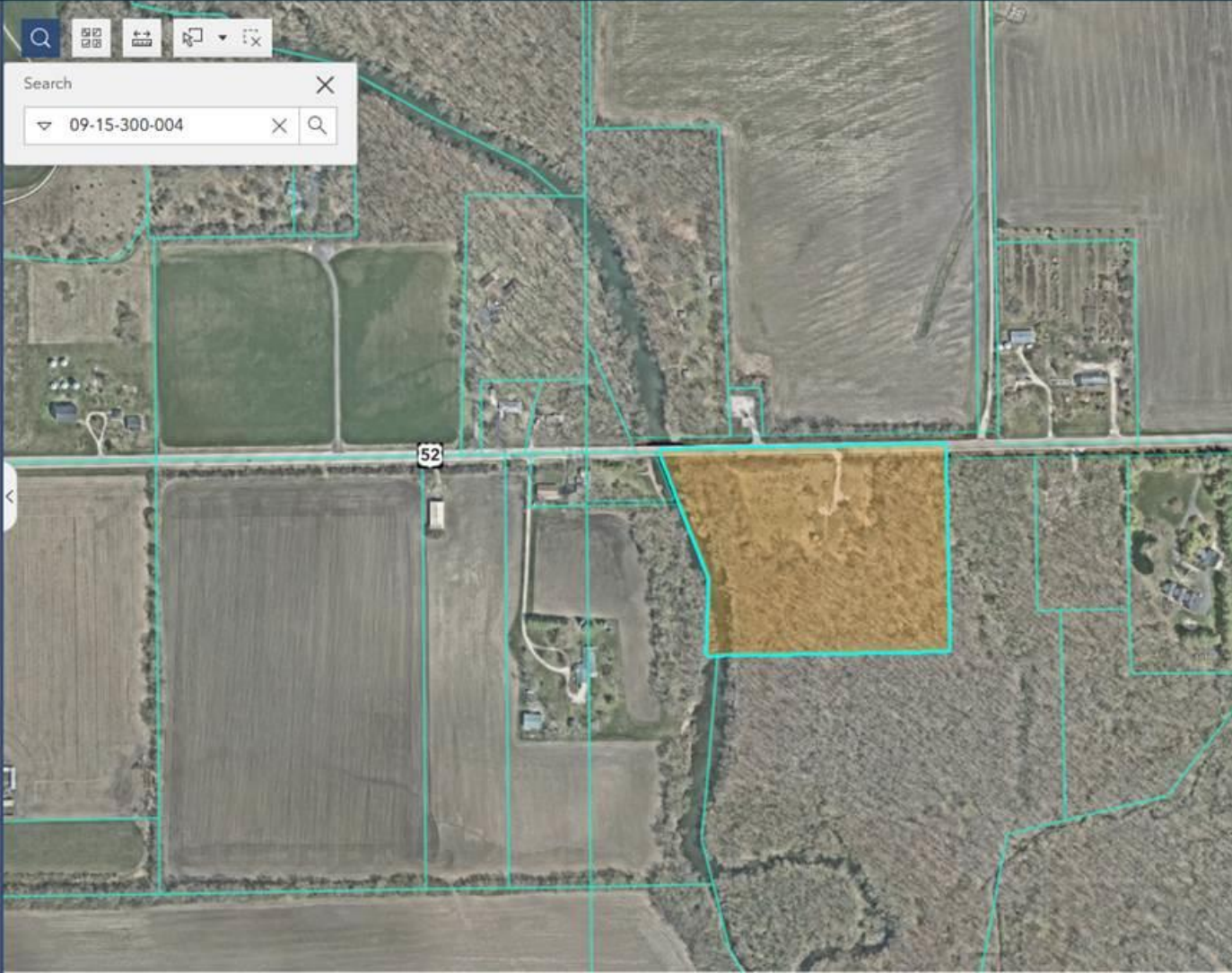
Deeded Acreage	44.90
Homesite Acres	0.00

CAMA Information

Select a parcel with associated structures to view CAMA data.

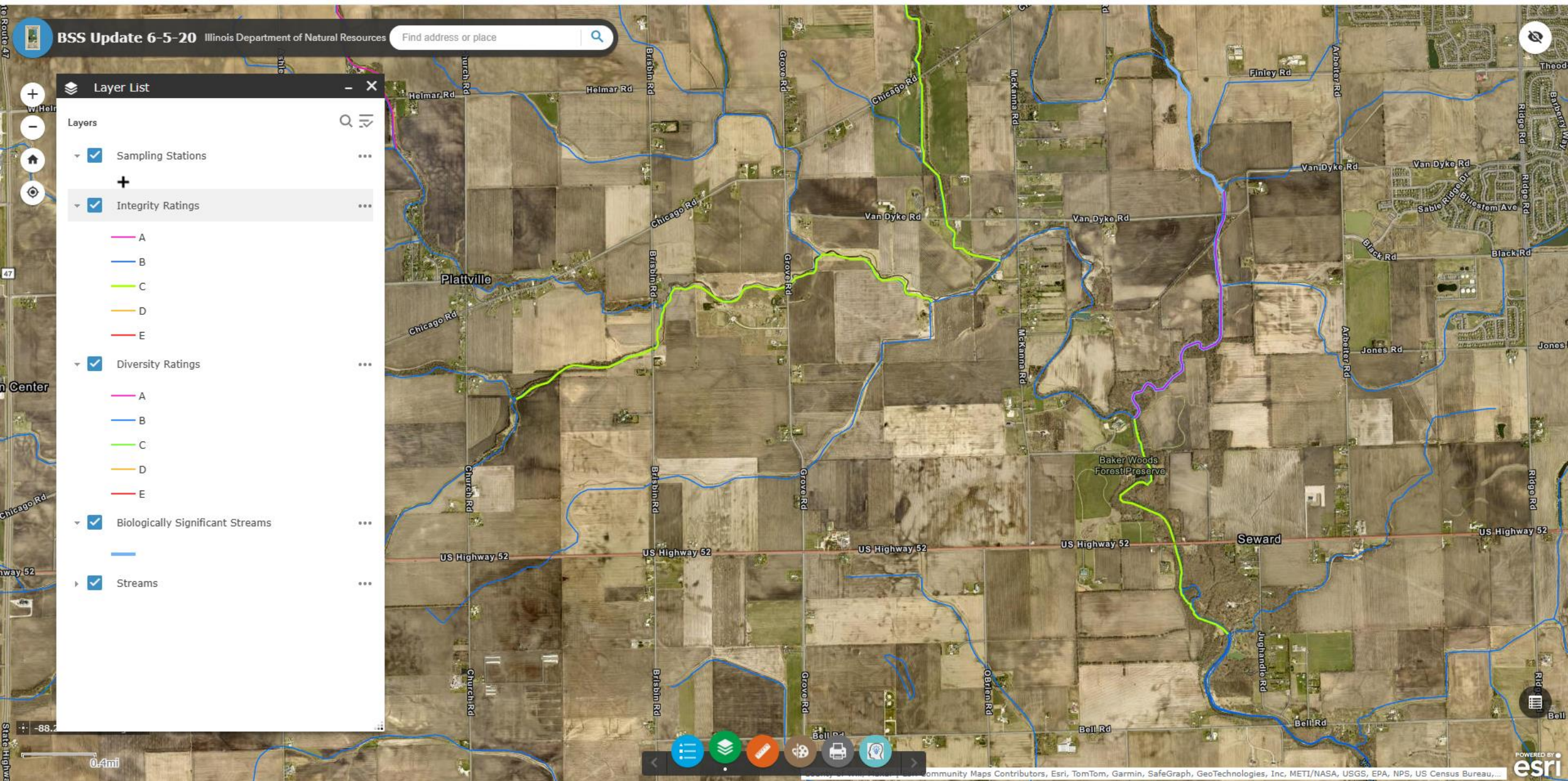
Search

09-15-300-004

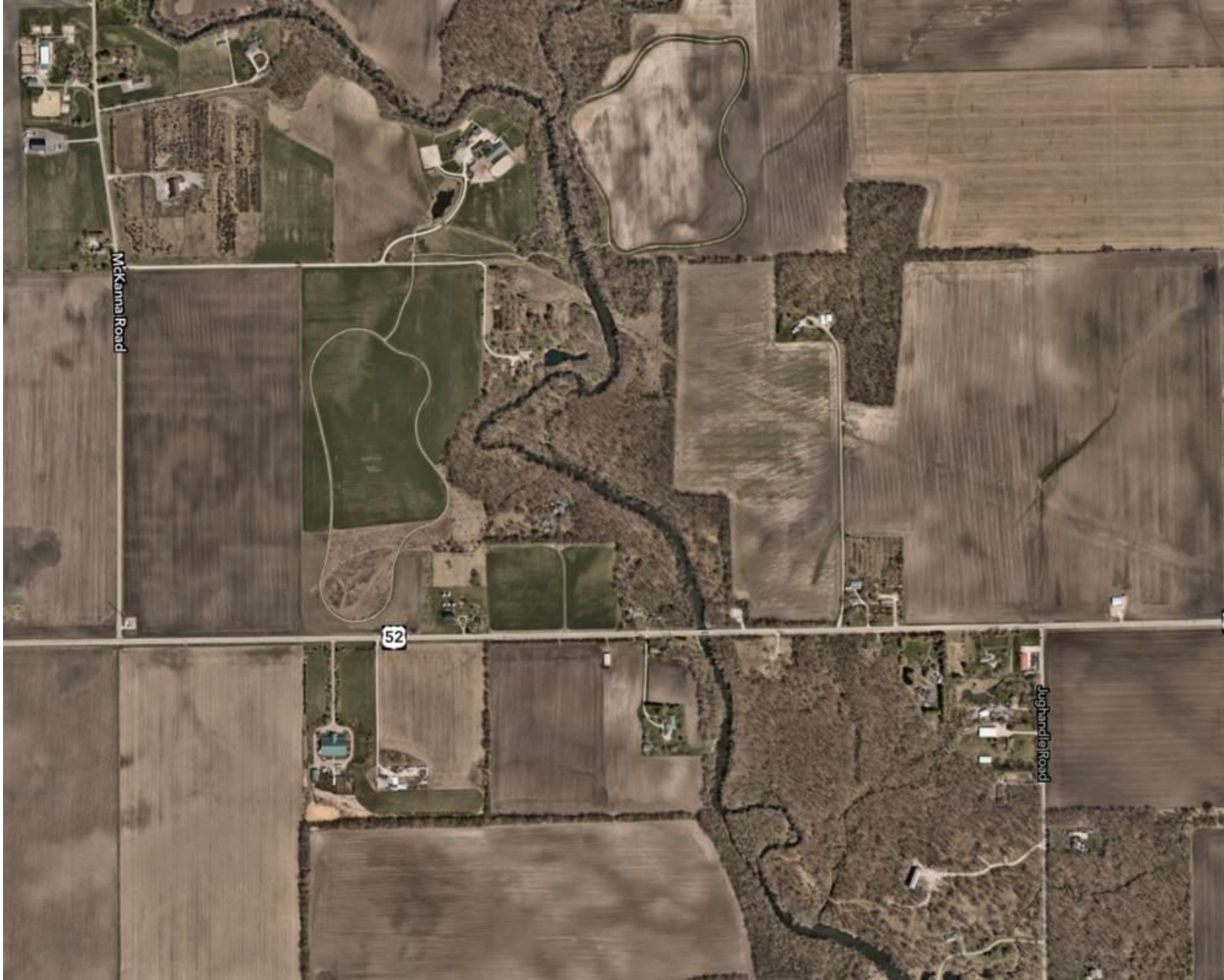


Other Parcels Acquired

2008	Sandstrom Trust	09-09-400-003	61.23-ac	\$1.117M
		09-10-300-002		
		09-16-200-010		
2011	DeVries, Mary	09-16-200-010	10.76-ac	\$110,000



2025





KENDALL COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Rural Historic Structures Survey



www.wje.com

WJE | ENGINEERS
ARCHITECTS
MATERIALS SCIENTISTS

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

July 21, 2025

WJE

Na-Au-Say and Seward Townships Survey

An orange L-shaped line that starts as a horizontal line extending from the right side of the title, then turns 90 degrees downward to form a vertical line.

Kendall County Survey Project Goals

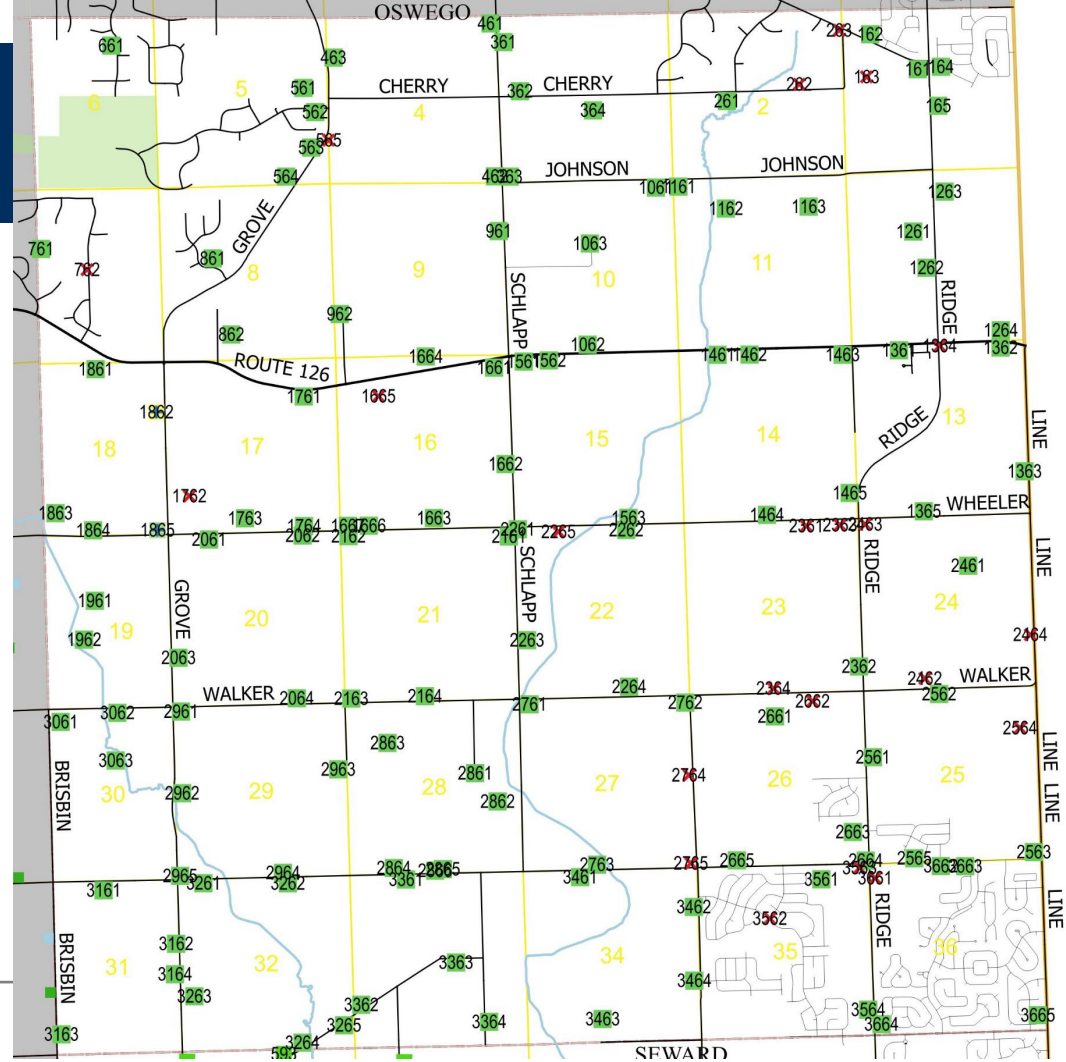
- Provide background history of the county and survey area
- Provide architectural context of building types
- Document historic rural structures
- Assess and identify potential landmark properties
 - No designated county landmarks in these townships
 - No National Register-listed properties in these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

Previous Projects

- County-wide field documentation compiled by Stephenie Todd
- 2023: 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 Township
 - 3 have been subsequently demolished

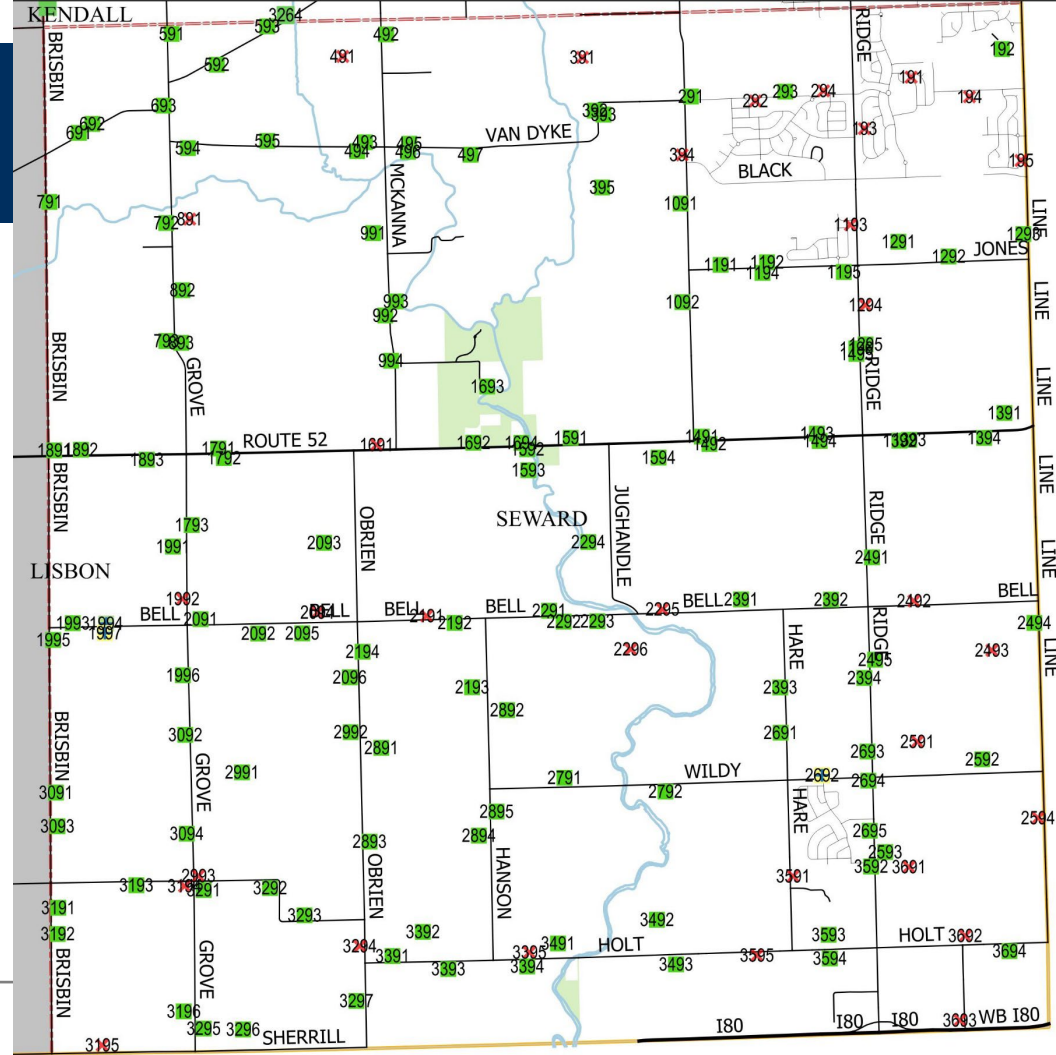
Project Scope

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



Project Scope

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



Survey Project Process

- Historical research
- Database development
- Mapping
- Field survey
 - Assisted by volunteers
- Report writing

Research materials

HISTORY
— OF —
KENDALL COUNTY

ILLINOIS,

FROM THE

Earliest Discoveries to the Present Time,

— BY —

REV. E. W. HICKS.

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

AURORA, ILL.:

KNICKERBOCKER & HODDER, 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 farm.

Breeder's 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

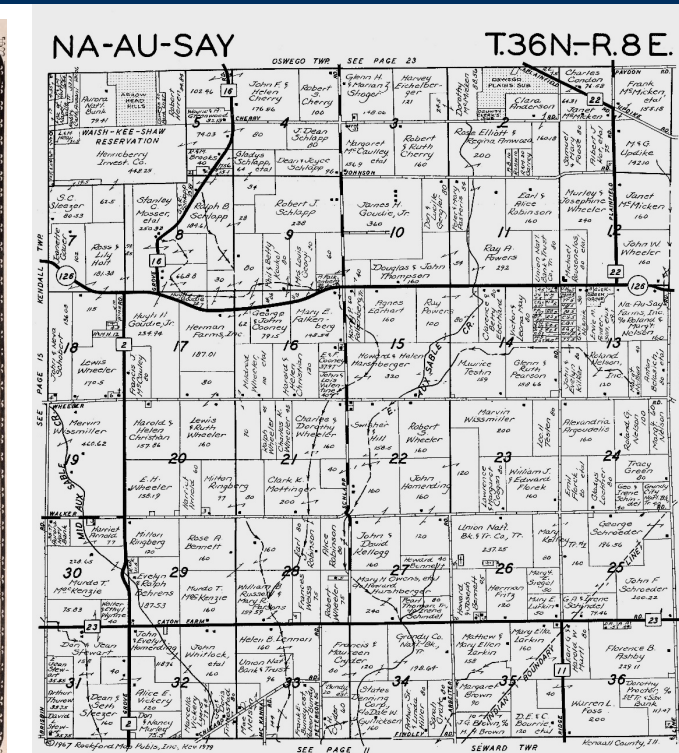
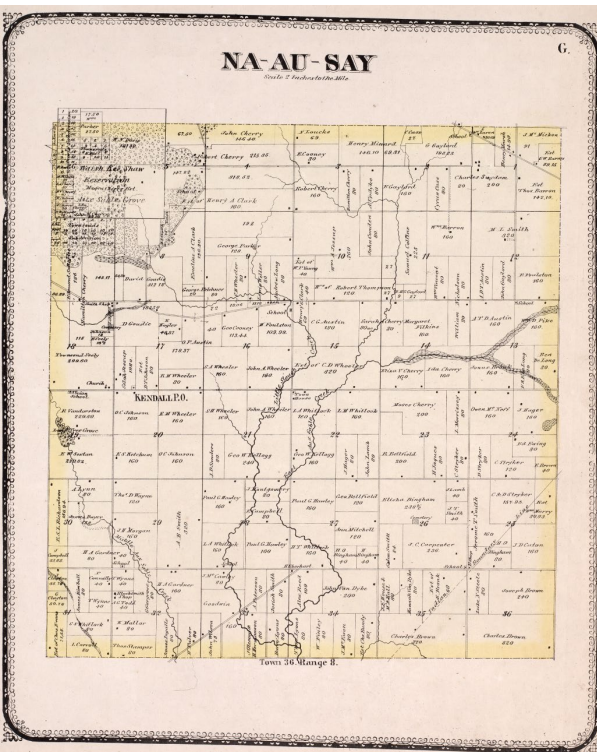
By PRAIRIE FARMER PUBLISHING COMPANY

1917

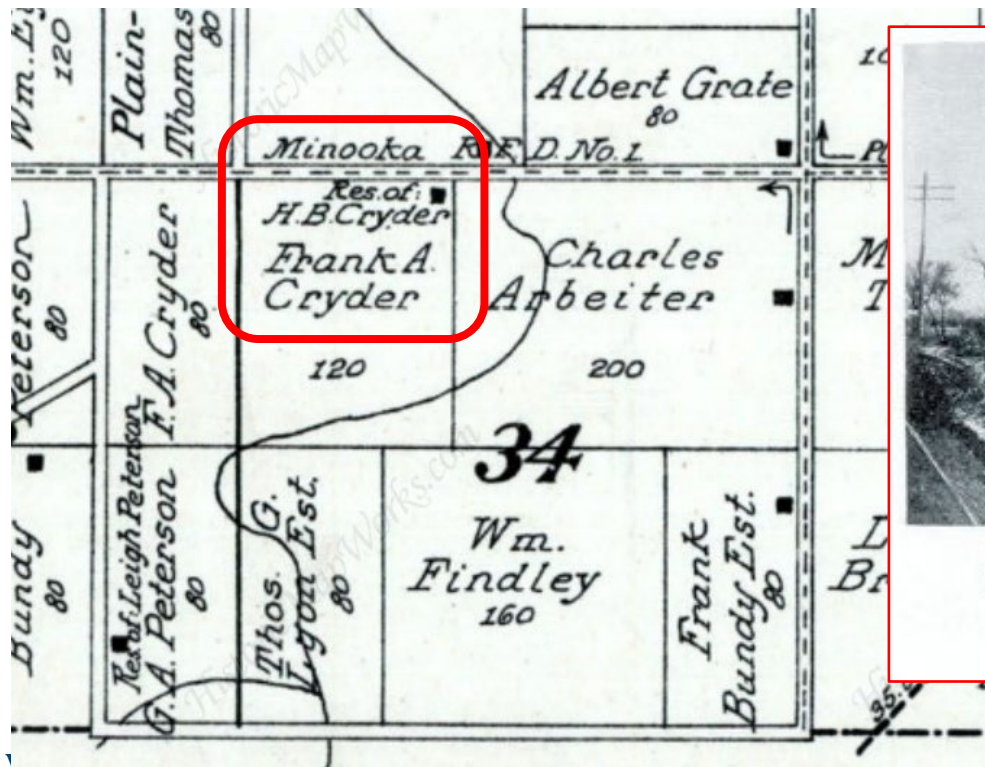
Compiled and Published by

Prairie Farmer Publishing Co.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Research materials



Research materials



RESIDENCE OF HENRY B. CRYDER,
MINOOKA, ILLINOIS.

Microsoft Access database

Property Basic Data Entry Form

214 Y 304

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

Records: 14 of 126

PIN Number	Street Number	Street Name	Section	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	

Field Survey

- Document each structure
- Photographs
- Written notes: materials and other features

Kendall Township Rural Historic Structures Survey			
Address <input type="text" value="9123 Helmar Road"/>		Property Name <input type="text"/>	
ID No. <input type="text" value="3356"/>	PIN No. <input type="text" value="05-33-400-003"/>	Survey Date <input type="text"/>	Surveyor(s) <input type="text"/>
T36N R7E			
Section <input type="text" value="33"/>			
Parcel <input type="text" value="SE 1/4"/>			
<div>History Notes House: 1958</div>			
<div>Fieldnotes</div>			
List Each Structure		List Materials of Foundation, Walls, Roof, Porches, and Trim	
HOUSE - BRICK MASONRY - POURED FNDN. ASPHALT ROOF SHINGLES - VINYL WINDOWS			
MORTON BARN (RED) STEEL			
CORRUGATED STEEL BLDG.			
GRAIN BINS X2 STEEL			

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

KENDALL TOWNSHIP HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY

9111 Ashley Road		Property Name	Ashley Farmstead	
PIN No.	05-22-200-002	2252	Survey Date	2/15/2023
		Surveyor(s)	JH	

Township T36N Range R7E Orientation

Section Parcel

Historic Use

Current Use

Significance

Fieldnotes

Sold 2016, now used as an events venue, Ashley Farm Weddings (www.ashleyfarmweddings.com)



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



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.

Notes

Very large, well preserved, and elaborately detailed example of Italianate style house.

Outcomes

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

Landmark Designation of Historic Cemeteries



Can cemeteries be landmarks?

- Cemeteries reflect and represent cultural values and practices of the past
- Historic cemeteries can be threatened by abandonment, vandalism, development, or environmental hazards
- Due to the personal resonance of cemeteries to family members and descendants, they are not typically considered for landmark designation without special consideration
- Religious significance is generally not considered as part of the government landmarking process
- 18 Illinois cemeteries are listed in the National Register

Landmark criteria

- Burial places predating European pioneer settlement are protected by the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- Kendall County Historic Preservation Ordinance
- National Register Criteria and Criteria Considerations
- National Register Bulletin 41: *Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places*

National Register Criteria Considerations

- A: Religious property is eligible if significant for design or history
- C: An individual grave is significant only if the person is of outstanding importance and there is no other appropriate site connected to his or her productive life
- D: Cemetery is eligible if it derives significance from:
 - Graves of persons of transcendent importance
 - Age
 - Distinctive design features
 - Association with historic events

National Register Criteria Considerations

- F: Commemorative site eligible if age, tradition, or symbolic value have invested it with its own historical significance
- G: Sites less than 50 years old are eligible if of exceptional importance
 - Does not apply to a cemetery that is more than 50 years old, even if open for new burials

Integrity

1. To what degree does the cemetery and setting convey its historic period?
2. To what degree has the original design, materials, decoration, and landscaping been retained?
3. Has the property's potential to yield information about historic culture been compromised by ground disturbance or other changes?

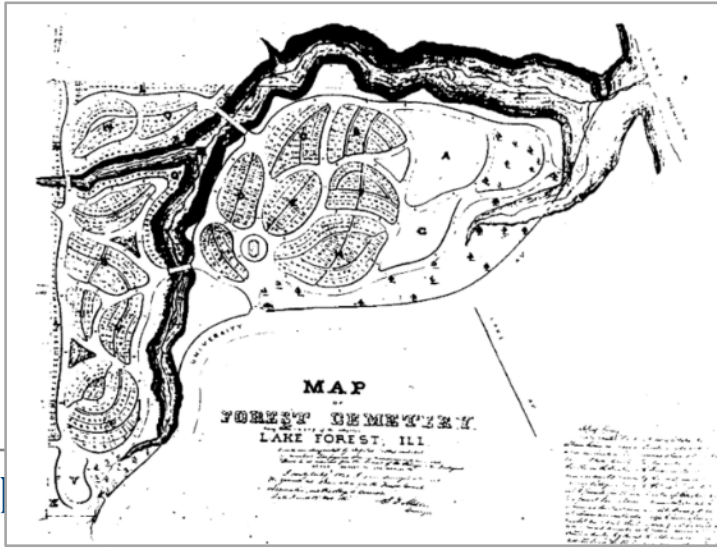
National Register Examples

- Bohemian National Cemetery, Pulaski Avenue, Chicago
Listed in National Register for association with an ethnic group (Czech-American community) and for its landscape design



National Register Examples

- Lake Forest Cemetery, Lake Forest, Illinois
Listed in National Register for its landscape design
- Quincy National Cemetery, Quincy, Illinois
Listed in National Register for association with Civil War-era military history



Local Examples

Wheatland Township Cemetery
(Will County, designated 2011)
First burials date to 1830s, formally
established in 1840. Contains graves of
many prominent pioneer families



Beecher Mausoleum
(Will County, designated 1998)
(National Register listed, 2013)
Nominated for architectural design





Matt Asselmeier

From: Michele Houchens <micheleh@trpld.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 10:35 AM
To: Matt Asselmeier
Subject: [External]Re: July 21st Kendall County Historic Preservation Groups Meeting

CAUTION - This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matt,

I am not going to be able to attend the meeting at Ellis House on the 21st. I really wish I could especially since it is at Ellis House and I will miss the discussion of the historic structure survey. The widening of Ridge Road just north of Minooka is going to cause the destruction of many of the homes that are along it. I'd also like to invite everyone to visit the Three Rivers Public Library Local History Museum located at 109 N. Wabena Ave in Minooka. I know it is in Grundy County, but our library district extends into Kendall! I grew up in Seward Twp so its history holds a special place in my heart! My hours are varied but I am usually here on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursdays from 12 pm to 5 pm and every other Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. People can also contact me to make an appointment for a tour during regular library hours. Our website has more details at www.trpld.org

One of my Seward Twp. highlights are mastodon bones and a tusk that were found in Seward Twp. in the early 1900's and are on loan from Chicago's Field Museum.

Thank you for the invitation!

Michele

On Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 8:21 AM Matt Asselmeier <masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov> wrote:

On behalf of the members of the Kendall Historic Preservation Commission, I would like to invite you to a meeting of Kendall County historic preservation organizations on **July 21, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.**, at the Ellis House, at 13986 McKanna Road, Minooka.

The purpose of this meeting is to explore collaborative opportunities between historic preservation groups in Kendall County and to receive updates on the activities of local historic preservation groups.

Guest speakers include David Guritz from the Kendall County Forest Preserve District, discussing the history of the Ellis House. Also, Ken Itle, from Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., will discuss the upcoming historic structure survey of the Na-Au-Say and Seward Townships and the benefits of and how to landmark historic cemeteries.

We will also have an update from attendees regarding activities at your organizations.



"That we testify against the whole system of Human Slavery - as practiced in these United States. That we consider the Chattel principle, or holding property in Man as a most heaven daring & God provoking sin - and the Sum of all Villanies as it effects those enslaved. That we cannot hold fellowship with voluntary slaveholders or their abettors. We cannot permit their preachers to occupy our pulpit - or their members or those who justify them in Slaveholding to sit at our communion."

*- from Resolutions on Moral Subjects
Bristol Congregational Church, Jan. 3, 1846*

In the villages of Bristol and Yorkville, early Congregational and Baptist Church members arrived from the East with strong convictions against slavery. Long before their church edifices were built in 1855 and 1857, these congregations worked together as one body to assist and support freedom seekers. Today's *Chapel on the Green* stands as a legacy to those early pastors and members who risked their own safety to champion human rights and personal freedom for all.

Chapel on the Green Historical Society, NFP

107 West Center St., Yorkville, IL

Cordially requests your presence at the unveiling and dedication of our new

Illinois State Historical Marker:

"Bristol Churches and the Underground Railroad"

Public Reception to follow

Friday, October 24, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**Kindly reply by October 14 to confirm your attendance*

"Preserving the Past for the Future"